

From Secretary Desk.....

I take immense pleasure to present the annual activity report of Institute for Women's Development (IWD) for the year 2011-12. This report contains of all the achievements, failures and learning's that we as members of IWD have experienced while pursuing various interventions and innovations for the cause of deprived ,neglected and resource poor people living in the operational villages of IWD .

Our effort of strengthening Civil Society Organizations in Sabara and Ghorani Panchayat of Gosani Block in Gajapati district experiences the most difficult challenge to enable people to avail their legitimate entitlement form Govt which are considered to be critical for their social.

The implementation of Forest Right Act that gives right to forest dwellers to avail lease title of forest land which are under their possession has become one the most important concern of IWD . With IWD effort more than 2000 families submitted their claim. But among them large nos of claimants are yet to get the lease Patta. Therefore supporting Adibasis to continue their persuasion before the appropriate authority has been one of the most challenging task during the year.

The capacity building of elected women Panchayat members which has been continuing for last few years has given us very satisfactory result in number of cases. Because of IWD intervention many women PRI members have demonstrated exemplary leadership skill and achieved remarkable success in their respective Panchayat in relation to implementation of NREGS programme, supervising the village based institution like school, ICDS centre and creating substantial Panchayat fund etc. Some of the women Panchayat leaders have been honored at different occasions in the district as well in the State for their achievement. This year there was Panchayat election and reservation of seats for women increased to 50% The increased seats created opportunity for more women to participate in Panchayat election. So it was a challenge for us to motivate more women to participate in the election.

Women empowerment and mainstreaming gender continues to be one of the important concerns for IWD. The organization puts effort in various forms to achieve the objective in its operation villages.

The effort or achievement would not have been possible without support from allt well wishers and donor agencies. So I also take this opportunity thank them for their continued support to carry on our work for the cause of poor.

Thanks

Minati Padhi

Secretary

Strengthening of Civil Society Organisation:

The People such as Adibasis, Dalit, women and other disadvantage people in villages and Panchayat are organized to built their collective strength under the banner of CSO. The collective strength enables them to increase their bargaining strength and put pressure on local administration to deliver their legitimate benefit so that the issue of water , communication , food security of poor will be addressed In order the strengthen their leadership , various interventions such as training , exposure , information sharing, village meeting have been organized at different points of time in the year As a result of all these interventions the following impact has e been experienced.

A. The village and Panchayat level meetings has essentially brought disadvantage people together to discuss issues relating to their health problem , water , running of village schools, functioning of Gram Kalyana sammittee, MGNREGS and various social and food security programme.

b. The impletion of MGNREGS has increased in this year compared to previous years. The average workdays achieved is more than 65 days. The members of village committee have become aware about their right. Large number of complains were lodged where irregularity is found. The attendance of people in Social audit has also increased though not many complains were raised.

c. The farmers have started realizing the impact of climate change and its adverse effect on agriculture. They are now willing to charge the agriculture practice to suit the changing whether. This year 26 farmers had done SRI method of cultivation in about 23 acres of land and line showing is done by 56 farmers.

d. The interactive workshop has helped the farmers to access benefits from agriculture department. Farmers from Ratansing, Sobara and Talasing village got water pumps and spraying machines etc from agriculture Department.

e. One Lift irrigation point in Andharijholra village has been sanctioned which will benefit more than 30 farmers.

f. Vegetable cultivation in winter season has been increasing in every year. This year more 60 farmers in 23 villages did vegetable cultivation such as tomato, brinjal, radish and gained some additional income beside their own consumption.

Livelihood support to poor families.

In the project village about 30 percent of families live without any secure source of livelihood. To earn livelihood they are dependant on others. Because of their inadequate livelihood source their situation of food surety is in jeopardy. To support these families to increase their livelihood source, IWD during this year has supported 30 families in Gandahati Rampa Panchayat. The beneficiaries have received financial help of Rs.10000/- each which they utilized for purchasing bullocks, land development and purchase of Goats.

Some of the families who purchased bullocks used their bullock to cultivate land that they took on lease in near by villages and harvested good return. Three of the them have harvested more than 15 quintals of paddy which in monetary value will be more than 12 000 /-.

Women empowerment and main streaming gender:

In our society women are found to be victims of various forms of discrimination, injustice and violence. They are denied the very legitimate right of accessing benefit and opportunities that would enable them to live as equals with dignity and freedom. Even in adibasi society discrimination and violence on women is no exception. We believe unless these issues are addressed adequately and judiciously we can't claim to be a progressive society. So it has been one of the most critical concerns of IWD that all forms of discrimination perpetuated on women should stop and women will live as equal with peace and dignity.

With this backdrop IWD as a Civil Society Organisation has been continuing its effort to bring change in the prevailing scenario by supporting various interventions from village level to state level. The highlight of achievement is described below. **Campaign against Domestic Violence.:** Though there is law to protect women from violence but in reality women across the community continue to suffer from violence including domestic violence. There are instances where perpetual violence has compelled women to end their life by committing suicide. To create awareness and sensitize people against such inhuman practices IWD has conducted numerous meetings, workshops and training. During the year 4 trainings were organized at different places. These trainings were organized basically to tell that violence against women is a gross violation of law and human rights which is not accepted in any civic society. The violator of law is to be punished. Through these interventions women are encouraged to raise their voice against discrimination inflicted on them.

Similarly efforts has been taken to sensitize men on gender discrimination and violence issues so that the men also understand the gravity of the issue and come out to stop This subject are regularly discussed in the meeting.

Education is not only require for progress but also for achieving equality The organization has been constantly motivating parents by organizing meeting , rally and awareness camps to send their girls to school so that she attends education and take benefit of extra benefits given to girls attending school.

Organisation of Food Security Day:

October 16th is being observed as Food Security Day world wide. To commensurate it IWD orgased a function with local farmers discussion a subject titled as Climate Change and its impact on agriculture Around 300 farmers both women and men across the Block had attended the observation meeting. Officers from agriculture Dept. Agriculture scientists from Krushi Vigyana Kendras and other Officers



related agriculture had attend and address the farmers The cause of climate change and its adverse impact on agriculture production was elaborately discussed . The farmers were also suggested to adopt appropriate cultivation strategy to combat the situation. The occasion was also used to felicitate three women farmers and three men farmers who have done exemplary work in the field of agriculture.

Strengthening the capacity of Elected Women Panchayat representatives:

The provision of reservation for women in Panchayat bodies provided opportunity for good numbers of women to participate in the self governance which has been primarily considered as men bastion. In this year the Govt. of Odisha created further opportunity by increasing reservation of seats for women to 50%. Which means more number of women will participate in the Panchayat election and occupy different position . Therefore it was a challenge for the IWD to motivate more women to participate in the election

Pre-voter Campaign:

Prior to Panchayat election in all the Panchayat of R.Udayagiri and Rayagada Blocks meeting were organized with under the banner of Mahila Adhikar Samukhya (MAS) in which women from SHG, previous EWRs and other individual women had participated. These meeting were organized essentially to motivate competent women to contest in the coming Panchayat election. and mobilize other women in the village /Panchayat to support women candidate as women.

To disseminate the message of increased reservation and motivating women to participate, IWD launched a campaign in two blocks. The campaign was carried out by display of posters, culture show called daskathia, and campaigning in market places. with all the required information.

Panchayat Election:

The Panchayat election was held in the month of February and March. In comparison to previous years there was high turn out of women voters time. In one Panchayat t called Randhiba women voting percent was 87%. Similarly in last election more than 60% seats of ward members was filled up on nomination. But this time in more than 60% seats there was election and contest. For post Samaranch in Talamunda Panchayat 8 women had contested. Such large turn was women to contest and voting was certainly due to pre-voter campaign and MAs meeting.

Gender Resource Centre:

The support for running gender resource was initiated with an objective of helping EWRs in their work as Panchayat members and provide required information. Different forms were also kept in the centre which EWR could easily access. Two resource centre were supported in Rayagada and R.Udayagiri. Initially it went on well. EWRs visited the centre and avail their required information. But later it became difficult to run regularly. So it was decided to run centre only on weekly market dates. But the centre functioned very well as the date for Panchayat election was declared. The



Centre run at the market place with all the information such rule / regulation and different forms that would enable women to context in the election.

Functioning of Federation

The women PRI members in two Blocks have come together had have formed Block level federation with an objective to create support base for improved performance of women leaders and join in advocacy efforts to oppose any laws that goes against the interest and dignity of women.

The two child norm in Panchayat election always had adverse impact on women. Therefore repelling of this norm, there has been state level campaign following various advocacy activities. In joining the campaign the members of Federation raised this issue before the Local MLA and MPs and highlighted the issue in media . Beside two child norms other issue such exclusive appointment of protection Officer ,creating facilities of EWRs at Block and District Office and increasing stipend of EWRs and increasing reservation of seats for women in Panchayat Governance were also raised. Though the they were given positive assurance by the MP and MLA and the demands are yet to be fulfilled. However one demand i.e. increasing reservation of seats for women has been met in this year.

SHG as process for Women Empowerment.

Women in the project villages are organized into SHG with primary objective of running thrift and credit programme. This was a way to void getting exploited by money lender who lends money by charging exhibiting rate of interest .

. Secondly The SHG helps the members to avail support under various Govt benefit 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

The present position of SHG:

# of SHG	# members	Total saving collected so far	Interest accumulated	Total Amount	Amount Advanced to members
44	633	980471	800132	1780503	10665754

The impact of running SHG:

- The management of SHG has become an empowering process for the women . It has created 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 through SHG has reduced dependency on money lenders and inflicting an attitude of self dependency among the members . The members are able to meet more 80% of their credit need from their saving.
- During the year 54 members have availed credit and used it for additional income generation programme .
- 77 members got credit from their groups and used the credit for buying input such as seeds ,fertilizer and plough for agriculture need
- 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.

Support for Water source Development:

As it is experienced the crisis of both surface and ground water is depleting every year. In fact The depletion is affecting agriculture production , water for domestic animal and even human need. To arrest this problem it is advised to crease systems that will arrest the runoff surface water and recharge the ground water.

This year IWD supported three villages namely. S.tasing G.talasing and Hatibadi to excavate water recharging ponds . These pond have excavated with ten percent contribution from community. It is expected that in coming season these ponds will help to recharge the ground water and village wells will have water.

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