Dear all

I am happy to present you the Activity Reports and Annual Statement of Finances of the SUTRA for the year 2022-23.

Please remember, this was the first year after a gap of two years (2020-21 and 2021-22 that were lost due to Pandemic and lockdown) that we had a yearlong activities barring the loss of few months due to elections for the State Legislative Assembly and delay in formation of new government.

There were efforts by all my colleagues to overcome the shortages that we had for the lost years and bringing back SUTRA activities on the track. All my colleagues worked very hard.

We have few success and achievements during the year.

The most notable achievement was Ms Nirmal State Coordinator of ENSS was chosen by UN Women for their Coffee Table Book on 75 Stories of Women's Leadership in India. You may remember that in 2005, the International Coalitions of Women’s Organization decided to undertake advocacy for Noble Peace Prize for 1000 Women Activists, two of our Activists (Ms Yashoda and Ms Durga Thapa) were selected and their one pager bio was published.

DASRA USA has also brought out a Flyer on Ms Nirmal. So Ekal Naree Shakti Sangathan is getting recognition and marching ahead. Next year 2024-25, the ENSS shall break the umbilical cord with SUTRA and shall be on its own – the organization that they have registered (Ekal Mahila Vikas Avam Kisan kalian Samiti – EMVAKKS) shall own the Ekal Naree Shakti Sangathan provided the evaluation by APPI recommends the same.

The EMVAKKS has reorganized its Board of Governors and I have certain reservations on few members chosen that we need to discuss in this meeting.

Second achievement is the successfully running the Tutorial classes for the children of migrant labour in Industrial Township of Baddi-Barotiwala-Nalagarh. The Covid Fund for these Tutorial Classes was closed but DASRA USA came forward with a small grant that is helping us to run 7 such centers. The Bindi International (erstwhile known as Barefoot College International) is supporting Digital Schools for another batch of these children. I am very happy to inform you that there is very good progress in the learning abilities of these children and the attendance of these children is very regular. The initial discrimination that existed between local children and these children is more or less is over, however, many children still inform us that they were discriminated in the classrooms by their teachers. The Education Committees and local Gram Panchayats are providing critical support to these Tutorial classes.

The Mahila Mandal- Nyaya Dal Report gives an illustration of various disputes / conflicts that are taking place within community and how Mahila Mandals- Nyaya Dal are resolving the same. The domestic violence cases are dealt by these groups very firmly and I am happy to provide you some case studies within this report.

However, there was a setback when the In-charge of the Programme resigned and now we are looking for someone to monitor the same.

The worst thing that has happened to us this year is Dr (Ms) Madhu Sarin who had association with us for little over 4 decades and was one of the Founding Member of SUTRA is suffering from age-related disabilities and thus she preferred to resign (her letter of resignation is attached herewith). With this, almost all the Founding Members of SUTRA except yours faithfully have now been disassociated with SUTRA. Now the challenge is to look for the new President and I suggest we form a search team to locate suitable person for this. Meanwhile, Dr (Ms) Pampa Mukharje has agreed to act as Acting President.

The Financial Statement looks very positive as our savings have increased a little bit and the interests earned on this are supporting all the expenses that are not covered by any grant-in-aid or donations.

Another worry is that our FCRA is still not renewed by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India; we hope a positive response from the Ministry in near future.

With this I thank all the members of General Body and Board of Governors for their cooperation and look forward to an engaging discussion during the AGM.

Yours sincerely



Subhash Mendhapurkar 05-09-2023