



Vision:

A gender just, equitable and self reliant society where women have access to and control over financial and other resources.



Moti Chowk, Rajgurunagar, Taluka Khed
Pune 410505 Maharashtra,
Tel-(02135) 223176, Fax- 226580
E-mail : chaitanya_pune@yahoo.co.in
web site : chaitanyaindia.org

Chaitanya

Mission - *Developing capabilities of rural poor, especially women and youth by promoting and strengthening self reliant sustainable institutions, to enable them to lead the process of development for a better quality of life.*

Chaitanya, a Sanskrit word, which means life full of zest and zeal, is the vital force spreading the self-help group (SHG) movement in and around Maharashtra.

Started in the year 1993, Chaitanya has provided a strong platform for addressing social issues of rural women as well as promoting their financial independence. Chaitanya strives towards the goal of women being the architects of their own development.

Working in seven districts of Maharashtra viz, Dhule, Nandurbar, Nashik, Ahmednagar, Sangli, Satara and Pune, Chaitanya covers 301 villages through its wide network of SHGs. Starting with fourteen SHGs in Khed Taluka, today Chaitanya has worked with 87 cluster level federation, 1769 SHGs in seven district, with 21731 women as its members.

Our Objectives...

- Build local capacities of rural poor, especially women to form self-reliant people's institutions.
- Evolve strong, sustainable partnership of these institutions with local government machinery, as well as other local organizations.
- Evolve consensus in the formulation of gender equitable village level development plan in the areas of health, water & sanitation and organic farming.
- Build capacities of women to fight against all forms of injustice and exploitation.
- Build knowledge and resource base, related to self help groups, and other sustainable people's institutions.
- Create platforms for integrated learning space for various partners involved in rural development through networking and convergence.

Our Work...

By People

Since SHGs are the basic building blocks of rural development, on which stands the culture of self-help, Chaitanya's main activity involves building capacities of SHGs at various levels. Understanding the need to consolidate the growing power of SHGs, Chaitanya facilitated the formation of Grameen Mahila Swayamsiddha Sangh - first federation of SHGs in Maharashtra. GMSS today, functions as an independent unit and provides

guidance to other federations in seven districts in building up participatory and self-reliant women's organization.

With SHGs as the core of the development process, Chaitanya works in two core sectors very closely with the government.

Women and Child Health - Chaitanya focuses on building capacities of health committees and women's self help groups to ensure quality services from the primary health care centers.

Livelihood promotion with special focus on agriculture - The objective is to improve agricultural practices to ensure livelihood security. It also aims at increasing productivity of farmers by diversifying their sources of income. Plantation of fruit trees, use of improved variety of seeds, experiment organic farming are some of the initiatives in this direction.

With people ...

To strengthen people's institutions, Chaitanya has been focusing upon building up a strong knowledge and resource base.

Jankar- is a person who knows something more than others on the given subject. Thus, the term implies a certain degree of expertise in a particular theme as a resource person equipped to do justice to it. After a rigorous six month training Chaitanya has a cadre of jankar in five different themes to work in the villages.

SHG Jankars: seek to strengthen Self-Help Groups within their work area and elsewhere, focussing on quality processes and dimensions.

Government Jankars: enable SHG members for better coordination in implementing government development programs.

Legal Jankars: provide services, through block level committees at Women's Counselling and Assistance Centre, to members of Self-Help Groups. Women obtain relief from incidents of domestic violence and similar occasions that necessitate legal aid. The jankars who have got training from Chaitanya are also working with Zilla Parishad counseling centers.

Financial Literacy and livelihood: the preparation of training modules for six months course for these two Jankars is in process.

Tarunoday-

The Tarunoday program believes that the youth of India can become effective agents of development and social change. The program builds leadership, confidence, personality, cultural knowledge, and social consciousness by engaging youth in the services of rural India.

Working in a rural setting, youth from colleges and universities have the opportunity to enhance their own understanding of rural India while attempting to address pressing needs of the community.

Manthan- a programme unit within Chaitanya aims to promote self reliant development organizations built on a culture of learning through critical analysis and action.

The NGO sector is growing very fast and urgently needs to address the issues of accountability, transparency, quality and sustainability.

Manthan offers a series of exclusive training programme for NGOs engaged in India's development and build capacities for institutional growth with sustainability.

The training programs aims to act as catalysts, supporting the factors leading to organizational change and development. The training endeavours to nurture critical thinking, self-assessment and reflection within the organization, to promote sincere efforts to meet the desired organizational change.

Networking ...

Chalana :

A state level network of 120 organisations and individuals involved in SHG movement promoted by Chaitanya and like minded NGO's, Chalana has been conducting training programmes to develop a cadre of resource persons and facilitators in SHGs and federations. This network of SHG trainers from fourteen districts has the mandate of developing quality trainers and standardize training resource material.

Chaitanya has also been involved in designing, a certificate course on Self Help Groups with a team of experts in collaboration with Yashwantrao Chavan Open University, Nasik in Maharashtra.

Network of National Resource Organizations (NNRO)

NNRO has been formed by five pioneering and committed resource organizations in SHG sector from different parts of the country, viz. APMAS Hyderabad; CMF Jaipur; Chaitanya Pune, ISMW Ahmedabad and Reach India Kolkatta - to enhance capacities and resources for promotion of quality SHGs and SHG federations. Supported by Ford Foundation, the network aims to work both at the level of research based advocacy as well as enhance capacities to demonstrate innovative and replicable models of SHG and federations.

For People...

WTRC

With the ever growing experiences of Chaitanya, increasing demand for trainings and resource material, specifically in the vernacular language, a need was felt for structured dissemination of information and experience. This thought took roots in the form of Women's Training and Resource Center (WTRC).

The aim of the center is to become a hub of knowledge management, developing and producing resource material that would facilitate the learning process and complement the fieldwork. Located at Rajgurunagar with well equipped library, audio visual aids, internet, Xerox and other facilities, it strives to strengthen the capacities of grass-root level organizations, by making relevant information accessible to them.

The center aims to take the perspective on Self Help Groups beyond micro-finance, towards engendering women's empowerment and sustainable development. From June 2008 a six month certificate course on 'Micro Finance Development and Management' has been launched at WTRC. It aims to train graduates from rural and semi rural background in micro-finance management.

Chaitanya in collaboration with Rural Communes is also developing certificate course on "Micro-finance and Micro-enterprise" and 'Natural Resource Management'. The course will be affiliated to SNDT University for wider reach.

RESEARCH...

Research on various women's related issues is carried out from time to time highlighting the gaps in current development policies, practices and methods. Following studies have been successfully completed so far:

- **A study on the SGSY in seven districts of Maharashtra.**
- **Analysis of the Impact of credit on agriculture.**
- **Nature of food consumed and its impact on malnutrition amongst tribals.**
- **Study on current status of SHG federations in Maharashtra.**
- **Study on impact of micro finance on dalit women in Maharashtra.**

With the aim of documenting and disseminating the wide range of experience. Chaitanya has been producing various audiovisual materials. This material can be accessed from the centre.

We are proud to say...

Spread across seven districts of Maharashtra, Chaitanya has been a catalyst in facilitating the process to get the rural women out of the vicious cycle of poverty. It has provided the much-needed social security and a platform which can address their financial and social needs.

Empowered with SHGs, women have led various developmental activities in and around their village. From carrying out anti-liquor movement to constructing roads seeking accountability from different departments women are making a difference. Today women actively question, analyze and contribute towards the developmental activities. The latent energy of women is being channelized to chisel out a beautiful future.

We Synergise with...

- OXFAM, Community Aid Abroad, Australia.
- International Fund for Agricultural Development.
- International Development Research Center, Canada.
- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development.
- BAIF Development Research Center.
- Indo-Global Social Service Society.
- Mahila Arthik Vikas Mahamandal.
- Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University.
- Yashada, Pune.
- Babhulnath Charities, Mumbai.
- Small Industries Development Bank of India.
- India Development Relief Fund.
- BAIF, MITTRA.
- Indicorps.
- FORD Foundation.
- Suzlon Foundation
- APMAS.- Andhra Pradesh Mahila Abhivruddhi Society
- Rural Communes.
- Pranav Agro Industries Limited
- Sir Ratan Tata Trust
- Sir Dorabji Tata Trust
- King Baudouin Foundation
- ... and many other friends of Chaitanya

We have our representation on...

- Governing Board of Friends of Women's World Banking (FWWB), India.
- Governing Board of Microsave.
- Governing Board of APMAS.
- Governing Board of YASHADA.
- Sub-group of Sa-Dhan.

We Aim...

- To initiate SHG members to positively influence gender development index and human development index.
- To increase the visibility and impact of SHG Federation movement through strong and effective networks involving practitioners and policy makers.
- To give coverage to different micro level development actors in planning and implementation at village and district levels.
- To integrate use and learning oriented monitoring, evaluation and research into all development programmes.

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Your Involvement...

- Your involvement in any capacity would be a big boost for Chaitanya.
- You could volunteer your services; share your knowledge and experience with us.
- You could be partner of Chaitanya through both financial and non-financial resources.

**You be the change that you want to see in the world
Your contribution can make a difference !**

Rs.1000/-	Can give access to primary health care, and insurance facilities for an entire family for a year.
Rs.5000/-	Can help in promoting organic farming choices for a family
Rs.10000/-	Help to train ten women to start an enterprise
Rs.20000/-	Setup a counselling center (on donor's name) Which will provide support to women facing violence and abuse

You are invited to: Write to us and share your ideas,
give your time / volunteer
All your contributions are exempted from taxation under
section 80G

For more details about chaitanya visit www.chaitanyaindia.org



The most important issue that bothers me regarding rural India is

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Yes ! I would like to donate Rs.

To chaitanya for.....

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