

# GROOTS

GRASSROOTS ORGANISATIONS OPERATING TOGETHER IN SISTERHOOD (SOUTH ASIA)

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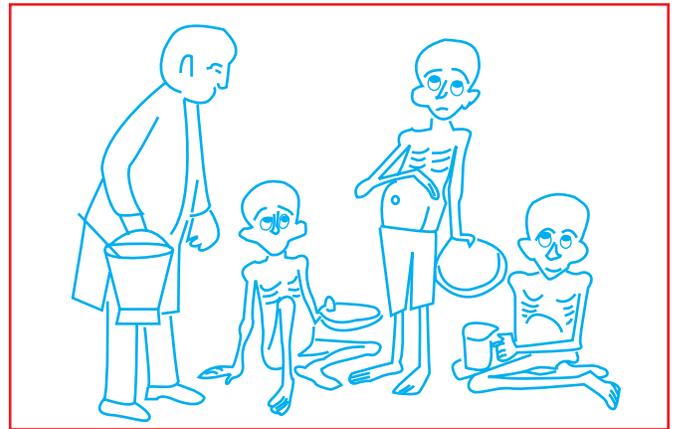
January - June 2013

*Editorial*

## Can Food Security Bill be Effective?

**F**ood Security has been and continues to be a major (development) issue of discussion among all sections of society in India today. Despite the efforts of the government and citizens' in the recent years, the country still struggles with at least 30% of its rural population still living in abject poverty and lacking in food security. Therefore, the idea of having a Food Security Bill is very necessary. However, to be really effective on the ground, the bill must carefully consider and offer solutions to many related pressing problems as described below:

It's a national shame that the farmers are not even able to contribute to the national income. Without adequate protection both to the farmers and the farming business, it's doubtful whether the nation can achieve either poverty reduction or household food security. Are the planners/policy makers/initiators of this food security bill agreeing



to the fact that even today we treat farmers as machines to produce grains alone but have never made an attempt to facilitate and/or guarantee them a steady income as well as food security.

As per a recent National Sample Survey, out of 900 farm families surveyed, the result showed 50% of the farm families are indebted. Even out of this, 50% are indebted to cooperative banks and the rest are indebted to private moneylenders who have lent to them - not with the concern for farmers but - rather to extract an exorbitant profit from them by levying very high rates of interest. And such farmers are never in a position to repay and ultimately, they end up committing suicides. Therefore, protection to farmers is the need of hour but it does not mean giving out doles to them. Clearly, when crops fail in one season, the farmers must have adequate crop insurance to mitigate their losses. Without this protection, any second crop attempted in the next



season will only push the farmers further into indebtedness and cycle will carry on. And such small and marginal farmers commit suicide as they lack options which many of the rich farmers have. Therefore, if the government is interested in providing loans for agriculture, it must differ from its present pattern of loaning and make available quality financial services to the small and marginal farmers including crop insurance that really works on the ground.

The National Food Security requires a vision to increase the domestic production of food so that the country is not dependent on imports. It is well known that food can be used as a strategic weapon in geopolitical terms. Therefore, the first priority of a national food policy must be to assure domestic food production through improved agricultural methods that help to increase farmer and farmland productivity. Again, this means cultivation must be financially viable/productive, besides a policy from government to provide minimum support prices that reaches farmers directly rather than introducing a forced system of public procurement.

Therefore, a bill such as food security should make an effort to ensure a legal guarantee towards universal food access. In addition to this, assigning responsibility/culpability in compelling government at both central and state levels to take up the entire gamut of issues relating just not to actual food distribution but towards its production/consumption pattern is perhaps another genuinely effective method to ensure food security for all.

We cannot forget the fact that how in the post independent India, the country achieved self-sufficiency in food grains and that has been a major achievement indeed. Well, this too happened after India remained a food deficit country for about two decades after independence just before reaching

food self-sufficiency at the macro level. But this achievement of food grain security at the national level has not percolated down to the households all over the country and level of chronic food insecurity continues among the rural masses. It's a national failure that one third of the India's population is still malnourished and suffers from lack of nutrition. This is because several development schemes introduced by the government have not reached the poor. Therefore, a very relevant issue here is how can this food security bill help its citizens to have better nutrition?

There have been reforms by many commissions including National Commission for Agriculture and several other high level committees. Though these recommendations have been mainly to provide enough attention to the requirement of farmers' productivity besides financial viability of food crops and many others, sadly, implementation of the recommendations have been very poor and as a result, the farmers are still vulnerable and fragile. But on the other hand, while the food supplies produced in surplus (by many of these poor) rot in the godowns and are wasted without proper storage system, millions at the grassroots still continue to suffer from malnutrition, starvation and hunger. How to stop this wastage is a very critical issue? The food security bill will therefore have to undertake a close review of the entire system of procurement, storage and movement of food grains.

While we talk so much of investment pattern in agriculture, will this bill ensure to do away credit deficit, infrastructure deficit, technology deficit, market deficit, diversification deficit, institutional deficit besides educational/skill deficit? It's high time that initiators of this bill realize that these deficiencies are the major hurdles for development

# GROOTS

of sustainable, economically viable and productive farming.

Coming back to the environmental situation, in many states of India the decline in productivity is mainly due to the deterioration of soil quality and water shortages due to ground water depletion. Therefore the requirement of land and water management has to be taken as a very high priority. Towards investment in land and water management, it's important to have projects of sustainable watershed development, orienting the farm community towards water conservation and practicing sustainable irrigation methods. Subsidies of the government should go towards water management and improvement of soil quality as well.

The other environmental concern is climatic change and its impact on agriculture, forestry and

fishery that are major livelihood options for the poor as all these sectors are climate sensitive sectors. The adverse impact of climate change in the form of declining rainfall, rise in temperatures are the main reasons for severe droughts threatening food security and livelihoods of million.

The small farmers are tired and frustrated and often quit their agriculture work and migrate to cities for pittance (income). As agriculture lands get used for real estate projects such as factories, residential houses and many more such quasi industrial activities, the land for cultivation is greatly reduced and will surely threaten long term food security. The initiators of the food security bill must look at all these critical aspects so as to benefit the farmers and help achieve the Millennium Development Goals - by creating a functional, implementable and relevant food security bill.



*Courtesy photo - The New Indian Express, 20 November 2012*

## Visitors to Working Women's Forum (India)

The students from Meenakshi College for Women, Chennai visited Working Women's Forum (India) on 23 January 2013. They interacted with 25 women loanees who are entrepreneurs in the slums of Chennai to know the nature of their business, profit earned and finally its impact on their socio-economic status. Impressed with the work of the Forum they expressed their desire to visit again along with their faculties. ■

Mr. Rajen Kumar, chief editor of SME World, New Delhi visited Narasapur, Bhimavaram and Palakol branches of WWF in Andhra Pradesh, West Godavari district along with his colleague from 31 March to 3 April 2013. They met grassroot women entrepreneurs engaged in fish marketing, coir rope making, food/catering business, lace craft, weaving, a special sweet locally known as Putarekulu, bamboo business, vegetable sales, etc. Besides, the two journalists discussed in detail their working hours, income earned, health problems and education of their children to have an overview of their living/working conditions. They also appreciated that women though poor worked hard to meet their necessities, took care of their families and are aware of the significance of several types of insurance schemes. Later, he visited government schools in Chinakapavaram and Tiruputallu to get to know the status of schools in providing education to rural children. ■

Ms. Auralice Graft associated with Population Council in New York visited Working Women's Forum (India) on 10 April 2013. She was keen to collaborate with WWF and to know the issues pertaining to women including gender based violence, microfinance, livelihood options, social enterprise, etc. ■

Mr. R.P. Singh, Asst. Director (TREAD) MSME, Delhi accompanied by Mr. K.V. Rao, Asst. Director, MSME-DI office, Chennai, Mr. Lakshmana Rao and Mr. Sridhar, Managers from Syndicate Bank, Chennai visited Working Women's Forum (India) on 15 May 2013 to review the implementation of TREAD scheme of MSME, Government of India and its impact on the entrepreneurship of poor women towards empowerment in WWF. To get first hand information of operational details in WWF, the team visited the cooperative bank (ICNW) to have an overview of the loan disbursal among members, percentage of repayment, strength of the Forum, etc. Later they met few women entrepreneurs in the training sessions and discussed with them in detail regarding purchase of raw materials, infrastructure facilities, investment pattern, profit margin, etc. This training session revealed the business conditions of entrepreneurs and the details of production, sale price and marketing details. In the afternoon visiting the entrepreneurs in north/south Chennai slums facilitated the visitors to become aware of working place and business details. The visitors from MSME Ministry, Govt. of India were quite pleased with the activities imparted to the micro entrepreneurs. The



*MSME officials reviewing WWF programmes*

team appreciated both WWF/ICNW's effort in facilitating entrepreneurs. Finally, they met the President, WWF, Dr. Jaya Arunachalam and expressed their full satisfaction and wished towards

a greater cooperation of partnership in future. The feedback of the team is “the skill training sessions of WWF are result oriented towards economic empowerment of women”. ■

## National/International Events

### Participation in Seminars/Conferences

The meeting of National Cooperative Committee for Empowerment of Women was held on 13 February 2013 in New Delhi. Dr. Jaya Arunachalam as the member of the board of NCUI while appreciating the programmes for women conducted by NCCT/NCCE of NCUI suggested that the cooperative experts from each area of operation can be utilized to organize/enhance the skills particularly of housewives who stay longer at home and also of the students in schools/colleges considered as good human resource can be utilized to organize text book cooperatives during their spare time. ■

National seminar on “Governance Systems in Mutuals” (Cooperatives and SHGS) was organized by T.B.M.L College, Porayar on 12 April 2013. Dr. Asha, Programme Coordinator participated in the workshop and delivered a special lecture on governance systems in SHGs and NGOs. The presentation focused on the governance system in SHGs and in cooperatives/unions such as WWF/ICNW. In fact, SHGs are lagging far behind in empowering women unlike in cooperatives.

In addition to the above the crisis in microfinance institutions, diversion of funds, failure of SHGs in some states came up for discussion and it was concluded with a word of appreciation to senior co-operator like Dr. Jaya Arunachalam and the three decades of work in cooperatives towards facilitating

poor women. Besides it was noted that the difference in the functioning of Forum is its sensitization and orientation programme that enabled them to succeed all these years from other NGOs and SHGs. The session was concluded with a note that other NGOs and SHGs can emulate the experiment of WWF/ICNW in future. Earlier the sessions organizing secretary delivered the welcome address and Dr. Frank Ratnakumar delivered the presidential address while the seminar theme was introduced by the convener Dr. Joel Edwinraj. Mrs. Sujatha Natarajan delivered the inaugural and keynote address. Dr. Pothy Reddy (Retd.) Dy. Registrar, Madurai focused on the legal aspects of cooperatives in his special lecture on governance system in cooperatives. Later, a book titled ***The Changing Faces of Indian Cooperatives*** was released and Dr. V. Frank Ratnakumar, Head of Department of Cooperation and Vice Principal of the college received the first copy of the book. ■

As a member of board of Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Dr. Jaya Arunachalam attended its 79th meeting of Board of Management in Chennai on April 23, 2013. ■

The Fetzer Advisory Council on Labour, Trades and the Crafts meeting was held on 11-14 June 2013 at Kalamazoo, Michigan, US. As one of the advisors Dr. Jaya Arunachalam attended its meeting. The main focus this time at the council was to understand the work of each advisor, their

legacy, experiences and the perspective with regard to Labour, Trades and Crafts. Dr. Jaya Arunachalam as advisor narrating on her grassroots experiences put forth her views and reflections.

Dr. Jaya Arunachalam said the advisors have not gathered in FAC to learn the history of labour, trades and crafts as repeatedly discussed in the past few FAC meetings. But the advisors have come to share their experience from their respective countries particularly to enhance/develop the future of trades and crafts, incidentally also to learn about craftsmen's conditions in other countries. Further advisors shared their views in their regions and efforts taken to see that the crafts of their region survived. But they also were skeptical in the present situation as the reality in each of their area of operation are not very congenial as whether even the children of craftsmen themselves would continue to take up these legacies from their own parents (but the truth is both parents and children themselves do not want to continue the craft). Finally, as a word of caution Dr. Jaya Arunachalam as advisor suggested that organization like FAC should contemplate on the necessity to focus deeply on the future of crafts survival and how to go about it. In fact, it's a matter of sensitivity to see how much of it will be a rich learning i.e., to look into the past and how much will be a burden of the past.



*Dr. Jaya Arunachalam at FAC meeting, Kalamazoo, US*

In countries like India rich patrons of crafts in the past facilitated both the craftsmen and trades and thus it survived. Now with the changing scenario the requirements/challenges are different. Everyone is aware about the poverty of the labour and the effort of the entrepreneur in trade/craft who face tremendous challenges and the struggles to confront the environment of constraints. Therefore, instead of focusing on the glory of the past, it is better to work for the transformation of artisans mind to work for the changing needs of time. This new transformation alone will foster awareness towards better understanding of their own work in the present context. She suggested that a bottom-up approach of organization for artisans, by the artisans, for the progress of the artisans can be tried whether it can facilitate. She expressed that in her own experience of 32 years trying the bottom-up approach among the workers/artisans worked wonders and it still goes on.

The problem of labour, trade and crafts are massive but FAC's work in this direction is just a drop in the ocean. However the cases in the videos demonstrate that the environment for the worker in the crafts/trade is not only grim but it is a struggle, a struggle that must go on. Whatever push one gives to these struggles faced by these artisans would be worthy. This council of FAC and its deliberations are not an end in itself, but must go on i.e., wherever and whenever it has climate to organize them on a social platform to access social justice i.e., to treat the craftsmen as a valuable human resources and not as a lifeless commodity. Further during the course of discussion on social platform she quoted Edmund Burke, the 19th Century British Parliamentarian who said that “when bad combine, the good must associate”. Therefore forgiving the past Dr Jaya Arunachalam recommends to carry forward **an action research**

by FAC as one of the main activity both to help the groups of artisans to find out their real conditions of life/work, to share to learn the facts and help them for a better future. It is an ideal way to help continue the craft tradition.

The video of Brother David's extraordinary speech at **Assisi** was the highlight of FAC. He spoke about the concept and differences between a **journey** and a **pilgrimage**. He said often people realize journey is just a goal to achieve something while in a pilgrimage every step is a goal. It's an impressive advice to all the advisors.

Narrating her reflections on FAC meetings to a query on what has worked and what has not worked, Dr. Jaya Arunachalam appreciated that democratic set-up worked in meeting. Discussion reflected in reality that it is a will of the people and not the force that will work in big organizations. Though she had no high hopes about FAC meeting but certainly there were disappointments. She said India has a heritage of giving more than to take wherever they go. Besides she admired that in FAC she could see the functional evidence that both young/old cultures and nationalities still have working possibilities on the principles they believe in. ■

Dr. Jaya Arunachalam later visited Rabobank, Netherlands on 17 June 2013 where she discussed on the partnership between WWF and Rabobank with Mr. Pierre van Hedel, Managing Director and Ms. Iris van der Velden, Regional Manager, Asia. ■

The **16th Indian Cooperative Congress** was organized by National Co-operative Union of India in New Delhi on 25 & 26 June 2013. The President of India His Excellency Shri. Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the 16th Indian Cooperative Congress. Speaking on the occasion, the President said that the cooperatives are perhaps the best way



*H.E. President of India at inauguration of 16th Indian Cooperative Congress*

to reach out into vast hinterland of this country where the poor and marginalized sections live. He stated that cooperatives must receive recognition as an important sector of our economy that serves the marginalized and weaker sections. They must be made commercially viable and used effectively in areas where cooperatives can make an impact such as rural health, education, credit, water harvesting, precision farming, tourism, communication and hospitality, etc. They must not only figure prominently to achieve inclusive development, but must also retain their character of locally driven “by the members, for the members and from among the members”. Top down approaches must be avoided and local initiatives must be encouraged. He stressed that cooperatives must be managed by adequately trained and enthusiastic members.

Dr. Chandra Pal Singh Yadav, President, NCUI welcomed the guests. Among the dignitaries present were Union Minister of Agriculture and Food processing Industries Hon'ble Shri. Sharad Pawar, Chief Minister of Delhi Hon'ble Smt. Sheila Dixit and Governors of Odisha and Gujarat.

Shri. Sharad Pawar, Union Minister of Agriculture and Food processing Industries while addressing the congress said that cooperatives are more

relevant in the present era than any other time because it is the most potent tool for inclusive growth. Further, he emphasized the importance of good governance and democratic functioning of cooperatives. The minister expressed hope that the 97th Constitutional Amendment will go a long way in protecting the cooperatives.



*Dr. Nandini Azad with other cooperators*

Dr. Nandini Azad, Director, Indian Cooperative Network for Women as the Chairperson for the business session **Women and Youth in Cooperatives**, discussed the usefulness of cooperative institutions for inclusive growth and the need to expand the role of women and youth for greater participation in cooperatives. Further it was stressed that the cooperatives have to adopt professional attitudes in their business models to become vehicles of inclusive growth in India. Besides nine delegates of **Indian Cooperative Network for Women** from the branches of **Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu** attended the Indian Cooperative Congress.

Dr. Dinesh Mishra, Chief Executive, NCUI presented the Congress recommendations for the effective steps to re-orient and increase efficiency across all cooperative sectors and for greater development of women cooperatives, increase youth participation, skill development in

cooperatives to build leadership for the future, seeking financial support from the government for rehabilitation of sick cooperatives.

His Excellency Shri. Shivraj Patil, Hon'ble Governor of Punjab and Administrator U.T. Chandigarh was the chief guest at the valedictory function held on 26 June 2013. In his valedictory address Shri. Shivraj Patil said the two day deliberations of the Cooperative Congress have come up with useful recommendations and the government of India would give all support to the cooperative sector. ■

## Activities in WWF

Ms. Nandini, Programme Coordinator along with Ms. Parvathy, field supervisor reviewed the Narsapur, Palakol and Bhimavaram branch on 4 & 5 April 2013. In this meeting the branch in-charge, staff, trainers/field workers participated where day-to-day operational/administrative issues were discussed in detail. ■

Skill meeting were organized on 6 May 2013 at Chennapatna in two areas; about 38 women in Kottipura and 35 women members at Moideen Nagar participated. Most of these women belonged to the minority group and worked as tailors, saree business, chamki/ embroidery work, etc. The members were introduced to the functioning and activities of the Forum and were explained about the objective of social and financial empowerment of women in WWF and thereby to make them aware of the significance of their own contribution to the needs of the family. Besides they were made aware of their rights as workers and with regard to gender equality. The members were also introduced to other schemes of the Forum such as insurance, savings, shares, etc. Mrs. Indiramma, Coordinator, Bangalore branch also held a review meeting of the Chennapatna branch on 6 May

2013 and discussed with the staff, organizers, trainers with regard to membership and other programmes of the Forum. ■

Dr. Jaya Arunachalam was invited by the Doordarshan Chennai for the Tamil Talk Show as a chief guest “KARASARAM” on 10 February 2013. The debate was on whether the progress of women today is due to their own effort or due to the facilitation from their family and friends. It was

concluded that it was her own will and effort more than the help of family and friends that was essential for her progress. ■

Times of India dated 13 March 2013, Chennai edition published an article titled Forum teaches poor women find their feet. It quoted “Women on the street as living proof of their belief that giving people skills and confidence to earn a living is far more empowering than mere charity”. ■

## Training Programmes Attended by WWF/ICNW Staff

Two day orientation programme for 30 senior women co-operators of Indian Cooperative Network for Women was organized on 23 & 24 January 2013 at Chennai. The women co-operators from all the 14 branches of ICNW/WWF of three southern states i.e., Tamilnadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh participated in the programme to update their existing knowledge/ skills and be familiar with their day-to-day affairs.

The training programme was inaugurated by Mr. Rangaswami, Regional Director, **National Cooperative Development Corporation** (NCDC) on 23 January 2013. While delivering the

lecture Mr.Rangaswami highlighted that the cooperatives empower women to grow as entrepreneurs. Narrowing down his speech, he traced the growth and activities of cooperatives with special reference to his organization i.e., NCDC. He further advised the participants to utilize the training programme to enrich their knowledge.

As a General Council Member of NCU/NCDC, Dr. Jaya Arunachalam welcomed the guest, briefed on the nuances of the training programme and traced the origin of ICNW/WWF. She further expressed her desire to the participants to make use of the opportunity in not only enhancing their skill but also to carry forward the movement.



Women cooperators of ICNW at the training programme

The methodology adopted during the training programme were lecture method, presentation of slides, group discussions, games and group exercise. The training programme in short was an interactive session as queries were posed to the participants to elicit responses from them to make the session lively. The staff were exposed to the objectives/principles of cooperation, selection of loanees, role of field staff, importance of field visit, assessment of women's business, preparation of receipt/ disbursement/vouchers, financial statement/ balance sheet, basics of computers, improving member/staff relationship, team work to achieve the organizational goal, effective management, recovery techniques, etc. The overall impact of the programme was very informative as it provided an indepth view of the cooperative details to the participants. ■

The cooperative staff (ICNW) attended the training programme on “Energy Conservation, Accounting and Audit” organized by Central Institute for Rural Electrification of Rural Electrification Corporation Limited, from 28 - 31 January, 2013 in Hyderabad. The participants were acquainted with various energy conservation methods.



*ICNW staff at training programme, Hyderabad* ■

The leadership development programme for women directors of cooperatives was organized at Working Women's Forum (India) head quarters on 27 & 28 March 2013. The President Dr. Jaya Arunachalam inaugurated the programme where 30 participants from 14 branches participated in the two day event and it can be said that, it was an interactive session. The participants were exposed to the nuances of the cooperatives and its significance. The training programme had a good impact on the participants particularly from Tamil Nadu as they had an opportunity to discuss/ clarify their doubts. They felt the training programme provided them the practical knowledge and equipped them to face day-to-day challenges. They felt that the programme was very valuable as the resource persons used simple language and were to the point. The participants from Andhra Pradesh felt that the training programme was positive and the approach to face a difficult situation was spelt out in a clear manner. The resource persons were friendly and approachable and that they have learnt a lot about cooperatives and its objectives. The participants from Karnataka felt that the training programme was informative. They have learned on the usage of internet, e-mail and basics of computer. The two day event was informative covering details regarding accounting methodologies. It had helped them to carry on their day-to-day work more effectively. ■

The field supervisors Ms. Poongothai and Ms. Rajakumari attended the workshop on sexual abuse against female children conducted by Centre for Women's Development and Research (CWDR) on 28 March 2013 to create awareness on the abuses faced by the female children while facilitating the children to become aware of the offenders. The participants were oriented on the modes of safeguarding the children against the

unwanted approaches of offenders and orient them to protect themselves from such incidents. The government statistic reveals that 53% of the female children were sexually abused and that most of them occur within the household in their own family/relatives and every 155 minutes a child below the age of 10 is targeted. ■

Mrs. Rajalakshmi Ravi, Advisory Member from Tanker Foundation along with her colleague visited WWF on 7 May 2013 to conduct an awareness programme on kidney diseases. More than 200 WWF/ICNW women members participated in the event along with trainers/ staff. The PowerPoint presentation covered details on the functioning of kidney, its physiology, reasons for kidney failure and prevention of kidney diseases. The training programme was well received by the participants and felt it was very necessary/timely. ■

The skill development programme was organized for 15 new staff at Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI), Mysore from 20-24 May 2013. In addition to the concept session on food processing enterprises, the participants were given practical training on various preparation of food products like pineapple squash, tomato ketchup, jam, pickles, baby food, coconut/bakery

products like bread, cake and cookies. Besides they were briefed on the hygienic techniques to be adopted not only during processing but also packaging of food items. ■

To update the skill of trainers/field workers and constraints faced in the field, three training programmes were organized at Gandhigram Rural Institute, Dindigul from 6-10 May, 13-17 May and from 3-7 June 2013 respectively where 90 participants participated. The objective of the training programme was to enhance the knowledge of trainers/field workers so that it reaches the target group. The participants were oriented on urban/rural mobilization, identification of good members, motivational techniques and the mode of tackling issues/problems. On the health front, they were made familiar with the calories of food/intake, food preservation/packaging, etc. Besides, various communicable and non-communicable diseases were dealt indepth. Further the participants were exposed to the legal details with regard to the existing laws/acts for women such as Domestic Violence Act, Property Act, etc. The participants appreciated the training programmes as useful for their day-to-day work as it covered all facets on gender equality, environmental concern, health and legal aspects.



Staff at CFTRI training, Mysore



Trainers/field staff at Gandhigram Rural University, Dindigul ■



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## **WE NEED YOUR INPUTS!!!**

Letters, Ideas, Comments for our Newsletter

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## **What Readers Say about GROOTS**

Read with interest the editorial "From Savagery to Barbarism, where are the Indian Values?" I personally feel that we should not restrict our thoughts only at the thinking level but should be consummating them into actual conduct.

*His Excellency Shri. K. Sankaranarayanan  
Governor of Maharashtra*

The subject broached, violence towards women is indeed a serious one which afflicts all countries unfortunately. It was good to see men on the photos because men and women have to work together to overcome this sorry state of affairs. Encouraging you to continue your very valuable work.

*Ms. C. Nordin Van Gansberghe  
Ambassador to FAO, Rome*

We read GROOTS with its strong condemnation of the atrocious gang rape and the request for legislation to prevent these heinous misdeeds against women and to punish this kind of offenders .... Groots is still a very commendable newsletter, full of interesting facts and proposal to better the fate of women.

*Joop Koopman  
The Netherlands*

The GROOTS is very informative especially the editorial which raises many important issues facing the women in India.

*Rajen Kumar  
Editor, SME World*