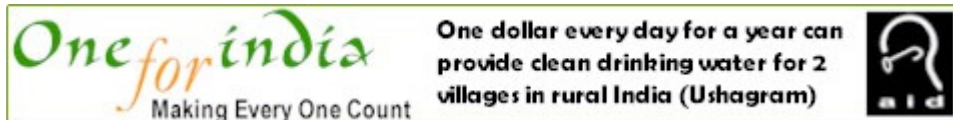


This has been a very eventful year for AID. We would like to acquaint you with the milestones reached by different chapters of AID over this year. We also solicit your help in our ongoing efforts as we jointly take yet another step closer towards our vision of poverty-free India.



Hundred Block Plan

(19 AID Chapters) The Hundred Block Plan (HBP) was started in the year 2001 with the vision of replicating efficient and empowering models in community health, women's savings groups and agriculture in about hundred blocks (each block has 60-100 villages) in India. The excitement and the momentum in this program have become palpable as it expands to several hundreds of villages – most significantly 20 blocks in Bihar! The HBP program involves several of the leading People's Science Movements in India with hundreds of village-level workers and community participation. Tamil Nadu Science Forum (TNSF) developed and demonstrated the Arogya lyakkam (Health Movement) program in 7 blocks in Tamil Nadu. UNICEF rated the Arogya lyakkam among the top 10 programs in the world in 2001. This is one of the central models being spread through the HBP, with each block requiring about \$6000 of support. For more details, go to www.aidindia.org/aipsn/



AID Projects on Alternative Energy

AID's guiding principle has always been development in harmony with nature.

- Biji Bike: (AID Chapter: Mumbai, India) AID, along with technologists at IIT Bombay, has developed the Biji Bike (Electricity Bike). Pedaling for one hour lights a lamp for four hours. These pedal power generators have been installed in villages in 10 states now, particularly in places that never had electricity from the power grid.
• Bilgaon Micro-Hydel: (AID Chapters: Ann Arbor,MI; Austin,TX; College Park,MD; San Diego,CA; TAMU,TX) In Bilgaon, Maharashtra, AID has supported a community-managed micro-hydel power generator project that can provide power for 200 tribal households of the Narmada valley. A unique aspect of the project is that the execution, operation and maintenance of the project is the responsibility of the beneficiaries. Already, the villagers have contributed 1400 human hours of shramdaan. The project work started in April 2002, and is due to complete in December! With a total cost of \$19,000 for 15kW, this is one of the most efficient and environment friendly power sources. To know more, visit www.oneforindia.org/microhydel.php



“Saathi Haath Badhana!” (Friend, join hands) Bilgaon villagers building the check dam

Disaster Management

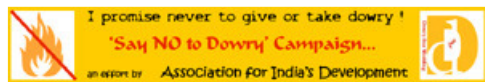


- AID finds a new Saathi (friend of AID) in Madhubhai: AID's involvement in the state of Orissa increased tremendously following the super-cyclone of 1999. Madhusudan Das and his Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), Abhijaan having just 8 volunteers at the time, used relentless efforts to inspire 50 more volunteers. They succeeded in expanding their relief and rehabilitation operations to many remote villages in coastal Orissa. Now, Madhu-bhai is an AID Saathi with an annual fellowship of \$3500, and is working towards long-term community development.
• The widespread and disturbing violence in Gujarat earlier this year compounded the challenges faced by grassroots NGOs that AID was working with after the earthquake. As they expanded their work to help the riot-affected communities, AID extended funding accordingly. We also expressed solidarity by denouncing the

violence, organizing several peace marches and candle light vigils, and also designed a symbolic poster called Eliminate Hate At All Levels 2002. By representing people of different castes, religions and gender, using only their fingerprints, the poster symbolically establishes the principle of equality.

**Say 'NO' to Dowry Campaign**

This brings us to gender discrimination in our own social circles. A most blatant form of gender crime that is still committed in our society is the forced extraction of dowry (*marriage "gift"*) in cash and kind from the bride's family during marriages. Sadly, this remains true even in educated middle- and upper-middle class families, including the Non-Resident Indian (NRI) community, who are the highest bidders of dowry.



Besides perpetuating inequality, this practice has wide consequences including female infanticide. AID recently launched the "Say NO To Dowry Campaign" at the annual AID conference 2002. It urges us to commit to an anti-dowry pledge and participate in the campaign by publicizing "Dowry Free Wedding". You can access more details from [www.aidindia.org/nodowry](http://www.aidindia.org/nodowry)

**Tribal Education:** (*AID Chapters: Boston, MA; Pittsburgh, PA*) AID has been supporting the Vanavasi Ashram Trust for a few years now. The money provided by AID was used for purchasing teaching aids for children, paying rent for the school building, constructing temporary buildings, purchasing agricultural land and building a cattle-shed. The school now boasts of 213 tribal children, 10 teachers and 14 non-teaching staff. Significant changes have been noticed in the tribal community regarding their awareness towards education and health care. For more information, visit [www.geocities.com/vanavasiashrumtrust](http://www.geocities.com/vanavasiashrumtrust)

**Changing Faces, Facing Changes:**

February, 2003

This year has been an eye opener for all of us in terms of the significant role of gender in Indian life. While socio-cultural evils like dowry inhibit the progress of the Indian woman, the astonishing contribution of rural women to India's economy almost always goes unnoticed, unacknowledged and un-rewarded. Noted rural journalist P. Sainath brought this to AID and several other groups in the USA through his brilliant and provocative photograph exhibition titled "Visible Work, Invisible Woman". These pictures were donated to AID for the calendars for the year 2003 and aptly titled "Changing Faces, Facing Changes".

This must-have calendar is available now by making a donation of \$10 or more to AID. The funds raised by selling the calendars will be used in supporting women self-help groups and primary health-care in rural areas.



June, 2003

**Pledge your Support to AID-Bloomington**

AID-Bloomington is one year old and we are encouraged by the progress we have made so far. Over the year, we have familiarized ourselves with the stringent review process for projects by performing mock-reviews, organized discussion sessions and cultural programs. We are now planning on undertaking our first project that we plan to sponsor and look to your support to help us successfully fund it. You can help us monetarily or by volunteering your time and effort.

To make donations:

- By credit card: Visit [www.indiana.edu/~aid/](http://www.indiana.edu/~aid/), click on *contribute* and follow the instructions
- By check: Fill the enclosed pledge form and mail it to the address specified in the form

To volunteer: We are a voluntary organization and are always looking for volunteers to help us out. Join us for our Community Service Hour (CSH) meetings, held every first and third Saturday of the month at the Indiana Memorial Union. We meet when school is in session and the schedule is at [www.indiana.edu/~aid/csh.html](http://www.indiana.edu/~aid/csh.html). You can participate in our penny collection drive, help us plan a cultural event or join in our project review process.



For more information, please visit our website [www.indiana.edu/~aid](http://www.indiana.edu/~aid), email [aid@indiana.edu](mailto:aid@indiana.edu) or call us at (812) 337-1347. We'll be glad to meet with you and tell you more about AID and its activities. The central website at [www.aidindia.org](http://www.aidindia.org) is also a good place to know more about projects sponsored by AID and to locate the chapter nearest to you. As we say in AID, 'If we all do a little, we can do a lot'.

AID-Bloomington is a registered student organization at Indiana University, Bloomington and part of the AID network. Association for India's Development (AID) is a non-profit organization. All contributions to AID are tax deductible. AID is a 501 (C) (3) organization and our federal tax-ID is 52-1863480. To obtain copy of the current financial statement, please write to AID, P.O. Box 149, College Park, MD 20741. Documents and information pertaining to AID can be obtained from secretary of State for the cost of copies and postage.

