



Vikalp Sutra is open to organisations, institutions, government agencies, businesses, support groups, networks, and individuals, who believe in its core values, and want to come together to learn, share, motivate, participate and activate a collective process of building dignified livelihoods across India – through collaborations cooperation, co-creation, dialogue and ground-level action.

Invitation to join

# Vikalp Sutra

**Towards networking and action for local self-reliance and dignified livelihoods**

**Vikalp Sutra is a collective, non-hierarchical platform initiated in June 2020, to facilitate dignified livelihoods, workers' rights and economic democracy in India. It is a response to the severe economic crisis faced by vulnerable communities and individual citizens in the country, due to the Covid19 pandemic and lockdown. The vision of Vikalp Sutra is to promote community self-reliance, based on the principles of dignity, justice, equity, peace and ecological sustainability. Comprising of civil society, community institutions, local governance bodies, and other support groups and networks, this platform will facilitate vulnerable communities and individuals to exercise their agency in claiming these inalienable rights and values.**

Vikalp Sutra has emerged from Vikalp Sangam, and aims at linking other networks and collectives with a focus on the sustainable livelihoods' landscape of India. Vikalp Sangam ([www.vikalpsangam.org](http://www.vikalpsangam.org)) is a diverse and open space for learning and sharing initiatives of alternative transformations happening across India. These span the entire range of human activity—including cultural, social, economic, political, and ecological—ranging from self-governance and autonomy to food/ water/ energy, security and sovereignty, livelihoods, learning and education, health, conservation, arts and crafts, and more.

# Focus Areas



## Dignified livelihoods

---

rural and urban

---

traditional

---

non-traditional

---

## Workers' rights and security

---

informal sector

---

## Economic democracy

---

self-reliance

---

localisation

---

producer ownership

---

etc.

---

# Identity



A **platform** (including a website) with a database of resource agencies/ individuals across all sectors relevant to the focus areas.

---

A **space** for continuous dialogue on ideas and solutions.

---

A **repository** of existing and new methods for action-based facilitation, consultation, and practice.

---

A collective **visioning** space, for futures we want and can work towards.

---

A space for collective **advocacy** to challenge regressive policies and advocate progressive ones.

---

An **open** platform for cross-learning and inter-linkages without hierarchies.

---

# Envisioned Strategies



**Create linkages** to work with vulnerable communities beyond relief, especially on medium to long term livelihood action strategies and rights.

---

Work towards localised production and exchanges, with **circular or network economy** approaches.

---

**Create processes and ideas** for communities to be ready for such an economic and social disaster in the future.

---

Create spaces and opportunities for sharing of **sustainable livelihood-based practices** to envision and reach towards self-reliance and local resilience, including facilitating community-level exchanges.

---

Promote the **economy of well-being** including through relations of caring, sharing, equitable barter.

---

**Encourage youth** in urban settings to take up alternatives, including with migrants into urban areas, and for rural revitalisation.

---

**Link** local, economic **self-reliance with** political **self-governance**, build on gram sabha and area/mohalla sabha empowerment

---

Work on strengthening **ecological and social infrastructure** by revitalising investment and employment in rural areas.

---

Work on **integration and interlinkages** amongst communities and networks to

deal with issues arising as a result of the Covid19 pandemic, on the above focus areas; and where necessary also link with others working on community health, food security, social justice and security, ecological conservation.

---

Take up **collective advocacy** to resist regressive policies and programmes, and towards progressive policy shifts and other government support.

---

Advocate for the **rights of people** to determine their own futures.

---

## Vikalp Sutra Core beliefs

Equality & equity;  
peace & justice; freedom & autonomy;  
dignity, solidarity & love;  
ecological sustainability;  
diversity and inclusion

---

The work of Vikalp Sutra will be driven by its values and principles of respecting the diversity in cultures and systems of knowledge and wisdom of local communities to achieve self-reliance and ecological resilience.

---

Vikalp Sutra involves, besides Vikalp Sangam, several national and regional networks and organisations including, CoAST, RCRC, FES, RRA Network, Goonj, WASSAN, ComMutiny, NTLN, Welthungerhilfe, Just Change, ASHA, PAEG (this will evolve with addition of more networks and organisations).

If you wish to be a part of this network of networks, please write to us at [vikalpsutra@vikalpsangam.org](mailto:vikalpsutra@vikalpsangam.org)

