

Academy of Root Development (Aust) Inc Annual Report 2009-10

Academy of Root Development (Australia) Incorporated has been established in Australia to source donations and on-going funding to support the work of Academy of Root Development (ARD) in India.

Academy of Root Development is a Non-Government Voluntary Organisation and Charitable Trust that has been actively engaged in social service to poor and marginal communities in Gaya District, Bihar, India, since 2002.

In India:

ARD is working in the field of women's empowerment through the establishment of Self Help Groups, micro-credit management, capacity-building and by creating awareness through which sustainable development can be possible.

Self Help Groups:

The project currently involves over 250 Self Help Groups (SHG) in which more than 4000 women are participating.

74 groups are getting direct benefit from the Indian Government's SGSY rural development programme. This programme provides subsidised loans to the women in the SHGs and provides the opportunity to be part of a Public Distribution System (PDS) that provides subsidised food grain and other benefits. The women are managing this programme giving them ownership of their own development.

Most groups are involved in Income Generating Activities (IGA). 47 groups are involved in a dairy breeding and milk production project and 6 groups are doing vegetable cultivation. Others are involved in sewing, vermiculture and other individual business initiatives.

Training:

ARD is delivering capacity-building training for SHG's to develop exposure to further opportunities / ideas and programmes to support their broad-spectrum development. Staff development training was undertaken early in the financial year and an on-going programme is to be implemented in the coming year.

Rights Awareness:

We are working to increase the women's awareness of their rights. We have a partnership with PRIA, an organisation that teaches women of governance matters and helps them learn to speak to the press and government officials. The women are voting each other onto the local councils. One is president of her local council and another has the role of village magistrate.

Environmental Initiatives:

We have also been teaching the women about environmental issues and have helped fund 25 large compost tanks using vermiculture (worms) and have held 2 large World Environment Day gatherings where the women were taught planting techniques and given a food or medicinal tree to plant.

In Australia:**Support for ARD programmes in India:**

AU\$800 per month to support Self Help Group development
Purchase of a motorcycle to allow field staff extra mobility
Professional Development for staff
Exposure visit to Delhi for Project Convenor

ARD(Aust)Inc Membership:

40 members as of 30th June 2010.

Full Membership: \$10 per annum.

Associate Membership: regular contributors of \$240 or more per annum.

Fundraising Activities:

Women Supporting Women Benefit Dinner at Goanna

Lismore Carboot Markets: July, Aug, Feb, Mar, Apr, May, Jun

Mariam Makinson and Bob Keane have been operating a stall at the Lismore Carboot Market selling quality second-hand clothes. They are donating all of their takings to ARD(Aust)Inc to further support the Women's Empowerment programme in Bihar.

Car Hire

Funds Distribution:

In the 2009-10 financial year ARD(Aust)Inc has directed \$13,507 toward Academy of Root Development programmes in India. Staff salaries, office expenses and administration cost to deliver Self Help Group support and capacity-building training has been the major focus of these funds.

The Road Ahead:

In the coming year, it is proposed to employ a suitably qualified and experienced female Project Manager to oversee all aspects of programme design and implementation and will bring a sophisticated level of monitoring and evaluation. Perhaps more importantly, this person will be a wonderful role-model for the women in the programme.



Self Help Group meeting
2009-2010 Revenue and Expense Report

Revenue:

| | |
|---------------|------------------|
| Donated Funds | \$ 8,415.00 |
| Grants | \$ 0 |
| Other Income | \$12,126.12 |
| Buy1 Give1 | <u>\$ 293.18</u> |

Total **\$20,834.30**

Expenses:

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Administration Expenses | \$ 1059.58 |
| Community Education | \$ 0 |
| Fundraising Expenses | \$ 727.10 |
| Overseas Projects | \$13,507.00 |
| Other Expenses | <u>\$ 3,715.02</u> |

Total **\$19,008.70**

Total Members Equity: **\$1825.60**