ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1999 – 2000

1. INTRODUCTION ........................................................................................................... 3

2. TRAINING PROGRAMMES .......................................................................................... 3
   2.1. Training of Trainers Programme on Income Generating Projects .......................... 3
   2.2. Community Living Workshops .............................................................................. 4

3. FIELD PROJECTS ....................................................................................................... 5
   3.1. Sampurna – A Holistic Development Project ......................................................... 5
      3.1.1. Group Linkages with Government Schemes and Banks .................................. 5
      3.1.2. Training Programmes ...................................................................................... 6
      3.1.3. Income Generating Activities ......................................................................... 6
      3.1.4. Collective Empowerment Programme: Training on Federation ..................... 7
      3.1.5. Group Management ....................................................................................... 8
      3.1.6. Credit Requirement of Women ........................................................................ 8
      3.1.7. Community Action Programme ....................................................................... 8
      3.1.8. Emerging Issues .............................................................................................. 9
   3.2. Implementation of STEP Programme ................................................................. 11
      3.2.1. Achievements of the programme ..................................................................... 11
      3.2.2. Impact of the Programme .............................................................................. 12

4. ENTERPRISE COUNSELLING CELL: ......................................................................... 13
   4.1. Linkages with financial institutions and Govt. Departments ............................... 13
   4.2. Follow up ................................................................................................................ 14

5. RESEARCH AND EVALUATION .............................................................................. 14
   5.1. Research on Gender and Rural Livelihood Systems ............................................. 14
   5.2. An Evaluation of CREDIT Project, CARE Ranchi, Bihar .................................... 15

6. DOCUMENTATION & PUBLICATION ..................................................................... 15
   6.1. VIEWS .................................................................................................................. 15
   6.2. Research Publications ......................................................................................... 15
   6.3. Designing and Printing of the Research Results on Gender and Rural Livelihood Systems: 16

7. NETWORKING ........................................................................................................... 16
   7.1. Network of agencies working on Youth Development and Youth Activities in India: 17
   7.2. Identifying Enterprise Resource Organisations for Asia Network Promote Youth Enterprise: 17
   7.3. Support to other VOS .......................................................................................... 17
7.3.1. Providing support on IGPs to women ............................................. 17
7.3.2. Support on Business related issues ............................................... 17
7.4. Distribution of Sampark's publications ............................................. 18

8. INTERNATIONAL LINKAGES .............................................................. 18
8.1. Research Fellowship ...................................................................... 18
8.2. Independent Research Projects ....................................................... 18

9. VISITORS TO SAMPARk ................................................................. 18

10. STAFF GROWTH ............................................................................. 19
10.1. Workshops and Programmes attended by Sampark’s staff .......... 19
10.2. Administrative and other issues: ................................................... 20
10.3. Management Committee Meetings ................................................. 21

11. DIFFICULTIES FACED DURING THE YEAR .................................. 21

12. LOOKING AHEAD ............................................................................ 22
1. INTRODUCTION

Sampark completes nine years of work in 2000. Sampark is a Voluntary Organisation registered in July 1991 under the Karnataka Societies Registration Act, 1960. It is also registered under Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, 1974. The mission of Sampark is to expand the capacity of vulnerable and poor people, especially women, to improve their income earning abilities. Sampark works with a holistic approach to development, and incorporates elements of gender and enterprise development, and sustainability of rural livelihoods.

Sampark also works as resource organisation and supports voluntary, private and government organisations in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of their credit, enterprise and gender related activities.

An overview of the activities of Sampark is given below

2. TRAINING PROGRAMMES

As part of its commitment to building up the capacity of senior level staff of different voluntary organisations and skill training of SHGs and individuals, Sampark has organised several training programmes during the period of April 1\textsuperscript{st} 1999 and March 31\textsuperscript{st} 2000. The details of which are given below:

2.1. Training of Trainers Programme on Income Generating Projects

Sampark conducted a 5 days programme on Income generating projects (IGPs) from June 14\textsuperscript{th} to 18\textsuperscript{th} 1999 at ASA, Trichy. The main objective of the programme was to build the capacity of NGO staff and provide training in skills that would be useful in income generating projects. Twenty-five participants representing 18 organisations participated in this workshop, representing the States of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Rajasthan, and Gujarat. The subjects covered were on

- Issues and concepts of Business/IGP
- Business idea generation
- Evaluation of business ideas
- Marketing
- Maintenance of records
- Project preparation, cash flow, income and expenditure, profit and loss account etc.

\textsuperscript{1} Training Programmes conducted at Koppal are detailed in Section 3.
Sampark’s trainers not only explained the concepts but conducted participatory exercises taking field projects of participants as examples. This helped the participants learn about the application of concepts to their field situations, during the workshop itself. Sampark’s own field experience helped the team to bring field issues in relation to the above concept, which made the workshop more alive.

Participants gained knowledge and skills for identifying feasible income generating projects for women. The feedback and action plan submitted by participants at the end of the programme reflected that capacity of women in IGP could be improved through trainer’s training and direct training for women.

2.2. Community Living Workshops

Sampark conducted five (two days) community living workshops with the support of Titan Industries limited for Titan Township Employees and their families at Township.

200 women and 146 men were present during the six programmes. In the beginning the families were expecting everything have to be provided by the company. After Sampark’s interaction with these families they were motivated to take up a participatory role in developing the Township. As a result they have take up initiatives like starting library, organising a vehicle, developing a playground and park in the Township.

The main achievements of the workshop were:

- Provided platforms for the Titan Township Employees and their family members to understand their neighbours and exchange their ideas and views and also to discuss issues relating to the Township.
- Created awareness among Titan Township families about their strengths, weaknesses, cultural roots and opportunities available in the Township.
- Motivated them to take up initiatives and participatory roles in making their Township vibrant and convenient for a good living.
- Ultimately led them to feel that they are the owners of the Township and be more responsible for better living in the Township.

Women have responded more positively to these workshops. Consequently women leaders have formed a women’s association for discussing the issues related to the Township development. Along with above-mentioned workshops, Sampark has provided inputs on how to form an association and how to carry on activities for women’s development in future.

Every Wednesday afternoon members of the association meet in a common place and discuss and take actions to start library, recreation centre and other activities of common interest.
### 3. FIELD PROJECTS

An overview of the projects implemented by Sampark at village level, is given in the table below:

The details about the number of villages and groups and their savings are tabled below

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Particulars</th>
<th>Koppal</th>
<th>Bellary</th>
<th>Kolar</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No of villages</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of groups</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of members</td>
<td>794</td>
<td>328</td>
<td>1400</td>
<td>2522</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Savings in Rupees</td>
<td>5,40,165</td>
<td>1,45,766</td>
<td>2,39,931</td>
<td>925,862</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank linkages</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 3.1. Sampurna – A Holistic Development Project

Sampark started a field project in 1998, with the objective of holistic development, in fifteen villages of Koppal district, a very poor semi-arid region of north Karnataka. The first phase of research and action research was followed by a savings and credit intervention, with intensive training for capacity building of women, for group management and leadership development.

An overview of Sampurna is shown below:

- No of Groups: 55
- Total SHG Members: 794
- Total Savings: Rs. 4,34,920.00
- Total interest earned: Rs. 1,05,245.00
- Cumulative fund: Rs. 5,40,165.00
- Loan outstanding: Rs. 4,55,260.00
- Cash at Bank: Rs. 31,084.00
- Cash in Hand: Rs. 53,821.00
- External funds mobilised: Rs. 3,66,000.00
- No. of groups with Bank accounts: 23 Self Help Groups (SHGs)

#### 3.1.1. Group Linkages with Government Schemes and Banks

- Out of 50 groups 23 groups have Bank accounts.
- Two groups were linked with Tungabadra Bank Koppal to get a loan of Rs. 16000/- each
- Three groups were linked to Taluk Panchayat for UNDP Schemes to get a loan to take up dairy activity.
- A list of all the group members who are below poverty line has been submitted to Taluk Panchayat, for covering under Swarna Jayanti Swa Rozagar Yogana (S.J.S.R.Y) Scheme.
3.1.2. Training Programmes

Training on different aspects has been given, which are listed out below:

Motivational Training

- As on March 1999, we have conducted 20 training programmes on various topics including SHG motivational training, banking procedure, entrepreneurship awareness and development programmes, leadership, financial management, audit, federation, group management, savings and credit management, etc.

- Sampark organised Grama Sabha meetings in all the villages to identify the needs and problems of women in local community, in January and February 2000.

- Based on Grama Sabha meeting, by end of February 2000, Cluster Level Associations were formed, to address women’s problems. Five such clusters were formed; each cluster includes 20 members, two representatives each from ten SHGs.

- Cluster meetings are held every month since February. Each meeting includes special training on various topics related to savings and credit management, or general development issues.

Skill Training

Sampark has organised 8 different Skill training programmes, i.e. Tailoring, Dairy, Pickle making, sheep rearing, poultry, watchstrap making, nursery, and vermiculture and hair process. Approximately 300 women SHG members have been covered through these training programmes.

3.1.3. Income Generating Activities

Most women have taken up individual and family based income-generating activities. Some groups have also taken up group based activities. These are listed below:

Individual Activities
1. Pickle
2. Bye-cycle hiring shop
3. Bangles selling
4. Rice shop
5. Fruits vending
6. Flower selling
7. Sheep and Goat rearing
8. Dairy
9. Beedi rolling
10. Tailoring
11. Vermiculture
Group activities

Watch Strap making unit: Twenty women have been trained to make watch straps and a unit has started in Koppal. Out of 20 members, two have got married and left the village. Another six have temporarily dropped out due to problems in the family, and hope to return to the watch unit in a month or two. At present the unit runs with 12 members. They run the unit themselves, with support from Sampark for marketing linkages. Each woman earns Rs.750/- – 800/- per month, which is double the wage they used to earn earlier from casual farm labour. In future Sampark plans to extend the unit and give regular employment to 40 women.

Hair processing unit: Govisiddeswara SHG at Bahadurbandi is a ten-member group. They trained in human hair processing. It is an established and traditional business in Koppal, with many small business units engaging labour for the work. This group has been linked with S.J.S.R.Y. scheme and has received Rs.75,000/- as loan for their business. They run it as a group business, the profit will be shared among them. The government has provided a common work-shed to the group under the scheme.

Dairy unit: A group of 15 members at Muddhaballi has been linked with S.J.S.R.Y. scheme. They have received Rs.2,50,000/- for dairy business. This will be a model group IGP: though the group members have individual ownership of the cattle, the group will run the business. The members have formed a milk co-operative and the members of the group will do the management of the co-operative. They have found a place and got a common cattle shed for their unit, from the funds provided by the government.

Lease land cultivation: The Saraswathi group of Huvinalla has 16 members, most of them are marginal farmer and few are land-less labourers. They jointly leased 9 acres of lease land and started cultivation on it in 1999. All 16 members shared the manual labour work on their farm. They spent nearly Rs.15,000/, in the first year. They did not get much profit, but they got little more than what they spent. They have continued cultivation in this monsoon. They expect to make a larger profit this year, as they invested in the quality of the land last year.

Collective purchase of essential items: In Gunalli, Hosalli, Huvinalla, and Chukkankal, women have started collective purchase of essential items. Two members from each SHG go to Koppal market and buy cooking oil, food grains, toilet articles and washing soap in bulk at wholesale prices. They benefit by way of a lower price and good quality products. These items are then sold among group members with a little profit added, so that the group makes a profit. Each individual member still benefits, as the price charged is less than the market price in Koppal. A major benefit to the women is the time and travel cost of each member to Koppal. The smooth operations show the unity and cohesiveness among the women in SHGs.

Sampark organised a women’s empowerment and federation training programme on International women’s day at Koppal on March 8th 2000. All group members from 15 villages participated in the programme. It was a full day programme, higher level officials from different departments provided the inputs on about women empowerment, the need for collective action and a women’s federation. At the end of the programme, about 1000 women (including non-members who had joined from the villages by that time), took a rally to create public awareness on women’s rights and submitted memorandum to District Collector for their legal rights.

3.1.5. Group Management

All 55 groups hold weekly meetings, Sampark staff attend their group meetings at least once in 15 days for older groups, and every week for new groups. Group members manage all accounts and record keeping themselves, or take help from outside people in case none of the group members know accounts writing. All money transactions take place only during the meetings, at the designated meeting place, with collective participation and decision making. The groups maintain the following records:

- Individual passbooks
- Register for savings, loan, loan repayment and interest payments
- Minutes book
- Attendance Register
- Cash book
- Bank Passbook

A chartered accountant, along with the Sampark team, audited the group accounts, as on November 31st 1999. This was done in daily rounds of eight groups, and women were given advice on how to maintain their accounts better. The process worked as auditing cum training, and standard of accounts writing has improved significantly after November 1999. However, many groups neglect writing minutes book, as they find it difficult enough to complete the accounts related records. Good maintenance of financial records by women is an achievement, as only 2% of the group members are literate.

3.1.6. Credit Requirement of Women

Out of 55 groups 40 groups are in need of an average loan of Rs. 50,000/- per group to start their income generating activities. Even though these groups are linked up with the banks women are not able to avail of loans due procedural complications and delay in disbursement of loans. These groups require a total of Rs. 20 lakhs. Sampark will work towards getting the required funds for the women as early as possible.

3.1.7. Community Action Programme

- Action against Liquor selling: In Huvinalla, group members, along with villagers, submitted a petition to the District Collector, Koppal to protect against liquor selling.
- **Anganwadi building:** In Bahadoorbandi, there is no Aanganwadi building, the children sit and the class runs in village temple. Group members discussed this issue in the group meeting and the application was submitted to CDPO. Also they had a discussion with Panchayat Secretary to have an Anganwadi building. Later it was sanctioned to the village.

- **Construction of latrines:** The sangha members from Bahadoorbandi have given an application to the Panchayat secretary for construction of sanitary latrines for homes of villagers.

- **Gifts to schools:** In Hayti our sangha members were invited for the School day celebration and they presented furniture like table and chairs to the school. Two groups presented water filters and glasses to schools. Another group presented a table to the village school.

- **Domestic violence:** Action against wife-beating at Hosahalli.

- **Community work:** In Bikkanahalli, sangha members from two groups, jointly participated in cleaning the village (Shramadhan).

- **Celebrations:** In Hosahalli all the eight groups contributed money for the village festival celebrations.

- **Community leadership:** Two group members are elected for the gram panchayat in the recent election. One group member i.e. Ms. Renuka from Chukkankal elected for Taluk panchayat; she won in the face of heavy competition with support of all women’s group members.

### 3.1.8. Emerging Issues

The achievements of the past two and a half years are that the 800 women members have formed cohesive groups, save and rotate savings regularly and in an equitable manner, and pay back regularly. The account maintenance is satisfactory, and the project is poised at a stage where significant development can take place. This will require the following:

**Provision of micro finance:** The women have stated the need for credit, and have the discipline to return the money. They have identified income generating activities with the help of Sampark, and on their own. Given this support, they will be able to increase incomes so that they can come up above the poverty line. Given sufficient support, these 800 women can be brought above poverty line within the next three years.

**Skill training:** Many of the women, and some of their children, need skill training. This will help increase the families’ ability to improve their livelihoods. Skill training has to be appropriate to each family, and Sampark has completed discussions within each group last year, to assess specific training needs. This skill training proposal has been
submitted to KSWDC for support under the Mahila Abhivrudhi Swavalambane Yojana programme.

Marketing support and linkages: In some cases, marketing linkages and support will be required in the initial stages from Sampark. This will be needed only in those units where the product or skill has a market in Bangalore. Such need based support will have to be built into the project for the next three years.

**Strengthening of Women’s forums:** Women have been given continuous support and guidance for strengthening of the groups. This needs to continue. Sampark has also discussed and responded to the need for cluster level forums, where two women per SHG are members. There is also a need for a federation, but the feeling among women, as also among Sampark staff, is that the formation of the federation should emerge as a natural progression from the cluster level forums. At present, Sampark inputs are required to help leadership, clarity of tasks and roles to emerge at these clusters.

**Leadership Development:** Sampark has supported the women to understand leadership, through participatory techniques like leadership imaging. Several latent conflicts emerged during the process. The process of leadership imaging and leadership development in the villages needs to become more widespread and intensive. If only few people are leaders, the danger is that they corner most of the benefits for themselves. For this, it is important that the constituents learn to hold leaders accountable. Sampark needs to invest more in this process of development of leaders and constituents. This is important especially because women from Sampark’s groups have begun to come into panchayat at village and taluk level, and inputs at this time will help not only the group members but also the villagers in general.

**Facilitation of Holistic Development:** Sampurna project was started with the objective of holistic development, incorporating poverty alleviation, gender and enterprise development, skill development and upgradation, farm and off farm activities and leadership development. These measures and inputs are expected to lead to sustainable livelihoods for the people, from their point of view.

Towards this objective, Sampark has done well in terms of establishing savings and credit groups, and in leadership inputs. However, skill training and technical inputs towards sustainable farm and off farm activities are inadequate. Efforts need to be made to make the programme more holistic by providing women and the community support and facilitation in other spheres of activity.

The over-all impact of the programme is that most of the women are able to acquire awareness on various topics and are able to start income generating activities and increased their income levels, and got facility of easy access of loan along with low interest rates.
3.2. Implementation of Support and Training for Employment Programme (STEP)

Support for group formation and training, was provided to Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF), as part of the STEP project of Department of Women and Child Development, Delhi. Sampark has taken up the implementation of STEP programme in collaboration with KMF and related district milk unions. This programme has been taken up in Bellary, Kolar and Tumkur district, with the following objective:

- To create awareness among women about health, education, legal literacy and gender sensitization.
- Tie up these groups with government schemes and Banks

Due to lack of cooperation from the Tumkur milk union and suitable staff we discontinued work in Tumkur district.

3.2.1. Achievements of the programme

Training programmes: Training programmes conducted under STEP project are tabled below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.No</th>
<th>Type of Training Programme</th>
<th>No.of villages covered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Dairy Related training Programmes – Organised by Sampark</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Secretary training</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Tester training</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Artificial Insemination.</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>First –Aid</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Management Committee Meetings</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Exposure trip to AMUL</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Training on Dairy and Animal Management</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Gender related training programmes organised &amp; conducted by Sampark</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Motivation tranng. To men</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Health and Nutrition</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Legal Education</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Weaning food</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Gender sensitization</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Group Strength: All the members have been given training on SHG concepts, Banking procedures, Savings and Credit functions, record maintenance etc. In Chilugodu, Nandini Mahila Sangha linked for Bank loan under S.J.S.R.Y scheme, they received Rs.3,80,000/- (50% subsidy) and 28 cows are purchased by this loan amount. The group wise details enclosed in a separate table.

Follow up training programmes: We have completed follow-up training on Health and Nutrition programme in five Women Dairy Cooperatives (WDCs), two in Gangavati Unit and each one in other three units.
Fodder development: In two taluks a programmes on fodder development has been organised, 20-25 co-operative members to attend this programme. Through this programme people were motivated to grow green fodder in their land and we discuss with them to buy fodder from the milk co-operatives.

Smokeless Chulla programme: In Bellary, Sindhanur and Itigi units, Smokeless-Chulha programme was implemented successfully. Extension workers are involved in identification of beneficiaries, selection, training to beneficiaries and implementation of programme. In 43 villages 1252 families were benefited through this programme.

Literacy classes to Target members: Under this programme 60 women were covered @ of 5 Target members (TGM) for a month in each WDCs.

House visits: Our team members do regular house visits to target group members, each visits cover minimum of 5 TG members. During the visit staffs are discussed about the STEP programme, WDCs, SHG and motivate them to participate in dairy activities.

Other activities: Other than the above major achievements, the following are undertaken under the STEP programmes.

- Contact Block development offices to get a information on various schemes to villages and women groups, the Sanitary latrine schemes also discussed in some Block Development Offices.
- Weaning food programmes followed during TGM house visits and SHG meeting.
- Our staffs taught the WDCs secretaries to keep the accounts and records updated on daily basis.
- They visit the houses of loan beneficiaries and talk about animal feeds, first aid provisions, and artificial insimination services available in WDCs.
- Information on different government schemes available for women was provided to all the target group members.

3.2.2. Impact of the Programme

The impact of implementation of STEP project is mentioned below:

- Most of the members have begun to pour the milk to the dairy society instead of selling to private vendors.
- The staff developed a good rapport with all the members.
- The target group members have been motivated to participate in the dairy cooperatives, number of Target Group Members milk pouring to the Dairy Cooperatives (DCs) is gradually increasing in all women’s dairy societies.
- The staff made an attempt to conduct regular committee meeting in every, out of 20 WDCs, 11 WDCs having regular monthly meetings. In other places monthly meetings are not conducted regularly due to lack of co-ordination between the members.
In the beginning almost all the cooperatives were managed by male members. Sampark’s intervention made a change that at present out of 20 DCS, 13 WDCs are managed by women.

In all the society union staff were motivated to have regular milk testing, this issue will be discussed even in the Management Committee Meetings, to have quality control. At present about 15 societies do regular milk testing in the mornings and evenings. Five societies are not testing milk on a regular basis due to repair of machines and tools and low procurement.

4. ENTERPRISE COUNSELLING CELL:

Sampark has extended enterprise-counselling services to potential women entrepreneurs since October 1996. Counselling services were provided for five days a week i.e. from Monday to Friday from 9.30. to 5.30. p.m. Two counsellors were available in the cell to provide required guidance to aspiring women entrepreneurs. Eight hundred and fifty women have been counselled so far, on all aspects of business. Guidance was given on business idea development, conducting feasibility study for their selected businesses, preparation of project report etc.

Information on government schemes, financial institutions and various skill training programmes was provided through the Enterprise Counselling Cell. There was an ongoing programme to upgrade the counsellor’s skill, knowledge and to develop new strategies to guide women in setting up businesses and commercial ventures. These independent ventures were expected to make a mark in creating business awareness.

By the end of the October 1999, Enterprise Counselling Cell has supported 1288 individual women (850 through counselling and 423 through district level workshops) by providing professional guidance on the following aspects.

- Awareness of business concepts
- Development of business idea
- Feasibility studies
- Project preparation
- Information on Govt. Schemes
- Information on skill training programmes

4.1. Linkages with financial institutions and Govt. Departments

Two hundred and forty five applications were submitted to Karnataka State Women’s Development Corporation (KSWDC) under Composite Loan Scheme, whereby entrepreneurs can avail a maximum of Rs. 50,000/- to start or expand any manufacturing or service oriented businesses.
Few entrepreneurs were linked to Banks in order to get financial support for their businesses.

As the programme has been shifted to KSWDC women were asked to contact KSWDC for counselling support after January 2000.

4.2. **Follow up**

As a follow up of this project, two meeting were conducted with 12 women who are interested to form as association of women entrepreneurs. In these two meeting they have come that the objectives of association would be as follows:

1. Exchange the ideas in relation to the business aspects
2. Mutual help for the marketing support for their products
3. To identify ways for getting finance required for their business
4. To improve social contact, which will in turn increase the publicity for their project

As the loan applications submitted to KSWDC under Composite loan scheme were not processed, Sampark is in the processes of tying up these women with a Micro Finance Institution, called Sanghamitra, set up by MYRADA.

5. **RESEARCH AND EVALUATION**

5.1. **Research on Gender and Rural Livelihood Systems**

Sampark is engaged in gender sensitive research on Sustainable Rural Livelihood Systems and Natural Resource Management in semi-arid regions in India

Phase 1: (1993-95): In phase 1 of the research project, Sampark looked at the gender aspects related to sustainable use of natural resources.

Phase 2: (1996-99): Participatory research, involving innovative methods, was used to explore whether women as leaders take different decisions from men. When women and men are both part of a committee responsible for the management of natural resources, the kind of issues discussed, the perspectives brought out at these people’s forums, the decision making processes, and finally the decisions taken vis-a-vis natural resources management were studied and documented.

In the past four years, the gender sensitive research undertaken by Sampark, along with other institutions, has helped to work on, and develop techniques for livelihood research.

As a part of this year’s (1999 –2000) contribution Sampark has developed a video film on Gender and Leadership. The film depicts a leadership imaging tool that can be used for teaching participatory research and helping women to develop their leadership abilities.
nd work for community tasks such as better SHG management, women's federation. Copies of the same are available at Sampark for the price of Rs. 500/- per cassette.

The results of the research were presented in an international workshop for Swiss research partners. Donors, partners of the research, policy makers and representatives of NGOs attended the workshop. As an outcome of the research project, two chapters by Sampark will be included in a larger publication, which will be in the form of a book and will also be published on the Internet.

5.2. An Evaluation of CREDIT Project, CARE Ranchi, Bihar.

Sampark has completed mid term evaluation of Credit Project, CARE, Bihar. The objective of this mid term evaluation was to ascertain the progress of the CREDIT project, Ranchi, against its objectives. Participatory evaluation methods were used to analyse the progress of repayment rates, loan size, and distribution of PRADAN and NBK, NGOs involved in implementing the Credit project. An assessment was made of progress on track, and recommendations provided to enable mid-course correction. This evaluation document has been accepted by Virtual Library on Micro Credit (VLM) for publication on the Internet.

6. DOCUMENTATION & PUBLICATION

6.1. VIEWS

It is Sampark's newsletter on Gender, Enterprise, and Sustainable Development. Five theme papers have been published, of which the latter two are done during this year.

Views 1: Micro Enterprise Development
Views 2: Business Counselling for Women
Views 3: Conflicts arising from perception regarding women's work
Views 4: Reality & Reflections on Gender & leaderships on natural resource management.
Views 5: A Manual on Using Leadership Imaging as a Research Tool

6.2. Research Publications

The research results on Gender and Rural Livelihood Systems were documented and published as

- The "Real Realities" of Life: Exploring Rural Livelihood System From a Gender perspective, Ms. Smita Premchander
6.3. **Designing and Printing of the Research Results on Gender and Rural Livelihood Systems:**

Researchers from Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Institute for Rural Management (IRMA), who were the partners of the research project, documented their results on different issues of Sustainable Rural Livelihood Systems. Sampark coordinated the designing and printing of the papers of all authors for the CONTICI workshop held at IRAM in February 2000. The titles are:

1. Core issues in agrarian economy and society of Karnataka, Dr. G.S. Aurora
2. Two villages in the semi-arid tropics of India: A comparative study of Mahudi and CR-Palli, Dr. G.S. Aurora
3. Understanding livelihood systems as complex wholes, Dr. Ruedi Hogger
4. Cross ploughed field, Dr. Ruedi Hogger
5. The threshing floor disappears: rural livelihood system in transition, Dr. G.K. Karanth, Dr. V. Ramaswamy, Dr. R. Hogger
6. Emerging rural leadership and sustainable management of natural resources: evidence from two south Indian villages, Dr. V. Ramaswamy, Dr. G.K. Karanth, Dr. R. Baumgartner, Dr. R. Hogger
7. From 'MAREY' to market changing faces of rural livelihood system Appropriateness of agricultural technologies, Dr. G.K. Karanth, Dr. V. Ramaswamy
8. Participatory research on rural livelihood: Sharing research findings for local empowerment, Dr. Ruedi Baumgartner, Dr. G.S. Aurora, Dr. G.K. Karanth, Dr. V. Ramaswamy
9. Rural - Urban Linkages, Dr. H.S. Shylendra, Dr. Uma Rani
10. Role of Non Economic Motivation, Dr. K.V. Raju, Dr. Uma Rani, Dr. Anil Patel
11. Appropriateness of Agricultural Technologies, Dr. B.N. Hiremath, Dr. K.V. Raju, Dr. Anil Patel

7. **NETWORKING**

Sampark has developed good relationships with other VOs, Government Departments, Financial Institutions, etc. This has helped Sampark in developing a vast network in carrying out its objectives. Apart from providing suggestions to such networking organisations based on experience, Sampark has also been learning through its interactions and dialogues with them.
7.1. Network of agencies working on Youth Development and Youth Activities in India.

Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD) approached Sampark to collect information on agencies, NGOs, involved in youth activities for the development of CD-ROM on Youth Agencies and Youth Activities in India. Various organisations, Institutions who are involved in Youth Activities were selected from our mailing list, and address, which are collected from Department of Youth Welfare. These organisations were requested to send their information according to the format along with their annual reports, photographs, video clippings, brochures, folders and other literature to include in the CD-ROM. An advertisement was given in newspaper requesting the agencies that are involved in youth activities to send their details to RGNIYD. The information has been collected from seventy-two agencies and were compiled and sent to RGNIYD for further processing in the development of CD-ROM.

7.2. Identifying Enterprise Resource Organisations for Asia Network Promote Youth Enterprise

Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP) is in the process of developing a network of organisations that would be dedicated to promote the youth enterprise development in Asia. Sampark has collaborated with CYP to identify organisations involved in development of youth in enterprise.

Organisations and agencies involved in the development of youth in enterprise were contacted from Sampark’s mailing list. Information was received from 148 organisations and agencies situated in different parts of southern states. Computerizing the data collected from these organisations and agencies is in the process.

7.3. Support to other VOS

7.3.1. Providing support on IGPs to women

Shakti, a voluntary organisation working for the empowerment of women in Bangalore slums approached Sampark for providing inputs on Income Generating Activities to women members of SHGs. Sampark provided inputs on possible income generating activities that women can take up.

7.3.2. Support on Business related issues

Based on the needs of National Association for the Blind, Sampark team has given inputs on concept of Business and Business Idea Generation and other business related issues.
7.4. Distribution of Sampark’s publications

Sampark continued to distribute its publications (VIEWS & KARMANI) to the VOs of State and central level based on Sampark’s mailing list.

8. INTERNATIONAL LINKAGES

Sampark provides an opportunity for international exchange programmes. In this endeavor, below mentioned persons worked with Sampark:

8.1. Research Fellowship

Dr. Gisele Yasmeen visited Sampark as part of a fellowship from Shashtri Indo Canadian Institute to do research on “Micro and Small –Scale Enterprise Development for Women in Bangalore.” She is a Sessional Lecture at Department of Asian Studies and Department of Geography, University of British Colombia, Canada. As Sampark is involved in conducting training programmes on Gender and Enterprise Development and also in running Enterprise Counselling Cell, she has collaborated with Sampark in completing the above-mentioned assignment. Sampark team assisted her in contacting women entrepreneurs and conducting interviews. Our team also learnt from working with her, about research on issues related to micro enterprise development of women.

8.2. Independent Research Projects

Ms. Shruti Tina Haldea, a student from Dukes University, USA, conducted research on impact of Panchayat Raj in rural areas and especially women’s role in panchayat raj as members of the panchayat raj. Sampark’s field officer assisted her in providing language and other support in contacting people in the rural area. She has submitted the research paper at her University and sent a copy to Sampark.

Ms. Maduri Hogger, an independent researcher from Switzerland conducted a study on facilities available for the children of rural poor in Koppal district. Sampark team assisted her in getting the information on research related issues, and helped her network with agencies in Bangalore engaged in working with children.

9. VISITORS TO SAMPARK

- Mr. Panali, Assistant General Manager, KSWDC, visited Sampark to review the progress of Enterprise Counselling Cell at Sampark.
- Proff. Ranjit Gupta, President of Sampark visited Sampark and discussed about Sampark’s progress in carrying out its activities.
Dr. Ruedi Hogger, NADEL, ETHZ visited Sampark to discuss about the progress of NADEL project.

Prof. B. Jacob, Faculty Head, Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development, visited Sampark to review the progress of work of collecting information on Agencies, NGOs, involved in youth activities for CD-ROM development on Youth Agencies and Youth Activities in India.

Ms. Helen Zweifel from Swiss Development Corporation, Delhi visited Sampark for a discussion on gender and sustainable rural livelihoods.

Ms. Susan Barton visited Sampark for a marketing research study.

Ms. Orlanda Ruthven from DFID, New Delhi visited Sampark for a discussion on micro finance and micro enterprise related issues.

10. STAFF GROWTH

10.1. Workshops and Programmes attended by Sampark’s staff

With the intention of enlarging the experience, skill, and knowledge of the staff, Sampark has deputed staff to attend workshops and programmes conducted by different organisations. The details of some of these are tabled below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Name of the staff</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Particulars of the Programme/Workshop</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Ms. Mary, Ms. Prameela</td>
<td></td>
<td>Workshop on Gender</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Ms. Mary, Ms. Rosa</td>
<td>May 1999</td>
<td>Regional workshop on Conflict resolution: strategies and skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Ms. Shameem Banu</td>
<td>May 1999</td>
<td>Workshop on societies registrations act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Ms. Meenakshi</td>
<td>May 1999</td>
<td>Programme on Export management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Ms. Shameem Banu</td>
<td>May 1999</td>
<td>Symposium on Grama Shaba and panchayat Raj</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Mrs. Smita Premchander, Mr. Chidambaranathan, Mr. Jayaseelan, Ms. Prameela</td>
<td>Feb 2000</td>
<td>Workshop on sharing the research results on Gender and Rural livelihood systems.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ms. Shameem Banu was appointed as Vice president of board of Fevord–K for the year 1999 – 2000. She actively participated in all the board of directors meetings.

In addition to deputation to external programmes, Sampark organised internal training programmes for staff. Programmes were held on Gender, Enterprise Development, Account Maintenance, and Leadership development for field staff of Koppal, Bellary,
and Kolar which helped them to build their capacities in these areas and use the skills to train people at grassroots levels.

10.2. *Administrative and other issues:*

- This year saw significant turnover as well as increase in staff. There were new recruitments at Koppal and Kolar. The Bellary project, which completed a year in May 2000, came to a close in June 2000. Of the four staff working there, two were accommodated in Koppal, and two in Kolar field projects. The total staff is now as follows:

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Koppal</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kolar</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangalore</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>20</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

While we hope to retain Koppal and Bangalore staff, Kolar staff will have to be only project based; the project comes to an end in November 2000.

- Administrative arrangements have become stronger with regular core committee meetings. Chidambarnathan has headed two teams for Kolar and Tumkur, of which Tumkur project was closed within 3 months. Jeyaseelan heads the Kolar and Bellary field teams. Prameela has taken charge of accounts and administration in Bangalore, and for Sampark as a whole. All recruitment’s for the field teams have been done by Chidam, Prameela and Jeyan.

- Chidam has provided training to all the staff located at different villages in Kolar, and earlier in Tumkur. These women do planning with him for the week, and bring back weekly and monthly reports to him. He consolidates these, gives further direction for work, and presents the reports to Kolar milk union every month at a meeting. In addition, he is in charge of computer and Internet related tasks. He has completed the design of a web page on Sampark, which should go on-line in another month. He has coordinated two training programmes and two networking projects this year.

- Prameela has continued the Enterprise Counselling work, by following up with a research project, the women who had been counselled. A Network is now being established, for mutual support for women who want to start businesses. These women meet at Sampark periodically for making plans and learning from one another. Prameela coordinates their meetings, and takes training sessions, as also invites entrepreneurs and guest lecturers to provide inputs.

- Jeyaseelan has brought the field project to good shape. The groups have become stronger, the field staff have received training and guidance. The rules of field project have been streamlined, and systematic working has begun this year. The watch unit has been provided support, and established under the guidance of Jeyaseelan and...
Prameela. Relationships at village level have improved, and two way communication has been firmly established, with Sampark’s work plans being drawn with full concern for women’s schedules.

- Coordination among the staff teams at Koppal and Bangalore has improved significantly. This year we had some difficulty in financial flows. This brought the staff closer, and everyone contributed their time for completion of contracts to be able to meet quality standards and time schedules. This helped especially in the CARE project, where all the staff had to work on data collection, analysis and report writing. Coordination between the senior staff also helped in that Prameela’s skills were effectively utilised to start enterprises in Koppal, and to provide training to women for identification of viable businesses.

- The marketing project was closed successfully, with most clients being passed on to Sabha or other marketing outlets. Some other NGOs have opened outlets in Bangalore. Sampark has settled accounts of all the NGOs we used to market for. Remaining goods have been sold off, and marketing revolving loan from NABARD has been fully paid.

- The loan taken from FWWB for land has also been fully repaid this year. We sought permission and made early repayment of the full amount. FWWB has invited us to take further loans for women in Koppal.

- The reading material in Sampark has been organised, and the library has become more usable than before. We still have to keep a computer-based record of all the training material we have. We have submitted proposals to a funding agency for helping us to publish our training material on enterprise start-ups.

10.3. Management Committee Meetings

Two Management Committee meetings, one on 27th September, 1999 and another on 28th January 2000 were conducted. Sampark’s project progress and future plan of action were discussed and also decisions were taken regarding the formation of resolutions and other matters of long term relevance.

11. DIFFICULTIES FACED DURING THE YEAR

MASY – Release of funds: KSWDC has stopped release of the budget under MASY from the past 8 months. This was due to a suspicion by the government that some of the implementing agencies had misutilised funds under MASY project. Sampark is not one of the agencies against whom this allegation is made, however, funds have been stopped also to us. We cannot stop the project till the objectives of the project are achieved, which is likely to take between five to seven years. There is no formal communication from KSWDC on this, except that the MD, KSWDC has informed us, in a meeting, that she will release money for salaries, which has not been done. Therefore we have been