

Narrative Progress Report April' 2014 to March' 2015

1. Project Information:

PARTNER ORGANIZATION:	ARASMIN-PROJECT-01
Project Name:	Socio-Cultural and Spiritual Empowerment.
Project Number:	Project No- LPE-12/317 - 094.131331
Report Period:	April' 2014 to March' 2015

2. Target Group:

(Name of the target group community/ region etc)

More than 80% Adivasi People belonging to "Kandha" Community in the District of Kandhamal in Odisha State are taken as our Target Group.

3. Situation Analysis:

Situation:

(Describe the system of exploitation/ marginalization)

- Exploitation is a vital problem in our Area of operation.
- Sundhis and Sahukars exploit the People through lending system.
- Hi-jacking the Adivasi Land and make them out from the Forest Area.
- Debarred of possessing the Record of Rights of their lands.
- Debarred of their Social Rights and Political Rights.
- Micro-Finance and other Financing Companies are Exploiting the People.
- Adivasi People are being out from the Adivasi Environment.
- Food crisis is a vital problem in our Area of operation.
- Agricultural produces and Forest products are hi-jacked.
- The People are forced to use Hi-breed seed.
- The dependency of the People has grown to extreme extent.
- Lack of employment opportunity compels them to go out for earning.
- Less payment of labour Charges.
- Migration and Displacements are very common in our Area of operation.
- Scarcity of Health Care services is very common.
- Communal tensions due to political interference are seen frequently.
- Problems on availing the welfare projects and useful documents.

Latest Changes in Situation:

(Describe political/ administrative/ legal changes in recent time)

No more visible changes are seen at Political or administrative level. Individual exploitation is still continuing. But, one thing we observe that by virtue of our Lobby and Advocacy, we are getting cooperation from the Govt. Officers as a result of which the People are getting their Record of Rights, Indira Awas houses, Old age pensions, Destitute pensions, Drinking water facilities and communication facilities etc. More over, now the People have become more conscious about their political Rights as a result of which, the Political exploitation has reduced to some extent.

Difficulties & Challenges:

(Describe difficulties & challenges from the changing situation, affecting the project work)

Difficulties:

- Dedicated Animators are leaving the NGOs and running for Govt. jobs.
- Due to lack of Education, People are often confused of the project concept.
- The entry of Adivasi people to Forest Area is banned by Legislation which is a barrier for the lively-hood management of the Adivasi People.
- The Officers of Revenue Department are not cooperating properly due to their semi-exploitation character.
- The commercial attitude of other NGOs is a barrier to our progress.
- The entrance of the outside Businessmen to our District is a great obstacle for the livelihood management of the people.
- The entrance of multi-National Companies is a curse for the Adivasi People.

Challenges:

- To locate and work with the real Target Group.
- Analysing the Situation meticulously in their periodical meetings.
- Strengthening the Community Organizations, Koth Funds and Grain Banks.
- To activate their Culture and re-connecting them to Spiritualism.
- Strong awareness campaigns to preserve their Social Rights.
- Strengthening the Regional Networks for generating more power of the People.

4. Objective of the project:

(Outline the objective of the project)

- To strengthen the socio-economic condition of the poor Adivasi people and creation of opportunities for providing **FOOD SECURITY** to save the lives.
- To keep them far away from **Loans** and **Exploitations** which are the most detrimental elements of Adivasi life.
- To preserve their **Social Rights**, especially the **Rights** on their **LAND** and **FOREST** which are the baseline elements of the Adivasi life.
- To reduce their **Cultural dependency** and to improve their **Spiritual** connection in order to create their self-confidence for facing the hazardous situations of life.
- Creation of some Social Leaders and improving their leadership quality in order to raise their voice against Social injustice and challenge the anti-social elements.
- To check the migration, that is the most dangerous trend of Adivasi life.
- Over all, to strengthen the lively-hood of the poor Adivasi people in order to merge them in the mainstream of the present society and lead a peaceful life.

5. Intervention Methodology:

(Describe the method of empowerment process)

- Capacity building training to the staff members.
- Providing Intensive Leadership training to the village Activists and promoting their Leadership quality.
- Strengthening the Educative Community Organizations like Village Development Sanghas (VDS) and Women Sanghas (MS).

- Initiating the People for preservation of their Rights on Land, Forest and Culture.
- Initiating Community involvement for reduction of dependency.
- To strengthen Regional Networks and Conducting Village-level meetings regularly..
- Creation of opportunity to improve the art of their speaking.
- Creation of ability to participate in all decision making situations.
- Strengthening their Village Koth Funds, Death Funds and Grain Banks in order to stay far away from loans and Exploitations
- Motivation to check the Migration and Displacement.
- To inject their own perceptions for acquiring their welfare projects.
- Making Lobby and Advocacy for providing land Pattas to the Adivasi People.
- To re-connect the People with Spiritualism.
- To develop the practice of having subsistence Agriculture.

6. Project Activities:

(Describe the list of activities being conducted for empowerment process/ **mention highlight of activities(how many/ what types of activities) including those conducted for addressing the 'specific focus/objective' set in the last years' report)**)

- Contacting the community members personally and conducting the periodical village meetings regularly.
- Identifying the persons having leadership quality and promoting them.
- Educating the People through deeper analysis of their situation in their periodical village meetings.
- Strengthening the Educative Community Organizations, Koth Funds and Grain Banks.
- Providing intensive education to the people on Land Rights and Human Rights.
- Conducting the basic training for capacity building of the Animators on Land Rights, Debt bondage, Human Rights, Culture and Spiritualism and subsistence Agriculture.
- Promoting the Regional Networks through meeting interventions.
- Making Lobby and Advocacy at different levels for the betterment of the People.

7. Impact of the project:

Extent of project coverage:

(Describe number of villages/families reached/ difficulties experienced/ deviation in plan –if any)

- We are working in this field since last two years. By virtue of our long term experience, we have been able to activate the people and their Organizations as mentioned hereunder :
 - No of Villages: 60.
 - No of families: 1051
 - Difficulties were experienced to unite the People at starting point and to face the Anti-social elements.

- Problems faced: Till to-day, no such serious problem has raised in our Area of operation .But, as regards to the deviation in planning, we have left 6 (six) villages and taken other 6 (six) villages in order to work with the real Target Group.

Progress achieved:

(Describe the highlights of achievements, **including progress on specific focus/objective set in last year's report** and problems faced)

Through this Empowerment process, we have been able to reach 60 villages and 1051 Families. We have conducted 16 workshops on Land Rights and more than 700 People are given with the knowledge on Land Rights Education. We have also highlighted that **Land, Forest** and **Culture** are the baseline elements of their lively-hood.

- Within the span of two years of the project period, the people have become conscious about the advantage of their Community organisations and trying to strengthen the same. Till today we have been able to form 120 community organisations at all the 60 { sixty} villages.
- Almost, all the people are well aware of the benefits of their savings and taking utmost care to strengthen their Koth Funds. 398 families have been able to avail the benefits of their savings.
- The people have realized that the culture is a vital part of their livelihood and as such the people of 32 villages are celebrating their cultural functions without fear and the people of 26 villages have understood the importance of subsistence farming and eco-environment conservation.
- As regards to socio economic impact a number of 42 families have been liberated from debt and 24 persons have been freed from bonded labourers. The local wage has also increased from Rs. 60.00 to Rs. 80.00 and a large number of people are availing this facility.
- As regards to amenities and accesses 54 families have got their BPL/Ration cards and 38 beneficiaries have got the Old Age/Destitute pensions. Apparently, the people of 24 villages have availed the Drinking Water facilities.
- Gender empowerment is very prominent in this area as such the ratio of Men and Women is 967 : 1026 .

Numerical data of Results achieved:

(Transfer indicated key-data from the Data Collection and Monitoring Grid (DCMG))

<u>Key Indicators:</u>	<u>Results:</u>
Number of villages covered: (DCMG 2.f)	60 villages
Number of families covered: (DCMG 3.a)	1051 families
Number of Men involved: (DCMG 3.b)	967 Men
Number of Women involved: (DCMG 3.c)	1026 women
Number of Men saving group/ Grain Bank: (DCMG 4.a.i/iii)	60 groups
Number of Women saving group/ Rice Bank: (DCMG 4.b.i/iii)	60 groups
Number of internal credits taken: (DCMG 4.c.vi)	612 families
Number of Bonded Laborers freed: (DCMG 5.a.ii)	24 persons
Number of Families receiving higher wages: (DCMG 5.a.i)	632 families
Number of Families securing land/right: (DCMG 5.c.i)	236 families
Number of Acres of land secured: (DCMG 5.c.ii)	148 acres
Number of Families practicing subsistence agriculture: (13.1) (#5.c.i)	348 families
Number of Families stopped migration: (DCMG 5.d (i-ii))	176 families
Number of Ration/ BPL cards: (DCMG 6.b)	86 families.
Number of drinking water facility: (DCMG 6.e)	36 units
Number of girls going to school: (DCMG 8.a)	360 Boys
Number of boys going to school: (DCMG 8.b)	482 Girls
Number of members elected in Panchayat elections: (DCMG 10.a+b)	Nil
Number of villages reconnected to lost culture and spirituality: (DCMG 12.b)	42 villages.

8. Future Action Plan:

Plan for area coverage:

(Describe number of villages planned/ justification for consolidation/ expansion or phase out –if planned)

Now, the programme is continuing in 60 villages in Phiringia and K Nuagaon Blocks of Kandhamal District in Odisha. A number of 140 villages have been phased out at the end of the Financial year 2011 - 2012. The land rights education is being provided to the people of these 140 villages.

Hence, there is no planning at present to extend our Area of operation or to phase out any area. But, for the coming project year we plan to promote the running activities by means of Supervision, Monitoring and Evaluation.

Specific Focus:

(Describe the specific objectives/ tasks to be focussed, in view of the problems being faced)

- To strengthen the saving activities/Grain Bank process and Networks.
- To link the Land Right in phased out Villages to the programme activities.
- To emphasise on Land Rights and obtain the Record of Rights.
- To emphasise on the Cultural aspects of the people and spiritualism.
- To provide intensive Training to the new Animators for capacity building.

Specific Activities:

(Describe specific activities to be conducted to address the specific objectives/ tasks)

- Strengthening and promoting the Community Organizations, Koth Funds and Regional Networks.
- Providing Land Right Education to the People of all Villages.
- To prioritise on Cultural aspect and giving importance on Spiritualism.
- Providing intensive training to the new Animators on Land Rights, Debt Bondage, Human Rights and Culture.
- Providing Leadership and Capacity Building training to the village Activists and Capacity Building Training to the staff members.

9. Case Study:

(Describe one success story from the project with one or two photos)

A successful Story on lively-hood Management :

Dasiguda, under **Sarangad** Unit is a large Village in **Sarangad Gram Panchayat** of **K. Nuagaon Block** in **Kandhamal District**. The village consists up 68 families and all the people except three to four families belong to BPL category having no landed properties. The people were depending upon the Forest products and daily labour for their lively-hood management. A number of people (Male Members only) were going on seasonal migration to earn something for their family. They were far away from Culture, Agriculture and Community life. Hence, the lively-hood scenario of the people was a beggar's description.

Observing the situation of this village, we were much more interested to work in this village. But unfortunately, the people were not in a frame of mind to extend their support and cooperation. Even, they did not accept us. We were attending this village regularly and trying our level best to convince the people and capture them. In the mean time, we were taking different strategies without being disappointed. After three to four months, a very few ladies were united and started sitting in a common platform. It was a great support for our intervention. Gradually, we could be able to conquer the hearts of the Female members of this village then of a few Male Members. It was a great opportunity for us to involve them in their Culture which has the most attraction for Adivasi life. A number of people were highly fascinated to accept our ideology and the Community Organization of this Village raised to 45 (forty five) families.

In the mean while, Mr. Ajoy Kumar had his visit to our Project Area and we thought it wise to take him to this Village in order to have some interactions with these people. During the course of discussions with Mr. Ajoy Kumar provided some valuable

feedbacks to the people on their lively-hood situation which was very much appreciated by the people. Immediate after the departure of Mr. Ajoy Kumar, the people celebrated their Cultural function by worshipping their Dharani Penu and took oath to fight for their Land Rights. Accordingly, they applied for land and the women mass took the leadership and the movement was started. Initially, they approached the Revenue Inspector and the Tahasildar from time to time, but it was in vain. Then, they approached the Additional District Magistrate and the Collector-cum-District Magistrate. In the mean time we took the shelter of Advocacy and Lobby at the level of the local MLA, MP and the media persons. Still, the administration became deaf to listen the grievances of the people. Finally, the women mass took the decision in a meeting to go for “Dharana” in front of the Office of the Collector, Kandhamal, if the Administration do not go through their grievances within 15 days. Accordingly, a group of women leaders met the Collector, Kandhamal and submitted a memorandum which was highlighted in daily news papers. The Administration had no other way of escaping form this situation and immediately there was a joint verification of the land adjacent to this village by the ADM, Kandhamal and the Divisional Forest Officer, Kandhamal. Basing on the report of the afore said Officers, the Collector-cum-District Magistrate ordered the Tahasildar to provide one Acre of land to each family which was implemented with immediate effect as a result of which the migration has reduced, all the people are engaged with Agriculture and staying very peacefully.

The people were much more thankful to their Dharani Penu for whom they got the support of landed property and to Mr. Ajoy Kumar for his valuable advice. Moreover, now they have realized the strength, power and the importance of the Community Organization.





ACTION PLAN FOR FUTURE:

- To strengthen the Educative Community Organisations, Koth Funds and the Cultural Traditions of the people.
- Conducting frequent training programmes to improve the working skill and capacity of the staffs.
- To use the empowerment parameter during the process of implementation.
- To make the people well aware of their Land Rights and acquire the ROR.
- To strengthen the cultural traditions of the people for a better lively-hood.
- Taking absolute care to make the programme sustainable.
- To improve subsistence agricultural farming so as to bring food security.
- Increasing the level of lobby and advocacy to facilitate the people on Land Rights.
- To create some prominent Leaders in the area of operation.

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