

Narrative Progress Report April' 2014 to March' 2015

1. Project Information:

PARTNER ORGANIZATION:	ARASMIN-PROJECT-02
Project Name:	Socio-Cultural and Spiritual Empowerment.
Project Number:	Project No- LPE-12/IN-000.131337
Report Period:	April' 2014 to March' 2015.

2. Target Group:

(Name of the target group community/ region etc)

More than 70% Adivasi People belonging to "Kandha" and "Ganda" Community in the District of Kalahandi and Bolangir in Odisha State are taken as our Target Group.

3. Situation Analysis:

Situation:

(Describe the system of exploitation / marginalization)

- Exploitation of Agricultural produces and Forest products.
- Exploitations are mostly seen through lending system.
- All the People are dependent upon the Gauntias and Sahukars.
- Hi-jacking the Adivasi land and make them out from the Forest Area.
- Food crisis is a vital problem in this Area.
- People are debarred of their Social Rights and Political Rights.
- A number of People do not possess the Record of Rights.
- Lack of employment opportunity compels them to go out for earning.
- Less payment of labour Charges.
- Migration and Displacements are prominently prominent.
- Exploitation on availing the welfare projects,
- Exploitation by Govt. Officials.
- Scarcity of Health Care services is very common.
- 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 leaving 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.
- Conducting regular Village-level meetings and Network meetings.
- 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.
- Taking a bold step to acquire their welfare projects.
- Making Lobby and Advocacy for obtaining the land Pattas.
- 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 :
 - i. No of Villages; 60.
 - ii. No of families : 1286
 - iii. 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 14 (Fourteen) villages and taken other 14 (Fourteen) villages in order to work with the real Target Group.

Progress achieved:

(Describe the highlights of achievements, **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 1286 Families. We have conducted 18 workshops on Land Rights and more than 800 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.

- 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 (Men-60 & Women -60) 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. 888 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 08 villages are celebrating their cultural functions without fear.

- As regards to socio economic impact a number of 36 families have been liberated from debt and 38 persons have been freed from bonded labourers. The local wage has also increased from Rs. 80.00 to Rs. 90.00 and a large number of people are availing this facility.
- As regards to amenities and accesses 134 families have got their BPL/Ration cards and 42 beneficiaries have got the Old Age/Destitute pensions. Apparently, the people of 16 villages have availed the Drinking Water facilities.
- Gender empowerment is very prominent in this area as such the ratio of Men and Women is 1169 :1203 .

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 1)	60 villages	
Number of families covered: (DCMG 2)	1286 families	
Number of Men involved: (DCMG 2.a)	1169 Men	
Number of Women involved: (DCMG 2.b)	1203 women	
Number of Men saving group/ Grain Bank: (DCMG 4.1.a/b)	60 groups	
Number of Women saving group/ Rice Bank: (DCMG 4.2.a/b)	60 groups	
Number of internal credits taken: (DCMG 5. Total)	958 families	
Number of Bonded Laborers freed: (DCMG 6.b)	56 persons	
Number of Families receiving higher wages: (DCMG 6.c.1)	Nil	
Number of Families securing land/right: (DCMG 6.d.1)	66 families	
Number of Acres of land secured: (DCMG 6.d.11)	82 acres	
Number of Families practicing subsistence agriculture: (6.d.111)	146 families	
Number of Families stopped migration: (DCMG 6.e (a-b))	230 families	
Number of Ration/ BPL cards: (DCMG 7.b)	240 families.	
Number of drinking water facility: (DCMG 7.e)	62 units	
Number of boys going to school: (DCMG 9.a)	536 Boys	
Number of girls going to school: (DCMG 9.b)	514 Girls	
Number of members elected in Panchayat elections: (DCMG 12.a+b)	Nil	
Number of villages reconnected to lost culture and spirituality: (DCMG 14)	34 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 at Gudvella Block in Bolangir District and at Mohangiri in Kalahandi District. The programme is in early stage. 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.
<p>Specific Focus: (Describe the specific objectives/ tasks to be focussed, in view of the problems being faced)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
<p>Specific Activities: (Describe specific activities to be conducted to address the specific objectives/ tasks)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
<p>9. Case Study: (Describe one success story from the project with one or two photos)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>A successful story on Land Rights :</u></p> <p>The Mohangiri Gram Panchayat under M. Rampur Block of Kalahandi District comes under our area of operation. Out of 30 villages 16 villages are there on the “Dangar Area” (Hill Top Area) where the programme is continuing very smoothly with the heartiest co-operation of the people. All the people of this area are very poor and the basic amenities for their livelihood is adequately inadequate. They have been depending upon the forest produces for their livelihood management throughout the year. The income other than the forest products is absolutely nil. There is no scope of working as labourer and getting their wages. Though the people have occupied some forest lands, they do not have the record of rights for which they were to pay penalties to the Govt. officers non-officially. The employment facilities provided by the Government are dominated and administered by the contractors. As a result of which some people go outside on seasonal migration to earn something.</p> <p>We started working in these villages from October’ 2011 and observing the Socio-Economic condition of the people, we were interested to provide some vulnerable services for the livelihood improvement of the people. Also the people provided there whole-hearted cooperation and followed our ideology and course of action with pleasure. The educative community organisations were immediately formed with starting of Koth Funds in all villages. The network meeting of the community organisation is being done in the villages “Jamuli” regularly. In course of the</p>

network meeting once it was decided to apply for the record of rights (ROR) to the appropriate authority and accordingly all the heads of families applied for their record of rights. Coming to know about this opportunity, the people of the nearby villages also applied for their record of rights. A steering committee was formed to contact the Revenue Inspector, local Tahasildar and other concerned authorities in the leadership of Silli Majhi, Uchandra Majhi, Bisukeshan Majhi, Mahendra Majhi, Sripati Majhi, Mamanta Majhi, Latili Majhi (F) and Kambadei Majhi (F). The committee approached the RI and the Tahasildar from time to time but there was no response from them, rather they were disgusted with the approach of the people. Hence, being aggrieved the committee met the Sub-Collector, Kalahandi and the Collector-cum-District Magistrate, Kalahandi and submit a memorandum. After this the committee met the Sub-Collector, Kalahandi and the Collector-cum-District Magistrate, Kalahandi for three to four times just to remind for their rights. Then the committee approached the local MLA and MP and the help of the Media persons were taken to highlight the matter in daily news papers that the Government of Odisha is harassing the Adivasi people. Hence, there was a pressure on the Collector-cum-District Magistrate to take appropriate action on the matter immediately.

Accordingly the Honourable Collector directed the Sub-Collector, Kalahandi and the Divisional Forest Officer, Kalahandi to have an enquiry with immediate effect and provide the Record of Rights to the people. Hence, a programme was fixed by the Sub-Collector, Kalahandi, DFO, Kalahandi and the Tahasildar M.Rampur alongwith the Revenue Inspector and other concerned officer of revenue department at Jamuli and hearing was done on the day and 18 families were provided with the Record of Rights on spot. The other people applied for their ROR got it gradually within fifteen days from the date of hearing. There was a wave of joy in the area of operation and out of the same the people celebrated a mega cultural festival by sacrificing Bucks to their "**Dharani Penu**", the **Goddess of Earth**.

Now the people are free from the exploitation made by the Govt. officers and they are engaged in subsistence agriculture so as to save their lives. They are much more thankful to our organisation and trying to strengthen their community organisations, Koth Funds and preserve their culture which have provided the moral strength and will power to acquire their rights.





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.

***DIRECTOR
ARASMIN***