

The Shola Fellowship

1999

Lifestyles

Shola Fellowship - 1999

Reflection by the Waters: The Third Wave

27th, 28th February & 1st March, 1999

Shivpuri, Madhya Pradesh



Lifestyles

A warm day in the Bundelkhand plateau - the town is stark in the harsh sun and the landscape dry and scrawny. The presence of rocks increases the heat. This place needs rain to green the earth and make the view more pleasant. Why had this place been chosen for the Shola Fellowship!

As the journey continued from Jhansi to Shivpuri and our taxi has a tough time negotiating big trucks - the road turns onto a green valley. Slopes of degraded forests, fields of green wheat, signs indicating the presence of wildlife and Ghat roads. In a plateau the perceptible difference between a hill and valley is minimal.

Chatting with the driver - he tells me about his life- he has been a driver for 8 years for a paltry sum, why does not he buy his own taxi, why does he not do some other job? "... its not easy, madam! Our family used to mine sandstone from the national park area and sell it. Big slabs which have been traditionally used for house construction in this area, by the Maharajas of Gwalior, by everybody and traded all over the

country. This is not permitted now as the area has to be left for the animals. We have lost our source of income. Jobs are not easy to get. Tell me, does stone have life, why can't we use it, it is immortal and will live forever, no?" No answers.

Beautiful place, unlike what I thought. On reaching the venue of the meeting, the Fellows who had already reached were busy cutting out articles, jokes and cartoons on the topic of 'Lifestyles'. A small exhibition was up soon, local 'conference' material was bought from the market at Shivpuri and a small discussion was held as to how the topic will be tackled, how the sessions will be arranged and what will be the result.



The Shola Fellowship is a network group which looks at different and better ways of living. A network of persons from diverse backgrounds, fields, upbringing - to synthesize and distill the very essence of 'life systems, development and the future'.

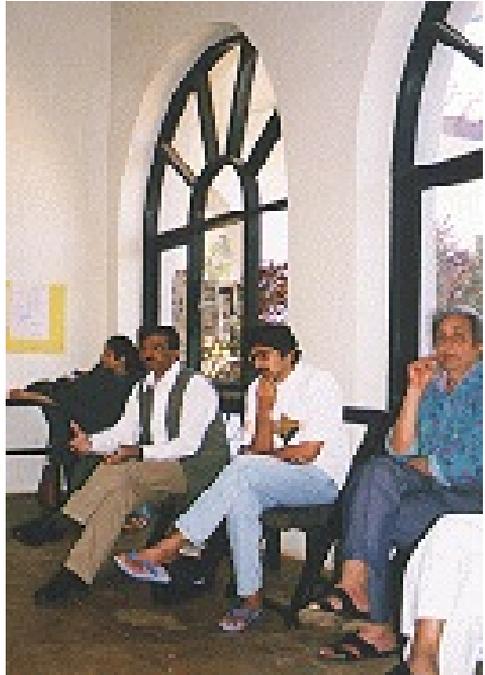
The Shola Fellowship is not structured formally - the strength of the group lies in the spirit, the thoughts, the creativity, the analysis and vision. This was the third meet, the last two being in Kotagiri, Nilgiris and this one in Central India - the town of Shivpuri, adjacent to the Scindia Raja's picnic / play ground of animals, forest and rivers.

Besides the 10 core people of the Fellowship, there were 5 other invitees. There was an air of enthusiasm, as all had left behind their work, projects, preoccupations and worries. This was a time to think new things, to go beyond work and organizations, to look with different eyes at the everyday world and life.

Into the First day - 27th February, 1999

Keywords : Warm sun, nice place, good food, regular watering, paper-cuttings, small town visit, evening walks, intense sessions, the breeze, a river, car-pick-up & drop, fax tone, the proposal, Hyderabad, phone again....

The session began with a brainstorm on definitions, how do you map lifestyles, what is a lifestyle - it was important to have a loose framework, a boundary of thoughts for this workshop.



As a first step - what was the expectation of the group:

Expectations of the Group

While some members of the group came to “get away,” others had more serious agendas - they wanted the meeting to give ideas for the future, change indicators, to explain and analyze individual position vis-a-vis a lifestyle. Some wanted to understand others and others wanted to understand specific groups & their lifestyles. For some it was a process for de-layering, to uncover lifestyles. “This meeting should help me understand myself better” - *an ultimate expectation*

The topic of the discussion was all-encompassing, as someone defining lifestyles said, “everything.” The meeting began with defining the term - What is ‘lifestyle’? Several interesting interpretations came up -

Lifestyle is...

- Pattern of expressions determined by the interplay of the extrinsic (environmental) & intrinsic (genotype)
- Way a type of person (group) gets distinctive characteristics and lives
- The statement you make & the image you have
- Everything - political, religious, cultural, regional, aspirations.....
- All about the choices' one makes
- Habits governed by social conditioning & nurture
- A time specific characteristic, determined by the play of self and circumstances
- One's trip!

Speed and Direction - External or Internal

The discussion veered to factors determining lifestyle - is it externally governed or is it historical, is it a question of governance? Is it a factor of time and speed? The role of the external - also made it necessary to understand who controls and how that directs lifestyle. (*I know all this already starts sounding airy, a blur - but this was the process of thoughts that led to some very concrete, measurable concepts on lifestyle indicators - so don't stop .. keep on this fluid track..*)

Control and direction are important factors - a lifestyle is determined by how much control it has over its resources/surroundings and whether these are guided in a particular direction or are connected by a string. Usually people spend a lot of energy, time and resources in having more control over their environment. *I was reminded of the number of times I had heard, 'I want my own scene'. This determines lifestyle?*

Life and the Institution : Do you get moved by ‘structures’

Historical changes in institutions have greatly influenced lifestyles. e.g. Earlier the family set up played an important role now, it does not. Earlier there was more time - now the speed is much higher, with people always being behind schedules, racing - missing out on finer aspects of life. Earlier choices were made with direction, now, they are not. The society is more individualistic than it used to be. This is determining lifestyles of people, in a rather subtle way.

Some lifestyles are a hollow aping of others. This is the virtual rat race and is somewhat related to conformism. In a phrase it can well be described as “I must have what you have, if not something better.” This of course determines the course of your life and ...style!

Information is Power

Lifestyle is a function of exposure (information) and insulation. The extent to which one is exposed to the happenings and is informed about things, also determines lifestyle.



New and varied information is known to change lifestyles - from theories/philosophies to consumer goods, all play a role in this.

Lifestyle is a function of individualism and sociality, i.e., the extent to which one chooses to be individualistic, determines one’s way of living, it selects the peer group & choices made.

I know better

Lifestyle is a function of dominance and influence - 'A decides for B'. Both in the classical and the modern sense this aspect is true. Traditional caste norms (e.g. in Bihar) determine lifestyle as one has control over resources and the laws of the land!

This thing is also present in the modern society, which may have broken all classical rules, but have build new ones to exert their influence and dominance. These are expressed in terms of knowledge, information, capabilities, etc. Your lifestyle depends on whether you are A or B!!

Lifestyle is greatly influenced by the peer group and reference groups.

Kilowatt, Hours & Joules



Lifestyle is a function of consumption. This is the amount of energy & matter consumed by a certain type of living. A comparison of an average American's lifestyle vs. that of a tribal in Madhya Pradesh can easily explain this factor.

I was wondering about tribal life - low consumption is quite synonymous to being lazy...or is it some higher pursuit!

Are you thinking?

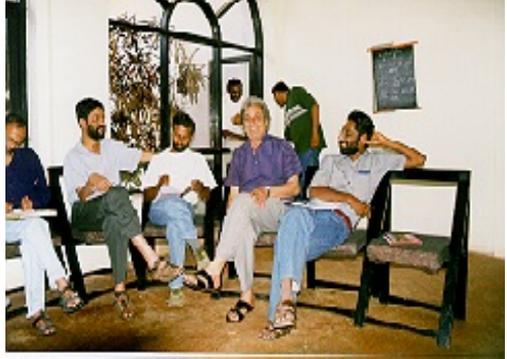
There are two lifestyles - thinking and non thinking. A type of lifestyle is determined by the level of conscious decision making. Sometimes 'circumstances' lead the way and a lifestyle can exist without having made conscious decisions. Access to information, analysis and mental determination play a role in determining a conscious lifestyle.

It was decided that these factors are not mutually exclusive.

The above definitions surely, made one think and rethink that this was not such a easy topic to lecture on. Each facet was complimentary - and the moment one thought strongly about something - the ground seemed to be unsure.

Understanding Lifestyles workshop - was already taking off our steam, cigarettes were being passed around (of course to smokers, who were allotted only one window out) as extra ammo for the ambush of thoughts and deep terrain...

...others, remained quiet, drinking water from Madhav, the cheerful waiter.



With this introductory session, things got clearer in everybody's mind as to what the meeting would be all about. It was going to be different from any other meeting the Shola Fellowship had before - *this time it would be more like a workshop, sharpen your pencils and your minds! Do not think in project mode, this is something to learn and apply to your life!*

The evening saw the group break up into smaller ones and twos and go for long walks. 'Chattri' was a favourite haunt, lawns, fountains, lighted palaces/samadhis built for the ancestors of the Scindia royal family were all beautiful. Somewhere one could hear a distant peacock, calling into the forest. Nightfall - & time to return, for some spirits, for dumb play (we played dumb charades seriously) and excellent food.

The second day

Key words : Groups, chart papers, time, presentations, outputs, cake, gifts.

As people slowly filtered in the next morning, I wondered how to prevent the afternoon sun from entering our meeting room, making it rather hot.

The group was split into three smaller groups to determine separately some measures for lifestyles. Is it measurable by some key indicators? If so, what are they and how are these to be measured? It was difficult to come up with indicators, which touch the lifestyle of all people, encompasses the urban and rural, rich and poor, man and woman & different sects and societies.

I watched the groups disappear into corners near the lake - over the pump house, under a tree, over a check dam - with charts and pens. Lapwings' calls were heard and in the distance, Mallards disappeared into the water in search of food. The water from this lake is the drinking water source for Shivpuri town. It was formed by building a dam to create a habitation for the animals. This was the place where the Maharaja stayed during summer and also entertained his guests for shikar.

The groups discussed animatedly about the different measures which could be used to determine lifestyle. Later in the afternoon the groups presented their findings to the gathering. This side room - which had no name in the Hotel a day before - became - was the key room, almost where the principal decisions on everybody are taken.

I heard the manager tell a guest - this was his main conference room and a team of national experts had come for a Workshop on Environment & Development! The waiters suddenly realized the power of this room, they used to smoke beedies or sing a film song as they took the plates away to the kitchen.

*Even here they now had to watch their step, and their **cool areas** were getting encroached by lifestyle definers...*

I can't remember how each gravitated to the different groups. But there were a few indicators - one group had the economists - the numbers, the quantities and comparisons bias, one was the down to earth hard truths - the people with the nose on the ground, practical, knowing the pulse & the last group was biased with dreamers and biologists.

GROUP I - (Mathew, Ranjan, Manob, Damini)

The group divided people into several categories of Functional groups/communities. This represented the different type of lifestyles -

1. Tribal
2. Casual/Migrant Labourer
3. Blue Collar workers
4. Farmers
5. Traders
6. Middle Level Staff
7. Artisans
8. Executive Class
9. "Seekers and Drifters"
10. "Landed Gentry"
11. Politicians
12. "Thinkers"



Common factors can be applied to all these categories.
Measurable & quantitative ones are:

- A. Choices - Degree of freedom
- B. Expression/Distinctiveness - Quantum of energy spent for image formation
- C. Happiness - Degree of achievement toward aspiration
- D. Habits - Degree of influence by extrinsic/intrinsic variables

Group II - Som, Shrikant, Kukki, Sneh, Manish

Using the definition of Lifestyle as a manifestation of the interplay of the intrinsic and extrinsic, the group came out with three broad measures -

1. Choices - What are the real choices available to a person. This determines lifestyle. This largely depends on the individual and what has been provided by the state or governance, society, environs. i.e. Real Choices: f [individual, external provision]

e.g. Individual: Non Individual
as
US (free choices): China (state controlled choices)

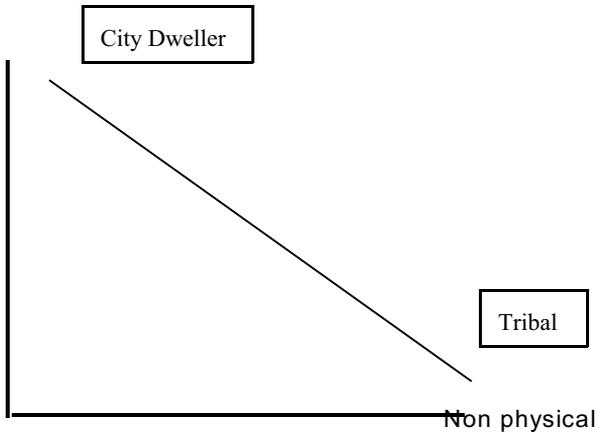
2. Physical measures - Energy & Matter

Nonphysical measures - Time:

- a. Productive or economic (survival);
- b. Consumptive, Leisure, social
Sociality- the extent of outward lookingness

e.g. In the Physical to Non Physical range the example of a City person to GOI or Tribal is possible. Shown graphically:

Physical

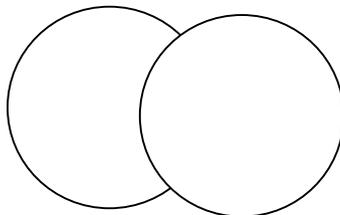


3. Conscious and Sub conscious

Extent of conscious choices vis-a-vis those which happen by circumstances/environment

There was a debate over these measures- people felt that in the new world order it was often difficult to divide time into these two slots as often these two overlap as people find pleasure in work and it is mixed with social time. Probably it was better to divide time into 3 parts, with an overlapping grey area.

Productive time



Social time

An example stated was that of a business meeting with a client over a dinner or a concert. The formal and informal get overlapped to service both ends. Or a client is taken on an adventure safari - the fusion of business with pleasure to achieve a higher standard.

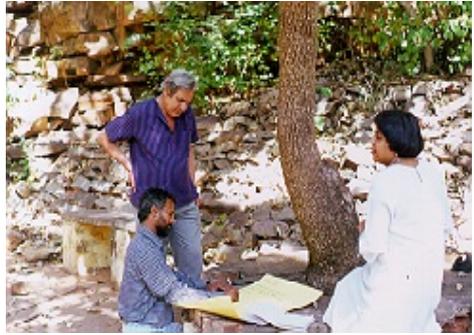
The extent of sociality was also thought to be a difficult measure as it is not just a function of time spent but an overall quality. This measure was finally struck out. *-It would be long time since I forget this afternoon, the concept was clear to us almost obvious, the whole group was blind - as though there was something opaque.*

Group III - Rupa, Pratim, Uncle, Rajiv

Defined Lifestyle as -
“the urge to leave a mark
& the way one chooses
to leave a mark”

The indicators for these
are

1. Basic Needs +
Leading to
completeness



Food Gathering - Ranges from people who spend a large time and energy on this to the other extreme of Jains - who choose not to eat

Procreation - also a range leading to the ultimate of those who decide not to procreate or do not attach importance to it

2. Security Coefficient - measured by the features such as - career, children, marriage, finance, health, contacts. These involve things like - learning from the past, present situation and a view of the future
3. Control of the external - desire to make the unknown, known. e.g. Honey hunter opting for a bee box, health insurance, children's education - career/university abroad

The common indicators from all three groups were:

1. Degree of freedom/real choices (I, II)
2. Image building effort (I)
3. Satisfaction index (I)
4. Time (II)
5. Energy/Matter throughput (II)
6. Insecurity coefficient (III)
7. Control of external (III)
8. Extent of outward looking ness - social interaction & integration (ALL)

These were the important indicators of lifestyle and each of the groups had to work on how to measure and quantify them and present them at the end of the session - though this did not happen - people did work out these aspects and they are presented below and these are up for debate, additions, improvements & comments -

1. CHOICES

These can be measured through

- * Governance: Number of alternatives available
- * Services
- * Consumer goods
- * Food, clothing, shelter or basic need choices
- * Occupation & livelihood alternatives
- * Information available and related choices
- * Leisure - individual or group,
- * Individual - Group Segment and related choices

2. TIME

Can be measured in hours- divided into three categories:

- * Economic/sustenance Activity time
- * Personal/family/social time
- * Mixed time - where work & leisure mix

- Compare minimum-maximum time utilized in each type of activity
- Compare average time utilized in different frameworks

3. ENERGY- MATTER THROUGHPUT

This is one of the easiest things to calculate as it is the amount of energy used in a certain kind of lifestyle. Example: whether one uses a paper napkin or a cloth napkin for wiping hands, greatly varies the energy used.(quoted from the Balaton Bulletin)

4. SECURITY COEFFICIENT

This can be measured as:

- * Percent of income on savings
- * Number of children
- * Aspirations for children
- * Collection of school forms
- * Move in right circles - for reference grouping
- * Savings in the name of child
- * Gas bookings
- * Type of toys

5. CONTROL OF EXTERNALITIES

- * No of measures adopted to guard your home & self
- * Contacts established - cops, income tax, politicians

6. SOCIALITY

- * Time divided into the Individual-Group Segment
- * Leisure time - spent individually or in a group
- * Number of community institutions one is a member of
- * Number of community events participated/attended
- * List of groups interacted with and on which issues

The six indicators to a large extent touch various aspects and bring out the parts of the engine that drive anybody towards a certain lifestyle. *Quite comprehensive and contemporary!*

Will the Circle be unbroken?

Given the above indicators, members of the group then illustrated examples from their personal experiences or what they had knowledge about, or associated with.

These were examples of lifestyles - groups/communities which created 'a type of lifestyle' to which usually people adhered. Whereas in some the control factors were subtle, social, mental, in others it was simply circumstantial. In all these examples both the reference and peer group played a very important role and rules/norms were understood by all in the community. It created a sense of belongingness & identity (which also prevents one from going hay wire!) - *I am leaving this parenthesis as it is....*

1. Ashram, Pondy - Manob related to the group, his life in the Sri Aurobindo Ashram at Pondicherry, where the basic needs were assured by the system and the individual was left to excel in their field of work and move towards a spiritually higher life. Here both time use options and sociality were somewhat regulated. He was working in the Cottage Industries which made Agarbattis, candles and other products, which were used in the Ashram and sold all over the world.

2. TISCO - Jamshedpur, created a lifestyle governed by the company. The work one does for the company decides one's class, society, social set up, use of time, etc. In this kind of set up one's lifestyle is already determined, with no option left for doing things differently. The rules of lifestyle are laid out and go on from one generation to another - as the company employs the offsprings when a person retires.

3. Vasant Kunjis of New Delhi - These were a group of urbanites, who harbored many shallow airs of culture, art, beliefs. They were preoccupied with where and what one is buying, how to make more money, what is in vogue, etc. This virtually made them into a category, which due to pressures of

'what will the neighbor think/say' followed the same type of lifestyle.



4. Pant, Pande & Joshis of Kumaon and Garhwal, U.P; Havik Brahmins of South Canara; Badagas of Nilgiris; Syrian Christians of Kerala were caste/community groups which had a strong binding thread. They could be in different parts of the world, but when they meet they adhere to certain norms. Usually the people help each other in time of need and want to see the whole community benefit.

Shrikant described how the community now wanted to get back to Garhwal and Kumaon and do something for the land and people there. Coming 'Back to the Roots' was a common feeling amongst these communities due to its set of rules & norms which made it a comfortable lifestyle to fit into.

The discussion veered towards the need for forming groups and adhering to them, in some way. The Shola Fellowship itself, was one such group.

By now the venue managers were convinced that this "Environment Conference" was of a very different kind. People were relaxed, there was no Chairperson, orders varied from tea, coffee to masala lemonade! Even Simran could attend the sessions and invariably manage to distract Ranjan's

attention, he being her best “Pepe Uncle”! (Pepe in Bangla is Papaya) She referred to her Teddy as a dog and laughed at us through her eyes. I think she preferred the warm sun and swaying poppy flowers in the garden.



Plans were made for the next day, an early morning Safari into the Madhav National Park. We saw deer and dry terrain. The banks of the reservoir had a green look. Domestic cattle grazing, man-wildlife conflicts and depleting resources - the same old story! Here the Tigers and a few leopards have been kept in a big cage (like in a Zoo) and the group admired the majestic animals.



Earlier the forest was open to people and the animals too were free. Mahua, Camphor, Khair were collected by the tribals for survival. The place had been important for hunting - shikar, during the Raj days. A board somewhere described the slaughtering with great pride!

Where do you think you're going?...

Some Key Trends & Future Scenario Building for Lifestyles

This part of the meeting was very exhaustive - it touched upon the future of lifestyles and what were the things that would significantly influence peoples' way of thinking and living. These factors are elaborated below and try to capture the essence of the discussion.

I had now somehow lost my observer status and was deep in thought, somebody reminded me "Don't forget to write" Manob was always surprised to see the number of times glasses of water were being passed around during the meeting - it did help though, cooling heated discussions on whether religion will stay or go, whether families will be important or break apart, technology would lead to... and also soothing Som's voice, tirelessly managing the session.

Some of the key trends were:

1. The individual will become more important, and an attitude of 'my life my money' will be common. There will be an increased intolerance for other/different types of lifestyles. An acquisitive society will emerge, maintaining a 'distinctive' lifestyle. Rationalization of this and other aspects of living will also be there, and people will tend to justify this kind of existence, not being open to change.

2. The impact of technology, automation, increased information will have a significant effect on the society. This impact will be restricted to groups initially, but will seep into society over a period of time. This will lead to:

- widening of choices
- increase in material/conspicuous consumption
- more energy & matter usage in lifestyles

- more comfort seeking/convenience lifestyles (work hard so that you can relax!!)
- increased investment in R&D
- Increased monitoring of individuals due to automation
- Sociality and Family ties will suffer with increased use of technology
- There will be less face to face interaction.
- Mobility will reduce
- Privatization of resources will lead to high energy lifestyles
- More of everything - will be a kind of motto
(*What! I thought - are we going the American way?*)

There was a discussion on the scale of automation/information explosion and what proportion of the society will it effect. What about the rural areas? The reach of technology is all pervasive - but it is of different kinds, of different levels and having a differing impact in societies. It was discussed that this whole trend could be beneficial to some parts of society. From the environmental point of view, it was felt that people will move towards eco friendly devices and machinery. Free market forces and competition will also ensure the end of poor quality goods and services.

3. There will be a breakdown in the present social hierarchy - cultural and class boundaries will merge. In certain cases where traditional dominance has been there of one type of lifestyle over the other -the roles will be reversed....and the meek shall inherit the earth - e.g. rise of dalit forces in the Southern states and the Yadavs & Harijans in UP and Bihar.

The relationships as exist now will also see a change in the future - age and generation conflicts will increase. People will come together in similar income & occupation classes, the peer group becoming more important than the reference group.

Women will be the people to decide future the direction lifestyles take. There will be a decrease in human values & due to increase in speed, care & respect for senior citizens will go

down, resulting in age group conflicts. An increase is predicted in violence in family and society, leading to more conflicts and more people in the business of mediation & counseling.

4. In relation to an earlier point it was discussed by the group that there would be a lifestyle dominance and a lot of energy would be spent in building identity. For the rest it would be a 'I don't care' attitude, coupled with the fact that "only winning" was the way. This will create a cultural dominance, reducing space for other lifestyles. This may lead to a new kind of lifestyle tension/conflict.

5. Since lifestyle is made up of the choices one makes, it was thought that now the choices will be all within the framework. This was a false sense of freedom, because though the choices would go up, they will be within a boundary, thus determining the lifestyle. Somewhere, this would lead to a certain kind of homogeneity/mono culture/conformism.

6. Given the fact that there would be a closer link between people of the same age group, rather than the traditional family set up, there is a possibility of communes coming up. The immediate family, i.e. husband - wife will gain importance and will be a close unit. Further, it was also felt that new type of community will come up, which will be age, income, dependent.

The future scenario building exercise also predicted a number of lifestyle aspects which will disappear from society. Some of them were -

SOON DISAPPEARS!

- # Free Lunches
- # Rationalization of values
- # Ignorance - due to increased access to information
- # Spontaneity
- # Change/Obsolescence will be faster
- # Poor quality goods and services
- # Non responsive/unaccountable governments
- # Traditional social dominance will go & the repressed will capture e.g. Bihar
- # Religion?
- # Big states with control over large economies and resources
- # 'Big' societies
- # Right to choice - as all choices will be within a framework

A lot of thought had gone into the subject, but it was not exhausted completely. The group decided to continue work on it informally/formally and keep the topic in mind during everyday work.

WORK FOR THE FUTURE

- ❑ Understand, Describe, List, Analyze better - others work, other groups, Data, primary work
- ❑ Monitor trends - casual 'each one watch one', research
- ❑ Facility

Look Ahead

Shola Fellowship 2000, Jan 12th -14th

Place : Gopalpur-on-sea, Orissa

Event managers : MJ, RBV, RKR

Topic: ??

Future Work Offers:

Descriptors - SN, RBV, GKB, RKR

Review of other research - MJ, MD, RM

Data sources and information - SS, RKR, AR

Primary - cases and documentation - PR

This had been a 'heavy' meeting, everybody was quiet and thoughtful and it was time to leave. Visions of bright yellow chart papers, a rolled up blackboard, discussions of homeopathy with Rupa's father, a pensive Shrikant, brilliant sunrises, and the memoir 'Ganesh Pustika' were with us. Manob's rendering of 'Jab deep jale aana, jab shaam dhale aana' stayed with us on our journey back. It was Holi, the day we left, colour, vigour, life& a lifestyle.

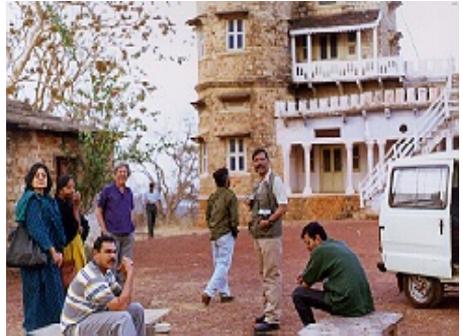
Members:

Rupa Mukerji: The Shola Eco Lady from Hyderabad was with Simran, Ma, Baba & Hubby - quite a handful, but there was no way to make out - she was there alone right into the discussions, strategies, brimming with disagreements and new ideas. Rupa is a good networker and brings to the Fellowship a rare combination of professionalism, goodwill and fun.

Somnath Sen : The teacher with a chalk by the black board - stalking, smoking and lighting up peoples' minds. Som is undisputed spokesperson. He coordinates, runs, ends, concludes, tells you `this is what you want to say', synthesizes all in discourse - which ought to lead to action. Som mixes his hunch on issues and trends with concepts and economics.

Ranjan B. Verma :

Ranjan was a different person in this meet. It was almost, and he was prepared with the bullets, always active in ideas, thoughts and pushing for a conclusive debate. Ranjan was in demand by the youngest Shola sapling - Simran 2 yrs, looking for him for an appointment!



Rajiv K.R.: Still water runs deep, is how you can picture Rajiv. A quiet person with observation that comes from common sense. He was an active participant - when you thought Rajiv was lost to the world. He came back quick with an added dimension.

Mathew John: The journey took its toll - but Mathew was all eager to play the Lifestyles workshop. He was almost waiting for the new ideas, ways and views of the Fellowship. A solid person who believes in doing what he does and makes a mark.

Mathew's strength lies in enterprise development with tribal communities. He sees markup, loans and procurement everywhere.



Pratim Roy: The eternal dreamer, who gets tired of set patterns and ideas. He relates humans to primates & animal behaviour systems. Shola gives him the right place to validate, bounce and re-define. He has been wanting this 2 times a

year instead! A good supporter of new ideas and wanting to back all initiatives.

Snehlata Nath : The Scribe this time, she enjoyed the time and was comfortable amidst the diverse crowd. Sneh works in the mountains with tribals on natural resource economics. Sneh is a keen observer and an active participant - a number of initiatives gets passed on to her for necessary implementation & push.

Shrikant Joshi: The wise old man of the Shola Fellowship, only Uncle was ahead of him. Shrikant is a sensitive person and understanding lifestyles was no frail topic. He took it seriously and put forth lot of his person in to the discussions.

We Missed You...

Aromar Revi : We missed him in this - there were several wavelengths - where we could see him coming through, albeit not in voice or thought. Next time...

G.K. Bhat : We heard from him over the first day - through proposals (*a much abused word now*), the second day through fax tones in Shivpuri. A message from all to him - 'come on get your hand moving..'

Invitees

Manob Tagore: A musician, singer and heading a lucrative not for profit business in the Sri Aurobindo Ashram, Pondicherry - for him it was like opening the match - how to face the bowler, the new ball, the tight outfield.



But he did well, spoke lucidly and shared with all. He has become a part of the Fellowship.

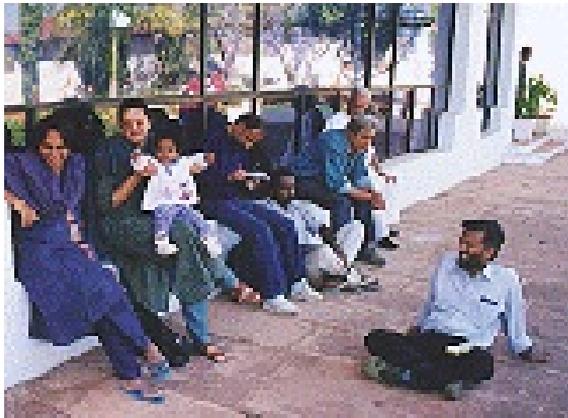
Damini Narain: A person who has heard about it several times, experienced herself - now placed amidst the real thing - it's almost like the proof is in the tasting. Good, sound and practical approach to the Lifestyle topic, she brings forth a hue of experience not available in this group before.

Dr. S.K. Chaturvedi: Uncle to us all, a life of interesting incidents, struggles, fights and the ability to smile at all situations. That is uncle, a resource person from the Biotechnology field watching lifestyles at each moment, day in

day out. Uncle has the unique strength to get into the circle - unhindered, unbroken as though he always belonged there - he laughs at age.

Ramakrishna Kukila: Kukki, has been wanting to come for the Shola Fellowship since the last 2 times, he enjoyed this one - putting in place all his marketing skills, tapping from his local networks the traditions, the approaches and bringing it here to the Shola Fellowship. He has a stability about him which cannot be fluttered in any situation.

Manish Dubey : Probably the most active participant in this Fellowship - asking questions, providing new paradigms and carrying a significant baggage of useful experience. Manish was also instrumental for the dumb charade show in the evenings. One sentence that came from him - “in the future good things will stay. People would reject poor quality”. Something that will stick...



Also there:

Simran, Mr. & Mrs. Mukerji : The two senior citizens of this gathering, who were kept busy by their granddaughter, Simran - a lively, bubbly toddler. They heard the overflows of the discussions on the dinner table, and that last day they were keen to hear our conclusions.