

Samaj Shilpi Dampati (SSD)

Samaj shilpi dampati this is a new concept, which is living and kicking well in Chitrakoot MP/UP border under the leadership of Shri Nanaji Deshmukh director of Deen Dayal Research Institute (DRI).

The objective of this project is to make the villages of this area self sufficient and well informed. This scheme is covering some 80 villages and future aim is to cover some 500 villages in a radius of 80 Km around Chitrakoot. Chitrakoot is famous from time immemorial as in Ramayana where Sri Ram had spent his 12 years out of fourteen years of Vanvas and served the poor, destitute and saved learned Rishies from the clutches of Asuras. Similarly Shri Nanaji Deshmukh chooses this place as his Karmshathali as well.

The main feature of this project is that well educated newly wed couple takes the charge of village problems and living in the villages. They live like one of the villagers with limited resources as all of the other villagers have. They help to solve the problems utilizing the local resources with the local population. These newly weds live in the villages with only Rs 3000 per month so they can feel the same helplessness in regards to hardship and problems as villagers feel. The young couple are trained by Deen Dayal Research Institute (DRI) has Maximum energies as they are in their prime of youth has maximum creativity. They are starting their families so during that time one has to think of all the necessities they need and try to fulfill with all they have. In Bharat we not only take care of our own children, but also of society and our family elders as well. But these youth have to commit for at least five years minimum of their life to work as Samaaj Shilpi Dampaty in one village. After completing of five years at one village they are given a sum of Rs. 25,000 as bonus and they must leave the village in order to get this sum and start their life elsewhere as they wish. They can start their own NGO- Non Government Organizations to serve other villages as had learnt during five years as SSD..

We were fortunate to not only witness these couple working in few villages our selves. We also talked to few in UP /MP villages and we were impressed with degree of their commitment and ingenuity as well in solving various problem like no schools and no trade training and lack of creativity villagers have. For example if there is no electricity and it is hot and they had improvise a hand held fan running on batteries. How to start a library or how to keep the people engaged in various activities at central place like Chopal under a tree and keep the village clean.

We wish this program well and for this program we sent some One Million Rupees for supporting some more SSD as well to DRI from USA. Donor agency is India Development Relief Fund (IDRF).

Umesh Rashmi Rohatgi

24161 Nilan Drive Novi MI 48375-3754 USA

248-471-5786

www.ruohatgi.com

ruohatgi@yahoo.com

15th Aug. 2005