

Advancing Development: New Social Order



Hyderabad Symposium 2024

Fostering Inclusive Development

Jun 21 - 22, -----, 2024

Venue: National Academy for
Agricultural Research Management (NAARM)
Rajendra Nagar, Hyderabad

You must not lose faith in humanity.
Humanity is an ocean; if a few drops of the
ocean are dirty, the ocean does not become dirty.

– Mahatma Gandhi

DHAN Foundation, one of the professional grassroots' development Institutions in the country with its strong belief system in collaborative work has been engaging with all development stakeholders by the active partnership of communities across rural, urban, coastal and tribal contexts. In addition, it engages all development stakeholders in more than 16 States in India to advance the development, to impact and eradicate poverty and its various manifestations, women empowerment, access to basic amenities and services. DHAN has been instrumental in facilitating the conduct of a unique knowledge mart as a biennial event since 2003 in Madurai called Madurai Symposium with all relevant development stakeholders. The first launch of Madurai Symposium was on the eve of celebrating the Golden Jubilee year of Ford Foundation in India. With hosting eleven editions of the Symposium in Madurai biennially from 2003 to 2023, conducting regional symposium to encourage local vernacular deliberation to instil knowledge on theme become as a practice.

Given the Pan India presence of DHAN and the need to engage with relevant development partners in various States, regional symposiums were organised since 2022 as a biennial event in the select cities of India. Telangana State is one among the 16 states the DHAN Foundation has its field operations with poor farmers, women, tribal and urban poor over the past two decades. The local people institutions of DHAN Collective have organised Vizag Symposium in the year 2022 which witnessed more than 300 community leaders, government officials, CSR partners and other stakeholders have participated together from the various

parts of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Hitherto, DHAN envisages and believes that the Telangana (Hyderabad) Symposium serves as a knowledge platform to share and learn from each other's experiences and practices to serve the underprivileged and deprived communities to advance New Social Order.

More than two decades of DHAN's grassroots work in Telangana operational in fourteen Districts namely Hyderabad, Nalgonda, Sanga reddy, Warangal (Siddipet, Rajanna Sircila), B. Kothagudem, Adilabad, Asifabad, Nizamabad and Kareemnagar with several development programmes. Keeping Natural Resources Conservation and Management and Women Self-Help Groups for livelihoods promotion as a core and spreading its reach by way of various other interventions namely livelihoods development, healthcare advancement, mutual services for risk mitigation, access to entitlement to our member families and development of rural water resources are significant in helping nearly 50,000 poor families to come out of poverty in this region.

Call for New Social Order

Amidst lingering inequality, we confront a pivotal juncture for transformation. Mahatma Gandhi's wisdom resonates: "Poverty is the worst form of violence." Our quest for development must be all-encompassing, realizing inclusive growth for every individual. The ideals of Antyodaya and Sarvodaya are central to this vision.

While progress has occurred, it hasn't reached all.





other sources. And ensured the women empowerment through leadership, other governance and business engagement. DHAN Foundation also promoted 7 Vayalagam Federations and facilitated treatment of more than 20000 ha watersheds.

Perspectives for the New Social Order (NSO)

The New Social Order (NSO) has an ambitious vision of societal transformation, drawing inspiration from the teachings of iconic figures like Gandhi, Buddha, and Kumarappa. This vision is deeply rooted in principles of justice, equity, self-sufficiency, decentralization, and sustainability. The NSO places a strong emphasis on resurrecting traditional customs to foster unity and harmony within society, guided by fundamental values such as equity, sustainability, resilience, democracy, and

inclusivity. Central to its core is the promotion of justice, equal rights, and compassion to bridge the divides and cultivate mutual understanding among diverse groups. Sustainability is paramount, aligning ecological, social, and economic dimensions, while local wisdom enriches contemporary strategies with heritage. Collective collaboration is seen as the key to driving transformative change, with a central mission of empowering marginalized communities, facilitated by education's role as a catalyst for critical thinking. Ensuring digital equity and establishing robust social safety nets are deemed essential for risk management and disaster preparedness.

This envisioned new social order finds its philosophical grounding in the teachings of Gandhi, Buddha, Vinobha and J.C. Kumarappa, a veteran economist, which stress the importance of justice, equity, self-sufficiency, decentralization, and sustainability. Drawing from the Four Noble Truths of Buddhism, the NSO acknowledges the root of suffering in human desires and seeks liberation through ethical living and mental cultivation. The Eightfold Path serves as a guiding moral framework, seamlessly integrating wisdom, ethics, and mindfulness into daily life. Wealth accumulation is pursued through honest labour, personal pleasure is sought with ethical considerations, knowledge acquisition is coupled with moral character, and commerce is guided by ethical principles. Science is harnessed for universal welfare, religion emphasizes compassion and sacrifice, and politics upholds ethical values. Parasitic and predatory economic models are replaced by productive, community-centered,

and service-oriented alternatives.

A critical aspect of the NSO is its recognition of the vital need for humanity to harmonize with the natural world, prompting a re-evaluation of our relationship with the environment. The NSO underscores the foundational principles of ethics and morality, promoting non-violence, non-exploitation, and impartial equality as guiding tenets for all actions. The NSO envisions a shift towards decentralized societies that value individual choice, interconnectedness, and a lifelong commitment to learning. Its ultimate goal is to elevate the quality of life for all, underpinned by a steadfast focus on principles of equity, compassion, and sustainability. In sum, the NSO presents a multifaceted framework that invites collective action to reshape the world into a more harmonious and inclusive society.

Call of Sustainable Development Goals

Predominant thematic interventions of DHAN Foundation in Telangana State directly contribute to the targets and goals of the Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 13, 14, 15 & 17 in various ways. The USP of the NSO approach is localizing



the needs of community in its working locations of Telangana state and make the activities relevant, effective and outcome driven towards localized SDGs. The local

Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, localized DHAN's approach to suit with the

people institutions are working in all the goals working along with other development stakeholders and it has contributed to SDGs related to end poverty, ensure nutrition, health for all, clean water and sanitation, education, gender equality these

livelihoods promotion, economic development and equality. By embracing these goals, we achieve a holistic, equitable, and sustainable future for all.

Hyderabad (Telangana) Symposium – Themes / Focus

In the two days of proposed Symposium with Telugu and English Vernacular would aim to convene two people conventions and four Knowledge Seminars by involving the community, most specifically women, farmers, landless and tribal, Development partners from Officials from Government of Telangana, CSR Foundations, Academia and Research, NGOs, DHAN Professionals etc. The purpose of the regional symposium of Hyderabad intends to bring the perspectives, perceptions and way forward for advancing the New Social Order in the field action. The brief explanation of the proposed people conventions and Seminars are given in the following paragraphs.

Community Conventions for advancing New Social order – Learnings from Moving Out of Poverty (MoP) and



Democratic Governance through Community Leadership

DHAN's strong belief system of building social capital with poor with sustainability as the foundation and



thematic interventions as development poverty the members in

the vehicles of demonstrated reduction among the last two decades of professional way of

working. The net outcomes viz. Moving out of Poverty and Sustainable Federations with democratic governance. The symposium at Hyderabad in March would deliberate the processes and sustainable mechanisms adopted by the people institutions to ensure the multiple benefits and poverty eradication. The farmers, women and tribal would be sharing their different stories and experiences of coming out of poverty and their governance as New Social Order.



Watershed

W a t e r s h e d development as a unit for hydrologic p l a n n i n g demonstrated successfully by the different agencies in the country. Yet, the sustainability and continuity of functional groups post project period



Access and advancement of Ecosystem based Development

conservation and





has many operational challenges. DHAN's unique approach of treating the watersheds on a comprehensive ecosystem basis proved successful. The participants of this seminar in the Symposium would chart the new social order for getting access to and advance the watersheds for water, food, nutrition security and stabilizing the eco-systems. The different Partners in carrying out the watershed development are invited to share the success stories and advancing the theme.

Ability to pursue Sustainable Livelihoods by active engagement of Farmers

A new social order centered on sustainable livelihoods prioritizes the well-being of people and the planet. In general, and more particularly the poor and the marginalized small farmers encounter challenges in meeting their livelihoods needs with dignity and sustainability. The

multitude challenges including dominating market forces in ensuring genuine price to the producers/products in order to ensure livelihoods for all elude the practice of New Social Order. It is, therefore, an effort to organize the farmers and other producers under the umbrella of consumer mutual to show them way in meeting the sustainable farming livelihoods. Vizag Symposium would highlight the success stories, show case the case studies from the grassroots and evolve strategies and new social order for advancing the small farming eco systems.

Corporate Social Responsibility to advance the NSO:

Since 2014, the Corporates come forward to partner with Professional NGO/NPO partners across the country and ensure the development in the villages as expected out of the CSR by the government. DHAN Foundation has many CSR partners in its work across the country on different

functional area. Telangana state CSR partners have supported the initiatives of DHAN Foundation in water theme, Climate Change, Women empowerment and the like. Hyderabad Symposium would bring the CSR Foundations in the state to participate in the workshop to share their contribution and impact. Besides, the CSR and DHAN would emerge collaborators for the advancing New Social order to foster Inclusive development.

Gender at the heart of development:

Gender is one of the vital development concepts ever since the women empowerment is seen as an important agenda to fulfil. A new social order that prioritizes

women's empowerment could lead to significant improvements in gender equality, economic growth, and social justice. This could involve measures such as equal access to education and job opportunities, protection from gender-based violence, and leadership roles in decision-making processes. By empowering women, we can create a more inclusive society.

The Hyderabad Symposium would deliberate the gender mainstreaming challenges at households, community, Institution and State level. The participants and the conveners of the Knowledge mart would come out with making Gender and SDG get realized by all the





stakeholders with concrete actions.

Moving towards New Social Order

We invite participants to engage in a profound deliberation on shaping a new social order rooted in vital themes: health, gender, livelihoods, education, financial inclusion, and conservation. This collective discourse, encompassing self, family, institutions, and society, holds the potential to redefine our shared future. This discourse is an opportunity to collectively envision a world where health, gender, livelihoods, education, financial inclusion, and conservation converge harmoniously, fostering a new social

order that transcends boundaries, empowers all, and ensures a brighter, more sustainable future.

Conferences, Seminars, and Workshops

Though First of Its Kind in Hyderabad for the participants from the development stakeholders the Symposium would be a festival celebrating of the community-led development process and the larger impact on the life of communities. The primary stakeholders of development, being communities, would take centre stage in the Symposium and it would be an exhibition of the power of communities in all the events. Notable among the achievements are the self-help groups and their federations as the fulcrum of development across

India for addressing deprivations of women, their empowerment, and the vast social capital.

Community work in water conservation and judicious use of water – the revival of water bodies and thereby the ecosystems have been an exemplary model of sustainable development impact. There are many unique community-led health programmes across the country influencing the mainstream for a larger impact. So also, in several other development themes.

The symposium will have many conferences, seminars, and workshops to provide a platform for the community as the primary stakeholders (demand stream) and the other

stakeholders comprising of supply and enabling stream to share their work and the impact on communities from the perspectives of institution building by the communities, community governance, and leadership, community contributions towards appropriate policies by the Government. The successful experience of collaboration and long-term partnership by the mainstream institutions with communities would be deliberated and knowledge exchanged for wider adoption. Needless to say, these knowledge events would provide a stage to facilitate cross learning through best practices in the process of community-led development.



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Longitude 80601311
Elevation 11294±3 m
Accuracy 39 m
Time 05-03-2023 17:00
Note DSR field
farmer name K Rishan
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People Conventions

People conventions would be the signature events of the symposium as the focus is on “New Social Order” in the development process. The conventions would provide great opportunities to the communities and leaders to share their success stories focusing on the participatory and inclusive process in steering the development programmes through their institutions, unique methods, including self-regulation



practices, and also future pathways whereby communities can take charge of the development programmes from the designing stage itself. The conventions would be inspiring communities at large, the stakeholders in the supply stream of mainstream institutions, and enabling stream of civil societies/NGOs and other development foundations in the focus areas of the themes mentioned above. The conventions aim to elicit the experiences of these community stakeholders through dialogues, round-tables and focus group discussions which ultimately result in

greater learning that has to be taken out of those experiences for advancing community empowerment.

Proposed events:

Day 1

1. **Convention on** Moving Out of Poverty – New Social Order of Poverty Eradication – DHAN's Way
2. **Workshop on** SHG–Bank Linkage for Poverty Eradication – Advancing NSO
3. **Workshop on** Enhancing Natural Resources through Ecosystem based watersheds – Advancing NSO

Day 2

1. **Convention on** Self-Regulation Practices among Vayalagam Institutions – Potential for advancing New Social Order
2. **Workshop on** Advancing New Social Order by Partnering with CSR Foundations – Telangana Experience
3. **Workshop on** Roles and Functions of Jeevidhams (Farmers' Producers organization) in advancing Sustainable Livelihoods and New Social Order

Nominations for Events

The Facilitation Committee of the Development Symposium, 2024 invites NGOs, academic and research institutions, Government Organizations, industries, banks, donor organizations, entrepreneurs, producer companies, and cooperatives to host conventions, seminars, workshops and conferences on topics relevant to the theme of the Symposium. The Committee would facilitate logistics and other needed support for the events organized by the host organizations.



“It is only when our life proceeds within bounds and in an accepted, disciplined way, that the mind can be free.”

- Vinoba Bhave



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