



From the Desk of the CEO

"...in dreams begin responsibilities"

-William Butler Yates

Most of 2009 was spent with bated breath as the Sensex, Nasdaq and Nifty were dipping, flickering and ebbing in India and all over the world. More particularly the urban population and the networked global world bore the brunt of the down turn in the economies.

TARAA too felt the consequences as assignments were slow and far between. However this was an opportunity for **TARAA** to offer support t, through coaching and mentoring, to individuals, personally and professionally, and to support organizations through coaching of staff members desirous of bettering their prospects and to ready themselves for more responsibilities.

Evaluation: **TARAA** was contracted by NOVIB for an evaluation of a five year project in Cambodia, on behalf of an organization NYEMO. It is a project that evolved on the Social Enterprise model of development. The aim was empowerment of the peoples especially women and children affected and infected by HIV & AIDS. This project is complex as it has aspects of social mobilization and personal empowerment of extremely marginalized and disenfranchised women and children, education of children, health and medical support and insurance, and livelihoods through innovative trades. It is a project which gave the despondent hope and brought joy to the depressed and dignity to the rejects and discards.

Since the lead evaluator had witnessed the start of the project it was a matter of eager curiosity for her to see the results and to delve into the processes that were ongoing and the challenges that were faced and overcome. The evaluation process had moments of personal challenges for the evaluators as they heard testimonies of the affected and infected individuals and the courageous comeback they made to life. It was also humbling to acknowledge before the participants in the project that they were by far more courageous and educated than the evaluators as they have faced life and its grievous challenges squarely and have learnt from the book of life. They were pleasantly surprised when the evaluators told them that they had learnt from the sharing by participants. A very striking and unique outcomes of the project was the handing over by the founder of the project to former beneficiaries who are now managing the project.

For a brief report please see the Resource section of this website and for photos please visit the Photo Gallery.

Documentation: **TARAA** assisted Jerusalem Child Care and Development Organization (JeCCDO) to document and edit two decades of work in very difficult, volatile, extreme and complex situations in Ethiopia. JeCCDO is dedicated to ensuring the rights of children in Ethiopia for over two decades.

TARAA also assisted Gandhi Peace Foundation to prepare its report.

Youth for Peace in post- conflict: **TARAA** was introduced to Youth in Action Association (YIAA) during a visit to Kabul Afghanistan. Together we are working on a partnership with Gandhi Peace Foundation (GPF) in Delhi for building an understanding of non-violence and truth for sustained peace in their country and in the South Asia region. We work with the thoughts and words of Mahatma Gandhi and Frontier Gandhi Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan. The representatives and the President of the YIAA have visited India and had discussions with the Secretary of Gandhi Peace Foundation and the **TARAA**. We look to continued conversations and actions in partnership with YIAA and GPF.

Youth and Sports: **TARAA** has developed a strategic plan for engaging youth especially in the smaller towns and urban slums in either team sports encouraging participation of communities for better planning negotiating and social skills in addition to channelizing their energies and motivation. Syed Saba Karim is spearheading this under **TARAA** Sports.

Capacity Enhancement: Last but having the most significant reach is the involvement of **TARAA** in the Capacity Enhancement for the Census of India 2011. Today begins the first phase of the census namely the House-listing and the National People Register as the First Citizen of the country signs details of her household. For more information please visit the Current section and the Photo Gallery.

The \team of **TARAA** has grown and new colleagues have come on board as a few colleagues moved on with new opportunities.

TARAA is learning continuously from the diverse experiences over the past years and the understanding that today, more than ever before, our work is characterized by a sense of Universal responsibility, not only nation to nation and human to human, but also human to other forms of life. The interconnectedness of all comes through. So, with dreams of an interconnected and compassionate world come responsibilities which **TARAA** shares with you, visitor to our website.

I wish happiness to all.

Jyotsna Roy

April 01, 2010.