

Sharing Series 4

*Drinking Water
A Catalyst for Community Development*



Bala Vikasa
Drinking Water Programme
A Holistic Approach to
Community Development



Bala Vikasa Social Service Society

In 1977, Mrs. Bala Theresa Singareddy Gingras, together with her husband, Mr. André Gingras, founded "Partage Reddypalem" in Canada, and registered it under the name SOPAR (Société de Partage). In 1990 Bala Vikasa was established as an Indian counterpart organization in Warangal, Andhra Pradesh. In 1991, it became a registered, secular, non-partisan, non-profit, voluntary, social service organization. Through its collaboration with donor agencies in Canada and Europe, Bala Vikasa assumed a dual role, that of an implementer and a fund provider.

Philosophy

People themselves have to be the true agents of change. Development is primarily for the people and by the people and thus the motto of Bala Vikasa is 'to help people to help themselves'.

Objectives

- Provide support for socio-economic development of the rural poor, especially women.
- Implement, monitor, evaluate development programs
- Provide institutional support to partner organizations
- Impart required training for interested community based organizations.

Strategy

- Concentrate on holistic development programs, primarily on the intrinsic social and ethical aspects of human interaction, gradually leading women/community to economic development.
- Help build confidence and a desirable value system by inculcating discipline and human values, like dedication to work, self esteem, respect for the environment, sensitivity to the less privileged, and willingness to participate in community development activities.
- Build partnerships through collaboration with donor agencies and networks to share and work together with the people.
- Concentrate on replicable, manageable, accountable and sustainable development programs.

Development Programs supported by Bala Vikasa

- Drinking Water through Bore Wells and Over Head Tank systems.
- Surface Water Management through desiltation of traditional water tanks.
- Farmers Cooperatives.
- Integrated Women Development Program.
- Prevention of child labour through community sponsorship and scholarship for orphans and poor rural students.
- Training in Community-driven development using an asset-based approach through its People Development Training Center.



DRINKING WATER
A CATALYST FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Sharing series, published by the Bala Vikasa People Development Training Center(P D T C), as the name suggests, is based on Bala Vikasa's eagerness to share the outcomes of research and studies conducted at the grass roots in collaboration with the people for whom development programs were and are intended, with like-minded organizations and donor agencies, who could use the insights gained to plan and implement their own programs.



Sharing Series 1 (SS 1), “Before and After: Impact Study on Bala Vikasa Integrated Women Development Programme (IWDP)”, April 2004.
ISBN 81-902248-0-8.

Sharing Series 2 (SS2), “Water: Bridging the Gap” published in May 2004 is based on an impact study on Bala Vikasa Water Programs (BVWPs). It is an educational tool for Bala Vikasa and other organizations working with Water programmes. It also contains a correlation of the programmes’ outcomes to the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. **ISBN 81-9022-1-6**



Sharing Series 3 (SS3), “Microcredit: Not just Money!” published in March 2005 is the story of Bala Vikasa Integrated Women Development Programme Loan Facilities.
ISBN 81-902248-2-4

Sharing Series (SS4), “ Drinking Water: A Catalyst for Community Development” published in March 2006 illustrates how Bala Vikasa Drinking Water Programme is a mechanism to achieve holistic community development. **ISBN 81-902248-2-4**



“Drinking Water: A Catalyst for Community Development” is dedicated to the Roncalli International Foundation which celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2005. This Foundation has been a committed partner of Bala Vikasa /SOPAR for several years. The success of Bala Vikasa Drinking Water Programme is largely due to the long-standing financial and unwavering support of the Roncalli International Foundation.

This publication is a product of Bala Vikasa People Development Training Center (P D T C). For information about P D T C and its Sharing Series please contact:

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FOREWORD

Traversing Andhra Pradesh in the '70s, one saw many abandoned wells. Those very wells which had once been components of a vast potable water campaign, launched by an international organization, lay forsaken even in areas severely affected by endemic water scarcity. This distressing, yet common sight, raised many questions, most importantly: "Why had the people abandoned these wells?"

The answers were amply evident: bore wells were located in inconvenient places, hand-pumps lay dismantled due to lack of maintenance, there was very little water that could be drawn due to depletion of the water table, and the little water that was available had changed in taste becoming less 'sweet'. All this pointed to one thing. Short-sighted development. A short-term 'progress' which had led to a long-term regression.

The unsustainable potable water campaign, had only increased the hardships of women and children. They were forced to walk far longer distances to fetch their daily ration of water from muddy pools. This sight of women and children trudging with pots on their heads and the vestige of deserted wells, testified to the programme's failure. It clearly indicated that the programme had overlooked the one most essential element of sustainable development: the people for whom development was meant. The programme was donor driven, 'top-down'. The villagers were not really involved. The wells had never been "their wells".

In 1980, with the valuable lessons that had been learned from the failed international project, the founders of Bala Vikasa initiated a small drinking water system in one village with the collaboration of the people. Today, after a quarter century, this well which had been the people's very own well from the initial stages, still provides potable water to the villagers. The success of this people-centric development venture, has made it possible for Bala Vikasa to successfully extend its Water Programme to 3000 villages throughout Andhra Pradesh. Presently, 10 lakh rural people, influenced by Bala Vikasa's Water Programme, live a transformed life.

In August 2003, Bala Vikasa conducted an in-depth study of its Drinking Water Programme. This was followed by an analysis of its impact on the lives of the people, which has been documented in Bala Vikasa's Sharing Series (SS 2): "Water: Bridging the Gap"¹.

Sharing Series 4 "Drinking Water: A Catalyst for Community Development" enlarges and builds on the findings of the study and illustrates how Bala Vikasa has been expanding its Water Programme to other areas, taking into cognizance the valuable lessons learned from the study and its own experience.

While the axis of SS2 was on the long-term results achieved by providing clean drinking water, SS4 demonstrates Bala Vikasa's holistic approach to development. It reveals in a concrete manner the strategies Bala Vikasa employs to make its Drinking Water Programme all encompassing: not just providing rural communities with easy access to clean drinking water, but through it, improving the lives of the

¹ Water: Bridging the Gap: *Impact Study on Bala Vikasa Water Programmes*, Sharing Series 2 (SS2), Bala Vikasa, People Development Training Center, May 2004.

rural people, empowering the people to make their own decisions, motivating them to work in solidarity for the common good of the entire community, imbuing in them a sense of self reliance and pride in ownership, and instilling confidence to meet challenges to self-development and building their capacity to take a holistic approach to their own advancement. SS4 is about how BV's Drinking Water Programme continues to be a catalyst for human development.

“Drinking Water: A Catalyst for Community Development” is two dimensional. Firstly, it illustrates Bala Vikasa's development philosophy and strategies. It also expands on BV's methodology that makes its Drinking Water Programme people-centred, successful and sustainable: instilling new values, mobilizing local contributions, and making development initiatives cost effective. Secondly, it demonstrates BV's modus operandi which is eminently based on an “action-reflection-action” approach. Although the impact study revealed positive outcomes, providing a sense of satisfaction in knowing that BV's `actions' were on the right development track, it is the `reflection' of the concerns and gaps identified by the study, followed by remedial `actions' that has effectively sustained the Water Programme .

This booklet demonstrates the remedial measures that followed the reflection process:

- 1) To replenish the depleted water table
- 2) To provide pure water through de-fluoridation plants.

These measures have not only helped solve the problems, but in continuing to put into operation the Water Programme, Bala Vikasa is transforming the Water Committee members from being mere ‘Managers’ of the village water systems to becoming ‘Catalysts and Agents of Change’. The Water Programme is all about people , the real assets of a community, who are motivated to look beyond their personal needs, and work in solidarity to bring about overall development of the community they are an integral part of.

The case study of Laknavaram in chapter 5, portrays it all: Bala Vikasa's development philosophy; strategies that made its vision a reality by focusing not merely on the mortar that went into the building of wells, but on the people in the rural community. In short, it reflects how Bala Vikasa Drinking Water Project in the village succeeds in creating synergy in the development of a community.

The illustrations of Bala Vikasa's remedial measures, and its methodology to ensure that a project to provide clean water acts as a catalyst to develop in a holistic manner an entire rural community, could be valuable to donors, NGOs, voluntary organizations and civil societies, who wish to solve the acute water shortage which has assumed top priority of our times.

It will also help them to favorably respond to the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, in reducing poverty, promoting human dignity and achieving peace, democracy and environmental sustainability, which have been reassessed by world leaders during the 60th anniversary of the United Nations in September 2005.

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GLOSSARY

CBO	:	Community Based Organization
Crore	:	1,00,00000
Lakh	:	1,00,000
Dalit	:	Person belonging to the lowest caste in the stratified Indian society
Gram Panchayat	:	The primary unit of Panchayati Raj Institutions at the village level.
Mandal	:	Group.
MLA	:	Elected Member of the Legislative Assembly at the State level.
Panchayati Raj	:	A system of self-governance at the village level in India,
Rs.	:	Rupee
Sarpanch	:	The member of Gram Panchayat (village level elected body) is called Panch and the head of this body is addressed as the Sarpanch
SHG	:	Self Help Group

Chapter - 1

Assets not Needs

Since 1950, much energy and money have been spent at the grassroots and at the regional, national and international levels to assist the poorest of the world, through a plethora of “development” projects to meet the needs of the people. Unfortunately, the number of failed projects symbolized by abandoned wells, far exceed successful ones. After 50 long years of need based development, one third of humankind is still in a survival mode. In India alone, 250 million people still live a “hand-to-mouth” existence! The question that is blowing in the wind is: “Why did the need based projects fail?”.

Over the last twenty five years, Bala Vikasa, despite being a small NGO , has succeeded in providing access to clean drinking water to people in 3000 villages in Andhra Pradesh . BV’s success is founded on BV’s development approach - long-term, people- centred development – which reflects its philosophy. To BV, people are far more important than the number and life span of its wells. More than the quantity of water systems, BV has qualitatively touched the lives of more than 1000 000 people: men, women and children. Its success lies in its continuous self-questioning: Does BV drinking water programme meet the long term development goals of the communities? Are BV strategies empowering the people and making them self-reliant? Are the mechanisms being used by BV to provide clean water to a community, ensuring overall development of the community? The success of its Water Programme has provided the answers.

Bala Vikasa’s approach

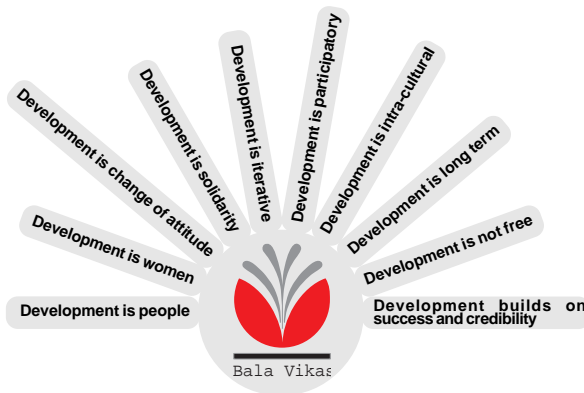
Asset-based Community Development versus Need-Driven Dead End

Bala Vikasa’s ten development rules, grounded in BV’s development philosophy, have guided its approach to development. These 10 rules for development were intuitively conceived and practised several years before the concept of Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) approach was propounded to the founders of BV in 2000 at the Coady International Institute, Antigonish, Nova Scotia, and popularized

in the Western world, especially in the U.S.A. by John P. Kretzmann and John L. Mcknight². Bala Vikasa practises an Asset Based Community Development approach and not a “Need-Driven Dead End”. Success of BV’s Water Programme, can be attributed to BV building its projects on the strength of the people-the village water committees- the real assets of a community.

BV’s Ten Rules for Development

BV’s 10 rules for sustainable development have been formulated from its field experience of more than 15 years with the rural population of Andhra Pradesh. The 10 rules have formed the core of its development policies and have become the guiding principles



for its development approach. The 10 rules are pointers to an Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) approach. They are embedded in Bala Vikasa ‘s motto: HELP PEOPLE TO HELP THEMSELVES.

Rule 1: Development is people

Bala Vikasa being people centric, its philosophy is that people are the corner stones and the main assets of development. Programmes, projects and activities are not the goals and the objectives of development. Programmes, projects and developmental activities are only means to develop the people. BV believes development should be for the people, of the people and by the people.

Rule 2: Development is women

Women are the heart of development. They are often belittled, taken for granted and ignored in the developmental process. However, their selflessness, their dedication and loyalty make them excellent agents of change for community development. Thus, Bala Vikasa believes that development to be tangible, women must be given their rightful place in the community and in the society in which they are major assets.

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² The major book of John P. Kretzmann and John L. Mcknigh is entitled: *Building Communities from the inside out – A path toward finding and mobilizing a community’s assets.*

Rule 3: Development is change of attitude

Development starts in the mind. Self-esteem and self-confidence in people's own abilities are prerequisite for self development. For people to change their lives, they first have to reject their "mendicant mentality" and build on their own assets. BV's motto "To help them to help themselves" is built on this concept. Be it improvement in the economic well-being of the people through their own small monthly savings and loans, or building a small drinking water scheme in their community, people should become self-reliant, than always be at the receiving end. BV believes that progress can be achieved through change in people's attitudes.

Rule 4: Development is solidarity within the groups and within the communities

Unity is strength! In solidarity, people have to be part of the group and the community. In their search for their well being, people are supported by the group. In return, they must invest in the group and the community. Success results from people's solidarity, an important asset of development. In many ways, BV propagates solidarity.

Rule 5: Development is iterative

The road to development is long and arduous. People's development must progress step by step. At each step, the question to be asked is :” Are we in pursuance of the goal?” When the goal is lost sight of, corrective actions have to be immediately taken. BV believes that people's voices should be heard. Impact studies, understanding the concerns and the gaps, taking remedial measures are all based on BV's iterative development approach.

Rule 6: Development is participatory

People must participate at all stages of their development: they have to identify their assets and their needs. They themselves have to find the solutions to their problems. They must take ownership of each phase of the development process. Development dictated from above without the people's real participation is a non-starter. From the conceptual stage through implementation , monitoring and evaluation, people's participation should be well integrated. Bala Vikasa's strategies are 'bottom-up'.

Rule 7: Development is intra-cultural

Agents of change and organizations must be fully cognizant of the culture and sub-cultures of the people they work with. People's culture has to be understood and integrated into all facets of development as an important dimension of the community. Bala Vikasa's capacity building training aims at widening the horizons of the people. It considers capacity building the backbone of empowerment.

Rule 8: Development is long term

It is unrealistic to think that development impact can be obtained after a few years of community activities. Change of attitude towards self help takes time. Bala Vikasa integrates all the dimensions of sustainable development, for a long-term impact.

Rule 9: Development is not free

People have to feel that the project is their own and be motivated to contribute in kind and money to their own development. People's contribution warrants ownership and is an essential condition for sustainable development. Once they are confident in their ability to contribute to their own well-being, however small the amount, people progress fast towards self-reliance. People should be aware that development does not come free.

Rule 10: Development builds on success and credibility

Agents of change and voluntary organizations involved in community development must be credible if they want to be accepted by the people. BV believes that there should be consistency between the rules and mission, professionalism and transparency at all levels. Delivering on the promises made, and doing rather than preaching, in BV's view, are essential elements to build credibility.

Bala Vikasa's 10 rules are focused on people, the real assets. To BV, development is people. Its development approach is Asset based not Need based.

Chapter - 2**Vision to Reality****Global Crisis**

Water, a precious commodity required to sustain life on our planet, is globally fast dwindling. A Special Report issued by the International Forum on Globalization (IFG) States:

“Due to intensive urbanization, deforestation, water diversion and industrial farming, the earth’s surface is drying. If present trends persist, the water in all river basins on every continent could steadily be depleted... If water usage continues to increase at current rates, the results will be devastating for the earth and its inhabitants... The wars of the next century will be about water.”³

Water crisis has had varying consequences in the different regions of the world. It has been universally accepted that the South East Asian countries have been the worst affected, compounded by the rapidly increasing population in the Asian countries. This has widened the gap between availability of the water and demand, and has reduced the per capita of water available in thickly populated nations. Global consumption of water is doubling every 20 years, more than twice the rate of human population growth. According to the United Nations, more than one billion people on earth already lack access to fresh drinking water. If current trends persist, by 2025, the demand for freshwater is expected to rise to 56 percent above the amount that is currently available.

Indian Scenario

India has varying geographical zones. While there is an abundance of water at a given point of time in some zones, another part of the country, reels under drought conditions. Rainfall varies considerably from one part of the country to another. Although India is bestowed with a number of rivers, it still has to bear the brunt of water scarcity. To a large extent it is man-made: deforestation leading to dramatic climate changes, population growth, etc. Another major reason is also poor management of available water resources.

Situation in Andhra Pradesh

Andhra Pradesh, a southern state of India, has been severely affected over the years due to failed monsoons. As a result, it has caused severe hardships, especially to women and children, who have had to bear the burden of fetching potable water for



3 *International Forum on Globalization, Blue Gold- The Global Water Crisis and the Commodification of the Worlds Water Supply, Maude Barlow, Chair IFG, Committee on the Globalization of Water.*

the household and their livestock, trudging miles, to collect just a few pots of impure water from open agricultural tanks. Depletion of ground water throughout Andhra Pradesh has adversely affected agriculture, plunging people into a poverty-stricken state, forcing them to eke out a life with meager resources and loss of human dignity.

For the 7.67 crore (76,700,000) people of Andhra Pradesh, especially in the rural areas, water scarcity is a daily reality.

Vision

Bala Vikasa's vision was not only to help resolve the potable water crisis through its Water Programme, by drilling bore wells, and constructing overhead tanks, but to ensure that people had access to clean water for basic human needs, a fundamental human right. Its vision was not merely to meet the dire needs of the people, but through the mechanism of its Water Programme, to ensure that:

- development interventions have a holistic impact on the lives of the people;
- development is for the people and by the people;
- people themselves become the real decision makers;
- people are helped to help themselves by building their capacity to become true agents of change
- people take a pride of ownership and sustain the projects/programmes

From the study it is amply evident that Bala Vikasa's vision has been fulfilled by its Water Programme. Water was made easily accessible, it played a pivotal role in improving health, restoring dignity and harmony, increasing self-worth, changing attitudes, increasing income, and above all in building solidarity within the community, imbuing the villagers with a sense of commitment and responsibility, motivating self-reliance, improving gender equality, increasing environment awareness, and overall, decreasing poverty and increasing human dignity.⁴

Through its Water Programmes, BV has also disseminated the message of the International Forum on Globalization (IFG). :

"Water is our natural heritage to be preserved for future generations. Local communities must be the watchdogs of our waterways and must establish principles that oversee the use of this precious resource"⁵

Through its Water Programme, BV is aware that it has added its mite in meeting one of the objectives of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): "Ensure environmental sustainability by reducing by half before 2015 the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water"⁶. Through the fulfillment of its vision Bala Vikasa has also successfully met an objective of the UN's goals. Its vision has become a reality!

⁴ SS2: *Water: bridging the Gap, Impact Study on Bala Vikasa Water Programmes, elaborates on the impact of the Water Programmes.*

⁵ www.ifg.org

⁶ www.un.org/millenniumgoals/

Chapter - 3

People not Mortar

BV's Drinking Water Programme has been people-centric for the last 25 years. It has not merely been all mortar, i.e. bore wells and over head tanks. It has primarily been about the people or communities who required water for their daily needs.

This is illustrated in the system that is carefully designed, to suit the communities. Where the population ranges between 100 and 200, bore wells with manually operated hand pumps are installed, being more economical for small communities than overhead tanks. For a population over 200, over head tanks are built, as it helps to store water when there is power and supply it at a time most convenient to the villagers.

This system supplies water directly to individual homes, which saves people from walking miles to fetch water and also enables them to get unpolluted water as it is not exposed to external contamination. It also assures regular and clean water supply. With the saving of time and energy, people are able to divert their attention to other more productive activities.

With both the systems, BV's focus continues to be more on the people. For example:

- A bore well drilled to a depth of 150 to 200 feet depending on the availability of ground water, is generally drilled in a location convenient to the whole target community, taking into consideration the distance people have to walk, whenever required, to fill their water pots. Although this system does not supply water up to the doorsteps of each house, it ensures proximity to the households, so that people can save time and energy.
- A bore well is fitted with a hand pump, which can be operated easily, with minimal physical effort, so that anyone in need of water, young or old, can pump the desired quantity of water into their pots, at any time convenient to them.



- A square or circular concrete platform is constructed around the base of the bore well, not only to help secure the pump to the ground, but also to provide a clean surface for the people to place their water pots, as well as to keep the well clean.
- Over Head Tanks require gravitational pressure to distribute water to the houses. They are therefore constructed in concrete, 30 feet above ground and supported by high pillars. The capacity of the tanks are based on the human and cattle population of the village and their needs. The storage capacity varies from 20,000, 40,000, 60,000, 1,00,000 and 2,00,000 litres .
- A tube well, drilled to a depth of 150-200 feet, supplies water to the tank with the support of an electric motor and pipeline. The stored water ensures availability of water at all times. .
- Pumping line is installed from the tube well to the overhead tank to store the water and the distribution line is installed from the tank to the individual houses to bring water right into the houses. This saves time and energy of the people.

From the above it is evident that Bala Vikasa not only drills bore wells and builds over head tanks to supply drinking water, but it's development strategies are sensitive to the needs of the entire community, young, old, women and children. To Bala Vikasa people are more important than mortar.

Up till 1997. in addition to the overhead tank, Bala Vikasa also contributed to the bore, the pipe line and the pump room. Since then, following a greater involvement from other NGOs and the government, assistance for the bore and the pipe line are often provided by these other sources while Bala Vikasa continues to provide the overhead tank.



Bala Vikasa's methodology in implementing a village Drinking Water Project

People's initiative



The request for a Drinking Water Programme is always initiated by the people. When villagers hear success stories of Bala Vikasa solving water problem in other villages, they are motivated to take the initiative and impress upon their leaders or a local Bala Vikasa partner, to appeal to Bala Vikasa to implement a Water project in their

village. The leaders, elders and the Panchayati Raj elected members then draft a formal application explaining their background and their need, and request assistance under the BV Drinking Water Programme. Bala Vikasa studies the request and if it is convinced that from the conceptualization stage the development process is people driven, it considers supporting it. It steps in only if the people feel the need for it and if they take the initiative.

Village Water Committee

In considering the application, Bala Vikasa analyses the requirements and the assets of the community. A field visit to the community by Bala Vikasa Programme Officer generally follows, to discuss in greater detail the possibilities of implementing the programme. If the Program Officer is certain of the community's commitment then the community is mobilized for field level training sessions. This is followed by the formation of a Water Committee, which becomes a crucial link between the community and Bala Vikasa, the implementing organization. The Village Water Committee is expected to play a vital role in planning, implementing and sustaining the programme.

Bala Vikasa, often assisted by a local partner organization, implements the development programme only if the above procedures are strictly followed and it is satisfied that there will be active participation of the Water Committee and of the local people, and the village community will willingly take up ownership from the conceptual stage by



considering the program as its own. In this manner , it builds the sustainability factor right from the outset

Capacity Building



Once the community in the village is mobilized and the Water Committee is formed, BV's next step is to train the members through capacity building sessions, on the roles and the responsibilities of the committee members in the process of implementing the water project, on leadership qualities, unity,

accountability, transparency, self-reliance, sustainability, community's contribution, etc. All this ensures efficient and effective functioning of the Water Committees, which BV considers critical to the success of the project at the village level.

Community's Contribution

Bala Vikasa acknowledges that it is crucial for the entire village community to participate in the project from the initial stage. Towards this, all villagers benefiting from the project are motivated to partially contribute and support their own project. The formula of 15% beneficiaries contribution for Bore wells and Over Head Tanks is standardized. Bala Vikasa also makes it very clear that their contribution cannot be paid out of the funds available with the Sarpanch, MLAs, MPs, Ward Members, CBOs, or with any other honorable person. Each member of the community is expected to show his/her solidarity to the project in a tangible manner through a financial contribution. Bala Vikasa with its years of experience does not compromise on this principle. This procedure strengthens solidarity and helps people take pride in a project which they view as their very own.

Cost Effectiveness

To assure the project is cost effective Bala Vikasa takes the following steps:

- Bala Vikasa updates itself continuously with the latest market prices as the Drinking Water Programme is implemented regularly every year.

- An independent and experienced engineer estimates the project cost. The process involves discussions with Bala Vikasa on the costing made by the expert and the prices listed by Bala Vikasa through tenders and through its years of experience.
- During the implementation of the project, Bala Vikasa monitors the cost factor very meticulously. BV staff visit the project and ensure transparent and regular accounting of the finance and material used for the project by the Village Water Committee. To minimize cost, middle-men are not involved in the implementation of the project.
- In addition to the community's financial contribution of 15% towards the project, people are expected to contribute voluntarily to the project by way of manual labour whenever it is required: for digging the foundation pits for pillars, platform construction for bore wells, RCC slab work for OHTs, curing work, etc. The voluntary and enthusiastic participation of the community members is encouraged as it not only helps reduce project cost, but it also helps instill a sense of ownership.

These strategies ensure that the project is not imposed on the people but it is the peoples' initiative. It makes sure that not a selective group but the entire village community benefits. It helps build solidarity cutting across all barriers. It builds capacity of the rural people. It helps minimize cost. Above all, it ensures sustainability of the project through continued involvement of the people. Overall it enables the development of the entire community.

Bala Vikasa's specific prerequisites

For Bore wells with hand pumps

- a. Villagers have to submit separate application for each bore well they require in their village. This procedure allows a better follow up of Bala Vikasa Drinking Water Programme.



- b. For each bore well, Bala Vikasa undertakes a feasibility study principally to identify a location most suited to the people in the village, the number and the type of beneficiaries who will have access to the well, and the amount the local people will be willing to contribute towards the project.

Location conditions

To benefit all, irrespective of class and caste, BV makes sure that the well is built in a public place accessible to all, and that it is on the side of a road; no bore is to be drilled in any private property; but if a family wishes to give land for the bore well, it could donate it to the public and document it on stamped paper, duly signed; minimum of a 100 meters distance between two bore wells is to be maintained; the well should not be built in any contaminated area, for instance close to manure pits.

Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries should number a minimum of 30 families.

Beneficiaries' contribution

Water Committee Members are expected to create an awareness among the villagers on ownership, partnership, and responsibility and help them understand Bala Vikasa's development principle that "Development is not free". Since people tend not to contribute towards community projects, as they are not used to sharing project costs, not because they cannot afford it, but because they are not motivated to contribute towards the betterment of others in their own community, direct contributions by the beneficiaries are to be encouraged.

On an average, when bore wells cost Rs. 21000 (as of 2006), the village Water Committee Members are expected to collect Rs. 100 from each benefiting family, totaling to Rs. 3000. Contributions of the Village Panchayati or by an outsider such as an MLA, Sarpanch, Contractors, rich individuals, etc. as share of the beneficiaries is strictly discouraged as the beneficiaries would then not feel a true sense of ownership. Besides, outside investors have a tendency to influence the project for their personal or political benefits which generally destroys the project philosophy and purpose. Such donations are encouraged to be used later for the maintenance of the water system.

People desist from contributing if they are convinced that they do not need the project. Conversely, they come forward to contribute when they realize the urgency and genuine benefit of the project to their community. It is the role of the water committee to discuss the benefits with the villagers. If the per head contribution in the community water projects is not very high, it becomes easy to mobilize funds. Peoples contribution, however, is a prerequisite for the start up of a BV project.

- c. Approval of the project is based on the basis of the feasibility study.
- d. Implementation of the project starts after BV's approval. The process is: the bore well is drilled - reaching a depth of more than 150 feet depth - with 40 feet casing pipe depending on the type of soil. An ISI mark hand pump is installed. A cement platform of 5 feet is built around the bore well. On the coping of the well, a plate with the name of the donor who has financed Bala Vikasa is fixed.

Over Head Tanks

Over Head Tank projects follow essentially the same procedures as for the installation of a bore well with hand pump. The main difference is, BV intervenes only if the community has a bore well with sufficient water, motor pump and complete pipeline through the main streets of the village. Once this is verified, the contribution of the population is collected and a feasibility study is completed. When the project is approved the building of the tank proceeds.

The following table gives the average cost for the construction of tanks with different capacities, as well as the contribution requested from the beneficiaries and the amount provided by Bala Vikasa. These costs are based on the 2005-2006 index.



Tank Capacity	Budget 100% in Rupees	BV Contribution 85% in Rupees	Local Contribution 15% in Rupees
40,000	2,00,000	1,70,000	30,000
60,000	2,30,000	1,95,000	35,000
1,00,000	3,50,000	3,00,000	50,000
2,00,000	4,50,000	3,82,500	67,500

Implementing Partners of Bala Vikasa Drinking Water Programme

Usually, Bala Vikasa implements bore wells with manually operated pumps and overhead tanks through executing partners. Based on requests received from several villages, an executing partner forwards an application to Bala Vikasa.

On the basis of the prerequisites described above and a satisfactory feasibility study, Bala Vikasa approves the project and a letter of agreement is signed by Bala Vikasa and the implementing partner. At that time, the first installment is given by Bala Vikasa.

On completion of the project, as per the letter of agreement, the partner submits a final report to Bala Vikasa. This is followed by a “in situ” evaluation. The final installment is then released after which an audited report is submitted to Bala Vikasa.

Chapter - 4

Action-Reflection-Action

As described in the previous chapters, Bala Vikasa takes appropriate 'Action' to implement the Drinking Water Programme once the villages meet the pre-requisite criteria.

Although the 'Reflection' process is an on-going one, it took a more focused form after the recommendations suggested by the study/survey made in 2003. Reflection on the negative aspects of the Drinking Water Programme, identified by the people themselves, became Bala Vikasa's priority. Even though the overall evaluation of the Drinking Water Programme indicated success, the concerns raised by the people, who had been direct beneficiaries, was what affected Bala Vikasa more. 'Reflection' led to further 'Action' to set right what was wrong

Conclusions drawn from the study

Success factors

The beneficiaries of the bore-wells are mostly the disadvantaged and neglected village groups (ST, BC and SC) often living in small pockets at the periphery of a bigger community.

475 Drinking Water Systems using overhead tanks are 100% operational. Even the first overhead tank built as early as 1980 by the Reddipalem community with the assistance of Bala Vikasa founders before the founding of the organization, is still providing water to the villagers.

70% of the wells manually operated, are functional in approximately 1750 villages. Through a statistical analysis using the MTTF Weibull model, it is revealed that the average "life-span" of Bala Vikasa bore-wells is approximately 15 years.

While in 1984, only 20 % of Bala Vikasa drinking water projects received support from the village Gram Panchayat, after 1998, the Gram Panchayats became 100% involved in Bala Vikasa Drinking Water projects in their villages.

The Emergence of Gram Panchayat's new role and its success in maintaining community bore-wells and becoming an essential tool for community development is an encouraging new trend. It affirms the civil society being influenced by a positive leadership at the governmental level.

Concerns

Depletion of the Water Table

The main reason for the bore-wells not functioning properly is due to lower or dried water table. The data on the depth of the bore-wells drilled between 1984 and 2003 is as follows:

- In 1984, 70-80% of the bore-wells reached the water table at a depth of 100'-125'.
- In 2003, only 10% for the bore-wells struck water at 100' to 125'; 40% of the wells had to go down to 125' to 150'; 50% to more than 150'.
- Within a period of less than 20 years, the ground water table had steadily gone down.
- Andhra Pradesh water table contains a great quantity of fluoride, causing many degenerating sicknesses among the people.

Bala Vikasa has taken actions to allay the above fears and bridge the gaps successfully by following up on the recommendations of the study.

Bala Vikasa Drinking Water Programme urgently required to apply de-fluoridation techniques.

Actions following recommendations

Increasing the role of the Water Committees and Gram Panchayat

People's participation has always been being critical to Bala Vikasa. However, since the survey, BV has been playing a more active role than before in promoting dynamic Water Committees, motivating local people to play an enhanced and more vigorous role in planning, implementing and maintaining their own Drinking Water System. Village Water Committee members now receive regular training to enable them to be better Managers of the village water system and above all to be efficient and effective Leaders and Catalysts of the community development process.

Initiating Surface Water Management Programme

With the drying up of water and the lowering of the water table, replenishing the water table by pursuing a Surface Water Management programme aggressively, through the desiltation of traditional water tanks is being carried out almost on a war-footing, before the situation worsens.

Since 2000, Bala Vikasa has, to a large extent, helped resolve the problem of potable water through a long-term solution. It has rejuvenated the abandoned 'chain tanks' technology of the Kakatiya Dynasty of the 12th and 13th centuries, in which at least 5 to 10 tanks were linked together within a distance of 10 to 15kms. These tanks were filled by rain water and the over flow of one filled the next tank, without wasting any water.

With the plentiful water in the vast network of tanks and canals, irrigation of agricultural lands was successful, food was plenty, which led to all round prosperity. These water harvesting structures had also created micro environments like a chain of ponds which helped in conservation, drainage, ground water recharge, maintenance of soil moisture, etc. and helped mitigate to a certain extent, the uneven water distribution in different localities during long spells of dry periods. With most of these Kakatiya "chain tanks" having been abandoned for a very long time by the local communities, Bala Vikasa, as a remedial measure to the depleted water table, held discussions with marginal farmers and initiated a programme of desilting the traditional "chain tanks" located in most of the villages of Telangana.



It introduced “Jala Vikasam” (Water Development) Programme which mobilizes local communities to manage surface water. This programme is on-going. The success of implementing such a programme is very evident, as it has brought tangible and multiple benefits to the rural population and to the environment of Andhra Pradesh.

The impact of Bala Vikasa “Jala Vikasam” Programme is manifold: Firstly, ground water has increased by 20-30% augmenting water in the bore wells and open wells. Ground water quality has improved. Greenery has enlarged with plantation programs in the village. Silt application has decreased the use of chemical fertilizers in the fields. Small farmers have observed a 15-25% decrease in the cost of crop production and 20-30% increase in crop yields, a substantial augmentation. Fish cultivation facilities have also improved and has thus increased the income of the fisher folk community as well.

On the human development aspect, Jala Vikasam Water committees have united the villagers and effective leadership in the villages have enhanced the implementation process of community development activities. Availability of water throughout the year in the village tanks has given the villagers more time to spend on their traditional cultural activities and celebrate their religious festivals with greater fervour .

From the inception of this programme up to 2005, the Jala Vikasam Programme has covered 450 villages in 5 districts of Andhra Pradesh. More than 25000 marginal farmers have participated. 20 00 000 cu.mtrs of silt has been excavated and applied on 32 000 acres of land. Around the desilted tanks, 11 500 wells have been re-generated by the replenishment of the water table. Around these natural tanks, more than 5 00 000 plants and trees have been planted.

In addition to the Jala Vikasam Programme, Bala Vikasa is also promoting creative, concrete and practical surface water conservation, through catchment areas to collect rain water, and by assisting people to better manage the water table that feeds the village wells.

Jala Vikasam Programme is a good example of how Bala Vikasa ensures that its motto ‘Help people to help themselves’ is implemented. It is worth noting that the contribution of small farmers to Bala Vikasa Jala Vikasam. amounts to 70% of the cost of the whole programme. This has inculcated in the villagers not only a deep sense of ownership of the their village tanks, but a greater sense of responsibility to efficiently manage surface water and not let go the Kakatiya way.

Providing safe drinking water through defluoridation plants



Yet another 'Action' Bala Vikasa took after 'Reflection' on the contaminated water as reported by the study/survey of 2003, was to introduce a programme in 2004, to supply fluoride free drinking water to the fluoride affected villages, through defluoridation plants. These plants were supplied by Bala Vikasa in collaboration with the communities, wherever drinking water from bore wells exceeded the permissible limits of fluoride content. The defluoridation plants use Reverse Osmosis, the latest technology which is economical. They require minimum maintenance. Since the units are supplied by experienced manufacturers, maintenance service is regular and prompt.

The village community, generally mobilizes 40% of the total cost of installing the defluoridation plant. This has made the community an integral part of the project. The community takes the responsibility for building a room to house the plant. The Mineral Water Committee mobilizes the villagers for meetings; collects the financial contributions from the people; coordinates the villagers' manual labor and procures the required building material. In consultation with the local people, the water committee fixes the price for a 20 litre carboy of purified water. Presently it costs between Rs.3 and 5.



With the Gram Pachayat playing a greater role in the development of the village, once the plant is installed, the maintenance becomes its responsibility. The Mineral Water Committee generally continues to manage the defluoridation plant.

Enhancing training for Water Committee and Gram Panchayat

With the Water Committees working diligently and with determination to maintain their wells, conserve surroundings, sensitize the local people to sound water management practices, and demonstrating keenness to work for the overall

improvement of the communities, the recommendation of the survey is being followed, with Bala Vikasa periodically organizing training programmes for the water committee members.

Based on the success of its remedial measures, Bala Vikasa is integrating these factors in its current Water Programmes. From the lessons learned of the past, Bala Vikasa ensures that the Water Committee comprises of elders/leaders from within the community, with the community nominating the committee members. The Committee members, generally consist of 5 persons including a President, Secretary and Treasurer, and the election is based on their credibility within the community and virtues of dedication, selfless service, proven leadership, and transparency. The committee can be changed once in two years depending upon the decision of the community. The community is encouraged to change the leadership every two years to build a second line leadership.

Since training is a very significant component of every Bala Vikasa programme, BV continues to be committed to regular training and capacity building of the people at the grassroots. It strongly believes that it is only through proper training that the programmes can be managed efficiently and effectively, leading to their sustainability.

In the past few years, to systematize and improve its training to the village Water Committees⁷, Bala Vikasa has put forward the concept of “Mobile Training Team” (MTT). Being an outreach training instrument of its People Development Training Center, the mandate of MTT is to prepare and deliver concrete and practical training programmes in management, environment, leadership, conflict resolutions, etc., especially adapted to the agents of change, working at the village level. The training programme focuses on the Water Committees.

Since the 90s, the trend has been for Gram Panchayats of the villages to take charge of bore wells. Expanding on the MTT notion, Bala Vikasa is presently working on a training programme for the elected representatives of the Gram Panchayat. This programme is presently being planned and will be implemented in collaboration with government authorities.

With this training, it is hoped that the Gram Panchayats will be guided and encouraged to become an effective instruments in the development of its respective communities by proving its competency and establishing its leadership, thereby gaining the confidence and the trust of the people in its communities.

⁷ Here are included the Village Committees not only for the Drinking Water Programme but also for the “Desiltation” and the “Defluoride Plant” programmes.

Chapter - 5**Laknavaram says it all**

Laknavaram, a remote village in Warangal district with a total population of 121 families of different castes and trades i.e. Dalits, Reddys, Shepards, potters, carpenters, etc. had suffered acute water shortage for over two decades. The village, being far from the district administrative head quarters, had long been neglected and not much development had really taken place. It had no health center, and only a government Primary school. 70% of the people were 'literate' enough to sign their names. The major occupation of the people being agriculture, the yield of their common crops like paddy, cotton, chilly, corn, sunflower, etc., was very poor.



After years of privation, in 1998, the representatives of the village, including the Sarpanch, Ward members, and the traditional leaders, approached the district rural drinking water supply department officials and politicians like their Mandal President and local Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA). to seek their help in resolving their water crisis. After repeated visits and requests to the concerned government officials and their local representative, they finally received approval to implement a project with a bore well, motor and direct distribution pipe line. They drilled a bore at one end of the village and laid the distribution pipe lines in all the streets connecting to each individual house. Through this direct distribution system the families started receiving water when the water was pumped from the bore well. They were however faced with two hurdles. Firstly, they could not store water as they had no water tank. Secondly, they could receive water from the bore well only when there was power supply. Due to acute shortage of power in the state, they received only 7 hours of power (3 phase/ high power) and that too at irregular timings which was often not at a convenient time to the villagers. The village being in an isolated, inaccessible area near the forest, no power meant no water .

Bala Vikasa had initiated its Women Development Program in this village in 1999. At that time the villagers had very little knowledge of Bala Vikasa, but after learning more from newspapers about BV's work in the village of Gangadevipally, they were inspired by the achievements of the Gangadevipally water committee, especially the

leadership role and its policies in implementing development activities. The people of Laknavaram desired to progress like the villagers of Gangadevipally who worked hard for the overall development of their village. Consequently, the elders of the Laknavaram village, women leaders and the husbands of Bala Vikasa women group members, approached Bala Vikasa through the women program staff members and requested them to initiate a drinking water programme in their village.

Following their request, Bala Vikasa water program officer held discussions with the village elders and explained Bala Vikasa's pre-requisites and procedures. This was followed by a village level meeting held in the presence of BV's Program officer. When the villagers accepted the conditions, Bala Vikasa Programme officer motivated the villagers to be united, take responsibility, pool in finances and their labour, formulate policies and implement them efficiently. This eventually led to a joint decision to build a storage tank with a capacity of 60,000 liters. A suitable location, 50 feet away from the existing bore well was identified. A committee of 7 members was elected by the villagers, to be responsible for the project implementation and maintenance and to act as a link between the village community and Bala Vikasa.



This was followed by the Programme officer collaborating with the village elders and conducting a feasibility study to assess the extent of the water problem in the village, availability of sufficient pipe lines for pumping water and distribution, the quantity of water the bore well could supply to the tank, and also the social factors like unity, leadership, willingness of the villagers to contribute in money and labor for the project, etc. With the consensus having been arrived on the suitable construction site of the tank, and Bala Vikasa being fully satisfied that the villagers had met its stipulated prerequisites, it approved the project.

Due to the remoteness of the village and lack of effective Bala Vikasa network in that region, BV expressed its inability to take the responsibility of supervising the construction of the tank. After another round of discussion with the villagers, the village committee members decided to take upon themselves the total responsibility of constructing the water tank. This entailed the committee having to work over time

and also mobilize extra funds to advance for the construction work. An agreement was signed between the committee and Bala Vikasa that the approved budget Rs. 1,60,000 would be released by Bala Vikasa in two installments after satisfactory completion of work.

As per the policy formulated by the villagers, 23 families who wished to have personal tap connections, paid Rs. 1,000 each. With this Rs. 23,000 was collected. Remaining 98 families paid Rs. 200 each. Thus they mobilized Rs, 42,600 from 121 families. This enabled them to mobilize approximately Rs. 15,000 more than the required amount, which helped establish a corpus for the project maintenance. Those who were unable to contribute Rs. 1,000 for personal tap connections, collected water from the public taps in the street.

The fee for private tap connections has been increased from time to time.

Before implementing the project, the committee members decided to divide responsibilities among themselves to be more effective. Three teams of two members each were formed and made responsible for :

1. Procurement of material and labor;
2. Site supervision and quality control;
3. Collection of local contributions, accounts and mobilization of people.

The Head of the committee was to coordinate the committee members, conduct meetings, and act as a link between the villagers and Bala Vikasa. The committee members asked for quotations from different suppliers and procured the material and engaged the masons.

While implementing the project the committee members felt they could increase the capacity of the tank if the villagers provided free manual labor. After another round of discussion with the villagers, and everybody agreeing to give their manual labor free to dig the pillar pits and assist in putting the top and bottom slabs, they were able to construct a tank with 25% more capacity (60000 liters to 75,000 liters). Since the village was situated near a forest, wood for the scaffolding came from the forest and thus they were also able to reduce the cost of construction.

Towards the maintenance of the water system, as per the policies formulated at the beginning of the project, the water committee collected Rs. 200 per family with tap, per year. Those who did not have the tap connection paid Rs. 50 annually. After 6

years, the village had a surplus of Rs. 45,000. which was given as loans to the villagers for different purposes such as crop loans, personal loan, loans for income generation etc., given at 24% interest per annum. The duration of the loan was for one year from January to January and was expected to be repaid in one installment at the end of the year. The maximum loan given was Rs. 10,000 per person.

The present water committee consists of 2 women and five men who are working very efficiently. The village committee meets as and when the need arises and conducts general body meetings annually in which accounts are presented and policies devised for effective functioning. The last general body was in the month of January, 2005. During the meeting the



villagers decided to increase the salary of the operator of the well from Rs. 800 to Rs. 900 per month, and the initial fee for private tap connections was increased from Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 2,500. Income and expense accounts of the project for the year were verified and approved.

23 individual taps at the beginning of the project has now increased to 70. Though regular power supply is still a problem in the rural areas, the project operator ensures that the tank is filled during the day or night whenever there is power, and supplies water at regular and convenient timings to the villagers, as decided by the General Body.

The water project has considerably reduced the work load of fetching water, thereby saving women's time and energy. Families are using the spare time for more productive work such as farm work, rearing domestic animals, tending to kitchen gardens, etc. It has also enabled them to devote more time to child care, and cleanliness of their surroundings. Clean, uncontaminated drinking water from the tank has improved the general health of the people.

With the successful experience in managing the water project, the committee is motivated to undertake different programs for the overall development of its village. The committee does not want to limit its role to water management alone. Therefore, it is mobilizing the villagers, approaching government departments, politicians and NGOs, to get other development projects sanctioned and implemented in different ways.

With the successful and economical completion of the project within 5 months villagers of Laknavaram have become pioneers in taking the total responsibility to construct a water tank. This one initiative has boosted their confidence especially that of the committee members, who have since taken up other development activities to improve the life of the villagers. Water Programme has triggered other community development initiatives.

Road construction: Since the village did not have proper approach road, the water committee members, after a discussion with the villagers, approached the district collector and their local representative. Impressed with the effective leadership, the district collector sanctioned the construction 1.5 Km long road with a budget of Rs. 5,00,000. The responsibility was given to the village water committee by passing the regular contract system. Since the contractors do not use good quality and sufficient material to construct durable roads, the committee members seized the opportunity to build a hard-wearing road. They encouraged the villagers to contribute manual labor to reduce the cost. Their involvement not only improved the quality of the construction, but it also helped save money which was given as a fund to the women SHGs in the village.



Temple construction: The Water committee members also took the lead and mobilized Rs. 70,000 from the villagers and well wishers for reconstructing the village temple located in the center of the village



Water purification project: With the quality of the water changing gradually in the village due to continued drought and depletion of the ground water, excess content of fluoride (2.00 parts per million) has been detected. Villagers are well aware of the consequences of hard water tasting less sweet. 50% of the people in the village have already started to feel the effect of skeletal fluorosis. Therefore, their present plan is to procure a water purification plant for their village and are thus seeking support for the implementation of this project. Bala Vikasa will soon help facilitate this water purification project in their village.

Community hall: The villagers feel a need to have a permanent building to conduct their meetings. The village administration has allotted a central place for the

construction of the center. The SHG group leaders and the water committee members are approaching the district level government officials for financial help to build the community center.

As the village is under the administration of another village, the administration is more concerned about the main village, often neglecting the development of this hamlet. Spurred by the confidence built through BV, the water committee and the SHG group members are presently taking the initiatives in other development activities in their village. The village administration merely supports initiatives taken by them. The villagers and the traditional elders cooperate and appreciate the efforts of the committee members. With the President being a graduate, and all other members being literate, the committee is efficient and they cooperate with the regular village administration body (Gram Panchayat) for effective governance. They are motivating the villagers to undertake water conservation, plantation, sanitation projects in the near future and make their village a model/progressive village.

The commitment, efficiency and success of the village water committee of this village is inspiring neighboring villages to get united and take up community development activities such as water conservation, organizing women SHGs and initiating development activities.

The true story of Laknavaram vividly encapsulates Bala Vikasa development philosophy. The mobilization of Laknavaram people around their Drinking Water system is a vivid proof that Bala Vikasa Drinking Water Programme not only helped meet its objective, but also acted as a catalyst for community development. Its methodology in implementing the water programme demonstrates its holistic approach to community development, making it a catalyst to a multi-faceted community development process, transforming an entire village community.

Through Bala Vikasa's intervention Laknavaram has become a model village with neighbouring villages vying to emulate its example of not only solving its water problem but in becoming a dynamic village by mobilizing the village community towards self-reliance.

Local media has applauded the initiative of the villagers and Bala Vikasa in implementing the project. It has compared the project cost under local contribution systems to government sponsored projects which are much in excess. To save government money and divert it to other development activities, media has emphasized that every village should follow the footsteps of Laknavaram.

Chapter - 5

Conclusion

As the preceding chapters illustrate, and the story of Laknavaram demonstrates, besides implementing a Drinking Water Programme, Bala Vikasa continues to aim at a holistic approach to Community Development. Bala Vikasa's development efforts persist in using its Drinking Water Programme as a Trojan Horse – a positive Trojan Horse – to provide access to clean drinking water while simultaneously galvanizing the inherent strength of a community and mobilizing its people to develop themselves.

Since clean drinking water is a dire necessity for a community, a pot of water easily accessible from the tap makes all the difference to the lives of women and children. Together with this, the small loan facility devised by Bala Vikasa for income generation projects is also concurrently changing the lives of women⁸. However, these successful measures – development builds on success - seem small when compared to the significant change of attitude that has taken place in the community, especially the newly acquired value for self-reliance.

As Bala Vikasa's 10 rules for sustainability establish "development must build on people in solidarity with the community", the activities that are planned, and the managerial decisions that are taken during the implementation of a project or a programme, are ingrained in this ultimate objective. When Bala Vikasa decided that Gram Panchayat funds should be used solely for the maintenance of the drinking water system, and not as substitute for beneficiaries' local financial contribution, it was a means to impress upon the people the importance of their collective participation in the project; a way for each contributing member to act in solidarity with the other members of the community. This policy – sometimes challenged by the people – is necessary to achieve the ultimate mission of the organization: Help People to Help Themselves. Bala Vikasa does not compromise on this, as following this goal relentlessly, eventually helps consolidate the strength of the local communities.

⁸ Refer to *Bala Vikasa Sharing Series 3: Microcredit: Not Just Money!, the Story of Bala Vikasa Integrated Women Development Programme Loan Facilities. March 2005*



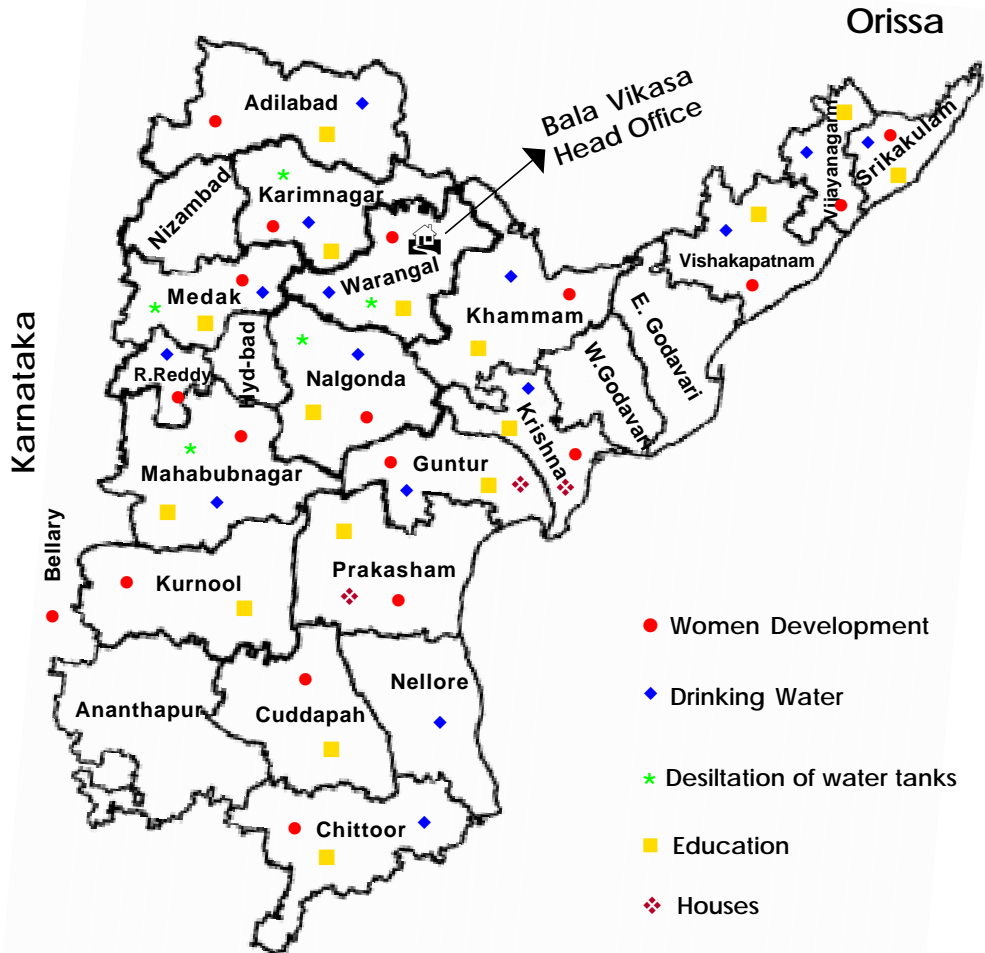
“Investing in People” is the motto of Bala Vikasa People Development Training Center and its “raison d’être”. It remains Bala Vikasa’s major thrust as it strongly believes that people are the main assets of a community. For this reason, the corner stone of Bala Vikasa Drinking Water has been - and continues to be in a still more systematic way

– capacity building of the village water committee and local institutions such as the Gram Panchayats.

Capacity building is also the foundation on which Bala Vikasa shapes its other development programmes for women and marginal farmers. Training continues to be not only technical and practical, but also aims at developing the people as true agents of change in their respective communities. Bala Vikasa consistently pursues its mission on this development track.

Map of Andhra Pradesh - India

Bala Vikasa Programmes



sketch map not to scale

This booklet is published by Bala Vikasa People Development Training Center.

Bala Vikasa is a registered, secular, non-partisan, non-profit, voluntary, social service organization in India, working mainly in Andhra Pradesh for a common goal: to help the people to help themselves without distinction of caste and creed.

Bala Vikasa

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