

# Poorest Areas Civil Society (PACS) Programme

Proceedings of the  
Peer Review Workshop for PACS Partners  
in  
Madhya Pradesh & Chhatisgarh

*4-5, August 2003, Bhopal*

*Supported by*

**DFID** Department for  
International  
Development



**Management Consultants**  
Development Alternatives – PricewaterhouseCoopers (P) Ltd.



## Executive Summary

Poorest Areas Civil Society (PACS) Programme envisages contributing towards the millennium development goal of poverty reduction world over by 2015, by working through civil society organisations in India on issues of governance, empowerment and entitlements of the poor.

Various support systems are incorporated in the programme for the civil society organisations to be more effective in their work. Peer review workshops are visualised as one of these platforms wherein the partners of the programme share their experiences and raise issues critical for the development of the programme in their states.

The first peer review workshop was organised in Bhopal for partner organisations of the PACS programme in MP and Chattisgarh various representatives from the government, and experts also, were present. They shared their views and experiences on different issues relevant to the work carried out by the civil society organisations.

Discussions with the government representatives focused on exploring ways and means in which the efforts of government and civil society organisations can be synergised for facilitating better access to services and entitlements of the poor sections of the society. Strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions and empowering people through enhancing their information on rights and entitlements were realised to be the areas where effective collaborations between government and CSOs can take place.

Perspectives and experiences were also shared on issues of land rights and women's empowerment in the state. CSOs working in different districts can take initiatives to contribute to the struggle for land rights of poor and marginalised sections of the society by activating the task force set up by the government in every district of the state. It was also discussed that the issue of empowerment of women needs to be looked in a different perspective and efforts and initiatives of women representatives in panchayats needs to be recognised in the broader social set up.

Partner CSOs shared the conceptualisation and progress of their projects and the need for synergising the efforts by different organisations was expressed. Expertise and understanding of different issues among the partner organisations of the PACS programme is a rich source of knowledge and learning and the need for a system for mutual sharing of this experience and knowledge was recognised. To initiate the process three issues of critical concern for the CSOs in MP and Chattisgarh were identified and groups were formed to start the process of discussion and knowledge sharing through workshops and meetings.

Advocacy for the rights and entitlements of the poor and marginalised form an important part of the whole conceptualisation of the project and the discussions in the peer review workshop have brought out the point that a collective effort for the cause would be more effective. Networks of civil society organisations working at the district level can identify issues relevant to the community and organise the community to take ahead these issues for advocating change in the policy and its implementation. Most of the times the issues of critical concern to the community is common in a district and interventions are possible at the level of district or block administration itself. Collaborative efforts at district or block level would help in synergising the strengths of the different organisations and community groups, which till now are not working in a visible collaboration.

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

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### Background

Poorest Area Civil Society (PACS) Programme focuses on the 100 poorest districts in six states of India. Seven projects are currently under implementation in MP and Chattisgarh of which three are network projects and the remaining individual interventions. Peer review workshop is an attempt to bring together all the partners to the programme on one platform so that mutual sharing and learning can take place and ideas can be generated to strengthen the programme. Besides, it is also intended to set in a process where the partners would also get an opportunity of interacting with the government machinery as well as with other organisations working on similar issues. This workshop held in Bhopal was the first peer review workshop for the two states and an attempt was made to bring in specialists on different issues for sharing their perspectives and discussions and debate.

### Workshop Objectives

*Ms. Kiran Sharma* from Development Alternatives, for the management consultants group for PACS Programme explained the objectives of the workshop and gave an overview of the PACS Programme. She described the workshop as a platform for the different partners of the PACS programme in MP and Chhatisgarh to share their views, ideas, and experiences. This process would contribute in strengthening the programme. It was very important that the partners to the PACS programme got into a programmatic mode wherein self and peer monitoring systems and cross learning became an integral part of the programme. PACS programme is visualised as a means to strengthen the grassroots processes so that a better model of development can evolve through working on 'soft issues', wherein physical infrastructure and service delivery form a very small part of the total programme. She emphasised the importance of programme partners not hiding their shortcomings, but discussing them openly thereby helping to evolve a better programme.

### DFID's Role and Expectations

*Mr. Girish Menon* gave the DFID perspective relating the PACS programme in the larger context of the millennium development goals as stated by the United Nations. He said that the involvement of the three major stakeholders, Government, Civil Society and private sector is necessary for development. DFID is supporting both Government and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) for reduction of poverty in India. The Poorest Areas Civil Society (PACS) Programme is the single largest and most important project for civil society in India. DFID is supporting CSOs in 108 poorest districts of India across six states, which also include non-partner states of DFID in India.

The five year strategy which DFID has decided for itself is to compare approaches to poverty eradication, improve quality services and work towards a sustainable and equitable society. The focus in PACS programme is to strengthen civil society and grassroots processes. He also added that Madhya Pradesh is no longer considered a part of the poor states of India. The initiatives taken in local self-governance and education in MP are discussed in international circles. Girish also said that poverty is multi dimensional and there is a need that the rights of poor should become the agenda of the government and civil society. He concluded saying that DFID has very high expectations from PACS and that we all need to work jointly together to make an effective impact.

## Day 1 - Process Details

**PACS Programme in MP**

*Ms. Lata Raman* from Development Alternatives presented an overview on the programme and correlated the international development targets in the context of the country and the state. She gave the details of the number of organisations who are partner to the PACS programme and status of the projects that are in pipeline. Highlighting the status of the programme in Madhya Pradesh and Chhatisgarh she emphasized that there was an urgent need to encourage good credible CSOs to work in MP and Chhattisgarh under the programme.

**Supportive Supervision**

*Mr. Anwar Jafri* from Bhopal Rehabilitation the Supportive Supervision Resource Organisation for MP, made a presentation on the role of supportive supervision. Explaining the idea of supportive supervision he said that it included understanding requirements of individual partners, reviewing work plans, relating plans to actual implementation, incorporating learning in organisational processes and into the program, support for developing reporting formats, support in developing monitoring indicators / identifying milestones, helping in task analysis – roles and responsibilities of project staff and identifying capacity building needs of the project partners

**Session I - Improving Access to Services**

*Mr. K S Sharma*, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission addressed the session. He said that in the present era of globalisation there are three major forces that are working simultaneously, i.e. *state, market and civil society*. The role of the state is visualised as a development catalyst. The energies of the state go into removing caste and gender based social barriers and making basic amenities like health, education, and land available to all sections of the society.

In Madhya Pradesh the state has taken many initiatives towards decentralisation of governance and people centered policies. Panchayati Raj Institutions are a good example of states efforts towards decentralised governance. The state is further making efforts for simplifying rules and regulations and making information available to the people thus moving towards increased transparency and accountability. Civil Society Organisations have also been included in the process of programme planning and implementation. In spite of all these efforts the poor sections of the society has not been able to get the expected benefits.

Lack of capacity and skills in the poor, vested interests of some people and sometimes non encouraging role of administration is largely responsible for this. Civil Society Organisations have an important role to play in this respect in information dissemination, awareness creation, and strengthening people's institutions. Mr. Sharma quoted Prof. Amartya Sen in saying that development is visualised as freedom for shaping one's own destiny.

**CSO Presentation - Samarthan Centre for Development Support, Bhopal**

*Dr. Yogesh Kumar*, Director, Samarthan, Bhopal, presented Samarthan's perspective on the PACS programme and the progress that has been done by the network of CSOs with which Samarthan is working in the programme. He said that the goals visualised under the project are strengthening the process of democratic governance at the grass roots and strengthening people centered model of development recognizing the value and role of Panchayati Raj Institutions in local socio economic context. Samarthan is the lead agency in a network project of 9 CSOs in 10 development blocks of 6 districts in MP and Chhatisgarh.

He explained that the network is working has a strategy to strengthen local self governance institutions at the grassroots, enhancing the capacity of the CSOs in the two states involved to work on the issue and taking up advocacy for a conducive policy and its implementation environment at the larger level.

All the partners are working on mobilisation of gram sabhas and orientation of panchayat representatives. Newsletters are also published regularly by them, which are distributed in the community through informal meetings, information centers and through volunteers to panchayat representatives and local leaders in gram sabhas.

Answering queries put up by participants Dr. Yogesh said that a strong network of elected representatives of panchayats is envisaged which would change the situation at the grassroots. He also highlighted the problem of lack of information especially about the fifth Schedule areas in both the states and emphasised the importance of formation of integrated plans for development at the panchayat level.

### **CSO Presentation - Institute for Development of Youth, Women and Child (IDYWC), Chhindwara, Madhya Pradesh**

*Ms Seema Sadiq* from IDYWC presented the organisation's perspectives on the PACS programme being implemented by them. The primary focus under PACS programme for IDYWC is formation and strengthening of village level organisations or *Sangathans* and their capacity building. IDYWC is working in 60 villages of three blocks of Chhindwara district of Madhya Pradesh under the PACS programme.

She said that IDYWC puts its efforts in enabling the communities to function as strong pressure groups to activate government delivery systems. The most prominent achievement of IDYWC is establishment of village level *Sangathans* and their federation at the apex level. This federation, *Adivasi Shramik Sangathan*, is a body that not only deliberates on issues of rights and equity but also has taken up the mantle of leadership for the tribals of the area. The leadership in the *Sangathans* is represented by 4 members, two men and two women. Initiatives like formation of village fund, non formal education centers and seed banks are initiated through the *Sangathans*.

Answering the queries put up by the participants she, along with Mr. Sadiq Agwan, explained that the *Samitis* formed under Gram Swaraj, and the Gram Sabha are the constitutional bodies and are the most important part of village self governance. It is therefore necessary to strengthen them. *Sangathans* formed at village level work as a means to strengthen the gram sabha and act as a pressure group on the panchayats. The apex body meets twice in a year through its elected representatives.

### **Potentials for CSO-GO Engagements**

*Mr. Gopal Krishnan*, Secretary to the Chief Minister, Madhya Pradesh, initiated his talk by explaining that in his view the civil society is not exclusive of the political democracy and legislative structure. Therefore the notion that the civil society is only represented by NGOs is not justified. Civil Society in fact includes all the above mentioned institutions and more. Before the 73rd amendment NGOs were filling up the gap between the bureaucratic government and the community. This place has been taken up by the PRIs in present. In the changed scenario it is therefore required that the NGOs also evolve their role of capacity building and skill development of the PRIs. According to him the objectives of panchayati raj would not be achieved till economic equity is absent in the society. In this scenario attempts like supporting parallel institutions at the village level ensure that the panchayats function in a competitive environment and not in a monopolistic environment. The total development expenditure should be added on by channelising resources that are apart from the government resources.

Answering a question regarding the changing role of CSOs he said that one agenda that they can take up is orienting the village level institutions to function better. Sighting an example of focused capacity building he said that one way of doing this can be simplifying and making user friendly record books etc. so that the understanding and control of the elected representatives over the work at the village level increases.

### **Session II - Partnering with the Government**

This session was chaired by *Mr. Wasim Akhtar*, MD, Warehousing Corporation. Mr. Akhtar had worked as district collector in Vidisha, Gwalior and Jahabua districts of MP and has been involved in a number of development initiatives taken up by the government. Mr. Akhtar presented the case study of Jhabua district and explained how various initiatives like SHGs, promotion of Gramodyog or rural enterprises, watershed development works, tank irrigation

projects and other developmental programmes have brought about a change in the rural livelihood scenario there.

Responding to a query about development of independent leadership in the programmes, he sighted an example of women SHGs in the district that have taken many income generating works for themselves. Commenting upon a remark that the government schemes were collector centric, he said that in Jhabua the developmental programmes initiated by his predecessors have been carried on. Severe drought and scarcity have made development works a common agenda for all level of government functionaries, ensuring that benefits percolate to the lower levels.

### **CSO Presentation - National Institute of Women, Child and Youth Development (NIWCYD), Nagpur, Maharashtra**

*Mr. Rajesh Kumar Malviya*, Chief Functionary of the organisation, presented a brief background on NIWCYD and his experiences in collaborating with the government. He said that NIWCYD has been working in the states of MP, Maharashtra and Chattisgarh since last 16-17 years but there has been no active collaboration with the government in the past.

In the PACS programme the organisation is working in a partnership with 9 other CSOs across four districts of Madhya Pradesh, these being Chindwara, Dindori, Mandala and etul. The work area is predominantly tribal and food security and forest and land rights are the issues concerning the community.

He also mentioned that mere capacity building is not sufficient while working with the community, the immediate needs of the community should also be kept in mind. As a part of NIWCYD strategy the poor and women are kept as a special focus group during the micro-planning process.

Sharing his experiences of micro-planning for the people displaced due to Bargi dam in Seoni, Mandla and Jabalpur districts he said that working with the government takes a lot of efforts and the lower levels of administration is not always sensitive and co-operative.

### **CSO Presentation - Centre for Advanced Research and Development (CARD), Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh**

*Mr. Manish Pawar* from CARD made a presentation on the organisation. CARD is working in three regions of MP - Bhil predominant-western Region, feudal Malwa region and Gond predominant eastern M.P. region. He said that the organisation works with an overall objective of resource generation for sustainable livelihoods. The organisation has also worked in collaboration with various developmental schemes of the state and central government. CARD has a vision to empower the communities about their entitlements through the PACS programme. Under the programme activities the thrust will be on forming SHGs or common interest groups, link them up with income generation activities and strengthen them for economic empowerment and increased participation in the governance process at the village level.

### **Comments by the panel and open discussion**

*Mr. Pankaj Raag*, Director, Watershed Development Mission, MP, said that there are factions in the community based on caste and class and there is a lot of conflict between these factions. While working with the community these different factions of the community should be kept in mind. Capacity building programmes can impart skills to the people but the structural issues cannot be addressed through training and capacity building alone. Moreover it can also not be addressed through a campaign. These issues can be addressed through intensive work in a small area, like a district. In the discussion that followed participants shared their experiences of struggle and non-cooperation from with government. It was also brought out by the participants that the administration does not have a space for disagreement and therefore it becomes difficult for NGOs and GOs to work together. Mr. Raag commented that right thinking

NGOs and right thinking administration can work together for the betterment of the communities and there is a lot of space for strengthening institutions like gram sabha.

### Session III - PACS - Issues, Strategies and Challenges

In this session a group exercise was conducted by making heterogeneous groups from among the participants. Each group consisted of representatives from different CSOs implementing. The participants were given a small note which listed out issues related to networking, advocacy, and capacity building of the partner NGOs in PACS programme. Initial discussions among the participants brought out the following points as very important for networking:

- a) There should be a space and environment for the partners in the network to contribute
- b) There should be networks of CSOs at the district level also
- c) Training programmes should be designed keeping in mind the field requirements. The lead organisation in the network has an important role to play in this
- d) Methods for planning and reporting should be developed
- e) Two way communication should be facilitated among the partners and there should be a mutual exchange of information collected

The participants were then asked to discuss among themselves and come out with important issues that were discussed in their respective groups. The groups had to present two important issues discussed in their respective groups the next day. These discussions however could not be completed due to lack of time.

### Session IV - Identifying the Poor: BPL Survey Sharing of experiences

*Mr. Amitabh Singh* from Debate and *Mr. Srirang* from Action Aid, Bhopal, presented the experiences of NGO alliance in Madhya Pradesh during the state level survey conducted by the government to re-identify the families below poverty line. He explained that the alliance of NGOs has been formed with an objective to ensure that the poorest of the poor get enlisted in the survey conducted. The overall coverage by the NGOs was in 37 districts of Madhya Pradesh with 4 blocks in each district. A total of 148 blocks were thus covered with around 30-40 villages in each block. 76 organisations all over MP got involved in the process of facilitation at grassroots. Various activities were taken up for the purpose which included participation in training of enumerators, publication of awareness material, identification and formation of watch group in the form of institutional setup for monitoring of the survey at gram sabha level, awareness generation through *kala jathas*, street plays, poster, wall writing and use of loud speakers etc. and support in organizing Gram Sabhas.

Throughout this exercise the focus was on sharing information regarding survey methods and schedule of survey with the community, developing a system so that the poorest were able to use the information, collaborate with local administration and to give information to the district and block level government institutions to make the exercise more effective

During the whole process this collaboration with the administration could be considered useful but there was poor support from the block level machinery. It was also felt that in places where organisations have been working for a longer period and have good relationship with community the response from the community has been very good.

Mr. Amitabh also emphasised the need for preparing and taking up the issues, which were left out during the present survey in the next such exercise to be conducted 5 years later. Answering one of the queries he added that the alliance is an open and informal forum and interested organisations are welcome to join.

### Supportive Supervision (continuation of discussion)

The discussion on supportive supervision continued from where it was left in the morning and was facilitated by Mr. Anwar Jafri on behalf of the supportive supervision resource organisation. The issues that came up during discussion that followed were related to reporting and

documentation and capacity building of the team members of the CSOs. The participants brought up the point that although the importance of proper reporting and documentation is realised by all the CSOs it is not put into practice very effectively. Capacity building on qualitative reporting is required to be done for the field level functionaries. The reports should be more analytical and it should not be restricted to a pre designed format. There should be a space for the individual CSOs to do it in the manner suitable to them but the basic minimum requirement of information should not be compromised upon. At the end the organisations should see documentation and reporting as a process that adds value to the work done by them in the field and not a just a formal requirement of the funding agency.

Following the end of a rather heavy schedule, the workshop's first day concluded with the identification of two volunteers for summing up the day's proceedings. The volunteers were required to present their observations in the beginning of the next day.

**Day 2 - Process Details**

The day started with Ms. Jyoti from YUVA and Mr. Sadiq Agwan from IDYWC presenting a summary of the previous day's proceedings. They summarised the presentations and discussions held on the first day and stated the main points that came up during the discussion.

**Session V - Networking and Capacity Building for Advocacy****CSO Presentation - Voluntary Health Association of India (VHAI), New Delhi**

*Dr. P C Bhatnagar* from VHAI presented the organisation's perspective on PACS programme. He explained that under the PACS programme the organisation is going to work in 10 blocks in four states, covering 1215 villages under 600 panchayats with a target population of 11,00,000. VHAI is working with a goal, *'to improve the life of people especially women and underprivileged sections of society of the selected area by improving their socio-economic and health status'*.

As a part of its strategy VHAI is going to publish a white paper on the situational analysis of the 10 blocks it is working in. The white paper will be distributed among various stakeholders in the programme. Moreover simplified information kits are planned to be prepared and distributed among the villagers, government employees, people representatives at various levels, for sensitisation.

Answering one of the questions Dr. Bhatnagar said that sectoral approaches to development are not adequate therefore VHAI has taken an integrated approach towards development in the PACS programme. One important question that was raised was regarding the project being ambitious in terms of spread and diversity in portfolio of activities. Dr. Bhatnagar clarified that other support systems from VHAI would also be contributing towards supporting the activities in the project.

**CSO Presentation - Youth for Voluntary Action (YUVA), Nagpur, Maharashtra**

*Mr. Datta Patil*, Chief Functionary, YUVA, made the presentation on behalf of the organisation. YUVA is going to work in 2 blocks, Betul and Chicholi in Betul district of MP. In four years of project duration it is going to cover 50 villages, with a population of 26,000 consisting of 1200 families through indirect interventions and 500 families through direct interventions. The families below poverty line (BPL) are kept in focus in the project and it is visualised that by the end of project 50% of the BPL families in the project area will be covered and 40% of those covered would be brought above poverty line.

The strategy for this programme would be to harness existing legal provisions and platforms like gramsabha, and suggesting amendments in their working. Special focus will be on organising people for collective efforts through formation of village level people's organisations and institutions. The project also includes formation of federation of economic units and sensitization of government functionaries to achieve the stated objectives.

Networking and capacity building with a larger perspective of policy advocacy also forms an important part of the project. The project can be said to have three stages with capacity building of the team involved in the first phase, organising people and formation of people's groups in the second phase and consolidation of programmes for sustainability in the third and final phase.

Answering the questions from participants Mr. Patil said that the BPL list prepared by the Government will be used as a base but the organisation's own assessment of families below poverty line will also be taken into consideration. In the whole project government is visualised as a critical partner and its resources would be utilised.

Commenting upon the session the chairperson for the session, Mr. S C Behar said that the family has to be the unit for development interventions. The indicators for the families brought above poverty line must be very clear and their sustainability to remain above the poverty line must be kept in mind.

## Session VI - MP Issues of Concern

### Advocacy on Land Rights - Ekta Parishad, Madhya Pradesh

A brief description of the land rights movement initiated by Ekta Parishad was presented by **Mr. Ran Singh Parmar**. He explained the kind of atrocities upon the tribals and landless dalits on the issue of land and the irregularities in the land distribution process. Ekta Parishad has mobilised the community on the issue of land across MP through *pad yatras*, training of *mukhiyas* and formation of *Mukhiya* based organisations at the village level. Dharnas, rallies and demonstrations were organised in front of the state government and chief minister after compilation of the cases through out the state. A task force was also constituted in September 2001, both at state and district levels, to initiate and institutionalise radical land reforms in Madhya Pradesh. At the state level the objective of the task force is to suggest land rights policies to correct, re-start and review land reforms for deprived section of the society. The objectives also include monitoring field operations at the district level to institutionalise radical land reforms initiatives and involve in joint field action for distributive justice.

Answering queries he said that a taskforce has been established in every district of MP but in areas where Ekta Parishad is not active the task force is not working effectively. A possibility exists therefore that interested organisations can get involved in making this task force active. The long-term vision is to move towards implementation of land ceiling act but the pertinent issue of making land available to those who already have *Pattas* with them is to be addressed first. The participants also highlighted specific problems in their work area like the problem of poor quality of the distributed land which is unfit for agriculture and false financing in places such as Sarguja.

### Women's Empowerment Issues in MP

**Mrs. Nirmala Buch**, Chairperson, Mahila Chetna Manch chaired this session. She started her discourse by explaining the concept of empowerment. She said that empowerment is a long and time consuming process. It is a situation in which an individual has a right to take decisions about her present and future and has an opportunity and capacity to do so. Unfortunately empowerment of women is generally not taken as an important objective in the developmental processes, it is taken as a sub-objective to some larger objectives. As an external catalyst CSOs can intervene in many spheres.

In MP the male female gap has still not reduced. Women still lag behind in literacy, leadership and politics. The notion that mere education can reduce this gap is wrong. The societal and family values and attitudes are still feudal and discriminate against women. There may have been a change in the language but the mindsets have not changed largely. There have been some initiatives in MP however. The formulation of the new policy on women by the state government is an initiative to clarify the vision of the state government in this regard.

Answering queries she said that women's empowerment is a political process and changes can be brought about by political interventions. Organising women through different platforms and using these platforms to create a collective voice of women can bring changes. In panchayats the issue of *sarpanch pati* acting as proxy sarpanch also has to be visualised in a different context. For most of the women the fact that the tenure for sarpanch is for 5 years but the family is for lifetime also plays a very important role. It has to be understood that for most of these families women have entered politics for the first time and therefore their performance should be judged in that perspective.

### PRI Initiatives in MP

**Mr. Manoj Jhalani**, Commissioner, Panchayat and Social Welfare chaired this session. Due to lack of time Mr. Jhalani straight away took up questions from the participants. He explained the village as a harmonious social structure and advocated against party based politics at the village level. He felt that the Gram Panchayat is an artificial unit of governance as compared

to a village, which is the natural unit to facilitate transparency and accountability in local self-governance. Every village should therefore have its own panchayat. The MP Govt. is thinking of introducing a bill along these lines. There is also a need to strengthen the panchayat bodies.

### Workshop Analysis and follow up

The last session of the workshop focussed upon future strategies and course of action. Initiating the discussion Dr. Yogesh Kumar from Samarthan, Bhopal suggested that three issues of common concern to the CSOs can be taken up for networking initially. The issues include:

1. Land rights
2. Women's empowerment
3. Panchayati raj with special focus on areas where provisions of fifth schedule.

It was proposed that before the next peer review workshop internal workshops among the partners should be held so that additional inputs to the regular programmes are provided through the process. It was also suggested that a core group be made at the state level, which meets more frequently and regularly, to avoid the process becoming just an event. In addition to this, regular exchange and exposure of the field staff to each other's work area will also keep the process alive. The core group should also involve people from various spheres. Specific responsibility for finalising the structure and design of the programme should also be distributed among the core group members. The groups were each asked to give their priority in terms of interest for one of the three areas for networking. The issue wise groups that were formed along with the lead for each issue is given below:

The roles and responsibilities for the core group that were finalised are as below:

1. Holding meetings, once in every two months, to discuss strategies to build upon the concept of peer review.
2. Making available the internal expertise for each other in the group.

**Table 1: Issue Based CSO Groups**

Women's Empowerment	Land Rights	Panchayat (V <sup>th</sup> Schedule)
Youth for Voluntary Action (YUVA), Nagpur	National Institute for Women, Child and Youth Development (NIWCYD), Nagpur	Institute for Development of Youth Women and Child (IDYWC), Chhindwara
Voluntary Health Association of India (VHAI) – lead	Aarambh, Bhopal	Society for Participatory Action, SOPAN, Betul, MP
Institute for Development of Youth Women and Child (IDYWC), Chhindwara	Youth for Voluntary Action (YUVA), Nagpur (lead)	YUVA, Nagpur
Pradeepan, , Betul	Prabhas, Ambikapur, Chattisgarh	Centre for Advanced Research and Development (CARD), Bhopal
Pararth, Chhindwara	Margdarshan, Ambikapur, Chattisgarh	NIWCYD, Nagpur
Aarambh, Bhopal	Ekta Parishad, Bhopal, MP	Janmanagal Sansthan, (JAMAS) Chhindwara
	Sambhav, Gwalior	Regional Institute of Development (RIDE), Sarguja (lead along with Samarthan)
	Soshit Seva Sansthan, (SSS), Durg, Chattisgarh	Prabhas, Ambikapur
		Margdarshan, Ambikapur
		Institute for Social Service & Rural Development (ISSRD), Betul
		Sarthak
		Vardan
		Kamyab

3. Preparing a data bank of the resources and making available the information about various schemes and programmes initiated by the government.
4. To initiate a dialogue or facilitate in making a congenial environment for a dialogue with the government.
5. To facilitate implementation of decisions taken during peer review.

The core group that was finalised consisted of 5 representatives:

- a) Rajesh Malviya, NIWCYD, Nagpur
- b) Yogesh Kumar, Samarthan, Bhopal
- c) Datta Patil, YUVA, Nagpur
- d) Harshlata Siblool, ISSRD, Betul, MP
- e) Seema Sadiq, IDYWC, Chhindwara, MP

It was decided that the discussion would be carried further during further meetings of the core group. The whole process can also be visualised as an attempt to dilute the unequal relationship between the lead and the partner agencies in the programme. This is an opportunity to synergise the efforts at larger levels and make the network work.

The peer review process is envisaged to be held once in six months. "Ownership" and "sustainability" is a key to the success of the processes being set in. Hence towards the closure it was decided that the date, venue and the design of the next peer review workshop would be decided by the partners and the Management Consultants would be informed of the same.

### **Closing Address**

In his closing address to the workshop *Prof. K C Malhotra*, who is also the Chairperson of the Programme Advisory Board, emphasized the need for the whole process to be absolutely transparent and effective. Suggestions for better implementation of the project can be incorporated in the project implementation process and changes are possible. He also suggested that concept note on thematic areas may be a good idea to start with. Proper sharing and follow up of the processes in the respective teams is also important and systems should be developed for doing this. Prof. Malhotra ended by saying that there is no second party or third party to the programme. Everyone, including the supportive supervision resource organisation is a partner to the programme and a combined effort from all parts would help in making the programme better.

## Agenda

### Day 1 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2003

- 09.00 – 10.30 **Introduction**  
 Workshop Objectives – Management  
 Consultants (MC)  
 DFID  
 PACS Programme Overview – MC  
 Supportive Supervision – Anwar Jafri,  
 Resource Organisation
- 10.30 – 10.45 Tea Break

Girsh Menon

#### Session I – Improving Access to Services

*Chair: Mr. K S Sharma*  
*Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission*  
**Guest Speaker: Mr. Gopala Krishnan**  
*Secretary to the CM, MP*

- Presentations
- 10.45 – 11.00 - Samarthan, Bhopal
- 11.00 – 11.15 - Institute for Development of Youth,  
 Women and Child (IDYWC),  
 Chhindwara, MP
- 11.15 – 11.40 Reactions/Discussions
- 11.40 – 11.50 Comments by Chair
- 11.50 – 12.30 **Potentials for CSO-GO Engagements**
- 12.30 – 13.00 Discussions
- 13.00 – 13.45 **Lunch**

*Mr. Gopala Krishnan*

#### Session II – Partnering with Government

*Chair: Mr. Wasim Akhtar*  
*MD, Warehousing Corporation*  
**Panel: Mr. Pankaj Raag**  
*Director, R.G. Watershed Mission*

- Brief Presentations by:
- 13.45 – 14.00 - National Institute of Women, Child and  
 Youth Development (NIWCYD)
- 14.00 – 14.15 - Centre for All Round Development  
 (CARD), Bhopal
- 14.15 – 14.40 Reactions/Discussions
- 14.40 – 15.00 Comments by Chair & Panel

#### Session III - PACS- Issues, Strategies and Challenges

- 15.00 – 17.00 Review and Discussions with PACS partners  
 facilitated by Supportive Supervision  
 Resource Organisation

#### 17.00 – 17.15 Tea Break

#### Session IV - Identifying the poor: BPL Survey

- 17.15 – 18.30 **Sharing of experiences**  
 Action Aid, India  
 Amitabh Singh, Debate
- 20.30 **Dinner**

*Chair: Mr. Girish Menon*  
*DFID*

## Agenda

**Day 2 5<sup>th</sup> August, 2003****Session IV - Networking and Capacity Building for Advocacy***Chair: Mr. S C Behar**Advisor to CM, MP**Panel : Mr. Ran Singh Parmar**Ekta Parishad*

- Presentations :
- 09.30 – 09.45 - Voluntary Health Association of India (VHAI)
- 09.45 – 10.00 - Youth for Voluntary Action (YUVA), Nagpur
- 10.00 – 10.45 Discussions
- 10.45 – 11.00 Summing up by Panel and Chair
- 11.00 – 11.15 Tea Break
- 11.15 – 11.45 **Capacity Building of CSOs partners with GoMP on poverty reduction**
- 11.45 – 12.00 Discussion

Mr. S C Behar

**Session V – MP Issues of Concern**

- 12.0 12.30 **Advocacy on Land Rights – Ekta Parishad**
- 12.30 – 13.00 Discussion
- 13.00 – 13.45 **Lunch**

Mr. Ran Singh Parmar

**Session V Cont.....**

- 13.45 – 14.15 Women's Empowerment Issues in MP – **Mahila Chetna Manch**
- 14.15 – 14.30 Discussion
- 14.30 – 15.00 **PRI Initiatives in MP**

Mrs. Nirmla Buch

Chairperson, Mahila Chetna Manch

Mr. Manoj Jhalani

Commissioner, Panchayat and Social welfare

- 15.00 – 15.30 Discussion
- 15.30 – 15.45 Tea Break
- 15.45 – 17.00 **Workshop Analysis and CSO follow up**  
Open Session
- Feedback on workshop
  - Learnings and follow up

Resource Organisations, MC, DFID

- 17.00 Close

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## Acknowledgements

*Workshop Facilitation and Report Documentation — Bhopal Rehabilitation, Bhopal*

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*The Management Consultants would like to thank all the workshop participants, especially the representatives from various government departments, civil society organisations and individuals from various development organisations. We look forward to more interaction in the future.*