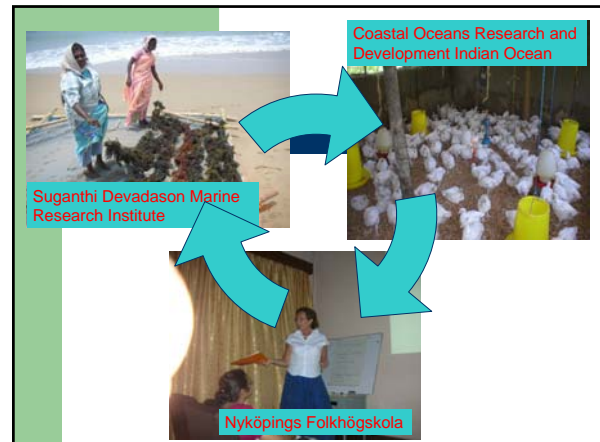


**9th ICT Strathmore University Conference:
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“Empowering women groups in Kenya and India through ICT, Adult Education and Alternative Livelihoods”

SPIDER FUNDED PROJECT

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Focus area I – ICT

- Introduction ICT to enhance:
 - SHGs communication and organization,
 - SHGs access to information for marketing
 - SHGs access to resources and peer networks
- Technologies focus on Community payphones, computers and internet

Focus II – alternative livelihoods

Focusing activities around viable livelihood activities through which:

- SHGs can improve socioeconomic status and food security
- SHGs can reduce reliance on traditional marine resources

Focus area III - Folkbildning

- Popular adult education
- Folkbildning: Sw “folk” – people and “bildning” – enlightenment
- Involves interaction and cooperation in groups, learning from each other’s experiences
- Learning process leading to understanding, development and self-esteem
- Strong belief in individual abilities

Progress to date (India)

- Project undertaken with groups in 5 villages
- Livelihood activities are vermi composting and hygienic drying of fishes
- Women and students undergoing training in computer studies
- Women and men involved in both adult and environmental education
- Participants could to read and write in Tamil and English

Outcomes (India)

- Computer centers set up in all villages
- Women able to help children in basic studies
- Greater awareness in spending money due to ability to perform calculations
- Increased income due to higher value of hygienically handled fish

Progress to date (Kenya I)

- 10 groups incorporated in year 2 of the project
- Livelihood activities are poultry farming, Small Scale Businesses, Gardening, Conservation and ecotourism
- Group members trained in computer use and Community payphone handling
- Groups received computer equipment and Community payphones



Progress to date (Kenya II)

- Training all groups on book keeping skills
- Training on literacy skills
- Training on group dynamics conducted
- Financial support for 4 groups for electricity installation and establishment of computer center
- Financial support for 7 groups for capital expansion

Outcomes (Kenya)

- Regular communication and collaboration amongst SHGs, stakeholders and project team
- Faster and cheaper access to service providers e.g. poultry feed suppliers, tourist hotels
- Additional income from pay phones and expanded livelihood projects
- Increased demand for computers and training

Challenges (Kenya)

- Limited electricity network in rural areas and reduced access to internet connectivity options
- Groups involved in poultry farming face stiff competition
- Group involved in ecotourism project affected by recent decline of tourists
- Commitment of some group members to literacy classes
- Financial resource limitation

Lessons learnt

- Foundations for effective ICT use need to be provided:
 - Basic/adult education
 - Physical infrastructure-electricity, room, etc.
 - Supportive policies/infrastructure
- Group organization skills, capacity and increased awareness are essential
- ICT opens avenues for alternative livelihood options for people to improve their lives

Conclusions:

- ICT builds the ability of SHGs to network effectively
- Project has generated interest among service providers-Safaricom foundation
- SHGs need skills to adopt more complex computer and Software applications
- Education enhance groups self-confidence and expertise in managing project activities
- ICTs have the potential to become enablers of inclusive development

Thank you for your attention

For more information

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