
Lok Shikshan Sansthan(LSS) and Prayas

Annual Report & Update

Introduction to Region



Chittorgarh

Lok Shikshan Sansthan

- **Mission**

- Lok Shikshan Sansthan aims to empower people to respond to problems on their own

- **Objectives**

- To enable the poor to improve their social, economic, physical and cultural growth
- To create alternative knowledge and mechanisms for community development
- To lobby for the social, economic, political and cultural rights of all
- To respond to contemporary poverty related community issues
- To have primary focus on education and health among women and children

Emancipating Bonded Laborers

- **If somebody is a bonded laborer, they first talk to him about it**
 - Tell him it is possible to be freed from the bond
 - Two ways – legal power and muscle power
 - Pros and cons of each are discussed
- **Bonded labor laws are pretty strong**
 - The laborers do not have to prove they were bonded
 - The owners have to prove otherwise

Project Update

June – Nov. 2007

NREGA

- **Chittorgarh Dist. has been selected for NREGA**
- **Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme**
 - Provides atleast 100 days of work/year to the rural poor
 - One person from each family
 - Work is mostly infrastructure building
 - Paid minimum wages
 - Has provisions for 'unemployment' i.e. if the Govt. does not approve or give work within 15 days, it has to pay unemployment benefits
 - Villagers can come up with ideas for work – will be approved by Govt.

Awareness about NREGA

- **LSS did a cycle yatra in 123/162 villages and distributed pamphlets about the provisions in NREGA**
- **Also conducted several meetings in each village to encourage villagers to put in applications for work**
- **All LSS volunteers talk about this every time they visit the villages – even for other work**
- **Difficulties – the villagers assume LSS will give them work and pay them too!**
- **Have to always mention that the Panchayat will provide job cards and other details**

NREGA Implementation

- **Taken up 2 gram panchayat as partnership with Govt.**
- **Management of the work is done by LSS**
- **The villagers are working on a 'nadi'**
 - A dam made out of sand to hold water for cattle etc.
 - Store rain water and help replenish the ground water
- **Example to show the Govt. that management can be done by the people/LSS**
- **Paying minimum wage is feasible**

Other villages

- **Almost 1800 job cards ready**
- **Everybody's 15 days is over (almost 20 days now)**
- **Govt. has not come up with work**
- **Planning to start a Dharna for unemployment benefits**
- **23rd Dec. in Chittorgarh**
- **Govt. has 'masterplan' for Chittorgarh dist. but getting it under RTI is expensive**
 - Just to get the files will be Rs. 4000/-
- **Other facts about NREGA**
 - Doing well where there are NGOs working
 - In 15 districts in A.P. only Rs. 68 Cr. Used
 - 1 district in Rajasthan utilized almost Rs. 90 Cr.
 - In W.B., 70% job cards not done

Other Developments in the area

- **A new factory is coming up**
 - Wonder Marbles, RK Marble group
- **This group is the highest producer of marble in the world**
- **Raj. Govt. is acquiring 1836 acres of prime farmland in 8 villages for this factory**
- **Using an arcane article 4 notice (law made in 1854 by britishers)**
- **This land was given to the people by Govt. long back**

New Factory

- **Factory is located close to the mines**
- **Best quality limestone/marbles in the world**
- **Compensation for land owners is very less**
- **“DLC” rates – around Rs. 7000/acre**
 - These are registry rates; much, much less than the market rate in the area
- **Compensation is only for the landowners**
 - Nothing for the landless who work in these lands as day laborers
- **The factory will be mostly mechanized**
 - Very few jobs for the locals

LSS Action Plan

- **Getting the MoU between factory & Govt. using RTI**
- **The plan is to ask for partnerships in the factory**
- **Or ask it to be located elsewhere**
- **They are not opposed to development or factories**
- **But their concern is that it should not be on prime agricultural land & without adequate compensation to the people**

LSS Action Plan

- **Supreme Court rule to Punjab. Govt. earlier**
 - If the land is very fertile, it cannot be acquired to open factory
- **Planning to prove that the land is very fertile**
 - Surveys and data analysis in progress
 - Lawyer notice to Govt. about the same
- **Public hearing planned after 20th Jan**
 - Medha, Aruna will be present
 - Discuss about situation of people who have given land before

Annual Report 2007

Jan Chetna Yatra

- **5th to 15th Sept. 2007**
- **121 villages in Bhadesar, Nimbahoda, Begu & Bhainsarodgadh tehsils**
- **Raise awareness about the reasons for poverty and peoples constitutional rights**
- **Meetings in each village about NREGA, Dalit land rights, Safety ? (samajhik suraksha) laws**
- **In the evenings, plays like 'Balya ka dukh' presented to talk about girls rights/education etc**
- **Several issues came to light during this trip**

NREGA implementation

- **Several discrepancies found in implementation**
- **Dobiya, Vijaypur area – No 'banda' work started**
- **Javda, Nimdi area – no work done**
- **No job cards in Mangodada**
- **Only 50-55 Rs. Wages paid while minimum wage is Rs. 73**
- **Achalpura Village in Nahargadh panchayat**
- **Official collecting money from peoples' homes!**

Forest Dept.

- **7 villages in Bhainsarodgadh declared as submergence for 'Ravat Bhata' dam.**
- **Rehabilitated in the forest dept. lands**
- **After some time, the lands were returned to forest dept. and they are being evicted**
- **Fines for taking out wood, stones from the land – upto Rs. 500**
- **For any work done in the forest, workers paid Rs. 25 – much less than minimum wages**
- **No healthcare facilities for these people**
- **There is a school but no teachers**

Adivasi Rights

- **Gopalpura area – water stopped to a village well without reason**
- **All residents in these 7 villages are adivasi/bheel**
- **People have given up agriculture and now are day laborers**
- **One poor bheel was beaten up by the forest dept. officials for letting his cow graze on forest land**

Yatra

- **Ended on 15th Sept. in front of dist. headquarters with a meeting with the collector**
- **30 people walked over 326Km in 121 villages and gave out 10,000 leaflets**
- **He listened to all the findings from the yatra and took action**
- **Called the water dept. and opened up water**
- **FIR lodged against the forest officials for beating up the Gasilal**
- **Will personally look into all the other issues**

Adivasi Rights

- **Bonded Labor emancipation**
 - Bhanwarlal
 - Jamnabhai
- **Beating up of adivasi girl**
 - The offender – a retired Crnl. was arrested and sent to Jail
- **Land Struggle**
 - Able to return land to an adivasi after 40 yrs of illegal occupation
- **Water Struggle**
 - Adivasi/bheel villages refused water from Dam

Women's Rights

- **Workshop on 17th and 18th Aug**
- **Promoting savings scheme and livelihood generation**
- **More womens groups will lead to less violence against women**
- **Women safety Council**
- **Nabard bank's schemes for SHGs**
- **Women's groups formed**

Children's Mela

- **Children's mela on 22nd July 07**
- **325 children from 10 villages took part**
- **Strengthen 'bal samooch' in different villages**
- **Children's Rights**
 - Child marriage
 - Education
 - Right to Information
- **Most hindrances come from the family**
- **Villages don't give importance to girl's education**
- **'Bal Manch' formed – a block level group of children from different villages**

Children's picnic - 'bal bhraman'

- **20th Aug. 2007 –**
- **Trip to Govt. hostels to talk to kids who joined there earlier**
- **Talk with Warden about facilities**
- **Met with several Govt. officials about village education issues**
 - Primay School in sukhvada panchayat was supposed to start in 2006-2007 but land has not yet been allotted
 - Anganwadi started in 2000 but the building has not been built
 - No drinking water in primary school in Hattipura
 - There is a 11,000 Kw transmitter next to the school because of which parents are not sending their children ther
 - Berukheda village doesn't have any school within 3kms – authorities have been requested to start a primary school there.

Health Programs

- **Health Programs**
- **Awareness about health issues**
- **Meetings in villages**
- **Discussion about seasonal diseases and cleanliness**
- **Homeopathic health camps held regularly**
- **Getting rid of quacks**
- **Khemrajji practices homeopathy**
 - Treated almost 1000 folks over the last year

Other Events

- **Training/Capacity building**
- **5 day camp for LSS karyakartas as well as interested villagers**
- **Learn about laws concerning the issues faced**
- **Discussion about learnings of the organization**
- **Theatre workshop**
 - Showing current events and issues through the medium of theatre
- **Two 'Nataks'**
 - Balya ka dukh
 - Garib ki mar namak

Other Events

- **Kabir Sammelan**
 - 16th Oct. 2007
 - 113 folks attended the event
- **Importance of Kabir in the current world**
- **Songs/Bhajans of Kabir used to talk about existing superstitions**
- **Discussion about using the message/teachings of Kabir in their daily lives**
- **'Networking' with the powerful people in the village**

- **Effects of Khat Andolan (Sept. 2005)**

- Harassment by Rajputs has reduced
- Dalits feel empowered
- Beat up whoever was trying to harass them

Summary of Past Work

- **Released 105.3 bigas of land worth Rs. 1,053 Cr**
- **Released 9 bonded laborers**
- **Minimum wages Issue**
- **Below Poverty Line Issue**
- **Securing drinking water**
- **Organized Khat Andolan**
- **Released 4 villagers from exploitative credit system**
- **Awareness about RTI**
- **Adivasi Bhil Mahasammelan**
 - Protest against destruction of crops/houses of tribals

Proposal for 2008

Planned work for the next year

- **NREGA**
- **Awareness through Theatre**
- **Workshop on Land Alienation**
- **Legal Support**
- **Children's festival**
- **Children's Exposure Visit**
- **Health Support**

NREGA

- **Bhadesar Tehsil, work with mainly Bhil (adivasi) and SC community**
 - 21874 families total
 - 1952 Bhil families
 - 3607 SC families
 - Generate work worth Rs. 4.06 Crores
- **Awareness, getting villagers to sign up**
- **Making of Job Cards**
- **Proposing works to be taken up in the village**
- **Pressure on Govt. machinery to make work available**
 - Groups of villagers formed to ensure the above

NREGA Workshop

- **Village level representatives of Bhil community**
- **Issues emerging from NREGA work will be dealt with**
- **Urge them to form the 'Rozgar Guarantee Union' Chittorgarh**

Awareness through Theatre

- **Awareness about land-based atrocities**
- **Street plays and other mode of theatre**
- **Illegal Occupancy by powerful castes**
 - Effect on the lives of victim families
- **In over 40 villages**

Workshop on Land Alienation

- **2 day workshop with 100 participants**
- **Villagers whose lands have been released from illegal occupancy**
- **Villagers who are currently facing this situation**
- **Discuss legal provisions available**

- **Objective: Awareness amongst the community about their rights w.r.t their land**

Legal Support

- **Legal support for villagers**
- **Issues such as land-based atrocities, bonded-labor, caste-based atrocities, atrocities against women etc.**
- **Legal expenses may be paid out**

Children's festival

- **2 day children's festival – 200 children**
- **Awareness on social issues like untouchability in schools/villages**
- **Working of Govt. machinery**
- **Bal Panchayat and bal sansads in the area**
 - Show how issues are taken up for debate and how final decisions are made
- **Cultural programs to give a chance to the children to show their talent**

Children's exposure visit

- **One day exposure to the industries in Bhilwara**
- **Also schools set up by the industries**
- **Give children an idea of the progress made by the state**
- **Understand their place and see how they can benefit from industrial development**
- **Overall exposure to urban setting**

Budget