

Development Conference Report

B I H A R



21st-22nd August, 2005



**Poorest Areas Civil Society Programme
[PACS]**

Management Consultants

★ **Development Alternatives - PricewaterhouseCoopers (P) Ltd.** 

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PREFACE

Bihar presents a paradoxical picture with regard to the available resources and development. On the one hand it has rich and fertile land, numerous rivers, abundant rain, skilled handy craft, rich cultural heritage, eminent institutes for learning; while on the other, it has the lowest per capita income, the lowest literacy rate, poor health services, recurring floods and droughts. All these indicate lack of foresight, indecisiveness and unwillingness in making policies and execution by those working for development of Bihar over the past decades. At present the crucial need is to properly understand the pathetic situation of development in Bihar, prioritize the challenges and synthesize the planning with the existing realities. The civil society organizations and all the other stakeholders need to come together to work in tandem so as to spread the development to the margins of the society and break the cycle of underdevelopment in Bihar.

With this goal, Poorest Areas Civil Society or PACS program, funded by DFID and managed by Development Alternatives and Pricewaterhousecoopers Ltd, organized a State Development Conference (SDC) from the 21st -22nd August, 2005 in the capital city of Bihar. It brought in thoughts, ideas and practices from within and outside the state, from the extreme poverty end to the policy makers, from the civil society practices to the market and to the government schemes and policies. The participants were from academics, government agencies, state government representatives, representatives of major financial institutions, the corporate, media and the PACS-Civil Society Organizations. Extreme care had been taken to structure this conference so as to capture the thoughts of all streams of development and analyze the real challenges and draw action plan for future cooperation and action.

The conference was divided into four technical sessions; Development Challenges, Development Dynamics, Micro-Finance & Enterprise and Agriculture & Allied Business. Each of the sessions had renowned panelists to discuss and efficiently moderate the discussions and sum-up the key points for further action. After each session the house was kept open for queries and suggestions to make the process more interactive.

Several vital issues were discussed and comparative examples were drawn from across the country and even from outside India. The role of state and civil society organizations, other development agencies came into focus and the need for them to effectively collaborate with mainstream efforts. Women's role in development was highlighted as the major thrust area. Participation in the local governance, proper training, awareness generation, opening up women commission centers, were some of the ways discussed to mainstream the women and the marginalized into the developmental processes. Regarding caste system it was thought that the social fabric not only segregates community into strong lines on the basis of caste but its dogmas impact the livelihood pattern at large. The State in Bihar was emphasized as weak while the Central government was blamed for its unfavorable policies towards the state. Similarly the civil society was thought to be not as strong as in other developing state's in India and a market-led approach is required for making development sustainable.

The second day was an obvious flow from the wider topic of Development Challenges and Dynamics to more specific topics of Micro Finance & Enterprise and Agriculture & Allied Business. The participants were executives from most of the financial institutions, corporate, government officials and representatives of civil society organizations. The representatives of the financial institutions provided a narrative of their role and the bottlenecks in facilitating micro finance and micro enterprise in the rural areas. During the Agriculture & Allied Business session several challenges and scopes were discussed in this field ranging from production feasibility, technology application, market potential, credit availability, innovations, etc. It was thought that institutions such as NGOs or corporate working in this field should strike a balance to make lives better for the poor.

This conference brought out the vital challenges and its remedies to the fore front; it also tried to merge the policies with the grass root realities and tried to synergize the civil society action, the market forces and the government policies. It also brought in newer ideas to implement the policies related to the marginalized. It made the policy makers and officials rethink about the policies and their executing strategies. It also gave PACS a better understanding for future activities in Bihar. However, most importantly it refurbished the sense of confidence and the drive among the grass root civil society institutions to work for the downtrodden; after all it is they who are the vital link in the overall development chain.



BACKGROUND & IMPORTANCE OF THE CONFERENCE

Socio-Economic Challenges in Bihar

Even after five decades of independence, Bihar is economically the most backward state in India. Bihar has the lowest per capita income among all the states of India- its per capita income (net GDP at factor cost at current prices) stands at a mere Rs. 2,904 as against Rs.5, 781 for India as a whole and Rs. 9,643 for Punjab [CMIE 1994: Table 10.2]. The state has the lowest literacy rate among the major states of India. This acute poverty and backwardness can be traced to the backwardness of both its agricultural and industrial sectors. Among the major states of India it has the lowest per capita (rural) income (net value added from agriculture) - Rs. 948 (average of 1987-88 to 1989-90) as against Rs. 1522 for India as a whole and Rs. 3,929 for Punjab [CMIE1994: Table 7.2]. The reasons for the extreme backwardness of agriculture are both institutional and technological. Where as structural and institutional factors have been operating as a powerful barrier to the agrarian transformation, the technological factors such as poor development of infrastructure like irrigation and power, non-availability of modern inputs, low value of credit and poor extension services, etc. have also contributed much to the dismal performance of the state's agricultural sector. The major explanation of the state's backwardness and poverty, however, has to be traced to the rural sector and the employment structure is a pointer towards this factor.

Table 1 : Growth and structure of Employment in Bihar
(in 000)

Sector	1961	1971	1981	1991
Primary	15433 (80.23)	14813 (84.70)	16916 (81.51)	21099 (82.36)
Secondary	1592 (8.28)	985 (05.63)	149 (7.18)	1188 (04.64)
Tertiary	2210 (11.49)	1691 (09.67)	2397 (11.31)	3352 (13.08)
All Sectors	19233 (100.00)	17489 (100.00)	20753 (100.00)	25619 (100.00)

Note: Figures in brackets show the percentage share of the sector to total.
Source: Census of India, 1961, 1971, 1981, 1991.

One of the long standing problems in Bihar's economy has been lack of economic diversification (Sharma 1995): more than 80% of rural population is engaged in agricultural sector. Successive Bihar governments have attempted to facilitate development in non-farm sector but a poor investment climate has discouraged prospective investors from selecting Bihar. Wage employment in agriculture labor accounted for 40-42% of the rural workforce in the period 1993 to 2000, but still constituted the dominant occupation in the rural areas of state. There is very limited occupational opportunity outside the agriculture sector in Bihar.

There is a sharp contrast in occupational distribution between the poor and the non-poor. The poor are far more likely to be agricultural laborer or casual non-farm laborer rather than cultivators or employed in regular non-farm jobs. Over the time share of agriculture labor in the poorest quintile has declined while casual non-farm labor and self-employed non-farm occupation have increased. This shift does not necessarily mean an improvement in occupational status but it may be that it's the last resort when other options have been exhausted. Casual labor offers one of the lowest wages among other occupation and it is usually short and unstable.



In the rural areas, land ownership is closely associated with poverty not just because land provides the main source of income but also because land ownership improves access to economic and social opportunities.

The poor typically own less land than the non-poor in Bihar. In fact, 75% of the rural poor were “landless” or “near landless” in 1999-2000. This has expanded by 8% since 1993-94. The high levels of inequality that persisted in land ownership may be partly attributed to slack progress in land reform in state. Land reform started in 1950 with the abolition of intermediaries between landlords and cultivators who worked under feudal lords, often under exploitative conditions. The first Land Ceiling Act was passed in 1961 but its progress has been extremely slow where only 1.5% land was acquired and distributed by 1986, of which surplus land accounted for 20% (Sharma 1995). The analysis so far show that marginal land holders and individuals engaged in agricultural and casual non farm labor are likely to be poor. Consistent with this a high correlation between land holding and occupation is observed in the NSSO data of 1999-2000. Marginal land owners are much more likely to be engaged in agriculture labor, casual non farm labor and self employed activities than large land owner: large land owners are engaged in cultivation and regular non farm labor than marginal land owners.

Further analysis show that although dependence on agriculture is almost 80-82% and it serves as main source of livelihood, yet the land holding pattern suggests that most of the farmers are landless or have very small land holding. In the context of large inequality in land ownership in Bihar and the high incidence of poverty among marginal farmer and the landless it is important to highlight the role played by contractual arrangement of land leasing in the livelihood of these groups. In 1998 nearly 25% of cultivated land in rural Bihar was leased-in (Srivastava 2003). For small land holders (0.5 to 1 acres), leased-in land was as much as half the size of their cultivable land, for SC/ST household around 80% of cultivable land was leased-in.

Livelihood vis-à-vis social fabric & identity: The social fabric of Bihar is also unique in comparison to other states of India and still has a pronounced hangover of the medieval period. The social fabric not only segregates community into strong line of caste system and its dogmas but also has effect on the livelihood pattern at large. The social fabric in many areas shackles particular section of community into rigid livelihood activities, e.g. Dalit still in villages can only do the work of sweeper or other basic cleaning activities. This has hindered in exploration of various other livelihood opportunities or in other word led to heavy dependence on one activity only, thereby reducing the scope of diversification, a must for overall development.

Studies have revealed significant links between social identity and poverty in India. Social or caste characteristics are associated with constraints and lack of opportunities that cut across multiple dimensions: caste identity is a strong indicator of the poor, illiterate, low paid, low status agricultural labor or those living in poorly constructed housing with limited access to basic services. In Bihar, despite decades of effort on the part of successive government the SC/STs are likely be around three times more poorer than the upper caste and appreciably poorer than the other backward castes and Muslims

Consistent with this, per capita household expenditure and land ownership of SC/ST is significantly lower than that from the non-SC/ ST castes in both urban and rural areas in 1992-2000 and the gap has remained virtually unchanged since 1993-94. SC/ST household are almost three times more likely to be landless than others.

A number of factors account for the gap in living standard between the SC/ST and majority of the households. First SC/ST is less likely to own much land or have much education. More than 70% of household heads from SC/ST were illiterate in 1999-2000 as compared to about half of the household heads from other social group (source 50th and 55th round NSSO survey schedule I&II). Second the job opportunity of SC/ST tends to restricted to low paid jobs: around 60% of SC/ST's tends to be restricted to low paid jobs: around 60% of SC/ST where engaged in agricultural labor compared to only 30%in the case of other households.

Agricultural production & Irrigation facility : Agriculture productivity in Bihar, despite of being situated on one of the most fertile plains of earth, has always been a victim of poor resource management and infrastructural support both from the government and community at large. Looking at the entire period of three decades, it is seen that the rate of growth of agricultural productivity during the period 1962- 65 to 1992-95 was 2.30 per cent per annum for the



country as a whole. The State of Bihar registered a lower rate of growth during this period. Punjab and West Bengal recorded high growth rates in agricultural production and registered above average growth rates in agricultural productivity. The trend in increase in agricultural productivity of the States corresponds fairly closely to the trend of rapid decrease in population below the poverty line of the States, which seems to be happening reverse for Bihar. States in which agricultural production has increased significantly are the States in which there has been a rapid decline in poverty (source: Tenth Five year plan, 2002-07).

In the post independence era, the efforts of the state towards eradication of poverty have largely failed. In the absence of economic growth, both in agriculture and industry, and unsatisfactory working of various anti-poverty welfare programs, the plight of the poor remains the same. The efforts towards, poverty alleviation have largely been wasted and gains have been substantially controlled by the non-poor, even in programs specifically addressed to the poor. As a matter of fact, the mobilization of the poor on several issues is a significant development need and offers some hope amidst the general climate of despair. In the context of the acutely exploitative agrarian structure and impoverishment of the poor, massive mobilization of civil society institutions, long-term and committed support by Government, bilateral and international agencies become very crucial.

Civil Action PACS programme

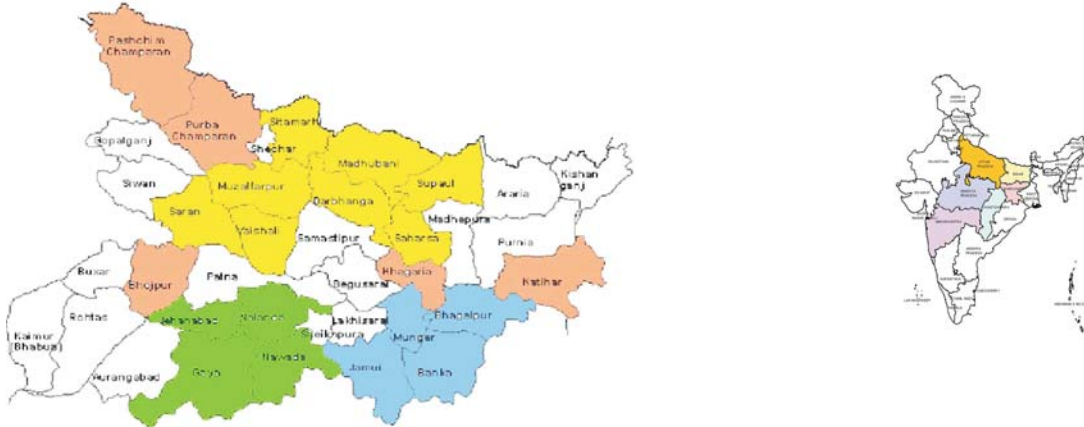
The Poorest Areas Civil Society programme (PACS) aims to reduce poverty through fostering a long-term engagement with poor communities for their sustainable development. The programme aims to strengthen the capacities of the civil society institutions so that they can work for the development of the poor, advocate for their rights, influence policies, demand their entitlements, overcome social and economic barriers, and create opportunities to make a better life for the poor. It does this through close involvement with reputed civil society organizations (CSOs) working in some of the most backward areas in Bihar and other poor states. Spread across India's most backward regions in six states, the PACS Programme is the single largest anti-poverty programme being implemented in the country by CSOs. Department for International Development, Government of UK financially supports the programme in India. The programme addresses the thematic areas related to local self-governance, women's empowerment, policy advocacy and self-help.

A consortium of two reputed organizations manages the PACS Programme: Development Alternatives, an internationally recognized and diversified development agency headquartered in New Delhi, working on sustainable development over the last two decades and PricewaterhouseCoopers (P) Ltd, the largest professional services firm in India and a member of the global network of PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) International Limited. A National Board of Advisors comprising 12 members representing a wide cross section of Indian civil society guides the programme.

PACS in Bihar: A Strategically Appropriate Intervention in Bihar

The PACS programme in Bihar covers select geographic locations in 21 districts. In all, 84 Civil Society Organizations are involved in furthering the vision and mission of PACS programme in Bihar. Specifically, PACS programme has reached to 103 Blocks and over 2000 villages. The PACS programme in Bihar mainly addresses the issues of Women development and empowerment, sustainable livelihoods for the poor, participation of women in Panchayati Raj and build community based people's organizations for their development. The programme seeks active participation and collaboration with local self-governments, block, district and state government functionaries, corporate and other national and international development support agencies.

The issue of poor governance is being addressed through its emphasis on policy advocacy and strengthening of Panchayati Raj Institutions. Stress on women empowerment and social cohesion along with policy advocacy are aimed at reducing social and economic insecurity. Inequity based on caste, class, gender and region are also addressed equally. Strengthening of NGOs and CBOs is the backbone of PACS programme, as CSOs have been proved to be effective in the poor regions, where government performance has been abysmal. PACS key strategies (strengthening CSOs for creating people's organization) gels well with the development needs of Bihar. As said earlier, creating people's organization is identified as the most effective strategy to address the social and economic



ailments of Bihar as a state.

Coverage

In all, 19 projects are currently operational under PACS. Of these 9 are with individual NGOs and 10 with Lead CSOs and their network partners bringing the total number of NGOs involved in the programme to 54. Against a projected coverage of 35 districts (Jehanabad has been reorganized into 2 districts : Jehanabad and Arwal) and 480 blocks, the proposed coverage extends to 21 districts, 103 blocks and 84 CSOs. The total number of villages covered under the PACS programme is 1567 and the proposed growth would cover 2030 villages. The details of coverage have been given under in table 5.

Table 5 Geographic Coverage

Coverage	Existing	Proposed Scale up	Total
Projects	19	13	32
CSO Partners	54	30	84
Districts	17	4	21
Blocks	81	22	103
Network Project	10	4	14
Individual projects	9	9	18
No. of villages	1567	463	2030

PACS Programme reach

The primary focus of PACS programme over the last three plus years in Bihar has been identifying suitable civil society organizations and sets in motion the basic programme objectives. PACS programme is essentially geared towards bringing about a social change by strengthening CSOs and gearing them up as vehicles for change. Development thinkers and implementers have looked upon this task as very laudable. In the context of Bihar, this is particularly crucial, where mass movements and involvement are the sinequa-non for change. In a nutshell, PACS programme in Bihar focuses on:

- Creating People's groups and institutions
- Collective voice for the poor and a strong platform for facilitating action at the micro and macro level
- Create access, opportunities and options for sustainable development



- Strengthen Civil Society Organizations for offering support systems and facilitating an enabling environment for development
- Create a cadre of development professionals and resource agencies to support and build the capacities of community based and civil society organizations

PACS in Bihar reaches out to approximately 450,000 people directly, which would be extended to over 800,000 people in the near future. PACS programme is poised to cover 21 districts with an overall outreach of over 1.6 million people.

Bihar State Development Conference

Reducing poverty and providing sustainable livelihood options has been the major goal of development planning in India since independence. More than 50% of Bihar's population still lives below the poverty line and ensuring a minimum standard of living for all its citizens remain as formidable as ever. The proposed conference intends to bring together different stakeholders to deliberate on these challenging issues. This state level consultation is mainly aimed at evoking a state-wide attention towards the growing nature of poverty, deprivation and helplessness of the poor and the urgent need for collective action.

Goal of the Bihar State Development Conference

State Development Conference aimed at bringing development challenges of Bihar on the state and national agenda and help develop a set of key strategic directions for the development of Bihar through the collective participation of government, bilateral, the corporate and the CSOs.

Objectives

- To develop firm networks and partnerships between the poor, the government, private sector, civil society and other stakeholders on the basis of clear commitments
- To engender a collective understanding on poverty elimination efforts in Bihar, the success stories and failures
- To deliberate on result-based approaches for collective action for development: explore innovative approaches and resource commitments.

Thematic focus

- Development Challenges in Bihar: Social, religious, economic and political
- State Policy, Private Initiative and Civic Action
- Making Institutions work for the poor
- Promoting sustainable livelihood options for poor
- Promoting development cooperation: Government, bilateral, International NGOs, CSOs and Corporate

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CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

Poorest Areas Civil Society or PACS programme, funded by DFID and managed by Development Alternatives and Pricewaterhouse coopers ltd, organized a State Development Conference (SDC) from the 21st -22nd August, 2005 in the capital city of Bihar.

A day before the SDC a press conference was organized by the PACS representatives to acquaint media with the issues that would be discussed at SDC and also about the progress made by PACS in Bihar.

After the press conference an informal meeting between Mrs Malini Bhattacharya, Member, National Commission for Women and CSO representatives was arranged. The objective

Was to discuss the policies and projects of the women commission and the role CSOs can play in context of these policies and the projects to enhance the quality of life of downtrodden women.



SDC formally started on the 21st August 2005 with traditional “lighting of the lamp” by the Chief guest Mrs Malini Bhattacharya, The guest of Honour Justice (Retired) P.S Sahay, Patna High Court, PACS Program Director Mrs Kiran Sharma. Mrs Kiran Sharma welcomed the guests and outlined the achievements of PACS program and its strategies ahead. After that, Mr. Rakesh Jha, Bihar State Anchor-PACS spoke on the achievements of PACS in Bihar and on the objectives of the conference. The Chief Guest Mrs Malini Bhattacharya gave her speech focusing on the role of women in development. The guest of Honour Justice (retd) P.S. Sahay on his turn spoke on role of the state and the people in developing Bihar.

A film “Voices and Choices”, capturing the voices of the grass-root people was shown in the conference to remind about the central thought of the conference. It highlighted the plight of the downtrodden and the marginalized and also reflected on how they were getting aware of their rights and benefits through PACS program. A study report by PACS on developmental challenges in Bihar was also released on this occasion.

The conference was divided into four technical sessions; Development Challenges, Development Dynamics, Micro-Finance & Enterprise and on Agriculture & Allied Business. Each of the sessions had renowned panelists to discuss and critically appraise the developmental process with their experience and come up with a common path for development. After each session the house was kept open for queries and suggestions to make the process more interactive.

The first session began with focus on developmental challenges. The social, economic, political, the role of state and civil society organizations and other developing agencies were critically appraised. Women's role in development was highlighted as the major thrust area. Participation in the local governance, proper training, disseminating right information, opening up women commission centers, were some of the ways discussed to mainstream women.

Post lunch, the second session on the Development Dynamics began with another set of panelists that consisted of senior government officials, academicians, social activists and journalists. A presentation on the learning from participatory assessment study conducted under the umbrella of PACS-Bihar was done in this session. The open house queries and suggestions made this session more grass root oriented. The improper land relations, low productivity, and less scope for business that consequently lead to high rate of migration, were some of the areas that drew attention of the panelist. The government schemes were discussed and



critically examined. The first day of the conference was concluded with deliberation on summary of day's events



Day-2 of the conference was a natural flow from the wider topics of developmental challenges and dynamics to more specific topics of Micro Finance & Enterprise and Agriculture & Allied Business. The day began with the recap of the previous day's discussions by two CSO representatives, after which the session started with the participants from financial institutions, corporate, government agencies and representatives of civil society organizations. The financial institutions provided a narrative of their role in facilitating micro finance and micro enterprise in the rural areas. The World Bank came up with an innovative approach of providing "risk fund" to the poorest while SBI, NABARD, SIDBI explained how they are inviting proposals to work with the grass-root organizations. The representative of CAMPFED highlighted the success and failures in its venture. During the session several vital aspects came to the fore in relations to the work of the financial institutions, process of micro finance and setting up micro enterprise.

Post lunch, the session on agriculture and allied business started with the panelists focusing on scope and the bottlenecks in this field. With the queries and suggestions from the CSOs and other participants several vital aspects came to the fore. On the basis of the discussion an appeal was made to the state (government) to urgently come up with a solution to tackle the problems related to land entitlement, floods, infrastructure and agriculture. The civil society and the financial institutions were called upon for a collective action with the local institutions for the benefit of the poor farmers and laborers.

The SDC ended with a round up all the issues that came in as a result of all the discussions.

Press Briefing

Media is a vital tool for disseminating information to the widest mass. To make the issues and consequent discussions of Stated Development Conference reach the mass, a Press conference was called at Hotel Maurya on the 20th August, 2005. Media was explained in detail the goal and objective of PACS, how it works, its areas of operation in India and in Bihar, duration of the program, issues that it is working on and its achievements in the past four years. The magnitude and importance given by Media to the State Development Conference can be judged by the presence of all the important media houses and their elaborate reports. All the State level newspapers gave appropriate coverage. Besides, the story was also covered by Sahara Television, Local Cable News Channel and All India Radio.

Constructive Dialogue -Informal Meeting

It was thought by the PACs functionaries to have an informal meeting of the CSO partners with the state development conference chief guest Mrs. Malini Bhattacharya. The meeting started soon after the press conference at 6.45 P.M at Hotel Maurya. Mrs. Malini Bhattacharya spoke at length about the women related problems and how women commission is handling it (a gist is incorporated in her inaugural address). She said

empowering and improving the lives of poor...



that the laws, rights, developing agencies, women advisory bodies like women commission etc, should be taken as a tool for women empowerment. She invited proposals from the CSOs for setting up awareness camps at the grass-root level. Though this session lasted for a short duration it acted as a warm up for the two days seminar that was to start the next day.

Address by the Chief Guest Mrs. Malini Bhattacharya

The State Development Conference was inaugurated by Mrs Malini Bhattacharya, Member, National Commission for Women. In her speech she said that one of the prime reasons for the underdevelopment of Bihar is violence and atrocities on women. Dowry deaths, female foeticide, witch-hunting, caste based exploitations are still prevalent in our country especially in Bihar. The spread of education is not helping in stopping crime against women. There is a vast gap between the practice and theory among the people so far as women issues are concerned. People speak on equality of women in public but seldom follow it at home or internalize these thoughts.



Currently, one of the biggest problems among the poor especially women is that they find the “laws” to be too complicated. The developing institutions and government agencies should try to simplify these laws through massive awareness campaigns. She said that women commission is inviting proposals from local NGOs for holding awareness camps on rights and laws related to women.

She also highlighted the fact that laws, rights, enforcing agencies, advisory bodies, women commission, etc should be taken as a tool for women empowerment. At present our country is moving in the right direction. Reservations in Panchayats, Anti dowry Act, PNDT Act, all these tools are being used for the empowerment of women and development of the society. Forming SHGs and other institutions are another form of tools. To carry on this effort the grass root voluntary organizations can paly a lead role by channelizing poor peoples voices. However, true empowerment would come when the people would start voicing their grievances by themselves.

Address by Guest of Honour Justice (retd.) PS Sahay

Justice (retd.) P S Sahay, the Guest of Honour, blamed the weak state government and its strategies for the underdevelopment in Bihar. According to him Jharkhand-Bihar divide further deteriorated its condition. He emphasized on education as one of important tools for enriching the understanding capacities of the poor. Unless the poor are educated they would not understand and question the development process. He also said that women need to participate in the development process and for that their awareness level has to be increased. The CSOs have a lead role to play in the overall development of Bihar. They are the representatives of the people and have the responsibility to amplify poor people's voices. He also emphasized on the point that the common people should be made aware of their “duties and responsibilities” along with their “rights”.

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THE DIALOGUE & CONSULTATION

Development Challenges

Panelist: Dr. A.K Basu, Chairman PCS-PACS Program; Mr. Shakti Sinha IAS; and Dr. Shaibal Gupta, Director ADRI

Bihar is facing numerous challenges in its development; exploitation of women, caste hegemony, floods and droughts, unequal land distribution, underdeveloped market, weak state government, are just few of them. It was a daunting task for the panelists to specify and prioritize the challenges that Bihar needs to overcome and it was only the expertise and skill of the panelists that this dialogue came out with such startling revelations in a short period of time. The open house session at the end of the dialogue provided a space for the grass root organizations to put their views, which in turn was useful to the panelists to be more focused and attached to the end beneficiary. The dialogue on developmental challenges began soon after the speech of the chief guest and guest of honour.



The “role and status of women” is one of the most prominent issues regarding the development of Bihar. Women are still considered to be 2nd class citizens. Dr. A K Basu and other panelists spoke extensively on the status, role and ways to empower women in Bihar. They emphasized on women having more potential and talent compared to men in many aspects. They play a vital role in the households and in the fields but sadly are perceived as value-less by the family members and the society. He emphasized on the valuation of women's work in the household and in the fields in social and economic terms.

Dr. Basu reiterated Mrs Malini Bhattacharya's point that there is provision of tools (laws, rights, benefits, etc) for the poor and women but women and the poor are unable to use them because of lack of know-how. The need is to make them understand these tools through extensive awareness campaign.

Dr. AK Basu also spoke on the caste hegemony in Bihar. He emphasized on the point that the social fabric not only segregates community into strong lines of caste system and its dogmas but also provides hindrance in the exploration of livelihood opportunities. While political participation seems to be assured for them when it comes to access and control over resources, their rights are denied. Any developmental activity should integrate these marginalized communities into the development process.

Dr. Shaibal Gupta explained three major issues concerning the under development of Bihar. viz. market, civil society and the state. Market has an important role to play in development as we can see in other states of India and in other countries. In Bihar market and population ratio is too less. About 8% of the total country's population lives in Bihar while 4% of the market is available in here, which shows that most of the transaction is done outside market in the form of barter. Bihar has a different orientation so far as civil society is concerned. The sub national or regional identity of Bihar is missing. Anti caste movements had never been strong in Bihar.

The forced de-industrialization during the industrial revolution has also led to an anti modernization feeling among the people of this state. State government's reach has been limited in Bihar. Since British times, governance in the state had been on the negative side. The per capita non-planned expenditure has been



lowest in Bihar. Civil services expansion vis a vis population has not been proper. The state government needs to be strengthened in order to implement land reforms and increase the public investment in agriculture, and then only we can diversify in other sectors. Giving example of the productive role of NGOs in Bangladesh he concluded that NGOs could play a very significant role in the overall development of Bihar.

Mr. Shakti Sinha compared the socio-economic status of India and Bihar in terms of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In some aspects Bihar is improving for instance reduction in Child Malnutrition, which is 54% and access to Improved Water Sources, which is 75%, but in many other aspects there is an urgent need for improvement. The poverty rate in Bihar is 39%, while female literacy rate is 33%. He said that the rate of poverty can be reduced if we focus on the issues regarding access to land, access to irrigation, access to health and educational facilities, access to infrastructure and the prevalence of casual labour in farm, off-farm and non-farm activities.

The session on developmental challenges ended in an open house. The CSOs put forward several suggestions and questions, some of them were; the already existing women organizations should be strengthened, how can exploitation of women by men be stopped, how can those sitting at the central government hear the voices of women exploitation, what could be done to those male members who generally agree on the gender problems in public but actually exploit women at home, there should be time bound dispensation of cases, women commission should not become part of national politics and the government should provide cheaper and better health services as the poor spend most of their savings on health.

Development Dynamics

Panelists : Mr. Vijay Prakash, Secretary Primary and Adult Education, Govt. of Bihar; Manju Prakash, Chairperson, State Commission for Women; Dr. Prakash Louis, Director Bihar Social Institute; Ms. Bindeswari Negi IAS, Addl. Secy. Rural Development, Govt of Bihar; Mr. Arjun Prasad, Dy. Secretary Rural Development, Govt. of Bihar; Mr. Abhay Kumar Jha, Media Specialist, Delhi

The session on development dynamics began with eminent personalities from diverse fields. They tried to examine the forces behind the development of Bihar and also break Bihar's image of "Prophetic Backwardness". Marginalization was elaborately discussed in the conference. Dr. Prakash Louis tried to establish links between social identity and poverty in India. Social or caste characteristics are associated with constraints and lack of opportunities that cut across multiple dimensions. In Bihar, despite decades of effort on the part of successive government the schedule castes and tribes are likely be around three times more poor than the upper caste and appreciably poorer than the other backward castes and Muslims. Consistent with this, per capita household expenditure and land ownership of them is significantly lower than that from other castes in both urban and rural areas. Dr. Prakash Louis pointed out that the government should propose concrete





measures to address the specific needs of these marginalized communities ensuring their political participation and addressing their livelihood and resource issues.

Flood and drought are another set of prominent problems facing Bihar. Bihar is the most flood prone state in India. 56.5% of the total flood affected population of the country resides in Bihar and 69 lakh hectares, which is about 17 % of the total flood affected area in the country lies in Bihar. Similar is the case with drought. Dr. Praksh Louis highlighted that positive and pro poor traditional institutions should be strengthened with the help of the civil society organizations to solve the flood and drought problem.



Migration was another important issue examined by the panelists especially Mr. Vijay Prakash. Bihar is economically the most backward state in India. It has the lowest per capita income among all

the states. This acute poverty and backwardness can be traced to the backwardness of both its agricultural and industrial sectors, which accounts for high rate of migration. Mr. Vijay Prakash however, highlighted that migration can be taken positively as well. Though forced migration is a sign of underdevelopment, free migration has a positive impact. These migrants contribute to the growth of the economy of the family and the society from where they migrate. Care should be taken to upgrade the skills of these migrants.

Mrs Manju Prakash pointed out that the women in Bihar are not only economically poor but they are poor in other aspects too. No revolution has yet taken place for women empowerment in Bihar. Currently there are a few legislations and they too are not implemented properly. The condition of the Dalit women is worse. She emphasized upon awareness generation as the best tool for empowering women. Booklets on laws, women rights and benefits should be distributed among the women in the villages. The CSOs can play an important role in disseminating information to the poor on such issues. She proposed that the primary school teaching should be completely reserved for women. She also pointed out that her department has sent 30 recommendations regarding women empowerment to the state government but no response has come yet.

There is a plethora of schemes running through the government viz Swarn Jayanti Swarojgar Yojna, Hariyali Yojna, Food for Work, etc however, their execution is not done properly and the benefits never reach the poor. Mr Arjun Prasad pointed out that Panchayti Raj institutions could best bring the benefits of these schemes to the poor. The civil society organizations should play a lead role in strengthening the voice of the people and make them aware of the schemes and help them avail it. Sometimes there is an overlap in functioning of the government and voluntary organizations, which should be sorted out. He also emphasized that development without considering the environment ultimately leads to destruction of mankind therefore any development should be eco-friendly.

Media in other countries give priorities to development however, in India development has a secondary space in media. Mr. Abhay Kumar Jha emphasized on sensitizing the national, regional and local media. He said that the CSOs should know the media houses that prefer developmental stories and they should also develop the potential and habit of writing to media for publications. He also asked the CSOs to make use of the local and folk media for awareness generation in remote areas.



This session ended in an open house with queries and suggestions from the CSO partners. Some of them were; the voluntary agencies should act as pressure groups to solve the problem of flood, how can women commission have greater influence in the implementation of women laws, any development should include the Dalits, the state government should come up with a proper strategy for involving voluntary agencies in implementing its programs and priority should be given to media sensitization at the local, state and national level.

Micro Finance & Enterprise

Panelists: Mr. B.S Bhaduria CGM NABARD; Mr. Parmesh Shah, Representative, World Bank; Dr. A.K Basu, Chairman PCS-PACS Program; Mr. G S Singh, Chief Manager, SBI, Patna, Girish Shankar, representative, COMPFED; Mr. T.N Singh, Manager, SIDBI, Mr. Yugandhar Mandavkar, Director, GRASP

The third session on micro finance and micro enterprise was a natural flow from the wider topic of development challenges and dynamics. The participants were executives from financial institutions, corporate, government agencies and representatives of civil society organizations. The representatives of financial institutions provided a narrative of their role in facilitating micro finance and micro enterprise in the rural areas. The World Bank came up with an innovative approach of providing “risk fund” to the poorest while SBI, NABARD, SIDBI explained how they are inviting proposals to work with the grass-root organizations. The representative of CAMPFED highlighted the success and failures in their venture. During the session several issues were also discussed that impede development in Bihar.

Mr. Parmesh Shah spoke on the initiatives of the World Bank. According to him the World Bank is planning to provide “risk capital” to the SHGs to prove their credibility and get loan from the national banks. The CSOs have a big role to play in making the SHGs risk and credit worthy. If any NGO gets approval by any recognized rating agency, the world Bank can sanction loans to the NGOs. The World Bank is also forming “Bihar Innovators Forum” that would identify and promote institutional innovations in the micro finance and micro enterprise in Bihar. Mr. Shah also pointed out that the SHGs should be more discipline, save more, and should be linked to the banks/financial institutions. A process should be initiated whereby groups could be rated uniformly. They should be capacitated and trained enough to become risk and credit worthy. In doing these, the voluntary sectors especially PACS-CSOs can play a major role. Mr. Bhaduria explained the role of NABARD



In the developmental process. According to him NABARD is financially promoting the successful micro-enterprise at the grass-rootlevel and is also promoting the NGOs for capacity building and training of the SHGs. The CSOs can avail the benefits and loans from these institutes if they follow their norms. Till now with the help of NGOs, Government and Farmers Club, NABARD has facilitated in the formation of over 16 lakhs 18 thousand Self Help Groups in which 92% are of women and 95% recovery of the interest is done on time.



SIDBI is also promoting micro-finance through NGOs and MFIs. SFMC (Sidbi Foundation for Micro Credit) has been formed to promote micro financing in Bihar. According to SIDBI's representative, Mr. T.N Singh, SIDBI is in the process of identifying NGOs and cooperatives to carry out a pilot project in the field of micro finance. It is targeting women because of social empowerment and also because women are thought to be more responsible. According to Mr. Singh the amount that satisfy the groups is more important than the rate of interest charged on it. Mr. Singh also said that care should be taken for proper credit facility, skill up gradation and proper market for the micro enterprise to grow and coordination is required between financial institutions, government, corporate and the voluntary sector in this process.

SBI is taking special interest in the area of micro finance according to the SBI's representative Mr. G S Singh. It has a separate department and is treating the NGOs dealing with micro finance more intimately. SBI has circulated the list of NGOs that are earnestly working on micro-finance across its 900 branches. According to Mr. Singh, it has kept every Wednesday as "special day" for providing services to the SHGs in all the branches of Bihar. He also said that Panchayati Raj Institution should be taken into confidence for micro enterprise and the role of Panchayati Raj, Financial Institutions, Government and the Voluntary sectors should be clearly defined. The information system should be strong in the banking centers at the grass-root level and SHG lending should be kept outside the purview of money-lender's act.

COMPFED's goal is socio-economic betterment of marginalized class of the society. According to Mr. Girish Shankar, representative of COMPFED, it works with the mix of modern and traditional technology and ensures that it is within the reach of common people. In the social front the functional societies are working on fully democratic approach as even president of various societies are elected. COMPFED strength lies in excellent professional management, working on low margin, direct stake and good work culture. Low political interference at the grass-root level is also one of the reasons for its success. The hurdles in COMPFED journey of development are poor infrastructure of the state viz. poor condition of road, electricity supply, and poor marketing infrastructure.

Mr. Yugandhar Mandavkar briefed upon the scaling up of the SHGs on three fronts; (a) economic -internal lending, enhanced learning, and income generation, (b) social- alcoholism, etc and (c) political-forming pressure groups, etc. He also emphasized that the CSOs or any other organization should have the clarity on why to scale up, when to scale up and how to scale up.

Dr. A.K basu took up the issue of marginalized section and emphasized on the point that marginalized communities should be integrated in any developmental venture. There should be transparency in the financial institutions and those in charge at the grassroots institutions should be prompt and properly oriented about the policies of the institution. There is a lack of information in the villages; the financial institutions and the government sector should have an information center for the poor.



Dr. A.K Basu also pointed out that primary producer should get the maximum benefit in the production process. For this, more and more processing units need to be established in Bihar. Moreover, the quality of service is poor in the villages; one nodal service center should be built covering 20-30 villages. He also emphasized that the SHG lending should be kept outside the purview of money-lender's act.

The session ended in an open house. The CSOs put forward their queries and suggestions. Some of them were; the banks should treat the SHGs as their customers and not as a liability, the grass root officers of financial institutions should be properly oriented, strategy should be worked out so that micro-enterprise can enhance their product's quality and lower their price and the financial institutions should create greater awareness among the poor about their schemes and benefits.

Agriculture & Allied Business

Panelist: Dr. P.N Jha, Ex V.C , PUSA; Mr. Yugandhar Mandavkar, Director GRASP; Mr. Ujjal Ganguly, Manager ITC; Mr. R.S. Kumar, Project Director, DPEP, Bihar; Mr.Alok K. Sikka, Director ICAR-RCER



Poor resource management and poor infrastructural support both from the government and the community has always affected the agriculture productivity in Bihar. The efforts of the state towards eradication of poverty have not been very successful. In the absence of economic growth, both in agriculture and industry, and unsatisfactory working of various anti-poverty welfare programs, the plight of the poor remains the same. The efforts towards, poverty alleviation have largely been wasted and gains have been substantially controlled by the non-poor. Currently, the mobilization of the poor on several issues is a significant development need and offers some hope amidst the general climate of despair. Amidst this acutely exploitative agrarian structure and impoverishment of the poor, the role of civil society institutions, the government, bilateral and international agencies become very crucial. The session on Agriculture and Allied business dwelled on the challenges and suggested ways to improve the situation by sighting various success stories from other states and also from within Bihar.

Dr. P.N Jha elaborately analyzed several issues that are coming on way of agricultural development. He started with the land holding pattern in Bihar. The average cultivable land in Bihar per farm family is only 0.70 hectares and farming is mostly dependent on human labour, which poses a major challenge to be looked at for agricultural development. Moreover, there is a virtual absence of agro-processing units and entrepreneurship



development in Bihar, an area that urgently needs attention by all the development stakeholders. Another challenge is the poor infrastructure, which acts as a hindrance in the improvement of agriculture and allied business. Better electricity supply should be provided in the villages along with better forms of communication for faster transportation and also for improved dissemination of information. Irrigation availability is only in 40% cultivable land in Bihar. Better irrigation facility (better water harvesting), Bio-technology parks, Bio-Village, strengthening the State Agricultural University, establishing agro-based industries, processing units, etc were some other aspects required for the development of agriculture and allied business in this region.



According to Dr. P N Jha, a way out of backwardness in agriculture is by establishing more institutes for technological innovations. Grant-in-aid/financial assistance to Bihar is less as compared to other developed states and it should be increased. Slow rate of diversification of farming and adoption of improved technology is another area to be looked at for agricultural development. Poor credit facility in Bihar makes it tough for the villagers to venture into agriculture and allied business. The NGOs, Banks and the government institutions should act in coordination for better credit facility in this region.

Mr. RS Kumar and Mr. Alok Sikka emphasized on the quality of the product of any agro-enterprise, which is essential to make the productivity-chain sustaining. Innovations are needed and one such innovation is the “Agro Business Centers” opened for the poor farmers to hire agricultural equipments. Mr. Sikka also emphasized on proper utilization of scientific innovation in the fields.

Mr. Yugandhar Mandavkar examined agriculture and allied business as an input-process-output chain broadly consisting production feasibility, technology application, market potential, quality and credit availability. Institutions such as NGOs or corporate working in this field should survey on all these and capacitate the poor on these aspects. He gave the example of IPM (Integrated Pest Management) project on Cotton by Marathwada Shetti Sahaiyya Mandal in Jalna district. Here the pest control cost used to eat away a large portion of the profit. To solve the problem an integrated approach of involving youth, farmers, women and children, and SHG groups was developed. Mr. Yugandhar Mandavkar also gave the example “Janarth” in Aurangabad district where the organization acted as benevolent trader by buying the grains from the farmers at a higher price for trading and marketing purpose.

Mr. Ujjal Ganguly elaborated on the success story of ITC in the developmental sector. Their success venture “Sunahra Kal” has not only contributed in improving agriculture production and its marketing, but also farm forestry, livestock and dairy development and employment generation of women. ITC has initiated “Agarbatti” rolling for employment generation and is currently employing 500 women who are producing 6 Mt of raw “Agarbattis” per month. Over 200 women are involved in “Chikankari” project and their income has risen to 600-700 rupees per month. In livestock and dairy development, 12 Milk cooperatives have been formed in Munger with 550 members. It is supposed that the collection would be of over 2500 liters of milk everyday.



The session ended with the open house. CSO put forward suggestions some of them were; a realistic strategy should be adopted for implementing land reforms; the government should plan out to distribute the bhoodan land among the poor, the state should give priority to bring electricity, road, health and education to all the villages, information centers for the farmers should be made in the villages, the grass root officials should be properly oriented and be made more accountable, the corporate should help in promoting agriculture enterprise in Bihar and the state government should set up agriculture universities for technological innovations.

Key Outcomes



State Development Conference provided a platform for dialogue on a wide variety of issues for the participants coming from across the fields of development. The very dialogue between various fields related to development brought significant insight to the individual stakeholders. It gave a clear understanding of the development challenges and dynamics and the initiatives taken so far by the state government, corporate, developing institutions and civil society organizations. The schemes of the government their applicability and execution at the grass root level, the programs of the financial institutions and the bottlenecks, with examples of good practices related to agriculture provided scope to the stakeholders to strengthen their strategy and helped them think on more realistic terms.

Aside building understanding on various issues it also helped in strengthening commitment of the stakeholders on development for the underprivileged and helped in establishing links between various developing agencies.

The supportive media opened a channel for the discussions to flow out to the public. Almost all the media houses carried portions of the discussions making the whole process spread to the mass.

The conference also helped in strengthening the strategy of PACS in Bihar, which was reflected in the Peer Learning Workshop, organized a day after the State Development Conference.

The Way Ahead

State Development Conference succeeded in exploring possible areas of effective partnership with various national and international agencies for development in Bihar, however, developing effective strategy for convergence with government and other international agencies is still not complete. Some of the key development issues highlighted and discussed in the conference were :



- (a) Developing collective strategy to bridge the gap between civil society Organizations, state and market
- (b) Coping with Natural Disasters like Flood & Drought
- (c) Establishing linkage with government schemes and media
- (d) Mainstreaming the Marginalized
- (e) Strengthening grassroots organizations/community groups' and
- (f) Gender sensitive livelihoods for women in development.



The conference attempted to collectively analyze the key constraints and challenges in development. Nonetheless, the problems and constraints in Bihar are relatively more known and analyzed than success stories. PACS in Bihar has many success stories that demonstrate ample opportunities and learnings for replication and policy influence. The success stories provide strategic insight that can be converted into opportunities for positive change. Reflection on the sign of change and process of change through focused, strategic and collective effort under PACS along with strategic involvement of the state, media and national & international agencies will definitely take Bihar forward in the path of development.

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ANNEXURE

Press Clippings

प्रभात खबर

पटना, मंगलवार, 23 अगस्त, 2005

विकास के लिए एकजुट हो कर काम करना होगा : शर्मा

पटना, 22 अगस्त : भारतीय प्रशासनिक सेवा के अधिकारी सुभाष शर्मा ने कहा कि देश के चौरफा विकास के लिए आर्थिक विकास के साथ ही सामाजिक विकास भी जरूरी है. उन्होंने कहा कि इसके लिए जरूरी है कि सरकार व स्वयंसेवी संस्थाएं एक साथ मिल कर विकास की दिशा में काम करें. 'वे आज यहां पैक्स के दो दिवसीय सम्मेलन के समापन के अवसर पर प्रतिनिधियों को संबोधित कर रहे थे. उन्होंने कहा कि किसी भी काम को शुरू करते समय उसकी स्थानीय जरूरतों का ख्याल रखना जरूरी है. नवाबों के मुख्य महाप्रबंधक बीएस भंडारी ने कहा कि हम लोगों के द्वारा जिन समूहों को सहायता प्रदान की जाती है, उनमें 90 फीसदी से अधिक महिलाएं शामिल हैं. उन्होंने कहा कि स्वयंसेवी संगठनों को चाहिए कि वे सुविधाओं को छोटे स्तर पर फैलाने का काम करें, ताकि समाज की पिछली पंक्ति के लोगों को सीधा लाभ मिल सके. पैक्स के तहत राज्य में कुल 34 योजनाओं पर काम शुरू किया जाना है, जिनमें करीब 84 स्वयंसेवी संस्थाओं की सहभागिता होगी. खासतौर पर इस योजना के तहत महिलाओं को बढ़ावा देने के लिए उन्हें लघु उद्योगों की ओर प्रेरित और प्रशिक्षित करना होगा. उद्योग शुरू करने के लिए उन्हें ऋण सुविधा बनाने में सहायता देनी होगी.

हिन्दुस्तान

पटना, मंगलवार, 23 अगस्त, 2005

नार्बार्ड से सहायता लेनेवालों में 92 फीसदी महिलाएं

पटना (हि.प्र.) भारतीय प्रशासनिक सेवा के अधिकारी सुभाष शर्मा ने कहा कि देश के चौरफा विकास के लिए आर्थिक विकास के साथ ही सामाजिक विकास भी जरूरी है. उन्होंने कहा कि इसके लिए जरूरी है कि सरकार व स्वयंसेवी संस्थाएं एक साथ मिल कर विकास की दिशा में काम करें. 'वे आज यहां पैक्स के दो दिवसीय सम्मेलन के समापन के अवसर पर प्रतिनिधियों को संबोधित कर रहे थे. उन्होंने कहा कि किसी भी काम को शुरू करते समय उसकी स्थानीय जरूरतों का ख्याल रखना जरूरी है. नवाबों के मुख्य महाप्रबंधक बीएस भंडारी ने कहा कि हम लोगों के द्वारा जिन समूहों को सहायता प्रदान की जाती है, उनमें 90 फीसदी से अधिक महिलाएं शामिल हैं. उन्होंने कहा कि स्वयंसेवी संगठनों को चाहिए कि वे सुविधाओं को छोटे स्तर पर फैलाने का काम करें, ताकि समाज की पिछली पंक्ति के लोगों को सीधा लाभ मिल सके. पैक्स के तहत राज्य में कुल 34 योजनाओं पर काम शुरू किया जाना है, जिनमें करीब 84 स्वयंसेवी संस्थाओं की सहभागिता होगी. खासतौर पर इस योजना के तहत महिलाओं को बढ़ावा देने के लिए उन्हें लघु उद्योगों की ओर प्रेरित और प्रशिक्षित करना होगा. उद्योग शुरू करने के लिए उन्हें ऋण सुविधा बनाने में सहायता देनी होगी.

दैनिक जागरण

पटना, मंगलवार, 23 अगस्त, 2005

कृषि को बढ़ावा देने से ही विकास

हमारे प्रतिनिधि, पटना

भारत एवं ब्रिटेन के संयुक्त त्वावधान में चलाये जा रहे गरीबी उन्मूलन कार्यक्रम के तहत सोमवार को राजधानी में आयोजित बिहार विकास सम्मेलन में आये वक्ताओं ने जोर दिया कि कृषि का विकास किये बिना राज्य का विकास संभव नहीं है। इस अवसर पर भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद के पूर्वी क्षेत्र के निदेशक डा. आलोक कुमार सिन्हा ने कहा कि राज्य कि विकास की नींव कृषि है। यहां पर कृषि आधारित उद्योग ही राज्य के विकास के द्वार खोल सकते हैं।

मौके पर राजेन्द्र कृषि विश्वविद्यालय के पूर्व कुलपति डा. पी. एन. झा ने कहा कि अब समय आ गया है कि सरकार कृषि को बढ़ावा देने के लिए अविलम्ब अभियान शुरू करें। इस अवसर पर डा. वासु, डा. प्रकाश लुईस, रमेश झा एवं समीर सहित कई लोगों ने भाग लिया।

दैनिक जागरण

पटना, 22 अगस्त, 2005

'जातिवाद सूबे के विकास में सबसे बड़ी बाधा'

पटना, हमारे प्रतिनिधि : राजधानी में रविवार को स्थानीय एक होटल में आयोजित 'बिहार विकास सम्मेलन' में आये वक्ताओं ने कहा कि राज्य के विकास में जातिवाद सबसे बड़ा रोड़ा बन गया है। महिलाओं के विकास से ही सूबे के विकास की मार्ग खुल सकता है। कार्यक्रम की अध्यक्षता करते हुए प्राथमिक शिक्षा सचिव विजय प्रकाश ने कहा कि शिक्षा ही वह माध्यम है, जिससे राज्य के युवा काम में कुशलता और दक्षता हासिल कर सकते हैं। मौके पर नयी दिल्ली स्थित इण्डियन सोशल इंस्टीट्यूट के पूर्व निदेशक डा. प्रकाश लुईस ने राज्य के पिछड़ेपन के कारणों को रेखांकित करते हुए कहा कि वर्तमान में राज्य जातिवाद के कुचक्र में फंस गया है। इस अवसर पर बिहार महिला आयोग की अध्यक्ष मंजू प्रकाश ने कहा कि महिलाओं को दायम दर्जे की नागरिकता देकर सूबे के विकास की कल्पना करना बेकार है।



आज

कप्रिय

पटना, रविवार, 21 अगस्त, 2005

पैक्स १७० करोड़ रुपया खर्च करेगा १०८ जिलों में

(आज समाचार सेवा)

पटना। पुअरेस्ट एरिया सिविल सोसायटी (पैक्स) प्रोग्राम का दो दिवसीय राज्य स्तरीय विकास संबंधी सम्मेलन रविवार से आरम्भ होगा। संवाददाताओं को इसकी जानकारी देते हुए पैक्स के पदाधिकारियों ने कहा कि बिहार में दलित और पानी की मुख्य समस्या को लेकर जनजागरुकता चलाया जाएगा। उन्होंने कहा कि यह कार्यक्रम सात वर्षों तक चलेगा जिसमें चार वर्ष गुजर गए हैं। पैक्स अधिकारियों ने कहा कि इस योजना के तहत १७० करोड़ रुपये १०८ जिलों में खर्च किया जाएगा।

हिन्दुस्तान

पटना, रांची, दिल्ली और लखनऊ से प्रकाशित

जगर

www.hindustaninik.com

पटना, सोमवार, 22 अगस्त, 2005

महिलाओं को अशक्त बनाकर ही बन सकता है अबल समाज

राज्यस्तरीय विकास कांफ्रेंस शुरु

राष्ट्रीय आय में शामिल होगी घरेलू कार्य की कीमत

पटना (हि.प्र.)। राष्ट्रीय आय में शामिल होना महिलाओं का पुराना सपना है। यह सपना पूर्णतः अशक्त समाज के साथ जुड़े कार्यों से ही बन सकता है। अनेक को यह चिन्तित है कि यदि पुरुषों के अलावा महिलाओं के अलावा घरेलू कार्य भी शामिल हो तो राष्ट्रीय आय में वृद्धि आएगी। यह वृद्धि ही विकास के लिए सहायक होगी।

राज्यस्तरीय विकास कांफ्रेंस का शुभारंभ पटना में सोमवार को हुआ। इसमें राज्य के विभिन्न क्षेत्रों से आए हुए पदाधिकारियों ने इस कार्यक्रम का उद्देश्य और महत्त्व पर चर्चा की। कार्यक्रम के अध्यक्ष डॉ. मालवी ने कहा कि विकास के लिए महिलाओं को अधिक शक्ति देना जरूरी है।

कार्यक्रम के अंतर्गत राज्य के विभिन्न जिलों में कार्यक्रम चलाया जाएगा। इसमें महिलाओं को आर्थिक स्वतंत्रता प्रदान की जाएगी। कार्यक्रम के अंतर्गत महिलाओं को आर्थिक स्वतंत्रता प्रदान की जाएगी।

Hindustan Times

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Give fair deal to fair sex: Experts

HT Correspondent
Patna, August 21

UNESCO, tribal development and women new groups and instruments of change, any amount of empowerment will fail to deliver, according to experts addressing the two-day Bihar Development Conference (BDC) on Panchayat Area Civil Society (PACS), which began here on Sunday.

The PACS programme is aimed at evoking statewide attention towards the growing nature of poverty, deprivation and helplessness of the poor. The programme seeks to achieve this goal through capacity building of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to assist people living in the poorest districts demand rights and entitlements made effectively.

Formerly inaugurating the BDC, chief guest Malini Bhattacharya, member, National Commission for Women and former MD, referring to women, said that despite all round gloom and despair there were some positive signs. She singled out reservations for women in Panchayats as a step towards a new direction, while also underlining the need for legal protection to women, including 'Pre-Natal' Diagnostic Technology Act, Anti-Dowry Act.

She said that help groups provided economic freedom to women, opening new avenues for them. Bhattacharya noted, however, the need for help forming this kind of 'empowerment' of women as more about in the wilderness. She, however, said such efforts would have to become abler to be more effective.

She demanded maturation of women's role in traditional system of agriculture. She expressed concern over denial of tribal's traditional rights over forests and recognition of agricultural labour put in by women and working women alike.

Speaking as the guest of honour, former Patna High Court Judge Vinay Shankar Sabay regretted that even after 58 years of independence there was no perceptible change in rural Bihar despite allocations of crores of rupees by the Centre towards a plethora of poverty alleviation programmes. He demanded that all the money went and remarked, 'This is shameful.' He complimented the NGOs for doing real and dedicated work for empowerment of the poor.

Sabay lamented that political parties had never paid any attention to education funding in educational institutions would stem from poverty. Dr A. K. Basu, chairman, PACS, PACS and a former member of steering committee of the Planning Commission, said that women's development and empowerment was a prerequisite for any change in Bihar. Wang would have to be given heads of change, he asserted, complaining, 'unfortunately, the J.P. movement had paid no attention to women.'

Poorest Areas Civil Society Programme

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