

## **Community Disaster Resilience Fund Learning Exchange Workshop Report**

**Dated: 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2010  
CYSD, Conference Hall, Bhubaneswar**

### **Day-1, Session-I**

Welcome address by Mr. Pradeep Mohapatra and briefing about the project as well as guests.

He discussed about women priority in our society and it's essentiality in day to day life. In our so called men dominated society it is believed that men are more responsible and handling everything, but during emergency it is the women of the family who took responsibility more than men for the children and elderly. So, women need to be self independent to go ahead in our society to prove her ability and capability.



Financial strength no doubt plays a vital role in each and every society for development. So, CDRF focuses on financial strengthening of women for development. This project has formed Self Help Groups (SHGs) and financed few amounts to these SHG groups to prove them and to come forward to merge with mainstream and become resilience for any disasters, because real development can start from family, family to community and from community to Panchayat and from panchayat to Block and district accordingly.



The first session was taken over by Mr. Manoj Meher who highlighted the achievements of the organization while emphasizing on the current status of the state of Orissa with respect to climate change, the expected impact and the approach that has been adopted in collaboration for the CDRF project.

### **Highlights of the presentation**

- In Orissa 73 % of the tribal population and 52% of the SC population live below poverty line. South-western Orissa takes the maximum number of poor people with 87% of the people living in the area classified as poor.
- Orissa remains the poorest of the 11 major Indian states, with 47.15 % of the rural population (or 17.35 million people) living below the poverty line.
- The per capita income of Orissa was Rs. 8.547 compared to the all India figure of Rs. 16.487 in 2000.
- The Infant Mortality Rate of the state is 87 per thousand in 2002( the highest in the country) as against the national t of 65 per thousand
- With rising temperatures, pest population will significantly increase because generally warmer and moist conditions are highly conducive to them.
- Higher temperatures also speed up the life cycle of both the mosquito and the disease organisms they harbor and make adult mosquitoes bite more often.
- The state accounts for 15-22 per cent of malaria cases in the country and 40-50 per cent malaria related deaths. At 20 °C, mosquitoes take 26 days to breed.
- This period reduces to 13 days when the temperature rises to 25 °C, which is also the average temperature of Orissa now.
- A possible increase in cyclone intensity of 10-20 per cent against a rise in sea surface temperature of 2 to 4 °C is very likely to happen.
- Climate change has already intensified the Asian monsoon and increased river flows.
- Experts say Orissa should brace itself for more severe flooding in years to come because of deforestation, faulty flood control planning and global climate changes.
- Disasters have a long-term impact, as people are forced to spend more of their earnings on basics like home and agriculture. The already stressed ecosystem is made even more fragile with each disaster.
- And the poor living on the margins of subsistence are forced into greater penury. With each disaster their capacity to rebuild is reduced.



### **Natural calamities during last 100 years in Odisha**

#### **Everyday vulnerabilities**

- **Poverty:** “All poor people are vulnerable, but not all vulnerable people are poor.”
- **Social exclusion:** caste, indigenous people....
- **Gender:** lack of access to or control over resources and opportunities (rights)
- **Age:** young girls, elderly  
Physical / mental ability
- Linking-learning-Livelihoods
- DRR for at-Risk community
- Technology demystification
- Gearing greening
- Networking
- Program leverage
- Grassroot Innovations
- Simultaneous Programming
- Supplement and complement Community led Programs
- changing the culture of dependency to a culture of self-reliance leading to resilience
- Demand Driven
- Incentives to Women Groups, Youth, CBOs,,CSOs,PRIs
- Flexible to some extent
- Grassroots plan, preparation, validation, monitoring intensification,
- Entrepreneurships promotion
- Capacity building
- IEC and campaign intensification
- Appropriate technology promotion
- Convergence



#### **Activity done so far in CDRF**

- Baseline
- Committee formation
- DRR Activity with CDRF Fund
- Economic activity with CDRF Fund
- Village mapping
- Village planning
- Workshop (GP, Block, and District)
- Training and capacity Building

#### **Advocacy and leverage**

- Horticulture-in Baliapal
- Pacnayats-Kendrapada
- District Administration- Kendrapada and Cuttack
- Water and Sanitation-Kendrapada

- Program briefing with –OSDMA,UNDP
- Livelihoods linkages with in Mayurbhanja -NABARD

### **Challenges**

- Women are less expose to mainstream,
- Program integration:
- Political will
- Deepening governance system
- Lasting solution of vulnerability reduction in regional priority.
- Resource Leverage
- Replication and scaling up
- Responsibility fixing and accountability

The presentation ended with sharing of the achievements as well as challenges that were faced during the implementation of the project. Some of the partner NGO's also shared their experiences and achievements , the concepts of seed bank and how it has been a laudable effort , In village krushna daspur 100 acre of agricultural field was destroyed due to flood , therefore one of the NGO partners working in the area intervened and found that the land was still apt for vegetable cultivation , therefore after provision of seeds (SEEMA seeds), the people in the village are now able to cultivate vegetable and meet their requirements. The presentation was followed with open discussions and sharing of experiences by the partner NGO's.

### **Learning from Community Women**

Nalani Bhusan Mohanty, Cuttack- “By saying that the tube well of his locality is not being repaired by municipality despite of several complains as that area was earlier under panchayat samiti”, he just try to focus on day to day problems as these are not less vital than disaster time.

- A group of youth volunteers in his locality distributed soft drink to everybody as they got affected by chicken fox.
- Open defecation is still in practice among community
- People still lives in unhygienic condition in low lying area due to existence of barrage and no drainage system to fill the gap.

### **Tarangini Sahoo, Swayanshree**

A: Kirtania village is only 3 km from the sea. Village is gradually losing its area due to sea erosion. Beetle cultivation which is the main occupation of the community got damaged due to sea erosion. It is a high Tsunami prone area and people lives in fear. They have complained to MLA for the purpose but nothing was done. During emergency no relief

reaches to the village. The most vulnerable families not received Indira Awaas since 10 years.

There was great demand for a small project which could give scope for community to be gathered and share their thoughts for the betterment of the village.

CDRF project was launched at the same time in their village and prior to this project no body thought of such a unique programme. Through this project they discuss their village problem starting from block to district.

Unities among the community members increase their confidence level and they formed a committee. They got inspired through Udyama. They tried to do some thing visible by utilizing the fund provided by Udyama. The activities they done so far are: Formation of Seeds Bank which was started with Rs. 500/- and they collect RS.10/- as revolving fund. No other Govt. department helped them in this regard. This was an 8 month programme and should be replicated.

B: This was implemented in 2 villages of Cuttack district. i.e. Bhadimula and Gobardhanpur. These villages are highly vulnerable for flood and cyclone. During rainy season water go into 10feet high to maximum houses. Community stores their usages in highest shelf and run away from houses to take shelter in distance places.

Community also demanded for a shelter house to rescue themselves from cyclone and flood. This was also an 8 months project and fund allotted was Rs.8091.50paisa.

There are two tub wells in the village which was repaired from SHG fund due to water problem, but in rainy season the water gets contaminated and community face problem for drinking water. But at the other side cow and domestic animals get sufficient water to drink.

Rest Rs.5000/- was used to convert cow dunk as fertilizer and they sell it on profit of Rs.2000/- ( i.e Rs. 7000/-). The profit amount they deposit in Union Bank.

For Gobardhanpur village they have decided to do embankment and fishy culture with the CDRF fund.

**Mr. Bijaya Kumar Kabi, APOWA**

The organization mostly worked for Animal welfare and environmental safety. He said the flood 2008 has broken the record of 80 years history in Kendrapara district. The rain continens for 7 days, the National Highway was blocked, so people run away from their

houses to shelters with their domestic animals. Relief was provided immediately but was only for human being not for the animals.

This situation is not only for heavy flood but also during rainy season of each year i.e. from June to October the roads were flooded with water and communication blocks in krushnadaspur village. There is no facility in the village, no boat for communication. We select the village for implementation and prepared an improvised boat with CDRF fund. 90% of the houses in the village are kaccha. Also we wrote emergency phone. Numbers in the school wall which is at the centre of the village.

### **Village Pentha**

Pentha is the second orphan village in Odisha. This village is at the mouth of the sea and water enters into village within each 15 days in a month. The village has 64 households and 452 populations. We have decided to implement our project in the village and hence arrange a meeting where we gathered and get familiar with each other. In the meeting we have decided to fix up a day for health awareness activity and we start it from nail cutting on each Sunday as agreed by all.

In the mean time Govt. has provision to construct a sea wall as the village is so vulnerable. But community demanded to create forest which can save them better. So, basing on this they planted cashew trees in the sea shore as these can protect soil from erosion, within one year cashew will come out which can give financial benefit to the community. Now they are taking care of these trees as these will last for more than 15 years.

### **Mr. Jibanbandhu Mohantya – Secure**

Kaptipada block near similipal. He has expertise on agriculture and cultivation. He is now cultivating in 8 acres of land.

- He is using organic fertilizer instead of chemical fertilizer.
- Doing awareness for animal protection.
- Started fish and vegetable cultivation but was failure due to shortage of water. But paddy cultivation was good.



### **Syam Sundar Adhikari, HRDC, Balasore**

The village is at the middle of Bhogarai and Balipal block where Subarnarekha River is flowing. The community of this village depends mostly on paddy cultivation. For this purpose they don't leave this place though they face frequent flood. Selected Gojabayani SHG group of Dongra block who can work with Rs.5000/-

Another village was selected from Mayurbhanj district is Angargadia for this project. The cultivable land gets salted due to salty water of the sea in this village. So, they use organic fertilizer which can protect their land from sea water.

Use local made fertilizer (*Handi khata*) in agriculture land which helped for Rabi cultivation though paddy cultivation damaged due to flood water.

Two committees formed i.e. Dagara Mitigation committee and Pakamada mitigation committee through which a huge SHG group involved.

### Challenge faced

- Faced challenge to collect cow urine for preparation of organic fertilizer as very few of them have cow. They have decided to do basement at cowsheds point and can collect urine easily for fertilizer.
- This organic fertilizer was useful and effective so, it was replicated by others and was widespread.

### Mr. Prabhat Mohapatra, Dy. Manager, OSDMA

Many changes happen after Super Cyclone

- DRM project was started in support of UNDP where 12 crore was spent in 5 years for 23,300 villages.
- Through DRM project awareness created among the community.
- He said CDRF is an excellent programme with low budget.
- Emphasized on household latrines which can help to stop open defecation.
- He declared that IIT, Khargpur has suggested for construction of 500 more cyclone shelters and 50 flood shelters.
- Eligibility for relief should be mentioned in the village wall.
- During relief distribution, if the person's house is totally damaged he or she can get utensils for smooth living.



## Day-1, Session-II

### **Women Leader from Swayanshree**

There was a temporary embankment in the village and we have decided to repair it. We want to construct a small embankment under this to start fishy culture. To solve the problem of bathing, we are planning to construct 2 to 3 stairs in the pond.



They tried to do vegetable cultivation with expired seeds but failed, where as other villagers claimed good cultivation out of the same variety of seeds.

Pradeep Bhai suggested to returns the seeds to the shop keeper if it is expired.



They also demanded for a Cyclone shelter. Pradeep bhai suggested as Govt. is already planning to construct 500 cyclone shelters within 480 km coastal belt from Balasore to Berhampur, so let's raise this issue in village committee and accordingly communicate to the Collector and MLA. Let's justify our demand.

They have repaired the tube wells and now planning to start an animal hospital. Suggestion was given to ask the CDPO to provide one GOMITRA to your Panchayat if not available.

### **Kumudini Patra, Mahila Sangha, Village: Bodas**

- They received Rs.9000/- through CDRF project. Spent Rs.4000/- to plant trees in school campus.
- Helped poor old women to sell vegetables.
- Being a women she cultivate vegetables for her own family. There are 16 members in her family and they never purchase vegetables from outside.





### **Radhakrishna Biparjaya Committee.**

- Sell rice paddy in low rate.
- Repaired some one's kaccha thatched house.
- Beetle and seeds lost
- During emergency helped those who are orphans.

### **Kalpana Panda, Mayurbahnj, village: Dogra**

- Prepared Organic fertilizer
- Prepared and serve mid day meal in schools.
- Helped SC/STs affected during flood with interest money.
- Due to water scarcity developed irrigation system to cultivation land for shree cultivation.
- We did vegetable cultivation.
- Did vermin-compost.



### **Namita Mohanty, Krushnadaspur, Kendrapara**

- The village Krushnadaspur is surrounded with river and vulnerable for flood. Due to frequent floods the village cuts off from other villages. There is no medicine shop in the village and no PHC. People suffer a lot for simple diseases like cold and cough.
- Committee decided to purchase medicine for 6 months and distribute as per requirement. For this they also maintain a register.
- During emergency they provide medicine @ Rs.5/- per head (though its cost is 50 paisa). ASHA worker helps them.

### **Suggestion by Pradeep Mohapatra, Team Leader Udyama**

First, Successful story can start from House, but it should be spread from house to village, village to Panchayat, Panchayat to Block and from Block to District, unless it is not successful.

Secondly, nothing can be achieved alone and together, everything can be achieved. The workshop closed with highlighting second day activity and vote of thank.

## **Day-2, Session-I**

### **Recapitulation Session**

The day was initiated with a recapitulation by Mr. Pradeep Mohapatro from UDYAMA gave a recap of the previous days sessions, he presented a on the previous day's highlights an outline of the sessions along with the learning's of the previous day. The recap session involved a detailed briefing on how the project has been working and the role of the SHG' which has been quiet appreciated by all. Mr. Mohapatra also highlighted about the different social security schemes along with emphasizing on the aspects of availing of such services at the community level like the NREGS schemes. He also highlighted the different trainings that have been provided on organic farming and SRI along with enhancing access to different schemes available through a network of NGO's.

The recapitulation session was summed up with certain innovations like training and capacity building for life skills development, community incentives and community cadre building which I essential in order to create a better impact at the community level. The session gave way to a briefing to the second day workshop participants on the previous day presentations and achievements of UDYAMA.

Mr. Manoj Kumar Meher from Udyama, represented the previous day presentation among the participant as many new member from western and northern Orissa join the 2<sup>nd</sup> day workshop.

### **Session on RTI by Ms. Rita from CYSD**



The previous session was followed with the participants being informed on the RTI Act, An Act to provide for setting out the practical regime of right to information for citizens to secure access to information under the control of public authorities, in order to promote transparency and accountability in the working of every public authority, the constitution of a Central Information Commission and State Information Commissions and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

**The session also emphasized on every aspect of the RTI Act like the process of –**

**Request for obtaining information.-(1)** A person, who desires to obtain any information under this Act, shall make a request in writing or through electronic means in English or Hindi or Oriya in the official language of the area in which the application is being made, accompanying such fee as may be prescribed, to-

- The Central Public Information Officer or State Public Information Officer, as the case may be, of the concerned public authority;
- The Central Assistant Public Information Officer or State Assistant Public Information Officer, as the case may be,

Specifying the particulars of the information sought by him or her: Provided that where such request cannot be made in writing, the Central Public Information Officer or State Public Information Officer, as the case may be, shall render all reasonable assistance to the person making the request orally to reduce the same in writing.

- An applicant making request for information shall not be required to give any reason for requesting the information or any other personal details except those that may be necessary for contacting him.
- Where an application is made to a public authority requesting for an information,-
- Which is held by another public authority; or
- The subject matter of which is more closely connected with the functions of another public authority,

The public authority, to which such application is made, shall transfer the application or such part of it as may be appropriate to that other public authority and inform the applicant immediately about such transfer:

Provided that the transfer of an application pursuant to this sub-section shall be made as soon as practicable but in no case later than five days from the date of receipt of the application.

At the end of the discussion Ms. Rita emphasized on availing RTI services in disaster prone area, she also highlighted the RTI coalition and the email through which they can contact and avail services under RTI ACT.

## **Day-2, Session-II**

### **Presentation of Baseline Findings on Vulnerability Reduction (Nigamananda Swain)**

- Mr. Swain presented the findings of the baseline survey conducted in the 4 districts of Orissa (Nuapada, Bolangir, Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj). His presentations entitle “Linking-Livelihoods & Deepening Grassroots Governance for Adaptation to Livelihood Security and Climate Change in Eco-fragile Areas of Orissa’. His presentation was based on the Survival Security, Social Security and Environmental sustainability of these districts. For this study randomly drawn sample from 141 village/hamlet covering 40 GPs were taken. The objective of this study as he said are:



- Enable the community to access benefits of government and non-government schemes for the community development
- Improve quality of life and reduce poverty level, distress migration, at risk community and welfare of economic excludes
- Enable local community to have economic and ecological gains through self empowerment and women participation
- Acknowledge enhancement of

social justice where livelihood security, food security and entitlement benefits for the community resilience

- Capitalizing the coping mechanism and enlarged at local to live with dignity, safety net for energy conservation and use of adaptive eco restoration for disaster like climatic changes and global warming

From the study following are the main findings:

Key Questions	General Finding
1. Do you know about the scheme?	Yes- 34% No- 52% No Response- 14%
2. From whom you got the information?	Teacher/ Anganwadi Worker/Govt. Staffs- 36% NGO staffs- 24% Neighbors/Friends- 27% No response-13%
3. Which Office & Officer, you need to go to avails benefits of this scheme?	Assertive (Named Correct Officers)- 28% Non-Assertive (Incorrect)- 53% No Response- 19% [72% lack awareness on the issue]
4. How many in your family are eligible to get benefits from this scheme?	Assertive (Correct)- 13% Assertive (Incorrect)- 59% Don't Know- 17% No Answer- 11%
5. Satisfaction level for the scheme (Bad-1, Medium-2, Good-3)	Bad (1)- 36% Medium (2)- 38% Good (3)- 17% No Answer- 9%

### **Social Audit by Mr. Rajkishor Mishra**

Mr. Mishra start his talk with the meaning and the objective of the social audit and said Social Audit as an accessible tool to prove the value of activities carried out by organisations in the social economy. The process is a valuable planning tool enabling an organisation to improve its future performance. Social Accounting and Audit has been developed over the last 15 years working closely with organisations within the community, social economy and public sectors.



He said before going to the Social Audit the facilitators has to know the scheme/project its objective, laws and rules, and the strategy followed by the well information about the scheme/project where the audit is going to conduct. Organisation should not go directly to the audit but they should provide necessary support to do the work. Citing an example of the Grampanchayat he said that if you are going for a social audit to a MGNRES program of a specific village you have to collect all the information regarding the project in advance. The information can be collected from many sources eg. Panchayat authority, block administration, district administration, panchayatiraj department, general public and the political activist. Coming to the result from the Social audit he said the results are many. From my experience it was seen that the incomplete work is done completed, wage to the laborers were released and other related issue were shouted out before the social audit.

### **Right to Information by RTI Commissioner Mr. Jagadananda**

Mr. Jagadananda, RTI commissioner Orissa speak about the holistic views of implementation of such a law in India. Every day I am seeing the new cases of this law



where people and RTI activist were seeking information from different department for the sack of the welfare of the community and for the better and transparent public activities. He said that this is a tool by which a citizen can address wide range of corruption, misuse of public money, monitoring of the public money, welfare activities and many more. Sighting a example of his recent experience from Bargarh district, he said the Conference hall in District Collector cum district Magistrate office was found crack during the recent visit, he said that this can be a case where we can found out who is responsible for this act by seeking information on the tender specification and bill release. He ask the participant who were used this tool, and categories them in to for personal and public used.

Coming to the application of this act in the disaster risk reduction and vulnerable reduction he told that the Clinic concept will be suitable at this geographic region. Let's visualize the concept in which the information will be provided at the clinic level where the disaster is one of the main components. Again he ask if the this forum want to carry forward this in the wider scale, let's think about this and fixed a date during April last week to discuss the possibilities and the suitability of application of RTI in the disaster risk reduction and vulnerable reduction.

**Mr. Pradeep Mohapatra**, Udyama took the responsibility to facilitate the next round discussion during April where Mr. Raghunath from ASHA and Mr. Manoj Kumar Meher took the responsibility to make the concept a reality.