

Sign of Changes

Case Studies: 1

Lead CSO- JVK Hazaribag:

30 years back there used to be a village market at Banadag for the sale of the rural products like Vegetables, Toys, Pickles, Meat, Snacks, Eggs, Rice, Chura and Pan etc. Due to objection from the influential people of that area with an intention to encroach the community land, the villagers coming there to sale their products were compelled to stop assembling at that place and consequently the market at Banadag stopped to function. It resulted in the closer of the avenues for the villagers to gain access to marketplace. The next option for the villagers was to explore the Opportunities of another market place for the nearby 14 villages and the location was found at Sadar Block in Hazaribag which was at a distance of 14 Kilometers form their villages. It acted as a de-motivating factor for the villagers and resulted into closer of small I.G.Ps since there were already several stalls at the Sadar Block market place.

The CSO identified the problem in the exercise of the Participatory Rural Appraisal and formed village development committees. An apex committee of these village development committees was formed and discussions were made on the issue of restarting the village market at the same place. For this purpose several meetings were organized involving all the communities as well as other stakeholders to dissolve the issue.

Initially there were strong reactions from the same influential people but by involving the govt. departments solving the issue and pressurizing the dominating castes and classes, the matter was resolved and once again through the active participation of the villagers the village market started once again in which sellers as well as the buyers from all over 40 villages come to sell and buy the products. The market assembles on Sunday at 2 P.M.

The same committee was motivated to contact the SDO and the Bazar Samiti to get the recognition of a market place at the same location. Now a day there has been given the permission to sale Kerosene oil and there is made developments to construct sheds at the same location. In all the steps the apex body of the village development committees took the lead role and now the confidence level of the

villagers is very high and is willing to take initiatives to improve the market access and reach.

The same committee contacted the Block officials for the establishment of a stock and sale outlet of the products produced by the self-help group members. The same has also been approved by the Block of Katklamsandi and is in the process of construction.

Case Study: 2

Lead CSO JSP, Hazaribag:

Podaiya is displaced village due to Tilaiya Dam construction by Damodar Valley Corporation. The village is located in Konra panchayat in Barhi block of Hazaribag district. It is surrounded by Tilaiya dam from three sides and in one side undulating hilly landscape consists of their agriculture land, common grazing land and protected forest area is situated. The village has lost its most of quality agriculture land and grazing land due to submergence in dam. The villagers have to meet their livelihood needs with left minimum resources. Main occupation is agriculture, wage labour and animal husbandry. Nearby forest and small grazing land is the main source of fodder for their cattle. Small land holding and poor quality of soil hardly provides good crop, the cattle breed is of local quality so milk production is very less.

The PACS programme was started in this village in the month of January –2003. Earlier there was no any programme regarding environmental awareness was in the village. As usual the forest was in bad shape due to over-exploitation. When PACS programme was started in the village, its different activities, like initial survey, training and orientation etc has raised a hope among the villagers to work for the conservation of their natural resources and they have shown interest to conserve the local environment by taking initiative to protect forest resources. They had the awareness that only by protecting forest they can check soil erosion of their agriculture and forestland. Forest protection and its regeneration would also help in recharging water and create sound environment by providing good and unpolluted air and will minimize noise pollution (NH-33 is near by). Under programme a village level Environment Protection committee was formed for conservation of local environment. This committee has created a system for protection and regeneration of nearby forest. According to this system everyday a team of three members from three houses of village will take care of forest monitoring in terms of protection from any activity, which can harm it. They also framed laws for

punishment and sanctioning for bypassing rules to assure the positive impact of their initiatives. By doing this they have protected 50 ha. Of forest patch, which is now after a rainy season is in good shape.

Though this has created problem for them in terms of reduction of grazing land for their own cattle. Few hue and cries were also observed within village but they have strongly continuing their initiative. Now they gained confidence due to impact and trying to link it with JFM programme of Forest department.

The village has overcome their fodder problem, reduction in soil erosion.

This initiative of Podaiya has motivated nearby villages to adopt similar activities. In such a small duration one of the needy village has worked hard towards the restoration of environmental status. The replication and dissemination of such initiative is fulfilling the objective of the programme

Case Study: 3

Lead CSO –Spar, Ranchi

In Digwar and Karma village of Mandu Block, Hazaribagh, women SHGs have been formed one and half year back und PACS programme. Since then, members of those SHGs are attending different capacity building programs organized by Agragati. Being informed about the different government schemes women groups started to establish linkage with different govt. schemes/departments with proper facilitation of the project staff. They applied to DRDA for getting support for constructing training center. As a result of their initiative, the group has got approval from DRDA. Now they are supervising the construction work of training center. For the first time in that area people has got such support from govt. agency without the interference of middle man. This incidence has boosted up the confidence level those women. It has created an instance among other group. Now other groups are also taking such initiatives.

Case Study: 4

Lead CSO-NEEDs, Deoghar

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