

Project No. 2

INTEGRATED HUMAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (IHDP) - RAJSHAHI

Principle:

Improvement of the quality of the life of *Adivasi* (Indigenous) people of the Barind Tracts.

Objectives:

The set objectives of the project are:

- To make *Adivasis* aware of their social, cultural and economic rights;
- To strengthen and make the *Adivasi* Social Organizations (ASO) functional;
- To uphold the culture and values of pluralistic society, social and communal harmony, accommodation of diversified culture, religion and ethnicity.

Background:

The project started in November 1990 and was integrated with Development Extension Education Services (DEEDS) from January 1998. The reporting period is the second year of Phase-VIII.

Staff Strength: Total - 130 (Male-109, Female-21)

Donors: Misereor, Germany and CORDAID, The Netherlands.

Expenditure:

Foreign Partner's Contribution	:Tk.8,079,192
Local Partner's Contribution	:Tk. 5,908,553
Total	:Tk.13,987,745

Achievements:

During the year the following activities have been completed.

Sl. No.	Items / Activities	Achievement Performances in July'08 - June'09				Cumulative as on June 2009
		as on June 2008	Target	Achievement	%	
A	Primary Groups and Members					
1	No. of Primary Group (PG)	969	-	4	-	965
	Male	284		(16)		268
	Female	685		12		697
2	No. of PG members	19828	0	501	0	20329
	Male	5615		151		5464
	Female	14213		652		14865
B	Training for Group Members/Leaders.					
1	Pos Concept Development Training (person)	183	50	38	76	221

Sl. No.	Items / Activities	Achievement Performances in July'08 - June'09				Cumulative as on June 2009
		as on June 2008	Target	Achievement	%	
2	Training on Community Organizations (per)	113	30	27	90	140
3	Training on Advocacy, Lobbying & Networking for PGs (per)	1649	30	32	107	1681
4	Training on Adivasi Social-Economic and Cultural Rights (per).	207	60	51	85	258
5	Human Rights Peace and Justice Training (per)	116	30	26	87	142
6	Seasonal Vegetable Cultivation trgn (per).	31	30	30	100	61
7	Yearly gathering of Social leaders (per)	31	42	36	86	67
8	Spiritual Development Seminar (per)	30	40	42	100	72
9	Inter Religion Dialogue (per)	0	80	84	100	84
Total			392	366	93	
C Activities of Peoples Organizations :						
1	Annual Rally/ Gathering (nos.)	92	26	26	100	118
2	Organizational Development Meeting (PG Level) (Per).	180,186	20329	10537	52	190,723
3	Union Committee meeting (nos.)	631	312	277	89	908
4	Cluster Meeting (Nos.)	1,239	1196	566	47	1,805
5	Union Pargana, Dighori and Baishi meeting (Nos.)	486	320	247	77	733
6	Development Allies meeting (Nos.)	30	23	23	100	53
7	Mediation Committee meeting (Nos.)	74	46	44	96	118
8	National and International Days Observation (Nos).	477	29	29	100	506
9	Observed International Women Day (Nos).	10	11	11	100	21
10	Santal Insurrection Day (Nos)	17	19	19	100	36
11	Adivasi Cultural Competition (Nos)	7	31	30	97	37

The main areas of achievements as seen from the above Table during the reporting period are the followings :

- A total of 965 Primary Groups was formed as on June 2009, out of which 72% were female groups. A total of 20,329 members was involved in Primary Groups, out of which 73% were female members.
- During the reporting year, a total of nine categories of training was facilitated for group members/leaders, where the target was 392. In those trainings a total of 366 members (93%) attended.
- Different types of meetings were arranged such as: Annual Gathering, Union Committee Meetings, Cluster Meetings, Development Allies Meetings, Mediation Committee Meetings, where the *Adivasi* People's Organizations (APOs) members/leaders actively participated and discussed various social and developmental issues.
- Various National and International Days were observed in the IHDP working area, where the *Adivasi* Peoples discussed and shared their common feelings and raised voice for their rights at different levels.

Results:

Main results of this project include the following:

- As an outcome of group meeting, cluster meeting, union committee meeting, issue based gathering – the use of hygienic latrine and safe drinking water, primary health care, child education, birth registration, gender sensitivity, initiative for availing govt. and non-government resources have increased. At the same time, resistance towards violence against women and girl children, child marriage and illegal divorce, women torturing have decreased in the project areas.
- Leaders of *Adivasi* Social Organizations (ASO) as well as People's Organization (POs) became vocal, courageous and initiated action to face the difficulties of their own community in collaboration and cooperation with community people. Now they can argue and bargain with the Union Council Members/Chairman and government people against any injustice or discrepancy occurred in the locality. These leaders are capable enough of organizing public gathering, human chain and rally, prepare memorandum, knowledgeable about the technique and process of submitting their demand/appeal to the respective government departments or officials.
- It has been observed that income level the of members' families has increased 68% which was 61% in the last reporting period. In maximum cases, members can arrange meals for three times a day. School age students also attend schools. They are able to arrange better clothing and treatment during sickness.

Conclusion:

The current phase of this project has given emphasis on strengthening of ASOs and POs to raise people's voice through these organizations. With the initiative of these organizations gradually the deprived grassroots level people are progressing towards right-based and life-centered issues. It is observed that their initiatives have succeeded in many cases. Now government officials and local administration recognize their voice as they are united and working together. In fact, the living condition, nature of problems and difficulties of *Adivasi* and poor non-*Adivasi* people in the area are the same. As a result, cohesiveness and mutual cooperation between *Adivasi* and non-*Adivasi* poor communities are increasing day by day. Now they live, think and work together in the greater interest of common people of the area. We hope that this social capital in the near future will establish harmony, justice and peace in the project areas.