

RAJIV GANDHI FOUNDATION

Our Mission

The Rajiv Gandhi Foundation is inspired by the vision of a nation that is modern, an economy that is strong and a society that is just. It seeks to strengthen civil society's contribution to the realization of these objectives.

The Foundation is independent of party or political affiliation and offers a forum for dialogue between different views. It works towards influencing public policy, improving governance – local, national and international – and providing enlarged opportunities to the underprivileged and the deprived.

In promoting human development in its diverse aspects, the Foundation gives particular attention to supporting diversity and pluralism in human societies, the empowerment of women and the alleviation of poverty. Acknowledging our obligation to future generations, the Foundation also works for the regeneration of India's environment and the protection of our country's biodiversity.

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As on 31 March 2009

RGF MANAGEMENT

Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees met on 23rd March, 2009 to review the Foundation's work and provide appropriate guidance.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee met on 8th April 2008 and 21st October 2008 to consider individual proposals and various administrative and financial matters.

No member of the Board or Council receives any remuneration.

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Foreword

This year, the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation continued its efforts to provide humanitarian assistance, and to facilitate development with people's participation, through strengthening and expanding a number of its programs which focus intensively on selected areas of activity.

The Library Program has greatly extended its reach, and now supports 1570 libraries all over India, well-stocked with a wide variety of books, newspapers and journals for all age groups and literacy levels, from schoolchildren to senior citizens. It has been particularly heartening to see these libraries become vibrant hubs of community activity related to education and literacy, as well as venues for lively discussion and debate on issues of local and contemporary concern.

The Foundation's Natural Resources Management program, which assists projects for rainwater harvesting in Rajasthan has also been strengthened. It has enabled the construction of 56 new harvesting structures, which have dramatically improved food and livelihood security for 735 families, and proved an inspiring model for other water-starved communities in the region. Active community participation has been another successful result of this project -- these water-harvesting structures have been built and managed entirely by the villagers, with great enthusiasm and diligence.

Empowering the disabled continues to be an area of special focus for the Foundation. This year, 100 motorized vehicles were given to physically challenged people. Our past experience has shown us how effectively these motorized vehicles enable them to fulfill their dreams and ambitions for independence, mobility, and economic and professional progress.

The INTERACT project, which provides support to children orphaned and traumatized by terrorism in conflict zones in different parts of the country,

continues to expand. It now provides 793 children with financial assistance in education, and is being enlarged to include emotional and psychological support and counselling.

Livelihood options for women have opened up through the Foundation's emphasis on Self Help Groups among some of our poorest and most marginalized communities. These include the Baiga community in Chhattisgarh, the Musahars in Bihar and other disadvantaged groups in UP and Uttarakhand. It has been most encouraging to see how the women's self-confidence and economic empowerment have grown through their own transformative initiatives, in activities ranging from agriculture to handicrafts.

The Foundation's think tank, the Rajiv Gandhi Institute for Contemporary Studies, has continued to provide a platform for citizens to interact with politicians, policy makers and experts on a variety of contemporary issues, through lectures, debates and publications.

These few examples illustrate the diversity and depth of the Foundation's work. The Foundation has now initiated an exercise to review its key directional areas. This is an attempt to consolidate its earlier work and build on it, in order to move towards the future with renewed rigour and sharper focus.

I thank all the partners and associates warmly for having provided their support to the Foundation in different ways this past year. I would also like to express my gratitude to all our staff for their dedicated work



SONIA GANDHI
Chairperson

Overview

In its 18th year, the Foundation continued its strivings towards promotion of human development in its various dimensions. In doing so, its programs touched lives of people all around the country from Jammu & Kashmir in the North to Andaman & Nicobar Islands in the far South East, from Gujarat in the West to Manipur and Mizoram in the East. The following is a brief narrative of some of the more important initiatives undertaken in the year 2008-09.

Vidyagyan Scholarships

The Vidyagyan Scholarship program, inaugurated last year, aims to provide financial support to young girls from marginalized communities for continuing their education. The scholarship of Rs 500 per month up to class 10th is awarded to girls selected from classes VI and IX. The program also provides for remedial education with special emphasis on teaching of English and Mathematics. Computer and vocational training courses are also provided. These courses are sponsored in addition to the scholarship amount.

This year the process of selection of girls was changed to bring about greater objectivity. The selection of awardees last year was based on results from respective school examinations which may not all have been of the same standard. For selections for 2008-09, the Foundation conducted a special examination at 10 centres across the catchment areas of the districts of Varanasi, Rae Bareli and Barabanki. Of over 5000 Muslim and Dalit girls who appeared in this examination, 1508 were selected bringing the cumulative total of awardees to 2948.

PROGRAM OUTREACH		
Programs	Cumulative Outreach as on March 2009	
Scholarships	INTERACT I	1,697
	INTERACT II	92
	Tsunami affected children	222
	Riot-affected children	74
	Vidyagyan Scholarships	2,948
	Rajiv Gandhi Travelling Scholarships	235
Mobility Promotion	Life Line Express Camps	64,583
Initiatives	Motorized Vehicle Distribution	885
Libraries	(Village and Slum)	1,570
Natural Resource Management	Physical structures	320

We have been humbled by the enthusiasm with which the program has been received and the eagerness with which the awardees have responded to it. It will be a matter of abiding pride for the Foundation if its modest initiative is able to bring about transformative change in the lives of at least of some of these girls who may otherwise have suffered the fate of many of their sisters in similar situations around the country.

Natural Resource Management

RGF started the Natural Resource Management program in 2001 as a response to the challenge of conserving rainwater in Rajasthan. Under the program, RGF staff and volunteers have so far built 320 water harvesting structures in the backward villages of Jaipur, Pali and Karoli districts.

This year the Foundation paid special attention to the important task of ensuring sustained maintenance of these structures through community involvement. To empower the community to play this role on their own, a series of capacity building workshops were organised and exposure visits were conducted for members of Jal Sabhas, Panchayati Raj Institutions and Self Help Groups. In addition, 56 new water harvesting structures were completed during the year in the districts of Karoli and Pali providing benefit to 735 families. The various types of structures built were: pokhar, pagara, farm pond, anicut and earthen dam.

To enable the community to derive maximum benefit from the water so conserved, the Foundation also assisted in the development of innovative agricultural practices in these areas. It thus established demonstration farms, 25 horticultural units, 3 farm ponds and promoted use of sprinkler systems. The Foundation also organized a mass plantation program in Dhanla village in Pali district.

Mobility Promotion Initiatives

Our Motorized vehicle distribution program seeks to remove obstacles faced by orthopedically challenged individuals in their pursuit of education and employment. Under the program, 100 more such individuals received motorised vehicles this year. The Foundation also partnered with Bhagwan Mahaveer

Viklang Sahayata Samiti (BMVSS), Jaipur to organise mobility camps in Uttar Pradesh.

The year also saw the completion of our Accessible Delhi project under which 20 public sites (built/external/transportation) in Delhi were made disabled-friendly. It is hoped that the initiative will go some distance in sensitising the service providers about the access requirements of the disabled and about the need to pay due attention to them.

Summing Up

The above narration gives an account of just a few of the many programs implemented by the Foundation during the year. The others are discussed in the rest of the report. These include, the programs relating to formation of Self Help Groups of women in U.P. and Chhattisgarh; strengthening of formal education centres (Jeewanshallas) in Karoli; education and rehabilitation of street children; scholarships for children affected by Terrorism and Tsunami;

This year the scholarship program for young girls from marginalized and minority communities held examinations at a large scale to increase objectivity and transparency in selections



Girls moving towards the examination centre at Varanasi for the Vidyagyan Scholarship Program

Libraries

The Village and Slum library project is one of the earliest initiatives of the foundation. The libraries funded by it are currently spread across 22 states. Since 1993, the 1570 libraries opened so far have benefitted a large number of individuals in poor communities by providing them an opportunity to inculcate the habit of reading and thus providing them access to the world of knowledge.

This year the foundation supported 86 new RGF libraries; 50 in Bihar, 10 in Chhattisgarh and 26 in Uttar Pradesh.

publication of children's books in Urdu, Kannada, Punjabi, Gujarati, Marathi, English and Telugu and much more.

For all of us at the Foundation, it was another full and rewarding year in terms of work done, results achieved and experiences shared. The report has attempted to capture some of those moments of joy, excitement and fulfilment.

Gyanendra D. Badgaiyan
Secretary

Education and Literacy



RGF's program in education and literacy have focussed on adult literacy and elementary education. Various field-based programs have been conceptualised and implemented to sustain and reinforce literacy and post-literacy skills. Initiatives have also been undertaken to universalise elementary education, with a special focus on marginalised children such as adolescent girls, tribals and slum dwelling children. Presently, the projects are spread across 22 states of the country.

We have built alliances with groups and institutions, both government and the non-government hence the efforts to improve the quality and reach of our programs have achieved significant, positive results.

VILLAGE AND SLUM LIBRARY PROJECT

Village and slum libraries have been one of RGF's largest programs initiated over 15 years ago. Its prime focus has been to create a reading culture among people, improve the quality of education for children in marginalised communities and thereby expand the learning capacity of people. Our persistent efforts have been to provide access to rural readers in far flung areas and remote habitations to informative and educational reading material.

A typical library is preferably located in an easily accessible location within the village. It features a collection of around 400-500 books, educational material and sports items. The librarian is a local educated youth, who is supported by a Village Library Committee. Newspapers and periodicals are the regular feature of



Girls keenly reading books at a village library

the library and most popular among the elderly of the village. Typically, each library is supported for two or three years. It caters to the entire cross-section of the village- be it elderly people, adults, youth, women and children. Since 1993, RGF has established a cumulative total of 1,570 libraries.

Our experience over the years has validated the understanding that a 'library' merely does not mean a place for reading and lending books. The concept goes beyond and has to be evolved as an informational, recreational and social hub for the entire village or slum community. Libraries serve as an effective tool for community development and are an important part of holistic literacy, which contributes to redefining and shaping minds.

In view of the changing demands from people and our experience over the years, RGF has tried to evolve flexible new models and improve the quality of the libraries and the range of books.

New Libraries in 2008-2009

- 52 in Arwal, Bihar with Aid India;
- 10 in Bilaspur, Chhatisgarh with Samerth; and
- 24 libraries:
 - a. Five in Barabanki, Uttar Pradesh (UP) with Beti Foundation,
 - b. Eleven in Varanasi, UP with Sahbhagi Shikshan Kendra and Human Welfare Association
 - c. Eight in Raebarelli, UP with Sewa, Sabla and Lok Mitra

Of the total libraries started this year, 26 were supported by Good Gifts, a program of the Charities Advisory Trust, U.K.

Library Activities, Rajasthan Abu Road Libraries

Six libraries were established in 2006 in Abu Road in collaboration with Foundation for Education and Development each with about 400-700 books, and have been providing a variety of activities:

- Meeting places for women's

groups on issues such as maternal health, reproductive health, immunisation, etc.

- Museum activities: collecting rocks, leaves, feathers and seeds.
- Recreational activities: drawing, painting, sports and quiz competitions, dialogues, meetings, and story-writing and story-telling sessions.
- *Pathak Melas*: community mobilisation through book fairs to strengthen linkages and build relationship, featuring hundreds of colourful books with interesting and educational activities.
- Evolution of the libraries as centres for raising issues of social concern such as the question of irregularities in the below the poverty line (BPL) list or in the National Rural Employment Guarantee (NREG) scheme.
- *Vigyan Melas*: stalls showcasing science experiments, models of the human body, microscopes, magical games, etc.
- Sustained efforts towards continuing education, especially for adolescents and youth.

New Model Area Focussed Village Libraries, Jodhpur

The project is running in collaboration with Foundation for Education and Development and has been helpful in creating a learning environment in the village and generating an atmosphere where books, magazines and newspapers are valued. So far ten libraries have been established.

The centres are equipped with a wide range of books, charts, models, newspapers, journals, scientific equipments, games, sports material and furniture. Each library houses around 1,200 to 1,500 books. Several magazines such as *India Today*, *Bhaskar*, *Agla Kad-*



Six libraries were established in 2006 in Abu Road in collaboration with Foundation for Education and Development each with about 400-700 books

am, Rojgar Samachar, Chandama-ma, Nanhe Samrat, Chronicle, Champak, Vigyan Patrika, etc., are available. The library centres enable villagers, children and youth to read newspaper and books of their interest.

Regular activities including drawing and painting, debate, discussion, craft, origami, creative writing, story telling, *mehndi* designs, and *kabad se jugad* are organised at each library. The *Jhola* libraries also function from these libraries to enhance outreach of books to remote hamlets and motivate the community to read.

To accelerate the pace of spread of books among the community, and to promote books and make them available to the community, book exhibitions and *Pustak Yatras* are regularly organised.

Classroom libraries have been established in 10 village schools to provide a good atmosphere to enhance the creativity and imagination of students and to facilitate learning in an informal environment.

Books and other teaching-learning materials are being made available at these classroom libraries. The students are being encouraged to read story books, and acquaint themselves with poetry, drama and general knowledge through books.

'*Bal Sabhas*', organised every Saturday, are a creative platform for the students to showcase their talents. To develop a scientific aptitude among the rural community, a number of science workshops and fairs are regularly organised at the libraries. Hundreds of school students participate



A Pustak Yatra in progress in Phalodi, Jodhpur, Rajasthan



Interaction with children and the community outside a library'

in these events, and there has been a tremendous response from the community and school fraternity.

Community Library, Srinagar

The Community Library in Srinagar, being run in collaboration with Help Foundation, has gained great popularity over the four years of its existence. The library facilities are extensively used by children, youth, and the elderly. The place has developed as an information, recreational and cultural centre for the community.

The library has a collection of

5,900 books and a range of educational games and teaching learning material. Continuous efforts were made to take books to inaccessible areas by the library volunteers. The library has been very well received by the children and the community. Workshops with children on theatre, music, painting, art and craft are regular features of the library.

Many library activities were disrupted during the year, due to the tension prevailing in the valley on the Amarnath land agitation and elections.

State-wise Distribution of RGF Village Libraries and RGF Slum Libraries

State	Total number of Village Libraries	Slum Libraries
Andhra Pradesh	135	10
Assam	43	1
Bihar	65	
Chattisgarh	80	
Delhi	2	26
Gujarat	10	10
Himachal Pradesh	9	
Haryana	20	
Jammu & Kashmir	5	
Jharkhand	30	
Karnataka	31	
Kerala	10	
Madhya Pradesh	6	3
Maharashtra	10	
Manipur	25	
Orissa	116	
Punjab	20	
Rajasthan	243	10
Tamil Nadu	161	
Uttar Pradesh	110	10
Uttaranchal	121	
West Bengal	137	30
Total	1389	100

State wise distribution of Good Gift Libraries

State	Total
Andhra Pradesh	1
Bihar	2
Delhi	1
Gujarat	2
Karnataka	3
Rajasthan	34
Uttarakhand	1
Uttar Pradesh	31
Jharkhand	1
Maharashtra	1
Orissa	4
Total	81



Elderly women trying to locate India on a globe at a village library

Librarian/Volunteers Training

Training programs form an integral part of the Village and Slum Library Project. The effort, essentially, is to enthuse and motivate the librarians to make libraries the homes of interesting activities besides systemic library operations. The challenge has been to try to get books out of the book shelves, and motivate teachers, parents and children to broaden their creative and intellectual horizons.

During the year, training programs on library management and creative activities for children and youth were organised in Varanasi, Raebareli and Chhattisgarh. The training sessions were conducted by the Nalanda Resource Centre, Lucknow, Samantar Sansthan and individual resource persons from the National Book Trust.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Project EDGE, Hyderabad

The Foundation is supporting four education centres for adolescent girls in the six to 18 age group in Yakutpura slum In Hyderabad city in collaboration with a local agen-

cy, Mahita. The project is aimed at empowering marginalised minority girl children of the project area through a package of informal, need-based education, training in vocational skills and ensuring awareness generation by exposure visits.

Yakutpura is spread over a large area, marked by poor sanitation facilities, shortage of water supply and congested households. The area as low literacy rates, high drop out rates for girls and lack of government schools in the vicinity. It. Most slums dwellers live in sub-human conditions, with few opportunities for growth. .

Four education centres for adolescent girls are being supported in which around 400 girls learn numeracy and language skills. Four computers are available at one motivational centre which houses the RGF libraries as well. The girls enthusiastically learn computers and greatly enjoy and treasure the facility at their doorstep.

Vocational skills training in hand embroidery, machine embroidery,

beautician courses, *mehndi* designing, *zari zardozi* work, etc., is being regularly conducted at the centres. There are 25-30 girls enrolled in each course in each centre in various batches.

Acceptance of the project by community members has been possible with collaborative team work and rapport building with community stakeholders. Socially and financially empowering skills, along with support in finding employment or starting their own enterprises, have had a positive effect on the girls and the entire community.

Project Darakht-e-Ilm , Mumbai

Project *Darakht-e-Ilm* offers educational support to young girls and women from the Muslim dominated area in Jogeshwari, Mumbai, through its coaching centres. Jogeshwari, an urban slum in the western suburbs of Mumbai, suffers from acute water shortage, sanitation problems, a dense population and lack of basic civic infrastructure.

Ten teachers teach around 220 girls from kindergarten up to graduation. The classes are held at the five centres in different parts of Jogeshwari. Study material, stationery, etc., is made available to the most deserving students who cannot afford them.

Most students are first generation learners and come from economically weaker sections of society. Since parents were reluctant to send the girls to the centres in the evening, classes are held in teachers' homes or within the locality and thus the 'School at the Doorstep' concept is working successfully in the community.

CASE STUDY

SAAJI

Sixteen-year-old Saaji lives in Mudarla in Rajasthan. She had a childhood dream to be educated and become self reliant but had to discontinue her studies due to family constraints. She dropped out of school and confined herself to household chores: bringing firewood, grazing the cattle and taking care of siblings.

One day, she chanced upon the Mudarla Library at Abu Road and saw the books stocked there. Out of curiosity, she asked the librarian about the library and decided to visit the library daily. She also brought her friends with her to read books, draw, paint and study at the library. Now she is preparing to appear for her class 5 exam.

Saaji has become more confident and tries to involve more girls like her in library activities. Her family also supports her and thanks the library for becoming a torchbearer in Saaji's life.

CASE STUDY

AZMATH BEGUM

"Azmath believes education is the important tool for the development and she wants to be called an educated girl"

Azmath Begum belongs to a poor family, living with 5 brothers and 6 sisters. Her father earns a meager income of approx Rs. 50 per day, her brother works in a small restaurant, her mother, sisters and herself supplements the income of the family by making incense sticks, including Azmath.

Azmath came to know about the centre through her friend and decided to join the centre. She faced resistance from her parents especially mother. They feared the loss of income of one family member. Azmath protested them, and left home but was persuaded by her brother to return back home. Thereafter, she joined the motivational centre.

She enrolled for the Minimum Level Learning Course along with vocational training in tailoring at the Nasheeman Nagar Centre, a part of Project EDGE, Hyderabad. The instructors at the centre are astonished with her pace of learning and commitment. She spends more than 4 hours at the centre and enjoys being there.

Azmath strongly believes that education is the most important tool for overall development. She says 'I want to do graduation and develop my communication skill in English and earn good livelihood for my betterment and show my community people and parents that I have succeeded in my efforts'.

Two adult education centres are running smoothly where young women who have never been to school are motivated to learn basic functional literacy skills and gain self confidence.

The community centre established under the project has emerged as a cultural and social hub for the community. Several orientation and community awareness programs were conducted for women on sexual harassment at the workplace, the Domestic Violence Act, child sexual abuse, etc. The library housed in the community centre has transformed from a reading centre into an interactive platform for community members. The library provides an opportunity and space for the members to meet and discuss various social issues of common concern and also serves as a study centre. Children of the community also enjoy reading story books and interacting with their peers.

Courses on computer literacy, English speaking, sewing and embroidery are regularly conducted at the centres. Other skills development workshops such as flower making, making hand bags out of waste material, chocolate making, doll making, etc., are organised from time to time. The skills learnt at the centres help the girls to supplement their family income and become economically independent.

Project Vision, Varanasi

Project Vision addresses education, health and child rights issues in the slum areas of Naki Ghat, Sidwa Ghat and Hidayat Nagar areas of Varanasi District. The area is inhabited by impoverished weavers and their families. Extreme pov-

erty, unhygienic living conditions and absence of health care facilities are quite evident.

Two non-formal education centres and two pre-primary centres are running for the education of non-school going children. Around 75 children have been mainstreamed into formal schooling. Health activists regularly organise meetings with the community, especially women and adolescent groups, to discuss health issues of children and women. The community is also being motivated to demand activation of the community health centre. Immunisation of pregnant women and infants has been given top priority to reduce the infant and maternal mortality rates gradually.

A group of 20 children from the community participated in *Bal Natya Utsav* organised in Delhi. Training workshops were conducted for the children on child participation issues. Regular awareness generation activities have been organised for the community on various issues such as health, immunisation, education, infant mortality and birth registration, access to ration cards, etc.

The project has been successful in addressing basic education and healthcare issues.

Integrated Development Project, Rajasthan

The project was conceived to provide quality primary education to children of Jamwa Ramgarh District, and enhance the reading environment of the community. It is being implemented in collaboration with the Society for All Round Development (SARD).

Three nodal education centres were established to provide academic support to children who have been out of school or have dropped out. Twenty-two educational centres in 19 villages are running where quality education is being provided to children. Of these 22 centres, 19 are remedial and three are bridge schools where special focus is placed on participatory learning and a child-friendly environment.

The teachers at the remedial and bridge centres are mostly local educated youth, selected with the help of the local community. Monthly meetings with parents are regularly conducted focussing on various issues related to children's progress and performance. Focus is also placed on the levels of learning of each child and different types of behavioural problems arising in the children. Regular interaction with various stakeholders is conducted to ensure community participation, key to the success of any program. The intervention has been received positively by the community. The project has benefited around 600 children over a period of two-and-a-half years.

Project Chetna Kendra, Rajasthan

The project is being implemented in collaboration with the *Samantar* Centre for Cultural Action and Research. *Chetna Kendras* are being run in urban slum areas of Gangapur city, District Sawai Madhopur, Rajasthan, with the objective of creating a space for children and youth to interact and learn together, and improve the reading habits of children, youth, adults and the community on the whole.

Seven *Chetna Kendras* provide non-formal education to children who have dropped out of the school. The centres are enabling and vibrant forums for community development and social change. The world of books at the libraries attracts every member of the community. More than 500 children and adolescent are enrolled at the *Chetna Kendras*. Each *Kendra* is being managed by one librarian/educator. With the children at the core of the project, the community is part of decision-making and implementation process.

Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh

The program works in Biswan Block one of the most backward areas in UP with its lack of educational infrastructure and other basic services. The Block has a high concentration of vulnerable communities, especially Muslims, Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes. The geographical poverty of the area combined with educational backwardness compounds the problem further by restricting livelihood opportunities.

The program, being implemented in collaboration with *Beti* Foundation, aims to provide educational opportunities to adolescent girls/women and ensure their holistic development by empowering them to become participants and leaders in future sustainable processes.

Ten Education/Vocational Training Centres (EVTCs) have been set up to provide opportunities for girls to receive basic education, as well as knowledge on physical and psychological health, and general well being. A total of 570 girls have been enrolled in the centres.

Young girls in the 11-14 year age



group are provided non-formal education through bridge courses and girls in the 15-20 year age group are provided vocational skills besides educational support.

Intensive community meetings and interactions were held at the beginning of the project. A baseline survey on Participatory Learning for Action (PLA) methodology, using tools such as Transect Walk and social mapping, was conducted in 10 Gram Sabhas to gain a better understanding of villages and target groups.

A 15-member core group has been set up in all 10 villages which comprises *Panchayat* representatives, *Anganwadi* workers, social workers from local community-based organisations, minority members, teachers, youth, and other eminent members of the community. The purpose is to ensure community participation to run the centres effectively.

Jeewanshalas, Karoli District,

A class in progress at Jeewanshala in Karoli



Rajasthan

In the areas where RGF extends NRM programs, there has been a very high demand for educational services. In response to this demand, formal education centres named Jeewanshallas, were started last year in four project villages of Karoli District, Rajasthan. In December 2008, the number of centres was increased from 4 to 33. A total of 1,190 children are enrolled in Jeewanshallas, of which 566 are girls and 624 boys.

To carry forward project interventions, the RGF Rajasthan team working on education was taken to Rishi Valley Education Research Institute (RIVER) supported by the Krishnamurthy Foundation. RIVER has developed an innovative learning technique called multi grade and multi level (MGML) which RGF used in these 33 centres.

Thirty-three teachers and five staff members participated in a nine-day

training program from 6 to 14 November 2008, organised at the Rishi Valley campus. This training was aimed at developing an understanding of the MGML methodology and its concept. Training sessions focused on an introduction to the MGML kit, stimulation exercises, a visit to a MGML model school, development of teaching and learning material, and group activities.

RGF-Pratham Books for Children

RGF has collaborated with Pratham to develop and print good quality books for children between six and 14 years of age. During the year, nine new titles were printed taking the total number to 34 printed titles under the RGF-Pratham Series. The books printed during the year have been translated into Urdu, Kannada, Punjabi, Gujarati, Marathi, English and Telugu, depending on the demand and popularity of the title.

The books have been received very well by the children. Two RGF-Pratham –titles — *From Submarines to Skyraiders* and *City of Stories* — won awards in 2008 from the Federation of Indian Publishers.

Life Skills Education to Out-of-School Adolescents

Life skills education enables a child to deal with day-to-day challenges and prepares him/her for the future. Keeping this in mind, the project 'Empowering Out-of-School Adolescents through Life Skills Education' was undertaken by RGF in collaboration with the Modi Care Foundation to impart life skills education with a special focus on out-of-school adolescents. The objective was to train out-of-

school adolescents as master trainers and peer educators on life skills education and, in turn, increase the participation of outof-school adolescents.

Twenty partner NGOs were selected from the project areas and two workshops of two days each were organised in which 39 representatives from these NGOs were trained. In 2008, 2,735 adolescents were trained, who conducted 11 training programs for 326 master trainers and 80 training sessions of four to five days each for 2,409 peer educators in the project areas.

KASHMIR INITIATIVE FOR QUALITY EDUCATION

The Foundation has demonstrated its enduring commitment to the people of Jammu & Kashmir

through various projects in the last 15 years. Our work for the vulnerable groups in the state has paved the way for significantly increasing our involvement with new initiatives that promote Kashmiriyat with culturally sensitive programs for the children and youth of the state.

The Foundation has tried to play a significant role as a catalytic institution, by bringing together positive energies in the state to create dynamic programs for the future of its children.

Manual on Discovering Kashmir

A manual for teachers relevant for the entire valley titled, *Discovering Kashmir*, has been prepared. The manual has been written by Creative Learning for Change, headed by Mr. Feisal Alkazi, an education-

ist and a theatre personality. The teaching manual for middle school children of Kashmir has been designed as an educational reference material to help children learn about Kashmir through its arts, buildings, natural environment, crafts and culture.

Subsequent to field testing in March 2008, the draft was reviewed by experts and appropriate changes made.

The manual was printed during the year and a strategy was formulated for its formal release in Srinagar and the follow-on program in collaboration with the Department of Education, Kashmir. It is hoped that the manual will take forward the process of quality education, and enable all children to learn exciting aspects of their culture and

Students at a book exhibition during the children's film festival, Srinagar



heritage with a modern, contemporary perspective.

Children's Film Festival

The trauma, anger, pessimism and helplessness of the ordinary Kashmiri need no elaboration. The socio-cultural situation in the state, especially the valley which has been witnessing turmoil for the last two decades, is complex

To bring the best of the country to the children of Kashmir, a children's film festival was organised for the third consecutive year. The four-day event was conducted at the end of March 2009 at Tagore Hall, Srinagar, in collaboration with Help Foundation.

Around 6,000 children from various schools of almost all districts of the valley enjoyed the films during the festival. The few of the films screened were *Abhay*, *Anmol Tasveer*, *Choo Lenge Akash*, *Chirayu*, *Ek Aadesh*, *Heda Hoda*, *Jawab Aayega*, *Kala Parvat*, *Netraheen Sakshi*, etc. Transport facilities and refreshments were provided to the children.

Awards for Creative Writing

The Foundation instituted awards for the third consecutive year in 2008-09 for creative writing for children in Kashmiri and Urdu to reach out to a wide cross-section of people in the state. The focus is to encourage young talent and develop, publish and disseminate original creative, good quality books for children.

It is also an attempt to increase the educational resource base available to government school children and teachers and expose children to the world of literature.

The awards were announced

through advertisements in local English, Urdu and Kashmiri newspapers. A jury comprising eminent personalities reviewed the entries and selected the award winners.

A total of nine awards were announced and the award-winners were given attractive cash prize from Rs. 3,000 to 7,500 each.

An awards function was organised

on 30 March 2008 at Tagore Hall, Srinagar. The awards ceremony encouraged the young writers, and the concern and interest shown by RGF for the people of Kashmir was appreciated by the public in general and participants in particular.



A gathering of students at the Children's film festival in Srinagar



Scholarships



INTERACT (Initiative to Educate, Rehabilitate and Assist Child Victims of Terrorism)

INTERACT I

Violence exists in our society in various forms and changes its characteristics with each act. There are numerous socio-economic and political factors that result in these disasters such as communal riots, ethnic conflict and acts of terrorism.

Children are the most vulnerable and the worst affected by such inhumane acts. To help child victims of terrorism, the Foundation currently supports the education of 790 such children, of which 131 children have been newly selected in 2008-09. An allowance of up to Rs. 12, 000 per year is made to each child and covers expenses such as school-books, uniforms, fees, etc.

The children are identified with the help of local government organisations, NGOs and individuals; and 1,697 children have been supported by RGF so far under this program.



Children learning yoga at an INTERACT workshop in Andra Pradesh



Dance session at workshop in Warangal

New Children Identified 2008-09

States	2008-09	Cumulative
Andhra Pradesh	17	283
Chhattisgarh	7	30
Jammu & Kashmir	41	479
Manipur	46	328
Maharashtra	20	26
Assam		83
Nagaland		119
Punjab		225
Director General Case		63
Tripura		61
Total	131	1697

We pay close attention to the children's development not only in the academic sphere but by remaining in touch with them and their guardians through letters, phone calls, meetings and workshops.

INTERACT II

Children supported under INTERACT I earn scholarships for higher education on merit/need basis from RGF, as part of INTERACT II. The Foundation currently supports 46 young adults, of whom 18 young adults were selected in 2008-09. The support per child

ranges from Rs. 20,000 to 30,000 per annum.

New Children Identified 2008-09

States	2008-09	Cumulative
Assam	2	7
Andhra Pradesh	6	31
Jammu & Kashmir	3	22
Manipur	1	8
Punjab	6	16
Nagaland		2
Director General Case		6
Total	18	92

The table below shows advance courses that INTERACT II children are currently enrolled in:

Workshops for INTERACT Children

To help children express themselves creatively, we organise workshops centred around activities such as music, dance, painting and sports. This year a three-day residential workshop was organised in Warangal, Andhra Pradesh, for 45 children in the age group of 11-18 years.

The Police Department Warangal, which partners with us for INTERACT, and a local NGO called MASS, collaborated with us in organizing the workshop a success. We also invite doctors and counsellors to these workshops to answer questions raised by the children and give them advice on issues pertaining to health, nutrition and hygiene.

CHILDREN AFFECTED BY RIOTS

The Gujarat riots saw many children orphaned or lose loved ones. The Foundation took upon itself to educate children who suffered in these riots. Currently, it supports the education of 49 children. Since the inception of this program, we have helped 74 children receive education.

POST-TSUNAMI ASSISTANCE

Child Support Program

In December 2004, the tsunami struck the Indian coast and as a result of this disaster many children were orphaned. The Foundation made a conscious decision to extend its support to children who had lost one or both of their par-

States	Total	Course
Assam	4	MBBS (1), LLB (2), Graduation (1)
Andhra Pradesh	18	B.Tech (13), Nursing (2), Pharmacy (2) B.Sc. (1)
Jammu & Kashmir	6	MBBS (1), Engineering (1), Company Secretary (1), BA - Journalism (1), B.Sc. Airlines Tourism (1), B.Sc. Computer Science (1)
Manipur	6	Engineering (3), MBBS (1), B.Sc. Nursing (1), BA (1)
Punjab	9	Nursing (2), Computer Diploma (3), Teachers Training (2), B.B.A. (1), Mechanical Engineering Diploma (1)
Other States	3	B.Com. (1), B.Sc. (1), Pharmacy (1)
Total	46	

ents in the tsunami, so that their education did not suffer.

Currently, 99 children are being supported, of whom 59 come from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, two from Andhra Pradesh and 38 from Puducherry. In total, 222 children have benefitted from this scholarship since its inception.

Workshop for Tsunami-affected Children

This year's workshop for tsunami-affected children of Andaman and Nicobar Islands was organised in collaboration with Unnati, a local NGO based in Port Blair.

The workshop had sessions on creative and performing arts, physical and mental exercises and sports. The children also discussed various problems they were facing with the counsellor. They were then counselled on planning and setting goals, and dealing with issues affecting their lives. The three-day residential workshop at Car Nicobar for 25 children was received with great enthusiasm.

VIDYAGYAN SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Poverty causes a large number of children to drop out of school after the first few classes; Muslim and *Dalit* girl children are particularly vulnerable. While the overall enrolment of girls is increasing, the drop-out rate of girls from marginalised and rural sections, especially from the upper primary level upwards, is extremely high.

The *Vidyagyan* Scholarship Program was launched last year by the Foundation to help reduce this trend. The focus has been to encourage girl children of





marginalised and minority communities to get formal education as also to offer them remedial support to prevent drop outs and improve their academic performance. RGF is running this program through the generous support of *Shri Sivabramaniya Nadar Educational and Charitable Trust*. In 2007-08, 1,440 girls, from classes 6 and 9, were awarded scholarships on merit and means basis. Another 1,508 girls were selected for scholarships this year bringing the total to 2,948 girls.

The challenge for 2008-09 was that it was decided to conduct an entrance examination for the selection of worthy students. The registration of girls was done by 10 implementing partners in the specified geographical areas of Varanasi, Raebareli and Barabanki, UP. Girls from all recognised private and government schools in the area were covered for registration.

An examination was conducted on 20 May 2008 at the 10 specified locations in Varanasi, Raebareli and Barabanki on the same date and time. More than 5,000 girls appeared for the examination, and 1,508 girls were selected and awarded scholarships for 2008-09. The development of examination paper, overall planning for con-

CASE STUDY

NAZIA PARVEEN

Nazia Parveen hails from a poor family of 14 members. Her father and other family members are in their traditional weaving trade and earn a mere income of around Rs.1,500 per month. Nazia, a bright and ambitious student, studying in a private school in the slum area of Naki Ghat, Varanasi, was under the constant threat of her name being struck off from school records due to non payment of the very nominal fees.

She appeared for the entrance examination conducted by the Foundation in May 2008 and was fortunate enough to be selected under the scholarship program. The scholarship money has enabled her to buy a uniform and other learning materials required for her schooling. She is now going regularly to school.

CASE STUDY

RAZIA BANO

Razia Bano is a class 9 student of *Azad Uchhatar Madhyamik Vidyalaya*, Shahabpur, Barabanki. She lost her father to cancer when she was just two years old. She and her family (two older brothers, one older sister, mother) were thrown out of the house by her grandfather after her father's death. Her mother then took the family to her maternal home but unfortunately, Razia's maternal grandfather died suddenly in few months and the family was left to fend for itself.

Razia's mother worked very hard and earned money through labour and sewing. Her elder brother was put to work after class 8 and the second brother was sent for *Dini Taleem* to Mahmoodbad to stay with an aunt. Her sister studied till class 8 and thereafter was required to help her mother in household chores as also to earn a livelihood. Razia was very bright in studies and was constantly doing well both in studies and other competitions. However, she says, "The fear of being asked to stop my studies after Class 8 and help my mother and sister was constantly troubling me. But God had something else in store for me. At that time, the RGF entrance examination for the scholarship program was announced. I also filled my registration form and appeared for the examination. My happiness knew no bounds when I was selected for the scholarship program and suddenly I uttered these words 'Vidya Gyan Scholarship Program *mere Abbu ka saya ban ke aa gaya*'. Due to this scholarship, I am able to continue my studies and am also contributing to the family income. With great energy and momentum, I am dedicated to completing my studies."

ducting the examination, the evaluation of answer sheets and declaration of result was all done internally at RGF.

Each girl gets Rs. 500 per month as the scholarship amount. In addition to RGF support coaching and computer classes support their school education. Special focus is laid on teaching of Maths, Science and English. Computer classes are organised for the older girls to keep pace with emerging market needs. The scholarships received have enabled the girls to buy books, uniforms, school shoes, bags, etc., and supplement their family incomes as well. Many girls have even bought bicycles for commuting daily to school. The program has had a positive impact on the social lives of these girls. It has been received very positively by the community and has generated an enabling environment in the community.

RAJIV GANDHI TRAVELLING SCHOLARSHIPS

The Foundation collaborates with the Cambridge Commonwealth Trust and Rajiv Gandhi (U.K.) for an award of up to 20 scholarships to students from Cambridge and other British universities, e.g., the University of Edinburgh, the London School of Economics, to travel within India to either conduct research or simply to gain a better understanding of India. The Foundation supports the travel and stay of the scholars within India. This year, 17 students visited India, eight were from Cambridge, two from Edinburgh, six from Hull and one from the London School of Economics. The study areas included veterinary sciences, medicine, Japanese, theology and religious study, history and anthropology.

Here is what some of the award-ees had to say after their experience in India.

Ms. Cansu Mamurekli

Miss Mamurekli, a fifth year medical student studying at the Hull York Medical School, England, says that she wanted to experience something different from the National Health Service (NHS), in Britain. She writes that her experience in India provided her exactly that as the country is culturally and economically very different. She worked in the Zaskar valley in the Himalayas which is one of the most unforgiving environments of the trans-Himalayan region. She also worked at the Jalna Mission Hospital and writes that, "I learned how much respect doctors are given for their service in India". Besides work, she travelled to several parts of North and South India and visited the Taj Mahal at Agra.

Ms. Francesca De Meillac

Ms. De Meillac (pursuing her bachelors in political and social science) from Jesus College, Cambridge, England, writes that, "It's certainly true that India cannot be studied solely through books... my travels this summer have given me some insight into India and its culture." She says that she found the sense of communal spirituality at some of India's holy sites very moving and visiting Varanasi was one of the highlights of her India trip. She goes on to say that she found the sense of community visible at the volunteer run complex at the Golden Temple, Amritsar, very inspiring and uplifting.

Ms. Nina Goldman

Ms. Goldman, pursuing a degree in medicine from the University of Cambridge, England, writes that, "As a city estimated to have a population of over 20 million, it is hard not to be overwhelmed by Mumbai on arrival," however, "spending a significant length of time in Mumbai allowed me to see and appreciate many aspects of the city that I might have otherwise missed out on." Ms. Goldman worked with a charity called Bombay Leprosy Project. She says that while interacting with patients, language was a huge barrier as many of the people spoke either Hindi or Marathi, but by the end of her stay she was able to pick up a few words of Hindi for pain, pins and needles. After working for a month, she spent two weeks travelling around India and visited Agra, Jaipur and Udaipur.

CAMBRIDGE SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES

With the help and support of the Cambridge Commonwealth Trust, U.K., the Foundation continues to award scholarship/bursaries to meritorious Indian students for pursuing a second degree course at any of the affiliated colleges of Cambridge University, U.K. This year, Mr. A. Banerjee (St. Edmund's College) and Ms. I. Manasi (Wolfson College) were awarded bursaries for B.A. in Natural Sciences while Mr. A. Sen (St. Edmund's College) and Ms P. Khera (Lucy Cavendish College) were awarded bursaries for B.A in Economics.

Woman and Child Development



CHILD PROTECTION PROGRAMS

Through its various projects, RGF seeks to help street children and children of migrant workers who are vulnerable and need support for their survival, protection and development.

Project REACH, Madhya Pradesh

RGF has been supporting Project REACH (Rehabilitation, Education and Assistance to Children on Street) since 1995 to educate and rehabilitate street children in Indore. Under the project, the children are provided with a safe shelter to live in and are encouraged to opt for formal or non-formal education. There are 40 children in the age group of six to 16 years at the shelter, of whom 37 attend regular school and three are educated at non-formal centres.

During the year, vocational training camps in computers, candle making, paper bag making, etc., were organised to encourage the children's financial independence. The children also attended eight health camps during the year.

Child Development Centre, Rajasthan

RGF supports a Child Development Centre at Neemrana Block, Alwar District, Rajasthan, in collaboration with Humana People to People India. In an area where almost 300 children have no access to school, the centre provides a learning environment, quarterly health check-ups and mid-day meals to 80 migrant and street children. The children are educated for four to five hours every day with the aim of integrating them into mainstream education. This year,



Children enjoying their sports day

90 children and 35 parents benefited from the health camps.

Poverty Alleviation Initiatives for Education of Girl Child, Manipur

In the militancy-affected underdeveloped districts of Senapati and Ukhrul in Manipur, poverty is synonymous with loss of education for the girl child. To address this problem, RGF has provided interest-free loans of Rs. 4,000 each to 50 women beneficiaries on the condition that they enrol their girl children in schools. For the first year, a one-time grant of Rs. 3,500 is given to meet education expenses; for subsequent years, the family has to pay for education from income earned from their businesses. Out of 50 beneficiaries in the last year, 30 took up livestock rearing, five rice-selling, nine vegetable-sell-



A woman selling vegetables at her shop in Manipur

ing, five firewood-selling and one opened a tea stall. The income generated by these women ranged from Rs. 5,000-18,000 per month and 43 women repaid their loans completely. Fifty girls from these families have been enrolled in schools.

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT THROUGH MICROFINANCE AND CAPACITY BUILDING

In order to ensure genuine empowerment of women, helping them build institutions that are capable of generating savings, credit and income-generating opportunities has been found to be effective the world over as well as in India. At the Foundation, too, a similar attempt is underway.

Rajiv Gandhi Mahila Vikas Pariyojna, Uttar Pradesh

Rajiv Gandhi Mahila Vikas Pariyojna (RGMVP) was initiated in 2002-03 by the Rajiv Gandhi Charitable Trust to facilitate the formation of SHGs in UP. In the last seven years, RGMVP's reach has extended to 55 blocks spread across 14 backward districts of the state. The program now reaches out to over 2,33,594 families, 19,228 women's SHGs, 531 village level SHG federations and 15 Block level federations across the project area. The savings generated have been leveraged through borrowings from banks and invested in a diversified portfolio of income generating activities.

Livelihood Program for Women through Vegetable Cultivation, Uttarakhand

Through this intervention in Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand, RGF economically empowers women and their families through vegeta-

ble cultivation. The women are introduced to modern and scientific technology for growing vegetables. During the year, 20 members were taken on an exposure visit to a bio-tech centre where they learnt about nursery development, off-seasonal vegetable cropping, etc. The women were trained by experts on scientific methods of land preparation and cultivation. A SHG federation meeting was also conducted in which 92 members participated and discussed issues regarding vegetable production and marketing.

Capacity Building Program through Training in Food Processing, Andaman & Nicobar Islands

RGF supports *Unnati* (an organization providing livelihood to islanders) in generating employment opportunities for communities in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands through food process training. During the year, 284 trainees from three districts – South Andaman, North and Middle Andaman and Nicobar — benefited from the nine training programs conducted in the region. They were trained in processing of fish- and prawn-based products, preparation of pickles, jams, jellies, spice powders and fruit-based products, and snacks and *papad* making. The trainees have already started production to meet local demand and the products are well received in the Islands.

Project Swabalambini, Uttar Pradesh

RGF has been supporting *Mahila Prabodhini* Foundation in its work with women's SHGs in 10 blocks of Mirzapur, Allahabad, Sant Ravidas Nagar, Jaunpur and Varanasi districts. Ninety percent of SHGs



Women running a tailoring centre in Mirzapur

are more than five years old and 70 percent are credit-linked with banks. This year, 117 women were involved in income generation activities. Eighty-two women have established their own units and 47 are engaged in jobs. The women are trained in activities ranging from motor winding and repair, mobile phone repairs, dress design, stitching and embroidery, jute/quilted/fancy bag making, computer education & desktop publishing, toy making, and beautician courses. The children of *Swabalambini* women now attend regular school. During the year, a two-week sanitisation campaign was also organised.

Livelihood Project for Musahar Women through Bamboo Crafts, Bihar

The Musahar community in Bihar lives in abject poverty. The Foundation is supporting Khadagdhari Gramin Vikas Sansthan in providing members of the community with training in institution building, and production and marketing of bamboo products. This is the second year of the project and, this year, 50 women were trained in production processes, quality, pricing, promotion and marketing of bamboo products such as *soop*, *dauri*, *tokari* and fans. They were also encouraged to sell their prod-

ucts in the local market. In addition, basic health and literacy inputs are also being provided.

SHG Formation and Skill Development among Women of the Baiga Tribe, Chhattisgarh

The Baiga community in Chhattisgarh largely depends on forest and natural resources for its livelihood and is one of the poorest tribal groups in the country. RGF has partnered with *Samarth* to initiate SHGs in the area. The SHG members are gradually being trained on various livelihood options based on natural resources such as bamboo product making, grass products, organic farming, vermin compost making, etc.



SHG meeting of Baiga women in Chhattisgarh

Currently, 200 women are a part of the project. We have made attempts to reach out to the community by conducting the *Padyatra* Program (rally on foot) highlighting issues such as non-availability of government schemes and benefits. They community is also encouraged to develop micro plans which are presented at the Gram Panchayat, *Janpad Panchayat* and *Jila Panchayat* levels.

Health and Disability



PROMOTION OF MOBILITY

Motorised Vehicle Distribution

Often, for a person with a physical disability, the mere provision of a means to be mobile can open up doors of new opportunities in education, employment or business. RGF has been providing motorised disabled friendly vehicles for orthopedically challenged individuals since 1992. It has partnered with INTEGRA Design, an automobile-designing firm, to develop the model of a disabled friendly, cost effective and modern vehicle to cater to the needs of physically challenged persons. This year, 100 such vehicles were given away with the support of our donors. Prior to the distribution, a training program on 'Safe Driving' was organised in collaboration with the Institute of Road Traffic Education (IRTE) for the beneficiaries to ensure that they learn to handle the vehicles safely and become familiar with all the features.

Mobility Camps

Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti (BMVSS), Jaipur, established in 1975, works to provide artificial limbs and other assistive devices to people with disabilities. RGF has collaborated with BMVSS since 2005 to organise mobility camps in the underserved areas of the country.

The objective of these camps is to provide the 'Jaipur foot' (artificial limb) to persons with disabilities to enable their physical, economic and social rehabilitation. It is a hand-made artificial foot and lower limb prosthesis that is designed to meet the needs of a developing country lifestyle such as squatting, walking barefoot and sitting cross-legged. So far 738 individuals have



Smt. Sonia Gandhi, Chairperson, RGF, and Smt. Priyanka Gandhi Vadra distributing motorized vehicles



Interaction with parents underway as a part of the early intervention program

been benefitted through these camps organised in Cuttack, Aamethi, and Srikakulam. This year, at the camp organised in Unchahar, Raebareli, UP, 228 individuals benefitted from aids and appliances such as polio callipers, artificial Jaipur limbs, aluminum crutches and modified shoes.

EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT

Early Intervention Program for Hearing Impaired Children

RGF supports the 'Early Interven-

tion Program for Children with Hearing Impairment' through its partner organisation, the Akshar Trust, in Vadodara. The program aims at ensuring educational rehabilitation of the affected child through early detection of hearing impairment. This year, 53 children were admitted for the academic year starting June 2008. The children were taught to improve their speech and language skills by specialised therapists and teachers. They also participated in several activities such as drawing competitions, puppet making, karate

competitions and annual/sports day celebrations.

Parent meetings were also organised to enable them to understand their children's situation and provide a better environment at home. This year, three students cleared class 10 and a total of 23 students are preparing for the 10th class board examination to be held in 2010.

Manufacture and Marketing of Screw-pine Craft

A project on Sustainable Livelihood for Physically Challenged Women through Screw-pine Craft is being implemented in Ernakulum district of Kerala with the help of Kottapuram Integrated Development Society (KIDS). RGF supports the project's aim of training women in screw-pine craft to facilitate their financial empowerment. In the second phase of the project, this year, a total of 30 beneficiaries (20 disabled plus 10 non-disabled women) were identified and selected to be trained in various skills such as weaving, spinning, braiding, stitching and dying of screw-pine with natural dyes and in waste material management. The training was carried out over a period of 56 days. The beneficiaries are now experienced in designing, dyeing with natural as well as azofree dyes, packing, stitching and blending screw-pine with other natural fibres developed from plants such as water hyacinth and banana.

ACCESS – PROMOTING A DISABLED FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT

Accessible Delhi Project

RGF conceptualised the 'Accessible Delhi' project to develop a

model barrier free city in 2007. To accelerate the process, we collaborated with Samarthaya, National Centre for Promotion of Barrier Free Environment for Disabled Persons. Twenty sites/services (built/ external/transport) in Delhi were identified to be made accessible for all.

In two years, by February 2009, all the aims of the project were successfully achieved which included organisation of training on disability awareness, trainers' workshops and access audits of 20 public sites/services. The project helped in raising awareness on access requirements of persons with reduced mobility and persons with disability. It also sensitised service providers and stakeholders to promote access in upcoming construction and conduct access audits of existing buildings to improve accessibility. Inspired by the project results and media awareness, the University of Delhi also launched a special drive in access auditing of 72 colleges and 70 buildings.

Beneficiaries at a Lifeline Express Camp



LIFELINE EXPRESS CAMPS

The Life Line Express is managed by Impact India Foundation. Of the various LLE camps organized across India, three were supported by RGF.

Life Line Express is a mobile train which reaches those parts of India where medical facilities are scarce. The hospital on wheels is well equipped and consists of five re-structured coaches, a diagnostic centre, wards, a sterilisation room, two operation theatres, a 12 bed post-operative care unit, an X-ray laboratory and an auditorium for 50 people. The mobile hospital provides free surgical interventions for polio, ear defects, cleft lip and cataract.

At the camps, assistive devices such as callipers, crutches, hearing aids, etc, are distributed. The camps also aim to generate awareness on issues such as rights of persons with disability, legal literacy on issues related to disability, and prevention, early detection and

management of disability. In the year 2008-09, camps were organised in Koratpur, Orrisa, Lalganj Raibareli District, UP, and Meghnagar, Jhabua District, Madhya Pradesh. During the three camps, a total of 2,230 surgeries took place for cleft lip, polio corrective surgery, and eye and ear care. Also 1,248 people were provided with aids and appliances such as hearing aids.

Awareness and Management of HIV/AIDS

This workshop was held to sensitise and build capacities of the local medical fraternity and NGOs which play an important role in prevention, control and management of HIV/AIDS.

AWARENESS AND ADVOCACY FOR THE INCLUSION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITY

At the three camps held, workshops were conducted to sensitise and build capacities of those working with people with disabilities. Broadly, the workshops addressed the following issues:

Legal Literacy on Disability Issues

RGF's has attempted to enhance awareness among those suffering from disabilities and those working with them on issues of legal rights of the disabled. The aim of the workshops was to address issues such as laws relating to persons with disabilities, filing of public interest litigations in the area of disability, and access to court/the legal system if need be.

Project Health Watch

Training was imparted to health functionaries including medical

officers, primary health workers, Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs) and Anganwadi workers on balanced nutrition, immunisation safe motherhood, child health, prevention, and early detection and management of people with disability.

COMMUNITY-BASED REHABILITATION OF THE DISABLED

Landmine Survivors Assistance Program

The Landmine Survivor Assistance Program, being implemented since 2007, is continuing in the Abhor Block of Ferozpur District, Punjab. SARD is working with the victims and their families to provide financial means to enhance their income levels through goat rearing and livestock management. 'Mine Risk Education' workshops were also organised in villages and communities near the border areas. Folk plays were performed to educate the community on landmines in collaboration with the Border Se-

curity Force. In addition, a national conference was held at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, on 23 and 24 April 2008, by SARD in cooperation with the Indian Campaign to Ban Landmines. The conference was attended by 20 youth from the National Cadet Corps (NCC) and five youth from the Islamiya College of Science and Commerce. The aim of the conference was to provide an overview of the Indian experience on the landmine issue as well as to discuss the role of media in reporting and advocating on the issue of landmines.

HEALTH

Save the Kidney Initiative

The main aim of the 'Save the Kidney' initiative is to screen and treat patients who are at risk of developing renal diseases in the future. The project is being implemented in Madanpur Khadar slum of New Delhi. From January to July 2008, a total of 1,164 patients were screened; 366 patients were iden-

Mine Risk Education workshop in progress



tified with hypertension and 79 with diabetes. Simultaneously, doctors and volunteers created awareness in the community about renal disorders.

Training of Private Medical Practitioners of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy

A large section of the population in India takes recourse to traditional systems of medicine. Practitioners of alternate systems of medicine however have very few options for their own training.

To reach out to practitioners of these systems of medicine, RGF is working in collaboration with Voluntary Health Association of India (VHAI). In 2008-09, nine workshops were organised in two phases in Delhi, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh on issues related to HIV/AIDS:

- HIV/AIDS global, national and state scenario;
- Basic information on HIV/AIDS;
- Sexually transmitted infections;
- HIV counselling;
- Care and support to people living with HIV/AIDS; and
- Bio safety and infection control.

A training program for core trainers from each state was organised in Delhi. They, in turn, trained local trainers at the state level. A manual was developed by VHAI in collaboration with RGF, specifically for these training sessions. A total of 16 core trainers and 289 private medical practitioners (76 from Bihar, 74 from Madhya Pradesh, 71 from Himachal Pradesh and 68 from Uttar Pradesh) participated in the workshops.



People lining up before the Red Ribbon Express for the HIV/AIDS awareness program

Red Ribbon Express

Red Ribbon Express (RRE) is an innovative broad-based, multimedia, mass mobilisation campaign aimed at reaching out to the unserved population with correct information about HIV/AIDS. It is a joint venture of the Foundation, the National Aids Control Organization (NACO) and the Ministry of Youth Affairs. RRE covered 22 major states, between December 2007 and December 2008. The activities of the project were classified into three parts: train, cycle caravan and bus caravan. In 2008, more than 60.29 lakh people were reached through bus, train and cycle caravans. RRE (train) held programs at 172 stations while bus and cycle caravans conducted programs at 10,301 sites and covered 39,269 villages.

Mobile Tuberculosis Clinic, Himachal Pradesh

A mobile TB clinic program was initiated in 1993 in Kangra, Himachal Pradesh. This is an initiative of World Memorial Fund for Disaster Relief (WMFDR). The Foundation has sponsored a mobile van for the project. The project is functioning well, and has been extended to the nearby villages — Jia, Rakh, Barsa and Tharu. In 2008, a population of 63,245 was surveyed and 257 people were identified as suffering from the symptoms of TB; 95 patients were under treatment, of whom 61 patients completed the treatment.

Natural Resource Management



Natural Resource Management is the flagship livelihood promotion program of the Foundation, implemented directly by RGF in remote areas of Rajasthan. Scarcity of water continues to push a large section of the rural community towards impoverishment, threatening equitable and sustainable development. The growing gap between water availability and demand highlights the need to conserve, utilise and manage this important resource in a sustainable manner.

To address the situation, the Foundation made a modest beginning in 2001, when the Natural Resources Management program was started in backward villages of Jaipur, Pali and Karoli districts in Rajasthan. The project area was selected on the basis of the poor conditions of the natural resources and willingness of the partner community to participate in program activities. Since then, over 320 such physical structures have been built and communities have been encouraged to form *Jal Sabhas* (water committees) to maintain these structures.

The following activities were undertaken this year in the three project districts:

STRENGTHENING LOCAL GOVERNANCE OF NATURAL RESOURCES

(Project implemented in Jamwa Ramgarh Block of Jaipur district)

This year, RGF completed the implementation of the GTZ-supported 'Strengthening Local Governance of Natural Resources' project. The project was started in March 2006, covering 28

villages in three Gram Panchayats of Jamwa Ramgarh Tehsil in Jaipur District. This year, the major focus was on establishing the sustainability of the project. Village institutions were facilitated to operate independently so that they could take forward the agenda of local governance after the completion of the project. Discussions were held around the future maintenance of assets created under project. *Gram Kosh* (village banks) were formed in many project villages, and the funds utilised for village developmental activities in a few villages.

Capacity Building

The focus, this year, was on building capacities of the various stakeholders. Emphasis was laid on building sustainable village institutions in the form of *Jal Samitis* (village development committees) and strengthening their linkages with the *Panchayat*, so that local governance of natural resources could be facilitated.

Village Institutions

Members of the *Jal Sabhas/Jal*

Samitis underwent training and exposure on several issues:

- An eight-day workshop on gender sensitisation was held for 355 *Jal Samiti* members from 14 villages. It was aimed at creating awareness and sensitising members on the issue of gender balance. It also emphasised ways to increase women's participation in the village developmental process.
- A three-day exposure visit was organised for 48 *Jal Samiti* members to the RGF Karoli project area. The members participated in the *Jal Kumbh* organised by *Jal Biradari* and Magsaysay Award winner Mr. Rajendra Singh. They also visited sites of water harvesting structures constructed by RGF and interacted with the beneficiaries.

The successful outcome of capacity building can be attributed to the fact that several initiatives have been undertaken by *Jal Samiti* members to incorporate their own



Bahari Taal. Village Biramr, Karoli

local needs and demand driven projects into the Panchayat's annual plans. It has also been observed that the overall participation in the *Gram Sabhas* has increased now that people are coming forward and voicing their demands.

Cooperation has been strengthened amongst community members. In all project villages, *Gram Koshes* were established with the help of community contributions raised during the implementation of the Water Harvesting Scheme. This money was deposited into the *Gram Kosh* and has been utilised for development works such as construction of public bathrooms, village meeting halls and seating platforms for daily use.

Volunteers

During the reporting period, Green Corps volunteers were trained on effective functioning of local government, and oriented about government schemes such as *Janani Suraksha Yojna* and Right to Information (RTI). They translated this knowledge into action by facilitating the poor in availing of benefits from government schemes. The volunteers were also trained in documentation and communication skills.

Panchayati Raj Institutions

A two-day training program was conducted for *Panchayati Raj* Institution (PRI) members, during which they were briefed about the necessity of social audits and the

best way to conduct them at the *Panchayat* level. They were also briefed about the implementation process of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA).

Self Help Groups

Two exposure visits were conducted for members of Self Help Groups (SHGs) in Alwar. *Ibtida*, a local Non Government Organisation (NGO) has done commendable work in the field of women's development by facilitating women SHGs. Two federations of more than 500 members have been formed by the organisation. During the visits, the women interfaced with group members, who oriented them about the formation

Jal Samiti exposure to Karoli Project Area (GTZ part)



of clusters and federations. They also saw different livelihood activities being undertaken through credit and lending in SHGs. A total of 50 women from 25 SHGs participated in the exposure visits.

IMPROVING LIVELIHOOD OPTIONS

Enhanced Agriculture Production through Soil and Water Conservation

Two gully plugs were constructed to prevent soil erosion and 5,048 running metres of farm bunding was built which has benefited 49 farmers.

Innovative Agricultural Practices

- **Demonstration farms:** Demon-

stration farms were established last year to display innovative agricultural practices.. This year, a vermi-compost plant was installed and a model farm pond was constructed. As a result, farmers have started growing vegetables and crops which are less water intensive, and are using water saving technologies such as sprinklers and drip irrigation.

- **Horticulture units:** Twenty-five horticulture units were developed in the project area, with the facility for drip irrigation. Twenty-five progressive and marginalised farmers were selected from the project area who were provided with drip sets

and plant saplings. Field preparation and all other expenses were borne by the farmers.

- **Farm ponds:** Three farm ponds were constructed in three villages to store rain water. RGF contributed half of the cost of the ponds while 50 percent was provided by the farmers. Water stored in these ponds is useful for irrigation because it can be stored for longer periods; and farmers are now able to grow more crops due to longer availability of water.
- **Water Saving Techniques :** RGF has played a crucial role in facilitating the use of water saving technologies. Although the gov-

Kacharawala Pagara, Village Ghasingpura



COMPLETED WATER HARVESTING STRUCTURES 2008-09 (KAROLI)

Village	Name of the structure	Type of the structure	Cost Details			Families Benefited
			RGF	Local	Total	
Pator ka pura	Ghani Rahir ka pokhar	Pokhar	25974.00	9620.00	35594.00	2
Daulatiya	Bare wali pokhar	Pokhar	35475.00	17090.00	52565.00	3
Barki	Aank wala anicut	Anicut	254549.00	116080.00	370629.00	55
Pator ka pura	Bahedin ki pokhar	Pokhar	3721.00	1900.00	5621.00	2
Bhopara	Tenduware pokhar	Pokhar	61477.00	32120.00	93597.00	5
Bhopara	Dub ke bade khonda ka taal	Pokhar	68960.00	33752.00	102712.00	3
Machanki	Paraas ka khaad ki pokhar	Pokhar	51411.00	31081.00	82492.00	6
Biramka	Bahari taal	Pokhar	254232.00	127084.00	381316.00	16
Biramka	Siddh sarovar Baandh	Pokhar	44496.00	23284.00	67780.00	14
Bhimapura	Dhaabai wali pokhar	Pokhar	46232.00	29207.00	75439.00	5
Bhimapura	Dhoomshali ki pokhar (Berai ka ped)	Pokhar	90692.00	67166.00	157858.00	4
Naniyaki	Govardhan ki nali ki pokhar	Pokhar	60300.00	10970.00	71270.00	4
Raibeli	Saankh ki pokhar	Pokhar	45937.00	22968.00	68905.00	5
Raibeli	Aamwali gher ki pokhar	Pokhar	20948.00	10474.00	31422.00	3
Lakhruki	Kishlari pokhar	Pokhar	67080.00	33290.00	100370.00	3
Lakhruki	Bharanwali pokhar	Pokhar	56202.00	26760.00	82962.00	18
Bharten ka Pura	Rock wali pokhar	Pokhar	159122.00	35635.00	194757.00	17
Kesupura	Bamanwali gher ki pokhar	Pokhar	137960.00	69504.00	207464.00	9
Ashaki	Pipal wali pokhar	Pokhar	64923.00	49432.00	114355.00	7
Dangriya	Mori wali pokhar	Pokhar	23244.00	18126.00	41370.00	4
Bandan ka Pura	Kriya wali pokhar	Pokhar	30671.00	35733.00	66404.00	3
Balakhera	Banjada wali khet Talai	Farm Pond	92235.00	92335.00	184570.00	1
Balakhera	Daabra wali Talai	Farm Pond	67830.00	67830.00	135660.00	1
Naniyaki	Khar ki Anicut (Sariska)	Anicut	60300.00	10970.00	71270.00	2
Daulatiya	Bare ki Nari ka nichla pagara	Pagara	17689.00	12860.00	30549.00	1
Daulatiya	Rahilya ka pagara	Pagara	19592.00	13930.00	33522.00	2
Daulatiya	Ramphool ka pagara	Pagara	10906.00	10930.00	21836.00	2
Nareki	Chhabe wali kriya ka pagara	Pagara	17295.00	16265.00	33560.00	5
Barki	Dhauwala pagara	Pagara	33788.00	33055.00	66843.00	2
Barki	Dhauwali kriya ka pagara (Grabhaan)	Pagara	20633.00	21835.00	42468.00	5
Barki	Keshula wali ka pagara	Pagara	14987.00	14705.00	29692.00	2
Bhopara	Kedar ke khet ka pagara	Pagara	17930.00	7650.00	25580.00	3
Bhopara	Moti lal ke kher wale khet ka pagara	Pagara	4611.00	3720.00	8331.00	2
Bhopara	Roopsingh ke khet ke banjare ka pagara	Pagara	10477.00	9730.00	20207.00	2
Bhopara	Ramroop ke kher wale khet ka pagara	Pagara	8353.00	7828.00	16181.00	1
Bhopara	Gopal ka pagara	Pagara	26920.00	16980.00	43900.00	3
Biramka	Gunjara wale khet ka pagara	Pagara	17140.00	10010.00	27150.00	2
Pator ka pura	Mahuwa wale khet ka pagara	Pagara	7960.00	6090.00	14050.00	1
Pator ka pura	Neechla mahuwa ka pagara	Pagara	7430.00	6900.00	14330.00	2
Albetki	Mangal ka bandh wala pagara	Pagara	33616.00	26510.00	60126.00	3
Albetki	Mangal ka teer wala pagara	Pagara	44792.00	38660.00	83452.00	2
Bhopara	Dom ki jot	Pokhar	48474.00	33372.00	81846.00	3
Barki	Aam ki kriyan ka	Pagara	22671.00	16055.00	38726.00	3
Barki	Chole wala	Pagara	16935.00	14015.00	30950.00	3
Total			2226170.00	1293511.00	3519681.00	241

ernment provides a 50 percent subsidy on the purchase of sprinkler systems, it is rarely availed of by farmers since the procedure is lengthy and they find it difficult to complete the paper work. Volunteers and *Jal Samiti* members facilitated farmers in completing the paper work and provided support at their doorstep. Apart from this, an additional subsidy of 25 percent was provided by RGF on purchase of sprinkler systems. During the reporting period, 45 farmers bought the system to irrigate 160 bighas of land. A total of Rs. 2,03,918 was given as subsidy to these farmers. The Agriculture Department too released its part of subsidy to these farmers.

Livestock Development

RGF, in collaboration with *Bharatiya Agro Industries Foundation* (BAIF), initiated work on an artificial insemination, to improve breeds of livestock in the project area. Two breeding centres started operating from 7 March; 28 project area villages and nearly 40 surrounding villages are using this facility. Till now, 1,435 inseminations have been carried out with 527 successful results and 253 calves born.

WATER HARVESTING

Karoli District: Sapotra and Mandrial blocks

The main focus of RGF's work in Karoli District is on Dang, categorised as the most resource poor area

of the district. People in this region are deprived of basic services such as health, education, roads, electricity and drinking water. Poor availability of water and unfavourable soil conditions result in low crop yield. Agriculture and livestock management remain the major economic activity of the area, which is mainly subsistence orientated.

The natural resources in the eco-region are the lifeline of the people. Inputs on efficient management and conservation of natural resources is of great significance as it can help reduce poverty and improve food security. Keeping this in mind, RGF initiated its natural resource management program by targeting villages which were in dire need of support.

Promotion of water saving techniques, Jamwa Ramgarh Project



This year, in Karoli district, we intensified our water harvesting program by increasing the number of structures. Village level institutions in the form of *Jal Samitis* were formed to maintain and manage these new structures. Facilitation for construction of rain water harvesting structures continues to be a major intervention in the project villages. This year, program reach was expanded to new villages from which the project team was receiving continuous demand for construction of water harvesting structures. Besides *Pokhars* and *Pagaras*, this year, we constructed two farm ponds; the impact of these two ponds will be monitored for further scaling up. RGF, with support from the local community, has also constructed 44 water harvesting structures in 18 villages.

The most important benefits of the water harvesting structures have been an increase in agriculture productivity, and availability of water for livestock.

Improving Mother and Child Health

In Karoli district of Rajasthan the women in the community suffer a lot during pregnancy. Due to lack of any health facility in the nearby area the pregnant woman have to be carried long distances on cots by their men folk. Many of them die due to lack of timely treatment and proper care. To make it easier for pregnant women to have institutional deliveries, the Foundation has provided a free ambulance service. This operates through a helpline which the villagers can call during an emergency. To facilitate this arrangement, all pregnant women in the project area villages



RGF's NRM volunteer's meeting in progress



Bharanwali Pokhar, Village Lahkruki Karoli



Paddy Cultivation in the downstream of Pokhar, Karoli

are registered with us. This year, 100 women benefitted from this program. Through our assistance, these women were also able to access benefits under various government schemes. The foundation also organized the training of 20 traditional birth attendants to help women who are not able to have institutional deliveries.

Pali District: Marwar junction and Desuri blocks

RGF continued its water harvesting program in Pali with mobilisation on 'conservation of local biodiversity'. Major emphasis was placed on conservation and regeneration of plant and grass species that are on the verge of extinction. Mass plantation was undertaken on community land.

The Pali project area, located on the foothills of the Aravali range, has a good drainage system for water harvesting related activities. Most water harvesting structures created in this area are stone masonry permanent recharge structures. Water recharge has led

to increase in water availability in wells and tube wells. Farmers are able to provide more water to their crops. Twelve new water harvesting structures have been constructed in eight villages.

WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT (Implemented in Rahir village, Sapotra block, Karoli district)

Rahir village, located in the interior of the Sapotra block of Karoli

District, is positioned in the foothills of the Aravali hills. The topography and natural drainage of the area is favourable for watershed related activities. This year, a detailed study was conducted on the implementation of a water shed structure, by *Action For Food Production* (AFPRO) Udaipur unit, RGF has initiated work based on the technical report.

A two-fold strategy was adopted to operationalise the project. The

Improving recharge capacity of open well, Kharchi Village, Pali



COMPLETED WATER HARVESTING STRUCTURE PALI 2008-09

Village	Name of the structure	Type of the structure	Cost Details			Families Benefited
			RGF	Local	Total	
Basore	Beejpuriya	Anicut	697922.00	232036.00	465886.00	100
Semaal	Bala ki Pati	Anicut	207730.00	68920.00	138810.00	50
Teja Guda	Ram Sagar	Anicut	130396.00	65200.00	65196.00	15
Guda Mokham Singh	Shiv Sagar	Anicut	247747.00	82574.00	165173.00	42
Bhadarwa Dhani	Soniya Kakar	Anicut	510820.00	170280.00	340540.00	40
Kharchi	Nimbariya Bera	Anicut	204034.00	68011.00	136023.00	15
Shambariya	Dev Sagar	Anicut	234675.00	78225.00	156450.00	25
Magar Talab	Dangwala	Anicut	117394.00	39131.00	78263.00	5
Bagol	Rawliwala	Anicut	138525.00	46275.00	92250.00	15
Tikhi	Sawliwala	Anicut	217034.00	72550.00	144484.00	25
Bogla	Dev Ka Talab	Earthen Dam	147277.00	49087.00	98190.00	22
Kankalawas	Duwaria	Anicut	296393.00	89893.00	206500.00	140
Total			3149947.00	1062182.00	2087765.00	494

first was to develop an adequate institutional base for the community, and the second to initiate demand driven entry point activities. For the former, three sub committees and one watershed committee were formed.

The sub committees have members representing their hamlets and were made responsible for the implementation of project activities in their respective hamlets. The village watershed committee will act as an apex agency mainly re-

sponsible for liaison and conflict resolution.

Three trainings sessions were conducted focusing on the institutional mechanism and the concept of the watershed.

BIODIVERSITY AND AFFORESTATION

A mass plantation program was organised in village Dhanla in September 2008. The plantation was undertaken on 2 bighas of land

belonging to the temple trust, during which about 350 plant saplings of endangered species were planted. Former Governor of Rajasthan, Late Mr. S. K. Singh, was the chief guest for the event. About 6,000 people, including our Jal Samiti members from the Pali project area, participated in this program. Mr. Rajendra Singh from *Tarun Bharat Sangh* also attended the program. In his public address, Mr. S. K. Singh appreciated the water conservation work being done by RGF.

Training of watershed committee, Rahir Watershed, Karoli





Science and Technology

AROMATIC PLANT CULTIVATION AND PROCESSING PROJECT

More than 35 percent families in Uttarakhand live below the poverty line. To facilitate economic empowerment of these families through income generation activities involving available resources in the region, RGF, Agrisud International and the Uttarakhand government implemented a pilot project on 'Poverty Alleviation through Cultivation of Aromatic Plants' in Sehaspur Block of Dehradun District in 2003. Since the implementation of the project, 150 families have been directly associated with the project and 100 families have indirectly benefitted from it. Most aromatic plant cultivation under the project is of lemon grass. A distillation plant for extracting lemon grass oil has also been set up. The project is now in its second phase during which RGF is extending its support to strengthen the farmer's federation. RGF is

providing support through the Himalayan Action Research Centre (HARC), a Dehradun based NGO, which supports 140 farmers growing lemon grass on 165 *bighas* of land and producing 250 litres of lemon grass oil per year.

Strengthening the organisational structure of the Federation

An awareness campaign was organised by the HARC for lemon grass producers at the village level. Officials from the vegetable and fruit association, Purola, Uttarakhand, were also invited for the program. Its objective was to strengthen backward linkages and encourage the farmers to find local solutions to their production problems. They were also given information about farmers' SHGs and on conducting producers' meetings.


Training Program on Documentation

A documentation training workshop was organised for the employees of HARC on 20 Decem-

ber 2008. The team was trained on the management and preparation of official documents and developing an internal administrative process.

Lemon Grass Promotion through Technical Assistance

To increase the lemon grass production area, 20 producers on 20 *bighas* of land were selected for the demonstration of 64,000 lemon grass plants. With support from HARC the producers were provided with technical cultivation tools to enhance lemon grass production. A state level workshop and farmers *mela* were also organised by Govind Ballab Pant Agriculture University on 15 December 2008 to promote lemon grass. Fifty lemon grass producers participated in the *mela* and sold products such as lemon grass, lemon grass oil, citronella oil, *genda* oil, etc.

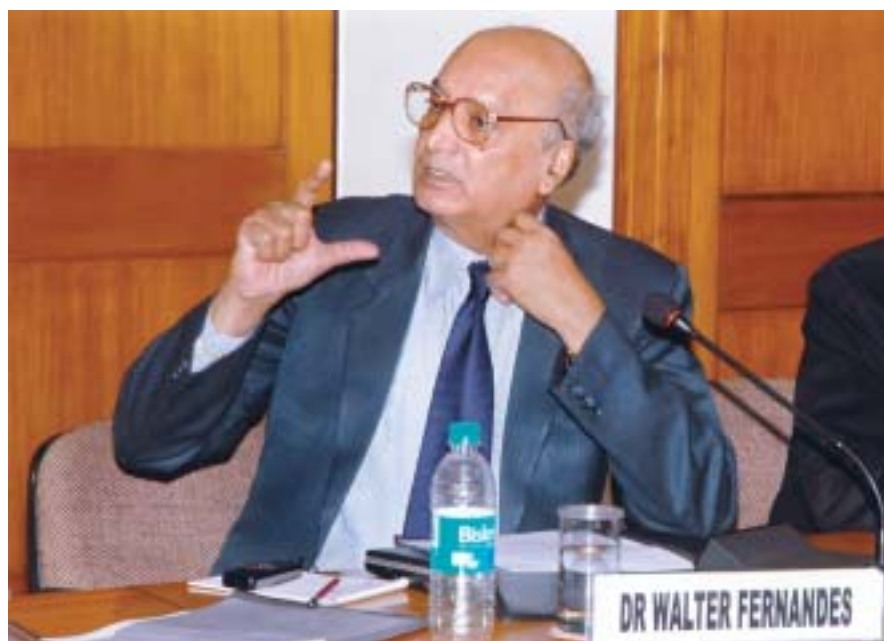


Rajiv Gandhi Institute for Contemporary Studies (RGICS)

The Rajiv Gandhi Institute for Contemporary Studies (RGICS) is the Foundation's 'think-tank' and research division. In addition to the RGF's Board of Trustees, the Governing Council and the Research Advisory Council oversee the overall functioning of the Institute. Its tasks include carrying out public policy research and extension programs to make a critical contribution to public understanding on contemporary issues. The Institute accomplishes these responsibilities through in-house research as well as commissioning outside experts to work on a short-term basis, publications as well as seminars and conferences. RGICS's objectives are to:

- Conduct as well as commission interdisciplinary research on areas that have a bearing on public policy formulation;
- Disseminate its findings and generate an informed public debate about policy choices;
- Enable professionals, intellectuals, and community leaders to interact, in order to develop a shared understanding, and multiple perspectives and solutions to problems;
- Hold training programs, lectures by eminent people, workshops, meetings and publications; and
- Create institutional capability for policy advice, and build networks of global collaboration.

It provides research-based ideas, analysis, policy and practical programs in identified areas. The Institute differs from other research institutions in two ways: it is not interested in purely academic work devoid of policy content, believing instead in imparting policy direction to work that is carried out; and it believes that any reform



should be pro-poor – if it is to succeed – by being widely accepted and universally beneficial.

RGICS specialises in four main areas: international economic relations, economic reforms, law reforms, PRIs and Information Technology. Last year, the Research Advisory Council suggested five new areas for research: Affirmative Action; Threat of Naxalism; Rehabilitation and Resettlement; Employment and Employability; and Management and Utilisation of Water.

Some achievements in the mandated areas during the year are:

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS

The Institute is first among a few think-tanks that realised the increasing role of India in world trade and also in shaping international economic structures. As a consequence, since its inception, RGICS placed emphasis on trade-related issues, non-tariff barriers,

intellectual property rights, free trade areas, Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Sanitary & Phytosanitary (SPS) measures, environment, etc.

During the year, in addition to its ongoing work, the Institute conducted two conferences, one in New Delhi and the other in Beijing. The first conference, 'Exploring Synergies in Trade and Investment,' became a forum for Indian and Chinese scholars to exchange their experiences. The second conference in Beijing concentrated on financial issues.

One of the publications of the year is a *Handbook on the World Trade Organization* (WTO). This is aimed at helping scholars as well as laymen in understanding the working of the WTO.

ECONOMIC REFORMS

The Institute's focus of research on economic reforms is guided by two concerns: first, how to play a catalytic role in furthering economic

reforms for growth and prosperity; and second, to advocate for policies that aim at benefiting the poor, with the conviction that successful economic reforms are those that reduce poverty and economic inequality. In the past, the Institute carried out studies on issues such as economic reforms for the poor, agenda for governance, poverty alleviation, Index of Economic Freedom, affirmative action, etc.

During the year, the Institute carried out the following studies:

Economic Freedom Index for the States of India

Continuing its outreach activities, RGICS has taken the issue of economic freedom to four cities during the year. Conferences on the importance of the subject were held in Jammu, Srinagar, Bhubaneswar and Calicut. As in the past, the Friedrich Naumann Stiftung (FNSt) has funded these activities.

Intellectual Capital in India: Contribution of States

The study, which was funded by the FNSt, culminated in a *Handbook of IPR*.

LAW REFORMS

The focus of research was on carrying out law reforms to complement the process of economic reforms in India. In the past, the Institute carried out a few studies on law reforms, such as access to justice for poor, access to justice for women, exit provisions for the small-scale sector, bankruptcy law, administrative laws in Delhi, etc.

During the year, the Institute carried out work on regulatory reforms by organising two conferences in Chandigarh and Jaipur.

PANCHAYATI RAJ

This program was transferred to the Institute in 2004-05. In the past, the focus was essentially on capacity building of elected representatives and organising a Task Force on Panchayati Raj's meetings. Since 2004-05, the Institute included some research components in its list of activities in this field. The focus of research was on energising Panchayats through markets. The current focus of research was on devolution of funds, functions and functionaries, sys-

temic improvement in State Finance Commissions, etc.

The Institute participated in a survey funded and conducted by the Centre for the Advanced Study of India, University of Pennsylvania, which seeks to understand the food habits and lifestyle changes among *Dalits* in two blocks of Uttar Pradesh. The large survey involved more than 19,000 *Dalit* households and was led by Prof. Devesh Kapur and Mr. Chandra Bhan Prasad, among others.



OTHER ACTIVITIES

RGICS Post-doctoral Fellowship

This program was launched to broaden the research agenda of the Institute on the advice of the Research Advisory Council. Though the RGICS set up five post-doctoral fellowships in the following areas: Employment and Employability; Regulatory Reforms; Affirmative Action; Rehabilitation and Resettlement for Infrastructure Projects; and Threat of Naxalism, two candidates were selected in the areas of Employment and Employability, and Rehabilitation and Resettlement for Infrastructure Projects.

India-China Studies

The year witnessed a high point when a high-level delegation from the RGF paid an official visit to China to participate in the celebrations to commemorate the 20th anniversary of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi's historic visit to China in 1989. The delegation, led by Mr. Veerappa Moily, Chairman of the Second Administrative Reforms Commission, included Mr. Salman Khurshid, former Minister of State for External Affairs, noted journalists Mr. Vinod Sharma and Mrs. Neerja Chaudhary, and Prof. Pratap Bhanu Mehta, President of the Centre for Policy Research.

Among the delegation were two Trustees of the Foundation, Prof. Ashok Ganguly and Dr. Sekhar Raha. Mr. Mohammad Saqib, Fellow of the Institute, accompanied the delegation as a facilitator.

In addition to several engagements, the delegation participated in the Conference, 'Carry Forward the Tradition and Strive for Common Development: Commemorating

RGICS WEBSITE

The Institute's website (www.rgics.org) received favourable feedback from several quarters, including suggestions to make it more user-friendly. The process of converting RGICS' more than 200 publications into digital format is under way. The digitisation work is likely to be over in a few months and the revamped site will also be launched thereafter. The Institute is also considering the possibility of using Information and Communications Technology (ICT) widely through the website to reach more people instantaneously.



MAJOR RGICS PROJECTS/ACTIVITIES DURING 2008-09

Area/topic	Partner
A Survey among Dalit Households in Two Blocks of Uttar Pradesh on Food Habits and Lifestyle Changes	Chandra Bhan Prasad and Center for the Advanced Study of India, University of Pennsylvania
Perception Study on India & China	Work under India-China Program
Technology transfer from R&D institutions to industry in India & China	Work under India-China Program
Work with schools	UNDP
Competition Policy	FNSI
WTO & IPR	FNSI
Regulatory Reforms	FNSI

the 20th Anniversary of H.E. Rajiv Gandhi's Visit to China'. It was jointly organised by the Foundation and the China Centre for Contemporary World Affairs.

In her message to the Conference, Chairperson of the Foundation, Mrs. Sonia Gandhi, fondly recollected "the memories of our meeting with China's Great Leader, Deng Xiaoping, and recall his pronouncement that the forthcoming century will belong to Asia".

She also said, "The tremendous growth in bilateral trade and economic relations in the last two decades, which reinforced the over-

all development of ties, is a noteworthy outcome of the vision of Rajiv Gandhi and Deng Xiaoping."

The then Indian Ambassador to China H.E. Nirupama Rao delivered the address at the opening ceremony of the Conference.

Dr. Mahbub ul Haq Inter-School Debate

The Institute, in association with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), has been organising this school debate since 1998. In 2007-08, the debate was extended to cover the entire South Asian region.

During the year, the 11th Dr. Mahbub ul Haq Memorial Inter-school Debate was organised both at the national level and at the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) level. This year the 'motion' of the house was: *"Corruption greases the wheels of development. It benefits the rich and poor alike."*

Thirteen schools from all over the country took part in the national finals, held in New Delhi on 7 October 2008. Bai Avabai Franji Petit Girls High School, Mumbai, was the winner while Army Public School, Bangalore, and Carmel Convent School, Chandigarh, were declared the first and second runners-up, respectively.

The best speaker for the motion was Ruchi Junnarkar of Delhi Public School, Ahmedabad, and the best speaker against the motion was S. Pragadheesh Chander of Vellamal Matriculation and Higher Secondary School, Chennai. Ms. Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, a Trustee of the Foundation, gave away the prizes.

The SAARC Round of the debate took place in New Delhi on 24 October 2008 and the winning team of the national round held in each SAARC country participated in the competition. The 'motion' put before the house was *"All countries in the world, rich and poor, are vulnerable to corruption, so corruption is not a development issue at all."*

The topic was based on the latest UNDP Asia Pacific Human Development Report on the theme: *"Tackling Corruption, Transforming Lives."* The winner was the Indian team and the Bangladesh



team was awarded the Runner-up trophy. External Affairs Minister Mr. Pranab Mukherjee gave away the prizes.

People's Forum

The Institute's popular program, the People's Forum, provides a platform for citizens to interact with policymakers, politicians and experts on contemporary issues. However, during the year, the Forum witnessed some changes in

that for the first time it was organised outside Delhi – in Bhubaneswar and Calicut.

Seminars and Conferences Outside Delhi

Keeping in tune with its decision the previous year reaching out to people outside Delhi by organising some of its activities in other cities, the Institute held conferences and seminars in Jammu, Srinagar, Bhubaneswar, Jaipur, Calicut, etc.

RESEARCH STAFF

Fellows

Mohammed Saqib
D. Shyam Babu

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Amba Pandey

Post-doctoral Fellows

Rahul Ramagundam
Kavita Arora

Research Associate

Niranjan Chichuan

Research Assistant

Divya Singh

PUBLICATIONS

Books & Monographs

Economic Freedom for States of India, by P. D. Kaushik and Simrit Kaur, published by FNSt and Academic Foundation, 2008.

Besides these publications, the staff of RGICS regularly publishes in journals (both national and international) and newspapers. During the specified period, Dr. P. D. Kaushik, Mr. Mohammad Saqib and Mr. D. Shyam Babu have made several contributions by way of participating in policy-oriented debates as well as media commentary in India and abroad.

RGICS SEMINARS AND PUBLIC EVENTS

(1st April 2008 - 31st March 2009)

Event	Date	Partners
India China Conference on "Exploring Synergies in Trade and Investment" held at New Delhi	April 2, 2008	ICEC & CCIC, with support of Embassy of P.R. China in India.
Role of Private Sector for Inclusive National HealthCare System held at New Delhi	April 23, 2008	IBM India Pvt. Ltd.
China India Financial Conference held at Beijing	May 15-16, 2008	CSFB, IBA & ICEC
Relevance on Economic Freedom held at Jammu	June 17, 2008	FNSt
Relevance on Economic Freedom held at Srinagar	June 19, 2008	FNSt
Regulatory Reforms in India held at Chandigarh	July 18, 2008	FNSt
Economic Freedom Index held at Bhubaneswar	August 21, 2008	FNSt
People's Forum "Coalition Politics: Blessing for States" held at Bhubaneswar	August 22, 2008	FGF & FNSt
11th Dr. Mahbub ul Haq Memorial Inter-School Debate Competition (National Round) held at New Delhi	August 30, 2008	UNDP
11th Dr. Mahbub ul Haq Memorial Inter-School Debate Competition (SAARC Round) held at New Delhi	October 24, 2008	UNDP
Regulatory Reforms in India held at Jaipur	November 16, 2008	FNSt
People's Forum "Why Should Delhi Vote for you?" held at New Delhi	November 18, 2008	FNSt
Relevance of Economic Freedom on Development held at Calicut	November 24, 2008	FNSt
People's Forum "Media Trends: Sensational Journalism or Responsible Journalism?" held at Calicut	November 25, 2008	FNSt
Displacement, Resettlement and Rehabilitation: Existing Laws and Role of Judiciary held at New Delhi	February 26, 2009	RGICS

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.3.2009

BALANCE SHEET AS AT MARCH 31, 2009

LIABILITIES		31st March Rs. (In million)	
		2009 Rs.	2008 Rs.
CORPUS FUND			
General Account		749.43	741.23
Research Account		52.57	52.52
EARMARKED DONATIONS			
General Account		30.00	30.00
Research Account		12.50	—
EARMARKED ACCUMULATED FUND			
General Account		20.00	20.00
Research Account		—	—
ENDOWMENT FUND (INCLUDING INTEREST)			
General Account		14.94	14.94
Research Account		—	—
INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT			
General Account		142.15	132.85
Research Account		—	—
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
General Account		22.34	23.56
Research Account		27.99	9.43
		1071.92	1024.53
ASSETS			
FIXED ASSETS			
General Account			
Cost Rs.	26.90		
Less: Depreciation Rs.	21.88	5.02	3.08
Research Account			
Cost Rs.	2.12		
Less: Depreciation Rs.	1.97	0.15	0.10
INVESTMENTS			
General Account	*	894.13	878.69
* Includes Mutual Fund at Cost — Rs.	224.82		
Market Value — Rs.	189.53		
RESEARCH ACCOUNT		45.77	15.27
Current Assets, Loans & Advances			
General Account		79.71	80.81
Research Account		5.55	3.96
INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT			
General Account		—	—
Research Account		41.59	42.62
		1071.92	1024.53

INCOME				
	GENERAL ACCOUNT Rs. (In million)		RESEARCH ACCOUNT Rs. (In million)	
	31st MARCH		31st MARCH	
	2009 Rs.	2008 Rs.	2009 Rs.	2008 Rs.
Interest from GOI Bonds/FDs	55.32	51.13	—	—
Donations	23.45	23.44	2.00	2.00
Profit on sale of Units	10.77	7.46	—	—
Dividend from Mutual Funds	9.15	17.91	—	—
Interest from Banks	1.79	2.02	4.00	1.64
Other Income	0.03	0.14	0.01	0.01
Assistance from RGF	—	—	3.30	3.41
Accumulated Fund Written Back	—	2.50	—	—
Profit on sale of Assets	—	0.00	0.02	—
Prior period adjustment A/c	—	—	0.05	—
	100.51	104.60	9.38	7.06

EXPENDITURE				
	GENERAL ACCOUNT Rs. (In million)		RESEARCH ACCOUNT Rs. (In million)	
	31st MARCH		31st MARCH	
	2009 Rs.	2008 Rs.	2009 Rs.	2008 Rs.
Project Expenses*	66.15	59.67	2.72	1.19
Expenses Against Accumulated Fund	—	2.50	—	—
Salaries & Allowances	10.36	8.89	2.68	2.53
Assistance to RGICS	3.30	3.41	—	—
Maintenance Expenses	3.07	2.96	2.34	2.21
Other Administrative Expenses	1.19	2.38	0.50	0.99
Loss on sale of Units of Mutual Funds	6.35	—	—	—
Honorarium to Auditors	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06
Depreciation	0.73	0.64	0.06	0.04
	91.21	80.51	8.36	7.02
Excess of Income Over Expenditure	9.30	24.08	1.02	0.04
	100.51	104.59	9.38	7.06

*Excludes Project advances	Rs. 6.43 million
	Rs. 11.83 million (Previous Year)

PARTNER ORGANISATIONS AND DONORS YEAR 2008-2009

LITERACY AND EDUCATION PROJECTS

Partner Organisations

- Action India, Uttar Pradesh
- Aid India, Chennai
- Ajit Vyas Foundation, Rajasthan
- Anekal Rehabilitation Education and Development Centre (READ),
- Bal Sahyog, Delhi
- Beti Foundation, Uttar Pradesh
- Bharat Gyan Vigyan Samiti, Jharkhand
- Centre for Study of Developing Societies-SARAI, New Delhi
- Child Rights and You, New Delhi
- Children Emancipation Society (Project Mala) Uttar Pradesh
- Children Emancipation Society (Project Mala) Uttar Pradesh
- Creative Learning for Change, New Delhi
- Department of Kashmiri, University of Kashmir
- Disha, Uttar Pradesh
- Dr. A.V. Baliga Memorial Educational Trust, Delhi
- Foundation for Development Research & Action, Uttarakhand
- Foundation for Education and Development, Rajasthan
- Gram Vikas, Orissa
- Gyan Vigyan Samiti, Assam
- Gyan Vigyan Samiti, Uttar Pradesh
- Help Foundation, Srinagar, J&K
- Hum Kisan Tendu Patta Sangrahan Samiti, Rajasthan
- Human Aid Society, Jammu & Kashmir
- Human Welfare Association, Uttar Pradesh
- Ibtada, Alwar, Rajasthan
- Indian Council for Child Welfare, Assam
- Jan Chetna Manch Bokaro, Jharkhand
- Lok Mitra, Uttar Pradesh
- Madhar Nala Thondu
- Niruvanam, Tamil Nadu
- Mahita, Andhra Pradesh
- Majlis, Maharashtra
- Manthan Yuva Sansthan, Jharkhand
- Model Rural Youth Development Organisation, New Delhi
- Nalanda, Lucknow
- National Book Trust, New Delhi
- Outreach, Karnataka
- Pashu Shwachhedan Audyogik Utpadan Sahkari Samiti Ltd, Uttar Pradesh
- Pashu Shwachhedan Audyogik Utpadan Sahkari Samiti Ltd, Uttar Pradesh
- Pratham Books, Bangalore
- Rudra Dheeraj Prashikshan Samiti, Uttar Pradesh
- Sabla, Uttar Pradesh
- Sahbhagi Shikshan Kendra, Uttar Pradesh
- Sahyog Community Co-ordination Network (CCN), Andhra Pradesh
- SAKAR, Uttar Pradesh
- Salam Baalak Trust, Delhi
- Samanter Sansthan, Rajasthan
- Samerth Trust, Gujarat
- Samvada, Karnataka
- Sewa, Uttar Pradesh
- Society for All Round Development, Rajasthan
- Society for Integrated Development Himalayas (SIDH), Uttarakhand
- Society for Rural, Urban and Tribal Initiative (SRUTI), New Delhi
- Street Survivors India, West Bengal
- The Kishkinda Trust, Karnataka
- Vision Society, Uttar Pradesh
- Voluntary Association for People Service (VAPS), Tamil Nadu

Donors

- Directorate of Adult Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India

- Sri Sivasubramaniya Nadar Educational and Charitable Trust
- The Good Gifts, U.K.

WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Partner Organisations

- AARAMBH, Madhya Pradesh
- Andaman & Nicobar Administration
 - Deputy Commissioner, Nicobar
 - Assistant Commissioner, Nancowry
 - Assistant Commissioner, Campbell Bay
 - Assistant Commissioner, Car Nicobar
- Child Welfare Council of Punjab, Chandigarh
- Department of Women & Child Development, Puducherry
- District Authorities:
 - Director General of Police, Chhattisgarh
 - Police Department, Dantewada, Bijapur, Rajnandgaon - Chhattisgarh
 - Police Department, Batala, Punjab
 - Police Department, Karimnagar, Andhra Pradesh
 - Police Department, Warangal, Andhra Pradesh
 - Police Department, Nalgonda, Andhra Pradesh
 - Police Department, Adilabad, Andhra Pradesh
- Fr. Agnel School, New Delhi
- Home Department, Govt, of Tripura, Tripura
- Humana People to People India, New Delhi
- Indian Council for Child Welfare, Assam
- Khadagdhari Gramin Vikas Sansthan, Bihar
- Khwai Social Development Organisation, Manipur
- Mahila Prabodhini Foundation, Uttar Pradesh
- Mr. Mohd. Sultan, Coordinators, INTERACT, J&K
- Ms. Ketuoravii Marina, Kohima, Nagaland

- Muskan Samajik Utthan Samiti, Uttarakhand
- Rajiv Gandhi Charitable Trust, Uttar Pradesh
- Ratna Nidhi Charitable Trust, Mumbai
- SAMERTH Charitable Trust, Gujarat
- Schumacher Centre for Development, New Delhi
- Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA), Gujarat
- Unnati, Andaman & Nicobar Islands
- Volunteers For Village Development, Manipur
- Women Development & Child Welfare Department, Andhra Pradesh

Donors

- J.R.D Tata Trust, Mumbai
- Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECTS

Partner Organisations

- BAIF Development Research Foundation, Pune

Donors

- German Technical Corporation (GTZ)

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS

Partners-cum-Donors Organisations

- Agrisud International, France
- Gene campaign, Delhi
- Himalayan Action Research Centre (HARC), Uttarakhand

HEALTH PROJECTS

Partner Organisations

- All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi
- Ministry of Railways
- Modicare Foundation
- National AIDS Control Organisation
- Voluntary Health Association of India, New Delhi

- World Memorial Fund for Disaster Management

DISABLED PERSON'S WELFARE PROJECTS

Partners Organisations

- Akshar Trust, Gujarat
- Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti, New Delhi
- Honda Motorcycle & Scooter Pvt. Ltd.
- Impact India Foundation, Maharashtra
- Jeevan Jyoti Health Services Society, Jhabua, M.P.
- Kottapuram Integrated Development Society, Kerala
- Maitree, Koraput, Orissa
- Ministry of Railways
- SAMARTHYA, New Delhi
- Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Trust, New Delhi
- SENSTEPS, New Delhi
- Society for All Round Development – SARD, New Delhi

Donors

- Aditya Vikram Birla Memorial Trust
- Ambuja Cements Ltd.
- Bank of Maharashtra
- Bharat Forge Ltd.
- Bharti Foundation
- GAIL (India) Ltd.
- Garden Reach Ship Builders & Engineers Ltd.
- National Self Employment Mission
- Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.
- Patton International Ltd.
- Pirojsha Godrej Foundation
- R P Group
- Sanganerla Foundation
- State Bank of India
- Steel Authority of India Ltd.
- Tata Steel Ltd.
- The Indian Hotels Co. Ltd.

MISCELLANEOUS PROJECTS

- Cambridge Commonwealth Trust, Cambridge, UK
- Rajiv Gandhi (UK) Foundation, UK

GENERAL DONATIONS

- Mr. Prakash Chandra Ahluwalia
- Bharat Forge Ltd.
- Bharti Foundation
- BRP Stock Broking Services Pvt. Ltd.
- Chambal Fertilisers & Chemicals Ltd.
- Essar Steel Ltd.
- Fenner (India) Ltd.
- Mr. Ajay Gupta
- Hindustan Welfare Trust
- Hyderabad Industries Ltd.
- Indian Metals Public Charitable Trust
- J K Paper Ltd.
- J K Tyre & Industries Ltd.
- JSW Steel Ltd.
- Mr. Amrit Kothari
- Larsen & Toubro Ltd.
- Max India Ltd.
- Dr. L K Mishra
- R P G Enterprises
- Reliance Industries Ltd.
- Sutlej Textiles & Industries Ltd.
- Dr. B S Somara, MD
- The Indian Smelting & Refining Co. Ltd.
- TVS Motor Company Ltd.
- Unitech Ltd.
- Wockhardt Ltd.
- Zuari Industries Ltd.

RGICS

Partners and Donors

- Center for Development Research
- European Commission
- Friedrich Naumann Stiftung
- Government of Ireland
- Government of People's Republic of China
- Indian Tobacco Company
- Management Systems International
- Ministry of Environment and Forest
- Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
- Ministry of Small Scale Industries
- United Nations Development Programme
- World Health Organisation

RAJIV GANDHI FOUNDATION

RAJIV GANDHI INSTITUTE FOR CONTEMPORARY STUDIES

April 2008 – March 2009

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- Ms. Kavita Sharma
Personal Assistant

Mr. Sachin Paul
Program Assistant

Ms. Prameela P.K.
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Clerk
(upto 31/08/2008)

Woman & Child Development Unit

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Senior Program Officer

Program Assistants

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Mr. Atanu Ghosh
(upto 21/04/2008)

Mr. Vinod Sharma
Office Assistant

Disabled Persons' Welfare Unit and Health Unit

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Senior Program Officer
(upto 30/05/2008)

Mr. Parmanand Bhatt
Program Assistant

Ms. Anju Sharma
Stenographer

Mr. Ranjit Kumar Singh
Office Assistant

Education & Literacy Unit

Ms. Shweta Verma
Program Officer

Mr. Arshe Alam
Program Assistant

Ms. Neelam Sharma
Office Assistant

Media Unit

Mr. D. Krishna Rao
Media Adviser

Mr. Sourabh Kishor Dubey
Archives Assistant

Natural Resource Management and S&T Unit

Mr. Tauqueer Ahsan Khan
Program Assistant

Mr. Basant Kumar
Office Assistant

Project Staff at Jaipur & Dausa

Mr. Kuldip Singh
Project Coordinator

Ms. Aparna Dass
Project Manager
(upto 18/07/2008)

Field Officers

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Mr. Ranveer Singh
(upto 04/11/2008)

Mr. Jitendra Singh Khangarot
Field Assistant (Accounts)

Finance Unit

Ms. Geetha Nair
Senior Accounts Officer
(upto 14/12/2008)

Mr. V. V. Ramachandran
Senior Accounts Officer

Assistant Accounts Officers

Mr. Aji Kumar M.P.
(upto 31/08/2008)
Mr. Soumen Mukherjee
(upto 22/05/09)

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Computer Programmers

Mr. Ajay Sharma
Mr. Saurendra Krishna Gupta

Ms. Ayesha Pervez
Program Executive
(upto 31/07/2009)

RGICS

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Associate Director

Fellows

Mr. Mohammed Saqib
Mr. D. Shyam Babu

Post Doctoral Fellowship

Mr. Rahul Ramagundam
(upto 17/09/2008)
Ms. Amba Pande
(upto 31/08/2008)
Ms. Kavita Arora

Mr. Niranjana Chichuan
Research Associate

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