

# **Annual Report 2006-07**

## **SACAL**

**(Social Action for Community Alternative Learning)**

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## Preface

Year 2006 witnessed the dawn of rural awakening in many villages of Mohana Block of Gajapati district of Orissa. Our sincere efforts backed with experience and expertise in the field of social work has once again yielded hopeful results. Though our core area of thrust remained intact, which is Natural Resources Management, and livelihood efforts, we also gave emphasis in the area of gender equity and comprehensive community development. It happened by way of several training programmes and activities. Throughout the year, we tried to achieve two things namely, determining the levels of sustainability of many earlier activities and developing the capacity of the tribal communities by way of education so they might represent themselves at different fora asking for their rights and privileges.

SACAL invested its efforts in facilitating people gain their economic freedom, confidence, and profit through right use of natural resources, without causing damage to the resources and the environment. We are quite happy to see the cheering faces of people who tried to bring happiness, confidence, and new hopes in their otherwise disappointed way of life. Communities have been realising the usefulness and productivity of doing something in a united way. To induce this, SACAL regularly trained and supported the tribal people through several exposures and constant encouragement. We observed that tribals, particularly the tribal youth, are very much energetic and enthusiastic. Nevertheless, it is very unfortunate that they are often misled and exploited. SACAL in its endeavour to guide the tribals have initiated several activities, which has enhanced their economic and leadership levels.

During the year 2006 SACAL took initiatives to withdraw active support from several groups as per the scheduled plan. SACAL has observed that the communities have earned enough experience and expertise to their credit in order to sustain the process of further development at their own effort. Many groups linked themselves with government and non-government agencies for further development of their communities. In the meantime SACAL continues to work for the other communities helping them to reach levels of self-governing qualities so that they can sustain major activities after the withdrawal of present active support.

SACAL believes that the marginalised and the neglected masses of this tribal belt will gradually pickup modern trends of living. It will definitely be a matter of happiness to see our fellowmen joining the mainstream of development and reflect a win-win situation, and the day is not much far away.

*Secretary*

## Acknowledgements

The task of preparation of the Annual Report was entrusted to the SACAL staff. It is a result of the dedicated teamwork. I am grateful to our coordinators, field workers, accountant, and other office staff members for their continuous support in the preparation of this report.

Acknowledgements are also due to those *many* members who worked tirelessly in the fields and the people who we work for, their cooperation and commitment along with other partner NGOs and several resource personnel, it is their *achievements* reflected in this report. Acknowledgements are very much due to Mr. B. R. Das for his thorough study of the manuscript and for his matchless editing skills.

It will be a great breach of duty if we do not mention our gratitude towards our funding partners M/s Indo-Swiss Natural Resources Management Programme for Orissa (ISNRMPO), IC/SDC, Switzerland, and TROCAIRE of Ireland, without their help the projects would have never realized.

**Berhampur, January 2007**

*Nagendra Kumar Nandi*

## Background

SACAL, was born as a result of inherent willingness, dedication and passion of certain people who could foresee the advent of marginalised communities towards liberation from the clutches of exploitation, ignorance and poverty and hence prevent the incidences of illiteracy, hunger, death, poor health and infant mortality. The organisation vows to bring economic freedom, equality, and dignity among the weaker sections of the society. The organisation is also concerned about the deteriorating natural resources and planned for its management in order to make such resources available to the tribal people without any overexploitation. SACAL started working in the Ganjam and Gajapati district since year 2000 for the lift up of the backward communities in the district in order to improve the socio-economic situation and alleviate poverty in the region. It started its work with a few micro-activities like providing ideas of small enterprise for the rural poor, field bonding, displaying street theatre to sensitise people in different issues. A few NRM related activities, organizing animal husbandry health camp, creating awareness on anti-malaria, educating the village children in school, but since 2001 the pace and horizon of work has been widened on account of funding opportunity and the developed skill of the staff. It has planned to strengthen the livelihood sources through integrated approach in Chandragiri, Baghamari, Badasindhia, Antaraba, Pindiki, Chandiput, Jeeranga, Dhadiamba, Karchabadi, Labarsing Gram Panchayats Covering 82 villages of the Mohana block. At a glance, the district is socially, educationally, and economically backward because of negligence of Government for people's empowerment and development. All the year, most of their time people struggle for their livelihood sources. However they do not get two squares of meal in a day. So in this context, SACAL plays an important role in implementing different project activities in the rural areas to empower the marginalized sections to continue their effort with a strong and sustainable resource base.

The organization solely aims at conservation of natural resources, technical and financial support to marginalized section of people, empowering women for decision-making process. It also aims to initiate small-scale business for fulfilling family need, linking the people with the banks in order to get advantage of loan facilities, proper marketing of NTFP produces. It is organizing different awareness campaigns in order to sensitise the rural poor about their rights and also to differentiate between odds and evens, often conducting health camps for people and livestock, plantation activities with fruit bearing and other tree species, compulsory primary school education for the children etc.

The whole idea of action of the organization aims at relieving the difficult situation of the rural poor and elevates their position in the society as human being with dignity and intuition to act with confidence and self-reliance. SACAL

has grown up with experience and has established its credibility in course of time. It keeps on assessing its utility; efficiency and performance level and take measure to keep its collaboration intact with the rural people in community approach.

## **Organizational Management**

SACAL is a registered organization under the societies' act 1860 regulated and guided by a set of rules and regulations, reflected in its constitution (Byelaw).

The secretary is the executive head of the organization who takes the decision about different types of activities by collaborative discussion with all staffs and hands over the responsibilities to the assigned person according to his/her specific field, expertise and experience.

The staffs of SACAL are efficient in different fields of social development activities. They usually work at grass-root level for vulnerable section of people and mostly focus on capacity building of poor people in decision-making process involving them in all types of developmental activities in a natural manner.

In Monthly Meeting of the staffs, they discuss by focusing on the 'work done report' of previous month. The organization conducts other formal meetings frequently as per the necessity. Action plan is prepared at the end of each monthly meeting and displayed in the notice board of respective field office.

## **Human Resource Development (HRD)**

SACAL has given attention for in-house capacity building of its team. There used to be brainstorming session under the guidance of Secretary of SACAL, which helps to improve skills and knowledge of each staff. Different staffs of the organization are getting opportunity of receiving training and exposure facilities at reputed institutes frequently, which help them to enhance their understanding on the micro-macro linkages of development in broader perspective. SACAL aims to widen its working area and more staffs would join with many responsibilities. SACAL has sought the cooperation of Mr R. K. Surdeo of 'Anweshna' to help build the capacity of the rural tribals and training our staffs.

### **Broader goal of the organization is:**

- To strengthen the civil society organisations of the backward tribal villages
- To develop the bargaining power of the rural poor
- To capacitate the people in decision-making process in the context of their family and the village
- To enhance the technical know how of the people so that they will be capable of maintaining their created assets in family/community level
- To develop transparent ownership of the rural poor

- To suppress the exploitation of money lenders on poor people
- To link SHGs with bank and to support those for some input centred enterprises in order to meet their family need.
- To provide better medical facilities so that incidence of nutritionally deficient diseases reduced.
- To educate the children so that they would be capable to help their parents for doing small calculation in order to escape from the exploitation of money lenders and so also to stand in the society educationally
- To organize awareness campaign with the village people on health, education and forest protection etc
- To provide financial support to farmers and SHGs to go for different income generation programmes like goat rearing and poultry etc
- To work on gender issues in which the stakeholders are distress women exploited in different ways.
- To reduce the heterogeneity in tribal community because of political, ethical norms and exploitation along with establishment of solidarity among themselves, this is getting lost each day.

## **Plans and results**

The activities planned during the year implemented to a maximum extent by the organization. The staffs remained dedicated towards a good number of programmes because of the collaborative effort of the management of the organization. The broader objective of the organization planned for the grass-root level people of a number of villages in Mohana block.

## **Chapter 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Field Activities and Results**

### **Achievements of the year**

SACAL facilitated development of more than 10,000 villagers in one or other way encompassing more than 70 villages scattered in eight GPs of the Mohana Block. It facilitated the people in the fields of NRM and livelihood security, ranging from agricultural plantation based activities to livestock management. SACAL has been successful in the capacity building of the villagers so much so that they can now use their ability of expression with ease of communication. SACAL has aims towards strengthening of civil society organisations for further development of their confidence and awareness.

SACAL's achievements in association with people, training personnel and funding agencies is furnished below.

## **Natural Resource Management:**

As discussed earlier the inhabitants of the several scattered hamlets of the hilly terrain depend on minor forest produce and shifting cultivation. Such agricultural yields poor rewards and the minor forest produce that the tribals sell do not fetch them much either. Water is a scarce resource and availability depends upon the rainfall which is but often erratic. Problem of water for irrigation, cattle, and human consumption remained chronic. Hence, the preservation and sustainable management of Natural Resources needs an urgent address in order to protect the interests of the tribals for their survival.

VDCs, under the Natural Resources management Programme, were motivated to induce and practice improved methods of vegetable cultivation. This will benefit them as they would get fresh vegetables for their own consumption and sell the surplus to generate income to meet their livelihood needs. People carried out additional activities of ginger cultivation and orchard plantation.

The local agriculture officer provided consultancy on improved farming methods. He also supported farmers in preparation of soil, application of manure and fertilizer, selection of quality seeds in addition he also made aware the farmers about crop diseases and pests. Farmers exposed to the usefulness and goodness of organic manure as against the adverse effects of chemical fertilizer. Farmers learned and received training to practice and promote the use of vermin culture. The unutilized fallow land went under plantation initiatives by the VDC members. In addition to agricultural activities, animal husbandry related activities were also undertaken. People took up goat rearing activities under the mini project approach.

### **Output:**

- At every level of meeting, the awareness concerns were raised regarding the degradation of natural resources due to mismanagement.
- 20 farmers from 4 villages Gouripada, K.Adava, Gouptima and Polabandha took training on various sustainable agricultural practices such as vermin composting, preparation and use of organic manure and pest management.
- 05 nos. of agricultural related trainings were conducted for 104 numbers of participants.
- Different tree saplings, 1900 in number, were planted in two villages to utilize the fallow lands. Other 1000 numbers of saplings were distributed to plant in the bunds and backyards.
- Nurseries of mixed plants have been prepared in 02 villages, namely Khajuripada and B.Raising 4000 saplings were prepared.
- 20 farmers in two villages cultivated vegetables and paddy for their own consumption and selling as well.



- The local agriculture officer (JAO) as a consultant has visited the villages thrice and helped farmers on improved methods of cultivation.

During the first half of 2006 importance was given to complete the 3 mini projects namely Sikulipadar Gravity Flow, Jakarapalli WHS and complete the well platform of Chadiapada. No new mini projects planned during this period. To consolidate the learning in gender, Ms. Gayatri Bisoi took up gender trainings not only in SACAL operational villages, but supported other partner organizations for such gender trainings. During the month of February and March, large number of women and men participated in the Gram Sabha and Palli Sabha and exercised their demand. Street plays further fortified PRIs to motivate PRI members and the villagers to participate in the process. All the SHGs are linked to SDA (Soura Development Agencies), Bank or SHSY. The details of these activities are described ahead.

## **GRAVITY FLOW WATER**

The village Sikulipadar of Baghamari Gram Panchayat of Mohana Block has about 57 households comprising of 291 people. This village does not have water resources near by and people brought water from far away places. The women suffered most because they have to fetch water for the entire family. They were spending most of their time and energy in fetching water only. SACAL tried to reduce the burden of these villagers by suggesting them to build a water harvesting structure. They planned and implemented a gravity flow water harvesting structure. SACAL wanted to ensure supply of water throughout the year for all the villagers and hence reduce the workload of women. It also gave opportunity to participate in their developmental work and manage the project that is planning, implementation, and monitoring of the works.

One member from each family of the beneficiaries has contributed his/her labour towards the construction work. The villagers contributed to Rs. 5,000 towards the cost of the gravity flow in the form of labour and materials. This year reach family contributed 4 Kg of maize, which amounts to four quintals (equivalent of Rs. 1,800) for future maintenance. They will also contribute other food grains for future maintenance. Rupees 101,100 has been transferred during this period by Demand Draft through the SHG Group for the construction of Gravity flow.

Village development committee has taken the total responsibility of the gravity flow as well as payment and purchasing of materials etc. like last previous year. While accomplishing the work both male and female members shared their responsibility equally. The money transferred to the savings account of "SOURA SAMILANI MAHILA SAMITI" helped the SHG manage the fund. People have learnt about plumbing, choice of pipes and its management. Water is now available for the whole year. Women are happy, because they are receiving water at their doorsteps and using it for cooking, bathing, dinking, and all other uses.

## CHECKDAM

Village Jakarapalli of Chandiput Gram Panchayat of Mohana Block has a household of only 14 making a population of 83. Like several other villages, this village too faced water scarcity and many development work, for the lack of water, but could not be realised. SACAL along with villagers explored the possibilities of resourcefulness of water for increasing agricultural production by way of harvesting rainwater to help farmers for double their crop. It ultimately increased the area of productive land and helped conserve soil and water.

Villagers called SACAL staff members to help them financially and technically, for constructing Check Dam. Mr. Asit Das, consultant ISNRMPO provided technical support, layout and plan, estimate. The villagers for the construction of the Check Dam made a resolution. The villagers agreed to bear about 30 percent of the cost of the Check Dam in the form of labour and material. They formed a VDC consisting of seven members (both male and female) who took the whole responsibility. They requested the Panchayat through the PRI members of the village a part of the cost of the WHS (canal) particularly for the construction of channels.

On villager's request, consultant of ISNRMPO Mr. Asit Das identified a 60 decimal land close to North-West inside boarder of village Jakarapalli as the appropriate site for the construction of a Check Dam. People took up Plantation on the upper side of the dam to prevent the soil erosion. Plants like silk cotton, cassia, pineapple, teak, drumsticks, gliricidia planted. VDC has requested Panchayat to construct the channels on both the sides. People have started preparing up-lands for irrigation. This year wells and water harvesting structures have not dried. It is indicative of increased water levels. VDC has given responsibility to the SHG to utilize the water for pisciculture. Accordingly, the SHG members have put 2500 fingerlings. villagers are happy to utilize the water for production. People are using this water not only for agriculture purpose but for bathing for washing and for the animals too.

The length of the Check Dam is 65ft, it is 18 feet high, and 16 feet wide. Earth dam, they constructed using mostly earth and stone. They completed grass patching, stone patching, and catchment's treatment. The height of the surplus increased to three feet. The villagers contributed Rs. 2,500 worth of work in shape of labour and materials. Every year they would contribute 4 Kg of grains for future maintenance of the Check Dam. It will irrigate 34 acres of land. The villagers gained knowledge on construction of the Check dam. Soil erosion is checked and moisture content of the command area has improved. It has provided the villagers an opportunity of planning, monitoring and enhance managerial capacity of the village. It has increased the confidence among the villagers. The villagers have the feeling of ownership of the project. Both male and female participated actively in the programme.

## **WELL**

The village of Chadiapada of Chandiput Gram Panchayat under Mohana Block has a household of 12 constituting a population of 75. The villagers consumed unhygienic water from nearby ditches and often fell sick. Many a times water for cooking and drinking was not available and they have to travel long distances for having it. Therefore, the objective was to make available drinking water for the Chadiapada villagers. Members ventilated several times in village meetings and SHG meetings the need of an open well for drinking water. A local resource person did site selection. The PDC transferred Funds through Demand Draft to the SHG group. Village development committee took responsibility for digging the well. People completed the digging of well (30' depth x 6' wide). The well platform and deepening of the well consumed another Rs. 6,700; the villagers contributed Rs. 500 in the form of labour and material. One member from each family contributed their labour towards digging the well. Village development committee took the whole responsibility of the digging the well i.e., select digging party, payments, purchasing materials, stone blasting arranging pumps etc. Both male and female members actively participated in that programme and shared the equal wage.

### **Agriculture related activities:**

This year did not witnessed much in the agriculture sector but still some activities received their due attention.

- ❖ The participants, in almost every level of meeting, learned and made aware about the functioning of nature and sustainable use of its resources. It was done using different types of tools and demonstrations.
- ❖ 19 farmers of 04 villages namely, Gudripada, K. Adava, Gouptima and Palabandha were taught and trained for using different methods of sustainable agriculture and they are practicing it. Five other farmers were doing paddy cultivation using the organic method.
- ❖ Different trainers, during 5 different training programmes, trained 104 numbers participants on agriculture methods and their usefulness in context of traditional methods.
- ❖ In the villages of Khajuriapada and B. Raising 3000 saplings of different tree species were prepared in nurseries.
- ❖ Among the 2000 saplings planted in two villages 1900 are surviving. Another 1000 saplings distributed among the villagers to plant in their backyards and bunds.

- ❖ Farmers gathered to observe and absorb the methods of modern and improved agriculture in Pullabandha village. The local agricultural officer demonstrated these methods and 2 Acres of fellow land brought in to vegetable cultivation in village 10 farmers.
- ❖ People repaired the defunct pump set given by SDA (Govt) and made ready for use.
- ❖ The experimentation of improved ginger cultivation for income generation proved successful. The SHG groups are taking up this lucrative cultivation and themselves doing the marketing of ginger.

### **Livestock related activities:**

People in the tribal belt are fond of keeping livestock and they are perhaps doing it since human being started domesticating animals. Nevertheless, they are not much aware of the diseases and their prevention methods and treatment using scientific methods. They are also not much exposed towards the actual feeding needs and proper shelter arrangements for livestock. SACAL arranged for training and facilitated funds for purchase of animals.

Because of continuous awareness campaigns led by SACAL that different financial institutions like SDA, NABARD, and Banks expressed their willingness to help the SHGs. Ultimately they lend financial support leading to the elevation of economic status of the SHGs. People now consider it improper to ask the moneylender for help. It remained one of the significant developments leading to the economic liberation of the people of this region.

SHGs have strengthened their economic status. The total amount of Rs.13, 60,000 invested in a right way. Members assert that their economic might has reached new heights. Only half of the total loan amount treated as loan, provided by the banks under SGSY schemes. Awareness about goat rearing created among the SHG members through several interactions.

The SHGs taught about keeping records of the vaccination, insurance, mortality, birth, and sales of goats. The groups trained about the grazing methods during different seasons of the year. Vaccination decided at least twice a year in consultation with the Veterinary Assistant Surgeon (VAS).

ITDA has also extended help under the SGSY scheme to some of the SHGs for different purposes. Money provided by the Agency has been utilised for MFP trading, value added products and goat rearing. The management of this trade is a critical factor to observe in the future.

Funds provided by ISNRMPO handed over to several SHGs for goat rearing and pisciculture. Consequently, they have earned good profits. The non-refundable fund is rotated among the members of the SHG, which has further strengthened the economic status of the groups.

## **Food security and livelihood related activities:**

### **GRAIN BANKING**

The tribals of the area mostly depend on subsistence agriculture and minor forest produce for their livelihood. Around 7-8 months they are engaged in agriculture work and during other 3-4 months they are engaged in collection and utilization of forest produce. What ever they receive from the above sources hardly could be enough for 6-8 months. During other 4 months, mostly they supplement food sources or depend on the govt. work or other govt. programmes. Their food security is always at stake. For these difficult periods they used to go to the moneylenders and are exploited. To break this system Grain bank concept was introduced in 16 villages of SACAL's operational area.

#### **Objectives:**

- ≡ To make available their own food grains (Ragi, Jawar and other pulses) at the time of need.
- ≡ To contribute food grains equally at the time of harvest by the members.
- ≡ To borrow the grains at the time of need with a minimum interest in shape of food grain.
- ≡ To help other needy person from this grain bank.
- ≡ Gradually free them out of the cluch of the money lenders.

This year, out of 16 villages 6 villages have started grain bank. Some of the old groups have collected other MFPs such as Mohua, Tola etc. and after selling the product, they purchase food grains for their grain bank. Some of them have sold their excess grain and out of that money they have purchased food grains of their own choice.

The concept of Grain Banking is age old and was in practice since time immemorial. It is only in the modern times with the use and circulation of money people forgot their age-old useful companion; the Grain Bank. SACAL has understood the importance and usefulness of grain bank in the rural and tribal context. People here already know about grain bank, only some initiative and training was necessary to start the process. SACAL acted accordingly and grain banks are established. Now the grain banks are the backbone of many groups. The granaries of the banks are full and brought smiles to several faces. Villagers now admire at their achievements and slowly forgetting the days of food shortage. Grain banks infused, among them, with fresh confidence and enthusiasm.

SACAL has facilitated as many as two meetings. It involved members of either sex to discuss the usefulness of these banks along with ways to tackle problems regarding management of the grain banks. People discussed about taking grain in the form of loan at any time they wish. It would decrease the number of people seeking a loan from the moneylender. Inspired by the success of grain banks neighbouring villages are following suit. Grain Banks help solve the food scarcity in the village and it brought solidarity among the villagers.

#### **Hurdles before the grain bank:**

- villagers some time turn defaulters and do not repay their loans
- adequate and well protected storehouse is not available to store grains
- rodents and other insects destroy a portion of the stock
- the landlord feels the Grain Bank as nail in his eye and has nefarious designs to destabilise the process

The meetings sought solutions for the above problems. The Grain Banks the part of the SHGs. The people formed, maintained, and run the Grain Banks. Seventeen Grain Banks are running smoothly without any extra outside help. SHG meetings regularly discussed Grain Bank issues. The villagers now feel that they can maintain and improve these grain banks without any further outside aid. SACAL feels people can carry forward these activities properly because of its linkage with the food security.

#### **Other activities:**

At least nine SHGs have made profits through the trading of MFPs obtained from SDA. The MFP includes brooms, leaf plates, mahua flowers, tamarind, dried mango bars. SDA has approved another Rs. 30,000/- for each of these nine SHGs. The SHGs have furnished the details of their business in monthly meetings. They have been trained by SACAL and SDA for smooth functioning of their trade. It has brought a great change in their mental attitude.

ITDA has also extended help under the SGSY scheme to some of the SHGs for different purposes. Money provided by the Agency has been utilised for MFP trading.

### **The Shakti Sahajyo Scheme: A Star Performer**

The idea of this scheme was a result of several meetings and proposals with our funding partners Trocaire of Ireland, as they wanted to gift poorest of the poor for income generation. It was mutually decided to gift a pair of bullock to the neediest families.

### *Identification of poorest families for support under Sakhti Sahajyo Scheme*

The SSS scheme was an instant and comprehensive scheme. This scheme identified the poorest families who were in urgent need of help. Under the proposed scheme it was decided to enhance the economy of the poorest families in two GPs, the concerned VDCs in collaboration with PDCs carried on a survey to find out the poorest families eligible for help. In the process, 59 families were identified to be eligible for help under the proposed scheme. A purchase committee was formed, consisting members of the VDC and the beneficiaries, and it was entrusted with the responsibility of buying bullocks. The budget money was transferred to the PDCs and they later transferred it to the VDCs for the purchase of the animals.

However, there were more families, which met the poorest family criteria but were not compatible enough to utilize the bullock under the scheme in an effective way. Such families were duly helped by the VDC on their way of economic development through different but appropriate activities.

Survey was conducted to identify poorest families in two of the GPs to be supported under the SSS. Funds were transferred to the appropriate PDCs and later they transferred it to the VDCs for the Purchase of the animals. A purchase committee comprising of VDC members and the beneficiaries was formed to facilitate the process of purchase of animals.

While implementing the SSS several poorest families were identified but may of them were not compatible enough to use the bullock available under the scheme effectively. Such families but could not be given the help under the scheme. When these families learnt about it they became disappointed. However, the VDC handled the situation effectively by persuading the families for adopting other activities for their economic development. It certainly proved the efficiency of the VDCs.

The SSS was a tremendous success. The community considered the poorest families hopeless. However, the scheme has changed this view. It is now evident that given an opportunity even the poorest can revive and alter the situations. Through the scheme was received by the poorest families at the time of the season when major rain based agricultural activity ends, they still managed the bullocks in diverse activities to earn a good income. The families are engaged in taking care of animals and have learned about the diseases and vaccination of the animals along with insurance matters.

### **Education related activities:**

Earlier this year the VDCs identified the prevailing problem of child literacy as one of the main issues overshadowing the area of overall problems. It was observed that the teachers posted in the primary schools were not attending to their duties regularly. Consequently, schools remained closed for most of the

days. It was affecting the education of children. The CBOs took the matter to the higher department of education. A Balwadi supported to take care of health and pre school requirements of children in Dhimirijholi village. During this year, VDC of Dhimirijholi managed to get ICDS centre in their village. Six numbers of teacher-parents and VEC meetings were organized for increased regularly and better delivery of services.

One awareness camp on the need of education was organized on 26<sup>th</sup> Jan. Several people attended the camp. One Balwadi center was started for pre schoolchildren in Dhimirijholi village under the management of VDC. Now it is being taken over by ICDS with active facilitation of VDC of Dhimirijholi. Six numbers of Teacher-parent, VEC teacher parent and VEC-teacher-higher authorities of education department took place in the span of 1 year in order to make the education system rejuvenated. Republic day and Independence Day celebrations were materialized with children-parents and VDC members in 3 GPs. Teachers, children and parents participated to mark the Republic day and Independence Day celebrations. The awareness on the need of education was the subject of this gathering. The VDC of Dhimirijholi village started a Balwadi centre for education and day-care of children. The government with the active initiative of VDC later took up this Balwadi. To revitalize the ill-functioning schools, due to absence of teachers, 6 numbers of teacher parent and VEC meetings were organized. The parents raised the question of absence of teachers from the school in front of higher authorities.

### **Community Health:**

The population of the project villages comes under malaria and tuberculosis endemic zone as surveyed and classified by the state government's health department. HIV has emerged as a new threat because of temporary migration by labours to big cities. Awareness camps were organized to inform people about the realities of these fatal diseases and increase awareness among them. The people were asked to adopt the safe practices of health and hygiene. They were also urged to follow the various preventive methods to keep themselves in good health. Village and other community meetings and camps were held for health check-up and diagnosis of diseases with the help of district TB officers. The government of Orissa is also supporting in the efforts through their health departments. Government officials of the health department are also acting as resource persons in these camps and meetings.

Complications during childbirth leads to several health and life risk situations for the mother and for the neonate. Unavailability of medical aid in time further aggravated the problem. A Traditional Birth Attendant is the last option available. Three numbers of trainings imparted to as many as nineteen persons regarding safe delivery methods. They were also equipped with necessary kits as an aid to carry out childbirth effectively and safely. During pregnancy, the expected mothers were administered preventive vaccine and other preventive medicines facilitated by the TBAs.



In the five health camps regarding TB and HIV / AIDS awareness, 428 participants attended the events. The camps were organized in Dhadiamba, Chandiput, and Karchabadi GPs. Health awareness camps, 02 in numbers were arranged in which 222 numbers of people participated for their general health checkups and advices on hygiene and health in Dhimirijholi village for the Balwadi children, women, and sick persons. Nineteen persons were trained as traditional birth attendants (TBA); three such trainings were conducted this year. During a health campaign, pregnant women were administered preventive vaccines available from the health department of government of Orissa.

Two health camps for Balwadi and children were organized. In these camps, other children, women, sick and elderly persons were treated. In all 222 persons were treated and they were advised on general health and hygiene. Once again, doctors attended the three training programmes meant for traditional birth attendants. The attendants who received the training were enthusiastic and displayed great interest in absorbing the methods and precautions related to delivery. Staff also arranged a health camp in association with VDC for the Health department of Government and ICDS. In this camp, pregnant women were administered preventive vaccines and injections to prevent the incidence of tetanus.

### **Chapter 3 \_\_\_\_\_ Trainings, Fairs and Orientation Programmes**

Trainings, fairs, and orientation programmes are the essential parts of any social development programme. SACAL facilitated, organised and arranged for several training programmes and fairs.

#### **Gender Issues and Trainings:**

The male dominant society and their members, since time immemorial, have created the gender difference. Gender difference implies to classification of social, economical, political, and cultural differences between men and women, which go beyond their biological differences. This concept remained, even today, one of the major instruments creating discrimination of women, treating them as second-class citizens of the society and calling them the 'weaker sex'.

That, except for the biological differences, women are at par with men regarding thought, intelligence, ability, efficiency, rights and capacity remained one of the main focus of SACAL. Two training camps were organised for two days to discuss the issues of gender difference involving participants of either sex.

Ms Gayatri Bisoi was the trainer in these camps. She, through her experience and expertise in the field, was successful in convincing the masses about the equality of men and women in every occupation. The training workshop cleared that consistency of life is only possible if men and women together help each other. A

positive attitude towards each other will bring stability in family and promote prosperity and harmony in life. Training conducted using various materials like posters, banners, placards, community songs and small games.

The prevailing restrictions, differences, and practises regarding gender differences told to the participants. They also felt that though there is legislation claiming equality of women and men but still there are many practices, which discriminate women in economic, political, and social circles. The women are often, harassed, humiliated, and tortured by their male counterparts mentally physically and sexually.

All activities of this programme took the matter of gender equality with a serious note and tried to incorporate women and men equally in all spheres of development work. Men folk now started recognising the work of women and hence started to cooperate.

Protests against the pay of wage only of Rs.40.00 under Employment Guarantee Scheme paid by Contractor have been increased to the wage to prescribed rate of Rs.52.50 equally for Men and Women.

A conscious effort is made to sensitize community through awareness building, village meetings, and personal interaction. The formation of various committees such as VDC, PDC etc has ensured the representation of both men and women. The entire programme interventions are designed and implemented applying the gender equity principle. Because of which consciousness for natural respect and understanding for each other among women and men has increased.

### **Capacity Building of Staff:**

There lies an inherent necessity of further training and orientation among the social workers and their trainers. Every project experiences new difficulties and finds ways to counter act. The discipline of social development and services it still in its infancy and always demands more expertise and wisdom. Hence, the empowerment of the welfare staff by way of trainings meetings and education is an absolute minimum necessity. The bygone year witnessed repeated events of in-house and external training programme aimed at capacity building of the staff members of the organization. These trainings will enhance the knowledge, productivity and skills for supporting the cause of facilitation of development process more effectively in a more disciplined environment.

### **Output:**

- ❖ Members of the staff participated in two numbers of in-house trainings aimed at developing their understanding and skills on CSO.
- ❖ Training on gender related issues was organized by ANWESANA in which two of the staff members participated.
- ❖ Two separate trainings on account keeping were organized to upgrade the accounting skills of the staff.

### **Staff Orientation:**

This time, orientation was mostly on need & steps of organizing peoples organization and its role & responsibility were discussed. The role of NGOs in facilitating the process was also given importance. This training was organized at Vincent Retreat Center "Gopalpur" & Mr. Ramakrishna (R.K) of Anwesana was the trainer.

Ms. Gayatri Bisoi, who attended all the 4 phases of Gender training, took up gender training for the ISNRMPO villages. There were 2 trainings one at Jamadiha & other at Baghamari Training gave her confidence not only to be a trainer but to integrate gender as a cross cutting issues in all the activities.

### **Staff Review & Planning Meeting:**

Every month, secretary, along with other staff members, sits together to review the previous month's work and discusses plan for the next month. These meetings are regular & gave an opportunity to review objectively to our work. Most of the time different development issues, co-ordination & interpersonal relationship in a team building process are being discussed to enhance the working environment.

### **Agricultural and Environment Meetings & Trainings:**

Four of the staff members had been to Kolkata in West Bengal State for having training on sustainable agriculture. Farmers gathered to observe and absorb the methods of modern and improved agriculture in Pullabandha village. The local agricultural officer demonstrated these methods.

Different trainers, during 5 different training programmes, trained 104 numbers participants on agriculture methods and their usefulness in context of traditional methods. The participants, in almost every level of meeting, learned and made aware about the functioning of nature and sustainable use of its resources. It was done using different types of tools and demonstrations.

Environment and ecology forms an integral part in lives of Adibasi Community. So degradation of this resource has direct bearing on social and economic life of people. Therefore protection, conservation and sustainable use of Natural Resource form an important component in all programme interventions. Preparation of vermin composting, organic farming, and plantation are some of the initiatives because of gradual awareness. National Environment Awareness Campaign Programme (NEAC) also helped them to know more about environment.

## **Community Based Organizations:**

Strengthening of CBOs in terms of self-rule, management, orientation, support, leadership, gender sensitization, awareness, planning, and evaluation remained the major area of thrust and focus throughout the year. Every stage of the activities was carefully planned and executed in time. Right, from the process of baseline survey to the formation, functioning, and realization of the CBOs, great attention has been paid towards the procedures and their implementations in strengthening the CBOs.

Initially a base line survey was done to evaluate the socio-economic position of the targeted masses. In the Chandiput (new Panchayat) GP the survey was carried out to visualize the formation of different civil societies like the VDC, PDC, KS and SHG. Soon after, village and Panchayat level people's organizations were formed. It was considered to the implement to project through several planned interventions. The strengthening of CBOs draws inputs from a variety of activities such as training, orientation meetings and sharing and exchange of information at different levels. The formation of SHGs was a great step not only for arranging alternative credit for women in general but also for social and economic empowerment of women in particular. During the process they were taught how to formulate and put to practice their own rules and regulations regarding the smooth and effective functioning of the SHGs. The training to the members of the SHGs was imparted for further enhancement in their skills to run their organization as self managed institutions.

The introduction and development of the concept of Microplan was yet another major activity carried out in the beginning of this year. This activity carried the objective of village development by involving the villagers using their traditionally acquired skills and knowledge. The framing of Microplan was achieved by using various participatory methods and tools. The Microplan session included its presentation in the Panchayats and the input activities achieved by the PDC and VDCs together to enforce their demand. The Microplan (village plan) was not only introduced to understand their needs but also to plan it for utilization of resources and arrange resources.

The year also witnessed the linkages of the CBOs with Banks, SDA, ITDA and SGSY. Members were trained, using different methods, to prepare organic composts. They were also taught and trained how to prepare liquid manures and their impact in boosting the agricultural yield.

Any kind of social and economic development of a community requires equal involvement of men and women of the community. Discrimination, of any kind, severely undermines the very objective of any kind of intervention aimed at the socio-economic development. It also ends the holistic approach. At every level, the CBOs are mobilized to create gender awareness and sensitization on the issue of discrimination against women.

As it is evident, by the 73<sup>rd</sup> constitutional amendment regarding the role of Panchayats for the development of rural area and people, the government is seriously inclined on the issue of decentralization of power. In this context, it

becomes important that the ignorant masses must be informed about the constitutional rights bestowed upon them. Efforts are being persistently made to sensitize the people of the project villages about the PRI in steps of the 73<sup>rd</sup> amendment.

### **We received the following outputs**

- ❖ Base line survey of all the 19 villages completed in order to evaluate the socio-economic situation of the target population.
- ❖ 37 SHGs are formed in 36 villages and they are functional.
- ❖ 36 VDCs are formed in 36 villages involving members of the either sex.
- ❖ 2 PDCs and as many as 17 SHGs are reported to be maintaining their records regularly and keeping up to date.
- ❖ 17 nos. of micro plans have been prepared this year in addition to 5 other micro plans prepared earlier through participatory approach in a total 22 numbers of villages.
- ❖ Once in a month, the meeting of PDC and VDC navigated on its usual course.
- ❖ Orientation of VDC members is being done in monthly meetings.
- ❖ 01 number of women conventions was organized on sharing experiences regarding unity and solidarity.
- ❖ 10 numbers of gender orientation camps were organized this year to create gender awareness among the community members.
- ❖ 02 numbers of street plays were organized to highlight the role of people in Panchayat Governance,
- ❖ 12 monthly reviews and planning meeting have conducted to asses the progress and make advance planning for the project objectives.
- ❖ 03 numbers of SHG orientation camps were conducted for the SHG members.

### **SHGs:**

Sixty-six SHGs formed during the period of the project. All the existing SHGs linked to Banks, SDA, ICDS etc. These SHGs took up various income generating schemes. Since their inception goat rearing, poultry farming, small-scale vendor, vegetable cultivation, and collection and trading of several MFPs and other seasonal activities, are among the activities. These activities helped the villagers develop some managerial skills related to the trade. SHGs have membership of the govt. sponsored Block level 'MISSION SHAKTI'.

As per the earlier statements, further consolidation of these efforts was required. During the consolidation phase training, exposure, and meetings conducted and consolidation of activities done successfully. Below is an account of achievements of the SHGs.

- Women in more numbers have shown interest to join the group.
- Most of the women have learned to put their signatures.
- They regularly conduct monthly meetings along with savings.
- They have started maintain their own records.
- They have shown eagerness to participate in the meetings held by govt. and non-govt. organizations.
- Women have started to shun their shyness and reluctance in dealing with govt officers and representatives. They have now come to open and maintain their spontaneity while talking or discussing with office bearers of the govt. and non-govt. agencies.
- Within the social spectrum, women are now in a better position to take care of themselves and their children. They are now conscious of the health and education of their children. For example, they have started sending in their children to schools, they have also involved themselves in vaccination programmes of the govt. and are regularly taking up steps for the hygiene of the community through cleanliness campaigns often carried out in groups.
- Women now avail soft loans from their group's fund to address their urgent needs and do not depend upon the mercy of moneylender for loans at ruthless rates of interest.
- Their exposure to PESA has encouraged them to participate in the 'gram sabha' and put forth their rights and demands. They have been successful in getting their demands fulfilled.
- They groups have framed their rules regarding the disbursement of loans to group members. Such rules have been successful in repayment of loan money in time.
- Most of the groups have settled for a uniform dress code and have already incorporated.

Because of continuous awareness campaigns led by SACAL that different financial institutions like SDA, NABARD, and Banks expressed their willingness to help the SHGs. Ultimately they lend financial support leading to the elevation of economic status of the SHGs. People now consider it improper to ask the moneylender for help. It remained one of the significant developments leading to the economic liberation of the people of this region.

The SHGs taught about keeping records of the vaccination, insurance, mortality, birth, and sales of goats. The groups trained about the grazing methods during different seasons of the year. Vaccination decided at least twice a year in consultation with the Veterinary Assistant Surgeon (VAS).

At least nine SHGs have made profits through the trading of MFPs obtained from SDA. The MFP includes brooms, leaf plates, mahua flowers, tamarind, dried mango bars. SDA has approved another Rs. 30,000/- for each of these nine SHGs. The SHGs have furnished the details of their business in monthly meetings. They have been trained by SACAL and SDA for smooth functioning of their trade. It has brought a great change in their mental attitude.

ITDA has also extended help under the SGSY scheme to some of the SHGs for different purposes. Money provided by the Agency has been utilised for MFP trading, value added products and goat rearing.

Funds provided by ISNRMPO handed over to several SHGs for goat rearing and pisciculture. Consequently, they have earned good profits. As this fund is non-refundable, it is rotated among the members of the SHG, which has further strengthened the economic status of the groups.

During the last six months, regular SHG meetings were held. Regional level meetings are also conducted regarding the progress of women and village development. Several important issues discussed and decided in these meets. During such meetings:

- member of the groups presented their programmes strategies etc relation between groups strengthened
- program restraints, complications and difficulties are discussed and solutions are formulated
- an outline was finalised to form a federation of 29 SHGs
- federation formed and decided to meet every month

Ms. Sabita Barik of ANWESANA carried on a four-day workshop in two batches to increase the awareness regarding roles and responsibilities, institutional linkages and management of funds. Twenty-nine SHGs participated in this workshop. SACAL has facilitated in organising one women's convention and one Krushaka Samabesha. These conventions aimed at women empowerment, improvement of women solidarity and eradication of financial difficulties among women. To achieve the objectives of the convention, group discussions carried out with participants of revenue, forest, ICDS, and AGM NABARD.

## **Miscellaneous Programmes:**

### **NREGA:**

The *National Rural Employment Guarantee Act* is a law enabling people to avail the right to work. 201 under-developed and backward districts of the country implemented the act to guarantee employment to the people. Gajapati district is among them. The district of Gajapati implemented this programme for the last two years.

A meeting conducted in Nilakuti village regarding creating awareness among the masses about the act. The resource person Mr. Natabar Padhi conducted the meeting. In this meeting 182 men and women from around 22 villages spread over the GPs of Jeeranga, Pindiki, Baghmari, Badasindhaha, Chandragiri and Dhadiamba Participated. The participants informed about the Act. That govt. has made a law to provide guaranteed employment for at least 100 days in a year, told to the participants. For this, an individual has to apply to the GP. If for any reason employment opportunity is unavailable, govt. will pay half the wage to registered workers. Govt. declared equal wages for men and women. Women will get 33% of share in work. Moreover, if the workplace is more than five kilometres away, travel allowance awarded. In addition, there is provision of insurance as well.

A good number of people now aware about the NREGA have started availing the benefits of it. The NREGA beneficiaries share their experiences and their doubts clarified. They demanded wall posters on NREGA. Preparing and distribution of 1000 posters in the villages fulfilled their demand. Some more campaigns still required to widen the periphery of this Act.

### **PESA:**

*Panchayat Extension in Scheduled Areas* or PESA is an Act of the Govt of India, which aims at creating awareness about Panchayat functioning and establishment of Panchayats in scheduled areas of the country. SACAL conducted a meeting in the premises of Baghamari Panchayat office to discuss about the PESA act. Villagers from around six villages participated in the meeting. The Sarpanch, ward members, and committee member represented the meeting. Mr. Natabar Padhi acted as a resource person. As the participants were all tribals, laid great interest in listening the proceedings of the meeting. They were asked to put forth their difficulties and demands in the Gram Sabha and Palli Sabha. Stress given to know about that land rights, homestead Patta, alcohol eradication, tenders of ponds etc. Several govt. schemes like Annapurna Yojna, and Antdaya Yojana, about education, BPL cards, health etc introduced to the villagers.

Villagers earlier had little idea about PESA. After attending the meeting they came to know more about it and expressed their willingness to participate in the schemes and avail the opportunities at the earliest. Villagers as well as members of Panchayat requested SACAL to continue efforts towards the development in their area. Most newly elected ward members, Sarpanchs, Committee Members attended the meeting.

### **KRUSHAK SANGHA MEETING:**

SACAL has facilitated the formation of several farmers' group at village level otherwise known as 'Krushaka Sangha'. These groups have been working independently for the development of the agricultural sector since last several years. Necessity for the creation of a federation of these Krushaka Sangha felt



long ago. Consequently, meetings held to chalk out plans for the formation of the federation of the Krushaka Sanghas. As many as 12 farmers groups are involved in the formation of the federation. As a result federation of Krushaka Sangha formed. In the federation:

- ❖ all the farmer groups regularised savings
- ❖ farmers are regularly meeting and writing the minutes
- ❖ farmers are attending the federation meeting regularly
- ❖ farmers are in the process of registering it under the Self-Help Cooperative Act

SACAL is exploring the possibility of getting help from NABARD by registering the farmers individually under Kissan Credit Card as per the advice of AGM NABARD. The rules and regulation in this regard required to be prepared consequently. A set of rules and regulation governs the federation of Krushaka Sangha as agreed upon by the members groups. SACAL feels that the federation, though expected to do well, still requires ample guidance for more rapid growth in terms of economic strength and quality.

### **STREET PLAY ON PESA:**

To widen the impact of PESA act on masses in terms of relevance and reach SACAL sought the help of audiovisual media and hence organized five street plays involving an organisation called "TEAM" from Bhubaneswar.

The street plays, by the group, had the following impacts:

- Aims and relevance of PESA act simplified through the plays.
- It reached out to a larger section of the mass with less effort.
- In addition to knowledge and information, people entertained themselves.
- The impact of the plays is likely to remain for a longer period as compared to dull meeting sessions.
- The staff and the participants agreed that similar plays would be of great use and interest.
- Govt. and non-govt. agencies praised these efforts as a very useful tool for creating awareness in a very nice way.

### **KRUSHAKA MELA:**

The annual farmers meet is a regular annual event facilitated by SACAL aimed at:

- ❖ Recognising the farmers
- ❖ Praising their efforts in development of agriculture
- ❖ Encouraging farmers to adopt biological and organic methods of farming.
- ❖ Discussing and reviewing their work in presence govt. officials.

- ❖ Exposing farmers to newer policies and schemes of the govt. through guests invited from various quarters of the govt and non-govt agencies.

In the month of February on 20<sup>th</sup> a farmer's meet was organized at Govindapur. The Krushaka Sanghas actively participated in organising the meet. AGM of NABARD, LDM of Andhra Bank, RI and forest officials represented the meeting. The AGM expressed happiness over the arrangement and activities of the meet. He discussed about the Kisan Credit card with farmers. In this farmer's meet about 850 farmers from Jeerango, Pindiki Bandsindhaba, Baghmari, Chandragiri, Dhadiamba, Chandiput and Karchabadi GPs participated.

### **Monitoring and learning:**

- i. The training on gender, accounting, understanding of civil society and developing communication skill has helped staff to develop relevant skills and competency for providing effective support to implement the programme.
- ii. The work of organization is being monitored through a process of village meeting of VDC and PDC members, staff reports, monthly staff review and planning meetings. The cluster level staff meeting also helps to understand various aspects of the supported activities. The visit of accompanier and his observation also gives input for monitoring of the programme. Visit of secretary and senior staff members help to understand the work objective and accordingly changes are incorporated.

### **Linkages and Advocacy:**

The implementation of different programme in social and economic sector has created need and space to establish and maintain linkage with various institutions and organization for the benefit and success of project.

1. Linkage with agriculture department has helped to get their support for training and consultancy to help farmer and avail improved seeds.
2. The association with Block Inspector of School has helped to regularize the defunct schools.
3. The District TB dept. has supported to educate people about TB and its prevention.
4. Association with the local health departments has helped to create awareness on HIV and preventive measure.
5. The association with CDPO who is also the coordinator of BMASS has helped the SHGs to avail financial assistance under SGSSY programme.
6. The linkage with other partners NGOs has enabled to share experience with one another and learn best practices.

## Chapter 4 \_\_\_\_\_ Our Partners in Progress

### Funding Sources

SACAL, in its endeavour for uplifting the rural underdeveloped people have raised funds from international, national, and local sources. TROCAIRE is the Irish Catholic agency for world development it has provided funds for the present project during the reporting period for the implementation of core activities. Another funding from ISNRMPO is being utilized in the current year. The aid of the Swiss agency for international development has helped develop the living standards and enthusiasm of the tribal belt of Mohana District. The ISNPMPO have withdrawn active support according to the predefined timeline set by through the project guidelines.

### Funding Initiatives:

SACAL has asked for active help in terms of funds and infrastructure from several international and domestic agencies in order to spread the horizon of activities aimed at the development of less fortunate and marginalised people of this state.

SACAL seeks funds for rural and tribal development in the following fields:

Natural resources management	Orientation programmes
Livelihood programmes	Awareness building
Health and hygiene	Animal husbandry
Capacity building	Gender equality
Environment	Agriculture
Trainings	

Details of other activities and sponsorship enquiries available at our corporate office at Berhampur, please contact us at the following address through telephone, e-mail, correspondence, or personal interactions.

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