

Development Support Team,
Pune
Annual Report
2019-2020



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Foreword

Development Support Team (DST) has been working towards strengthening the organisational structure of the weaker sections of the society with a special focus on women for over three decades. The organisation believes and practices the ideology of people's participation in self development and moving on to sustainable development of the community at large. DST lays emphasis on women's active participation and involvement in the development processes.

In 1995 the Fourth World Conference on Women was held at Beijing and Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPFA) (1995) was adopted. At the time five-year milestones were set towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to reach the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. 2020 is therefore a pivotal year for taking stock of progress on the goals of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, embodying the SDGs "leave no one behind".

A need was felt to understand the historical perspective of the women's movement, Beijing +25 processes and its linkage with the frameworks of MDGs and SDGs in Maharashtra. Several grassroots women's groups, community organisers, academicians and others from India had participated in the lead-up preparations to the Beijing conference. Development Support Team (DST) and Stree Aadhar Kendra (SAK) organised a day long regional workshop in order to understand and reflect on the journey of the Beijing Platform for Action to SDGs, revisit the past work, see its alignment with the present development and highlight the challenges faced in advancing women's rights in the last two and half decades.

DST has worked on this theme through the various programs on DigiShakti, to empower urban and rural communities, participated in events for inclusion on the vulnerable farmer groups and enabled livelihoods opportunities through enabling partnerships.

DST also continued its efforts in "Building Bridges and Enabling Partnerships" through organising a series of events in partnership with MCCIA, VANI (New Delhi), CECOEDCON, and Ishanya Foundation. Our grassroots work has made major contributions in the Development Education and these cross sector partnerships provided a platform to share our diverse and rich experience in the Civil society initiatives with a larger audience and stakeholders.

Brief Background

When Development Support Team (DST) was established in 1984 it was primarily a “response” to the need of the development sector where one segment of the stakeholders were very small NGOs/Community Based Organisations (CBOs). DST owes its existence to CAA, Oxfam (Australia). DST started as a support service organisation in a small way and accepted a variety of challenges in its growth path and journey. DST has grown into a multifaceted organisation responding to the needs of the sector and also proactively initiating some processes/programmes to build an improved understanding of the current challenges.

DST has been working towards strengthening the organisational structure of the weaker sections of the society with a special focus on women for over three decades. The organisation believes and practices the ideology of people’s participation in self development and moving on to sustainable development of the community at large. DST lays emphasis on women’s active participation and involvement in the development processes.

Over the past two decades has worked towards Socio-Economic Empowerment of Women through various training modules, exposure visits and the promotion and strengthening of a community-based community owned institutions – Self Help Groups (SHGs) and Federations. The focus has been on working towards Financial Inclusion, Financial Planning and Financial Literacy of the women so as to enable them to access Formal Financial services that include safe savings and credit options and insurance. Since 2018 we have included Digital Empowerment as an important intervention as a step towards sustainability.

Organisational Structure

DST is registered as a Society and a Trust and is governed by the rules and regulations applicable under the respective Acts. The governing body comprises social workers, activists, academicians and individuals committed to the field of development.

DST’s Objectives

- *To provide information, research, training, finance and other support to voluntary agencies working in the field of socio-economic development*
- *To undertake and to assist studies and research in the field of development.*
- *To provide facilities for the exchange of information and experience among different voluntary agencies working in the field of development.*
- *To undertake and to assist organization of workshops, seminars and training courses for workers engaged in development.*
- *To undertake all such programmes and activities as might help development.*

Highlights

- Development Support Team and Stree Adhar Kendra, Pune brought together the grassroot NGOs/CBOs on 24th December 2019 at Pune to trace the journey from Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) to MDGs and SDGs and document the processes and impact of women's participation. The event saw participation of 70+ delegates from 40 NGOs, Academia and CSR Foundations from Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand.
- As a next step, Beijing +25 processes Reflection and Current Status at Vidhan Bhavan Mumbai was organized on 29th January 2020, when Dr. Neelam Gorhe, Deputy Chairman of Maharashtra Legislative Council with Development Support Team, Stree Aadhar Kendra Pune & Trans Asian Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Mumbai brought together Civil Society Organisations, Government Dignitaries and Members of Consulates to deliberate on the efforts carried out for addressing the challenges faced by urban and rural communities in Maharashtra.
- DigiShakti: Digital Empowerment of Women programs were conducted for rural and urban community women. Special sessions on Cyber Security, Trolling and staying safe on the internet was conducted for NGOs across Maharashtra with Stree Aadhar Kendra, Pune. Digital opportunities for 1st generation rural, tribal and urban entrepreneurs to equip them with skills to explore a digital presence for their business was conducted at the YESSummit.
- DST in partnership with Forbes Marshall continued their programs of Socio-Economic empowerment with a focus ongoing beyond Microfinance and working on providing sustainable livelihood opportunities to Community Women in Bopkhel and Chakan
- Working on women's health, DST have partnered with Dmagic, an initiative by Dr. Renu Mahtani, Autoimmunity Treatment Centre, Pune which aims to improve the health of the low socio economic strata by improving their vitamin D status conducting awareness programs for 500+ women.
- To celebrate Daan Utsav, CYDA India, Connecting NGO, Development Support Team, Pune, Nirman, Pune, YouthAid Foundation came together under the banner "Connecting People, Transforming Lives" to promote giving and making a difference through contributions and helping in transforming lives.
- For disaster response to floods in Maharashtra in 2019, DST worked with Shramik Janata Vikas Sanstha, Medha, district Satara in Nagthane village of Palus block (Sangli) to provide relief material to 200+ affected families

Civil Society Organisations processes for BEIJING+25



Year 2020, the global community marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA) (1995) and the five-year milestone towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. 2020 is therefore a pivotal year for the accelerated realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, everywhere, “leave no one behind” .



Maharashtra is a state in west India and has a long history of social change for women’s development. From the pre-independence era, leaders like Jyotiba Phule, Savitribai Phule, Tarabai Shinde worked for women’s emancipation. Maharashtra has witnessed a strong women’s movement along with a good CSO and state interaction. This has resulted in positive spaces for women and led to strengthening of Socio-Economic Empowerment

of Women. Maharashtra has been a pioneer in enacting major laws that have supported women's rights and freedom.

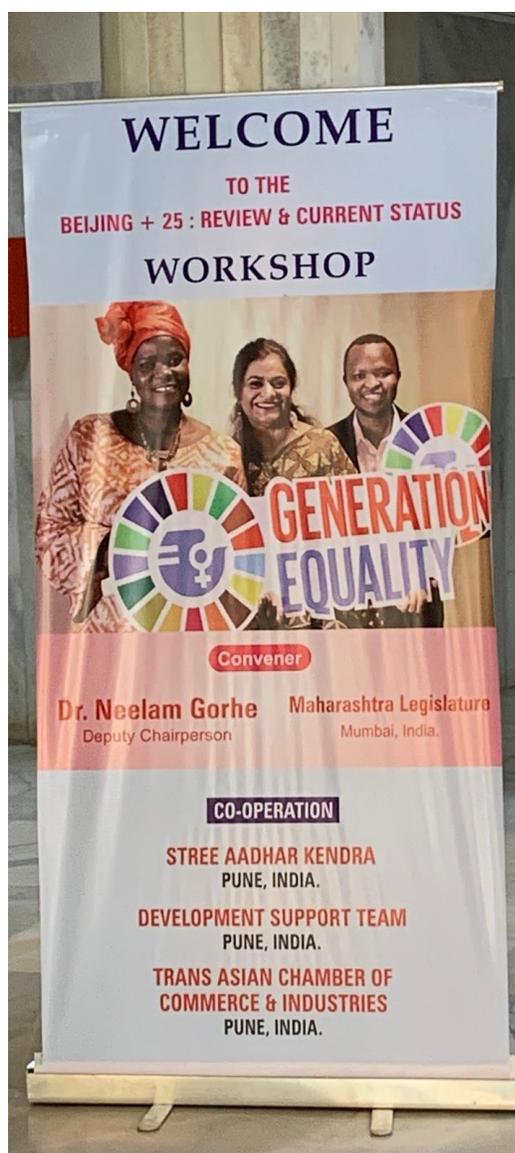
The external and internal environment in the development sector has been very volatile and funding for common platforms for discussions has become difficult. Despite these constraints we continue to pursue the passion we have to make the world a better place for all to live with dignity and assured human rights.

To trace this journey from Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) to MDGs and SDGs and document the processes and impact of women's participation, Development Support Team and Stree Adhar Kendra, Pune brought together the grassroots NGOs/CBOs on 24th December 2019 at Pune. The event saw participation of 70+ delegates from 40 NGOs, Academia and CSR Foundations from Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand. The full day deliberations and reflections were around the thematic areas identified through a study conducted across 30 NGOs: Policy and mechanisms for Advancement of Women, Sustainable Livelihoods, Women and Environment and Violence Against Women with eminent speakers Dr. Neelam Gorhe -Stree Aadhar Kendra, Pune, Minar Pimple, Anita Paul - Grassroots, Seema Kulkarni - MAKAAAM, Ajay Jha, PAIRVI. DST would also like to acknowledge the members of the Advisory Group who have contributed in the design and content of the event :

1. Ms. Mini Bedi, DST
2. Ms. Shaila Kagal, DST
3. Ms. Medha Ranade, DST
4. Mr. Shirish Kulkarni, DST
5. Ms. Sonia Garcha, DST
6. Dr. Anil Paranjpe, Community Aid and Sponsorship Programme
7. Ms. Bindu Nair, Ishanya Foundation
8. Ms Jyoti Desai, Gender and Livelihoods Expert
9. Dr. Milind Bokil, Social Scientist and Author
10. Mr. Prashant Kothadiya, CSR Expert and Development Professional

Beijing +25 processes: Reflection and Current Status at Vidhan Bhavan, Mumbai

On the background of completion of 25 Years of Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing in August – September 1995, United Nation's UN women had planned an International Event on this theme in March 2020 and to mark the 25th Year, Government Agencies and Civil Society Organisations are organizing workshops, Seminars and meetings to review the various development and empowerment policies and programs adopted after the Beijing conference by nations and how far they have impacted women's life world over positively or otherwise and what are challenges in the process. The government agencies and CSOs would then present and contribute their country reports at UN Event.



Since the Forth Women's World Conference and subsequent processes in the world and India there has been increasing dialogue amongst CSOs and UN Women especially during Conference on Status of Women taking place every year at UN Headquarters at New York. Also a number of International events have also taken place in past 25 years.

Beijing +25 processes Reflection and Current Status at Vidhan Bhavan Mumbai on 29th January 2020, when Dr. Neelam Gorhe, Deputy Chairman of Maharashtra Legislative Council brought together Civil Society Organisations, Government Dignitaries and Members of Consulates. This workshop has the cooperation of Development Support Team, Stree Aadhar Kendra Pune & Trans Asian Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Mumbai.

The event was marked by the presence of over 100 representatives from Policy Makers: Speaker of State Assembly, Minister of Women and Child Development, Secretaries/Administrators from various concerned departments, NGOs, CSO, women's groups, media persons, etc. Five representatives from DST including trustees participated and contributed at this event. The full day session saw presentations and deliberations on the efforts carried out for addressing the challenges faced by urban and rural communities

in Maharashtra. State and central policies enacted and their implementation in the state of Maharashtra in empowering women and girls were reviewed from SDG context as well.

Shirish Kulkarni (DST) coordinated a session of foreign delegates from different Embassies regarding initiatives taken by their countries to address Gender issues and women's empowerment in their countries. The Ambassadors appreciated the efforts of India and the state of Maharashtra in enacting progressive laws and programs.

Mrs Bedi in her concluding remarks shared that these events both in Pune and Mumbai were planned by DST and Dr. Neelam Gorhe, Deputy Chairman of Maharashtra Legislative Council, to mainstream the Beijing and SDG Agenda. The Government of India is a signatory at the UN committee to take forward the agenda at the National and Regional level. The Civil Society Organisations have been pursuing the agenda at the programme level but the report which became part of the national document has not included the work carried out at the grassroots. Similarly the report by Government of India is silent on the financial commitments. Making SDGs as part of the planning process has had huge gaps, and to fill in these gaps and the event brought together different stakeholders, seeking their commitment to mainstream this agenda in planning and implementation on programs, together with the work of the CSOs at grassroots. The office of the Deputy Chairman produced a summary document which was to be shared at the UN meeting in March 2020 with like minded organisations which was cancelled due to the pandemic.

DigiShakti: Digital Empowerment of Women



DST team had designed a tailor-made module and conducted a pilot with the Community Workers and Group Leaders and then based on the initial feedback, modified it and rolled it out through onsite training programmes. DigiShakti has moved on to creating digital opportunities for entrepreneurs, partnered with Stree Aadhar Kendra, Pune City Connect and CYDA to empower urban and rural communities.

Programs conducted:

1. DST conducted 3 Training programs conducted for 100+ community women in Pimpri, Nagpur Chawl and Sangvi for Self Help Group members and Community Workers which included assessment of the current usage of mobile technology through an activity, use of mobile technology in their daily lives, access to information, use and misuse of Social Media - Whatsapp, Facebook. Also more important was what not to do with mobile technology and harmful impact of mobile technology on health.
2. A Digital Literacy Workshop for Women on Cyber Crime and Trolling with Dr. Neelam Gorhe organised by Stree Aadhar Kendra, Pune and Maharashtra State Women's Commission with Sandip Gadiya, Machindra Pandit (Inspector of Police Cyber Crime Pune), Sagar Padwal (Police-Cyber Crime), Meena Sawant (Maharashtra State Women's Commission). The workshop included sessions on Cyber Security, Trolling and How do be safe on Social Media
3. DigiShakti session on Opportunities in Digital Space for Entrepreneurs at the Multi-Stakeholder Consultation on Promoting Non-Traditional Skills/Entrepreneurship among Girls and Women: Barriers, Opportunities and Way Ahead organised by CYDA in Pune
4. DigiShakti session for Opportunities in Digital Space for Entrepreneurs @4YESummit for 400+ 1st generation rural, tribal and urban entrepreneurs to equip them with skills to explore a digital presence for their business.

Technical Support to Corporates

Forbes Marshall

DST provides technical assistance to Forbes Marshall Ltd., Pune to support their social initiatives in Bopkhel and Chakan through the Self Help Group – Federation model. The intervention both in Chakan and Bopkhel focussed on capacity building of stakeholder toward sustainability:

- Addressing challenges leading to closure of groups and hurdles in promotion of new SHGs
- Encouraging new membership at the Federation level
- Tools translated in Marathi for new SHG training, Group leaders meeting, Internal Audit
- Training and handholding support for :
 - Independently conducting Group Leaders meetings
 - Participatory Internal Audit Exercise
 - Conducting New SHG training with an activity based approach
 - Guiding CWs to independently organize social events to encourage participation of not only the SHG members but also non members in the community

"Going beyond Microfinance and working on providing sustainable livelihood opportunities to Community Women"



Perna Mahila Vikas Sangh, Bopkhel participated at the 12 Yellow Ribbon Fair '2 HELP 4 HAPPINESS' which provides a platform to more than 120 NGOs, where farmers, artisans and SHGs can exhibit and sell products made as part of income generation activities. Perna Mahila Vikas Sangh, Federation from Bopkhel won the Best Food Stall award with a cash prize of Rs. 5,000 at the 12th Yellow Ribbon Fair. This is the second year that the Perna Mahila Vikas Sangh has set up the Food Stall

at the Yellow Ribbon Fair. 7 women which included Federation Directors and members have worked together to set up the stall. The women from Bopkhel also participated at the MCCIA CSR summit at the DST-Parama Naturals stall to showcase opportunities for livelihoods to community women.

Women's Day Celebrations at Bopkhel



Prerna Mahila Vikas Sangh, Bopkhel celebrated Women's Day with a Health Awareness program conducted by Dr. Renu Mahtani with 120+ community women. She spoke about the vital role played by vitamin D in commanding our whole body into a state of wellbeing. Dr. Renu Mahtani explained the role of vitamin D which goes beyond the regulation of calcium and bone health. Low levels of vitamin D in community women can drastically impact her physical and mental well being. Simple yoga practices were demonstrated to reduce neck, back and knee pain. Vitamin D3 tablets were given by Dr. Mahtani under Project Dmagic which would help raise these levels.

Women's Day Celebration at Chakan



Women's Socio-Economic Empowerment in local communities of Chakan is in the fifth year with an expansion to 25+ SHGs in five villages. Along with, strengthening and streamlining SHG

level processes, we have moved to the next level **of skill development and a platform to sell their products was also created.** SHG members set up stall at the Forbes Marshall events.

Women's day saw participation of 250+ women at Shindethackerwasti with food stalls set up by women entrepreneurs, role plays and songs by Community Workers and SHG Group Leaders and members and Mrs. Bedi as the Chief guest for the function.

Partnership with Dmagic

Development Support Team (DST) have partnered with Dmagic, an initiative by Dr. Renu Mahtani, Autoimmunity Treatment Centre, Pune which aims to improve the health of the low socio economic strata by improving their vitamin D status. The first session was conducted for the Community Workers and DST Staff to explain the importance of Vitamin D and various problems caused due to its deficiency.

Awareness sessions were then conducted across the urban and rural operational areas of DST reaching out to more than 500 participants in Pune District in :

1. Yerwada, October 2019
2. Lohegaon, October 2019
3. Bopkhel, February 2019
4. Shindethackerwasti, Chakan, January 2020
5. Varale gaon Chakan, January 2020



During these awareness sessions for 500+ community women, Dr. Renu Mahtani spoke about the vital role played by vitamin D in commanding our whole body into a state of wellbeing. Dr. Renu Mahtani explained the role of vitamin D which goes beyond the regulation of calcium and bone health. Low levels of vitamin D in community women can drastically impact her physical and mental well being. Vitamin D deficiency has been linked to various

health problems, including cognitive decline, depression, osteoporosis, cardiovascular disease, hypertension, diabetes, autoimmune diseases and cancer.

Blood tests were conducted across the rural and urban outreach which indicated low levels of Vitamin D3 in majority of the samples, Vitamin D3 tablets were given by Dr. Mahtani under Project Dmagic which would help raise these levels.

Daan Utsav, Pune: “Connecting People, Transforming Lives”



Daan Utsav, Pune is part of Daan Utsav India which is celebrated all over India by corporate, non-governmental agencies, individuals and various groups. 5 NGOs: CYDA India, Connecting NGO, Development Support Team, Pune, Nirman, Pune, YouthAid Foundation came together under the banner “Connecting People, Transforming Lives” to promote giving and making a difference through contributions and helping in transforming lives.

Various activities began on 2nd October 2019 with an event "Best from Waste" competition for schools and colleges to commemorate the 150 birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The event gave a platform for budding artists to showcase their hidden talents. Almost 200+ entries from various schools, colleges, individuals exhibiting how we can utilize the waste in the form of re-use and recycling with jury members, Mrs. Bedi Vandana Chavan and Mrunal Pawar. Daan Utsav also included performances by Taal Inc, Mouth Organ Group and the Doctor’s Band. DST acknowledges the support from CYDA for taking a lead in organising Daan Utsav, Dr. Dasmit Singh, Doctor’s Band, Varun Venkit, Taal Inc, Sushma, Royal Harmonica Club of Pune and the individual donors who contributed towards making Daan Utsav a grand success.

Technical Support to Samruddhi Welfare Development Foundation

DST provides technical and financial support to Samruddhi Welfare Development Foundation which caters to the credit needs of CBOs – Self Help Groups. Loans to the tune of Rs. 35 Lakhs have been disbursed through the SHGs to their members.

Disaster Response: Flood relief



With unprecedented rains, floods and flash floods during the 2019 monsoon in Western Maharashtra, the Kolhapur and Sangli districts are worst affected, especially during July last week and August first week heavy rains. The state government responded quickly on many fronts with the help of NDRF, SDRF, Army and Navy and saved precious lives however still it cost 46 lives and huge damage to private and public property including infrastructure which accounted to thousands of crores. The floods left 84 thousand acres

of agriculture land and standing crops completely damaged which alone can explain the magnitude of loss suffered by people on which major economy of two districts is dependent on. It was said that disaster was so huge magnitude that government or NGOs alone can not rebuild the impacted lives and would take years to bring back the normal life

DST along with its one of the associate organizations Shramik Janata Vikas Sanstha (SJVS) Medha, District Satara, jointly assessed the disaster situation and relief work of other NGOs and government in the most affected rural areas of Sangli district and decided to work in Nagthane village of Palus block (Sangli district) where most of the poor households in low lying areas on the bank of river Krishana had suffered the most. Assessment by local volunteers revealed that people are in need of food grains and blankets, DST and SJVS then worked together to distribute them to the 210 (two hundred and ten) households. The activity was also monitored by DST Treasurer and Finance manager with SJVS team in the last week of September 2019 during which the communities were also oriented about the government announced relief package and how it could be accessed. The beneficiaries expressed thanks to DST and SJVS for timely help which they said helped them to restart their life.



Overall, although this was a small relief activity (due to limited resources available) comparing to DST's earlier vast experience of responding to huge disaster situations in India in past but it proved very useful in reaching out to most needy people in flood hit western Maharashtra.

Awards



IACD has Awards presented to members deemed by the Board to have made a significant contribution towards the work of the association and to the field of community development. These Awards, called Lifetime Achievement Award and Global Community Development Ambassador Award are presented at our international conferences. At the WCDC 2019 conference in Dundee in June, 2019, four members were awarded the Global Community Development Ambassador Award. Mini Bedi is a former Vice President of IACD. She served on the Board for 12 years. Mini designed and hosted the very first, of three Practice Exchanges, held in India. Mini worked for many years with Oxfam in India supporting numerous local community projects tackling poverty. She played an important role in raising the profile of IACD across India since the mid-1980s.

Events

DST worked on taking the process of “Building Bridges ... Enabling Partnerships” at two levels:

- strengthening the NGOs on the key areas of Regulatory Frameworks
- building capacities at the grassroots of the Community workers, Group Leaders and Members.

Participation at various National and International events

1. Sonia Garcha won the Social Innovation award in 2018 at the NCSI (National Conference for Social Innovation) for her work in Digital empowerment of women. She presented her paper, “DigiShakti: Digital Empowerment of Community Women.” at the 2019 World Community Development Conference at Dundee University, Dundee, Scotland in June 2020.
2. DST has been participating in the SDGs related events at the National and Regional level. U.N. Women (India/Nepal) as the lead amongst the U.N., hosted 5 regional meetings and Mrs Bedi the Western Region meeting in Bhopal on 30th August 2020 and identified the following themes :
 - a. Sexual /Reproductive health rights
 - b. Ending violence against women and girls
 - c. Sustainable livelihoods and income security
 - d. Institutional mechanisms for women advancement
 - e. Political Leadership and feminist organizer

Mrs Bedi shared these deliberations with the DST team and Dr. Neelam Gorhe to plan on how best DST and Stree Aadhar Kendra can engage with civil society organisations on this agenda. The most crucial and key issue was the identification of 4/5 themes from the identified 12 themes and aligning them with the SDGs and plan the Pune Beijing +25 processes event.

3. DST team participated at the MCCIA CSR Summit on 23rd August 2019 which brought together 150+ Government agencies, Companies/Business leaders, CSR Foundations, Experts and Non-profit organizations to explore synergies and co-create solutions. The focus was to help NGOs and CSR heads to integrate the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals into their CSR activities for contributing in the best way for achieving collective and larger impact. Shirish Kulkarni and Medha Ranade mobilised 10+ NGOs for the summit. DST contributed to the compilation of the NGO directory released during the event. Sonia Garcha was the moderator of the session on “NGO perspectives on CSR”. Her article on Challenges faced by NGOs in CSR has also been published.

4. Sonia Garcha was selected for a two-day 'capacity development workshop' for members of civil society organisations on gathering, analyzing, reporting, securing and communicating data on SDGs on 27th and 28th November 2019 at the UN RC office. The event brought together senior civil society members who are already familiar with the SDGs and also have experience/interest in research and data gathering and the purpose was to create a pool of resource persons from the civil society organisations who can also statistically track SDGs and are available for further trainings and support to the civil society sector and SDG processes.
5. Shirish Kulkarni attended a "National Consultation with Farmers on Leaving No One Behind and India's Voluntary National Review (VNR) 2020 on the SDGs" organized by CECOEDECON and MAUSAM from Jaipur and ASHA (Alliance for Sustainable and Holistic Agriculture), Pairvi and Wada Na Todo Abhiyan from New Delhi on 24th January 2020 supported by Niti Ayog and UNRC. More than 120 representatives from NGOs, Farmers Unions, experts, farmers groups/organizations and donors across the country participated in this one day event. Discussions on vulnerabilities and challenges of different farmers groups like rain fed farmers, tenant farmers, women farmers, landless farmers, adivasi farmers and livestock farmers and pastoralists with specific recommendations to ensure that vulnerable farmers, do not remain left. Consultation Ways and means by which farmers can contribute and become an integral part of the Agenda 2030. Shirish Kulkarni recommended names of 3 NGOs and farmers union leaders from Maharashtra who all attended the consultation with farmers from their operational villages. Shirish Kulkarni led a group discussion on 'Tenant Farmers' and his contributions are included in the final report under the sub title "Tenant Farmers" submitted to Niti Aayog and others. The entire consultation and report was reviewed from related SDG Goal 2 titled "End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture". The government/s was expected to take note of the recommendations so as to ensure that farmers stride besides others in eradicating poverty and hunger, and establish peace and sustainability in India. Organisers are following with Niti Aayog on the report submitted.

Ongoing Processes

Capacity Building of Community Workers

DST also supports the grassroots cadre of Community Workers who are DST's link to all the urban community based initiatives. The Community Workers meetings conducted at DST are a platform for sharing challenges and problems faced at the field level, capacity building for strengthening the Community based organizations – SHGs and Federations.

Topics covered include:

1. Contextualising learnings from macro level both National and International level to micro level
2. Session by Dr. Renu Mahtani on health issues related to women
3. Digital empowerment through use of Whatsapp groups for sharing relevant information, updates and planning of events

Linkages

1. Sa-dhan

Sa-Dhan's mission is to build the field of community development finance in India to help its member and associate institutions to better serve low-income households, particularly women, in both rural and urban India, in their quest for establishing stable livelihoods and improving quality of life. DST representatives participate in national level conferences organized by Sa-dhan involving the stakeholders of micro finance sector.

2. Voluntary Action Network India (VANI)

VANI is a network of voluntary development organizations with a purpose to provide a platform for safeguarding and highlighting voluntarism and voluntary action in India. The Managing Trustee is an advisor to VANI. DST is actively involved in the VANI processes on policy related issues of the NGOs.

3. PAIRVI

DST has worked in partnership with PAIRVI on Climate Change and has played an active role in macro-micro linkages, sharing national and sub national policies with small grassroots organizations and community based groups to enhance their understanding on Climate Change.

4. MAHAVAN

VANI has promoted independent state chapters to bring together CSOs/ VDOs in Maharashtra. Members of VANI from Maharashtra have initiated MAHAVAN (Maharashtra Voluntary Action Network) as an informal forum of Voluntary Development Organizations to share knowledge, strengthen organizations and negotiate with Public (Government) and (Private) Corporate sector on equal partnerships. DST is working at the Pune District level to support this network and create an enabling environment through collaborations and cooperation.

5. International Association for Community Development (IACD)

IACD has recognized consultative status with the United Nations and its agencies.

Acknowledgements

The Board of Trustees gratefully acknowledges the support received by DST from – Forbes Marshall, Ishanya Foundation, MCCIA, PIC, Unlimited India, Dr. Renu Mahtani and Parama Naturals. The Board would also like to place on record its appreciation of DST Staff for their dedication and active involvement in successfully carrying out the various programmes and activities of the organisation. We are also grateful to the CBOs, Federations, SHGs and Community Workers for their valuable contribution in promoting women's groups, providing micro finance services and livelihood options. We also sincerely thank our Auditors, Ramu and Associates, for their guidance and auditing the annual accounts of DST.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Sr. No	Name	Designation
1	Mrs. H. Bedi	Managing Trustee
2	Mrs. Medha Ranade	Secretary
3	Mr. Shirish Kulkarni	Treasurer
4	Mr. S.T. Pillay	Trustee
5	Mr. Koushik Sekhar	Trustee

STAFF

Sr. No	Name	Designation
1	Sonia Garcha	Program Associate
2	Jayant Navale	Finance Manager
3	Suresh Chavan	Project Assistant
4	Sonal Walzade	Office Secretary

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