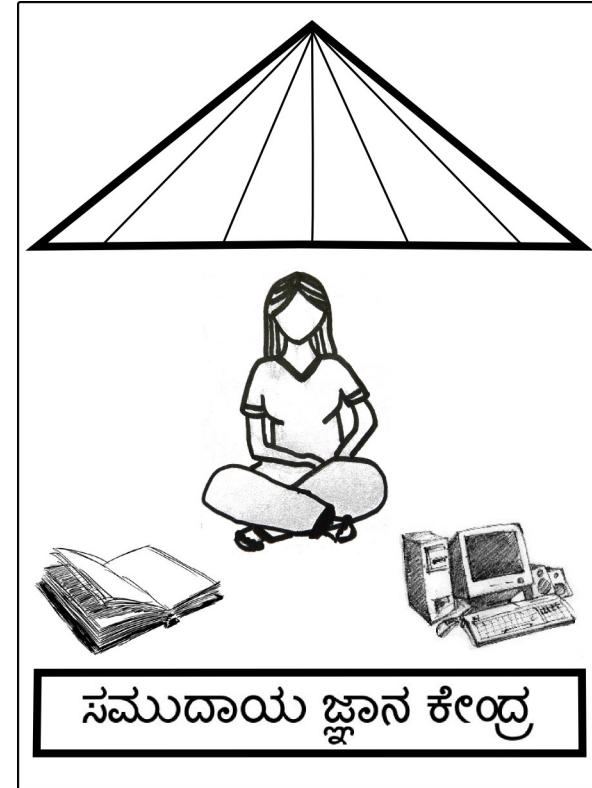


Developing an institutional model for the *Samudaya Jnana Kendras* : An Introduction

For building a 'knowledge society for all' in Karnataka, it is important to look beyond the formal education and formal economy sectors, to the everyday informal knowledge processes of communities.

SJK as an institution that would invigorate the informal processes and institutions through which communities ADDRESS their information, learning and knowledge (ILK) needs.

SJK as an institution that would conceptually epitomize and physically represent the idea of 'knowledge for everyone' in the immediate context of communities.



Structure of the report



Part 1 : Findings from background studies exploring an institutional model for the SJKs

- 1a : Assessing ILK processes at the community level
- 1b: Review of some large scale State ILK interventions
- 1c: Four case studies of new age convergent models for service and information delivery



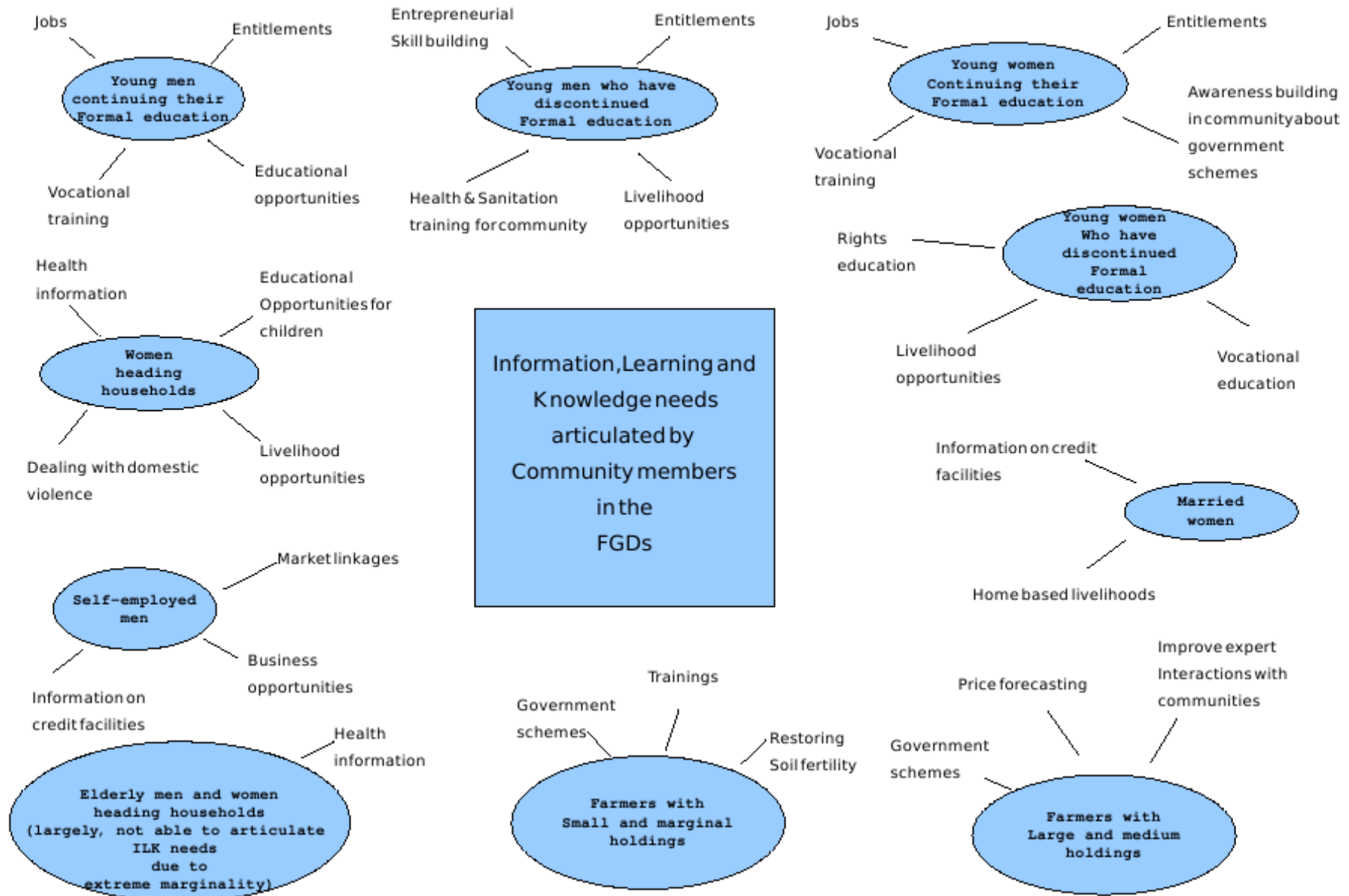
Part 2 : Developing the institutional model for SJKs

- 2a: Identifying the functions that SJKs can perform
- 2b: Design elements of the proposed model for the SJKs

1 a. Assessing community ILK processes

- Community level ILK assessment in Mandya and Koppal:
 - a. Based on the understanding that ILK processes have to be mapped at the level of the social, and not JUST at the individual level
 - b. Components of the community level ILK assessment framework:
 - Articulation of ILK needs,
 - State of existing ILK infrastructure in the country,
 - Individual and institutional skills in the community and
 - Key ILK nodes for the community
 - c. Participatory research methodology relying on Focus Group Discussions in the communities was adopted.
- Public consultations with development workers and community leaders in Mysore and Koppal
- Key informant interviews with individuals with expertise in the area of ILK

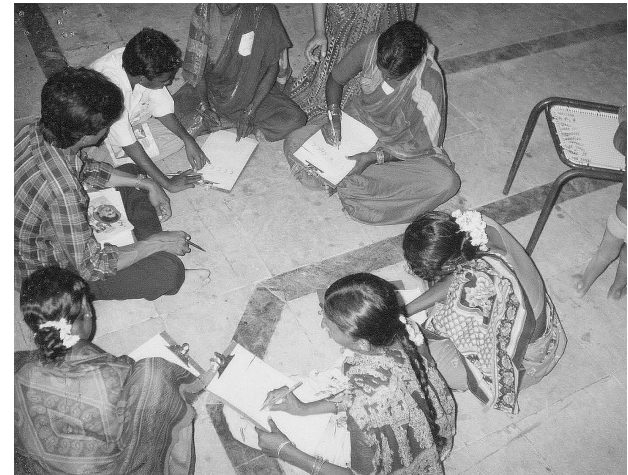




The more marginalised a group was, the less articulate it was about non-instrumental ILK needs. However, this obviously cannot be interpreted as the lack of need for a knowledge intervention.

Ideas on the SJK emerging from the FGDs

- **Location** : within the village, in a place that is accessible to all sections of the community
- **Nature of activities:** information about agriculture, educational opportunities, trainings, entitlement related information, library facilities, art and cultural activities
- **Ownership:** government owned
- **Operator:** service-minded, good facilitation skills, respect for people



Findings from the public consultations in Mysore and Koppal

- The proposal for SJKs found instinctive acceptance among community leaders and development workers.
- SJKs need to stay away from service delivery functions, and from local politics.
- In addition to ILK needs raised in the FGDs, the need for critically engaging with traditional and local knowledge and the need for the SJK to act as a *gram sabha* resource centre was pointed out.
- The SJK must be accessible to all sections of the community, its design should be gendered, should concentrate only on ILK functions and be operated by responsive, proactive men and women.
- Various models of ownership and management need to be analysed before finalising one. However, community involvement is essential.

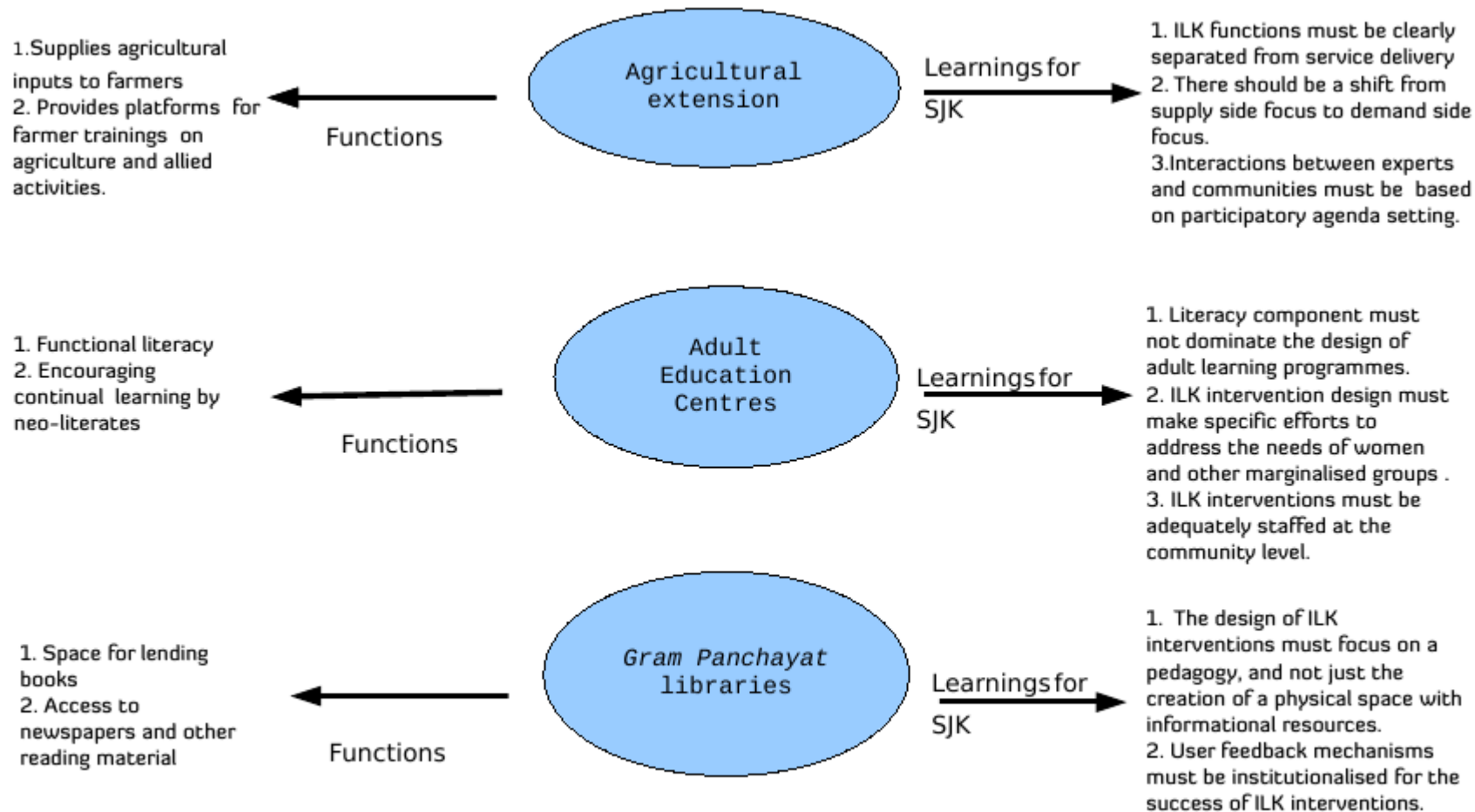
1 b. Review of State ILK interventions

- Three ILK interventions of the State were reviewed :
agricultural extension systems,
adult education programme and
rural libraries.



- The review was based on
existing literature on these
interventions as well as field
visits.





1 c. Four case studies of new age convergent models for service and information delivery

1. Front end delivery points for government and private services to rural citizens
2. Bring ICT infrastructure within easy reach of rural communities

← Functions



Learnings for SJK →

1. ILK functions must be clearly separated from service delivery
2. Information is a public good, and a business model may not be effective.
3. Recruiting facilitators from the local communities themselves increases responsiveness and promotes community accountability.

1. Front end delivery points for bringing government services to rural citizens
2. Using ICT infrastructure to bridge the digital divide and promote decentralised governance.

← Functions



Learnings for SJK →

1. Facilitator responsiveness is crucial for meeting the ILK needs of communities.
2. ILK interventions must invest in building community level ILK infrastructure and strengthening local democracy.

1. Village level centres that provide locally relevant, context specific information to local communities.
2. Create suitable platforms for effective interactions between experts and communities.

← Functions



Learnings for SJK →

1. Sustainability of ILK interventions cannot be narrowly understood as financial sustainability.
2. Community ownership and management of ILK interventions is essential for their success.

1. A single window delivery system based in the community and managed through a Public Private Community Partnership model, with NGO involvement
2. Building on the social capital of previously established Gender Resource Centres initiative

Functions

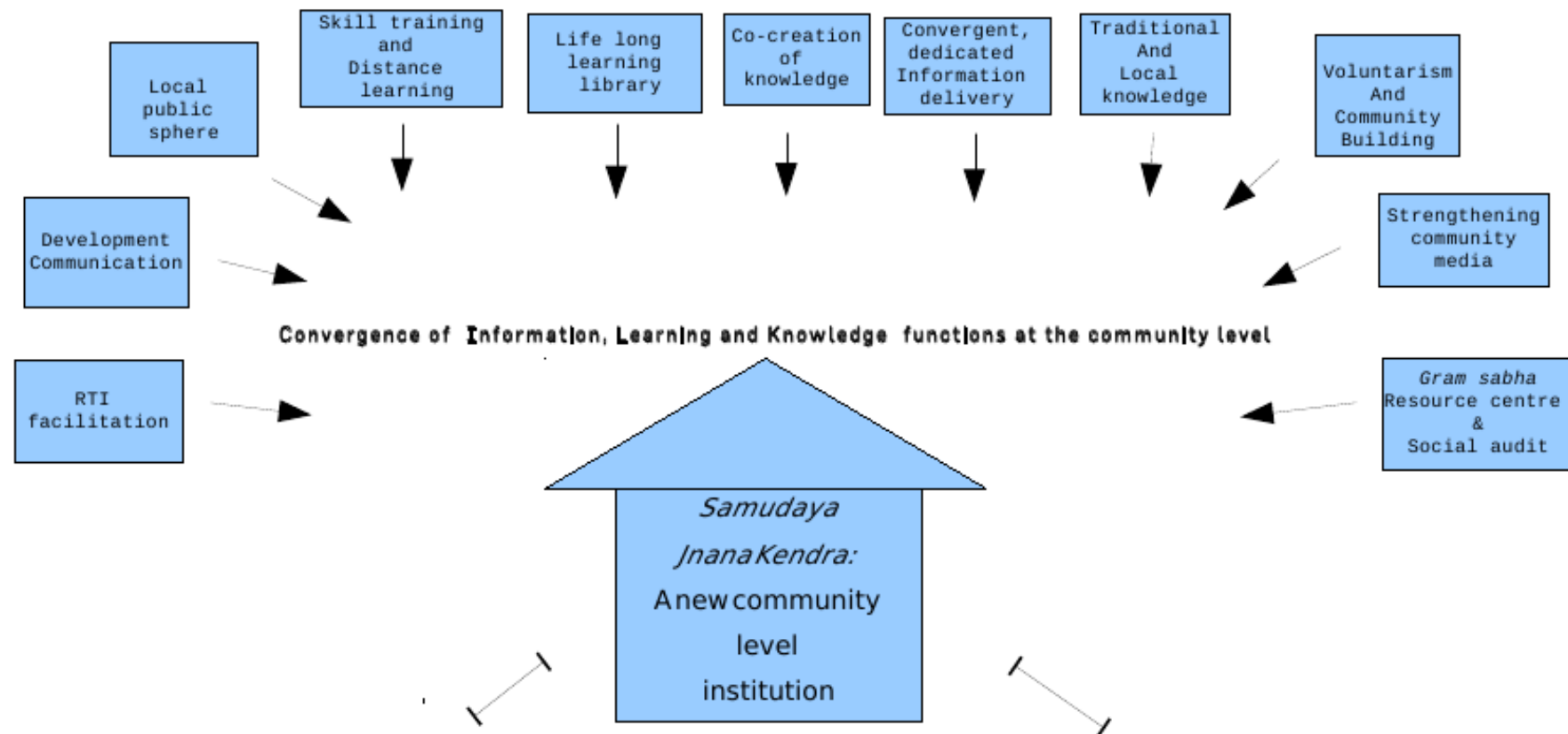


Learnings for
SJK

1. Innovative networked governance model, which serves as an example for boldly departing from traditional structures of governance.
2. Effective harnessing of the potential of ICTS in building monitoring mechanisms.
3. Effective structure for NGO involvement

Based on our primary and secondary research, we identified the functions that could be taken up by the SJK and also developed an institutional model.

2 a and 2 b : Functions and institutional design of the SJK



Core Principles of SJK

- Respect for community autonomy and self-determination of local level ILK processes
- Clear separation of service delivery and ILK functions
- Deepening democracy at the village level
- Firm commitment to inclusion of marginalised groups

Structural Elements:

- Community ownership and management
- Accountability to *gram sabha*
- Autonomy in local level functioning with resource support and guidance from a dedicated State agency -- *Samudaya Jnana Abhiyan*
- Indirect involvement of NGOs in resource support and capacity building of SJK facilitators

Future steps

- Exploring the possibility of an institutional convergence with existing rural library network through pilot action research projects.
- Setting up a specialised public agency, Samudaya Jnana Abhiyan as the nodal agency for community based ILK activities, and of the SJK system.
- Pilot projects to be conducted directly up by the Samudaya Jnana Abhiyan in some instances, and through NGOs in others.
- Conducting extensive public consultations across various locations in the State, to elicit feedback on the SJK idea

