

FIRST PEER REVIEW WORKSHOP

FOR CSOs SUPPORTED IN THE PACS PROGRAMME

MAHARASHTRA

JULY 17TH AND 18TH 2003

HOSTED BY

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Abbreviations Used In The Document

BDBGVS	:	Bhartiya Dnyanpith Bahuddeshiya Gramin Vikas Sanstha
CMS	:	Catalyst Management Services
DA	:	Development Alternatives
DFID	:	Department for International Development
DFIDI	:	Department for International Development, India
GRASP	:	Grassroots Action for Social Participation
GreenEarth	:	GreenEarth Social Development Consulting Pvt. Ltd.
GVM	:	Grameen Vikas Mandal
IIFYW	:	Indian Institute of Youth Welfare
JVSS	:	Janvikas Samajik Sanstha
MC	:	Management Consultants
MEAL	:	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning System
MSSM	:	Marathwada Sheti Sahayyak Mandal
PACS	:	Poorest Area Civil Society
PD	:	Proposal development and Appraisal
PRI	:	Panchayat Raj Institutions
PwC	:	PriceWaterhouse Coopers
RDC	:	Rural Development Centre
RO	:	Resource Organisation
Sankalp	:	Sankalp Manav Vikas Sanstha
SN	:	Sahayog Nirmitee
SS	:	Supportive Supervision
YASHADA	:	Yashwantrao Chavan Academy of Development Administration.

Background

This was the first Peer Review every conducted in the PACS programme and hence the main emphasis was on trying out various mechanisms / strategies to make the programme more attractive and beneficial to the participants. The learning from this experience are expected to provide inputs to similar exercises in other states covered by the PACS programme. This report will therefore try and discuss the methods used as well as learnings rather than merely document what happened. As far as what happened is concerned, the entire exercise has been documented on video and a Compact Disc is expected to be available for further study and reflection.

The PACS programme

The UK Department for International Development (DFID) through its India office (DFIDI) has established the Poorest Areas Civil Society (PACS) Programme which aims at helping Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to assist people in the poorest and the most backward districts of India realise their entitlements more effectively and sustainably. The programme will concentrate on clusters of the 100 poorest districts which cross state boundaries, but which are mainly located in Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and the Centre-West (Madhya Pradesh, Chhatisgarh and Maharashtra). The districts within the focus areas have been identified by the Government of India. The project would address the thematic areas related to local self governance, women's empowerment, policy advocacy and self help.

The Development Alternatives-PricewaterhouseCoopers (P) Ltd. consortium has been identified as the Management Consultant (MC) to manage and administer the PACS Programme on behalf of DFID.

PACS in Maharashtra

Ten out of Maharashtra's 29 districts (position as of 1991) are covered in the 100 districts that fall in the PACS programme.

The PACS programme was launched in Maharashtra through two outreach workshops at Aurangabad and

Expected outcome of the peer review

The expected outcome of the peer review was as under.

1. All the PACS partners, 10 lead agencies and 31 of their partners, would meet (formally and informally) and the process of exchange of experience and networking would start.
2. All the PACS partners would be once again oriented to the vision and mission of the PACS programme.
3. Overt linkages would be established with top government officers who can affect the efficacy of the programme in the state.
4. Common capacity building needs for the PACS partners in Maharashtra would emerge.
5. Some common action points and action plan to meet these would emerge.
6. The PACS State anchors for other states would learn from this experience and make improvements in the design in their states.

7. CMS would be able to get first hand inputs for developing the MEAL system. (Catalyst Management Services, Bangalore is involved in developing the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEAL) System for the PACS programme)

Participants

The peer review had participants from four stakeholders within the PACS programme

1. The management consultants (MC) – Development Alternatives and PriceWaterhouse Coopers. From the MC five representatives participated including the Programme Manager Ms. Kiran Sharma, the state anchors Mr. P S C Rao (Maharashtra), Mr. Rajesh Dubey (Bihar), Mr. Sharad Tiwari (Jharkhand) and Mr. Tarun Gupta (PwC)
2. The State Resource Organisation for Supportive Supervision (SS RO) - GreenEarth Social Development Consulting Pvt. Ltd. was represented by Makarand Sahasrabudde and Vinita Tatke.
3. The heads and the co-ordinators of the lead agencies represented all the partners.
4. Two representatives of Catalyst Management Services, Bangalore – Mr. Ranghunathan and Mr. Ravindra Kumar also participated.

Agenda

The agenda was decided and circulated well in advance to the participants. The same is as under.

17 th July, Day 1.	
08.30 am - 09.00 am	Registration
09.00 am - 10.00 am	Introduction – Management Consultants
	Purpose of the Review Meeting - Management Consultants
10.00 am - 10.15 am	Inaugural address by the Divisional Commissioner, Aurangabad.
10.15 am - 10.30 am	Tea Break
10.30 am - 13.00 pm	Review of three projects being implemented by the CSOs – GRASP, JVSS and MSSM followed by discussion
13.00 pm - 14.00 pm	Lunch
14.00 pm - 15.00 pm	Overview of Supportive Supervision - GreenEarth Consultants
15.00 pm – 17.00 pm	Group work on four aspects 1. PRI strengthening 2. Women's Empowerment 3. Capacity building needs of CSOs 4. Common advocacy issues
	Sharing of Information Interaction at local Levels Frequency of Meetings
17.30 pm – 20.00 pm	Discussion with Project Partners - IIYW, BDBGVS, GVM, SN, Sankalp and RDC
18 th July, Day 2	
09.00 am – 11.00 am	Presentation on MEAL System - CMS Consultants
11.00 am - 13.00 pm	Planning for convergence with Government programmes (Who knows who, Government programmes in the area, date, venue, meeting (Tea break in between the session))

13.00 pm - 14.00 pm	Lunch
14.00 pm - 15.00 pm	Open session on issues the partners are facing (Common issues / programmes) - MC and GreenEarth
15.00 pm - 15.30 pm	Tea break
15.30 pm - 16.00 pm	Planning the next review meeting
16.00 pm - 16.15 pm	Closing

The timings reflected in the agenda were not adhered to strictly, as the description of the sessions will no doubt demonstrate, but efforts were made to cover all the components listed above.

The sessions

The first day

The PACS programme manager – Ms. Kiran Sharma who outlined the need and concept behind the Peer Review. She spoke of the origins of the programme and the way in which it has grown. She outlined the learning aspect of the Peer review workshop and stressed that participation by the CSOs would enrich the same. She also spoke of the need to work with the government.

This was followed by a presentation by Mr. P S C Rao, PACS state anchor for Maharashtra on the overall vision, reach and status of the PACS programme. The presentation is Placed at Annexure I.

Formal Inaugural

The Divisional Commissioner for the Aurangabad Division Mr. Ramani inaugurated the workshop. This was done in the traditional way of lighting the lamp.

The DC is responsible for the overall development of the entire division that fortunately covers all the eight districts covered by the PACS programme in the Marathwada region of Maharashtra.

In his address Mr. Ramani outlined the ways in which the NGOs can collaborate with the government on implementation of various programmes related to the thematic areas of PACS. He mentioned that there were a number of issues in the state that the NGOs needed to address. These include (1) better governance, (2) right to information, (3) drinking water and sanitation, (4) education, (5) health and (6) access to credit for the socio-economically disadvantaged sections of the population, (7) Child rights and (8) Data management.

Mr. Ramani further went on to emphasise the need for government and NGOs to focus their work and address the precise needs of the target group. He also said that NGOs must be involved in social audit and must act as watchdogs for ensuring better governance.

Mr. Ramani fielded questions from the group related (1) to non co-operation of lower level government functionaries, (2) lack of transparency and (3) issues of land reform. He later joined the group for lunch and discussed the Jameen Adhikaar Andolan which is being supported by PACS and is working on the issue of gairan land rights.

CSO Presentations

Presentation by GRASP

The presentation was made by the project co-ordinator for GRASP – Sham Deshpande. Two heads of CSOs – Ramakant Kulkarni (Sahayog Nirmitee) and Sayyadbhai (GVM) acted as facilitators. Their choice was determined by (1) need for increasing participation of the CSOs, (2) the fact that they were addressing similar thematic areas as GRASP and (3) they had as much seniority as the head of GRASP.

The GRASP presentation covered a number of aspects such as

- ♣ History of the organisation
- ♣ Vision, mission and goals
- ♣ The way in which the project was designed
- ♣ The activities undertaken in the 9 month period
- ♣ The achievements and
- ♣ The learnings to date.

The presentation meandered along aimlessly. Though the presenter was given guidelines on the aspects to be covered he stuck to the pre-prepared presentation. This experience pointed to the need for explaining, well before hand, to the agency precisely WHAT was expected in the presentation. Very few CSOs would be able to modify their presentation on the spot as per the requirements of the situation. The presentation was followed by discussions on the achievements and learnings. A copy of the presentation is attached at Annexure II.

This was the first presentation and the discussion degenerated into an inquisition. The CSOs who asked questions dwelt at length on the 'achievements' and 'learning' claimed by GRASP. Naturally since the project was in early stages, it was not possible to claim these extensively. It also did not help that GRASP had fallen well short of the activities completion. The state RO for supportive supervision had to step in and ensure that the discussion was brought back on the track and made more supportive rather than critical.

The facilitators made the concluding comments and drew attention to the fact that the presentation lacked the details necessary for the house to make comments. It also complimented GRASP for taking the initiative and volunteering to be the first to make the peer presentation.

Presentation by JVSS

Warned by the thrust of questions that were posed to GRASP, JVSS made a focussed the presentation and learnings and included case studies. The presentation was made by the head Ramesh Bhise and supported by the field workers. The presentation covered how JVSS had identified the issue and decided the coverage (a planning grant had been made by PACS), the team selection process and the interventions that were planned. The project aims to strengthen women in 50 villages in the Beed district of Maharashtra and promote leadership within them. The aim is stronger local self governance mechanisms with participation from women. Five case studies of success were included in the presentation of which two were taken up in detail. These included the case of the Jan Sunwai (public hearing) in which the women Panchayat members

from 50 villages were present. The presentation also covered difficulties like reaching out to the villages, opposition by the established sections in the village and issues arising out of the patriarchal social system.

A copy of the presentation is placed in Annexure III of this report.

The presentation was received well by the house. In the facilitators' role were Shailesh Pisalkar (BDBGVS) and Sudhakar Kshirsagar (Sankalp). This presentation was well received by the participants. The queries raised by the participants included questions on the strategies used for involving women and the response that JVSS has got. JVSS mentioned that they had problems in obtaining material for Panchayat Raj Training. At this point some of the participants indicated to JVSS that the material could be obtained with YASHADA and the P V Mandlik Trust in Mumbai. The panel commented on the fact that a lot of progress had been made by JVSS on its project.

A lunch break was taken immediately after. Immediately after lunch two participants led the gathering in songs of activism that generate lot of enthusiasm in the assembly.

Presentation by MSSM

The MSSM presentation followed a similar track as JVSS with the co-ordinator, Balaji Kendre, making the presentation with case studies being handled by the field workers. The presentation also covered vision and mission of MSSM. It described in detail how the programme has been phased out by MSSM – 20 villages to be covered in the first year and then 20 to be added in each of the subsequent years. MSS also described its innovative 'Problem Solving Camps' in which a cross section of the people in the villages came for a 3 day residential workshop to the MSSM campus. This group then discussed village level issues, developed plans of action for these and also took up responsibility for steering these issues in the villages. In the facilitators' role were Manohar Golpelwar (IIYW) and Eknath Awad (RDC). This presentation ended by the singing of a song penned by some of the beneficiaries of the MSSM programme.

A copy of the presentation is placed in Annexure IV of this report.

In this presentation no real queries were raised. The participants made statements about the need to reach out to the dalit community and the need to document the processes within the Problem Solving Camps.

The panelists restricted their comments to expressing an appreciation for the team in its path to the goals of the programme and wishing the team well for the future.

Supportive Supervision – the concept

This session was cancelled because (1) all those assembled had been made aware of the role of GreenEarth in earlier interactions and (2) the programme was two hours behind schedule. The presentation was to have covered the following

The concept

- ♣ Assisting the CSOs in dealing with the project implementation
- ♣ Assisting PACS in monitoring the project implementation in the state

Role of GreenEarth

- ♣ Planning and orientation in the first quarter
- ♣ Capacity building needs identification
- ♣ Capacity building on management related issues
- ♣ Monitoring visits (every six months)
- ♣ Field implementation inputs
- ♣ Crisis management (as and when and if required)

Style of functioning

- ♣ Non intrusive
- ♣ CSO friendly

A copy of the GreenEarth presentation is placed in Annexure V of this report.

Group work

The participants were divided into four groups and offered four topics for discussion. These were (1) how to take the strengthening of Panchayat Raj system ahead, (2) women's empowerment, (3) capacity building needs of the PACS partners and (4) managing advocacy in the context of the PACS programme.

The choice of which group one wanted to belong to was left to the participants. The only conditions laid out were that each group should have a mix of experience and there should be a reasonable gender balance. The groups that emerged met these criteria well testifying to the fact that this technique indeed works.

The MC and the SS RO supported the groups in their deliberations.

The issues discussed and presented are briefly put down below.

Capacity building needs of CSOs

All capacity building can be classified in three areas Perspective, Knowledge and Skills. Some common areas where capacity building was needed include

1. Communication
2. Working in teams – group dynamics
3. Leadership
4. Liaison with government
5. Advocacy
6. Process documentation
7. Accounts and administration
8. How to build capacities of small partners
9. Gender
10. Motivation of the team
11. Field level hand holding support to the small partners.

Making the Panchayat system work

Some difficulties identified included

1. Patriarchal social system that did not allow women to come forward.
2. Non implementation of governmental policy
3. Illiteracy and ignorance of the people
4. Apathy amongst people and low level government functionaries
5. Hindrance of the politically established class.

Some strategies that emerged for tackling these included

1. Building peoples organizations
2. Conscientization of people, especially women
3. Information dissemination and
4. Training of grassroots activists.

This group had the easiest task since a number of the PACS partners are already working on this issue.

Women's empowerment

The discussion on this subject went astray. Instead of discussions on the strategies for women's empowerment the group went off track and presented issues leading to gender bias in society. The discussions that followed the presentation were heated. Strategies including sensitisation of males, increasing awareness amongst women on legal rights, training of adolescent girls etc emerged.

Advocacy

This group discussed a number of issues for advocacy and finally came up with a list of priority issues for the state. These included (1) land rights, (2) child rights, (3) minimum wages and employment, (4) human rights and (5) Panchayat Raj.

The group proposed the issue of Panchayat Raj strengthening for joint action. The assembled partners accepted this.

The first day ended with an address by the programme manager Kiran Sharma. She delineated a number of important issues in the PACS programme including

1. Need for **transparency** amongst the stakeholders. She said that there was need for all involved to accept faults, learn from them.
2. **Flexibility** – PACS is open to the idea of redesigning projects if we find the process is not going along as planned.
3. **Analysis** – most of the reports are mere statements of 'what happened' rather than analysis of the why and how.
4. Need to build **partnerships** within and beyond PACS since the PACS programme has only a few years duration.

The day ended with dinner hosted by MSSM.

The second day

A campus visit had been organised by the participants by MSSM early in the morning.

Ms. Ranjana Shelke (IYW partner, Yavatmal) presented a report of the proceedings of the first day.

Address by CEO Jalna

The second day started with an address by Mr. Rajeev Mittal Chief Executive Officer of Jalna Zilla Parishad. Mr. Mittal was clued in on the PACS programme since he had inaugurated the MSSM programme a few months back. His speech was very similar to the address by the DC on the first day. He spoke of the efforts that the administration was making to implement the governments development policies and how the NGOs could participate by entering into partnerships with the administration. Mr. Mittal promised all support from his administration to the NGOs in Jalna. This session was planned and while it was useful, it threw the schedule out of gear.

Presentation on MEAL

The presentation on the MEAL system was made by Mr. Ravindra Kumar of Catalyst Management Services. He explained the need to have such a system in place. The response from the participants was most encouraging – they accepted that the system was mainly for them as well as for the community. This was one of the most important developments and it paved the path for acceptance of the system by the CSOs.

This presentation was followed by group work. The groups that had been formed continued on this day as well. The four topics discussed included

- (1) How to monitor the PRI programme
- (2) How to monitor the women's empowerment programme,
- (3) How to monitor processes and develop milestones and
- (4) How can the learnings are incorporated into the programme.

The presentations did not meet the expectations of the facilitator completely. Most of them went astray with the first two groups practically re-iterating what they had discussed earlier and the last confusing between information and learning.

The main thing that probably went wrong with the deliberations was that the participants were unsure of what was really expected from them. They were also not trained in thinking in terms of structures and testing out these.

Joint advocacy programme

The SS RO facilitated the discussion on development of a joint advocacy programme on a topic selected by the partners on the first day – making the Panchayat Raj system work. After discussions that went in a number of directions it was decided that more time is needed to develop a strategy. MSSM has agreed to co-ordinate the efforts of the groups. The CSOs were, naturally, presented with the option of joining in or staying out of the joint programme. At least two of the ten lead CSOs are expected to stay out due

to pressures of their own programmes. It is planned that the partners would prepare their own plans and get together at MSSM on the 5th of August for finalizing a joint plan of action. This will be shared with the SS RO and MC so that their inputs could be taken.

The SS RO and the State Anchor clarified that PACS will provide no budgetary support for this activity which is in the interest of the participating groups. It will be a purely voluntary effort. This was done to squash discussions on reimbursement of travel expenses. The CSOs were also advised that the initiative had to come from them rather than through prodding by MC or SS RO. They were therefore free to take it up or reject the idea completely. They were not going to be evaluated directly for their contribution to this advocacy effort. They were also free to invite participants from non-PACS partners and non-PACS districts.

Having said that the SS RO and MC are of the opinion that this joint action is an acid test for the PACS desire to build networks. It is axiomatic that funding agencies cannot drive networks. These have to come together on their own. Only then there is any chance of sustainability and impact.

Feedback from the partners

Open session on issues faced by the partners

MC facilitated this session. It did not go very well. Only two issues were raised:

- (1) Accounting of local contribution and
- (2) Method to transfer learning of common capacity building programmes to partners.

It is possible that the participants had not given thought to this issue. It is also possible that most of the queries had been addressed earlier in the interactions with the NGOs.

What are expectations from SS RO?

Some of the expectations that emerged, apart from the role identified by PACS, included

1. Need to plan and share agenda BEFORE the visit.
2. Sharing of the same copy of the report with the CSO
3. Planning the SS visits based on assessed NEED for the CSO
4. Need to maintain confidentiality.

This was only a feedback session and no reaction was expected from the SS RO and hence none was given.

The written feedback

An individual feedback session was then conducted. The four questions to be answered included

1. What were the learnings from this exercise?
2. What were the gaps?
3. Whether there should be a similar exercise in the future?
4. What improvements can be brought in?

The participants were given the option of not signing their names while submitting individual, written feedback. Some of the highlights of the feedback forms received (26) include

1. Most respondents agreed that there was some learning but most could not describe the same apart from the overwhelmingly favourite of having met other PACS partners.
2. Almost all have said that there should be such sessions held again.

It needs to be noted that only 26 forms were received from the 50 odd participants.

The SS RO feels that none of the participants took the feedback session seriously. It is possible that this was due to the fact that (1) they were tired, (2) they felt that nothing would change anyway and (3) they knew that even without their inputs someone would do the thinking and management anyway. In any of these cases the matter is serious and needs to be investigated further.

Vote of thanks

The peer review ended with a vote of thanks for the organisers – MSSM. Also the head of MSSM Mr. J M Gandhi spoke for a few minutes on how the programme was getting CSOs together and how this was an important aspect of taking things forward.

One to one sessions

For the first time since the launch of the PACS programme in the state, three stakeholders were together – the CSOs, MC and SS RO. Since this opportunity would be rare it was decided that the MC (DA and PwC) would hold one on one meeting with all the partners and SS RO. Outstanding issues could be sorted out without too much time being spent and communication gaps. Four projects were not taken up – the three in which monitoring visits were made and one that started only in July 2003.

This sessions started at around 1830 and ended at 2230 hrs.

These sessions were very useful in that the CSO got a lot of things clarified and the SS plan for the next eight months emerged.

Learning

The peer review exercise has thrown up a number of learnings. Some of these are delineated below.

1. As far as possible the peer reviews must be conducted in the state language. This enables all to participate and learn.
2. The peer review is being seen by the CSOs as a necessary evil rather than a learning tool it is intended to be. There is a feeling that PACS MC and SS RO are presenting them with a faith accompli as regards their participation.

3. Most CSOs are unable to make concise presentations, especially those under review.
4. CSO rapporteurs are unfamiliar with their roles and hence are neither able to maintain order in the sessions nor sum up.
5. Most of the CSOs are unable to work in groups leading to some people dominating the proceedings. This could come from a feeling of being inexperienced and therefore in awe of some of the big names or not being heard or from just not caring enough to contribute.
6. Most of the CSOs are prone to look upon interactions with government officers as irrelevant sermons. They therefore view and tolerate these as interruptions rather than contributory.
7. CSOs expect that they will learn something new and are disappointed if that does not happen.

Using the learnings in other peer reviews

The learning must contribute to the development of strategies for other peer reviews whether in this state or in others. Some action points are therefore suggested.

1. The participants from the MC must make the effort to learn and understand the local language or alternately arrange for simultaneous (and private) translation of the salient points being made. Since the SS RO is from the state and hence is expected to know the language. *This is a problem for Maharashtra alone since it is the only non-Hindi speaking state under the PACS programme.*
2. The peer review process needs to belong and **also be seen to belong to the partners. The MC and SS RO must have a minimal role to play in the same.** This position may sound idealistic and probably is but unless steps are taken to promote this feeling the sense of the review process having been thrust on the CSOs will persist. May be over a period of 2-3 reviews, the MC and SS RO can reduce their involvement so that in the last review their involvement is merely ceremonial. Some steps that can be undertaken for this include
 - The CSOs making the choice of the next venue and host(s).
 - Agenda and expected outcomes being developed in the first session of the review so that ownership is established.
 - Resource persons being called for the session on capacity building being selected by the CSOs.
 - Group work being facilitated by the CSOs themselves so that non feeling of 'being ordered around' can creep in.
 - CSOs themselves managing the time table so that complaints of overshooting are reduced.

It is probably sound fatuous to expect this to happen overnight but the fact of the matter is that the MC and SS RO need to be able to relinquish control of the peer review workshop so that it lives up to its name.

3. In case any of the CSOs are expected to make presentations, especially those whose programmes are being reviewed, they should be informed of the fact well in advance so that they can prepare. Guidelines must be developed so that the presentation focuses on some salient aspects and does not degenerate into a rambling exercise.

4. All rapporteurs and facilitators must have a checklist and guidelines on how to conduct the sessions. There is otherwise a tendency to let the discussions go astray.
5. Group work must be guided at all times and sufficient anchors must be present from the MC and SS RO to make these more meaningful.
6. Time must be kept aside for informal discussions amongst the PACS partners.
7. Interaction with the government officers may be restricted to ceremonial events or informal discussions in the evenings.
8. At least one capacity building session must be planned in each peer review. The topic can be one that has emerged from the first review as well as the supportive supervision visits.

Makarand Sahasrabuddhe

Director

GreenEarth Social Development Consulting Pvt. Ltd.

July 2003

Presentation by PACS

Presentation by GRASP

VISION STATEMENT

“Empowerment of communities to manage their resources in a professional and environmentally sound manner.”

MISSION STATEMENT to achieve the stated vision is:

“To work for socio-economic development of the poor through community action, capacity building of grassroots level organisations, institution building, networking, policy advocacy and action oriented research.”

GRASP SINCE 1994 →

- Registered as society & public trust in 1993.
- Started with NRM projects in Aurangabad and Kannad blocks.
- Facilitated for the resource conservation over 12000 Ha. of degraded lands
- Worked for socio-economic development of rural communities, women in particular, in 15 villages (incl. 5 tribal) in Aurangabad district.
- Provided development support to 19 local NGOs through capacity building, fund mobilisation, etc.
- Initiated an issue-based network of comprising of 15 NGOs from Marathwada.
- Also worked in Sirmour district of Himachal Pradesh towards NRM through collective action of local NGOs.
- Worked for creating sound educational environment in 24 villages of Aurangabad and Jalna districts.
- Working in 20 tribal dominated villages in Shivpuri district of Madhya Pradesh in the State Govt's IGGHY (DPIP-MP).
- Providing technical support in project planning and NRM to DPIP in eight districts of MP in collaboration with Development Alliance.
- Supporting and implementing Stree-Shakti Lok- Shakti Programme under DFID's PACS programme in 118 (planned) villages of Aurangabad & Jalna districts.

GRASP IN PACS PROGRAMME

Name of the project - Stree-Shakti Lok-Shakti Vikas

Goal :-

“Empowering and enabling the community, especially the women, to address the pertinent issues of socio-economic and institutional development in the project villages”.

Specific Objectives :-

1. To improve the existing education practices in rural areas for overall development of the child. This would entail improving learning environment, and linking education to practical life and skills.

2. To improve the economic status of women and reduce their economic dependency. It would mean to enhance their control over their earning and spending by women, to inculcate collective saving practices, and increase their ability to demonstrate enterprising skills.
3. To empowering women socially and politically, so as to increase their involvement in political and social spheres of village activities.
4. To enable the communities to work towards sustainable livelihood systems, through promotion of income generating activities (from second year onwards)

Area Map

(hand drawn area map not reproduced)

Area of operation: Aurangabad & Jalna districts

Block names : Aurangabad, Kannad, Phulambri, Badnapur, Paithan

Service Providers:

1. SPEED Multi-Aid Association (10 Villages)
2. Manav Gramin Vikas & Sanshodhan Sanstha (10 Villages)
3. Krishi Sarathi (10 Villages)
4. Jigyasaa (10 Villages)
5. GRASP (40 Villages)

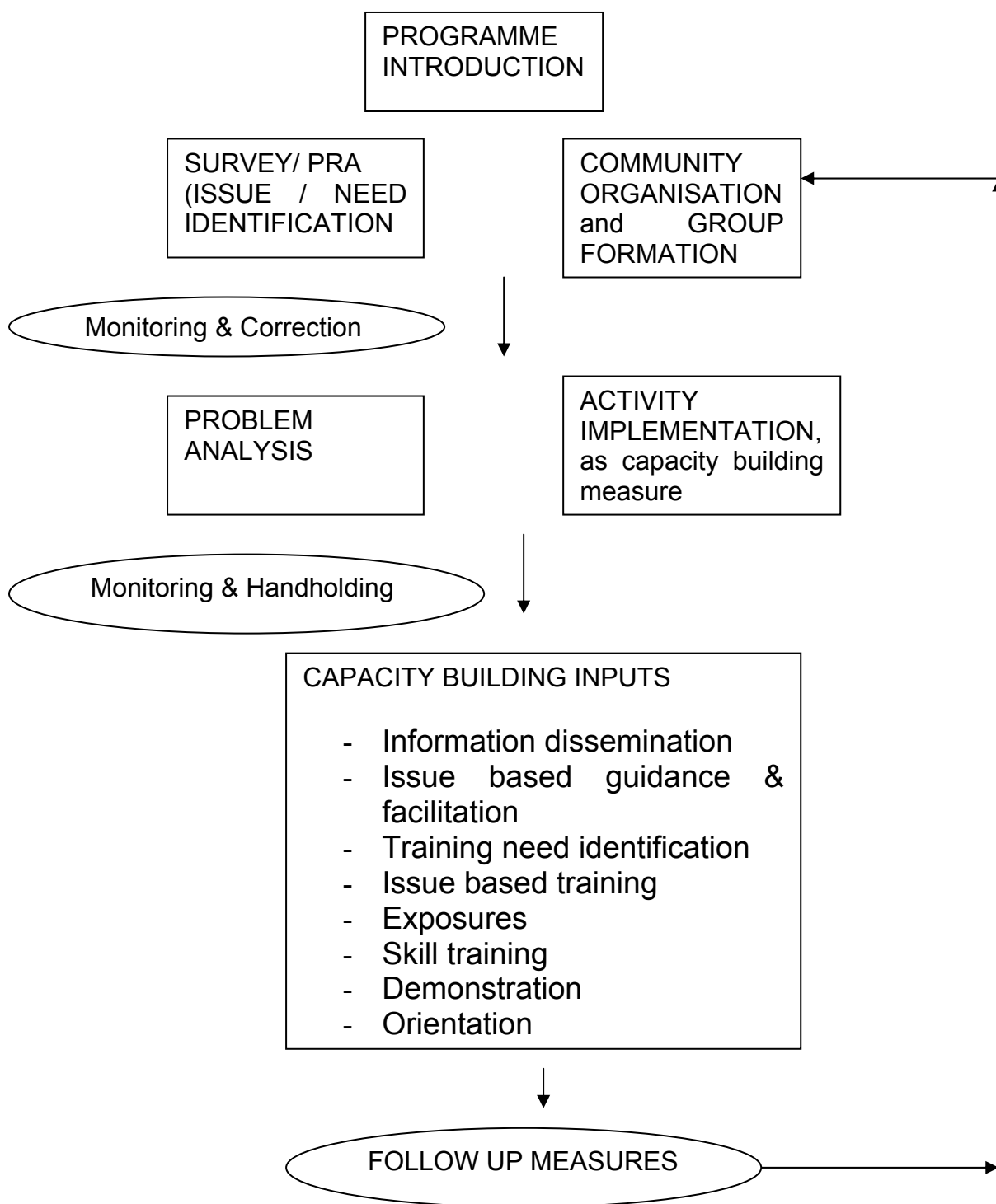
Intervention planned in 118 villages

Intervened so far in 31 villages

PROJECT COMPONENTS

1. Education
2. Women's economic empowerment
3. Women's socio-political empowerment
4. Kishori Vikas
5. Health & Sanitation
6. Youth Development
7. Agriculture Support
8. Capacity Building of Project Staff
9. Monitoring & support

Methodology-



Achievements-

1. Women started organising through SHGs and sitting in a group for monthly meetings, which was not practised earlier.
2. Women in SHGs started pursuing & attending training with maximum participation for a whole day.
3. Women panchayat members in 7 villages decided to influence decision making process in village panchayats
4. Women SHGs took initiative to eradicate alcoholism in one village
5. The unorganised, jobless youths are finding their role in project processes and slowly getting organised.
6. Parents appeared paying more attention to children's education.
7. Children got an opportunity to show their skills
8. Kishoris now could spend much time outside village for exposure with project staff.
9. People started adopting soak pits and kitchen garden measures to avoid sanitation problem.

Difficulties encountered

1. To reach out poorest in village and involving them in development process
2. Half –hearted interventions by other Government & Non-government agencies in village left a bad taste
3. Launching of Kishori classes in all the project villages
4. Frequent changes in field and office staff, especially women workers
5. Attitude/ mindset of villagers – “Village development is the responsibility of the State”

Learnings

1. Process of women empowerment can't be possible in isolation of rest of the village
2. An NGO has to do balancing act in target accomplishment & quality of work
3. Working on purely a social development project is difficult but not impossible
4. Social empowerment process complimented with livelihood support may fetch good level of participation and impact
5. Team work, vision & capacity building of project staff are the keys to meaningful intervention

Sham Deshpande
Project Co-ordinator
On behalf of the GRASP Team

Presentation by JVSS

JANVIKAS SAMAJIK SANSTHA

Project Title & Location Women's Governance through PRI & other Processes for 50 villages of 3 Talukas of Beed District Maharashtra

Project Duration Three years

Project Area 50 Villages form three talukas district Beed

District	Block	Villages
Beed	Kaij	30
Beed	Dharur	10
Beed	Beed	10
Total		50

Vision

Equitable society ensuring rights of the people wherein equal opportunities are available to the people in general and women and deprived in particular enabling live the life of dignity and freedom.

Mission

Strengthening the people's organisation and people's institution in the villages enabling poor and marginalized to have space and opportunity in governance.

Goal

Capacity building of the Women landless, dalit about their rights and responsibilities for equitable share in village governance processes.

Objectives

1. Developing and strengthening effective and efficient leadership of 200 women from 50 village
2. Capacity building and strengthening of governance role of 200 elected women members from 50 villages 15 women Sarpanch
3. Promoting and strengthening 50 women groups to take effective support role in village governance processes
4. Ensuring 33% reservation of women in People Organisation and Peoples Institutions (POPI)
5. These objectives help in addressing the thematic areas and in achieving the ultimate project goal

Planning of project:

Sr. No	Activity	Planned Activity	Completed Activity	Covered Villages
1.	PRI Awareness & Sensitisation one meet per village.	50	15	15
2.	Gram Sabha & GP meetings on 73 rd amendment.	50	15	15
3.	PRI training to identified women 50 from cluster of 10 villages for 2days training.	50	01	10
4.	Jansunawai one in a year for 500 people.	02	01	50
5.	Mobile PRI Exhibition in 50 village vehicle.	50	15	15
6.	Poster Exhibition on Panchayat Raj	07	02	50
7.	Exposure visit,50 women from 50 villages to ZP, PS, Bank, Police station, Tehsil and Collector office	02	--	--

Project information**Effects****PRI sensitisation Meetings**

PRI sensitisation meetings were organised in 15 villages .810 people participated in these meetings of which 540 were women and 270 men
People understood the PRI concept and started talking about PRI in their village

Awareness about 73rd amendment

73rd awareness meetings were conducted in 15 villages of the project operational area 682 women and 384 men participated in these meetings. The knowledge of the amendment brought the realisation on the part of the people about the need and importance of Gram Sabha in their village People started attending Gram Sabha They also insisted to record the proceedings of such Sabhas

PRI Training to selected women

50 women from 10 villages were imparted this training. They were made aware about the PRI and other processes Women realised their unequal status and started participating effectively with the knowledge they have acquired. In all 40 SHGs are formed with 450 women's membership

Jansunvai on PRI

More Than 1000 women from 50 villages participated in Jansunvai
The cross sectional analysis of their participation reveals that they were women Sarpanch, members of sub committee, SHGs members. The Gram panchayat members and Sarpanch vocalised their problems and difficulties they face in PRI and related process Jansunvai provided a platform to women to express their problems related to PRI and people present also understood the difficulties women faces. This helped the women to come together on the common issues and problems they face

Media, Local Newspaper also responded positively by publishing the stories narrated by women and the status of PRI in the villages

Local officers, elected representatives, attended the program. This made it easy for the participants women to share their problems with local authorities and ask for their co-operation and solutions to their difficulties. The elected representatives and authorities then assured women their help to resolve the problems women faces

All women participants decided that henceforth they will be active in Gramsabha and other PRI related matters

Mobile PRI poster Exhibition

In all 2365 people visited the poster exhibitions organised in 15 villages .1081 women and 1284 men visited these exhibitions. The display of the posters enabled us to reach out the large target group. The people understood the pictorial message. The target group understood the rules and regulations of PRI. The women elected through reserved category, Dalit women members and Sarpanch understood their roles and responsibilities through pictorial message. The exhibitions proved effective tools for public education and public awareness. People from the villages are now coming foreword and asking Sarpanch and Gramsevak to call Gramsabha. People voted with awareness and consciousness during recent Gram panchayat elections. With the help and support of SHGs, 10 women got elected from 5 villages.

Exposure Visits to Zilla Parishad Beed , Panchayat Samiti Kaij, Beed and Dharur

- 48 women members, Sarpanch from 50 villages participated in the exposure visits
- Women understood three-tier system of PRI
- Women learn about the rules and procedures of PRI
- Information on the Government schemes disseminated to women
- Government authorities also understood the problems and difficulties women faces in their dealings with PRI
- Women became vocal about the Gramsabha in their villages
- Women started asking about the various schemes of Panchayat
- Women took initiative to come together to address common village issues
- Participation and attendance of women in Gramsabha increased remarkably
- Women started following of the village issues at the various administrative level in taluka and district

Learning's

- Given the opportunity women prove that they are very effective in PRI and village development process
- Women, People and elected members were not aware of PRI
- Sub committee members are not aware that they are members on any of the committee of PRI
- In general people do not take active role in village development process and are pessimistic about the development schemes
- People are not aware of the various Government schemes of their benefit
- Dalit members and Dalit Sarpanch are still secluded from village panchayat and they have no say in the PRI

Difficulties

- Opposition from the established groups
- Age old traditions prohibit women from the full fledged participation
- Insensitive and non co-operative government machinery
- Illiteracy and ignorance
- Non availability of resource material

Ramesh Bhise

Project co-ordinator
On behalf of JVSS

Presentation by MSSM

Presentation by GreenEarth

Why Supportive Supervision?

1. It gets PACS closer to the field
2. State resource agencies can bring in knowledge and grassroots perspective
3. Greater inputs to the overall programme possible
4. Stronger linkages between PACS and partner and finally
5. Better programme management

What Are the Roles of a SS RO?

- Desk appraisal
- Orientation workshop (immediately after contract is signed)
 1. Clarity on objectives and vision
 2. Assimilating partners in the process
 3. Facilitating planning (roles / resources)
 4. Identify capacity building needs
 5. Identify deliverables
- Review
 1. Of the quarterly reports at the desk
 2. Field visits every six months
- Facilitate peer review workshops
- On line support (in special cases)
- CRISIS MANAGEMENT

What Are the Traits of a SS RO ?

- Positive approach
- Flexible
- Non-intrusive
- Friendly
- Listener
- Strict

..... A mentor

Makarand Sahasrabuddhe
On behalf of GreenEarth