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# Raipur Today

## CSOs for extensive awareness in NREGS campaign

**Staff Reporter**  
**RAIPUR, JULY 11:** Afresh from the week long National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) campaign in three districts of Chhattisgarh, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) working under the DFID funded PACS project were of the view that extensive awareness programme is needed to at the grass root level to let people aware about the provisions of the act. Speaking to the mediamen here at the Raipur Press Club about their experience during the campaigning, CSO representatives informed that though some awareness about the scheme has reached to the people, they are still unaware of the main provisions of the act as well as the format under which they could ask for work. Mehendilal Yadav from Margdarshak Seva Sansthan, Sarguja while

addressing the mediamen informed that people in the Prem Nagar area are yet to ask for work under the NREGS. According to him similar situation prevails in almost all parts of the district. But the silver lining was that following the intervention of CSOs and gram sabhas, people are now asking for work. According to Ravi Manav from Vardaan, Rajnandgaon, rural masses though demand work, they are yet to do so in writing. And it is the point where the intervention of CSOs and other agencies is needed to let them write the application in proper format for getting work. Anil Dwivedi, RIDE, Sarguja also endorsed the views expressed by Manav and Mehendilal. Representatives of other CSOs namely Jagriti Seva Sansthan (JSS)-Abhanpur, Parivartan-Kawardha and Lok

Shakti Samaj Sevi Sansthan, Rajnandgaon were also present on the occasion. On the basis of the findings of the week-long campaign, the CSO representatives suggested mass awareness campaign to make the NREGS a success in the state for the benefit of the rural mass. PACS Programme is working in 57 NREGS districts across six States of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra. The scheme is being implemented in 15 districts in Madhya Pradesh and three in Chhattisgarh. The Scheme is the first step towards realizing the right to work. During the week PACS CSOs covered 45 blocks in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, 1,466 gram panchayats approximately and 3,064 villages.