

Poorest Areas Civil Society (PACS) Programme

Report

Of

**SECOND PEER REVIEW WORKSHOP
Maharashtra**

MARCH 11TH – 13TH 2004

AT

**MAHARASHTRA ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT CENTRE
AURANGABAD**

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Acknowledgements

We are thankful to all of our partners under PACS Programme in Maharashtra for attending and sharing their valuable ideas and opinion during Peer Review Workshop.

We would like to acknowledge the state coordinating committee for the successful coordination of the workshop. We extend our thanks to **Paryay**, which was the coordinating agency for all the arrangements, logistic support during the workshop.

We are also grateful to our state based Resource Organisations - **Green Earth**, Pune and **Jan Vikas Pratisthan**, Pune for facilitating the workshop. We would especially like to thank Mr. Kaustubh Devale for documentation of the workshop proceedings.

It would be noteworthy to thank all the external resource persons for sharing their knowledge and valuable ideas during the workshop.

Executive Summary

Poorest Areas Civil Society (PACS) Programme envisages contributing towards the millennium development goal of poverty reduction world over by 2015, by strengthening the Civil Society Organisations (CSO) in six different states viz. Bihar, Chattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh on issues of governance, empowerment and entitlements of the poor.

Various support systems are incorporated in the programme for the Civil Society Organisation (CSO) to be more effective in their work. Peer review workshops are visualised as one of these platforms wherein the partners of the programme share their experiences and raise issues critical for the development of the programme in their states.

The Second Peer Review Workshop for Maharashtra was organised in Aurangabad between the 11th and 13th of March 2004. A co-ordinating committee had been selected in advance to finalise the agenda and cater to the logistical requirements. All the PACS partners from Maharashtra along with most of their sub-partners in the PACS programme attended this workshop. The State Supportive Supervision Resource Organisation (SSRO) and Proposal Development Resource Organisation (PDRO) teams were also present at the workshop and participated actively in the workshop. PACS was represented by the MC representative for the entire duration while the Programme Manager, PWC representatives and MC' representatives were also present.

Advocacy had been selected as the theme for this workshop. A team from Centre for Advocacy and Research (CFAR) Delhi participated in the process as an agency to help the partners on understanding advocacy and to specify the role of "Media-Advocacy" for change in policy.

The primary purpose of this workshop was review of the implementation of the project by the partners with their "Peers" of the PACS programme. However, this intended review was completed within the first day and the remaining time was utilised for advocacy related deliberations as per the theme decided for the workshop. Due to the fact that some parts of Marathwada are caught in a grip of severe drought almost all deliberations of advocacy strategies revolved round ways and means of drought response with the help of advocacy.

The peers devoted the first day mainly to the "review". The MC made a presentation on the progress made by the PACS programme and allied activities done by PACS. The Supportive Supervision Resource Organization (SSRO) presented their observations and areas of concern felt in the state during supportive supervision and other visits in the project area. The representatives of the groups who had visited the partners' projects with the purpose of understanding the projects and their implementation made presentations. Senior experienced activists shared their views about these presentations and also raised specific concerns for introspection for all those present. At the end of the first day, a case study was presented, followed by a discussion, on advocacy done by a non-PACS activist organisation regarding the issue of land rights for adivasis in the Konkan region of Maharashtra.

The second day was used for discussion and presentation on various types of advocacy and the strategies used in each of it. The first half of the day was used to assess the training requirements of the partners for the PACS programme and also for their organisational development. The remaining day that got stretched into late evening focussed on experience sharing by experienced campaigners of advocacy from amongst the partners present. The Project Development Resource Organization (PDRO) shared his opinions about the direction in which the PACS programme was heading in Maharashtra. CFAR team shared their views on media-advocacy and the strategies used by them. The

second day ended with a cultural programme performed impromptu by the partners drawing on their rich and heady experience of the Campaign For Human Rights (CHR) days.

The third day was utilised to deliberate on the drought situation in Marathwada and an Action-Plan was finalised to mitigate the emergency like situation created by the severe drought. Advocacy Strategies were made on drought response, with the help of CFAR. The workshop culminated with an address by the Divisional Commissioner of Marathwada and the promise to aid the partners in the implementation of the Action-Plan.

With a view to sustain initiatives outside the project mode keeping in mind the long term vision, a core team at the State Level, was constituted. The Core Team would be drawing on the experiences and inputs from the different projects under implementation and would draw in other stakeholders including individuals, government officials, academic institutions etc. for effective state level interventions. The Peer Review besides acting as a platform for sharing of learnings was also viewed as a good mechanism for addressing critical development concerns at the state level.

Overview

Each Unto Own. . .

. Many partners chugging along on their own to achieve similar goals but, if there is a review of this journey with the peers then it definitely benefits the dreamers. . .

With this rationale in mind the second Peer Review Workshop was organised at the historic city of Aurangabad. This city has been the melting pot of various distinctive cultures since the past many centuries.

The 2nd Peer Review Workshop was organised from 11th to 13th March 2004 at MCED (Maharashtra Centre for Entrepreneurship Development) in Aurangabad city. The logistics of this workshop were organised by Paryay, a partner of PACS programme in Maharashtra.

Planning the peer review

The process of planning the review had undergone a sea of change, finally a coordination committee was constituted and they managed the entire workshop with the SS RO and the MC providing inputs only. This committee included

1. Vishwanath Todkar – Paryay
2. Ramakant Kulkarni – Sahayog Nirmitee
3. Balaji Kendre – Marathwada Sheti Sahayyak Mandal
4. Sangita Gaikwad – Asmita
5. Manohar Gopelwar – Indian Institute of Youth Development and
6. Sudhakar Kshirsagar – Sankalp Manav Vikas Sanstha

The committee was responsible for

- ⇒ Setting the theme of the Peer Review
- ⇒ Designing the process of the field Peer Review
- ⇒ Setting the agenda
- ⇒ Inviting resource persons
- ⇒ Liaison with government officials
- ⇒ Logistics and administrative arrangements at the venue and
- ⇒ Conducting the three day workshop.

Participants

The peer review had participants from five stakeholders within the PACS programme

1. The lead CSOs represented by the head and the PACS project co-ordinators.
2. CSO partnering the lead CSOs – represented by their heads.
3. The Management Consultants (MC) – Development Alternatives and PriceWaterhouse Coopers. From the MC four representatives participated including the Ms. Kiran Sharma Programme Manager, Ms. Poonam Mehta MC representative for Maharashtra, Mr. Robin Koshy MC representative and Ms. Monisha Borthakur from PwC
4. The (SSRO) - GreenEarth Social Development Consulting Pvt. Ltd. was represented by Makarand Sahasrabuddhe and Vinita Tatke.
5. The (PDRO) – Shirish Kulkarni and Sachin Mardikar
6. Repporteor- Mr. Kaustubh

Apart from these, resource persons had been invited from

1. Nirmitee – a lands right movement in Maharashtra
2. Sampark – an advocacy group in Mumbai
3. The Development Alternatives, Training Systems Group (TSG)
4. Centre for Advocacy and Research, Delhi

In all around 80 people participated in the three day process. (*Refer annexure-... --for the detailed list of participants*)

Expected outcome of the peer review

The expected outcome of the peer review were as under:

1. Taking the mechanism of Peer Review of projects forward
2. Exchange of experience amongst the stake holders
3. Identification of capacity building needs of the partners
4. Gaining understanding of advocacy processes
5. Developing a network and common action plan for identifying issues in Maharashtra and then taking them forward
6. Planning the next Peer Review Workshop

The agenda

The agenda had been broadly agreed upon. It had not been broken into fine segments but the broad sessions had been planned. The finer details were developed at the start of each day.

(*Refer detailed agenda in annexure X*)

The Theme

The theme of this workshop was “Advocacy” besides the review of CSO projects by peers in Maharashtra. With the start of drought in Marathwada, the theme of advocacy in the workshop veered round the measures to counter this emergency. This invariably became the topic for informal and most of the formal discussions over the three days amongst the partners. By the end of three days the partners finalised an Action-Plan to counter the emergency-like situation created by drought in Marathwada.

This is a report of how the partners, comprehending the gravity of the drought situation in Marathwada, arrived at the Action-Plan and reviewed their own journey from the last Peer Review Workshop.

The First Day

Session 1- (10:00 AM to 11:00 AM) Introduction and presentations by Poonam (MC representative for Maharashtra) and Makarand (Representative for GreenEarth Social Development Consultancy Pvt. Ltd., the SSRO for Maharashtra).

Session 2- (11:20 AM to 13:20 PM) Presentations by the Review Committee's representatives of their experiences with the partner organisations which was followed by discussion on these presentations

Session 3- (14:15 PM to 16:50 PM) Sharing of opinions, by four panellists (Mr. Ghodeswar, Mr. Dagwar, Mr. Gandhi, Mr. Borawade), on the review groups' presentations which was followed by discussion of the participants on the opinions of the panellists.

Session 4 – (17:20 PM to 19:15 PM) Presentation by Surekha Dalvi, renowned land right activist on her organisation's struggle for adivasis to legitimise the ownership of "Dali-lands" and its rights. This presentation was followed by a discussion.

(19:30 PM to 20:00 PM.) At the end of the day a puppet show was shown.

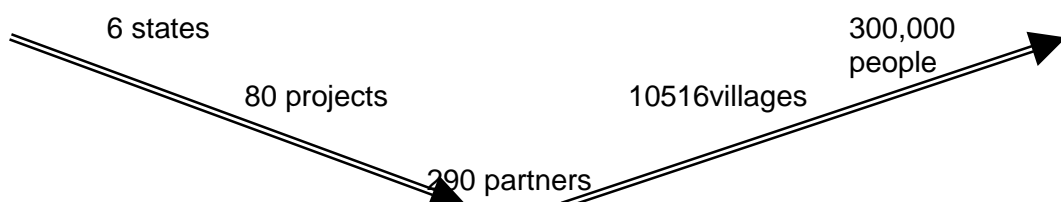
Introductory Session

Mr. Vishwanath Todkar, the Chief Functionary of Paryay, commenced the proceedings of the Peer Review Workshop by introducing the co-ordinating committee. This was followed by a round of introductions of the participants.

Then the first day's agenda was explained by the SSRO.

The first session started with the PACS MC representative for Maharashtra, making a presentation. In this she informed the partners about the following :

- Overall PACS programme and the functioning of PACS.
- Details of the projects in Maharashtra as per the PACS Thematic Areas-
 1. 8 projects on Women Empowerment.
 2. 2 projects on Social Cohesion.
 3. 2 projects on Advocacy.
 4. 8 projects on Self Help Groups.
- Progress and coverage of the PACS programme



- Complementary activities of PACS along with the projects –
 1. Networking, Linkages and Synergies (JAA, Child Rights and with private organisations & Government).
 2. Programme level Communication. (web page, newsletter etc).
 3. Capacity Building of partners, programme and project management.
 4. Issue based advocacy at people and policy level.
- The pilot study at MSSM of MEAL system.

- Focus components of PACS for the forthcoming year—
 1. Intensify interventions in clusters.
 2. Operationalise impact multiplication system.
 3. Develop and establish enhancement system.

(Refer Annexure -1 for detailed presentation made by MC)

The SSRO then presented an overview of all the projects in Maharashtra. The four aspects which highlighted in this presentation were:

- I. Positives –
 - Vibrant Civil Society.
 - People’s movements with an activist base.
 - Good Leadership at CSO level.
 - Large number of partners.
 - State selected for MEAL initiative.
- II. Areas of Concern – at the Project level and Programme Level.
- III. Issues in the near future—
 - Drought in Marathwada,
 - Land Rights,
 - Entitlements,
 - Inadequate representation in Panchayat Raj Institutions,
 - Need for pro-poor advocacy.
- IV. Opportunities.

(Refer Annexure -2 for detailed presentation of SSRO)

Session Analysis

Expected Outcome:

Initiating the peer review process and set up the broad parameters of understanding of what is expected from the three days.

Process followed:

The presentation of MC was a formal one making use of slides and statistics culminating with the direction for the future. Presentation by SSRO was on similar lines and had more of overall analysis rather than statistics. There were no formal discussions about these presentations. These acted as a curtain raiser to the workshop.

Achievements:

An overview of the role of PACS till date and the direction for the immediate future along with state of projects and the issues in near future in Maharashtra.

Session 2

The second session started with an inspirational song by Manisha Tokale (chief functionary of Savitribai Phule Mahila Mandal, a partner of GVM in the PACS project) and the group of activists who are a part of CHR.

In this session, those two groups who had visited to partners for reviewing their projects presented their experiences.

The two groups comprised of:

Group 1—Dashrath Jadhav (Sankalp), Tukaram Shinde (RDC) and Revankar (GVM)

Group 2—Ramakant Kulkarni (Sahayog Nirmitee), Shailesh Pisalkar (BDBGVS) and Satchit Bhandarkar (IYW).

Prior to the Peer Review Workshop all members from each group had visited the respective projects with the purpose as learning experience, viewing the projects with different perspectives and then identifying the strengths and non-strengths of the projects being implemented, sharing the experience with all partners for the learning of all . The partners specifically looked into:

- Programme overview, objectives and outputs
- M & E systems
- Self learning of CSOs
- Challenges identified

A panel of four experienced activists was chosen to share their views about the presentation of the two groups and the process in general. These selected four panellist were:

1. Mr. Ghodeswar (IYW).
2. Mr. Dagwar (Asmita)
3. Mr. Gandhi (MSSM).
4. Mr. Borade (MSSM)

For the first group Dashrath Jadhav (Sankalp) and for the second group Ramakant Kulkarni (Sahyog Nrmati) presented

Both the group presentations had the following similarities:

- Explained the process they followed to perform the task assigned,
- Explained the activities being conducted,
- Case studies of some of the villages they had visited,
- Gaps in the implementation of the projects,
- Important Achievements of the projects.

The first group presentation was read out and along with the above-mentioned aspects also included the Thematic Areas, a detailed list of the objectives & activities and the monitoring mechanisms.

The second group presentation which began with a poem explaining the rationale of the review visits was brief. It explained the common aspects of all three projects and also identified those areas in need of supportive action along with the above- mentioned similarities.

(Refer Annexure -3 for presentations of both the groups)

Both the groups are expected to present reports of their reviews formally to MC and the SSRO.

Session Analysis

Expected Outcome:

1. The strengths and weaknesses of the 6 projects reviewed were to emerge. In order to ensure that the process went smoothly, the limitations were to be presented without project names and the achievements specific to the project reviewed.
2. The participants would learn from these six projects
3. The groups would learn from each others field strategies and transmit the learning to the rest of the group.

Process Followed:

In this session there were two types of presentations. One was read out in detail while other was read out in bullet form. Both presentations were followed by a brief discussion.

Achievements:

The groups presented their findings to the partners but there was only a brief discussion on their presentations.

Learning:

1. The field Peer Review needs to be planned better and over a longer duration.
2. More time needs to be allotted to the presentations and discussions.

Post-Lunch Session

The session started with motivating songs sung by Manisha Tokale.(Savitribai Phule Mahila Mandal) This session was meant for the panellists to express their views on the presentations and general observations about the programmes. This session was actually meant for the experienced panellists to guide the partners.

Before their start, a half hour was given to all the partners to express their views about the review process. The partners reached a conclusion that they should be given more time for preparation of the visits and all should be given a chance to be a member of the review groups.

Mr. Ghodeswar from IYW commented on the presentations of the MC representative, SSRO and the two review groups. He used the presentations as the recurring theme to make suggestions and more importantly raise thought-provoking questions.

Concerns Raised for introspection . . .

- ◆ *“Who are the people for us ?”*
- ◆ *What is the role of the people and their contribution in their development? Is it being recognised?*
- ◆ *“Are we ‘implementing’ the project just for the sake of doing it?”*
- ◆ *Role of industries in the development work.*
- ◆ *What sort of awareness is done of the villagers and what is the follow-up done about it?*
- ◆ *Accountability towards the people vis-à-vis the funding agency.*
- ◆ *Activist vs. Development oriented strategy for the CSOs.*
- ◆ *Should not the focus of PACS group be the hungry since the hungry are the poor and ‘poorest’ is the word used by PACS.*
- ◆ *“Do we consider the people as partners in development?”*
- ◆ *“Is there an ability among the people to lead into the future?”*
- ◆ *“Do we think that the people can create their future?”*

In addition to these questions and a brief comment on each of the questions, Mr. Ghodeswar quoted from The Times of India 8th March 2004 article on women empowerment. *“If the woman herself does not want to stand against the injustice on her then can anybody from outside do anything?”*

The second panellist to share his views was **Mr. Dagwar** from Asmita.

He started off with exploring his initiation in the development sector and Gandhiji's views of "Gram-Swaraj" and traced the course of the short-lived "*Total Revolution*" of Jai Prakash Narayan. Mr. Dagwar read out a poem speaking about the ironies present in the villages of India and talked briefly about the presentations. His focus was on the grass-root activists and field-workers. Mr. Dagwar was of the opinion that Capacity-Building of these activists needed to be done.

Mr. Dagwar's poem of the ironic villages of India:

Locality exists but no village,
Village is 'one' but the source of water supply are distinct ...

Climate is healthy but health is non-existent,
Foodgrains are grown aplenty but malnutrition persists,
Belief is there but so is superstition....

Mr. Gandhi from MSSM gave a short yet interesting viewpoint on the PACS programme and the partners' role in the programme. Started with his opinion of what a peer review must be. Gandhi's view regarding the Peer Review was that it must be a platform where the partners discuss openly about their experiences and explore the learning till date. He then traced the process followed by their organisation in the implementation of the PACS programme. He was of the opinion that the issues like poverty, lack of empowerment and social cohesion were existed for decades if not centuries. He thus, suggested to the partners that they should rationally think about their objectives from the PACS programme. He finally advised all the partners to introspect whether all of them are very enthusiastic and doing idealistic planning. He concluded his talk with an advice which said "*We can initiate the process of change and thinking about the interventions.*"

Vijay Anna Borade from MSSM was more suggestive. He started his views with explaining the fact that social engineering is not a process of simple arithmetic but is that of integral calculus. The suggestions given by him were:

- ◆ A single expert could not reach all the villages; therefore, many experts had to be developed.
- ◆ Capacity-Building of village level activists has to be constantly done since what the activist does and says in a village is very important.
- ◆ The maintenance of accounts and records of activities occupies a majority of the time of village-level activists. This system needs an urgent change so that the activists could perform as per their plans.
- ◆ It is important for all, especially development workers, to listen and not only hear.
- ◆ He was in the opinion that, It is assumed every where that Women in the village were, apparently, free to listen to the activists so they were the ones who were targeted the most and thus they became overburdened with activities. This strategy needed to be re-looked.
- ◆ It is suggested that PACS should publish the best practises and experiences of PRIs in local language and these should be distributed to all the village-level activists.
- ◆ Speaking on the debate about Development oriented vs. Activist oriented work, he emphasised that both were necessary and should be used whenever the situation demands.
- ◆ He further stated that activism is a process which requires requisite expertise; those who desire to use it should learn it from the experience.

- ◆ The partners should not get restricted in the outputs and activities instead they should concentrate more on impact and outcomes.
- ◆ Emphasis on health and hygiene needed to be taught to the women from the villages using locally relevant examples.
- ◆ Youth needed to be focussed and they had to be taught skills of time management in order to raise their confidence levels.
- ◆ An ideal village is one which is dynamic and not one which has 'progressed' and plateaued.
- ◆ A mid-term rethinking of the programme should be done by PACS and the partners as this programme is about "transformation".

He concluded by pointing out the irony that in the 21st century when everywhere the distances are shortening, the "distance" between social workers and the villagers still exists.

An open discussion was followed amongst the partners after the panellists presented their views. This discussion centred round many points like:

1. Need for discussion on conceptual clarifications,
2. Use of experienced activists in Training Programmes,
3. The functioning of Savings Groups and the over burdening of women,
4. Limitations and problems faced by female activists,
5. Transparency with the villagers about the funds received from the funders,
6. Integrated vs. specific targets for interventions in the villages,
7. Capacity-Building of inexperienced activists.

Session Analysis

Expected Outcome:

The panellists were requested to comment on the peer process and give their inputs based on the presentation as well as their experience. This was expected to benefit all the partners as the panellists had wide experience in the diversified areas.

Process followed:

This session followed a speech with the panellists sharing their opinions on the presentations made and their views on the PACS programme. There was a discussion after all panellists shared their view points which covered various aspects.

Achievement :

Partners got to know the opinions of the veteran activists. It was a good platform for learning

Learning :

1. The briefing to the panel on 'what to focus on' must be detailed.
2. More time to be allotted to the discussions.

Land rights – a Case Study in Raigad: Ms. Surekha Dalvi

The session started with songs sung in Marathi about education and dalit rights. The partners were interested to hear and understand about the struggle for "Dali-land" rights carried on by the adivasis of Konkan region of Maharashtra. The cause of the adivasis was championed by Surekha Dalvi of the Shramik Kranti Sangh.

Ms. Dalvi presented in great detail her side of the story and the great resistance put up by the adivasis to claim what had always been theirs. This specific presentation was arranged as most of the Marathwada partners of the PACS programme have begun a movement called "Jammen Adhikar Andolan" (JAA) to encroach and legitimise the encroachment upon the village commons and other grazing land.

Meaning of "Dali- land"

"Dali-Land" is that barren and inferior quality land which exists on the hill slopes of Konkan region. The equation in the Konkan village was that the non-advasis would usually own the prime agricultural land around the village and the rest of the land which was of no use to them would be left for the advasis to cultivate and ensure their livelihood. This arrangement, forced on the advasis, resulted in the advasis cultivating foodgrains of inferior quality during the months of the monsoon and working at the farms of the non-advasis and later on in the coal mines for atleast eight months in a year.

This situation was legitimised and the Dali-land was transferred to the name of the group of advasis who cultivated it by the British in the nineteenth century. However, the state and Union Government did not continue this arrangement after independence. Even under land ceiling Act and other measures of land reforms the advasis did not get ownership of the Dali-lands they cultivated. Ms. Dalvi stumbled on these facts in the early eighties (i.e. twenty years ago) and decided to champion the cause of the advasis.

(Refer Annexure 5 for detailed account of this struggle).

A question answer session was followed by Ms. Dalvi's presentation. The discussion revolved around:

- ◆ Political and other pressures faced during the struggle,
- ◆ Personal problems encountered by Ms. Dalvi,
- ◆ Globalisation and the land issue,
- ◆ Use of media,
- ◆ Advocacy for obtaining rights of the advasis,
- ◆ Ecological issue,
- ◆ Independence due to local resources and contribution by those affected,

Ms. Dalvi ended her talk by making an observation that the issue of legal title holder of land was cropping up amongst the advasis in the last two-three decades, earlier there was an unwritten rule amongst the advasis that the one who tills the land should feed off the land and nobody would dispute her claims.

Session Analysis

Expected Outcome:

Exposure of the participants, many of whom are working on land rights, to a successful advocacy example.

Process followed:

A panel was selected to facilitate the presentation by Ms. Dalvi and the discussion following her presentation. She shared an interesting case study. A lot of questions and clarifications were sought afterwards linking the applicability of the parallels between her struggle and the JAA in Marathwada.

Achievements:

It was a substantial learning session on the successful struggle for acquiring land rights. Partners especially those involved in JAA could get some clarifications on their way forward.

Learning:

This was an inspiring and educative session which provided learning from first hand experiences.

The first day ended with a puppet show on AIDS and importance of solar-eclipse. The show was performed by a group called The PUPPET.

The Second Day

The second day's proceeding was initiated and co-ordinated by **Mr. Sudhakar Kshirsagar** Chief Functionary of Sankalp.

Recap of the first day's sessions was done by **Ms. Sangeeta Gaikwad**, Chief Functionary of ASMITA and **Mr. Mussa**, Project Co-ordinator for SEDT.

Session 1- (9:15 AM. to 13:25 PM.) Session by Ms. Lipika Patro, Training Coordinator of Taragram on Training Needs Assessment (TNA) which included explanation of TNA rationale, group work and follow up presentation which was followed by Identification of local resource persons / agencies for capacity building.

Session 2- (14:25 PM. to 16:25 PM.) Presentations by the CSO partners about the advocacy strategies followed by them in their work till date and open discussion

Session 3- (17:00 PM. to 17:50 PM) CFAR team on use of electronic media for advocacy and group work to devise a strategy for advocacy

(18:30 PM to 20:00 PM) At the end of the day a cultural programme performed by the CSO partners.

Training Needs Assessment

The first session of the day was conducted by **Ms. Lipika Patro**, the Training Co-ordinator for Development Alternatives, Taragram. This session was on Training Needs Assessment (TNA).

Ms. Patro gave a brief presentation on the capacity building initiatives through training in PACS. The training programmes are organised at two levels: Programme (Inter Organisation) and Organisational level. She also informed the group briefly about the feedback obtained for the questionnaire, on the training needs of the partners, sent to eighty partners. In the first half of the session Lipika facilitated a focussed discussion amongst the partners on the following topics:

- Expectations of the partners from the session,
- Clarifications about the objectives of the session,
- Rationale of TNA,
- Expected outputs from the group work.

The expectations of the partners from TNA were mainly centred around the capacity-building of the village-level activists and learning the methods and strategies of interventions.

The three objectives of the session were:

- I. To prepare a plan of the training programme, conducted by PACS, for the next year.
- II. To understand the felt need of the partners regarding the level of training.
- III. To comprehend the concerns, problems faced and the overall feedback of the partners regarding the Training Programme.

The rationale for conducting a TNA was the fact that the Development Alternatives team had observed that there was a difference in perspective and also communication gaps between the trainers' objectives and the trainees' needs.

The partners were divided into four groups. The four groups were expected to deliberate on Training needs for one of the following:

1. Organisational Development and Institution-Building.
2. Partners' Capacity-Building.
3. Thematic Areas and Intellectual Strengthening.
4. Functional Skills for Livelihood generation.

The outputs expected from each group were:

- Expected outcome of the training programme,
- Qualities of the trainees,
- Venue of training programme,
- Medium of instruction in the training programme,
- Any other suggestions.

During this discussion the Ms. Kiran Sharma, Programme Manager, PACS intervened and clarified that various level of Capacity-Building was very much required for the partners. She further said that that the training programme organised centrally for all partners by PACS on Capacity-Building was "mandatory-attendance" for all the partners. Regarding the training programme conducted by Taragram, she said that it was a good opportunity for the partners to expose their professionals and social workers both from the PACS and also other projects and even the villagers to the trainings. The partners were also informed by her that they should also at times send their "second-level" activists to the trainings

Many points were raised as a part of the discussion bordering on suggestions, few important being:

1. Different states had diverse needs / approaches the training programme should be thus designed accordingly.
2. There should be separate groups at the state level and the trainee's level.
3. Separate training should be provided for village-level workers, co-ordinator level and chief-functionary level.
4. The trainees after the training should be capable to tap local contributions and be accountable to the donors.
5. Medium of instruction and "language" was of importance.
6. People from the local community were apprehensive to travel alone to training programme at Jhansi.
7. Training of local trainers was also needed.
8. There should be a mix and match strategy where some resource persons come to Maharashtra. A balance between local training and training at Jhansi was sought.

The four groups started their group work. The groups comprised of "small" partners as well as experienced activists. The groups deliberated for one hour on the given reference points. Each group presented the outputs of the group work on flip chart.

The Presentations

All the four presentations were read out from the flip chart. All insisted on their flexibility to attend the trainings at any venue with the demand that training for people from the community, village-level workers and those trainees who knew only Marathi should be held locally with a Marathi-speaking resource persons. For the rest who were conversant with English and Hindi, training could be conducted at Jhansi and in Hindi but Marathi would always be preferred.

Group 1: Organisational Development and Institution Building

Expectations

- An ability to analyse the issue and village-level situation.
- Issue identification, raising, presentation and means to resolve it.
- Strategies of programme implementation.
- Management skills upgradation.
- Leadership development at various levels.
- Skill to select a good, potential field worker.
- Skills to interact understand and reach out to people.
- Observation and presentation skills.
- Ability to identify and utilize local contribution.
- Monitoring should be made locally relevant.
- Training should not be more than three-four days.
- Observation skills at the village level.

Group 2: Training In Functional Areas

Expectations

- Field worker should become a good trainer.
- Identification of "Target-group" and priority of whom to target.
- Ways and means to deal with local media.
- Communication skills, especially writing a proposal and data collection, baseline survey along with computer skill
- Only those trainees with the experience of two years and a basic exposure of the topic should be sent to the training programme
- Training Materials should be in Marathi even if the training programme is in Hindi/English

Group 3 Thematic Programme Areas

Expectations

- Information regarding Panchayat Raj Institutions, Gender and Social Audits
- Ability to comprehend the whole issue and its impact at the local level
- Synergies should be maintained between the issue and interventions
- Training programme should be divided over stages
- Skills to interact with government officials at local and district level
- Take into consideration the capacities and orientation of trainees while designing the programme
- Interaction and Presentation skills along with appearance while interacting
- Advocacy at local level

Group 4 Training Needs For Functional Livelihood Skills

Expectations

- Teach livelihood skill to community members
- Skills to set up business generation of finance and marketing method
- Raw materials, other inputs and post production activities
- Basic skills and skill-upgradation from time to time

- Ability to listen and not only hear
- Local training centres and local resource should be used
- Develop a Marketing Network for the sale of products
- Equipment and machinery should be made available to start business
- The qualities of a trainees suggested were that he should have an entrepreneurship urge basic education required for learning of livelihood skill and the desire for self learning and skill development

After the group presentations, Mr. Makarand, SSRO of Maharashtra, conducted brainstorming to identify the local resource persons for training. This was done since all the groups had stressed that some training should be done locally as there existed good local resource persons. It was clarified that training is just a part of overall capacity-building.

(Refer annexure 6 for detail list of local resource persons generated from this brainstorming as per the four areas given to the groups)

Session Analysis

Expected Outcome:

1. The CSOs would get active involvement in the training programmes conducted by PACS
2. Need assessment of training areas should be clearly done

Process Followed:

The entire session was divided into two parts. The first was discussion oriented identifying the rationale and objectives of TNA. Then 4 groups were formed and the partners deliberated on the reference points in the second half. Then the groups presented their expectations from the training programme. The session ended with a brainstorming to identify the local resource persons.

Achievements:

1. Partners have a good understanding of the need and the location where the training initiative should be taken
2. Needs of training has emerged
3. A list of local resource persons in Maharashtra has emerged.

Learning:

Any initiative taken by PACS centrally needs to be presented in a participatory manner for better involvement of the partners.

Session on Advocacy

Experience-Sharing

This session started with a song on dalit rights used in the CHR for advocating the rights of the dalits. A panel was invited to share their experiences of advocacy.

1. Mr. Eknath Awad Chief Functionary of RDC and CHR on "People's Advocacy".
2. Mr. Suryakant Kulkarni chief functionary of SEDT on "Policy Advocacy" especially Child Rights and policy on child labour.
3. Mr. Baliram Balsaraf , SAMPARK group on "Research based Advocacy".

Eknath Bhau Awad spoke on people-based advocacy aspect citing various examples. Bhau talked of the various methods used in order to generate people-based advocacy in the CHR (Campaign for Human Rights). He stressed on the point that advocacy techniques can be taught but the urge to advocate comes only when people's anger, regarding the grave injustice they are facing, is provoked and this rage is channelled to rebel against the injustice. *"Advocacy has to come from within"*. Another point linked to this

made was that only when the people, for whom advocacy is to be done, are ready to fight and get involved in the process only then advocacy is successful. This he demonstrated by first gently touching and then slapping a participant. Bhau asked the participant to express his response to the actions and proved that only when one feels the rage from within people act. He ended with saying that all means are valid for advocacy. *(Refer Annexure 7)*

Mr. Suryakant Kulkarni introduced about SEDT, Child Rights, child labour and “Policy Advocacy”. He stressed the following three aspects of policy advocacy:

1. Ways and Means of pressurising the bureaucracy.
2. Mandate for (policy) advocacy.
3. Advocacy to change law as per the requirements of people.

(Refer Annexure 8)

Mr. Baliram Balsaraf shared his experience of the process in which a researched advocacy was done to alter the state government’s health policies. He talked about the successful advocacy done of the “Ankur” project on Infant Mortality Rate (IMR). In the process he also spelt out the strategies to tackle the politician and the bureaucrats through the discussions arising out of “starred” questions on the floor of the State Assembly. Advocacy in media, he emphasised, had to be done after careful planning. An orientation workshop for the reporters could be taken to sensitise them about the gravity of the issue. He ended his talk by stressing the importance of a well researched case being taken up for advocacy rather than any arbitrary one. *(Refer Annexure 9)*.

After Mr. Balsaraf presentation, a discussion ensued clarifying some of the strategies and approaches to advocacy. The highlight of which was that everybody was touched by the fact that those infants who die cannot advocate for their own case. This was also applicable to few other scenarios even today.

Next session was conducted by Ms. Akhila Shivdas of CFAR on the effective use of media in advocacy. The session was in a presentation cum discussion format.

After introducing herself and CFAR she briefed to the partners present about their experience of co-ordinating the National Advocacy Seminar held on 30th - 31st January 2004. Having shared this she elaborated on “media-based advocacy”. Two news clippings aired on leading private news channels were shown to the partners. The issue covered in these news clippings was that of Panchayat Raj. This was shown in two ways viz. a national enclave of sarpanchs and some office bearers from the village panchayat from all over the country assembled at New Delhi and a feature of a woman sarpanch in a village of Madhya Pradesh. After the screenings a discussion was facilitated by Ms. Akhila. The points for discussion were following:

- On the veracity of using the media,
- It’s strategies,
- Selection of appropriate media,
- Access to the media,
- Either the news or the serials to tap for influencing,
- Which issue to highlight, especially the unfashionable ones, and the timing of raising it,

She concluded that there was no perfect way of using the media. Each has to find out and decide upon their own strategy.

After her presentation, four groups were formed. Group work was explained to each group and they were asked to present their view point in the next morning. Each group were asked to choose one Thematic Area which was discussed in the National Advocacy Seminar i.e. Governance, Women empowerment and livelihood. Apart from these thematic

areas, groups were told that they could also choose some other local issues for group work. The groups were also asked to select one or more tools for advocacy and arrive at a strategy to achieve their outcome. This outcome expected to be achieved with advocacy on the chosen Thematic Area was to be decided at the beginning.

An Interlude.

During the time of this discussion, representatives of the partners and PACS had gone to meet Mr. Ramani, the Divisional Commissioner of Aurangabad division. They had a detailed discussion with him on the ways and means by which the CSOs and the government can work out together. In these discussions, three possibilities emerged:

1. CSOs can work as implementers of government programmes
2. CSOs to concentrate on training of people and government officers
3. CSOs to take on the responsibility of monitoring and evaluation of government schemes for which there is a budget available with the government.

It was also agreed that what role the CSO wants to take is dependent on

1. Its temperament and strategic thrust areas.
2. Capacity and skills and
3. Issues in the area.

Before the groups could split for their group work, the Ms. Kiran Sharma, Programme Manager of PACS programme briefed the points of discussion with Mr. Ramani with partners and informed all the partners that Mr. Ramani had agreed to work synergistically with the CSOs in three areas viz.

1. Implementation of existing projects.
2. Community Mobilisation through training and awareness.
3. Monitoring and Evaluation of progress on government schemes.

Ms. Sharma also clarified that the partners who wished to respond to the emergency like situation created by drought in Marathwada, could initiate the activities to address this issue. She explained further that PACS was ready to support such types of initiatives. The partners could make minor changes in the scheduled project activities, if an immediate intervention is required to address this emergency. Mr. Makrand, SSRO of Maharashtra then clarified that 'though PACS was willing to incorporate minor changes in the scheduling of the major project activities to address this emergency like issue, there was no reason for the partners to sideline the proposed activities of the sanctioned projects. In fact most of the programmes could merely focus on the issue of drought (work and drinking water) and continue without any major changes. He further stated that it will not be a good idea to use 'emergency' work as an excuse for under achieving on the project outcomes.

Ms. Sharma, the PACS Programme Manager, also briefly explained about the supplementary projects and she explained to the partners that those who had completed 18-24 months and shown a credible performance would be considered for extension. These supplementary projects would be taken up only after their viability and impact has been analysed. She also briefly talked about "cluster –hubs" which is emerging in some areas while efforts are required to develop "cluster-hubs" in some other areas. She also emphasised that the sustainability of PACS partners would be ensured by the development of "cluster-hubs".

After that partners presented a glimpse of the Marathwada culture and also sang those inspirational songs which had been used to mobilise the people

Session Analysis

Expected Outcome:

1. CFAR gets an understanding of where the PACS partners in Maharashtra are placed on the advocacy front.
2. The PACS partners in Maharashtra get an understanding of the inputs that CFAR can provide.
3. CFAR gets inputs to plan its own programme at the central level.

Process Followed:

In this session first the local experienced activists shared their experiences on people, policy and research based advocacy techniques followed by discussion. Then the CFAR team showed clippings and facilitated a discussion on the effective use of media as a tool of advocacy. The partners were divided into four groups and asked to develop a strategy to achieve a expected outcome on a PACS Thematic Area by advocacy.

Achievements:

Partners got to know about the rich experiences of the experienced activists. They could also learn about the use of various tools, especially media, for advocacy purposes. CSO Partners got the affirmation from the PACS MC to respond on this emergency like situation which is created due to prolonged drought in the state.

Learning:

There is a wealth of experience available from within the PACS partners and the Peer Review process must provide space for this transfer to the relatively less experienced partners.

The Third Day

Third day's session was started with a recap of the second day's proceedings

The last day was dedicated to developing a plan for response to the drought situation in Marathwada and the advocacy to be done for it.

Session 1- (9:45 AM to 13:35 PM) Drought Response, Group presentations regarding advocacy tool to be used to achieve the objective set up in a issues like governance, women's empowerment and livelihood. PDRO's views about current status and emerging direction of the PACS programme. CFAR team on advocacy

Session 2- (14:45 PM16:45 PM) Presentation of the Action-Plan for response to the emergency situation created due to the drought by Mr. Todkar. Finalisation of the preliminaries of the next Peer-Review Workshop

Session 3- (16:55 PM to 17:30 PM) Mr. Ramani's speech after MC representative's presentation. Formal closure of this Peer-Review Workshop.

Drought Response Session

The four groups presented the action plans they had prepared in their group work. This task was given to them at the closing of the second day by the CFAR team. The first three groups had decided that their outcome would be work obtained form Employment Guarantee Scheme (EGS) by the drought affected in Marathwada.

The Presentations

The Group-1 had decided on a strategy of people's advocacy and creating a pressure group on the government by creating various networks.

The Group-2 had decided to focus on public advocacy at the local level along with additional help from other means of advocacy. The outcomes were more clearly spelt out and mentioned about organising people and show of strength. Outputs were also mentioned.

The Group-3 hoped to achieve women empowerment via the work on EGS. using people-based advocacy. It also wanted to target the youth, women and the media. This was hoped to be achieved by conducting Melavas, public meetings and get-togethers, street plays and wall posters.

The Group-4 had a different outcome planned. They wanted to make the Gram Sabha a mandatory body (This was later clarified by the partners that the Gram Sabha is indeed a mandatory body in Maharashtra). The group aspired to achieve their outcome by policy advocacy. The group also intended to do research and document the experiences in other state and then pressurise the State Government to alter its policies. (refer annexure: ----)

A short discussion seeking clarifications and suggestions followed the presentations. The salient points which were discussed were:

- Drought is a slow onset emergency but with the same consequences.
- Lack of work, Non-availability of Drinking water and Fodder emerged as the three main problems to be tackled.
- The ongoing project will suffer a hindrance if continued as the people would not be "open" to listen to the activists regarding the project activities.
- The partners felt that they had to respond to the drought situation whether PACS joins hands or not.

Mr. Shirish Kulkarni, the PDRO for Maharashtra, presented his observations about the emerging trends and direction of PACS in Maharashtra. According to him the 5 emerging trends in PACS programme in Maharashtra were:

- 1) **Focus on Micro-Finance** – The partners were concentrating on formation of SHGs. and some saving-group members had started income generation activities with the use of credit from the SHG. This could be extended and small cottage industries and insurance schemes for social security could be started.
- 2) **Rights based movement** – Gave example of struggles in Konkan and suggested the use of Human Rights Commission and advocacy to fight for the rights.
- 3) **Livelihood Generation** – Use of alternate agricultural practices to fight the nature's adversaries and unjust government policies.
- 4) **Women Issues** – Counselling and Rehabilitation of harassed women, trafficking issue and the dissemination of information on Rights of a woman were the issues which would assume huge proportions.
- 5) **Drought** -The months from April to July would be very challenging due to the drought situation coupled with the existing poverty and a multitude of other issues.

After the **Mr. Kulkarni** presentation a very emotional discussion cum suggestions were given by **Mr. Sudhakar** and **Mr. Ramakant Kulkarni**, chief functionaries of Sankalp & Sahayog Nirmitee, respectively. The recurrent theme of both was the gravity of the drought situation due to which people had no water to drink and had to wait for days for the tanker to arrive. The case of animals was so worse that due to lack of fodder. They felt that Advocacy and conduction of Gram Sabhas was seen as the one of the key possible ways to address of the current situation. They strongly said that time was of utmost importance and a request was made to everybody present to help in the response and be ready to court arrest if resorting to agitation. The partners were cautioned that with the model code conduct in place (because of elections) it would be a challenge to make the bureaucrats work.

A committee was selected to work for finalising an Action-Plan for the response to the drought situation. This committee was headed by Eknath Bhau Awad. Mr. Suryakant Kulkarni, Mr. Vishwanath Todkar and Mr. Manohar Hepat comprised the other members of this committee. It was decided that the committee would discuss and formulate a tentative plan of action. They were also advised by the partners to look into drought mitigation in the long term and response in the short term.

After the formation of committee, The CFAR team again started a session on advocacy. The team initially wanted to share their views on the following four topics:

- 1) CFAR's contribution in the Advocacy seminar held at Delhi.
- 2) Correlate the long term PACS framework and the current programme.
- 3) Election-related advocacy opportunities with media.
- 4) Outcome of the media stories.

However, due to time constraint and the drought situation, which led all partners to discuss on ways to respond to the drought-affected, the team decided to just touch on all the topics and discuss a strategy regarding advocacy for the drought-affected. The salient points of this discussion were :

- Global pressure on the Indian government due to the non-achievement of self-selected goals of poverty reduction. This opportunity could be used to initiate a process for the achievement of the goals by using national, international media and the internet.
- Regarding women issues, the media could be used by presenting it a well researched success story and a long term issue still not resolved.
- Short and Long term gains could be achieved by using the media for advocacy purpose.

- Everybody agreed that it was not a “zero-sum game” between the agitation-based and development oriented approach to resolve an issue. Each should have a flavour of other.
- The internet is the tool to be used to project the local voice at international forums. This could also be achieved by forming international linkages and opinions could be sent to international forums. These points were proved by examples.
- The opinion of the “intended targets” of a programme must be inculcated at the time of designing and the programme should not be like a social security programme of the state, instead it could be a “targeted population intervention”.
- Media accepted only “well-packaged” stories ; for this local skills needed to be developed, the media managers (CFAR agreed to be one for advocacy on drought) would act as the postmen and advisors.
- A strategy for media managers was that they could monitor the allocation and spending of funds by the government. A caveat in this was that the ability to do ‘allocation-analysis’ needed to be developed.
- To manage the local media a different strategy was necessary. Wall posters and liaisoning with local reporters and journalists was required since local issues were not highlighted in the national media. The capacity-building of local partners regarding “media management” needed to be done and a permanent ‘media-expert’ could be developed with each partner.
- Partners had strength in community mobilisation and some idea of managing the local media, on this basis a direct question was asked to the CFAR team that if the partners took up the responsibility of community mobilisation and local media management then would CFAR help with the national media management. This was agreed by CFAR and the MC representative accepted the responsibility to co-ordinate between the partners and CFAR on the agreement.
- To set an example, the Drought-Response committee was asked to deliberate during the lunch break and present an Action-Plan for the partners of Marathwada.

With the agreement of the committee to present the action-plan, the session broke for lunch after a formal vote of thanks to the CFAR team.

Session Analysis

Expected Outcome:

An action plan comes up where the PACS partners come together to meet the issues raised due to drought.

Process Followed:

The pre-lunch session started with the presentations of four groups about their plans for achievement of outcome on a Thematic Area by using advocacy. The CFAR team explained their views on use of media regarding advocacy and influence. A focussed discussion on the use of media for advocacy and issues to be raised by using advocacy was conducted.

Achievements:

CFAR agreed to manage the national media regarding local Marathwada level issues. The PACS MC representative would co-ordinate the selection of local activists for the training to be provided by CFAR regarding media management and the partners revisited their views on media and issue-raising. A Drought-Response committee was formed to finalise and initiate response for the drought-affected of Marathwada.

Learning:

The PACS partners can subsume their differences and come together and take along non PACS CSOs to address a common issue.

The Penultimate Session

This penultimate session of the workshop finalised two things viz.

- 1) Action-Plan to tackle the drought situation &
- 2) Preliminaries of the next peer-review workshop.

This session was co-ordinated by Mr. Vishwanath Todkar, chief functionary of Paryay. He presented the Action-Plan finalised by the committee. In the short term work was for the months of April to June. A need for all to work together was expressed.

The Plan:

- 11 “lead persons” from one each from the 11 districts of Marathwada and Vidarbha were selected to co-ordinate and represent the work in their districts. The names of the lead persons finalised were –

District.	Lead Person.
Osmanabad.	Kulkarni
Aurangabad.	Baburao Mule.
Parbhani.	Sudhakar Kshirsagar.
Nanded.	Joshi.
Jalna.	Balaji Kendre.
Beed.	Ramesh Bhise.
Latur.	Ramakant Kulkarni.
Hingoli.	Not finalised.
Gadchiroli.	Rupchand Dekhne.
Nagpur.	Ghodeswar.
Yavatmal.	Ranjana Shelke.

- Three resource persons were selected to guide the group for the effective implementation of the action-plan. The three resource persons are :
 1. Mr. Shirish Kulkarni,
 2. Mr. Makarand Sahasrabuddhe,
 3. Mr. Baliram Balsaraf.
- The MC Representative of Maharashtra agreed to be a part of the committee as an advisory member.
- The role of the district lead person was explicitly stated as :
 - a) Commence work immediately,
 - b) Acquire all statistical details about EGS related work on budget allocated for the district, number of workers demanding employment and actual number of labourers working and EGS works started.
 - c) What percentage of EGS works are being carried on by using machinery.
 - d) The number of officially declared drought-hit villages.
 - e) Government’s budget, at the district level, and measures for resolving the drinking water crisis being faced by the people.
 - f) This information and a district level action-plan to be finalised by 21st of March and present it to the committee.
- A combined meeting of all lead district persons and the central committee will be held on 26th of March at Telgaon office of RDC. In this the action-plan for the months of April, May and June will be finalised. This plan will be presented to PACS on 29th and 30th of March.
- Apart from this plan, Mr. Vishwanath Todkar appealed to all that the partners should spread information about the action-plan and take on board other CSOs who were interested in responding to the drought.

- Mr. Suryakant Kulkarni chief functionary of SEDT and member of the central committee added that even the non-project CSOs could be joined together to address the issue. A process should be initiated to think of a permanent / long term solution against drought. Funds can be generated from the different sources. He further informed the partners about various government schemes for the drought-affected, like the “Hariyali” & “Swajal-Dhara”, which could be used by the partners. All partners agreed that a well responsive and dedicated committee was necessary for advocacy at the state level.

The SSRO ended this the session by suggesting the following:

- ◆ The response to drought made by the partners would be monitored by setting up process and output indicators if they desired to postpone the implementation of planned activities of the PACS project.
- ◆ The MC Representative should be actively involved in the proceedings of Action Committee.
- ◆ The partners would require to plan for six months (i.e. till the monsoon crops are harvested) and not just three months because even if the monsoon arrives on time food insecurity would persist till harvest.

After deciding the roles and responsibilities of the Action Group of Advocacy, partners discussed the preliminaries of the next peer review workshop. This session was facilitated by Mr. Vishwanath Todkar and the decisions taken were:

- 1) The next peer-review workshop would be held at Nagpur and it would be hosted by IIYW
- 2) It would be held tentatively in the first week of November 2004. The dates would be finalised later depending on the state elections.
- 3) The projects of Paryay, Yuvaram, IGSS, Asmita and Sandhi Niketan would be reviewed. JVSS, GRASP and MSSM would also be revisited. These projects were selected because the first five had completed one year and the last three had completed more than years. This review would be conducted by teams formed from amongst the project co-ordinators of these projects. The review would try to identify the positives, different experiments conducted while implementation gaps and needs.
- 4) A co-ordination committee to finalise the agenda, resource persons and logistics arrangements was formed. The committee will comprise Satchit Bhandarkar (IIYW), Shailesh Pisalkar (BDBGVS), Sunil Deshmukh (Yuvagram), N.R.Singh (IGSS), Sayyed (GVM), Ramakant Kulkarni (Sahyog Nirmatee) and Sangeeta Gaikwad (Asmita). This new committee would meet and finalise their working agenda. It will develop a tentative plan of action for the next seven months and share the same with the MC Representative of Maharashtra and the SSRO.

Session Analysis

Expected Outcome:

Planning the third peer review well in advance

Process Followed:

Mr. Vishwanath Todkar presented the Action-Plan on behalf of the central Drought-Response committee finalised during the lunch break. A brief discussion upon the plan followed and all partners accepted the plan. He proposed and the partners accepted after a brief discussion the preliminaries for the next workshop.

Achievements:

An Action-Plan, for the response to the emergency-like situation created by the drought in Marathwada, was finalised. A managing committee was formed for the next peer review workshop.

The preliminaries of the next workshop were finalised. Projects to be reviewed were finalised. The expectations from a review visit were clarified.

Learning:

An active involvement by the partners in any process is necessary even before launching it.

The workshop was commenced on time with the arrival of Mr. Ramani, the Divisional Commissioner of Aurangabad Division. This session was co-ordinated by Mr. Vishwanath Todkar (Paryay).

He first explained in brief the proceedings and achievements of the workshop to Mr. Ramani after the introductions.

MC Representative for Maharashtra made a presentation about the PACS programme and the current status of the Maharashtra projects.

The Divisional Commissioner in his speech spoke about various aspects concerning CSOs and bureaucracy. The key points of his speech were:

- ❖ The five areas which needed to be concentrated by the CSOs in the near future. These five areas were :
 1. Water.
 2. Education.
 3. Health.
 4. Employment and
 5. Energy.
- ❖ A participatory approach by CSOs and villagers with the village committees on Health and Education was necessary.
- ❖ Drinking water issue had assumed huge proportions over the decades due to the non-inclusion of the community in water management. People needed to be taken into confidence only by that the issue can be resolved.
- ❖ Partnership of the CSOs with the government could be focussed on :
 1. Implementation of existing projects,
 2. Community mobilisation through training and awareness,
 3. Monitoring and Evaluation of implementation of government schemes.
- ❖ He informed that 50-60 crores of rupees were allotted to each district per year for development related work. He suggested that CSOs can play an active role in monitor and evaluate the effective utilization of this fund.
- ❖ Community should be made independent and not dependent on the outside intervention agencies

He ended his speech by saying that both CSOs and Government were working towards similar objectives and so they should build partnerships and 'synergise' their work.

Mr. Suryakant Kulkarni, chief functionary of SEDT and a member of the action-committee presented the vote of thanks.

Looking back

The PACS partners came together and 'owned' the workshop by their active participation. This was a welcome achievement. In course of the next 1-2 peer reviews the process will be almost completely taken over by the CSOs relieving the MC and the SSROs of 'driving' the process. This will also facilitate the process of learning.

The peer review was rich in content and output. This was a great step forward if compared with the first Peer Review last year.

The PDRO broke into the process and made his presence felt. That augurs well for the 'mile stone' evaluation stage.

The PACS programme in Maharashtra has come of age. It now needs to look at reaching out to the hitherto un-reached sections and addressing issues that have not been touched.

Annexure I: Presentation by MC Representative

(will be attached in the final printed document)

Annexure II: Presentation by SSRO

Annexure III: Peer Review Field Visit Group 1 Presentation

(will be attached in the final printed document)

Annexure IV: Peer Review Field Visit Group 2 Presentation

(will be attached in the final printed document)

Annexure V: Movement for tribal land rights

A case study of Nirmitee, Raigad

Ashok Saswadkar and Surekha Dalvi were both brought up in a socialist atmosphere. Ms. Dalvi was brought up in a socialist family – both her parents were members of Rashtra Seva Dal. As a college student, she also participated in Jay Prakash Narayan's call for Total Revolution. As a member of the student's organization, she was among the 150 youth that vowed never to take or give dowry or use foreign goods. Ms. Dalvi was also closely involved with the activities of Rashtra Seva Dal and other socialist groups such as the Yuvak Kranti Dal and Samajwadi Yuvak Sabha, especially in the study circles conducted by them. In 1975, when Indira Gandhi, then Prime Minister, declared a state of Emergency in the country, Surekha participated in the secret meetings organized to protest against this decision. Along with 2 other girl students, she staged public protests and was jailed for 3 weeks.

As an avid reader, Ms. Surekha Dalvi had learnt of the efforts of *adivasi* organizations in Thane and Dhule district. She started attending the study circles at Tara, out of an interest in issues related to *adivasis*. When, in one of the sessions, Dr. Parikh appealed to the students to work in the villages, she was one of the students who pledged their weekends for work in Tara.

The beginning of work

These students would reach Tara every Friday evening. They were encouraged to go to the neighbouring villages and initiate a dialogue with the villagers over the weekend. On early Monday morning, they would return to their homes. Under Project Tara, informal education classes were started for the Katkari¹ children in Hadambe and Khairatwadi hamlets near Panvel. Health support was also given. An alternative school was started in Hadambe in a hut specially constructed for this purpose. The NSS (National Social Service – a scheme run in colleges to interest students in social work) students from Mumbai helped to run adult education classes. Based on Paulo Friere's principles², the discussions focussed on employment, exploitation, bondedness and other similar issues that were a part of the people's lives. The students visited neighbouring villages and met the relatives of these villagers. As the dialogue between the *adivasis* and the students intensified, the students saw cases of exploitation and injustice being meted out to the *adivasis*.

Slowly, the reality of *adivasi* life emerged. The students learned of how the landlords and moneylenders exploited the poor and un-educated *adivasis*, of how the police considered the Katkaris to be a criminal tribe and jailed a few of them randomly whenever there was a theft in the villages close to the *adivasi* hamlets. How the forest officials forced them to labour in the forest or for their personal work without any payment. How the *adivasis* failed to get fair compensation from the sale of agricultural produce from the middlemen who would exploit them. How a small loan taken for their daughter's wedding would translate to bondage of the parents with the landlord.

Ms. Surekha Delvi decided to dedicate herself to organizing the people in the district. Thus, in 1980, Surekha started to work full-time, barely supported with the funds collected by her husband and friends from Mumbai and earlier colleagues of the Tara Project.

¹ An 'adivasi' tribe, basically nomadic, but settled in the recent past. The poorest and most backward of the state's ethnic groups.

² A Brazilian activist and author of 'Pedagogy of the Oppressed', a land-mark book that introduced the concepts of conscientization and empowerment.

Organising people

The students at Tara Project intensified their visits to the *adivasi* hamlets holding intense discussions with the villagers. She would often walk from one hamlet to the next, halting for the night and sharing the meals that the villages offered her.. Sometimes, she was alone. Discussions would range from the poor wages given to the *adivasis*, labour forcibly demanded by the forest department persons, the unequal treatment given by other communities to the *adivasi* and other backward caste people, treatment given to women, the exploitation of the moneylender, and many others. The causes of each were discussed. Questions such as who is small and who is big, why the *Shet*³ is always treated respectfully but a *adivasi* labourer is not even referred to by his proper name, why the Katkaris are always treated as thieves, why the *adivasis* are starved and unemployed whereas other villagers lead better lives etc. were also raised.

To reach out to the *adivasis*, the Tara Project organised *kabbadi*⁴ matches and dance competitions. They had realised that the *adivasis* were shy, unused to talking with strangers and even scared of them. Outsiders were essentially their exploiters. The only way of establishing contact and earning their trust was to win them over with cultural activities that they were familiar with.

The initial struggles

Out of these contacts came out several cases of exploitation. Lack of employment, coupled with the poor wages given to them by contractors and the forcible labour demanded of them from the forest department were some of the common problems. At the core of these problems was the need of the *adivasis* to borrow money for emergencies, even for their marriage. In order to return this money - often a paltry sum of Rs. 300, they would be bonded for more than a decade!

The bonded labourers in brick and charcoal kilns

Ms. Dalvi continued her walks across the hills, further intensifying her dialogue with the people. On one such visit, Surekha and Ashok were approached by some people. Their help was sought to solve the dispute about the wages being given to brick-kiln workers. These workers were bonded to the brick contractor because of the loans they had taken in the previous year. Ms. Dalvi organised these workers and demanded an increase in their wages. The workers were paid a mere Rs. 10-12 per thousand bricks made, when they were sold at Rs. 400 per thousand in the market. With the help of the organisation, a minimum rate of Rs. 45 per thousand (currently Rs. 60) was agreed.

Similarly, the charcoal workers were organised in 1984. Ashok, Surekha and their colleagues covered the 4 talukas in Ratnagiri district to survey nearly 12,000 charcoal workers. Nearly 25,000 labourers from Thane and Raigad district would migrate to Ratnagiri district between October to June. With the help of local organisations and those in Thane and Raigad districts, they were organised under the *Kolsa Bhatti Kamgar Sanghatana* (Charcoal kiln labourers union). This organisation made a demand for minimum wages. The contractors increased the rate per gunny bag of charcoal from Rs. 3-4 to Rs. 15-20, and also agreed to arrange for the return journey of the labourers. The government took note of the struggle and a committee was appointed to study the

³ Landlord or moneylender

⁴ a local sport

minimum wage to be given. Public outcry was raised because the business involved felling of trees illegally, and the business was banned in 1987 in the Konkan⁵ region.

The successes in these efforts built a confidence among the people and convinced them of the need for a mass-based organisation. **And in 1983, *Shramik Kranti Sanghatana* – a mass organisation of labourers dedicated to revolution, was formed.**

Discovery of land issue

Often, Surekha and Ashok would wonder why the Katkaris and Thakars had to leave their homes in search for work and that why instead, they couldn't cultivate the land they owned. People would point to the lack of resources required to cultivate the land and make it productive – water, equipment, lack of resources to purchase good quality of seeds and fertilizers or even pay the labour. These resources could be raised on loan or government schemes could be tapped. However, in order to do so, credit-worthiness was required, and proof of land ownership. But did the people from these two tribes have such proof?

Traditionally, all the productive land in the district was brought under rice cultivation by the other castes and the landlords. The '*warkas*' land (left over land, of poor productivity) was used by the *adivasis* during the monsoon to grow 'low-grade' millets such as *nachani* (also known as *ragi*) and *warai* for self-consumption. This land was usually on slopes or forest tracts. Its cultivation involved burning of the vegetation on the land, preparing the soil with a pick and sowing by hand. The land was left fallow for a few years after it was cultivated to allow for the vegetation to grow back again. Sometimes, if the *warkas* land was of better quality than other such land, the *adivasis* cultivated rice. For the rest of the year, they were dependent entirely on non-timber forest produce.

The *adivasis* were first evicted from their forests in 1840, when the local Agri chieftain, Kanhoji Angre, lost his kingdom to the British. The British created the Forest Department to manage the rich forests in the area, then known as the Colaba district. They felt that the presence of these *adivasi* communities and their typical pattern of agriculture, known as *dalhi*, would destroy the forests and so it was better to remove them from the forests.

The *adivasi* communities protested. After a study of the problem, some of the British officers realised that removing the Katkaris and Thakars from the forests was like taking the fish from the water. And so, community ownership over this *warkas* land was accepted and large tracts of land were assigned to the *adivasis*. The natural leader of the *dalhi* plot cultivators was appointed the *dalhi naik* and this person was entrusted the responsibility of collecting the rent for the use of this land. A passbook was issued to the *dalhi naik*, wherein were listed the details of all the cultivators, the rent paid and a map and details of the land issued to the group.

After Independence, the Indian government, aware that the basic livelihood of the *adivasis* depended on their access to land, decided to transfer the ownership of the *dalhi* lands to the cultivators. Several political leaders declared their intent to do so, but the decision was never implemented. In the process, the land was not administered meticulously, and the passbooks were not up-dated. As a result, people forgot about the existence of *dalhi* lands and how they were administered. Although many continued to pay the rent – some to the revenue department, some to the forest department, the reasons for doing so were lost.

When the issue of land ownership came up in discussions with Ms. Surekha and Ashok, no one was able to produce any documents of clear ownership. Questions naturally arose. What exactly was the status of land? Who owned the land that the *adivasi* families presently cultivated? The answers to these questions slowly emerged through explorations, research and discussions. In Ransai and Khairatwadi, receipts for the land

⁵ West coast of Maharashtra

rent paid were found. In other villages, *dalhi* passbooks were discovered, and in yet others, maps showing the boundaries of the *dalhi* plot were found.

The broad scenario

Even in today's fast-developing, high-tech world, land and thus agriculture is the only means of earning respectful livelihoods for the *adivasis*, and in fact, for most of the rural, un-educated poor. Because of the vagaries of monsoon, agricultural production on small land holdings barely sustains one family. However, it is the only means by which the family can stay out of debt and bondedness and experience freedom. For the *adivasi* and rural people, land is a lifeline. On the other hand, the urban rich look at land as a luxury, as an escape from the fast, tense urban life.

Raigad district, being in the immediate neighbourhood of the metropolis of Mumbai, started feeling the pressures of urbanisation since 1990s. In the development plan of Mumbai, the Khalapur, Panvel and Uran tehsils of Raigad district have been included. The *adivasi* population in Raigad district is barely 12%, making it a minority population. It consists of three tribes – the Katkari, who are a primitive tribe, the Thakar and the Mahadeo Koli. These tribes, especially the Katkaris, are mainly restricted to the hilly terrain and are known not to mix with the social fabric of the neighbouring villages. Mobile and unorganised, in the grips of severe poverty, no assets or resources, lack of education and credit-worthiness are the characteristics of this population.

The majority of the population is of other backward castes (OBCs) such as the Agri, Koli and Mali, and others such as the Maratha, Kunbi and Muslims.

Thus, the pressure on land in the district not only comes from the local population in the district but from the rich and powerful of Mumbai. **And at stake is the sheer existence and livelihoods of the *adivasi* and rural poor, who do not even figure in the scheme of things.** This is evident from the development plan of the region, which talks of industrialisation of the region and development of tourist spots and residential colonies. Even the government, bowing to the pressures of the international financial agencies, has chosen to neglect the development of the minority people, especially the *adivasi*.

On one hand, the revenue department is seeking to acquire land for industrialisation and development projects aimed at serving the urban population. On the other hand, the forest department wants to acquire more and more land under the pretext of increasing the forest cover – even if the land classified as forest is barren!

Although the government had been initially favourable towards transferring the land in the name of those cultivating it, it went back on its word. The only respite that was left to the people were the various land reform policies and Acts that had been passed after Independence until the 1980s.

Under the Land Tenancy Act (1948), the cultivators were given the land title to the land being cultivated by them, when it was previously owned by the landlords. There was a ceiling on the land that could be privately owned, governed by the Ceilings on Holdings Act 1971. Under this Act, the excess land was distributed to the landless wherever it was so claimed, and elsewhere, it was acquired by the revenue department. By the Government Resolution 1978, wasteland, forests or grazing land encroached for cultivation were allowed to be regularised.

The story behind *Dalhi* land

The *dalhi* land of over 13,000 Ha exists only in Raigad district. On it depended the livelihoods and future of nearly 10,000 *adivasi* families, mostly the Katkaris. In keeping with its principle to grant land rights to the *adivasi*, the government also agreed to transfer this land to the cultivators in 1971.

The issue of *dalhi* land is unique for several reasons. In the administration of the *dalhi* land, there was acceptance of the concept of community ownership – a concept that is central to the *adivasi* lifestyle. It not only gave powers of management of the land to the community leader – the *dalhi naik*, but also allowed for greater flexibility in land usage. The sub-tenants could use the land for meeting their fuel wood, fodder and housing needs. Thus, urgent community needs could be met on requirement. At the same time, community control ensured that misuse or over-utilisation of the land was avoided. Specific needs of the family also could be met, since there was provision to vary the holding size as per the number of dependants.

Since the *dalhi* land included forests and *warkas* land, its usage was complex and multiple. There was also the acceptance of the fact that land is not merely required for agriculture, but also for housing and meeting other needs, including that of entertainment, leading to a more sustainable lifestyle. The principles of conservation were ingrained in the management of this land, since protecting the forests in the land was imperative in order to meet the various needs of the people. This challenges today's principles of forest management where people and forest and wildlife cannot stay together and therefore people have to be evicted from core areas.

The chronology of events related to *dalhi* land was as follows:

1. In 1887, the Forest Department (then under the British government) accepted the *adivasi*'s rights over the *dalhi* lands.
2. After independence in 1947, the Forest Department accepted the right of the *adivasi* over this land and in fact ran development schemes on these lands.
3. In 1971, the state government decided to release the *dalhi* lands permanently to the cultivators. It instructed the forest department to clear it of tree cover before handing it over to the cultivators, an instruction followed to the letter by the forest department. But less than 10% of the land was transferred.
4. In 1976, Forests was brought under the concurrent list and in 1980, the Forest Conservation Act was passed. The state government claimed that it could not implement its earlier decision now without consulting the central government.
5. In this period, the Forest Department confiscated the *dalhi* passbooks under some pretext or the other, but the plot owners continued to pay the rent.

The initial efforts to claim their right over *dalhi* land

And so, when the issue of ownership of the *dalhi* land was raised, people found it difficult to believe that they had a right to ownership of this land. Through several meetings and discussions of the *Sanghatana*⁶ members, people were convinced that *dalhi* land was theirs, they were the rightful owners – they had the right to demand its legal title. The organisation encouraged people - men and women - to come forward to fight for their right.

However, what proof could be given? Did the people have the necessary documentation to make this claim? Realising the need to have authentic information, the members of the organisation visited every hamlet in 7 blocks of the district, checking existing documents and noting the present usage. Surekha bought a huge red register in which she made

⁶ *people's organization*

meticulous notes of the details she had gathered. The details included: identification of the *dalhi* plot, the name of the *dalhi naik*, names of the sub-tenants, number of family members of each, tribe to which they belonged, classification of the *dalhi* land as per usage, total acreage, details of rent paid, map details, whether passbook existed with the *dalhi naik* and so on. Gazetteers and old documents were referred, and references to *dalhi* land were sought.

Towards the end of 1989, conventions of *dalhi* plot owners were organised in 3 tehsils in Raigad district, demanding the return of *dalhi* passbooks and the implementation of the 1971 resolution to grant legal titles in the name of husband and wife. Demand was also made for compensation for the delay in implementing this decision by way of grants for the development of this land. Other *adivasi* organisations held similar conventions in other talukas in the district. These culminated in a district-level convention that gave immense momentum to the movement.

After the resolution was passed in 1971, the Forest Department had cleared off the *dalhi* lands of all tree cover and sold off the timber. The profit was not shared with the land owners. The organisation demanded that the *adivasis* be given their due share of the profit. In early 1990, the agitators staged demonstrations in front of the tehsil offices, putting forward these demands and the return of the *dalhi* passbooks.

The organisation was able to convince the owners that it would take care of all the legal aspects, but since this was a policy issue, collective strength was required for its implementation. And keeping its words, case papers were filed for each *dalhi* plot, giving details of the present plot holders and cultivators.

The organisation met up with key people's representatives and officials to present the case of *dalhi* land. To their surprise, there was a total lack of awareness about the existence of *dalhi* lands, even within the forest department. When the organisation showed the evidence they had found – receipts of rent paid issued by the forest department and the *dalhi* passbooks, the forest department searched their own records.

The documentation made by the organisation was so thorough and authentic that the administration had to admit their case.

Conceding the organisation's demand, the Forest Department returned most of the *dalhi* passbooks to the organisation by May 1990. The organisation celebrated its first success and publicly distributed the passbooks to the *dalhi naiks*.

Now, the organisation started to press for its demand of implementation of the 1971 resolution – granting of legal titles to the *dalhi* plot owners. The situation was communicated to the Prime Minister in an impromptu meeting with him during his visit to Mumbai. Written presentations were made to the Chief Minister, State Minister for Forests, Collector and others, and also to 84 MLAs (Members of the Legislative Assembly), who brought it up in the assembly for discussion.

The struggle gains momentum

On September 6, 1990, a procession of 5000 *dalhi* cultivators marched from Pen to the Collector's office in Alibaug, walking the entire distance of 30 km. B. D. Sharma, who was then the Commissioner for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes for the Indian government, joined the march. And on behalf of all the marchers, he submitted the charter of demands to the Collector. The participants staged demonstrations and were arrested.

These efforts resulted in getting political leaders publicly accepting the demand of the *dalhi* plot owners and the administrative heads issuing written statements conceding the demand. But no action was taken.

B. D. Sharma followed the issue at the Center. In 1990, the Ministry of Environment & Forests issued a circular saying that the provisions of the Forest Conservation Act could not be binding on the decisions taken by the state government prior to the passing of this act. The Ministry instructed the state government to form a 3-member committee to execute its decision. Again, no action was taken by the state government.

In January, 1992, more than 10,000 *dalhi* plot owners marched a distance of nearly 20 km in heavy rain to Konkan Bhavan – the divisional administrative headquarters. They were joined by other organizations in the division fighting for the land rights of the *adivasis*, including Medha Patkar of the Narmada Bachao Andolan. Several other demonstrations were organised in front of the tehsil offices, to demand the documentation of current usage of *dalhi* land - as a first step towards transferring the land ownership.

In 1992, the State Forest Minister assured the Assembly that the *dalhi* lands would not be taken away from the *adivasis*. In 1994, the Union Minister of Forests assured the people that the union government would not come in the way of the state government if it wished to execute its own decision. Still, no action was taken.

Realising that the government was simply delaying the issue, a writ was filed in the Supreme Court in Delhi. In 1995, the Supreme Court reprimanded the state government for not acting on its decisions and delaying the matter for a number of years. The Court instructed it to solve the issue immediately.

Finally, some action was taken. The new State Minister of Forests gave instructions to make fresh committees for assessing the situation towards the resolution of the issue, but the committee did not do any work. On July 26, 1996, the organisation celebrated the silver jubilee of the issue and the organisation's struggle and the government's apathy towards its resolution. The children of the *dalhi* land owners participated, indicating the entry of the second generation and the commitment of the people to continue their struggle.

In 1996, the forest department initiated a survey of the *dalhi* lands. This survey recorded only the land brought under paddy cultivation, its cultivators and inheritors and land used for residential purposes but did not enumerate the *warkas* land. The organisation objected. A fresh survey was initiated in September 1998, and a third in December 1998. In all, 6 surveys were initiated. All of them were faulty, and hence were objected to by the organisation.

The organisation participated in all the surveys. Joint meetings were held with the Forest and Revenue Department officials. Members of the organisation were invited to participate in training programs conducted by the government to orient and train their staff about *dalhi* land and the government's decisions and their implementation. Information found by the departments or decisions taken by the government were always communicated to the organisation, which was officially invited to participate in all activities in this regard. The administration clearly admitted and respected the authority of the organisation over the issue.

Today, proposals have been submitted to the central government seeking its permission for the transfer of forest land to the revenue department, a procedure that must be followed before the revenue department in turn can transfer the land to the *dalhi* plot owners. In 1976, 66 plots were transferred to the revenue department by a gazette notification. However, this notification was never implemented, and the organisation is following up to hasten the process of transfer.

Annexure VI: List of training resource agencies in Maharashtra

This is only an indicative list suggested by the participants.

Institutional Development					
OD	Local Fund Raising	Community Needs Assessment	Project Management	Communications	Gender
IYW	CAP	Sahayog Nirmitee	SEDT	Abhivaykti	MASUM
GRASP	CAF	AFARM	GRASP	YUVA	ASMITA
		AFPRO		Sampark	Aalochana
		CDSA		Infochange	Nari Samata Manch
		IYW			MSSM

Thematic areas			
LSG / PRI	Social Cohesion	Advocacy	Self Help initiatives
MSSM	Sankalp	SEDT	Chaitanya
Panchayat Bharati		RDC	IYW
Asmita		Sampark	SEDT
Paryay		Samarthan	WOTR
P V Mandlik Trust		NCAS	Chetana Vikas
Sahayog Nirmitee			AAA
			Asmita
			Koshish
			Sath
			SACRED

Functional Skills				
Proposal development	Reporting	Community mobilisation	Data analysis	Monitoring
GreenEarth	Abhivaykti	CRHP	CDSA	GreenEarth
	AVEHI	SEDT	MAITRI	
		CHR	Computer House	
		PARYAY	Yuvagram	
		Vrikshamitra		

Livelihood Generation
MSSM
SEDT
IYW
Yusuf Meherally Center
BASIX
BAIF
RDC
Sankalp
CSV, Wardha
Dharamitra

Annexure VII: Peoples Advocacy - Eknath Awad

The presentation is given here in bullet points only. It is not a transcript.

- Focusing on Peoples Advocacy in context of Dalit Human Rights
- There are two classes in the village – the ‘haves’ and the ‘have nots’
- The have nots have no power, education, money, muscle : we focus on this class
- Some have voice and some don’t
- We focus on people who have no voice. I am going to take cases and explain
- The poor are linked with police, government at the cutting edge
- The creation of voice is at all levels – people, policy, police, media etc
- The voice less need to get justice
- Started working in the late 1970s
- We work in a ideological framework
- We work on basis of a power theory
- Started Rural Development Center in 1985
- Started Campaign for Human Rights in 1990
- When people and encroach on land they lose their grazing rights, labor opportunity : they get boycotted
- Police have the direction to ‘maintain’ law and order : oppressed and oppressor are both ‘coaxed’ to ‘compromise’
- We are not necessarily caste based – we are against all oppressors
- Find what the powerful are most afraid of losing – in many cases it is prestige and attack on that issue
- Do the same to police ; get that dread out of the minds of the people : people feel liberated
- Mass mobilization is the first step.
- For instance politicians are only scared of ‘loss of votes’ : they don’t care for appeals, seminars, meetings etc. One should therefore scare the politicians by creating a situation that will cause loss of votes
- Any means, I feel, justify the end of giving ‘voice’ to the voiceless
- SHGs and NGOs cannot ever give rise to increase of voice
- Till the people don’t get ANGRY they cannot FIGHT and they cannot get a VOICE
- Gandhiji gave the people the power to fight
- Till people get the will to fight, no change will ever happen in the lives of the people
- Community must be truly empowered
- NGOs will keep getting ignored because they don’t really threaten status quo
- Till the fear in the minds of the people is dispelled no policy change makes a difference
- I am concerned that no change is happening in our country
- Disturbing the system, sometimes disturbing the ‘peace’ is a strategy that we have used
- Gandhiji knew that unless people know what ‘independence’ means there was no point in getting it.
- We need to stop tying up advocacy in papers and theories and get to the people
- If you address peoples issues, they rally behind you and only then policy can be changed
- Different medicines can be used : there is no single system for ‘conscientization’
- Adapt strategies to meet the situation and get all stakeholders involved
- Get the issue to scale ; use a single case to whip up passions and make it a general common issue.
- Get the balance of power restored

- 2 acres of land is not going to solve the issue of livelihood but it is related to prestige and 'credit worthiness' and hence it is important
- NGOs need to have a 'representative' in parliament, assemblies etc
- Till NGOs learn to co-operate and work together no common advocacy is possible
- Use all democratic institutions and non violence to get change in the society
- We are what we are because of support and backing of people
- For me this is the truth and only way – I don't think that it is the only way: each one of us has to choose a path that we are most comfortable with.

Annexure VIII: Policy Advocacy – Mr. Suryakant Kulkarni

The presentation is given here in bullet points only. It is not a transcript.

- Started SEDT 25 years ago – focusing on child rights
- This presentation will focus on POLICY ADVOCACY – focus on education and child labour
- Whatever the methods of advocacy the ultimate aim is the same
- SEDT has been working on policy advocacy for the last few years
- I will focus on the state level advocacy and leave the national processes aside for the time being
- We normally run into two difficulties
 1. There is no policy at all
 2. There is a policy but it is not implemented
- Children are the most neglected section of our society
- It is only in the early 1990s that India started getting aware of children's rights
- We have all sorts of laws but a large section of the population cares two hoots for the law
- Understanding the law is important, along with it, local pressure groups also need to demand its implementation.
- So, the figures of child labour in Maharashtra were not reflected at the central level because no such reporting from the ground level was made.
- Why should government officers listen to you? Only if you are in a position of power will they feel the compulsion to do so.
- If people demand that the timings of schools be changed, the law provides for such a change to be made. However, people are usually not aware that this is within their power to do so.

The law is for the people. If a large number of people feel that it is unjust or some aspects of it need to be changed, then people must speak up.

Annexure IX: Media Advocacy –Mr. Baliram Balsaraf

The presentation is given here in bullet points only. It is not a transcript.

- Involved in a number of campaigns in the last 15 years
- This presentation will focus on using research, media and linkages with bureaucrats, politicians for policy advocacy.
- Will focus on issue of infant mortality – in collaboration with Dr. Abhay Bang.
- Started with a research programme in 1984 by Dr. Abhay Bang
- Tested and refined in Gadchiroli by SEARCH
- Found that Child Mortality is under-reported to the tune of 11 times!
- Help came from collector – Nitin Gadre who used his machinery to test it out and found it was true : the health department was missing out much of the deaths and / or under-reporting
- He got transferred!
- A plan emerged in 1999 to take this experiment to scale
- GreenEarth identified 120 agencies across the state
- 19 were finally involved
- 13 lasted through the 2 year research
- 10 districts were covered and a population of 250,000
- None of the 13 CSOs had ever been involved in child health issues
- Research concluded in November 2000
- Marathi Report was published
- Its distribution was planned very carefully and strategically
- It was first presented to the Chief Minister
- When there was no reaction or response from the CM, a press conference was organized
- Press wrote about the issue for the next 2 weeks, creating pressure on the government
- CM was forced to invite Dr. Bang for a meeting
- Meanwhile, government got 2 reputed research institutions to critically review the research and prepared its own defense
- With the help of media, a continuous pressure was maintained on the government – health department
- In the Nagpur assembly, this report was shared with the opposition members and a briefing was prepared specially for MLAs
- These MLAs were very carefully identified
- Half hour discussion was scheduled in the assembly,
- A GR was passed, giving the responsibility of counting child deaths to the Collector
- Efforts still continue – on one hand, 7 NGOs are working to demonstrate how child mortality can be reduced, on the other, dialogue with the government to adopt policies for reducing child deaths
- Jan Sunwais were held in different places where people / NGOs were invited to inform a committee on the child deaths in their areas.
- Media was constantly kept informed, orientation was organized for journalists and media persons, where the importance of IMR / CMR as development indicators was discussed
- The focus was first on recording each and every child death.

Annexure X: The Agenda

Session	Contents	Resource persons
First day : 11th of March		
Pre lunch	Registration	Paryay
	PACS programme overview	MC
	Maharashtra programme overview	SSRO
	Presentation of the field Peer Review findings	Groups 1 & 2
Post lunch	Comments on the field review by the panel	Panel
	Case study Presentation on a movement for land rights in Raigad District of Maharashtra	Surekha Dalvi, Nirmitee
	Cultural show	The PUPPET
Second day : 12th of March		
Pre lunch	Recap	Volunteers
	Identification of capacity building needs of partners	DA Training group
Post lunch	Advocacy experiences in Maharashtra	
	Peoples advocacy	Eknath Awad, RDC
	Policy advocacy	Suryakant Kulkarni, SEDT
	Media Advocacy	Baliram Balsaraf, Sampark
	Presentation on media advocacy	CPAR
	Group work on advocacy	Groups
Day 3: 13th of March 2004		
Pre lunch	Recap	Volunteers
	Advocacy group work presentations	Groups
	Session on media advocacy	CPAR
	Discussion on emergency issues in Maharashtra	Open house
Post lunch	Developing an action plan for addressing the drought in Maharashtra	Open house
	Planning the next peer review	Co-ordination committee
	Government and CSO interaction	Mr. Ramani (IAS) Divisional commissioner Aurangabad
	Vote of thanks	

Annexure XI: List of Participants 2nd Peer Review Workshop

Poorest Area Civil Society (PACS) Programme Aurangabad Participants List

Sr. No.	Name of the Lead Organization	Participants	Partner Organization Member Name	Total No. Of Person
1	Paryay C-1, Vishal Towers, N-7/P-1 CIDCO Aurangabad-431003 Ph- (0240) 2481239	Mr. Vishwanath Todkar Mr. Ashruba Gaikwad Mrs. Satwashila Ghule Mr. Vilas Godge Mr. Anil Jamale		05
2	Sahayog Nirmitee At Hipparga Tad, Post Yeoti, (Via Anadur) Tehsil -Tuljapur Dist- Osmanabad 413603 Phone - (02383) 221334	Mr. Ramakant Kulkarni Mrs. Meghna Kulkarni Mr. Pandurang Dolse	Ad. Baburao More Mr. Vilas Pawar Mr. Balaji Surywanshi Mr. Madhukar Gaikwad Mrs. Ksturba Karbhari Mr. Vaman Khirsagar	09
3.	MSSM Marathwada Sheti Sahayak Mandal. Ajay Engineering and Agri cultural Equipmen Company Premises, 5-14-42, Adalat Road, Aurangabad -431005	Mr. Annasaheb Borade Mr. Gandhi Mr. Balaji Kendre Mr. Chiranjiv Pardhi		04
4	BDBGVS Bhartiya Dnyapith Bahhudeshiya Gramin Vikas Sanstha C/o Shailesh Pisalkar Shital Nagar, Wadgaon Road, Yawatmal- 445001 Ph- (7232) 47213 Mobile - 9422166803 9422166804	Mr. Shilash Pisalkar Mrs. Sarika Kadam Mrs. Sangita Kalspre	Mr. Divakar Bhojar Mr. Dr. Kalpande Mr. Gajanan Kapse	06
5	Gramin Vikas Mandal Tq. Kaij, Dist-Beed 431518 Phone (02446) 247764	Mr. Sayyad Sir mr. Gujarkar Mr. Sayyad Khalil	Mrs. Manisha Tokale Mr. Dagdu Adde Mr. Revankar	07

		Mrs. Meena Bhosale		
6	Indian Insitute of Youth Welfare 134, Shivajinagar, Nagpur Ph- (07202) 25223,25401	Mr. Manhor Hepat Mrs. Devidas Ghodeswar	Mr. Arun Ghanmoge Mrs. Ranjan Shelke Mr. Kishor Aollwar Mr. Rupchand Dkhane	06
7	RDC "Sangarsh" Smrat Ashok Nagar, Majalgaon, Dist-Beed Phone (02443) 234324	Mr. Akanath Awad Mr. Tukaram Shine Mr. Ashok Tangade		03
8	Sankalap Mr. Sudhakar Kshirsagar, Subhedar, Panchanagr Corner, Pathri. Dist- parbhani - 431506	Mr. Sudhkar Kshirsagar Mr. Dashrat Jadhav		02
9	Sandhinetan At-Baranahali, Tal. Mukhed Dist- nanded - 461148 Phone (02461) 246148	Mr. Balaji Jadhav		01
10	GRASAP Mr. Yugandhar Mandavkar 20] Sherya Nagar, Usmanpura, Aurangabad Ph (0240)2333294,2351224	Mr. Yugndhar Mandwkar Mr. Shyam Deshpande Mrs. Sandhya Bharti	Mrs. Mangal Mr. Bhaurao Mule Mrs. Ashwani Choudhari Mr. Sopan Dagurde Mr. Santosh Sonwane Mr. Bhimrao	09
11	Yuvagram Dharur Road, Kain Tal. Kaij, Dist- Beed Beed 431123 Ph (02445) 252722	Mr. Sunil Deshmukh Mr. Sushila Chavan		02
12	JVSS Janvikas Samajik Sanstha Kallam Road, Kaij Tal. Kaij Dist-beed Beed - 431123 Ph (02445) 252722	Mr. Ramesh Bhise Mrs. Bhandari K.D.		02
13	IGSS	Mr. N.R. Singh Mr. Ashok Shingare	Mr. Sadashiv Jamkar Mr. Pandit Narwade Mr. Sainath Kale Mr. Sanjay Ghodke	06
14	Asmita Insitute For Development	Mrs. Sangita Gaikwad Mr. Ekanath Dagwar		02

	Malviya's House Near Sai Mandir, Shine Nagar, Yawatmal -445001 Ph (0732) 255145			
15	SEDT	Mr. Suryakant Kulkarni Mr. Shaikh Mussa	Mr. Prabhakar Dhapse Mr. Manmath Gadmwar Mrs. Rajani Shinde Mrs. Deepa Bharaswadkar Mrs. Rekha Sruve Mrs. Lata Salvi Mrs. Survna Deshmukh Mr. Prabhakar Ingale Mr. Vithal Gorkatte Mr. Tatyarao Shikare Mr. Omprakah Giri Mr. Ashok Shivane	14
16	Vehicle Driver			06
	Total			84

Sr.No.	Participant Name	Organization Name	No. of Participant
1	Mrs. Kiran Sharma Mrs. Poonam Mr. Prashant Mr. Robin	Development Alternatives	04
3	Miss. Manisha	Price Water Cooper house	01
5	Mr. Sharad	World Comic	01
6	Mr. Shirish Kulkarni		01
7	Mr. Sachin Mardikar		01
8	Miss. Surbhi		01
9	Miss. Akhila		01
10	Miss. Lipika	Taragram	01
11	Miss. Aarti		01
12	Mr. Hunded Contractor		01
13	Mr. Makarand	Green Earth	04

	Sahasrabuddhe Mr. Vasant Shende Mr. Kaustubh Miss. Vinita Tatke		
17	Mr. Baliram Balsaraph	Sampark	
19	Surekha Dalvi	Resource Person	01
20	Mr. Hemant Kanitkar Mrs. Ranjana Kanitkar Puppet (3 Person)	Puppet	05
21	Mr. Pramod Kamble Mr. Vijay Jadhav Mr. Kailash Chavan Mr. Sachin Todkar Mr. Shivdas Todkar Mr. Ashok Pawar	Peer Review Workshop Management Team of Paryay.	06
			29

Annexure XII: Discussion on Advocacy

Issue	Advocate for?	Advocacy for	Strategies	Instrument
Drought	1. Catalyse a collective, CSO platform 2. Sensitise and establish partnerships with stakeholders 3. Identify common needs in the area of capacity building of CSOs, 4. Evolve action points and plans- mobilize communities	1. Ensure employment to needy families in all villages 2. Provision of EGS ID cards. 3. Capacity building of women for monitoring of all future schemes and programmes	Signature campaigns Liaison and network	Policy advocacy through formation of people's collectives
Right to work		Non-diversion of EGS budget Minimum wages Ensuring availability of statutory provisions around employment	Identify common issues Create awareness Community mobilization Identify nodes and pressurize them	Public and policy advocacy
Women's Empowerment		Pro-active role of women in decision-making Enhancing the self-confidence of women through rights based advocacy. Equal wage	Strengthening of Mahila Mandals Leadership training Ensuring financial support	Policy advocacy
Strengthening of local self governance		Making Gram Sabhas mandatory Enhancing community participation in PRIs	Build public awareness Liaison and network	Policy and public advocacy

Annexure XIII: List of Abbreviations

AFARAM	Action For Agricultural Renewal in Maharashtra
AFPRO	
BASIX	Micro finance company from Hyderabad
CSO	Civil Society Organisation.
CFAR	Centre For policy Advocacy and Research
CHR	Campaign for Human Rights
CDSA	Centre for Development and Social Action
EGS	Employment Guarantee Scheme
GRASP	Grass-Roots Action for Social Participation
IMR	Infant Mortality Rate
IYW	India Institute for Youth Welfare
MC	Management Consultant
MSSM	Marathwada Sheti Sahayya Mandal.
NCAS	National Centre for Advocacy Studies
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
OBC	Other Backward Class
PACS	Poorest Area Civil Society
PDRO	Proposal Development Research Organisation
PWC	PriceWaters Coopers
RDC	Rural Development Centre
SEDT	Socio Economic Development Trust
SSRO	State Supportive Supervision Resource Organisation
TNA	Training Needs Assessment
YUVA	Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action