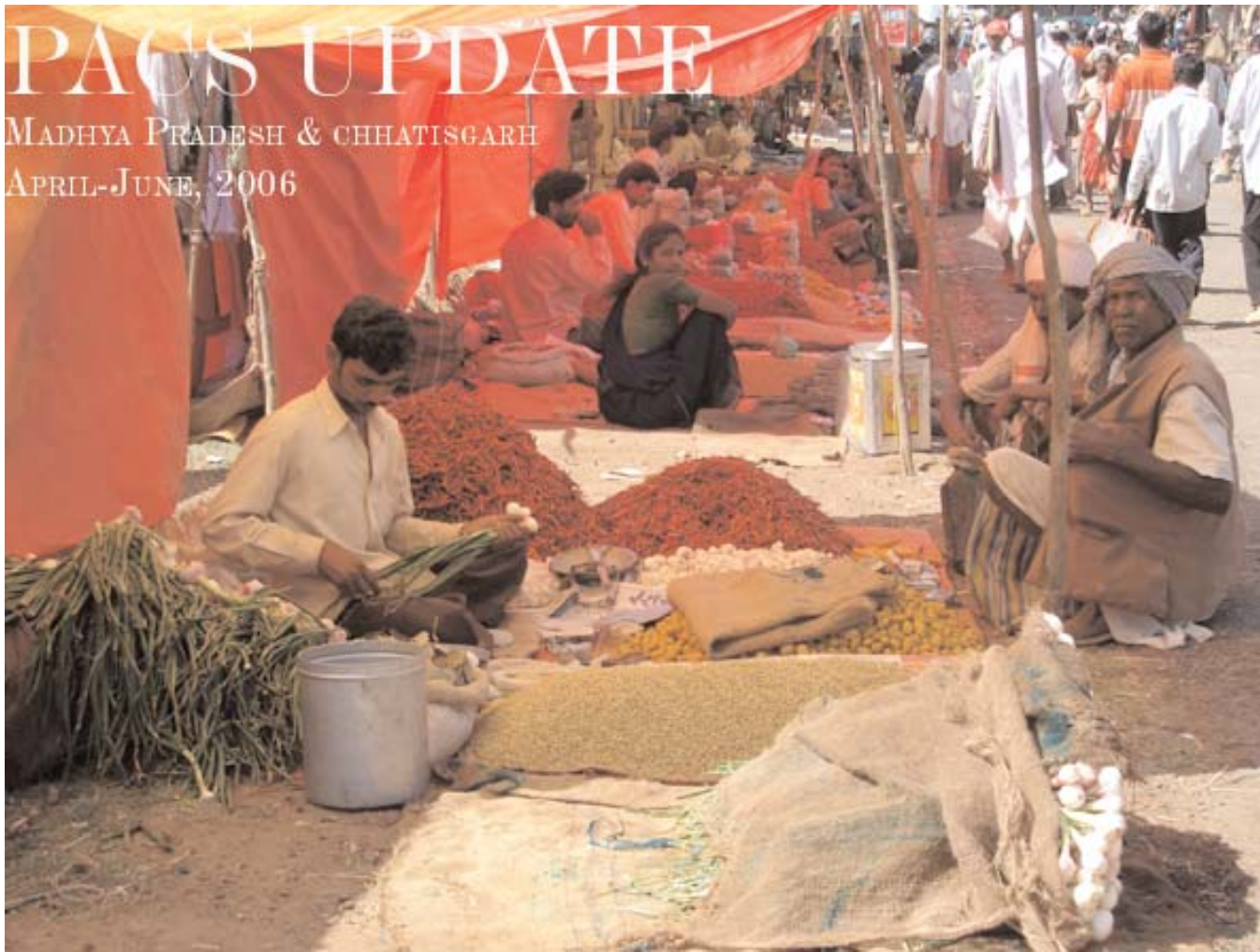


PACS UPDATE

MADHYA PRADESH & CHHATISGARH

APRIL-JUNE, 2006



PACS

Madhya Pradesh
& Chhatisgarh

March 2006.



From Our CSOs

NIWCYD

As per the pre planned quarterly programme, several activities were carried out in different clusters of the project: Chhindwara, Betul, Mandla & Dindori districts of **NIWCYD**.

Different village level meetings, cluster level meetings & several capacity building trainings like Panchayati raj institutions, entrepreneurship development program, appropriate agriculture, training of gramdoots (village level animators), NTFP (Non timber forest produce) training, CFM(Community forest Management) & exposure visits were organized at different clusters.

During EDP training, selected entrepreneurs were trained on income generation activities; later, their applications were submitted to DIC and other concerned departments. In the Baigachek cluster of Dindori district, as a result of EDP training, people were going to start an oil extraction unit very shortly. The unit will extract oil from locally produced oil seeds like Rai and Ramtila and which will initially be available at the local village markets.

As far as Gramdoot training was concerned, the training included motivating gramdoots to work as social catalysts. Though it was not the first training for them, after seeing their involvement in village level activities, and because it was long-felt need of the area, the training was organised to make them more confident in their work.

Similarly, an advocacy meeting was held at the district level, where the core

group of the advocacy committee discussed local-level issues and developed strategy to further work on it.

In NTFP training, collection and preservation of minor forest produce and the SHGs could be involved in this process was discussed. At the same time, ideas on how to run & manage SHG groups more successfully was also discussed.

Eleven members from the staff from different clusters participated in the International Women's Day workshop at Bhopal on gender organized by PACS.

Exposure visit for CBO members and field staff from different clusters to different places like BAIF, Nasik, Ghadchiroli and Betul district was organized by NIWCYD.

During March, CSO partners participated in the Strategic Planning training held at Taragram and organized by Development Alternatives, New Delhi.

Apart from all these activities, a program-level evaluation of the PACS project also took place. It was initiated and carried out by Development Alternatives, with support from SSRO & ROs. The evaluators' team was accompanied by CSOs internal staff when they visited different field areas in the 4 districts. The methodology adopted by them was as follows: the evaluation team began with a head office-level meeting with staff and CSO partners, followed by a cluster level meeting with field staff and gramdoots. This was followed by a village level meeting with different CBO members of the area. During the village-level meeting, the team directly asked questions to members of CBOs about the formation and process of working of the group. Lastly, they gave suggestions to the group.

At the same time, Mrs. Anita Rao Kashi, a freelance journalist from Bangalore, accompanied by NIWCYD staff, visited different field areas in the 4 districts to document case studies. The visits were organized by Write Solutions, PACS SBCA, Bhopal.

VOLUNTARY HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

Voluntary Health Association of India is implementing the Poorest Areas Civil Societies Programme through its networking partners in 10 blocks of four States in the country.

The programme is supported by Department of International Development-India (DFID). The programme aims at poverty alleviation in these poorest and backward blocks by strengthening the civil society, its structure and knowledge base. The programme aims at poverty alleviation in the 10 identified poorest and backward blocks. In spite of adequate allocation in the budget for these specific areas with well defined purpose, the growth rate remains at a stand still. The attempt of the programme is to enhance the capacity of civil society to help the government in formulating need-based planning and providing services to needy areas without much delay.

During the last quarter, VHAI has been working intensively on issues related to Right to Information, National Employment Guarantee Scheme, and on poverty alleviation programmes at large. For this, effort is on to bring about awareness within communities on issues and concerns raised by them.

The project is being implemented in 10 blocks of four states through four partner organizations and has named 'Parivartan Pariyojana'.

1. In Madhya Pradesh, Sambhav is implementing the PACS programme in Rajnagar block of Chhatarpur district and Prithvipur block of Tikamgarh district.
2. In Uttar Pradesh, the Uttar Pradesh Voluntary Health Association is implementing the PACS programme in Barokhar Khurd block of Banda district and Kurara Block of Hamirpur district, while Sambhav is implementing the programme in Talbehet block of Lalitpur district.

3. The PACS programme in Chhatisgarh is being implemented by Madhya Pradesh Voluntary Health Association in Sankargarh block of Sarguja district.
4. In Jharkhand, the PACS programme is being implemented by Sramajivi Unnayan in Jhinkpani block of West Singhbhum and Kuchai block of Kharswan district.

Though different activities are being carried out by different CSOs in their respective field areas, there is a broad outline of objectives and activities which are carried out in these ten blocks.

Dissemination and Access to Information: Village Information centers are the only place from where information is constantly being disseminated to people and is also easily accessible by them. This information is now available not only to households, but also at rural haats, village and Gram Panchayat level. The services of basic health care and first aid are also available in these centers. Educational material, news papers & magazines in the local language are also kept here for public use. Nukkad nataks, rallies and wall writing is regularly done for dissemination of information on different issues. This quarter, information about Government schemes like National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme and Right to Information was the main area of focus.

Local Self Governance: There is a regular interaction and involvement of institutions of local self governance and government institutions in the programme. The District Development Committee, Block Development Committee and Village Development Committee meetings were held. An update of all activities carried out on various issues and related proposals was discussed and presented at these meetings. There is a noticeable change in the meeting agendas in the VDCs. Personal discussion and conflicts are gradually replacing developmental issues. There is an initiative to carry out a social audit of Government schemes, monitor activities, make a "panchnama" against irregularities, and so on. Women's participation has also increased.

SHG initiatives are also proving to be effective. Women SHGs were initially mobilized for income generation activities such as tailoring, motor binding

shops, beauty parlours, small poultry farms and nursery development, and these are now showing substantial incomes from their activities. SHG activities are not limited to these but they are also involved in different development issues in their communities.

Advocacy: is one of the important components of this project. It was very difficult to advocate in such socially and politically sensitive areas. It is a continuous process wherein people have to come forward with issues on their own. PARIVARTAN has facilitated the process of making people aware and sensitive about local issues to be advocated on for the benefit of communities.

To strengthen the community-level health care system, PARIVARTAN has taken the initiative to address issues related to community health (from the village level to district level) and organized events like trainings, camps, school health programmes and awareness camps. Feedback from the Education Department and teachers has been very positive and there is a request for organizing more such camps in other areas also.

The socio-economic empowerment programmes of the project are a priority area. The area being predominantly populated by Scheduled Tribes, all programmes are oriented for their development. Different vocational trainings, exposure visits, small income generation activities like opening of general shops, tailoring, development of nursery, beauty parlours, motor binding shops, have been started, based on a savings and internal loaning system, and are being linked with banks.

Some Stories Reflecting Community Effort

Water in lieu of toil

The problem of drinking water in gram panchayat Jamhore of Chhatisgarh was very acute. The people of village Kumharpara decided to raise their voice collectively to mitigate the severe water problem, especially since they had to cover long distances to bring water from its source. But there is no permanent solution to this problem. The people were very worried about the coming summer.

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During a meeting of VDCs on 23rd January 2005, at the Panchayat Bhawan, Sh. Sudheshwar Singh, Community Organiser, PARIVARTAN, requested VDC members to submit a proposal for digging a well to the Forest Department.

A proposal was made by the president of Van Suraksha Samiti and submitted to the department for constructing a well. The budget was proposed for Rs. 20,000/- and the site was opposite the "Hadgadi Nala". The Parivartan team followed up the process till the proposal was sanctioned. It was approved in the first week of February, 2005.

The construction of the well was started immediately and completed within 15 days by the villagers themselves.

Padyatra: A Mode of Reform

The PACS programme in Prithvipur block of Madhya Pradesh being implemented by a team from Sambhav has taken a bold step in bringing about change in the process of governance in the area.

Under the Parivartan project, a CBO -Jan Sangathan Manch- mobilised a large number of community members. The manch has been regularly raising issues like bungling in the PDS system, scarcity of drinking water, land rights, gender violence and socio-economic discrimination. The manch had submitted several applications at the block and district level for appropriate action, but to no avail. Finally, a collective decision was taken to take up issues in a different manner. On 15th February, 2006, a meeting was held with adivasi members, and it was decided to hold a padyatra to highlight issues and concerns. The padyatra began on 24th February, 2006, and continued till 1st March, 2006. It covered 30 villages of the block. The focus of the padyatra was on the Public Distribution System.

Some issues raised included:

- a) BPL families are not getting rations from PDS shops.
- b) The upper castes have a larger say and dominated the distribution mechanism.

- c) The ration was sold at market rates to the needy, and there was variation in quantity supplied.

The other key issue raised was the acute problem of migration amongst the SC and ST population due to lack of employment. During the padyatra, it was also decided that various activities taken up by the manch would be a continuous process and focus on issues like government schemes, National Rural Employment Guarantee Act and other schemes related to Right to Food.

The 6-day long padyatra ended in front of the office of the District Collector. The solidarity shown and the singular voice in which the adivasi community spoke was a wake-call for the district administration. The administration was forced to respond to the issues almost immediately. The memorandum submitted by the padyatri's was received by the Collector, and he immediately set up a three-member committee to look into the issues with utmost importance and urgency, with special focus on corruption in PDS. The media kept the issue on the forefront throughout the padyatra, which helped create awareness amongst the people about the issues and concerns, as well as kept the local administration on its toes on alleged malpractices and negligence as they were reported. As a result, the government officials at the block and district level have become more responsive. In front of the padyatri's, the Collector instructed the SDM to ensure that rations were distributed in his presence in the villages from where complaints were received, and the order was adhered to.

The adivasi CBO in Prithvipur block has set an example for many other areas of the state to fight for their own rights by showing them how to articulate and put forth their issues in a collective manner. Similarly, they have also been able to change the approach and response of government officials in their block to address their issues effectively.

VANI



The PACS program in the six states where VANI is implementing it is progressing well. Network building in Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Bihar has been completed. In the case of UP, efforts have been made to make the existing network (UPVAN) broad based and inclusive. Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh are well a step closer to establishing state networks.

A brief update on PACS in respective VANI states is as follows:

Uttar Pradesh: Focusing its effort on working with, and strengthening, an already existing state-level network 'UPVAN', VANI and UPVAN recently organized a one-day state level workshop on 'GO-NGO Relationship: Present Perspective and Future Prospects' on 30th March, 2006, in which 169 representatives from the government, civil society organizations and media participated.

The workshop came up with the following outcomes as future strategy:

- Stake-holders should come together to understand each others' views
- Credibility in voluntary sector needs to be improved through transparency and accountability
- Planners in government need to be more sensitive to the role of VOs in the field





A regular news magazine devoted to PACS is being continuously printed and circulated amongst various stakeholders of civil society.

Maharashtra: VANI, along with its partner organisations - NCAS, AFARM and YUVA, formed a steering committee to initiate discussions on issues like Right to Information, Maharashtra

EGS & NREGAS, Bombay Public Trust Act and FCMC.

In addition, issue-based sub-groups have been instituted and consultations on planning future strategies to address issues have begun to take place.

Chhattisgarh: VANI carried out a short study to assess the feasibility of a broad-based network for the state and earlier activities carried out so far. A zonal meeting was organised on 7th March, 2006, in Bilaspur. Forty delegates, including voluntary organizations, media and academics, participated in the meeting and it was decided to:

- Establish a steering committee at different zones
- Sensitize media on activities of voluntary organizations
- Establish a broad-based network at the state level to facilitate communication with zonal steering committees.



Jharkhand: With an objective to provide a forum for identifying strategies to link local-level issues to national and state planning

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, VANI organised a one-day workshop on 'Right to Information Act and National Guarantee Act' on 20th, 27th and 29th March, 2006, in Simdega, Jamshedpur, and Hazaribag respectively. Apart from this, the first volume of the newsletter was published and circulated to 500 partners including academics, institutions and voluntary sector agencies.

Bihar: Activities have begun to take place at the Association of Bihar Voluntary Agencies. ABVA organised a thematic workshop on 'Development of Bihar: Roles and Responsibilities and Strategy for the Voluntary Sector' in which more than 245 participants from different fields participated.

The ABA has also been involved in awareness generation among the masses for panchayat elections to be held in the month of March-April, 2006.

Madya Pradesh: MADHYAVAN, the state-level network developed by VANI, organized a workshop on 'Right to Information' on 23rd March, 2006, in Bhopal, in which 70 delegates, including NGOs, media and government functionaries, participated. It was decided to:

- Join hands with 'Wada Na Todo Campaign'
- Address the issue of Right to Information
- Encourage CSOs to join VANI network, and use the VANI website to disseminate information about the network

A core group meeting was also held to plan on a state-level seminar on 'Livelihood security -State Policies, Private Action and Civil Society Participation'.

In addition, a quarterly news letter 'MADHYAVAN' has also been published.

SAMBHAV, GWALIOR

Poorest Areas Civil Society Programme Block Prithvipur, District Tikamgarh M.P.

International Women's Day March 8, 2006

In villages Mudeni, Dumduma and Naguan, special meetings were organized on this occasion. About 66 people were present, out of which 37 were female and 21 male. In village Dumduma, a masala chakki was inaugurated in Sahara SHG. This group is now independent and is looking at providing various sources of income for the village women. CEO Janpad Panchayat emphasized on the quality of masala and its packaging.

Block Rajnagar, District Chhatarpur M.P. SHG efforts prevent migration: Ranipura, Rajnagar

Migration and lack of livelihood opportunities has been a serious problem for the people of Ranipura. Rs. 125000 were provided as a loan to Bhim Rao Ambedkar SHG after the second grading. The group on its own initiative, set up a brick kiln for income generation. Group members, alongwith 10 more people from the village, collected mud and prepared bricks at the kiln and sold them in the open market at a modest profit.

Proud of their initiative, members are no longer ready to work anywhere else and plan to maximize profits as well as provide employment to others through the kiln.

SHG shop in Khajuraho

In Khajuraho, a shop has been set up with support from the organisation. This shop is coordinated by SHG members and sells products prepared by different SHGs. Products like some terracotta sculptures, sansutli products, and other items local to Khajuraho are kept and sold. The shop is located in the main market of Khajuraho and is quietly becoming popular with local and foreign customers alike. In the near future, more products from SHGs will be kept in the shop for sale.

TARA HAAT and ISRO Block Resource Centre

In Rajnagar, a block resource centre has been developed with the support of Tara Gram and ISRO. Main activities of this centre will include making the local populace computer literate, especially girls. This centre will also provide job-oriented training and other employment opportunities to the local people. The infrastructure has already been set up and all essential material is in place. The centre has been visited by DA and ISRO members. We are soon going to inaugurate these centres.

Block Tal Behat, District Lalitpur (U.P.) International Women's Day, March 8th, 2006

International Women's Day was celebrated in Tal Behat Block with enthusiasm. On this occasion, a massive rally was organized in the block demanding equal rights for women. The rally was inaugurated by the block head, Mrs. Usharani Yadav. It began from Gyatri Shaktipeeth temple. Mrs. Usharani spoke on problems like early marriage, female foeticide, infanticide and dowry.

The rally was coordinated by women members and slogans like 'Nari ke sahyog bina har badlav adhura hai', 'Nari shoshan mitayenge, naya samaj banayenge', and 'Bal vivah par lage viram, jisse Bharat bane mahan' rent the air. The rally ended at Maharaja Mardan Singh College. 137 women from 16 villages participated.

Quota of ration shop cancelled

Ugarpur panchayat in Tal Behat block is about 35 k.ms. from block head quarters and has only one PDS shop which caters to 6 villages. The PDS shop is owned by Shobharam. In the month of November, 2005, no rations were distributed from this shop to some people.

Attu, son of Thakurdas of village Bhasanwarakhurd, did not get his quota in spite of having a Antodaya card. The amount was registered on his card and he was shouted out of the shop. Gyan Ahirwar of the same village was also treated in an identical manner. The stock of one month was registered in advance on his card and he was also badly treated. His can of kerosene was kicked away and he was profusely abused. After observing the same attitude of the salesman on a regular basis, the animator of village, Saligram Yadav, organized a meeting in

which other villagers like Babulal Lodi, Shivcharan Ahirwar, Ragwar Ahirwar, Puran Ahirwar said that they had also not been given rations and kerosene. After the discussion, an application was written to the SDM, Tal Behat, against the salesman.

On December 30, 2005, this application was handed over to the SDM by some members of Subhas Chandra Bose Manch. When the SDM looked at these cards and the amount registered in advance on their cards, he immediately cancelled the license of the ration shop. He also ordered that this quota be attached to Kandharikala from January onwards. The signatures of about 250 people were taken on the application, which was to the SDM.

Poorest Areas Civil Society Program

Block Prithvipur

District Tikamgarh (M.P.)

Quarterly Report from January to March 2006

District	Tikamgarh
Block	Prithvipur
Gram Panchayat	65
Villages	123
Population	1, 33,274
Male	71,564
Female	61,705

Total Families	21,614
BPL Population	34,104
SC Population	27,604
ST Population	8,191
OBC Population	85,388
General Population	12,091

Total SHGs formed	105
Total Members	1160

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Total Savings of SHGs	7, 29,026
No. of Linked Groups	45
Village Information Centres	62
ICDS Centres	103

Summary of activities held:

S.No	Activity	No.	Participants	Male	Female
1	SHG meetings	185	2337	368	1969
2	Adolescent girls meetings	22	232	23	209
3	Mahila mandal meetings	30	280	30	250
4	Yuva madal meetings	55	555	553	2
5	Meetings of Adiwasi Manch	37	795	579	216
6	Eye camps	1	49	21	28
7	Staff training	1	41	38	3
8	Padyatra	1	3600	2202	1398
9	International Women's Day	3 held	66	29	37
10	Monitoring visit of VHAI	1	64	58	6
11	Regional workshop at Chhatarpur	1	4	11	15

SHG Meetings

Issues Discussed:

- ◆ In March, 2006, a SHG in village Parakhera was given loan amount of Rs 25,000 through the bank.
- ◆ Discussions were held on the grading process of groups; it was decided to initiate income generation activities suitable to the group
- ◆ In some group meetings, information was given by ANM on RTI.
- ◆ Construction of household toilets was also a major issue of concern. Its benefits were also discussed in these meetings.
- ◆ Discussion on various new health schemes of the Government was also held done in some meetings. Schemes like Janani Suraksha Yojna and Prasav Parivahan Yojna were discussed to encourage institutional deliveries. (In Janani Suraksha Yojna, pregnant woman will get Rs 700

and the motivator, Rs 650.

- ◆ Information related to Right to Food shared.
- ◆ Special meetings were organized to share information on NREGA guidelines.
- ◆ Discussions were held on 100% immunization of pregnant mothers and children.
- ◆ Issues like hygiene, sanitation, education of the girl child and participation of women in panchayat and Gram Sabhas were discussed.

Yuva Mandal Meetings

Issues discussed:

- ◆ In villages Pahari Bakshi, Bachhora, Chomo, Manetha, Baniyani, Chandrapura, Kakavani, Veersagar, Jawaharpura, Sunoniya Paschimi, Mohanpura, Bhelsa, Dulavani and Dhillia, discussions was held on the issue of rations and NREGA. In these villages, PDS shops were not functioning properly due to salesmen playing truant. It was decided by all members of Yuva Mandals to monitor these shops and take action to regularize their functioning.
- ◆ It was also decided to draw up applications of some beneficiaries and give them to the Sarpanch demanding work under NREGA. Sarpanch and Secretary of these villages were present in these meetings.

Meetings with Adolescent Girls

Issues discussed:

- ◆ In villages Pahari Bakshi, Naguan and Kakavani, discussion were held on adolescent problems.
- ◆ Early marriage and its outcome were also discussed.
- ◆ These messages were disseminated to girls by ANM and ICDS workers

Meetings with Mahila Mandals

Issues discussed:

- ◆ In villages Madori, Nibora, Saitpura, Veersagar, Ladvari, Simrabhata, Jewrakhas and Kachhiakhera, discussions were held on NREGA and encouraging them to demand work.
- ◆ Schemes like Janani Suraksha Yojna and its benefits were discussed in these meetings.

Meetings of Adivasi Jan Sangthan Manch

In villages Sujanpura, Darretha, Barhobujurg, Veersagar, Bamroli, Jerakhas, Sunoniya Paschimi, Birorakhet and Birorapahad, the focus was on NREGA and the public distribution system.

Block level Meeting of Adivasi Jan Sangthan Manch

Date	March 22, 2006
Place	Prithvipur
Participants	64
Men	58
Women	6

A meeting of Adivasi Jan Sangthan Manch was organized by members. In this meeting, a block level committee was formed and its office bearers elected. The objective of this manch was shared with new members. Members present during the padyatra shared their experiences with others. Representatives of this manch who went to meet the Collector spoke to others about the meeting.

Monitoring Visit from Voluntary Health Association of India, New Delhi

Dates	: March 17, 2006 to March 18, 2006
Villages Visited	: Dhillia, Panihari, Kashipura, Naguan, Kakavani, Luharguan, Majal, Madvarajgarh
Visitor	: Ms. Itishree Kanungo

This was a support visit made by VHAI done on quarterly basis in project areas. Kanungo visited two blocks - Prithvipur and Rajnagar in Tikamgarh and Chhatrapur districts. The objective of this visit was to monitor ongoing activities of the project and support the team at the VHAI-level. The other objective was to avail newer opportunities since the project is now in the withdrawal phase. After discussion with the team, it was decided that the future strategy of the project should be initiation of income generation activity and their marketing, and increasing literacy levels of women members.

PACS Regional Workshop

Date: March 22, 2006 to March 23, 2006

Venue: Jatashankar Palace, Chhatarpur

Participants: Regional PACS partners

This workshop was a preparatory exercise for the Peer Learning Workshop (PLW) to be held in Bhopal. Issues that emerged during the workshop included disability, gender violence, NREGA, and Right to Information. Some presentations were made by Tara Haat, Development Alternatives. Sambhav was given the responsibility of making a presentation on disability at the PLW in Bhopal.

Eye Camp

Place: CHC Prithvipur

Dates: February 6, 2006 to February 9, 2006

Doctors present in this camp included Dr.O.P.Anuragi, Eye Surgeon; Dr.Pramod Bajpai, Eye Assistant, Dr.Vinod Bhargav, Eye Assistant; Dr.S.S.Rawat, Block Medical Officer; and Dr.K.P.Nag and Dr.M.K.Jain, CHC Prithvipur.

The OPD registered 284 patients; surgery was performed on 49 patients on March 7, 2006 by Dr. O.P.Anuragi. Patients were kept for three days in hospital. The organisation supported the care of patients and provided them with medicines.

Resource Persons present on this occasion were Panchayat Secretary, Sarpanch, CEO Janpad Panchayat, Vinod Chauhan, DEO B.D.Chaturvedi, A.D.E.O Arvind Chobey, Manager, Bundelkhand Regional Rural Bank, M.L.Jain.

Training of COs and Supervisors

February 10, 2006 to February 13, 2006

Venue: Sambhav Training Centre

Participants: 40

A training program was organized with supervisors and community organizers of 3 PACS blocks. In this training, discussions were held on future strategy of the project. Team was given training on proposal writing. Some issues for future implementation identified included disability, strengthening SHGs by educating its members and linking them with income generation activities, and inclusion of

gender in future programs.

Vocational Trainings for Youth

Date: March 2, 2006

Place: Naguan

Participants: 15

A vocational training program was organized for some youths of this village. In this training, the youth were informed about various welfare schemes of the government specially meant for them.

Sensitization of Government Staff

Dates: January 5, 2006

Place: Prithvipur office

A sensitization workshop for some Government representatives was organized at the Sambhav office. In this workshop, some village and block level government representatives were present. They were informed about various activities organized under PACS program and its future plans.

Padyatra in 30 villages of Block Prithvipur

Organized by Jan Sangthan Manch, Prithvipur

Date: February 24, 2006 to March 1, 2006

About Jan Sangthan Manch

Jan Sangthan Manch is a community based organization working in 123 villages of Prithvipur block. This CBO has 1200 members. Members of this manch are largely from Harijan and Adiwasi communities. The manch organises its meetings on a monthly basis to discuss issues. The objective of the manch is to organize the deprived sections of the community and strengthen them for collective action for their rights. Problems related to rations, drinking water, land, gender violence, discrimination, etc. are usually taken up by members. Applications are also submitted to the block and district administration by it.

Concept of Padyatra

On February 15, 2006, a meeting of Jan Sangthan Manch in Prithvipur was held to discuss the fact that despite giving applications to different departments about their concerns, no action had been taken by the administration. After dis-

cussion with the members of manch and Sambhav, it was decided to organize a padyatra in 30 villages of the block covering about one third population of the block to highlight problems. It was also thought that a memorandum should be given directly to the District Collector and immediate action be demanded. The padyatra would be of 6 days, starting on February 24, 2006, and finishing on March 1, 2006. On the last day, it was decided to submit a memorandum to District Collector about problems and issues focusing on irregularities in the PDS system and other Right to Food schemes.

Issues involved in Padyatra

The padyatra focused on PDS. In villages of Prithvipur, PDS was a serious concern. BPL families were not getting rations from PDS shops and people from upper castes were instead milking the scheme. Rations were also sold at higher prices. Instead of giving 35 kgs of rations, it was limited to 25-30 kgs. Supreme Court orders were not being followed by owners of these shops. The other issue was migration of SC and ST communities and lack of employment in the region. It was thus decided to make people aware about the various government schemes like NREGA and other schemes related with Right to Food.

Villages covered during Padyatra

Sunoniya Paschimi, Sunoniya Purvi, Bhelsa, Sujanpura, Mohanpura, Chandrapura, Panihari, Sakerakhurd, Sarsora, Urdora, Dhorra, Baniyani, Jerakhas, Majra Shivilal, Majal, Tatarpura, Luharguan, Kakavani, Birorakhet, Chirpura, Jyoramora, Sakera, Bhadanan, Maniya, Chomo, Chikta Gulenda, Banjaripura, Gora Khas, Sorka, Khiston, Dumduma.

Some issues highlighted during padyatra

- ◆ 80% of villages face migration. Families have migrated for 6-7 months to distant places in search of food and work.
- ◆ Story of non-supply of PDS rations is more or less the same in all villages. On Antodaya cards, people receive 20-25 kgs instead of 35 kgs.
- ◆ On BPL ration card, ration is restricted to only 10 - 20 kgs.
- ◆ Wheat is distributed at the rate of Rs 7 per kg instead of Rs 4.65 per kg to BPL families.
- ◆ In villages Urdora, Sarsora, Baniyani, Chandrapura, Pahari Bakshi the venue for distributing rations is not fixed. Also the time and day when

ration will be disbursed are not fixed.

- ◆ In villages Urdora, Sujanpura, Banjaripura, Sorka, Khiston, for example, sugar has not been distributed for the last 1 to 2 years!
- ◆ In villages Tatarpura, Kakavni, Urdora, Banjaripura, Gora, Sorka and Baniyani, the sarpanch & the secretary demand anything between Rs 50-500 to prepare Antodaya cards.
- ◆ In villages Sakera Bhadanan, Panihari, Dhorra, Gora, Sorka, Banjaripura, Urdora, kerosene has not been distributed for the last 6-8 months. This kerosene is instead black marketed in collusion with shop owners.
- ◆ In some villages, no ration has been distributed to beneficiaries for the last 3 months, but it is recorded on their cards!
- ◆ When ration is weighed, it is always less than the fixed quantity. There is always a large difference in the distributed and weighed quantity.
- ◆ In village Sakera Khurd, it was known from discussions with Adiwasi families that the behavior of salesmen at ration shops was not appropriate. When people went to him to collect their rations, the salesman collects money from them and give them a paper. He asks them to come again to collect their rations. If, however, the paper chit is lost, the ration is not given to them!
- ◆ In village Sorka, a road was constructed by 30 Adiwasi persons about a year ago, but till date, they have not received their wages. A payment of Rs. 38,000 is yet to be made to these workers.
- ◆ The ICDS centre in village Banjaripura is inhabited by cattle, while the one in village Manetha is closed since the ICDS worker stays 23-kms away from the village in Prithvipur.

In all villages, these problems were more or less same. Applications were collected from villagers and on March 1, 2006, a memorandum was submitted to the District Collector, Manish Shrivastav, by representatives of Jan Sangthan Manch. The response of the Collector was very positive and he assured the manch members he would look into the matter.

Some Touching Moments

- ◆ When the padyatra reached village Sarsora, there was a jeep standing in Adiwasi *basti* in which about 50-60 people were sitting! These people

were going as labour (*chait*) to Samthar. Some were going alone while others had their families with them. They would return after 6-7 months. When asked why they are going, the answer was: “*Na kbane ko hai na hi majdooori hai, isliye apna ghar chhod kar jaana padega. Pata nahi vapas aate hain ya nahi*”. The Jeep left in front of our eyes....

- ◆ In Adiwasi *basti* of village Gora, a three-year-old boy died while his parents were away looking for work. As told by ‘*Panchu*’, the boy was very weak, so his parents had left him in the village. But the little boy eventually died after some days due to hunger and loneliness.
- ◆ In Banjaripura, the sarpanch said that he did not know when Antodaya cards had been prepared. He said all work was done by the secretary and block officer. The reason was because he was an Adiwasi.
- ◆ In village Kashipura, Adiwasi families decided to return the land given to them during the then Congress regime led by Digvijay Singh, back to the Government. This was because the land given to them was on a plateau where cultivation was impossible. They said that if they are land less, they could still get some advantage from the government. Currently, they were not even getting rations from the TPDS.
- ◆ In 70% schools, teachers were not present.
- ◆ In village Sarsora and Sorka, labour was carried out by Adiwasis but till date, no wages had been paid to them. In spite of complaints to the Sarpanch and even SDM, no action has been taken.
- ◆ In villages Sorka Sarsora, Gora, Panihari, Chandrapura, Sujanpura, Bhelsa and Sunoniya Purvi, bribes were demanded by the sarpanch and the secretary for allocation of Indira Awas.

Achievements of Padyatra

- ◆ People from villages, especially from disadvantaged communities, have gathered some strength in their solidarity and have begun talking about their problems in front of higher officials.
- ◆ After giving a memorandum to the Collector, the Collector immediately empanelled a 3-man enquiry committee to look in to charges of corruption in distribution of rations.
- ◆ The media supported the padyatra and its concerns throughout, and acted as a watch-dog over the administration.

- ◆ The Collector ordered the SDM to distribute rations in front of him in villages where complaints were received.

Benefits of Government Schemes

<i>Name of Scheme</i>	<i>No. of Beneficiaries</i>	
	Male	Female
Maternity Benefit	-	8
Indira Awas	4	-
Rashtriya Pariwar Sahayta	-	2
Social Security /Old Age Pension	121	161
Others	22	31

CASE STUDY

Anganwadi swings into action in Dulawani, Prithvipur

During immunization coverage in village Rampura, it came to be known that four adivasi women of adivasi khirak - Shanti Devi, Phula Devi, Sheela Devi and Usha Devi - were not getting any benefit from the Anganwadi. The ANM, along with Sambhav staff members, informed them that they should go the Anganwadi and get their names registered, saying “Not only will you be provided medical assistance, but will also receive 160 gms. of nutritional supplement daily”. The anganwadi found that the distance of the hamlet was over a kilometer, and due to unavailability of an assistant, it would not be possible to distribute the supplement on a daily basis. It would be better if CSO representatives could help these women reach the anganwadi. All the four women reported to the anganwadi and got their name registered, but when it came to distributing the supplement, they were told to stay outside the anganwadi because they were Adiwasi, and that they would be given the supplement outside. Feeling insulted, the women refused to go to the anganwadi anymore.

A Sambhav volunteer went along with these women and enquired about the matter. The anganwadi worker refused that she had behaved in any inappropriate manner. However, the volunteer warned that either she distribute the supplement as prescribed or the matter would be reported to the Project Officer.

Ever since, all the four women have been regularly receiving their quota of supplements without failure on every Tuesdays of the week!

◆ In village Sorka, an Adiwasi women died during delivery due to excessive bleeding. She was just 20 yrs old.

**Poorest Areas Civil Society Program
Block - Tal Behat, District - Lalitpur
Quarterly Report From January to March 2006**

VITAL STATISTICS

District	Lalitpur
Block	Tal Behat
Gram Panchayat	47
Villages	100
Population	1, 29,010
Total Families	22,064
BPL Population	66,240
Male	68,971
Female	60,029
SC Population	45,402
OBC Population	55,312
General Population	28,298
Total SHGs formed	96 (25 linked with UNDP Savera project)
Total Members	852
Total Savings of SHGs	3, 00,424
No. of Linked Groups	67
Village Information Centers	47
ICDS Centers	103

Description of Activities

Meetings of Self Help Groups

In the quarter, 187 meetings were organized. A total of 2266 members were present, of which 2014 were women and 252 men. Monthly savings of the groups, inter loaning and recovery, grading of groups and CCL of some groups, Pulse Polio Campaign, girlchild education, immunization, NREG, gender inequality, nutrition to pregnant mothers were some issues discussed

January

68 meetings; Participants: 816 Male: 52 F: 764

February

61 Meetings; Participants: 875 Male: 115 F: 760

March

58 Meetings; Participants: 575 Male: 85 F: 490

Total

187 Meetings; Participants: 2266 Male: 252 F: 2014

In January and March, 2006, 15 new groups have been linked with banks, of which 6 groups have received Rs 25,000 each. These groups are Archana SHG, village Teta; Devamata SHG, village Dhamkana; Maa Saraswati SHG, village Rampur; Ujala SHG, village Udguan; Gaytri SHG, village Kadesaravasi; and Sidhh Guru SHG from village Bhasanwarakhurd.

Activities by these groups include farming, goat rearing, brick kiln, ginger cultivation and shop keeping. An amount of Rs. 20,000 was borrowed between these groups as inter loaning, of which Rs. 11,000 has come back to them.

Monthly savings of 61 groups in this quarter:

<i>January</i>	<i>February</i>	<i>March</i>	<i>Total</i>
Rs 13,035	Rs12,633	Rs14,488	Rs 40,156

Issues discussed in these meetings included:

- ◆ Monthly saving, interloaning and recovery
- ◆ Personal hygiene and sanitation
- ◆ Gender violence
- ◆ Maintenance of hand pumps

- ◆ Nutrition of pregnant and lactating mothers
- ◆ Anti natal and pre natal care
- ◆ Certification of disabled persons to link them with government schemes

Applications sent through these meetings

- ◆ In village Kandharikala, an application was written to the DM to prepare a certificate for a physically challenged boy, Paras Prajapati, son of Chimma Prajapati. This application will be handed over to the DM on Tehsil Diwas.
- ◆ In January, an application was written to the Engineer, Jal Nigam, Lalitpur, from village Kotra, to repair the handpump of Junior High School. The handpump was repaired within 15 days.
- ◆ In Kotra, an application was written for the construction of *pulia*.
- ◆ In village Bigari, an application was written to CHC, Tal Behat, on irregular visits of the ANM in the village.

Vocational trainings for youth

Date: February 12, 2006 and March 21, 2006

In this quarter, 2 vocational training programs were organized for 40 youth. These programs were organized in Tal Behat and Bijrotha Nyay Panchayat. Participants from 10 villages - Myao, Rajpur Kotra, Badiwar, Kakrari, Bijrotha, Pawa, Kadesarakala, Bamhorisar, Khandi and Gulenda were present in these trainings.

The training included:

- ◆ Hand pump Repairing
- ◆ Vocational courses of ITI and BTC
- ◆ Information related to district industrial centre

The resource persons were:

- ◆ Shyamu Chobey from Basic Resource Centre, Tal Behat
- ◆ Vidya Shankar Mishra from District Industrial Centre, Lalitpur

Meetings of CBOs: (Subash Chandra Bose Manav Adhikar Manch)

Three block level meetings of Subash Chandra Bose Manav Adhikar Manch

were organized in this quarter. This manch has 240 members. Thirty members participated in these meetings, of which 24 were men and 6 women.

Issues discussed included:

- ◆ Issues related to cancellation of land *pattas*
- ◆ Scholarships for Adiwasi children going to school
- ◆ PDS shop of village Kakrari not functioning properly. It was decided to replace the salesman of this shop. An application was given to the SDM
- ◆ In primary schools of villages Barikhurd, Rajavan, Pawa and Rajpur Kotra, school children were not getting mid day meals for the last 4 months. After intervention, it was begun in Rajpur and Barikhurd.

Advocacy Activities

Pulse Polio Campaign

On February 24, 2006, an awareness rally was organized in villages Ugarpur, Kandharikala, Rajavan, Bigari, Gevra, Gundera, Jhawar, Hasguan, Dhamkana, Chobara, Rampurakathwar, Rampura Bahar and Kotra with the support of community organizers and animators. In this rally, about 7957 school children participated. School teachers and principals also showed their support for the Pulse Polio campaign.

Meetings with Mahila Mandals

In this quarter, 183 meetings with 77 mandals were held. There are 77 Mahila Mandals with 696 members. In these meetings, 1640 members were present. These mandals are gradually developing as a platform where women sit together and share their problems with each other. They try to resolve out these problems through collective action.

Issues such as NREGA, old age pension, early marriage, gender inequalities maternity benefit scheme, RTI and STD, pre natal and post natal care, mid-day meal scheme in schools, preparation of ration cards, immunization, education of girl child, pulse polio, safe drinking water, anemia, malnutrition and facilities of ICDS centres were discussed.

Meetings with Adolescent Groups

172 meetings with 74 adolescent girls groups were organized in this quarter.

There are 74 adolescent groups with 640 members. In these meetings, 1440 members were present. Girls regularly discuss issues like girlchild education, early marriage, dowry, anemia in adolescent girls and its treatment, Registration of adolescent girls at ICDS centres, awareness about female foeticide, etc. In these meetings, 489 members were present.

Upgrading VICs with information and IEC material

47 village information centers have been set up in this block. Many centers are run in official buildings such as panchayat halls, ICDS centres and community halls. These centers are regularly updated. Recently, during the Panchayat elections, these centers were used for information dissemination and awareness generation, wherein information about how to select the right candidate/s were disseminated. Some forms about pension schemes were also filled and forwarded. All village level meetings were organized in these centres. These centres are regularly visited by government officers and highly praised. Some new posters and reading material on NREGA and Right to Information has also been put up in these centres.

Communication Activities

Cultural Programs: In February and March, 2006, some cultural programs were organized in 47 villages of the block. In these programs, 771 villagers were present, of which 436 were men and 335 women. Different activities under the PACS program were discussed.

The main focus of these cultural programs was status of women in villages, information about government schemes, role and responsibility of panchayat representatives and working of panchayat and gram sabha. These messages were disseminated through motivational songs and short skits. An objective of these programs was to introduce the concept of Social Cohesion in villages.

Meetings with Jan Shakti Samities

53 Jan Shakti Samities are present in this block, which have 424 members. In this quarter, 125 meetings were organized in which 1425 people were present, of which 1045 were men and 380 women. These samities discussed issues like the pulse polio campaign, NREG, PDS shops and distribution of rations, solving community problems through a collective approach, awareness about welfare

schemes, importance of gram sabha's and development work in villages. In these meetings, a total of 581 members were present, of which 409 were men and 156 women.

Applications written in these meetings

- ◆ In village Thana, an application was written for complaining about the inappropriate behavior of the salesman of the PDS shop. This application was handed over to the district food officer, Lalitpur. The application being processed.
- ◆ In village Budawani, during Jan Shakti meeting discussion on working of PDS in village was held. Issues like not providing rations on time and weighing less rations were discussed. An application was written and handed over to the SDM during Tehsil *divas*, which is being processed.
- ◆ In the small Saharia hamlet of Khadari in village Sunori, the handpump has not been functioning for about a month. About 30 families residing in this hamlet have to fetch water from about a kilometer away. An application was written to the Block Development Officer in Tal Behat in last month, and action is still awaited.
- ◆ In village Bijrotha, an application was written to the SDM for replacement of ration shop from the present locality and relocating it to someone who can handle the functioning of the shop properly.

Meetings with Parents-Teachers Association

There are 153 PTAs in primary schools of this block with about 1224 members. In this quarter, 281 meetings were organized with 153 PTAs of schools. In these meetings, 1,845 members were present, of which 1293 were men and 552 women. Issues like quality and quantity of mid day meal in schools, promotion of girlchild education, facilities of drinking water and toilets in schools, personal hygiene in school children, scholarships for deserving children, improvement in quality of education, objectives of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan were discussed.

School Health Camps

Out of 153 primary schools, these health camps were organized in 64 schools. In these sessions, a total 9169 school children participated, of which 5399 were boys and 2770 girls. In these camps, children were examined and importance of personal hygiene shared with them. In these camps ANM, MPW and ICDS

workers were resource persons.

Other Activities

International Women's Day - 8th March 2006

International Women's Day was celebrated in Tal Behat Block with enthusiasm. On this occasion a massive rally was organized at the block level, demanding equal rights for women. The rally was inaugurated by block head, Mrs. Usharani Yadav. It started from Gyatri Shaktipeeth temple. Mrs. Usharani addressed the rally, saying that all women should become organized and fight for their rights collectively. She emphasized that problems like early marriage, female foeticide, infanticide, dowry be uprooted from society and this was only possible if women take up the leadership.

Anita Pal from Kadesarakala said that every woman should take an oath to organise and fight for their rights. "We should see that no early marriages are held and dowry banned".

Deepa Nishad from Banguankala also strongly recommended that people should not marry their daughters in families where dowry was a tradition.

The rally ended at Maharaja Mardan Singh College. It was joined by local people and also received the support of the local administration.

In this rally, 137 women from 16 villages like Banguankala, Kadesaravasi, Churavni, Jamalpur, Dhangoland Kakrari were present.

International Tuberculosis Day: March 24, 2006

On *International Tuberculosis Day* a camp with a brief orientation workshop were held at the community health centre, Tal Behat. Information was given on tuberculosis and its preventive and curative measures. Some TB patients were also enrolled under this scheme. Support of the medical department was also appreciated during the camp. Dr.K. K Jain from CHC, Tal Behat, was present. In this camp, 37 patients were registered under DOTS, of which 11 were women.

Preparation of Job Cards under National Rojgar Guarantee Employment Act 2005.

Under NRGEA, 19,476 job cards have already been prepared in the whole block. This issue is regularly discussed in all village meetings, and especially with disadvantaged communities. Emphasis is given to sending more and more applications for work to the Sarpanch. The remaining job cards are in the process of being prepared.

Support in Eye Camp

Date: January 22, 2006

Place: Tal Behat CHC

PACS staff supported the cataract eye camp held at CHC, Tal Behat. In this camp, 378 patients were treated as OPD patients, of which 32 were cataract patients (23 men and 9 women). Information about this camp had been given earlier through animators at the village level, which resulted in the good attendance at the camp. Medicines and spectacles were distributed by the CHC.

Election of Zila Panchayat Adhyaksha

On January 12th, 2006, election of Zila Panchayat Adhyaksha was held in Lalitpur. In this election, Rajkumari Rajpoot was elected as Zila Panchayat Adhyaksha.

Election of Block Adhyaksha

On 22nd February, 2006, election for the post of Block Adhyaksha was held in Tal Behat. Usha Rani Yadav was elected as Block Adhyaksha in the election.

Work on Disability

- ◆ A survey was done in the block to identify disabled persons in the age group 1-18-years.
- ◆ In this quarter, 17 certificates of persons with disability were prepared. Of these, 12 were of men and 5 were of women. Earlier, some applications were submitted to a panel comprising the DM, CM&HO, BDO, and SDM on Tehsil *dimas*. These persons were of age group 6-14 years.

Some informal meetings were organized with District Mahila Bal Vikas Officer for conducting future programs. Discussions were carried out with the officer

regarding registration of the organisation with Mahila Bal Vikas department. A meeting was held with CDO, Suneel Yadav, for CCL of some SHGs.

Meetings with ADO, S.T.Rajak, SDM K.L.Tiwari, Dubey, and Soni from Health Department, and Dr.K.K.Jain were held on registration of TB patients, immunization, SHGs, hand pump repairs, certificates for PwDs, and PDS shops.

Status of Schemes related to Right to Food

Mid Day Meal Scheme

Out of 153 primary schools in project area, in 4 schools in Virdha Nyay Panchayat, 1 school in Bijrotha, 3 schools in Sunori, and all schools in Servas Kala and Khandi had poor quality of mid-day meal. In 4 schools in Banguankala, the mid-day meal scheme was not functional. Discussions were held with sarpanch, Principal and PTA President on these issues.

Antodaya Anna Scheme

New ration cards are prepared under this scheme in all the villages of project area. According to lists prepared, 6544 cards have been prepared so far. Preparation of cards of remaining beneficiaries is in process.

Integrated Child Development Scheme

In 103 ICDS centres in project area, the condition of 36 ICDS centres was not satisfactory. These centres were not opening regularly, distribution of food was not regular, and the quality and quantity of food supplied was not satisfactory.

Public Distribution Scheme

In the project area, a total of 69 PDS shops were functioning, of which 23 were not functioning properly.

Rashtriya Vridhbha Vastha Pension Scheme

In the entire project area, the amount under the *Rashtriya Vridhbha Vastha Pension Scheme* was distributed only twice in a year. In this quarter, 93 applications were written and submitted to the block office.

Rashtriya Parivar Sabayta Scheme

35 Applications from villages Sunora, Sunori, Nathhikheda, Kandharikala,

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Bhuchera, Kakrari, Rajavan, Kadesarakala and Rajpurkotra were sent to the Social Welfare department at Lalitpur.

Maternity benefit scheme

Under this scheme, applications by 79 women were sent to the community health center, Tal Behat. Earlier in January, it was said by the BMO that the budget had not been allocated for this scheme.

Impact of the programme till now

- ◆ Through mass awareness generation by Parivartan and its CBOs regarding different welfare schemes of the government, tremendous changes have been observed in this block. Out of 79 ration shops, 23 were not functioning properly, though this number has decreased due to interventions made by the project. Earlier, this number was about 40.
- ◆ Functioning of some ICDS centres has improved. These centres were now opening regularly and the quality and quantity of nutrients has increased.
- ◆ Small changes can be observed in social traditions on the issue of social cohesion. People are beginning to sit together ignoring differences of caste and class.
- ◆ Immunization coverage has increased due to support of women groups and CBOs.
- ◆ Participation of women at the village as well as block and district level has increased. Women members are elected frequently to various positions now.
- ◆ Economic condition of some SHGs has improved due to income generation activities started by these groups.
- ◆ In village meetings, people frequently talk of education of girls and are ready to send girls to school.
- ◆ With project intervention, today write applications and demand their rights more frequently.
- ◆ Due to different Health camps at village and block level, diseases like cataract and TB are being addressed.
- ◆ Participation in local self governance has increased

Case Study

Quota of ration shop cancelled

Ugarpur Panchayat in Tal Behat block has only one PDS shop. This shop covers nearby 6 villages. This Panchayat is about 35 k.ms. from block head quarter. This PDS shop is owned by Shobharam. In the month of November, 2005, rations were not distributed to some people from disadvantaged communities.

Attu, son of Thakurdas of village Bhasanwarakhurd, did not get his quota of rations despite being a Antodaya card holder. However, the amount was registered on his card and he was thrown away from the shop. Gyan Ahirwar of the same village was also treated in the same manner. The stock of one month was registered in advance on his card and he was also badly treated. His can of kerosene was also kicked away and he was abused.

The animator of village Saligram, Yadav, organized a meeting on the issue in which other beneficiaries like Babulal Lodi, Shivcharan Ahirwar, Ragwar Ahirwar, and Puran Ahirwar also said they are not given rations and kerosene. After discussion, an application was written to the SDM, Tal Behat, against the salesman of the ration shop. On December 30, 2005, the application was handed over to the SDM by members of Subhas Chandra Bose Manch. When the SDM looked at these cards and the amount registered in advance on their cards, he immediately cancelled the quota of this ration shop. He also ordered that the cancelled quota be attached to village Kandharikala from January, 2006. About 250 people had signed the application which was handed over to the SDM.

SHG spurs employment: Kadesara, Tal Behat

People of village Kadesara in Tal Behat had no knowledge of SHGs and how they worked, until Sambhav helped form an SHG of 10 women from the Pal community here.

None of these women and their families were noted as BPL in the books of the government. Regular meetings and mobilization efforts by Sambhav led to the group being linked to the Swarna Jayanti scheme. Now every member's family has been included in the BPL list, with each member having a saving of Rs 1500 in the bank. Banks have also come forward and given a loan of Rs 10000 and

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Rs 15000 from the block. Another major achievement of the initiative has been the mid-day meal scheme: Guddi, Kapuri, Prabha, Prem, Mira, Shivkunwar, Shanti and Lado have been inducted as cooks in 4 primary schools in Kadesara panchayat.

Disability: An helping hand, Tal behat

Subhash Chandra Bose Manav Adhikar Manch is a group of people working for the betterment of the deprived and marginalized sections of community, facilitated by Sambhav.

On 3rd December, 2005, a rally was organized on "World Disability Day". Over 50 disabled people from the block joined hands and went to the SDM's office. On reaching the office, the group handed over a memorandum list of 250 disabled people to the SDM. The SDM assured them that the issue would be shared with the DM and all possible steps for helping them would be taken. The SDM also ordered the CMO to immediately issue certificates to people in the rally and make provision for issuing disability certificates at the Block itself. 30 people participating in the rally were issued disability certificates the same day, whereas all the other listed are being given certificates at the block itself.

Poorest Areas Civil Society Program

Block Rajnagar, Distt. Chhatarpur M.P.

Quarterly Report from January to March 2006

VITAL STATISTICS

District	Chhatarpur
Block	Rajnagar
Gram Panchayat	86
Villages	136
Population	1, 83,766
Total Families	29,235
BPL Population	33,495

Male	98,358
Female	85,408
SC Population	37,447
ST Population	10,204
OBC and General Population	1, 36,115
Total SHGs formed	89
Total Members	825
Total Savings of SHGs	41,695
Total Mahila Mandals	52
Members	600
No. of Linked Groups	59
Village Information Centres	86
ICDS Centres	100

Regular Meetings of SHGs, Mahila Mandals, and Adolescent groups were organized in all the villages in which following issues were discussed:

- ◆ Information related to NREGA and Right to Information
- ◆ Preparation of job cards under NREGA started in all meetings.
- ◆ Increasing membership of CBOs and empowering them through training and capacity building of members
- ◆ Making SHGs economically more independent by linking them with income generation activities.
- ◆ Support in immunization and Government health programs

Meetings of Gram Sabhas

In January & February, 2006, Gram Sabha meetings were organized in 78 Gram Panchayat of the block. In these Gram Sabhas, 4992 people participated, of which 3994 were men and 998 women. The major focus was on publishing BPL survey lists.

In these Gram Sabhas, information on NREGA was given also to villagers

Exhibition at Khajuraho Fair

From February 26, 2006 to March 3, 2006, an exhibition on health was organized at the Khajuraho Fair. A major focus of this exhibition was dissemination of information on ANC, mother and child care, malnutrition, malaria, TB, RTI and STD. About 800 people visited this exhibition.

Meeting on International Women's Day

On March 8, 2006, in Gram Panchayat Pahari Bawan a meeting was organized in which about 40 women from villages Sapoha, Pahari, Dhoguan, Akona, Surajpura, and Paharpurva participated. In this meeting perspective building was done on gender issues.

Monitoring Visit from VHAI

Ms. Itishree Kanungo visited the project March 19, 2006. She went to villages like Ghura, Majhguan, Bamari, Dhoguan and Paharibawan and looked at the functioning of SHGs, VDC, Janshakti Samities, information centers and other interventions under the PACS programme.

PACS review with Community Organizers and Supervisors

From February 9, 2006 to February 13, 2006, a PACS review was organized in Raipur Centre, Gwalior, on various activities undertaken by the project and analyzing their impact. Issues like disability, watershed programs, gender violence, and advocacy activities like rallies, dharna's, memorandums and padyatra were discussed. Some new proposals on watershed, water and sanitation, and disability were also discussed.

Workshop by PACS Partners

On 22nd and 23rd March, 2006, a workshop was organized in Hotel Jatashankar, Chhatarpur, by Bundelkhand Resource Organisation, TAAL. This workshop was preparation of the Peer Learning Workshop to be organized in Bhopal later in the month. Presentations were made by all partners on gender, NREGA, Right to Information and Disability. Sambhav exchanged views on disability and shared its experience on work done under CBR.

Community Based Organizations

Bundelkhand Mahila Ekta Manch

This CBO has a membership of 1200. Regular monthly meetings at the cluster level and quarterly block level meetings are held.

Sammelans of Bundelkhand Mahila Ekta Manch

Date	Place	Participants	Issues
Feb. 16, 2006	Rajnagar	38	Strengthening of women organisation in this area, regular meetings with women and sensitising them on gender.

Feb. 19, 2006	Chandranagar	32	Increasing membership of SHGs and linking them with income generation activities to make them economically independent.
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Jan Shakti Manch

This CBO is formed by members of Harijan and Adiwasi communities, with a membership of 1450 members, and has its office bearers at cluster and block level. They have a bank account in which the monthly membership is deposited. This Manch regularly sends applications to block and district departments.

Sammelans of Jan Shakti Manch

Date	Place	Participants	Issues
Feb. 8, 2006	Ganj	57	Strengthening of CBOs, organizing regular meetings, sending applications about issues to block and district level, increasing membership of CBOs
Feb. 14, 2006	Maniya	42	Increase participation of women in CBOs; inclusion of disadvantaged communities in decision making.

SHGs and improving membership

Self Help Groups have brought a perceptible change in the socio-economic status of women in these villages. Members of these groups are self employed to make themselves economically independent in the near future.

Some income generation activities started by these groups are:

1. Om Bhagwati SHG, Bamari: terracotta work

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2. Rajkumari SHG, Dhoguan: masala chakki
3. Sharda SHG, Majhguan, Ganesh SHG, Bardwaha, and Awasthi SHG, Majhguan: sansutli products
4. Roshni SHG, Maa Nav Durga SHG, Ghura: goat rearing
5. Meera SHG, Dalpatpura, Pragati SHG, Attara, Krishna SHG, Nayagaon: cattle rearing
6. Maa Sherawali SHG, Kheri, Kishore SHG, Gangwaha: bamboo work
7. Rajkumari SHG, Peera: sewing machine
8. Kisan SHG, Dhongi, Lakshmi SHG, Bhiyant, Maa Gange SHG, Kurela: vegetable cultivation
9. Pragati SHG, Peera, Krishi SHG, Lakheri: collective farming

Coordination with local administration

Swarna Jayanti Swarojgar Yojna Work

After regular meetings at block and district level, the organisation has been appointed under this scheme to form groups in 15 Panchayats of Rajnagar Block. In this scheme 16, new groups have been formed and four group training programs organized through Zila Panchayat.

Reproductive and Child Health Program

Some IEC activities under RCH program have been sanctioned in Gorihar Block for the organisation. Activities like ideal pregnant mother, ideal child, female foeticide and its ill effects, essay writing on increasing population, Janani Suraksha scheme, Deendayal Antodaya scheme and nukkad natak have been organised.

Revised National Tuberculosis Control Program

A project has been sanctioned under this scheme to identify TB patients, train them on preventive measures and monitor their medicine schedule. Village-level animators have been appointed and their training completed.

Watershed Project

Watershed project through Zila Panchayat has been sanctioned & responsibility assigned to Sambhav in Rajnagar block.

TARA HAAT and ISRO Block resource Centre

In Rajnagar, a block resource centre has been developed with support from Tara Gram and ISRO. Main activities of this centre will include providing basic computer literacy to the local population, especially girls. This centre will provide job oriented training and opportunities for employment. Infrastructure has been set up and all essential material in place. The centre has been visited by DA and ISRO, and are soon going to be inaugurated.

Under Jal Abhishek program, a block level committee has been formed in which representatives from Sambhav have been included.

Meeting of SHG members with Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh

On 10th February, 2006, a state-level convention of SHGs was organized at Bhopal. In this convention, 10 members from PACS SHGs participated. On this occasion some members of Om Bhagwate SHG of village Bamari presented terracotta products prepared by their SHG to the Chief Minister, Shivraj Singh Chauhan.

Future directions of the Project

- ◆ Converting SHGs into a block level Federation
- ◆ Empower block level Community Based Organizations
- ◆ Follow up of some proposals submitted to various departments
- ◆ Organizing advocacy activities like padyatra, dharna, memorandum
- ◆ Employment-oriented training of SHGs and linking them with markets.
- ◆ Linkages of SHGs with funding agencies like NABARD, KVIC, Basix.

SHG shop in Khajuraho

In Khajuraho, a shop has been set up with support of Sambhav. This shop is coordinated by SHG members, who also prepare its various products. Products like terracotta sculptures, sansutli products, and other local items of Khajuraho are kept in this shop for sale. The shop is located in Khajuraho's main market and is gradually becoming popular with local and foreign visitors.

Responsibility of Mid Day Meal to SHGs

Some SHGs of the block were assigned the responsibility of preparing food for primary schools under the mid-day meal scheme. A contract has been signed

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between the panchayat and SHG's, according to which SHGs will together prepare the mid-day meal for children. This activity will start as soon as schools reopen after summer vacations.

Status of schemes related to Right to Food

Mid Day Meal Scheme: In a school in Gram Panchayat Digoni, no mid-day meal has been given to school children, while in village Dumra, only dry rice puff is given. In this context, an application was handed over to CEO, Janpad Panchayat, through some community representatives for action.

Antodaya Scheme: Beneficiaries of Sidhha cluster, Ganj cluster, Vikrampur cluster and Maniya cluster do not benefit from PDS shops because these shops do not open regularly. An application was submitted to the Block development Officer through Bundelkhand Ekta Manch, to fix a date and time when these shops will open for beneficiaries.

Integrated Child Development Scheme: 5 ICDS centres under Sidhha, Ganj, Vikrampur and Maniya cluster do not function properly. Some do not provide supplementary food to beneficiaries also. To resolve this matter, an application was given to the Women and Child Development Officer, Chhatarpur.

Public Distribution Scheme: In Village Digoni, Bedari, Nadya, Sevdi and Maniya, no rations were distributed in the month of February and March, 2006.

Rashtriya Vridhha Vastha Pension Scheme: Names of 11 beneficiaries of villages Imliha, Karri, Dalpatpura, Attara, Bedari and Lakheri have not been added to the list of beneficiaries. Their names were recommended by the Gram Sabha.

Rashtriya Parivar Sabayta Scheme: 8 applications from Vikrampur cluster, 2 applications from Pahari Bawan and 1 application from Pahadi Bawan were pending for a long time. These applications were forwarded to the CEO, Janpad, and beneficiaries were taken to the block, as a result of which in March, 2006, the amount was sanctioned.

Maternity Benefit Scheme: In the month of March, 2006, with support of Mahila Bal Vikas department, forms of 154 women from 132 Panchayats were filed.

The list of BPL families was submitted to Janpad Panchayat and the list of Antodaya families submitted to Women and Child Development Department, Chhatarpur .

CASE STUDIES

Masala *Chakki* in Adiwasi Family

Mangaldeen belongs to a Adiwasi family of village Dhoguan. He also works for PACS as an animator. Mangaldeen has been identified as a beneficiary of this project.

In different training programs he used to sit quietly and try to learn with concentration. Gradually, a change in his personality was observed and he began sitting in front during meetings. He also began to show leadership and initiative in his own small way. His confidence began to grow, and he gained self respect and became more sure of himself. Wanting to do something for the community, he formed an SHG of women members and motivated them to undertake development in his village of Dhoguan, like school & panchayat meetings became regular, and visits of government officials to the village increased. Recently, a Masala Chakki was set up in his house with SHG money. Now, Mangaldeen grinds masala for the whole village on minimal prices and is earning money for his family.

SHG efforts prevent migration: Ranipura, Rajnagar

Migration in search of a livelihood has been a serious problem for the people from Ranipura. Rs. 125000 were sanctioned as loan to Bhim Rao Ambedkar SHG after their second grading. The group, on its own, and set up a brick Kiln for income generation.

Group members, alongwith 10 other people from the village, collect mud and prepare bricks at the kiln and sell them in the open market at the best possible profit. Being proud of the initiative, members are now no more ready to work anywhere and plan to maximise profits as well as provide employment to others in the village from the kiln. This initiative has not only brought a significant

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decrease in the number of people migrating to other places in search of work, but has also contributed to the income of members.

SHG effort eradicates corruption, Pahadi Baawan, Rajnagar

The recently started 'Indira Gandhi Garibi Hatao' program has been benefiting only people from well-established families. No BPL and other backward families have been able to benefit of the programme. People from the village believed that no could access benefits menat for them under the programme unless they joined hands. Rati Raikwar and Shobha Dubey, members of the Bundelkhand Kranti Mach collected information about the scheme and held meetings with women of the village. They thus formed small SHGs of 5 members each. Further, these SHGs were linked with DPIP initiative and thus began to gradually benefit from the various government schemes.

With this success, people from Harijan and other poor and disadvantaged groups have also begun to collect and form groups, and are now able to access benefits of various programmes.

UDYOGINI

Grassroots women organize into federation & open Oil unit & Trade center

Around 200 women belonging to 19 groups from Bakori cluster of Mandla district organized themselves into a federation with the name 'UJAS' (Udyam Jagran Sansthan) with the purpose of carrying enterprise activities involving all women who are members of groups supported by Udyogini. 'UJAS' was inaugurated on 12th of March, 2006, in the presence of senior officials from district administration, horticulture & agriculture departments and bankers. CEO Udyogini, Dr. Vanita Viswanath, also attended the function & expressed the hope that the federation will play a major role in the growth of women.

At the same time, the women also inaugurated a trade center and an Oil Unit under the aegis of 'UJAS'. The trade center would deal in agriculture and NTFP 22

commodities and the Oil Unit will be used for extracting edible oil from agriculture & tree-based oil seeds. The Business Development Service Providers (BDSPs) would be providing their services to the trade center and oil unit and they would be paid for their services.

BDSPs are women who have been specially trained by 'Udyogini' to provide business development services and earn from it.