

1. Where does BIRDS get their monies what are the costs associated with the various programs?

Micro financing:

BIRDS is raising loans from financial institutions who are putting their money for the social cause, such as world women Bank etc. We lend money from and Indian organization at the rate of 11% interest and intern we lend to the poor and needy at the rate of 14% to cover our staff cost and optional expenses.

People's Empowerment:

We used to get support from action aid India as a grant through 2005. At present we do not have any support for this program. This is our main program for the community mobilization, and we really need support from any organization with the commitment of the continuation of the support for minimum 3 to 5 years.

Health worker trainings:

This is also the one of the program we have started in 2003 among the poor families. The focus is especially with women who are highly malnourished. This program minimizes the death of the child and mother during the pregnancy and delivery. After initiation of the program we have received support from Catholic Relief Service organization from USA with Bulgar, Vegetable oil and some money for staff salaries. We used to have immunization and health talks along with weighing of the babies and mothers regularly to monitor their weights and helping them with suitable treatments through community health workers, the safe deliveries including the post and anti Natal care,

This program worked with 2500 beneficiaries.

This program was promised for five years, but unfortunately Catholic agency as stopped sending the food and support in September 2006. Mary Beth has come foreword to support of the community health workers wages for one year, from October 2006 to September 2007. Additional trainings are needed, and we need the support from other organizations beyond September 2007.

Water Management:

This is only the project BIRDS has full support from the Food and Agriculture

Organization of United Nations from 2004 to 2008. Under this project we work with small and marginal farmers on sustainable agriculture and ground water management techniques in Andharapradesh.

Legal Support activities:

We don't have any support from any one

2. What do you need to improve services to people on the farm and Villages?

First, I need to improve the communications on the farm such as computers, email and other communication skills such as copier, printers, scanners and audio-visuals

with LCD projector are very essential.

Second, is the establishment of skill studios (weaving, pottery, terracotta, tailoring, carpentry, computers, saloon, painting, motor mechanic, bamboo weaving) which will be helpful to the boarding home children, unemployed youth and others who are looking forward to learn and start their own income generation program. Orphan children living at boarding home need to learn these skills to be able to find work and help build the future economic opportunities. Depending on their interest, opportunities will also open to the poor Dalit families to start their own programs to earn the decent life for the future.

Apart from these, we are hoping to start two important projects at farm one is Home for the people living HIV+ with good food and health services with protection and care.

3. I remember hearing BIRDS servers 600 villages.

Projects are running under my leadership in 600 villages in Andhra Pradesh providence, with a population of 1.5 million people.

4. How many staff are required to support this service area?

We need 60 more staff to work on Dalit issues with other socio-economic problems.

The pay for BIRDS staff is \$70 per month. This comes to: $\$70 \times 60 \times 12 = \$50,400$ annually.