



# APMAS

Mahila Abhivruddhi Society, Andhra Pradesh

## Training Programme on SHG Federations

3<sup>rd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> December 2007.

For Senior & Mid-level Personnel from SHPIs, Bankers, Support Organizations

At APMAS-SHG Learning Center, Hyderabad

### Introduction

The period of consolidation of the Self Help Group movement is currently going on in different parts of the country. The effectiveness and efficacy of SHGs in reaching out to the poor has been successfully demonstrated in various contexts, new questions are being asked about the impact of the SHGs on the lives of the poor.

Analysts are increasingly questioning if SHGs with their thrift and credit model can really pull out a poor family out of poverty? There is enough evidence to show that SHGs are good at providing finance to meet urgent and priority consumption needs, but lot more as to done. The concept of "Livelihoods Financing" has been advocated to convey that the poor require higher capital investment if they really have to come out of poverty. An individual SHG does not meet the full credit requirement on its own and needs to access higher finances through different sources. The role of SHGs in tackling crucial social problems that become a barrier in achieving economic progress for the poor, for instance, social discrimination, gender discrimination, etc., have also been questioned. It is observed that the voice of an individual SHG is too feeble to challenge these social practices that are deep rooted in historical traditions.

Many successful examples across the country now suggest that the next logical progression from the concept of SHGs is that of SHG Federations. Issues as mentioned above which cannot be resolved at the

SHG level are finding easy solution at the level of the Federation. It is therefore clear that the concept of Federations has come to stay. Just as SHPIs throughout the country have taken considerable interest in nurturing and strengthening the SHGs and creating solid foundations for the movement, the time has come to follow equally strong and robust practices to promote strong SHG Federations.

### Overview of the Training Program

APMAS has been conducting a series of training programs since January-2004. Like the earlier programmes, the present one will be an intensive five day residential programme. Feedback from the earlier participants and also comments from their sponsoring organizations have been kept in mind while designing this training. Apart from well structured class room sessions, participants will also undertake field visits to gain an in-depth understanding of the operational issues in a Federation. The content areas would include the basic concept of Federations, the detailed processes involved in formation of Federations, issues relating to governance and functioning of Federations, services provided by Federations, and a discussion on commonly encountered problems in the promotion and functioning of Federations. It is expected that with the thorough coverage of the above content areas, participants will not only become completely familiar with the concepts, principles and systems underlying the SHG Federation, but also will get adequate exposure to provide required training to others involved in promoting and handholding the Federations, including the Federation representatives themselves.

### Methodology

The training would be highly participatory and interactive in nature. A learning environment in which all participants feel free to share their own experiences and able to ask the doubts & get clarifications from the resource persons. The Training will be conducted mainly in English, but summary of the main points can be made available in **Hindi**, Telugu & Tamil then and there as per request. Classroom sessions would be designed in such a way that each session follows logically from the previous session. Apart from touching upon some important theoretical and conceptual issues, the resource persons for the classroom sessions will also provide a number of case studies to make the learning more

experiential. For some sessions, short video documentaries will also be screened. Adequate reading material would be supplied to the participants to supplement classroom learning.

The training programme will cover three and half days of classroom sessions, field visit in small groups would be organized for one and half day. The learning protocol of the field visit would be discussed beforehand so that maximum gains are achieved in the time available. Since Andhra Pradesh is the pioneering state in the area of SHGs and SHG Federations, the field visit can provide very rich insights into the subject of operational issues. To ensure that non-Telugu speaking participants do not face any difficulty, each field visit group will be accompanied by APMAS staff that will help in the communication process. The learnings from the field visit will be shared in the presence of expert panelists who will add their own experience on the various issues. The resource persons for this Training will include senior APMAS functionaries and also outside experts having significant knowledge and personal experience in the field of SHG Federations.

#### **Programme Requirements**

The intensive character of the programme requires full and complete attention and attendance of the participants in all classroom sessions and field trips. APMAS SHG-Learning Centre is a venue near by Hyderabad city having good facilities for classroom sessions, small group discussions, presentations and comfortable lodging and boarding will be arranged. To cover for the boarding and lodging charges, the cost of resource material and course fee, each participant would be required to pay a fee of **Rs.10, 000/- to be paid in the form of D.D. in favour of Mahila Abhivruddhi Society, A.P.** payable at Hyderabad.

**The last date for receiving nominations is 20<sup>th</sup> November 2007**

#### **About APMAS**

APMAS has established its credentials both state and nationally in its 5 years of existence as a leading NGO specialized in community mobilization, Capacity Building, livelihoods advancement and women's empowerment through community organizations. The Government of Andhra Pradesh relies heavily upon APMAS to bring in quality into the gigantic SHG movement in the state. APMAS is providing similar

support to other organizations in other states as well. APMAS conducts many flagship programmes for development professionals regularly on the themes of institution building, micro finance, livelihoods, financial management, Participatory Training Methodologies; etc. APMAS is also involved in developing training & resource material on the above themes.

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