



Project Summary

Name

Samajik Navnirman Sanstha (SNS)

Locations

Villages of Satara district, Maharashtra, India

Vision

Develop self-sustained socio-economically developed vibrant rural community

Mission

To be a catalyst in socio-economical development of villages through knowledge based holistic approach to development.

2005 Goals

- Expand current activities from 10 villages to 15 villages
- Use computer technology to open Market Information Center
- Model Village Project at Vithal Wadi & Jadhav Wadi – Implement number of social programs related to employment, roads, water
- IT Training to government teachers



Computer Training at SNS

How you can help?

Get involved in social development in India by becoming Asha-Star by donating \$30/month. As an Asha-Star, you will receive monthly project updates, hands-on experience in directing the future of this project, and opportunity to visit the project in your next trip to India.

For more information regarding site visits, proposals, photos:

<http://sns.ashacolorado.org>

Project Contact: Pankaj A. Jagtap | Jagtap@yahoo.com | 720-348-1010 |

Samajik Navnirman Sanstha (SNS)

Project Background

Samajik Navnirman Sanstha (SNS) is a grass-root level community-based non-profit organization that conducts after-school education, computer literacy training and uses information technology for social development in villages populated predominately by the dalit (underprivileged) community. The organization is active in more than 10 villages near the town of Karad in the Satara district of Maharashtra.

SNS was founded in July 2001 by Mr. Manik Avaghade, an M.A. in Social Science and a full-time social worker. Being part of the dalit community and being the only educated person in his village, Mr. Avaghade experienced the social injustice, poverty, and exploitation of the community. With the goal to improve the socio-economical condition of these villages, Mr. Avghade started teaching after-school education classes. His after-school classes became popular, resulting in new volunteers from nearby villages joining the movement, thus leading to the formation of SNS. The organization now has 9 trustees and more than 150 volunteers.

SNS and Asha

Asha-Colorado has been supporting SNS since December 2003. In 2004, Asha paid for teachers' salaries for after-school classes and for operating the computer center. Asha not only funds SNS but also gets actively involved in the growth planning of SNS. The Mumbai chapter of Asha provides site visits and monitors progress on the ground working closely with SNS.

Programs and Progress:

- **After-school Education Centers:** After-school classes are held in each village for students from grade 5 to 12. Using innovative teaching techniques, SNS tries to keep the children interested in school and reduce the dropout rate. In 2004, about 98% of the students attending the program passed the year-end examination. There are about 29 teachers and 600 students in the program.
- **Use of Personal Computers for Social Development:** The mission of the 1V1C (One Village One Computer) movement is to use information technology to develop a self-sustaining community. SNS has partnered with 1V1C to train SNS volunteers and implement IT programs in villages. Currently, computers are being used to provide basic computer literacy and to develop a database of villagers to apply for employment guarantee schemes. SNS also uses its personal computer center to earn income through data processing services.
- **Government Partnerships:** SNS has brought government services to the masses. With the help of SNS volunteers, technology awareness training in the field of water harvesting and use of JalChitra water management software was provided to 50 participants in 10 villages with all expenses paid by the government. In 2005, SNS is planning to use the database of the village population to obtain employment guarantee schemes. The government has also approved Market Rate Communication center to provide farmers the market rate for their produce.
- **Cultural/Social Constructive Programs:** Karate classes organized by SNS help people become physically strong to fight any physical atrocity. Through the local band, SNS organizes music programs for the youth. Students attend regular rehearsals and perform at important social occasions. SNS has also organized street plays to educate people about social issues such as dowry and girl child abuse. *Rangoli* is an art form used for decorating yard of a house. SNS has organized *Rangoli* competitions to promote art in the community.
- **Saving Scheme:** This program helps women save money for emergencies and facilitates an open forum to discuss women's issues.
- **Library:** SNS libraries have more than 100 books related to health and agriculture. Villagers use these books to find solutions to their agricultural problems.
- **Health Camps:** Through health camps, SNS educates masses about various health issues including women's health.
- **Vocational Training:** SNS provides training as well as seed money to youth interested in employment through vermiculture activities.