



## Weltwaerts Interim Seminar



As part of the weltwaerts-programme, the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) in Germany demands to hold an interim seminar to review the work of the weltwaerts volunteers. Ms Rabea Foerstmann, our former Sangam volunteer, was deputed by DIZ Germany to oversee and guide the activities. Through workshops and group works the participants attached to Sangam and other organisations from Kolkata and Bangalore were given the chance to question, share and exchange their experience regarding living and working far from their own home and culture. The emphasis was placed in the exchange of the individual project work. The six young women stayed in Rainbow Guesthouse, they visited other NGOs, besides the base centre in Bamhani, to get a deeper insight about developmental work in central India. We are happy to report about a successful and motivating seminar.



## Counseling Cell

With a view to reach out to the community, the Counselling cell has been organizing awareness programmes on domestic violence.

On 12th June 2011 a seminar was organized at Buti Bori Police Station to highlight the rising number of cases of atrocities against women and children and the role that the Ecumenical Sangam is playing in providing guidance and care to the affected individuals. The President of 'Bhartiya Adim Jati Seva Kendra', Ms Usha Rajesh Malviya was the Chief Guest on this occasion. She highlighted the role of Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) in educating women and in effectively dealing with cases of atrocities. Ms Malviya complimented the Ecumenical Sangam for starting various empowerment programmes for the women and she added that these have made a positive impact on the lives of many of them coming from the villages.

### Ecumenical Sangam

Is a community health and development organization based in Nagpur, which is located right in the heart of India in the state of Maharashtra. The aim of Sangam is to empower the poorer sections of society through promotion of health, education, skill-building and awareness-raising activities.

Publisher Ecumenical Sangam Editorial Team, photos C.H. Khisty, Y. Reis, ESN



### Donations

Please assist us in realizing our goals through your donations. Your contribution will be exempt under Section 80G of Income Tax Act 1961.

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## Dear Friends,

We are happy to announce the inauguration of our new sub-center building, at Sawangi, near Shedeswar, on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2011.

The kindergarten classes started functioning from the new sub center. The old sub center at Shedeswar, which was operating from a rented premises stands closed.

The present sub-center has spacious rooms for accommodating the KG classes, sewing classes, a multi-purpose community hall, and living accommodation for the residential staff. We hope our efforts to start construction work at Gondwana nagar sub-center would bear fruits soon.

The Technical school having courses for two wheeler training, and electrical house wiring, have started their new session.

We are happy to inform that two girls have enrolled for the electrical house wiring course which is gradually becoming popular amongst the village girls.

The other activities of skill building, awareness raising on health, organic farming and water shed management, micro-finance, are progressing satisfactorily.

C.H. Khisty (Hon. CEO)  
Ecumenical Sangam, Nagpur

## We welcome our new staff members



Ms **Minakshi Kadu** has joined us as a Social Worker/Counselor in the Counseling Cell at Buti Bori. Minakshi is a post graduate in social work from Nagpur. In a short span of time she has gained wide acceptability in the Counseling Cell.



Mr **Vikrant Ingle** is a post graduate in Social Work, having wide experience in different Social work organisations. He has also worked as a Field Officer in District Local Self Government and was involved with various social work projects.

## Education

The new session has commenced from the end of June 2011 with new admissions in KG I classes. Our application for starting primary class is still pending with the Authorities. The matter is being pursued.

Our volunteer Ms Sophie Zmijanek integrates new ideas concerning the methods of teaching into everyday life at school. She tries to actively enroll the children into the process of learning and helps them to connect the conveyed knowledge with real experience. In her latest project she teaches the names of fruits and vegetables by offering real fruits in the classroom. The children are encouraged to feel the texture and shape of the fruits and to smell, draw and finally eat them.



## Capacity building

In order to make the staff members aware of the health promotion schemes of the State Government and their roles and responsibilities towards community health in the villages, a one day workshop was held on 29th of June 2011 at Rainbow guest house.

Dr Jadhav, Retired District Health Officer, and Dr Patle Taluka, Health Officer, were invited to address and guide the participants. They explained the salient features of the Government sponsored schemes and the role the health workers are expected to play. The main objective of the scheme was to bring down the infant mortality and maternal deaths and to provide better health care facilities. The speakers expressed their happiness on the role Sangam is playing in promoting health awareness and village oriented schemes.



## Micro Finance

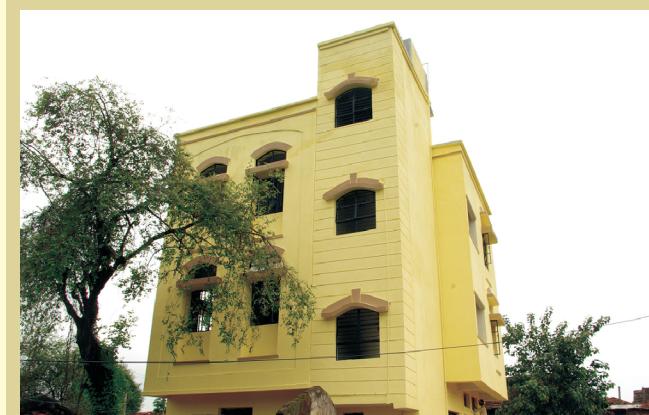
The micro finance activity has been progressing well. The beneficiaries include slum dwellers from Sevanagar slum, sewing class and technical school ex-students, farmers and persons doing small family business. The Micro finance staff have been providing guidance and support to the beneficiaries.

## Slum welfare



Slum welfare activities in Saraswati nagar and Seva nagar are progressing well. Besides, awareness raising, and vocational training, the Fair trade work is becoming more popular. The ladies are taking keen interest in stitching cushion covers with attractive designs, which is fetching them good returns. Health awareness programmes are being given special attention. The LEAP team has been holding awareness programmes on leprosy in the slums. We will also be associating with a cancer organisation - the Global Cancer Concern India, for spreading awareness about cancer. A joint proposal is being worked out with Mr Dehpande, General Manager for taking up the awareness programme.

### OUR NEW SUB-CENTRE IN SAVANGI



# Sangam News



## LEAP activity

### Exhibition on wheels

As part of the ongoing programme to raise awareness of Leprosy among rural and urban people in the working area of the Ecumenical Sangam under the LEAP project during 2010-2011, a programme entitled 'Exhibition on Wheels' was planned and a vehicle equipped with all the available information on Leprosy set off to tour 30 locations between 8th and 11th July 2011.

Besides distributing literature a team of workers from the Ecumenical Sangam's associate local Non-Government Organisations accompanied this vehicle to engage and inform the people that they met at each location. The minibus was flagged off on the 8th July from the Rainbow Centre by Hon. Shri Devendra Fadnavis, Member of the State Assembly for West Nagpur.

## Health

Our health project with the assistance of the nurses Ms Archana, Ms Harsha and our volunteer Ms Sarah Kemkes is in progress. The TBAs (Trained Birth Attendants) finished their work in Bamhani and the sub-centres at the end of July. After that they are going to work in several hospitals in Nagpur and Butibori. The new VHSW (Village Health Social Workers)

attended their one month theoretical lessons in May. Now the schedule continues with a three month practical lessons in Bamhani and the sub-centres. From Monday to Saturday the team visits the villages for health care and educational work on hygiene, family planning and nutrition. At the end of July the entire health team will participate in an advanced training on the topic "Mother- and Child Healthcare".



## Organic farming

Mr Frederik Haefker, our volunteer and Mr Pankaj Bhagat, Farm Coordinator, have been taking keen interest in promoting organic farming and watershed development. They have identified a piece of land near Narayanpur village, comprising of about 760 hectares belonging to Harankhuri village, which appears ideal for developing into a watershed project. Recently, more intensive work on the proposal is being carried out by the Sangam team. The promotion of "ambadi" plantation with organic farming methods is gaining in popularity as farmers are coming forward for the plantation. Mr. Ramesh Balkrishnaji Chute, a farmer in Naand village, reported his first most successful harvest. The village visits by our team members for promoting organic farming are continuing. The response from the farmers willing to opt for the environment friendly method has been very encouraging.