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INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT (IWD)

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Forwarding Note:

As Secretary Institute for Women Development (IWD) I take this opportunity to present the Annual Activity Report of the organization for the year 2013-14. This report highlights the significant achievement challenges that we have experienced in this year..

I also feel that the year 2013-14 has been a very challenging year for IWD. The cyclonic storm "Phailine" that swept over Gajapati district and had devastating effect in project villages damaging houses and destroying livelihood resources of people. To help the affected people to recover from the loss and rebuilt their houses was an enormous task that we had to accomplish. The other interventions such as strengthening village level CBOs, mainstreaming gender , ,enhancing enrollment of girl children in schools has been continuous effort to achieve the set objectives. The Forest Right Act is being implemented which gives legal entitlement to people over the forest land that they are in possession.. The title also gives many other additional benefits like identify proof , availing support under NREGS , housing etc. Enabling people to get title was also very important and challenging task .

Our work with elected women Panchayat members in two blocks namely Rayagada and R.Udayagiri Blocks of Gajapati district is a unique experience. The effort of leadership building of those elected women PRI members have not only improve the implementation of many Govt. programme but also addressing the very critical issues like gender discrimination , violence against women.etc. The effort is now to strengthen ALIVA federation formed by women PRI members at Block Level so that it emerges as a strong forum of Women PRI members as a forum to highlight their problems and present their problems before Govt.

During this year many visitors from support agencies as well as others have visited the work of IWD and interacted with community and staff. They also and shared their views and suggestions. We value their suggestion that has helped to bring improvement in our work..

I also use this opportunity to thank all our support agencies, well-wishers he and individuals who have been supporting and encouraging us to continue our work with people. Without their support and engorgement it would not haven possible for IWD to achieve the objective that it has accomplished ..

Thanks

Minati Padhi

(Minati Padhi)

Secretary

Geographical area coverage::

IWD's working area for livelihood promotion and strengthening community level governance system having gender as cross cutting issue covers 50 villages in seven Gram Panchayats of Gosani and Rayagada Block in Gajapati District. The major constitute of IWD are Tribal who mostly live in hill slopes , practicing traditional Bagada cultivation for livelihood generation. The detail information of IWD constitute is given bellow .

Block	# GP	# Villages	# HH	Total Population						
				M	F	Adibasi	Dalit	OBC	Others	Total
2	7	50	2354	5008	5067	5519	1423	3043	1122	10077

Similarly for enhancing leadership of Elected Women Panchayat members the Organization's intervention covers two Blocks namely Rayagada and R.Udayagiri in Gajapati District.

#of Blocks	# Panchayat	# women PRI members
2	31	203

The Intervention and achievement in the year 2013 and 14 are presented bellow.

Response to Phailine:

A cyclonic storm called Phailin formed in Bay Bengal hit the Odisha coast on 12th October 2013 .. The force of the storm had severely affected some part of , Gajapati districts . Subsequently another depression which precipitated with heavy rain in Gajapati district. 23rd to 25th of October. Both catastrophes caused loss of crops, trees and damaging houses and seriously affecting the livelihood situation of poor.

The working area of Institute for Women Development (IWD) in two Blocks of Gajapati District i.e. Rayagada and Gosani was badly affected by the rain. Out of 50 working villages , 40 villages were affected resulting human suffering , loss of livelihood resource and disrupting the whole communication system. The people in inaccessible hill slop villages had to remain without food for more than 30 hours

before any help could reach them. The support was not reachable as the communication system had broken down.

This required immediate support of relief for suffering people and later rehabilitation particularly rebuilt or repair the damaged houses. IWD with the assistance of members of village committee identified the affected families and provided them the immediate relief of dry food for 5 days, tarpaulin for temporary shelter and later food and non-house hold article support which contained 13 types items.



With available fund 173 families were identified to receive support for rebuilding their damaged houses. The concerned village committee had taken the responsibility of identifying most affected and deserving families to avail the support. The women headed families, widows and other old people were given priority in selection of beneficiaries.

Details of the families received support :

Support item	# of Families	# of villages	# of GPS	Blocks
Immediate dry food	650	31	7	2
Food and non food items	600	29	7	2
House repair. support	173	24	7	2

The immediate relief and subsequent help was a big assistance for the affected families to recover from critical situation caused by the cyclone. The dry food distribution was immense help for the people who were starving almost 30-35 hours. The distribution of food and non-food house hold articles helped affected families to recover the lost to some extent. The number of items distributed was a big surprise so also the quality of goods distributed



The House repairing support was available for 150 family's. But due to the need of people the organization had to increase the number to 173. For rebuilding the houses the beneficiary's contribution was highly encouraging for which with limited financial assistance they were able to rebuilt very good houses and complete in time.

Strengthening Community level Organization:

In the present context number of programme aimed at bringing social and economic development of poor and marginalized people is being promoted by Govt. But the poor people lack up information and bargaining power are not able to access those benefits . Therefore as a strategy IWD promotes and strengthens community level organization in all its operational villages. Both women and men are selected by the concerned villagers as members of community level organization. . IWD tried enhancing their capacity with various interventions such as

- a. Training on leadership building, communication skill development, capacity building of members of Forest Right Committee.etc.
- b. Workshops on issues like MGNREGS, Forest Right Act implementation etc.
- c. Organization of village ,meetings for information sharing and developing village plan.
- d. Organizing exposure trips that enables these members to enhance their leadership quality.

The details of participants attended leadership development events are given bellow

Total participants	Male	Female	Villages	Panchayat
197	104	93	42	7

The impact experienced as result of leadership development intervention is;

- HH accessing Food security(PDS) benefits has increased from 941 to 1104
- 73 Adibasi HH has obtained land title under Forest Right Act.
- Govt. Spending in villages for different activities such as improvement in village roads, electrification of village and water situation has increased.
- Improvement in function of village level institutions such as Schools, Anganwadi centers in 19 villages has improved
- Drinking water problems solved in 4 villages as CBO members regularly perused the problem with concerned authorities.
- 39 eligible with support of VDC have been enrolled in social security pension.
- People's access to present their problems in Grievance cells organized at Block and district level has increased and in this year 31 times people from project villages have presented their problems in grievance cell

Support for Livelihood source development of vulnerable families

Among the Household that IWD works 35 % of them are identified as vulnerable families who do not have adequate resource to manage their livelihood need. Therefore the project effort has been to support these group of HH to develop appropriate livelihood resource by making best use of Natural and human resource. The focus for livelihood resource development has been

- Land development and making the land productive.
- Water source develop particularly harvesting rain water.
- Developing degraded hill slop land and using of agriculture.
- Intruding new method of cultivation to increase the production
- Introducing improved seed

a. Land Development Support

In this year 15 Adibasi families having no land or very marginally owned land. Were supported for land development . The beneficiaries were selected by the respective village committee With financial support from Trocaire and from their own contribution these famers on an average have developed about 40 cent of land as their sustainable livelihood resource..



The developed land is used for growing paddy and likely to be harvested in the month December . The crops are good and each beneficiary is expected to harvest about 3-4 quintal of paddy in this year..

a. Rain Water harvesting structure:

Two villages namely Marigudi and Equamara in Garabandha Panchayat of Gosani Block were supported to develop rain water harvesting structure with project support and their own contribution. The water collected in the structure was a big help to farmers to save their monsoon crop at the time of drought or less rainfall.



This year 8 farmers in Equamar village mostly marginal farmers have cultivated paddy in 7 acres of land. Similarly in Marigudi village 9 famers have cultivated paddy in 9 acres of land. The crop has grown well and the farmers are likely to harvest more than

80 quintals of paddy . This is for the first time in the last 10 years the farmers are going to have full harvest.

b. Mobilising farmers for upland cultivation:

Many of the farmer's possess upland in the project villages. Since the agriculture is dependent on rain the agriculture in upland was uncertain. This year farmers owning upland were motivated to cultivate upland by using short duration and drought resistance paddy seeds.. Altogether 60 farmers in 18 villages were supported to cultivate around 43.5 acres of land . The crop was good and the farmers have harvested 9-12 quintals of paddy.. This in fact has become a demonstration and other farmers to follow it in coming years

Development of Hill slopes land.

In previous years 73 adibasi families were supported to develop the degraded hill slope land that they were practicing podu cultivation. The effort in this year was to mobilized these Adibasi families to use the land for doing cash crop like turmeric, pine apple banana and



intercropping with food crop. The support from horticulture dept under National Horticulture mission also provided seedlings of fruit trees like mango , lemon banana etc. The developed land with multiple crop has now become a model and a productive sustainable livelihood assets for adibasi families

Among the families who have developed the slope land 26% of them have earned the income from Rs.3000/- to Rs.10000/- from sale of pine apple turmeric banana and other crops. The tree cover in the developed land is also contributing to maintain local ecology and checking soil erosion.

Bullock Support for livelihood security :

With bullock support 61 land less and marginal farmers had done paddy cultivation by taking land on lease from big farmers under share cropping arrangement. Each of them beneficiaries on an average had cultivated 1.5 acres of land . Among them 32 farmers from 5 villages have got paddy on average 9 quintals which is likely to provide food security to these families from 3 to 6 months.

Vegetable cultivation for income generation:

Vegetable cultivation is one of the potential areas for increasing income security of farmers in the project villages having land on stream side or having irrigation facilities. In this year 35 farmers in 3 villages were motivated and supported to take up winter vegetable cultivation. Some of them were earlier doing vegetable cultivation, but mostly for their own consumption. The farmers doing vegetable cultivation as income enhancement have earned income ranging from Rs. 3500 to Rs.6000/-beside their own consumption. The enhanced income is substantially contributing to increase their income security and emerged as a viable way of enhancing income.

Mainstreaming gender and women empowerment :

Mainstreaming gender and women empowerment is one of the key concerns of IWD. To achieve the objective the organization helps women in its project villages to get organized into SHG and run a credit unit. In the process of running and managing SHG they enhance their leadership qualities so that they increase their access and control over resources, and opposing gender discrimination practices prevailing in the community and motivating parents for education of girls. The activities and achievements are as follows..

- a. Organizing women into self help groups in the villages for the purpose of running a saving and credit unit and to promote women empowerment.
2. Creating events for Leadership development of SHG members;
3. Organising events like International Women's Day, Human Right Day to discuss specific issues related to women.
5. Mobilizing women to participate in village and Panchayat level decision making forums.
6. Organising women as farmers for accessing benefits meant for farmers.

a. Organizing women into self help groups :

596 women are involved in saving and credit programme by forming 48 groups. The groups run with monthly savings collection and depositing money in Bank and maintaining records. The money available with SHG has reduced the dependency on money lenders. 54 % of SHG do not go to moneylenders any more.

b. Leadership development of SHG members:

132 women members from SHG who participated in leadership development programme such as Training , workshops and other events have emerged as women leaders in the area. Through leadership development intervention women are motivated to mobilize other women to participate in Pollisabha, get involved in resolving village problems by visiting Govt. Offices and presenting their problems , motivate parents for education of girl children and oppose gender discrimination practice and violence against women.

c. Formation of Women Farmers association:

In 16 villages women with support from NABARD have formed Women Farmer Association. As members of association they have got opportunity to interact with representatives of Financial Institutions and Govt. Officers . Under different schemes of the Govt. , .the members of Women Farmers Association have obtain financial assistance for income enhancement.

d. Additional Income generation by SHG.

Members of SHG are supported to engaged into additional income by taking up fishery and vegetable cultivation and trading of local product like cashew with support from Govt. and project. Altogether 13 SHG are engaged in income generation activities in this year.

e. Organisation of International Women's Day;

A district level convention was organized to observe the International Women's Day.. More than 300 women from different project participated in the convention . The subject for discussion in the convention was property right of women to reduce the gender difference. Speaker from different disciple attended the convention and shared their view and though. It was opportunity for village women share their problems and concern in the convention.



The impact;

- . The money available with SHGs has essentially reduced the dependency on money lenders. At project 54 % of SHG do not go to money lenders credit and manage their need from their own savings.
- Through SHG women are organized, and have got a new identity such as president, secretary in the villages etc.
- SHG has enabled women to increase their access to financial Institutions . This year , 29 SHGs have got support from Govt. for revolving fund, procurement of agriculture implements under drudgery reduction programme and seasonal business.
- Women members of 7 SHGs had to fight to get lease of Panchayat ponds for fishery and were supported for growing fish. Fishery generally is considered the work of men . Now women are involved in it.
- The members of SHG are getting involved in other village development activities. The members of 14 SHG have tried to address different issues such as village water problem, road to village etc by presenting their demand before Govt. authorities and in grievance cell.
- The members of 9 SHG have brought improvement in functioning of village Anganawadi Centre by regularly visiting and monitoring the activities.
- The Participation of women in this years' PolliSabah is seen marked improvement . In earlier PolliSabah the women participation used to be around 30-35% t. But this year it has been more than 50%.

Leadership Building of Panchayat Women Representatives.

The reservation of 50% seats for women in Panchayat Institutions has enabled good numbers of women to come to Panchayat Governance. But among them many of the women did not have much earlier experience in Panchayat Governance . Some of them prior to becoming Panchayat members did not even see the Panchayat Office. Therefore it was important to help these Panchayat women members to increase their leadership so that they become knowledgeable in Panchayat Governance system and carry out their responsibility effectively. The leadership building of women PRI members is critical to address the food security



issues that they were directly related and address the issue of gender discrimination and violence against women.

While trying to discharge the duties as Panchayat members women are often come across various types of problem which they not able to address. So to create a platform for mutual support and collective action against discrimination and violence against women. The women PRI members in Two Block have formed Block level federation named as Alibha Panchayat Mahila Mahasangha.

For achieving greater participation of EWRS in Mahasangha activities the Block level Alibha Federation is divided into 4 clusters. In each quarter there is a cluster meeting where EWRS of the respective clusters got together and discuss their experience related to achievements, good practices and problems. The cluster meetings also create opportunity to share relevant information with EWRS and sometimes Govt. Officers are invited to interact with members.

Organisation of Mahila Adhikar Sammukhya(MAS).

There are many issues in the community that women PRI members are not able deal with. In such cases they require support from other women in the community. With this backdrop MAS is being organized at cluster level. The MAS essentially creates a support base for women PRI members having other women with her. This in fact encourages her to deal with critical issues such as mentioning food security programme in Angawadi centre, mid day meal served in the schools and gender discrimination and violence against women. Mobilizing women to become part of sanitation campaign is another subject discussed in the MAS

▪ Food security Campaign.

To create awareness among people about the benefits available under food security programme, run by Govt. and to grow nutrition food, a campaign on food security under the banner of Alibha Mahasangha was launched for seven days. The campaigning covered 79 villages in 22 Panchayat in Rayagada and R.Udayagiri blocks and reached 5430 people directly through poster, leaflets etc. At the end a meeting was organized at Adagan village where 500 people from different Panchayat had attended. Guest from food related dept also attended the meeting and spoke about problem of malnutrition and need of growing nutrition food.

▪ Campaign on Violence Against Women (VAW).

The sexual harassment and violence against women has become regular phenomena, Meantime the Govt. has amended the law and made more stringent in case of violence against women . But as it is seen the incident of violence against women has not really come down. This indicates that the law alone is not enough to stop violence against women and bring change. Therefore it requires greater awareness and sensitive among people to change their mind set towards women.



To create awareness and sensitivity among people a six days camping was launched followed by a district level convention. The campaign covered three Blocks and reached around 12000 people conveying the message that the people must respect women and stop all kind of violence against women.. The district convention was held at Paralakhemundi and large number of women had attended it There was elaborate talk of women right and opposing the practice of violence against women.

Change experienced.

- The knowledge and confidence of women PRI members has increase .Out of 209 EWR 54 of them are regularly monitoring Anagawadi centre and brought improvement in Anganwadi functioning..
- 73 EWR have helped their people getting pensions for eligible person in the their ward and Panchayat
- 27 pending case of National Family Welfare Benefits has been solved and benefit is give to claimants.
- 21 cases of domestic violence and sexual harassment cases has been solved by Women PRI members through Alibha Mahasnagha.
- The attendance of Elected Women Represenntatives in Panchayat meeting has increased from 60% to 80%.
- Some of the EWR are emerging as strong women leaders in the village and Panchayat.

Thanks

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