

Bala Vikasa family rejoice 28 years of dedicated community service

Bala Vikasa Foundation Day was celebrated on 4th February, 2019. This is a special day to celebrate the history, revisit and reconnect the continuing journey of Bala Vikasa which will be celebrated every year. The entire Bala Vikasa family gathered to reflect not only on the commitment and resilience they displayed to see their vision of "Helping Communities Help Themselves", but also on the significant development that has happened since its inception. The team identified the internal and external strengths of the organization (SWOT) and analyzed how the strengths can be turned into opportunities, weaknesses to wishes and ways to overcome the threats. The exercise helped in establishing operational goals for the upcoming year and strategies to accomplish these goals. Founders encouraged Bala Vikasa family to continue contributing their dedicative services to community development and to stay in line with the vision and mission of the organization.

The foundation day of Bala Vikasa also happened to be the birthday of the founder of organization Mrs. Bala Theresa Singareddy. To celebrate this day sports competitions and cultural activities were also organized for the extended Bala Vikasa family.



Launch of 'InPRuWE' funded by CFLI

In November 2018, BVIC launched the incubation Program for rural Women Entrepreneurs (InPRuWE) funded by the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI). The ten month long program is commissioned to empower and up-skill the rural women entrepreneurs with business knowledge. Under this program 125 rural women entrepreneurs and 25 business graduate students were enrolled. These students will undergo series of training programs learning on different skills required to improve the business. Each student is entitled four women entrepreneurs to mentor their enterprises at their slot. The workshops are delivered in association with NIRD & PR, Rubaroo, V-REAP Foundation and Skilathon.



H2H team from Canada visited PDTC

In January 2019, a team of 5 from Humans to Humanity (H2H), Canada visited Bala Vikasa to build their experience and witness the community development initiatives. The team made videos on the sustainable approaches and methodologies of implementing the community development projects of Bala Vikasa. These videos will be handed over to SOPAR-Bala Vikasa and will be used to build the humans to humanity.

Marcel couple – Canada donated 100,000 USD for upcoming BVIC center



Mr Marcel and Ms Luce, Canada visited Bala Vikasa in January to witness the impact of 30 water plants they have donated in the past years. During this visit, they also learnt on the other sustainable community development models created by Bala Vikasa in different sectors. Impressed by the efficiency of the organization, donated 1,00,000 USD for the construction of the BVIC campus in Hyderabad. They also assured to spread the impactful development initiatives of Bala Vikasa among their network and help establishing connections with more donors.

Bala Vikasa celebrates 10-year mark of revolutionizing farming with organic farming convention

"Organic Farming is the only way of saving our precious farmers, soil and future." Celebrating the completion of a decade of building sustainable agricultural practices, Bala Vikasa organized annual organic farmer's convention on 1st February 2019. The theme of the convention is "Sustainable Agriculture - Social Development".

The convention hosted 1,500 farmers, majority of them who have successfully opted the organic means to cultivate their farm produce. Ms Bala Theresa Gingras lauded the efforts of the food security team and the farmers who joined the organic farming movement with Bala Vikasa. She said, "rains are not in our hand but ponds are and should dig ponds to recharge and store water. Earlier, the chemical fertilizers were not part of the agricultural practices and still the yield used to be adequate. We need to get back to the same trend of using natural fertilizers for healthier and better produce."

The agenda of the convention was to create awareness around sustainable farming, improve the confidence of the farmers, provide tips and expert guidance about organic/natural means of farming to add more value to their products and generate higher profits.

Convention was graced by the presence of Padmashree laureate Mr Narasimha Raju Yadav. He spoke about the



adverse effects of using chemical fertilizers/pesticides and applauded the initiatives of the farmers for adopting the natural and organic means of farming and said "when there is no agriculture there is no culture".

Bala Vikasa organic farming movement has been rapidly increasing outside Telangana-Andhra Pradesh in four more states Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh.

"Nari Shakti, Maha Shakti" Bala Vikasa celebrates the womanhood with 5000 rural women

Bala Vikasa has been working rigorously and tirelessly for the past three decades in the grassroot rural areas of the Telugu twin states to empower women and communities, with the ultimate goal of achieving sustainable development. As every year, Bala Vikasa organized annual convention on 2nd February 2019 for women and model communities with a theme "Sustainable livelihood - Social Development". The agenda of the convention was to promote the importance and need for sustainable livelihood in enhancing the capabilities and assets of the society and individuals.

Convention started with a huge rally, in which 5000 women and model committee members took part chanting the slogan of "Stree Shakti, Maha Shakti". The rally was flagged off by Mrs Bala Theresa Gingras. The TSWFC Chairperson and EX-MP Ms. Gundu Sudha Rani and MLA Ms.Seethakka were also present at the convention. They praised the efforts and works of Bala Vikasa in empowering rural women and said that Telangana government is highly inspired by the initiatives lead by the organization and has been replicating them at the state level for sustainable development.

"Bala Vikasa is a second home. A share of my political success goes to Mrs Bala Theresa for inspiring me with her

dedication towards empowering rural communities. I have known her for more than three decades and I have witnessed the tremendous growth of the women empowerment movement of Bala Vikasa. Many of the Bala Vikasa initiatives, such as tank distillation, water purification projects, women self help groups, building model communities have been opted by the previous and present governments," said the Panchayar Raj Minister Mr. Errabelli Dayakar Rao who was the chief guest at the convention.



Bala Vikasa promotes dynamic leadership through water convention



Bala Vikasa has successfully connected with 22 lakh people under its water programs to create sustainable water resources for the rural communities in five states - Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Chhattisgarh. To celebrate the achievements and success stories so far, Bala Vikasa on 3 February 2019, organized annual water

purification committees convention under the theme of "Dynamic Leadership-Sustainable Projects".

More than 2000 people from Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka participated in the convention. The agenda of the convention was to promote the importance and need for dynamic leadership in enhancing the capabilities and sustainability of the projects, ultimately leading to the development of society and individuals.

Chief Guest MLA Mr Hanmanth Shinde applauded the innovative initiatives and approaches of Bala Vikasa and asked the organization to extend its initiatives and programs to his constituency.

Among the newly elected Sarpanchas who were present on this occasion, Mr. Sharat Kumar, an young 23year old Sarpanch said, "I wish to serve my village in all the possible ways. Bala Vikasa has inspired me to put forth my efforts in an impactful manner". He also donated Rs 1,00,000/- to Bala Vikasa from his sarpanch salary and promised to mobilize more youth leaders in joining hands with the organization.

Preparing youth as change agents

The annual youth convention was organized at PDTC on 15th October with a theme "Youth as change agent". Around 3700 youngsters who participated in the convention were encouraged to take education seriously, build the sense of social responsibility and share their solidarity towards the underprivileged groups in the society. Sopar-Bala Vikasa founder Mrs. Bala Theresa encouraged all the children and told them " life is not so easy but be strong. Do good, live simple and aim high". She provided children with one college bag, two towels and five notebooks worth Rs 19,94,928/-.

On 16th October 2018, a meet was organized with the college level vikasa children (orphan children) at PDTC. The purpose of the meet was to encourage these students regarding the importance of education, career guidance and give them scholarship based on their academic performance.



Continuing efforts for widow emancipation

Bala Vikasa organized youth seminars in 16 colleges of 10 districts to create awareness among the youngsters on widow emancipation with a theme "Role of Youth in Social Change". 5,203 students and 201 faculty members attended the seminars. A district level seminar was organized in Vijayanagaram district of Andhra Pradesh on 24th January. MLC Veerabhadra Swamy as his contribution for the support of the widows movement contributed for the venue, sound system and chairs at the event. Sri Sri Sri Pancharukha Anjaneya Swamy Trust volunteered in providing food for all the participants. A total of 1531 participants and 50 guests took part in the seminar and the total donation of Rs 1,88,500/- was received.



Bala Vikasa helped 3903 women in building sustainable livelihood

Bala Vikasa helped 3903 beneficiaries with MAC- Income generation livelihood loans worth Rs 4,72,12,800/-. This amount will help beneficiaries in various livelihood generation purposes such as cattle rearing, kanganhalls (bangle stores), sole proprietary stores, vegetable/fruit vending, etc.

GMMCO group supports BV to increase storage of water tanks in Tamilnadu

Bala Vikasa successfully increased the storage capacity of three water tanks Karumanchavadi, Rettakutai and Outhukulam in Tamilnadu with the financial aid provided by the GMMCO group. After the restoration, tanks capacity has improved by 35 Lakh liters. Upon formation of the committee for its supervision the tanks were handed over to the community.



Manos Unidas –Spain and KCF-Hongkong extended funds to Bala Vikasa to dig 200 farms

Bala Vikasa in the last two years dug 292 farm ponds with the storage capacity of 112.3 million liters in 10 villages. With the multi benefit and add on value of these farm ponds to the farmers, Manos Unidas - Spain and Kadoorie Charitable Foundation - Hong Kong have come forward and granted 40 lakh rupees to dig another 200 farm ponds.

SOCENT fellowship incubatees meet-up

An incubatees meet-up workshop was organized for SOCENT start-ups on 7th January 2019. Prominent mentors and entrepreneurs, Mr. Prabir Mishra, Founder of Saatra Capital, Mr. Ravi Narasimham, Director of Caspian Impact Investment and Mr. Raghurami Meda, Partner - Minerva Grand Hotels mentored the startups.

BVIC incubatees Rubaroo, Naturesani, Illa enterprises, Napanta and Taparch were guided to work on Business Model Canvas (BMC) for their startups. The second tranche of the grant of 75,000 INR was given to Naturesani, Napanta and Taparch for their efforts and remarkable progress.

CDD approaches attract development officials around the globe

More than 37 development and government officials from Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, India, Bangladesh and Canada took part in the two Community Driven Development Training programs organized by Bala Vikasa PDTTC. The objective of the workshop is to enhance their knowledge in the different economical, sustainable approaches and methodologies that Bala Vikasa had successfully implemented.

70 government delegates from 35 countries exposed and impressed by BV CDD Models

70 government officials from 35 countries across the globe visited Bala Vikasa for a week, exploring sustainable community development models in different sectors of women empowerment, water, model communities, organic farming and education. As part of their participation in the International Rural development training program at National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), the team visited Bala Vikasa to explore and experience the sustainable community development on the ground. They were impressed on the unique and effective approaches and by the practical implementation of the programs creating sustainable impact.

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H.No. 1-1-867, Siddarthanagar, NIT
Warangal 506 004, Telangana, India.
☎91 870 2459287

balavikasa@balavikasa.org | www.balavikasa.org

facebook.com/balavikasa.org @balavikasa_ngo

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