



annual report  
2005 2006



**national centre for advocacy studies**





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## foreword

We live in paradoxical times. Once again in 2005-06 we witnessed the reinforcement of the paradoxes of India. On the one hand, the Indian State created an enabling environment for democratising governance and promoting social equity by enacting the Right to Information Act and the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. These two Acts would have far reaching impact in ensuring democratic governance in the country and giving flesh and blood to peoples' fundamental 'Right to Livelihood'.

On the other hand, the process of exclusion and disempowerment of the poor and marginalised groups further intensified. Only the forms and articulation of these exploitative trends changed from one region to another. In some regions it took an ugly and extreme turn, such as, in the case of killing of 12 *adivasis* in police firing in Kalinagar, Orissa. These *adivasis* were protesting against the gross injustice of forced eviction and displacement from their own land. Unfortunately, the policy and legal framework is also being systematically altered to promote the interests of the 'powerful few'. The unfolding story of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) across the country is one such example. Many social activists view the enactment of the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) Act and the subsequent approval for setting up of more than 150 SEZs as a euphemism for 'land grab' and conversion of public resources into private profits.

In this context, the real challenge for NCAS is to continuously work towards protecting, promoting and expanding the democratic spaces for peoples' rights and social action. It is equally important for NCAS to advance and strengthen the enabling environment for people centric governance and development, while continuing to struggle for peoples' rights and empowerment.

In 2005-06, NCAS continued its focus on People Centered Advocacy primarily through the lenses of People Centric Governance and the Right to Livelihood of marginalised groups. People Centric Governance was promoted through our work at the Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability, and the Delhi based Governance and Advocacy Unit. NCAS is also centrally involved in building up initiatives focusing on the issues of governance accountability like the National Social



Watch Coalition and the Wada Na Todo Abhyaan (campaign for governance accountability). Similarly, our Campaign Support and Networking work and current research interests sharply focus on the intersection of livelihood rights of the marginalised and, the policy and institutional environment in which these rights operate. Now our media advocacy is also anchored around the issues of governance accountability and livelihood rights of the marginalised.

In addition to this extensive agenda, in 2005-06, we continued with our core mandate of strengthening the battle for rights and justice by building the capacities of social activists and social action groups for People Centered Advocacy. This meant working at multiple levels with a diverse range of actors; including reaching out to the grassroots through our Community Learning Initiative and with young people through the Advocacy Internship Program.

We would be delighted to receive your ideas, suggestions and feedback for strengthening our work and for deepening our contribution to the social justice movement in India.

In solidarity,

Amitabh Behar



## executive summary

### ■ capacity building unit

The work of capacity building unit in 2005-06 can be summarized in three words - revamp, redesign and update. First and foremost the team undertook the work of revamping the capacity building portfolio by updating knowledge base on advocacy. The new dimensions and trends in advocacy were audio visually documented by way of interviews with 21 social activists and civil society leaders across the sector. Excerpts from these interviews will be used to initiate discussions on advocacy. Simultaneously, the advocacy modules were redesigned to make them contemporary and interesting. A manual on advocacy is being prepared for wider circulation. During the said year advocacy capacity building programmes were conducted for networks like NCDHR, NEN, MSA, NMP+, SARDI (Oxfam partners) for wider reach on the issues of dalits, gender, HIV/AIDS etc.

The Community Learning Movement workshops during the year centered on the theme of RTI and NREGA which is a priority issue. The three districts namely Davangere, Sundergarh and Koraput where CLM is initiated are selected for the implementation of NREGA act by the government. A new CLM was initiated with 'DISHA' from Rourkela which falls under Sundergarh district where CLM is already initiated with CYSD-PRAYAS. It was decided to have cluster approach for CLM where new CLM will be initiated in the same or adjacent districts. The process documentation of six CLM initiatives was done. It is being published in the form of a comprehensive report for sharing the concept and the experiences.

### ■ campaign support and networking

This year the campaign support unit continued its involvement in issues of right to water, the drought crisis and right to work and food campaign in Maharashtra. One of the key involvements was participation in the 'Maharashtra Drought Mitigation Forum' in strategic campaign planning and media support and anchoring the 'Right to Water' campaign in the

state. With its experiences from the Right to Water campaign the team lent support to the Forum in preparing a module on water scarcity and community management of water resources.

The year also saw our involvement with groups working on livelihoods and environmental impacts of industrial projects in Chhattisgarh and Orissa intensifying further. The unit particularly tuned in to the Impacts of the growing Sponge Iron Industry in the Central Eastern belt with an attempt to understand the problem through information documentation and bring together the social action groups to build a campaign against the unregulated growth of this industry. To take a broader view of the context within which this and other industries are emerging one of the important initiatives was the publishing of a document that looks critically at the Chhattisgarh Industrial Policy. Another important publication that the unit generated this year was the Advocacy Update on Land Rights, a compilation and analysis of the contemporary struggles related to land rights in India.

## ■ research unit

The process of the action research study on the impact of globalisation on governance and land, water and forest in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chattisgarh, Orissa and Maharashtra took a step further during 2005-06. During the year, one preliminary consultation at Raipur, Chattisgarh, three state consultations at Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Jharkhand and one national consultation at Delhi were organised with a view to create platforms for prominent activists to discuss issues of land, water and forest linked to globalisation. NCAS initiated a documentation series called the 'NCAS Policy Watch Series' in an attempt to analyse policies in the light of globalisation and share perspectives in the context of public advocacy for rights and social justice.

NCAS has submitted its final report on the research study on the realization of social, economic and cultural rights in India for the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in the states of Karnataka, Maharashtra and Chattisgarh. As one of the founding members of National Social Watch Coalition, NCAS has played a key role in carrying out background research, editing, publishing and the release of 'Social Watch India 2006'.



## ■ internship unit

The Advocacy Internship Programme provides a unique learning opportunity for a group of young people to acquire hands-on people-centered and rights-based perspective, inter-disciplinary knowledge base and basic advocacy skills. In February 2006, the 6<sup>th</sup> batch of interns completed their 18-month internship period. Six young men and two young women from UP, Bihar, Orissa and Maharashtra were selected as the 7<sup>th</sup> batch of interns in July 2005.

Several input sessions that provided insights into various topics such as development theories, globalisation, political theories, human rights, gender analysis, advocacy, communication and media, budget analysis were provided. Dr Satyaranjan Sathe, Mr Sharad Kulkarni, Dr. Rajendra Vohra and many other experts in the field of academics, social action and NGO provided these inputs. Short exposure visits were made to organisations and social movements in Maharashtra, among which were the 'Hamal Panchayat', 'Sakhar shala', Aurangabad; Aalochana, a resource and documentation centre for women, Ralegan Siddhi, and the Pani Panchayat, Naigaon. The interns also made two week-long field visits to 'Navsarjan', an organisation working on Dalit issues in Gujarat, and to an *adivasi* movement in the Raigad district in Orissa.

Visits to the CLM centers of NCAS, and the six-month field placement in organisations in various parts of India, including Sutra in Himachal Pradesh, North-East Network in Guwahati, Chalukudi River protection Committee in Trissur, Kerala, helped sharpen their perspective and strengthen their understanding. Their learning was further enriched through their participation in various social action events such as rallies, conventions, seminars on contemporary social issues such as the Jansunwai for the clearance of the Jindal Steel Plant in Raigarh, Chattisgarh, National convention on Urban Planning, Anti Bush Rally in Pune, seminar on women's participation in governance organised by Mahila Rajasatta Andolan and through interactive sessions with social activists.

They prepared monthly reports, presented their field experiences of their field placements, did assignments and term papers on various issues such as Panchayat Raj, Dalit, Urban Governance, Adivasi, HIV/AIDS etc, and worked on dissertations related to these topics.



## ■ media advocacy

In 2005-06, media advocacy unit further consolidated and designed programmes to suit specific needs. It was felt that the media advocacy capacity building workshops are required more for people at the grass root level. Hence, in contrast to last year's activities, where more interfaces between social activists were conducted, the focus this year was on capacity building of grass root activists and their skill-building on how to interact with media professionals.

Grass roots capacity building workshops were conducted in Ambejogai and Pune. The workshop in Pune was specifically for activists of the Mahila Rajsatta Andolan with a special session on Right to Information and the workshop in Ambejogai with Manavlok was for activists working on various issues of health, environment, trafficking, etc. A Regional level workshop was organised in Mumbai with Sampark on the issue of women's rights and media advocacy, in Aurangabad with Paryay with focus on the issue of water and with Lalit Surjan Foundation in Ambikapur for rural journalists in Chattisgarh. The Media Advocacy Unit also organised a National Capacity Building Workshop in Pune, which had participants from diverse backgrounds working on issues of HIV-AIDS, land rights, disability and women's political participation. Two interfaces between social activists and journalists were also conducted. The interface in Mumbai was on the issue of women's rights and the one in Pune was conducted so as to precede the Hong Kong Ministerial of WTO and generate media awareness.

In addition to publication of Advocacy Update, Advocacy Perspectives and Advocacy Internet, the media unit did the audio visual documentation of NBA Rally 2005, Documentation for MOEF Chalo on State oppression during public hearings, Tamnar project on Rabo River, Chattisgarh, which resulted in the film 'Legal Lapses', and on the work of the Mahila Rajasatta Andolan resulting in the film 'The Struggle Continues'. Films produced by NCAS included 'Road to Shanghai (via Mumbai)', 'On the Frontier of Survival' and 'Breaking the Silence'.





## ■ governance and advocacy unit (GAU)

The Governance and Advocacy Unit's major focus this year was in the area of Parliamentary Advocacy, Campaign Support and Networking and Media Advocacy. Emerging as an important source of parliamentary information, the GAU played a strategic role in dissemination of parliamentary information. The Unit's periodical Parliament Digest (PD) was well received by a cross section of society, and was even acknowledged by a former Prime Minister. Apart from information dissemination the GAU facilitated Member of Parliament's (MP) involvement in different civil society initiatives – Mr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, Minister of Rural Development, participated in the Jan Manch (People's Platform) organised by People's Action for Employment Guarantee (PAEG). Ms. Renuka Chowdhury Minister of State (Independent charge) in the Ministry of Women and Child Development was the chief guest for the National Women's Conference jointly organised by Action India in collaboration with NCAS.

Recognising the significance of campaign support the GAU provides campaign support through campaign meetings, workshops, liaison, and advocacy with MPs etc. Accordingly, a National Seminar on one year of National Common Minimum Programme (CMP) 'One Year of CMP – A Review by the Civil Society Groups' was jointly organised by NCAS and a number of civil society organisations on 20 May 2005 in Delhi. Another major campaign support provided by the GAU was the coordination of People's Summit against Poverty (PSAP) held in Delhi on 3-4 September 2005. NCAS was a joint partner in organising National Women's Conference with Action India in Delhi on 20-21 February 2006.

Media support was provided to different campaigns including media communication management support provided to the People's Summit against Poverty (PSAP), as also for the National Women's Conference in Delhi. A Thematic Workshop and Interface on Gender and Media was organised in Chandigarh for social activists.

## ■ centre for budget and governance accountability

With the mandate of budget analysis from the perspective of poor and marginalised citizens, CBGA's activities in 2005-06 have comprised of research, capacity building, advocacy and publications.





On the research front, the Centre made significant progress on three major studies on Centre-State Fiscal Relations, Micro-Finance and Budget Transparency. CBGA made consistent progress on a number of our manual series, 'Response to Union Budget 2006-07' and also published its newsletter 'Budget Track' (four issues) regularly. CBGA also provided research inputs to International Budget Project's 'Open Budget Study' in respect of Indian Government's (Centre) Budget and the Budget making process. The Centre regularly researched and formulated parliamentary questions and sent them across to parliamentarians. CBGA also provided research inputs to Mass Movements from time to time, such as, Chhattisgarh Mukti Morcha, Jan Sangharsh Morcha. In partnership with UNICEF, we undertook Child Budgeting study, which will be used for advocacy with relevant bureaucrats, involved in the budget making process, in the selected states. We also made considerable progress on our action research project on 'Monitoring Right to Education' in partnership with CEF, which would cover three states. Our research work also focused on financial implications of NREGA and Domestic Violence Act. In order to engage ourselves with the policy makers of the country, we prepared a note on Securitization Bill and sent it to the Standing Committee on Finance. Apart from these, we have been regularly publishing our tri-annual newsletter and annual 'Response to Union Budget'.

As regards Advocacy initiatives, we organised a National Convention on the Union Budget 2006-07, which culminated into Civil Society's Charter of Demand. This Charter of Demand, reflecting the aspirations of the common people, formed the basis for engagement with the Government of India and its agencies. Subsequently, we also organised a panel discussion, where we presented our Response to Union Budget 2006-07. This public event had around 300 participants and some eminent panelists. We have been trying to work on advocacy with the parliamentarians and legislative bodies and our parliamentary questions and evaluation of policies and laws are examples of this endeavour. Along with these, we also developed a draft module and conducted a number of Capacity Building Workshops in order to enable grassroots people to understand, analyse and undertake advocacy using budget analysis as a tool. We also became member of a number of networks and alliances with domestic as well as international organisations in order to work closely with them on issues that are critical for the common people.



## advocacy capacity building programme

NCAS has been conducting advocacy capacity building programmes for grassroots groups, NGOs and donors since last eleven years. An in house meeting convened to relook at the programme strategy, underlined the need to update the knowledge base on advocacy and redesign the modules of capacity building programmes to make them contemporary.

The team decided to revamp its portfolio with the help of Mr. Josantony Joseph who has been associated with NCAS advocacy capacity building programmes. Half a day meeting was held with Mr. Josantony Joseph on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2005, to discuss the process. It was decided to have an in-house discussion to reflect upon the understanding of advocacy within NCAS, in order to rework on the modules and simultaneously interview activists and civil society leaders for updating knowledge on advocacy.

On 21<sup>st</sup> July 05, Mr. Josantony Joseph facilitated a day long in-house workshop on 'Understanding Advocacy'. During the workshop the existing modules were reviewed and each team took the responsibility of reworking on the modules based on their area of work, interest and expertise. The reworked modules were presented for discussions and the suggestions from the participants were incorporated. So far, six modules on importance of organizing and mobilizing in advocacy, universe of advocacy, gender rights and advocacy, media advocacy, bureaucracy and advocacy and legislative advocacy have been finalized and six are in the pipeline. An advocacy training manual will be published after finalization of the modules.

As part of this process, 22 social action leaders and activists were interviewed by the capacity building team. The audio visual recording of the interviews was done by the media team. The persons interviewed were late Prof. S.P.Sathe, Dr Ghare-*AFARM*, Dr Abhay Shukla-*CEHAT*, Dr Manisha Gupte-*MASUM*, Dr Parsuraman-*TISS*, Bhim Raskar-*RSCD*, Vivek Pandit-*Shramjivi Sanghatna*, Dr JP Narayana-*Loksatta*, PV Satheesh- *DDS*, Thomas Pallithanam- *DBSU*, Binoy Acharya,-*Unnati*, Martin Macwan-*Navsarjan*, Gagan Sethi-*JanVikas*, Ela Bhat and Reema Nanavati,-*SEWA*, Sheeba George and Hanif Lakdawala-*Sanchetna*, Dr. Nirmal Pandit-*NAVAM*, Ashish Kothari-*Kalpavriksh*, Ulka Mahajan -*Sarvahara Jan Andolan*, Sejal Dand-*Anandi* and Mr. John Samuel, our former executive director.

The rich source of information and insights that has been generated through the interviews will be part of the advocacy resource material. Excerpts from the interviews will also be used during capacity building programmes.

## ■ advocacy capacity building programmes

The annual National Advocacy Capacity Building Programme (NCBP) is getting saturated. So this year, instead of NCBP, NCAS decided to focus on our commitments towards Luthern World Relief (LWR) and Poverty Area Civil Society (PACS) and conduct similar programmes for their partners from Bihar, Jharkhand, MP,UP, Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra, reaching out to new regional organisations.

### **national advocacy capacity building programme**

The 'National Advocacy Capacity Building Programme' was conducted for PACS partners from the states of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra from 6<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>Feb, at Samarthan, Bhopal. The programme was designed for the chief functionaries of the organisations. The programme is being followed up with TOT for Karyakartas and CLM with interested partners. A total of 29 participants from regional partner organisations participated in the programme. Apart from the in-house team, renowned and experienced resource persons from Madhya Pradesh, Mr. Jabbarbhai, from 'Bhopal Gas Pedit Mahila Udyog Sangh', educationist Dr. Anil Sadgopal and Mr. Rakesh Diwan from Sarvodaya Press Service, facilitated sessions on 'Importance of organizing and mobilizing in advocacy', 'Education and Advocacy' and 'Media Advocacy' respectively. The participants did campaign planning on the issues of right to work, forest rights, right to health care and peoples' right over water in Chattisgarh. The programme in Bhopal helped us reach out to new groups from MP and Chhattisgarh.

### **regional advocacy capacity building programme**

In line with the strategy paper, the team focused on networks as well as on thematic issues for wider reach and larger impact. During the year, regional programmes were facilitated for National Campaign for Dalit Human Rights (NCDHR),

Mahila Swaraj Abhiyan (MSA), and network of organisations from Gujarat working on women in governance and for North East Network (NEN). NCAS conducted issue-based advocacy capacity programmes for OXFAM partners from the states of Orissa and Rajasthan on the issue of HIV-AIDS.

### ***NCDHR August and December***

NCDHR approached NCAS for building the advocacy capacity of their activists spread across 18 states. NCAS agreed to organise series of capacity building programmes on 'People-centered Advocacy' for the dalit activists as a part of their re-capacitation process. Two programmes were conducted, one for the senior activists from its national and state secretariat and the other for its grassroots activists. This programme, helped NCAS reach out to new resource persons associated with dalit issues.

The first programme was conducted from 21<sup>st</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> of August 2005 at JP Naik Centre, Pune. A total of 23 participants from National and State secretariats of Orissa, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Rajasthan participated in the programme. Well known academicians and dalit activists like Prof. S M Dahiwale from Pune University and Prof. Chhaya Khobragade from Chandrapur facilitated the sessions on 'Dalit Rights and Advocacy' and 'Gender Rights and Advocacy'. Mr. Shantaram Pandhere, a well known activist from Marathwada, conducted the session on 'Importance of Organizing and Mobilizing in Advocacy' while Mr. Datta Desai from BGVS, Maharashtra, facilitated the session on 'Role of International Actors in Advocacy'. The other resource persons were Mr Milind Kokje, Ms Ulka Mahajan and late Prof. S P Sathe.

The second programme was facilitated from 5<sup>th</sup> –10<sup>th</sup> December, 2005, at JP Naik Centre, Pune. 24 grassroots activists from the states of Orissa, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Punjab, Rajasthan, Karnataka and Kerala attended the programme. Sessions on writing press releases and organising press conferences were included for the benefit of the participants.

Mr.Sanjay Sangvai, now a part of the in-house team, shared Narmada Bachao Andolan's experience of mobilizing and organising people, highlighting its importance. Three new resource persons with the dalit perspective were invited to facilitate the sessions. Prof. Sulabha Patole, from Garware college and advocate Shanghraj Rupawate from Mumbai High Court conducted sessions on 'Dalit women's Rights and Advocacy'; and ' Dalit rights and Judiciary'. Mr Shivaji Rout, an

activist from Maharashtra, shared his experiences of using 'Right to Information' act. The workshop was conducted in Hindi and arrangements were made for translation in to Kannada and Malyalam for the participants from Karnataka and Kerala. The sessions were highly appreciated by the participants.

***Regional Capacity Building Programme for MSA***

NCAS was invited by our former intern Ms. Adwaita Marathe, working with Mahila Swaraj Abhiyan, a regional network of NGOs working on women in governance (PRI) in Gujarath. It was organised from 17<sup>th</sup> –21<sup>st</sup> of September, 2005 at Ahmedabad. Ms. Vijaya along with Mr.Bhim Raskar from RSCD facilitated the programme. Ms. Nupur from Centre for Social Justice and Mr. Mahendrabhai from DISHA, Ahmedabad facilitated the session on 'Judiciary and Advocacy' and 'Importance of Organising and Mobilising in Advocacy'.

***Regional Capacity Building Programme for NEN***

The team facilitated the advocacy capacity building programme for partner organisations of North East Network (NEN), from 8<sup>th</sup> –12<sup>th</sup> November at Don Bosco Institute, Guwahati. NEN works on the issues of women in Northeast. NEN has started a course called 'Rights Advocacy Initiative' (RAI) for their partner organisations. Advocacy is an important component of their curriculum. The programme was attended by 24 participants.

***Regional Capacity Building Programme for SARDI (Oxfam Partners)***

South Asian Research and Development Institute, Delhi approached NCAS to build the advocacy capacity of OXFAM partners working in the adivasi pockets of Orissa and Rajasthan on issues related to HIV/AIDS. A toolkit for the participants' reference is being prepared by Mr. Josantony Joseph.

NCAS facilitated advocacy orientation programmes from 24<sup>th</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> July at Bharatpur and from 7<sup>th</sup> -9<sup>th</sup> August at Bhubaneshwar. The focus was on the conceptual part of advocacy.

This was followed up with a workshop focusing on the advocacy plan. The programme was conducted from 21<sup>st</sup> -25<sup>th</sup> November at Raipur for the participants from Orissa who had attended earlier orientation programmes. Along with the NCAS team the other resource persons were, Ms. Preeti Radhakrishnan- Lawyer's collective, Mr Elavarthi Manohar- SANGMA,

Mr. Gopakumar- Centre for Trade and Development and Mr Bijaya Kumar Sahu- Kendu Patra Karmchari Sangha. A campaign plan was prepared by the participants who will now implement it in the field.

### **advocacy orientations programmes**

These programmes are of short duration ranging from 2-3 days, focusing on the meaning and concept of advocacy. They are meant for the senior or management level persons whose support is crucial for the follow up of advocacy work of the organisation. Orientation programmes are also conducted for college students.

#### ***Advocacy Orientation for NMP+***

Two days advocacy orientation programme was conducted for NMP+ (Network of peoples living with HIV-AIDS in Maharashtra) on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> June at IIE, Pune. This was the first time NCAS conducted a programme for people affected by HIV. It was a good learning experience for the team. The team along with Dr. Mohan Deshpande facilitated the programme.

#### ***Advocacy Orientations for LWR Partner***

An advocacy orientation programme was conducted from 30<sup>th</sup> Jan to 01<sup>st</sup> Feb at Social Development Centre, Ranchi for LWR partners from Bihar and Jharkhand. A total of 22 participants from 9 organisations (3Bihar and 6 Jharkhand) participated in the programme. A new session on 'Universe of Advocacy' was introduced in this programme. The orientation programme helped identify organisations interested in the 'Community Learning Movement'.

#### ***Advocacy Orientation for AFPRO cadres***

A one day advocacy orientation programme was facilitated for the eight natural resource management (NRM) cadres of AFPRO (Association for Food Production) on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2006. AFPRO is an NGO based in Ahmednagar, working on the issue of NRM. NCAS has been conducting the orientation programmes for AFPRO regularly. The orientation focused on understanding advocacy and policies pertaining to natural resources in the light of livelihood rights. The participants were graduates of agriculture and environmental science.

***Advocacy Capacity Building Programme 2005-2006***

Programmes	Groups/Networks	Dates	Place
NCBP	PACS	6 -11 February 2006	Samarthan Bhopal
RCBP	NCDHR 1	21-26 August 2005	J.P. Naik center Pune
	NCDHR 2	5-10 December 2005	J.P. Naik center Pune
	Mahila Swaraj Abhiyan	17-21 Sept 2005	Ahmedabad
	North East Network	8-12 November 2005	Don Bosco Institute Guwahati
	South Asia Research and Development Center	24-26 July 2005	Bharatpur
	South Asia Research and Development Center	7-9 August 2005	Bhubneshwar
	South Asia Research and Development Center	21-25 Nov 2005	Raipur
Advocacy Orientations	NMP+ Maharashtra LWR Partners	27-28 June 2005 30 Jan.-1 Feb. 2006	IIE Pune Social Development Center Ranchi
	Association for Food Production	1 March 2006	NRM Ahmedabad





## ■ community learning movement

The objective of CLM is to build the advocacy capacity of communities, to advocate for their rights and make the local governance accountable, through an action-learning process.

In the year 2005-06, CLM focused on governance issues for making local administration and Panchayat accountable to the people. The issues related to forest, food security, access to water, food for work, use of right to information (RTI) were taken up along with the effective functioning of Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) and implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA). In Karnataka and Orissa, rural employment guarantee has become crucial because of the drought. Last year the conditions got aggravated and led to migration. The input sessions were designed around these issues e.g. EGS, PRI, election etc.

Backlash from vested interest, lack of regular follow up on the part of the collaborative organisations and irregular participation of CLM members were the issues of concern. To address these issues attention is being paid to strengthening of the working committees and reorientation of the *Karyakartas*. It was decided to use more audiovisual aids to make the workshops more interesting.

Preparations are going on for initiating new CLM in the Maharashtra, Madhya-Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bihar and Chattisgarh.

### ***CLM with REACH, Davangere, Karnataka***

The first CLM was initiated in 2001-02 in collaboration with REACH, in 25 villages. After four years of capacity building CLM is in the consolidation stage. After succeeding in getting elected to PRI, CLM members are now monitoring government schemes and work of the Panchayats. They are focusing on the implementation of NREG Act. Inputs were given on 'Employment Guarantee Act', 'Right to Information Act' and 'Food for Work' programme. In some of the villages, they have successfully claimed the work



order for the construction work under these schemes, which earlier used to go to outside contractors.

***CLM with GMO, Kolar, Karnataka***

Grameen Mahila Okkuta (GMO), a federation of rural women's self-help-groups (SHG), working in Kolar district of Karnataka, initiated CLM in 2003. It was initiated in 20 villages in 3 Gram Panchayats of Mulbagal taluka in order to expand its base and involve men.

GMO is conducting monthly meetings instead of quarterly workshop for the convenience of women participants who have difficulty in attending residential workshops. In the year 2005, they focused on improving the functioning of the Gram Panchayats resulting in increased transparency. They screened film on 'Right to Information' and followed it up by visiting government offices to get information about policies and schemes related to poverty alleviation. They invited government officials and MLAs to local meetings in order to draw their attention to issues and used media to highlight their problems. The women succeeded in getting loans for 50 members of SHG from BCM Corporation. They are negotiating with the bank for lowering the interest rate for SHG loans. The women are also struggling to stop sand mining in tank beds.

***CLM with Adivasi Kranti Sanghatana, Dhenkanal, Orissa***

Adivasi Kranti Sanghatana (AKS) is a mass based organisation of adivasis, struggling for tribal rights over forest in eastern and western forest regions of Dhenkanal district in Orissa. Presently the organisational work is spread across 65 villages. AKS is networking with other groups to pressurise government for passing 'forest rights' bill.

Since initiation of CLM, NCAS kept pressing for the inclusion of women participants in CLM who are actively involved at the community level. The group has finally agreed to include women participants. In the four capacity building programmes, the topics covered were of Panchayati Raj, Forest and Government schemes. CLM helped in rejuvenating Sanghatans and providing knowledge to the cadres. The Sanghatana is struggling with the issues of forestland of adivasis demanding the regularization of the land of the people settled before 1980.



### ***Community Learning Movement, Koraput, Orissa***

In Koraput district of Orissa, PRAYAS, a sister organisation of Centre for Youth and Social Development (CYSD) has been continuing with CLM in the villages of four Gram Panchayats of Bypariguda block. In the previous year inputs on social analysis, Panchayat Raj and adivasi self-rule were given. In 2005, due to frequent staff reshuffling, there was lack of proper monitoring of CLM. The major hindrance was in the form of the backlash from local administration for taking up the issue of errant Panchayat officials and PDS shopkeepers. They arrested cadres of PRAYAS, alleging law and order problem when they locked PDS shop demanding fare quota. Eventually PRAYAS halted the process for a year. After resuming CLM in December, participants spent a day in analyzing what went wrong and how they should address the issues in the framework of PRIs. Participants decided to revamp leadership at the federation level.



### ***Community Learning Movement, Sundergarh, Orissa***

Sundergarh, an adivasi dominant backward district from Orissa is facing rampant mining and indiscriminate industrialization. The forest cover and the community resources are shrinking fast. In Kuchedega village panchayat where CLM has been initiated with PRAYAS, since September 2004, people are constantly engaging with forest department to protect the forest and the resources but facing crisis of livelihood opportunities.

CLM initiative has strengthened a right-based approach among participants and CYSD field staff. Gram Sabha empowerment and accountability of PRI were the focus of CLM. Participants, being members of village organisations are raising the issues in Palli Sabha. Inputs were given on NREGA and RTI to enable Gram Sabha for ensuring implementation of this act. The participants decided to bring more people into the movement.



***Community Learning Movement, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh***

PUCAAR (People's Union for Civic Action and Rights), is a citizens' collective of slum dwellers, in old Hyderabad city for demanding civic rights and accountability of local governance. CLM continued with the guidance and support from both COVA and NCAS. Residents of 12 *bastis* (slums) from old city participated in this process.

A need was felt to make the local governance accountable to the people by bringing people together to raise the issue of provision of basic amenities. CLM provided information, knowledge and the skills required to deal with such issues. The issues pertinent to *bastis* were discussed and analysed in the backdrop of the prevalent social structure. The team along with Mr. Dilip Kamat facilitated the workshops. The focus was on building community alliances and raising issues with MCH. A resource person from AWAZ (a local organisation of slum dwellers, supported by CPM) took a session on 'understanding the municipal budget'. A documentary 'Tu zinda hai' was screened.

***New Initiative of Community Learning Movement with DISHA-Rourkela, Orissa***

DISHA, based in Rourkela, is an NGO working for the rights of adivasis, women and children in the three block of Sundergarh district. A preliminary meeting with the chief functionary and *Karyakartas* was conducted to share the concept of 'Community Learning Movement' and to discuss the possible future course of action. A survey will be conducted soon to understand the socio-economic profile of the villages and identify participants.

■ programmes of community learning movement

<b>Programme Dates</b>	<b>Issues / Topics</b>	<b>Participants</b>	<b>Collaborative Organisations</b>
April 18-20, 2005	Panchayat and Women	50	GMO
April 25-27, 2005	Strengthening Organisation & Gram Sabha	33	PRAYAS-Sundergarh
May 22-23,2005	Right to Work	60	REACH
May 28-29, 2005	Social Analysis	32	COVA
August 29-31, 2005	Gram Sabha Empowerment	38	PRAYAS- Sundergarh
October 01-02, 2005	MCH and people's participation	28	PUCAAR-COVA
December 14-16, 2005	PRI and accountability	47	PRAYAS-Koraput
December 18-20, 2005	Organising Gram Sabha for self-governance	24	PRAYAS- Sundergarh
March 07-09, 2006	Organisational analysis of Federation and leadership building	44	PRAYAS-Koraput
March 11-13, 2006	Understanding NREGA and RTI- role of Gram Sabha	32	PRAYAS- Sundergarh
March 18-19, 2006	Building Community alliances and raising issue	24	PUCAAR-COVA

## ■ other activities

- Facilitation of campaign-planning exercise in 'National Media Advocacy Workshop', organised by Media Team at BAIF on 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2006.
- Lecture on Advocacy at Karve Institute of Social Science, for 2<sup>nd</sup> year MSW students on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2005.
- Facilitation of a session on 'People Centered Advocacy' in one-day partner meet of YSHR project of MAMTA, organised by NMP+ at their office at Pimpri on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2005.
- Facilitation of campaign planning exercise in a workshop on 'Drought and Water Policy of Maharashtra' at Aurangabad on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2005. This workshop was conducted by Media and Campaign Team of NCAS with Forum against Drought, Maharashtra.
- Facilitation of a session on 'Advocacy, Lobbying and Networking' for Hemophilia Federation of India at CMC Vellore on 19<sup>th</sup> July.
- On 19<sup>th</sup> October Mr. Jose Josantony conducted a session on 'Facilitation skills' for the capacity building team. It was useful exercise in terms of brushing up the skills required for facilitating training sessions.

## campaign support and networking

### ■ campaign support

The work on campaign support this year brought forth a gamut of emerging issues like displacement, rehabilitation; environmental impacts of macro development projects, globalisation and privatization directly affecting the 'Right to Livelihood' of adivasi, dalit and poor rural communities. It was observed that these phenomena have been fast paced in the Central Eastern Belt of the country in the past few years.

Considering this, over the past two years the campaign support efforts have been centered around working with groups addressing the issue of livelihoods based on natural resources like land, water and forests. The area of work covers the geographical regions of Maharashtra, Chattisgarh and Orissa

While we have defined this as the scope of our campaign work in the time to come, a huge challenge lies in dealing with the forces that we are standing up against, as the locus of control of governance shifts from the state to the market and private forces that have a global presence.

The NCAS vision statement also talks about working at making transparent and accountable governance systems. In the present context with increasing stress on decentralized and participatory planning processes in governance we see strengthening of the governance systems as a significant component of all campaign work.

### **campaign support to drought mitigation initiatives**

The team has been supporting the 'Maharashtra Drought Mitigation Forum' in strategic campaign planning and media support. The team has been involved in helping with the preparation of a module on water scarcity and community management of water resources. Maharashtra Drought Mitigation Forum organised a State Convention on "Dushkal Hatwa Manoos Jagwa" on 3rd and 4th April 2005 at Sahyog Nirmitee, Village Malumbra of Latur district.. The convention made

some common demands like drinking water, food, fodder and work. The unit extended support to the Maharashtra Drought Forum in terms of strategic planning for the Rasta Roko in Marathwada and Vidarbha region. NCAS organised press conferences, media and civil society mobilisation in Pune, Aurangabad, and Latur in collaboration with media. The team participated in Rasta Roko on 16<sup>th</sup> June in Marathwada and 17<sup>th</sup> June in Mumbai and in the 1100 kms padyatra in January 2006 through the drought affected regions of Maharashtra.

### **campaign for right to work**

The Campaign Support Unit has been actively involved in the various consultations on people's right to work in Maharashtra, The objective was to plan a "rozgar adhikar yatra" and state convention at Nagpur on Maharashtra Employment Guarantee Scheme. The two documentaries made by NCAS "The Drought of Planning" and "Maharashtra EGS were screened.

Maharashtra state convention was organised at Vinoba Vihar Kentra, Nagpur on 30<sup>th</sup> of May 2005. A public meeting and press conference were organised. A regional meeting on "Employment Guarantee Act" was organised in Sangola, Solapur district of western Maharashtra.

An Advocacy Perspective paper was published on the 'National Rural Employment Guarantee Act' with a special reference to Maharashtra experiences.

### ***Right to Water Campaign – Maharashtra***

In August 2004 NCAS, in collaboration with AFARM and other regional groups and concerned individuals, started a process of alliance and perspective building with an objective to initiate a 'Campaign for People's Right to Water' in Maharashtra. As part of this process, we identified and contacted almost 300 civil society groups in Maharashtra.

This year saw a spin off of this process with groups in Hyderabad and Karnataka, where meetings were organised by the local groups there to explore the possibility of initiating the 'Right to Water' campaign. The experiences were also shared at a regional convention on 'Water Rights' in Orissa.





## **support to issues in chhattisgarh and orissa**

In the year 2005, apart from our involvement in issues of livelihoods and governance in Maharashtra, the campaign support team has initiated work on the issue of extensive industrialization and its impact on local livelihoods and environment. This has been mostly concentrated in Chhattisgarh and Orissa. The processes of support have included

- Understanding the legal spaces available for participation in processes like environment clearance public hearings for large industrial projects;
- Helping in filing objections; compiling documents for such hearings
- Publishing of articles/documents highlighting the issues- Down to Earth, Agenda – Infochange Journal, Policy Watch – Chhattisgarh Industrial Policy
- Audio-visual documentation for advocating the issue – for instance a short video documentation on the issue of dam construction by Jindal Power Ltd. in Raigarh, was prepared to support a petition to be submitted in CEC.
- Networking with groups/experts at national level for legal, technical and other interventions
- Alliances and participation at the national level in “Campaign for Environmental Justice – India”

## **impacts of sponge iron plants | building a campaign**

Our association with the issue of sponge iron industries was initiated in Chhattisgarh where groups were trying to voice their opposition to the expansion of a sponge iron plant by Jindal Steel and Power Limited. In the process of interacting with the local groups in the area and then subsequently trying to contact individuals and groups at the national level as well as studying secondary information we learnt that apart from Chhattisgarh, the states of Orissa, Jharkhand, Goa, Karnataka, Maharashtra and West Bengal are facing the same problems – with these plants mushrooming in the areas. The problem with the sponge iron plants is essentially of rapid pollution and deterioration of the quality of air and water and thus the health of the local population (found in the case of Jindal steel plants in Raigarh, which we are studying further). Lack of local employment, land grabbing and violations that come with the whole process of industries setting up in any



place were also seen in a blatant form.

On 1<sup>st</sup> September, one day 'Regional Consultation' was organised in collaboration with Orissa Nari Samaj, a federation of women's bodies at the village level and THREAD (NGO) on issues of sponge iron plants and marginalisation of local communities in Jatni, Bhubneshwar (Orissa). The consultation was organised with an objective to identify and network with rights based groups working on the issue, to further highlight these at macro level through various interventions. Consultation's press note was covered by *The Hindu* of September 7<sup>th</sup>. More than 50 individuals and groups from Orissa, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand participated. The second regional meeting was held in Raipur in the end of February where a detailed action plan was chalked out.

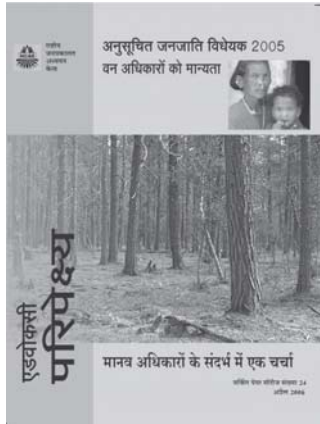
Following this meeting the team made contacts with groups in Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Jharkhand for further broad basing the issues. Technical and socio-economic studies to document the impacts of sponge iron plants to help in advocating the issue further have been initiated.

From the initiation, inputs have been taken from groups like Kalpavriksh, Human Rights Law Network and Mines, Minerals and People. Legal advocacy processes have been explored, articles been written and published and the issue has gained attention with some groups at the national level.

### **work on the issue of forest rights**

The year 2005 saw the presentation of the Scheduled Tribes (Recognition to forest rights) Bill in the parliament in December. This was after a nation wide protest against the systematic campaign of eviction of 'encroachments' by the state in various regions. The campaign support initiatives of NCAS on the issue included preparation of an 'advocacy perspective' paper on the draft bill in Hindi. The audio-visual documentation of the evictions in Burhanpur, Madhya Pradesh led to making of a film 'On the Frontier of Survival' last year. This year the Campaign and Media unit widely disseminated the film





amongst groups working on forest rights issues.

The team also participated in 3 public hearings organised by 'National Forum for Forest People and Forest Workers' (NFFPFW) to highlight the issue of conservation policies and its impact on community livelihoods in protected areas. NCAS supported the process-documentation of the public hearings.

Apart from these initiatives the team also has been a part of the organisations' involvement in the Wada Na Todo Abhiyan at the national level. The team played an active role in mobilizing groups from Maharashtra for participating in the "Peoples Summit Against Poverty" held in new Delhi in September 2005.

## research and documentation

In October 2004, NCAS initiated an action research study on the 'Impact of Globalisation on Governance and Land, Forest and Water' in central India. This study intends to identify, understand and comprehend the linkages between local and global governance processes and its impact on the poor and marginalised groups and people in the states of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Orissa and Jharkhand. The study will document the impact of the local struggles and civil society initiatives on governance.

Initially, the research unit focused on the formation of a team. A research desk at Raipur, Chhattisgarh was set up for better coordination of the study and to help in collecting relevant policy documents from the study states, particularly from Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

As a part of the preparation, the team collected secondary data from various sources like websites and University libraries on globalisation and its impact on livelihood issues. This helped in mapping issues and struggles and also in developing a holistic understanding of the issues. To spearhead the process further, following activities were undertaken during the year:

### ■ preparation of the base document

Based on secondary literature review, a position paper was prepared on each theme i.e. land, water and forest, and its relation with globalisation and governance. This helped in clarifying our stand vis-à-vis various aspects of globalisation and its impact on livelihood issues. The document underlines that the government, both central and state, are complementing each other's effort in privatizing natural resources in the name of development. The myth that is being propagated is that foreign investment contributes towards development of the people.



## ■ consultations

After the preparation of the base document, one preliminary consultation, followed by one national consultation and four state consultations were organised. The consultation provided a space to interact with more than 150 prominent activists. There were discussions on changing farming pattern, declining ownership on common property resources as well as acts related to land sealing, land alienation and its impact on livelihood.

### **preliminary consultation**

A one-day civil society consultation on the topic: 'Linkages between Globalisation, Governance and Grassroots Realities' was organised at Raipur, Chhattisgarh on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2005. The objective was to launch the study. Around 20 participants, who included Mr. Achyut Das of Aggragame, Orissa, Mr. Lalit Surjan, editor of Deshbandhu newspaper, Raipur and Mr. Anil Garg, an activist from Madhya Pradesh participated in the consultation. The participants felt that the research would help in creating a platform for sharing of information, ideas, experience and finding a way to intervene in the process of onslaught of globalisation on the marginalised.

### **national consultation**

The National Consultation was organised on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2005 at New Delhi. Around 25 activists across the country working on livelihood issues and globalisation were present. The delegates included Mr. P.V.Rajgopal, Mr. Anil K Chaudhary, Mr. Ashok Choudhary, Mr. Praveen Jha, Ms. Madhu Sarin etc. It was stated that we should focus our advocacy efforts on control over community resources rather than on access. These discussions helped in sharpening our research questions.

### ***Orissa State Consultation***

A one-day state consultation on issues related to globalisation and land, water and forest of Orissa was held at Bhubaneshwar on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2005. More than 45 people from various parts of the state attended as varied participants from Centre



for Youth and Social Development (CYSD), Regional Cooperation Development Centre (RCDC), Vasundhara, Action Aid, Lok Sakti Abhiyan discussed issues of globalisation together. There were also discussions on struggles that are taking place at Kashipur, Lanjigarh, Sundergarh and other parts of the state.

### ***Jharkhand State Consultation***

A one-day state consultation on issues related to globalisation and land, water and forest of Jharkhand was held at Ranchi on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2005. There were around 35 eminent people like Dr. Ram Dayal Munda, Father Stanswamy, Mr. Arvind Anjum, Rosalia Turkey etc. The consultation ended with a number of suggestions with regards to the restoration of the rights of the marginalised people in the state and their control over the natural resources.

### ***Madhya Pradesh State Consultation***

A one-day state consultation on issues related to Globalisation and land, water and forest of Madhya Pradesh (MP) was held at Bhopal on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2005. In this consultation, there were about 30 participants from the state who are working on issues related to land, water and forest. Few of the people who attended the consultation were Mr. Sharad Chandra Behar, Mr. Vijay Panda, Mr. Suresh Mishra, Mr. Yogesh Diwan etc. Suggestions were made with regards to areas that need further research.

## **■ networking**

One of the objectives of the study was to create a platform, for a dialogue between the various actors working on globalisation. NCAS initiated networking through consultations with activists, media professionals, academicians and issue specific networks like the one against sponge iron plants.



## ■ initiating policy research

NCAS initiated a documentation series called the 'NCAS Policy Watch Series' in an attempt to analyze policies in the light of globalisation and share perspectives in the context of public advocacy for rights and social justice. The series started by analyzing the industrial policy of Chhattisgarh. Experts from the study states have agreed to contribute by analyzing policies on agricultural, water, mining, industrial, Panchayat Raj as part of the series. These would play a critical role in building knowledge on people centred advocacy. These documents are widely disseminated among all stakeholders.

## ■ action research case studies

The team members are documenting case studies, which would help to understand the changes in governance policies, agenda and discourse on globalisation. Some of the case studies are on the effectiveness of eco-development schemes in Palamu, reserve forest area of Jharkhand and agrarian crisis in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra.

## ■ study on ESCR

A research study on the realisation of economic, cultural and social rights in India was undertaken in 2004. This research was commissioned by National Human rights commission (NHRC) with a objective to analyse the Government's initiatives and intervention in terms of allocation of resources for the realisation of ESCR especially the rights to food, health and education with particular reference to the marginalised (Adivasis, Dalits, Women and Children); and to understand how far people are getting benefits from the Governmental initiatives pertaining to ESCR in the states of Karnataka, Chattisgarh and Maharashtra. This year NCAS has submitted its final report to NHRC .

## ■ publication of social watch

National Social Watch Coalition (NSWC) published 'Social Watch India ' a Citizens Report on Governance and Development





2005. NSWC is a broad based network of citizens groups and civil society organisations, which attempts to monitor institutions of governance and their commitment towards citizens and principles of Democracy, particularly with reference to the marginalised sections of the society. The citizen's report critically examines the performance of key institutions of governance in relation to social development. It focuses on the Parliament, National policy Domain, the Supreme Court and the Institutions of local self-governance.

Being one of the founder members of national social watch coalition, NCAS supported in carrying out background research, editing, publishing and releasing Social Watch Report 2005.





## advocacy internship programme

Since July 1999, NCAS has initiated an Advocacy Internship Programme for young graduates and postgraduates inclined to work in the field of advocacy. A total of 50 youths have been part of the programme and are set to contribute in the social sector. The Internship programme has entered into its 7th year with 8 new interns representing different regions of the country.

Advocacy Internship Programme in a current year deals with two consecutive batches, in which the 6<sup>th</sup> batch is placed on the field while the 7<sup>th</sup> batch goes through an in-house experience.

### ■ sixth batch of interns (2004-06) | field placement

In the year 2005, the sixth batch of interns continued with the Internship programme in NCAS till June 2005 before going for the field placement. During the year 2005, the interns completed three field exposure visits to the different organisation/ NGOs and were sent for six-month field placement to the following organisations since July onward to undertake field study.

ASTHA (Udaipur)	Tanushree
SUTRA ( Himachal Pradesh)	Nimisha Sukhadia
CHRI (New Delhi)	Manisha Patil
North East Network ( Guwahati)	Laxmi Yadav
Aman Trust (New Delhi)	Grace Jajo
NCCCL (New Delhi)	Ganesh Sodaye
Loksatta (Hyderabad)	Jeetmal Parmal
Chalukudi River Protection Committee, (Trissur)	Aryakrishnan

## field visit

Interns were placed in the abovementioned organisations according to their area of interest e.g. Adivasi rights, gender, human rights, unorganised labour, displacement etc.

In order to sharpen their understanding and gain wider exposure prior to the placement, they visited the following organisations, in the months of February and March 2005

Kisan Adivasi, Sanghathan, Kesla (Madhya Pradesh)	Tanushree
Action India (New Delhi)	Nimisha Sukhadia
SUTRA (Himachal Pradesh)	Manisha Patil
M V Trust (Hyderabad)	Laxmi Yadav
APDP (Srinagar)	Grace Jajo
PUCL, Rajasthan (Jaipur)	Ganesh Sodaye
Loksatta (Hyderabad)	Jeetmal Parmal
PRISM (New Delhi)	Aryakrishnan

## academic inputs

In the previous year, input sessions were given by experienced persons from the field of academia, social action, NGOs and media like Dr S. P. Sathe, Sharad Kulkarni along with the team members of NCAS. Joseanthony Jose counseled the interns on interpersonal relationships. Each input was followed by group discussions and individual presentations by interns. Inputs were primarily on State, Nationality, Indian Constitution, Indian Administrative System, Human rights, Gender, Dalit issues, Globalisation, Marxism, Civil society, Women and Law, Cinema and Society and Panchayat Raj. The inputs were also given on research methodology and 'People Centred Advocacy'. The medium of instruction was English and Hindi.



## **self – learning**

As a part of self-learning approach, the interns were sent to various places to attend workshops and meetings so as to gain first-hand experience of social issues. These workshops were being organised by different organisations/groups on the issues of Gender and Sexuality rights, Human rights and Globalisation, Women's rights to property, Budget analysis and advocacy. They also attended National Advocacy Capacity-Building Workshops.

Book review and discussion was the key part of self-learning, where each intern presented a book review once in a month. Book review sessions were organised on gender, struggle for survival, women and Panchayat Raj, law and Human Rights. They gave presentations on caste system, family, Indian Constitution, nationalism, international conventions on human rights, UN bodies for protection of Human Rights.

Discussion on various films were also facilitated by interns. Screening and discussion on documentary films: like Hidden castles and Breaking the Silence were conducted.

## **interaction**

The interns are encouraged to interact with civil society leaders, academicians, and other significant persons, so that they get motivated, inspired and learn through the other's experience. This year too, interns had some interesting interaction with Ms Mari Thakaekara from ACCORD, Tamilnadu, on media skills, Tsunami and civil society response. Mr. A.K. Pany from Adivasi Kranti Sanghatana, Dhenkanal district of Orissa interacted with them and shared his experience of adivasi issues in Orissa, state repression and the forest rights. Mr. Srinivas Kulkarni of Bachpan Bachao Andolan also gave his time to interns to brief about the movement and his experiences. Mr Lohia from Manavlok Sansthan from Maharashtra interacted with them.

## **mid term field placement review meeting**

A mid term meeting of sixth batch interns, was organised on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> October 2005. The objective of the meeting was to share their field experiences and guide them in writing the dissertation.



## ■ seventh batch of interns (2005-07)

### **youth camp**

Youth Camp, was organised on 04<sup>th</sup>-05<sup>th</sup> August 2005 at JP Naik Centre, Pune for selecting candidates for advocacy internship programme 2005-07. It was a two-day interactive session with 25 young candidates across the country. The panelists comprised of Mr. Sanjay Sangvai, social activist and a journalist; Dr Sanjeev Ghotge, an academician, and Amitabh, Swati and Vijaya from NCAS. Following eight candidates were selected to be the interns for the 2005-07 batch:

<b>Hari Om Soni</b>	Madhya Pradesh
<b>Arvind Kumar</b>	Uttar Pradesh
<b>Avinash Bhale</b>	Maharashtra
<b>Manish Kumar</b>	Bihar
<b>Jitendra Kumar Rath</b>	Orissa
<b>Tanveer Kazi</b>	Maharashtra
<b>Shashawati Patnaik</b>	Orissa
<b>Salma Kulkarni</b>	Maharashtra

### **the course**

The new batch joined on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2005, followed by induction process. Before commencement of the new batch, the curriculum for the current year was reviewed and the new list of reading and the reference materials was prepared. Various NGOs and social action groups were identified and short listed for future field visits.

In the first three months i.e. from August to October 2005, interns had a weeklong orientation on NCAS, where members from each team gave a comprehensive presentation of their team work. The programme schedule for the 18month internship period was planned in consultation with the interns.



## workshops

Many workshops were organised during the year for the interns with the objective that it would be helpful in developing their skills and perspective. Some important workshops were on 'Gender Sensitisation' facilitated by Urmila from NCAS and the other on improving interpersonal relations by Josantony Jose. A two day workshop was organised for developing their writing skills, which was facilitated by external consultant Ms. Vidya Kulkarni and Ms. Sangeeta Gandhye. The other important workshop to understand the communication and media was taken by Mr. Abeer Gupta on 'Identity and Nationalism in Indian Cinema and Society'. Medha Kale our former intern working with Tathapi Trust facilitated one-day workshop on 'Gender Rights'. Interns actively participated in the national level workshop on MEDIA ADVOCACY and two days workshop on Budget Analysis facilitated by CBGA

## academic inputs

Understanding Globalisation	- Amitabh Behar
Tribes in India – issues and perspective	- Sanjay Sangvai
Phule, Sahu Maharaj, Ambedkar and Gandhi Philosophy	- Sanjay Sangvai
Liberalism	- Sunita Pandhe
Revisiting Socialism	- Prof Rajendra Vohra
Concept of Civil Society	- Amitabh Behar
Theories of Development	- Sunita Pandhe
Human Rights Discourse	- Mangesh Kulkarni
Ambedkarism and its relevance	- Prof Harsh Jagjhap
People centred Advocacy	- John Samuel
Leadership and the internship	- John Samuel
Understanding Advocacy	- John Samuel
Tribal Issues in India	- Sharad Kulkarni
Gender Analysis	- Subhash Medhapurkar
Research Methodology	- Amitabh Behar
Role of Media in Development Sector	- Atul Sulakhe
Communication and its Theories	- Vishram Dhole
Media Advocacy	- Vrushali Gatne





## interactions

During the year, interns interacted with various individuals and groups. They had interesting and enriching interactions with a group of Swedish students from Sweden, MSW students from Karve Institute of Social Science, Pune and MA students of St. Mira College of Pune. Trust for Community Development and Research (TDCR) from Ranchi, Jharkhand, visited NCAS on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> October. They interacted with interns and shared their experiences of working with adivasi community from Jharkhand.

The other interactions were with Mr. Umakant, VANI's state coordinator of Maharashtra, Mr Eknath Avad, a dalit human rights activist, Ms Asha, assistant editor, Navbharat from Chhattisgarh, Mr. Nishant a member of 'National Forum of Forest People and Forest Workers' and with Mr Pravin Mahajan of Janarth. The interns had an opportunity to interact with Dr. Anil Sadgopal, a well known educationist on 'Right to Education'.



## participation and contribution

During the years, the current batch of interns participated in seminars, consultations, *Jan Sunwai*, film festival and many more interactions in order to get the overall experience and insights for perspective building. They also attended the series of lectures organised by University of Pune, on 'Gender and Politics' by Brinda Karat, 'Democracy and South Asia' by Prof Suhas Palsikar, 'Politicisation of caste and the rise of middle class in India' by Prof D. L. Sethe and 'Secularism and Communalism' by Uma Chakravarti.

The other lectures were on 'Globalisation and Agriculture' by Utsa Patnaik, Prof of Economics, JNU on 21<sup>st</sup> Oct; and on 'Covering movements in the print media' Sanjay Sangvai; and on 'Role of Youth in the Globalised World' by John Samuel at CYDA.

- Interns performed a street play on the theme of gender discrimination that was staged at St. Mira's College.
- They did a media coverage for BGVS on water and food situation in Maharashtra.



- Participated actively in the Jansunwai organised for the environmental impact assessment (EIA) for the clearance of Jindal Steel and Power Plant in Raigarh, Chattishgarh from October 03-09 2005.
- Participated in a rally after the national convention on 'Urban planning and space for poor' at Mumbai on 15<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> October organised by NAPM & TISS.
- Participated in a state level seminar on 'Women's participation in Governance' organised by Mahila Rajsatta Andolan.
- Interns attended the interface with media on WTO, co-organised by NCAS with Pune Patrakar Shramik Sangh (PWJA) and also attended one-day interface with 20 young lawyers from Gujarat working with CSJ.
- Human Rights workshop, organised by Open-Space, Pune from 15-25 November was attended by the interns.
- Attended the advocacy capacity building programme for NCDHR organised by NCAS from 06-11<sup>th</sup> December. This was the second opportunity for them to understand Dalit rights perspective and the advocacy.
- Participated in signature campaigns against the atrocities on adivasi in Kalinganagar, Orissa.
- National conference on "Challenges of Intellectual property rights" organised by Symbiosis College Pune was attended by the interns.
- Interns actively participated in Lokshahi Utsav (Festival for Democracy) organised by various movements campaigns and organisations from Pune.
- PUCL Maharashtra organised a YOUTH CAMP at YMCA Pune. Interns attended the camp.

### **short duration field visits**

One day visit to the near by organisations to understand the issues was organised in this year. Interns visited the Hamal Panchayat- a trade union of head loaders and coolies in Pune to understand the unionised efforts among the unorganised labourer.

They also visited an organisation working as a resource and documentation centre for women, particularly women in Panchayat. This organisation called ALOCHANA headed by Medha Kotwal, based in Pune has a good documentation on women's issues.

On October 25, Interns went for a day long visit to Hirve Bazar, a model village of watershed and natural resource management and community development in Ahmednagar district. The organiser Mr Popat Rao Pawar is greatly influenced

with work of Anna Hazare in Ralegan Siddhi, which is a nearby village of Hirave bazaar.

A day visit to Mazalgaon in Beed district, Maharashtra was organised to see the work of campaign for Human Rights working for establishing human rights of Dalits and marginalised.

The team of interns visited the Sakhar Shala, a School for the children of migrant workers of Sugarcane farms run by Janarth, Aurangabad. They also visited Pani Panchayat a pioneering organisation in watershed development and equitable water distribution at Naigaon (Taluka-Purandar, Dist. Pune) to gain the holistic approach about the water issue.

By the end of March the interns visited Bandhkam Mazdoor Sabha Pune (An organisation working for Construction Labourers) to understand the issues of the labourers working in the unorganised sector.

### **field visit**

A group of five interns went to Gujarat for weeklong visit to the villages where NAVSARJAN Trust is working. The visit was organised to experience the life of Dalits. Such visits have been useful in building perspective of interns on dalit issues

The other group of interns went to Raygada district in Orissa to understand the issues of tribal-control over natural resources and the issue of governance. They also visited Agramee, Kalahandi Mahila Mahasangha and Seba Jagat in Kalahandi and Raygad district of Orissa

### **miscellaneous**

As a part of capacity building team placement interns visited Community Learning Movement (CLM) in Koraput, Sundergarh, Rourkela and Hyderabad where they attended CLM meetings, interacted with the participants and documented case-studies.

They have submitted their term papers and assignment on various issues related to the Panchayati Raj, Dalit, Urban Governance and Tribal, HIV and AIDS Gender Farmers etc.

During the year, interns from both the batches contributed significantly to the work of NCAS by assisting in the preparation of Advocacy Update, Advocacy Internet, Media Scan, and Documentation.



## **media advocacy**

In 2005-06, the NCAS Media Advocacy Unit re-designed and fine-tuned its programmes to suit its needs. There was an increasing need felt by the media unit that media advocacy workshops are required more for people at the grass root level hence, in contrast to last year's activities where interface workshops between social activists were conducted more in number, the focus this time was on capacity building of grass root activists and their skill-building on how to interact with media professionals. Consequently that was the thrust area of the capacity building work in 2005-06. Issues addressed in these workshops were related to women, adivasis, labour and globalisation.

### **■ media advocacy capacity building workshops**

#### **national media advocacy capacity building workshop, pune**

The 'National Media Advocacy Capacity Building Workshop' was held in Pune from 23 to 25 March 2005. Sessions that were conducted were on 'Present Media – Challenges and Opportunities for Social Action' - by Mr. Kumar Ketkar, 'Need and Ways of Monitoring Media' by Prof. Sandeep Pendse, Mr. Rakesh Dewan – Editor of Sarvoday Press Service (SPS) presented the story of Sarvoday Press Service as a case of alternative print media, the final session on design and planning of a media campaign was facilitated by Sanjay Sangvai and Vijaya Patnekar of NCAS.

#### **regional media advocacy capacity building**

Media unit, this year conducted three regional level capacity-building workshops for social activists. These workshops were held in Mumbai (2<sup>nd</sup>- 5<sup>th</sup> July 05) in collaboration with Sampark, in Aurangabad (13<sup>th</sup>- 15<sup>th</sup> June 05) with Paryay on the issue of water and in Ambikapur (5<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> Feb 06) with Lalit Surjan Foundation on the issue of globalisation and



industrialisation. The sessions in these workshops were on the analysis of content of mainstream media, structure of media houses, changes taking place in the media landscape because of globalisation and liberalisation and so on. In addition to this, sessions focused on skill-building to train participants in writing press-releases, conducting press-conferences, design and plan a media campaign, etc.

### **grassroots media advocacy capacity building**

NCAS Media organised two grass root level capacity building workshops, one in Ambejogai (19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> Dec 05) with Manavlok in Marathwada. The social activists who participated in this workshop were grass root level activists working on environment, women's issues, dalit issues, health rights, children rights, trafficking etc. Regional level media professionals facilitated the various sessions of the workshop. The other was held in Pune (25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> Feb 05) with the grass root activists of the state level women's front

'Mahila Rajsatta Andolan'. Several of the participants were members of the panchayat in their villages. There was a special session on the 'Right to Information' and strategies about bringing the act into practice for their work. The modules for both these workshops were designed in Marathi.

### **advocacy journalism**

In 2005-06 the advocacy journalism programme was conducted for the students of journalism of Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth. This programme was initiated by NCAS media unit to sensitise the students of media towards the issues of human rights and to tap this group as a strategy for effective media advocacy in future.

The input sessions dealt with topics like 'Changing Face of Media', 'New Social Movements', 'Social Movements and Role of the Media' to name a few. The sessions were facilitated by senior journalists like Madhav Gokhale, Prasad Mirasdar and civil society leaders like K. J. Joy and Sanjay Sangvai.

## interfaces

These are common platform created by NCAS to facilitate a dialogue between the media professionals and the social activists. The first interface was organised on 5<sup>th</sup> July in Mumbai. This interface focused on the issue of women's rights and included issues of political participation and domestic violence. Representatives of the print as well electronic media of Mumbai attended the interface and voiced their opinions on social movements and role of media. They also talked about their expectations from the social activists and organisations for effective media advocacy.

The second interface of this year was held on 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2005 in Pune and was organised in collaboration with the Patrakar Sangh (Press Club) of Pune. This interface was on 'WTO Hong Kong Ministerial: Challenges before India' and its objective was to sensitise the media professionals and generate public discourse.

## ■ audio-visual documentation

**Road to Shanghai (via Mumbai)** : A film on the 'Ghar Bachao, Ghar Banao Andolan' of the slum dweller of Mumbai led by Medha Patkar, during the 2002 demolition drive.



**The Struggle Continues** : An audio-visual documentation of the work of the Mahila Rajsatta Andolan, done in Marathi and English and initiated by Resource and Support Center, Maharashtra in 2000.

**Breaking the Silence** : The film addresses the caste exploitation of barber community in Orissa.

**Documentation for MOEF Chalo** : Video documentation of the rally held against the oppressive practices undertaken by the Ministry of Environment and Forests in Orissa.

**Legal Lapses** : This film documents the issues of privatization of the Rabo River, in Chhattisgarh for industrial purposes and its impact on other natural resources and the lives of the adivasis.

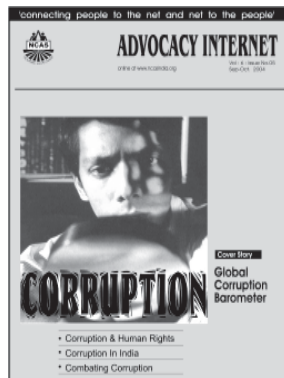


**Advocacy films (in editing phase) :** This film was undertaken for the advocacy capacity building team of NCAS. A need was felt for re-designing capacity building modules which are currently in use, and also to take into account the evolution of advocacy and its interpretations over the last decade since the inception of NCAS.

**Film on Domestic Violence (in editing phase) :** The film discusses the issue of domestic violence explaining the nature of the issue in a patriarchal society and the means to curb it.

**NBA Rally 2005 (archival footage available) :** To commemorate 20 years of struggle of the Narmada Bachao Andolan, this rally had been initiated from villages in the Narmada valley to Badwani. The media team had taken part in this rally and done audio-visual documentation.

## ■ publications



### advocacy internet

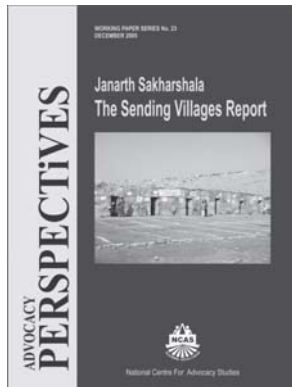
The in-house bimonthly of NCAS was published on diverse issues dealing with livelihood rights of communities. They were:

- Corruption
- Forests
- WTO Hong Kong Ministerial
- Mining
- Unorganised Labour



## **employment guarantee scheme**

Assuring livelihood and empowering the poor- A case for 'National Rural Employment Guarantee Act'. This publication explores the implications of the passing of the NREGA on the rural poor and experiences of EGA in Maharashtra. This is in addition to a film that was commissioned by NCAS on the implementation of EGS in Maharashtra.



### **sending villages**

A perspective on the education of migrant workers children in Maharashtra. A large number of labourers from different parts of our country are forced to migrate from their villages; many are continually on the move in search of a livelihood. This report is the outcome of the survey carried out by Janarth – an NGO based in Aurangabad – which works for the rights of the children of migrant sugarcane workers in that area.

### **advocacy update**

The increasing dispossession of land as common property resources due to neo-economic policies, which favour land privatisation and large developments projects, the land dependent communities are pushed further at fringes of society. This update attempts to highlight various struggles and protests dealing with the question of land rights from the perspective of the rural poor, landless and marginalised communities. This update is also in line with the work that the campaign unit is carrying forth in eastern India on the issue of livelihoods and economic rights.

## governance and advocacy

### ■ Background

The changing political scenario and the much publicised neo-liberal reform era have created a veneer of confusion in the country. This state of affair poses a greater threat of marginalisation of the common mass. The already deprived and excluded communities are getting more marginalised in this era or shining trajectory for a privileged few and dusty path for the rest. Alienation from the natural resources and dismantling of the traditional support mechanisms is making the common mass more vulnerable. The deprived communities are pushed to fore to face the maximum brunt of it. More starkly the abdication of responsibility by the state poses a much larger question of governance accountability. From here the Governance and Advocacy Unit (GAU) of National Centre for Advocacy Studies (NCAS) derives its mandate to work on the issue of governance accountability, under the larger vision and mission of NCAS. The GAU is functioning for more than five years now. It has its mixed experience, learning and unlearning. However, they always exhorted us to proceed with more enthusiasm and commitment. Apart from assimilating in other activities of NCAS, the GAU undertook major activities under three areas:

- Parliamentary Advocacy
- Media Advocacy
- Campaign Support and Networking

## ■ parliamentary advocacy

While seeking governance accountability, the Parliament becomes the prime arena to raise issues of the marginalised and deprived of the society. The GAU has always tried to demystify and bridge the link between the institutions of governance and the people. The objective has been to provide the much needed information base and access to these institutions for social advocacy. Our publication Parliament Digest (PD), which covers the question hour of the Parliament, has been widely recognized as a major source of information for a cross section of society. The objective behind PD is to cull out the relevant information from the colossal amount of information, and present it into a readable handy format.

The GAU is also emerging as an important source of parliamentary information. Many of the civil society groups and NGOs approached GAU for information and support in their campaigns. As part of this information sharing, information on debates, policies, laws etc were provided to various groups. The GAU has always tried to focus more on the grass root organisations, which do not have direct access to much of this information.

Another important area of focus under parliamentary advocacy has been working with parliamentarians. NCAS has always been trying to create a platform where the common mass can interact with and question their representatives. Regular sharing of information particularly grass root information has been very helpful in building a rapport with the Parliamentarians. They have been invited to different workshops and seminars, where they can come and listen to people's issues and in turn, raise those issues in the Parliament. For this purpose NCAS tried to identify MPs based on their sensitivity towards particular issues, regions etc. The GAU coordinated MPs involvement in various workshops and seminars on issues of governance, livelihood, gender etc. The GAU has also tried to liaise with different commissions like NHRC, NCW, and Planning Commission. One of the major activities has been, involving them in our campaigns, creating platforms where the civil society organisations can interface with them. NCAS has also tried to facilitate the accessibility to these institutions for grass root people. Under the above mentioned scope GAU undertook the following major activities for the year 2005-06:

- Parliament Digest (PD) for Budget Session was published in the year 2005. The publication of Monsoon and Winter

Session Parliament Digest was delayed due to paucity of information. It was learnt from the experience that the parliament secretariat takes an unusually long time to put the information on their website.

- PD was strategically distributed to the Ministers, MPs, civil society groups, People's movement, academia, Universities and Research Institutions, Media etc. It was encouraging to receive the feedback from them, even one of the former Prime Ministers also acknowledged the PD.
- The Chairperson of NCW Ms. Girija Vyas initiated a process of selected NGOs of Delhi to commemorate B+10 and also to know about the activities they undertake. NCAS was one of the invitees.
- GAU jointly coordinated with the People's Action for Employment Guarantee (PAEG), the Ministers and MPs invitation and participation in the Jan Manch (People's Platform) on Employment Guarantee Act held on 2 July 2005 in Delhi. The Minister of Rural Development Mr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh participated in the Jan Manch and responded to the queries. MPs from different political parties also participated and expressed their solidarity.
- GAU facilitated MPs invitation for the National Consultation on WTO jointly organised by NCAS and South Asian Network for Social and Agricultural Development (SANSAD) on December 2, 2005 in Delhi.
- For the National Women's Conference organised by Action India in collaboration with NCAS in Delhi on 20-21 February 2006, GAU facilitated Ministers' and MPs involvement in the conference. Ms. Renuka Chowdhury, Minister of State (Independent charge) in the Ministry of Women and Child Development was the chief guest for the conference.

## ■ media advocacy

GAU has undertaken various activities as part of its efforts to undertake media advocacy. As part of maintaining a constant information link, GAU has regularly sent information to mainstream media. GAU has also facilitated information exchange from the various campaigns to media, which involved providing platforms for direct interface between media and social



activists, holding workshops for media personnel and students of Journalism and Mass Communication, maintaining a strategic data base of media etc. As part of the above mentioned scope GAU's activities in the year 2005-06 was as under:

- A thematic workshop and interface on 'Gender and Media' on July 11-12, 2005 in Chandigarh, for social activists. More than thirty-five activists participated in the workshop. Journalists from mainstream media shared their experience and facilitated sessions on various themes. The last day of the workshop was a public interface where social activists directly dialogued with senior level journalists on different aspects of involving media on social issues.
- Coordination of media and communication work for WNTA's White Band Day held on 1 July 2005. Press invites and press briefing was organised for the event.
- Media and communication support was provided to the 'People's Summit against Poverty' (PSAP) held in Delhi on 3-4 September 2005. PSAP was an Asia level summit where more than 10,000 national and international delegates participated. GAU coordinated the design and production of promotional material. GAU facilitated the media desk during the summit. The pre and post summit work involved organising press conference, media scanning, information dissemination etc.
- NCAS and South Asian Network for Social and Agricultural Development (SANSAD) jointly organised a National Consultation on WTO on December 2, 2005 in Delhi. GAU facilitated the media coordination for the consultation. Journalists from leading newspapers participated in the consultation.
- Media management was facilitated for the 'National Women's Conference' organised by Action India in collaboration with NCAS in Delhi on 20-21 February 2006. GAU also invited senior media personnel for the sessions on Media. The press conference, press releases, press invites etc. were coordinated by the GAU.

Due to the constant information dissemination to the media on various social issues, GAU has been regularly accessed by media houses for information.

## ■ campaign support and networking

Campaign Support and Networking has been one of the major activities of NCAS. In its effort to bring more focus, synergy and consistency on different social issues, NCAS has provided its campaign support through various ways. GAU has been mandated with campaign support and networking in the Northern region. GAU has been able to build a strategic network on various issues in the Northern region. GAU has also provided campaign support to different campaigns. Being located in Delhi, most of the work was facilitated in Delhi. The various activities undertaken for campaign support and networking for the year 2005-06 is as under:

- A brief orientation on 'People Centered Advocacy' was done for the partners of National Leprosy Mission Trust.
- A National Seminar on one year of national common minimum programme (CMP) "One Year of CMP – A Review by the Civil Society Groups" was jointly organised by NCAS and a number of civil society organisation in Delhi on 20 May 2005. More than 200 people participated in the seminar. GAU facilitated the participants' and resource persons' mobilisation for the seminar. A charter of demands was prepared and was sent to different civil society networks jointly by GAU and Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability (CBGA).
- GAU provided campaign support to WNTA's White Band Day on 1 July 2005. GAU coordinated the poster, banner, placard, slogan preparation etc. for the event.
- Campaign support was provided to the Jan Manch (People's Platform) on Employment Guarantee Act organised by Peoples' Action for Employment Guarantee (PAEG) held on 2 July 2005 in Delhi. The Jan Manch was organised to commemorate the return of the Rozgar Adhikar Yatra, which traveled through ten states of the country. Facilitation of the communication link viz. invitation, mobilisation etc. with various groups was undertaken by GAU.
- A major campaign support facilitated by the GAU was the coordination of People's Summit against Poverty (PSAP) held in Delhi on 3-4 September 2005. GAU facilitated the communication link between various organising committees.



GAU was able to raise funds for the summit. GAU also facilitated the printing of concept note and invitation for the summit. GAU mobilized the Delhi civil society groups for the summit.

- GAU facilitated post CSW and launch of the B+10 NGO Country Report. The Report coordination involved editing, design, lay out and production.
- GAU with Action India, Centre for Social Research, Lawyers Collective and WomenPowerConnect organised an interface on 'Domestic Violence Bill' for NGOs, civil society organisations, women's organisation and parliamentarians.
- Campaign support was provided to Wada Na Todo Abhiyan's (WNTA) 'Skip a Meal Day' held on 10 December 2005. GAU coordinated the editing and printing of the appeal note for the event.
- NCAS was a joint partner in organising national women's conference with Action India in Delhi on 20-21 February 2006. More than 250 gender activists participated in the conference. GAU coordinated the planning and design of the conference. Concept note and invitation letter were drafted and edited by GAU. GAU also facilitated the strategic mobilisation of the participants across country and also identified the resource persons for different sessions.

As a result of the above mentioned campaign support activities GAU built up a large network on different issues. Through information dissemination and supporting campaigns, GAU has been able to bring in more and more groups in the larger network.

### **summing up**

This is a small attempt to point out the major activities, however, GAU constantly provided its support in whatever way possible to the issues of marginalised, governance accountability and above all to the larger cause of social upliftment. Needless to mention that time, efforts and energies also went in to the maintenance, upkeep and functioning of the office.



## centre for budget and governance accountability

The year April 2005-2006 was significant for CBGA. As we reflect on the year that has passed, we feel that despite challenges and constraints, CBGA took a sure-footed step towards research-based advocacy on budget and policy analysis as also towards creating an institutional identity for itself. The Centre was approached by several individuals and organisations—both national and international—and of considerable repute with requests for collaborations on research, capacity building and advocacy, which seems promising. The research outputs of the Centre are gaining credibility. Advocacy and in particular, reaching out to a wider audience with our research, hitherto a weak link, has made progress due to systematic, sustained and targeted efforts. Feedback on our publications and capacity building workshops reveal that these have been well received. The Centre is striving hard to work closely with people's organisations and movements so that outputs can be of use in their ongoing struggles and work and we can be partners in peoples' struggles over resources for a better social order.

To mention just a few such highlights of the year:

- CBGA contributed a chapter on Child Budgeting in the Annual Report of the Department of Women and Child Development (DWCD) and has been acknowledged for the same in the annual report.
- CBGA was invited by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance to comment on the Securities Contract (Regulation) Amendment Bill. Leading local, national and international news magazines and newspapers have covered our work and some of these include Frontline, Deccan Herald, Real Politik as well as New York Times, amongst others.
- In less than 24 hours of release of the Budget 2006-07, the Centre had prepared its detailed response to the Union Budget titled "Whose Side Are You On, Mr. Finance Minister" and the report was disseminated at the panel that the Centre organised on March 1, titled "Budgets 2006-07: As If People Matter". The panel attracted a rather big audience of over 300 persons and had a distinguished set of panellists. Star News covered the event. Our speedy response to the Union Budget was much appreciated.



Internally, the Centre is building a strong foundation to sustain its work. The Centre is trying to ensure that internal processes, systems and mechanisms are developed in a democratic way, by building consensus amongst staff, and that these processes are in tandem with the principles and values that the organisation espouses and believes in. The organisation has grown significantly—there have been five new staff joining the organisation and several others who have worked with the Centre on specific short-term projects. The proportionate number of women in the staff has increased and the Centre has also strengthened its work on gender issues within its mandate.

There are several challenges that remain. Better media coverage continues to challenge us. Presenting our research studies and outputs in a simple, easy to understand manner, is another challenge to the organisation’s mandate of “de-mystification of budgets and policies”. We still need to reach out to a wider audience that can make relevant use of our work. CBGA is striving not just to work more closely with people’s organisations and movements but also to ensure that the Centre’s agenda reflects the most pressing needs of the most marginalised.

In the coming year ‘Budget Analysis and Advocacy’ will continue to be the primary focus of the organisation. In this respect, our important areas of work will include monitoring of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, monitoring social sector allocations, monitoring Right to Education and Child Budget analysis work. To build specialisation and to build on our work, CBGA will internally organise its work along informal “desks” (on Rural Development, Social Sector and on Resource Mobilisation and Expenditure Management). In addition, a Dalit desk in collaboration with the National Conference of Dalit Organisations (NACDOR) is on cards.

## ■ budget analysis and advocacy

Budgets are a reflection of government’s commitment to the poor. The primary mandate of the centre is to do budget analysis and advocacy for the poor and the marginalised. The speech of the Finance Minister and the presentation of the budget on the 28th of February each year becomes a significant day in this regard. However, this precedes a budget making



cycle in the various government departments. CBGA endeavours to influence the budget making cycle at critical junctures with our concerns and agenda. Some key events in this endeavor as were undertaken in the preceding year are mentioned.



**the national convention on the union budget 2006-07, oct 05, new delhi**

CBGA organised a National Convention on Union Budget 2006-07 on the 5th and 6th of October 2005, at YMCA Tourist Hostel, New Delhi. This National Convention brought together policy analysts, academics, and civil society activists from across the country to discuss some of the pertinent issues relating to Union Budget 2006-07, from a pro-poor perspective.

The convention included sessions on agriculture and livelihood issues; resource mobilization and management of public expenditure, marginalised groups: women, children, dalits and adivasis, social sectors: health and education. The sessions along with the group discussions provided substantive inputs for framing of the Charter of Demands on Union Budget 2006-07, which was, in essence, the alternative voice—the voice of people’s movements, civil society organisations and some members of the academia, with concrete calls on the budget 2006-07.

**communication of the charter of demands**

CBGA then took this Charter of Demands forward to the Ministry of Finance and other relevant Ministries of the Union Government, Planning Commission, National Advisory Council, members of parliament, civil society organisations, social activists, academicians and the media. The charter of Demands was presented to the Principal Advisor to the Finance Minister- Dr. Parthasarathy Shome. This helped create a momentum towards common understanding of issues of high priority. Mr. Chittabrata Majumdar, leader, CITU and Member, Standing Committee on Finance took the charter well and put

CBGA as an outside expert for matters related to the Standing Committee on Finance.

**panel discussion: 'budgets 2006-07: as if people matter', march 06, new delhi**

CBGA organised a panel discussion on the Union Budget 2006-07 on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2006, in which we circulated our 'Response to Union Budget 2006-07, as mentioned earlier. The distinguished panelists were Manishankar Aiyar, Jay Panda, Brinda Karat, Prabhash Joshi, Jayati Ghosh and Praveen Jha. Yogendra Yadav moderated the discussion. The discussion hinged on analysis of the Union budget presented by the Finance Minister on the previous day. About 300 people from the civil society, development organisations, media and the academia participated as audience. The event was very successful and proved to create a high visibility for the Centre as was evidenced in the wide participation. It was covered well in mainstream electronic media.

The Centre is currently circulating the revised response to Union Budget 2006-07 widely and is struggling with efforts to influence the budget.

■ **Research and Documentation**

**major research studies**

***A Study on Centre State Fiscal Relations***

This monograph addresses the evolution and structure of fiscal federalism in India. The crisis in the financial health of state governments in India has compounded in the recent past, aggressive perusal of neo-liberal policies for the last two decades. The concept note of the proposed study was prepared in 2004-05 and necessary review of literature has been done. The compilation of secondary data is complete and work on preparing data tables is in progress. In this study, we have selected six States as case studies, which is a mix of relatively richer and poorer ones. The proposed study is slated for completion in 2006.

### ***A Study on Micro Credit with special emphasis on Self Help Groups***

This monograph will study the developmental role of Micro Finance, critically analysing three specific issues of micro credit. Self help groups will be the focus and the following will be analysed. (a) the role of self help groups in poverty alleviation, (b) self help groups and bank linkages and (c) women's empowerment through self help groups. The survey of literature and collection of data from secondary sources has already been done. The first round of fieldwork in Orissa has been done. The major issues related to grassroots realities would be captured through a questionnaire survey among around 260 sample households engaged in micro credit activities. The Study will be complete in 2006.

### ***Budget Transparency and Indian System***

This study is a follow up of the Open Budget Initiative. The study aims at studying the Indian Budgeting system from the angle of transparency, accountability and popular participation. It would help future researchers in understanding the Indian Budgeting system and will be complete by October 2006

## CBGA manual series

### ***Manual on Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act (FRBM)***

This manual looks at the Fiscal Responsibility / Transparency Laws enacted by the Centre and other state Governments. The draft-report of this Manual was circulated electronically through NCAS website. The report will also be printed and disseminated soon after its finalisation.

### ***Primer on Government Budgets***

This manual is intended to help lay person grasp the important concepts, methods and issues related to government budgets. The main objective of this document is to demystify the budget and budget related terms used in Indian system so that it becomes easy for persons who don't have any prior exposure to budget. The manual is currently under revision and a final version will be ready for circulation in 2006.



### ***Primer on Economic Indicators***

The purpose of this initiative is to demystify the economic indicators and policy variables used to measure the economic health of India. It will also provide a useful glossary of economic terms used in public finance and budgets. The proposed manual will be completed in 2006.

### **other research outputs and support**

#### ***Background Paper on the Macroeconomic Scenario under the UPA Government***

This background note assesses various initiatives undertaken by the UPA over its' first year in Government vis-à-vis the promises laid down in NCMP. CBGA prepared this paper for a civil society consultation organised by NCAS and other civil society organisations in Delhi on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2005.

#### ***Background Paper for National Convention on Union Budget 2006-07***

CBGA prepared a detailed background note covering most pertinent issues ranging from agrarian crisis to socially excluded groups. This paper has set the tone of deliberation in the National Convention on Union Budget 2006-07 organised by CBGA in New Delhi from 5 to 6 October 2005.

#### ***Background Paper for Workshop on 'Government Budgets, Donor Aid and Natural Disasters'***

A background paper titled Public Policies towards Natural Disasters in India: Disconnect between Resolutions and Reality critically studies Government policies with regard to natural disasters in India. This was used as a background paper in the said workshop jointly organised by CBGA and International Budget Project in Colombo from 9 to 11 November 2005. A comprehensive annotated bibliography was presented at the Colombo Conference that covered the issues related to the tsunami and the newly emerging concept of risk financing in this regard.

#### ***Background Papers for Budget work on Mass Movements***

CBGA prepared background notes on the economic situations and policy issues in Madhya Pradesh and Chhatisgarh respectively, linking those to the overall policy framework of Government of India, the two States and global political economy. Chhatisgarh Mukti Morcha and Jan Sangharsh Morcha were the partners in these initiatives.

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***Child Budgeting for Department for Women and Child Development (DWCD)***

On the request of UNICEF, CBGA team prepared the preliminary child budgeting exercise for the Department of Women and Child Development (DWCD) in December 2005 and January 2006, which was incorporated in their annual report. This has led to the initiative by UNICEF to undertake a study on child budget. Upon UNICEF's request, CBGA has undertaken child budget analysis for Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. This research will be used for advocacy with relevant bureaucrats in the state involved in the budget making process. These workshops will be jointly organised by DWCD, government of India and UNICEF.

***Research Work on the Financial Implications of the Domestic Violence Act***

CBGA presented a paper on the financial implications of the new Domestic Violence Act at the 'National Women's Conference, 2006: The Implementation and Enforcement of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005' organised by Action India and NCAS on Feb 20-21, 2006 in Delhi. The paper, focussing on the financial implications of implementing the aforementioned bill, was very well received. CBGA has been working with women's groups and it is hoped that this will feed into the advocacy efforts of the women's groups calling for the implementation of the Domestic Violence Act.

**national rural employment guarantee act**

CBGA prepared a document on the financial implications of NREGA titled, 'NREGA: Ripples Across Troubled Waters' in the month of February 2006. This document formed the basis of a panel discussion organised in the same month. This work is intended to help the people associated with 'right to work' movement in asking needed allocations from the Central government for meaningful and comprehensive implementation of the NREGA. The report as well as CBGA's calculation of the cost entailed was covered in national magazines and newspapers. A few of them being the Frontline , Real Politik and the Deccan Herald .

**documentation**

CBGA made procurement of relevant sections of CFR Accounts (Combined Finance and Revenue Accounts of the Union and

State Governments in India, brought out by C&AG of India) for the years 1982 to 1987, 1992 to 1997, and 2000. Data entry of Union Budget documents and other relevant sources pertaining to financial allocations of the governments both at the Centre and States was done. Relevant macroeconomic data sources and government reports have also been procured on an ongoing basis in 2005-06.

## ■ capacity building and module development

### **module development workshop, delhi**

As mentioned earlier, in July 2005, CBGA conducted a module development workshop, which was attended by 25 participants including staff and board of CBGA, select participants from previous workshops, as well as resource persons on training process.

The idea behind the workshop was to develop a standard document outlining processes of capacity building exercise on budget analysis. A module document is expected to be a complete resource tool for development practitioners, which can easily make them aware of steps in budget analysis. The ideas from the Module Development Workshop were brought in a subsequent capacity building workshop at Bhubaneswar which aimed at consolidating the learning from the earlier exploratory workshop. This year the modules will be finalised in the form of a document.

### **capacity building workshops**

In the year 2005-06, CBGA conducted five capacity building workshops, one preceding the module development workshop and others following the contour set by the module development workshop.

## ■ collaborations and alliances

There was an active collaboration and alliance building with diverse organisations. CBGA made alliances with grassroots movements and international organisations- the spectrum of associations was selective and based on common understanding of pressing issues in development. Some of these are as:

### ***Advocacy with the Legislators, Parliamentarians and the Parliamentary Standing Committees***

CBGA continued to work on advocacy with the parliamentarians and legislative bodies, as mentioned earlier. CBGA also provided support to CYSD, Bhubaneswar on their exercise aimed at legislative advocacy. CYSD is supporting the formation of standing committees for the state legislature in Orissa.

CBGA has been preparing questions for parliamentarians since the 2004 Winter Session of the Parliament. CBGA prepared and submitted the questions in all the three sessions of Parliament in 2005.

### ***Workshop on 'Labour and Agricultural Issues in the Context of Globalisation' with the CMM, April 2005, Raipur***

Chattisgarh Mukti Morcha is a people's movement. CBGA organised a workshop with them and presented a comprehensive paper titled 'Policies and Finances of Madhya Pradesh and Chattisgarh States'. The paper was also translated into Hindi and widely circulated. The workshop was attended by grassroots activists and was successful as a knowledge bridge between the grassroots' activists and macroeconomic issues.

### ***South and Southeast Asia Regional Workshop on Government Budgets, Donor Aid and Natural Disasters, 9-11 November 2005, Colombo***

Five members from the CBGA participated in a workshop titled 'Government Budgets, Donor Aid and Natural Disasters organised by International Budget Project' in Colombo from 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2005. Countries from Asia and South East Asia participated in the same. The conference aimed at looking at issues of disaster financing and expenditure management. Apart from the research works, CBGA helped with the organisation and administration of the workshop and also drafted the report of the conference.



## ■ other activities

- A workshop was organised with the Jan Sangharsh Morcha in Bhopal on September 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, 2005. Two members from CBGA Staff participated in the same.
- CBGA was represented in a Workshop on 'Child Budgeting: From Outlays to Outcomes' organised by the Department of Women and Child Development Govt. of India and UNICEF on 26<sup>th</sup> of October 2005, Delhi.
- On January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2006, CBGA was represented at a state level consultation on the new mineral policy at the Institute of Development Studies, Jaipur. The consultation saw participation from senior officers and concerned ministers and was organised by the MLPC (Mine labour Protection Campaign) and School of Desert Sciences, Jodhpur
- Presentation on India's Rural and agricultural development to the delegates from the China Institute for Reform and Development at the North Campus, Delhi University on the 15<sup>th</sup> February 2006.
- Active participation in the *Pad Yatra* organised by MKSS for a social audit of the implementation of the NREGA in Dungarpur district in Rajasthan from April 15-26, 2006. CBGA is working closely with MKSS with a view to develop a strong partnership.
- Presentation on Child labour at an international conference of the World Vision International in New Delhi in August 2005. The presentations were widely applauded.
- Participation in an International conference of IDEAS (International Development Evaluation Association) organised at New Delhi on April 12-14<sup>th</sup>, 2005. Titled "Evaluation for Development: Beyond Aid". The conference discussed aid coherence.





## ■ major new assignments

### **monitoring right to education**

In partnership and support from Commonwealth Education Fund (CEF), CBGA is engaged in a major action research study for monitoring right to education in 12 districts in 3 states namely, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Bihar. This study aims at identifying critical issues related to

- Monitoring the budget at all levels of governance
- Informed questioning about the budget allocation
- Overall administrative accountability
- Proactive engagement in the implementation process

Apart from above, the major objective of CBGA is to build capacities of the Civil Society organisations in the respective districts for using budget as an instrument of advocacy for a participatory budget making process. The study is scheduled to end by March 2007.

## ■ publications

Every year, CBGA, brings out publications in the form of newsletter, manuals or in the form of reports based on various issues of concern that fall within CBGA's mandate. The regular publication of the CBGA is a tri-annual newsletter, called the 'Budget Track'.



**in the year ending april 2006, CBGA published the following:**

Budget Track, Vol 2, Track 3, May 2005

Budget Track, Vol 3, Track 1 July 2005

Budget Track Vol 3, Track 2, October 2005

Budget Track Vol 3, Track 3, April 2006

#### **other publications**

***NREGA: Ripples Across Troubled Waters:*** This report came out in the month of April this year, when NREGA movement was gathering momentum. This report is very significant is the practicability of costs realization of the scheme and making a case for mass mobilisation.

***Response to the Union Budget (2006-07): 'Whose Side Are You On, Mr. Finance Minister?'***

#### **feedback of budget track and other publications**

CBGA has been constantly requesting for the feedback from large audience to which it circulates its Tri-annual newsletter. CBGA has also got positive response from various grassroots organisations to which we send our publications, especially the issues of Budget Track. These groups are successfully using our publications (by using the given data in different articles) in their Budget Analysis programmes. We have been sending our Budget Track issues to some of the prominent faces of the society as well, like eminent Parliamentarians, Academicians, media personnel, noted social activists, etc. To name a few, Mr. L.C. Jain, Praful Bidwai, Hannan Mollah (Member of the Parliament), Md. Salim (Member of the Parliament), Debudut Ghosh Thakur (Noted journalist, Anandabazar Patrika), Arindam Basu (UNI), C. Gouridasan Nair (Hindu), Prof. Prabhat Patnaik, Prof. Jayati Ghosh (Professors CESP, JNU), etc. They have appreciated in-depth work on the issues. We have been sending Newsletters and other publications to the student community as well who have also provided us with very positive feedback.

## ■ international collaborations

### **International Budget Project, Washington**

In partnership with IBP, CBGA has undertaken several research activities in the past. As mentioned in Section –II, CBGA team was engaged in research activities related to Open Budget initiative of IBP. CBGA is also writing the country paper on India regarding budget transparency and participation for the year 2006-07. A regional workshop was organised in Colombo during November 2005 (Section IV) in collaboration with IBP. In addition, Praveen Jha, Honorary Economic Advisor of CBGA participated in three major conferences on Governance Transparency and Civil Society Budget Work organised by IBP in the United States and Italy.

### **Centre for Policy Alternatives, Colombo**

Centre for Policy Alternatives, Colombo partnered with CBGA in organizing a workshop in Colombo on Donor Aid and Government Budgets. CBGA sees the potential of a longer-term relationship with CPA in taking up governance issues in South Asia.

### **Action Aid Asia**

CBGA participated in the Leadership Development Programme of Action Aid Asia (Cambodia) and Economic Literacy and Budget Analysis Group (ELBAG) Phase-II organised by Action Aid Asia in Nigeria. CBGA also helped the group to develop the course module for its workshops.

Upon the request of Action Aid International, CBGA also prepared a Plan of Action for starting similar budget and policy analysis work in Cambodia. This initiation of this work, based on the plan of action, is scheduled for later this year.



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