

சங்கம்

Sangam

A Society
for Community Health
and Development



CONTACT

ECUMENICAL SANGAM, NAGPUR

316/A Civil Lines
Rabindranath Tagore Marg

Tel/FAX: +91 – (0)712 – 2529762
rainbow@sangamonline.org
www.sangamonline.org

Mobile: 9765497202
(Mr. Shrikant Bhalerao, Manager Administration)

FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Ecumenical Sangam, Nagpur
State Bank of India, S V Patel Marg, Kingsway
Nagpur - 440001, India (Branch Code 432)

For local (Indian) Contributions kindly use:
Local Account No.: 11172272228

For Contributions from abroad kindly use:
Foreign Currency Account No.: 11172272217
SWIFT Code: SB IN IN BB 239

© Nagpur 2008



1. HISTORY AND PROFILE	4
2. WORKING AREAS.....	6
3. ORGANISATIONAL CHART	7
4. OUR ACTIVITIES	8
4.1 VILLAGE OUTREACH PROGRAMME	8
❖ HEALTH SERVICES.....	8
❖ SKILL-BUILDING PROGRAMMES	12
❖ THE KINDERGARTEN	17
❖ THE WATERSHED PROJECT.....	17
❖ THE SERICULTURE PROJECT.....	19
❖ THE COUNSELLING CELL.....	23
❖ THE SUB-CENTRES	25
4.2 SLUM DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME.....	26
4.3 MICROFINANCE	28
5. RAINBOW GUESTHOUSE	30
6. GET INVOLVED	31
6.1 VOLUNTEERING	31
6.2 DONATIONS	33
7. OUR PARTNERS.....	34



1. HISTORY AND PROFILE

Ecumenical Sangam, Nagpur, is a charitable society founded in 1993 by a group of like-minded people, whose common aim was to establish an organisation that would concentrate on community health and development in the rural villages and urban slums around Nagpur. Sangam is registered under the Bombay Public Trust Act as well as under the Societies Act and is independent of any other organisation or denomination.

Ecumenical Sangam follows the principle of working with people irrespective of their cast, religion, creed, colour, race and sex. Our work aims at realising the following objectives:

- To develop the villages and slums in & around Nagpur
- To promote Community Health
- To provide basic education
- To build the capacity of rural people

From one Base Centre and three Sub-centres Sangam is currently reaching out to about 45 villages south of Nagpur. The Base Centre near Bamhani village, located 35 km south of Nagpur, and runs various long-term skill-building programmes for the village youth, as well as a Kindergarten and a Rural Health Centre.



Bamhani Base Centre



Additionally, the Counselling Cell for Women in Distress in the nearby Butibori Police Station provides support to women facing domestic violence.

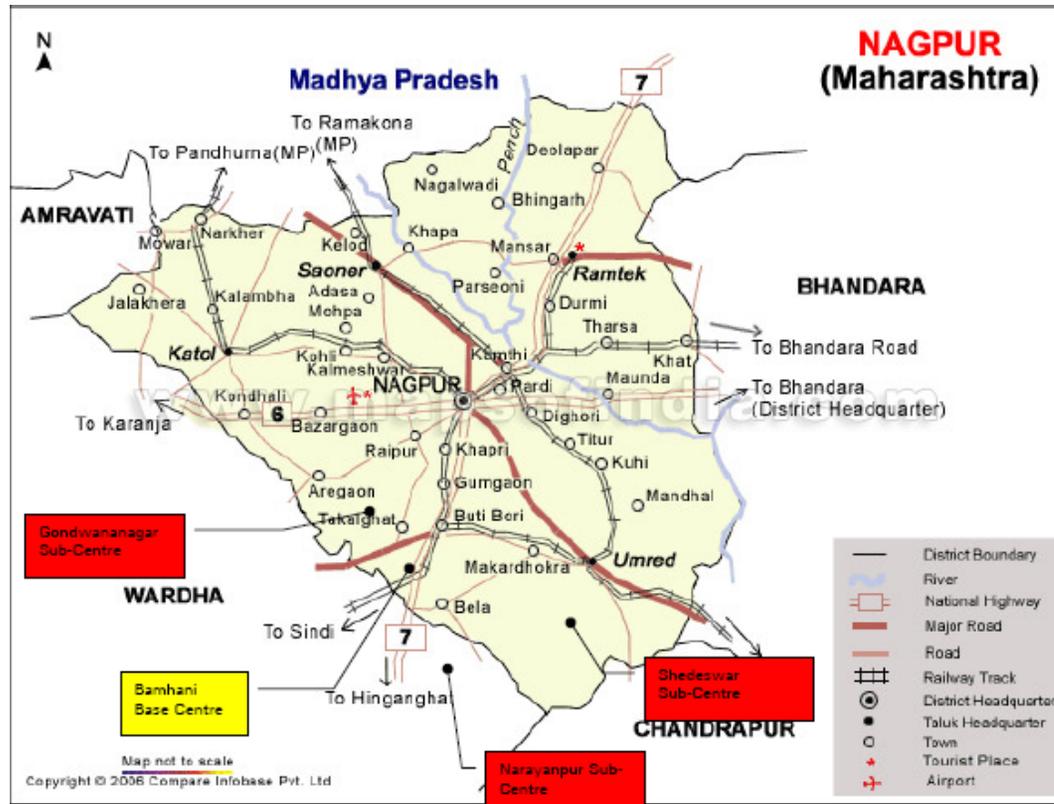
In order to reach out to remoter areas Sangam is running one Sub-centre each at Gondwananagar, Shedeswar and Narayanpur. All the Sub-centres house a Kindergarten as well as a Sewing Class and provide basic Health Education Services. Furthermore Sangam is working in a growing number of slums in Nagpur, with the objective of upgrading the basic health situation and empowerment through skill-building programmes.

Sangam's main thrust lies in awareness building of the village and slum population in matters of health, nutrition, hygiene, education, family planning, water conservation and socio-economic issues. With this perspective Sangam runs various intertwining projects, which we would like to introduce to you on the following pages.

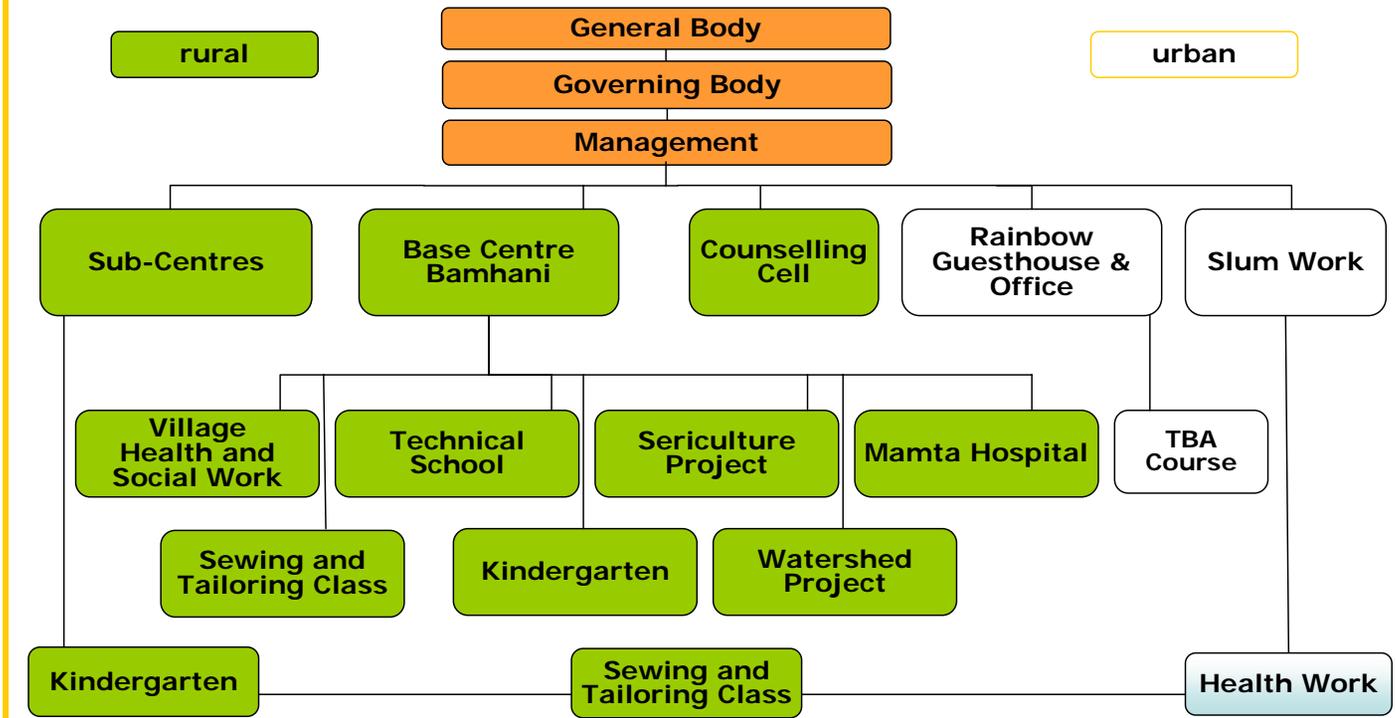


Staff meeting in Bamhani Base Centre

2. WORKING AREAS OF ECUMENICAL SANGAM



3. THE ORGANISATIONAL CHART OF ECUMENICAL SANGAM





4. OUR ACTIVITIES

India's rural and slum population, to a large extent, is still neglected with absence of even the basic facilities of health, hygiene, nutrition and education. The absence of job opportunities for the youth, illiteracy and health-related problems are alarming. In the light of the most urgent needs of the villagers and slum dwellers, Ecumenical Sangam is running the following developmental programmes.

4.1 VILLAGE OUTREACH PROGRAMME

❖ HEALTH SERVICES

Rural Health Centre

Sangam's Base Centre in Bamhani village, 35 km south of Nagpur, includes a rural Health Centre called Mamta Hospital. It represents the hub for Sangam's health work.



Mamta Hospital

Here, we have regular visits from doctors of various disciplines and our two ANMs (Auxiliary Nurse and Midwife) are stationed there. The rural clinic provides eight beds for patients, a delivery room and an operation theatre. Mamta Hospital also hosts



diagnostic camps carried out by volunteering doctors from Nagpur. These camps are additionally held in the villages themselves every 2-3 months and include General, Gynec, Paediatric and Eye Camps.

Village Health and Social Work (VHSW) Training

Every year Sangam offers a 6-months training course to women (who have passed the 10th grade) from the villages to become Village Health and Social Workers (VHSW). The course encompasses basic medical training as well as awareness-building programmes on social issues. The course enables the participants to

- give first aid
- recognise potentially dangerous diseases (like malaria) and emergencies, and conduct first treatment before referral
- diagnose and give treatment for the most common diseases (including injections)
- examine pregnant women and newborns
- offer counselling on HIV, family planning, nutrition, and other health-related matters.

Concerning social work, the VHSWs learn how to approach difficult subjects like poverty, dowry, alcoholism in the family and unemployment, by conversing with the villagers and helping them to develop strategies to deal with and improve their situations. The VHSWs do home visits whenever it is required, conduct repeated check-ups on pregnant women



and newborns and invite the villagers on a regular basis to information-events about special topics.

Whenever necessary, the VHSWs recommend and also sell medication to their patient, which means on the one hand an additional income for the VHSWs and on the other hand saves the patient the sometimes long, tedious and expensive journey to the nearest pharmacy or hospital.



VHSW meeting

Every month, the ANMs from Mamta Hospital visit each VHSW in their respective village. The meeting allows them to discuss current problems, upgrade medical knowledge and fill up their medication stocks. Every two months, all VHSWs come together

for one day in the Base Centre in Bamhani to share their experiences, refresh their medical and social work skills through seminars, and take examinations.

The VHSWs are remunerated for their services in the village by selling medication. In our opinion the system of trained health workers in the rural areas has a lot of advantages in comparison to a centralised health service. First of all, it provides the basic service where it is needed, and saves patients time and money in the case of a minor disease that can be sufficiently treated on the spot. In the case of more dangerous illnesses a quick referral to Mamta Hospital or to a facility in Butibori or Nagpur can be organised. The money



spent on the treatment stays in the village and the opportunity to work as a VHSW offers one more person in the village a living without commuting. Another benefit for the VHSW is that after she has gained experience, she can apply for Sangam's advanced Trained Birth Attendant (TBA) Course in Nagpur.

The Trained Birth Attendant (TBA) Course

The Trained Birth Attendant Course is a 1-year follow-up training programme for rural girls who have successfully finished the VHSW course and who wish to pursue a career as a professional nurse. It is run in cooperation with the Indian College of Maternal and Child Health (ICMCH) and the National Association for Reproductive and Child Health of India (NARCHI), which conducts the Entrance Interviews for up to 12 girls per year. Ecumenical Sangam is funding 60 % of the total costs for each student. During the 1-year course, the trainees live in the Training premises of Rainbow Guesthouse.

Aiming at a comprehensive medical education, the Course includes daily practical training in the Clinics and Hospitals of Nagpur, intensive theory classes and English classes.



TBA Theory Class



Practical training in hospitals

Case study

“When I was a field worker at the age of 17 I worked very hard for only 25 Rs per day. Thanks to Sangam’s Training Courses I have become a nurse in Nagpur with a monthly salary of 3000 Rs.

Deepali Gavarale (20)



Deepali is from Bhondsula, a remote village around 60 km south of Nagpur. All of her family members are farm workers. Hence, after finishing 10th grade Deepali daily **worked in the fields** earning only **25 Rs per day**. As for that experience Deepali decided to strive for better education in order to escape the daily exploitation in the fields. In 2004, she decided to join the **VHSW course** in Bamhani Base Centre in 2004. Being one of the best students in her course, she was then selected to join **Sangam’s 1-year Trained Birth Attendant (TBA) course** in Nagpur.

In 2005, having graduated from the TBA course, she was immediately employed in Shonali Nursing Home, a hospital in central Nagpur. Here she is not only working as a nurse, but also as an assistant in the pharmacy department and office administration. With her **monthly income of 3000 Rs** she was able to open a saving account, which she which can be used as a security backup for herself and her family.

Looking ahead, Deepali is saving for a Computer Training Course as she aims at a **career in medical office administration**.



❖ SKILL-BUILDING PROGRAMMES

The Sewing and Tailoring Class

Since 1995 every year up to 50 young women from the surrounding villages are given the opportunity to undergo a 10 month training in sewing and tailoring.

The training takes place in our Base Centre in Bamhani as well as in the Sub-centres where there are sewing machines for each student, chalkboards for teaching and sketching out ideas, and bulletin boards for pinning up miniature model designs first made out of paper and then out of cloth.

The trainees learn how to stitch 30 different designs of clothing, such as blouses, pants and traditional Indian dresses.



Sewing Class in Bamhani Base Centre

The fees for Sewing Class are Rs. 1,500 (or US-\$ 33), which can be paid in instalments and include the tuition and examination fees as well as daily transport to the Sangam Base Centre.

At the end of the course participants appear for Government examinations to receive the Government Certificate CCTC (Certificate Course in Tailoring and Cutting). If a girl fails to pass the Government examination she can appear for Sangam's examination and will be awarded



with Sangam's own tailoring certificate. All sewing class students are given the opportunity to purchase a sewing machine either used (roughly Rs. 1,000 or US-\$ 22) or new (Rs. 2,400 or US-\$ 53) with the help of a 'rolling loan' provided by Sangam which they pay back once they start earning money.

Since 1995, 325 girls have completed the training, of which many have now set up small businesses in their village. According to our experience the training not only enables the participants to contribute remarkably to their families' incomes (Rs. 500-2,000 monthly or US-\$ 11-44), it also helps the young women develop self-esteem and confidence in their own abilities.

The Technical School

Started in 2004, the Technical School in Bamhani Base Centre provides technical education to young adult males, who should have passed 10th grade, but at the least should have mastered the 9th grade. However, Sangam also accepts school drop-outs, if they are willing to study well in the Technical School.

6-Months Electrical Courses on House Wiring/ Motor-Rewinding and Two-Wheeler-Repairing

In this course, up to 20 students per batch learn the basics of how electricity works or how two-wheelers can be set right, how to read a schematic wiring diagram, and the practical applications. The course runs for six months, and those students who have long access journeys may stay at Bamhani Base Centre during this time, paying a nominal boarding fee.



On successful completion of the particular course, the students receive a government recognized certificate which enables them quite easily to obtain jobs.



Practical Training

The purpose of the course is to give the students a thorough grounding in the basics of electricity, wiring and two-wheeler repairing and a sense of self-confidence. The students can then go on to apply for jobs at local companies, where they will receive further instruction on more specific wiring tasks.

In addition to the technical schooling the young men are also educated in health topics such as nutrition, sex, HIV and hygiene. This course has proved to be very popular with some students coming from rural villages more than 100 kilometers from Bamhani to attend classes.

Since 2004 Sangam has trained more than 140 boys. Most of them are now working in local factories and some have even opened their own technical business, selling technical hardware and offering reparation of various technical items.

1-year Two-Wheeler-Repairing Course

Since July 2007, Sangam runs a new government-recognised 2-Wheeler-Repairing course in the newly extended Workshop-facilities of the Technical School. The course aims at providing a sound education in Two-Wheeler-Repairing and includes



boarding in the Bamhani Base Centre for a nominal fee which can be paid in instalments. At the end of the course, the government certificate is of tremendous help for participants while seeking for employment.

Case study

"Both of my brothers are field workers, it is hard work with a very low salary of only 70 Rupees per day. So I decided to go for a better future with a technical education"



Pradip Sahare (21)

*Pradip is 21 years old, coming from Bela which is around 45 km away from Nagpur. All his family members are field workers, so he knows what life is like for a field worker. In 2006 Pradip joined the **6-months Electrical Wiring and Motor Re-winding Course of the Ecumenical Sangam**. Immediately after receiving the Government Certificate from Sangam's Electrical Course he was offered a job as a **permanent employee** in Narayana Food Process Ltd., a biscuit factory in Butibori. Working as an Electrical Operator, Pradip has a **monthly income of 5000 Rupees**. Additionally he enjoys stability, social security and privileges related to holidays and lunches. Pradip knows that it was only his education that enabled him to reach his position – that's why he keeps on motivating **young boys from his village** to go for Training Programmes such as those run at Sangam's Technical School.*



❖ THE KINDERGARTEN

The range of Sangam's activities includes two kindergarten classes in Bamhani for 70 children between the age of 3 and 5 from the surrounding villages and a Kindergarten class at Shedeshwar, Gondwananagar and Narayanpur Sub-centres.



Kindergarten in Bamhani Base Centre

The classes have a well-equipped playground with a swing, slide and seesaw, and the classroom is provided with charts and a big chalk-board. The monthly fee of Rs. 60 per child comprises re-

turn transportation from home to school as well as one daily good quality meal.

The Children are provided with a school uniform made by the Sewing Class students with a second available for purchase for Rs. 200. The kindergarten is open from 9 a. m. to 5 p. m. and usually the latest of all children arrive at 11 a. m.

The day starts with watering all the flowers in the gardens and flower beds surrounding the buildings of the Base Centre.

After breakfast, all attention and concentration is turned towards learning. The students learn the names of animals, vegetables, flowers, trees and body parts as well as numbers and the alphabet.

The children not only learn the Marathi words, but their English and Hindi counterparts as well. Each student has



his/her own slate and practices writing the words just learnt, often illustrating the word with some sketch or drawing.



Lunch for Kindergarten children

Around one o'clock, the children have lunch and then take a short nap. With the meals, a daily supplement of vitamins, iron and calcium is given.

Regular health statistics are maintained with each child by the teachers who weigh and measure the

children every month together with attendance and sickness records. The acceptance of the kindergarten in the villages is high and there is not only the demand for more kindergarten seats but also a request for elementary school facilities to be run by Sangam.

❖ **WATER MANAGEMENT AND ORGANIC FARMING**

Water is a key ingredient for life and development especially for the development of an economy which is still more agrarian in nature like in India. The increasing demand and development pressures have changed the characteristics of water in India. Groundwater reserves are becoming more and more depleted due to unsustainable use of bore wells. Throughout the villages there are many wells, often 100



metres deep, which are the main source of water. The construction of deep-bore wells started in the 1960s and unfortunately continues till today. This is being done without taking into consideration the long term consequences of depleting the aquifers (= natural water storage), which cannot be refilled simply during a monsoon season but which takes hundreds, if not thousands of years in the natural course of things. Now the time has come to abandon or at least reduce the dependability on the bore well-system in the villages.

In order to raise the ground water level of the surrounding and help to irrigate the farmer's fields, Sangam has constructed a model farm watershed in Bamhani Base Centre in 2005. The area chosen for the watershed project was the main drainage channel for the run-off water during the monsoon season. First, the run-off water flows into a tank where silt and sediment collect at the bottom; when the tank becomes full, silt-free water is channelled into a larger catchment area (dug-out farm pond) where the retained water has a chance to percolate into the ground, thereby raising the ground water level. When the farm-pond fills up, excess water is channelled off into the fields and serves as an irrigation system. At the end of the monsoon season, the collected silt and sediment in the first tank is dug out and distributed onto the fields.



Filled Water Ponds in Bamhani Base Centre



Thus our watershed project is serving as a model farm for similar projects in future. Saving water not only consists of making a successful watershed but also in informing and teaching the villagers, who are not easily persuaded, about the necessity of building watersheds.



*Irrigation system
arresting soil and water*

Organic Farming

Agriculture in India has been strongly influenced by the Green Revolution in the 1970's. Due to the increased use of hybrid seeds and cash crops, such as Cotton and Soybean more minerals have been extracted from the soil. Simultaneously, the Green Revolution increased the use of pesticides and artificial fertilizers. Since many farmers lack the knowledge on artificial fertilizers, wrong use can cause tremendous loss of soil fertility.

Rising prices of fertilizers and dependency on hybrid are furthermore threatening the financial stability of farmers. Hybrid seeds are less resistant towards weather changes than traditional seeds and can not be re-sown. In each season, farmers are therefore forced to take expensive credits in order to purchase new hybrid seeds, which might again be destroyed by unpredictable rains.

Therefore, Sangam's model farm has recently shifted to organic farming in order to promote sustainable and eco-friendly agriculture in the region while improving the



livelihoods of farmers. Instead of hybrid seeds Sangam's model farm uses traditional seeds and produces its own organic fertilizers (mixture of cow dung and urine, leaves, seeds, Gud, Jawar) in order to avoid artificial fertilizers. With the help of local agricultural experts we are thus aiming at educating regional farmers not only in Water Management but also in various techniques of organic farming.

❖ THE SERICULTURE PROJECT

In 2002 we started a silk production project that now serves as an example for small farmers looking for an alternative and more reliable way of making a living in this part of India, where the monsoon is becoming less and less predictable.



Silkworms on Mulberry leaves

India is the second largest silk producer in the world after China. As the market for silk in India is still growing every year there is a chance for many small farmers to diversify their income and move away from their present

reliance a cotton crop with falling world prices.

The principle of silk farming is quite easy:

In an airy and cross-ventilated room, the silkworm eggs are put on mulberry leaves that have been laid out on shelves.



After hatching from the egg, the larvae go through four moults as they grow. During each moult, the old skin is cast away and a larger one is produced. Once the silkworm starts to cover itself with a yellowish thread (four weeks after hatching) it takes only another four days for the silkworm to finish the process. Then the cocoon is ready for sale.



Cocoons ready for Sale

The Maharashtra State buys the cocoons, the price being dependant on the quality of the cocoons at rates between Rs. 90-125 per kilogramme, and extracts the actual silk thread in expensive machines. For example, in the Sangam's silk farm every month 24,000 silkworm cocoons can be bred in a room of about 18 square meters. Silkworms only feed on mulberry leaves and for 24,000 worms only half an acre of quality land is needed to grow enough mulberry leaves to feed them. The yield every month is about 40 kilogrammes of cocoons, which approximately earns Rs. 4,000 when sold to the government.

Our aim is to upgrade the present facilities in cooperation with the Sericulture Department and to build a training centre for silk farming offering demonstrations and training for farmers from this area.



❖ THE COUNSELLING CELL

The Counselling Cell for Women in Distress was established in 2006. Since then, three experienced female Social Workers are at the permanent service of women in need and work in close collaboration with the Butibori Police Station to enquire about reported cases of domestic violence.

Domestic violence can appear in various forms. Whether it is the husband or the parents-in-law; the ones who suffer are women and children. Most cases of domestic violence happen in connection with excessive consumption of alcohol by men.

Often a wife would complain against her husband for physical and mental torture if money is not brought by her for fulfilling his addiction. Other cases include post-marital demands of additional dowry or violence against girl-children.

In the process of counselling, first the victim and the perpetrator are invited and in following sessions every affected person and even friends are being heard. The aim is to find a solution for the problem in a consensual manner.



Sangam's Social Worker in the Counselling Cell



Case Study

Mrs. Sushma Dhande is 26 years old. Together with her husband she lives in a village around 30 km south of Nagpur. The couple is married since five years and has two young girl-children. After the first girl-child was born, Sushma's husband and parents-in-law started to accuse and offend the mother for bearing a girl instead of a boy. When the second girl was born it became even worse and they started beating her as well as the two girl-children.

In order to protect her from the ongoing violence, Sushma's parents filed a complaint at the Butibori Police Station in May 2008. The case was transferred to Sangam's Counselling Cell, which initiated a process of dialogue between the couple. Finally, after around two months a compromise was found set forth in a letter of agreement and Mrs. Dhande is finally feeling safe at her home. However, like all the cases, it is still followed up by the Counselling Cell Team to ensure the long-term success of the counselling.

**Name changed*

As a non-government facility the Counselling Cell provides help that is an alternative to divorce which means lots of trouble for women in the Indian society. The Counselling Cells also create awareness and atrocities do not remain unseen anymore, they are much rather brought to the public domain. Thanks to daily house visits in different villages, the Social workers are reaching out to a growing number of families. Since 2006, 150 cases were entertained, out of which 130 were compromised



❖ THE SUB-CENTRES

In order to reach the more interior villages off the highway where up to now hardly anybody else went out to do developmental work Sangam started Sub-centres in the region around Bamhani.

In 2005 the first Sub-centre was established in Shedeswar, 35 km to the south-east from the Base Centre, followed by a second Sub-centre in Gondwananagar which is adjacent to the MIDC Industrial Area and about 18 km to the north-west from the Bamhani Base Centre. In January 2008 Sangam established a third Sub-centre in Narayanpur, 18 km south of the Bamhani Base Centre. Each of the three Sub-centres provides a sewing school for girls, a kindergarten and a clinic room.

Up to now the buildings in which the Sangam employees work are kind of improvised since they are rented places, but we are currently in the process of building our own premises to improve the facilities.



Shedeswar Sub-centre



Narayanpur Sub-centre



4.2 SLUM DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The Indian Government took many initiatives to address rural poverty, but in the process the rising urban poverty has been somewhat neglected.

In Nagpur, approximately 40 % of the population lives in slums. There are 289 notified (legal) slums, where inhabitants pay taxes and 135 non-notified (illegal) slums.



Slum Saraswatinagar in Nagpur

The slum-dwellers are mostly rickshaw pullers, seasonal small vendors, house maid servants with their incomes ranging from a meagre Rs. 1500 to Rs. 3000 (25 to 50 Euros) per month.

After a hard and low-earning work day, most of the men spend their daily earnings on home made illicit liquor which is very harmful to the human body. Excessive alcohol consumption is the most common cause for death in the slum areas. In addition, due to poor hygiene, poor sewage system and irregular clearing of the garbage diseases like malaria, cholera and abdominal problems are widely spread.

To address some of these issues Sangam has initiated development work through three Slum-centres in Saraswati-



nagar, Jatarodi and Ambazari Tekdi. Through these Slum-centres Sangam reaches out to six slums in Nagpur.

Our activities include promotion of self-employment through Sewing and Tailoring Classes, general awareness-raising on health, hygiene and sanitation and promotion of small savings and micro-enterprises through Self Help Groups (SHGs).



*Self Help Group Meeting
in Saraswatinaagar*

The field staff, engaged for these works, comprise of nurses and social workers who maintain very close contacts with the residents and their families. Their main focus is to improve the living standard of people by seeking

their involvement and participation in the various activities of Ecumenical Sangam. The Sangam nurses regularly organise health camps with the aid of local hospitals and doctors. Through these Sangam was able to even identify HIV positive patients who were then referred to the Government Medical College for the expensive treatment.

Through the Self Help Groups, these women are being motivated to meet regularly in order to discuss local issues and concerns, including the importance of regular savings.

The ultimate aim is to make the women self reliant, so that they may be able to effectively deal with different issues and challenges without being dependent on NGOs or other bodies.



4.3 MICROFINANCE

In remote rural areas, as well as in the slums it is often difficult or even impossible to get credit at reasonable conditions. This often impedes economic development, since poor, but skilled, entrepreneurial and economically active people do not have any possibility to start a small business due to a lack of capital.

In this situation microfinance can help to foster economic development by providing small loans and other financial services at affordable interest rates and according to the special needs of poor rural people. Thereby the productive rural population will be enabled to work independently and use their skills for gaining higher family incomes.



*Inauguration of the
Microfinance-Programme*

Ecumenical Sangam's microfinance scheme started in July 2008. Since then Sangam is providing "refundable financial aid" to its former students of the technical and sewing classes. The financial aid is meant to be used for start-ups of small businesses such as tailoring shops and repairing businesses.

Every applicant who desires refundable financial aid has to attend obligatory trainings, in which he or she will be



introduced to basic business-related topics, like business-plan making, marketing, book-keeping or other subjects which are on Ecumenical Sangam's agenda like health, hygiene, social matters or watershed.

In this context, Ecumenical Sangam also wants to gradually spread its activities to the existing Self Help Groups in the area served by the Sangam and also provide trainings and financial aid to individual members of these groups. Hence, Ecumenical Sangam not only teaches the technical skills how to work productively, but also assists in financial matters – especially in the very first stages of a new business, which often is a struggling time. The initial funds have been made available through its German Partner Deutsch-Indische Zusammenarbeit (DIZ) who in turn applied for a grant from the Hessian State Ministry of Economic Affairs.



*Sunandha Durvhe is a 19-year old girl living in Bor-khedi, a small village around 35 km south of Nagpur. Due to a **snake bite**, half of her foot had to be amputated, which made it very difficult for her to find an employment in the rural area. Thanks to **Sangam's Sewing Class** she is now running a **successful Home Tailoring Business**. With the help of Sangam's Micro-finance Scheme she is now planning to **further expand her business**.*



5. RAINBOW GUESTHOUSE

It has always been our aim that Sangam's work should eventually become more self-supporting and more independent of foreign donations of any kind. A first important step into this direction was the establishment of the Rainbow Guesthouse and Conference Centre.

Deutsch-Indische Zusammenarbeit, a German charitable society, funded the construction of the Rainbow in Nagpur, which since early 2005 is up and running and already starts to contribute to Sangam's funds.

Rainbow is situated in a quiet neighbourhood in the centre of Nagpur, only about five minutes from the Railway Station and the main Commercial and Shopping Districts and only a 15-minute drive from the airport. Rainbow provides 10 air-conditioned guestrooms with modern amenities.



Rainbow Guesthouse

The Conference Hall on the first floor as well as the Banquet Hall on the ground floor can be rented out for different types of meetings such as lectures, seminars, workshops, conferences and engagements. In addition, Rainbow houses the Sangam Office and serves as a hostel-cum-training centre for the Trained Birth Attendants-to-be.



6. GET INVOLVED

Ecumenical Sangam, as a social and non-profit organisation, relies on the support and commitment of people contributing in different ways. We value all kind of participation in making our programmes a success.

YOU are therefore important to us and we would welcome your contribution in any form in the uplift of the downtrodden and poor people in and around Nagpur.

6.1 VOLUNTEERING

"From October until December 2007 I stayed with Sangam as an ASA/GLEN scholar and worked on the project `PR for rural development`. For me, the time in Nagpur was an enriching experience which I do not want to miss"

(Anna Weritz from Hamburg, Germany, after her return to Germany she became a founder member of the DIZ North which is a branch of the main DIZ located in Frankfurt)

Supporting us as a volunteer will offer you the possibility to work in a team together with international volunteers and to broaden your views and experiences.

We welcome all sorts of individuals. All you need is motivation to share your knowledge and workforce. Identify your most useful skills and choose in which area you would like to get involved.



- You have a background in Health and Health-related issues? Support Ecumenical Sangam in organising Health, Hygiene and Sanitation Awareness Camps in villages and slums around Nagpur
- If you come from the legal background, as a Law Student or related sectors, share your knowledge with those who are unaware of their basic rights! Help in organising Legal Awareness Camps to empower villagers and slum dwellers through Rule of Law. Making people aware about schemes like the Right to Information Act is of tremendous importance to fight corruption and promote development.
- Your background or future area of interest is Business Management? You can support the empowerment of Self Help Groups through Micro-Enterprises.
- Your interest is agriculture and environmental sustainability? Help us to spread and improve knowledge about Water and Soil Management among the farmers in reach of our rural Base Centre 35 km south of Nagpur.

The timeframe of voluntary work is flexible and depends on your personal availability and our requirements. We welcome all kind of commitments, whether you wish to volunteer once a week or once per month for a specific project.

If you are interested in supporting us as a volunteer please contact our Office. Foreign Volunteers: kindly contact our partners DIZ (Germany) or Partnership-in-Action (UK).



6.2 DONATIONS

All donations to Ecumenical Sangam will qualify for deductions under Section 80G of the Income Tax Act 1961 (50 % Income Tax Deduction).

Donating to Ecumenical Sangam is a valuable way of helping us to expand our work for the poor and downtrodden in and around Nagpur. We believe in the principle of enhancing self-reliance through various Training Programmes which aim at sound skill-building. Your financial support will help to ensure the long-term success of our programmes.

Your support can be in the form of contributing to the sponsoring of specific projects:

- ❖ Slum Development Activities
- ❖ The Health Training Programmes
- ❖ The Counselling Cell
- ❖ The skill building-programmes
- ❖ The Kindergartens

We equally welcome general contributions to support our various activities in rural or urban areas.

How to make a contribution

Your contribution may be sent by cheque in favour of Ecumenical Sangam on the address indicated on the first page of this booklet. For further information please contact our office.



7. OUR PARTNERS

The development work of Sangam has been supported and funded by many National and International organisations.

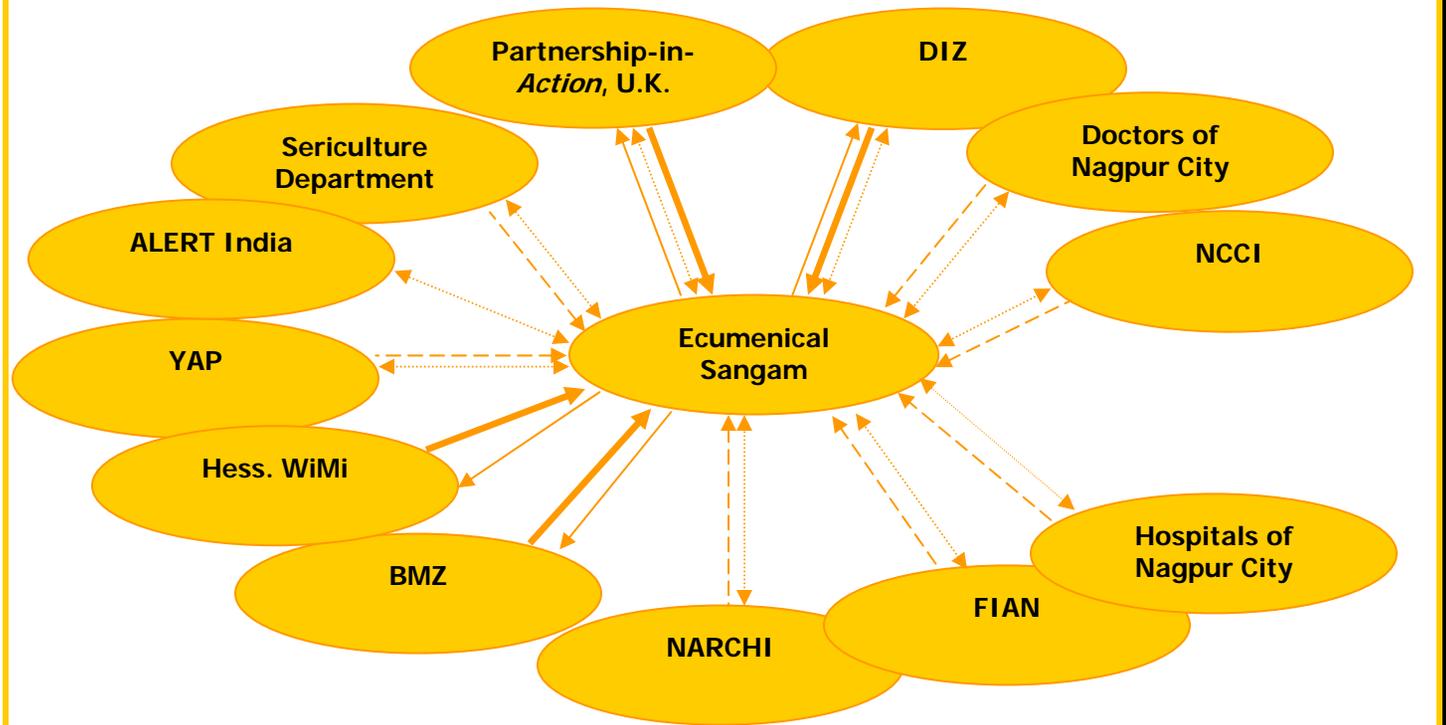
Some of leading partners of Sangam are **Deutsch-Indische Zusammenarbeit (DIZ)**, Frankfurt which been supporting us right from our inception days, soon after **Partnership-in-Action** from Eastbourne (UK) became our partner in development. In the recent past we have received financial aid from the **German Ministry for Economic Co-operation and Development (BMZ)**, **Hessian State Ministry for Economics (Germany)** **Women's World Day of Prayer (WDP)**, **Germany**, **Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES)**, **India**, **Heinrich Böll Foundation**, **India** and **Government of Maharashtra**. A significant proportion of Sangam's work is generated through the revenue of the "Rainbow Guesthouse" operated by Sangam in the heart of Nagpur City.

On various development issues Sangam has established partnerships with the following organisations:

- Orange City Hospital, Nagpur (OCHRI)
- Mahatme Eye Hospital & Eye Bank
- Shonali Rohatgi Nursing Home, Nagpur
- National Council of Churches in India (NCCI)
- Food Information and Action Network (FIAN)
- Youth Action for Peace, Germany (YAP)
- National Association of Reproductive and Child Health of India (NARCHI)
- Association for Leprosy Education, Rehabilitation and Treatment, India (ALERT)



OUR PARTNERS





Organisational Structure

- Phasing out of old and into new areas
- Decentralising decision making systems
- Improving communication channels concerning effectiveness and speed
- Implementing monitoring systems



Co-operation with

- other NGOs
- Government
- Local stakeholders



Finance

- Present donor sources (internal and external) to continue
- Find substantial numbers of Indian donors
- Become more self-sufficient concerning recurrent costs



Capacity building

- of our own staff in specialised fields
- within target groups
- Training of trainers
- of volunteers and interested people from abroad



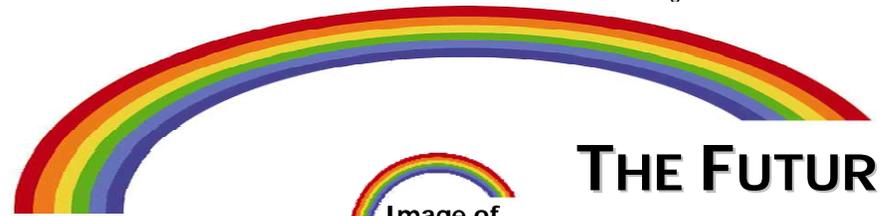
Projects shall be

- Gender sensitive
- Participatory
- Ecology-friendly
- Efficient
- Transparent
- Sustainable



Image of Ecumenical Sangam

- Establishing networks of like-minded and complementary organisations
- Committed to the most depressed sections of society
- Transparent working and Accounting
- Unbiased by gender, caste, political or religious preference
- Open for improvement



A VISION FOR

THE FUTURE