

Empowering Rural Women Project

About the Project –

Project Name: Empowering Rural Women

Project Duration: 01st April 2012 to 31st March 2015

Funder: Jamshed Ji Tata Trust/Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, Mumbai

ERW project is running from 1st April 2012 in 20 Gram Panchayats of Patti block of Pratapgarh. The main objectives of the project is to make unite the women of socially excluded community (especially Dalit and Muslim women) in a women federation, due to which they can collect and take their rights given in Indian constitution. They can do the advocacy issues related to women at every level.

It is very poor strength of the women especially Dalit to participate in local issues at local level. About every political parties known & treat them as a vote bank only, because of their high population. Their reach is very poor to the Govt. officials and politician. They cannot benefit most of the Govt. Schemes and programs run under Panchayati Raj Institution, because their names are not in BPL list but they have BPL Ration Card. They work hard for their livelihood, due to which they haven't united and they cannot get any benefits. It is a need to organize them and aware about their rights under Indian constitution and make them able to come forward for their rights. They became aware and they can fight for their rights with government machinery and local governance.

The women specially Dalit, Muslim, single & extremely poor cannot fully participate in Open Meeting of Gram Sabha due to lack of knowledge and information. They also face ignorance in participation under Panchayat level decisions, which is violation of 73rd revision of constitutions.

- Before that, Pradhan runs all the activities of Gram Panchayat. But now Women federation support to prepare the schemes and work plan in Panchayat.
- There was no Gram Sabha meeting held. But now, the pressure of women federation makes the Gram Sabha meeting mostly held in our intervention area.
- The participation of excluded community especially women of Dalit & Muslim are very nominal in Gram Sabha open meeting. Now with the support of women federation the participation of these communities increased.
- If there is any female Pradhan selected, but her husband/father-in-law/son worked on behalf of her, but now the female Pradhan active to work.
- There were very nominal people aware about the Panchayati Raj Institution and 73rd constitution revision. After the training and awareness program, they aware about Panchayati Raj Institutions.
- If there is any female Pradhan selected, but her husband/father-in-law/son worked on behalf of her and they done exploitation with her. But now the female Pradhan aware about their rights and now exploitation reduced.

MNREGA:

The women of our intervention area became aware about their rights. Due to lots of hurdles, it is not possible for 100 days works in MNREGA. But, the leaders and other members of women federation have given written demand for jobs and it makes the participation of women in MNREGA increased. To discourage the myths that women are weak, the women of federation applied for job card on her name, written job demand and helpline number. If, she not got the job, she demands for unemployment wages. Now, the excluded community especially Dalit and Muslim women cannot get 100 days job in MNREGA in our intervention areas. Due to which, her economical and social condition of community is not increasing. The changing of the condition is increasing by and by, due to awareness building and knowledge development of the community by the project team.

Public Distribution Systems:

There are 20 PDS Shop in our intervention areas. Most of them are engaged in corruption like extra amount taken for ration, bad quality of ration, low weighing, irregular opening of shops etc. After our interaction in these GPs. The CBO & federation members became aware about the rate, quality, weight of ration and shop opening timing. CBO & federation women have aware about the different aspects of PDS. 15 PDS shops have given quality ration and decrease in low weighing systems. It is a big lack that APL families have BPL ration card and eligible families have not the right ration card. The project tries to aware and decreases these types of corruption.

Health:

It was found that the women of excluded community had not aware about U-5 MR and MMR and also immunization, ANC & PNC. She also had not aware about the JSY. The active women federation spread awareness about the JSY and its benefits. It gives the benefits of nutrition to the women and child of excluded communities. The discrimination among the children of Muslim and Dalit has done by Anganwadi workers. The ANM not has given the facilities to the Muslim women before delivery and after delivery. But, after the awareness they take the facilities with forcibly.

Progress towards the outcomes till March 2014
3126 women from 20 GPs collectivized in Gram Panchayat level Nari Sangh. Out of that 162 members are in leadership position.
Total 252 women are able to write Hindi alphabet, their name and address and able to recognize basic numbers fill up form. There are 114 members in grade A, 87 members are in grade B and 51 members in C grade.

Due to presence of Community Resource cum Education Centre- CREC, the Nari Sangh members are able to easily access the required formats and information related to MNREGA, BPL cards, PDS services, RTI Act, JSY ,RSBY , all toll free no. and different social security schemes in their respective GPs.

In 20 GPs 2475 Nari Sangh members have got their job card either in their name or have their names included in the existing job cards under NREGA.

In the FY 2012-13 the average working days under NREGA was 37 days.

During the FY 2013-14 the average working days is 50.

The Nari Sangh members have discussed about perspective plan under NREGA in their respective Gram Panchayats. Due to the efforts of Nari Sangh NREGA perspective plan & labour budget have been passed in 11 GPs.

Out of 20 PDS shop, 15 shops have been improved due to the efforts of Nari Sangh.

During the FY 2013-14, the open Gram Sabha meeting has been organized one time in 13 GPs & twice in 4 GPs. In which 1199 Nari Sangh members have participated with written agenda related to issues of Ration/ BPL card and NREGA perspective planning, implementation & monitoring ensured. Out of the above 350 members has raised the issue during the meeting.

Total 42 RTI have been filed from members of Nari Sangh for the realization of entitlement. During this reporting period 13 RTI have filed by Nari Sangh members.

1- Activity Photographs



Program Officer of SDTT discussing with Women Federation Women at Raipur on 19th December 2013a



Federation members going to Block office for advocacy



Federation members participating in Village Health & Nutrition Day



Federation members participating in World Women's Day program

