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Mandir Manthan

An effort to attract religious visitors to learn the power of Mithila by visiting various Mandir (including shaktipeeth) of Mithila (Bihar)

1st Project: **Ugratara Mandir,**
Sahasa (Mahishi)
Phase-II : Study Report

Date: January 28, 2009

Manthan by: B K Karna and Kiran Karna
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1) Objective of Mandir Manthan

Mithila is the religious region in our country and also well-known as a place for yoga. Three local languages i.e Maithili, Angika (south part) and Vajjika (west part) of Mithila are the important part of cultural bond and classified under the consideration of linguistic factor. One of the great parts of this region is the Mandir.

Mandir in Mithila is one of the great historical assets. There are twenty (20) *Shakti Peeth* available in Mithila. The few Maithil has got interest to visit and explore the significance for blessings.

Everyone does contribute in respective way towards making Mithila as progressive region. Efforts are explored with many dimensions. Here, we have to identify, which dimension will be effective and suitable? We don't know. In general, we ignore to take responsibility to contribute and keep saying that Mithila has got no infrastructure and hence, impose the blame on people and government.

Infrastructure in any location provides basic platform to explore entrepreneurship. There is infrastructure in Mithila but it is trapped in between *why to start* or *how to start*?

Considering this fact, Mithilamanthan Group started to explore for available infrastructure. We believe the available infrastructure is MANDIR and its HISTORY. And accordingly, we have decided for *Mandir Manthan*. Our very 1st project has started with *AADI MAA UGRATARA* (*Mahishi, Saharsa*).

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The primary objective of UgraTara Mandir Manthan

- 1) To popularize the power of UgraTara Sthan among religious visitors from domestic & overseas. As like visitors we do notice at Tirupati and Vaishno Devi.
- 2) Though, the task is difficult, but not impossible. Existing Management may be in tune with the orthodox in nature but we will have to achieve this. Our common goal is to bring success towards uplifting the economy of local people.
- 3) Employment Generation will be the prime goal through Self Help Group
- 4) Hospitality Industry is growing. There will be good demand of good Hotel and Restaurants.
- 5) Road and Rail Connectivity will ease the visitors to visit again and again.
- 6) Local Transport Industry such Taxi, Auto, Cycle Rickshaw etc will grow.
- 7) Local Pandit (Sebaiti) and Mahatma will get their Importance.
- 8) Mithila Bhakti Geet will be exercise in great extent.
- 9) It wills the model for Other Mandir to work

And many more.

Keeping these Objectives in mind, there will be great role of Local people, Mukhia, Existing management, BDO, MLA, MP and DM.

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2) Objective of Phase - II

Phase - I was focused on the demographic view of Mahishi (Saharsa). The study was planned for Maha-ashtami to feel views of religious visitors and understand towards basic needs. Mr. Jyoti Prakash Lal took the initiative and accomplished the proposed work of Phase - I. The work done at phase -I is being forwarded in 2nd phase for more initiatives.

Following are the main objective of Phase – II:

- 1) Meeting with District Magistrate
- 2) Meeting with available villagers of Mahishi
- 3) Meeting with available authorized Pujari (Sabaiti)
- 4) Existing Conditions and difficulties

The study report will be kept on Manthan so as to help the information for phase-III.

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3) Meeting with District Magistrate

This was unscheduled meeting. Due to the strike of Bihar Government officials, DM was operating office from his residence. We reached DM's Residence at 7pm on 27/01/2009. DM called us and meeting continued up to 30 minutes. Following were available

1) **Shri R. Lakshmanan, IAS**

Collector & District Magistrate :

Phone:06478-224102 (O) , 223601@,224986(F)

e-mail: dm-saharsa.bih@nic.in, web: <http://saharsa.bih.nic.in>

2) **Shri Ajai Kumar Das, Lecturer (Chemistry),**

Phone:06478-226867, mobile: 09431864178

3) **B K Karna,**

mobile: 09391331357

Content of discussion:

Mr. Lakshmanan, IAS has been briefed about Mithilamanthan Group and objective of Mandir Manthan. The report of Phase - I, Mandir in Mithila compilation report has been given for reference.

Following are the observation by Mr. Lakshmanan

- 1) Told about that Trust has taken necessary step for beautifications. And he stressed about his recent visit to UgraTara Sthan.
- 2) Suggested to consult Block Development Officer of Mahishi.
- 3) Agreed to provide necessary facilities for visitors.

Above all, the vision of DM is very progressive. As long as he stays, the best effort has to be done to get system supported with facilities.

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4) Meeting with available villagers of Mahishi & their reaction

Mr. Awadhesh Kumar Dutta (09006827408), Ex-Ward Commissioner and resident of Mahishi, was available. Despite of his ill health, he has done his best effort to organize an formal meeting. Mukhia and BDO as they were out of station so couldn't be available in the meeting. However, meeting conducted and following views were collected. Every body in meeting felt for

- 1) Systems & discipline
 - 2) Cleanliness & hygienic environment
 - 3) Self help group
 - 4) Visitors care
 - 5) Transport facilities group
 - 6) Hawkers Group
 - 7) *Sebaiti*, Trust and villagers for good coordination
 - 8) Administration involvement for law & order maintenance.
 - 9) One of the active members will have to be representative of Mithilamanthan.
- Self help Group will be formed in 3rd phase of the project. Meanwhile, interested and core members will keep tract on merit and ability so as to enroll for Self help group member.
 - The name of Mukhia at present is Shri Chit Narayan Kamat. The acting Mukhia is Shri Manoj Choudhary. He is an active and supportive of this movement.



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- Mahishi Village is dominated by Brahmins with 8000 populations. Unemployed of Mahishi can do the best as per the expectations of Mithilamanthan Group.
- There are approx.20 castes living in the village which has 16 Wards.
- Most of the associated villagers expect something from Mandir, but not through systematic way and wish to contribute. If attitude will be changed, the visitors will attract more.
- Highly qualified village, but unemployment couldn't stop the migration of intellectuals.
- While Telephonic conversation of Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh, BDO (Mobile: 0931818298) of Mahishi, it is felt that BDO will support the good & creative thoughts, as far as infrastructural basis, is confirmed.
- 100 meters away from the temple, Mandan Mishra & Vidushi Bharti Dham is situated. This land is under control of Archeological Survey of India.
- To attract more visitors, both places should have common facilities.
- We, Mithila Manthan Group, expect villagers will support the *Mandir Manthan Abhiyaan*.

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5) Meeting with available authorized Pujari (Sebaiti)

Sebaiti of Mandir is the link between Bhakt Yaatri and Addi UgraTara Maa by performing pooja.

A formal meeting held with present Sebaiti. Following were available.

- a) Shri Parmanad Jha, Head (Sebaiti)
- b) Shri Pramod Jha
- c) Shri Tirthanand Jha

Following are the information received from them.

- 50 Sebaiti (Pujari) headed by shri Parmaned Jha Jee (mobie No.09934727183) are dedicated on inside mandir management.
- They also indicated that they have been serving since 300-400 years by 32th generations till now.
- History and importance has been explained in phase - I report.

Duties of Sebaiti (day to day activities):

- 1) Puja
- 2) Aarti
- 3) Snan
- 4) Shringar
- 5) Bhojan/Prasad Bhog etc.
- 6) Dharam Prachaar
- 7) To extend facility to the visitors as much as possible.

All days are auspicious in the campus of AAdi MAA UGRATARA in which Tuesday and Friday have got special attraction. Religious visitors do plan on these particular days.

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They indicated that Navami is the special day of Durga Puja where Only Villagers to perform Puja with complete rituals. The villagers on this day only keep control of mandir management in their own plan.

Pujari's Concern:

- 1) This temple is under trust and they have been contributing the trust to function smoothly but trust & Sebaiti may have some little difference on some hidden issues (not known).
- 2) 50 sebaiti is big group. Financial source of sebaiti is the visitors.
- 3) Condition of land property under Mandir Trust.
 - a) Encroachment of land is also the one of the major issues
 - b) 7.5 acre land is in the name of Aadi MAA Ugratara
 - c) Mandir Campus is in 4.5 Kattha
 - d) 2acre land has been under Hospital
 - e) Dharamsala of no use
 - f) Latrin Constructed by Baazaar Samiti is not maintained properly.
- 4) Intoxicated person do available around temple as indicated.
- 5) Hawaker's place.
- 6) Hidden choices are to be the part of Trust and management.

Shri Parmanand Jha jee assured to extend full support on good mission.

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6) Existing Conditions and difficulties

- The power of temple is significant and infinite. But condition to meet basic need for the visitors is non-significant. Regular visitors are accustomed with the problems so no matter what basic need is. But for outside visitors, problem starts when they plan to visit.
- Who so ever visitors do come, they come with unconditional attachments with Aadi Maa.
- For those kinds of visitors, they don't mind about any kind basic problem arises while coming to Mandir. They come from outside regularly.
- Our study is focused to understand about the basic problems being faced by the visitors.

Basic needs: Essential to care

- a) **Transport Fare at glance:** No regular transport is available. One has to reserve. No transports stand either at Mandir Surroundings. ½ km away from Mandir at Mahishi Village, there is Auto-stand. There are nearly 30 auto rickshaws. Saharsa is the nearest big station of this area.

(Saharsa to Ugra Tara Mandir: Distance: 16 KM)

Particulars	Fare	Remarks
Auto rickshaw	Share Fare Rs.12/	Good for Local
Auto rickshaw	Reserve in the range of Rs.100-150.	Tough bargains
Taxi	Reserve minimum Rs.300-Rs.500	Depending on vehicle AC/Non-AC

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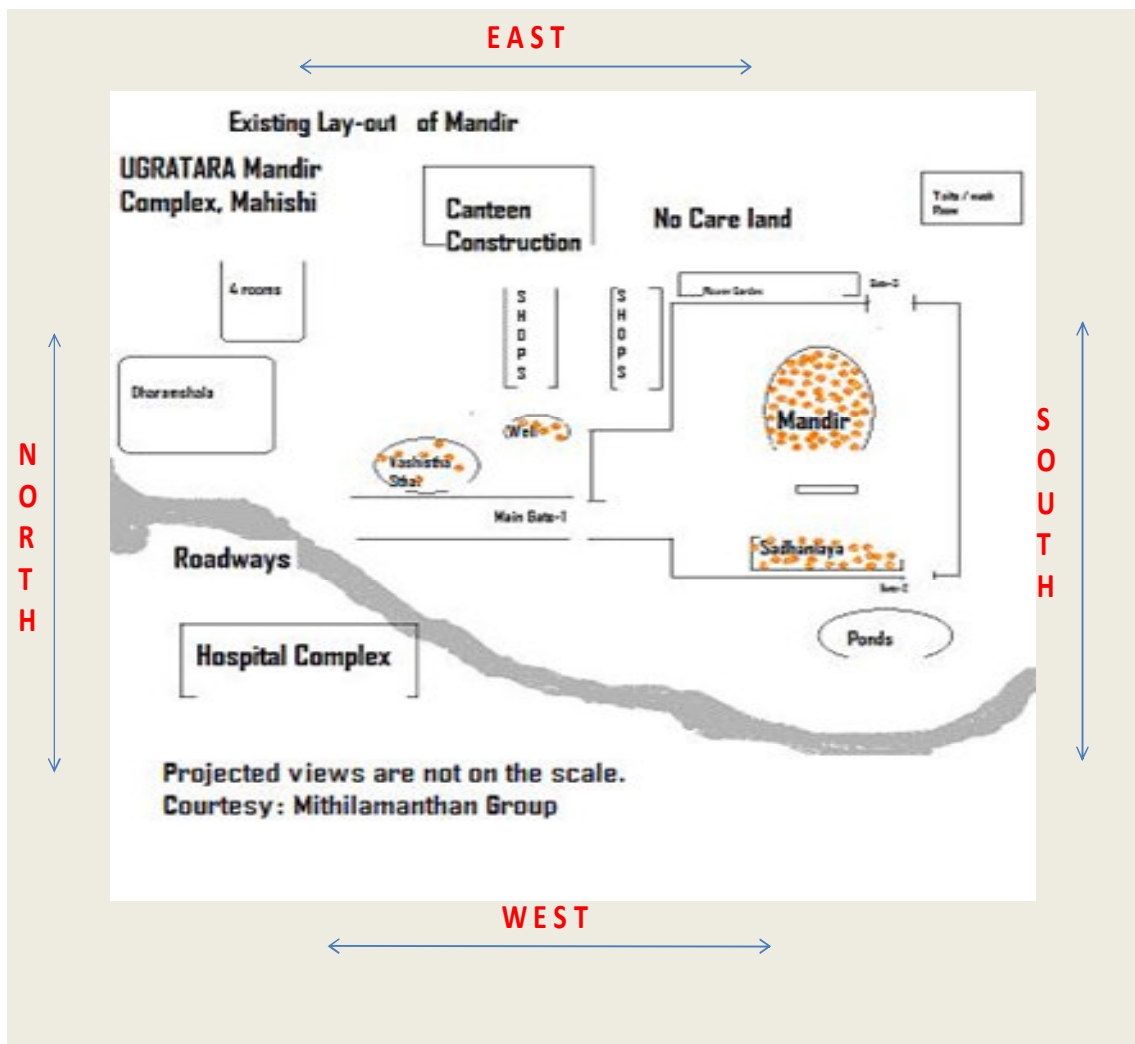
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- b) No Shelter:** Big questions? Where to stay? Where to keep luggage. DharamShala is of no use because of basic facilities are far away. Nobody can think for night-shelter as facilities are available.
- c) No Canteen:** Only tea & sacks may be available but in unhygienic condition.
- d) No Security:** Four Constables are available but what for ? Couldn't aware. But we couldn't see in function during my visit on January 28, 2009.
- e) Shops:** There are permanent shops. Met shopkeeper, they were very concern for the visitors but they fail to project the visitors as to win the confidence.
- f) Temporary Sheds:** Captured temporary sheds have been demolished by the administration but no alternate arrangements have been provide, hence, the youth connect with the hawkers business, are being forced to become unemployed.
- g) Sanitary facilities:** This is one of the major concerns.

Attention & Expectation from trust & Bihar Government are to have basic infrastructure. Local and Sebaiti should support with honest mind.

7) Observation & Suggestion

This report has already touched on many serious issues towards basic needs, infrastructures & management. Please study the lay-out of Mandir as indicated below



Please visit as per lay-out, you may get good feel.



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Attention on Observation & Suggestion:

Observations	Suggestions
<p>1) The outcome of meeting with Villagers, Sebaiti (Pujari) and the District Magistrate (DM-Saharsa) has revealed that everybody is concerned for facilities and Visitors.</p>	<p>Suggest to work as team in transparency manner. Trust in team is essential.</p>
<p>2) Trust exists. Trust Management acts as on situations but acts as per plan.</p>	<p>Trust administration has to exercise. Also it is to suggest avoiding monopoly and pay attention to built good team</p>
<p>3) Sebaiti standing on row. Shri Parmanand Jha is head Sebaiti.</p> 	<p>Suggested Head (Sebaiti) to prepare a list of Sebaiti under the Grade on the basis of Involvement in Mandir Parishar.</p> <p>Grade-1 (High Profile) Grade-2(Medium Profile) Grade-3(Low Profile)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Grade represents about knowledge on Sanskriti, Puja padhdhatti, Mantra Ucharan, Tantra etc. ▪ Promotion opportunities will set every year on the basis of Good Services, Co-operations, and disciplines.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Child Sebait will have to stop and suggest putting attention of study.
<p>4) Devotees are making crowd. Sebaiti is also supporting for noisy atmosphere at the time of Darshan. Devotees are keeping direct touch.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No devotees should touch directly other than Sebaiti. ▪ Darshan from distance is suggested. Grill or one boundary wall must be given so as keep distance with Aadi Maa. ▪ Crowd inside mandir is not permissible .
<p>5) Crowded starts from entrance. Queue system has not introduced till date.</p> 	<p>Queue system has to be introduced. Devotees will have to follow the walking through the grill lane.</p>
<p>6) Head of the trust is DM and this responsibility is set as frequently transferred post. DM at present has got attention.</p>	<p>Local management can avail the best during his tenure, hence, suggest to meet with DM with creative thoughts so as to execute the work effectively and efficiently.</p>

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<p>7) With great effort by DM, Canteen for visitors are being constructed as this picture speaks.</p> 	<p>Hence, it is suggested that canteen should given on one year contract that too to self help group of local. The contract should be given through private agencies.</p>
<p>8) It has been informed that Baazaar Samiti has provided Latrine which is situated at the corner of South-east. This is against Vaastu.</p>	<p>Hence, it is suggested that this facility is essential but it should be situated behind the canteen. This should be done as early as possible.</p>
<p>9) This picture shows that there is one instruction about vehicle not allowed to entre on the wall of Vashist Sthal.</p> 	<p>Instruction on Board will force visitors to stop vehicle from certain points. Expenditure will be negligible but this will express about the sincerity of the Trust & management.</p>

10) Observe about condition of Dharma which is under legal dispute and place for constable to sit and perform duties.



It is to suggest for renovation of Dharamshala and resolve the issues pertaining to legal dispute.

Without shelter place, no visitors will attract.

11) 4-rooms where 2 rooms are being used in which one of them is tea stall, rest 2 rooms are closed.



Only tea stall but creating no impression to the visitors. Management has to give this privet agencies or local unemployed youth for 1 year contract. Encroachment should not be tolerated.

12) It has been reported that Rs.100 and Rs.200 rent per months were allotted but no body has paid till date. If they have paid, there are no accounts. This tendency to use any trade free of cost, this generates -ve energy in mind and no significant growth has been noticed.



Shops at Mandir campus

To recover the rent if not then administration to necessary step and give to other interested parties. This should be made on one year contractual basis.

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


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13) Entry ticket system is not there.	Some free entry card to be given for daily local visitors. Rest of the visitors to entre inside campus with coupon by paying Rs. 05, Rs,10 and Rs.100. Entry ticket on hourly basis. Give the responsibility to local and genuine visitors. [No Coupon, No Darshan.] Free entry only for local and seabaiti who soever is registered by Trust.
14) There is no outer compound wall.	It is suggested that Mukhia of this village to initiate for Compound wall from Panchayati fund.
15) Prasadi Peda is very good.	Here, in this concern, Peda Prasadi is very good. At the same time, Evahak Phar has to introduce as prasadi of Mithila Mandir. Every religious visitor should get this prasadi from Mandir. MITHILA BRAND in prasadi is to explore i.e EVAHAK PHAR....

8) Suggestion to execute

It is very easy for everyone to suggest as our stands for suggestion only. Gossips and blames are very much familiar. Implementation of suggestion is great work. Ignorance of great work has become the habit in Mithila. This visit has given a hope where everyone is willing to have systematic execution of work, progress will come automatically. 12 suggestions are brought on our observation as noticed during our visit. It will be difficult but not impossible.

Following are the suggestion to execute (in brief):

-  **Team, Trust and transparency**
-  **Avoid monopoly & Team building**
-  **Type of Sebaiti (Classification)**
-  **To Follow DM and get the work done policy be adopted**
-  **Canteen on Contract only for a year**
-  **To shift Latrin with immediate effect**
-  **Instruction Board**
-  **Renovation of Dharamshala**
-  **Resolve legal dispute and to made as night shelter only for visitors on charge.**
-  **Rent to recover**
-  **Construction Outer Compound Wall**
-  **Ticket Entry System**
-  **Prasadi Peda along with Ebahak Phar**



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9. Conclusion

More Visitors, More Opportunities,

How? Where? & When ?

This is an effort of Mandir Manthan Group to initiate. Our 2nd Phase study has to submit our suggestion to act for better situation and we should get more visitors.

Manthan is on....

We are sure, we will act to achieve.

This is for local only. Self Help Group Effort will support our micro-based industries.

Our presence in the form of Imagination to reality will be available.

~~~~~**XXXXXX**~~~~~