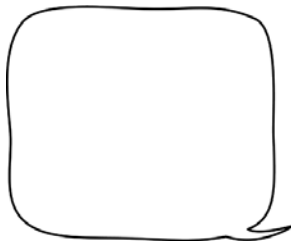


CHHATISGARH



PACS MADHYA PRADESH &
MONTHLY UPDATE





1. State Status Report

Till the month of December, 2005, the PACS programme in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh was supporting seven network projects and twelve individual projects through 47 CSO partners in 66 blocks of 17 districts. Currently, 71 % of districts, 52 % blocks, 17 % villages and 18 % gram panchayats are being covered, and 47 % budget utilized so far. (Source: State Synthesis Report)

Parameters	Unit	Total
Total no. of network projects	Numbers	8
Total no. of individual projects	Numbers	11
Total budget allocated (till Oct. 05)	Rupees	22.52 Crore
Total budget disbursed (till Oct. 05)	Rupees	10.60 Crore

Source: Compilation of reports and PwC database

A. MEAL Report: MP and Chhattishgarh

Key Progress

- MIT meeting was held on 23rd and 24th December 2005 to review progress of State PST action plan, finalize CSO-wise allocation amongst ROs, and share State progress on synthesis report. For the first time, representatives of Sutra Consultants, Raipur and Green Earth, Pune, attended the meeting. These two organizations joined the State PST as new resource organization. They shared their plan of action and explained how they will bring value addition to PACS programme in the State programme. Samarthan, WWF and CARE-CASHE shared progress and future plan of action. PST also debated state strategy on CB, micro finance, disability, governance, communication etc.
- Another MIT meeting was held on 7th January 2006 to review newly-developed project proposals. During the meeting, seven new projects were discussed. For the first time, the extension project proposal of IDYWC was also reviewed. Two PST members shared their learning's and work done during the project orientation facilitated for PRADAN and SRIJAN PACS projects. The PST also reviewed the new networking proposal by Mr. Anwar and clarified the revised MEAL formats.
- From 1-5th December, 2005, three members from the PST attended the OD workshop at Lucknow. Strategically, the workshop was important in two aspects: it improved understanding on OD concepts and strengthened conceptually the strategy of how to implement it with State CSO partners.

- Two 3-day project orientation of PRADAN and SRIJAN project was facilitated by PST members.
- Special meeting held among CARE CASHE representatives and PACS representatives. It has been planned to adopt a cluster approach. Focus will be on Mandla, Chhindwara and Betul districts for the interventions.
- A presentation on PACS was made by the PACS SMC during the Rural Livelihood workshop organized by IIFM for World Vision.
- The SMC also made a presentation on "How NGOs and Media & Academic Institutions Collaborate for Better Social Development". The workshop was organized by Samarthan. It was jointly decided that NGOs and academic institutions will hold second level learning forum workshop to develop better strategies to work jointly.
- During the quarter, two CSO field visits were made by PST member to GVM and Mahila Samiti working areas.
- Communication RO completed the preliminary work on communication need assessment. The team has visited individual CSOs and interacted with entire team members along with field visits. It also contributed to preparation, editing and formatting of state-level documents.
- PST members contributed in Project orientation workshop organized by Help Age India at Bhopal which was attended by 3 CSO partners. It is planned that one project orientation workshop shall be organized at central level for all State CSO partners of PACS project of Helpage India

Key Achievements

- Grounding of MEAL and smooth flow of MEAL reports
- Second draft of State Synthesis report of MP and Chhattishgarh completed
- Smooth functioning of PST (two new ROs joined the team)
- Acceptance of revised MEAL formats by CSO partners
- Collaboration with CARE-CASHE for micro finance activities.

Key Learnings

- Initiation of need-specific CB programs for CSOs with focus on grassroots and middle level staff
- Focus on improving Network-OD to develop models of network
- Develop and mature 'cluster hubs' based on geographical concentration e.g. Betul and Bundelkhand
- Promote institutional linkages based on partnership and convergence for PACS CSOs
- Collaboration with other donor and government agencies e.g. MPRLP, RCH, CASHE etc.



2. CSO Best Practices

1. Aarambh - **Baal Aangan** centres for drop-out children reached out to 142 children during 2 academic sessions. 38 drop-out children joined mainstream education through bridge-classes.
2. PRADAN - **Internal Learning System** helps to understand stage wise livelihood approaches and progress of SHG members as well as groups. It promotes self assessment & grading of mutual help groups.
3. MSS - **Rejuvenation of NTFP co-operative society** of 15 villages. It helped to motivate people for effective management of NTFP.
4. NIWCYD - Adoption of **Grain bank**, seed bank and vermi compost/organic farming.
5. KSS/SRUB - Practicing **advocacy tools** helped community leaders to adopt various tactic to raise dalit issues and translate them into mass movement (strengthening social cohesion); networking of regional NGOs.
6. Samarthan - **Social Audit** of panchayat helped promote accountability and transparency at panchayat level; social auditing also replicated in other field areas; active sarpanch network; organising Swaraj Yatra in Sehore.
7. CARD - Regular focus on **Grading of SHG's**. It was found that grading of SHG's is being done regularly. On pilot basis, CARD helped communities develop financial action plan of 5 panchayats (100 wards) to ensure benefits of min. employment guarantee scheme optimally.
8. IDYWC - **Sangathan** as village level unit, functioning as strong pressure group to stimulate government delivery systems, especially in case of education, health and gram sabha. Large demand for village development generated, as also improved awareness on development. Both collaborative and confrontative approaches adopted for pressuring government machinery to enable them to plan and implement their dem and project operations. Organization set up a Development Advisory Board (DAB) consisting of seven members (one man & one women from each cluster, and one from the organization). This arrangement helped project to built capacity of community representatives and developed their self-confidence in managing development programmes.
9. SIRDI - In every village haat, organization is disseminating information to all vil-lages on different issues through **information centres**. This arrangement has helped disseminate information on a large scale, and also serves as a meeting point for all SHG members informally.



3. CSO Innovations With Evidence of Potential

1. Aarambh - Meeting of motivated project villagers (approx. 500) with then Chief Minister, Uma Bharti, that ensured regularisation and strengthening of PDS system in project villages.
2. CARD - Promoted Jal utsav programme with the help of Jal Sanchay Samiti. Festival started from 7th Jan. and ended on 14th Jan '06 i.e. Makarsankranti. Received good response from media and local communities.
3. GVM - Collective effort amongst women SHG's, anganwadi staff, and ANM to ensure mechanism to strengthen mother and child health; 'Tannore Express' a monthly wall paper used to share project progress and learning with community. It was done at project field office of CDC, network partner of GVM.
4. KSS - Two officials of State Bank of India now visit Gorkhy village, district Raipur, to collect savings of women SHG's as well as of adjoining 10 villages. Bank has also sanctioned Rupees Two Lakhs CCL facility to these SHG's. Women from defaulter families were also allowed to open bank accounts in SBI and avail other bank facilities.
5. Samarthan - Use of RTI to strengthen accountability and transparency of self governance institutions like mid day meal (pending installment received) in Sehore; income expenditure expenses (sarpanch asked for audit statement from Janpad CEO, Sehore); rath yatra for RTI in Tikamgarh and Sehore).
6. IDYWC - All Sangathans have been able to introduce and successfully implement the concept of Gram Kosh, seed banks and grain banks.
7. SIRDI - Using Bullock-carts for village contact and rapport building, including disseminating information. This cart went around with the President and Vice President of the federation for 20 days in 40 villages continuously. During the period, while staying at villages, the functionaries held meetings with SHG members and enrolled them federation membership on the spot. If the group was not working properly, they persuaded & assisted them in appropriate ways, and stayed with them overnight for discussions and building a rapport. Even the fodder was arranged by these villagers willingly. Such an effort has shown good results in raising the membership of federations and rejuvenating defunct SHG's.

4. Some Research Issues

1. AARAMBH - Study to measure expenditure occurs on liquor & tobacco by the target community and its impact on livelihood.
2. Asha Niketan - Study to measure probable affects of displacement on population living inside reserve forest of 25 villages of Pipariya block.
3. CARD - Study to identify potential sources of non-natural resources and its utilization pattern to ensure livelihood security of target community.
4. GVM - Base line survey of NTFPs: Development of Business Plan for SHGs based on NTFPs.
5. PRADAN - Study on applicability of best approach of watershed programme specifically for the project villages to restore ground water and understand soil structure for water storage.
6. SRUB (KSS) - Study on "effect of women empowerment on BPL families and its grass-root realities for developing district level gender policies and dissemination of learning".
7. JSS - Study on "Current situation of gram Sabha empowerment in special reference to schedule area of Chhattishgarh".



5. From Our CSOs

Udyogini, Mandla

○ Women exposure visit to Agriculture farm: 34 women from 17 groups of Motinala cluster participated in the exposure visit organized to Agriculture farm, Aurai. Resource person: Mr. D. K. Sen R.A.E.O. Agriculture department, & Mr. Jatav, Farm Manager, briefed the women on the activities going on in the farm, especially production of vermi compost, making pits, precautions, quantity, ratio of different components, duration for preparation of the compost and its usages. Information was also provided on seed production, NADEP compost & blue green algae, which is used in paddy crop etc. The women asked questions like protection from ants, watering schedule, quantity of compost used in an acre of land, method of using etc. The resource persons answered the queries in detail.

As of now 164 vermi composting units and 73 units of vegetable cultivation have been established. For vegetable cultivation, drip irrigation system is being implemented in the area. Women are being provided the drip equipment as a loan. The units will use compost prepared by vermi composting units.

- Visit of NABARD & other bankers to the project: A workshop was organized by NABARD, which was attended by Mr. Vijay Kumar, General Manager, along with other officials from bank and administration. The 2-day workshop was organized with a view to provide information to NGOs and speeding up the process of linkage of SHGs with banks. Udyogini also participated in the workshop.
- A field visit was also made by the officials headed by the GM to our project Area. Officials appreciated the progress made by groups within a year and assured all possible support.
- Training on Bamboo Crafting & Participation in Kanha Hastshilp Vikas Mela: Radha MUS from Mocha cluster was provided training on 'Bamboo crafting' with the help of a local resource person. It was a 15 days long practical training. A fair was organized by DRDA, Mandla, between 25th to 31st December, 2005, at Kanha. A group of ten women participated in the fair and displayed products made by bamboo crafting. Total sales were to the tune of Rs. 2500/-. Products were widely appreciated and 'Aranyaka Emporium', promoted by DRDA, assured the marketing of remaining products.
- Micro Plan: Micro plan exercise was conducted in 10 villages with the support of external resource person, Mr. Kultar Singh. Training and participation of community leaders and field staff was also ensured so that the exercise can be carried forward. The plan is being made in Hindi and a copy will be given to the village Panchayat so that they can use it for negotiating with various agencies.

Livelihood Forum, Bhopal

Bhopal, January 7, 2006: The day-long deliberation of the Livelihood Forum were held today at Hotel Mark, Bhopal. This is the fourth such meeting of the forum, and the first time that the deliberations have been held outside New Delhi, to, as Sanjeev Ranjan, State Anchor, Poorest Areas Civil Society Programme (PACS) for Madhya Pradesh and Chhatisgarh, put it "to shift the onus and ownership of the forum to grassroot organisations".

In his inaugural address, Mr Bhagirath Prasad, Principal Secretary, Higher Education and Social Justice, Government of Madhya Pradesh, recalled that when he was Collector years ago, he had been approached by a young Person with Disability (PwD) who had wanted to take a Rupee Five Hundred loan to buy a handcart to earn his livelihood. Incidentally, when he happened to meet the same person years later, he was asked how he had been getting along all these years, and if he had any problems. The person smiled and answered that he was now in the process of being sanctioned a loan running into a few lakh rupees. The person said that added that the worst of his difficulties were behind him now that he was running a successful businessman, and could he help him in solving some of the problems that his co-businessmen and friends were facing today.

In his welcome note, Mr Baldev Gulati, Executive Director, Navprerna, said that "It is important that we recognise that when we work for persons with disabilities (PwD) we work not by convenience but with conviction". He added that this conviction is that we need to provide livelihood opportunities both in urban and, specifically, in rural areas, where current earnings of a person with disability were still less than a dismal Rupees Twenty per day! NGO based in Ghaziabad working

He added that we need to ignite a passion for working with persons with disabilities the same way as Gandhiji when he was thrown out of the train in South Africa and he vowed to end British rule in India.

Mr Sanjeen Ranjan, Sanjeev Ranjan, State Anchor, Poorest Areas Civil Society Programme (PACS) for Madhya Pradesh and Chhatisgarh, spoke about the PACS programme to the participants. He said that Others who attended the day-long deliberation of the Livelihood Forum were Human Rights Law Network Rajesh Raturi, Dr Pandit , Diamond Group of Industries' Aditya Sachdeva, VSO working with Navprerna, Tom, and VD Garde.

Several PACS partners and ROs, including TAAL, Write Solutions, SMC, State Anchor, AARAMBH, Asha Niketan Welfare Centre, NIWCYD, Udyogini etc. also attended the meeting.

NIRD-NCAS Regional Meet on Transparent and Accountable Implementation of RD Programmes, Pune

The Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh Poorest Areas Civil Society (PACS) Communications Resource organisation, Write Solutions, and Grameen Vikas Mandal (GVM) network attended the NIRD-NCAS organised meeting Regional Meet on Transparent and Accountable Implementation of RD Programmes, specially focusing on National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) and the use of Right To Information (RTI) held at YASHADA, Pune on January 23, 2006 .

During the meeting, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh PACS partners and ROs were aligned with non-PACS organisations and individuals like the Sarvodaya Press, Shubranshu Choudhary of CGnet and others to devise a work plan for six months to give a collective voice at the State-levels to work as a watch dog on the newly implemented NREGA and RTI at the Central and State level.

Giving PACS CSO's A Voice: Media-CSO Interface.

The Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh Poorest Areas Civil Society (PACS) Communications Resource organisation, Write Solutions, organised a Editor's Meet with the support of PACS State Core Group at Hotel Amer Palace, Bhopal, on February 1, 2006.

Some of the issues discussed included: 1. How can problems like poverty, education, health, environment and gender make it to the front pages of newspapers or onto radio and TV newscasts? 2. When put to journalists, the question tends to elicit a long litany of complaints of the difficulties they face in reporting 8

on issues that the media do not consider "newsworthy"; and 3. It is also a reality that at first glance, the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to which the international community committed itself at the September 2000 United Nations General Assembly involve issues that are difficult to link to the local news covered day to day by reporters, which tends to follow the local political agenda, according to several of the participants.

ONE WORLD SOUTH ASIA (OWSA) - DA/PACS TRAINING ON COMMUNITY RADIO AND ICTs: New Delhi, January 16-18, 2006.

ONE WORLD SOUTH ASIA (OWSA), New Delhi, in collaboration with Write Solutions, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh (PACS) Communications Resource organisation, organised a training on COMMUNITY RADIO AND ICTs at New Delhi from January 16-18, 2006, for PACS CSOs. The venue of the training was the One World South Asia office at C-5, Qutub Institutional Area, New Delhi.

The idea was to take forward the opportunity to strengthen and improve dissemination of information, news and outreach of PACS programmatic issues in our respective areas of work. It was also felt that there is a need to move away from looking at technology and asking, "What can we do with this?" to looking at people's needs and asking, "Which technology might help here?" . There is also a vast amount of literature on the benefits and potentials of new ICTs as tools for enhancing people's daily lives, whether by increasing access to information relevant to their economic livelihood, better access to other information sources, healthcare, education or livelihoods.

Seven PACS CSOs participated in the training, including MPVHA (Chhattisgarh); CDC, Balaghat (MP); Asha Niketan Welfare Centre (MP); YUVA (MP); CARD (MP); Samarthan (CG), NIWYCD (MP;)and Write Solutions, (Communications RO: MP & CG).

The training also included hands-on practical training on scripting and producing radio programmes for narrow-casting, and the participants produced and developed their own programme CDs.

Activities & Training Programmes
 Attended/Organised by NIWCYD &
 Network Partners

Project level capacity Building (CB) for staff : Initiated by the project/ CSO as per req						
Post	Type of CB (Training / Exposure / anyother specify)	Number of project staff			Name of Training Agency	Duratic
		Male	Female	Total		
Field worker (Kishor Nikhare, AAVS)	Training on moderation Hindi	1	0	1	DA, Taragram	19-23rd De
Cluster Coordinator, KYSS, Niwas, Shrikant Chaturvedi	Training on Social Audit	1	0	1	DA, Taragram	23-25th Jar
Field worker (Somnath Kunjam, KYSS)	Training on Social Audit	1	0	1	DA, Taragram	23-25th Jar
Field worker (Jaget Sunvanshi, Pararth Samiti, Chhindwara)	Training on Social Audit	1	0	1	DA, Taragram	23-25th Jar
Field worker Gramdoot (Pararth Samiti, Chhindwara)	Training on SHG	5	1	6	Pararth Samiti and CARE, Chhindwara	16th Dec. (
Field worker, Gramdoot and staff	Exposure visit	11	9	20	Bhopal	December
Gramdoot Training, NIWCYD, Jamai	Training on Leadership, Awarness, Motivation	17	11	28	NIWCYD, Jamai	December
Panch Sarpanch (NIWCYD, Jamai)	Training on PRI	2	0	2	SIRD, Jabalpur	December
Panchayat and Solution	Training on community facilitation	5	1	6	Samarthan, Bhopal	December
Field worker (GASVS, Saunsar)	Training on Herbal Medicin	33	2	35	GASVS, Savali and MPVHA	December
Field worker, Gramdoot, (GASVS, Saunsar)	Workshop on Strengthening of SHG and linkage with govt. Scheme.	11	0	11	DDM, NABARD & GASVS	December
Field worker, Gramdoot (GASVS, Saunsar)	Biodiesel	9	0	9	NABARD, Chhindwara	January 2(
Field worker & Staff (GASVS, Saunsar)	Vermicompost	6	0	6	GASVS and	January 2(

Institute for Social Service & Development (ISSRD), Betul.

ISSRD organised 56 meetings in 28 villages under the Self Support Programme to discuss local issues and activating the gram sabhas. Also, under the above programme, 67 SHGs have been formed, of which 12 have been formed in the period December 2005 to January 2006. Similarly, 15 Farmers Groups have been formed so far, with 1 such group formed in January, 2006. These groups have been informed about good agricultural practices like organic farming and so on.

Gram Sabhas have been activated in a number of villages like Aavriya, Ghisibagla, Sitaljhiri, Dhappa, Kanhegaon Raiyat, Mendhkheda, Kajli, and others. These villages have seen greater participation by both men and women, especially women, during the gram sabhas.

Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) training was held at ISSRD, Shahpur, between December 5-6, 2005, wherein 45 women and 31 men participated. The SHGs were informed about livelihood and employment options. The training was conducted by Mr Pramod Sharma, CEO; Mr GC Pawariya, ADO, Shahpur; and Mr Maida, Field Officer, State Bank, Shahpur, and Ms Harshlata Sibloon from ISSRD.

A training on Joint Forest Management (JFM) was held from December 14-15, 2005, at ISSRD, Shahpur, wherein 1 woman and 14 men participated. Discussions were held, amongst other issues, on topics such as forest policy and forest protection committees. Discussions were held at length on the work being done by Chikhali Maal Forst Protection Committee. It was decided that all present will go back to their respective villages and continue work on decided action points.

A training on PRI was held from December 17-18, 2005, at ISSRD, Shahpur, wherein 5 women and 27 men participated. The training was conducted by Deepak Kaushik of Debate and Dr Rajesh Puranik of Deptt. of Water & Land Conservation.

A training on organic farming was conducted at village Sitaljhiri on December 10, 2005, wherein 33 women and 36 men participated. The training was conducted by Mr VK Dhoke, Agriculture Extension Officer, Shahpur. Issues included benefits of organic farming and increasing returns from organic farming, various schemes of agriculture department, how to make NADEP and vermi-compost, amongst others.

A training on organic farming was conducted at village Kanhegaon on December 30-31, 2005, wherein 5 women and 27 men participated. Issues included organic manuring, organic fertilisers and pesticides, vermi-composting, vermi-wash, poultry manure, NADEP etc. The training was made even more interesting through films, flip charts, video films and other communication aids.

Other trainings included food security campaign, Government schemes & related issues.