

Research Brief: THE BANGALORE CONSULTANCYBANGALORE
CITY

1000 kilometres south-east of Bombay is the city of Bangalore, a metropolis of three million people, capital of the state of Karnataka, and one of the great educational and cultural centres of Sphere East. Bangalore is the second largest city of Area Madras after Madras itself, and a centre for the Bangalore Region. Kemper Gowda, a chieftain of the Vijayanagar Empire, made Bengaluru (as it was then called) as his capital in 1537. He predicted a great future for the town and actually built four watch-towers at four elevated points around it, prophesying the extent to which the city would grow. The city has grown far beyond the limits he visualized. Situated at an elevation of over 3000 feet, Bangalore is endowed with a very equitable climate that draws many tourists all the year round. It is a highly cosmopolitan City, attracting students from many parts of South-East Asia and NAME. A multitude of different languages are spoken, the most common of which are Kannada, Telegu, Tamil, Urdu, Hindi, and English. A riot-and-violence-torn campaign is currently in motion to have Kannada made the compulsory language in the schools of Karnataka. Bangalore is an important centre for cultural, religious, and social activities. A number of renowned institutions stimulate the city's inhabitants all year round. It is also the centre for a number of national institutions like the Indian Institute of Science, Raman's Institute, the All-India Institute of Mental Health, University of Agricultural Science, the Bangalore University, numerous novitiates and seminaries of Christian religious orders, and all kinds of colleges, schools, and technical institutions. The industrial progress of Bangalore has also been remarkable.

CANARA
CONSUL-
TANCY

In response to the keen interest of the Bangalore Canara Bank head office in village development, ICA: India entered into a three month consultancy arrangement with the Bank to work together on doing some rapid visibility projects in the village of Gunjurpalya.

GUNJURPALYA
HAMLET

The village of Gunjurpalya, located fifteen kilometres from Bangalore City, is a rural hamlet of 111 households and a population of 611. It has a primary school and an adjacent preschool for 70 children. The economy of the village is agriculturally based: one crop of ragi is grown per year. There is no irrigation available. Dairy cows are a second source of agricultural income.

ICA
RESIDENCY

ICA:India with three staff led by Michael Arulswamy, moved into the village on Sunday 24 January 1982. A small two-room annex made available by the village, served as headquarters and permanent residence of ICA in the heart of the community. No light, furniture, or food was available at first. The village supplied the staff with food for one week free of charge and ensured the delivery of one litre of milk every day also gratis. Canara Bank supplied an office table and three chairs. The same day ICA met with the village and obtained a consensus that ICA staff and the village residents would work together on a number of short term projects. This was symbolized by doing the first cleanup shramdan the following week.

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THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS	Accomplishments in the arena of immediate visibility in the first month included the clearing of previously clogged drains, the whitewashing of many houses and the putting of street names on painted boards. Two villagers have recently volunteered to make a collection with a view to erecting further street names painted on stones. In addition, four street lights are now in working order repaired by the Government. This followed a proposal made by the villagers themselves on their subsequent visit to the government engineer. Electrification of individual houses in the village is limited to the original village nucleus and was accomplished before the initiation of the project. Further electrification can be obtained by house-hold application.
Rapid Visibility	
Borewell	A drinking water borewell, authorised by the Block Development Officer, has been constructed in the centre of the village. The well is 200 feet deep with a complete iron casing. This was implemented by a visit to the Chairman of the Panchayat in Gunjurpalya followed by a phone call to the engineer made by the Canara Bank. Work on the borewell was begun immediately with the backing of the Panchayat.
Agricultural Experiments	Soil testing and fertilizer training was undertaken at the end of March and there will be a subsequent session on the 22nd of April. The village now has thirty dairy cows as a result of loans undertaken to the amount of Rs. 60,000. The dairy milk yield of 55 litres is transported by bicycle to Bangalore. The village is planning to build a community cowshed in the near future.
Health Measures	Regular health checks in the village were initiated on the 26th of February in the preschool building. They were started by the Sisters of Karunalayam at the request of the village leaders. The Sisters have since visited weekly. There is also a weekly bathing session for the children supervised by the preschool teacher involving a Saturday visit to the well followed by songs and a picnic lunch outside.
Youth Club	A youth club, with members, numbering 35, was started on the 17 February. The necessary registration and documentation was obtained by the members themselves and they now intend to open a Bank Account. Plans for small scale industry include planting coconut trees along the main street and rearing chickens. A drama group has, moreover, been launched in the youth club itself and plans to perform a scriptural drama at the village celebration on Wednesday 22nd April. Initiative and confidence is encouraged by distributing assignments in such a way as to give all members the opportunity to visit government officials and to thus assume responsibility for the corporate group. The youth club intends to adopt the village office for their use as well as that of the general community. The building used for the office area has recently been plastered, whitewashed, and given an overall renovation by the villagers. A village story has been compiled by the youth club giving data on the origins of the village, the families present, land acreage and the primary appearance of the village. They have also created a village grid to represent the unity of the village and be its primary symbol.

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- Weekly Movie** A movie has been shown weekly since the beginning of the project. It is presented before Saturday evening village meetings in the open area outside the ICA office. Film subject material has encompassed village education, banking, children's health, family planning and Human Development. The films are supplied by the Publicity Department of the Government, which generally also provides the projector.
- Weekly Meeting** The weekly meeting is held in the same location after the movie and is attended by an average of forty to fifty people, the majority of whom are men. Very few women are present. The Gram Sabha format is used which includes community singing and the brainstorming of contradictions, proposals and tactics to be implemented in the coming week. The Sunday Shramdan is also discussed and assignments made. Time is further used to talk through banking opportunities and loan repayments. As the weeks have progressed, the elected village leader, Muniappa, has taken an increasingly definite role as head of these meetings.
- EFFECTS ON THE PEOPLE**
- Consensus Polity** A growing sense of corporateness has been indicated in the success of the village meetings, particularly in decisionmaking. Illustrative of this is the scheme to build a new village temple and the acquisition of materials for the village office. A strong community spirit is further demonstrated by the willingness of individual villagers to volunteer their special skills when assignments are being made.
- Growing Initiative** The eagerness of the villagers in planning for the future is indicative that this trend will continue. Initiative is continually displayed in suggestions for development in related areas - the securing of land deeds, application for street lights and requests to the panchayat for a permanent primary school teacher. Finally, visibility work undertaken with the initial push of the Sunday shramdan (work day), now continues independently. A villager will spend a whole day clearing a portion of road or painting a house motivated solely by the satisfaction it brings and his new found pride in his community.
- Mood Shift** When the Gunjurpalya projects started, the mood of the community was neutral and tentative. After the initial village meeting and the first corporate shramdan, there was surprise and excitement registered on people's faces. As successful corporate efforts increased, confidence came from the willingness of outside bodies to respond to the villagers' appeals for services, such as health checkups and the digging of the borewell. Spirits went up to such a degree that village leaders wanted to invite commissioners and Government Ministers to the village. When plans for creating a larger community centre were being made, Mr. Muniappa would find himself saying, "Let's go see the Minister about this." Self-reliance and self-confidence, once generated in a village, are infectious.

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Temple
Celebra-
tion

At the time of writing, the first all-village celebration is planned to accompany the opening of the new village temple on Wednesday the 22nd of April. This will be the first time the villagers of Gunjurpalya have gathered as a complete community for a village celebration. The celebration and the temple itself will be a way to tell a new story of the village's origin and aim, and will be a symbol of the new spirit that has broken loose, and the victories won through their united efforts.

REFLEC-
TIONS AND
FUTURE
SIGNIF-
ICANCE

The Gunjurpalya experiment has provided some significant learnings on the development process in the Indian village.

1. Concentrating on rapid visibility projects first- such as street signs, drain cleaning, health checks- established leadership confidence and allowed villagers to move boldly on larger, more complex projects of their own accord.

Project
Learnings

2. The "Bottom-up" catalytic approach grounded in the actual consensus of the community, puts the action of development solidly on the backs of the local citizens and avoids building a mindset of dependency on some outside agent.

3. When the catalytic agent lives, eats, sleeps and works in the village, instant credibility and trust is established; the close daily rapport with villagers allows staff to know what is really going on, what the ~~main~~ contradiction and needs are, and to respond daily in new ways to changing situations.

4. Objective methodology allows consensus to emerge, to be formulated, and to be translated into tactical action on a week-to-week basis.

5. The Human Factor is the key to comprehensive local development.

Training
Institute

The context and methods of human development are encapsulated in a three week Human Development Training Institute that ICA has conducted regularly in India for six years. Such an HDTI will be held in Bangalore from 9 May to 30 May, 1982. Ten village leaders and youth from Gunjurpalya have already been recruited to attend the HDTI where they in company with public, private and voluntary sectors will learn the tools with which they can carry on their own development.

CONCLUSION

Present images for future work in the Bangalore Region are still being worked through by the Area staff, but a few observations may be pertinent at the research level:

1. The presence of ICA auxiliary in Gunjurpalya for a three month consultancy period has been greatly appreciated by the village residents who would like ICA to continue its catalytic relationship to the village.

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2. The ambiguity in this future relationship derives from plans for Bangalore Municipal Corporation to expand into the environs of the village eventually absorbing it into the rural-urban fringe. However, this will not happen for some time since there is still 15 kilometres of open land between the village and the city.
3. Around Gunjurpalya is a cluster of eight villages which could be invited to join with Gunjurpalya in a cluster HDP. Area Madras needs a permanent rural development project to ground and lend credibility to the rest of its area programmes. Such a cluster with the present momentum established could go far in being the launching pad for consultancies all over Area Madras.
4. The Bangalore HDTI commencing week 6 of this quarter is a multi-sectoral school aimed at penetrating the institutions of the area and putting ICA's name on the Bangalore education circuits. The consultancy with the Canara Bank has been an invaluable framing and funding device that has allowed access to the business houses and institutions of Bangalore as did the Exposition trek of Lady Peggy Lindsay in March of '82. The HDTI will put the capstone on these efforts.
5. The training potentialities of ICA in Bangalore and the surrounding regions are immense. Organizations like the Christian Children's Association, the Canara Bank, Nestles (Colombo), Hyderabad Corporation, are begging ICA to come train their staff in village development and community catalysis. This further emphasizes the need for a rapid move into cluster initiation to provide rapid local grounding and credibility and a teaching village for the Area.
6. The move of Area Madras ashram to Bangalore next year would seem a wise step. Bangalore is the geographical centre as well as the cultural heartbeat of the whole area. A well staffed ashram in the city and an auxiliary outpost in the cluster would better enable the Global Order to serve the whole area.
7. Finally, the projected Asian (Global) Academy in OOTACUMUND quarter IV, 1982-83 could set the whole of South India alive, and create a Sphere East faculty to enable the Global Academy transposition! A.M. Joseph in Hyderabad is also keen on beginning University XIII in Hyderabad. The next great wave of global troops and priorship will probably come from Area Madras. The staffing of this great Area needs to be a key consideration of the Global Order this July.