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# INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT (IWD)

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## **Forwarding Note:**

As Secretary of Institute for Women Development (IWD) it is a privilege for me to present the Annual Report of the organization for the year 2009-10. For many reasons we consider the reporting year has become a significant year in the history of IWD so far. Under the promotion of Civil Society Organization the area of operation had increased from 22 to 50 villages. The expansion was necessary to extend the support to other villages who needed our support to address their various social and economic issues. Secondly it was also necessary to include more people to form a critical mass so that the poor and marginalized people gain power and become assertive for availing their legitimate right in the implemented programmes like NREGS, FRA, and social benefit programs.

Capacity building of Panchayat members to address the sanitation situation that was initiated previous year got further momentum. Many events have been organized under this intervention in Sabara Panchayat to strengthen the initiative. Involvement in this programme has helped us to learn new concept like WUMP and improved the skill of planning with community. It has also helped to build good rapport with Govt. Dept. particularly with DWSM.

Our work with elected women Panchayat members has been very encouraging one woman Sarapancha whose achievement was highlighted in national media was selected for a National AWARD. The award was given in Rajasthan by Minister of Rural Development, Govt. of India. Similarly many other EWRs also have got appreciation and award in their block for their impressive achievement in implementation of NREGS, raising the fund of Panchayat and implementation of social and food security schemes. However the highlight was inauguration of federation in R.Udayagiri where more than 2000 people attended.

The work with media also been very positive. They have been supportive to our work. The activities of IWD have well covered by the media.

In the process of our work some new and innovative approach was incorporated that has added strength to our work. Among them the local fund mobilization probably is the encouraging experience. The women PRI members in R Udayagiri and SHG members in Sabara and Ghorani for the first time took the initiative to mobilize fund locally for their function. The entire approach was new and the process of fund mobilization was very empowering experience for women.

During the year many visitors from support agencies as well as others have visited the work of IWD and interacted with staff. We appreciate their observation and suggestion that has added values to our work.

In the process of work we had to deal with many challenges. These are implementation of FRA, NREGS, responding to effect of climate change and responding to the need of multi caste and religious community which has direct impact on the success of our intervention.

Over and all I take this opportunity to thank all the agencies and individuals who have been supporting and encouraging us to continue our work with people. Without their support and engagement it would not have been possible for IWD to reach this position that it is today.

Thanks

*Minati Padhi*

(Minati Padhi)

Secretary

## **Promoting and Strengthening Civil Society Organization:**

In the era of Globalization, liberalization and Privatization it has become a condition for the poor and marginalized community to collectively increase their bargaining power if they are to survive with sustainability and dignity. Therefore it is a big challenge for NGOs to create space and opportunity that enables deprived and marginalized people to come together and collectively plan and act to bring improvement in their social and economic life. With this backdrop IWD in its working villages is helping Adibasi, Dalit, women and other disadvantaged people to form their organization under Civil Society organization(CSO) in their respective villages, Panchayats and Blocks. The process of forming CSO initially began in two Panchayats and subsequently it has been extended four more Panchayats.

As per formulated functional procedures the leadership position is changed in these CSO is changed in every two years that new members get opportunity to be in leadership position.

### **Coverage Area:**

Block	# GP	# Villages	# HH	Total Population						
				M	F	Adibasi	Dalit	OBC	Others	Total
2	6	50	2354	5008	5067	5519	1423	3043	1122	100077

To enhance leadership qualities of members IWD supports the members of these CSOs to participate in leadership trainings, issue based workshops, people's advocacy events and disseminate information that are relevant to their life and problems. Participation in these events has enabled members to enhance their confidence and broaden their understanding on various critical issues affecting their life and livelihood and made them assertive for their rights and benefits.

The various capacity building events organized during the year are described below.

#### **Village Level Meeting:**

During the year 210 village meetings have been organized on various subjects such as implementation of NREGS, Forest Right Act, Social benefit schemes, Right to Information, functioning of Gram Kalyan Sammittee etc. Both women and men have participated in these meetings

#### **Panchayat Level Meetings:**

In these meetings the common problems that the people of a Panchayat experience are discussed. Altogether 32 Panchayat level meetings have been organized. On an average 38 persons both women and men representing their respective villages have attended these meetings. The thrust in these meetings have been on problems experienced in implementation of NREGS, water crisis for drinking and irrigation, implementation Forest Right Act, cause and impact of climate change, functioning of Panchayat and impletion of various food security and social security programme.

#### **Workshop on Climate change**

Irregular rainfall and crop failure has become a common phenomena as result of changing weather condition. To sensitize people on this critical issue a workshop was organized at Sabara Panchayat. The expert from various departments participated in the workshop and advised people on how to respond to the situation by adopting new an innovative method of agriculture and lifestyle.

#### **Workshop on Implementing of NREGS:**

MGNREGS is the most popular programme being implemented in the rural areas. The programme gives right to people to get 100 days work and earn livelihood. However various problem are being experienced in the implementation. To short out the problems a Block level workshop was organized at Gosani Block where Block development Officer also attended. The workshop gave opportunity to people to speak out their problems that they experience in NREGS work before the Govt. officials

### **Interactive workshop with Govt. Officials.**

This workshop was organized in Ghorani Panchayat where officers from Agriculture, irrigation and horticulture attended the workshop together with people from four Panchayat. The workshop provided space for the people to speak out their problems. The Govt. officials also shared various benefit schemes available in their department for the people.

### **Training of Panchayat members :**

Training for Panchayat members was conducted to help the PRI members to understand their important role for making the Panchayat an effective people's institution for planning and implementation of development programme. The training was organized in collaboration with Gosani block and 48 PRI members attended the training.


## **Impact:**

The village and Panchayat level meetings has essentially helped the village people to discuss their village problems relating health , water , running of village schools functioning of Gram Kalyana sammittee. Currently implemented NREGS and various social and food security programme.

The village meeting has helped to resolve numbers of village disputes and sustain the unity among them.

Awareness and information level of people about NREGS has increased This year the average workdays achieved by people is 60 days in comparison to 40 days in last year. Similarly the average earning has gone up to Rs.5500/- per family. The members of village committee are found to have become vigilant against irregularity in NREGS and brought number of complains before Govt. officials.

Ninety percent of eligible persons are availing social and food security benefits in the project villages. In 60 % villages Govt. Resource ranging from fifty thousands to Six lakhs has been mobilized under various schemes,

- The Panchayat meeting has become more regular and average attendance of members is 80%. The training has helped the member to know their role and responsibility. The members have actively participated in the meeting raised their village problems and increased their access to Govt. offices.
- The Block Officials have recognize IWD as a resource organisation and have requested to organize training for PRI members in other Panchayat of Block .
- The farmers have started realizing the impact of climate change and interest is generating for SRI method of cultivation. This year 30 farmers had done SRI method of cultivation in about 20 acres of land and found yield is double. 
- The interactive workshop has helped the farmers to access benefits from agriculture department. One farmer from Ratansing village in Ghorani Panchayat has got a water pump and application of 3 farmers are submitted for the same.
- Vegetable cultivation particularly in winter season has helped the farmers both earning as well as for own consumption. 43 farmers have earned income between Rs1200-2000/- from of sale of vegetable.
- The interactive workshop has helped the farmers to get access to agriculture department and availed seeds and water pump etc. 50 farmers got seeds of different varieties.

### **Women Empowerment:**

IWD believes Empowerment of women is key to promoting and sustaining a development process. Therefore IWD uses every opportunity and occasion to built capacity of women that enabling them to become part of the mainstream development process. Besides IWD campaigns on sensitizing entire community on gender discrimination practices that deprives women from availing their legitimate benefit and services , perpetuate violence against women by IWD

uses every opportunity and occasion to built capacity of women following various approaches and strategies, described bellow .

### **Promotion of Self Help Group:**

The women members in the villages are organized into Self Help Groups with an objective of creating an alternative credit system so that for credit needs they would not depend on money lenders and get exploited by paying exuberate rate of interest . Secondly it helps the members to avail support under various schemes that are linked up to SHG. This also create opportunity for women to earn additional income which is very crucial for meeting their livelihood need

#### **The present position of SHG:**

<b># of SHG</b>	<b># members</b>	<b>Total saving collected</b>	<b>Interest accumulated</b>	<b>Total Amount</b>	<b>Amount Advanced to members</b>
48	663	983471	801130	1764601	1064771

For the functioning and management of SHGs, each group has formulated its own set of rules including amount of monthly contribution, the criteria of loan disbursement, interest rate, repayment system etc.

### **Impact:**

- The management of SHG has become an empowering process for the women . It creates space for the women in the village as well at Panchayat to come together to a common forum and discuss various social and economic issues that pertains to their life , and dignity.
- The availability of credit is successfully eliminating local money lenders and inflicting an attitude of self dependency. The members are able to meet 80% of their credit need from their saving.
- 132 members have availed credit and used the money for additional income generation programme and earning up to Rs.2000/-.



- 108 members got credit from their groups and used the credit for buying input such as seeds ,fertilizer and plough for agriculture need
- Four groups in this year were rated as the best functioning groups by Mission Saktee and got Rs. 5000/- each as revolving fund assistance.
- 5 groups have been linked up with SGSSY and availed loan cum-subsidy assistance for group income generation activities.
- The running of SHG has enabled women to go to Bank and Block offices and interacted with Officers. This has help them to overcome their shyness and gain confide to interact with outside world
- Running of Saving and Credit programme has increased managerial capacity of members which has enabled them to emerge as effective women leaders
- This has given them confidence and encouragement to enter into new venture like fishery which is traditionally consider work of men.

### **Strengthening the Initiative of Women Farmers Association:**

In our society Women are not recognized as farmers though their contribution to agriculture is more than 70%. This prejudice is mainly due to practice of patriarchic that discriminates women in getting their due reorganization and respect.

Not being recognized as farmer women are denied of availing benefits available for farmers under various schemes and programme. Secondly they are denied opportunities to participate in skill development training that would otherwise have enhanced their skill and knowledge to know new and improve methods and technique in agriculture.

Therefore the women members of village level SHG have been supported to come together and form themselves into Women Farmers Association(WFA) and make the association to function as women agriculture cooperative. Besides the association women collective would take up the discrimination issue and demand to recognize woman as farmers and provided credit facilities to improve food and other agriculture production

### **Supported Intervention:**

- ❖ To make WFA active and assertive the members of WFA are helped to enhance their leadership skill, learn new and improved methods of agriculture. Two training were organized during the year where altogether 64 women farmers attended the training.
- ❖ Three quarterly meeting of association were also organized where the membership, fund position and loan disbursement etc were discussed.
- ❖ During this year Rs.50000/- has been provided to WFA as revolving fund. With their own contribution the total fund of Rs.2,30,000/- is available with Association
- ❖ 16 members of Association participated in an exposure programme by District fishery Dept. They visited some of the successful fish farms in Ganjam district.
- ❖ The Three groups have taken loan and have done fishery and agriculture.
- ❖ The women farmers also took up the equal wage issue in agriculture work. Though they were not paid equal wage but got enhanced wage.

## **Organization of Women Convention:**

Commensurating the World Women's Day **Women Convention** is being organized every year. This year the convention was organized on 5<sup>th</sup> March at Sabara village and the members of WFA had taken the responsibility of organizing the convention. About 800 women from different villages attended the event. The local MLA and Block Chair person were invited as guests to this convention who praised women for their effort of organizing such event and encouraged them to



continue it for bring equality in society They also shared various measures that Govt. of Orissa is promoting for women to become part of mainstream development processes including the decision of 50% reservation for women in Panchayat Bodies. The most significant thing of organizing this convention was that the women leaders took the initiative and mobilized about Rs.14000/- locally to meet the expenses of the convention.

## **Supporting People for Implementation of Forest Right Act.**

The Forest land Right Act came into force in 2008. The Act provides forest dwellers to get legal right over the land upto 10 acres that they are in possession. IWD launched an extensive campaign to educate people particularly Adibasis who have been using forest land traditionally for their livelihood about this law. Unfortunately there was a High order that stalled the implementation process But after an sustained advocacy campaign the stay was vacated.

For immediate implementation of the law and grant of lease pattan IWD started a campaign in 10 Gram Panchayats in Gosani and Rayagada Block of Gajapati District by supporting following activities.

- Village level meetings were organized in 45 villages to inform people about the Forest Right Act and procedure of submitting application.

- Five Panchayat level workshops with members of village forest right committee were organized in Gosani and Rayagada Block. On an average 42 members attended the workshop.

- For expediting impletion of FRA a Block level workshop was organized at Garabhandha. The applicant numbering 200 attended the workshop The revenue official dealing with forest land lease were invited to participate in the workshop. People raised their problem relating delay in verification of land and non cooperation some officials before the officials. Suggestions of accelerating the process of granting lease patta was discussed.



- The members of Village Forest Committee also participated in State level advocacy campaign for demanding implementation FRA.

As result of these interventions 230 families have been granted lease patta and another 300 applications under process for immediate issue of patta.

#### The present status of Applicants:

Block	Panchayat	# of Applicant village	# of HH applied	# of HH received lease patta
Gosani	Rampa	15	401	55
	Labanyagada	9	222	23
	Sabara	6	235	21
	Garabandha	7	127	37
	Ghorani	4	99	-
	Kantragada	1	59	-
Rayagada	Narayanpur	2	45	-
	Gandahati	11	293	40
	Kerandi	9	238	24
	Gangabada	17	389	30
	<b>10</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>2108</b>	<b>230</b>

### Strengthening the capacity of Elected Women Panchayat representatives:

The provision of one third reservation for women in 73<sup>rd</sup> Amendment in Panchayat bodies provided opportunity for good numbers of women to participate in the self governance which has been primarily considered as men bastion. Although large numbers of women on the strength of reservation occupied various positions in Panchayat bodies but many of them were new to the Panchayat governance and did not have much experience. Therefore the women who were in leadership position could not play their role as effective people representatives. In number of cases they were just dummy representation. IWD believes participation of women in decision making process is imperative to address various social and economic issues including the gender discrimination". So IWD in partnership with Hunger project has started a process to help the women Panchayat representatives to enhance their leadership quality and become aware about their role, right and responsibility as PRI representative by organizing leadership training, workshops on various relevant subject, engaging in personal interaction and supporting them to form Block level federation

- Block level workshops were organized on RTI, PESA and domestic violence and currently implemented food and social security programmes. These workshops were held at Block head quarters and on an average 40 EWRs attend the workshop



- Quarterly meeting were held in three blocks and altogether 9 meetings were organized during the year.
- To disseminate the message of RTI, street theater was held in Gumma, Godasni and R.Udayagiri Block
- To high light the achievement and problems one media interactive worship was organized at Paralakhemundi. Media representative both

from print and electronic media attended the workshop and interacted with EWRs.

- The Block Federation of EWRs in R. Udayagiri was inaugurated on 5<sup>th</sup> February. About two people participated in the function together with EWRs from other Block..



- 36 EWRs representing four Blocks participated in various state level events organized by THP.
- The staff of IWD personally interacted 230 EWR during the year. It is structured interaction that encourages EWRS to become active and assertive in their work. Relevant information are also shared through the interaction.

### **Impact:**

- The participation in different events has enabled EWRs to gain confident to attend Panchayat and other such meetings and raise the voice. They are putting forward their villagers need and problems in these meetings.
- The meetings have created opportunity for the EWRs to share their achievements and problem that they experience while doing their work. The quarterly meetings also gives opportunities to share relevant information with EWRs that add value to their work.
- Some of the EWRs have done remarkable work in implementation of NREGS work and got high appreciation by the state and central Govt..
- Martha BadaRaita Sarapanch of Bada Kalakota Gram Panchayat in Gumma Block was awarded by Govt. of India for her record breaking work in NREGS and also bringing improvement in education and health situation in her Panchayat. Similarly Premalata Raita, the Sarapanch of

R.Udayagiri was awarded by Orissa Govt. for high achievement in implection of NREGS work.

- Many women Sarapanch and ward members have been highly appreciated for their work in increasing Panchayat fund, ensuring proper running of ICDS centre, helping deserving persons to avail social and food security benefits etc in their respective Blocks.
- The proxy attendance of EWRs have been considerable stopped .
- Many EWRs beside their Panchayat works have taken women issues in their Panchayat relating to domestic violence, trafficking of girls and education of girls.
- The EWRs were highly praised for successfully organizing inaugural function of federation. To meet the expenditure they were able to mobilize Rs.33,000/- locally

### **Enhancing capacity of Panchayat to address water and sanitation scenario in Sabara Panchayat:**

Availability of potable water and sanitation habit of people has direct effect on well being of people's health. But people living in rural area give less important to it and often suffer from various water and sanitation related illness.

Though there are several schemes and programmes launched to improve the sanitation situation in villages but it 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 times

To help people to become sensitive on sanitation issues and develop proper hygienic practice IWD in partnership with Inter Cooperation, Hyderabad has launched a program in Saber Panchayat with an objective of creating awareness

and building capacity of Panchayat members so that they mobilize resources from various department for addressing the issue of water and sanitation.

- a. During the year 74 village level meetings were organize in Sabara Panchayat. Beside Sanitation other health related programme like GKS were discussed In these meeting .
- b. Similarly the members of Panchayat were helped to understand their role and responsibility of Panchayat as well as theirs for resource mobilization
- c. Sanitation rally and street theatre was organized in which Panchayat members Anganwadi workers and School teachers participated . The rally covered all the villages with a message about need of good sanitation practice and drinking water .
- d. To make the effort a joint venture of Panchayat, NGO and Govt. two Block level workshops were organized The, local BDO, Executive engineer of DWSM and district collector participated in the workshop . .
- e. In collaboration with district water mission CLTS (community led total Sanitation) exercise was done five villages

### **Impact of the Intervention:**

- ❖ The Panchayat meeting has become regular so also the attendance of members.
- ❖ Some of the warms members like Arakhita Sabar who never used to open their mouth have become very vocal and assertive.
- ❖ The intervention has given the confident and motivation to people to visit Govt. offices and demand for availing water facilities .



- ❖ The sanitation habit of people is beginning to change 15 families in five villages on their own have built toilet and using it.
  
- ❖ The Gram Kalyana Sammittee and its function was un-heard off. The village meetings and workshops has created awareness among people about GKS. Now the villagers have become very particular about the utilization of the KGS fund.