
EMPOWERING THE EXCLUDED

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A glimpse of stories of struggle against exclusion by some of the most marginalised social groups under International NGO Partnership Agreement Programme (IPAP) Programme, being implemented by ActionAid.

These capture the strengthening demands for rights and equity through partners rooted in these community. It also provides an overview of the Programme.

"Two years into marriage my sister-in-law told me that cleaning dry toilets is my destiny. Today I am respected for my work for motivation women from my community to leave the practice and demand rights,"

Kiran Bai, community worker Garima Abhiyan

Challenging inheritance of indignity

A marriage at 16 ended her schooling. At 18 she was carrying human excreta from dry toilets. Detesting it each day, yet doing it like the women in her community had done for generations.

Kiran is one of the 250 women from a Dalit community, which not so long ago lived by clearing dry latrines of houses of dominant caste and carrying the excreta in cane baskets for dump-

ing outside the village. In return, they received some food and Rs.10 a month from each home.

But a campaign called Garima, literally meaning dignity initiated with support from ActionAid, has changed their lives.

Marginalised by caste

"Two years into marriage my sister-in-law told me that cleaning dry toilets is my destiny," recounts Kiran, who is one of the leaders of the Garima campaign.



"It was awful, bringing the soiled, soggy empty basket back into the house after a day of work," she adds with disgust.

"Women were forced to run unpaid errands, removing dead animals from village, clearing left-overs and tending to the aged and sick by cleaning their soiled sheets," says Asif, coordinator of the Garima campaign.

"Our children felt they cannot change their fate, even if they study, and will have to live the way their parents do," adds Kiran.

Winds of change

"We are coming forward to speak in one voice. We maybe illiterate, but each of us is given a chance to hold the mike and speak," says Kiran.

"We go to other villages, ask people engaged in this work to quit it for their dignity," adds 54-year-old widow Badambai.

Right to a future

An important victory for these women was getting scholarship to their children reinstated. It was stopped after they gave up manual scavenging as it officially supported only those involved in the practice.

This made paying for school difficult for these poor parents and added to the hurdles in their way of breaking free from the cycle of indignity.

"We visited the office of Scheduled Caste Education Department every year to fight for our rights. Now every child gets a scholarship of Rs.1500, up to the 5th standard," Kiran adds.

"Earlier, our children were looked at with hatred and they were not willing to go to school. Now the things have changes for better, they can go anywhere and lead a free life," says 35-year-old Leela.

Recently, women associated with Garima got job cards under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGA) that offers 100 days of employment.



Fighting for food

Over a dozen families from the indigenous community have been able to access basic food support under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana scheme. This is a lifeline for them in the Gamparai village of Pedabailu Mandal.

This was an outcome of a pitched struggle as the pleas for access to the scheme went unheard by the concerned officials.

On 9th June 2009 the Central Vigilance Food Rights Committee constituted by the Supreme Court visited Paderu. These families gave a petition on the issue. The committee and the joint collector assured looking into the issue.

Two days later when these families approached the designated shop to get the rice sanctioned under the scheme, they were turned back.

Undeterred, they reported the matter to the officials once again. This lobbying yielded results and they got 35 Kgs of Rice and other Ration.

“The shop keeper screamed at us saying no one will ever listen to us and refused to give us our food entitlement. But we were determined, so we went to the higher authorities and fought for our rights and get the result.”



Students score in struggle for entitlements

Students in Delhi government schools will now have a better implementation following an action by ActionAid partner.

Spurred by an awareness drive by an ActionAid partner, school children in Delhi have scored a major victory towards gaining access to government schemes, which provide financial support for books and uniforms.

The watchdog against corruption in government functioning, the Central Information Commission (CIC), has recently issued an order to state-run schools in Delhi to make public all the entitlements due to students.

“I am supposed to get money to buy books and school uniform. It is a law and we did not know about this,” says 16-year-old Bharat, who lives in a one room shanty settlement in India’s national capital. He shares his house with six others in his

family.

“My father is a tailor and mother looks after the home. This money will be a great help for them as we never have enough,” he adds with a palpable sense of joy.

Much needed support

As per a scheme of the Delhi Government’s education department, it is mandatory for all government schools to provide every student with money for school uniforms and books. The support is aimed at keeping children from poor families in the schools.

Since the parents, most of whom are from lower income group or simply migrant daily wage workers, and the children were unaware of this right of theirs, the implementation has been near zero.

“A friend of mine who studies with me has an out-of-job father.



He is ecstatic with this news. He will not have to look around for books from friends," he adds.

"Getting this money at the start of the new session, which is a major worry for my single mother, will be so good," chirps 14-year-old Ruby, who is a student of class 8th in girls government school in East Delhi's Seemapuri area.

Leading from the front

"We knew about the schemes and when we found that while the children were not getting any assistance, the state exchequer record showed utilisation. This is unacceptable," says Ritu Mehra, a teacher-turned activist and works with Pardar-shita.

"We approached the CIC with complaints against 950 government schools for failing to pass on the financial benefits to students, particularly to the ones from poor families," she says.

The complaint led to an order by the commission making it mandatory for all government schools

to publicly display the list of assistance that students should get.

"This will address the issue of awareness and corruption," Ritu adds.

The partner organisation that works with the urban poor and their children by informing and organising them for citizenship rights like education and subsidised food, approached the school children directly to pressure teachers and school authorities.

Pamphlets were handed out to the students outside the schools and community meetings were held in slums with the parents.

"I went straight to the teacher with the pamphlets and asked why we don't get this money for books and uniforms?" says Ruby and adds: "We all will keep asking for it and remind our parents also."



Muslim women speak out

This is a success story of community mobilisation. During a pre-election campaign, Muslim women of South-24 Parganas District actively participated and submitted charter of demand at the village council and block level. One of the major demands was for inclusion of Muslim women's participation in the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.

Traditionally, Muslim women are not provided work under the employment guarantee scheme. Job cards are issued only in the name of husband or male members of the family.

Women's freedom and participation are controlled by their family as well as the male dominated village council members. After the national general election, women of the district marched in a group to the office of the elected village council to follow up the status of the charter of demands.

The village head was not very pleased to see a group of 60 women at the office doorstep and demand answers. The fact that Muslim women are willing to demand their rights is a radical step.

Earlier women were afraid and reluctant to take part in NREGA. Now women understand that they also can play a vital important role in family's income generation and be at par with men in the community.

In Hasina Bibi's words "Women jointly can bring changes in our age old system which discriminates women. No one can stop our movement."



Key Indicators for monitoring CHANGE:

1. **Accessibility:** Enhanced access to tangible rights & entitlements (including schemes) by socially excluded groups (Food & work, health care, education, drinking water, shelter & human security and women).
2. **Availability:** Adequate, quality functional and responsive public delivery mechanisms and institutions (Food & work, health care, education, drinking water, shelter & human security and women).
3. **Inclusion:** Reduction in (caste, gender, religion, disability & any other diversity based) discrimination and violence and enhance participation decision making especially in public institutions and local governance.
4. **Social Actions:** Increasing examples/incidents of excluded communities collectively claiming rights and entitlements.
5. **Civil Society:** Better civil society programming and strategies informed by concerns and aspirations of excluded communities.

Coverage of Socially Excluded Group

Social Groups	Excluded groups	States	Focus
Tribals			
	Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs)- Sahariyas	Madhya Pradesh (MP), Rajasthan	Creating community cadre, awareness generation; livelihood training; Securing government entitlements; documentation of cases and policy advocacy; Training on implementation of legal regimes – national and international – Convention 169, UN Declaration of Rights of Indigenous communities and; linkage with State and National ST commission.
	Other PTGs	Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh(AP), West Bengal	
	De-notified Tribes (DNT)	Maharastra & Gujarat	
Dalits			
	Musahars	UP & Bihar	Creating and training community cadre; awareness generation; livelihood training; Securing government entitlements; documentation of cases and policy advocacy, capacity building of dalit PRIs, linking up with legal organisations and statutory bodies like human rights commissions, Promotion of Dalit Resource Centre/s
	Manual Scavengers	UP, Bihar, MP, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Gujarat, AP.	Leadership building, Identifying suitable vocations; education for children’ advocating against the practice; ensuring prosecution in case of violation of the law by municipalities etc that maintain dry latrines.
Dalits / Tribals			
	Migrant workers	AP, Orissa	Creating networks to combat exploitative wage rates, bondage; securing entitlements; ensuring education for children
	Bonded Labours	Karnataka, Orissa, Punjab, AP	Identifying bonded labour; rehabilitation; awareness generation on sustainable livelihood options, formation of national bonded labour alliance, ensuring active vigilance committees, ensuring effective engagement with NHRC,
Urban Poor			
	Homeless / Informal sector workers	UP (Lucknow, Allahabad, Benaras), Maharastra, (Pune, Nasik, Mumbai), West Bengal (Kolkata), Delhi Tamil Nadu (Chennai) Karnataka (Bangalore- only Policy Research on privatisation of basic services, urban reform processes etc.)	Making available temporary shelters; healthcare and education, especially for women and children, meeting, training and federation building , unionisation of informal workers, Research and information dissemination, making available voter cards and other government schemes.
Minorities			
	Muslims	UP, Gujarat, Orissa, Delhi, Maharastra, Bihar, West Bengal.	Organisation of women, adult literacy and vocational skills training for women, Building secular cadre and secular community spaces in Muslim pockets, Linkage with SSA, media fellowship, Research and advocacy, children’s programme, information dissemination

A snapshot of ActionAid (IPAP) Initiative

Empowering the communities facing multiple marginalisations to promote social inclusion

Goal: Improved position and condition of the communities facing social exclusion
Purpose: Concerns of the socially excluded are reflected in the policies & programmes implemented by the government, NGOs, INGOs and other civil society organisations

The Key Issues addressed

1. Ensuring Basic Needs
 - a. Food & Work (*especially the 8 food & cash allowance/pension schemes, and the NREGA*)
 - b. Education (*free & discrimination-free, quality education in government run schools, especially for Dalits, Tribals and Muslims; special focus will be on girl children within all these social groups*)
 - c. Healthcare (free and quality public healthcare)
 - d. Shelter (*especially for urban homeless, and victims of conflict*)
2. Ensuring Basic Rights
 - a. Right against untouchability and right to public institutions, infrastructure and common property resources.
 - b. Right to identity of indigenous communities and rights over forest and natural resources.
 - c. Right to protection against violence perpetrated dominant groups & individuals and government machinery, in public and domestic domains.
 - d. Rights against forced & bonded labour (*especially for bonded labourers and forced caste based occupations*)
 - e. Legal Right to Agricultural Land (*Especially for Women, Dalits and Tribals*) and Homestead Land (*Especially for Urban poor, but also for rural homeless*)
 - f. Constitutional right to practice occupation. Rights against monopolistic business practices. (*Especially rights of small producers and vendors*)
 - g. Right to Minimum and Equal Wage (especially in NREGA, under migration and especially for women)
 - h. Rights against discrimination (*especially against Women, Dalits, Muslims, and Persons with Disability*)
 - i. Right to Information
3. Ensuring Positive Social Action
 - a. Understanding and Solidarity among different Excluded Communities
 - b. Institutionalisation of Democratic Decision Making Processes
 - c. Institutionalisation of Transparency & Accountability Mechanisms
 - d. Bridging distances and building secular society

Processes to be supported through the Project

1. Strengthening and refining the understanding of ActionAid and other Civil Society Groups on the conditions of excluded communities and the opportunities for change in their condition and rights consciousness.
2. Awareness Building to enhance communities' understanding of Rights & Entitlement.
3. Facilitation and Development of Capacities for initiating Grassroots Level Planning, Implementation & Reflection Processes and Institutions of the Excluded Communities.
4. Facilitating Development of Grassroots Action Plans for claiming rights.
5. Influencing Action of Government Administrative Machinery through supporting the grounding of tangible rights, and providing grassroots feedback support.
6. Developing Models for adoption and replication by the government

Major Project Activities and Outputs

- ✓ **Strengthening and Refining the understanding of ActionAid and other Civil Society Groups on the conditions of excluded communities and the opportunities within the human rights based approach (HRBA) framework for change in their condition and rights consciousness**
 - a. Research & Documentation on the conditions of the Excluded Communities. Especially concentrating on Participatory Research and the REFLECT methodology to learn from and with the excluded communities. This will be done with all the social groups. Specific understanding will be developed on PESA, Privatisation of economy and exclusion process and urban reform processes and adverse impact on the poor and excluded.
 - b. Research & Documentation on the challenges posed by Government Policies and Procedures that cause or exacerbate the violation of human rights of excluded communities. Emphasis would be on the NREG Act and rural employment, social securities schemes, universal MDM.
 - c. Research & Documentation on the Challenges posed by inequitable economic growth to the lives and livelihoods of the excluded communities of all social groups.
 - d. Developing understanding on commonalities in the conditions of various excluded groups and the possibilities and nature of alliance building among them
 - e. Provide 'on-demand' Research & Information Support to Activists & Peoples' Organisations. Case studies and documentaries for specific social groups will be compiled / created for dissemination.
- ✓ **Awareness Building to enhance communities' understanding of Rights & Entitlement**
 - f. Development of Communication Material and Mechanisms for communicating our understanding. This will include written, audio and visual forms of communication/ training materials as per the specific need and context of each social group.

- g. Identification of Volunteers at the Grassroots Level who would facilitate the continuous learning processes. For Every Panchayat we will have one such volunteer who will either give full time to the initiative and will be mostly drawn from the marginalised community itself.
 - h. Develop understanding of Governance Systems, especially self-governance systems at the local level. Understanding and capacity will be built on Participatory Vulnerability Analysis/ Participatory Poverty Assessment, Micro Level Planning, Panchayat Planning, Right of community on natural resources especially on land, water and forest etc.
- ✓ ***Facilitation and Development of Capacities for initiating Grassroots Level Planning, Implementation & Reflection Processes and Institutions of the Excluded Communities.***
- i. Developing and institutionalising REFLECT Processes
 - j. Establishing Community Resource Centres at the Gram Panchayat level.
 - k. Developing Grassroots Animators from the Excluded Communities in Gram Panchayats.
 - l. Facilitate formation of Community Institutions and Collaboration & Solidarity Networks
- ✓ ***Facilitating Development of Grassroots Action Plans for claiming rights***
- m. Institutionalising existing good practices available for grassroots action to assert and claim rights.
 - n. Facilitate and institutionalise interaction of rights-holders with duty bearers
 - o. Develop and institutionalise appropriate documentation processes (print, oral and visual)
 - p. Develop ability among excluded communities to use institutional mechanisms for asserting rights and redressing grievances (RTI, Social audit, reaching out to authorities with complaints, accessing human rights commissions and other commissions set up for specific groups)
- ✓ ***Influencing Action of Government Administrative Machinery through supporting the grounding of entitlements, and providing grassroots feedback support.***
- q. Develop Appropriate Documentation for influencing Administration (cases of BPL / Antyodaya left out, dalit land holding, Traditional Rights of Tribal over forest land and resources, cases of bondage).
 - r. Developing/ Evolving Models for adoption and replication by the government (livelihood options for manual scavengers, rehabilitation model for bonded labourers etc).
 - s. Provide Research & Training Support to Government Functionaries and Local Government Institutions
 - t. Help establish Transparency & Accountability Mechanisms through evolving models and helping their mainstreaming in government work – especially through Gram Sabha / Ward Sabha / Palli Sabha and Social Audit Processes

Broad Expected Outcomes

- Excluded communities, and especially the women, children and Persons with Disability (PWD) among them will have a greater understanding of the conditions and the factors that lead to their exclusion and oppression.
- Excluded groups, especially women, children and PWDs, will have greater awareness about their entitlements and the ways to claim them.
- Excluded groups, especially women, children and PWDs, will have increased access to the basis rights – food, water, education, health, shelter and work.
- Grassroots Institutions of Excluded Communities will evolve and use processes to claim their entitlements and assert their rights.
- Excluded communities will have greater access to the public institutions and skill of influencing public policies.
- Transparency & Accountability mechanisms such as the Gram Sabha/Ward Sabha /Palli Sabha processes and Social Audit Mechanisms will get institutionalised.
- Specific Excluded Communities will have greater understanding about the problems of other excluded communities and develop solidarity with them.
- There will be evolution of good practices in the processes of claiming entitlements that can be used for adaptation in areas beyond the direct operational area.
- Literature and Capacity Building Material and Modules will be available for sharing both within and beyond the operational area.
- Strengthened legislation and government redressal mechanisms to ensure implementation of affirmative action policies

Broad Implementation Strategy

The project will be implemented at 2 levels,

- At the micro level it will seek to create models for replication
 - Spread across approximately 500 Panchayats in 15 states and reach out to about 1,000,000 population directly at the micro level.
 - At the macro level it will seek to sensitise the middle class and larger civil society by educating them about the issues of the marginalised and the various facets of exclusion.

Work so far (Jan – Sep 09) in IPAP

1. Base-line surveys were initiated in all the projects in order to establish a strong primary level data base to ascertain the change in future. Base-line survey in as many projects is underway. In most of the projects, the formats for data collection have been finalised after consultation with the community leaders & project team. They were also oriented on the data collection processes. Base line format in each projects are unique customized to the issues and rights of community the particular project is working with as well as the local context. Apart from format method, in some projects other form of data collection has been adopted. In Varanasi city of Uttar Pradesh, PRA techniques were also used for base line which eventually led to community led micro-planning (CLMP) for action. In 4 districts of Gujarat (Junagadh, Porbandar, Kheda, Anand), data is also collected through the *Caravan* carried out to disseminate the information to Dalit communities about details of NREGS, land and food entitlements.
2. The partner communities we are working with include
 - ✓ Internally displaced **tribal** in Andhra Pradesh and most vulnerable Tribes¹ such as *Savara, Kondh, Porja, Gadaba and Chenchu* in Andhra Pradesh, *Kotwalia, Kolgha/Kolacha, Kathodi, Siddi and Padhar* in Gujarat, *Birhor & Paharia* in Jharkhand, *Baiga* in Madhya Pradesh, *Mankadia, Lodha, Kharia, Birhor, Juanga and Paudi Bhuiyan* in Orissa as well as DNTs/NTs in Maharashtra.
 - ✓ Various **Dalit** groups especially with *Musahar* in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh; Manual Scavengers in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, and Uttar Pradesh; *Pano, Kandara, Chamara, Gokha and Hadi* in Orissa; Dalit bonded labourers in Karnataka.
 - ✓ Various **urban poor** groups such as homeless population in Delhi, Allahabad, Varanasi & Chennai and slum dwellers in Delhi, Allahabad, Varanasi and Bangalore
 - ✓ Working with **Muslims** focuses largely with Muslim women & children in rural as well as slums in the states of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.
3. Community meetings in villages and slums have been institutionalised in all work areas. The issues of implementation of government schemes including NREGA, SC/ST Act, dignity and Ambedkar ideology are discussed in such meetings among dalits while among tribal the focus was on Forest Act, PESA, and NREGA. Issues of identity, provision of basic facilities, informal sector labour Act & use of Rtl are prominent in discussions among urban poor while Sachchar Committee findings, and lack of access to government entitlements featured in discussions among Muslims.
4. Community leaders within the communities have been identified and provided capacity building to build and strengthen their cadre. More than 1200 community members were imparted training on leadership, rights & entitlements, various schemes & Acts. These cadres spearheaded the process of formation of community organisation through regular meetings at village/slum level.
5. Various community groups have given representations to local authorities for new job cards as well as availing work under NREGA in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Jharkhand, and Karnataka. Monthly review & planning meeting is also held regularly in parts of Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh.
6. Pre-election campaign was held in Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, & Orissa to aware the voters on choosing right candidates. People's manifestos were also prepared which are the rallying points in the campaign.
7. Separate women's groups were also formed and their leaders were also trained on domestic violence Act, property rights, & other constitutional rights. Case of violence against women especially domestic violence cases have taken up by women's group for redressal in Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Andhra Pradesh. Redressal mechanism ranges from dialoguing with husband and family members to legal course.
8. Pre-election campaign continued in various project areas especially in Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, West Bengal formulation and dissemination of people's manifesto.
9. Right to Information Act has extensively used as tool for accessing government schemes and influencing govt planning viz. by slum dwellers of Delhi, tribal of Kawardha districts of Chhattisgarh, and Sahariyas of Madhya Pradesh.
10. Efforts have been made in various places to activate PDS systems through collective protests, direct dialoguing with the dealers, civil supply officials and other relevant officials as well as public hearing by

¹ Most Vulnerable Tribes (MVT) as spelt out in eleventh five year plan documents by Planning Commission.

Dalits & Muslims in Uttar Pradesh, tribal in Chhattisgarh, Dalits in central Gujarat, tribal of northern Andhra Pradesh, Dalits and Muslims of Coastal Orissa, and Migrant labourers in Maharashtra.

11. People's organisations and community leaders have also advocated for organisation of Panchayat open meetings, actively participating and influencing the planning/beneficiary selection process.
12. Various collective actions were taken up to improve education access through enrolment campaign among community especially for girls (Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, & Bihar), activating the VEC and its regular meetings (Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, & Bihar), and working with schools (West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, & Jharkhand). Meetings with teachers of government schools in Bihar & West Bengal in order to make Govt. primary school functional as well as to motivate them against discrimination and for ensuring their retention.
13. Reflect circles continuing in various areas for building right consciousness and empowerment of various partner socially excluded communities. Regular running of circles promoting collective social actions claiming rights and entitlements in Chennai, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh.
14. Formation & strengthening of people's organisation at various levels - A total of 847 people's organisations (POs) of various types has been formed/rejuvenated and strengthened in various work areas. Detail of these POs:

State-wise		Level	
Andhra Pradesh	119	Slum	40
Bihar	39	Village	740
Delhi	7	Panchayat	23
Gujarat	157	Block	22
Jharkhand	234	District	20
Karnataka	44	State	2
Madhya Pradesh	130		
Maharashtra	4		
Orissa	44		
Tamil Nadu	15		
Uttar Pradesh	25		
West Bengal	29		

15. Collective social actions for accessing government schemes and entitlements by partner socially excluded communities.
 - ✓ 756 (including 360 girls) drop out children enrolled into schools while another 628 children (including 360 girls) were enrolled into residential bridge and alternate learning centres.
 - ✓ 717 girls got various education supports from government.
 - ✓ 7 new schools were opened in Madhya Pradesh.
 - ✓ 251 (including 100 girls) children got scholarship.
 - ✓ 64 (including 27 women) Persons with disabilities (PWDs) got new certificates while 104 (including 31 women) got disability pension and 33 (including 10 women) got aids & appliance support.
 - ✓ Approximately 21,973 persons (including 8,452 women) got new NREGA job cards while around 10,644 persons (including 3,929 women) got work. 23,525 persons (including 19,067 women) got payments which were already delayed due to various reasons.
 - ✓ 169 persons (including 141 women) were supported through various government livelihood support programmes.
 - ✓ 396 persons got ration cards while 208 got BPL cards.
 - ✓ 499 persons (including 186 women) were provided with Antyodaya scheme.
 - ✓ 760 families (out of which 328 in the name of women) got houses under various housing schemes.
 - ✓ 95 families (out of which 29 in the name of women) got new land pattas while 747 tribal families (out of which 109 in the name of women) got forest land pattas under new FRA.
 - ✓ 21 caste based violence cases has been redressed in Madhya Pradesh out of which 12 cases involved women.
 - ✓ 315 dalit persons (including 287 women) got support from SC/ST Finance Corporation for initiating self-employment.

- ✓ 782 women accessed Maternity benefit schemes.
- ✓ 1,037 persons (including 407 women) got old age pension while 327 women got widow pension.
- ✓ 144 persons were availed various government insurance schemes.
- ✓ 1,648 persons (including 727 women) availed voter id cards in various urban areas.
- ✓ In Karnataka, 298 persons - who were earlier bonded labour - got subsidised loan to initiate alternate livelihood.

DALIT

16. State and district level Garima resource centres are established to coordinate and inform campaign for dignity of dalits especially of manual scavengers. Material on various issues like eradication of inhuman manual scavenging practice, information about dalit rights, literature on laws, documentation on research and studies, press cuttings, resource material, training material, pamphlets, posters and films are also available in these centres. Garima Shakti Sangathan, Bal panchayat and Prerak (facilitator) running the Garima centres by their own in 24 location of M.P. Team members of campaign, community members, members of other organizations and human rights activist are using regularly of this resource centre. Village and district level awareness meetings with Valmiki community (engaged in manual scavenging) in various districts of Uttar Pradesh and building cadre of community cadre.
17. Garima Abhiyan, Madhya Pradesh has used Right to Information act for 13 issues in 5 districts from 3 departments regarding loan information under SRMS schemes, scholarships of government of India and eradication of manual scavenging. These information are now used for advocacy. Rs 39.50 lakh has been leveraged from SC / ST Finance Corporation under different schemes including self rehabilitation of manual scavengers. The Corporation issued the order to district ANTVYAVSAI Department in 9 districts of M.P. for priority rehabilitation of manual scavengers.
18. Strengthening of leadership in cadre of dalit youths in Uttar Pradesh to fight against the social discrimination, untouchability, the SC/ST Act, RTI Act, domestic violence act, untouchability act, value of vote in the civil society, fact finding of caste based violence as well as celebration of days important to dalit ideology propagating alternate system for emancipation with dalit community. Cases of violence against dalit have been taken up by the cadre at various locations of the state for legal redressal.
19. Grameen Mazdoor Sangh - which is the Union of all NREGA job card holders in a village - has been institutionalized both structurally and functionally as they have elected successfully three core members named President, Secretary and Treasurer in 8 villages of Pratapgarh district of Uttar Pradesh. The member of GMS has taken some measures along with Panchayat team to address their issues. Local (Panchayat) level advocacy has been done to ensure rights under ICDS, PDS and Rural Connectivity. This has resulted in enhancement in accessing government schemes by the members such as NREGA, PDS, ICDS and pension schemes. In Pariyanwan Gram Panchayat people initiated voluntary action and the local administration responded to their efforts and forced to build the connecting road of 650 meters through NREGA.
20. Training programmes were conducted for Dalit PRI members to make them understand their respective roles and aware them of their human rights in Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, Nawada, Patna districts of Bihar. Due to constant awareness drive the community became conscious of its right specially the right to live with dignity. Members grew in high number to apply for job cards. They started making contact with Mukhia, Rojgar Sevak and personnels of the block. Mahila Adhikar Morcha has been formed in 25 villages.
21. Efforts were made to enhance the enrolment of dalit children in schools, better mid-day meal and reduction in caste-based discrimination to dalit children in the school in states of Bihar, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat.

TRIBAL

22. Regular community capacity building efforts (including dissemination of IEC materials) on Forest & land rights, FRA, PESA, NREGS among tribal groups such as Baiga, Sahariya, Mankidia, Khadia, Lodha, Juanga, Paudibhuiyan, Porja, Kondh, Kondadora, Chenchu PTG - Balasore, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Sundargarh districts of Orissa; Balaghat, Mandla, Guna, Sheopur, Ashok Nagar district of Madhya Pradesh; Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Prakasam, Kurnool, Visakhapatnam Districts of Andhra Pradesh; Godda, Dumka, Sahebganj, Latehar districts of Jharkhand; Panchmahal district of Gujarat.

23. A number of meetings were organised on issues of forest & land rights of tribal in which tribal community leaders from work area participated with other CSO representatives. Action plans for each district was prepared. Balasore, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Sundargarh districts of Orissa; Bhopal & Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh. Tribal held meetings with the block and district officials for regularization of forestland rights applications. Forest protection committees have been formed at bungalow level in Jharkhand. 198 families got the separate copy of land PARCHA based on the identification by the gram sabha and certified by the local GS and revenue officials. 46 PARCHAS have been given in the name of women. Hazaribag, Giridih & Ramgarh of Jharkhand.
24. Budget tracking initiated in Kamar and Baiga areas after getting copies of plan and budget of 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 for both micro project actions. The budget copies have been translated in Hindi and information given in it is shared with the villagers and their testimonies recorded. A final public hearing will be held once these village information sharing exercises are completed. - Raipur, Kawardha districts of Chhattisgarh.

MUSLIM

25. NISWAAN group in Gujarat and Mahila Aadhar Kendra [Distressed Women Counselling centre] in Mumbai is helping in providing legal and social support to women-in-distress and so far has taken up 18 and 15 cases respectively.
26. A research is being conducted by 4 students from school of women's study, Utkal University on the status of Muslim women. Data's as per the questionnaire have been collected and now the data analyzing process is on. Conducted in Jagatsingpur, bhadrak, balasore, and khurdha districts of Orissa
27. The meeting of Muslim women's groups (Mahila Shakti Sanghtan) is regularised discussing issues related to health, PDS, RTI and its usage, interface with the doctors at PHC, health insurance scheme & interaction with the Bank Manager etc. This quarter the meetings focused on reproductive and child health (RCH) in which training/awareness programme, film shows, meeting with ASHA and PHC functionaries were carried out. Barabanki, Bareilly and Chitrakoot districts of Uttar Pradesh; North 24 Parganas, South 24 Parganas, Birbhum, Malda districts of West Bengal.

URBAN POOR

28. Health and psycho-social counselling camps were organised periodically in urban areas of Delhi, Chennai, Allahabad, Varanasi and Nasik especially for homeless and migrant labourers.
29. 15 RTI applications were filed to obtain details of the vacant lands/buildings dept of District Revenue Officer (Land & Estate Dept) by homeless community members in Chennai urban area. RTI applications filed in various Govt. Departments by habitats of Bawana & Seemapuri relocation sites in Delhi on PDS, Social welfare schemes, sanitation facilities, education related, Rajiv Ratan Awas Yojna, Voter ID card, Nirman Majdoor Form, MCD, bank a/c open with zero balance for marginalized people. It has been ordered by the Central Information Commission to the Education Deptt for display of all schemes on the notice board in the school premises.
30. Establishment and strengthening of Community Information Centre and capacity building of their caretakers (Volunteers) who provide information to all groups of society. Each CIC are equipped with IEC material, Books, and Govt. scheme related various formats and Telephone numbers. The regular meetings have been organised in different slums for selection of members and formation of Informal Sectors Worker Union. Strong CICs in 6 slums established in Allahabad city, Uttar Pradesh.

Geographical Outreach





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