

**District Level Consultative Workshop**  
**on**  
**Quality Education and Regional Development: Status,**  
**Perspectives and Experiences of Yadgir Region**

**February 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

*“Education is a catalyst of social change. Its capacity to minimize socio-economic and political inequalities in hierarchical societies like India is very high.”*

*Jean Dreze and Amartya Sen, India: Development and Participation, OUP, 2002, Pp 143-144*

**Background**

In the last few decades, overall socio-economic status of the state of Karnataka on several development indicators has shown upward trends as sign of positive growth and development. Efforts of the state in developing suitable policies, enacting pro-development legislations, designing and implementing number of schemes, programmes and projects catering to its multiple stakeholders and multi cultural regions can be attributed as some of the key factors in contributing the above positive trends of development. This is further evident from some of the encouraging trends observed through the findings of several studies commissioned both by the government and NGO sectors primarily in the areas of health, education, women empowerment, social welfare, livelihood opportunities, infrastructure development, etc. However, the deeper analysis of such positive trends and ground realities confirm the co-existence of continued poverty, illiteracy, poor health and lack of livelihood opportunities in many pockets of select North -Eastern districts of the state.

The socio-cultural environment (feudalistic in character), topography and geographical location, remoteness in terms of access to information, services, facilities and poor political leadership are some areas that hinder the development at all levels. Lack of skilled quality human resources is a major cause for the backwardness of the region, allowing regional disparities continue to exist in the region and Yadgir District.

Elementary education being fundamental right of every child in India through the 86<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment to Indian Constitution in 2002 and implementation of SSA and

related schemes, several pockets of districts or taluks or Grama Panchayats still remain with large number of 'out of school' children. Dr. Nanjundappa Committee Report 2002 and Karnataka Human Development Report 1999 and 2005 are official evidences for existence of sharp socio-economic disparities between districts in the state. Most of the districts and taluks in the North Karnataka region are known for their most or more backwardness in almost all developmental indicators including literacy and education. According to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948, "**education is a fundamental human right, along with other necessities, such as food, shelter and water.**" Hence, education play's a vital role in socio-economic development of deprived or marginal section of the society and in reducing existing level of inter or intra regional and inter or intra sectoral socio-economic disparities. Yadgir district is one such district with all features of backwardness and all kinds of disparities.

Yadgir is a newly formed district in North East Karnataka. This is one of the remote and drought prone districts with acute poverty and illiteracy. Yadgir was ranked 162 in the rankings of taluks in HDI report and 175 among taluks on development indicators as per Dr. Nanjundappa Committee (April 2002 to June 2006), in the erstwhile taluk of Gulbarga District.

The population in the district is dominated by marginalized groups: the Bedars (Valmiki Naiks) -an ST group, and Kolis or Kabbaligas (Besta Naik)—belonging to the OBCs. However, it is the dominant caste of Lingayats and Dores who have large land holdings that control resources in the district. Yadgir due to its characteristic features of backwardness and geographical remoteness could draw the attention of several developmental initiatives in pockets of the region. As a result a number of NGOs are working in this area to address different issues – Akshara Foundation, Azim Premji Foundation, ARD, CDF, Dhan Foundation, Don Bosco, MARG, Myrada, Outreach, Mahila Samakhya, Prajayatna, SARDS, SIRE, SRTT, The Teacher Foundation and many more.

The Government of Karnataka has set up Hyderabad - Karnataka Area Development Board (HKADB) for faster development of the region. Though the NGOs and government departments are working on various issues, it is imperative that a sectoral approach be taken to bring together convergence in the programs and adopt diverse strategies to suit the needs of the region. This is expected to not only provide synergies to existing efforts but also complement each other's work so that problems which require multi-dimensional responses can be tackled likewise.

It is in this context that the Sir Ratan Tata Trust (SRTT) and the Azim Premji Foundation (APF) have planned a two-day sharing and strategic direction setting workshop by bringing together various stakeholders on a common platform.

### ***Objectives***

1. To understand the status, perspective and experiences of different regional development agencies functioning in the region.
2. Sharing of findings of a baseline study commissioned by SRTT on status of education in Yadgir Region 2009.
3. Sharing the learning's from projects implemented in the last 5 years in relation to education and children
4. Identifying gaps and opportunities to evolve a possible operational structure for collaborative and convergence strategies.
5. Capacity building of core stakeholders on elementary education and development
6. To create a platform for the interface between NGOs and the Government.

### ***Overview of plans for the two day Workshop....***

#### ***Quality Education and Regional Development - Status, Perspectives and Experiences: An overview***

Theme 1: Hyderabad –Karnataka Area Development Board and Regional Development

Theme 2: District Administration and Collaboration/ Convergence in Regional Development

Theme 3: Quality Education and Regional Development: Critical Analysis

Theme 4: SDMCs/CBOs and Regional Development

Theme 5: Collaboration in Quality Education and Regional Development

Theme 6: Brain storming and Mapping of issues – GOs, NGOs and civil society groups

Theme 7: Evolution of Broad Operational Plans and Strategies

***Resource Group/ panelists:***

Resource team/panelists/moderators/facilitators of the workshop would include heads of different regional and district development authorities/agencies including the district administration, researchers, academicians, NGO and civil society representatives.

***Participants/Invitees:***

Targeted participants of the workshop include heads/officials of the Hyderabad Karnataka Area Development Board, District Administration, Zilla Pantheist, District Officers of Education, Health, DWCD, Social Welfare, Researchers, Academicians, NGO representatives, subject experts, SDMC, Gram Panchayats and schools.

***Follow up:***

The process of the consultative workshop will be documented in detail for wider dissemination with the concerned stakeholders especially with the KHADB, the District Administration, Dr. Nanjundappa Report Implementation Committee, Zilla Panchayat, education and development functionaries both at the regional and the state levels, select NGOs and civil society groups. As far as possible outcomes of the workshop will be incorporated into the annual plans of the initiatives of the Trust, APF and their partners' working in the region.

***Important Information/details:***

Date : 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> February 2010; Time : 10.00 am to 5.00 pm

**Workshop Venue:**

The workshop will be held in Don Bosco Training Hall, Chittapur road, Yadgir. Registration will begin at 9.30 am on February 18, 2010 at the Hall.

**Contact information:**

In case of any questions, doubts or emergencies please feel free to contact:

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