Content

I. Preface ............................................................................................................................. 1

II. Executive Summary ..................................................................................................... 2

A. The Coordination Unit ............................................................................................... 5

B. Capacity Building Initiatives of NCAS ................................................................. 9

  B.1. Building Capacities, Perspective & Knowledge for people Centred Advocacy in South Asia (Phase 2)

  B.2. Community Learning Movement (CLM): Grassroots Advocacy Capacity Building Programme ...................... 18

    I. CLMs in South Asia
    II. CLMs in India

  B.3. CLM Phase-2: Micro Campaigning ................................................................. 21

  B.4. The Capacity Building Initiatives of NCAS for the Partner Organisations .......................................................... 22

  B.5. Advocacy Internship Programme (2010-2012) - Youth Capacity Building Programme ........................................ 24

    I. Current batch of Interns (2010-2012)
    II. Update on 11th batch of Interns (2009-2011)

  B.6. The Expansive Programme with Youth ............................................................ 31

C. Campaign Support Initiatives of NCAS ................................................................. 35

  C.1. NCAS Supported Campaigns

D. Knowledge Building Initiatives of NCAS ............................................................... 45

  D.1. Accessing Economic and Social Rights from the Bottom - Up (A Pilot Study)

  D.2. Advocacy on Adivasi Issues: Adivasi Resource Centre (ARC) .......................................................... 51

E. Generating Public Discourse ..................................................................................... 59

  E.1. Media Advocacy
Preface

I am happy to present the annual report of the period April 2010- March 2011. This year too NCAS has made all efforts to continue supporting campaigns on the livelihoods and governance issues of the marginalised; building a community of South Asian human rights advocacy practitioners and network and capacities of grassroots community based leaders; spearheading research to study the accessibility of the Indian Judiciary for the dalit and adivasis; and to strengthen discourse on adivasi rights by analysing government polices from the adivasi perspective.

The challenge for NCAS has been to keep its momentum in responding to emerging issues and keep the balance with engagements with the social movements and its programmatic activities sustained over a long time. This of course is a reflection of a civil society which is becoming dynamic over time and therefore a very welcome development.

The most important contribution of this year we feel has been strengthening the democratic culture internally and externally. This has never been an easy task but the rewards have been forthcoming and plentiful.

We would like to offer our gratitude to all our partners, supporters and donors for continuing their unstinted support and also to several new partners.

We also express our heartfelt thanks to our General Body members for their solidarity and support and to our Executive Committee for their initiatives and valuable advice.

Sehjo Singh
Executive Director
Executive Summary

The organisation has redesigned its various activities under its strategic areas of expertise. To facilitate NCAS’s strategic vision following is the highlight of the activities undertaken throughout the year under each area.

The Coordination Unit
The team facilitated smooth running of the office and all administrative activities related to the organisation functioning. The new team manual is approved by the EC. The strategy paper for 2012-2015 is drafted and based on it planning is in progress. NCAS website was redesigned and has provided long overdue interactive spaces for the interface.

Capacity Building Initiatives of NCAS
During the reporting year NCAS undertook six advocacy capacity building programmes. These are-

Building Capacities, Perspective & Knowledge for People Centred Advocacy in South Asia (Phase 2)
NCAS’ South Asian level initiative on People Centred Advocacy took shape as phase II completed 18 months on March 2011. During the year the team organised three thematic CAP capacity building programmes, documented 14 advocacy campaign case studies, written resource books on the two processes in People Centred Advocacy – Organizing and Mobilizing, and Campaigning and networking. NCAS also initiated first South Asian CLM in Bangladesh, Pakistan and India.

Community Learning Movement (CLM): Grassroots Advocacy Capacity Building Programme
CLM is a means to develop the grassroots leadership through the partners in the wider Indian context and facilitate building up an advocacy network of empowered social activists from the national to the regional level having a rights based perspective of social change. The programme is ongoing for 11 years.

A. CLMs in South Asia
‘SETU’ an NGO based in Kushtia District; ‘Sarjom’, an NGO in Jharkhand; ‘Sungi, an NGO working in the provinces of Punjab, Sind, KPK and Baluchistan, have made substantial progress under CLM and conducted the workshops in collaborations with NCAS. However, given the instability of political situation in Afghanistan the ‘AWSDC’ Afghan Women Skill Development Center based in Kabul is exploring the possibility of CLM with special focus on women’s empowerment.

B. CLMs in India
NCAS first ever urban CLM started with ‘Navchetna’, a grassroots organization in the Kachiwada area of Pune. During this period Karnataka Cluster: Spoorthy, Vanasiri Rural
Development Society (VRDS) and Spandana; Maharashtra Cluster: Grameen Yuva Pragatik Mandal (GYPM); Chhattisgarh Cluster: Dalit Adivasi Manch (DAM) and Gram Mitra (GM) completed the last round of workshops, and brought this phase to a close.

**CLM Phase-2: Micro Campaigning**

NCAS role would be to monitor, document and strengthen the processes through giving CLM partners media and legislative advocacy support. NCAS has also held its annual Community Learning Movement (CLM) Programme Review.

**The Capacity Building Initiatives of NCAS for the Partner Organisations**

NCAS was invited to conduct a short term advocacy capacity building programme throughout the year. These were with CORO, staff and partners of Oxfam India, Saurashtra-Kutch network, Water Aid staff and partners, ASTHA, Women’s Studies Centre, Pune University, PRAKRITI,

**Advocacy Internship Programme (2010-2012) - Youth Capacity Building Programme**

A. **Current batch of Interns (2010-2012)**

The 12th batch of Internship Programme has secured participation of interns from Kashmir, Delhi, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Odisha. During the year focus of the programme has been on providing academic inputs, movement based field visits, attending skill building workshops and undertaking responsibilities in various inhouse and out of the organisation campaign activities.

**Update on 11th batch of Interns (2009-2011)**

After completion of 11 months at NCAS last batch of interns had their field placements with Samvad, Jharkhand; ‘People’s Watch’, TamilNadu; ‘Lok Paryay’, Aurangabad, Maharashtra; ‘MKSS’, Rajasthan; ‘ASTHA’, Rajasthan; ‘Forum for Policy dialogue on water conflicts in India’, Odhisha; ‘Samagra Shikshan Avam Vikas Sansthan’ in Bihar; “Vicharata Samuday Samarthan Manch”, Ahmedabad in Gujarat.

**The Expansive Programme with Youth**

A more extensive programme aimed at reaching to a larger section of youth across the country with the purpose of politicization of youth used two strategies- Engaging with youth from NCAS’s CLM areas and Main-streaming the Advocacy Internship module into the curriculum/ syllabi of colleges and Universities. Besides, NCAS had 13 students placements from across the country and had one AJWS intern from USA.

**Campaign Support Initiatives of NCAS**

NCAS supported six major campaigns, which included Campaign against Special Economic Zones (SEZs), for Forest Rights Act Implementation, against Forced Land Acquisition and Displacement (Lavasa), for Right to Food, for Right to Water and against Violence Against Women. NCAS has taken role in supporting ‘Janadesh’ 2012 regional initiatives. Especially Campaign on Forest rights has got a very strong support from NCAS on community forest rights issues.
Knowledge Building Initiatives of NCAS

Accessing Economic and Social Rights from the Bottom – Up (A Pilot Study)
NCAS has undertaken a research to find the extent to which people in both urban and rural India especially the marginalised communities such as the Adivasis and Dalits enforce their economic and social rights through the existing district level judicial and quasi-judicial systems. The study looks at the systemic features that constrain access to these rights. The present study is an attempt to address the information gap about the lower judiciary (the district and taluka courts). It is a 3 years long project in which last year will be devoted to the advocacy initiatives. In collaboration with the partners the research is ongoing in three states- Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat.

Advocacy on Adivasi Issues: Adivasi Resource Centre (ARC)
The ARC programme has entered its second phase starting from November 1, 2010. Built on the activities undertaken in the first phase the ARC continues to prepare legislative briefs and report cards on Adivasi related issues. During the year team took out 11 publications-report cards, legislative briefs and manuals. The second phase of ARC has a strong component of capacity building of grassroots groups through Community Learning Movement and focus on Tribal Sub Plan, PESA and FRA.

Generating Public Discourse

Media Advocacy
Media Advocacy practised by NCAS, worked in tandem with Campaign Support unit and the Internship Advocacy Unit. Twenty-eight articles on issues of human rights, land, water, forest rights, rights of Adivasis and the advocacy internship programme were published in local newspapers Pune Mirror, Navbharat, Daily Kesari and Daily Punya Nagari and in Infochange. NCAS also anchored a weekly column named Kahani Hakkanchi (Story of Human Rights) in Daily Kesari. Among the innovative initiatives at NCAS this year the team worked on organising of a Film Festival and creation of a film on ‘The Process to claim Forest Rights’ an audio-visuals manual.

NCAS has also made a more than usual space for itself in the media, especially the print media. Contributing to high decibel discourse of the Indian television is still a challenge for us but we are working towards building capacities of dalit and adivasi youth in handling and understanding audio-visual media.
A. The Coordination Unit

The co-ordination unit of NCAS takes the responsibility of all in-house and out of the office administrative responsibilities. This year we have paid special attention to setting up simple procedures that ensure greater transparency and fidelity.

Financial Management
All the regular processes such as Income tax returns, report to Charity Commissioner and form FCII & financial utilization reports to the donor agencies were filed on time. The team worked on streamlining financial planning with full fledged sharing of resources with all the programme team members. It studied feasibility of net banking and placed its suggestions before the EC for approval. It is now working out the modalities of implementing the EC's recommendations.

Information Technology Management
The redesigned NCAS website with open source platform occupies a pride of place in several ways. NCAS Website hit in the month of March 2011 is 65470 and Bandwidth 1.47 GB. The open source has allowed many more members of the team in participating in management of the site. It is now serving as our online archive as well. The homepage reflects our latest concerns and is updated every fifteen days. The number of hits, new visitors and more importantly visitors returning to our site is increasing every month.

Publication Dissemination
Recent publications and films on forest rights (in Marathi and Hindi) widely disseminated. A series of handbooks on institutions of Adivasi governance in the context of Chhattisgarh have been produced. The rest of the series will be published after a field testing has been initiated and concluded.

Overall all new publications being in Indian languages has been an acceptable strategy and the stocks of some of our new publications have been completely exhausted.

Library and Documentation Unit
The team members are now actively involved in NCAS work especially in the internship programmes. The documentation services are therefore more organically linked to the need of the organisation and are demand based such as documentation on issues of adivasi, women, access to justice project, land, forest, education etc.

Co-ordination responsibility was handled by a team member of various consultations organized by NCAS on Right to Education and marginalized people. Involvement of library staff in the programs helped to maximize the use of intellectual resource in NCAS work.
Team member facilitated a Capacity Building program titled “Workshop on Research Skills” for grassroot workers of Astha, Udaipur.

Played a role of facilitator in the Intern’s readings on politics, economics, history, suggested reading material from NCAS library and helped them in preparing presentation of their activities through the year including coordination of the classes in spoken and written English.

**Recruitment and Selection**
The main attempt of the recruitment process this year has been to raise the diversity quotient of the organisation along caste and region.

During the period four new team members were recruited Dhana ji Khupkar, Kalindi Kokal, Bharati Takle in Pune office and Satyendra Ranjan, a senior journalist in Delhi.

Sandeep Patnaik has moved to Bhubneshwar, Odisha and has taken responsibility of facilitating NCAS activities in the central eastern states. During the year Ms. Vijaya Patnekar (senior team member) Mr. Sampat Kale (now a GB member) and Mr. Himmat Singh Negi (served in Delhi office) left NCAS after spending considerable number of years with several achievements to their credit due to personal and professional growth reasons.

The revised team manual has received EC’s approval.

**Personnel Appraisal**
The appraisals are now linked to increments. The NCAS team had a three day workshop where principles of appraisal, best practices in the field were discussed and the principles worked out. The group decided the fields that were pertinent to it and the quality indicators as well. It then worked out the modalities of a variant of 360degree appraisal process which was friendly and non threatening.

**Annual Planning**
To facilitate the process and maintain accountability from this year onwards NCAS has laid down an annual plan based on matrix. In which overall schematic responsibilities lie with the senior leadership of programme coordinators and the actual roll out of the programmes is the responsibility of the programme officers.

NCAS has also laid down very clear policies for alliances, compliance and impact-assessment. Project reporting would be the responsibility of the programme officer, but in house reporting leading to NCAS Annual Report would be that of the coordinators, under the heads, Research and Publications, Capacity Building, Media
Advocacy, and Alliances and Compliances. Each member has now a clear list of deliverables for the year and a list of areas of improvement as the result of the appraisal.

NCAS is also ready with a new strategy paper (2012-2015) for the next three years. It takes into account of internal and external challenges and suggests ways how better NCAS can meet its mandate of facilitating social change by working for the rights of the marginalised communities.

NCAS is working on developing a strategic plan for the next three years based on the new strategy paper.

**Revamping Communications**
Creating a more vigorous system of internal communication was our definite achievement. We continue to use have a joint wall planner, designed innovatively by the communication in-charge, and regularly hold sharing platform meetings. Sharing platform is used very often for any new idea or engagement and is open to question by everyone on the team.

A much needed device to keep the Delhi, Odhisha and the Raipur units as involved and informed has been the use of SKYPE programme, through which we can see and talk to these two offices on a regular basis.

We have also designed and executed uniform signatures to our emails, which carry our message about open information and complaints and response mechanisms also.

**Archiving Challenges**
We have started working on a conscious archiving policy, as it has been ad hoc and dependent on individual initiative. We have backup systems, but we have still not been able to put an archiving system together. There are several methods of institutional memory at the moment we are dependent on individual based institutional memory. We need to work out archiving principles which would be independent of individuals joining and leaving the organisation.

In the present period our website is now proving to be our best source of archiving, which is instantly retrievable as well

**Office Upkeep and Health and Hygiene of Staff**
Interns, who come from different parts of the country, suffer health problems adjusting to food and water. Water purifier machines have been given to them to maintain and use so that at least better water quality is ensured at their place of residence.
Waste segregation process is used by everybody by taking responsibilities on rotation basis. We found that talking about climate change and its impact is equally important along with action and when we really started doing it we were able to set an example of it. We give instructions to our guests and visitors about it.

We continue our toilet cleaning policy where each member of the team is responsible for maintaining standard of at least one office toilet.
B. Capacity Building Initiatives of NCAS

B.1. Building Capacities, Perspective & Knowledge for People Centred Advocacy in South Asia (Phase 2)

NCAS’ South Asian level initiative on People Centred Advocacy that took shape as phase II completed 18 months on March 2011. The year April 2010 to March 2011 was extremely insightful for NCAS and the work gained momentum as the South Asian group of advocacy practitioners became more and more cohesive. The Community of Advocacy Practitioners (CAP) from 4 countries – Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh and India joined by activists from Nepal in September 2010. The case studies documented one from each of the four South Asian countries and one from the South Asian Network formed the spine of the capacity building workshops on People Centred Advocacy in South Asian Perspective.

The issue of “sustainability and ownership” of movements or struggle was identified by the CAP group to be at the centre of building skills and perspective. The need for a regional identity as “South Asians” caught the attention of the group. The complexity of issues and similarities of the region called for solidarity in collective action in the South Asian region. The Community Learning Movement (CLM) activity have started in Bangladesh with the facilitating NGO ‘SETU’ in Kushtia district; in India with the NGO ‘Sarjom’ in Jharkhand State; and in Pakistan with ‘Sungi’ in Baluchistan area.

The resource book preparation on the two processes in People Centred Advocacy – Organizing and Mobilizing, and Campaigning and networking is in full swing. The resource book on ‘sustainability and ownership’ is in its formative stage. In all, 14 case studies have been documented.

The project is funded by Oxfam Novib. It had been a wonderful partnership, for the opportunity it has made available for learning/ sharing knowledge and experiences among the four South Asian countries, and allowing flexibility arising out of the needs of the CAP group to pitch the discourse at a higher level and address challenges.
Capacity Building Workshops
Community of Advocacy Practitioners (CAP) 1st workshop on ‘Organising and Mobilising’ in People Centred Advocacy
The first workshop was organized from 8th to 10th April 2010, in Bangladesh. This workshop was attended by 10 women and 10 men participants from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh and India. It aimed at providing a sharing space to the advocacy practitioners from the different South Asian countries on the advocacy efforts, the strategies that were used for mobilizing and organizing in their respective countries and drawing out learning and insights from this discussion. Presentation of four case stories from each country constituted the core and a live ground for the discussion.

Case story presentations were the most important part of the workshop. The key insights drawn out of these helped to build knowledge on People Centred Advocacy in the South Asian context and identify spaces and common ground for South Asian civil society unity and intervention.

The CAP drew out the various strategies and activities used in mobilization, the differences between organizing and mobilizing by looking critically at the four case studies. The case study of the “Kansat movement” in Bangladesh threw light on the ways and means by which people mobilized for demanding fair access to electricity supply. It raised issues on the lack of ‘organizing’ which resulted in the movement easily succumbing to the violent repression inflicted by the state administration. The Pakistan case study of the Fisher-folk community’s struggle against the illegal occupation of water bodies in Sind coastal area by a para-military force “Thar Rangers” discusses the step-by-step process of mobilization and organization adopted by the Pakistan Fisher-folk Forum (PFF). In spite of the military rule in Pakistan, strategies adopted were so effective that this para-military force had to return the water bodies. The PFF has been even successful in getting the anti-people contract law abolished. The effort in India made by the organization ‘Parivartan’ threw light on how the
The interconnection of various peoples issues broadened the base for mobilization. Afghanistan’s effort at women’s empowerment through skill building, in a violent and unstable region of Afghanistan formed the main crux of this case study. Based on the discussions that took place in the light of the emerging learning, it was decided to re-work the case studies.

The 2nd CAP thematic workshop on “Campaigning”
The second workshop on ‘campaigning and networking’ was held in Nepal from 28th to 30th September 2010. 14 advocacy practitioners from the four countries and 6 from Nepal participated in the workshop.

The experiences as documented in the case studies of various campaigns of each of the four South Asian countries were shared. The successful campaign against redevelopment of the Buddo and Bundal Islands of Pakistan into exclusive real estate, provided insights into the effective networking across local, national and international groups, and an effective media campaign. The campaign case study against the ship breaking industry in Bangladesh drew important inferences from the change in the nature of demands as the campaign gained momentum, the contextual connections the leadership the concerned NGO – Young Power in Social Action (YPSA) made and its strength in extensive networking. The case study of anti-SEZ campaign of Maharashtra in India provided insights into the different innovative strategies used to build up the campaign that enabled a sustained struggle. The case study on campaign against child abuse launched in Afghanistan, triggered by an international call, explained the role of international community in supporting people’s issues, and more so in the Afghanistan context. A South Asian level campaign - the Peace Caravan for India-Pakistan peace that was also shared in the workshop, gave the participants an idea on what a collective process of a collective South Asian campaign entails, and the need for people-to-people contact for peace in South Asia.

To enhance ground level understanding participants visited the Forest Users Group in Lalitpur, Nepal. Mr. Bhola Bhattarai, a senior civil society leader leading ‘National Forum for Advocacy Nepal’ (NAFAN), briefed about 20,000 Forest Users Groups [FUG] existing in Nepal and how these FUGs serve as local self governments with all the rights to conserve and maintain forests, and sell the forest produce. However,
with rampant stone mining continuing, despite High Court orders, the conflict between FUGs and Mine owners are increasing. The CAP group also visited the ‘Dalit forum of Nepal’ – that has done a social analysis of various Dalit communities and serves as a federation to help them strengthen each other's work.

The major learning of this workshop was about building an understanding among participants to distinguish a campaign from a people’s movement and identify salient features of campaigns. Campaigns being issue-based are triggered and terminate at a given point of time, while the journey of a movement continues towards addressing more issues and building more campaigns; and so the process of campaign building and campaigning continues. Experiences of tactics used in campaigning emphasized the need for innovating. It also became very clear that socio-political context of the country, and the national as well as international political climate had a strong bearing on the strategies used by the various campaigns. People’s mobilization, evidence based research, building alliances with intellectuals, environmentalists, media and even political parties; all contributed to strengthening the campaigns and the struggles. While the discussions provided considerable food for thought, they also raised the spirit of the solidarity among people’s struggles.

The deliberation through the two CAP workshops raised critical concerns around issues of sustainability, people’s participation and ownership of struggles, during campaigns and movements and identified these as a major challenge in any advocacy effort. The group therefore decided that the theme of the next workshop should be Sustainability and Ownership.

The 3rd thematic workshop on “Sustainability and Ownership”
This workshop was held from 25th to 27th March, 2011, in Nepal as our attempt to bring Pakistani delegates to India failed yet again.

The purpose of the workshop was to draw up an understanding on elements of a people’s struggle/ movements that ensure sustainability of processes for goals achievement and the goals. Mr. Karamat Ali, the renowned peace activist from Pakistan set the context for the workshop by emphasizing on the need for building the South Asian Regional identity. He said that it is necessary to mobilize the peasantry/ masses in each of nations for South Asian level advocacy for asserting and protecting rights of the marginalized communities in the context of the globalised world. He also referred to the intensity of genocides, violence on women, rising
fundamentalism, terrorism etc. and expressed extreme necessity for the South Asian nations to express solidarity in case of human right violations in any of the neighbouring countries. He underlined the urgency for strengthening the Community of Advocacy Practitioners so that the learning arising out of the workshop deliberations especially from the case studies would prove useful not only in the individual country’s contexts, but find applicability in South Asian regional collective efforts and action.

Following case studies were presented and discussed in the workshop:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case Study</th>
<th>NGO/People’s Movement/ Struggle</th>
<th>District/ Province/ State</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Issue and Advocacy Efforts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Shirkat Gah (NGO)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>It is about its contribution to the Women’s Movement (Women’s Action Forum) and the role of NGO’s in movements and the necessity of a collective leadership.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Anti-Coal Mining Movement</td>
<td>Phulbari</td>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>The state repression in response to the strong dissent by the local people against the land grab. How effective leadership brought movements together. Also the continuity to any movement is ensured only if leadership is transmitted to the next generation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>AWSDC (NGO)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>Empowering women for sustainable livelihood programmes. the several strategies used to work with the communities to sustain resources for the micro-credit programme income generation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>‘Miera Paibis’ (The Collective Mothers)</td>
<td>Manipur (North East)</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>Their struggles against injustices, state repression and social evils in the insurgent area of Manipur. A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Movement/Group</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td>Anti- POSCO Movement</td>
<td>Odisha</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>The struggle against land acquisition by the South Korean Company for the purpose of mining and how several strategies used in mobilizing and organizing people. Engagement of people in constructive activities was pointed out as an important strategy in sustaining motivation and building the bonds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th</td>
<td>Nepal Forest User’s Groups (NFUGs)</td>
<td>All over the country (20,000 NFUGs)</td>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td>The long struggle of indigenous groups for conserving forests and livelihoods by fighting for community rights over the forest, and advocacy for making the policy implementable through legislation. And how inclusion of Dalits within the purview of community forest rights is also a struggle for the movement.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The ground around “Sustainability and Ownership” of people’s rights campaigns was set by referring to the differences between spontaneous and self-generated uprisings as against externally induced struggles, the aspect of ownership (idea of trusteeship etc.), the nature of leadership, shared responsibilities within the movement, democratic culture and values, processes of decision making, the long-term vision vis-vis issue-based goal, funding/ resources generation and mobilization, broad-based alliances, building support mechanisms in tune with external realities, the challenges encountered and overcome, and the kind of political agenda set.
Knowledge Building and Dissemination

Documenting South Asian Advocacy Case studies
Below is a quick glance of the case stories that have been documented and discussed during the thematic workshops:

Case studies from Pakistan
- the struggle of people of the Badin district of Sindh Province against the harassment and illegal occupation of fishing grounds, by the ‘Rangers’- a paramilitary unit guarding the border area.
- the campaign of the fishing community against the sale of Buddo and Bundal Islands to ‘Emmar’ for development of 12,000 acres of land into the “Diamond Bar Island city”.
- the effort of Shirkat Gah (NGO) in strengthening the women’s movement through use of law, advocacy for legal reform and income generation projects.

Case studies from Bangladesh
- a spontaneous struggle of the farmers of Kansat, a village in Chapainawabgunj district, for fair access to power supply. The anomalies of power supplied by the Bangladesh Power Development Board through elected rural cooperatives, as prescribed by the US Aid guidelines.
- advocacy campaign against the exploitation of labourers engaged in the ship breaking industry and the environmental hazard to the Bangladesh coastal area near Chittagong.
- the sustained struggle of people against the open-pit coal mine in Phulbari (bordering India) called the Phulbari movement

Case studies from Afghanistan
The political situation being quite different from the other south Asian countries, we have dubbed it as a case apart. We have the following narratives from areas controlled by the government which in turn is supported by International coalitions.
- a narrative of women’s empowerment programme – supported by the govt.
- a campaign against child sex abuse
• The effort of the NGO – Afghan Women Skill Development Centre for Women’s Empowerment

Case studies from India
• people’s struggle in rural Karnataka for minimum wages and over-all empowerment of villages.
• the successful anti-SEZ campaign in Raigad in Maharashtra
• the Meira Paibis of Manipur – an indigenous women’s movement
• the anti-POSCO struggle in Orissa

Overall, the stories are centred on livelihood rights and struggles for survival with dignity. They bring in elements of impact of neo-liberal paradigm of development and the emerging policies on marginalized communities. They also bring out the commonalities – such as the issues faced, how people’s power has worked, the role and response of governments/ state and several more.

Writing of a Resource books (Manuals)

A resource team in NCAS is actively working with help of external experts, designers, and content and language editors on three resource books - on Organizing & Mobilizing, Campaigning& Networking, and Sustainability and Ownership. These work books will present-
  • The South Asian context – the socio-eco-political and cultural context, and that an activist should know for the purpose of any intervention at the South Asian level/ South

Asian context

• Introduction to the various themes followed in the programme

• The values that the Advocacy Practitioners share in common – Equity (including equality), democracy and non-violence as three non negotiable values.

• Presentation of case studies from each of the four South Asian
countries (with picture illustrations, questions/ comments that will generate reflections)

- Imperative learning drawn on the themes of the resource books

Drafts of all the three books are proposed to be put before the CAP team for finalization in the 4th workshop held in Pune, India, in July 2011.

**Generating Discourse: NCAS Website providing an interactive space for discussion and dissemination**

The new website of NCAS has provided a special space on South Asia’s human rights concerns that finds sustenance for the South Asian platform created through this programme. This space will also be used for dissemination of information on South Asian issues, struggles and advocacy efforts; the resource books and case studies on South Asia that are being developed through this project, and any other information that the CAP group may want to share. A blog – ‘Solidarity South Asia’ has been created on the website and was inaugurated during the third thematic workshop by Karamat Ali.

**Learnings, Challenges and Plans**

- The sharing, reflection and deliberation that the South Asian partners are going through is adding to the knowledge on People Centred Advocacy. In spite of differences in governments and the democratic set-ups in Bangladesh, Pakistan and India; advocacy campaigns have been equally successful. For example, the Pakistan experience shows that despite the military regime, fisherfolk were able to secure government orders for withdrawal of the para-military unit – the Thar Rangers - from the coastal water. In the Afghanistan context, with very limited democratic spaces, experiences of women’s empowerment are very inspiring. Cultural processes seem to be vital for any South Asian based advocacy and commonalities in history and culture would mean that we find several such common strategies used in processes of mobilizing, organizing and campaigning.
• Mobility across South Asian borders seems to be getting more and more difficult day by day. Although getting visas for Pakistan citizens for entry into India is difficult (due to which the venue of the first workshop had to be changed), NCAS is keen to retry this effort, principally to establish the right to freedom of human mobility across borders. We believe that only civil society can bring peace and harmony in South Asia and be able to tackle common issues together.

The programme has lead towards an exciting possibility of ensuring the sustenance of South Asian Advocacy Practitioners community by continued dialogue and by trying to expand the community. It has been proposed to institute such mechanisms including annual South Asian training workshops where learning from this project would be deployed and taken forward.

B. 2. Community Learning Movement (CLM): Grassroots Advocacy Capacity Building Programme

Community Learning Movement (CLM) is envisaged as a means to develop the grassroots leadership through the partners in the wider Indian context and facilitate building up an advocacy network of empowered social activists from the national to the regional level having a rights based perspective of social change. CLM Programme is ongoing in Indian States for the past 10 years and in South Asia it has flagged off with its first CLM in Bangladesh stared in September 2010.

I. CLMs in South Asia

CLM in Bangladesh
The NGO SETU based in Kushtia District conducted four CLM workshops with two different groups. Over a hundred grassroots activists from different areas were selected to participate in the CLM. Activists were selected from 3 unions of the Mirpur Upazilla (Sub District) and Municipality of Kushtia Sadar and 4 unions of Daulatpur Upazilla under Kushtia district of Bangladesh.

The identified problems to be discussed in CLM workshops were constraints in accessing government resources and facilities, non-enrolment of 100% children in school,
candidature of unfit candidate in election, negligence in development work in the union, corruption in distribution of government grants, prevalence of early marriage and polygamy, divorce and dowry, torture on women, corruption in employment creation for 100 days, corruption in distribution of scholarship (upobritti) among students and all relief measures.

Mr. Syed-Ul-Alam, the resource person for the CLMs facilitated the four workshops starting with issues identification, mobilization needed for exercising rights for accessing essential services, role of media, people’s participation in the local governance, pro-people leadership, and importance for alliance building and campaigning. The methodology used was participatory, with every workshop ending with an action plan to be implemented before the next workshop and stock taking of the previous plan.

CLM in Kushtia Sardar Municipality resulted in stopping a child marriage, in supporting a woman seeking divorce, in demanding for punctuality of health care providers, ensuring stipend for girls and preventing drop-outs. This was achieved without any direct intervention by the concerned NGO, SETU. The Youth groups in the area felt empowered due to the CLM process and succeeded in negotiating with the govt. for building latrines and roads in the area.

Even for the staff of SETU the CLM experience has enhanced their knowledge about governance systems and has strengthened belief in the potential and strength of people’s collective. It is forming local committees to play the role of a watch dogs and work out strategic directions for making the state accountable.

CLM in Pakistan
Sungi, an NGO working in the provinces of Punjab, Sind, KPK and Baluchistan, made substantial pre-CLM preparations for conducting the workshops. Sungi proposes to conduct the CLM in 4 Union Councils of the KPK province. It has decided to use the CLM process for taking forward their efforts at empowering grass-root groups for governance accountability and accessing rights through building of a strong network across Sungi’s field. The collective strength so built would strengthen campaigns on common issues/ demands and thus enhance the advocacy effort. The first CLM workshop is proposed in April 2011.
CLM in Afghanistan
Given the instability of political situation in Afghanistan, the proposed CLM by the NGO Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (CHA) faced difficulty in implementing it. NCAS therefore approached AWSDC Afghani Women Skill Development Center based in Kabul and is exploring the possibility of CLM with special focus on women’s empowerment one of the major issues seeking immediate attention. The modalities are being worked upon, and NCAS is working towards its materialization.

II. CLMs in India
These were done under two initiatives: the first one as a corollary to the South Asian Programme, and second as the continuation of our existing programme. We plan similar initiatives under the Adivasi Resource Centre as well.

CLM in Jharkhand (Under the South Asian Programme)
‘Sarjom’, an NGO in Jharkhand held CLM workshops in December 2010 and January 2011. Activists Mr. Arvind Anjum and Mr. Manthan facilitated the workshop which was attended by participants from 13 Panchayats. The participants were the heads of gramshabhas, activists of the land-water-forest rights movements and women’s groups.

While the workshops provided better understanding of issues and the accountability of state, they realized the powers of the gram sabhas (village councils) and pointedly observed that gram sabhas lagged behind in working out long-term plans for the village development. Two more workshops are proposed in the next four months, and would focus on understanding the Panchayt Raj system and the PESA and its implementation.

‘URBAN’ CLM in Pune (First Ever in the series of CLMs)
Working with Navchetna, a grassroots organization in the Kachiwada area of Pune, NCAS inaugurated its new urban community learning movement (CLM) with a workshop to discuss the forthcoming community-led activities.
Karnataka Cluster: Spoorthy, Vanasiri Rural Development Society (VRDS) and Spandana
All the three organizations in the Karnataka cluster completed the last round of 5th and 6th workshops during this period, and brought this phase to a close. Sehjo Singh (Executive Director, NCAS) participated in the 6th workshop of all the 3 organisations in Karnataka. They interacted with the participants and also held discussions with the participants and the organisations regarding taking the CLM process beyond the 6th workshop with the communities taking ownership and engaging in micro campaigns (this being the last workshop).

Maharashtra Cluster: Grameen Yuva Pragatik Mandal (GYPM)
One of the major victories achieved was filing for information regarding the grants to the school the school authorities to pay off amounts due as scholarships pending for several years to the students entitled to them.

Chhattisgarh Cluster: Dalit Adivasi Manch (DAM) and Gram Mitra (GM)
Thus, the last workshop of CLM was reflective and analytical. It brought forth the feeling that initiatives like CLM are important to kindle light of collectivism both in terms of action and learning. DAM expressed its commitment to continue mobilisation of community striving towards claiming better and responsive governance at the grassroots.

Follow up Visit to DAM
This was also followed by a visit and a brief meeting with the CLM participants from DAM on 18th May 2010. NCAS assured timely and strategic resource support to DAM to continue the CLM initiative so that people can manage their micro campaign for just and right governance. The CLM members said that they expected to get regular support for filing claims on rights over forest and forestland. With great enthusiasm they shared that CLM process had contributed to their understanding and collectivity and they wanted to learn more in future.

B.3. CLM Phase-2: Micro Campaigning
Micro initiatives were taken by CLM initially in some clusters have become part of district, state and national level networking and alliances. We can see that in Karnnataka and Orissa where the CLM pattern was internalized in organization building the campaign processes owned by people and led the movements not only on community level but on district and state level.

In all CLMs we can see one similarity that the decision making process is more participatory and transparent.
The financial support which they got only for 2 events and skill building workshop, there too people have contributed. They are now themselves in search of small funds and raising them through membership for their newly made umbrella organization to run campaign. The campaign mode will connect CLM to macro policy issues. This requires new strategies and broader networking with state and national level networks and campaigns. The challenge is to enhance and reinforce community action which will strengthen national level advocacy for policy intervention and implementation.

NCAS role would be to monitor, document and strengthen the processes through giving them media and legislative advocacy support. Community learning movement program under this project might be over but it would continue in NCAS efforts in one form or another.

**A Community Learning Movement (CLM) Programme Review**

In August, 2010, NCAS held its annual Community Learning Movement (CLM) Programme Review. During this review session, CLM partners were invited to share the strengths and weaknesses of their community-led campaigns. This programme provided a space for CLM partners to learn from each other’s campaigns, while also allowing NCAS to help CLM programmes overcome their challenges.

**B.4. Capacity Building Initiatives of NCAS for the Partner Organisations**

NCAS has been invited to conduct a short term advocacy capacity building programme throughout the year. It tries to maintain the balance between its own mandated programmes as per the annual plan as well to meet the demands from other partner organisations and institutions. During the year the following programmes have been facilitated:

**CORO**

April 2010 and July 2011. CORO, a premier leadership training organisation frequently partners with NCAS in raising Advocacy capacities of its participants. NCAS has been involved in giving specialised inputs on gender issues in addition to advocacy capacity building.

**OXFAM INDIA PARTNERS AND STAFF**

June 2010. NCAS facilitated a four-day advocacy capacity building workshop for about 40 participants who were staff and partners of Oxfam India. The module consisted of topics on advocacy, People-centred advocacy and the processes,
advocacy with the various governance systems, role of international actors, media advocacy and how to prepare the campaign plan. Activists from the field – Ulka Mahajan, Surekha Dalvi, Milind Kokje, Kalpana Dixit, were invited and their experiences provided useful insights to the participants on the skills and tactics used in the praxis of advocacy.

**SK-VAW NETWORK**

July 2010. A 3 day Advocacy capacity building workshop for the Saurashtra-Kutch network on Violence Against Women in Rajkot from 22nd to 24th July 2010. 24 participants (19 women and 5 men) having an experience of more than 3 years shared their concerns and need for a concerted advocacy effort to curb violence and discrimination of women. The sessions facilitated focussed on understanding advocacy and people-centred advocacy in the given socio-political context, the process of advocacy, importance and strategies for organizing and mobilizing, an overview of the governance systems, media advocacy and networking. The programme concluded with an understanding on preparing a campaign plan. They decided to develop the plan further and make it a reality.

**WATER AID PARTNERS**

Sept 2010. Water Aid had organized a workshop on “Campaign Planning” for Water Aid staff and partners from 13th Sept to 17th Sept 2011 held in New Delhi. NCAS facilitated sessions for two days on advocacy with the various governance systems – viz: Administrative Advocacy, Judiciary, Legislature; and sessions on media advocacy and networking. Practitioners from the field – Roma (NFFPFW), Adv. Colin Consalves, Vijayan (Delhi Forum), and Suneeta (Jagori) shared their experiences and responded to questions.

**ASTHA**

Oct 2010 (on Research skills), Dec 2010 (on People Centred Advocacy), Dec 2010 (National forum on Single women). NCAS conducted three workshops for a leading organisation Astha in UdaipurRajasthan. Working in partnership with Astha Sansthan, a social justice organization, NCAS representative travelled to Udaipur to conduct a workshop on research methods and practices. The workshop was attended by twenty human rights advocates. The first two all seeking to improve their research and advocacy skills so as to strengthen the content of their advocacy campaigns, and the third was to specifically focus on advocacy issues of single women.

**PRAKRITI**

January 2011 (on Right to land and Right to work). Prakriti a leading resource centre for women and development lot of resources in Nagpur invited NCAS to hold a workshop on women's right to work and right to land in order for women
becoming equal contributors and beneficiaries of sustainable and equitable development.

WOMEN’S STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF PUNE
March 2011. NCAS designed a one-day module on advocacy for the post-graduate students of the Women’s Studies Centre, Pune University. This has been a part of the effort of the Centre to make the programme more relevant and provide an exposure to practical realities in the struggle for human rights and social justice. NCAS has been a partner/consultant in this effort. The sessions facilitated were on Introduction to advocacy (what and why of Advocacy), understanding the rights-based approach, and an exposure to the process of advocacy. Case stories and films that were used were effective tools that made the process participatory and reflective.

B.5. Advocacy Internship Programme (2009-2012) - Youth Capacity Building Programme

I. Current batch of Interns (2010-2012)
The 12th batch of Internship Programme secured participation of interns from Kashmir, Delhi, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Odisha. The candidates were selected after short-listing 38 candidates from the 98 applications received from the States of Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, U.P, Assam, M.P, Orissa, T.N, Karnataka, A.P, Maharashtra, W.B, Kashmir, Assam and Manipur and through a 2-day Youth Camp was held on 29th and 30th July 2010. Besides many external resource persons engaging with the internship, General Body member Ram Mohan, has taken several intensive sessions with this batch, in order to monitor and advise them and to see that the changes that were envisaged in the programme have been rolled out. The current batch interns are Aliya from J&K, Tarannum and Pratap from Delhi, Mahadev from Rajasthan, Vipul and Krishna from Gujarat and Sujoy and Chaitanya from Odhisha.

Programmes/ Activities
Advocacy internship programme has followed a methodology of self-learning facilitated under expert guidance. To implement it in-house lecture sessions were organized simultaneously to facilitate empirical learning interns are
exposed to various people’s movement and civil society activism.

October 2010 - December 2010

Beginning in October 2010, in the first phase the interns were introduced to various topics within the themes of Social Change and Political Theory. Members of NCAS lead input sessions with the interns on the subjects of:

Class: They were introduced to subject through concepts such as communism and capitalism. They were explained terminologies such as Dialectic Materialism, Production Relationship, Scientific Socialism

Caste and Religion: The interns learnt about the social and political connotations of the concept. A general understanding on the subject was developed through briefs about the origin of the caste system, its manifestations in different parts of India, challenges to the Caste System and the relationship between caste and religion. The medium of field visits and films was used to enhance the understanding. As part of their advocacy training they learnt village mapping.

Ethnicity: This session provided an overview of the various ethnicities in India and the world over. The facilitators described the interrelationship between identity and ethnicity and the diverse challenges it poses in a pluralistic society. Special references were made to the case studies of Northeast India, Palestine and Rwanda.

Gender and Patriarchy: An interactive session, it began with the facilitators gaining an understanding of the perspectives of the interns on these subjects. The input from the interns was used to weave around the socially structured concepts like ‘Who is a good woman?’; ‘Man-woman comparisons’, etc. Providing a theoretical background, the interns were introduced to patriarchy as a struggle and an ideology, gender as a social construct, gender stereotyping and the post independence women’s movement in India.

Field based Activities

1. A field visit to Manavi Hakk Abhiyan, Telgaon - Beed, Maharashtra, was conducted to gain an understanding on the dynamics of the caste system.
2. Participation in the ‘Safe City Campaign’ was undertaken on Human Rights Day. It is a campaign towards making public
transport safer and better for women.
3. Participated in the rally to support ‘Release of Dr. Binayak Sen’ organized by civil society groups of Pune

Activities from January 2011 – March 2011

Understanding Land Rights and Displacement: An issue of grave concern to rural communities, the concept displacement was introduced to the interns by encouraging their involvement in the Anti-LAVASA campaign. The interns attended a meeting between the fact finding committee appointed by the Union Ministry of Environment and Forest and the displaced person and also interacted with the eminent social activists like Ms. Medha Patkar, Shri Prakash Ambedkar and Shri. Anna Hazare.

The Anti-SEZ movement: Another aspect of the displacement and land rights issue was also brought forth before the interns. As part of this learning, a field visit ‘Macchimar Adikar Sangharsh Sangathan’ (MASS), Kutch, Kutch Nav Nirman Abhiyan, Kutch Mahila Vikas Sanghan, Ujas, SETU, Mundra Port, Gujarat, was organized to develop an understanding on the impact of SEZ’s on the fishing community. As part of this agenda, the interns also received an input session from Kumar Chandra Mardi on the impact of SEZs on tribal communities, in background of tribal rights in India.

Youth Participation in the Social Sector: The interns participated in the First Parliament of ‘Indian Student Council Leaders’, a cultivation ground enthusiastic and socially motivated youth to engage in efforts of political change and strengthening democracy. At the Parliament the interns had an opportunity to meet with prominent personalities from Politics, Environment, Media and Social Movement. The interns also visited the National Rural Youth Fest 2011 in Tuljapur and the Young Activist Meet in Lonavala.

Media Advocacy: This session was conducted by members of the NCAS team, specialized in print and visual media. The extensive scope of media as a tool for advocacy was explained to the interns. A hands-on session on camera handling and documentary film-making was also arranged for the interns.
External Input Sessions
1. An input session with GB member Arvind Anjum on the socio-political situation of India pre-independence.
2. Attended a lecture series on Science, Philosophy and Religion organized by Academy of Political and Social Studies, Pune
4. Workshop on Advocacy organized by Savitribai Phule Centre for Women’s Study, Pune University
5. A brief introduction to the political situation in Chhattisgarh, Salwa Judum, Human rights violation by Vijendra, NCAS team
6. Input session on Social movements after 1980 by Yogesh Diwan (March 2010)
7. Discussion on advocacy with EC member Subhash Mendapurkar – (Oct 2010)
8. Discussion with Gender rights with EC member Bimla Chandrasekar (October 2010)
9. Discussion with GB member Ramesh Sharma on Land rights (November 2010)
10. Discussion with GB member Dr. Mukund Ghare on Water conflicts in India (Feb 2011)
11. I am Dalit – experience sharing by Manikrao Golangade, NCAS Employee.
12. Understanding on Northeast social issues – Sandeep Pattnaik, NCAS team

Field Based Activities
1. Participation in a Consultation on National Land Reform Policy and Struggles in Maharashtra on Land Rights
2. Participation in the Save the Dev Nadi and Ram Nadi campaign, protesting against encroachments on the river beds in Pune.
3. Participation in International Women’s Day Rally.
4. Attended Public hearing on Right to Food organized by Centre for Advocacy and Research
6. Participation in National Consultation on Right to Education in October 2010.

Skill Building Activities
1. Developing report writing skills through a writing workshop conducted by Satyendra Ranjan from NCAS Team.
2. Participation in a workshop on Voice Modulation and Women Empowerment by Prof. Beth Osnes and Rebecca Andesltion
3. Participated in a Quiz organized on India and Contemporary world I and II, Democratic Politics II, Economics, History (NCERT Books)
4. Received input on Web, Computer and Projector installation skills NCAS interns created a blog- [http://ncasinternsarticles.blogspot.com](http://ncasinternsarticles.blogspot.com)
5. Learned Documentary making skills by making expe’We the Interns’
6. Theatre Workshop was held for interns. In this workshop interns made a fusion of various dances. There were Gujarati Garba, Odiya dance, Kashmiri Dance, and Rajasthani dance.
7. This year we undertook a major initiative in bringing spoken English and writing skills for the interns with the help of expertise available in the field. A specialist visited NCAS and held 30 sessions with the interns. Many of the interns have gained in confidence in speaking, but have gained more in being able to write emails.

**Learnings and Challenges**

- English is used most of the time as language of instruction and communication due to which most interns who are selected from deprived socio-economic background find it difficult to adjust and comprehend.
- Coming with little field based experience at time interns find it difficult to choose between personal and professional goal.
- The fell overwhelmed with the range of issues and find it difficult to sort information on different campaigns and issues.

**Update on Activities from April 2011-July 2011**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Taken by</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7th April 2011</td>
<td>How to Write Report?</td>
<td>Lata</td>
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<td>12th April 2011</td>
<td>Advocacy Training for TOT</td>
<td>Lata P.M.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9th June</td>
<td>Research Methodology</td>
<td>Amit</td>
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<tr>
<td>15th June</td>
<td>About Janadesh film and importance of painting</td>
<td>Vikram Nayak</td>
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<td>18th June 2011</td>
<td>About CLM / Future of young activists in movements with reference to Community Learning Movement in Karnataka and his own experiences in the field</td>
<td>Dilip Kamat</td>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5th April</td>
<td>Participating in rally of NAPM at Mumbai</td>
<td></td>
<td>Field activity</td>
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<td>8th April</td>
<td>Participating Anna Hazare Solidarity support rally</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event Description</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Person or Source</td>
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<tr>
<td>15th April 2011</td>
<td>Annual Planning Meeting</td>
<td>NCAS</td>
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<td>15th April 2011</td>
<td>Attending Peace Lecture by Teesta Setalvad</td>
<td>Input</td>
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<td>16th April 2011</td>
<td>Interaction on Water conflicts in Odhisha</td>
<td>Input</td>
<td>Mr. Pranab Choudhury</td>
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<td>17th April</td>
<td>Session on Current Social Problem in India</td>
<td>Input</td>
<td>Satyendra</td>
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<td>18th April 2011</td>
<td>How to do advocacy?</td>
<td>Input</td>
<td>Sandeep</td>
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<td>April</td>
<td>Interaction on Water conflicts in Odhisha</td>
<td>Input</td>
<td>Mr. Pranab Choudhury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th May 2011</td>
<td>Women movement and Government approach towards gender development</td>
<td>Input</td>
<td>Sunila Singh</td>
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<td>17th May 2011</td>
<td>Participating in Lavasa issues by three interns</td>
<td>Field Activity</td>
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<td>25th May 2011 to 28th May 2011</td>
<td>Participating in hunger strike of Medha tai at Mumbai</td>
<td>Field Activity</td>
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<td>27TH May 2011</td>
<td>Participating in land consultation in NCAS</td>
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<td>Ramesh Sharma from Ekta Parishad</td>
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<td>28th May 2011</td>
<td>Participating in lecture on political situation in Jammu Kashmir</td>
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<td>9th June 2011</td>
<td>Participating in rally on PCPNDT act</td>
<td>Field Activity</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>16th June 2011</td>
<td>Participating in food campaign</td>
<td>Field Activity</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4Th July to 9th July 2011</td>
<td>Participating in South Asian conference on Peace</td>
<td>Field Activity</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>11th July 2011</td>
<td>Participating in land consultation in NCAS</td>
<td>Input</td>
<td>Bhola ji</td>
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<tr>
<td>16th July to 23rd July 2011</td>
<td>Field visit to Navsarjan</td>
<td>Field Activity</td>
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**II. Update on 11th batch of Interns (2009-2011)**

After completing a successful year of inhouse perspective building and training on advocacy skills at NCAS the 11th batch of interns (2009-2011) took off to long term field placements. After completion of their field placement all of them are continuing supporting social action via various forums. Details of the placement, project work and intern’s current work engagement is discussed below-

**Six-month field placements**

The six months placement of 11th batch started in the first week of September. Interns themselves choose organizations for the placement according to their interest.
areas of work with the help of Internship Co-coordinator, NCAS staff and through resources outside the NCAS. During the period of first month they understood about the nature and work of the organization and their role as an intern in the organization. They have actively participated in the organizational activities and worked as a part of an organization.

**Work done and learning during the placement**

**Shani Shrivastav:** He was interested in Media Advocacy hence he decided to do placement with Samvad, Jharkhand. He was actively involved in making of documentary film “Ladhai Abhi Jaari Hai” with the team of Samvad. Besides this he also helped organization in report writing.

**Swati Suryavanshi:** She was placed in ‘People’s Watch’, Madurai, TamilNadu. She could spend only two and half months in the organization and made visits to schools to understand about how school system provides education on human rights to the children; however, due to her poor health she did not complete the placement.

**Udit Prakash:** He was placed with ‘Lok Paryay’, Aurangabad, Maharashtra. He worked tribal groups at Aurangabad districts on land issues and helped ‘Paryay’ to formulate support groups of women. He also worked with tribal migrants for sugarcane cutting with collaboration with Disha Foundation.

**Ravindra Kumar:** He was placed with ‘MKSS’, Rajasthan. He helped in organizing State level Audit on ‘Right to Information Act’s implementation and “Right to Employment and Information Abhiyan” He worked on NREGA scheme particularly on issues of daily wages of workers.

**Mahadev Upade:** He was placed with ‘ASTHA’, Rajasthan. He worked with tribal groups and prepared document on ASTHA’s effort in implementation of PESA ACT. Also translated “Adivasi Ghoshnapatra” and Policy Review of NCAS organization.

**Jinda Sandbhor:** He was placed with ‘Forum for Policy dialogue on water conflicts in India’, Odhisha. He was involved in research with the focus on Water conflict around Hirakud reservoir with especially in Sasan canal. His topic was “Stakeholder analysis in command area of Sasan canal of Hirakud Reservoir in Mahanadi Basin”.

**Kabita Mishra:** She was placed with ‘Samagra Shikshan Avam Vikas Sansthan’ in Bihar. She helped in designing the projects on Education and Legal Interaction; and assisted in designing the website of an organization. She was responsible for networking with funding and other supportive organizations.
**Dhanaji Khupkar:** Dhanaji was placed in “Vicharata Samuday Samarthan Manch”, Ahmedabad in Gujarat. The organization works with Nomadic and De-notified Tribes (DNT) of Gujarat. By living in different habitats of DNT he helped in sensitization of DNT communities towards Education, Health, and Governmental Schemes. Two of his report published in Magazine named “Saad”.

**An assessment of 11th Batch**
The interns found the exposure visits, field visits and the pre-input academic discussions extremely useful learning tools. Readings and presentations enhanced their skills of articulation. Their participation in activities of NCAS as well as other activities such as campaigns, rallies, doing street-plays, publishing news-letter, and interaction with activists as inspirational. Learning by doing principle of the internship helped in both developing the political perspective, as well as building knowledge and skills. These reflections emerged from a mid-term assessment by each intern, their reports and documentation, the assignments and term papers that they wrote the projects they did and from the presentations they made.

**Current Status of Interns of 11th Batch**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No</th>
<th>Intern</th>
<th>Current Status</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Shani Shrivastav</td>
<td>Works with “Navshrushti” organization in Delhi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Swati Suryavanshi</td>
<td>Planning for further education i.e. MSW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Udit Prakash</td>
<td>Works with “Srishti” organization on Land issues in Karnataka state</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Ravindra Kumar</td>
<td>He works with Dalits of Rohtas district of Bihar. He is founding member of the organization.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Mahadev Upade</td>
<td>Works with “Manav Ashrita Sansthan, Udaypur”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Jinda Sandbhor</td>
<td>Continued same organization – “Forum for Policy dialogue on water conflicts in India, Odhisha”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Kabita Mishra</td>
<td>Continued same organization -“Samagra Shikshan Avam Vikas Sansthan”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Dhanaji Khupkar</td>
<td>Works with “National Centre For Advocacy Studies” (NCAS)</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**B.6. The Expansive Programme with Youth**

This Programme is more extensive in nature and aims at reaching to a much larger section of youth across the country. It aims at politicization of youth so that they
engage in social action and activism. This year the NCAS team decided to use following strategies:

I. Engaging with youth from NCAS’s CLM areas
20 young men and women from CLM were participated in the youth conventions and workshops organized by Janamukti Sangharsh Vahini and Mazdoor Kissan Samiti in Bihar and Jharkhand. The events addressed the issues related to land, communalism and unemployment. The role of the youth in bringing about the social change was thoroughly discussed.

II. Main-streaming the Advocacy Internship module into the curriculum/ syllabi of colleges and Universities
Conducting short term special Youth Advocacy Orientation programmes in educational institutions has always been a part of NCAS work. It has conducted sessions on Advocacy and Social Justice Movements with institutes E.g. Symbiosis Media School, Maharshi Karve Institute of Social Sciences, SNDT, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, MIT School of Media and Governance, Pune University and AFRO etc.

NCAS has been receiving several requests to collaborate and formalise trainings on People Centred Advocacy for youth studying in educational institutes of various kinds. To mention a few:

1. Women's Studies Centre of University of Pune has been on talks with NCAS for their M.A course.

2. Department of Sociology of University of Pune is willing to take up course for MA students

3. Department of Continuing Education of University of Pune have recently approached NCAS for conducting a certificate course. They also have funds to partially support the initiative.

4. Department of Social Work of Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, an autonomous University is planning to collaborate with NCAS for their MSW and distance learning diploma students

5. BAIF, Pune with S.P Jain Institute of Management, Mumbai are starting course on 'Development Management and want NCAS to prepare a module on Advocacy and also participate in the course designing process.
III. Students/ Volunteers from Educational Institutes Placed with NCAS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>College</th>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Mentor</th>
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<td>May 2010</td>
<td>Vishnu Gaikwad</td>
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<td>Shalini Sharan</td>
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<td>Forest Right</td>
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<td>Ameya Parulekar</td>
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<td>Media</td>
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<td>Access to Justice</td>
<td>Shirish</td>
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<td>Karve Institute of Social Service, Pune</td>
<td>Tribal Sub Plan</td>
<td>Amit</td>
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<td>Urban Governance</td>
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<td>Karve Institute of Social Service, Pune</td>
<td>Media Club</td>
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<td>June 2011</td>
<td>Tuhin Kanti Das</td>
<td>Assam University, Silchar</td>
<td>Media Club and Media Advocacy</td>
<td>Harish</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

IV. International Volunteers Placed with NCAS

Mr. Seth Garfinkel, an intern from American Jewish World Service (AJWS) had joined NCAS for one year placement. His internship got over in July 2011. The AJWS sent its second fellow Mr. Seth H. Garfinkel to National Centre for Advocacy Studies in late September 2010. The first couple of weeks were spent in orienting to NCAS work. As planned prior to his arrival, Seth was given an assignment that involved
reworking of the NCAS website. Though not exactly something that he was familiar he took it as challenge. As per the "work plan" this was also meant to be his introduction to NCAS’ work. Seth, as he communicated to us, felt that he got a better insight into NCAS and its work. Seth contributed significantly to the redesigning of the NCAS website. From January 2011 Seth began work on the research project titled, “Accessing Economic and Social Rights; A Bottom Up Approach.” This is a study of the judicial system at the district and below district levels and how these institutions are approached by especially the marginalised communities for accessing their socio-economic rights. Seth conducted interviews and before his departure wrote a research paper titled ‘The Right to Housing in India: An (In) accessible Human Right’ based on this study.
C. Campaign Support Initiatives of NCAS

NCAS adds value to campaigns by extending support through Networking and Alliance Building, Inputs in Strategic Planning and Action, Research and Documentation, Capacity Building, Media Advocacy and Expressing Solidarity through Direct Participation in the action programs. These processes took a variety of forms in our six major campaigns, which included Campaign against Special Economic Zones (SEZs), Campaign for Forest Rights Act Implementation, Campaign against Forced Land Acquisition and Displacement (as in Lavasa), Campaign for Right to Food, Campaign for Right to Water and campaign against Violence Against Women.

Throughout the year, activities were focused more on strategy planning and alliance building. Especially the Campaign for Forest Rights Act (FRA) implementation, to hold a workshop for National Advisory Council and National Review committee appointed by MOEF and MOTA to collect an update on actual on-ground status of FRA implementation.

In addition, NCAS frequently engaged in regional consultations and campaign based collaborations. For example, the team jointly organized People’s Audit of SEZs on National level in Delhi as the continuation process of last year’s audit at state level.

C.1. NCAS Supported Campaigns

A. Campaign against SEZ

I. National Audit on SEZ: The People's Audit of Special Economic Zones was held from 19th – 20th April, 2010, at the Teen Murti Auditorium, New Delhi. The Audit was jointly initiated by the National Alliance of People of Movements (NAPM); the National Campaign for People's Right to Information (NCPRI); Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS); and National Centre for Advocacy Studies (NCAS).

This two-day National Convention was a culmination of state-level people's audit of SEZs that was conducted in several states of India through last year (2009-2010).

On day one, the panel heard depositions and testimonies of affected people and activists from the states of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Orissa, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. The second day it was focused on the situation in Tamil Nadu, Goa and Northern Region (Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan and Delhi). A delegation from NCAS including the interns was involved in all supporting activities like organizing, mobilizing, logistics as well as documenting the event.
B. Campaign for Forest Rights

I. In November 2010, Prof Madhav Gadgil a member of National Advisory Council (NAC) initiated a process to discuss actual working on FRA implementation and management of Minor Forest Products with the collaboration of NCAS. The purpose of this meeting was to bring forth the real concerns of grassroots communities before the NAC and National Review Committee. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Madhav Gadgil.

Over two days of discussion, with support of case stories, a note and memorandum was developed for being sent to the President of the Review Committee. On this memorandum the present participants like Surekha Dalvi, Indavi tulpule, Ulka Mahajan, Brian Lobo, subodh Kulkarni, Milind Thatte, Shantaram Pandere, Vikram Kanhere, Sehjo Singh , Lata P.M. and Madhav gadgil signed and NCAS has sent it to N.C. Saxena, president of Review Committee.

The follow up by Dr. Madhav Gadgil and other members of National Advisory Council was resulted in drawing up detailed operational guidelines. The news was carried in print media raised once again a debate between the groups working on FRA. The news was carried in ‘Hindu’ daily regarding NAC’s recommendations to union tribal affairs ministry on Sunday February 27, 2011.

Some groups were happy with the guidelines and some have shown indifference. NCAS as a support group tried to maintain dialogue in this debate with both type of opinion base organizations as well as advocating for implementation of FRA especially in the context of community rights claims, we circulated NAC’s report to other community based micro organizations working on FRA.

II. The team took role in a National level workshop organized by ‘Vrikshmitra’ in Mendhalekha, Gadchiroli on “Challenges in claiming community rights under Forest Rights Act”.

III. On 13th June a Marathi Manual published by NCAS was released officially in Pune Press Club. The manual is based on the success story of Mendhalekha and it has become quite useful tool for the other forest dwellers community to
claim community rights. The guest speakers at the event were Madhav gadgil, Mohan H.H and Devaji Tofa. As a followup a group working with nomadic tribes and pasture communities called ‘Anthara’, Pune invited a team member to facilitate the training based on manual. 30 participants from a pastoral community participated in this workshop.

IV. The government of India appointed a committee to review the implementatin of the act. Three members of the Committee, Dr. A.K. Jha, Dr. Ravi Chellam, and Ashish Kothari, conducted a public consultation for the state of Maharashtra, in Pune on 12th June 2010. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Madhav Gadgil.

The consultation was organized by the National Centre for Advocacy Studies and the Tribal Research and Training Institute, Pune at the Gandhi Smarak Nidhi, Gandhi Bhawan, the consultation had been publicized through relevant list serves, press releases, and individual emails/phone calls/invitations to several NGOs, community representatives and officials. About 100 people participated, mostly from local communities and civil society organizations from Maharashtra.

What was special about the consultation was that most groups and most regions of the state were represented, including Konkan (Thane and Raigarh areas), Vidarbha, northern Maharashtra, and western Maharashtra, with larger proportion being from Konkan and Vidarbha. Several media persons were also present. Apart from oral presentations, the team received about 25 written submissions, all from communities and NGOs. A few forest officials also participated, one of whom also spoke; no one from other government departments including the tribal agencies attended, though they were specifically invited.

After some initial remarks from the Committee members, NCAS team member and Dr. Madhav Gadgil who was chairing the session (member of National Advisory Council), submissions were invited in the following order: communities, NGOs, and government officials. Where necessary clarifications
were given by Committee members and a brief concluding statement on next steps was also made by the three committee members.

C. Support to Right to Water Campaign
The meeting on water user’s society was held in Pune on 18th June. It was organized by SOPECOM with the purpose of collecting data of water users’ societies in Maharashtra. NCAS has involved in this activity with its core interest to visualize an opportunity of advocacy with existing government organizations/tribunal/awards on water. Two more meetings in this series were held by Prayas on 3rd July and Sathi-Cehat on 20th July.

A member of the NCAS team participated in the ‘National Convention on Water Conflicts’ organized by Water Aid in Bhopal. This participation was in consequence of NCAS’s involvement in the forum on water conflict in India and its work on water policy at the state level.

D. Women’s Rights (Campaign Against Violence against women)
The team facilitated a State level consultation on the PWDV Act in Maharashtra organised by Yuva Rural on 25th & 26th July 2010. The purpose of the workshop was to bring civil society groups working on women’s rights across the states to discuss, analyze and come out with concrete demands, action points and suggestions in order to hold the government accountable for implementation of the PWDVA.

On 7th and 8th February ‘Maharashtra Single Women’s Forum’ invited a member of NCAS as a main speaker at a state level convention in Badalapur, Thane.

NCAS interns are enthusiastic participants in the safe city campaign, Pune, which has been put together by a large collective of various organisations. We have provided media and skill support to the campaign.

E. Right to Food Campaign
The team members facilitated sessions in a National convention on the Right to Food at Rourkela, Orissa. This was held between 6th and 8th August, 2010. The aim was to develop a common understanding regarding Food Security and its Determinants; Right to Food in areas of Conflict and Struggle; and National Food Security Act and Implementation Food Schemes and NREGA. NCAS has taken the responsibility to provide a Marathi translation of the Act and N.B. Saxena’s report.
F. Country wide struggle for Land Rights

I. **Narmada Bachao Andolan**: A member of the team participated in celebrating the 25-year-old journey of NBA in a national convention of NAPM held on 22nd Oct to 26th Oct. 2010.

II. **Anti-POSCO Movement**: NCAS has been a core support organisation to PPSS (POSCO Pratirodh Sangram Samiti), an anti-POSCO movement. The role which NCAS has undertaken in this campaign is to keep the discourse alive from the displaced people’s perspective by sending regular campaign alerts; documenting, mobilizing media and civil societies on a local, state and national level, drafting frequent appeals in support of the Anti-POSCO campaign to all networks. The team has also written and published articles in Odiya to highlight the human rights violations in area.

Lobbying with various subjects experts, bureaucrats, legislative members and other influential people to support the movement has been another support area which NCAS has been anchoring. Team member has been involved in engaging and sending delegations of faith groups having strong influence over the Korean Government and also organising cross-country trade union groups to convince POSCO in Korea to withdraw from the project.

III. **Anti-LAVASA Campaign**: In the campaign against Lavasa Company (a HCC subsidiary constructing hill township project in 25,000 acres of land by causing irreversible damage to the Mose Khore valley in Pune district) as a part of right to land campaign and conserving ecology NCAS is supporting the National Alliance of People’s Movements (NAPM). A team member has been writing appeals and press releases for the movement published in the national and local print media. An article “how government agencies fast tracked Lavasa” published in Info change was also written to highlight people’s perspective on the issue and to highlight undue favours made by the state to the project.

This participation is part of the continuing struggle to render justice to the environment, ecology and project affected local people. The issue has caught the imagination of public at large and has been able to highlight various potholes in
sanctioning of the project by overruling legislative stipulations. A PIL is ongoing in the Mumbai High Court as well as the Union Ministry of Environment and Forest has tagged the project as ecologically damaging and has stopped work at the site. An article

IV. Support to ‘Janadesh 2012’- A people’s campaign on Land Rights: NCAS in association with Ekta Parishad organized a Land Rights Consultation in Pune on the 21st and 22nd of February, 2011. The consultation was attended by about 35 people comprising of youth group leaders, representatives of NGO’s and activists working in the field of land rights. The objective of this consultation was to discuss the issues surrounding the Right to Land in Maharashtra so as to incorporate the same into the Janadesh Yatra, 2012. NCAS has taken the lead in anchoring the process in Maharashtra.

G. Right to Education
NCAS has decided to support the implementation of Right to Education, the new fundamental right. It was felt at the most important value addition at this initial stage was to create awareness among the activists groups about the potential of this new right, and to support the facilitation of framing of rules at the state-level. In this regard, NCAS held four consultations on the model rules and the rules proposed by the government of Maharashtra in relation to Adivasi, Dalit, De-notified Tribes and Nomadic tribes. Later it held a National Consultation in October, 2010 to promote the remarkable dimensions of this newest fundamental right and to see that it is properly understood by the community of development workers and civil society leaders.

The recommendations of the workshops were sent to Mr. Nand Kumar, in response to the invitation on the “Maharashtra Prathamik Shikshan Parishad” website inviting recommendations. These are-

1. those concerning the children of Nomadic Tribes and De-notified Tribes. In this respect the state of Maharashtra can take a lead over other states, as there is already some recognition of their special needs, such as
   • to be included in the definition of disadvantaged section
- to be taught in their mother tongue and yet learn the standard state language
- to be entitled to relaxed upper age limits
- to be represented in the school management committees

2. The second set of recommendations concerns the accountability mechanisms. In this connection it was felt that the entire set of actors from elected representatives, officials, teachers and service delivery staff and parents should all share the responsibility of getting the child to school and making her/his coming to school worthwhile.

3. The third set concerns suggestions for strengthening the school management committees and making them effective as well as ensuring adequate representation of marginalised groups in it.

4. And lastly the adequacy of the Model Rules of the Central govt. from the perspective of the disabled child in villages and towns of India.

Learnings and Challenges

- Need to have logical end of campaign support to individual campaigns. To start the process indicators have been set to know how much and how long NCAS has given support on local, regional, state and national level, whether it has approached to all stakeholders and could give justice to the demands from civil societies working on that particular issue. Eg. NCAS has taken decision to stop support directly in Anti SEZ campaign.

- Hence the challenge and dilemma is how to say no or when we can decide that this is enough support if there would be consistent demand from same campaign. In such case NCAS has decided to give only desk/research/documentation support so it will be helpful as resource book (e.g. Vaishali Patil was asked to write down a case study: firsthand account of the leadership on Campaign Against SEZ in Raigad, included in South Asian Resource book).

- Being a supporter in the campaigns, the role is to work with a limited institutional limitation. Also at times this limitation weakens our stakes.

- There is an emergence of local leadership even in large campaigns as against earlier it was only with the local campaigns. Eg. Anti POSCO movement is one of such examples of people’s ownership on their struggle. A positive
change in people’s movement that in these struggles people are not waiting for any leadership and directly challenging the governance.

- Most of the tribal and other forests dwellers are still not sensitized in remote areas of the forest. Even the Forest department is not sensitive to give entitlement to the claimants and about the procedures of FRA 2006. Moreover, women are quite invisible in the claiming process.

- A challenge is to bring PTGs into the fold of FRA. Except Odisha there are no claims filed in any other state by PTG under FRA 2006. NCAS published and a film are being used to sensitize PTGs in Maharashtra to file claims under FRA in the joint effort undertaken by NCAS and Anthara.

- Framing and raising issues of forceful land acquisition at state, national and international levels and putting consistent pressure on the state government. Is becoming challenging day by day. The struggle against the forceful land acquisition movement has been subverted and undermined both by corporate interests internationally and in the country. It has been a major challenge to resist the corporate invasion facilitated by the state to grab the people’s resources and inducing human rights violation by the state.

- Difficult to work in a hostile environment where the democratic institutions is significantly biased towards the corporates. Voicing for the people’s right over resources is termed as anti-development.

- Unable to connect the anti-displacement discourse into the larger political debate in the state on the issues resource extraction, inequitable distribution of benefits, environmental debate.

- There is a need to map region-wise land issues of Maharashtra and the status of land ownership/ distribution. NCAS proposes to compile the same and also prepare a resource directory. This compilation would provide a base for demands on land reforms / rights in Maharashtra.

Achievements

- In campaign against SEZ we were successful in working with various campaign groups to bring this issue in the public discourse and keep it alive till in some states the projects were withdrawn.

- In spite of such challenge NCAS tries to keep the discourse alive from the displaced people’s perspective by sending regular campaign alerts;
documenting, mobilizing media and civil societies on a local, state and national level.

- Even though we were having crunch of human and financial resources. With the help of interns team members could maintain NCAS’s visibility in direct support. As well as on implementation of FRA, Anti Posco, Anti-Lavasa campaigns we could reach up to legislative advocacy. First time on local level we had been part of the advocacy campaign of citizen’s campaign and had direct dialogue with executives. This experience is helpful for us to develop understanding regarding urban governance.

**Update on April to July 2011**
- NCAS is working towards creating a handbook on Right to Education Act for workers in the field.

- On FRA (community rights in Maharashtra) team facilitated sessions for the field volunteers of ANTHRA. The training was held on 19th May, 2011. Participants were from 5 districts of Maharashtra-Pune, Satara, Solapur, Ratnagiri and Ahmednagar.

  • On 11th July 2011 meeting was held in NCAS on “Sharing of experiences on community Forest users group in Nepal “by Bhola Bhattarai. In this meeting Madhav Gadgil, Kusum Karnik and other participants from organizations working on FRA also shared their views. It was surprising to know that even though Madhav Gadgil did not visit to forest users groups in Nepal, his concept and resource book on bio diversity register was used by CFUG in Nepal since 1994. NCAS has become a link between such resource persons and practitioners by organizing meeting and developing networking. NCAS also brought Bhola ji in touch with the groups working on FRA in Maharashtra, Chattisgarh, Odisha and UP by organising filed visits and interactive information and experience exchange meetings.

- In July team worked on final draft of resource book in Hindi based on case stories of community forest rights claims under FRA 2006. These are the experiences from Khultabad, Badrama and Mendhalekha. The book is in printing process.
- Update on Support to ‘Janadesh 2012’- A people’s campaign on Land Rights: NCAS called the second meeting for planning the Yatra – ‘Sandesh Yatra’ in Maharashtra on 27th May 2011. Decisions on organizing Yatras region-wise in Maharashtra – North (Khandesh), Western, Konkan, Marathwada, Vidarbha, and the Sanghatans/persons coordinating these were tentatively decided. Issues unique to the region, the related demands and land mapping were also proposed. NCAS agreed to provide secretarial support, Subhash Lomte agreed to coordinate the effort. The tentative route was also decided – to be confirmed by various regional groups during regional meetings. Two regional meetings to decide the route of the Yatra were held on 16th June 2011 in Beed in Marathwada region, and on 5th July in Vidarbha region.

- On Support to Anti- Lavasa Campaign- After several presentations and meetings held at MoEF and considering a detailed field investigation report undertaken by the MoEF expert Committee on June 10th a final order on Lavasa Hill Township was issued from the Ministry. It has held the project illegal and has left the suitable decision to be made by the state government. However, the Maharashtra Chief Minister and the Revenue Minister have been keeping silence. The work at site is shut for 10 months. A Mumbai HC PIL is ongoing and on 10th August hearing was held to listen to NAPM on the issue.
D. Knowledge Building Initiatives of NCAS

D.1. Accessing Economic and Social Rights from the Bottom – Up (A Pilot Study)

NCAS has undertaken a research project which seeks to understand the extent to which people in both urban and rural India especially the marginalised communities such as the Adivasis and Dalits enforce their economic and social rights through the existing district level judicial and quasi-judicial systems. The study looks at the systemic features that constrain access to these rights. Information about the lower judiciary (the district and taluka courts) in the existing literature is limited. The present study is an attempt to address this gap. This study is being supported by the Ford Foundation.

This study was conceptualised in the background of two previous studies by NCAS. The first one conducted in 2004-05 assessed the realization of economic, social, and cultural rights by the adivasis, dalits and other backward classes in the states of Maharashtra, Karnataka and Chhattisgarh. It focussed on the right to food security, elementary education and health care services. The study also examined the civil society initiatives that ran parallel to government initiatives.

The second study in 2007-08 mapped the various informal and traditional institutions of dispute resolution of the Adivasis and nomadic tribe communities in Maharashtra. This study revealed that the formal judicial was rarely accessed by the Adivasi and nomadic tribe communities to enforce their economic and social rights. In light of this, the present study focuses on understanding the extent to which these communities access the lower judiciary with respect to their socio-economic rights.

Economic and social rights (ESRs) are understood as defined by the International Covenant on Economic and Social Rights, 1966, to which India is a signatory; as well as the Directive Principles of the Indian Constitution. ESRs include the: right to water; right to land; right to education; right to housing; right to health; right to a living wage; right to food; right to social security; right to the protection of the family.

This study seeks to understand public perceptions towards judicial and quasi-judicial forums and the extent to which they are seen as instruments of justice. Additionally the study is also evaluating the functioning of the Mahatma Gandhi Tanta Mukti Gaon Mohim (Dispute Free Village Scheme) introduced by the Government of Maharashtra in 2007. It is expected that the research would feed into the larger advocacy work of NCAS and will also build its strength on developing empirical understanding of Judicial Advocacy as an important component of People Centred Advocacy.
The research is being simultaneously conducted in the three states of Maharashtra by NCAS, Gujarat by Centre for Social Justice and Himachal Pradesh by Jagori Grameen in association Prof. Jayant Krishnan of Indiana University. The project spans over three years with the first two years dedicated to data collection, analysis and publication of research findings, followed by advocacy in the third year. The project started with literature review August 2010.

**Geographic selection**
In Maharashtra the study covers Pune and Osmanbad districts selected on the basis of certain social, economic, geographical and historical indicators apart from considerations of logistics and availability of resources. The talukas were selected on the basis of the presence of Adivasi and Nomadic tribes population. The study will also extend into parts of Raigad District with focus on the Dispute Free Village scheme. Raigad, a Fifth Schedule area, has a substantial tribal population and is reputed to have had notable success with the Dispute Free Village Scheme.

**Selection of the Courts**
In each state the regular civil and criminal courts at the district and at the taluka level will be studied along with Special Forums including the Family Courts; Labour Courts/Industrial Tribunals; and Juvenile Justice Board. The rationales for selecting the specialized forums in each state are: that they are common and exist in all three states and focus on ESRs.

**Study Process**
The study began in September 2011 with a literature review. In November 2010 a meeting was held where representatives from NCAS, Centre for Social Justice (CSJ), Jagori Grameen (JG) and Prof Krishnan were present to discuss and finalise the research design. In January 2011 a workshop to outline the field based survey and interviews was held for the researchers and investigators. Representatives of NCAS and CSJ attended the workshop. The actual field work began in February 2011.

**Types of Research-Techniques**
Various research techniques have been chosen to implement the study. There is a literature review (background reading and references), archival of the information, visits to the Courtroom, and Qualitative Field Research that include Ethnographies & Semi-Structured Interviews.

**Work done till July 2011**
The team at NCAS has interviewed a substantial number of judges, lawyers and litigants. Some litigants are also activists or non-government groups and social-action groups. We sourced some of the litigants through news items on cases concerning economic and social rights in the District Court.
February 2011 to March 2011
During this period interviews were conducted only in Pune city, Khed and Junnar Talukas. Interviews were conducted with judges, lawyers and litigants at District Court, Family Court, a bench of the court at the Pune Municipal Court, Juvenile Justice Board (Pune) Labour Court/Industrial Tribunal (Pune): Taluka Court (Khed: Rajguru Nagar, Taluka Court (Junnar). The numbers are given below.

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<th>Courts</th>
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<th>Lawyers/legal advisor</th>
<th>Litigants</th>
<th>Officer In-charge</th>
<th>Mediators/ Councillors</th>
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<td>Family Court</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>4 (Councillors)</td>
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<td>3 (One legal advisor)</td>
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<td>5 (Committee Members)</td>
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Preliminary findings

a. Interview with Judges:
   i. Generally approachable: It was easy to get appointments since we had a permission letter from the Bombay High Court.
   ii. Quite a few were eager to share information and views.
   iii. Knowledge about economic and social rights limited to non-existent

b. Interview with Lawyers:
   i. Came across a few touts in talukas courts.
ii. Junior lawyers were more open to sharing information than senior lawyers

c. Interview with Litigants:
i. Most disputes concern land and family
ii. Other ESR issues – education, housing, health were hardly taken to court

d. Interview with Dispute free village committee Members:
i. Every village may not have an active committee – award winning villages, more active
ii. Approached by members of a comparatively lower economic strata in the village
iii. Most disputes family and land

Challenges Faced in interviews and data collection
Judge: Judges were very hesitant to share about judicial transparency. Mostly they have time constraints. Two judges denied interview because the permission letter did not refer to ‘interview’ and it was very difficult to convince them. Few judges shared that we the researcher highlight judiciaries negative points so they were very conscious during interview.

Lawyer: Senior Lawyers were unwilling to speak about court strategies they used in courts.
Time constraints saw several interviews rescheduled.

Litigant: It is difficult to find litigant whose cases concerned ESR. It was not easy to interview litigants in court campus.

Dispute Free Village Committee: Does not have a very legal basis, lack of legal knowledge, no procedure and no order. Not all members of the committee sit at the same time mostly the elderly attend regularly. Female members of committee are not very active.

The Plan Ahead
1. Follow specific case studies under the Right to Housing.
2. The Ram Nadi case story, where agitation was preferred to approaching the court.
3. Cases of eviction of Slum dwellers, where filing in the district court was preferred to the High Court.
An overview of the study in Gujarat

Centre for Social Justice has made similar progress in Gujarat by interviewing 51 applicants, 75 litigants, 66 lawyers, 7 judicial clerks, 4 court registrars, 4 judges, 1 labour officer in 12 taluka’s.

Interview process was initiated from the month of Feb 2011. Details of targets that needed to be achieved and what has being achieved are as under:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No.</th>
<th>Interviews</th>
<th>Target Set</th>
<th>Target Achieved</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Applicants</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Litigants</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Lawyers</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Judicial Clerk</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Court Registrar</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Judges</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Labour Officer</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Preliminary Findings

1. The lawyers explained that maximum cases that came to the court were regarding, land, wages, consumer protection, social issues.
2. There are forums that are available for alternative dispute resolution but their effectiveness is a matter of debate, forums like Consumer forums, labour courts, etc.
3. Though there is a judicial procedure available, the most common practice in the courts is that of conciliation and compromise which is initiated by the lawyers. It takes a minimum of 1-2 years for the cases to be resolved, and sometimes even more than that. The lawyers were unable to respond to what kind of economic rights the people should get.
4. Applicants perceived the increasing population and inflation as major issues affecting the society.
5. The judicial clerks say that economic issues that require legal security should be wages, employment, atrocities and land issues. They are aware that there are mechanisms like women’s commission, legal aid centers.
Issues that concerned Court registrars included dealing with the High Court, dealing with the officials apart from that family issue, and other civic issues also surround them. According to the registrar, issues that need legal security include employment, education, health, land and wages.

An overview of the study in Himanchal Pradesh
In early July, representatives from NCAS visited Himachal Pradesh to conduct a training workshop on research methodology with Jagori Grameen. The research work on this project will begin in August 2011. NCAS shared with Jagori their experiences on field, including the formalities for getting permissions, sourcing news and following cases. Jagori Grameen shall conduct qualitative study in the Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh.
D. 2. Advocacy on Adivasi Issues: Adivasi Resource Centre (ARC)

Adivasi Resource Centre (ARC) is a programme of NCAS designed to focus on livelihood and governance issues related to Adivasis’ rights. Started in 2008 for three years as a pilot programme it succeeded in carving a niche by raising governance issues related to Adivasi dominated states of Chhattisgarh, Orissa and Maharashtra. ARC has a strong component of research and legislative advocacy. The strength of ARC has been on analyzing the government policies from Adivasi perspective, demystifying various government policies and schemes framed for Adivasis’, having an interface with the legislative members on issues of Adivasi communities through preparing legislative briefs, collaborating with the government and semi- government bodies having mandate of working for Adivasi development.

The ARC programme has entered its second phase starting from November 1, 2010. Built on the activities undertaken in the first phase the ARC continues to prepare legislative briefs and report cards on Adivasi related issues. The second phase of ARC has a strong component of capacity building of grassroots groups through Community Learning Movement and focus on Tribal Sub Plan, PESA and FRA. For NCAS, the ARC activities have helped in developing a better understanding on Adivasi Rights issues and build an Adivasi perspective for NCAS work. The programme is supported by the Ford Foundation.

Knowledge Building and Dissemination

I. Publication of Policy Briefs and Manuals

ARC published and disseminated 11 policy and legislative briefs, report cards and updates in English, Hindi and Marathi. The focus was on demystifying and democratizing knowledge, the language used was simple and the emphasis was on the use of Indian languages. The publications were distributed and disseminated to over 1000 organisations and individuals covering legislators, bureaucrats, voluntary groups, action groups, activists, media and journalists, institutes and academicians.

The following publications were brought out and disseminated during this period:

1. **Manual on Forest Rights Act** (Marathi)

   The book describes the processes of claiming community rights as stipulated in the Forest Rights Act. It documents the success story of two villages in Maharashtra where community forest rights have been claimed successfully and also recognized under the FRA, 2005. The manual is well received by the CSOs working on forest rights issues. The printed version is in Marathi and a soft copy in English has been made available on NCAS website.
2. Audio-visual Manual on Community Rights Claims under FRA (Hindi)

It was realized that the written manual is not sufficient considering lack of education in these areas. NCAS produced an audio visual manual on the process of filing community rights claims under FRA. The objective was to reach out to more people, especially the communities dependent on forest, and train them and develop their understanding of the community rights under FRA. This 30 minute manual has been well appreciated within civil society groups.

3. Tribal Sub-Plan of Maharashtra (Marathi)

A legislative brief on ‘TSP in Maharashtra’ was written by Samarthan in collaboration with NCAS. It examines how the TSP is being implemented in the state of Maharashtra. It was released at the hands of Mr. Dilip Valse-Patil (Speaker, Maharashtra State Assembly,) in the presence of Mr. Babanrao Pachpute (Minister for Tribal Welfare, Maharashtra), Mr. Subhash Desai (MLA, Shiv Sena), Mr. Vivek Pandit (MLA, Independent) and some other MLAs on 5 April 2010 in Mumbai.

4. Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) under the Eleventh Five Year Plan (English)

This legislative brief examines the TSP implementation under the Eleventh Five Year Plan and offers suggestions for the effective implementation of the TSP. The document has been translated into Hindi.

5. Ashram Schools in Maharashtra (Marathi)

A legislative brief, it examines the implementation of the Ashram Schools scheme in Maharashtra with special reference to Raigad district. Based on reports, visits to Ashram schools and interviews of activists, the brief highlights problems in implementation of the scheme. The document also presents remedial measures for the better implementation.

II. Report Cards

A series of ten report cards were published seeking to bridge the information gap between the institutions of governance and Adivasis in the state of Chhattisgarh. The Idea of having report cards, written in simple language is to provide information about the institution having mandate for functioning in the interest of Adivasi in Chhattisgarh. The
activist, those who are working on issues related to rights of adivasi, often finds difficulty in accessing these institutions due to lack of information. The booklet intends to plug the information and knowledge gap about these institutions. The social action group and the activist who approaches these institutions find that these institutions are prone to malfunctioning, transparency and lack of accountability. Thus, to take up advocacy issues to make these institutions more accountable, participatory and responsive, these report cards are helpful in providing them insights regarding the blockade/weakness of these institutions.

The structure of the Report cards contain the general information about the institutions, objective, activities, mandate, structure, how to access (add, contact person etc) and finally the insights about the system.

ARC has published six report cards so far:

1. **PESA in context of Constitutional Provisions and Fifth Schedule (Hindi)**- The document is on understanding of constitutional provisions for Adivasis (Schedule Tribes) with specific reference to the provision of PESA).

2. **Tribal Development Department in Chhattisgarh (Hindi)** - It is about understanding the department of tribal development and its role.

3. **Provisions and Systems under the Forest Rights Act**- It is about the provisions and structures established through the Forest Rights Act in Chhattisgarh.

4. **National and State Commissions for Scheduled Tribes**- It is about demystifying the role of the State Commission on STs and also the presence of national commissions in the state.

5. **Tribal Advisory Council**- It is about the Tribal Advisory Council’s mandate under fifth schedule and its role.

6. **Tribal Research and Training Institute (TRTI)** - It is about the tribal research and training institute which ideally should work as the policy advisory unit to states on adivasi matter.

7. After publication of such government bodies, ARC hope that these will come prominently under public scrutiny and debate. As as result of this initiative, now grassroots group working on adivasi issues in the state demanding training on know-how of accessing these institutions for adivasi rights.
Legislative Advocacy

In Chhattisgarh during the Monsoon Session of the State Assembly over 20 MLAs were approached with ARC publications and legislative updates and discussion was held on ARC work.

Generating Public Discourse on Adivasis and Governance

A) Consultations and Workshops Organised by NCAS

- NCAS facilitated a consultation with the Review Committee on FRA constituted by the Ministry of Environment and Forests and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs on FRA implementation. It was held on 12 June 2010 at Pune. Mr. A. K. Jha and Mr. Ashish Kothari represented the Review Committee. Around 80 activists from different parts of Maharashtra participated and submitted their demands and memoranda to the Review Committee in the consultation.

- NCAS co-hosted with National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bangalore a Western Region consultation cum seminar on Education among the Indigenous Peoples: Addressing Issues of Content, Access and Structures” This was part of a study NIAS has undertaken on education among the indigenous people. It was held on September 28-29, 2010 in Pune. Around 20 activists from Maharashtra, Gujarat and Rajasthan participated in the consultation. The consultation was followed by a day-long field visit to schools in Adivasi areas of Khed taluka of Pune district.

- A National Consultation on “PESA and its implementation – the making of a people’s agenda” was held in collaboration with the Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti on March 2 and 3, 2011 at New Delhi. The two day Consultation was spread over five sessions covering: Meaning and Importance of PESA, Current Scenario; Implementation of PESA – Problems and Prospects; Implementation of PESA in the true spirit of the Act; Status and Implementation of Forest Rights Act 2006; and finally Making PESA a People’s Agenda. Eminent activist Dr. B. D. Sharma, Shri. K. B. Saxena, Swami Agnivesh, Smt. Ratnabai (MP from Rajmundhury), Shri. Anil Garg, Shri. Jayant Verma, Shri Ashok Chowdhury and Ms. Roma (NFFPFW), Shri. Trinadh Rao (Laya, Andhra Pradesh), Shri. Akshaya Pani (Adivasi Kranti Sangathan, Odisha), Shri. Mehndi Lal, Ms. Rajkali (Ekta Parishad), Shri. Bhanvar Singh (Asth, Rajasthan), Shri. K.C. Mardi (Sarjum, Jharkhand) and Ms. Mallika Virdi (Uttarakhand) were the main speakers.
B) Participation and Presentation made in other Seminars/Workshops Attended

Orientation for New Syllabus Introduced on Human Rights
A team member was invited by the Department of Civics and Politics, Bombay University to deliver a lecture to the college teachers of Political Science on Rights of Adivasis in the orientation programme for new syllabus on human rights in August 2010.

Consultation on “Optimizing Bio-diversity and Social Security in Mining Areas”
ARC team participated in a consultation organized by Balipara Trust on “Optimizing Bio-diversity and Social Security in Mining Areas” held on 30th September 2010. A team member presented a paper on “Impacts of Mining on Adivasi’s Livelihood”.

Convention of Budget Groups
A team member participated in the annual convention of budget groups held from April 15 to 17, 2010 at Hyderabad. He made a presentation on Tribal Sub Plan under the 11th Five Year Plan.

Convention of Budget Groups
The team members participated in the annual meeting of budget groups held between 5 and 7 October 2010 at Bhubaneshwar, Odisha.

National Consultation on Land Reforms, Hyderabad, October 29-30, 2010
A team member participated in the consultation organised by WASSAN-Bhoomikendram and NIRD, held at NIRD campus at Hyderabad on October 29 and 30, 2010. He contributed in the discussion on changing land-use patterns and competing demands on land, water, forest and mineral resources.

National Convention on Union Budget 2011-12
The team participated in the national convention organised by the People’s Budget Initiative at New Delhi on November 19 and 20, 2010 to gather civil society comments on specific areas to be incorporated in next years’ budget. ARC team was part of a group that discussed demands for Adivasis from the Union budget.
National Seminar on Human Rights

A team member read paper on Rights of Adivasis in a National Seminar on Human Rights organized by the Department of Civics and Politics, Bombay University in March 2011.

Secretarial Support to Sandesh Yatra

NCAS is extending secretarial support to Ekta Parishad’s Sandeh Yatra in Maharashtra. NCAS hosted first meeting between Ekta Parishad and activist groups in Maharashtra on February 21 and 22, 2011. Since then ARC team is helping groups in Maharashtra to organise regional level meetings.

C) New Articles written and published

The ARC team also attempts to write articles on issues related to Adivasi rights to bring forward the discourse in to public domain. NCAS presence in Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Maharashtra facilitates to highlight regional issues related to Adivasis. Few published articles are-

1. ‘Why the deliberate negligence of Adivasis’s Right?’ published in regional newspaper – Janabani, Odisha, Dated 26th February 2011- The article describes how Adivasis are systematically excluded by mainstream society from their resources like land, forest, and forest produces. Their right to live as humans with dignity and equality has been violated in the name of public or national interest. The most regrettable fact of the tribal situation today is the indifference of the state. This article also highlights problem areas related to FRA and PESA.

2. ‘Deplorable condition of Adivasis in Relief Camps of Bodoland’- published in regional newspaper Deshbandhu, Raipur, Chhattisgarh, July 2011- The story describes deplorable condition of Adivasi IDPs in Assam’s ‘Bodoland’. It is about apathy of the government of Assam and the local administration towards Bodoland where Adivasis and Muslims are left on the mercy of themselves to face dejection, violence and inter community conflicts. The story also searches a silver lining in their desperate situation to unite and improve their conditions both social- political and rights over natural resources especially forest rights.

Achievements of ARC

- ARC has strengthened its network with various Adivasi activists and around 200 groups across India through publications and consultations on Adivasi issues.
• The ARC initiative on Forest Rights Act, 2006 was the most significant in terms of mobilizing civil society groups and getting them and government officials together for better implementation of FRA. Publication of manual on FRA was received well by activists and led to the Maharashtra state level open consultation with the Review Committee on FRA constituted by the Ministry of Environment and Forests and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

• Collaborative efforts for ARC activities – such as joint consultations, workshops and field-based research - are strengthening NCAS linkages with academic institutions and grassroots organizations having focus on Adivasi issues.

• ARC in its second phase is focusing on TSP and PESA. To improve the governance in Adivasi areas it is important to address these two important components having direct connections with the development of Adivasis. The second phase has taken off with organizing a national consultation on PESA.

• NCAS has opened a desk in Odisha and has started focusing more closely on Adivasi issues in the state through ARC activities.

Learning and Challenges

• There is a need to pay equal attention to the local issues as to the broad policies and legislative concerns.

• The strategies around legislative advocacy on Adivasi issues need greater and closer attention. There is a need to step up efforts of interaction with other advocacy groups, elected representatives, leadership of political parties and institutions of governance for effective legislative advocacy.

• There is a need to strengthen linkages between NCAS and grassroots organisations working on issues of Adivasis through joint activities like joint publication, field research and consultations.

• To work on issues related to Adivasis’ rights and justice in the present hostile political environment, especially in the central eastern region of the country is difficult.

• Lack of leadership from within Adivasi communities.

• Diffident and weak Adivasi governance institutions and weak representation of Adivasis in legislature is again a big challenge.
Update of Activities from April to July 2011

A) Knowledge Building and Dissemination

Drafts of following publications are under preparation and will be on print soon-

- Four more report cards in the series of ten report cards on Institutions of Governance for Adivasis in Chhattisgarh
- An account of anti-POSCO struggle in Orissa
- TSP in Union Budget 2011-12
- TSP in Maharashtra State Budget 2011-12
- TSP in Odisha State Budget 2011-12
- TSP in Chhattisgarh State Budget 2011-12

B) Workshops/ Seminars

A state level workshop on TSP in Maharashtra was held in collaboration with BAIF, on July 28, 2011 at BAIF, Pune. Mr. Jawed A. Khan (CBGA) gave an overview of the concept of TSP and the scene on national level. Dr. Chandrakant Puri (Director, Centre for Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy, SNDT University, Mumbai) presented the status of adivasis and implementation of TSP in Maharashtra. Representatives from Shashwat and BAIF shared their experiences and learning. Around 25 Activists working with Adivasi communities in Maharashtra participated in this workshop.

C) Community Learning Movements –

Dalit Adivasi Manch (DAM) is a forum of dalit and adivasi people from Sariapali, Basna, Pithora block of Mahasamund district and Kasdol and Bilaigarh block of Raipur districts. The second phase of CLM with DAM focusing on implementation of Community forest rights under FRA, 2006 through building capacity of community to file, verify, process and entitlement of community forest rights.

Adivasi Kranti Sangathan, Dhenkanaal District which comes under Modified Area Development Authority of the State, Odisha – the idea behind is to facilitate community forest rights under Forest Rights Act, 2006
Generating Public Discourse

E. 1. Media Advocacy

Media Advocacy practised by NCAS, worked in tandem with Campaign Support unit and the Internship Advocacy Unit.

Media support for Campaigns:
The nature of this support included conducting press meets, producing press briefs, following up on internet advocacy and audio-visual documentation of the events, and reaching out to the decision makers with the help of main-stream print and other electronic media.

The campaigns supported by NCAS through media advocacy were:
- the Right to Water Campaign in Maharashtra,
- the Anti-SEZ Campaign in Maharashtra and the nation-wide campaign,
- the Anti-displacement and conservation of ecology (against Lavasa Hill township) campaign and
- the Anti-POSCO movement.

Media Workshops:
- The media unit conducted a workshop for brick-kiln workers from Maharashtra, to train them to use audio-visual skills to address their livelihood issues. Input sessions included theory as well as practical experiences of creating audio-visuals.

- One workshop each was conducted for the mass communication students of Marathwada Mitra Mandal College, Tilak Maharashtra Vidhyapith and Garware College. The students were introduced to media advocacy on the issues of people centred advocacy and human rights. Topics such as the role of media in addressing in social issues and understanding the rights based perspective were also discussed.

- The interns deployed to help campaigns were trained in documentation skills to help generate information for the media. Additionally, they learnt to make and handle media products themselves, such as Newsletters and documentary films. One of the highlights as mentioned above is a film on the (Prevention of) Dalit Atrocity Act made by two young interns.
NCAS’s Published Articles
Twenty-eight articles on issues of human rights, land, water, forest rights, rights of Adivasis and the advocacy internship programme were published in local newspapers Pune Mirror, Navbharat, Daily Kesari and Daily Punya Nagari. NCAS also anchored a weekly column named *Kahani Hakkanchi* (Story of Human Rights) in Daily Kesari.

Articles featuring NCAS in the past year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Title of Article</th>
<th>Published in</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MONTH</td>
<td>EVENT</td>
<td>NATURE OF PUBLICITY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 10</td>
<td>Public Interaction on Women’s day</td>
<td>News Item in Daily Lokmat,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 10</td>
<td>Issues in Land Acquisition</td>
<td>Feature Article in Marathi Newspaper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 10</td>
<td>NCAS internship programme</td>
<td>Feature Article in Marathi Newspaper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 2010</td>
<td>Conflict free Village and Reality</td>
<td>Sangava</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15th Dec 2010</td>
<td>To pay homage L. C. Jain</td>
<td>Daily Sakal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th Jan 2011</td>
<td>Lavasa: Team Elicits Views of Affected people and Activists</td>
<td>The Hindu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 2011</td>
<td>How Government agency fast tracked Lavasa</td>
<td>Infochange</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 2011</td>
<td>Article on Ashram Schools</td>
<td>Bahujan Maharashtra and Daily Kesari</td>
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<td>Article on Tribal Sub-Plan</td>
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<td>Article on Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas</td>
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<td>15th Jan 2011</td>
<td>Program on Right to Information</td>
<td>Daily Sakal</td>
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<td>22nd Jan 2011</td>
<td>True empowerment combating violence against woman</td>
<td>Deccan Herald</td>
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<td>24th Jan 2011</td>
<td>Empowered to influence – Capacity building for Advocacy</td>
<td>ONTRAC newsletter of INTRAC No. 47 January 2011</td>
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<td>25th Feb 2011</td>
<td>Ekta Parishad Janadesh 2012, Land rights consultation</td>
<td>Lokmat</td>
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<tr>
<td>8th March 2011</td>
<td>Program on women’s day</td>
<td>Lokmat</td>
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<tr>
<td>19th March 2011</td>
<td>Objections raised over draft labour policy</td>
<td>The Times of India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23rd March 2011</td>
<td>Draft Law recognized disabled as individuals</td>
<td>DNA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Film Competition
The award winning ceremony of the Film Competition conducted by NCAS in the previous year was combined with a film workshop for students this year. NCAS in association with Fergusson College, Pune conducted a ‘Guided Film Screening Workshop’ on Human Rights and Social Issues for students at Fergusson College. A total of 120 students attended the workshop. Two award-winning short films on human rights issues screened at the workshop, followed by a discussion on rights based film making, the research involved in such film-making and concerns surrounding ‘taking a stand’ on the subject at hand. The workshop also included a lecture by socio-legal activist Asim Sarode on the ‘Interpretation of facts and situation by media person and its impact on public at large.’

Internet Advocacy
The highlight in this sphere was revamping of the NCAS website. In order to increase the effectiveness of the NCAS website, it is being redesigned and rewritten to make it more users friendly. In addition to including information regarding NCAS as an organization, all NCAS publications and films have also been made available on the website. This will allow people from around the world to stream and download the informational materials generated by NCAS, expanding the reach and impact of NCAS' work.

NCAS now has a page on Facebook. In light of increasing users, this has been thought to be an effective medium of conveying messages of public concern and social issues to a diverse range of persons globally.

Innovations: “Talking Book”
One of the more innovative initiatives at NCAS this year was the creation of a film on ‘The Process to claim Forest Rights’ through audio-visuals. It documented the entire process of filing a successful claim for forest rights, which was depicted in the form of a talking book, with the help of low cost but attractive animation, and complete and detailed step by step information.

The “talking book” in Hindi has become both a media advocacy tool as well as a source for critical information for people who do not possess reading and writing skills. NCAS has received encouraging responses and feedback from organisations using the film for advocacy purposes.

Space for NCAS news
This year NCAS has pushed for getting coverage for not only its constituents but for its activities itself. We have developed a system called red button, which entails exploring the media potential of all its activities, workshops, publications, seminars, field visits. This ensures that the impact of the activity goes beyond the immediate and there is an internalisation of media advocacy among all team members.
Learnings and Challenges

- Media Advocacy in the present era needs constant vigil and involvement, as newer forms of media are being put into use.
- Spaces in mainstream media are difficult to find so the effort has to be continuous and consistent.
- Appropriate media spaces at mofussil level need to be addressed as well.

Update on Media Activities from March, 2011 to July, 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONTH</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>NATURE OF PUBLICITY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>Consultation on UNCRPD</td>
<td>News Item in DNA.</td>
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<td>March</td>
<td>Consultation on Draft Labour Policy in the context of UNCRPD</td>
<td>News Item in Times of India</td>
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<td>POSCO Campaign</td>
<td>Feature Article in Odishi News Paper</td>
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<td>July</td>
<td>South Asian Partners’ Workshop on PCA</td>
<td>News Item and Feature article in DNA Pune Mirror, Sakal Times</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>Public lecture and Interaction with youth on Peace Process in South Asia by Mr. Kuldip Nayar</td>
<td>News Item in Daily Sakal, DNA, Lokmat, Pudhari</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Team of NCAS:

1. Ms. Sehjo Singh, Executive Director
2. Ms. Lata Pratibha Madhukar, Programme Coordinator
3. Ms. Prasanna Invally, Programme Coordinator
4. Mr. Sandeep Pattnaik, Programme Officer
5. Mr. Vijendra, Programme Officer
6. Mr. Atul Sulakhe, Programme Officer
7. Ms. Rifat Mumtaz, Programme Officer
8. Mr. Shirish N. Kavadi, Research Coordinator
9. Mr. Amit Narkar, Research Officer
10. Ms. Bharti Takle, Research Officer
11. Mr. Harish Kulkarni, Media Associate
12. Ms. Kalindi Kokal, Research Associate
13. Mr. Satyendra Ranjan, Programme Consultant
14. Mr. Dhanaji Khupkar, Research Investigator
15. Ms. Vasudha Deshpande, Library and Documentation
16. Ms. Vrinda Deo, Account Officer
17. Mr. Suresh Jadhav, Accounts Associate
18. Mr. Balram Khandare, System Administrator and Publication In-charge
19. Mr. Venkat Balsure, Administrative Assistant
20. Mr. Manik Rao, Driver/Office Assistant
21. Mr. Vipul Dabhi, Intern
22. Mr. Pratap Singh, Intern
23. Ms. Krishna Keshavani, Intern
24. Ms. Aliya Tabasum, Intern
25. Mr. Chaitanya Patel, Intern
26. Ms. Tarannum, Intern
27. Mr. Mahadev Regar, Intern
28. Mr. Sujay Sagar, Intern
29. Seth Garfinkel, (AJWS), Volunteer