

PROJECT PROPOSAL

1) Title of the Project : **100 Poor Indian Widows Livelihood by Baskets Work**

2) Project Location :

Continent	:	Asia
Country	:	India
Region	:	Andhra Pradesh
District	:	Kadapa
Villages	:	(1) Anjaneyapuram
		(2) Pusala Kottalu
		(3) Sanjeeva Nagar
		(4) Khajipeta
		(5) Kesalingayapalli
		(6) Papagni Nagar
		(7) Settivaripalli
		(8) Vempalli
		(9) Kondapeta
		(10) Mydukur

3) TARGET GROUP FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT :

Direct beneficiaries are 100 impoverished WIDOWS in between the age group of 18 to 40 years.

Indirectly their family members including their children, their old-aged parents, in-laws etc., (approximately 550 people) will benefit indirectly from this project. They are socially, educationally, culturally and economically backward people.

4) NEEDS ASSESSMENT :(Problem Statement) :

Geographic information :

Andhra Pradesh State is located in the Southern parts of the **Indian subcontinent**. The State has three main Physiographic regions, namely Rayalaseema, Circar and Telangana. Our **Kadapa District** is one of the 4 districts in Rayalaseema Region. There are many rural and slums are situated in the district.

Kadapa District is agricultural area. Majority of the people are Agricultural farmers and peasants. Agricultural system is the backbone of the local societies. All kinds of development is depending on the Agricultural development. But as it is suffering now, all are suffering.

It is well known fact that Kadapa District is one of the **drought prone areas** in Rayalaseema Region of Andhra Pradesh. Here mostly 70% of the people are depending either on agriculture or agriculture labour. Due to frequent **droughts and famines** the people are facing several strains and constraints in their daily lives. Since 2003 there are no rains at all in 60% of the villages in Kadapa District. Consequently the ground level water and the open wells and the tanks were dried up. So the people have no labour. With regard landless poor and agricultural labourers are not in a position to feed their families for a single time in a day. The agriculture labour and the landless poor are starving. Therefore they are migrating from rural area to urban area in order to eke out their livelihood. Even though they did not get

relief in their live. Due to severe droughts more than 2500 animals were died. The small and marginal farmers have struck up under the clutches of the land lords and money lenders. The farmers are selling their cattle to the butchered shops, because they are not in a position to provide fodder and other things to the cattle. During the visit of our committee members one of the farmer Mr.Rajaiah explaining his sympathetic condition with the terms that he was sold one pair of bulls with Rs.1500 only so **we can imagine the severeness of the droughts in this area.**

There is very miserable and sympathetic conditions are prevailing in this area. According to the Government statistics and information to crops like groundnut, paddy, lime gardens were dried up. This costs about more than one crore rupees. Crops like red grams, horse grams and other dry crops were dried up in 3000 hectors.



The team of SPREAWS under the leadership of Mr.Sajid President SPREAWS are going to the remote villages by walk to conduct survey to know the problems of widows.



Mr.Sajid President SPREAWS (1st person from left side) is discussing with one of the widows at Anjaneyapuram village.

10 volunteers of 'Sri K.Pitchi Reddy Educational and Welfare Society' (SPREAWS) conducted survey in 10 villages of Kadapa district in January and February, 2010 to know about the needs and problems of poor widows. We identified well deserved 100 widow girls and women. Age between 18 to 40 years.



Mr.Sajid ,President,SPREAWS & his team watching the residential localities(huts) of the target group widows while they went for conducting survey in one of the target village Kondapeta.



Mr.Sajid President,SPREAWS & his team are discussing with Mrs.Kumari, the young widow (who wear the yellow saree seen in the above photo) and listening her problems.

We held closer talks and elaborated discussions with many widows in the 10 target villages. We felt shock and surprise to know about their prevailing dismal situation as follow.

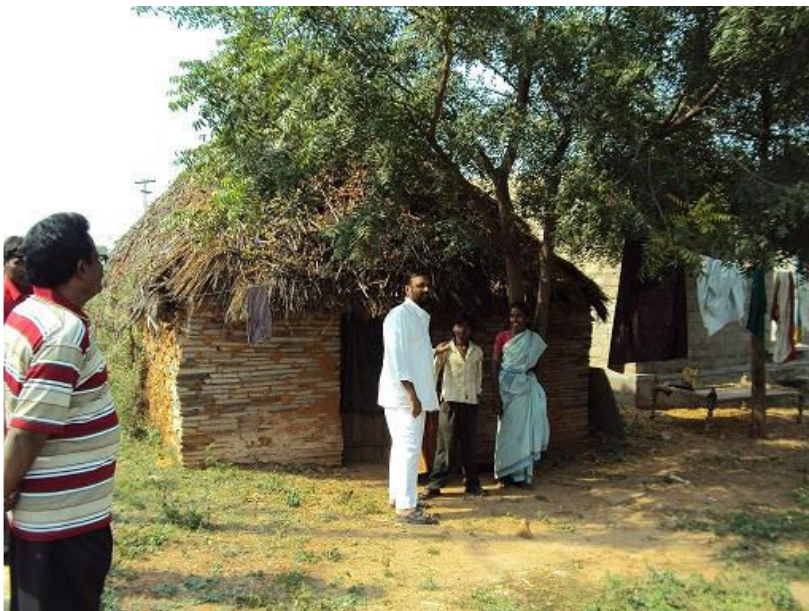
“My husband died in a road accident just next month of my marriage,” said Mrs. Kumari (18 years) at Kondapeta village, Kadapa district on 03-01-2010 to us. Her parents are not able to take care of her due to their poverty. She cried saying that she has become a burden to all.

“Our desire is that our children should be above the state of experiencing the difficulties which now we have as hunger, malnutrition, starvation, lack of health care etc” said Mrs. Kanthamma, a 35 old widow in Anjaneyapuram village on 10-02-2010, Kadapa district. Almost all from our group wishes so.

“I used to get work may be twice or thrice a week. If I earn Rs. 60/- per day, out of it Rs. 40/- goes to the interest of the village money lender. The remaining Rs. 20/- is not enough for feeding my children. Feeding mine is later, but I cannot see my children crying out of hunger. The children understand only their hunger, but they do not understand our family plight. Though my children do not eat if I beg,” explained Mrs. Marthamma, a widow of 36 years in Khajipeta slum area on 05-01-10.

Due to their poverty these widows are unable to send their children to schools. These widows' children are found to be street children, working children and child labourers away from schools making their career spoilsport.

“I saw many woeful people, but it touches deeper in my heart,” commented Fr. David, a volunteer participant in our Surveys in sigh and dismay. *“I pray for those helpless widows,”* he added.



These widows families used to live in the thatched huts made of bamboo long sticks, leaves, muddy, clay pieces of rough stones, shanty, cramming and un-protective lacking minimal furniture and household articles. *See the above photo. A widow is standing in front of her hut along with her children.* They do not have any assets. Many of their assets are almost lost unjustfully due to their over interest rated loaning from the local land lords who are unscrupulous creditors.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE WIDOWS IN INDIA :

In Indian custom widow means CURSED being. According to the Hindutva based culture the widows are treated in many rural areas of India as inhuman or the cursed beings even worse than the pests and worms of course. They are never allowed to participate in any functions etc., When a man comes out of his house he should not whisper at any widows feature. If so he will return back home. The widow's young or old has to give up of wearing the jewels, flowers or with any ornaments. She should not bless any one. Widows are prevented from all the homeliness' the community functions. The men dominating community vetremently thwarts their adamant forcing on them. The young widows are the subjects for the molestations, raping and all kinds of atrocities. None comes forward to get them married again but goes them with greedy end lusts. With all these inequities the pathetic widows are suffocating amidst their prolonging poverty and the agonies. This proposed project wishes not only to restore their human rights also their earning viabilities unless this vision cannot be inherited with. Hope that your noble concern will sanction this innovative appeal.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF THE TARGET GROUP WIDOWS :

Their problem is that they do not have permanent livelihood source. Now these widows are working as seasonal labourers for example agriculture labours, quarry labours, masons and as housemaids etc., just busy yearly 3 months, that too competitive to get work. They are lacking work opportunities in these drought prone areas.



The widows are working as labours in the jungle clearing under the hot sun



The widows are working under hot sun in the quarries and doing stone breaking work for making the gravel.



The Widows are working under the hot sun in the agriculture fields.



The widows n are working as labours in the construction spot under the hot sun.

In order to eradicate the hunger and poverty among these widows in our target villages we have planned to implement the income-generating programme for the survival target group widows families.

WHY BAMBOO PRODUCTS MAKING ACTIVITY SELECTED?



In the above model photo we can find the picture of bamboo baskets and bamboo grates. This is for your ready reference. The person who stands besides the bamboo grates and bamboo baskets is Mr.Ebenezer, one of the Board Member in our “SPREAWS”.

Bamboo baskets are using for many purposes for example : for carrying vegetables, essential commodities etc.,

The grate is used just as a partition in between the single roomed shanty huts. And it is just to cover a part of bamboo thatch shelter. And it is used as a temporary pandal in the rural open air areas just as a timely shade or shelter for public gathering as meeting or celebration. And This bamboo grate is a frame or pattern made of wicker work of bamboo stripes.

Bamboo bin used for warn and took off untidy clothes just like dust bin. The bamboo products viz., bamboo baskets, Bamboo dust pans, bamboo grates, bamboo bins, etc., are having good demand for bamboo products. It is easy to sell the same. The target group women will earn good income through selling of these bamboo products. For the above reasons we have proposed this Bamboo products making activity for the sustainable development of poor widows.

5. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT :

- ❖ To create sustainable livelihood sources among the impoverished widows thus eradicate poverty and hunger among them and their children. (Millennium Development Goal No:1)
- ❖ To make the target women as self-dependent, Instead of approaching landlords and money lenders they better stand on their own feet for anything or everything required for them,
- ❖ To form Women Self Help Groups and to improve Thrift and Credit schemes, Leadership Training community service Training etc.,

6. PLAN OF ACTION :

(i) At the outset we **appoint a Project Manager** on the basis of his qualification, experience in concern bamboo products making and selling activity. He will be held with the entire responsibility of the conduct of the programme. He is the superior authority to lead and guide all the beneficiaries. He has to take main part in solving the problems if any. The Project Manager is empowered to visit and supervise all the 10 villages how-abouts of work and performance. He must check-up and recognize the progress. The Project Manager's duty is to prepare a report on progress and to submit it to the Secretary or President of the implementing Organisation.

(ii) Skill Development Training Programme:

The Project Coordinator will give training to the 100 women. A Community Hall at Khajipeta will be taken on rental basis for 7 days. 500 bamboo sticks will be needed to give practical training to these women. The training can be focused on new designs, latest models, patterns and new developments in the basket weaving, Bamboo dust pans, bamboo grates, bamboo bins. It is easy to learn this skill. So 7 days training period is sufficient for them.

The other main parts of the training curriculum include as follows: -

1. How to purchase the qualitative bamboos in reasonable prices to get better profits. What are the various methods?
 2. How to satisfy the customer? Ex. The pleasing manner, the way to receive them talk to them behave with them etc.,
 3. Marketing methods,
 4. Importance of Self Help Groups Formation,
 5. Importance of Savings activity,
 6. Repayment of revolving loan amount in the stipulated time period.
 7. Participation in monitoring and evaluation.
- And many other required methods.

As in the part of Training programme, we will arrange them field trips where the Bamboo products making Enterprises are running to obtain better knowledge from these people.

Resource persons from the District official from various Government Departments such as DWCRA Wing (Development of Women & Children in Rural Areas), Mandal Development Officer and the Bank Manager will extend their voluntary services and give awareness about their concerned fields and the above mentioned topics.

(iii) Purchase and Distribution of Bamboo Sticks and tools to the beneficiaries :



The Bamboo sticks.



The knives.

The Executive committee members of SPREAWS will purchase bamboo sticks up to the required extent to our target villages through the transportation of hired lorry or truck from the dealer of bamboos who situated at a distance of 25 Kilometers from our target villages.

We shall provide 100 bamboo sticks + 2 knives to each woman as initial working capital for undertaking bamboo products making activity. With this initial working capital the target women will continue their occupation and earn good income continuously.

(iv) Formation of Women Self Help Groups & Trainings :

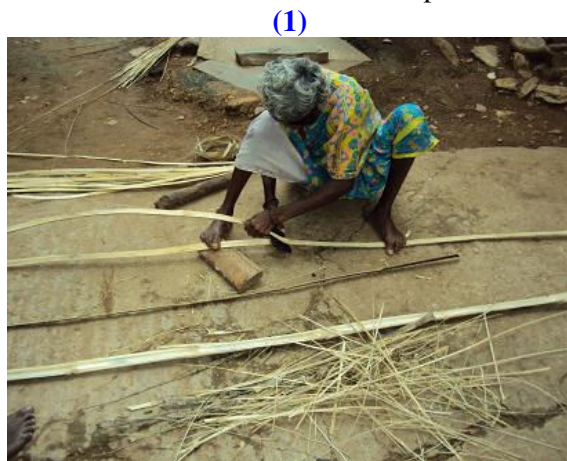
Formation of group is the important criteria for the selected group to work on cooperative and collective basis. 100 women will be formed as 10 Self Help Groups @ 10 women in each group. The active and responsible women 'one' from each group will be identified and provided with leadership training, community service training, Books/Records keeping and small savings/Thrift and credit schemes trainings etc.,

Then Group meetings will be conducted with 10 SHGs to discuss different subjects like, group dynamism, group action, group interference, group initiation, group thinking, group achievements etc., will be taught and improve the awareness level of the target group, who are becoming the members of the project activity and want to bring change among them.

SB Accounts will be opened in the Banks in the name of the 10 Self Help Groups to deposit their savings amount.

(v) Preparation of Bamboo products :

These women will do the bamboo products making work in all the 10 villages.



The women cut the long thin bamboo sticks as shown in the above 1st picture into thinner pieces of bamboo stripes which are flexible. Using these pieces of stripes the women weave patterns and thereafter they prepare different sizes and different types of bamboo baskets. (picture # 2).

With the bamboo stripes patterns such as round and triangles, four-angles the women can prepare bamboo grates, bamboo dust pans, bamboo sheets etc., other bamboo products.



Small size bamboo baskets



Big size Bamboo baskets

Here bamboo baskets are used to carry over head or on the shoulder or by hips filled by some vegetables and/or fruits and/o groceries. Labour people use the baskets to carry on sand or soil or pieces of brick or pieces of gravel etc., in the work spot such as agricultural fields or at construction places, firms, factories etc., the baskets are used in the houses also. The baskets are used commonly in the rural area by the middle class and below middle class people in India which is gigantic with more than 70% geographical areas into itself.

There are bigger size baskets are used to cover up as a protected shelter over the chicks or calves or young lambs in the outskirts of the villages or in the fields or in open air.

The grate is used just as a partition in between the single roomed shanty huts. And it is just to cover a part of bamboo thatch shelter. And it is used as a temporary pandal in the rural open air areas just as a timely shade or shelter for public gathering as Meeting or celebration. This bamboo grate is a frame or pattern made of wicker work of bamboo stripes. Bamboo bin used for warn and took off untidy clothes just like dust bin. They will be collectively engage in doing the work and share the benefits equally.

Hence there is a great demand for bamboo products. It is easy to sell the same.

Income and Expenditure Details of Bamboo baskets making activity.

Each woman can make 4 small size baskets per day... i.e., 28 baskets per week.

To make 28 baskets 10 bamboo sticks will be needed.

Each of the raw bamboo stick costs Rs.50/-

... for 10 bamboo sticks = Rs.50x10 = Rs.500/-

Cost of one basket = Rs. 60/- ,.... Cost of 28 baskets = Rs. 60 x 28 = Rs.1680/-
Less : Cost of bamboo sticks = Rs. 500/-

Each woman's net income per week = Rs.1180/-

Per month = Rs.1180 x 4 weeks = Rs. 4720/- (or) US\$ 102

With this earned US\$ 102 profit, each widow will meet the expenses of food for herself, her family members; send her children for school; medical expenses for her family members while sick and will meet other common needs. She become self-sufficient.

SAVINGS :

We encourage the beneficiary women for “Savings” activity. They can save smaller amounts like Rs.50 (or) \$ 1.09 per month according to their feasibilities and possibilities. This smaller savings can be grown gradually with the nearby Bank. This Thrifting will make thrilling uses at their time of need in future.

7. PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY :

The duration of the programme is 12 months. After one year the first batch of 100 women will have future security of sustainability. During the period of project implementation we will collect an amount of \$ 9 per month from each Woman towards **REVOLVING FUND**. So, 100 women will repay @ \$ 900 per month. This amount will be deposited in the Nationalized Bank. Within 1 year period \$ 10,800 will be repaid by the beneficiaries. Local contributions and Bank interest will be added to this amount. It will be used for the next batch of 100 needy women next year. In this way the revolving fund will be rotating incessantly. In this way the proposed project will be implemented and spread out in order to help hundreds and hundreds of women (and their family members) in this District. One time donation of the generous donor will give life to many poor Widows families in our Kadapa District.

8. EXPECTED RESULTS AT THE END OF THIS PERIOD :-

If we implement this project in the 10 target villages the following results will be achieved within the project duration, as these women will improve their social and economical position through this project.

- ❖ The poor, hungry widows women would be in a position to eat good food,
- ❖ The target group women's families could also be benefited as well,
- ❖ Our beneficiaries could be dwelling in a repaired or in well furnished houses,
- ❖ Our target women as well as their family members could be wearing proper clothes,
- ❖ The target women's children might have got good schooling facilities,
- ❖ They would be in a position to get suitable medical treatment,
- ❖ Other parts of the communities who observe our project activities can be motivated positively,
- ❖ The destitute and helpless target women can turn themselves to be helpful and sustainable.

9. MONITORING AND EVALUATION :

Semester General meeting will be held at a semester of every four months period in the duration of the programme. Per year three semester General meetings will be held. All the beneficiary women representatives and the Executive committee of our organisation will attend the meetings. They will discuss the different terms of the project implementation in the fragrant atmosphere of fraternity, good rapport and support. They adopt problem salvation attitudes if any.

How were the living conditions of the target people before the initiative of the project programme, How far their living conditions are improved with the effect of the project implementation, How would be future range of expected developments etc... will be evaluated, comparatively. The improvement of their socio-economic living condition will also be measured.

In any time the donors can visit the beneficiaries, market places, they will check-up all the files, records, bills, vouchers, etc., We will submit the quarterly progress reports and photos. The donor visitors can talk to the local people etc., they can collect opinion from all surrounding people about favour of the project, their participation, cooperation and development range can be measured comparatively. Our organisation's members will extend whole-hearted cooperation to the visiting donors.

10. BUDGET ESTIMATION :

S.No.	Item	Calculation	Amount in US\$
1.	Cost of 100 Nos. Bamboo sticks per each woman @ \$ 93 (including transport charges) ...	\$ 93 x 100 women	\$ 9,300
2.	Cost of 2 Knives @ \$ 15 per each woman	\$ 15 x 100 women	\$ 1,500
3.	<u>Training-cum-Awareness programme for 100 women for 7 days.</u> -- Rent for community hall for 7 days -- Cost of training materials like 500 bamboo sticks, printing of Pamphlets, black board, chalk pieces -- Food expenses to 100 women (break-fast, lunch and dinner) for 7 days.	= \$ 22 x 7 days = \$ 465 + \$ 65 = \$ 1 x 100 women x 7 days	\$ 154 \$ 530 \$ 700
4.	Salary to the Project Manager.	= \$ 87 x 12 months	\$ 1,044
	Total		\$ 13,228
	Add: 15% transaction fee for GlobalGiving		\$ 1,985
	Total Funding Required		\$ 15,213

Signature of the Project Leader

C.S. Sajid Hussain

(C.S.SAJID HUSSAIN)

President

**Sri K. Pitchi Reddy Educational & Welfare Society, R. No. 544/94
D. No. 6-83, Khathib Street
VAIMPALLI - 516 329
Kadapa Dist. (A.P.) India.**