

Food & Democracy



in Action

Shri Gandhi Seva Ashram

FOOD & DEMOCRACY IN ACTION

Authored and composed by:

HASRAT ARJJUMEND, Grassroots India, New Delhi || www.grassrootsglobal.net ||

Compiled by:

ASHOK VISWASH, Shri Gandhi Seva Ashram, Ambikapur

*Published for **R. K. Singh** by:*

SHRI GANDHI SEVA ASHRAM, SARGUJA

Shri Gandhi Seva Ashram (SGSA) is a non-profit grassroots development organization committed to reduce hunger and poverty from tribal areas of North Chhattisgarh, India.

When majority of the NGOs were busy in reinforcing the state's agenda to convert the panchayats as agency of implementation of rural development schemes and the extended unit of block development office, SGSA rose to decline the popular notions imposed by the state. Panchayats



are the governance structures, indifferent from other governance structures of the country meant for regulating the lives of people. SGSA rose to advocate for ensuring food through democratizing the resource distribution and development process. The moment we talk about food security, we must consider internalizing the quest to seek accountabilities of the governance structures.

SGSA railed the ideas on to the track of reforming the institutions and internalizing democratization. This is what that lies undercurrent in every action SGSA pursued during 2005-06. A range of activities was undertaken with active involvement of communities. SGSA is indebted to the communities and the supporters for every cooperation they extended.



■ RAJENDRA K. SINGH

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Food & Democracy in Action



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- ▶ Central Social Welfare Board

Disempowerment, disenfranchisement, exclusion, disorganization and marginalization are principal reasons of people's inability to withstand daily food needs and to overcome poverty. Maneuvering the power balance and socio-politico-economic relations of people, of people and the state and of weak and mighty has been viewed essential by SGSA to retain the human survival particularly of poor and have-not. SGSA sought to regain the synergies of the individuals and communities to bring them into organized social entities.

INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF COMMUNITY ACTION

Most of the activities under various projects have been the on-going activities that are being implemented by community institutions. Various



institutions existing in the project areas are: karigar panchayats, gram shakti sangathans, mazdoor avam kisan kalyan sangathan, sawangin mandal, chhaowa panchayats, swavlambi samooch, kala dal, gram vikas samiti, project execution committee and pani darbar.

|| Gram Shakti Sangathan ||

Understanding the need of organization for

Monetary value of achievements of pressure building by Gram Shakti Sangathan

Village	Pond remodeling	Pond construction	Canal construction	Embankment	Farm pond/ culvert	Dhodi (water source)	LIS	Hand pump
Bhilai Khurd	150000	-	-	-	86000	-	-	38000
Bada	250000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dakwa	250000	-	-	500000	-	-	-	114000
Khukhri	-	600000	-	-	-	5000	125000	38000
Madneshwarpur	250000	393000	50000	100000	-	-	-	76000
Kundi Kala	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	38000
Badoli	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	57000
Khodro	-	600000	15000	500000	-	28000	-	95000
Bariyon	20000	-	-	-	-	-	-	38000
Kakna	-	164000	-	-	-	-	-	38000
Sidhma	-	-	-	100000	-	-	186000	-

exercising entitlements and asserting the rights the local communities in the rural areas came together to form *gram shakti sangathans* (GSS). **Gram Shakti Sangathan** is an institution crafted by the villagers to establish the democracy. It is away from racism, politics, discrimination, factionism, etc. From each family a male and a female member represent in GSS. In the year 2005-06, 29 GSS exist in 45 villages consisting of 1298 members. Objectives of GSS are illustrated below:

- To inculcate the sense of responsibility and understanding among the rural mass for developing the village and people;
- To pressurize the system for efficient delivery of government schemes and percolating the benefits to poor;
- To preserve the culture of *gaon darbar*, the traditional judiciary system at village level;
- To conserve and manage the natural resources for ensuring sustainable livelihoods;
- To assert peacefully for rights and to escape from exploitation.

|| Sawangin Mandal ||

Exclusion of women is never tolerated at SGSA. Not allowing excluding the other-half, SGSA worked intensively with the local women to come together forming institution, called as Sawangin



Mandal. This institution works actively with the *gram shakti sangathan*. The petty issues at village



level are dealt with by the SHGs, but the women carry on the larger issues through Sawangin Mandal and tackle by pressurizing the relevant public institutions and or individuals concerned.

Objectives of Sawangin Mandals are

- To organize the women;
- To empower the women socially, economically and politically;
- To protect dignity of women by removing gender inequity.

Functions of Sawangin Mandals are as under:

- It protects the cultural, social, legal and traditional rights of women;
- It increases the participation of women in gram sabha and democracy;
- It protects the interests of women and acts as pressure group if required;



- It aids the SHGs in addressing the social evils;
- It works to abolish the violence against women.

During 2005-06, 2 new Sawangin Mandals were formed that contained 80 members, while 27 Sawangin Mandals already existed having membership size of 2161. The Sawangin Mandals now exist in 29 villages.

Organization is power to access assets

Onset of rainy season is not less than a festivity to the farmers. But several Pahari Korwa families of Ghatgaon were disappointed even at onset of the rainy season. They actually had no bullock to till the fields. They had no sufficient money to hire the bullocks. Mahangu Ram one day informed others that a scheme has come in Block Office for Pahari Korwa through which they may benefit and buy bullocks. Along with Mahangu several others like Uday Ram, Ganesh, Aghanu, etc. visited Block Officer and asked to apply for the scheme. The block officer showed his inability to give them bullocks as only 10 pairs of bullocks were available for whole the block. The Gram Shakti Sangathan of Ghatgaon lobbied heavily the government officer and asserted to acquire the benefit of the scheme. Ultimately, they succeeded in getting the bullocks and now they cultivate fields of entire community.

|| Sawvlambi Samooh ||

Women apart from representing in Sawangin Mandals have formed self-help groups (SHGs) to carry entrepreneurship forward.

In total 93 SHGs have been formed in 20 villages in which 1116 women participate. These groups undertake activities such as monthly saving, inter-lending, grain fund generation. In some villages the SHGs also monitor the aanganwadis, schools, mid day meals, panchayat functioning, etc. 7 SHGs also run mid-day meals and 1 SHG running ration shop, while other one is attempting for ration shop.

|| Chhaowa Panchayat ||

The children and adolescent always remain neglected or kept out of the development processes; if their skills, wisdom and energy are utilized, streamlined and appreciated a big change in the society can be ascertained. Chhaowa Panchayat is the institution of children of 10-18 years that makes them responsible citizen of the country through enabling them to participate in social development. Purpose behind organizing the children under Chhaowa Panchayat has been their participation in gram sabha meetings, acting to preserve the traditional art, voicing for people's



rights related to food and dignified life, raising enrollment in the schools and circumventing the drunkards. The objectives of Chhaowa Panchayat are:

- To enhance the capacities of youths along with their knowledge;
- To sharpen leadership capacities among the youths;
- To educate the children about yoga, health, sanitation, body structure, and so on;
- To eradicate the social evils like child marriage, liquor consumption and superstitions by involving the children in action;
- To reduce the violence from among the children;
- To strive for gender equality among the youths;
- To promote traditional games by integrating them with the modern games;
- To inculcate skills of ancestral occupations such as farming, crafts, medicinal plants, etc.;
- To involve the children in preserving the traditions, culture and customs that play positive role in the society;
- To induce the children to assist gram shakti sangathan in their struggle process.

At the moment 47 institutions exist in 22 villages that comprising 985 child members.

Expenses on liquor consumption & its consequences

1 person x Rs. 10 x 200 days = Rs. 2000
 1 person x Rs 60 wage x 200 days = Rs. 12000
 1 person x Rs. 2000 health expenses x 1 year = Rs. 2000
 1 person x Rs. 2000 on disputes x 1 year = Rs. 2000
 TOTAL = Rs. 18000

Total Saving in a year = Rs. 18000 x 1600 persons
 = Rs. 28800000

*credit of above achievements go to various institutions functioning at village level.

|| Village Development Committee ||

SGSA formed gram vikas samitis to execute the projects supported by CIDA/ Canadian High Commission and AFPRO-LWR. These village development committees play anchoring role in management of entire project and act as chief decision making bodies at project level. In the project supported by CASA, the *gram shakti sangathan* act as village development committees. In total 19 VDCs exist all three projects.

|| Project Execution Committee ||

In IFAD supported project, 2 project execution committees (PECs) were formed. The objectives of the PECs are the same as the objectives of VDCs,

so are the functions. The only difference is that the PEC has few sub-committees namely *watershed committee*, *community forest committee* and *village credit & thrift committee*. In 2 villages of the project, 2 PECs are constituted that comprise 39 members.

|| Karigar Panchayat ||

Artisans in our rural society once had respectable position as they had to supplement the agrarian economy by providing the peasants with craft-



based services. But today they are neglected grossly. For the purpose of organizing few types of artisans, developing their skills and preserving the traditional crafts, SGSA mobilized the artisans to constitute karigar panchayats. So far they have been formed in 6 villages (Ara-Balrampur, Sidhma, Changori, Phulwar-Manjhira, Kalyanpur and Madneshwarpur). At the cluster of 5 villages (called 'sector') a federation of karigar panchayats is constituted. During 2005-06 the pre-existing institutions were sustained.

|| Kala Dal ||

The new generations particularly tend to forget the old customs, which ends into a plethora of negative changes. In a way to keep the traditional



art and customary wisdom alive the SGSA promoted the preservation of local culture and traditional art by organizing and encouraging the youths. The youth often and then organize folk dances, folk songs, plays, etc., as also work on color arts that are made on walls and surfaces. Through the cultural activities the issues of forest conservation, water management, economic upliftment, abolition of superstitions, and removal of alcoholism are promoted. In a bid to keep the traditional art and customary wisdom alive the SGSA promoted the preservation of local culture and traditional art by organizing and encouraging the youths to form *kala dal*. The youth often and then organize folk dances, folk songs, plays, etc. Through the cultural activities the issues of forest conservation, water management, economic upliftment, abolition of superstitions, and removal of alcoholism are promoted.

During 2005-06, 28 kala dals have been maintained by the community that comprise 280 members. These kala dals perform on weekly basis or on special occasions. After the youths became active in the villages through these institutions the process of change is accelerated.

During a year period, 345 programmes were performed by kala dals in which 23027 persons got the messages of social change.

|| Pani Darbar ||

Pani Darbar are the user groups of the water for irrigation. In 12 villages the SGSA enabled the communities to install pumps and LIS, or to construct embankments etc. from which approximately 130 acres land is irrigated. To manage the irrigation, the user groups (pani darbars) have been created. The farmers now manage their affairs beautifully.



In rural areas particularly the natural resources form the base of livelihoods and food security. Thus for the longevity of lives both the development and the conservation of natural resources are essential. From this point of view the SGSA promoted the development of different types of the natural resources in a number of villages in order to maintain the ecological and food security.

WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

For last few years several water structures were constructed such as diversions, wells, LIS, ponds, channels, etc. In the year 2005-06, the Diversion no.2 (Bapu Bandh) was completed, as also the Channel no. 2. In Banspara village, 2 ponds have also been constructed along with a well for drinking water. Supported by CIDA/Canada high Commission, this project has finished by December 2005. From the water harvesting structures as much as 100 acre land has got full irrigation and drinking water. During the work 125 persons got employment of 94 days. Tribal people of the village have entered into a cycle of prosperity.



In the project supported by IFAD, 2 ponds have been constructed anew and 2 ponds have been remodeled in which 4800 mandays employment generated and 62 families will benefit from irrigation of about 70 acres land. Similarly, 4 wells are under construction, while 1 dhondi (water hole) become complete from which cattle drinking and household water needs are fulfilled. In Sahanpur village, an earthen dam was constructed that generated employment of 1187 mandays and that would create irrigation of about 8 acres land.

An LIS is under construction in Ghatgaon village with the support of AFPRO-LWR that would create irrigation on 50 acres land. In the constructed LIS, about 1500 million water stores and groundwater has recharged to average 5 feet.

Following the constitution of *pani durbar* the users have mutually divided the hours as per their annual requirement. The rent for the water is Rs. 20 per hour which is fixed for each user. Out of this money some is spent on maintenance, repair and transportation, if any. Rest of the money is spent in community deposited in bank and withdrawn when required.

During 2005-06 a dam (Gandhi Bandh) was completed in Khukhri village. It gave employment to 22 families whose 60 acres of lands would also be irrigated. Likewise one LIS has also been constructed in Bhilai Khurd village. From the LIS total 42 families got benefit by creating irrigation for 126 acres of lands. Instead, the SGSA helped the communities in purchasing 7 diesel pumps of 5 HP each, which caused benefits to 160 families of 7 villages by irrigating 170 acres land. Moreover, in

Water development structures ever built by SGSA

Fall Diversions	2
Channels	2
Ponds constructed	11
Ponds remodeled	5
Lift irrigation systems	4
Wells	5
Dhondi	7
Earthen dams	1
Masonry check dams	2

CASA supported project a pond has also been constructed in which gave employment to 56 persons and would create irrigation for 5 acres land.

SOIL & MOISTURE CONSERVATION

In the project supported by AFPRO-LWR, contour bunds have been constructed in 24 acres lands of 13 farmers that generated 772 mandays employment.

Farm bunding and land leveling was done in 31 acres of land belonging to 31 farmer families of 2 villages falling in the project supported by IFAD. This farm bunding was first carried out in the lands of Pahari Korwa tribes. In this work 1343 mandays employment generated. Further, 53 boulder checks were also built in the same 2 villages that created 245 mandays employment.



In the CIDA-supported project, farm bunding and land leveling was completed in 30 acres land belonging to 15 Pahari Korwa families. It generated 3250 mandays employment. Soil erosion has stopped on about 65 acres land and moisture conservation has improved to about 32 percent.

FOREST RESOURCE CONSERVATION

Tribes and local communities in various villages of SGSA functional area have with the motivation of the SGSA protected, cultivated and (socially) fenced the forests in the surrounds. In 13 villages the community organizations (CBOs) like Sawangin Mandal, Gram Shakti Sangathan and Village Development Committee, actively protect the forests surrounding the villages. The people from the platform of CBOs, catch red-handed the wood thieves and punish them in panchayats.

Korwa Community to Guard the Forests

Pahari Korwa tribes were intensively dependent on the wood they used to cut for their livelihood. But they have inversely changed their general behaviour. They have started protecting the forests as they have formed 7 members committee. They guard the forests on rotation basis. Once two persons from Ajirma had been stealing the wood from jungle, Munnalal suddenly saw them. He informed the committee immediately. The committee held gram sabha meeting in that regard and the thieves were punished by Rs. 1000 each.



|| Gachhi Karma ||

The movement of planting trees voluntarily has been internalized into the rural society making it a social and cultural festival called 'gachhi karma'. About 17560 plants of different types have been planted in 26 acres land. With the technical support of BAIF, 441 plants of *amrapali* mango were planted by 21 families.

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

To address the problem of unsustainability of the farming systems, the SGSA introduced water development and soil improvement measures on farmers' lands. So the productivity of derelict lands and poor soils has increased and thus the production at farmland has ascended. While to



tackle the later case, the SGSA has introduced organic manuring for intoxicated soils or to protect soils from being intoxicated, and the collective farming along with the cooperative labor system in order to avoid the indebtedness.

|| Collective Farming ||

In about 16 villages the women farmers of 76 families took 82 acres of land on rent to cultivate collectively. The crops grown in the rented lands include paddy, sugarcane, onion, pea, potato and bean. They have yielded 144 quintals of potato, 1200 quintals bean, 125 quintals of paddy, 15 quintals pea. The sugarcane is not yet harvested. This activity has been carried out in the projects

Vegetables grown by individual farmers in 2005-06

Village	No. of Families	Type of Vegetable	Input Costs	Income	Gross Profit	Net Profit per family
Bhilai Khurd	14	Potato, pea	Rs. 4200	Rs. 26000	Rs. 21800	Rs. 1557
Dakwa	14	Potato, gram, pea	Rs. 12000	Rs. 31000	Rs. 19000	Rs. 1357
Khukhri	4	Potato, ginger	Rs. 18000	Rs. 28000	Rs. 6200	Rs. 1550
Madneshwarpur	24	Potato, cucumber	Rs. 14400	Rs. 39000	24600	Rs. 1025
Kundi Kala	25	Potato, gram, pea, cauliflower	Rs. 2500	Rs. 35000	Rs. 22500	Rs. 900
Badoli	14	Potato	Rs. 11200	Rs. 30000	Rs. 18800	Rs. 342
Khudro	22	Potato, pea	Rs. 6600	Rs. 28000	Rs. 21400	Rs. 973
Bariyon	28	Potato, pea, onion	Rs. 15400	Rs. 35000	Rs. 19600	Rs. 700
Kakna	8	Potato	Rs. 2400	Rs. 6000	Rs. 3000	Rs. 450
Sidhma	28	Brinjal, cauliflower, tomato	Rs. 8400	Rs. 35000	Rs. 26000	Rs. 950
Sahanpur	22	Bean	Rs. 4000	Rs. 23000	Rs. 12000	Rs. 545
Ghaghri	25	Bean	Rs. 13000	Rs. 29000	Rs. 16000	Rs. 640
Banspara	14	Bean	Rs. 9000	Rs. 27000	Rs. 18000	Rs. 1285

supported by CASA, AFPRO-LWR, CIDA and IFAD.

|| Compost Making & Application ||

This activity again has been pursued in the over 20 project villages of above said agencies. SGSA encouraged the farmers to dig 220 pits for compost making, to make 5 structures for vermi-compost and 1 Nadep compost. From all structures the 226 farmers produce 1850 quintals of compost. The application of compost in the cultivable lands saved Rs. 1387600 that would otherwise have been spent on chemicals.



Village	Action	Achievement	
Baanspara	Construction of Bapu Baandh	1. Groundwater level increased by 5 feet. 2. Soil erosion is reduced to 90 percent; soil moisture increased from November to March. Soil fertility also increased by 15 percent. 3. 70% rainwater is stored that excelled dual crops in fields. 4. From all physical works employment of 7223 mandays generated. On-farm employment has increased from 4 months to 9 months. 5. Family incomes have increased from Rs. 1850 to Rs. 2730. 6. Monocrop is changed into polycrops thereby diversifying crops. 7. On seeing the impacts of farm bunding in Baanspara, the farmers of Kirkima and Pasena bunded 52 acres land by contributing labour.	
	Farm bunding in 60 acres		
	Well construction - 1		
Sahanpur	Ponds Construction - 2		1. Groundwater level increased by 10 feet. 2. Soil erosion is reduced to 80 percent; soil moisture increased from November to April. Soil fertility also increased by 20 percent. 3. 70% rainwater is stored that excelled dual crops in fields. 4. Monocrop is changed into polycrops thereby diversifying crops. 5. From all physical works employment of 5724 mandays generated. On-farm employment has increased from 3 months to 10 months. 6. Family incomes have increased from Rs. 1900 to Rs. 2920. 7. On seeing the impacts of farm bunding in Baanspara, the farmers of Agasi bunded 12 acres land by contributing labour.
	Ponds Remodeling - 2		
	Well construction - 2		
	Farm bunding - 16 acre		
Ghanghri	Ponds Construction - 1	1. Groundwater level increased by 11 feet. 2 ^u Soil erosion is reduced to 90 percent; soil moisture increased from November to March. Soil fertility also increased by 15 percent. 3 ^u 65% rainwater is stored that excelled dual crops in fields. 4. Monocrop is changed into polycrops thereby diversifying crops. 5. From all physical works employment of 6325 mandays generated. On-farm employment has increased from 4 months to 9 months. 6 ^u Family incomes have increased from Rs. 1470 to Rs. 2625.	
	Well construction - 1		
	Farm bunding - 20 acre		
	Boulder checks - 25		
Bhelai	Lift Irrigation Scheme		1 ^u Soil fertility also increased by 15 percent. 2. Monocrop is changed into polycrops thereby diversifying crops. 3 ^u From all physical works employment of 1275 mandays generated. On-farm employment has increased from 4 months to 9 months. 4 ^u Family incomes have increased from Rs. 1700 to Rs. 2900.

Village	Action	Achievement
Ghatgaon	Contour Bund – 24 acre	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Groundwater level increased by 5 feet. 2nd Soil erosion is reduced to 95 percent; soil moisture increased from October to March. Soil fertility also increased by 20 percent. 3rd 70% rainwater is stored in treated area that excelled dual crops in fields. 4. Monocrop is changed into polycrops thereby diversifying crops. 5. From all physical works employment of 700 mandays generated. On-farm employment has increased from 4 months to 9 months. 6th Family incomes have increased from Rs. 1900 to Rs. 2920. 7th On seeing the impacts of farm bunding in Baanspara, the farmers of Agasi banded 12 acres land by contributing labour.
Madneshwarpur	Pond Construction	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Groundwater level increased by 10 feet. 2nd Soil erosion is reduced to 95 percent; soil moisture increased from November to March. Soil fertility also increased by 15 percent. 3rd 70% rainwater is stored in treated area that excelled dual crops in fields. 4. Monocrop is changed into polycrops thereby diversifying crops. 5th From all physical works employment of 825 mandays generated.
Khukhari	Construction of Gandhi Dam	During the construction of Gandhi Dam the employment of total 4000 mandyas was generated



Land based and other natural resources in Sarguja have degraded to the extent that the work on-farm and off-farm has seriously declined. Resultantly, the villagers migrate outside the villages in search of employment where they face varied types of exploitations. As a consequence the vulnerabilities of the families have doubled and the people are not able to invest in the future. SGSA intervened to organize the poor and created a platform as a base for alternative means for livelihood generation.

PISCICULTURE

Plenty of water in the water harvesting structures built in different projects provided the women with the opportunity to rear fish and get bumper harvests. This activity has taken place in 3 villages engaging 48 women representing 4 SHGs. In addition to them, a Chhaowa panchayat represented by 18 adolescents and youths also reared fish in ponds. Fish varieties such as rohu, katla and mrigal are reared in pond waters. The women have sold the fish equivalent to Rs. 14800 in this year.

LIVELIHOODS FROM HERBAL MEDICINES

SGSA promoted the traditional herbal medicine preparations as means of livelihoods generation for some families engaged, as promotion of Indian system of medicine, as encouragement of cultural values and indigenous knowledge. So this year 15 persons got trainings in the preparation of



medicines of varied types from herbs. The villagers have started preparing the medicines of the diseases like leukoria, anemia, hypertension, hypotension, digestive diseases, fever, pariah, sexually transmitted diseases, toothache, etc. The major achievement from this activity has been the exchange of indigenous wisdom among the local people. The older persons practicing herbal treatments taught the youths and in this way the dying craft/ wisdom of medicines preparation can now mutate into new generations.

BRICK MAKING

In last financial year the SGSA intervened in the Thakur Sarna hamlet of Sidhma village and brought 28 Bhumia tribal families into SHGs comprising male and females. The families involved in 2 SHGs started brick making collectively. They run the brick making with the loan of Rs. 725000 under SGSY scheme. Through this sum of amount they produces 1000000 bricks



till March 2006. After sale of the bricks they are going to receive Rs. 1400000 gross with about net profit of Rs. 600000. Once 28 families have directly indulged in brick making and about 20 other families engage in associated works. All these families comprising 234 persons now need not to migrate outside in search of employment.

STONE BREAKING

In village Dakwa, 3 SHGs with the 36 women members break the stones at their own. Previously, they had to work at a stone crusher of a contractor. They had to face brunt of money lending, exploitation and wage discrimination. The women of these SHGs took lease from gram panchayat to dig the stones from their fields. Now they collectively break the stones and make small pieces of stones, gravel, etc. and sell it to panchayat and building material contractors. Till March 2006 they have sold 200 tractors full of gravel having value Rs. 120000. Each member got



Rs. 3333 in 5 months. From this activity migration of 35 families is checked.

REVOLVING FUND AND MICRO-ENTERPRISES

Most of the SHGs promoted by SGSA are involved in the thrift-credit, savings, economic activities and entrepreneurship development. Through credit-thrift the women SHGs particularly have achieved lot much progress. The economic activities

were selected for the project in 2006. Objectives of the project were the awareness and mobilization of people, strengthening the self-help groups and promotion and sustenance of thrift & credit activities in the target villages. SGSA mobilized and motivated the community and organized in the form of 4 SHGs. In all the villages 5 awareness camps were organized along with 5 training sessions for SHGs. The women have been charged to take up the activities intensively.

Economic Activity	SHGs Involved	Villages they represent	Families benefiting	Sale (Rs.)	Profit (Rs.)
Bamboo craft	01	01	13	780000	351000
Vegetable growing & selling	75	20	906	228900	12274
Vegetable trading	15	8	90	864000	345600
Mushroom collection & selling	25	9	212	127200	127200
Mahua's organized selling	70	20	840	798000	798000
Mahua trading	21	07	252	50400	27700
Potato chips	20	05	260	24000	15000
Goatry	14	08	154	77000	34650
Khapra making	11	04	132	72600	34848
Collective farming	15	12	180	86400	38880
Pottery	25	09	275	55000	24750
Stone chips	03	01	36	120000	120000
Shop kirana	02	02	02	9600	2400
Hawking	02	02	02	12000	2400

GRAIN BANKS

The SHGs (57 in number) started a new tradition of constitutions of grain banks that are actually buffer stocks of foodgrains at village level. Every member of SHG keeps handful of grain separate both the times. When the grain is piled, it is contributed each month by every member and the collected grain is stocked at the residence of secretary of SHG. In this way, 57 such grain banks have been formed in 57 villages. In the grain banks, 171 quintals

undertaken during 2005-06 are summed up in the table.



From various villages, 21 SHGs were linked with the banks and these SHGs received loan of Rs. 202000. Out of the money the women SHGs did varied economic activities.

rice has collected. This buffer stock is used in lean season when the families deserving grain on loan or donation get benefits. Many poor families borrow loan from moneylenders they face deficit This has such from For



when of food. activity liberated families trap of exploiters. instance, Phholkunwar borroed the grains from the grain bank during her son's marriage.

SERICULTURE

In 4 villages the sericulture project has been implemented. These villages, Bandarchua, Chetwa, Ginabhar, Narayanpur and Boratongri,

Traditional artisans like potters, weavers, shoemakers and black smiths have been shifting them onto new trades, which is actually alienating them from their ancestral occupations and lifestyles. And their new businesses are paddling the rickshaws and doing construction works. SGSA organized those engaged in indigenous art in small groups as per the needs and deeds. Following the artisans being organized they have been emerging as self-reliant community and ceased to be depending on co-existing people or institutions. Now they need not to be repressed/ exploited by police, administration, contractors, industry owner, and the forest officials.

INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF ARTISANS

Artisans of Sraguja face lot many problems. For instance, 60 potter families of Ara village had to excavate earth from 'matkan dorhi' to make the pots. A powerful person of the village took over the land and dispossessed the poor potters. With the help of SGSA the artisan community fought to rescue the land. Similar situations exist in market places where the artisans are left scanty space for these poor potters. SGSA has advocated immensely rescuing the space for potters to sell their products. Such a success has been achieved in the haat bazaars of Bariyon, Kundi, Sidhma, Dhorpur, Dhandhpur and Rajpur.

Artisans have organized and formed *karigar panchayats*. Today in over 22 villages karigar panchayats exist that work for the interests of poor communities involved in traditional occupations based on indigenous art. SGSA arranged training camps to improve their skills and helped them in getting raw material and marketing of their goods. In last 2 years the SGSA established a Common Facility Centre with the assistance of KVIC-UNDP at Ara-Balrampur. The CFC undertakes activities at 5 levels, to include: (i) organization of the potters community, (ii) technology improvement by blending the old with new one, (iii) design improvement upon traditional ones, (iv) production

raising, and (v) marketing support to potters.

IMPROVEMENT IN LIVELIHOODS OF POTTERS

From the CFC over 80 potter families benefit directly who in groups make the terracotta items and sell in the market, fairs, expositions, etc. This year the potters sold their production equivalent to Rs. 435000.

During the year 2005-06, 5 artisans were sent to get exposure in Kondagaon in order to improve their craft. Moreover, a tubewell has been installed at CFC that eliminated the problem of water leading to saving of time and labor



Public institutions have penetrated into lives of common men. These public institutions, however, have emerged as unaccountable, non-transparent, irresponsible and insensitive structures controlling people's lives and livelihoods. Be it local panchayat, health department, court, rural development department, parliament, block development office, state assembly, agriculture cooperative, political party, or primary forest produce cooperative, all the public institutions meant to serve the citizens have increased the suffrage of ordinary citizens especially poor. The public servants receiving huge salaries from taxed money being collected from people for the purpose of serving the interests of people, and the public representatives, whom the people elect for serving public interests, have turned to be the owners/ determinants of destinies of common men. In context of hunger, starvation and under-development, these unaccountable structures need to be corrected and reformed for food secure rural India.

TRIBES TO ASSERT FOR TRIBAL SELF-RULE

When 3-tier panchayat system in scheduled areas of Chhatisgarh has largely failed, the SGSA intervened at village level to reform the governance structure. In order to place the things rights, the following activities were undertaken:

|| Trainings ||

Trainings of panchayat representatives such as sarpanch, panch and up-sarpanch belonging to 18 panchayats were given training in 6 batches.



Another sets of trainings were arranged for the members of *gam shakti sangathan*. In these trainings 110 persons got trainings.

|| Workshops ||

Addressing panchayat system in 5th scheduled areas 4 workshops were organized in which 175 members of GSS took part.

|| Bilateral Dialogue of People and Officers ||

To discuss face to face the problems and bottlenecks of procedures a dialogue between

the local people and the panchayat officers was organized in each of 20 villages. After the dialogues various difficulties were sorted out and a positive environment was created coupled with healthy mutual relations.

|| Women Participation in Gram Sabha ||

Women generally remain on periphery as far as the functioning of gram sabha is concerned. By various methods like general awareness, wall writing, interactive meetings, etc. the women of the villages were induced to take active part in the gram sabha meetings and raise their voices. The participation of women rose to the extent that they put forward a number of demands.

These women have pressurized the gram sabhas to get the following tasks done: earthen dam construction, pond construction and remodeling, farm pond construction, canal remodeling, inclusion of many poor (200) in BPL list, inclusion



of 160 families in *antyodaya yojana*, opening of 2 schools, etc.

GAON DARBAR

Tribal self-governance institutions of villages, hereinafter called as “gaon darbar”, deal with the social, cultural and ethical issues. Gaon darbar regulated the use, distribution, sharing, transfer, inheritance and ownership on possibly every type of the resource available in the village. Another primary function of the gaon darbar has been the judicial matters. All disputes of the village or of inter-village nature were settled in the village itself. SGSA promoted these traditional institutions of self-governance, as they are more effective and relevant in local contexts.

Traditional Judiciary: the source of cohesiveness

Between the villages Ghanghari and Sahanpur a dispute emerged taking the crop grazing/raiding by the bullocks. The villagers of both the villages sat together to settle the dispute. They decided the bullock owner would pay Rs. 500 to the victim if there were crop loss. This made them escape from heavy expenditure being spent on fighting cases in police stations and courts.



MONITORING OF PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

The *gram shakti sangathan* have become so empowered that they have started monitoring, scrutinizing and auditing the performance of the different public institutions existing in the villages. They include: *aanganwadi*, school education, mid day meal in schools, ration shops, revenue worker, health workers, etc.

Effect of this action resulted very positive impacts. The teachers who used to play cards in school premises were taught lessons and now they cannot dare to do the same. *Aanganwadi* worker was irregular in opening the *aanganwadi*. Following the pressure of women she has become regular in the functioning. The PDS ration shop was not only irregular but also had to cheat the consumers, now it is overhauled. Moreover, all other village level government workers have become regular and prompt in delivering assigned functions.

Health is wealth. In the villages health of poor continuously degrade causing drastic decline in human productivity. Additionally, the poor have least to invest in health seeking. Resultantly, many poor particularly children and women die uncured. The responsibility of saving the lives of people lies on the shoulders of state health delivery machinery, but it routinely fails in complying with the accountabilities. SGSA addressed various factors causing adverse health conditions of poor.

HEALTH AWARENESS AND CARE

|| Awareness Camp ||

In 12 villages health camps were organized in which the people were taught about the causes of the diseases, its etiology and precautions. In the camps the diagnosis was done of 4608 persons who were also given the medicines. The participants of camp were also told about the preventive measures, nutrition, and herbal



medicines.

|| Awareness on HIV/AIDS ||

With the support of TATA Motors, SGSA taught about 55 truck drivers and conductors about the HIV/AIDS. All the participants were given counseling on the HIV/AIDS.

|| Mobile Clinic ||

In Sarguja there are such interior village from where the poor people cannot access the health delivery structures located in town areas. So the SGSA operates mobile clinic for such poor people. SGSA hired a van and visited village to village to hold mobile dispensary. A doctor and nurse also accompanied the mobile unit. Pregnant mothers were given tetanus vaccines while the children were injected with many other vaccines. The

mobile clinic covered 3 villages curing 984 mothers and 118 children.

|| Health Delivery ||

The SGSA trained 2 jan swasthya rakshak (community health workers) who now treat the patients in 3 villages. In a year they have treated approximately 825 sick persons.



|| Animal Cure ||

In the project supported by IFAD, one veterinary health workers delivers the services to cure the animals of the tribal farmers. SGSA trained the veterinary health worker who now takes care of the health of animals in 3 villages.

HEALTHY BABY COMPETITION

In a bid of creating awareness and competition among mothers to increase the weight of their babies (0-3 years) and to keep their children healthy, the SGSA organized 3 healthy baby competitions covering 25 villages. 350 babies participated the competitions. The mothers who ranked 1st, 2nd and 3rd in terms of their babies' weight were given prizes.

SAFE DRINKING WATER

For the poor communities in the villages the safe drinking water is critical commodity. In modern times if villagers consume dirty water of a stream it is shameful to civil society. Before installation 1 hand pump in Ghatgaon by SGSA, 14 families had to consume dirty water. Now 56 persons of 14 families fetch safe drinking water from the hand pump.



|| Surveillance of Drinking Water Quality ||

Taking national standards of potable water, the SGSA testified the quality of drinking water fetched from hand pumps in 30 villages. In 6 villages the water fetched from hand pumps was found contaminated with ferrous oxide and heavy metals.

|| Training on Handpump Repairing ||

About 527 rural youths have been trained how to repair the defunct hand pumps. The PHED after installation of hand pumps in the villages does not turn back as to whether the machines are operating or not. The trained persons then repaired and maintained 23 hand pumps of 15 villages including Baanspara, Sahanpur, Ghaghri, Ghatgaon, Paharpara, Madneshwarpur, Bariyon, Bhelai, Khodro and Dakwa.

PROMOTION OF SANITATION AND HYGIENE

Poor hygienic conditions and dirty indoor and outdoor environment affect adversely the health of villagers. SGSA took up sanitation activities at large scale.

|| Local Bathrooms Construction ||

The rural women are bound to take bath in open nearing the hand pumps or ponds. For the women this practice has always been a disgusting affair as they also get exposed to men. So, the SGSA mobilized them to contribute labor to build the baths



(nahani ghar). During a year, 9 nahani ghar were constructed in 9 villages close to hand pumps.

|| Soak Pits Construction ||

To maintain sanitary conditions around the hand pump foundations and wells, 138 soak pits were constructed in 25 villages. The villagers contributed labor for these soak pits.

|| Total Sanitation Campaign ||

Sponsored by Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India and coordinated by DRDA, Dist. Water and sanitation campaign Bilaspur this campaign is operation in 25 panchayats of Marwahi block of Bilaspur district. The SGSA has been given tasks of identifying the villages, educating and mobilizing towards the toilets construction and maintaining sanitation, and facilitating the sanitation project. The activities/ achievements so far include:



- 25 panchayats have been identified for the implementation
- 50 animators identified
- Wall writing in 25 villages to create awareness
- PRA conducted in 25 villages
- All 50 animators were given training
- The Master Trainer's training was imparted to members of kala jattha members
- TOT completed for 4 persons
- Masons selected in 25 villages and trained
- Training given to kala jattha
- Meetings held with villagers of 25 villages
- Rally organized by school children
- Village Water & Sanitation Committees constituted in 25 villages
- Baseline survey completed in 25 villages
- Orientation of panchayat representatives was done
- 2 RSM production centers established
- 25 common toilets constructed in *aanganwadis*
- 1803 *low-cost* toilets constructed by individual families in 25 villages
- 121 soak pits built in 25 villages

Women carry tremendous burdens at home as well as in the society. Women are paid lower wages than men and are treated badly at work. In rural areas, there is a strong prevailing faith in magic and witchcraft. Women also face acute discrimination, harassment, exploitation, rapes, molestation and torture. SGSA intervened in Sarguja by educating the women about their rights and entitlements so as to come out of this situation.

GENDER MAINSTREAMING

Gender mainstreaming often poses a significant challenge to both individual and institutional values and practices. The process of gender mainstreaming embodied the individual and institutional change, both attitudinal and behavioral. SGSA has intervened to a great extent in this area of vital concern. The women were sensitized about their entitlements in every sphere of human life.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Women have the potential to lead, but often remains suppressed. SGSA organized 2 trainings on 'leadership development' in which 82 women participated. After the training, the women started raising their issues, voices and grievances on public platforms. They have also started intervening the gram sabha affairs that ultimately benefited the families with the accrual of schemes. The women who got training are now doing advocacy at local level for their rights. They have also strengthened economically following the training.



SAWANGIN SAMMELAN

On the occasion of International Women Day (8 March 2006), about 2800 women arrived in the sammelan from different walks of life; say, women representatives of panchayats, leaders active in social welfare, members of SHGs, women govt. officials, etc. These women asserted for 50%



reservation for women and against domestic violence, witchcraft, exploitation, molestation, superstition, etc. They also demanded the legal relief. Many women groups installed their stalls in the convention apart from the cultural activities.

TRAINING OF SELF-HELP

After the formation of SHGs the women members were given 6 trainings in which 288 females participated. In the training they were taught record keeping, management of SHGs, micro-finance, inter-loaning, entrepreneurship development and accounts management. Following the training of SHGs the office bearers of the SHGs have been maintaining their records themselves.

STUDY TOUR OF WOMEN

Five women were taken to New Delhi to participate national convention, People's Summit against



Poverty, on 2 September 2005. These women got immense exposure to the issues of people, national movements, and so on.

WOMEN'S TRAINING ON HANDPUMP REPAIRING

This training continued for 2 days in which 30 female youths participated. These women since were facing problems in fetching the water from long distances they themselves solved the problem.



◇ Shri Gandhi Seva Ashram

If the skills, wisdom and energy of children are utilized, streamlined and appreciated a big change in the society can be ascertained. If the children unite, even the adults cannot avoid their voices. Investing in children development remained in priority of SGSA.

NON FORMAL EDUCATION

Children education is fundamental human right but there are countless children in the villages who are deprived of their entitlements. SGSA took these issues always serious and favored the education that is value based and oriented towards traditional occupations.

SGSA runs 6 informal education centers, Vidya Niketan, in 6 villages. In these centers, 117 children get elementary education. The families contribute Rs. 5 per child per month and one



handful rice everyday.

Apart from Vidya Niketans, the SGSA informs and educates the community about their role in reforming the formal schooling system.



As a consequence the government opened 2 schools in nearby area.

CHILDREN TAKING ON SOCIAL CHANGE

The children of the area were induced to activate through the platform of Chhaowa Panchayat. Some achievements of the Chhaowa Panchayats are commendable. Chhaowa Panchayat identified the children herding the animals, and stopped them going around the cattle. Now the children are going to the schools. Mass campaign of the

children for increasing girl child enrollment in schools also captured momentum. The decline in liquor consumption can be seen following the action taken by the children; actually children punish the drinkards. The children have been participating actively in the gram sabha to learn how it works and to raise their issues.

KNOCK OUT FOOTBALL MATCH

At Ghatgaon 32 teams of youths from Rajpur and Lundra blocks were invited to play football match. Kundi high school won the tournament followed by Kundi Gramin. Through this activity the youths are tried to be organized and motivated towards social change process. The youths became associated with the organization.



Day-to-day struggle of the common man leaves him alone amid the hostilities surrounding him. SGSA pours in the capacities into the people and make their institutions that act as struggle forums apart from development action. Moreover, Hunger and food deficit are increasing day by day in spite of the tall claims of the governments and promoters of globalization of economy. Thus the poor came forward to fight against injustice to protect their survival, identity and dignity.

FOOD & DEMOCRACY CAMPAIGN

Sarguja is one of the unfortunate districts in Chhattisgarh state of India where poverty and hunger have become common with the recurring incidences of hunger deaths. SGSA has been active in advocating the issue of food security and solidarity in the district. SGSA strives to develop a model of food solidarity for demonstrating to multiple stakeholders and the government agencies, and to advocate intensively on the issues for mass support, change of public opinions, reform in policy & legal frameworks, positive changes in the rules and procedures, and, finally, bringing about food-secure villages.

The campaign was declared on 2 October 2005 in Gram Swaraj Sammelan organized at Arabalrampur in which about 8000 people participated who belonged to Chhaowa Panchayat, SHGs, Sawangin Mandals, Gram Shakti Sangathans, Kala Dal, Pani Darbar and MAKKS. Instead, a large number of senior persons from different villages took part.

The instruments employed in the campaign include: letter writing, appeal, meeting with concerned officials, holding dialogues, rally, demonstration, research and documentation, presentation of facts, holding public meetings, lobbying, media advocacy, IEC material, and so on.

|| Networking Meeting with Organizations ||

In a bid to win support of people's movements, activists and NGOs of Sarguja, a meeting was organized on 3 December 2005 at Ambikapur. Representing different types of organizations, 22 participants were oriented towards the 'food & democracy campaign' and a memorandum was prepared jointly.

|| Satyagraha Rally ||

On World Human Rights Day, 10 December 2005, a gathering of 8500 tribal, poor and rural people from 55 villages of Sarguja district demonstrated in front of Collectorate, Ambikapur demanding their rights to life, food, employment, education, health, dignity, identity and peaceful survival. The police force in large number exercised illegitimate power



ग्राम शक्ति संगठन जिंदाबाद.. ग्राम शक्ति संगठन जिंदाबाद.. ग्राम शक्ति संगठन जिंदाबाद... अम्बिकापुर चलो, अम्बिकापुर चलो, भाई-बहन अम्बिकापुर चलो, दादा, दीदी अम्बिकापुर चलो

विश्व मानवाधिकार दिवस 10 दिसम्बर 2005 को "भोजन व जनतंत्र अभियान" के तहत सत्याग्रह रैली का आयोजन

प्रिय साथियों,

भोजन समस्त जीवों की पहली आवश्यकता है। भारतीय संविधान के अनुच्छेद 21 की अनुसार हरेक नागरिक को अपना जीवन जीने का अधिकार है। जिसका सीधा संबंध जीवन जीने के लिए जरूरी भोजन की उपलब्धता से है। हम प्रजातांत्रिक देश के निवासी हैं। अपने देश के कर्णधारों का चुनाव हम स्वयं करते हैं। हम लोकसभा, विधानसभा से लेकर पंचायत तक के समस्त जनप्रतिनिधियों का चुनाव करते हैं। प्रशासन से लेकर शासन तक समस्त प्रतिनिधियों व अधिकारियों के शोचक प्रवृत्ति व स्वयं हितार्थ के कारण गरीबी व भुखमरी घरन सीमा पर पहुँच गई है। जिले के दस लाख साल्टर हजार भूमिहीन हैं। लगभग चार लाख घालीस हजार ग्रामीण रोजगार की तलाश में पलायन करते हैं। साथ ही सरगुजा के 14 लाख ग्रामीण दो वक्त के भोजन के लिए संघर्षरत हैं।

ऐसी स्थिति में पंचायत, विधानसभा व संसद व जनप्रतिनिधियों के साथ ही शासन के अधिकारियों को संवेदनशील बनाने की आवश्यकता है। सरकार की जिम्मेदारी बनती है कि वह किसी भी नीति व नियम को लागू करने के पूर्व गरीबी पर पड़ने वाले प्रभावों का अवलोकन करे। संविधान के 39वें अनुच्छेद में कहा गया है कि हर नागरिक स्त्री व पुरुष को उपयुक्त आजीविका के समान अवसर का अधिकार है। भोजन हर मानव का जन्मसिद्ध अधिकार है, किन्तु आज भी लोग सबसे अहम बुनियादी समस्या भुख से जूझ रहे हैं। यह निश्चित ही सत्य समाज के लिये शर्म का विषय है। संवेदनशील जनतंत्र के माध्यम से भोजन सुरक्षा के अधिकारों के लिये हमारी निम्नांकित मांगें प्रस्तुत हैं :-

1. रोजगार गारंटी योजना को ग्रामसभा की सहमति से ही प्रत्येक ग्राम में लागू किया जावे।
2. माननीय सुप्रीम कोर्ट के आदेशानुसार उचित मूल्य के दुकानों के संचालन का अधिकार समूहों को दिया गया है, परन्तु कानूनी दायपैथों के कारण समूहों को वास्तविक अधिकार नहीं मिल पा रहा है। इसलिये समस्त राशन दुकानों के संचालन का अधिकार शासकीय पहल से समूहों को दिलवाया जाए।
3. सभी राशन दुकानों में समस्त हितवाहियों के लिए निर्धारित युनिट का विकल्प स्पष्ट अंकित होना चाहिए।
4. सभी अनुच्छेद क्षेत्र के सभी ग्रामीणों का नाम निश्चित रूप से गरीबी रेखा की सूची में दर्ज किया जावे।
5. ग्राम के बदले अनाज योजना के सुचारु संचालन के लिए किमान्यवन समिति का गठन किया जावे किमान्यवन समिति द्वारा कार्यों के मूल्यांकन के पश्चात किमान्यवन समिति के द्वारा ही मजदूरी भुगतान किया जावे।
6. प्रत्येक वर्ष गाँव में कम से कम 250 दिनों का सुनिश्चित रोजगार योजना लागू किया जावे तथा प्रत्येक ग्रामीण बेरोजगारों को प्रतिमाह रु. 1000 बेरोजगारी भत्ता दिये जाने के साथ ही न्यूनतम मजदूरी दर कम से कम रु. 100 किया जावे।
7. वित्तीय वर्ष 2004-2005 के काम के बदले अनाज योजना के तहत किये गये समस्त कार्यों का उच्चस्तरीय समिति द्वारा मूल्यांकन किया जावे। जिससे सभी कार्यों में हुये भ्रष्टाचारों को सामने लाया जा सके।
8. 6 माह के अंदर सही कार्य न करने का स्थिति में पंचायत प्रतिनिधियों की तरह ही विधायक व सांसद को हटाने का अधिकार भी मतदाताओं को होना चाहिए।
9. वन विभाग व राजस्व विभाग की जमीन पर कागज लोगों को अतिशोच पट्टा प्रदान किया जावे। साथ ही समस्त भू-खातेदारों का नामांतरण उच्च अधिकारियों के हस्तक्षेप के साथ किया जावे।
10. प्रत्येक वर्ष अकाल से ग्रसित किसानों को भुखमरी व पलायन से बचाने के लिए समस्त किसानों के फसलों का बीमा किया जावे।
11. सिंचाई सुविधाओं को बढ़ाने के लिए प्रत्येक नदी नालों व खेतों में विद्युतीकरण किया जावे।

स्थान - पुलिस लाईन, अम्बिकापुर
दिनांक - 10 दिसम्बर 2005, शनिवार

विनीत
ग्राम शक्ति संगठन, सरगुजा

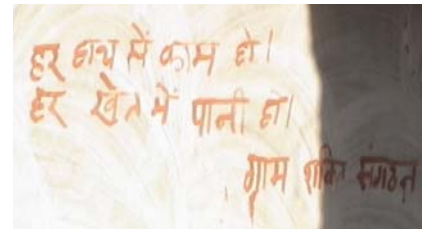
गाँधी जी का यही था सपना, भूखा रहे ना कोई अपना।

to disturb the rally. On the instructions of administration, the police lathicharged the women, innocent tribes and weak, who rushed to Ambikapur from their distant villages to participate the rally and demonstrate their solidarity. Many tractor trolleys were arrested, pushed back and hostaged for disallowing the crowd in participating the rally. On the day of Human Rights the government machinery violated the fundamental rights of poor to express their grievances, to demonstrate peacefully and demand their entitlements. Despite outrageous approach of the district administration, the poor villagers publicly put forward their demands, expressed their views, their sufferings, their deprivations, and so on. At the end of the rally, a memorandum consisting of 14-point demands was submitted to President of India, Governor, Chief Minister, Chief Secretary, Collector, and few others.

PARTICIPATING THE NETWORKS

The SGSA has networking with the following important networks:

- o Indian Social Institute, New Delhi
- o Gandhi Smriti & Darshan, New Delhi
- o CASA, New Delhi
- o Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi
- o KVIC, Mumbai
- o Grassroots India Trust, New Delhi
- o Cooperative Network for Development Communication, New Delhi
- o Gandhigram, Wardha
- o Gandhi Peace Foundation, New Delhi
- o PEACE, New Delhi
- o Ekta Parishad, Raipur/Bhopal/New Delhi
- o Sarvodaya Press Service, Indore
- o ActionAid India, Raipur
- o PUCL, Delhi
- o PRIA, New Delhi
- o Samarthan, Bhopal/Raipur
- o CEE, Pune/ Raipur
- o Delhi School of Social Work, Delhi
- o AFPRO, Raipur/ New Delhi
- o Canadian High Commission, New Delhi
- o Manav Adhikar Samajik Manch, New Delhi
- o NGOs of Chhattisgarh



Without inculcating the capacities in the team of SGSA, the action cannot be moved forward efficiently. So the organization invested in the human capacities so that everyone of the staff may become competent soldier.

TRAINING ON MEDIA WRITING SKILLS

Between 5th and 10th April 2005, a training of rural youths including girls and staff was organized at Ara-Balrampur in which about 40 participants took

ग्रामीण युवक-युवतियों को मीडिया लेखन पर प्रशिक्षण

अम्बिकापुर, 13 अप्रैल • भारत। ग्रामीण युवक-युवतियों का 6 दिवसीय मीडिया लेखन प्रशिक्षण पिछले दिनों अरा, बालरामपुर के माटो कल्या केंद्र में आयोजित किया गया। यह प्रशिक्षण श्री गांधी सेवा आश्रम बालरामपुर द्वारा आयोजित किया गया। प्रशिक्षण में 45 युवक व युवतियों ने भाग लिया।



और मिलने के अन्य दिवसों में भी इस तरह के प्रयोग किए जाएंगे। प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम के अंत में आयोजित रसलिया खेलों में भाग लेने की व्यवस्था करने के लिए प्रशिक्षणियों को भव्यवाद दिया गया।

कार्यका वन मंडल व पाके क्षेत्र के कर्तु हिस्से आम की चयन में बैकग्राउंड, 13 अप्रैल • भारत। इन दिनों कर्तव्य समन्वय के अंतर्गत टोकमग राज, बीरगंज व कोशी प्रदेश के युवा हिस्सों में लगे अने फैसले जा रहे हैं। इससे अने राष्ट्रीय विधायी अनुसंधान समिति के अध्यक्षों को जमने की है। फले वन क्षेत्र में निरीक्षण करने के लिए विचारक कर्तव्य में लक्ष्य बना है जहाँ तक के अधिकारी व कार्यकर्ता को इन संबंध में कोई विद्यमानता न रही जाये तो जनकाली मिलने है। यद्यपि वन सचिवों का कहना है कि विचारक आम की वन क्षेत्र में कोई सुधारक उपाय नहीं किए गए हैं। आम से मछली, मीठुन और मन्त्रज को प्रकृतिक पौधों में सम्भारण करना भी जा रही है।

प्रशिक्षण के प्रथम दिवस सेंटिमेंट का अर्थ तथा सेंटिमेंट लेखन को आवश्यकता का परिचय देना के समझ विकसित की गई। इसका उदाहरण टुट्ट 'मैं' दिने के प्रथम प्रथम अनुभवों में इस संबंध में लिखने की। प्रशिक्षण में प्रशिक्षणियों को नौ समूहों में विभाजित कर आकाश के तारों में जलक जलकियों पर उड़ान करने तथा प्रथम दिवस, सुरंग पर बहने, लेख, पाठ्य और लिखने का विचार दिया गया। प्रशिक्षण के अंतिम दिने सुदूर क्षेत्र के कुछ विद्यार्थियों पर प्रथम की गई तथा गांधी के विचारों पर प्रथम में भी सुदूर क्षेत्रों के विद्यार्थियों को भी प्रथम में आम, पुष्प, जल, मिट्टी, कोयला, बालू, पंचायती राज, किसान, वन, आश्रम, गांधी, और मिलने का अन्य दिवसों में भी इस तरह के प्रयोग किए जाएंगे। प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम के अंत में आयोजित रसलिया खेलों में भाग लेने की व्यवस्था करने के लिए प्रशिक्षणियों को भव्यवाद दिया गया।

training. In the training every one learnt how to write the stories, articles, features, letter to editor, news, news story, etc. The participants exercised heavily and studied the cases by visiting villages, and they prepared wallpapers publishable from each panchayat. After the training, at least half of the participants are now able to write the stuff for media. Grassroots India imparted this training.

TOT ON HANDPUMP REPAIRING

AFPRO organized a master training on handpump repairing at Raipur on 31 August 2005 to 2



September 2005 in which 2 personnel participated. On getting the training these 2 personnel imparted trainings to villagers as also repaired the handpumps.

TRAINING ON IGP

Organized by MART, New Delhi on January 2006. The training was participated by 1 personnel. This was facilitated by AFPRO.

TRAINING ON SHG

training on SHG was also attended by 1 personnel of SGSA on 8-10 March 2006 that was organized by MSVPP, Ambikapur supported by NABARD.

TRAINING ON PANCHAYATI RAJ

Organized by Samarthan, Raipur on 27-28 March 2006 the training on panchayati raj was participated by 1 personnel.

TRAINING OF KALA DAL

Two personnel from SGSA participated the training held on cultural programmes at Bilaspur. District



Water & Sanitation Committee organized this training in February 2006.

TRAINING ON ACCOUNTS MAINTENANCE

IFAD organized training on accounts maintenance on 16-17 August 2005 at Ambikapur in which a personnel from SGSA took part. The coordinators of CASA project also got training on Accounts at Raipur on 25-26 March 2006.

EXPOSURE VISITS

From SGSA 9 personnel went on exposure to many projects/ events at Wadrafnagar, Sitapur, Ranchi, Bilaspur, Delhi, Kondagaon, Mumbai and Udaipur.



Cycle of impoverishment, exploitation, injustice, disempowerment and exclusion has annihilated the humanity. In the times of globalization the non-violence and peace have become scarce commodities. SGSA as moving on the footprints of Gandhi is committed to peace and non-violence. And this translates into the human welfare related activities. Rural and weaker people usually require instant assistance in circumstances of emergency or urgent needs. SGSA takes care of them in its capacity. Some activities directly address the peace issues like the preservation of culture, traditions and so on.

CELEBRATING IMPORTANT EVENTS

SGSA observed the days of national and international importance to show the solidarity and



to make the communities aware of the social affairs. On these days the discussion and speeches were organized along with the public demonstrations. The following days were thus observed:

- » Republic Day, 26 January
- » International Women's Day, 8 March
- » International Labor Day, 1 May
- » World Environment Day, 5 June
- » Independence Day, 15 August
- » International Literacy Day, 8 September
- » International Day for Aged, 1 October
- » Gandhi Jayanti, 2 October
- » World Human Rights Day, 10 December

PRESERVATION OF LOCAL CULTURE

In the villages there is a long list of traditional art. Performing arts include: dances and songs like suga saila, karma, domketch, bayar, dara, phagun, dasraha, etc. Similarly the painting arts are rehda, chhuhi, gehur and phula. All these arts are interwoven in the culture of the people. Thus to

preserve the culture of the communities the SGSA promotes the traditional songs, dances and paintings. At panchayat level SGSA has constituted the groups of cultural groups that wander village to village performing and altogether teaching the rural youths. The cultural groups also give messages of development in the villages when they perform. Through this mode of diffusing the communications there has been built a good level of awareness among the local people about their issues.

Like performing arts the village children generally practice traditional sports that are under onslaught of modernization otherwise. Boys play gulli danda, amadaandi, baanti, kabaddi, pakki, pitthul, gada gadawal, chhuachhut, jedi, etc., while the girls play goti, ghar, pitthul, gada gadawal, etc. The cricket fever and the television have been negatively impacting these local games. In order to preserve the cultural treasure the SGSA is active to promote these sports. Many competitions of the children in the villages are organized in the villages.

AGE CARE

In the villages too the old people receive neglected treatment. The aged should rather be seen as repository of age-old experiences. Viewing this adults and children in the families and community are educated to care the old persons. For the purpose several sensitization workshops were also organized.



Poor man's life revolves around struggling for two-times bread. The destiny-writers, the government servants and politicians, of poor men curse the obesity they gain out of over-eating. How does this gap generate is well understood. Now it is the time to narrow this gap and provide the poor mass with options.options of dying unheard or options of raising voices and knocking the corridors of power and plenty!!! SGSA is very much into the later option and carrying forward the people's struggle to assert for food and not dying of starvation.

A common man is only the victim of colonialism. Elites continued carrying the civilization of barbaric state. So-called democratic institutions in the country tent to be sabotaged by the elites and mighty leaving the poor, marginalized and deprived starved and dying. Those who beg the poor for votes (life) for their survival in the power and promise to serve the poorest, after wining the election of either panchayat, cooperative, assembly or parliament turn hostile to the same poor. The representatives of public become source of repression of the poor. They instead of relieving the pressure from a tribal's solitary life exert burden by accelerating the loot of community resources, means of livelihood and food, the opportunities of employment, and so on. As a consequence, the poor standing in last queue is bound to starve; and there is none to look him after.

Who is to question the inequity, the class formation, the undemocratic ruling regimes and corrupt institutions? Unless the fundamental questions are addressed, the hungry tribal cannot get food to fill the empty belly. Let us not be optimistic that panchayati raj institutions will solve

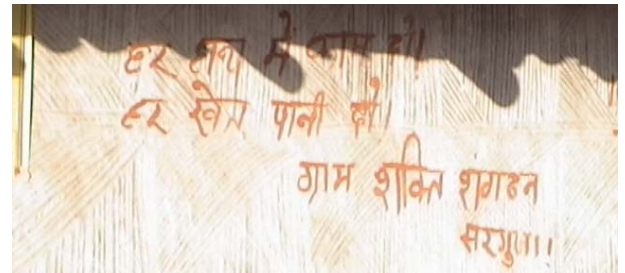
elitists assume the power. If anything can happen positive can come into place only when the entire range of public institutions are overhauled and made accountable to common man, the poor. Servant should become really a servant, not the owner, not vidhata..... !!

Problem of hunger and starvation is the problem of rule, not the problem of resources. Resources need



to be liberated; rule needs to be accountable. SGSA perceives the problem of poverty, not only as the problem of plenty but also the problem of power. This is the power structures and power institutions that require urgent attention and radical structural change. Inclusion, transparency, accountability and democratization are some solutions.

SGSA has initiated 'Food and Democracy Campaign' to push hard the accountability seeking from governing institutions regulating all avenues of common man's life.



the problem of hunger and food insecurity. These are also the raj (rule or empire) institutions represented by the same elite class or corrupt practitioners. State has not spared a fraction of the control from these institutions. At janpad and zila panchayat level same thick-skinned politicians and



Smt. Deepa Rani Rai
President

Surendra Gupta
Vice President

Rajendra K. Singh
Secretary

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Treasurer

Smt. Rudkhes
Member

Smt. Ritu Parihar
Member

About the Organization

Shri Gandhi Seva Ashram (SGSA) is a non-profit grassroots development organization striving for exploitation-free, self-reliant and value based society. The organization was registered in 1987 under M. P. Societies Registration Act 1973 (44). SGSA believes that the persistently deprived and disempowered communities can lead dignified and self-reliant life if they are given equitable opportunities to develop. To reduce the hunger, poverty and dependence the organization works amid the local communities especially tribes, artisans and marginalized of over 180 villages of 12 blocks of Surguja, Korias, Jashpur and Bilashpur districts. SGSA strategically moves ahead to address the root causes of social fragmentation and deprivation process. Organization intervenes through community organization, facilitating empowerment, livelihood systems development, natural resource conservation, rural development, health, education, advocacy and campaigning, research and policy analysis. Capacity building of local people is the thrust of all major programmes of direct interventions. As functional strategy of organization, intensive work is carried on food security and democracy issues.



Shri Gandhi Seva Ashram

Deviganj Road, Ambikapur – 497 001
Distt. Surguja, Chhattisgarh (India)
Tel: 07774-230152, 235518
Fax: +91-7774-220066, 230208
E-mail: rksghsa@yahoo.com,
sgsambikapur@rediffmail.com