

Appeal to NRI donate generously for Deendayal Research Institute (DRI)

We were lucky to have met and lived 4 days with this great man Shri Nanaji Deshmukh at New Delhi and Chitrakoot. Nanaji is 88 years young and heads Deendayal Research Institute at Chitrakoot M.P and he is also member of Rajya Sabha.

What we saw had a great impact personally not only on our life as a social worker, but also as human being. We had been working in India for last 5 years as social worker but never seen something like this big and unique. He is transforming 80 villages in a radius of 50 Km around Chitrakoot from sleepy economically poor village without water and other resources to vibrant and having three crops in year with plenty of water to spare. This all is possible with the help of a dedicated team of 50+ and 35 of them are Samaj Shilpi Dampaty (SSD). This scheme will be extended to some 500 villages in radius of 80 Km by 2006 around Chitrakoot.

In nutshell following is what SSD are: -

These newly wed couple are at least Graduates or more and who are not only dedicated their life to social work but also promised to serve in a single village by living there for at least for 5 years. They only get paid Rs. 3000/per month so that they live as villagers they serving or some time even less than them. If they completed five years tenure they get a bonus of Rs. 25,000. After extensive training of 2 weeks there work starts. The work philosophy is simple that there is infusion of new ideas in the village community and resourcefulness of these newly wed who are starting their life journey have vibrant energy and can do any thing they put their mind to under the guidance of their leader Nana ji Deshmukh.

The work day is long for them but what we saw is worth mentioned here are water retaining structures, starting Libraries, Schools, drama groups, scripture readings, cleaning villages in order to achieve good healthy atmosphere, yoga classes, starting various training for youth in order to have some gainful earnings and reduce youth unemployment. Letting them know their entitlements from Government. Indira Awas Yogna - a housing construction plan for people, under Below Poverty Level (BPL). Etc.

Why it not able to apply to other villages right now. Two big reasons shortage of training facilities and money. Nana ji asked me to share my experiences and requesting NRI 's to donate generously for this cause of villager's empowerment. To adopt a village for 5 years cost only \$4,500. With tax-deductible contribution through organizations like IDRF it will cost you around \$3,000. So please adopt a village with SSD.