

## **Academy of Root Development (Aust) Inc Annual Report 2010-11**

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.

### **Rights Awareness:**

A Women's Empowerment programme was held to honour International Women's Day with a gathering and rally through the streets. Around 1253 women participated. The outcomes of the day were as follows:

1. Instilling a sense of oneness and confidence among all the women of the SHGs.
2. Information dissemination about various issues relating to schemes and programs in the Block level by district government officials.
3. Provided a common platform where ARD and its work with these rural women could be appreciated and acknowledged and which will foster better liasoning and leveraging with different government officials.
4. Provided a platform for the rural women to share their life experiences and thus encourage other women to join the process.



## Environmental Initiatives

### World Environment Day:

The main target group of ARD was the women from the Self Help Groups who will serve as a resource base for promoting environment friendly practices. There were about 700 SHG participants and in addition 100 farmers attended the workshop.

Output of the Training

1. A road map was designed in which the Panchayati Raj (local government) members together decide what schemes are to be designed for environmental purposes with money allocated by the government.
2. A strong networking and liasoning was created among the government officials and ARD in which the government officials committed to assisting ARD in implementing environment-related work in Guraru Block.
3. SHG members were made aware of different environment issues in their area.
4. Government officers committed to extend their assistance for the plantation work planned by ARD to be held in July.
5. SHG members shared the successful case studies of ARD in relation to environment issues which resulted in people knowing more of ARD's work.



### Training in Vermi-Compost:

The main objective of the training was to increase the skills of the SHG women to utilise vermi-composting techniques in their kitchen gardens to increase production and income.

#### Outcomes:

30 women member of SHG were trained.

Production of vegetables will increase and fertility of land will be improved.

Land and water pollution will be decreased.

The women of the SHG s can set up co-operatives to market their production.

Income of individual members of the womens' groups will increase

### Staff Capacity Building Training on the promotion and functioning of SHGs

A training programme was held to enable ARD staff members at all levels to develop an accurate conceptual understanding of Self Help Groups and provide indepth knowledge about the proper functioning of the SHGs.

## **In Australia:**

### **ARD(Aust)Inc Membership:**

69 members as of 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011.

Full Membership: \$10 per annum.

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

### **Fundraising Activities:**

Monthly Lismore Carboot Markets Car Hire

Car Hire

Mariam, Bob and Pam have been operating a quality second-hand clothes stall at the Lismore Carboot Market and donating the takings to ARD(Aust)Inc.

Red Book Talk by Marie Makinson plus raffle at Lismore Regional Library raised \$1160

The Hottentots "Singing It Up for Indian Women" dinner and music night at Goanna Bakery and Café raised \$1076

### **Funds Distribution:**

In the 2010-11 financial year ARD(Aust)Inc has donated \$24,940 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.

### **ARD(Aust)Inc support for ARD programmes in India during 2010-11:**

Currently AU\$2,300 per month to support Self Help Group development

\$5600 to support social and environmental awareness and training initiatives

\$2000 to support ARD office infrastructure

### **The Road Ahead:**

ARD(Aust)Inc is determined to increase the number of donor members in Australia and to raise the profile of the work with the women in India more broadly across the NSW north coast region.



Self Help Group meeting

## **2010-2011 Revenue and Expense Report**

### **Income**

Donations & Fundraising 39,631.66  
Ipex 531.54  
Membership Fees 60.00  
Interest received 385.19  
Total income 40,608.39

### **Expenses**

Administration Expenses 174.56  
Assets Less Than \$1000 192.00  
Fees & charges 196.27  
Licenses & Registrations 129.71  
Motor Vehicle Expenses 1,557.08  
Overseas projects 24,940.00  
Postage, Printing & Stationery 715.32  
Repairs & maintenance 1,326.00  
Total expenses 29,230.94

**Profit from ordinary activities before income tax 11,377.45**

Income tax revenue relating to ordinary activities

**Net profit attributable to the association 11,377.45**

**Total changes in equity of the association 11,377.45**

Opening retained profits 8,073.95

Net profit attributable to the association 11,377.45

**Closing retained profits 19,451.40**