

**Proceedings of the Third Peer Learning Workshop for PACS partners in MP and
Chhattisgarh
15-17th September, 2004
Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh**

Day I

Session I: Welcome and Introduction

After the registration of representatives of CSO's, the workshop started with welcome address by Ms. Kiran Sharma from Development Alternatives. It was followed by introduction of participants and their respective organizations.

Session 2: Recap of the last peer review workshop

On behalf of the state core group of MP and CG, Mr. Rakesh Nath Tiwari from Samarthan, revisited the proceedings of previous peer review workshop held at Chhindwara. He spoke about the formation of core group in the region and shared the objectives and functions of the core group. He welcomed the newly added members of the core group. He also made a reference to the issues that were dominant in the last review workshop i.e. institutional development, focus on functional areas, governance and women's empowerment, capacity building of CSO team members and inclusion of skill based livelihoods for the community as a theme.

Mr. Sanjeev Ranjan, the state anchor for MP and Chhattisgarh, from Development Alternatives gave an overview of the PACS programme across the six states. He stressed on the functioning of PACS programme and the issues that are being covered and asked the participant CSO representatives to put in their best efforts for effective delivery.

The local Member of Parliament also joined the programme at this juncture and was welcomed by Shri Ravi Manav and Ms. Kiran Sharma.

Mr. Anwar Jafri, from SSRO team for MP and CG presented the state overview of PACS programme in MP & CG. He explained the goals, purpose and output of PACS programme. He provided details of the state coverage in terms of the projects, support system of PACS and progress status. He also explained the parameters designed for the selection of proposals and the implementation strategy generally followed. A brief insight was also provided. on the types of projects covered

He deliberated upon the strengths and weaknesses of the programme as well as the CSO's. He emphasized a need for serious efforts to address areas like Panchayati Raj, Self Help groups, research and documentation, organizational development, livelihoods and marketing support for communities. He also stressed on the need for joint efforts for advocacy on issues such as voters awareness, land rights, child rights and food security.

Mr. Pradeep Gandhi, MP, went through the state overview presented by Anwar Jafri and took notes throughout the session. At the end of the presentation he also interacted with

the participants. He expressed satisfaction over the inclusion of Rajnandgaon in the PACS programme and shared his concerns regarding the backwardness of the area vis a vis governance, poverty and low income status of the people. He welcomed the initiatives taken by CSO's and invited them to work more closely with the state machinery so that schemes provided by the government can effectively reach the most marginalized sections of the society.

Ms. Kiran Sharma thanked the MP for his presence and the support offered to the CSO's.

Session 3: Presentations of peer exchange visits

Four peer exchange visits were conducted to promote constructive criticism of the work done by the CSO's in the field and to learn from their individual strengths. The objectives of the visits were sharing of experiences, strengthening project execution process, identifying common issues for advocacy and networking and formulating strategies for capacity building.

A panel was constituted to review the presentations. The panel included Mr. Avinash Jhade (SOPAN), Mr. Rakesh (SAMARTHAN), Mr. Tapas(VHAI), Mr. Santosh (NIWCYD) and Ms. Ranu (PDRO-Carmdaksha) . At the end of each presentation the participants discussed the findings.

Presentation – 1

Organization visited: CARD

Visit team: YUVA, AARAMBH, VHAI

Date: 21st & 22nd August 2004

Place visited: Ghugari block in Mandla

The presentation focussed on the observations made during the visit to the project *Lokmandi* in Mandla district of Madhya Pradesh. The visit concentrated on the objectives of the project, the strategies adopted and the congruence of the project goals with the goals of PACS program.

Key issues raised during discussion:

1. The project area is predominantly a tribal block and it is important to be sensitive to tribal culture and traditions. This issue was widely appreciated by the participants.
2. The project activities seemed very flexible. This may cause deviations in the main focus of the program and will consume more time and lead to time overrun. The same was acknowledged by CARD.

3. Women's participation in the programme is neither visible nor supported by any data. Moreover the project framework has no specific provision designed for inclusion of women. This requires immediate attention of the organization.
4. The visible impact, as presented by the visiting team, shows the formation of SHGs and women participation but the same was not substantiated with supporting data. It was felt that the participation of women is not up to the mark.
5. Participants pointed out that there were no team building exercises within the organizations and it may eventually affect project outputs.
6. In terms of collaborations, some of the participants shared their concern about the absence of local bodies in the local institution building. It was suggested that local bodies (Panchayati Raj institutions) need to be involved in the project.
7. Participants raised questions on linkages of the project with the government and transparency & accountability in the project. It was clarified that as the project was new, some of the systems were in the process of being set up. The gramshabhas are not functional and hence the decisions are not taken through them. The community groups in collaboration with CARD representatives makes the decision regarding the project.

Presentation – 2

Organization visited: GKSS, NIWCYD partner

Visiting team: CARD, AARMBH, RIDE

Date: 21st & 22nd august 2004

Place visited: Sonpur in Bichhua block

The presentation concentrated on the working of GKSS in Sonpur village of Bichhua block. The visit focussed on the thematic area of the project, strategies being adopted, project activities and visible impacts.

Key issues raised during discussion:

1. The strategy proposed to achieve the objectives seemed difficult at the field level and will require certain modifications.
2. The objectives are very broad in nature and needs to be made precise and more realistic.
3. It was suggested by the participants that the *Gramdoot* be selected by the gramshabhas to make the process effective.
4. Some of the participant suggested that providing information to the community should be need based.
5. One of the participants pointed out that the concept of gram kosh needs further elaboration and clarification. Objection were also raised about

spending money raised from farmers for village development. The project team clarified that resources from the village fund was used as seed money and during emergencies.

6. Women's participation should be increased upto at least 50 % in all the project activities. Also there should be statistical data to support claims of improved woman's participation.
7. It was felt that the project activities and the short-term objectives do not seem to lead to the expected output and hence necessary changes should be made to the activities, objectives and strategy of the program.

Presentation – 3

Organization visited: AARMBH

Reviewing team: YUVA, NIWCYD, IDYWC

Date: 3rd & 4th September 2004

Place visited: Obedullagunj block of Raisen district

The presentation covered the sustainable development programme of the CSO's with special emphasis on *halis* (bonded laborers). The project covered 15 villages of the block . The review team focussed on the strategies and the goals of the project.

Key issues raised during discussion:

1. One of the participants suggested that the implementing organization had previously worked in urban areas and hence needs to restructure its activities in the rural context.
2. It was suggested by one of the participant that the interlinking of the various SHGs was very essential for the success of the project and the project needs to work on this issue immediately.
3. The panel suggested that the responsiveness of local government should be assessed and if found lacking can be increased by regular interaction with them.
4. It was also pointed out that the status of women's participation in gramsabhas needs to be monitored and this should be supported by data. Special efforts will be required for improving women's participation in gram sabha's.
5. The panel members and the participants appreciated the formation & role of bridge teams. This can be replicated in other project areas by willing CSO's.

Presentation – 4

Organization visited: YUVA

Reviewing team: CARD, GKSS, and MPVHA

Visit date: 13th & 14th august

Place of visit: Bori, Betul, Chicholi & Junawani

Key issues raised for discussion:

1. The market arrangements should be strengthened in a manner so that the community can take up more responsibilities.
2. Women's participation in the project seems inadequate. Out of 107 people trained, only 27 were women. This is an area that requires improvement.
3. One of the participants suggested that the option of establishing linkages with the government institutions needs to be explored and strengthened.
4. The panel suggested that the process of selecting the beneficiaries should be refined.
5. A member from the panel also suggested that the project design and work plan needs revision so as to cover all the proposed aspects of the program.

Session- 4: Feedback on presentations

Feedback by Ms. Kiran Sharma

- ▶ The peer exchange visits are designed to encourage constructive criticism of the projects and hence should also deal with the weak areas of the visited organization. The presentations generally focussed on the positive aspects of programme implementation. It would be helpful if the future peer exchange visits focussed on areas that require improvement.
- ▶ The issues related to women's participation need a detailed analysis.
- ▶ All reports submitted by CSO's should have supporting data.
- ▶ It would be beneficial for the programme if the CSO's working in the tribal areas collaborate with the tribal development department and work jointly with them. The CSO's in other areas should also collaborate closely with the government departments.
- ▶ CSO's should also interact regularly with the elected representatives in the area especially the MP and the MLA so that their support can be leveraged for better results in the field.

Following are the comments from the panel:

- ▶ The objectives of the projects need to be reworked and they should be precise and clear so that activities can be implemented effectively. Corresponding strategies should be revised so as the link tasks, activities and the overall goals of the projects. Presently there are a several gaps between these.
- ▶ Networking among CSO's needs to be more substantial and the strengths of a particular organizations should benefit organisations who are deficient in a particular area. Currently the program is weak in this aspect and we are not able to take full advantage of these individual strengths.
- ▶ Human resource management issues need to be streamlined and preference should be given to local persons during recruitments.
- ▶ All organizations need to assess their internal monitoring systems to ensure proper implementation.
- ▶ Chief functionaries of CSO's should be involved in the initial phase of implementation so as to give right direction to the projects.
- ▶ Thematic specialists can be included in the peer exchange visits and they may provide valuable inputs to the CSO's visited.
- ▶ Most of the projects involve burning issues that require advocacy initiatives. But all CSO's are not geared to undertake such initiatives. A basic orientation on advocacy may be useful for small CSO's.
- ▶ Case studies need to be documented and shared among various projects for mutual learning.
- ▶ The presentations made by the ROs reflect a poor sensitivity of gender issues in both project design and implementation of the CSO projects. This is a serious issue and needs corrective measures so that the overall goals of PACS programme can be met.

Session – 5: Sharing of experiences and learnings by ROs

Mr. Anwar Jafri facilitated this Session and shared his experiences from the field. He raised the following issues.

- ▶ Monitoring is a tricky issue and is often seen as a threat by the CSO's. The role of the SSRO and PDRO involves a lot of handholding and support and hence is much more than monitoring.
- ▶ The focus areas of PACS programme are governance, SHGs, women's empowerment, social cohesion & advocacy. But the actual tasks and activities during implementation often do not contribute to these directly. This needs serious thinking from all the partners so that overall goals of the project can be met.
- ▶ Self help groups have emerged as the most powerful unit of mobilization at the community level and the next step of action is to federate these small units into effective pressure groups to ensure appropriate response from the government on governance issues.
- ▶ The understanding of the partners regarding the causes of poverty is not adequate. Most of the team members feel that the poor are themselves responsible for their

poverty. However role of social systems and other systemic causes are often ignored. Efforts should be made to clarify this understanding

- ▶ CSO's are regularly organising training programmes on various issues but the development of training manuals and modules in a shareable form is lacking.
- ▶ Base line surveys have been carried out by all the CSO's but the data has not been converted into useful information. It is important that the Surveys are need based and linked with activities within the project and should not be carried out as a mere formality
- ▶ The village level animators often have over load of work and hence the quality of their main work suffers. CSO's have to find out a way of using their teams effectively by sharing responsibilities appropriately.
- ▶ There are several information centers in the various projects but they are unable achieve projected results. This needs careful analysis and corrective action. CSO's need conceptual clarity on the role and services offered by these centers. The location of these centers also requires proper attention.

Session – 6: One world education

This Session was facilitated by Shri S K Sharma, a retired civil servant. He shared his experiences on issues relevant to PACS. There was a discussion on a number of cases from his service days.

In the concluding part of the presentation, Mr. Sharma explained about a proposed university and elaborated on the various functions and themes which will be covered.

Day – 2

The 2nd day began with a refreshing song by Mr. Rakesh Nath Tiwari who was joined by other participants. This was followed by a brief recap of the previous day.

Session-1: Presentation on voter awareness by Samarthan

A panel was formed for this presentation and consisted of Mr. Amin Charles, Mr. Anil Dwivedi & Ms. Anupama Tiwari. The session was conducted by Mr. Rakesh Tiwari from Samarthan. He explained the various technical and procedural aspects of the Panchayat election process and gave ideas on how CSO's can work to ensure the inclusion of names of all the entitled voters in the voter list and work with the community to ensure free, fair and just elections.

He also shared Samarthan's experiences of facilitating a popular debate among voters as to who is a deserving candidate and promoting genuine local leadership in the elections.

Following are comments from the panel and participants

- ▶ One of the participants pointed out that such awareness campaigns usually face political opposition and may sometimes result in conflicts. Special efforts are required to ensure that such conflicts are avoided.
- ▶ Material for such campaigns is often well prepared but the real challenge lies in making it available in the villages. Mechanisms need to be designed so that CSO's participating in such campaigns communicate effectively with the target group and deliver material where it is needed most.
- ▶ Ms. Rekha Gujre shared methods of strengthening the role of women and dalits in the election and also stressed on the role of voluntary organizations in strengthening the process.
- ▶ There was a brief discussion on the 73rd and 74th amendment and the 5th schedule of the constitution in the context of panchayat elections.
- ▶ Mr. Sharma suggested the inclusion of "none of the above" category in the ballot papers. He stressed on the importance of strengthening of grass-root level democracy, submission of affidavits during Panchayat elections and creation of an election watch system.
- ▶ Mr. Amin Charles suggested formation of a core group and appointment of a nodal CSO for coordinating the election campaign amongst the CSO's.

Session – 2: Group exercise on MEAL

Mr. Deepak conducted this session and talked about the background, objectives and learning's of the MEAL (Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning) principles. He initiated a group exercise wherein the participants were divided into five groups. Each group was provided with an hypothetical project and was asked to make a presentations covering the objectives, activities, outputs, indicators and the key strategies of the project. The projects were to confirm to at least one of the themes PACS program.

Presentation: Group-1

Topic: 'Women's empowerment and role of women in Panchayats'

Objectives:

- ▶ To ensure women's participation in Panchayats
- ▶ To improve the financial condition of women

Strategies:

- ▶ Capacity building
- ▶ Awareness generation
- ▶ Exposure visits

Milestones:

- ▶ Male participation
- ▶ Information centers
- ▶ Awareness about information

Outputs:

- ▶ Presence of women in gramsabhas
- ▶ Raising women's issues and arriving at decisions favorable for women
- ▶ Participation of women in decision making processes

Challenges:

- ▶ Patriarchal society
- ▶ Social taboos
- ▶ Lack of mobilization among women

Evaluation:

- ▶ Attendance register of meetings
- ▶ Minutes registers
- ▶ Women taking substantial decisions

Presentation: Group 2

Topic: 'Women's empowerment'

Objective: To increase the role of women in gramsabhas to 40 %

Activities: Formation of women SHGs
: Women development & training

Process:

- ▶ Village PRA and analysis
- ▶ Formation of women SHGs
- ▶ Selection of animators, meeting, record keeping through women members
- ▶ Women issues being raised in gramsabhas

Milestones:

- ▶ 1st year
 - SHG formation process
 - 24 meetings for one SHG
 - 10% women participation in gramsabhas
- ▶ 2nd year
 - 90 % SHG formation completed
 - Issues identified by women, to be kept in the gramsabhas
 - 25 % women participation in gramsabhas
- ▶ 3rd year
 - Self run SHGs
 - Women's participation in key decision making processes at the Panchayati level

- 40% women's participation in the gramsabhas

Difficulties:

- ▶ Family approval and support for active women
- ▶ Low level of education
- ▶ Political opposition
- ▶ Low willingness of Panchayats to collaborate with projects
- ▶ Red tapism in government departments

Presentation: Group 3

Topic: 'Women's empowerment through health improvement'

Output : Reduction of MMR & IMR by 50 % in three years
: To improve and ensure health facilities

Activity:

- ▶ Identification of traditional birth attendants and giving them training with along with kits
- ▶ RCH awareness and training
- ▶ Nutritional improvement
- ▶ Awareness about govt. health structure & facilities

Process:

- ▶ Identification of birth attendants
- ▶ Identification of pregnant women and eating habits of the community
- ▶ Health awareness
- ▶ Creation of pressure groups of women
- ▶ Pushing the health issue in Panchayats

Milestones:

- ▶ 80 % of births to be assisted by TBA's
- ▶ Increase in the number of anti-natal check-ups
- ▶ Increase in family planning acceptors
- ▶ Regular visits of ANM / LHV

Difficulties:

- ▶ Myths and misinformation rampant in the community
- ▶ Poor collaboration and support from the government

Presentation: Group 4

Topic: 'Women's empowerment'

Objective : Improving the quality of life of 50 BPL families in 10 villages
: Ensuring that at least one micro enterprise is established in one of 10 villages

Process:

- ▶ Identification of beneficiaries and appropriate enterprise
- ▶ Capacity building of community in the new enterprise
- ▶ Mapping and replenishing village resources

Activities:

- ▶ Identification of women leaders ready to start proposed enterprises
- ▶ Linking project interventions with government schemes

Presentation: Group 5

Topic: 'Women's empowerment'

Objective: Empowering tribal and Dalit women

Activity:

- ▶ Legal awareness
- ▶ Networking of pressure groups
- ▶ Small and big group meetings
- ▶ Exposure visits
- ▶ Improving communication between groups
- ▶ Individual counseling
- ▶ Workshops
- ▶ Encouraging women leadership
- ▶ Formation and training of SHGs

Output:

- ▶ 20 % participation of women in PRIs
- ▶ Involvement of women in decision making processes
- ▶ 50 women sarpanches from 10 villages (Elected).

Difficulties:

- ▶ Lack of gender sensitivity
- ▶ Low interest among women for taking up decision making roles

The presentations made were discussed and a consensus was attained on the importance of monitoring these aspects within each project. This exercise initiated the thought on the need of an integrated monitoring and learning system.

Session-3: Land rights (Conceptual & Legal aspects)

Mr. Anwar Jafri introduced Mr. Sanjay Upadhyaya, an expert on land issues, to the workshop participants. He is a practicing lawyer at the Supreme Court and is a founder partner of a Delhi based organisation 'Enviro Legal Defence Firm'.

Mr. Sanjay explained the laws relating to natural resources and various types of land. He stressed the need to be aware of land and forest rights of the community and the distinction between right, ownership and privileges. A long discussion followed where participants posed queries and he gave clarification and information. This discussion continued informally even during lunch.

Session – 4: Presentation by Ms. Harshlata Sibloom, ISSRD

Mr. Anwar introduced Ms. Harshlata Sibloom of Betul. She shared her experience of working on forest and land issues. She talked about the resettlement of people in Betul, lack of authentication of land documents, the atrocities of forest department on women and their absurd ways of eviction. She also talked about the ways and approaches of strategies for ensuring justice for aggrieved parties. Her approach involves impacting at three levels: political, bureaucracy and media.

She also shared an experience where a non-tribal had occupied land with the help of forged documents. A close scrutiny of the papers and a confirmation from the revenue records office clarified the issue and the land was freed and returned to the rightful owners who were tribals.

Other participants also shared similar experiences from their work areas, both of successes and failures. After reviewing all the instances and experiences shared by the participants, Mr. Sanjay Upadhyaya made the following comments for ensuring justice:

- ▶ It is essential to get complete information of the case and interpret it legally as per the applicable law and local rules.
- ▶ The role of government, ministries and courts at both the state and central level have to be understood as there are several linkages between these bodies. In many cases the central government has left decisions on the state machinery.
- ▶ Organizations indulging in legal advocacy on land issues need to undergo comprehensive training programmes so that they are able to interpret and understand cases clearly before any action is planned.
- ▶ In addressing atrocities committed by the forest department on forest dwellers, documentary evidence is to be collected before thinking of any legal remedy. This is important because usually all such cases collapse in the courts because of lack of evidence.
- ▶ CSO's and individuals involved with such cases need to maintain good relations with media, bureaucracy and political parties as all of these respond well in need, specially for issues as popular as land rights.

Session – 5: Presentation on child rights

Mr. Anwar Jafri introduced the theme and explained the importance of the child line programme and child rights. He stressed upon the need to be sensitive towards the rights of children. He later introduced Mr. Anup Sahay from AARAMBH who gave a presentation on the issue.

Mr. Anup Sahay talked about the importance of child rights and shared his working experience on the subject. He presented experiences and shared instances from previous intervention on child rights by AARAMBH.

Key observations & comments

- ▶ Mr. Anwar Jafri stressed the CSO partners to collect data from their areas and decide upon interventions in child right issues if needed.
- ▶ Mr. Santosh Khoware cited several cases from daily life when all of us somehow promote child labor by not protesting against the use of children in work.

Session – 6: Mapping capacities on gender issues

Ms. Ranu Bhogal from PDRO handled this session in which she conducted small group exercises to map the level of awareness, understanding and skills, which the participants have on gender. She classified the total participants into four groups and assigned four group questions to be debated upon and the result presented.

Group	Type pf persons	Issue to be discussed and presented
Group 1	People who are capable as trainers on gender issues	What are your training needs?
Group 2	People who have received training but are not capable of providing training on gender	What have been your overall learning, weaknesses and strengths?
Group 3	Persons who have received no such training and are new entrants	What do you understand by gender and how does it link with your routine work?

This session was completed late in the evening and the participants made their presentations by the carousal method where all teams set up stalls across the training hall and share the conclusions of their discussions with everyone coming to the stall. The summary of the presentations is given below:

Presentation: Group 1

Training & difficulties

- ▶ How to tackle the feeling of awkwardness when men and women work together?
- ▶ How to loosen family pressure on women?
- ▶ Methods of handling ego clashes between male and female workers?
- ▶ Difficulty in sensitizing people of varying age groups on gender issues?

Presentation: Group 2

- ▶ There has been a lack of a complete package of training and we have gone through only piecemeal trainings.

- ▶ The jargon and terminology used in gender trainings are very confusing.
- ▶ What is the relationship between gender and feminism?
- ▶ Men feel threatened on the thought of practicing gender equity in real life.
- ▶ Gender issues have become very fashionable and they are being taken as organizational values because of a larger pressure from peer organizations.
- ▶ Even after getting aware on gender issues, the change in attitudes is hard to bring about.
- ▶ Changes in attitude and practice need to be brought in gradually as our social system still opposes gender equity.
- ▶ The value of gender equity is actually putting more load of work on working women.
- ▶ Most of the trainers on gender issues are female, this gives a false impression that gender is a women's issue.

Presentation Group 3

Problems at personal level:

- ▶ Men generally have little confidence on capacities of women.
- ▶ Men lack understanding of physiology and biological needs of women.
- ▶ Men hesitate in discussing personal problems with women.
- ▶ Men also discriminate between boys and girls in their homes.

Organizational problems:

- ▶ Lack of stability of women workers as they leave because of marriage.
- ▶ There is excessive family responsibility on women workers.
- ▶ There are possibilities of mis-use of 'gender'.
- ▶ Women feel insecure in cases where actual area of work is at a distance from the office.
- ▶ The leadership of women workers is often not accepted.

Day –3:

The day started with a refreshing song in Hindi, which was sung jointly by all the participants.

Session – 1

This session was taken by Ms. Ranu Bhogal where she made the participants revisit the presentations of the last session of the previous day and reiterated the training needs as expressed by them. She also shared that she is in a process to design a gender sensitization programme for CSO's. About twenty CSO's agreed to volunteer for this proposed programme.

Session 2: Presentation and discussion on MEAL

Mr. Anwar Jafri who did some perspective building for the concept introduced this session. He clarified between the conventional understanding of the term 'monitoring' and MEAL as a self-monitoring and learning tool. he then handed over the session to Ravi (CMS, Bangalore) who gave a detailed presentation on the concept as well as operational details of MEAL. This presentation was followed by queries and clarification from the participants.

The following points were discussed during the MEAL presentation:

- ▶ Different programmes and projects come with their own monitoring systems and each of these models have some problems. There is always a chance to improve upon such systems.
- ▶ Generally there is a feeling of fear amongst the implementing agencies whenever a monitoring visit is to take place. In contrast MEAL provides the opportunity for CSO's to take part in their own monitoring, learn from the processes that they follow and if needed modify their inputs to achieve better results.
- ▶ MEAL as a system does not prescribe a uniform system for all projects; rather it provides an opportunity to customize the general MEAL principles as per the requirements of the project.
- ▶ The overall purpose of introducing MEAL is to create a learning atmosphere for the CSO's so that corrective measures can be taken by CSO's and programme goals can be successfully met.

The session continued with Dr. Mukhtar Alam (National MEAL Coordinator) taking over for explaining the principles of MEAL. He presented the principles and clarified all the points on the principles.

Mr. Deepak Dey continued with the presentations and explained various exercises to be initiated for MEAL. He also shared his experiences of MEAL piloting from Maharashtra and Jharkhand and expressed hope that the pilot phase would begin soon in MP and Chhatisgarh also.

The concluding part of this session was an open house discussion where participants posed various queries related to MEAL which were answered by the MEAL implementation team.

Session- 3: Planning for the next six months

The following decisions were taken by the participants for the next six months:

- ▶ The next peer-learning workshop would be held in February-March 2005 in Betul and SRUB would be the coordinating CSO.
- ▶ The next state core group would have: RIDE, MPVHA, AARAMBH and SRUB with AARAMBH as the lead CSO
- ▶ The CSOs chosen for hosting peer exchange visits are: RIDE, ISSRD, SOPAN, Sambhav, SGSS and Margdarshan. The visiting teams would be: KSS, SRUB, CDS, GVM and AAVS
- ▶ MEAL pilot would be initiated with four CSOs at the moment and will then be up scaled to cover all CSOs.

Session 4: Feedback on the workshop

Mr. Anwar Jafri facilitated this session and the following feedback was generated:

- ▶ The process of peer exchange visits has several points of confusion especially on reimbursements and coordination. This needs to be addressed by the MC and clear guideline needs to be set.
- ▶ The teams going for the PEV needs to sit together before the visit and read the proposal as well as the desk review so that they are well versed with the project and can make sharp observations.
- ▶ The workshop should take up limited subjects for discussion rather than taking a wide array.
- ▶ The workshop should also give CSOs more time to speak out, share problems from the past and help them to find solutions.
- ▶ The communication between the state core group and the rest of the CSOs is to be strengthened.
- ▶ Resource persons should express their thoughts clearly and briefly rather than going into confusing debates which do not provide a clear learning at the end of the day.

Closing

The local MLA, Shri Uday Mudaliar, attended the closing ceremony and praised the PACS team and Vardaan for choosing Rajnandgaon as the venue for this function. He expressed solidarity with the kind of work done by PACS in the poorest districts and pledged all possible support to the CSOs.

MC and ROs thanked the participants and hence the workshop came to a close.