

All India Programmes' Report

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



HELPING PEOPLE HELP THEMSELVES



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MUMBAI • DELHI HYDERABAD • BENGALURU • KOLKATA • CHENNAI • PUNE

A majority of Indians living in rural areas have neither adequate land nor alternate work opportunities. Urban India has an influx of both rural and urban natives who are unable to generate enough wages to sustain their livelihoods.

‘Community Development’ is a structured intervention that helps people recognise and develop their ability and potential to organize themselves to respond to problems that affect them. It facilitates the establishment of strong communities that control and use existing assets to promote social justice and help improve their quality of life. It also enables the community and public agencies to work together to improve the effectiveness of governance.

Concern India Foundation’s Community Development Programmes have directly reached out to 49,992 lives, through a gamut of services offered by our partners to individuals, families, groups and the community at large. This includes women, children, the mentally and physically handicapped, and caring for the elderly; enhanced agricultural practices, natural resource management, and livelihood-generating and vocational training programmes in 7 major regions across the country.

Our Community Development programmes are mentioned in detail below:

MUMBAI

Women’s Guidance Cell

The programme operates a ‘Women’s Guidance Cell’ at the Thane Civil Hospital. Located within the hospital premises, the programme addresses the issue of gender based violence. It offers services to women who seek medical help as a result of physical injury caused due to gender based violence. Two trained social workers screen the burns wards, orthopaedic wards, gynaecology wards and female general wards to



identify cases of gender based violence. They provide information to women about the services at the Cell, which include counselling services for women and their families. They also make appropriate referrals to help women seek legal aid, shelter homes or any other support.

The programme also works towards creating awareness within the wider community on issues of gender based violence. In this endeavour, they conduct awareness campaigns at prominent locations such as railway stations. The programme also conducts workshops on self defence, family planning, effective parenting and gender sensitization with women and girls. Through its community outreach programme, it aims to address issues of violence against women and gender sensitivity. They also work with the police, courts and other systems of governance to address domestic violence issues and marital conflicts.

Enhancing Livelihood Security Of Tribal Farmers

Mokhada is a tribal block in the Palghar District of Maharashtra. The tribal economy of the region is largely agrarian and marked by a lack of water infrastructure and initial capital, dependency on money lenders, rain-fed traditional agricultural practices of growing millets and pulses, low agricultural productivity and a lack of livelihood options at the village level. Further, there is a dearth of technical know-how among farmers which increases the cost of production and makes them vulnerable to contingencies such as crop damage. The farmers are embroiled in a vicious cycle of debt which limits their purchasing power. The agricultural produce in the region is characterized by limited cropping and often leads to seasonal unemployment for farmers forcing them to migrate at the end of the agricultural season. Migration often increases their vulnerability due to lack of shelter, support and financial exploitation. In addition to this, entire families migrate affecting the education and learning of children. The debt and seasonal out-migration leads to increasing the social and



economic vulnerability of the tribal farmers.

The programme aims to enhance livelihood security of marginalised tribal farmers by developing their skills to cultivate and market vegetables. 'Farmers Self Help Groups' are formed to train farmers to become agricultural entrepreneurs, wherein they not only learn innovative farming techniques, but also how to identify and approach markets and gain a better price for their produce. In the short term this programme hopes to increase the income of farmers, while in the long term it seeks to break the cycle of debt and improve their overall financial situation. The programme has been functioning successfully for the last 3 years and has been able to improve the livelihood security of farmers, increased their income and decrease seasonal emigration. At present, 93 farmers are involved with the programme in the villages of Tulyachapada and Hirave.

Vocational Training For Underprivileged Women From The Slums Areas Of Malad

This programme has been working with women and youth in Malwani, Asia's second largest slum. The school dropout rates are very high as boys stop attending in order to support the family income and girls are not allowed to go out of their area for schooling. Considering the situation, this programme decided to offer



courses which will help the residents find employment opportunities in their locality and neighbouring areas. The vocational centre provides training in computers, tailoring, mobile repairs, mehendi application and professional beautician course. The participants are also given training and capacity building sessions on

savings, bank accounts, life skills and general health education, as well as awareness sessions on different social and health issues.

They have mobilized the community to form Self Help Groups (SHGs) for the empowerment of women. At present, the programme is working with 75 Self Help Groups (SHGs) in the Malwani and Madh area of Malad.

DELHI

Sustaining Livelihoods Of Tribal Families

The programme provides for Integrated Agriculture and Horticulture Interventions for the livelihood development of Bhil Tribes of Intalikhera Gram Panchayat, Salumber Block, Udaipur District. They promote sustainable, income-enhancing interventions for the tribal community through socially inclusive and equitable, community-based rural development programmes that enable the poor and marginalised tribal communities

to improve their quality of life.

The Bhils reside in the rocky topographies of the Aravalli ranges. The region has a semi-arid climate that is predominant most of the year and is characterised by hot, dry summers and bracing cold winters. Though the project area is bestowed with the availability of the backwaters of the



perennial river Som, the farmers were unable to use the water for irrigation as the farms are situated at a height. To address this problem the programme initiated installing and restoring Community Lift Irrigation to facilitate the availability of water to the farms. The Community Lift Irrigation Scheme (CLIS) is implemented and managed by the beneficiaries.

By assuring the availability of water, Lift Irrigation has broadened the scope for interventions geared towards improving agricultural and horticulture practices. This, coupled with vermi-compost to help sustain livelihoods and increase production, regular income and enhanced livelihood opportunities has also helped arrest migration and seasonal employment/underemployment.

To make the livelihood model sustainable, the project strives to form a Federation or Farmers' Producer Organisation (FPO) after 5–6 successful years of implementation, along with developing a business plan, so as to ensure food security, reduce risk for farmers and facilitate market linkages.

Enhancing Livelihood In Tribal Belt Through Participatory Natural Resource Management

Watershed management is a term used to describe the process of implementing land use and water management practices to improve the quality of the water and other natural resources within a watershed by managing the use of those resources in a comprehensive manner.

This project is located in Gogunda block, Udaipur district, home to the second largest tribal community of Bhils. The region has a semi-arid climate that leaves it dry most of the year; it receives inadequate rainfall even during the monsoon, making irrigation challenging for the farmers.

The Natural Resource Management project on watershed lines was primarily undertaken to increase the



availability of potable water, as well as increase food security and enhance overall livelihood opportunities of the population.

The project focuses on the following:

- a) To address the issue of soil erosion, the project has initiated various afforestation measures for soil water conservation and treatment of waste land.
- b) The project has also initiated the construction of gully plugs and loose boulder structures to increase storage capacities that will ensure greater availability of water. To harness the groundwater for a longer period, the project has been focusing on deepening existing open wells.
- c) The project has been instrumental in carrying out agricultural demonstrations on the plots of the farmers.
- d) To increase the availability of water to farmlands for irrigation and drinking purposes the programme is working towards constructing lift irrigation systems and solar-operated drinking water systems respectively.
- e) Exposure visits and training for villagers and members of village development committees are conducted to enhance their knowledge about watershed principles and to increase their efficiency to plan, execute and supervise the village development work.

f) Geographic Information System (GIS) is also used to analyse land classification, vegetation cover, present land use, proposed land use and grouping of the plots which helps assess the changes in “pre” and “post” watershed development of Land Use Land Cover (LULC).

BENGALURU

Promoting Village Based People’s Institutions In The Rural Areas

The project operates in the villages of Malur taluk in Kolar district, Karnataka. Agriculture is the primary source of livelihood for majority of the population in the area. This district is one of the most backward, where livelihood of farmers is not secure. The project is committed to help uphold livelihood of the farming community by promoting sustainable agriculture, with a special focus on women farmers.

Activities include formation of Self Help Groups for female farmers, promotion of sustainable agriculture and financial management and exposure.

This programme promotes clusters which directly strengthen Self Help Groups and other functional linkages between women farmer groups and development agencies.

The project aims at enhancing the livelihood of female farmers by supplementing their agricultural productivity and nutritional status and improving their decision making through the Farmer Field School.

Improving Capacities Of Rural Women

The aim of this programme is to help develop the socio-economic conditions of the rural poor – particularly women – and encourage their involvement in local planning and Gram Panchayats.



The project is facilitating improving the capacities of the women to increase their income, improve the local infrastructure, promote preventive health care in the proposed villages and increase awareness among the people to participate in the planning process of the gram panchayat

The project conducts awareness sessions with women on legal issues, accessing cheaper loan facilities, reducing migration

caused by unemployment and involvement of SHG’s in gram sabha activities.

The project is also promoting preventive health care in the villages and increasing awareness among residents to participate in the planning process of the gram panchayat.

Vocational Centre For Young Girls & Women

The programme reaches out to 70 deserving young girls and women in Karimnagar. It focuses on strengthening capacities by training them in tailoring and embroidery.

Most of these young girls and women are school dropouts and earlier worked as beedi rollers or cotton pluckers.

This training for an alternate livelihood builds their self confidence, provides life skills and helps them become economically independent, self sustainable and helps support their family.

On an average, 20-30 % of the women trained at the vocational tailoring units work as trainers at the centre.

The women are able to assist professional tailors, stitch garments on their own and also embroider blouses and saris. Some women are working in a government manufacturing company and earning up to Rs. 6000/- per month along with receiving other incentives.

Since 2003, nearly 1000-1200 women have received training and gained employment.

CHENNAI

Special Education and Vocational Training Program for Children and Adults with Psycho-Social Impairment

This project provides special education, vocational training and home care for the cognitively challenged to prepare them to lead an independent life.

The students are trained in different vocations such as envelope making, injection moulding, paper and cloth-based material making, tailoring, horticulture, arts & crafts etc. They also provide them with physiotherapy, occupational physiotherapy and play therapy.



Children and adults with psycho-social impairment are enrolled in special education focusing on money management, self help skills and games for their locomotor development.

PUNE

Vocational Training For Rural Women

The project is operational in Wai Taluka of Satara district in Maharashtra, comprising of over 34 villages where families live in absolute poverty as they are landless or marginalized farmers. Uneconomic land holdings force large scale migrations among the men and youth of these families. Women have no alternate work during the non-farming season. Rains in this region are either too little or too much, leading to losses in agricultural output for the marginalised farmers.

The programme conducts vocational training in embroidery and tailoring for the women in Wai. On completion of training, women work in garment factories or independently from home. The programme also networks with business units who require trained women for their tailoring units.

