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Forwarding Note.....:

It is a pleasure for me to present annual activity report of Institute for Women's Development for the year 2008-09. This report carries the testimony of all the achievement, failures and learning's that we have experienced while trying to pursue various intervention and innovations for the cause of some most deprived and negated people and resource poor people in our society

To continue to work with strengthening civil Society organizations which began in Sabara and Ghorani Panchayat of Gosani Block in Gajapati district was to deal with the most difficult challenges to maintain communal harmony as result of out break of communal tension in nabouring areas and unsympathetic attitude of some of the Govt. official towards poor who tried to raised their legitimate demand for availing service and benefit. In such a situation we had to be constantly watchful and adopt proactive measure before any unwanted things to happens.

The implementation of Forest Right Act during the this year has added another dimension in our work with Adibasis who are to be the primary beneficiaries of this Act. To support Adibasis to lodge their claim by following all the necessary procedures has been one of the most challenging task. However we feel happy that with our support 2496 Adibasi families in 86 .villages have registered their claim before appropriate authority.

The capacity building of elected women Panchayat members which was initiated two years back has given very satisfactory result in many cases. As result of various interventions many women PRI members have demonstrated exemplary leadership skill and achieved remarkable success in implementation of NREGS programme, supervising the village based institution like school, ICDS centre and building Panchayat fund for which they have been honored at different occasions in the district as well in the State.. The effort of federation building by women PR members at Block level is a new and innovated initiative to built and maintain solidarity among women PRI members . But we were also handicapped with insufficient financial support that compel to reduce our working area. However I also take this opportunity thank our partners who have not also provided financial support to continue our work with people but also their goodwill and inspiration to sustain our propensity and endeavor .

The details of different interventions, achievement are elaborately described in this report.

Thanks

Minati Padhi
Secretary

Strengthening the effort of Civil Society Organisation(CSO):

Formation and strengthening of CSO has become increasingly important in the contemporary period for the people not only to remain as vigilante citizen but to think, plan and act collectively to resolve their numerous problems. Under the support of Trocaire, IWD has supported communities at village level and Panchayat level to form community based organization as CSO in two Panchayat namely Sabara and Ghorani Panchayat of Gosani Block in



PDC meeting in Ghorani Panchayat

Gajapati District having both women and men its members. These CSOs have formulated their own rule and norms to continue to function as people's organization..

The position of PDC

Name of Panchayat	Name of the PDC	Total Members	Men	Women
Sabara	Jeeban Panchayat Nagarika Sangathan	11	4	7
Ghorani	Netajee Panchayat Nagarika Sangathana	11	6	5

The position of VDC

Nos of Panchayat	Nos VDC	Total members	Men	Women
2	22	153	79	74

These organizations have essentially helped the people belonging to all the ethnic and religious group to come together, discuss their problems that they consider critical to their life and commonly decide action to address those problems relating food security, availing services and benefit from Govt. The process of CSO building has enabled women to become the members of these organizations and participate in village development process.



VDC meeting in Talasisng Village of Sabara Panchayat

The effort of these committees has brought improvement in village school functioning, availability of health services in the villages, the members monitoring the functioning of these institutions and opposing malpractices in implementation of Govt. support programmes.

The Secretary of Ghorani Panchayat in connivance with local touts was selling away the subsidize rice meant for the BPL families in the Panchayat . The vigilant members Ghorani of caught hold of the illegal sale of rice and info me district administration. The additional Block development officer inquired the matter and the case has was handed over to Police.

Community fund is created at PDC level to meet the common expenditure of committees . The fund available with PDC as 31st march 2009 is Rs. 42205/-.

The training , exposure and information dissemination has enabled the members to gain information about various programmes, schemes and laws relating to health , NREGS Forest right and sale of Rs.2/- rice to BPL families . As a result the members are demanding and taking action against irregularities.

The executive Officer of Gandahati Panchayat took the job cards issued under NREGS from villagers of Gothei in some pretext. He used the card as if the villagers have worked .and got payment for the work. When the villages came to know about this they complained to collector and highlighted the issue in the news paper. The Additional District Magistrate enquired the matter and found the fact was true. He suspend the executive officer and case is going on against him.

Impact of various interventions:

- The formation of VDC and PDC is an opportunity for women as well as other socially and economically marginalizes people to become part of decision making process .
- The proactive active measures taken by VDC and PDC prevented the communal conflict to entered into the area .
- Being aware of various schemes and programs the access of people to Govt. Offices has increased in comparison to previous years. The demand for availing employment under NREGS has improved considerable. On an average each family has availed 35 days of work. In several cases complain has been lodged against irregularity involved with NREGS work.
- The VDC is taking active part in six villages for use of Gram Kalyana Samiite fund to maintained village fund and bring improvement insanitation condition.
- The sale of Rs.2/- rice (PDS) was not given in weight. The PDC took up this issue at Panchayat and now in all the villages Rice is given on weight.
- Altogether 2106 families in six Panchayats have submitted their application through Polisabha to get lease of their occupied land under FRC

- The best run SHG are linked up with and financial assistance Schemes to take up additional income generation activities Last year three SHG in two Panchayat were selected and got Rs.10000/- each as revolving fund support .

- For winter crop Saktee Sahayak beneficiaries were supported to, take up vegetable cultivation in about 5 acres of land. The vegetable was crop very good and they have harvested about vegetable worth Rs.4000/- each. This in fact has become demonstration for the nabouring farmers.



A SSS beneficiary is ploughing his land

- The villagers of Ratansing have developed a water source by constructing a check dam and utilizing the water for cultivation of vegetable and other crops in 10 acres of land to increase their food security position.



Water from check dam helped Talasing villagers for vegetable cultivation

- SKP beneficiaries have now got different social status in her village Ghorani.



House of a SKP beneficiary in Ghorani village

SHG and Women Empowerment:

Self Help groups are formed and run by women groups in the villages essentially to establish a credit unity in the villages so that people at the time of need are not depend on money lenders. Additional the memrbs could take loan for any income generation activities Each group has formulated its own set of rule including amount of monthly collection , the criteria of loan disbursement etc to run the group.

The position of SHG as of 31st March 2009

Total village involved	Total Groups formed and running	Total women involved	Amount available as saving	Amount of credit advanced	Number of Groups linked up for bank finance
37	52	755	912700.00	813670	12

Fishery by Talasing Village Women

The members of SHG in S.Talasing village forced the Panchayat to give lease of their village pond for fishery. The group used .. of their SHG money to pay lease fess and buy fingerlings. They also got financial assistance from Block to buy fish feed. Women doing fishery was some thing new in their area. Many were skeptical and dissuaded them. But women of Talasing village have gone a head and they are hopeful of harvesting good profit.

The SHG is also found to be the most effective strategy to built women leadership and enable women to become part of mainstream development process. Being part of SHG women got opportunity to come out of their domicile and interacted with Govt. Official, Bank personal that helped them to understand world outside , gained confidence and learnt various skills and techniques. During this period 4 nos of training have

been organisd and .on an average 28 women have participated in the training.



SHG members participating in a training programme

Impact

- The SHG run by women members in the villages has to large extend checked the exploitation of money lender who used to advance credit and charge exorbitant rate of interest.
- Members of 4 SHG have used fund from SHG to take up vegetable cultivation and have earned additional income up to Rs.4000/-each
- The best run SHGs are linked up with and financial assistance Schemes to take up additional income generation activities. During the year 10 SHG were selected and got Rs.10000/- each as revolving fund support.
- The experience gained by running and managing SHG has helped women to gain confidence and enhance leadership qualities to oppose actions which are detrimental to their development and dignity. The members of Talasing and Harischadrapur have stopped sale of liquor in their villages.
- The members of Ratansing village Gherao the Panchayat secretary who was cheating them in measurement of PDC rice.

The Secretary of Ghorani pan Panchayat was using a tin for measuring the rice while selling to BPL families. Though there is instruction from Govt. not to use illegal system but the Secretary was flouting the rule for his own gain. The women members of Ratansing village after knowing the Govt. instruction forced to stop of illegal measuring the rice . The complain was lodged against the secretary and there after rice is given in proper weight.

Women Farmers Association an Initiative to demand recognition:

Though women's contribution in agriculture activity is more than 70% but due to gender prejudice systems they are not recognized as farmers which make them deprived to avail benefit as farmers and getting opportunities to learn new skills and techniques . Therefore the village level SHG has come together and formed themselves into Women Farmers Association(WFA) with an objective of operating as women agriculture cooperative and demanding to recognize them as farmers and avail benefits including equal wages. To make WFA active and assertive the members of WFA are helped to enhance their leadership skill, learn new and improved methods of agriculture etc.

The federation of SHG has emerged as women agriculture cooperative and mobilized Rs 154667/- .as their capital fund.

The demanded is raised to recognize women as farmers provide them facilities and benefits that a farmer is entitle to get. During the year 5 Women have got support from District Agriculture Department as farmers



Training on soil care and management for WFA members

Effort for Safe Migration:

In absence of adequate employment opportunity and lure of earning more money the Temporary migration has become a regular phenomena in Gosani Block. Taking advantage of this situation labour contractor and their agent persuade people for migration with a promise of lucrative wage . But very often these innocent migrant labour fall into agent's trap and get exploited. Since the migrant labour are not aware of the prevailing labour laws and other protective laws for migrant labor they are unable to get any help or protection at the time of exploitation or harassment .



Workshop on safe migration at Garabandha high School

In order to create awareness among people about present labour laws and legal measure to protect migrant labour from exploitation a workshop on safe migration was organised in the month of January in which 500 People attended The District Labour Officer who is the competent authority to enforce labour law was invited as resource person to speak to the people about protective measure for migrant labour. In the process of discussion the DLO also shared information about recent labour pension scheme that benefits to unorganized construction worker . He appealed to all the people to take benefit of the labour pension scheme.

Women's Day:

Empowerment of women and enabling community to become sensitive to gender issues is one the key concern of IWD. To bring women to the mainstream of development process every occasion is used to sensitize community on gender discrimination issues that include deprivation , violence against women and systems and factors that are detrimental to the development and dignity of women. With this backdrop women Convention is being organized every year commensurating the World Women's Day. This year the convection was organized on 5th March at Sabara village in which about 800 women from different villages participated.



International women day is being observed at Sabara Village

It was decided that the issue relating to women's participation in Panchayat was to be main subject in the convention. It was also decided to use the occasion and honor some the Women PRI member who had done good work in their respective Panchayat and villages In the convention problem of women relating to various social and political issues were discussed . The women Panchayat members also shared their

problem particularly that they experience as woman.. Some of the women PRI members also shared their achievement in the field of implementing NREGS, regularizing the functioning of primary schools etc. The SHG leaders also spoke about , how running of SHG has helped them to come out their home and gain confidence to meet Govt. Officers, Bank managers and run income generation programmes successfully. .

The occasion also motivated many women to talk about gender discrimination practices , domestic violence , education of girls etc..

Observation of World's AIDs Day:

Due to loss of employment opportunity in the local area and also for better economic gain temporary migration to cities like Mumbai ,Hyderabad and Surat is seen increasing particularly among youth. This has caused potential danger that these migrant labor may get affected with HIV/AIDs as they are unaware consequence of this disease. Unfortunately the cases of HIV/ AIDs in

Gajapati district is in crease . The district AIDs cell had already identified more than 3 positive cases and they are mostly from Gosani Block.



Observation of World's Aids Day at R.I office campus in Garabandha

IWD as social organization continuously using different strategies and activities to create awareness among people particularly the youth so that they realize the seriousness of the HIV /AIDs and follow preventive measures to avoid getting affected.

For the purpose of involving large group of people in awareness building initiative every year the World's AIDS Day on 1st December is being observed so that to use the occasion and discuss the seriousness of the issue and make people sensitive by organizing public meeting, rally etc. This year program was organized on December 1st at Garabandha and more than 500 people from project villages as well as from nabouring villages attended. The local medical Officer, the BDO, Headmaster of Local High School joined the meeting and helped the people in the awareness build process

Support to file claim on Forest land:

The Forest land recognition Act is being implemented in the state which provides forest dwellers to get legal right over the land that they are in possession till December 2005. IWD launched a campaign to educate people particularly Adibasi who use forest land extensively for their livelihood and often get harassed by forest Department about the law and take advantage of the it . IWD has mobilized people in six Panchayat in two Blocks namely Gosani and Rayagada to form



IWD staff helping villagers to prepare claim forms.

forest committee and apply for the title of occupied land following the laid down procedure

Type of Application	No of Blocks	Panchayat	Villages	Nos of applicants	Total land applied
Individual	2	10	83	2496	11220
Community	2	10	61	61	5785

The application submitted to Revenue Officer and waiting for joint verification by Revenue and Forest authority.



Claim form is being received by R.I., Sabara Village

Capacity Building of women PRI members:

The 73rd constitutional Amendment provided opportunity for good numbers of women to participate in the self governance and participate in the village and Panchayat development decision making process. But maximum of the elected women were new to the Panchayat governance and did not have much experience. However IWD believes

participation of women in decision making process is imperative to address various social and economic issues including the gender discrimination".

Therefore IWD in partnership with Hunger project initiated a process to help the women Panchayat representatives to enhance their leadership quality so that they understand their role, right and responsibility as PRI representative and participate effectively in Panchayat governance.



The photograph of EWRs of who participated in leadership training



Visitors interacting with EWRs

In the year 2008-09 , IWD adopted 50 Panchayat in Four Block in Gajapati district and have supported 250 women PRI members to built their leadership through a process of training, orientation , workshop , follow up workshops and information dissemination.

No. of Leadership Building Training	Total EWRs participated
3	95



Leadership Training of EWRs

Follow up workshop

No. of Follow up workshop	EWRs	Others	Total
12	284	81	365

Federation Building of EWRs:

As an individual women Panchayat representatives often experience innumerable problems to discharge their responsibility . Even they also struggle to get proper recognition as representative of Panchayat.. Many of their problem are common across the Block. For creating solidarity among EWRs, the idea of federation building of EWRs was conceived. The fist workshop on this idea was held in Gumma Block . There was overhauling response by EWRs in support of forming a federation. Similarly in R. Udayagir Block the response was equality strong and encouraging . The women felt a federation of theirs will be a strength for them to stand together at

the time of difficulties and also a plat - form to share their experience, exchange ideas and support mutual learning



Federation Building Training of EWRs



Federation Building Training of EWRs

The process of federation building in these two Blocks is going on and the rule, regulation and modalities of federation formation is being finalized.

Some of the important the performance of EWRs are listed below.

- ❖ Earlier in most of the cases the male members of EWRs were attending Panchayat meeting, visiting Govt. Offices But this practice has been changed to a large extent. Many EWRs feel confident to independently attend meeting and talk to the officials.
- ❖ In 80 % cases the women ward members are attending the Panchayat meeting and they are seen asking questions and sharing village problems. They have now understood that as ward members they are to preside over Polli Sabha which they have started doing
- ❖ The EWRs after attending trainings are seen doing their supervisory work i.e. checking the attendance of teachers in village schools, ICDS, centre Mid-day meal schemes etc. And wherever they find irregularity, same is brought to the notice of authority.
- ❖ Their access to Govt. Offices has also significantly increased . They have now gained knowledge about various schemes such as NREGS, BRGF, Janani Surkhya etc.
- ❖ Many EWRs like Martha. Ambika , Sumitra, Bhanu , Marium etc are emerging as respectable women leaders in their locality.
- ❖ Some of women Sarapancha like Martha Badaraita ,from Gumma Block, Munarani Patra, from Gosani Block, Purnabasi Gamango from Rayagada Block have done exceptionally good in implementation of NREGS work and got high appreciation and reorganization in the District.

- ❖ Martha Badaraita Sarapancha Badakalakote in Gumma Block for her exemplary work in her Panchayat was honored by Governor of Orissa through NAWO, Orissa.



- ❖ A semi literate Sarapancha Ms. Sumitra Karjee of Gangabda Panchayat in Rayagada Block lead a successful agitation against construction of a irrigation dam which is likely to cause displacement of five villages in f her Panchayat. The proposed dam construction has been stopped.

Strengthening Panchayat for promoting total sanitation

Availability of water and sanitation habit of people has direct effect on well being of people. But there are several villages in Gosani Block where people suffer from availing proper drinking water and unhygienic sanitation practice. The sanitation situation becomes very dismal during rainy season.

Though there are several scheme and programme to arrest the problem, but these has not brought any significant change in terms of changing the attitude of people to adopt good sanitation practice as well as solving problem of water. In Gajapati district Sabara is one the Panchayat that experiences acute problem of water during summer as well as sanitation in monsoon.

This year IWD in partnership with Inter Cooperation, Hyderabad has initiated a process to build capacity of Panchayat so that it mobilizes resources from different Govt. departments to solve water problem. At the same time create awareness among people to change their attitude and adopt hygienic sanitation practice. This idea first of all was shared among Panchayat members and subsequently with Block level Govt. Officials and villagers through organizing workshop and meetings



A block level workshop to prepare plan of action for water and sanitation

The response in the workshop as well as in the village meeting has been very positive and helped to prepared future plan of action to combat the water and sanitation problem in Sabara Panchayat. The next phase of action will begin in the coming year.