

Preface

The present UPA government through its outstanding initiatives for the upliftment of the poor through its National Common Minimum Programme, is able to fulfill the demands of innumerable Voluntary/Civil society Organizations working for the eradication of poverty. Today, after years of policy advocacy and efforts of the government towards the betterment of the poor and marginalized, there is ardent need for all Civil Society Organizations to come together as a network and work cohesively to achieve effective outcomes. Whether they are Civil Society Organization or voluntary organisations of Uttar Pradesh, a State where the political prowess governs the life of the people, there is need for all of them to have a self-evaluation to understand their responsibilities and have an impact assessment for better results. As inspite of heightening of poverty alleviation and rural development programmes and increase in the number of Voluntary Organizations, in the five decades, the State is still in the grip unfortunate political imbalance and underdevelopment. This is high time that government and all voluntary organizations along with other stakeholders should come together on a single platform and work towards the overall development of the society.

The PACS programme constantly encourages all its partners and stakeholders to have an integrated approach for addressing various issues of development, and frame policies and programmes that help in empowerment of the poor and capacity building of communities for better implementation of programmes for sustainable results.

In the State Level Consultation, organized on 22nd-23rd September 2005, representatives from different stakeholders like Civil Society Organizations, Government, Financial Institutions, Corporate organizations, Donors and Media discussed on some of the above issues. After long discussions, analytical presentations and open forums all the stakeholders together brought out a 7 point "Saajha Sankalp" and pledged to work towards its fulfillment.

Keeping in mind the issues of "Saajha Sankalp", a Peer Learning Workshop was organized on 24th September 2005, which provided an opportunity for sharing of experiences and planning for future action plan. Till date four Peer Learning Workshops have been organized in Uttar Pradesh. It was a challenge to listen and understand the activities undertaken in 36 projects by 14 Civil Society Organizations, but with the kind cooperation of all the participants this was accomplished successfully.

Santosh Diwedi
State Anchor
PACS Programme

Foreword

In September 2000, at the United Nations Millennium Summit, world leaders of 189 nations, agreed to a set of timebound and measurable goals and targets for combating poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation and discrimination against women. Placed at the heart of the global agenda, they are now called the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The Summit's Millennium Declaration also outlined a wide range of commitments in human rights, good governance and democracy.

The plans and activities outlined in the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007) of the Government of India also lays special emphasis on the achievement of the MDGs. The Department for International Development (DFID), British Government is supporting Government of India for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals. After elaborate discussions between the two governments a programme was formulated, to empower people by building their capacities and bring them above the poverty line. This programme is known as Poorest Areas Civil Society (PACS) programme. Under this programme, the Planning commission, Government of India, along with DFID initially identified 100 districts in India, judged to be the "poorest" on the basis of identified socio-economic indicators and decided to work for the upliftment of these districts. The PACs programme is working on five themes - Local Self Governance (LSG), Women Empowerment (WE), Self Help (SH), Policy Advocacy (PA) and Social Cohesion (SC). The geographical coverage of the PACS Programme is in extremely backward regions of central and eastern India spanning six states: Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Jharkhand and is being managed jointly by Development Alternatives for programmatic issues and Price Waterhouse Coopers for financial and operational concerns.

Uttar Pradesh is one of the first states to initiate the PACS programme. In UP, the programme is operational in 20 districts wherein intervention is being done in 93 blocks through 36 projects having 94 implementing partners. A total of 2535 villages in 1250 Gram Panchayats are covered by the programme. In order to learn from the experiences and activities undertaken in 3 years of the existence of the PACS programme in Uttar Pradesh and for the development of the future action plan a 2 day State Level Consultation and a 1 day Peer Learning Workshop (22nd- 24th September 2005) was organised. The consultation provided a platform for various stakeholders and Civil Society Organizations to become sensitive towards empowerment of the poor in the State. The consultation also gave an opportunity to take the voices of the grass root to the policy makers. The outcome of the consultation was exceptional as all the stakeholders, Government, Financial Institutions, Corporate Organizations, Media, Donors and Civil Society Organizations came out with a "Saajha Sankalp" and pledged towards its attainment. We hope that all the stakeholders will work together and set an outstanding example for poverty alleviation in Uttar Pradesh.

The declaration taken in the consultation and the learning's shared at the Peer Learning Workshop reflects the cohesiveness and unity among the PACS partners towards a common objective. For the

success of the three day long workshop which included technical sessions, group discussions, presentations of various research studies undertaken and experiences gained, panel discussions, interactive sessions, situation analysis and cultural programme all organisers and partners, the steering committee members, Ms. Sehba Hussain, BETI Foundation, Mr. Santosh Diwedi, State Anchor, PACS, UP, Ms. Runa Banerjee, SEWA, Lucknow, Mr. Sandeep Manjhi, Proact, Mr. Vinod Jain, Trust Consulting, Mr. Aseem Hasnain, MIT, Mr. Anil Singh, NEED and all members of the BETI family deserve a standing ovation. We also believe that this consultation will go a long way in the fulfillment of the objectives of the PACS programme and providing sustained efforts for poverty alleviation in Uttar Pradesh.

Kiran Sharma
Programme Director
PACS Programme

Empowerment for Livelihoods: State policy, Private initiatives and Civil Society Action

The Poorest Areas Civil Society (PACS) Programme is a £25 million development assistance programme funded by the British Government's Department for International Development (DFID). The Programme seeks to strengthen the capacity of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in 108 poorest districts of Bihar, Chhatisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh in assisting the poorest people to realise their entitlements effectively and sustainably.

Development Alternatives and PricewaterhouseCoopers, Management Consultants for PACS (Poorest Areas Civil Society) Programme in each state organize State Level Peer Learning workshop/Consultation, with an objective to provide a platform to all CSOs working under the umbrella of PACS programme to come together and share their experiences and work for convergence with various stakeholders in order to contribute their learnings to the Programme content and also take it to the poorest areas.

A two day State Level Consultation and a one day Peer Learning workshop was organised in Uttar Pradesh at Ganna Sansthan Lucknow from 22nd September to 24th September 2005. The State Level Consultation and the workshop were coordinated by BETI Foundation, Lucknow on behalf of Management Consultants PACS Programme. The consultation aims to provide a learning opportunity for Civil Society Organizations to:

- develop a mutually shared perspective and identify developmental issues within the framework of Livelihood Security;
- explore innovative approaches and successful examples that inspire models/processes for feasible replication;
- to take a critical look at government policies, private initiatives, financial resources/regulations, media support and support of donors and strategies adopted by civil society organizations to address issues that affect Livelihood Security for the poor and also help to access basic services for improving the quality of their lives.

The Status of PACS programme in Uttar Pradesh

UP the programme is operational in 20 districts wherein intervention is being done in 93 blocks through 36 projects having 94 implementing partners. A total of 2535 villages in 1250 Gram Panchayats are covered by the programme. The six stakeholders in the programme are Government, Corporate, Media, Financial Institutions, Donors and Civil Society organizations.

Preparation for the State Level Consultation

The PACS state level consultation was planned through multiple meetings, in such a way that all stakeholders get an opportunity to be a part of the forum and collaborate in the remaining tenure of the PACS programme in Uttar Pradesh.

In a subsequent meeting the "steering committee" included three more organizations, Knowledge Links (New Resource Organization) Awaz and Adhaar as observers. All the members voluntarily

took up responsibilities to contact various stakeholders, with BETI Foundation approaching and inviting Media, Corporates and Government. Trust Consulting took up the responsibility to approach and invite Financial Institutions while the State Anchor PACS shared the responsibility by requesting the Donors to participate in the consultation. Due to the presence of various stakeholders and their involvement in various areas of work, there was a lot of modifications in the agenda for the consultation (Agenda attached), so that each one of them get a chance to effectively collaborate their expertise with the participating civil society organisation.

A media interface was also planned as a curtain raiser for the consultation with an objective to involve the media as one of the stakeholder in the programme as well as provide a preview of the consultation. The Press Meet was facilitated by Ms. Runa Banerjee, General Secretary SEWA, Mr. Vinod Jain from Trust consulting and Mr. Santosh Dwivedi State Coordinator PACS Programme UP, and organised by BETI Foundation, with the support of Mr. Suhail Parvez. Around 15 correspondents from various print and electronic media participated in the Press Meet held at Gomti Hotel on 22 September, 2005.

The Consultation

The Consultation stretched for a period of two days 22nd to 23rd September, 2005, with the first day having two technical sessions and the second day having one technical session comprising of four parallel panel discussions. The consultation had active participation from all the NGO partners of the PACS programme (both network and individual), government officials and people from, media, corporate, financial institutions and donors. A peer learning workshop was organized on the third day for the PACS partners in which the Civil Society Organizations were deliberated their roles and responsibilities for the coming year.

Day 1- 22nd September 2005

The day started with a welcome address by Ms. Sehba Hussain, Executive Director, BETI Foundation, followed by Lighting of the lamp by the Chief Guest, Mr. A. K. Misra, Principal Secretary, Rural Development. Mr. Santosh Dwivedi, State Anchor, PACS, briefed the participants and through a slide show presented the status of PACS programme in India and UP (Refer attachment1).

Ms. Sehba Hussain in her welcome address said that the stakeholders and Civil Society Organization should join hands and work together for the upliftment of poor in the state. She elaborated that Civil Society Organizations form an integral part of all social development processes necessary for sustaining the development efforts being done by the government and other stakeholders. In the coming three to four years, a network of Civil Society Organizations will ensure empowerment and self confidence among the poor, so as to sustain the impacts of the poverty alleviation initiatives taken up by the stakeholders.

A brief presentation of the activities undertaken under the PACS programme in the State of Uttar Pradesh was made by Mr. Santosh K Dwivedi, Programme Manager (PACS) UP. This was followed by a presentation from Mr. Amit Malhotra of Global Ideas on the Development Opportunities in PACS districts. The presentation gave a brief background of the status of poor and the scenario of poverty in the state of Uttar Pradesh. Through his presentation he also elaborated on the Development Opportunities relating to Education Health, Infrastructure and the Habitat status while discussing

about the coverage of the PACS programme in the state and the transformation it has brought through during its presence in Uttar Pradesh since 2001 (Refer Attachment 2).

Ms. Sehba Hussain, requested Mr. A.K. Misra, Chief Guest of the session, to release two studies done under the PACS program (UP State Development Policy Analysis, Study on Development Budget Analysis and Swarna Jayanti Grameen Swa Rozgar Yojna (SGSY) study). Mr. A. K. Misra also released a Compendium of Case Studies 'DASTAK' subsequent to the presentation and also made a key note address, in which he said that as a Principal Secretary, he came to know about the PACS programme after he received the invitation for the consultation. As the programme has less visibility in the Government Circles therefore a communication channel should be started for informing Government about PACS initiative. He also discussed that there is an ardent need for CSOs to work in networks for the upliftment of the poor and marginalized. The State has a budget of 118 crore for 50-60 districts which is left unutilized because of time and target bound work, the State can well support CSOs which could help in effective utilization of the budget. The state aims to first provide access of basic, essential services to the poor and the marginalized, in order to fulfill their primary need and work for the sustaining the efforts for the well-being of the poor.

Ms. Kiran Sharma, Programme Director PACS, India, while taking forward the conversation of Mr. A.K. Misra said that the programme has covered 20 Districts in UP with the network of Civil Society Organisations to make communities aware about their rights and entitlements . The programme has also developed a mechanism to reach communities in extreme poverty and provide them with capacity building support for realization of their rights and entitlements in an effective and sustainable manner. Ms. Sharma also stressed the need for developing synergies with the State Development Department.

Technical Session 1

Technical session 1 began with welcoming the Chief Guest Mr. Luv Verma, Principal Secretary to His Excellency, Governor of U.P. along with a briefing on the PACS programme in Uttar Pradesh, by Mr. Santosh Dwivedi. Thereafter Mr. T.N. Dhar, Honorary Secretary, Indian Institute of Public Administration, did a presentation on the study done by him "UP State Development Policy Analysis" (Refer attachment 3). He emphasized that Policies need to be changed for effective development and all stakeholders, government, non-government, private should be able to contribute in policy making initiatives and its implementation.

Mr. Anil Swaroop, Commissioner Rural Development Government of Uttar Pradesh, expressed that CSOs play a major role in programme implementation in backward areas and government is ready for a dialogue and work with the 'effective and good' CSOs at grass roots for implementing its programmes. He also gave an open invitation to all the participating CSOs to hold talks individually with them to turn "words into action".

In the second part of the session, a presentation of the study on Development Budget analysis of Uttar Pradesh, done by Mr. Sandeep Manjhi of Proact and Mr. Vinod Jain of Trust Consulting was done (Refer attachment 5). The presentation vividly brought out the budget available and spent on various programmes for development, through a comparison of three schemes SGSY, SGRY and Rural Housing. The presentation brought out certain factors that retard development, different districts were compared on the basis of undeveloped/underdeveloped criteria of the government and districts under the PACS programme. The comparative facts that came out during the course of the research were:

- Poorest districts are burdened with more number of GPs & settlements/ blocks.

- Already suffering poor connectivity; the poorest areas suffer from inadequate presence of development workers.
- Average workforce in the poorest districts undertakes their duties in larger areas than in developed districts.
- The poorest districts are often constrained with inadequate staffing.
- Despite committed pro-poor allocations in IAY, best performances in few areas with remote locations were not evident.
- Workforce has been a key constraint in other development programmes also, viz. –
- **BDOs** : Out of 818 blocks, only 534 (65%) officers are present, leaving a huge 284 blocks in additional charge.
- **Gram Vikas Adhikari**: Staffing stands as 6277 /8295 keeping 24% positions vacant.
- **Teachers**: @1.6 teachers per primary school with a pressure of average 140 children per teacher. Shiksha mitras in primary schools are also burdened with average responsibility of 803 children on each.

The study, therefore, observed that inadequate presence of development workers and out of reach (remote) settlements are two significant attribute in underdevelopment of the poorest areas and also brought out certain recommendations for change that PACS programme could bring about to facilitate development. Some of them were

- Government should explore potentials of programmatic affiliation with the non-government social development programmes, such as the PACS programme;
- Non-government programmes also must open dialogue with the relevant offices of the state government for functional coordination on issues of
 - programme alignment,
 - Common targeting,
 - Joint operational planning and
 - Regular review of programme performances;
- Specific & well-defined forums should be instituted, with clear-cut operational mandates to deliver time-bound results at the ground in the poorest pockets.

Technical Session 2

In the post lunch session A presentation of the study on SGSY done by SEWA, Lucknow and Trust Consulting was done (Refer attachment 4). The presentation highlighted the structural factors hindering participation of poor in the SGSY and also suggested alternatives in the present programme design and implementation activities to make SGSY more effective. The presentation elaborated that Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojna (SGSY) was initiated in 1999 and combines IRDP, DWACRA, TRYSEM, etc. as a single window. It is a group based scheme and one of the largest central government programme for poverty alleviation and provides a mix of loan and subsidy (for BPL) for asset and/or working capital. The presentation elaborated the achievements and the processes of the SGSY scheme and suggested that strengthening of group processes need to be done. It also emphasized that group meetings should incorporate, weekly meetings, proper record keeping, have democratic leaders, develop internal loaning for establishing trust/functional relationships and also start wealth ranking for identification of the poor. 'Handholding' for providing support services and

'Business group' built on mF structure should also form an integral part of the process. The presentation also suggested four models for reconfiguring SGSY, they were

- Model 1: Project Facilitation Teams (PFT) – which stresses on having a Multidisciplinary team responsible for 30-40 villages which is responsible for forming SGSY groups and linking them to activity and providing support services and providing a team cost provided for 3-4 years.
- Model 2: Development Support Team (DST) – which emphasizes that market linked organizations are needed. Support is needed to form SGSY groups so that they help in establishing small businesses. Mutually beneficial relationships which are more sustainable like the Dairy Union is also essential.
- Model 3: PACS Model - Creation of State and district level resource teams to support livelihoods is essential to provide better networking for enhanced sustainability.
- Model 4: Specialist Agency Model (SAM) – it concentrates on two tier operations, which will be effective in providing SGSY a better scheme for helping the poor. CSO facilitating SGSY group formation would enhance its effectiveness at the ground level and also increase its efficiency. Specialist/Technical agency taking over in the activity phase in area of its expertise (Siddhi poultry model) would also provide a basis, as the model has been successfully used in making poultry farming more effective.

The presentation was followed by an open house discussion with the Chief Guest of the session, Mr. Sunil Kumar, Secretary Planning, Government of UP. Mr. Kumar himself gave a briefing on the plan of the government for the development sector through an elaborate presentation of the programmes offered by the government and the support that could be derived by CSOs and PACS programme as a whole in Uttar Pradesh.

The day ended with group formation for parallel panel discussions, scheduled for day 2 of the consultation.

DAY 2

Technical Session 3

The second day of the consultation started with technical session three having four parallel panel discussions with representatives from different stakeholders of the PACS programme. The participating CSOs voluntarily divided themselves in separate panels. Different stakeholders of the PACS programme (Government, Media, Financial institutions and Corporates) were given different topics that lead to a single conclusion, that how each stakeholder could contribute in development through networking with Civil Society Organizations.

Collaboration of Financial Institutions

The topic for financial institutions was "Role of Financial Institutions in livelihood enhancement", this panel was chaired by Mr. (please take note of the CGM from Indian Bank), NABARD with Mr. S.K. Neeraj from SIDBI actively participating in the discussion, the session was moderated by Mr. Anil Singh from NEED. A discussion was initiated and a detailed presentation from SIDBI was drawn, which gave a brief scenario of the status of poverty in UP and then delineated the development efforts made by SIDBI so far, some of them are:

- Commercial banks provide direct lending

- Regional Rural Banks focus on poor
- Cooperatives provide rural/agricultural credit
- State supported subsidy related programmes have been initiated for the poor & the marginalized.

Yet there has been limited outreach as 36% of total credit in rural households is still obtained from moneylenders and other informal sources, landless agricultural and non-agricultural labourers, artisans, asset-less poor still outside the banking fold. Thus the impact has been limited as it has reached < 20 % of the rural poor and < 10% of women. The presentation also elaborated on the different mechanism that SIDBI plans to implement to increase its outreach, like utilizing existing grassroot institutions for channelising credit, strengthening MFIs for making them formal, sustainable and responsive. Build access and capacity without subsidies and provide customized financial assistance and capacity building support and encourage investment in micro finance by formal financial sector, through defined strategies for implementation and enhanced capacities for accomplishment.

After an elaborate discussion on the presentation made by Mr.S.K.Neeraj from SIDBI, the CSO group came out with the following recommendations for improving the role of financial institutions for livelihood enhancement:

- A lot of work on demand generation has been done by CSOs so financial institutions could provide direct lending.
- There is a need to have collaborative arrangements between CSOs and financial institutions
- CSOs can take microfinance to very remote locations, so banks need to build and collaborate themselves in the CSO network.

During the discussion, Mr. A. Vikraman, CGM, NABARD offered to take up issues of service delivery failures from the CSOs to the banks and act as a facilitator between the two.

Corporate Social Responsibility

Corporate Social Responsibility was visibly brought out during the panel discussion on the “Role of Corporate sector in enhancing livelihoods through partnerships with CSOs” chaired by Mr. Radhey Mohan, DGM, NTPC. The panel was shared with Prof. Padma Vasudevan, IIT-Delhi, Mr. Nishant Sinha, ITC-IBD and Ms. Anjana Mohan –PCDF and the session was moderated by Runa Banerji. Representatives from Corporate houses like NTPC, ITC, IIT and PCDF discussed their role in contributing for upliftment of the poor through partnerships. The recommendations brought about through the discussions were:

- Documentation of corporate houses and mapping of sectoral intervention and coverage details to be made available to CSOs and vice versa so as to increase sectoral understanding.
- Mapping of dairy should be done for PACS groups and synergy sought with PCDF.
- Role of Technical Institutions in skill transfer and technology development
- Structured data base having regional livelihood opportunities
- Corporate intervention should be strengthened using participatory approaches and community needs rather than welfare approach.
- Sharing of experiences and technical expertise among students of different corporate houses/ and CSOs.
- Larger CSO-Corporate interface should be provided for information exchange and experience sharing.

Role of Media

The role of Media as an important stakeholder for reducing poverty was shared in a forum which was chaired by Mr. Sheetla Singh, Member, Press Council of India, on the issue "Role of Media in addressing development challenges". The participants raised various issues on the limited space for development issues, the information regarding welfare schemes - doesn't reach beyond blocks, etc. The participants while sharing their views also discussed that media should partner in advocacy for the poor, it is essential to sensitize Publishers/Owners towards peoples needs and also to identify alternative media to reach the unreachable. The representatives from the media responded in the following way to make CSO and media share common interest:

- There is a need to understand that media has to balance on the issues of entrepreneurial interests and peoples interests
- We need to see what role CSOs and media can play for making public conscious about issues concerning the poor.
- The issues of development find less space because their are shortcomings both in the development reporting/space,
- CSOs need to be sensitized for sharing news, newspapers should give space for news and issues,
- Common platform for CSOs and Media for news sharing- follow-up of issues should be created,
- Alternative media should be strengthened, and
- Strengthening of village information centres should be done.

Role of the Government

The role of government as stakeholders in the PACS programme was elaborately in the parallel panel session, "Role of PRIs in livelihood and self governance". The session was chaired by Mr. C.S. Pran, National Programme Director, NYKS, Ministry of HRD, Government of India. The discussion elaborated different models of sustainable livelihoods and role of PRIs in enhancing the same was detailed as follows:

- Promoter : To act as Rural Business Hubs (Eg.: Skills/ Raw material/ Technology)
- Governance : To provide an interface with private/corporate sector to set up business centres
- Mentor: To empower Gram Panchayats to provide common Property Resources.
- Enabler: To enable Gram Panchayats provide basic infrastructure.
- Regulator: To ensure that markets do not exploit consumers; and consumer should pay proper user charges.

The discussions held in separate panels were later presented to all the participants in the next session. All the presentations reflected how each stakeholder could collaborate in the PACS programme to ensure effectiveness in implementation and outreach.

Another important stakeholder group of the programme, the Donors, graced the dais in the second part of the technical session. The donors included State Representative of UNICEF, State Representative of CARE, Programme Coordinator, UNDP and a representative from Action Aid, U.P. The representatives from Donor agencies, welcomed CSO for projects in their areas of work and assured support to the PACS programme, on issues of their concern. This session was chaired by Ms.

Sehba Hussain, Executive Director BETI Foundation. The Chief guest was Ms. Zohra Chatterjee, Principal Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh, Department of Information Technology.

Concluding Session

The Chief Guest of the concluding session was Mr. V. Venkatachalam, Principal Secretary, Planning, Government of Uttar Pradesh, Ms. Sehba Hussain, Executive Director, BETI Foundation, welcomed the Chief Guest, while Mr. Santosh Dwivedi presented the deliberations of the consultation. The two day deliberations resulted in a Joint Resolution '*Saajha Sankalp*' (Refer Attachment 6) jointly taken by all the PACS partners as well as all other stakeholder Representatives. A written and framed transcript of this historic resolution was released by Sri Venkatachalam.

The Consultation which was highly successful in meeting its objectives ended with a vote of thanks. The opportunity to carry the torch forward was directed by Special Secretary Rural Development to Commissioner to represent government in follow up plans for the achievement of the objectives of the PACS programme till the end of the present phase. He also invited many Civil Society Organizations to achieve individual, organizational as well as corporate mission and goals.

PEER LEARNING WORKSHOP

24th September 2005

A Peer Learning Workshop was organised after a two day State Level Consultation on 24th September 2005. The Workshop was divided into four sessions which emphasized on the Programme level experiences of PACS partners, through its projects at grass roots.

SESSION ONE

The first session began with a brief presentation on the background of PACS Programme by Mr. Santosh Dwivedi who also welcomed the Chair and the panelist of the session. The session was Chaired by Ms. Usha Virji, Director Technical Education UP and panel consisted of Dr. U N Roy from National Institute of Technical Teachers Training & Research (NITTTR) Chandigarh, Mr. S K Vajpayee from Community Polytechnic Raibrailley. The topic for the panel discussion was "Livelihoods in the rural areas with the help of Community Polytechnics".

Dr. Virji elaborated that since the initiation of a scheme in 1979 by Human Resource Department which emphasized on the following objectives:

- Human Resource Development: to provide training to the unemployed people in the villages.
- Technical Upgradation: to evolve such technical work which could be fruitful for all
- Technical Services: IERT is a technical organization above IIT and the organisation linking the two is a Polytechnic.
- Technical Suggestion: Technical advice and suggestions should be imparted for improving the quality of life.
- Information Dissemination: to use different mechanisms for campaign like media.

She explained that in every class there are approximately 30-35 students who are imparted training at different polytechnics. Some spade work is done for this process, like:

1. A base line survey is done.
2. Various needs of the village and villagers are identified.
3. Trainings are imparted in accordance with the presence of polytechnic existing in the village and also what types of trainings could be imparted, apart from trainings in the polytechnic. Courses like that of electrician, fabricator, welding etc. are also imparted at these polytechnics.

The training programme aims to train at least 600 people every year. This training also aims to target girls who have artisan skills for chikan zardozi and phulkari.

Mrs Virji also elaborated that if we concentrate on potential technology then the following activities could be done village level:

- Village drainage and sanitation work.
- Use of Bio-gas for excreta and waste.

- Construction of safety tanks.

She also said that some other important activities that could also be done are composting technology, bio gas plant, vermiculture, other waste recycling technology, removing water pollution, better arrangements for clean water and health facilities, local agriculture/forest cultivation including production of medicines, electricity generation and media.

Mrs Virji elucidated that there are 72 polytechnics in the state which could be linked together through a network. This could be done with an active use of computer technology. She said that there are 3 types of technical training.

1. Certificate Level.
2. Diploma Level.
3. Degree Level.

There are 103 organizations working for providing technical training to different beneficiaries. Initially beneficiaries are identified through a survey and after identification a training programme is organized. Trainings are imparted by the staff of the polytechnic, sometimes resource person of specialized fields are also invited for training programmes.

Mr Manmohan Prasad Vajpayee, a trainer from Rae Bareilly said that the government is not doing much work for the development of the villages. The activities that require Crores of rupees are done through small organizations in less than half the amount at village level. He further elaborated that Self Help Groups have become a tool of women empowerment which is seen through cohesion among women. Women have become organized usually in the form of groups which has lead to increased efforts in the work received by them. Some women groups are actively working like the one in Madhya Pradesh that helps in making Ayurvedic Medicines and one group in Lucknow and Rae Bareilly that help in making Thatthar roofs coated with cement which is very affordable and also prevents fire outbursts, is in great demand.

SESSION TWO

The Second session was on discussing the Pre-election Voters Awareness Campaign (PEVAC) carried out by PACS programme partners during the recently concluded Panchyati Raj Elections of Uttar Pradesh. The panel comprised of CSO, Chief Functionaries and representatives from SEWA (Ms. Runa Banerjee), PANI (Mr. Shashi Bhushan), ABSSS (Mr. Bhagwat Prasad), PGSS (Fr. G B N Jose) and MCT (Mr. D S Yadav) representing the three regions Eastern, Central and Bundelkhand covered under the PACS programme. The session was Chaired by Mr. Ashok Singh of SSK Lucknow. Mr. Santosh Dwivedi elaborated that the month of August was busy with Panchayat elections.

The panelists shared their experiences with the participants, Mr. Ashok Bhai, one of the panel members, elaborated his experiences of Panchayat elections of 2005, which are as follows:

1. Action Plan: this was done in 4 phases.
First Phase – Discussions with people
Second Phase – Networking at all levels
Third Phase – Education and Training.
Fourth Phase – Information Dissemination.

2. Campaign Coverage:
 - 23 Organizations were part of the campaign.
 - Group cohesion and cooperation.
 - CRS, Hunger, UPVAN Network and Radio were part of the programme.
 - 17 women organisations worked together.
3. Activities Undertaken:
 - Inauguration programmes were done at various places at district level.
 - Groups were formed
 - Distribution of various campaign materials.
4. Activities with women:
 - Dalit women were deliberately involved in the group activities.
 - Camps were organized for registration.
 - Meetings were organized in degree colleges.
5. Relationship with stakeholders:
 - Government
 - Media
 - Funding Agencies.
6. Experiences of the campaign:
 - Information Dissemination
 - Posters and Banners
 - Radio
7. Information disseminated at the registration camps:
 - Other people also took information from the camp.
 - Registration was done at the camp
8. Information regarding registration procedures.
 - Information regarding other procedures was disseminated from this camp.
9. Interface session:
 - All participants had a face to face interaction in this session.
10. Development Necessity:
 - Leadership qualities were developed in the exercise.
11. Experience:
 - Women themselves participated in campaign
 - Media provided participatory support.
 - Mother-in-laws campaigned for daughter-in-laws.

12. Outcome:

- In most of the places nobody stood against the contestant.
- There was a 75% increase in the number of contestants.
- There was a 15% increase among women contestants.
- Non Government Organizations took the lead.
- Good relationships were built with the government.
- Apart from this, the campaign material included poster, banner, pamphlets, letters and also elaborate media coverage.

Mr. Ashok Sinha, Action Aid also elaborated about the work done by Action Aid in the field for Panchayat elections, which is as follows:

- Panchayati Raj Awareness Campaign was done in 75 Gram Panchayats.
- A person from Mussahar community was chosen.
- This is being done with an active support of PACS and SSK in Kushinagar and Maharajganj.
- The campaign this year aimed at promoting Mussahar community to come forward for Panchayat election.
- In the year 2000, 10 people contested for the Lok Panchayat but in the year 2005 there were 55 contestants.

Mr. Sinha also elaborated that a programme is planned for 28 September 2005 in which all contestants have to agree on the five conditions and only then they will be allowed to take the oath. The five conditions are as follows:

- Decisions should be taken in an open area
- Women will work themselves.
- There will be no give and take of bribe.
- Financial procedures will be transparent.
- Decisions should not be caste based.

Mr. Bhagwat while sharing his experiences elaborated:

- 13 Panchayats worked with Samaj Sewa Sansthan.
- Nukkar Natak, slogans etc were used for the campaign.
- Wrong practices were stopped during registrations, elections, counting of votes
- Action plan was formulated to initiate interface between people.
- 50% of the total contestants have won the elections.

The biggest challenge faced during the elections was there were 10 caste groups that did not fall in the reserved category and the campaign failed to bring them into the forefront under the general seat.

Ms. Runa Banarjee elaborated her work in various districts, which is as follows:

- SEWA Lucknow is working in 50 Gram Panchayats of Bachrawan and Rae Bareilly blocks.
- An elaborate campaign was done.
- A residential workshop of the Gram Pradhans was organised.

- Awareness generation programmes in the villages were conducted.
- Committees were formed for various campaign activities.
- Camps for registration were organized at block level.
- Registration was done through camps for other 228 people.
- Community meetings were organised in 10 Gram Panchayats.
- Women came forward to put their own view point.
- 90% of the people read their declaration.
- 50% people were elected for the post of Pradhan.
- Media and Community gave evident support

Father G.V.Jones another member of the panel elaborated, that:

- We are working in 84 Gram Panchayats of Gorakhpur and Siddhartanagar
- We have worked at the village level without any prior experience.
- People became aware in villages after the elections
- We experienced that Panchayat elections also have political influence
- Women who did not contest the elections also came for the registration.
- Villagers also warned us not to enter the villages before elections.
- 52 contestants were elected for the post of Pradhan out of 140, of which 70% were women.
- 585 were selected as ward member out of 964.

Mr. Dhruv Singh (Jhansi) told that –

- Work in Jhansi started with the active support from CASA and SSK.
- 15 organizations came together at the village level in Panchayat elections.
- All types of material is made available to us with the support of people
- 250 gram panchayats were covered
- Local songs, rallies, etc were used for the campaign.
- CDO, people from the SHG were part of the campaign activities.
- No registration became void in village Bada Gaon in Jhansi.

Mr.Shashi Bhushan of PANI elaborated-

- With the active support of PACS and other organization work is being done in 1340 Gram Panchayats in 6 blocks.
- 139 members provided support.
- Sahbhagi Shikshan Sansthan gave guidance for the programme.
- Women were the most active participants in the whole campaign.

Mr. Sanjay Vijay Vergi elaborated his experiences as follows-

- We were warned not to enter the village.
- The person who spent Rs1,20000 also did not win.
- Work was done with people of 133 Gram Panchayats.
- Due to the presence of influential people in the elections work is done at Sansad level.
- The campaign activities for the elections were peaceful.

Learning: We learn that all work was easily done in areas where there were active groups rather than where the groups were inactive.

SESSION THREE

This session was facilitated by Mr. Aseem Hasnain, MEAL Coordinator, PACS, U.P. The Chief Guest of the session was Mr. Kamal Taori, DG, CAPART, New Delhi, while the panelists were Ms. Sehba Hussain, Executive Director, BETI Foundation, Mr. Shashi Bhushan, Secretary, PANI, Ms. Runa Banerjee, SEWA, Lucknow and Ashok Bhai, Sahbhagi Shikshan Kendra.

A presentation of Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Tools (MEAL) was given by Mr. Aseem Hasnain. Mr. Hasnain also tried to resolve various issues relating to MEAL implementation. He elaborated that till now 36 projects are running in UP and MEAL has been implemented in 27. He also said that these are all non-negotiable deliverables and this was prepared by the ROs and the CSOs, these were process guidelines and refined proposal design, but few organizations have still not submitted their deliverables. He also appreciated that now reports submitted by CSOs are of better quality. He said earlier 14 of 18 CSOs submitted their report but this time CSOs have fallen short in doing so. Some of the following facts that all organisations should keep in mind while sending reports are:

- Input activity report should be sent every quarter to PST
- Process Evaluation report should be sent every quarter to PST
- Output activity report should be sent once in a year to PST
- Meal National Core report, might be necessary twice from the coming year
- Some organizations are not sending these reports, which are leading to improper evaluation of the programme.
- One copy of the quarterly report should essentially be sent to PST and MC.
- Reports are being sent in different formats (hand written, typed, typed in MS-WORD, typed in MS EXCEL), it is requested that all reports be submitted in the prescribed MEAL formats.
- The reports should be sent by 10th of every month after the completion of the quarter.
- Feedback to the CSOs is sent within 10 days, but the emails have bounced back.

Mr. Hasnain further elaborated that:

- The name of the organization is essential in IA reports along with the name of the Coordinator
- The column of household coverage is essential and should not be left blank.
- Name, designation and name of the organization is essential in capacity building formats. So that it is easy to know that how many and who has been trained.
- The Units of the activities and training programmes should be essentially sent, like the number of SHGs.
- Process guidelines were prepared before the MEAL implementation, so while making reports, PRR process guidelines should be consulted, and if any organization plans to change its process guideline, then it should inform the PST office.
- Output Tracking Report is very essential as it helps in formulating future strategies.
- It is essential to record the activities done at the ground level, and the help of the format should be sought.
- Formats for keeping entitlement formats have also been developed.

- Field workers should be trained in such a way so that they are able to do analysis and evaluation themselves.
- Efforts are being done to upload information on the website regarding MEAL data, problems regarding the programme, success stories and all other activities related to the programme.
- Political and social changes should be elaborated properly, as these issues are sometimes very interesting but fail to have an impact due to improper documentation.
- Village profile format has also been sent to the organizations, some organizations have still not sent any of the completed formats.
- Case studies are also not sent regularly.
- Panchayat election related reports have still not reached PST office.
- Pictures related to the programme should be sent to PST on a CD.

Mr. Hasnain also gave a slide show of the website being prepared for Maharashtra. He also urged the participating NGOs to send UP related details and facts as soon as possible, so that PACS UP website could be made available soon.

SESSION FOUR

The chair of the session was Mr. Kamal Taori, DG, CAPART, New Delhi. The panelists for the session were Ms. Sehba Hussain, Mr. Shashi Bhushan PANI and Mr. Ojha, Consultant. Mr. Ojha initiated the session with the discussion on a plant named "Jetropa" and explained that the plant can grow in any type of climate. He said that Brazil is extensively working on the plant. The plant usually grows in the month of May, June, July and August. Each plant can be obtained at as low as Rs. 2. The plant is used for medicinal purpose as well as for the production of glycerine. Sometimes it is also used as a substitute for urea fertilizer. It is also used as a plant for making boundaries so as to prevent animals entering the farms.

Mr. Kamal Taori elaborated that government gives little amount for development related activities, but some organizations could work effectively at low budget. So government should collaborate with organizations like CAPART and work more effectively in the field and have better production.

The session was concluded by Mr. Santosh Dwivedi, State Anchor, PACS UP, who summed up with the following issues:

- The next workshop would concentrate on more open forums.
- The intention of calling people from near by areas was to have a face to face interaction.
- Audit management should be more transparent like that of Action Aid.
- The project extension would be discussed after the assessment of the impacts, which is well known by the organizations working in the field.
- At present there are 36 projects which will be extended to 45 shortly.
- The organizations should themselves prepare an action plan of the additions and the deletions necessary for the programme activities.
- Interface is necessary for understanding issues related to important impacts.
- Internal interface could be done with the help of the website.

- Extension should be talked about after the preparation of the original report. This could be achieved only by group efforts. As whenever PACS talks about sustainability NGOs talk about Panchayati Raj rather than documenting facts.
- Projects should be designed while keeping outputs in mind so that some fruitful outcome could be achieved.
- In order to extend the programme there is an urgent need to give some successful examples of achievements.

Mr. Aseem elaborated that work has been done in most of the places under the programme. There are just a few places in which the work is undone. But the main problem is that there has been improper documentation for the programme. Thus there is an urgent need to train the staff for effective documentation. He gave an example of PANI which has done effective field work and is also trained enough to document it properly.

CONCLUDING SESSION:

Mr. Santosh Diwedi, State anchor PACS programme thanked all the participants, the Chairs and the Panelists and the coordinating agency for the workshop, BETI Foundation, for extending their support for making the workshop successful.

INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH MEDIA

DATE: 20th September, 2005

PLACE: Gomti Hotel, Lucknow.

On 20th September 2005, an interactive session with the Media was organised by BETI Foundation for the upcoming State Level PACS Consultation to be held on 22nd – 23rd September 2005 with the guidance of Mr. Santosh Dwivedi, State Anchor, PACS UP. The objective of the interactive session with media was:

- To disseminate information regarding the PACS Programme to the larger community.
- To give information regarding the upcoming State Level Consultation "Empowerment for Livelihoods : State Policy, Private Initiatives and Civil Society Action".
- To develop an understanding towards the poorest societies

The session was facilitated by Mr. Santosh Dwivedi, State Anchor, PACS Programme and the dais was shared by Mr. Vinod Jain, Trust Consulting and Ms Runa Banerjee, SEWA, Lucknow along with him.

Ms. Runa Banerjee welcomed the media representatives to the session and said that the PACS Programme is working with poorest of the poor and if the media collaborates with the programme then it will become easy to combat poverty and suffering in the project areas. Civil Society Organizations could only act as a guidance force. The real work could be done by the media.

After the welcome address, Mr. Santosh Dwivedi gave a presentation of the PACS Programme for India and for Uttar Pradesh. MR. Dwivedi further elaborated that it is essential to empower the poor of the poorest areas and this can only be sustained after the programme ends with the kind cooperation of the media.

Questions Raised By Media Representatives during the Interface.

- How does the PACS Programme intend to build capacities of the poor?
- What has the PACS Programme done till now?
- What does the PACS Programme intends to do in the future?

While answering the questions Mr. Santosh Dwivedi elaborated that in Uttar Pradesh the PACS Programme is working with a network of 94 Civil Society Organizations working for different projects in 2535 villages of 1250 Gram Panchayats. A lot of Self Help Groups have been developed and the groups have been associated with Small Scale Industries and Enterprises for training. Some of them are based on *Chikankari* and other handicrafts. Panchayats have also given trainings to the groups and have also seen increased participation of the group members.

Media Representatives were also anxious to know about the outcomes of the PACS Programme in Uttar Pradesh. This was detailed by Ms. Runa Banerjee while giving example of SEWA Lucknow. She said that in two blocks work is being done in 50 Gram Panchayats with the Pradhans and efforts are also being done to build their capacities on various issues. The mode of training is usually role play and discussions in which the roles and responsibilities of Pradhans are elaborated. She said that 17 Pradhans from Nindura block of District Lucknow and 28 Pradhans from Bachrawan block of District Rae Bareilly have been an achievement in itself.

While answering another query on the number of women trained by SEWA Lucknow, Ms. Banerjee said that 1000 women have been trained in 50 villages till date. She said that efforts are done to make market accessible to these women, associate them with various Financial Institutions and build their capacities so that the structure built by SEWA is sustained. Raw materials for making basket, bedspreads, *chikankari* and knitting is also made available to them and later they are associated with some kind of income generation programme. She also elaborated that in our patriarchal society women have low self-confidence. Efforts are also done to increase their confidence level so that they could fight for their rights.

Mr. Santosh Dwivedi also invited all the Media Representatives to get first hand information from the field. Mr. Vinod Jain while answering queries on attaching the Self Help Groups to the Financial Institutions said that villagers have information regarding various Financial Institutions but they do not have resources to get associated with them. There are problems with the Financial Institutions on trusting the villagers for giving loans, for example no security or other type of document is needed for obtaining loan of upto Rs. 50000 from the bank but still no women is able to obtain this amount as loan from the bank.

Mr. Anil Singh of NEED elaborated that the real problem is that the people for whom we have long discussions do not know about the schemes and programmes existing for them so there is an ardent need for all of us to come together and help them get access to the existing schemes, programmes and services for them. He elaborated his discussions with successful examples from the field like there is a myth that girls are incapable of studying Science subjects but with the proper access to the schools 11 girls of a single school in Muzaffarabad have cleared the High School Examination in first division. This shows that the need for today is that we conjointly make efforts for the upliftment of the poor. He said that CSOs have made efforts in the villages and it is true that the situations have changed. The field experiences are some times so surprising that the committees in the Gram Panchayats have resources but still they do not work. The Pradhans think themselves as political leaders but they never work. The need of the hour is to motivate them to work and fulfill the needs of the villagers.

Mr. Santosh Dwivedi on concluding the session invited all the Media Representatives to the Consultation "Empowerment for Livelihoods : State Policy, Private Initiatives and Civil Society Action" scheduled for 22nd -23rd September 2005 and also thanked them for giving their valuable time for this session.

“Saajha Sankalp”

Lucknow - 23rd September 2005

We the stakeholders under the umbrella of the Poorest Areas Civil Society Programme supported by Department of International Development (DFID), India, under the Management Consultancy of Development Alternatives and Pricewaterhouse Coopers, today subsequent to a two day consultation on “Empowerment for Livelihoods: State Policy, Private Initiatives and Civil Society Action” today, in Lucknow at Ganna Sansthan, Lucknow, on 23rd September 2005, together declare the Saajha Sankalp, where all of us unanimously make the following commitments:

COMMITMENT 1

We will set concrete targets in our respective areas of work, so that we are able to enhance the attainment of Millennium Development Goals (MDG) through appropriate and relevant plans and interventions.

COMMITMENT 2

We will work in a synergetic manner with different stakeholders, prominently with the Government, to leverage resources for promotion of livelihoods and ensure reduction of poverty in our operational areas.

COMMITMENT 3

We will undertake strategic planning together so that we set a realistic and attainable time line for the achievement of our targets.

COMMITMENT 4

We will reduce existing gender gaps by promoting girls/women’s education, economic empowerment, improved health services through collaborated action and concerted efforts, for ensuring equity in access to entitlements. We would also work with disabled community for equity and entitlements.

COMMITMENT 5

We will work to bring about systematic reform and improve service delivery by including PRIs & communities through purposive & focussed linkages for sustaining developmental efforts.

COMMITMENT 6

We will work to improve the infrastructure, in terms of enhancing the access of all communities to safe drinking water, hygienic environmental sanitation, schools, primary health centres and hospitals, rural roads, electricity and other public services, to provide an improved quality of living.

COMMITMENT 7

We will empower consumers to demand better services from Government, introduce competition among public, private and corporate providers and stimulate frontline workers, to be more motivated and accountable to beneficiaries.

