

BALA VIKASA RESTORES SIX URBAN WATER BODIES IN CHENNAI



Bala Vikasa added another feather in its cap by restoring six urban water tanks in the Chennai and Kanchipuram districts of Tamil Nadu. A pioneer in restoring minor irrigation tanks in villages, renovation of urban water bodies marks another milestone in Bala Vikasa's illustrious journey in water conservation.

CII Foundation, Gmcco, Danfoss, and Grundfos came forward as funding partners in this project while BV worked as the implementation partner.

From excavation of silt to construction of bund, revetment, water inlet/outlet system, toe wall, concrete trail path and additional beautification work like plantation, fencing, installation of benches and designated play areas for kids, no effort was spared to turn

these defunct water bodies into thriving and sustainable ecosystems.

In a city which has suffered huge losses due to floods and drought like situations, these are set to play a crucial role in mitigating loss to life, property and environment. 4 more tanks are currently in the process of restoration.



SIX IRRIGATION TANKS RESTORED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH VERIZON



Six minor irrigation tanks were restored in the districts of Warangal, Jangaon and Siddipet with Verizon as the CSR partner. 30,589 tractor loads of excavated silt was applied to 933 acres of agricultural fields belonging to 665 farmers.

The de-siltation increased the water storage capacity of the six tanks by six crore liters besides

recharging the groundwater table, significantly affecting the nearby bores and wells.

In addition to this, our effective negotiating with excavating machine owners helped us save Rs. 5,40,000 which will help us take up additional work like bund strengthening and plantation activity.

NINE VILLAGES GET 150 NEW FARM PONDS

BV constructed over 150 new farm ponds in nine villages to harvest rain water for field irrigation and other allied activities.



130 farmers rear fishes in their farm ponds

BV facilitated the procurement of 3 Lakh fish to be reared in 130 farm ponds in an effort to increase farmers' revenue through pisciculture.



Farmers plant fruit-bearing trees around farm ponds

In order to prevent bund erosion and improve the nutritional outcomes of the beneficiary families, BV facilitated the planting of over 7,700 fruit-bearing trees around 256 farm ponds.

125 RURAL WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS RECEIVE INCUBATION SUPPORT THROUGH INPRUWE



In a one-of-its-kind incubation program sponsored by the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI), 125 rural women entrepreneurs and 25 student mentors from business and management backgrounds were incubated by BVIC in partnership NIRD & PR, ALEAP, VREAP Foundation and Rubaroo.

InPRUWe (Incubation Program for Rural Women Entrepreneurs) supported the women entrepreneurs through a series of

workshops and insightful exposure visits facilitated by professional mentors over a period of 10 months. The program focused on rekindling their entrepreneurial spirit, enhancing their knowledge and equipping them with skills required to scale their businesses.

The student mentors, on the other hand, got first-hand exposure to rural business enterprises during the process of sharing systemic knowledge to the rural women.

BVIC SIGNS MOU WITH TISS TO OFFER EPGD PROGRAMS



With the signing of an MoU with the prestigious Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) in August, BVIC is all set to offer Executive Post Graduate Diploma (EPGD) Programs in Innovative CSR and Social Entrepreneurship at its upcoming facility in Hyderabad from January.

BVIC AND US CONSULATE GENERAL, MUMBAI, INCUBATE 10 STARTUPS THROUGH SOCIOCONNECT

10 innovative social startups working in the domains of Women and Girl Empowerment, Poverty Reduction, Health and Sanitation, Environment and Digital Connectivity were mentored and supported by BVIC in partnership with the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai, through 'SocioConnect', an initiative funded by the US Consulate General, Mumbai.



A Two-Day workshop on business models and strategies, stakeholder mapping, team building, CSR Law, finance and fundraising by subject matter experts was followed by a Grand Finale event at TISS, Mumbai. The 10 finalists pitched their business ideas to the CSR representatives present at the Grand Finale in an effort to form strategic alliances and new partnerships.

The Grand Finale saw the participation of eminent personalities like Jagannatha Kumar, CEO, Reliance Foundation, Srikanth Prabhu, Lead-Portfolio Management, Social Alpha, Amitabh Verma, Fmr. Executive Director, DBS Bank, Dr. Ajay Tannirkulam, Director, Magasool and Mr. Debaneth Benarjee, Founder, Sampurnearth, who spoke to the audience on the social startup ecosystem.



DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONALS FROM INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS ATTEND CDD TRAINING IN JULY

Development professionals from Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Canada, Australia, and Sudan representing international development organizations like UNDO, WFP, Good Neighbours International, and Child Development Federation came together to learn the CDD approaches of Bala Vikasa.



In a two-week training program organized by PDTC, the participants received various insights into sustainable rural development. They learned successful development models, tools, and approaches to community-driven development. The training helped them in acquiring knowledge and expertise to be effective change agents in their communities and organizations.

PDTC, VYK ORGANIZE 2-DAY TRAINING ON FUNDRAISING TECHNIQUES FOR NGOS



PDTC and Vishwa Yuvak Kendra (VYK) organized a two-day training program on 'Fund Raising: Trends, opportunities, and techniques' for NGOs. The workshop helped 83 participants from 63 NGOs working in six states of India understand different techniques of fundraising.

Facilitated by PAC – Bangalore, the resource persons helped participants understand how to build relationships with potential donors and ways to approach them. The workshop proved to be very useful for all the participants.

BV PARTICIPATES IN NIRD FACULTY INDUCTION

Bala Vikasa introduced some of the most successful Community-Driven development approaches to the newly recruited faculty members of the National Institute for Rural Development at their Faculty Induction program.

Bala Vikasa also suggested the incorporation of regular exposure visits to BV's community development programs into NIRD's training programs in order to enhance the effectiveness of their international training programs.

BV SIGNS A CRUCIAL MOU WITH PAC, BENGALURU



Bala Vikasa has signed an MoU with Public Affairs Centre (PAC), Bangalore, which will allow both the organizations to leverage each other's strengths while expanding their activities to different states in India.

Bala Vikasa and PAC will collaborate as knowledge partners to enhance the prevailing development paradigm through extensive research, capacity building, data analytics and impact assessment and provide valuable insight for effective policy making.

PDTC HOLDS SEMINAR ON 'IMPLICATION OF GST AND INCOME TAX ON NGOS



To explain the implication of GST and Income tax on NGOs, Bala Vikasa organized a one-day seminar at PDTC for partner organizations from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. It helped the participants in enhancing their understanding of various IT and GST related issues. The sector experts informed the participants about GST, legal provisions, rules, available circulars, and their applicability to NGOs.

'BACK TO SCHOOL': IMPROVING ADULT LITERACY WITH SPECIAL CLASSES



The adult literacy program helped elders in 141 villages to learn basic literacy skills, which included writing names and signatures, reading bus numbers and signboards.

The program benefitted nearly 2,000 adults. BV motivated 140 youngsters, who were visiting their villages for summer vacation, to volunteer for teaching the elders. It helped in bridging the widening gap between the two age groups.

RURAL YOUTH RECEIVE CAREER GUIDANCE AND PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS



BV gave career guidance and personality development sessions to over 200 rural youngsters in May. The sessions helped students to choose fields that are in tune with their aptitude, interest, personality, skills, and job expectations. It also helped in developing positive personality traits in students. Fr. Alex, Director of Navajeevan Bala Bhavan, and Francis Reddy, Program Officer-Documentation of Bala Vikasa, conducted the sessions.

THOUSANDS OF WOMEN RAISE AWARENESS ON INTERNATIONAL WIDOWS DAY



Nearly 28,000 women took part in awareness rallies organized in 455 villages on International Widows Day. As a symbol of inclusion, honor, and respect, the women distributed vermilion, bangles, and flowers to more than 5,500 widows.

Women held placards and chanted slogans against the widespread discrimination against widows and attempted to de-stigmatize widowhood and associated beliefs.

MORE THAN 3,000 KIDS BENEFIT FROM SUMMER CAMPS



Summer camps by Bala Vikasa opened the door for 3,076 kids from 160 villages to develop new skills in arts and sports besides improving their academics. In camps, children learned kolatam, dance, drawing, soft skills, computer applications, Karate, Kabaddi, and other outdoor games.

More than 130 donors helped in making the arrangements and 160 teachers volunteered to teach in the camps. The children were taught to inculcate discipline in their life to be effective and efficient in everything they do.

360 VIKASA CHILDREN CELEBRATE BIRTHDAY ON SOLIDARITY DAY



BV organized Solidarity Day to celebrate the birthdays of 360 Vikasa Children (orphans) in 30 centers of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. Women members from the WID program, also known as Vikasa Mothers took a day off from work and spent it with kids. They also donated a day's wage for the benefit of the kids.

25,272 Vikasa Mothers along with 419 guests attended the event across the two states. The women contributed a total donation of Rs. 33,30,000 besides raising a donation of Rs. 8,83,000 from local donors. Vikasa Mothers ensured that all the children had a great time during the day by conducting various fun activities.

COUNSELING SESSIONS HELD TO HELP 100 WIDOWS COME OUT OF TRAUMA



To ease the trauma of widows caused due to the repression attached to widowhood, BV's widow empowerment team organized three counseling sessions that helped over 100 disadvantaged widows. These sessions provided them with a platform to share their burdens, find comfort and solace, reorient their outlook and regain lost confidence and self-esteem.

EXPERT LAWYERS HELP 150 WIDOWS UNDERSTAND THEIR BASIC RIGHTS

Keeping in mind that widows experience special difficulties due to the restrictions imposed on them and the persistence of negative social attitude towards them, Bala Vikasa organized rights awareness meet for 150 widows on the occasion of International Widows Day.

Advocate Vaskula Mahendar, Rajendra Prasad, and Counselor Anusha helped widows understand their constitutional rights and entitlements to resist and confront unjust practices that oppress and discriminate them.

ADVANCED TAILORING CLASSES HELP WIDOWS REMAIN IN BUSINESS



Ten widows attended a month-long 'advanced tailoring' course organized in partnership with Call of the Poor, Canada. The classes helped them in learning new skills to meet the fast-paced competition, secure income prospects, advance economically and become self-reliant.

WIDOW MEMBER PEDDI RAJITHA RECEIVES 'VISISTA MAHILA PURASKAR'

Peddi Rajitha, a young widow from Mallakapalli (Warangal), won the prestigious 'Visista Mahila Puraskar' award for her impeccable work, struggle, and determination to end the discriminatory and inhumane practices against widows. She received the award under the category of 'change agent' by Telangana Government on the occasion of International Women's day.

28 COLLEGE-LEVEL SEMINARS TO TURN YOUTH INTO CHANGE AGENTS



Bala Vikasa organized seminars in 28 colleges from 12 districts of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh on the 'Role of Youth in Social Change'. While the primary focus of the seminars was to capacitate the students to play an integral role in the social movement for the emancipation of widows, the seminars also touched upon various aspects of how they could be effective change agents in their communities. Student Committees for the protection of Widows' Rights were formed in the colleges to take the message of social justice forward proactively.

DISTRICT LEVEL SEMINAR IN SIDDIPET ON THE IMPACT OF SOCIAL MEDIA ON TODAY'S YOUTH



A seminar on the 'Role of Youth in Social Change' at Siddipet, organized to inspire young boys and girls to turn into agents of change, saw the participation of over 1000 students from 17 colleges along with their faculty members.

Joel Devis, Commissioner of Police spoke to the students on the power of social media and urged them to use it for causes that are good and beneficial to them and to the society at large. Farooq Hussain, MLC, appreciated Bala Vikasa and expressed that events like these are the need of the hour for bringing about social change.

Shoury Reddy, Executive Director, BV, informed the students about the social movement that for the Emancipation of Widows and how they could play an important role in it.

114 FARMERS SHIFT TO ORGANIC FARMING

114 farmers were successfully motivated by BV to turn away from chemical farming and shift to sustainable organic farming practices. An intensive awareness campaign on the effectiveness of organic farming practices and resulting economic gains helped the farmers adopt organic farming. The farmers were capacitated on various organic farming practices that enrich the soil, protect the crops and boost productivity.

ORGANIC FARMERS READY TO FORM FPO

BV has successfully motivated 310 organic farmers from four districts to form a Farmers Producer Organisation (FPO), a registered body with farmers as shareholders. The FPO will help the members enhance their productivity through collective action in the use of resources and increase their returns by achieving economy of scale.

ORGANIC RED GRAM FETCH HIGH PROFITS FOR FARMERS

200 organic farmers reaped tremendous profits on red gram as it sold at 60 percent higher price in the market due to an increased demand for organic foods.

40 ORGANIC FARMERS GET NATIVE COWS TO SUPPORT ORGANIC FARMING PRACTICES



As cows play a crucial role in organic farming practices, BV provided 40 native cows at a significantly subsidized price to the organic farmers from the villages of Maisampally, Obulapuram and Venkatapuram, Siddipet, with the support of Minister Mr. T. Harish Rao.

Speaking at the event, Mr. Harish Rao appreciated all our efforts in helping farmers shift from capital-intensive chemical farming to economically-viable and environment-friendly organic farming and encouraged the farmers to continue their pursuit of sustainable agriculture.

707 ORGANIC FARMERS ATTEND SERIES OF CAPACITY BUILDING SESSIONS ON CROP MANAGEMENT

BV conducted several awareness training sessions on crop management for 707 organic farmers and group leaders over the past 6 months. During the training sessions, farmers were made aware of sustainable agriculture practices, crop planning, organic pest management techniques, seed treatment, best crop measures and ways of improving soil fertility.

BV invited many government officials to explain to the farmers, the facilities and policies devised by the government for the welfare of organic farmers and how to avail them. They were also informed about less water-intensive crops that could help them survive water stress. Field visits were also organized regularly for farmers to bridge the gap between theory and practice.



ORGANIC FARMER RAJITHA WINS 'VISISHTA MAHILA PURASKAR'



M. Rajitha, an organic farmer from Venkatapur village, was awarded 'Visishta Mahila Puraskar' by the Telangana government for her remarkable work in producing 20 quintals of turmeric through organic farming practices.

With the help of Bala Vikasa and its team of experts, she transformed from a distressed farmer to a successful one implementing highly effective organic farming practices. She not only increased her profits but also contributed to environmental sustainability. This remarkable journey has made her a role model for many in her community.

JENNY JOHNSON, PRESIDENT AND CEO, FRANKLIN TEMPLETON, ATTENDS WPP INAUGURATION

The President and COO of Franklin Templeton, Ms. Jenny Johnson, along with her team, participated in the inauguration of a Community Water Purification Plant at Pedda Arepalli, Siddipet on Sunday.



Speaking at the event, Ms. Jenny Johnson appreciated Bala Vikasa's diligent efforts in ensuring maximum community participation and fostering ownership among all its members to make these WPPs sustainable.

About 125 WPPs set up with Franklin Templeton as our CSR partner are benefitting nearly 3,00,000 people in villages that are badly affected by high fluoride content and water contamination.

Reiterating the importance of clean water for better health and community development, she said that they will continue to partner with Bala Vikasa in their mission to impact more and more families.

FRANKLIN TEMPLETON, MUMBAI APPROVES NEW PROGRAMS WORTH 2 CRORE

Bala Vikasa's WPP program received a major shot in the arm with Franklin Templeton-Mumbai coming forward to support the setting of new WPPs with a funding of nearly Rs. 2 Crores. The project implementation will take place in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. The implementation of new WPPs will support 60 rural communities and provide them with a healthy life.

BFIL COLLABORATES WITH BV TO REVIVE WATER PLANTS IN 10 VILLAGES IN KARNATAKA

Bharat Financial Inclusion Limited (BFIL) partnered with Bala Vikasa to revive water plants in 10 villages of Kalaburagi (Gulbarga) district, Karnataka. Earlier, the private companies and Gram panchayats were managing these government-funded projects, due to lack of people participation, they turned nonoperational. BFIL approached Bala Vikasa for the restoration and management of these plants with a budget of 40 Lakh rupees.

TWO NEW SUJAL KIOSKS INAUGURATED IN IRKODE AND RAMAGUNDAM



A Sujal Any Time Water (ATW) Kiosk was inaugurated in Irkode Village of Siddipet Mandal yesterday. The occasion was graced by Mr. Harish Rao Thanneeru, Ex-Minister of Irrigation and MLA of Siddipet along with Founder Mrs Bala Theresa Gingras, and ED Mr. Shouryreddy Singareddy.

Another Sujal ATW Kiosk was inaugurated in Ramagundam in partnership with NTPC. MLA Korukanti Chandar, Municipal Corporation Commissioner Srinivas and NTPC GM Ramesh participated in the inauguration ceremony.



FRANK WATER APPROVES TWO NEW TRIBAL WATER PROJECTS

Frank Water has approved two new projects costing 16 Lakh rupees to support 10 tribal communities in Andhra Pradesh. The project provides round-the-clock access to potable drinking water significantly reducing the amount of time spent in fetching water and improving the health profile of the marginalized communities.



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