

Annual Report 2005-2006



Sampark, Bangalore

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Annexure 1–Institutional collaborations

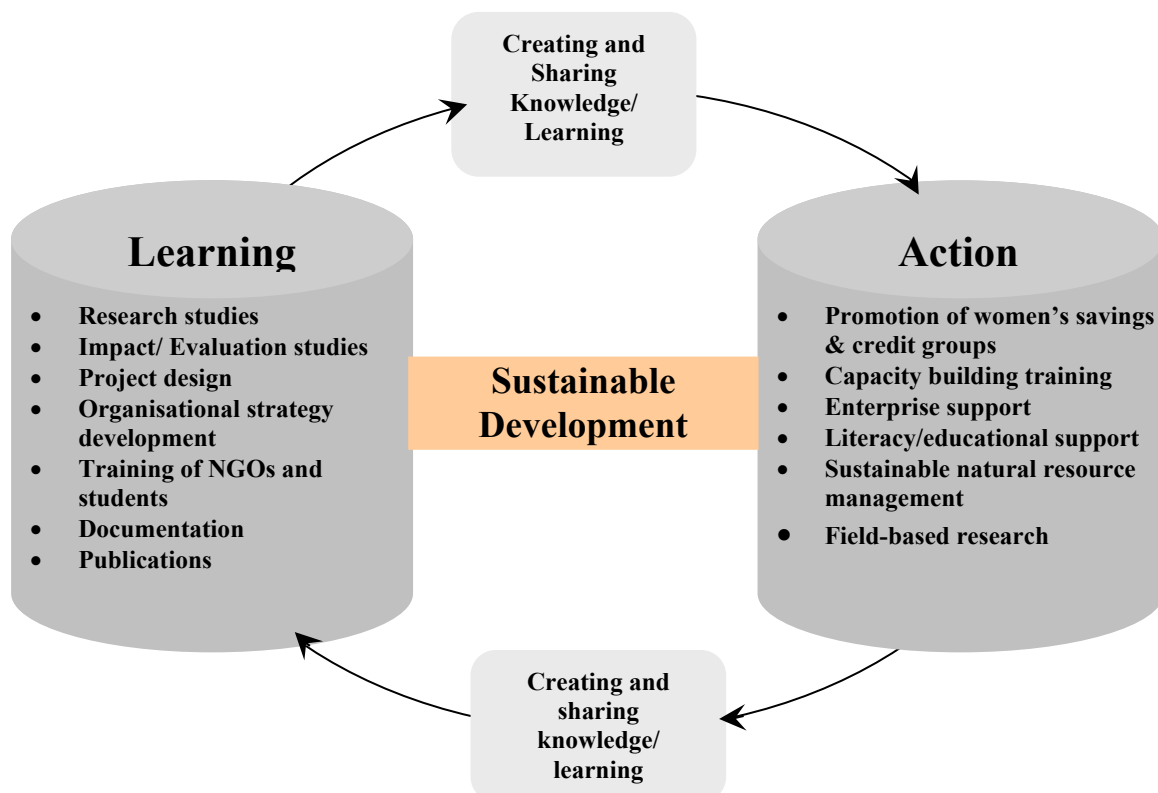
Annexure 2 – Visitors to Sampark

1. Introduction

Established in 1991, Sampark's mission is to expand the capacity of vulnerable and poor people, especially women and to improve their lives, primarily through increasing their income-earning ability. Sampark has operated as a resource agency for other NGOs, government and donor agencies, and also has a field project where it engages with self-reliant poverty reduction strategies in 40 villages. Sampark's activities reflect its institutional vision, which may be depicted as twin pillars: those of learning and dissemination, and action (www.sampark.org).



Institutional Vision of Sampark: Twin Pillars of Learning and Action



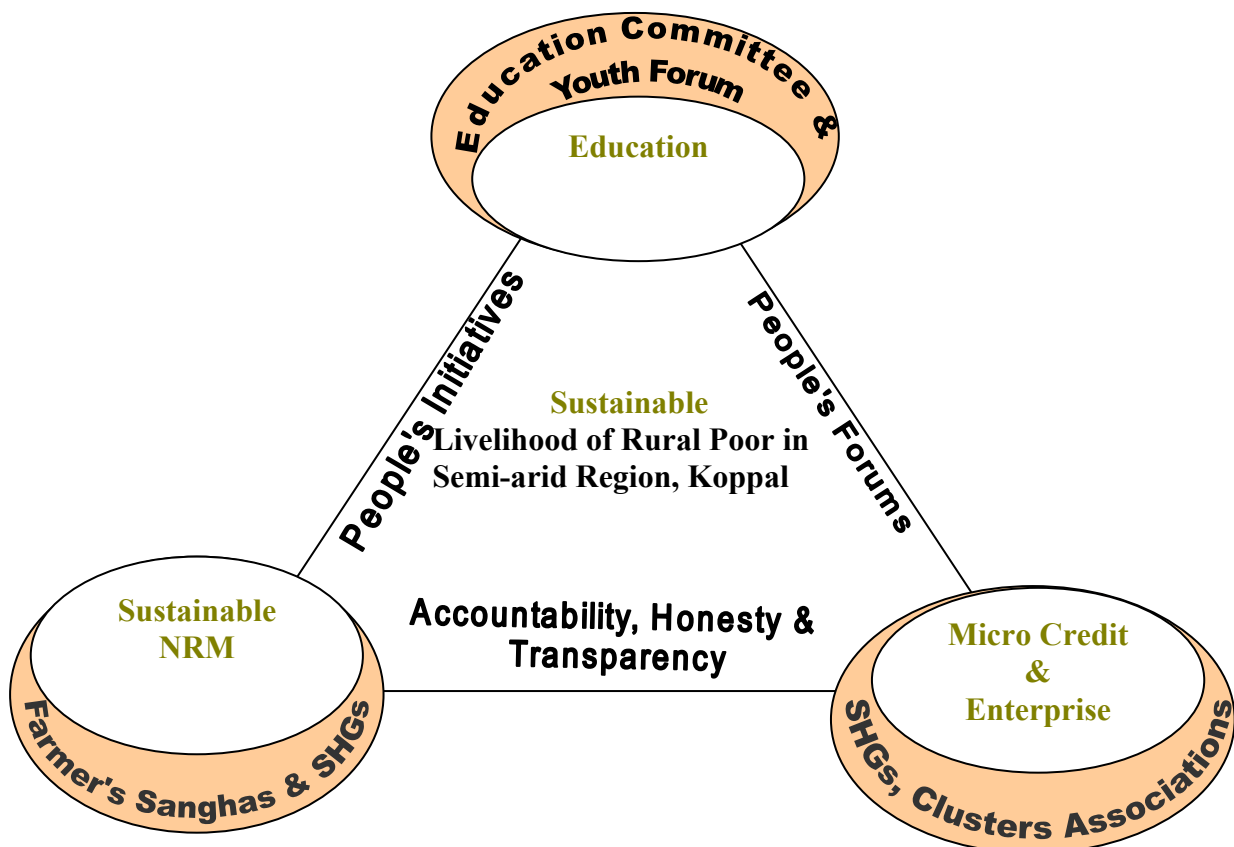
This report details both Sampark's activities for the year 2005-06 and our vision for the future.

2. Report of the field project in Koppal

2.1. Introduction

Sampark started work in Koppal district with a research project on sustainable livelihoods. The work that covered 8 villages in 1998 extends to over 40 villages now, with 157 SHGs (147 women's groups and 10 men groups) and 2396 families as part of the network.

At the field level, Sampark focuses on improving livelihoods and living conditions in Koppal district by developing local people's initiatives and their management roles in the areas of education, sustainable natural resource management (SNRM), micro-credit and micro-enterprise.



Sampark's achievements upto March 2006 have been summarised below:

Activities	Achievements (upto March 2006)
Micro credit and enterprise development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A total of 200 self help groups (SHGs) have been organized since 1998, of which 157 are currently active and cover 2396 families in 40 villages (147 women's groups and 10 men's groups) • Ten cluster associations of SHGs have been organized since 2002 • A total capital pool of Rs. 57,05,863/- has been enabled by Sampark, of which Rs.42,05,863/- is currently available with SHGs. • SHGs have raised a credit of Rs. 47,90,900 from external sources • Total loan disbursed to members is Rs.1,32,04,773/- • Business ideas generation, feasibility analysis and skill training has been given to 450 women in businesses such as watchstrap making, hair processing, dairy, tailoring, kasuti (traditional embroidery), agarbathi (incense sticks) making, wood carving, bamboo products and poultry • 250 women have started their own businesses (including dairying) <p>140 artisans were supported with product development and design</p>
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nineteen education committees were formed at the village level to monitor the education programme. • Special classes for scheduled caste children were started at thirteen centres. • Sampark was able to enrol about 320 children (above six years of age) into primary education. • Kits were given to 80 children so that they were equipped to handle school requirements and didn't have to drop-out. • Camps and extra curricular activities were conducted for children so that their parents were motivated to enrol children in school/continue their studies. • Educational loans of nearly Rs.78,300/- were provided for 63 women through cluster associations (of SHGs) for their children's school materials and fees.
Mental health support programme for women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forty-five self-help groups from three Panchayats were selected for a mental health intervention support programme, on an experimental basis. • A survey on mental health issues was conducted among 29 groups for the first year and the results have to be analysed. • A counselling session was run for 22 experimental groups (in Kataraki Panchayat) every fortnight. The other 23 groups from Bistralli and B.Bandi Panchayat form the control group for whom the intervention activity starts from the second year.
Sustainable natural resource management	<p>Sampark implemented a pilot project on sustainable land and water management in Bikanalli villages. The accomplishments of the project include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forming a farmer's sangha, with the objective of sustainable natural resource management (SNRM) • Forming of 7 working committees (water harvesting structure, credit, enterprise activities, labour work, nursery raising and tree plantation and finance management) of sangha members and imparting technical and management training to them • Establishing a revolving loan fund system for land management activities, with the long term perspective of achieving sustainability of natural resource management • Extending credit of Rs. 1,25,000/- to thirty two families and treating 110 acres of land with soil and water conservation measures • Linkages with the forest department: 2000 saplings of <i>neem (Azadirachta indica)</i> trees were planted • Land development activities: thirty poor landless families gained employment from constructing bunds and land development measures • Vermi-compost training was given and demonstration pits constructed in four villages; technique spread to other members in the village.
Sponsorship programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twenty children received a year's educational support from 'give online'. • Give online donated 11 sewing machines to the poorest women for self-employment. These women were given training in tailoring by Sampark. • A donation for kasuti hand embroidery training for 10 poor women was received through give on line. • Three devadasi children and one child from the general category received lifetime education support from an individual donor through Sampark's contacts.

The major impact of these efforts has been increased self-confidence in the women; the families are free from the clutches of moneylenders; children are being sent to school and household income has increased to some extent. The details of the activities implemented during the year 2005-06 are given below and the agencies that supported these activities are given in Annexure 1.

Table 1 Activities implemented

1. Micro-credit and enterprise development
2. Education
3. Mental health support
4. Sustainable natural resource management
5. Sponsorship programme

2.2. Micro credit and enterprise development

2.2.1. Women's self-help groups

Sampark has formed about 200 groups, out of which it now supports 157 self-help groups (147 women's groups and 10 men's groups) with strength of 2396 families in 40 villages. The remaining 43 have been formed under the Swashakti project and are directly monitored by DPIU, Swashakti project. The women's groups are the key actors to

Table 2: Caste- wise membership and group

Caste- wise break-up	SC	General	Total
Total women's groups	44	103	147
Total men's group	3	7	10
Total men members	55	113	168
Total women members	624	1604	2228
Total SHG members	679	1717	2396

promote and monitor poverty reduction and empowerment programmes at the community level. Twenty nine percent (679 members) belong to the scheduled caste and the remaining 71% (1717 members) belong to other backward communities. All 147 groups meet weekly as per the schedule. Out of 147, about 135 groups manage their groups on their own and the remaining 22 groups need Sampark's support in managing their meetings and accounts. Over the last year, these meetings were used to provide information on education, hygiene, and government schemes for women. Sampark tries to create linkages and good management systems among the groups to facilitate their sustainability.

2.2.2. Savings and credit details

As on March 2006, 143 groups have been audited and found to have a total fund of Rs.57,05,863/- (which includes savings, interest, and other income). This break up is given in Table 3. Fifteen lakhs of savings was shared among the members in the period of the past six years. The remaining fund of Rs. 42,05,863 is under rotation among the members to meet their emergency needs, consumption purposes and to start small business activities. The savings played an important role in breaking the debt-trap with moneylenders who charged high interest rates. Women used savings as collateral for getting higher amounts of external credit from banks.

Table 3: Group Fund

Category	Amount in Rs
Membership fees	26,291
Savings available	30,68,461
Savings distributed	15,00,000
Interest	8,35,408
Samanya Nidi	80,661
Fine	12,036
IGP income	30,602
Donations	54,593
Share amount	80,537
Bank Interest	17,274
Total fund accumulated	57,05,863
Total SHG fund after distribution of savings	42,05,863

The total loans raised during 2005-2006 from group funds, bank, cluster and SGSY government subsidy scheme was Rs. 48,66,827/-. The break up of these categories is given in table 4. Sampark has raised cluster loans to meet the credit needs of women where bank linkages have not been possible. SGSY is a subsidy scheme, which will be provided to scheduled caste groups from SC/ST Corporation and TP/ZP.

Table 4 Details about loan

Source of loan	Total loan raised during 2005-2006	Cumulative loan till march 2006
Group loan	34,15,327	
Bank Loan	8,75,000	16,44,200
Cluster loan	3,11,500	11,66,200
SGSY scheme	2,65,000	19,80,500
Grand Total	48,66,827	1,32,04,773

Ten groups availed of loans under the SGSY scheme from April 2001 upto March 2006. These loans were used by women to purchase sheep, goats and buffaloes. Another 65 groups were linked with banks and received an amount of Rs.16,44,200/- from external sources. Women used these loans for

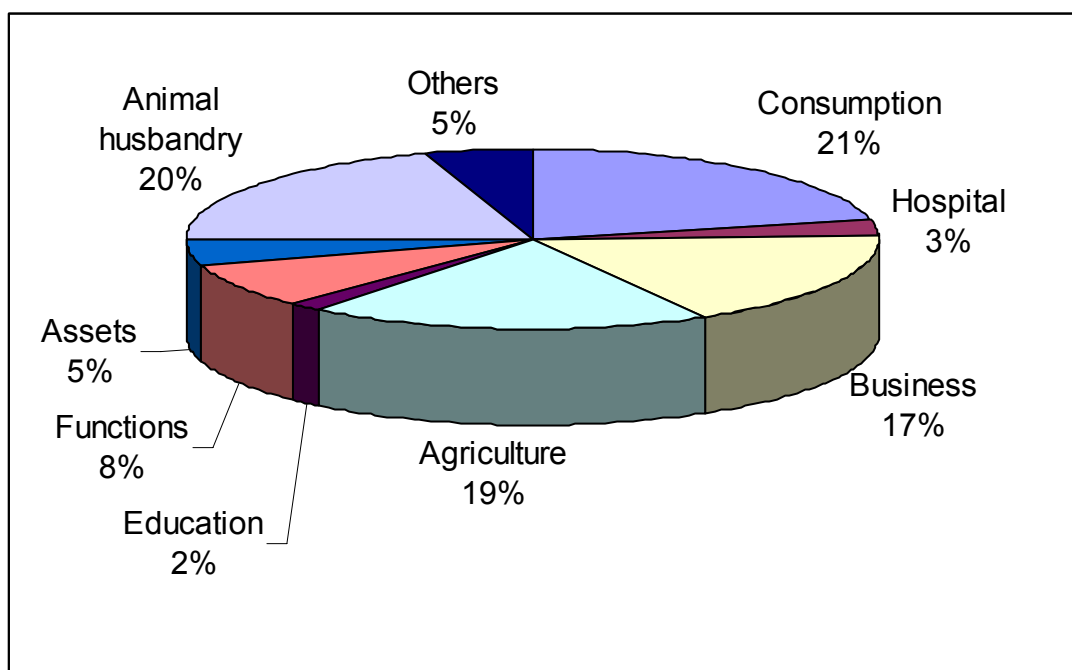
Table 5: Repayment / current outstanding

Source	Total Loan	Repaid	Balance
Group Loan	84,13,873	54,35,650	29,78,223
Bank Loan	16,44,200	12,23,857	4,20,343
Cluster Loan	11,66,200	7,37,511	4,28,689
SGSY	19,80,500	16,31,850	3,48,650
Total	1,32,04,773	90,28,868	41,75,905

agriculture, animal husbandry, petty business, trading activity etc. A cumulative amount of Rs. 1,32,04,773/- was raised by groups from different sources; Rs.90,28,868/- has been repaid and Rs.41,75,905/- is current loan outstanding. These details are presented in Table 5. The credit linkages supported women to meet finances required for health, education, house- repairs, marriages, other celebrations, agriculture, animal husbandry, dairy and small business activities. The different purposes for which credit was used by the members is given in Table 6.

Table 6: Usage of loan

Purpose	No. of Loans	Amount	Percentage %
Consumption	849	1037902	21
Hospital	141	155679	3
Business	193	836135	17
Agriculture	366	914590	19
Education	44	79350	2
Functions	202	401294	8
Assets	76	222200	5
Animal husbandry	214	982077	20
Others	131	237600	5
Total	2216	4866827	100



This diagram shows that the biggest part of the total loan amount (21% and 20%) was used for consumption and animal husbandry, followed by agricultural inputs (19%) and business activities (17%). The remaining 23% of the total loan was used for creating assets, meeting the expenses of festivals and functions.

2.3. Capacity building

During the year thirty groups were provided training on group concept, rules and regulations, fund management, gender, legal rights, leadership and communication skills etc. Eighty women were trained in book writing and accounts maintenance. These 80 women were used as local resource persons for maintaining accounts in the SHGs. With the support of these resource persons, 135 groups out of 147 manage their own accounts. The remaining 12 groups hire a book writer, paying a monthly fee of about Rs. 20-50 per group.

Ten clusters associations were formed covering 147 groups, each cluster has 10-20 groups. In the three-layered structure of SHGs, clusters and federation, at present, women would like to stay with the second layer of the cluster and not to go for third layer to avoid admin costs. Sampark facilitates meetings for setting up of norms for weekly meetings, savings amounts, loan sanction, repayment terms, and interest rates. Clusters play an important role in



designing credit systems, monitoring groups, annual auditing of groups and implementation of activities of education and enterprise development programmes through forming different committees.

2.3.1. Enterprise development

In three of the villages where Sampark works, it organised 151 artisans belonging to scheduled castes into 10 self-help groups. The objective was to upgrade their skills and income earning and the Development Commissioner (Handicraft) Ministry of Textiles supported the project. Women and men from eight of the ten groups (70 women and 70 men) have basic skills in making bamboo items while 21 women from the other two groups are skilled at making wooden toys.

Sampark facilitated the process of organising these 10 groups into two clusters. As a group of artisans, it helped to talk about issues such as improving the products, identifying markets etc.

A fifteen-day design and development workshop on bamboo craft and woodcarving was organized for skilled artisans. A total of 60 artisans, 30 from each cluster, attended these trainings and developed 30 different prototypes with the support of two designers. Artisans were able to understand present market trends and develop marketable products.



Sampark is in the process of facilitating the process of linking these artisans with markets. The staff of EXIM (Export and Import Bank of India) bank visited the bamboo craft training cum production centre and there has been some interest in collaborating with artisans.

Sampark organised two skill up-gradation trainings for bamboo and woodcarving crafts for 40 low skilled artisans (20 from each cluster); the duration was for six months as the artisans had only minimum skills.



2.4. Education Support

Sampark provides support to school going children of the target group on a need basis. Educational materials, bags, school fees, uniforms, stationery and bus passes are given to the poorest children and loans to members who want to use the money for education and offer to repay.

In the year 2004-05, 120 children were given kits consisting of school bags, textbooks, notebooks, uniform, compass boxes stationery etc. During the year 2005-06, another 60 children were supported along with 120 children. An amount of Rs.78,300/- has been given to 63 women as a loan through cluster associations (of SHGs) for their children's school material and fees.

Formation of education committees

Sampark formed education committees at the village level to plan, implement and monitor the education programme. During the year, 19 such committees were formed in 19 project villages. They conducted monthly meetings to discuss and decide on issues and the deliberations were passed on to all the members when the groups met.



The members who had taken responsibility in the committees had made school visits and reported in the cluster meeting; further discussions about school dropouts, quality of education, quality of mid-day meals provided at government school etc. were held. Group members motivated the parents to send their children to school regularly and pay attention to their studies. However, out of the 13 committees, 9 had stopped conducting their monthly meeting after the initial four or five times and this was mainly due to lack of capacity building and follow-up. Sampark is now reviewing these committees in all the villages with the support of group members.

2.4.1. Special classes for the scheduled caste children in the evening times

The committees discussed the need to start special classes in the evening to improve the quality of education for their children. They talked about the logistics and finally it was decided that Sampark would provide material for the tuition centre, and the committee would send volunteers to monitor the fees, venue etc. Thirteen centres started in 13 villages to conduct the classes. Temples, private homes and community halls were used to conduct classes.

Sampark provided material to the tuition centre, and the committees appointed volunteers; it was decided that each child paid a monthly fee of Rs.5-10 to the volunteer. Today, 5 out of the 13 centres run and the others have closed as volunteers were not paid regularly.

2.4.2. Organising children camps

During the year ,15 children's camps were conducted in 9 villages and 40 - 50 children participated in each camp. The objective was to motivate them to attend school regularly. During these camps the children were taken outside where enjoyable activities were planned for them. Sampark's staff and committee



members facilitated group discussions with children about their aspirations.

Cultural programmes were conducted at Yattinatti, Hosa Gondabala and Hale Gondabala to provide awareness at the community level about the importance of education; the occasion was also used to motivate parents to send their children to school.

2.5. Mental Health Support Programme

2.5.1. Introduction

Stigma, poverty and lack of access to care result in psychological distress in women often being unrecognized and untreated. Using a development framework, the present study will examine the effectiveness of integrating mental health intervention (supportive counselling and coping skills training) as a component of ongoing Self Help Group (SHG) activity. The sample will comprise about 350 women, in 7 villages of Koppal, a backward district in Karnataka.

2.5.2. Objectives

A study and action based project on the mental health rural women in psychological distress has been facilitated by Sampark during the last year. The primary objective is to study the effectiveness of mental health intervention in reducing psychological distress and disability.

The secondary objectives are to:

- Focus on community based mental health support rather than identifying individual mental illness and counselling.
- Discuss about mental health and its relation with overall good health, and its impact on working patterns and incomes. As this will be done in the group, there would not be fear of stigma for any individual woman.

The project interventions build the capacity of women so that they improve their mental health by themselves through following a self-help concept.

The intervention is a group based counselling intervention carried out over ten sessions on a fortnightly basis, each group has 12- 15 participants and the duration of each session is approximately two hours.

2.5.3. Progress of the Interventions

Meetings for planning and designing the study: Meetings were conducted at Sampark, Bangalore on 17th and 21 and 22nd October 2005 to discuss the research project on coping skills intervention for rural women with psychological distress. These meetings were lead by Ms. Smita Premchander, project leader and Dr. Kiran Rao, technical person. Field staff and women leaders of the SHGs participated in these meetings. During the meeting the details about the objectives and methodology, tentative schedule and outcome of research project were shared.

Field visits by the training team: The training team (Dr. Kiran Rao and Ms. Prathima) visited villages in Koppal on 4th and 5th of November and had discussions with field staff and individual women; they also attended SHG and cluster level meetings. This helped the team to understand the livelihoods of women in Koppal district and the process of SHG meetings. Accordingly, they were able to finalise the content of the training of trainers programme and develop the structure of the counselling sessions.

Field visit helped the team to reformulate the training content suitable for the context and form the structure of counselling sessions.

Training of trainers programme: Three training of trainers programmes (ToTs) were conducted involving counsellors, and interviewers to build their capacities to conduct pre and post survey and counselling sessions.

The entire training programme was conducted through participatory exercises such as role-plays, story telling, group exercises etc.

As the field staff was new to the concept of mental health, these ToTs helped them to develop skills as well as confidence in conducting counselling sessions on health issues.



Baseline survey: A baseline survey on economic and health aspects was conducted involving a sample of 400 families. The data has been computerised for further reference and analysis.

Conducting Counselling Sessions: Twenty-two groups were covered for the project. Each group gets a set of 10 sessions, so that takes the number of counselling sessions to 220 in all. The details about the counselling sessions covered for the selected groups are given in table 7.

Table 7: Groups covered under counselling sessions

Name of the session (content)	No. of groups covered
Session 1 - Introduction of the intervention programme objectives, purpose and ethical considerations.	22
Session 2 - Psycho education on body- mind relationships	22
Session 3 – 8 Review of coping strategies and encouraging problem solving and coping.	19
Session 4 – Sharing problems and coping strategies	17
Session 5 - Sharing problems and coping strategies	12
Session 6 - Sharing problems and coping strategies	1
Total	93

So far, out of 220 sessions, 93 counselling sessions have been completed. All the 22 groups experienced sessions 1 and 2. Sessions 3 and 4 were covered for 19 and 17 groups respectively.

Usefulness of the Counselling Sessions:

Women expressed that due to these sessions they were able to talk about their problems; they said that also saw how others talked about their problems, and as the sessions progressed, they were able to develop confidence to cope with the events of their lives.

Through counselling session women gained skills to handle their stress and developed confidence to come out of the problems in their daily lives

Challenges that counsellors face: The challenges that the counsellors faced during the counselling session were:

- Lack of enough private physical place: For most of the groups especially scheduled caste and scheduled tribe groups, there is not enough private space where they can sit and talk about their problems, because their houses are too small to accommodate 12 – 15 members in one place. In public places like temples and outside their huts, women were not open to talking about their problems.



- Lack of electricity: In the villages, there was no electricity during the summer months, and most of the poor women had time for the counselling sessions only after 8 pm counselling sessions had to be postponed a few times because of this.

2.6. Sustainable Natural Resource Management

Sampark organised demonstration of vermicomposting in Gondabala, by using a local resource person, Mr. Rajappa, who was trained by the department of agriculture. Twenty women and ten men participated in the training. Along with demonstration Mr. Rajappa explained the benefits of organic manure as against chemical fertilizers. During the training two farmers from Gangavati taluk of Koppal who had taken training in the last year came and shared their experience about the use of vermicompost.

This training programme helped to orient the farmers and build awareness on organic manure use. As a result of this training, five farmers showed interest in making vermincompost pits. Sampark assisted these farmers in availing of the Rs. 1,000/- subsidy given by the agricultural department to construct vermicompost pits in their fields. After this initiation, news of the benefits was spread to other villages and some of the farmers were motivated to take up vermicomposting. They were also interested in learning about other organic farming techniques.

2.7. Sponsorship Programme

During the year Sampark raised donations through 'give online' and direct contact. The amount details are given in section 6.3 and the areas for which the donations received are given below:

- Twenty-five children received one year's education support, which helped the poor families to send their children to school.
- Eleven poor women who were trained by Sampark in tailoring received sewing machines, one each, free of cost. Clusters were involved to identify these poor women.
- Ten women received fees for training in Kasuti hand embroidery.

Extending a helping hand: gifting a livelihood

Nirmala, now 21 years old, was married to her cousin when she was only 18. She was one of 13 family members who had to toil as agricultural labourers as they had no land of their own. In itself, this is an uncertain livelihood as this is a semi-arid region.

When she was living at her grandfather's house before her marriage, Nirmala used to tailor clothes using a sewing machine that was donated by a friend. She didn't charge or make money, but she had learnt the skill and often stitched for her friends. She had left it behind for her younger sister, the breadwinner, who had to try and earn an income, as the grandparents were now very old.

After marriage, Nirmala was eager to use this old skill for income generation. However, she found it difficult to procure a machine as even her grandmother, an SHG member, had already borrowed money for medical expenses. So, during the festival season, Nirmala used to collect the fabrics and take them to her grandparents' house to stitch. This was very difficult and not profitable, as she has to spend on bus charge.

When Sampark asked the cluster members to identify the poorest women to provide sewing machines free of cost, they suggested Nirmala's name. She shared her financial problems with Sampark's staff who visited her and on receiving the sewing machine she said. "my dream has come true ; with the support of Sampark. I am the only tailor in the scheduled caste community for Katarki and Gudlanur villages". Now, she is able to earn Rs. 500-800/- per month (depending upon the season) from her tailoring.

- Three devadasi children and one child from the general category received lifetime education support by an individual donor.

Sampark would like to express its gratitude to the donors for their support.

3. Research and Advisory Services

3.1. Study on Microfinance and Self Help Groups of CARE's – STEP Project

Sampark conducted a review of microfinance and self help groups of CARE project on the Sustainable Tribal Empowerment Project (STEP) in Andhra Pradesh (AP). The main objective was to measure the extent of improvement in the quality of SHG functioning that has been promoted by STEP.

A sample of 940 groups was covered from 11 NGOs (partners of STEP) in four districts of AP. The study findings showed that the overall quality of the functioning of SHGs comes up to a more than moderate level on the criteria that the study selected. This includes aspects such as groups have good awareness about the group concept, they conduct



meetings and save regularly, they accessed large amounts of external funds, they have good linkages with various institutions, and that the groups have had a noticeable social impact.

The study recommended concentration on some of the important areas of SHG's functioning such as book maintenance, income generating activities and building capacity of women and staff, which would bring vibrant and sustainable tribal groups in these four districts of Andhra Pradesh.

3.2. Research on Strengthening Policy for Women's Empowerment

Sampark conducted desk research on programmes and policy in order to strengthen policy for women's empowerment in collaboration with CARE – India, New Delhi. The primary goal was to examine how women's empowerment policy translates into programmes, especially in relation to micro finance programmes, and to make recommendations for design of microfinance programmes that empower women. As a part of the study, four programmes; Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Swashakti, Swayamsidha and Rashtriya Mahila Kosh,

and empowerment policies from the Five Year Plans, National Policy for Empowerment of Women and Reserve Bank of India were analysed. Based on this analysis, lessons and recommendations were drawn that would be incorporated in future planning of women's empowerment policy and programmes. Some of these include:

- a holistic view of empowerment which includes socio, economic and cultural aspects must be taken account within policies and programs relating to micro-credit,
- a set of impact indicators of women's empowerment should be present with national policy and then transferred to relevant departments,
- microcredit projects should include strategies to build the capacities of women, with more flexibility to meet consumption and enterprise needs of women and with long-term objectives.

The draft report of the study has been submitted to CARE – India, New Delhi to receive feedback and accordingly the report will be refined and finalised.

3.3. Evaluation of Project for Prevention and Elimination of Bonded Labour

Sampark team worked with an evaluation team and conducted an evaluation of a project on "Prevention and Elimination of Bonded Labour" (PEBLISA) which was supported by the International Labour Office (ILO) in AP and Tamil Nadu, India. The main objective was to study and understand the models used to prevent and eliminate bonded labour in AP and TN and see to what extent these models could be replicable within and outside states. Group discussions and individual interviews were used to collect information from all the stakeholders of the project. Analysis showed that microfinance, in combination with skill training programmes, played an important role in preventing the vulnerable group from falling in the trap of bonded labour. The village level structures created as a part of the project need further support in order to become sustainable.

The staff were able to understand:

- bonded labour issues (specific to India, Pakistan and Nepal), and strategies to identify BL
- the main stakeholders involved to bring about the interventions, and
- the legal aspect such as Acts of Legislation on bonded labour and minimum wages

The main recommendations of the study were to further develop the design in order to scale up; the model in the next phase could be located in source districts as well as destination districts of interstate migrant labour; to focus on specific sectors would additionally enable more depth on the development of lessons; to link with technical expertise from other sectors within ILO from other large poverty alleviation programmes in India, and with different ministries would help to achieve greater effectiveness and sustainability.

3.4. From Bondage to Freedom: ILO's PEBLISA Experience in South Asia

Based on Sampark's performance in understanding and presenting the results of evaluation of PEBLISA in India, ILO awarded the organization an assignment to

compile the impact and evaluation reports of PEBLISA implemented in India, Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh. As an overall statement, the interventions of PEBLISA have demonstrated the effectiveness of various measures for prevention and elimination of bonded labour at the micro, meso and macro levels. Many lessons of the project are highly replicable, while others are still at a nascent stage. The study recommended that there is a need for ILO to continue the project and to be a catalyst in bringing together the power and resources of other partners to achieve the common goal of prevention and eradication of bonded labour, and other forms of forced labour. The report can be accessed from www.bondedlabour.org

Along with these studies, Smita Premchander, as an individual consultant, completed two assignments, these are:

1. Developing draft TOR for ILO, New Delhi for evaluation and impact assessment of a project for Prevention of Bonded Labour in South Asia, which is implemented in India, Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh.
2. An evaluation of a NOVIB funded NGO project for Dalit Empowerment through finance and organisation building, GRAM, Nizamabad district, Andhra Pradesh, India.

The research results of the impact and evaluation studies mentioned above are documented and available at the Sampark library

4. Documentation and Publications

4.1. Training Manual: FAMOS Check Guide and Methods

The International Labour Organisation (ILO), Geneva developed the content for a self-check of organisations that are involved in providing services for Female and Male Operated Small enterprises (FAMOS). The content has been pilot tested with their partners and revised based on the feedback. Sampark has been assigned to organise the content and design it to make the manual user friendly. The designing of the content was completed and ILO has taken the responsibility to print and publish on their website.

4.2.A Guide for Evaluation/Impact Assessment of Bonded Labour Projects

Sampark has fifteen years' experience in conducting impact and evaluation studies and was involved in evaluation and compilation of experiences of PEBLISA in India, Pakistan and Nepal. Utilising this expertise, a user-guide for evaluation and impact of Bonded Labour (BL) projects for ILO was developed along with team leader. The content includes objectives, difference between evaluation and impact, methods to conduct evaluation and impact and impact indicators for a bonded labour project. The guide is published on ILO's website and is accessible at http://www.bondedlabour.org/web/pdf/Bonded_labour_P_projects_A_guide_for_Evaluation_and_Impact_Assessment.pdf.

Sampark was involved in three assignments related to bonded labour. This enabled the development of a guide for evaluating and assessing the impact of BL projects. The assignment improved the documentation skills of the staff.

4.3. Articles and Books Published

Publications, Published

Articles and books published during the year:

- The story of Sampark's self reliance was published in *Money Matters, People Too: Study on Self-Reliance among NGOs in the Development Sector in India* by Mamta Saikia and Hemalata Subramanyam.
- *Competing Perspectives of Women and Micro-finance Institutions: Rethinking Organisational Forms and Capacity Building*: This article is about Sampark's experience on microfinance written by Smita Premchander and published in a Journal: MAINSTREAM, Vol. XLIII, No. 16, April 8-14, 2005.
- Two articles on Sampark's field experience of micro-credit were published in a journal: *Chinmaya Management Review, Vol. V, Issue 1, January 2006*. This journal is published by the Chinamaya Institute of Management. These are:
 - *Understanding the Impact of Microfinance from Women's Perspectives*
 - *Micro-credit and its Impact on Women's Lives: The Sampark Experience*

These articles were written by Smita Premchander, Nirmala Hungund, Uma B. Shirol

and translated (from Kannada into English) by Shameem Banu.

- Article on "Moving from Sustainable Management to Sustainable Governance of Natural Resources: The Role of social Learning Process in Rural India, Bolivia and Mali" was co-authored by M. Chidambaranathan along with Stephan Rist, Cesar Escobar and Urs. Wiesmann. This article is published in *Journal of Rural Studies*. The article discusses the conceptual, methodological and practical framework that would enable or hinder the transformation of sustainable management into sustainable governance of natural resources through social learning processes and communicative action.
- The book on "Gender and Sustainable Development" co-edited by Smita Premchander with Ms. Christine Mueller, was published from NCCR programme, CDE, Berne and is available at http://www.nccr-north-south.unibe.ch/publications/Infosystem/Online%20Dokumente/Upload/Gender_Book.pdf. The book is about the issue of how social science research and development practice can be made more gender sensitive, and how can it move towards a world with gender equality. It has articles from researchers in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Publications, forthcoming

The articles that are going to publish:

- Premchander, Smita and V. Prameela, forthcoming. Policy and Programme analysis of Gender and Microfinance programmes of the Government of India, ongoing assignment for CARE India.
- Premchander, Smita, Forthcoming. The Importance of Organisation Building in the Informal Economy – An ILO Perspective. Geneva: International Labour Office.
- Chidambaranathan. M., Jeyaseelan L, Urs. Weismann, Stephan Rist and Roshni Menon: (forth coming). Communicative Action, Social Learning and

Social Governance for Sustainable Natural Resource Management in the Semi-Arid Region.

- Premchander, Smita; Ryoko Iizuka; Gerry Finnegan; Pat Richardson, 2005. A Handbook for Planning Impact Assessments (Draft for Publication). Geneva: ILO.

5. Students and Volunteers

Three volunteers have been worked towards achieving the objectives of Sampark during 2005-06:

Ms. Annika Salmi is a volunteer engaged in English language editing of several internal documents. She develops proposals according to the focussed area of different funding agencies. One such proposal was accepted by the Pangea Foundation, an Italy based funding organisation. They showed interest in supporting the education project for five years in Koppal.

Ms. Anina and Ms. Doris Abt who work as teachers in Swizerland visited Sampark and learned about its work on an education project for children; they also facilitated children's camps in two villages.

Sampark would like to express its gratitude to all these people for their time and support.

6. Administration & Other Issues

6.1. Visits of the Board Members

Board members of Sampark visited and kept abreast of projects that were being implemented; they provided their expertise to the staff for implementation of the activities. Details of some of these visits are given in Table 8.

Table 8 Visits of Board Members

Name	Date	Purpose of visit
Prof. Ranjit Gupta	30th September 2006	Had a discussion about the progress of activities of Sampark
Ms. Madhu Singhal	27th March 2006	Had a discussion about the progress of activities of Sampark and resolution made for setting up of the staff security deposit fund
Dr. Kiran Rao	21st and 22nd October, 2005 and 12th November, 2005 4th and 5th, November 2005 7th January, 2006 27th February, 2006 27th March, 2006	Had a discussion about the action research on "coping skills intervention for rural women with psychological distress" Visited Sampark's field project at Koppal to understand the situation and make plan for the interventions of action research on mental health issues Facilitated three training of trainers programmes on mental health issues for the staff

Sampark would like to acknowledge the support of the board members and extend to them our utmost gratitude.

6.2. Staff Development

Sampark has 10 full time staff and 9 associates; the details are given in Table 9.

Table 9: Staff details

Staff at Bangalore office	Staff at Koppal office	Volunteers	Associates
1. Smita Premchander 2. V. Prameela 3. Shameem Banu 4. K.G. Meenakshi 5. Chidmabaranathan	1. L. Jeyseelan 2. Nirmala 3. B.S. Uma 4. Rajshekar 5. Akkamma	1. Rajappa 2. Savithamma 3. Nirmala 4. Kamma 5. Jayasheela 6. P. Rebuke 7. H. Rebuke	1. Ratan Gopinath 2. Mamtha Kalkur 3. Roshni Menon 4. Soraya Verjee 5. Jason Klinck 6. Eshwar Prasad 7. Benjamin Laroquette 8. Suparna Diwakar 9. Aparna Subramanyam

We would like to thank the volunteers and associates for their time and commitment.

Staff Remuneration: The details about the distribution of staff according to salary levels are given in table 10.

Table 10 Distribution of staff according to their salary

Slab of gross salary (in Rs.) plus benefits paid to staff	Male staff	Female staff	Total staff
5000 <	1	3	4
5,000 – 10,000	1	1	2
10,000 – 25,000	2	1	3
25,000 – 50,000			
50,000 – 1,00,000			
1,00,000 >			
Voluntarily		1	1
Total			10

Table 11 Staff remuneration (Gross annual salary + benefits) in Rupees

Head of the organisation:	Nil (Work as a volunteer)	Per annum
Highest paid:	Rs. 1,61,520/-	Per annum
Lowest paid:	Rs. 50,760/-	Per annum

Internal trainings and workshops: With the intention of enlarging the experience, skill and knowledge of the staff, Sampark organised training programmes. Some of these are; trainings on mental health aspects such as problem solving (coping) skills, techniques for stress release, SHGs, enterprise development, and finance management for the field staff in Koppal. The training helped them to build their capacities in those areas.

Sampark organised a two-day internal workshop for both Bangalore and Koppal field staff on 21st and 22nd 2005. The staff shared the progress and quarterly

plan of activities and the problems that they face during the implementation of activities.

International conference: During the year, M. Chidambaranathan participated in the international conference on "Agricultural Research for Development European Responses to Changing Global Needs". This conference was organized in Zurich, Switzerland between 27th and 29th 2005. During the conference he gave presentation on "Transdisciplinary Research, Social Learning and Innovation in Rural Areas."

6.3. Fund Raising

During the year, Sampark has made the following efforts to raise funds:

Donations

A few people who came to know about Sampark, either through the website or via Sampark's network, contributed cash donations towards Sampark operations. During the year an amount of Rs.1,26,522/- has been raised through donations towards education for children and skill trainings for women. The break up of the same is given in table 12.

Table 12: Details about donations for the year 2005-06

Sl. No.	Name of the donor	Amount in Rs.	Purpose
1	Ms. Shruti Shukla	5,000	• Education for 2 poor children
2	Mr. Stephan Rist	16,215	• Education for three Devadasi children
	Total for Education	21,215	
3	Mrs. Khandelwal	2,100	• Revolving loan fund
4	Give Foundation	1,00,974	• Skill training for women
5	Others	2,233	• Skill training for women
	Total for revolving loan and skill training	1,05,307	
	Total donations	1,26,522	

Sampark would like to express its gratitude to the Give foundation and individual donors for their support.

Proposals in the Pipeline

Proposal for Visioning of Sustainable Livelihoods in Rajasthan: Sampark developed a project proposal for Friends of Women's World Banking (FWWB), Ahmedabad with the objective of conducting visioning exercises in Jaipur and Jodhpur districts of Rajasthan for women's empowerment and sustainable livelihoods of rural poor and marginalized families. The results of this exercise will give information about the enterprise and employment potentials in these two districts. These results would be utilised in one of Sampark's action programmes, which will be implemented in Rajasthan.

Proposal for Promoting Vocational Skills for Employment and Enterprises in Rajasthan: Sampark would like to transfer the expertise gained through activities in Karnataka (Koppal) and scale up these activities in Rajasthan. When the concept note on this idea was shared with the Pangea Foundation, they asked

for more details about the time plan and its budget. Based on this request, Sampark prepared a project proposal with an objective of increasing income of 1500 families through employment and self-employment initiatives, involving young women and men. The same proposal was submitted to DFID.

6.4. Visitors to Sampark

Several people from funding agencies and other institutions/organisations visited Sampark in both Bangalore and Koppal to review and Sampark's various projects. The details of some of these visits are attached as Annexure 2.

7. Future Direction

Sampark is an NGO committed to poverty reduction in the villages of Koppal through working in the areas of enterprise, microcredit, education and health. This commitment has been renewed and Sampark has pledged its resources to this task. In Koppal Sampark decided to stay with the 40 villages where it works at present and to strengthen women's groups and clusters. In the next three years the organization will further focus on skill trainings through wide networking with local Industrial Training Institutes, savings and credit activities as well as the health and education programmes as they show a positive impact on the livelihoods of the people in Koppal.

In future Sampark would like to start its development interventions in two districts (Jaipur and Jodhpur) of Rajasthan, which is a semi-arid region and faces more poverty, as a backward area in India. In this intervention, Sampark would like to scale up its activities of Koppal with the focus on employment and enterprise aspects for young women and men.

Smita Premchander, Secretary,
Sampark, Bangalore, June 27th, 2006

Annexure 1

Institutional Collaborations

The agencies that supported the activities of Sampark during the year are given in table below:

Sl. No	Agencies	Programme
1	Give Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To support skill training, adult literacy; sponsors the education of children through online donations
2	Pangea Foundation , Italy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To support education and enterprise activities in the district of Koppal covering 25 villages with 47 self help group, 660 SC devadasi women's families
3.	International Labour Organisation, Geneva	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To evaluate the implementation of ILO Project "Prevention and Elimination of Bonded Labour in South Asia (PEBLISA) To compile the impact and Evaluation reports on the PEBLISA project. To develop PEBLISA impact guide
4	Ministry of Textile Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To conduct two design and technical development workshops for bamboo & wood carving artisans
5	Centre for Development and Environment, Bern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To write article on the issues of natural resource management
6.	CARE-India Andhra Pradesh and New Delhi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To conduct study on microfinance-self help groups in four districts of Andhra Pradesh To conduct study on "strengthening policy and programs for women's empowerment through microfinance."
7.	Anuradha Foundation , USA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For an action research on coping skills interventions for mental health issues.
8.	Volkart Vision India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To conduct enterprise trainings for women SHG members

Annexure 2 Visitors to Sampark

Details of people from funding agencies and different institutions/organisations who visited both at Bangalore and Koppal office during the year 2005-06 are given below:

Donors at Bangalore Office: During the year five persons from the different funding agencies visited Sampark to understand the Sampark's work and relevant proposal that has been submitted to them. These are listed in below table:

Donors Visited at Bangalore and field Office

Name of the visitor	Date	Name of institution
Mr. Julian Parr	4-10-05	International Labour Office (ILO) New-Delhi
Mr. Bernad Imhasly	27-9-05	Volkart Foundation, Switzerland
Mr. Barbara Gianni	25-1-06	Pangea Foundation Italy
Ms. Simona Lanzoni	17-2-06	Pangea Foundation, Italy
Ms. Chandrika Niksch	27-2-06	Anuradha Foundation, USA

Selected Visitors at Bangalore Office

Name of the visitor	Date	Name of institution	Purpose of visit
Mr.Y.S.Jain & Mr.Shiver Kumar	17-6-05	Corporation Bank Bangalore	To understand micr-credit activity of Sampark
Ms.Anjali Kalghatgi	18-7-05	Enterprenuer, Bangalore	To understand the market unit of Sampark.
Ms.Ajay and Noor	20-7-05	Individual, Bangalore	To get to know about Sampark's activities
Ms. Gudo Ahluwalia	30-8-05	Individual, Bangalore	To understand Sampark's work related poverty reduction.
Mr.Samson	26-8-05	GRAM, Nizamabad	To provide inputs for the evaluation of GRAM's (NGO) project
Ms.Anuja Pattavi	29-9-05	Student Christ College Bangalore	To know about the feasibility, to work on summer project with Sampark.
Ms.Yukie	08-11-05	Individual, Japan	To get to know Sampark's activities
Mr.Avyay	21-11-05	Student, IIMB, Bangalore	To get to know about Sampark's activities
Ms.Anuja Dubey	28-11-05	Student, Christ College Bangalore	To get the information about Sampark's activities
Ms.Mathangi Subramanyam	30-11-05	Entrepreneur, Bangalore	Understood the work of Sampark through website and visited to donate threads to Koppal.
Mr. Susanth C.S, Designer	07-2-06	National Institute of Design, Bangalore	To understand the skill training on woodcarving and bamboo and provide designing support

Selected Visitors at the field office, Koppal

Name of the visitor	Date	Name of the institution	Purpose of visit
Ms. Anina and Ms. Doris	22-04-05	Interns from Switzerland	To understand education systems in India specially in rural area
Ms. Prathima	05-11-05	Trainer, NIMHANS	To understand situation in Koppal and plan interventions for project on health project
Mr. Lalith	11-02-2006	EXIM (Export-Import Bank of India) bank	To find out the feasibility to collaborate with Sampark for marketing support for the bamboo products and support the artisans.



No.120/A, 17th Main, KHB Colony, 2nd cross, 5th Block, Koramangala, Bangalore-5600 95. Karnataka
Telephone:91-80-25530196, 2552126 fax No: 91-80-25529557
e-mail: sampark@bri.vsnl.net.in. Website: www.sampark.org