



## REPORT

# The State Convention of Gramdoot & Future Perspective on Rural Development



**Bhopal, 8 - 9 May 2007**

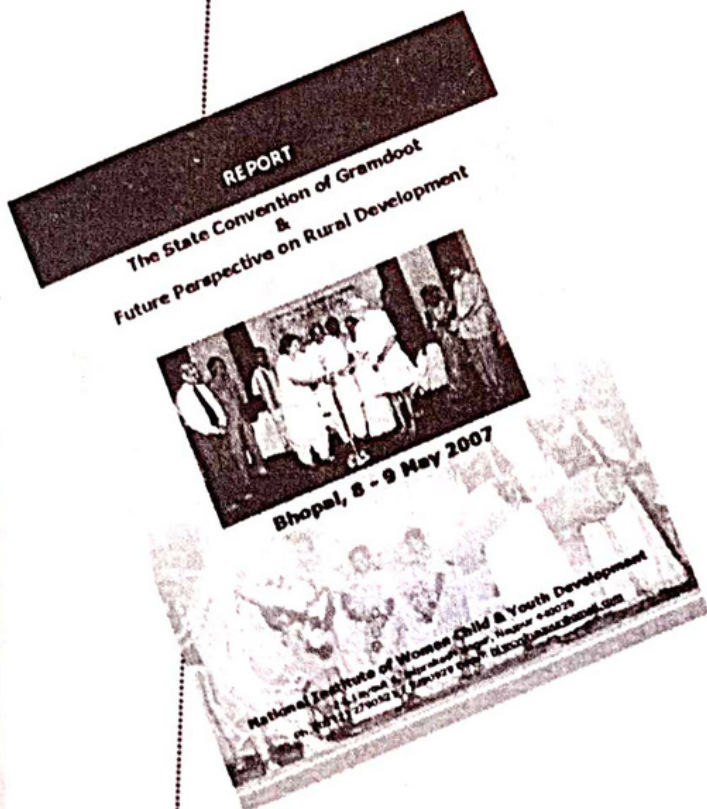


**National Institute of Women Child & Youth Development**

## REPORT

# The State Convention of Gramdoot & Future Perspective on Rural Development

Bhopal, 8 - 9 May 2007



**National Institute of Women Child & Youth Development**

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राष्ट्रपति के प्रेस सचिव

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MESSAGE

The President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, is happy to know that the National Institute of Women Child and Youth Development, Nagpur is organising the 'Granddoot' Convention on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2007 at Bhopal.

The President extends his warm greetings and felicitations to the organisers and the participants and wishes the Convention all success.

*S. K. Khan*

PRESS SECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENT



## ग्रामदूतों की शुभकामना संदेश

नेशनल इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ वीमन एंड यूथ डेवलपमेंट नेटवर्क के ग्राम स्तरीय विकास प्रक्रिया के महत्वपूर्ण स्तंभ ग्रामदूतों की उपलब्धियों की परिचय पुस्तिका का विमोचन करते हुये मुझे हर्ष हो रहा है। मध्यप्रदेश के ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में ग्रामदूतों की यह पहल स्वीच्छक प्रवृत्ति का एक अच्छा उदाहरण है। वर्तमान में स्वीच्छक रचनात्मक कार्य की परंपरा और गतिमान करने की आवश्यकता है। शासन, स्वीच्छक संस्थानों व विकास कार्य में जुड़े अन्य सभी भागीदार इसे आगे बढ़ाने में सहयोग करें।

ग्रामदूतों की सेवाकार्य की प्रेरणा सशक्त हो, इस हेतु भोपाल में आयोजित राज्य स्तरीय सम्मेलन (8 व 9 मई 2007) को व ग्रामदूतों को शुभकामनाएँ देता हूँ। आशा करता हूँ कि शासन व ग्राम समुदाय के बीच ग्रामदूत, सशक्त कड़ी के रूप में निरंतर कार्यरत रहे।

(डॉ. बलराम जाखड़)

6 मई 2007, राजभवन, भोपाल

राज्यपाल, मध्यप्रदेश शासन, भोपाल

## Backgrounder

Dedicating Swayam Samarthan programme to the People



## **Dedicating Swayam Samarthan programme to the People**

### **I. The Convention**

National Institute of Women, Child and Youth Development (NIWCYD) organised this state level two-day convention to dedicate Swayam Samarthan the Poorest Area Civil Society (PACS) programme to the people. Programme initiated in July 2003. Gramdoots, key village level non-paid functionaries undertook solemn oath in the convention to carry out the self-reliant development activities in future. Swayam Samarthan reached 3,14,057 people of 60,800 families of 450 villages of Betul, Chhindwara, Dindori and Mandla districts of Madhya Pradesh through nine partners of NIWCYD network.

Swayam Samarthan Gramdoots were the centre of attraction during the convention. They shared the platform with dignitaries and eminent social workers, articulated their ideas and experiences. The Sarpanchs and officer bearers of women's self-help groups for few villages of each of the fifteen clusters were invited as representatives of their villages and take back the word about appreciation accorded to Gramdoot.

Over 800 villagers - Gramdoots from fifteen clusters, office bearers of women's Self-Help Groups and Panchayat of work area, Non-Govt Organisations, support agencies representatives and invited guests - attended state Convention of Gramdoots on 8-9, May 07 at Bhopal in which NIWCYD formally handed over the development process to the people. Swayam Samarthan is DFID-assisted Poorest Area Civil Society programme undertaken by National Institute of Women, Child & Youth Development (NIWCYD) Network of nine Non-Govt organisations since July 03 in 450 villages of Baitul, Chhindwara, Dindori and Mandla districts of Madhya Pradesh.

His Excellency the President of India Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam sent his best wishes for the state convention of Gramdoot (8-9 May 07) at Bhopal and has lauded the work of Gramdoots.

His Excellency the Governor of Madhya Pradesh Dr Balram Jakhad released exhaustive process documentation 'Gramdoot: Ek Nayee Subaha' and a brief brochure on May 6, 2007 at Raj Bhavan in Bhopal. Dr. Balram Jakhad blessed Gramdoots on this occasion of state level convention. He stressed need to promote voluntarism in rural areas for healthy social change.

Madhya Pradesh State Assembly Speaker Shri Ishwardas Rohani formally inaugurated Swayam Samarthan Gramdoot Convention on 8 May 07 at Gyan-Vigyan Bhavan located in the Baraktullah University campus on Hoshangabad road in Bhopal. Eminent Gandhian working with youth Dr. S. N. Subba Rao, Madhya Pradesh Human Right Commission Chairman Justice D. M. Dharmadhikari and other dignitaries graced the occasion.

Retd. Chief Justice D. P. S. Chauhan, administered oath on 9 May 07 to Gramdoots to dedicate themselves for the development of their village communities. Shri A.M. Trivedi, Chairman, Bar Council, Jabalpur, Retd. DIG Shri S.C. Tripathi and veteran freedom fighter, Shri Bharadwaj were present on the occasion.

Fifteen Gramdoots representing every Swayam Samarthan cluster shared experiences during the convention. Few Cluster coordinators and heads of NIWCYD network partner agencies joined in articulated their perspective on the common pursuit of development. Potential and the promise conveyed in appreciating Gramdoot were keenly evident to everyone during the convention. Speaker after speaker at the convention in effect suggested follow and persist with the concept of Gramdoot, enrich it and multiply it elsewhere. Gramdoots interacted with media. Both the electronic and the print media extensively reported the Convention.

## **II. The Potential alternative**

To bring qualitative changes in innumerable Indian villages through development process in the present socio-political milieu is immense and complex challenge. Few villages possess adequate institutional organisms to create and nurture initiatives that would foster self-reliant ambience and ensure proper implementation of Govt programmes for the poor. Gramdoot is meaningful alternative in this context.

However, to accomplish this implies:

- Evolve multi-level forum to strengthen present Gramdoots, provide capacity building inputs on relevant themes at regular frequency and help them establish of linkages with Government agencies and media.
- Sensitise rural youth, as future stakeholder, for responsibility towards their own village communities and Identify self-motivated youths committed to take up voluntary work.
- Develop adequate and responsive knowledge-building and motivational process consistent with immediate needs and long-term goals.
- Evolve and integrate, on the part of people's organizations and NGOs, volunteerism in villages both as indispensable value and part of their work culture in development programmes.
- Build team of resource persons with requisite insights in the process as well as professional competencies to multiply the concept of Gramdoot in work areas elsewhere.
- Recognise role and function of Gramdoots at the level of Govt agencies.
- Imaginative espousal by stakeholders like resource agencies to carry forward practice of voluntarism through initiatives of the Gramdoots through formation of local forums and upwards at different levels.



### III. Future perspective

NIWCYD plans, with participation of dedicated small groups and NGOs, to reach 1000 poorest villages of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. Gramdoot movement seek out,

- Working for better convergence through Panchayat for livelihood of poor and tribal
- Improving village level mechanism of implementing Govt schemes.
- Mainstreaming gender related issues at all levels of development activities.
- Ensuring tribal and dalit rights in the isolated and inaccessible areas.

This campaign will eventually lead to well-organized village communities and strengthened Gram Sabhas for collective action on village issues with support from Gramdoot as a catalyst.

NIWCYD is pleased to share with you report on the State convention of Swayam Samarthan Gramdoots. We seek your earnest remarks on Gramdoot concept and process and look forward for support in realizing our goal of extending the Gramdoot concept to poorest sections of the society.

R. K. Malviya  
Chief Functionary  
NIWCYD, Nagpur

## 6 May 07: M P Governor releases Gramdoot document

Dr Balaram Jakhad His Excellency the Governor of Madhya Pradesh released exhaustive process documentation 'Gramdoot: Ek Nayee Subaha' and a brief brochure on May 6, 2007 at Raj Bhavan in Bhopal.

The Governor appreciated the initiative taken by the NIWCYD network that fostered efforts of Gramdoots and promoted voluntarism at the village level. He said this would help in development of rural areas in Madhya Pradesh. Governor was happy to know that NIWCYD has highlighted achievements of Gramdoot through bringing out extensive process documentation, besides brochure, on the conceptual framework and profiles of selected Gramdoots. Dr. Balaram Jakhad blessed Gramdoots state level convention. He gave his best wishes for this state convention of Gramdoot and bright future for Gramdoots. Dr Jakhad expected Gramdoots to persist in their role as a coordinating link between their respective villages communities and the Govt.



Earlier, NIWCYD chief Functionary Shri Rajesh Malaviya briefed Dr Balaram Jakhad, His Excellency the Governor of Madhya Pradesh, about the Swayam Samarthan programme and particularly explained the significant innovation introduced in the project design in the form of Gramdoots and their contribution to make it a success.

Dr Balaram Jakhad said that Gramdoots present a good example for others to emulate. He hoped that their example would encourage others to take up similar initiative in other villages of Madhya Pradesh. He stressed need promote voluntarism in rural areas for healthy social change and urged the young people to lend a new dynamism to constructive activities. He felt that every one including Govt agencies, voluntary organisations and other stakeholders engaged in development programmes that youth like Gramdoot initiate.

## 7 May 07: Interface with Media

A press conference was arranged on 7 May 07 at Ravindra Bhavan, Bhopal with view to accord due attention of wider sections of society to the state convention of Gramdoots that was going to be inaugurated next day. The details of the convention programme were spelt out through the media giving details about speakers who were expected to address the large gathering of Gramdoots and others.

NIWCYD chief Functionary Shri Rajesh Malviya explained during press conference the concept of Gramdoot and elucidated various dimensions of the innovation. He said, "A Gramdoot is selected unanimously by Gram Sabhas and acts as liaison between the community and the outside world", for instance, block level Govt offices.



Swayam Samarthan Gramdoots Ramesh Pawar (Rangari), Pushpa Gohe (Ghodadongri), Amrit Singh (Dindori), Narayan Prasad (Dindori) and Nembati Banwasi (Amarpur) addressed the press conference. The press-note issued by them with Shri Rajesh Malviya emphasised that 'successful experimentation of the concept of Gramdoot enriches the perspective of people's participation in the process of self-reliant rural development.' The press note also said that the experiences of Swayam Samarthan Gramdoot across the

four districts of Madhya Pradesh are, in a way, valuable rediscovery of an answer to a question as to 'is it possible for voluntary service-oriented social leadership to emerge from the villages in the present context?' The press-note ended with a optimism in future that the modest success of this concept 'inspires hope that more and more youth would come up to work as Gramdoot in their respective villages, their identity would be accepted by the society at large and motivation to serve society selflessly would grow stronger.'

The Gramdoots were separately interviewed after the press conference by both print and electronic media. The convention schedule and the Gramdoot profiles found appropriate place next day in Hindi and English press as well as channel telecasts.

In the print media the event was highlighted in Hindustan Times, The Pioneer and Free Press as well as in language press including Dainik Bhaskar, Nai Duniya, Nava Bharat, Deshbandhu, Daily Rajyasri, Swadesh, Raj Express, Fine Times, Sandhya Prakash, Dainik Kausar etc.

## State Convention of Swayam Samarthan Gramdoots

8 May 07: Day One

### Convention agenda

#### I. FORENOON

1. Registration for convention by Gramdoot and other invitees
2. Group songs: Dilip Kodape and Nikhar
3. Welcome with traditional Baiga dancers of Dindori
4. Formal inauguration of convention by lighting lamp: Shri Rohaniji and others
5. Presenting bouquets to chair, chief guest and special guests
6. Gramdoot Concept: Shri R K Malaviya, Chief Functionary, NIWCYD
7. Sharing experiences by
  - Ramesh Pawar, Gramdoot
  - Shri D.S. Wakhare, Gram Kalyan Sewa Samiti, Chhindwara
  - Shri Ganesh Kaivart, Cluster coordinator, Dindori
8. Speech by Ms Anuradha Shankar Singh, Dy
9. Speech by Dr S N Subba Rao, Veteran Gandhian
10. Speech by Justice D M Dharamadhikari
11. Speech by Shri Ishwardas Rohani, Vidhan Sabha Speaker
12. Vote of thanks

#### II. AFTERNOON

Sharing of Experiences by one Gramdoot from each of fifteen clusters



## Traditional Welcome

On 8 May 07, the Gramdoots started arriving early morning from places of residences arranged in Bhopal by NIWCYD at the spacious Convention venue, Gyan Vigyan Bhavan in the Barkatullah University on Hoshangabad road, Bhopal. They formally registered for the convention and received the shoulder bag with embossed Gramdoot convention logo and containing background information.

An air of festivity was evident and shared by all those present. The village heads and office-bearers of Self-Help Groups from some of the villages each of the fifteen Swayam Samarthan clusters accompanied Gramdoots. Invited guests, representatives of Non-Govt agencies and funding agencies joined the inauguration ceremony.

Dilip Kodape of NIWCYD, Dindori stirred the minds of over 800 persons with his sonorous voice that filled the hall with his self-composed motivational songs on themes like voluntarism as demonstrated by Gramdoots. Nikhar from Chhindwara joined him with a few more songs holding attention of the audience waiting for Guests.



Partner NGOs of NIWCYD Network implementing Swayam Samarthan programmes put up display stalls in the corridors of the Gyan Vigyan Bhavan hall where the two-day convention was held. This not only highlighted activities through photographs and clippings but also included jute and Bamboo products. Vidhan Sabha speaker Shri Ishwardas Rohani and almost every one of others paused at these stalls to overlook the display and have a word with NGO workers looking after the stalls in order to satisfy their curiosity.

A Colourful traditional Baiga dancers' troupe from Dindori wearing in particular attire lent an ethnic touch to the inauguration ceremony of the state Gramdoot Convention. They welcome Shri Ishwar Das Rohani with Saila and Reena dances. It attracted and enthused all: Vidhan Sabha speaker Shri Ishwar Das Rohani, who chaired the function, was welcomed by the Baiga Dancers all the way to the dais. He stopped for a moment before entering the hall and honoured the troupe by wearing a conventional headgear and holding drums along with group members. The Baiga troupe presented their art on the platform on both days. They performed for larger audience in the open spaces of the Gyan Vigyan Bhavan hall in the evening.

## Inauguration

Several speakers graced the inauguration function of the State Gramdoot Convention: Shri Ishwar Das Rohani, Vidhan Sabha speaker, was in the chair and Madhya Pradesh Human Rights Commission Chairman Justice D M Dharamadhikari was the chief guest. Distinguished Gandhian Dr S N Subba Rao, silent source of inspiration for NIWCYD, joined the convention with his unique personal appeal. Ms Anuradha Shankar Singh, Deputy Inspector-General of Police and Shri G S Shukla, Former Commissioner of State Election Commission encouraged the Gramdoot with their word of appreciation and advice.



Gramdoots from several clusters received the guest and offered them typical 'Biran mala' as a token of welcome. NIWCYD Chief Functionary Shri Rajesh Malviya formally welcomed the guests and briefed them about the rationale of the Gramdoot convention.

The Vidhan Sabha speaker Shri Ishwardas Rohani was visibly moved by the warm welcome and the NGO display stalls before entering the hall. Justice Dharmadhikari, Dr S N Subba Rao and other dignitaries on the dais joined Shri Rohani in lighting a ceremonial lamp to indicate formal inauguration of the convention.

### Shri Ishwar Das Rohani

Shri Rohani had meaningful words of wisdom for Gramdoot. He said that the country is represented by rajdoot elsewhere, similarly Gramdoot are representative of the best in their village. Every one of them must strive to measure up this image by meeting and fulfilling aspirations of the people. He said he is all praise for Gramdoot to work in their spare time and spend it in the service of the poor Daridranarayana rather than in the futile pursuits like ridiculing others for no reasons whatsoever. Unfortunately, there are people who take delight in doing so calling them 'Narad Muni'. Shri Rohani asked Gramdoot to be firm in their convictions and not changing their mind by the frivolous comments of others.

Rohani said since the development work is difficult, it is for the same reason that it is worthwhile to try and succeed at it. He added by way of illustration an allegory about who is strongest. Once it was asked that who is strongest in the world and the answer was 'mountain'. 'What is strong than mountain?' 'Iron is stronger than mountain' as it can break it. But 'fire' can melt iron and water can quench the fire. Ultimately, human will puts 'water' to constructive purposes like cultivation. So, the human will is strongest of all. Shri Rohani concluded by saying that the Gramdoot should understand that villagers are hungry for their love.

Shri Rohani said that the nation would progress only when the tribal people living in forests make the progress. He asked Gramdoots to be on guard that resources spent on the welfare schemes meant for the tribal poor are utilised properly without any misuse.

## Justice Dharmadhikari

Justice D M Dharmadhikari, Chairman of Madhya Pradesh Human Rights Commission asked Gramdoots and voluntary agencies to act as significant coordinating link between ordinary citizens and the Govt. He appreciated efforts of Swayam Samarthan Gramdoots put in during these years that has led to important achievements for their villages. Gramdoots not running after money has utmost important social value. There should be no apathy over the sufferings of others, which calls for concerned action and not merely lip sympathy. He said economic disparities create different types of social inequalities. Justice Dharmadhikari said that the poor do not get expected benefits from laws for whom they are made.

He said that the poor should live with dignity and self-respect and hence advised Gramdoots to work against the human rights violations in their area. Justice Dharmadhikari said Gramdoots could get in touch with 'Aayoga Mitra' that Madhya Pradesh has nominated at district places.

Justice D M Dharmadhikari stressed M P Human Rights Commission is always alert to safeguard the villagers' against violation of their human rights. He informed that people could register complaints about violation of human rights on toll free phone 1800-2336399 which is monitored by a person for appropriate follow up. Human Rights Commission reviews such complaints and gathers information independently based on their relevance.

## Dr S N Subba Rao

Dr S N Subba Rao stirred the audience, patiently listening for long hours, asking all stand for few exercises like stretching and bending to relieve the fatigue. He invited Gramdoots to join him at the podium to sing of song of youth - नवजवान आओ रे, नवजवान गाओ रे ('nav-jawan aao re') - for which Subba Rao is well known all over India. After the exercise and song, came the



inspiring message well received by Gramdoots and attentively heard by every one present.

Character building is of supreme significance for Gramdoots. Every Gramdoot need to be free from undesirable addictions like tobacco etc. Unless a person changes herself from within, Dr S N Subba Rao asserted, it is not possible to effect long-term social change visible at the community level. He reminisced about meeting Mahatma Gandhi during his fast at Kolkata. Gandhi had inspired people as he changed himself: he started wearing few clothing, live in voluntary poverty following percept from **Ishawasya** Upanishad that coveting wealth is wrong. Like him, Gramdoot has to cultivate spiritual strength and be 'ajatshatru' i.e. person without enemy. There are numerous opportunities waiting for youth like Gramdoots to serve their villages. The positive mindset that prompted the Gramdoots to undertake development activities, indicate the potential to transform rural scenario for the better.

He lamented that in spite of better facilities given to Govt employees their performance is lamentable. We have to ask ourselves if the nation is really independent and developed. In this context, Gramdoots are working to realise the dream of Mahatma Gandhi in which every villager would be self-aware and none would take recourse to litigation to resolve their problems. Instead, these would be peacefully settled in the village itself. Dr S N Subba Rao mentioned a Karnataka village Holkari near Belgaum, which illustrates better quality of life, gained through villagers' efforts. It is free from social evils like drunkenness and people settle disputes amicably within the community.

### **Ms Anuradha Shankar Singh**

Deputy Inspector General of Police Ms Anuradha Shankar Singh spoke on the occasion. She said Gramdoots have to work for their village with firm resolve in their minds. She recalled Mahatma Gandhi to say that he, in this sense, is not a person but a sacred vow. Working for the village implies going beyond narrow confines of self-interests. It also means constant self-reflection in every action that Gramdoots undertake. Ms Anuradha Shankar Singh said that Gramdoots should acquire correct information on laws, follow them and educate the villagers on the issues related with laws. Gramdoots would have to work with constructive attitude and a spirit of cooperation and not of confrontation.

Former Chief Election Commissioner G S Shukla gave his blessing to the Gramdoots.

### **Sajeer Ranaj**

Rajeer Ranaj of Development Alternative, New Delhi said that, for him, it was more satisfying to listen experiences shared by gramdoots across fifteen clusters as a part of the audience. Development Alternative was the project partner for NIWCYD network in implementing Swayam Samarthan since 2003. He said that Development Alternative worked with 667 non-Govt organisations in six states to implement the Poorest Area Civil





Society programme with DFID (U.K) support.

He assured Gramdoots that, whatever may be funding status of the PACS programme, the Development Alternatives would be with them in future, too.

### **Shri Rajesh Malviya**

Earlier, NIWCYD chief functionary Rajesh Malviya formally welcomed the Guests and Gramdoots to



state convention that was to mark the dedication of the Swayam Samarthan programme to the people. He recalled that, for him, Dr N Subba Rao's National Youth Project and Dr Abhay Bung of SEARCH Gadchiroli (Maharashtra) are the early source of inspiration, guide and roles to follow. Their examples have been important source for rediscovering voluntarism among the village youth and provide them platform as Gramdoot.

Shri Malviya spelt out future challenges in the coming decade for the Gramdoot Federation to sustain the gains and multiply them elsewhere. He said that the block and district federations for Gramdoot needs to consolidate the gains of the PACS programme made since July 2003. Secondly, the core value of autonomy and self-respect of Gramdoot has best potential for self-sustaining and self-reliant process of rural development. Finally, the Gramdoot should not remain content at the present level of success. They need to evolve realistic strategies for extension of the concept by providing channels of entry for more youth of their communities to work on similar lines. The Gramdoot federation has to see that they help in every way in multiplication in other areas by those interested in the concept. Ms Pushpa Gohe and Rajesh Pawar shared their personal experiences of working as Gramdoot.

### **Experience Sharing by Gramdoots**

Fifteen Gramdoots, one from each cluster of Swayam Samarthan, shared field experiences on the afternoon of 8 May 07. Following Gramdoots represented their clusters:

1. Sandeep Gaunekar, Gondiwadhona, Chhindwara
2. Pushpa Gohe, Ghodadongri, Betul
3. Rajesh Pawar, Bicchua, Chhindwara
4. Namrata, Jamai, Chhindwara
5. Premlal Uike, Bhimpur, Betul
6. Mira Bai, Shahpur, Betul
7. Motilal Yadav, Nainpur, Mandla
8. Chetram Jhariya, Niwas, Mandla



9. Premsingh Pandre, Mawai, Mandla
10. Tejram Khangar, Rangari, Chhindwara
11. Hirawanti Dehariya, Tamia, Chhindwara
12. Amrut Paraste, Amarpur, Dindori
13. Ranmat Singh Patta, Amarpur, Dindori
14. Mangal Dhurve, Mehandwani, Dindori
15. Budhsingh Markam, Baiga Chak, Dindori

Cluster coordinators and heads of Partner NGOs of NIWCYD Network shared their views along with the Gramdoots. This was continued on 9 May 07 the second day of the state convention.

1. Harshalata Sibloon, Shahpur, Betul
2. Rekha Gujre, Bhimpur, Betul
3. Uma Goswami, Ghodadongri, Betul
4. Satyanarayan Dehariya, Mawai, Mandla
1. Shrikant Chaturvedi, Niwas, Mandla
2. Dhurandhar Wakhare, Bicchua, Chhindwara
3. Shyamrao Dhawale, Sansar, Chhindwara
4. Manjiri Chande, Tamia, Chhindwara
5. Mahendra Khare, Jamai, Chhindwara
6. Ganesh Kairwart, Amarpur, Dindori

Dr. R.S. Tiwari, Ex. Labour Commissioner and Ms. Preeta Dharukha from New Delhi emphasised on the social security aspects of unorganised workers in the country and urged the Gramdoots to fight for rights of the people. Urgent need to bridge the gender divide prevailing in the country was stressed.

Dr S N Subba Rao, infected with the enthusiasm demonstrated by Gramdoots, led the evening prayer that included hymns from all religions. This was solemn concluding of the first day's proceedings of the state convention of Gramdoots on 8 May 07.



## The State Convention of Swayam Samarthan Gramdoots

- Speech by veteran social worker Shri Ramrao Mahalle, Rangari (Chhindwara)
- Baiga welcome to Justice D P S Chauhan, K D Bharadwaj freedom Fighter and others
- Introduction by Rajesh Malviya, Chief Functionary, NIWCYD
- Sharing of experiences by Gramdoots Rahamat (Dindori), Mangal Dhurve (Mehandwani) and Pushpa Gohe (Betul) and Cluster Coordinator Ganesh Kaivart
- Speech by Subhash Chandra Tripathi, Former Inspector General of Police
- Speech by Adarshmuni Trivedi, president, M P Bar Council
- Rajesh Malviya reading our Message to Gramdoot from Dr Balaram Jakhad, His Excellency, Governor of Madhya Pradesh
- Administering the oath by Justice D P S Chauhan to Swayam Samarthan Gramdoots
- Benediction by Justice D P S Chauhan to Swayam Samarthan Gramdoots
- Felicitating Gramdoots with Memento at hands of Justice D P S Chauhan and other guests
- Vote of Thanks



## **Ramrao Mahalle**

Several speakers shared their ideas and expectations from Gramdoots. Speech by Shri Ramrao Mahalle the Veteran social worker and long time associate of NIWCYD from Rangari (Chhindwara), started the second day of the state convention of Gramdoots.

Ramrao Mahalle said that presence of Gramdoot in village should act as a moral deterrent to unscrupulous and corrupt officers who tend to exploit the rural people. Gramdoot Sangh – block or district level federation – should act as a pressure group on behalf of the village communities to prevent such practices. Ramrao Mahalle said that Gramdoot should enter the villagers' heart through minor activities and get familiar with the basic development issues faced by the community. He described the tasks for Gramdoot – getting things done by the Govt - as uphill one and recalled his personal experience of distributing foodgrains in Chandrikapur.

## **Subhash Chandra Tripathi**

Former Inspector General of Police Subhash Chandra Tripathi raised a question for Gramdoots to ask themselves as to why villages are now more dependent on external support. He said that there is need, particularly in villages, to create a social climate free from fear. Gramdoots could play significant role in nurturing such positive environment that would conduce the overall development of the people.

## **Adarshmuni Trivedi**

M P Bar Council President Adarshmuni Trivedi enthused the audience with his stimulating speech that dwelt on many aspects of awareness building and Gramdoots' achievements. He said what the Gramdoots have achieved is nothing short of a silent revolution in most difficult setting of inaccessible areas of the state. He averred that Gramdoots could prove themselves, realising their full potential, as catalysts of healthy social transformation.

## **Message from Governor**

Rajesh Malviya read out the message for Gramdoot from Dr Balaram Jakhad, His Excellency the Governor of Madhya Pradesh.

## **Oath taking ceremony**

After reading out the message of the Governor every one of the audience stood up for the solemn oath.

taking ceremony. Justice D P S Chauhan administered oath to Gramdoots to persist with their efforts for development. The oath affirmed gramdoots' resolve to devote themselves to higher social values and follow Constitution of India. Their conduct would reflect understanding that Gramdoot is not a post but a responsibility to organise village and ensure proper implementation of govt schemes. Gramdoots would be sensitive to social obligations care for rural ethos to the best of their abilities.

### **Justice D P S Chauhan**

He recalled that Gramdoots have fulfilled the vow that he had given them on 17 January 2004 on the



banks of Narmada at the time of launching the Swayam Samarthan programme. In his address to the Gramdoots on the occasion, Justice D P S Chauhan said that Gramdoots have undertaken a challenging task in their hands. They could make the impossible happen if they are firm in their resolve to help their village community to gain better living conditions.

Gramdoots were invited in groups to receive the memento inscribing the 'Sammanpatra' at the hands of dignitaries on the dais. The scroll put on record the appreciation by the NIWCYD for efforts put in by the Gramdoots for the poor and the village. It expressed hope that they would continue to work to create a social order that is free from fear.

D L Wakhare gave the vote of thanks on behalf of the NIWCYD Network at the end of the programme.

## Future Perspective

### Gramdoot: A Rural Development Facilitator



## **Gramdoot: A Rural Development Facilitator Future Perspective**

### **Social engineering**

Tribal communities, representing nearly 8% of India's total population, are generally marginalized and neglected segment of the social order. The mainstream society that depends on natural resources of their locale demonstrates little concern over the problems and difficulties that afflict the tribal people. Their concerns find little space in conventional media. Quality of life the tribals lead has seen, at best, some incremental, piecemeal advances over the generations. Basic needs - education, health and food security for all - sadly remain a distant dream for many of the tribes even today. They carry on survival existence in the secluded dwellings.

Central and State Governments have enacted various laws and initiated schemes for welfare of weaker social sections. A statutory body for local self-governance like Gram Panchayat exists at village level. Yet, despite their long existence, the cumulative effect of lack of political will, vested interests at governance and executive levels besides lack of an ineffective articulation of people's say on their issues often defeat the letter and spirit of these measures.

The present local self-governance structure is buffeted by political agenda and its representatives are largely drawn from political parties devoted to their own ideology and interest. There are no motivated, socially aware independent person(s) at the village level to help community to monitor the working of Panchayat functionaries or other service providers nominated by government.

NIWCYD experimented with social engineering through introducing Gramdoot concept in tribal 450 villages of Madhya Pradesh against this backdrop. It directed a community-led movement for change, especially with youth as social leaders, and healthy development.

The Gramdoot takes a group of youth with her / him as understudy so that they can function as a second level leadership at village levels in remote tribal and rural areas.

### **Evolving a concept**

Gramdoot concept was evolved in course of internal consultation and initiated on experimental basis in a large project implemented in 450 villages by a network of nine NGOs led by NIWCYD. Most of these villages were in tribal areas across 15 blocks in four districts. This project was part of the Poorest Area Civil Society (PACS) programme. Its goal was "To empower people by building and strengthening peoples institutions (in 450 villages of 4 districts in MP) so that they are in control of their lives, with optimal access to and upkeep of local resources, with enhanced capacities to negotiate favourable

linkages and derive benefits from various government programmes". A key element of the strategy was the promotion of a Gramdoot in each of the villages being covered. They are self-motivated and their capacities are built up further by the facilitating NGOs.

### **Multiple roles**

A Gramdoot is a village level volunteer that acts as a liaison between the community and the outside world. (S)he is a political bridge to politicians, government representatives. (S)he is a catalyst at the village level for social change. S/he is the point person and a conduit of information flow between the village community and the Government and even the NGO. The Gramdoot eventually takes on the mantle of leadership in the village.

The Gramdoot is engaged in (1) mobilise community (2) analyse issues facing village (3) provides inputs to design interventions (4) facilitate implementation (5) disseminate information on Govt policies and schemes (6) advocate village issues (7) liaison with Govt functionaries and political leaders (8) monitor village level services, institutions and other welfare programmes.

The Gramdoot is also an innovator. (S)he is the focal point of change in the village. Any new intervention, be it in agriculture, or natural resource management or governance or housing or health practices or education is lead by the Gramdoot.

### **Selection Criteria**

The villagers select Gramdoot, through Gramsabha consensus, based on a set of well thought out criteria: Gramdoot should be a resident of the village with name in voter list and has demonstrated significant previous voluntary association with development issues of the community. Gramdoot is acceptable to villagers and has ability and willingness to spend time for village affairs. Gramdoots possess independent means of livelihood to sustain themselves and their families, since no honorarium is paid and people's supervision pre-empts unfair gratification. Gramdoot is preferably - but not necessarily - a person possessing basic literacy skills. Enthusiasm for voluntary work and community's approval is the decisive criteria.

The community monitors the Gramdoot and calls for initiation of the process of replacement in case of (s)he is non-functional. Gramdoot engage themselves in issues confronting villagers, initiate / participate in processes of ameliorating the issues. It is thus a challenge for the Gramdoot to progressively establish their credibility in the eyes of the people over time through their work.

No honorarium is paid to Gramdoot - they are unpaid village volunteers who self motivated and have dedication to work for the cause of their village community. They themselves will accept the challenge to prove their identity in the villages. Pocket expenses that Gramdoot incurred for advocacy at



distance from village may be reimbursed. In case the Gramdoot undertakes any special tasks, like extensive surveys, on behalf of the NGO then (s)he may be compensated separately.

### **Gains from Gramdoot initiative**

NIWCYD and its network partners facilitated the Swayam Samarthan process in 450 villages of four districts in Madhya Pradesh and has mobilised over 576 village youths as Gramdoots. NIWCYD and its network project partners facilitated identification and selection of the Gramdoot with full approval of the community. NIWCYD network built Gramdoot capacities (vision, motivation, understanding, perspective) mainly through day-to-day interactions and support and through structured trainings / exposures. It ensured two-way flow of information and participation of Gramdoot in ALL village level activities. Gramdoots are actively engaged in activities of SHG, Farmer's group, Youth group in their villages. They are often identified based on their initiative evident in such group meetings.

A recent review revealed that 78% of them have mobilised the community and initiated dialogue with local self-government on rights and livelihoods of tribal community. They have taken up initiatives like improving the quality of service dispensed by the Fair Price Shops, midday meals in schools, improve quality and reach of government programmes (of agriculture and horticulture, registering as below poverty line beneficiary, enterprise development) etc. The Gramdoots have also facilitated the process of involvement of the people especially the women in the decision-making processes at the village / Panchayat levels. They have also played their role in activating the different committees in the villages and making them functional.

Around 23,918 families spread across 198 villages in Dindori, Mandla, Betul and Chhindwara availed employment assurance rights under National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (NREGA) through Gramdoot initiative. Rs 8.6 crores of benefit accrued to poor families at a very conservative estimate of only 60 days of work and an average Rs 60 wage rate.

Through persistent efforts of Gramdoots, community members benefited with a new reach to nearly 33 different schemes ranging from different social welfare pensions, different development schemes of agriculture / health departments, various skill training programmes, mid day meals in schools, housing / food grain schemes.

Micro-plans have been developed - spearheaded by Gramdoots - and a shelf of required interventions and their priorities have been worked out in 450 villages.

State Gramdoot convention at Bhopal on 8-9 May 07 underscored the scope and invited village youth to volunteer like present Gramdoots as accepting them as local role models to follow.

### **Higher responsibilities**

The turnover in Gramdoot has been less than ten percent. Several of them voluntarily exited considering their work, community gave its stamp of approval by electing them to different bodies. Some 44 Gramdoot have been subsequently elected as local self-government representatives (panch and seven even as their village's headperson (sarpanch). Several today head their respective village Forest Protection Committee formed in collaboration with the respective department. Gramdoots are involved in different government programmes and worked on issues like non-payment of minimum wages, non-availability of work for 100 days under NREGA, payment of pending wages in earlier public/forest work etc. It was decided that people would not wear different hats at the same time village communities nominated new Gramdoots since elected representative could not monitor their own work. Groomed as Gramdoots earlier, the newly elected representatives, on their part, showed heightened concerns for issues at grassroots and have helped to initiate winds of change.

### **Networking between Gramdoots**

Today the existing Gramdoot are part of a network of these village volunteers. The process has been initiated to foster a cluster, block and district level people's organisation of the Gramdoots as such a community-based people's advocacy organisation is not functional in tribal area. The ultimate form of this organisation could be a cooperative, public trust; trade union or it may remain informal association of concerned people with some drive and initiative. Smaller working groups at cluster block and district level will carry forward the functioning. Ultimately the organisation is expected to work at the State level as well. Its focus will be on -

- (1) studying of government policies and schemes
- (2) overseeing implementation of these in form of a social audit
- (3) influencing policies and schemes
- (4) focussing on the poorest of the poor and their development.

Gramdoot works as an effective community-managed extension of NGOs reaching out the village in many ways. Several of the achievement exceed even work done by NGOs field workers. Not hemmed in by considerations that limit an NGO employee, the Gramdoot are able to effectively counter social and political difficulties.

Present enabling of Gramdoots was a part of a larger set of initiatives and consequently was accorded proportionately less time and merited fewer shares of financial resources. NIWCYD could not realise full potential of this initiative and the Gramdoot concept due to inherent restrictions of project-oriented approach. Further, the present reach of this initiative is limited to less than 20% of the villages in blocks where it has been put into practice.

## **Inclusive role**

Now a base has been prepared and NIWCYD has learnt from the experiment. NIWCYD is now well set to take this Gramdoot concept forward in an extended manner and ensure sustainability of the interventions and promotion of leadership amongst youth.

Gramdoot would play crucial role in following areas at the village:

- Mobilization of people
- Gender equity and women's involvement in decision-making
- Rights Based Approach on rights of tribal people
- Tribal self-rule
- Sensitisation of Panchayat (local self government) representatives
- Effective claim under NREGA for economic employment
- Work on tribal and forest bill
- Need based programmes in place of bureaucratic and 'under political pressure' dispensation.
- Systematize school enrolment, quality of education, mid day meal, health access.
- Raise tribal policy issues through their advocacy and pressure groups at different levels.

## **Potential**

State convention of Gramdoot was occasion to reflect on activities undertaken, gains made and direction adopted. Realising full potential of the Gramdoot concept as NIWCYD experimented in Swayam Samarthan programme (2003-07) needs carefully planned specific strategies. Working on issues of Women's empowerment, better local self-governance and self-reliance to meet basic needs NIWCYD sought to build capacities of the tribal poor - about 60% of Baiga and Korku (most backward tribes) Gond and Mowasi - and enable them solve their problems, assert and express them, become self-reliant and capable of helping themselves. Swayam Samarthan offers, working with diverse stakeholders, exceptional prospect to learn from diverse experiences, ideas and insights that can never be exhausted in its fully.

## **Broad concerns**

The future strategies would address three broad concerns and seek imaginative support from resource agencies based on the adequate understanding:

- Consolidate the gains made in 450 villages spread over fifteen blocks of four districts
- Extend the concept to adjacent area and multiply it competently in 1000 villages
- Sustain and deepen reach of Gramdoot interventions self-reliant process of rural development

## Strategies for Work

- **Consolidate the gains** NIWCYD would see that the district and block level Gramdoot Federations would work to consolidate the gains made. This will require regular inputs on range of development themes. The Gramdoot Federation would function in various ways to ensure legitimacy and recognition for individual Gramdoot working in isolated hamlets. Federation would interact on his behalf with block and district level Govt agencies; provide him opportunities for sharing, ventilation and exposure as well as monitor his performance.
- **Extending the concept:** The present Gramdoots are positive role models for many others to follow. Gramdoots demonstrate untapped talents. NIWCYD was flexible enough to accommodate persons with divergent background. NIWCYD now possess adequate practical experience of identifying Gramdoots, nurturing their diverse talents and provide them scope to develop at their own pace. Investing in local persons like Gramdoot, providing him avenues to canalise his energies in constructive development activities would help to extend the Gramdoot concept to about 1000 villages, including those already with Gramdoots, in adjacent districts of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.
- **Sustain and deepen reach** The Achievements made by the Gramdoots are obviously strikingly substantial when compared with others engaged in similar tasks with paid positions. The firsthand knowledge base that a Gramdoot possess balances off the low level of skills. His working in non-paid capacity helps Gramdoot value his autonomy. It not only gives him meaningful status in the eyes of the community but also to operate with unique sensibility to reach at deeper ethos of the community. Indeed, NIWCYD understands that investing in Gramdoot is better proposition in the interests of sustained self-reliant process of rural development. Gramdoots certainly merit every support and recognition for his inherent assets.



## प्रतिज्ञान पत्र

इस पार स्वर्ग...

उस पार मनेगा...

विजय पर्व...

मैं ..... सत्यनिष्ठा के साथ यह प्रतिज्ञान करता हूँ कि भारतीय संविधान के प्रति कर्तव्य के अनुरूप आचरण करते हुए उच्च सामाजिक मूल्यों के प्रति सजग, समर्पित रहते हुए अपना जीवन निर्वाह करूंगा।

मैं ..... ग्रामदूत संकल्पना की मूल भावना को हृदय में समाहित करते हुए वचन लेता हूँ गरीबी मुक्त समाज के निर्माण में सदा जागरुक रह कर जीवन मूल्यों की स्थापना करने व भय मुक्त समाज के निर्माण में सहायक होने का सदा प्रयास करूंगा।

मैं ..... यह प्रतिज्ञान करते हुए कि ग्राम दूत पद नहीं है अपितु एक प्रबुद्ध उत्तरदायित्व है जिसका मुझे बोध है। मुझे पूर्ण विश्वास है कि ग्रामदूत होने का गौरव मेरे आचरण व जीवन शैली में परिलक्षित होगा।

मैं ..... ग्रामदूत ग्राम के निर्माण में सहायक होकर परिवार व समाज को संगठित रखने के प्रयत्न का सहायक रहूँगा। मैं शासकीय योजनाओं के प्रभावीकरण कार्य में यथासाध्य सहायक रह प्रयत्नशील रहूँगा।

मैं ..... ग्रामदूत सदा ग्राम की संस्कृति संस्कार अनुशासन व मर्यादा के साथ सामूहिकता के विकास के लिए जागरुक रहूँगा।

विशेष :- महामहिम बलराम जाखड़ जी राज्यपाल म.प्र. न्यायमूर्ति डी.पी.एस. चौहान, पूर्व कार्यवाहक न्यायाधीश उच्च न्यायालय जबलपुर, की गरिमामयी उपस्थिति में स्वयंसमर्चन प्रकल्प का लोकार्पण एवं ग्रामदूतों के दायित्वों के फैलाव हेतु आयोजित समारोह ज्ञान-विज्ञान भवन भोपाल में पटित।

Memento

ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय



TUESDAY, MAY 08, 2007

# Hindustan Times

## She leads the fight for rights of villagers

*Pushpa Gohe a granddoot for a Betul village*

**Sreeraj Surbar**  
Bhopal, May 7

**PUSHPA GOHE** (68) is a rural woman with a difference. The woman has fought against the system to get her village Gohal during in Betul district what was due but normally denied. She mobilised a self-help group of the village against, serpanch and panchis and got allocation of wheat and cash under the Swarna Jayanti Gram Kozgar Yojana restored to genuine beneficiaries.

She took up the matter with the Jaunpur Panchayat CEO. She also mobilised villagers to oppose illegal mining of sand by a contractor, with help from another person of nearby Katusar village. Pushpa prevailed upon block-level officials to release deferred wages of the villagers under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS).

Pushpa Gohe's fighting spirit can be attributed to the Granddoot project. "Granddoots are a select group of voluntary social leaders working to bring about change in the rural landscape through information dissemination on government schemes. Granddoots also seek to empower villagers to get their due."

Pushpa and 678 others like her are instruments of silent revolution in 460 villages of Mandla, Dindori, Betul and Chhindwara districts. They work under a project launched in the year 2004 by the National Institute for Women, Children and Youth Development (NIWCYD) and eight other partner organisations under the Poorest Areas Civil Society (PACS) programme.

In the last three years, the organisations have developed a strong base of social leaders who help village-folk in various ways



MUJEEB FARUQI/ART  
Granddoots from various parts of the State have arrived in Bhopal to participate in a convention by the National Institute for Women, Children and Youth Development. Pushpa Gohe is seen on the left.

**Granddoots to be feted today**

GRANDDOOTS FROM the 450 villages would be felicitated and administered oath to remain committed to their mission during a two-day convention to be organised by NIWCYD at the Gyan Vigyan Bhawan of the Banskalah University on May 8 and 9. The convention would be inaugurated at 11 am on May 8 by Speaker Ishwardas Rohani, MP Human Rights Commission chairman Justice D M Dharmadhikari would preside while eminent Gandhian Dr SN Subbarao would be special guest. DIG Anuradha Shankar Singh and state coordinator of UNFPA P R Dco would also be present.

tion, water and health aspects, taking issues to Jaunpur, block and district levels, ensuring participating in self-governance process, preventing child marriages and enforcing prohibition.

ful in raising issues like implementation of NREGS, establishing village self-help groups, disseminating information on and getting government schemes implemented, initiatives on educa-

"A granddoot is selected mainly by gram sabhas and acts as liaison between the community and the outside world," Malviya explains. The granddoots in the four districts have been success-

without any remuneration. NIWCYD director Rajesh Malviya claims more than 75 per cent of the Granddoots have enrolled in their mission beyond expectation.

# THE PIONEER

Rhopal | Wednesday | May 9 | 2007

## Active participation needed for rural development: Speaker Addresses State-level session of Gramdoots

Staff Reporter | Bhopal

**I**nflicting violence is easy but active participation for rural development is quite challenging. State Assembly Speaker Ishwardas Bohani expressed these thoughts at the State-level session of Gramdoots, organised by the National Institute of Women, Child and Youth Development.

Bohani regretted the pitiable condition of the tribal community despite lakhs and crores of rupees wasted in the name of rural development every year. Gramdoots represent the exploited and oppressed class of the rural society and need support of all sections of the society, added Bohani.

It is notable that Gramdoots are volunteers and social activists, working for the National Institute of Women, Child and Youth Development network.

Chief Guest of the function, Chairman of the Human Rights Commission Justice DS Dhanrajadhari termed Gramdoots as the guardians of human rights.

He expressed the need for a link between the State and the society. Senior Gandhian ideologue, SN Subbarao chaired the

Government employees for not performing their duties regarding rural areas despite sufficient resources. He applauded the works of Gramdoots in fulfilling the dreams of Mahatma Gandhi.

A number of Gramdoots also shared their thoughts at the occasion. They discussed about their selection process, their endeavours and the challenges they are facing in their work. A total of 600 Gramdoots and 200 social activists from the districts Mandla, Dindori, Chhindwara and Betul participated in the programme.



State Assembly Speaker Ishwardas Bohani bests a drum alongside Begu (left) during the inauguration of a two-day convention of 'Gramdoots' organised by National Institute for Women, Children and Youth Development (NIWCYD) in Bhopal on Tuesday. Pioneer photo



# 'Gramdoots can be bridge for society'

DESCRIBING THE 'Gramdoots' as protectors of human rights in rural areas, MP Human Rights Commission chairman Justice D M Dharmadhikari today said that these voluntary social leaders could also become the bridge between government and society to achieve necessary development.

He was speaking at the chief guest at the inaugural session of the two-day convention of Gramdoots organised by National Institute of Women, Child and Youth Development (NIWCYD) that commenced at the Gyan Vigyan Bhavan on Tuesday. Speaker Ishwardas Rohani presided over the function and expressed happiness over having the opportunity to interact with persons who are doing social work in mission mode totally voluntarily.

Both the MPHRC chairman and the Speaker said that it is very unfortunate that a majority of people in rural and tribal areas still remain deprived of very basic needs of life despite so much funds with spend on so called developmental works.

The guests were welcomed in a traditional manner by representatives of Baiga tribe. These Baigas also presented traditional dances attired in typical apparels. The guests - mainly Speaker Rohani - also participated in the cultural presentation.

Special guest - eminent Gandhian Dr S N Subbarao said that we should ask ourselves whether the country is really independent. The government officials get facilities to work for the poor people but they hardly reach the rural areas. In such situation, the work done by Gramdoots towards achieving

Mahatma Gandhi's dreams is appreciable. DIG Anuradha Shankar Singh and former chief election commissioner G S Shukla also spoke on the occasion. Chief executive of NIWCYD Rajesh Malviya explained the concept of Gramdoot project. Some of the gramdoots including Rajesh Pawar of Chhindwara and Pushpa Gohe of Betul also expressed views on the occasion. Uma Goswami of NGO Adiwasi Sewa Sanrachana Sanstha also spoke about role of gramdoots.

On May 9, at 11.00 am the gramdoots would be administered oath of voluntary work by former judge of MP High Court DPS Chouhan. Former DGP SC Tripathi would be present. Baiga dances would also be presented on the occasion.

srajanl.sarkar@gmail.com

FRIDAY, MAY 11, 2007

# Hindustan Times

## Help for development, Dharmadhikari to NGOs

FREE PRESS NEWS SERVICE  
BHOPAL

MP Human Right Commission Chairman Justice DM Dharmadhikari has exhorted NGOs to help in achieving the development target by working as a chain between government and common people.

He was speaking during the inaugural function of state-level Gramdoot session on Tuesday.

This two-day session, presided over by assembly Speaker Ishwar Das Rohani, has been organised by National Institute for Women, Child and Development, Nagpur. A total of 576 Gramdoots, arrived from various pockets of the state, participated in the function.

Dharmadhikari dubbed gramdoots as representatives of villages and lauded their efforts. He also advised them to work against violation of human rights.

He informed that people could also register their complaints on toll free number 1800-2336399. Rohani said that Gramdoots should share the responsibility in over all development. Gandhivadi thinker Dr SN Subbarao said that there is great space for development in rural sector. On this occasion, DIG Anuradha Shankar was also present.

# करोड़ों फूंकने के बाद भी नहीं मिटी गरीबी



■ राजधानी में मंगलवार को आयोजित ग्रामदूतों के सम्मेलन में शामिल महिलाएं।

विशेष संवाददाता, भोपाल  
राजनीतिक, प्रशासनिक, न्यायिक और समाज सेवा क्षेत्रों के वरिष्ठ प्रतिनिधियों ने स्वीकार किया है कि आजादी के साठ सालों में विकास योजनाओं पर करोड़ों खर्च करने के बावजूद गरीबी जस-की-तस है।

## ग्रामदूत सम्मेलन

बरकतउल्ला विधि के ज्ञान विज्ञान भवन में प्रदेश के चार जिलों में सक्रिय करीब छह सौ ग्रामदूतों के दो दिवसीय राज्य स्तरीय सम्मेलन के उद्घाटन सत्र में मंगलवार को वक्ताओं ने कहा कि सरकार और विकास योजनाओं के लाभार्थियों के बीच की कड़ी टूट गई है। इसे

ग्रामदूतों के स्वयं समर्थन कार्यक्रम के जरिए जोड़ा जा सकता है।

कार्यक्रम का आयोजन नेशनल इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ वीमेन, चाइल्ड एण्ड यूथ डेवलपमेंट द्वारा किया गया है। गांधीवादी डा. एसएन मुक्करव ने आजाद भारत के गांधी जी के सपने की याद दिलाते हुए कहा कि गांधी ने बिना श्रम के पैसा कमाने वाले अस्वस्थ भारत को कल्पना नहीं की थी। सम्मेलन को कार्यक्रम के अध्यक्ष विधानसभा अध्यक्ष इश्वरदास रोहानी, मंत्र मानव अधिकार आयोग के अध्यक्ष डीएम धर्माधिकारी, डीआईजी अनुराधा शंकर, पूर्व चुनाव आयुक्त जीएस शुक्ला आदि ने संबोधित किया।

सांध्य दैनिक

# फाईन टाइम्स

प्रधान संपादक : अशोक गेहानी

थाकई, शाम का अखबार

भोपाल, मंगलवार 8 मई 2007



## पीड़ितों की आवाज बनें ग्रामदूत : रोहाणी

ग्रामदूतों का राज्य - स्तरीय अधिवेशन शुरू

भोपाल, 8 मई, नए। ग्रामदूत पीड़ित और शोषित वर्ग की आवाज बनें। यह आह्वान विधानसभा अध्यक्ष इस्लाम रोहाणी ने ग्रामदूतों से किया है। श्री रोहाणी आज विश्वविद्यालय के ज्ञान-विज्ञान भवन में ग्रामदूतों के राज्य स्तरीय अधिवेशन में बोले रहे थे। कार्यक्रम में युवा आंदोलन के प्रणेता एस.एस. सुब्बाराव, मानव अधिकार आयोग के अध्यक्ष डीएस धर्माधिकारी, सेवानिवृत्त आईएसएस वीएस युक्ता तथा आईपीएस अनुराधा सेकर विरोच रूप से उपस्थित थे। अपने उद्बोधन में श्री रोहाणी ने आगे कहा कि ग्रामदूत न केवल पीड़ित-शोषित वर्ग की आवाज बनें, बल्कि वे एक चौकीदार की भूमिका निभाएं। उन्होंने कहा कि भले ही चौकीदार सख्त सुनने में छोटा लगे लेकिन उस पर बड़ी निम्मेदारी है।

उद्घाटन अवसर पर उपस्थित अन्य सभी बक्ताओं ने भी ग्रामदूतों द्वारा किए जा रहे कार्यों की भरपूर सराहना करते हुए विचारों में सकारात्मकता और बड़े इच्छा शक्ति अपनाने की अपेक्षा की। इसके पूर्व आयोगकों की ओर से ग्रामदूत की अवधारणा तथा अधिवेशन पर प्रकाश डालते हुए कहा कि ग्रामदूत स्वेच्छा से निकलना एक युवक है, जिसका सख्त सामाजिक कार्य करना है। (संक्षेप में 6 पृष्ठ)

## पीड़ितों की आवाज बनें...

उन्होंने कहा कि ग्रामदूत की भूमिका पर कई शक्यताएं निरस्त लगीं, किंतु उसका कार्य स्पष्ट है। आरंभ में आदिवासी क्षेत्रों से आए कलाकारों ने परंपरागत लोक नृत्यों से आरंभ किया। अधिवेशन में हिस्सा लेने प्रदेश भर से करीब 600 ग्रामदूत भोपाल आए हैं। अब विरक्तने लगे रोहाणी: कार्यक्रम स्थल पर प्रदेश भर से आए लोक कलाकार अपनी परंपरागत वेशभूषा में मौजूद थे। आदिमियों के युवाओं पर उन्होंने लोकनृत्यों से स्वागत किया। लोक संगीत पर धिरेक रहे कलाकारों ने श्री रोहाणी को इतना उद्बोधित किया कि वे भी नृत्य में शामिल हो गए और एक कलाकारों से डोल लेकर आप आनंदमाने लगे। अचानक हुए इस प्रसंग का उपस्थित लोगों ने भरपूर आनंद लिया।

# राज एक्सप्रेस



वरकतउल्ला विश्वविद्यालय में आयोजित कार्यक्रम में ग्रामदूतों का सम्मान करते वी. चौहान।

## अधिकारी करते दादागीरी उन्हें चाहिए 'हिस्सा'

### पूर्व न्यायाधीश ने किया ग्रामदूतों का सम्मान

भोपाल (प्रसं)। गांव में अधिकारी दादागीरी करते हैं। वे धींस दिखा कहते हैं-हम जो कहेंगे, वहीं करना होगा, वरना कुछ नहीं करने देंगे। अधिकारियों को सरकारी योजनाओं में से अपना हिस्सा चाहिए।

ये फेल ग्रामीण अंचलों से आए ग्रामदूत प्रतिनिधियों ने बुधवार को ग्रामदूत सम्मान समारोह में खोली। वरकतउल्ला विश्वविद्यालय के ज्ञान-विज्ञान भवन में नेशनल इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ वीमेन चाइल्ड एंड यूथ डेवलपमेंट नेटवर्क द्वारा आयोजित ग्रामदूत अधिवेशन के अंतिम दिन ग्रामदूतों का सम्मान किया गया। मुख्य अतिथि मप्र के पूर्व मुख्य न्यायाधीश डीपीएस चौहान और पूर्व पुलिस महानिदेशक सुभाषचंद्र त्रिपाठी थे। यहां ग्रामदूतों ने सरकार को उसकी योजनाओं की जमीनी सच्चाई बताई। मंच से डिंडौरी के बुद्धसिंह मरकाम ने कहा कि हम गांव वालों को सबसे अधिक दिक्कत वन विभाग से होती है। वन वाले कहते हैं कि जो हम करें, बस वो

#### ग्रामदूत क्रांति ने दी दस्तक

भूतपूर्व मुख्य न्यायाधीश डीपीएस चौहान ने कहा कि ग्रामदूत क्रांति वड़े हौले से आई है, मगर अब उसकी दस्तक महसूस करने लगे हैं। इसी तरह भूतपूर्व पुलिस महानिदेशक सुभाषचंद्र त्रिपाठी ने कहा कि ग्रामदूत व्यवस्था समाज के पुनर्जागरण की व्यवस्था है। यह धीरे-धीरे तफल हो रही है। समारोह में राज्यपाल डॉ. जाजड़ का संदेश पढ़ा गया।

ही करो। वरना तुम्हें कोई काम नहीं करने देंगे सरकार के कामजों में तो सड़क, लाइट सब दिखती है, मगर गांव में होता कुछ नहीं। कहें लाइट लगी भी है, तो जलती नहीं। सरका जमीनी सच्चाई नहीं जानती। भीमसिंह ने कहा कि अधिकारी ग्रामीणों पर धींस दिखाते हैं रोजगार गारंटी योजना की बात करें, त अफसरों को भी अपना हिस्सा चाहिए। बिन अफसरों को खुश करें कुछ नहीं होता।

राज्यश्री

## स्वैच्छक आंदोलन से बदलेगी तस्वीर

नेशनल इन्स्टीट्यूट ऑफ वूमन चाइल्ड एंड यूथ डेवलपमेंट ने ग्राम दूत से ग्रामीण विकास की नई तारीख शुरू की

### विशेष संवाददाता

भोपाल, 7 मई। ग्राम विकास के लिए जरूरी है कि ग्रामीणों का सहयोग एवं भागीदारी पूरी तरह से हो इस दिशा में ग्राम दूत ने तस्वीर बदलनी शुरू कर दी है। यह जानकारी निवसीड के राजेश मालवीय, अमृत परस्ते, नेमवती बने तासी नारायण परस्ते आदि ने दी। उन्होंने बताया कि वर्तमान समय में जबकि लोकतंत्र की परिभाषायें ध्वस्त होती जान पड़ रही है और जिसकी परिधि में ग्राम की एक सशक्त संरचना ग्राम पंचायत भी आ गई है। बदलते दौर में सांसद, विधायक से लेकर त्रिस्तरीय पंचायती राज की जननेता भी अपनी कुर्सी की जदोजहद में फंसा हुआ है। स्वविकास की इस अंधी प्रतिस्था में ग्राम विकास की

बात कौन करें ? ऐसी कौन सी वैकल्पिक व्यवस्था हो सकती है कि जो इस समस्या से निजात दिला सके। यही से ग्राम दूत की संकल्पना उभरी है। ग्रामदूत यानि ग्राम का दूत। दूत शब्द से आशय स्पष्ट है कि वह जो कि प्रतिनिधित्व करें और तब ग्राम दूत हो जाता है कि ग्राम का प्रतिनिधित्व करने वाला व्यक्ति है।

नेशनल इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ वॉमन चाइल्ड एंड यूथ डेवलपमेंट नेटवर्क ने कार्यक्रम स्वयं समर्थन अंतर्गत वर्ष 2003 से ग्रामदूतों का अभिनव प्रयोग शुरू किया। ग्राम के एक दूत के रूप में कार्य करते हुये मध्यप्रदेश के मंडला, डिण्डीरी, छिंदवाड़ा तथा बैतुल जिलों के 450 ग्रामों के 576 ग्रामदूत विगत 4 वर्षों से विकास की प्रक्रिया के प्रत्यक्ष

भागीदार बने हैं। शासन व ग्राम समुदाय के बीच अपनी प्रभावी उपस्थिति दर्ज कराने वाले इस ग्रामदूतों ने अब अपने संघ का निर्माण किया है। ग्राम का यह दूत अब विकासखंड से लेकर जिले स्तर पर भी ग्राम की बात को रखने के लिये तैयार है।

ग्राम से स्वैच्छकवाद को बढ़ावा देती हुई ग्रामविकास की यह सौंपी-महक अब राजधानी के गलियारों के लिये एक प्रेरक प्रसंग बनने जा रही है। दि. 8 व 9 मई 2007 को भोपाल में ग्रामदूतों के राज्य स्तरीय अभिवेशन का आयोजन किया जा रहा है। इस कार्यक्रम की विस्तृत रूपरेखा, ग्रामदूतों की संकल्पना व उनके द्वारा किये गये अभिनव प्रयोगों को हम आपके साथ बांटना चाहते हैं।

## Participants

### Distinguished Guests

1	Ishwardas Rohani	Speaker, State Assembly, Madhya Pradesh
2	Justice D.P.S. Chauhan	Chief Justice (Retd.) Jabalpur
3	Justice D.M. Dharmadikari	Chairman, Human Rights Commission, MP
4	Dr. S.N. Subbarao	Noted Gandhian and Senior Social Worker
5	Subhash Chandra Trivedi	IG Police (Retd.)
6	Anuradha Shankar Singh	Dy. Inspector General of Police
7	G.S. Shukla	Chief Election Commissioner (Retd.)
8	Sanjeev Ranjan	Development Alternatives, New Delhi
9	Bharadwaj	Freedom Fighter
10	Adarsha Muni Trivedi	President, Bar Association, Jabalpur
11	Dr. R.S. Tiwari	Labour Commissioner (Retd.)

### Participants

#	Cluster	Organisation	Number
1	Niwas	Kamayab Yuva Sanskar Samiti, Jabalpur	38
2	Mawai	National Institute of Women, Child and Youth Development (NIWCYD), Nagpur	43
3	Nainpur	Soshit Sewa Sanstha, Nainpur	15
4	Ghodadongri	NIWCYD	23
5	Shahapur	Institute of Social Service and Rural Development, Shahapur	21
6	Bhimpur	Pradeepan, Bhimpur	38
7	Baiga Chak	NIWCYD	74
8	Mehandwani	NIWCYD	32
9	Amarpur	NIWCYD	49
10	Mohogaon	NIWCYD	46
11	Rangari	Aardha Adivasi Vikas Sangh, Rangari	36
12	Jamai	Jan Mangal Sansthan, Chhindwara	36
13	Tamia	Pararth Samiti, Chhindwara	38
14	Bicchua	Gramin Kalyan Sewa Samiti, Bicchua	43
15	Gondiwadhona	Gramin Adivasi Samaj Vikas Sansthan, Gondiwadhona	28
			560

**Representatives from organisations** - CASA, Raipur; CASA, Bhopal; MPAL, Bhopal; MPHRC, Bhopal; Pehal Jan Vikas, Indore; Gaonkosa Maruti Sanstha, Pune; Gandhi Peace Foundation; SEARCH, Gadchiroli; Human Care Society; Prerak, Rajim; Hunger Project, Bhopal; MPRLP, Bhopal; HelpAge India, Bhopal; CRS, Bhopal; World Vision, Bhopal; Women Voice, New Delhi; Samavesh, Bhopal; ActionAid, Bhopal

**Representatives from electronic and print media** - Fine Times, News Out In, Sahara TV, Public Reader, Raj TV, Sahara Samaya, Aaj Tak News, Pioneer, Hindustan Times, E TV, Dainiak Bhaskar, BTV.



Government has framed various policies and programmes for the development of the tribal and poor people. But the implementation of these is the point of debate. The systems have become dysfunctional and the people are migrating to the urban centres in search of work.

- There are Public Distribution Systems in the rural and tribal areas. How many poor families it reaches?
- There is the Minimum Wages Act, but are the poor people getting proper wages for their work on time?
- For the education and supplementary nutrition, there are the schemes like Anganwadi, primary schools, Education Guarantee Schools, Education for All Campaign, but what is the status of their implementation? Do all the children have the Access to these schemes?

**The Panchayats today are influenced by the party politics, there are many issues. But the basic question is what the alternative is for all this?**

### **Gramdoot - A facilitator in village development**

Today there is a need to mobilize the sensitive youths both men and women to put up a fight against the issues and the problems. There is a need to facilitate the process of community mobilization with Gramdoot as the catalyst. Gramdoot is a link between government, panchayat, and the village community, who takes initiative with the people, in the proper implementation of the government policies and programmes. Gramdoot can lead the process of social sensitization of the people in 6 lakh villages of India with the help of government machinery and voluntary organizations.