

Academy of Root Development (Aust) Inc Annual Report 2011-12

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 Australia:

ARD(Aust)Inc Membership:

76 members as of 30th June 2012.

Full Membership: \$10 per annum.

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

Fundraising Activities:

Monthly second-hand clothes, books and bric-a-brac stall at Lismore Carboot Markets

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.

The Hottentots at Tyagarah Concert – (Thank you Dorset and Gina): \$2050

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

Car hire \$291

Judith Long gave a talk about Ayurveda at Lismore Library: \$250

David's 50th birthday celebration: \$520

Goanna Bakery and Café collections

Contributions through other organisations:

Buy1Give1 - \$2,387

Transactional giving, where businesses pledge a percentage of their sales to charitable organisations

Funds Distribution:

In the 2011-12 financial year ARD(Aust)Inc has donated \$32,400 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 2011-12:

Currently AU\$2,700 per month to support Self Help Group development

\$600 to support social initiatives

\$1200 to support ARD office infrastructure

Donors/Donations:

ARD(Aust)Inc is grateful for the regular donors who support the organisation on a monthly or annual basis. These donations form the backbone of our income and enable ARD in India to plan ahead and give security to the programme and the staff.

We are also grateful for the donations of second-hand goods that allow the two Lismore Carboot Market stalls to function effectively.

2011-2012 Revenue and Expense Report

ARD(Aust)Inc is grateful for the accounting services of Bob Irvin and Associates for preparing the 2011-12 Financial Statement.

Income

Donations & Fundraising	42,330
Membership Fees	50
Interest received	673
Total income	43,053

Expenses

Administration Expenses (includes cost of financial transactions from 3 rd parties)	551
Advertising, postage and stationary	525
Bank charges	20
Motor vehicle expenses	690
Registration and licences	85
Overseas projects	32,400
Total expenses	34,271

Net profit attributable to the association 8,782

Closing retained profits \$26,881

In India:

The Indian Government in conjunction with the World Bank is launching an India-wide Self Help Group and Rural Livelihood Programme that aims to reach 80% of the rural poor. This is a large programme, designed to take-over all established Self Help Groups and introduce comprehensive training and regional marketing strategies to upskill the participants and consolidate the resources of the groups.

This has significant implications for ARD's Women's Empowerment project, which will no longer receive Government support for the Self Help Group programme. We are concerned that the transition to the new programme will not disadvantage the women in the present groups and are working to this end.

ARD therefore needs to find a new way of operating in the area and is looking at a Government supported Joint Liability Group (JLG) programme that works in a similar way to Self Help Groups, though unfortunately without such a rights-awareness focus. The capacity is there to work with men as well as women, though at this time we see ARD(Aust)Inc role as primarily supporting Women's Empowerment, which will flow on to the village as a whole.

ARD in India is also looking at an innovative programme for Improving the Learning Capacity of Diverse Students in Rural Govt. Primary Schools in Gaya District. The overall objective of the project is to increase learning capacity and retention of children from socially diverse communities in government rural primary schools by facilitating inclusive teaching-learning practices and processes, improving instructional quality and enhancing school effectiveness.

Monthly Success Story:

Self Help Group Member's name: Gayamuni Devi



Family Background:

Gayamuni Devi is a simple woman. At fourteen years of age she married Brikshkishor Mistry and went to live with his family. She is now 45 years old. Her husband is a day labour. She has three daughters. Two of them study in Govt. school, in classes nine and seven and the eldest daughter married last year.

Past scenario of Gayamuni Devi:

They have no land, so agricultural labour and day labour are their main sources of income. Both of them work in other landlord's fields throughout the growing season. When anybody in the family suffers from illness, it is difficult to them for meet the cost of medicines. The very low income of the family also creates problems in educating the children.

Inspired by ARD's Animator:

Gayamuni Devi was inspired by Suman Devi, who is a member of a Self Help Group (SHG) and employed as an active animator with ARD. Gayamuni Devi asked Suman Devi to help her to join a SHG, after which she formed Durga SHG with help of Suman Devi.

Present scenario of Gayamuni Devi:

After the formation of the group, each member started to save Rs. 20 every month and opened a savings account in the bank. Gayamuni Devi received tailoring training from ARD. After getting the skills, she took a loan from the SHG to purchase a sewing machine. She returns the money every week from her earnings. After returning the first loan, she took Rs.7000 (AU\$130) again for the marriage of her daughter. Now she also has been returning this loan. Now the living condition of Gayamuni Devi and her family have improved significantly and she is happy to have joined a SHG.