

ANNUAL REPORT-2020-2021



Water Harvesting in Rajak-Achanakmar as Coivd releif Work

Navrachna Samaj Sevi Sanstha

Development Through People's Initiatives



Social Distancing and Hand washing



Mask Preparation and Distribution By Staff



Sanitation and Social distancing near Wells and Tubewells

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FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

Presenting our performance and learning report have always been a matter of satisfaction for us and so is the case with this report of 2020 - 2021.

The year 2020 started on a positive note, but from March, 2020 onwards there has been lot of interruptions and disruption in the work and the projects which continued till end of the year. The Covid-19 pandemic which affected the entire country, also had its impact in the rural area as well due to lockdown, restrictions in movement, ban on gatherings and closing down of all administrative offices. It did not allow for regular movement in the field and government offices. Regular contact with people, planning, strategizing mobilization was affected or was almost non-existent. Amidst the COVID pandemic, lockdowns, the government also amended many policies and laws, by-passing the federal structure of the state. The amendment in Right to Education (RTE), Agricultural Policy, etc. was done, without consulting the state or the planners abruptly, when people were fighting the Corona Pandemic. As a result there was large protests and demonstration.

We look at this time as an opportunity to establish our point that traditional systems and technologies have proved that they are sustainable and they can withstand many challenges. The forest ecosystems that support and include indigenous societies and knowledge have survived the sudden and prolonged Covid 19 lockdown. The forest communities could sustain themselves even when markets for forest produce are non-existent. Forests are one of the important natural resources for the rural population in many of the developing nations

The relationship of poverty and forest regime has very critical implications for efforts worldwide to fight poverty and to conserve the biodiversity. The relationship of humans and resources is complex, dynamic and often emotional. Forests provide subsistence and incomes from the forest products and contribute to the livelihood of people through agriculture, employment and are an important reserve during times of hardships, evident even during the COVID emergency period. The forests also additionally provide a range of environmental supports such as pollution control, soil and water conservation etc, apart from the timber and NTFPs. These are also cultural and religious bases for the tribal population.

It gives me an immense pleasure to share with our collaborators, supporters and critics, our learning and experiences during the recent hard times and our work with the deprived. Navrachna which plays a role and relation with community has undergone considerable changes during this pandemic. We believe that we have grown as a learning organisation in these times. As such we did take up certain new efforts in addition to our earlier endeavours.

1.0 ABOUT US

NAVRACHNA meaning new creation was established as a loose informal forum in 1999 and registered in November 2001, with the aim of empowering the poor and tribal's on the local resources, and to participate in a process of social change. The sorry plight of human beings of this area, in every sphere of life, despite the abundance of natural resources, gave birth to the idea of bringing up such an organisation which could help them out of this condition, through optimum utilization of available and accessible human and natural resources for a better living.

1.1 Mission

Create a just society where tribal's, traditional forest dependents and other marginalised sections would have their historic rights over natural resources established, their livelihoods secured in consonance with conservation, thus fostering sustainable development based on principles of equality, equity, collectiveness and real participation.

1.2 Key Objectives

- a. Community-led governance of natural resources
- b. Sustainable rural livelihoods based on locally available resources.
- c. Enhancement of capacities of local communities and strengthening of natural leadership.
- d. Protection of human rights of tribal's, traditional forest dependents and other marginalised communities.
- e. Creating a proactive policy environment towards secured rights and through advocacy and lobbying.

1.3 Guiding Principles

The set of following principles and values continuously guide our actions:

- Community has inherent potential for self-development. Our role is to catalyse this latent potential.
- Cooperation and collectiveness
- Participation
- Transparency
- Punctuality
- Accountability
- Zero tolerance towards any political interference

1.4 Legal Status

- Registered Under Registrar Firms and Society Act, Chhattisgarh-1973, Registration No-69, Dated 8th November, 2001
- Registered Under FCRA, 1976, Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India with Registration No. 327480034 dated 25.11.2009, renewed on 26th May,2016.
- Registered under IT Act 12 A,
- Exempted Under Section 80G
- PAN no- AAATN5959M

1.5 Collaborators/ Support Agencies/ Network Membership

During this period the following Support Network have been instrumental in helping us in our action:

Donor Agencies

- **CASA**
- **Andheri Hilfe Bonn**
- **Rights Resource Institute**
- **Global Green Grant Fund**

Network and Alliance

CFR Mancha:

AIFFM:

Global Forest Coalition

2.0. INTERVENTION AREAS

2.1 Geographical Reach

Districts: Bilaspur, Korba and Gaurella Pendra Marwahi, Mungeli

Blocks: Kota, Pendra and Gaurella. Lormi and Pali

Gram Panchayats : 32 **Villages covered:** 115

No. of project staff Full time- Male-11, Female- 3 Volunteers: 45

The geographical reach of its intervention includes 115 villages under 42 Gram Panchayat's of -Kota, Pendra and Gaurella blocks of Bilaspur and Pali block of Korba districts of Chhattisgarh. In addition to this it has networked with civil society actors inside and outside of the state in pursuit of its goals.

Key goals under our thematic interventions are respectively as follows:

- Governance of natural resources controlled by tribal's, traditional forest dependents and other marginalised sections.
- Access and control over all life and livelihood resources by tribal's, traditional forest dependents and other marginalised sections leading to their overall social, economic and political empowerment.

3.0 OVERALL EXPERIENCE AND LEARNING

The local communities living in and around forests have a history of conserving and using the forests resource sustainably, arising from their dependence on the same. This relationship has led to formalized or informal customary rules of use and extraction, often governed by ethical beliefs and practices that have ensured that forests are not too degraded. Forest resources and forest landscapes need to be made more diverse. This is not possible through forest department, who have other interests and thus only through proper devolution through Forest Rights Act, this would be possible. Additionally some employment and income are generated through sale of non-timber forest produce. The forest dependent communities have always lived on the mercies of Forest dependent and in fear. At least the knowledge of Forest Act has lifted people's age-old fears. They have taken up plantations and resisted the forest department to destroy their forests. Therefore rights are not easily available even if law and act are there. These need to be enforced upon, if necessary imposed upon, the administration. The consideration of legal rights should also include recognition of traditional and customary rights. Only then the process would involve the local community. The right needs to be situated inside the community, to ensure implementation of the flagship FRA in its true spirit. These would usher in a new kind of development where the whole community gets involved, a more equitable development realized through commons. Resources will increase and it won't be individual but community property. Alternative will only emerge from the resource uses if it benefits the community. The collective action will dethrone the market. Forest income should be part of national income and not included in other income.

The whole action would be an approach of proving that the traditional system is still relevant but needs to be done innovatively.

4.0 ISSUE WISE INTERVENTIONS

I. Farmers Undertaking Organic Paddy Cultivation

Total 263 farmers of which 223 were women farmers in a total area of 244.65 acres of land in 9 villages in Bilaspur district and 5 villages in Korba district of Chhattisgarh, organic paddy was successfully cultivated. In the Villages with Baiga Population the adoption of farmers to organic paddy cultivation is less as compared to other tribal populated villages. The average production was 8.32 quintals which was very significant looking at the practice of organic paddy for the first time by maximum farmers.

a. Farmers Shifted to traditional varieties

It can be seen that mostly in villages with Baiga population still the Traditional varieties are retained and they are cultivated but in other tribal villages the Hybrid varieties are prevalent in cultivation which can be due to extinction of local varieties as the agriculture department has been able to reach in these areas. While it is also visible that the in the plain areas large population are participating in Organic paddy production putting a large area under cultivation.

b. Use of Organic Manure and Compost

Training of Organic Compost was done in August 2020 for the farmers doing Chemical free Agriculture and SRI cultivation practices. Local natural materials and Cow urine was used as material for organic manure and pesticide which has been effective in treating diseases and overcome pest infestation.

Our analysis shows that farmers are not getting enough food from agricultural practices due to escalating process to meet their needs of the family. The declining water availability and increasing soil degradation increased dependency on chemical fertilisers which results in major cause of pest attack on the crops. The farmers in the project area has been effectively motivated through training and taking up compost fertilisers and organic agriculture though in minor number, the practice of making compost and bio fertilisers at household level has started at the farmers own initiatives. Lack of proper technique of use and process of preparation of organic manure is hindering the expansion of its use. The training focused on use of locally available material for successful and sustainable use of compost as alternative to chemical fertilisers. Total 15 trainings were done for Organic compost where different organic manures and fertilisers. Organic farming is one of several to sustainable agriculture and many of the methods used such as intercropping, crop rotation, plowing, mulching integration of crops and livestock, etc. are practices under various agricultural systems.



Collaboration with Government for Vermi Compost

c. Vermi compost tanks were prepared with the help of Agriculture Department. The Kota block agriculture department along with Navrachna initiated the construction of tanks, lists were made and training was given. The vermi were collected and it was left compost collection to prepare the measure. This work could be success fully completed in 2 months' time. In Two districts 120 community tanks were constructed benefitting a population of 500 farmers who con tribute through construction amounting to One Lakh Ten thousand Rupees. Training on Vermi compost was also given in these 21 villages and the farmers are successfully doing vermi compost.

d. Millet Farming Practices

Millet farming is being promoted among the farmers for food nutrition particularly between the PVTG's, as this has been their traditional practices. The major constrain each year has been

availability of seeds and erratic rainfall not suited for Millet farming. Kang, Kodo and Madiya were promoted among 207 farmers in an area of 49.03 acres.

e. Vegetable Promoted in Target Area

Vegetable production was promoted in the target Area even during the Pandemic as the market was closed and farmers took interest in vegetable production. Among 1080 farmers who are forest dwellers and habit of using forest vegetables only and rarely grow agricultural vegetables took to vegetable growing during rabi in their field and homestead land. They were skeptical that in villages the cattle's are left open after paddy season and monkey would destroy the vegetables. But this was only minor issues and 35 acres were successfully cultivated with Turmeric, Potato, and leafy vegetables in the work area. The production was sufficient to feed the forest dwelling farmers with nutritious food.

II. Plantation Work

Plantation Activity was done in June and August 2020 for 2 days each and the Plants were procured from the Forest Nursery by moving application through Gram Sabha, In Bilaspur district in the potential CFR areas 20 acres and in Korba district in 15 acres in 5 CFR villages plantation work were taken up. These were totally self-contributory and approximately 54, 400 rupees work was done by people raising 60 different species and about 4500 plant were planted.

III. Home stead land entitlement campaign in Dawanpur

Distribution of homestead land rights in Dawanpur. About 24 families whom had applied for homestead land rights in 2016-17 got their entitlement. In this 2 single women received entitlement. About 183 persons (127 adult and 32 minors) are dependent on this land. About 8045 sq mt of land size has been provided. The average area per member in the house holds which shows that the distribution is skewed and few have very less space in their houses. Such decision in the policy would lead to further encroachment of land for house as people would like to live in a more open and free space. Both the single women who has received land entitlement have substantial space

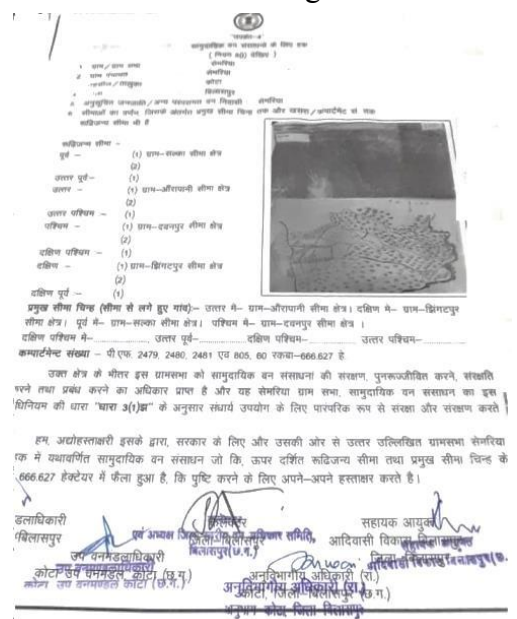
IV Advocacy For Cfr Entitlement In Semariya

The CFR entitlement of Semariya village was distributed on 2nd October 2020. For this gram sabha's were held regularly. Navrachna approached different departments in the block and districts and raised the non-accomplishment of the claims filed in 2015-16. In the gram sabha the claims were finalized and the discussion of different beats and their area was done. After a long struggle the community Forest resource right entitlement was conferred to the Semariya Gram Sabha.

Process

The filing IFR claims was done by endorsing the list of non IFR recipients in the gram sabha. The list was scrutinized by the IFR committee and then new filing of IFR was done.

The farming operation was done by the people, again discussing and reminding them of organic farming and millet farming. Many farmers have retained their millet seeds and then used their own seeds. Some new farmers were provided millet seed. The CFR advocacy was done with the Sub Division Level Committee (SDLC) and District Level Committee (DLC). The Forest Right Committee (FRC) President had regular meeting at the block level and reminded them about the pending CFR claims. The Semariya FRC President had visited the SDLC numerous time as a result he was able to get the entitlement for the CFR.



Vermi compost tanks were prepared with the help of Agriculture Department. The Kota block agriculture department along with Navrachna initiated the construction of tanks, lists were made and training was given. The vermi were collected and it was left compost collection to prepare the measure. This work could be success fully completed in 2 months' time.

The staffs and cadre were trained on MNREGA and checking of MIS. People in the villages and trained to get the details regarding to payment, details of bank and amount of work done and cost of the project, etc. out the details of cost of payments of MNREGA and their bank details.

INITIATIVES FOR COVID RELIEF

Population	Action/ Relief
Poorest families, without Ration Card, with only elderly members, women/ widow headed families, disabled	Total 900 families in 4 block (Kota, Lormi, Gaurella and Pali in 4 districts (Bilaspur, Korba, Muneli and Guarella-Pendra-Marwahi) was provided with dry ration worth Rs. 1000/month which includes essentials like rice, oil, pulses, soap, detergent, sanitary pads, milk.
Migrant labourers coming from big cities back to the villages	Support to quarantine 54 migrant labours in panchayat level centres, 82 in home isolation. Essentials materials in 18 Gram panchayat and 2 block level quarantine centres and 2 districts
Essential services	
Remote villages, poor agriculture families, families of migrant labourers	Distribution of 935 own production of masks, 563 bottles of sanitizers Awareness generation in around 90 rural villages. Safe distancing norms at drinking water sources, PDS Coordination with Tehsil/ block/ district level administration
Support in agriculture activities	
Small and marginal farmers, agriculture labours	Few farmers seed availability for Kharif season to about 500 farmers

The following activities were carried out for the COVID- 19 lock down times in the fields for safety

- Innovativeness for sanitation in Villages and Panchayat of the Target Villages. area
- Mask Preparation and Distribution in village Chuhiya and Panchayat-Umariya
- Mahua Collection in forest through social distancing.
- Wall writing in Village Jhingatpur
- Social Barricading by Women of Phulwaripara and Panchayat-Behramuda
- Persuading the panchayat to give extra 5 kilo rice to the elderly Baiga families in Chunakhodra, Umariya and Chuhiya



Rain water harvesting tank Dawanpur

- Rain water harvesting tank in Bandhipara- Dawanpur which is Dhanuhar hamlet in a Gond dominated village, with only 15 families (Dhanuhar – 6, Gond –9) in that location. The hamlet is on the lower side of the dam due to which it name has been given as “bandhipara”. As the hamlet is on the lower end of the dam, people face problem of water scarcity. People have been asking Navrachna for any solutions to these water scarcity. After discussing

with the villagers and the community a rain water tank was constructed with the support of AHB where men and women did “*shramdan*”(voluntary labour).

- 6 households were selected looking at the location and also the poor Dhanuar family was the priority, these families were having lesser homestead land. Of these 6 women 1 woman happened to be a widow and one other is a separated single mother. All the woman are

agriculture labor The rain water collection was done in a tank, constructed by 30 members of these households, out of which 6 households are tangibly benefitted through vegetable cultivation and for 4 months they can cultivate vegetable worth Rs. 1000 thousand for each family during this period. Each house-holds have school going children who are going to be benefitted most. As the escalating market rate of vegetable, making the purchase parity low to overlook nutrition in their food and the worst suffers are the children.



Vermi compost Training

What is Vermicompost?

Organic waste gets decomposed by micro-organisms and when consumed by earth worms. This castings by worms is popularly known as vermi compost.

Sources of organic waste for manure production:

The organic wastes that are available in agricultural areas include cattle dung, sheep dropping, biogas slurry, stubble from harvested crops, husks and corn shells, weeds, kitchen waste etc. All these materials can be used to produce vermin compost.

Selection of Suitable Earthworm

Vermi compost is a method of making compost with the use of earthworm, which eats biomass and excreta in digested form. This compost is generally called Vermicompost. Locally available earthworms are also used for vermicomposting but their mode of feeding is very slow and the earthworm which lives below the soil is also not suitable for vermi compost production.

Selection of Site

Vermi compost can be produced in any place with shade, high humidity and cool. Abandoned cattle shed or poultry shed or unused buildings can be used. If it is to be produced in open area, shady place is selected. A thatched roof may be provided to protect the process from direct sunlight and rain. The waste heaped for vermi compost production should be covered with moist gunny bags.

Different Structure of Vermicompost Production

A cement tub may be constructed to a height of 2.0- 2.5 feet and a breadth of 3 feet. The length may be fixed to any level depending upon the size of the room. The bottom of the tub is made to slope like structure to drain the excess water from vermi compost unit.

Waste Selection for Vermicompost Production

Cattle dung (except pig, poultry and goat), farm wastes, crop residues, vegetable waste, agro industrial waste, fruit market waste and all other bio degradable waste are suitable for vermi compost production. The cattle dung should be decomposed before used for vermi compost production. All other waste should be pre-digested with cow dung for twenty days before put into vermi bed for composting. Heavy spices and metallic products are not used in this process.



Gender Training Workshop

Two day Gender Training Workshop with Baiga women as done 19--20 December, 2020. The main objectives of the two day training programme was as follows.

- Gender Awareness
- Differentiation between men and woman role.
- Practical and Strategic gender needs.

UNPACKING GENDER CONCEPT:-

In the opening session participant discussed about how they see themselves as a girl or boy. A mirror was given to each to see them and describe one- self about their character as an individual and their family. The differentiation between boy and a girl. Various tools was used to differentiate the physical characteristics, appearance biological characteristics, attributes, etc.

UNPACKING WORK DIFFERENCES:-

What work men do and what are the works of women in different sectors like household, farming, forests, etc. Using the forest resources, crop seeds, etc. the session was made lively. The list of activities was noted down and a detailed discussion on each labour division was done. Discussion on how the works has been divided by the patriarchal society between men and women according to gender roles. Men do the paid employment and women do tasks which is mostly unpaid work. The responsibilities assigned to women are on daily basis and all this parameters are decided by the market. The household chores like cleaning of clothes utensils, maintaining the household. The occupational segregation has been divided as per skill of men and women. The mapping of gender division of work in the forest and related to forest products were also done.



GENDER RELATIONS IN SOCIALS CONTEXT:-

How the factors and trends influence and change division of labour, women's and men's access to and control over resource differ. The various form of description, which results in violation of basic human right are restricting women and girls mobility should be wither analyzed and unveiled among the women. On the final session about the need to change the attitude economic and issues and different module wise needs to be developed. The need to initial discussion in the respective villages of the participates similarly was also used.

TRAINING ON CONSERVATION

Training on Conservation was done in the field from 22nd to 24th December with the FRCs in cluster of villages Chhuhiya, Kekradih, Phulwaripara and Semariya to discuss about the new CFMC guidelines and role of the committee in protection and restoration of Forest.

On the first day in Semariya where Community Forest Resource right is recognized over a common forest patch being conserved and managed by more than one Gram Sabha, in such case, the CFRMC shall be constituted in consultation with a Conservation plan was done with the community in Semariya, where it was planned to take up water conservation and Biodiversity conservation through the village community forest management committee- Semariya. It was planned that during this period the plantation work would be taken up in the territorial rights area of the community forest boundary. Tree nursery raising and management would be done by each household raising 20 tree plants. Seed collection was done in summer when the fruit ripens and seed falls. During pre-monsoon, digging of

pits was done while trees were planted with the onset of monsoon. About 2000 trees, mostly fruit trees were planted. Each household did 1 weeks labour in June and 1 week in July for pit digging and plantation respectively. Fencing was also done by the community in this 5-acre patch of forest area to protect the plants from wood loggers and for cattle's. Training on value addition of Mahuline leaf and Sal (*shorea robusta*) leaf were done for the villagers. Stitching of leaves through sewing machine was given by the local resource persons Rameshwar Porte. The women and the community could now sell stitched leaf plates and got an escalated price than selling leaf bundles which used to fetch low price. If the members of such Gram Sabhas.

Discussion on CFMC guidelines

- Every Gram Sabha or village level institution where there are holders of any forest right under the Act shall constitute a Committee from amongst its members, to exercise the authorities and power enshrined under Section 5 of the Act, to be known as the “Community Forest Resource Management Committee or CFRMC.”
- The first meeting of the Gram Sabha, for the purpose of constituting the CFRMC, shall be convened by the Secretary of the FRC and Chaired by the President of FRC or any person chosen by the members of the Gram Sabha.
- The CFRMC constituted by the Gram Sabha shall consist of not less than 5 persons as members, wherein at least two-third members shall be the Scheduled Tribes;
- Provided that not less than 50% of total members shall be women;
- Provided further that where there are no Scheduled Tribes, at least two-third members shall be from forest dependent communities;
- The Gram Sabha while constituting CFRMC, shall ensure that proper representation from various user groups like graziers, MFP collectors, women and any other group dependent on forest including representation from hamlet(s).
- The CFRMC so constituted shall select/elect a Chairperson, a Secretary and Treasurer among its members in its first meeting convened within fifteen days of its constitution and intimate the same to the Gram Sabha, Gram Panchayat and Sub-Divisional Level Committee.
 - The Chairperson of the CFRMC shall be from the Schedule Tribe and where there is no Scheduled Tribe, the Chairperson shall be from a forest dependent person. At least one of the office bearers shall be a woman
 - The CFRMC will function as the executive arm of the Gram Sabha, and shall remain accountable to the Gram Sabha.
 - The tenure of the CFRCs shall be for 3 to 5 years. The tenure of the Committee shall be decided by the Gram Sabha;
 - Any existing Committee looking after forest protection, conservation and management, shall be deemed to as replaced by the CFRMC for governance of CFR areas;



MIGRATION STUDY OF LABOURS DURING COVID PANDEMIC

We conducted the study according to the outcomes as highlighted. The primary survey was conducted in 5 villages and through structured format the survey was done. The outcome of the survey where the reason

Factor I: Better Employment Opportunities Better employment opportunities have emerged as significant factor accounting for 20.81 per cent of the total variance. Five out of fifteen statements are loaded on this factor of which four are highly correlated. The high positive loading on the first factor of the variables, namely, industrial development of area, attraction of better job opportunities, comparatively higher wages in the area pull labour to migrate from other states. Again, all except X4 (Lack of job opportunities compelled me to migrate) are pull statements. The negative loading of the variable X13 (I was called by my friends) indicates that workers did not migrate because their friends' call them rather study found that they were mobilized by contractors. Thus, the pull factors play dominating role in labour migration to Punjab. 20

Factor II: To Fulfill Self Aspirations Fulfillment of self aspirations has emerged as the second major factor with percentage of variance equal to 11.02 per cent. The analysis reveals that the migrant labour moved out to enjoy freedom of nuclear family and to get rid of burden of debt. Therefore, the study found that the migrant households paid off their debts by remittances from Punjab. Moreover, the huge transfer of resources from Punjab has a large potential for strengthening the rural economy at the place of origin.

Factor III: Better Living Conditions This is the third important factor with percentage of variance equal to 10.04. Two statements have been loaded on this factor. Both statements are positively correlated with the factor. This factor highlights that the attraction of urban amenities and agricultural development of Punjab encourage the migration of labour from other states. The existing studies on labour migration also revealed that better living conditions had remained an important pull factor to attract labour from backward areas. Further, it has been widely accepted by various researchers that large scale migration has been taking place in agricultural and industrial sectors of Punjab. As both these variables are significantly loaded on this factor, therefore, our study also substantiates this fact.

Factor IV: Lack of Development Two statements have been loaded on this factor which explains 7.76 per cent of variance . Both the statements are significantly correlated with this factor. Besides, one statement is positive while other is negative. It explicates that labour migrate from its native place to get rid of the impact of drought. The negative loading of the variable X5 indicates that brick kiln workers do not migrate because of lack of job they desired. Rather, study found that they were ready to do any type of job keeping in view their lower educational, economic and social status.

Factor V: Social Tensions Two statements have been loaded on this factor with percentage of variance equal to 7.27. Both the statements are positive. The study found that large proportion of migrant brick-kiln workers belong to large size of joint families where family feud was a routine matter. So workers migrate to get rid of family feud. Further, they also migrate because of the discrimination on the ground of caste in their areas of origin. Therefore, in addition to the pull factors, the push factors also contribute in the inter-state migration process. **Factor VI: Unviable Land Holding** 21 Two statements have been loaded on this factor with percentage of variance equal to 6.84. Lack of adequate agricultural land and poor economic condition of family compel labour to migrate. The implication of this factor is that the migrant brick-kiln workers are landless or land poor belonging to economically backward class. Further, most of the respondents' land was barren due to which they also come in the category of landless workers.

ADIVASIS PLEDGE TO PROTECT FOREST AND ENVIRONMENT ON WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

All India Forum of Forest Rights in Chhattisgarh with its alliance protest against the Chhattisgarh Government's order to snatch away the rights of the forest dwelling communities by making Forest department as the coordinating agency. This was done on 5th June with pledge of protecting the forest and not allowing Forest department and its agencies to dilute the forest rights act, and snatch away the livelihood of the people by repeating the historical Injustice again. It was in 2006, the then UPA government had devolved the rights of the forest dwelling communities and giving them rights to manage and protect their landscape, now the same Congress government in Chhattisgarh, which won due to tribal votes are bent hard to snatch away their livelihood in the hard times when the forest dwelling communities and migrant labour are in acute poverty and stress. The protest was carried out along with other mass organisation like Chhattisgarh Van adhkar Manch, Chhattisgarh Jungle bachao andolan, etc., in about 11 districts of the state.

People vowed to protect their forest and their biodiversity as this is the only source which has been able to sustain them in these hard times, when market have been closed their movement restricted and their earnings limited. People urged that immediately government bestow full rights under forest rights act, to own protect, defend, regulate, control and use their community forest and immediate stop any anti forest activities and eviction of people from forest and forest land. In Bagdara in Korba district large number of women also demanded that the devolution process be completed immediately along with financial devolution to the gram sabha and hand over the CAMPA money, to the gram sabha to restore their biodiversity and provide equal authority in the laws related to tribal communities within the traditional areas respecting the cultural diversity.

Gender Assessment Study in Chhattisgarh

Introduction

Gender assessment is an essential element of socio-economic analysis. It takes into account the gender relations which are economic and social factors. The gender inequalities are major issues of India. Gender Assessment provides the necessary data and information to integrate perspective into politics, programmes and projects. The gender analysis identifies the differences between and among men and women in terms of relative position in the society and the distribution of resources opportunities, constraints and power. By conducting a gender analysis it allows for the development of intervention that addresses the gender irregularities and meet the different needs of men and women. Gender assessment will help to achieve equity rather than equality.

METHODOLOGY

The Gender Assessment survey was carried out in India in the state of Chhattisgarh. 2 district Korba (Pali Block) and Bilaspur (Kota Block) which are highly tribal dominant and having high forest dependent population were selected. Chhattisgarh a newly formed state in 2000 has a population of about 26 millions (2011 Census) of which 31.8 percent is tribal population, while 11.6 percent is scheduled caste population. The state which is rich in resources has population below poverty line to the tune of about 50 Percent. The Gond's are the most populous tribe with population of 55.3 percent among the scheduled tribe. The survey for assessment was carried out in autumn 2019.

Objectives

- The objectives of the study were to gain a better assessment in laws and policies related to gender equality and decision making.

- The assessment also provides an actual picture of situation of women and men in terms of participation, behaviour, activities, in social and economic structure of their day to day existence.
- The study would also help to understand the impact of SDG would have on women.

Conclusion And Recommendations

The climate vagaries also lead to injustice on gender empowerment. New practices for commercial multiplication and market are highly risky and the women are least interested in such activities. But with continuous emphasis and promotion, women fall out of this and they are mostly eliminated. Women have lesser assets ownership and are against commodification of natural resources, thus they prefer use of environmental friendly technologies which can promote more women centric climate action. Distribution of LPG cylinders is again a market link solution to deforestation and thus discriminates in the energy use policy, as women are firewood collectors and their culture is affected. Also the cost of refilling of LPG cylinder and its irregular supply fails to create any enthusiasm. Emphasis should be given to improved cooking technologies. Issues arise from Women's primary role in cooking fuelwood. Collection and from their greater exposure to air pollution associated with cooking. All such schemes lack proper gender analysis and failure to prioritize gender equality. More concrete sex aggregated data for detailed inequalities resulting from environment nexus.

Any project, programme or scheme should analyse and test for gender equality. Gender equality should be in the objectives of any scheme as a starting point and make commitment of all stake holders involved in the development initiatives. Actions to reduce inequality and imbalance to promote gender equality should be among all law, practices and programme.

The various forms of gender inequality observed among the different section of population in India stems from the pressing need for gender equality and help to understand the gender disparity in the area. Overall segregation is not just relation of inequality but it has a wider meaning. It is necessary to understand why there is inequality and why there is difference in occupations of men and women. The dominance of patriarchy makes the choices from a given set of entity and admissible alternatives. The heterogeneity among tribes is quite distinct with each tribe being quite different from each other in customs, cultural practices, dialects, etc.

Women had to choose for less physical job just to fit in for domestic priorities which is a distortion of relation between human capital and income. The role of social gradients in educational options and choices are of concerns, since it questions equity of opportunity in pursuing activities and developing interests and motivations. Men and Women spent almost same time for participation in social activities, but the satisfaction level may not be same.

Recommendations

- Promote access of women in all sectors related to natural resources where they are not properly represented
- Equal representation of women in all decision making bodies
- Use gender statistics and do study for all the programmes and schemes before implementation.
- Strong voice against gender based violence
- Eliminate gender stereotypes and roles
- Awareness among men and children not to treat differently in school or family
- Work with men for setting gender norms
- Promote such technology and practices which provides work to women.
- Continuous tracking of gender segregated data for gender inclusive programmes

- Regular training and capacity building on gender perspective and leadership and negotiation skill.
- Raise awareness and train both men and women on issues related to gender equality and responsiveness to these issues.
- Support for discussions, networking for women on gender responsive climate action.
- Strengthen national statistical capacity and disaggregated data by age, caste, income and other relevant parameters.
- Malnourishment and undernourishment of women should be made recognisable.
- Women's equal rights to food, housing, sanitation, land and natural resources.

WOMEN LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

A two day Women workshop was organized in Village Umariya where women from 5 panchayat (Dawanpur, Semariya, Majgawan, Kukdur and Umariya) participated and discussed about the women leadership issues, gender violence, forest livelihood and unionization. The Workshop spread over 2 days had an intense discussion about the issues, initiatives and forest based economies and migration.

Initiating the discussion about the tragedy of Chhattisgarh and Korba about its richness in resources, poverty and resource control Mr. Chandra Pratap gave a presentation on the situation of tribal, women and people in Chhattisgarh and highlighted the drudgery and unemployment in the villages. Youth migration is rampant and in Chhattisgarh Women equally participation in migration along with men. Does Migration have increased due to natural disaster like drought and erratic rainfall or is it the extravagant requirement of smart phones and motorcycles. Thus migration is a challenge and the effects are in humanitarian in long run, policy does not ensure a sustainable future to the population effected. The impact is also a continuous environmental degradation. Whether migration is in response to climate change is very complex question and from a sustainable perspective where environmental push factor interact with other social economic and political viable options exists. Chhattisgarh is developing people say but there are contradictions in differing visions of development and they are simply too many, like market, climate vagaries, food security and infrastructure. But this development has created conflicts all rounds with contrasting visions clashing among them and the uprising struggles jostling for spaces. The future courses of development in the nascent state depend upon how these contradictions are arrayed, handled and resolved.

The women in Chhattisgarh are primary gatherers of all forest foods and inheritors of their traditional system of food and biodiversity. They also restore and protect seeds. Chhattisgarh workers are the major contributors of construction industry in the country. Many migrant labours in the metropolitans are Chhattisgarh migrant laborers'. In Chhattisgarh, women migrate along with men. The sex ratio which is universally acknowledged as an indicator of women's well being is second among the states in the country. In Chhattisgarh 34 percent of women are married between 15 to 19 years, while the median age is 15.4 years. Malnutrition among tribal population and particularly among the primitive tribes is a major challenge in Chhattisgarh. The difference among men and women in terms of relative positions in the society and the distribution of resources opportunities, constraints and power are vital. By analysing the situation of women, it allows for the development of intervention that addresses the gender irregularities and meets the different needs of men and women. This will help to achieve equity rather than equality in the society. Kanta Marathe discussed about Women's leadership and history of women's day and how the struggle and unionisation of women has continuously brought changes in the mindset of not only of men but also in the society.

She discussed how women in the area has fought for prohibition of liquor against the liquor barons and even the gram Sabah has supported the cause by passing resolutions and deals with problems. These are indicators how the women's organisation gets strengthened. The leadership of women should not be the onus of few, but each and everyone has to participate. A strong women's organisation will bring peace in the village and in the society and will make village a place to live happily and create an atmosphere of solidarity. Women needs to come forward and not succumb to violence or injustice and has to speak against it. A women has to stand for a destitute, a victim. Togetherness will give strength, be it SHGs or Women's organisation or Mahila Mandal, they have to take initiatives. Discussion among them in the community and in Gram Sabah are must and important. One has to keep an eye on happenings around and speak if there is violation, injustice and not succumb to pressure.

Devjit Nandi in his deliberation talked about women, forest, NTFP based livelihood and forest rights. There has to be voice of dissent at the grass root level to reach the family, society and planners, only then they will react. Women have to come forward understand their lifestyle within forests, solutions around with all the restrictions and oppositions. The state's patriarchal mindset on recognition of rights of women, absence of rights to inheritance in law and gendered customary practices impedes women to participate in decision making and attainment of their rights. HE also elaborated on how the distribution of IFR and focus on Individual right has been there, rather than rights to commons have made the women's assertion to forests and livelihood non-existent. Women who are the primary link between community and forest managing the everyday needs of foraging and collection of food, fuelwood and fodder and other needs for sustaining their households and managing these forests to ensure their sustainability. Women are the knowledge holders of forest.



How discussed in details the Sec4(4) of FRA which talks of women's joint name in IFR which are missing in many entitlements, the environmental challenges with respect to mismanagement of natural resources thereby leading to poverty, un-sustainable practices destroying the symbiotic food systems, food security and halting the biodiversity loss. The time is for preparing the people to share their collectives views as well plan for collective action.

Women's day was celebrated in Umariya where Baiga Women leader Phool Devi Baiga was the guest of honour who presided over the function. About 60 men and women from 4 panchayats () participated in the programme. Initiating the discussion Prakash Dhruve talked about the role of women in forest management. He also elaborated the importance of women days vis-a vis resource conservation. He said that the equality and gender perception are going to sustain their life and livelihood of the Indigenous community.

The Gender angle of resource regeneration and harnessing are important this makes the whole concept more sustainable, integrated and complete. The change in types of forest from monoculture bereft of fruit trees, further push the tribal community to marginalisation. Their livelihood is hampered by external control of the forest. Thus there is need of more and more community claims to be made to pressurise the government in delivering and performing their services. He also emphasised that female headed households are more directly reliant on use and consumption of forest and forest produce. Then men headed households. He discussed about how other women also join in the women can also join in the women's organisation so that resources don't go out of their hands and also are not exhausted rapidly.

MNREGA MICRO PLAN

Plans were prepared to make people about the role of forests in a tribal community and their importance. More and more work demand through MNREGA was done for the development of village.

Chunakhodra

Resource mapping was done to assess the village assets. 10 men and 12 women were present for 2 days to complete the process in a Baiga dominated village. Work demand according to micro-plan was made and work was given within 15 days for deeping of the village pond which is an important lifeline for the village. Thereafter construction of CC road was given, was sanctioned, construction of community building, water harvesting pit near water sources. All the plans were passed in gram Sabah resolution and handed over to the CEO-Kota. 60 (34 F, 26 M), job card holders demanded work under MGNREGA for construction of canal and for deepening of village ponds. Work was given for 2 weeks, from 24th February to 10th March 2020. People demanded for work and regular monitoring by the village youths compelled the *Rozgar shayak* (NREGA assistant) to update the work done regularly and take correct attendance.



Monitoring of NREGA work

In Kekradih and Jhingatpur monitoring of NREGA work was done. The different works done in these villages were monitored for payment, the measurement of work, their attendance, work site facilities and it was processed for timely action of MNREGA work.

CFR application for Umariya

In Umariya under the Forest Rights Act, the applications for CFR (3) (1) was been prepared completing all the documents and getting it signed by different stakeholders. First, due to panchayat election and thereafter due to Covid – 19 the village Council meetings gram Sabah were not held. Thus the document is still pending with the gram sabha for resolution and final submission to SDLC.

Convergence of Agriculture Schemes with Mahila Sangathans

The convergence was done with the Baiga Development Authority and the vermin-compost tank was constructed for Baigas were Navrachna facilitated with preparing the application and the sites for compost pits. The Baigas mahila samuhs were registered with Agriculture department. The plan for support of Rs 10,000/- through different schemes was sanctioned, but could not proceed further due to pandemic lockdown. Training of the samuh would be provided through ATMA project like regeneration of earth worm, it precaution, its production and usage practices, etc. The application for 4 Samuh Application were moved to the Block Agriculture Office



Application for New ICDS Centre

Aganbadi –The Aganwadi (ICDS) centers are mandatory in the tribal area vide if any hamlets having 40 children or more are their (Supreme court order No 196/2001). In village Umariya we did a survey where their are about 47 children between 0-6 year (it was enlisted). The village Umariya, a Panchayat headquarters the anganbadi centre is missing and the small children and their parents (mostly mothers)

have to go more than 5 km to village Kurdar to get the ration for their children. The parents are not able to go regularly to the centers and often they miss out the important nutrition for their children. The immunization and vaccination are also not done properly. So application for new ICDS center was moved as writ petition, citing supreme court clause in Chhattisgarh High-Bilaspur .

Monitoring of Migrants during Covid and providing them with work during crisis

Government lacked any list of migrated people who have migrated to different areas from their villages in search of livelihood. At the village level or at block level there was no data. So we collected information of the people who have gone to different areas like, Bhopal, Nagpur, Surat, Trichi, Kanpur, Delhi. Telephone calls were made to the Covid centers and in the help line numbers in these areas and government were facilitated through exchange of numbers to provide food to the stranded labours. The labour departments were also given the list and these people were registered to bring them back. During the lockdown wall writing were done and people were asked to wear mask and maintain social distancing in the crowded area, like PDS collection centers, while filling water in hand pumps or wells. Campaign for hand washing with soap was done in April and May. Rain water harvesting structure for 5 percent model rain water storage in people field was prepared. In Sargod



bolder check dam was made by 19 village members, working for 3 days. From these dams 20 farmers would be benefitted. 9 Baiga PTG farmer were also there. They would be able to grow from vegetables from the available water and also for drinking purpose of the livestock's from the dams. 10ft X 10ft X 3ft trenches were dug up in the homestead as rain water harvesting structures. SRI paddy cultivation was done by 13 farmers. The trenches would help for kitchen garden and those in paddy field would help for critical irrigation for SRI Paddy. The Pits dug were as such Chhuaiya – 15, Umariya – 13 , chuna khodra – 11, Sargod -9, Pholwaripara-11, Kekradih – 7, Semariya -13, Dawanpur- 16,

Support for Homestead Water Harvesting for Vegetable Production to Migrant Labours

Here due to lack of work, people were migrating to various places like Bhusawal in Maharashtra to work in the brick lines. The rain water harvesting and the vegetable cultivation has put a resistance to migration of women. Also people have started growing organic vegetables which are free of any chemicals. Now they can get vegetable in the home, which they used to purchase from markets. The stored rain water would at least support families for 4-5 months for organic vegetable. The contribution of people for the 10 X 10 X 3 tank has been 4 day of pit digging, 9 days of construction work and also people contribution with 1000 bricks (about 3000 Rs), sand and mud by themselves for the structure.

1. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES:

Activity	Implemented	Achievements
MIS tracking at village level for filing Appeals	70	The Individual forest rights claims for 70 persons were file and their due rights are expected to be received to secure their livelihood.
CFR claims	2	Community claims for 2 village has been prepared and to be filed. The villager's participation were ensured for forest governance.
Status of 17 villages of all eligible claimants	8	8 Villages gaps were identified and further land entitlement claims would be ensured.
Training on preparation of organic manures and pesticides	6	Training of pesticide given initially for other vegetable farming, as well as demonstration for paddy crop, as people would be preparing themselves for the main crop
MNREGA training at the work sites.	4	MNREGA training given in villages who have done where work demand was done and people were eager to get employment.
Filing of IFR Claim	32	IFR claim were filed in Umariya, Lufa, Langhabhata and Chunakhodra.
CFR Advocacy	4	Advocacy for villages in Kekradih, Chuhiya, Semariya and Phulwaripara was done at the block level Semariya advocacy for territorial right was done on 26 th September and thereafter on 28 th September again final devaluation was done at Gram Sabha level and on 2 nd October, 2020. 666 hector of forest land was given to Semariya Gram Panchayat for CFR entitlement.
Organic Farming	143	Organic farming was done in villages. The number of farmers has increased and they have taken to low cost farming techniques through use of local material for pesticide and fertilizer.
Millet Farming	124	Millet was grown in the villages. The number of millet farmers have grown sizably to overcome malnourishment and use the fallow land for agriculture use
Plantation in CFR Area	1200	Plantation activity was carried out in Chuhiya and Phulwaripra for the Baiga population who are forest based and Bamboo Artisans
Vermi Composting	296	The achievement of getting an environment friendly nutrient-rich fertilizer for the agriculture sector. Villagers are have been linked with Agriculture department for farming of vermi compost.
Vegetable Grown	489	Farmers have grown more quantity of potatoes and leaves vegetables which has benefited more for overcoming malnourishment. The average area of vegetable is around 0.04 acre
NREGS Training of Staff and Cadre	1	NREGA training was provided to check the job card and the payment provided for their work. That is so benefit all the villagers to check their MIS and online payment. The NREGA official website was discussed and the methods to track the MIS was discussed in the training
Capacity Building With Women.	1	Training and capacity building for the empowerment of women. The gender analysis, division of work and the norms were finalized.

2. ACTIVITY WISE IMPACT

Activity	Impact
FILING OF IFR CLAIMS	With growing pressure created on the government post elections, by the Advocacy network of Chhattisgarh of which Navrachna is a part, new orders were issued by the state Government regarding implementation of the forest rights act. Also meeting the government officials to remind them of the non implementation of filed claims at the SDLC level also helped for filing new fresh claims in the village council meetings. On the other hand with the Covid lock downs being implemented for almost 3 months of this reporting period, nothing could in fact go ahead, as far as activities, carrying out meetings and advocacies. So a stagnancy of progress of the activities carried before has been brought to square zero, and after the situation becomes normal it has to be restarted. The land tenurial security was assured and people could invest in their land.
CFR Advocacy	On 2 nd October, 2020. 666 hector of forest land was given to Semariya Gram Panchayat for CFR entitlement. This provided an assurance to take up the plantations in the territorial area to increase biodiversity and livelihood measures.
Organic Farming	Organic farming was done in villages. The number of farmers has increased and they have taken to low cost farming techniques through use of local material for pesticide and fertilizer.
Millet Farming	Millet farmers have increased and people are willing to go back to their nutritious food, to overcome malnourishment and use their fallow land for agriculture purpose
Plantation in CFR Area	Plantation activity was carried out in Chuhiya and Phulwaripra for the Baiga population who are forest based and Bamboo Artisans
Vermi Composting	Villagers are linked with Agriculture department for farming of vermi compost. Also the vermi compost will enrich the soil health.
Vegetable Grown	Farmers have grown vegetables during the pandemic when everything was locked down which has benefited more for overcoming malnourishment.
NREGS Training of Staff and Cadre	NREGA training was provided to check the job card holders and they could understand the payment provided for their work. The cadre could use the NREGA official website to track the MIS was respite to NREGA workers.
Capacity Building With Women.	Training and capacity building for the empowerment of women. The gender analysis, division of work and the norms were finalized.
MNREGA training at the work sites.	In Langhabhata and Chuna Khodra villages there has been quite impact through the training and the villagers could take full advantage of MGNREGA and demand for work and also take the benefit of timely wages during the distressful period.

3. GROUPS FORMED

CBOs	Villages	No of Member	Activities
Krushaksamuh (Farmers Club)	Langhabahta, Dawanpur, Kekradih, Diprapara, Fulwaripara, Chikladabri, Chuhiya, Umariya	55	Promotion of Millet farming and vegetable production. Organic Farming and linkages with Agriculture and other line department for their schemes
Mahila Mandal	Langhabahta, Behramuda, Fulwaripara, ChuhiyaNawadih, Diprapara, Dawanpur, Aurapani, Umariya	124	Strengthen the women to raise the issue of marginalization, and issues related to children. Issues related to domestic violence and Gender Justice
Forest Rights Committee (FRC)	Dawanpur, Kekradih, Shivtala, Chuhiya, Kukdur, Fulwaripara, Semariya, Umariya	120	Address the forest rights issues and CFR claims. Semariya received its CFR entitlement

ACHIEVEMENT DURING THE YEAR

We look at this time as an opportunity to establish our point that traditional systems and technologies have proved that they are sustainable and they can withstand many challenges. The forest ecosystems that support and include indigenous societies and knowledge have survived the sudden and prolonged Covid 19 lockdown. The forest communities could sustain themselves even during the pandemic when the markets for forest produce are non-existent.

The forest dependent communities who lived on the mercies of Forest dependent, and often lived in fear, even to practice their rightful livelihood activities from the forest. At least the knowledge of Forest Act has lifted people's age-old fears. They have taken up plantations and resisted the forest department to destroy their forests. In Phulwariapara in Behramuda Panchayat of Bilaspur District, the Baiga women who used to be afraid of forest department and would wait till dusk to return to their homes have now challenged monoculture Industrial plantations. Same is the case in Chuhiya where women leadership developed has gone to challenge the discretionary powers of forest department. They have contributed to build their forest diversity through their own contributory labour and monthly contributions. Their knowledge, optimal use of resources and their organizational strength have withstood many challenges, for which 2 women and 4 men were falsely implicated and put behind bars in Bilaspur central jail for 17 days in November, 2019. They have paid the price of conservation and restoration of their forest. Now their forests are exemplary with many fruit trees being planted and lot of Bamboo plantations being done as the community here including the bamboo artisans

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