

# a

nnual report 2007 – 08



**national centre for advocacy studies**

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### **Capacity Building Unit**

The advocacy capacity building programmes of the National Centre for Advocacy Studies has been designed to facilitate collective learning through sharing of knowledge, perspectives and experience by the experts in the field as well as thinkers to develop the necessary skills and methods to effectively advocate the issues of the marginalised.

Community Learning Movement (CLM) during this year mainly emphasised on the streamlining and consolidation in different clusters. The year has been a mixture of ups and downs providing great learning experience of working with sixteen CLMs from the lens of people centred advocacy. Therefore the knowledge imparted have based on the reflections of experience by the participants as well as the resource persons generated through these workshops through engaging with different constituencies of the community to engage in arguments/ and put forward demands to the systems of governance at the local level as well as the district level. They had to reflect deeply and do analysis themselves as to why could they achieve certain demands whereas they could not achieve some demands.

During the year, the Training of Trainers (TOT) module for grassroots activists was designed and facilitated for the chief functionaries/ senior persons and the communities. TOT tried to fill this gap of enhancing the capacities and linking the grassroots level activists of the organisations the through facilitating mid level advocacy capacity building programmes, fulfilling the long standing need.

In terms of publications too, the team was able to come out with ten publications with respect to case studies, information booklets, and stories of change which broadly came under the spectrum of people centred advocacy.

### **Campaign Support and Networking**

In the year 2007, the team identified spaces for strategic intervention and provided support to the ongoing widespread campaigns led by the people's movements and other civil society actors. The campaigns that were supported included those on the issues of land rights, against land grab, right to water and privatization of water services, safe environment and

livelihoods with focus on sponge iron industries, right to work and food security.

Like last year the team continued supporting groups in central eastern belt as well as in western region and supported issues that needed the most attention. Networking with people's movements and regional groups has been important for this year. The teams continued its involvement in Campaign against SEZ, Campaign for safe environment and save livelihoods, campaign on Rights to work, Campaign for Right to food, Campaign for right to Water in Maharashtra, Forest Rights and Campaign against FCRA Bill 06.

Information collection and analysis of public policies, compiling hands-on experiences and issue analysis, besides networking, strategic planning and strengthening campaigns at the regional and supporting advocacy processes at the national level, formed the focus of the work of the campaign support team.

This year the team brought out three publications- Advocacy Perspective Paper on 'SEZ' in Hindi, a booklet on SEZ in Marathi, both of which present an analysis of the SEZ Act 2005 and SEZ Rules 2006 and related issues from the people's perspective; and an Infopack on 'Sponge Iron Industries: Issues and campaigns' which documents the growth of this industry in India, its varied impacts, policy gaps in controlling pollution from the industry and campaigns on the issue.

The team also wrote articles for print media - news papers and magazines on the issues of land grab by rich industrialists, water pollution, grassroots governance and supported many stories in print as well as in visual media on SEZ and sponge iron industries.

## **Internship Unit**

The year 2007-08 marks the beginning of a new venture by the Advocacy Internship Programme, (AIP) team of expanding the internship activity to a larger section of youth, while continuing its activity of the 18 month intensive internship for 8 interns selected from across the country.

The AIP, during this year, April 07 – March 2008, catered to two batches of interns, at various stages of their internship

- The eighth batch of interns completed their in-house training in July, and was placed with various grass-root organisations and movements, for hands-on field training.

- The ninth batch of interns was selected and is undergoing in-house training since August 07.

The programme has been strengthened in terms of regular and systematic academic inputs, exposure to a wider range of organisations, special inputs to promote pro-active learning, self-development and team work; and their participation in the programme planning as well as review. Modules on the various courses that form the internship curriculum are also in progress (under the guidance of the members of the Academic Advisory Council).

The ninth batch of interns comprising of six young men and two women from Tamilnadu, Gujarat, Orissa, Assam, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra were inducted from August 27<sup>th</sup> 2007. Along with participation in regular inputs on topics like social movements and social transformation, human rights, globalization etc, they also attended seminars and workshops organised by the Pune University. As part of their exposure visits, the interns visited organizations working on women's issues, dalit rights, unorganized labour and movements working on displacement issues, VAW networks and participated in campaigns. They also scripted and performed a street play for campaigning against violence against women. Publishing bi-monthly newsletter for internal circulation is also an activity that has been undertaken by interns.

While NCAS is trying to consolidate the present 18-month internship activity it is also exploring possibilities of reaching out to other youth through an extended and extensive activity. The need for creating space for politicization of youth and for building bridges across various youth and youth groups prompted NCAS to undertake such activity. With this purpose in mind and to brainstorm on related ideas, a workshop on "Re-politicization of Youth for Social Action" was organised in April 2007, in which 38 representatives from 22 various groups and organizations working with youth participated. Re-politicization was understood basically as breaking hierarchical structures of caste, gender and religion and to understand these hierarchies in the context of globalization. Several ideas to actually operationalise this process were expressed and a need for collective effort too came out strongly.

Following this workshop, NCAS took the initiative of building a coalition for this process. A four-day Youth camp – "Youth for Social Action" was designed by the coalition and conducted at SCMI Training Centre Bangalore from 31<sup>st</sup> Jan to 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb 2008. One hundred and thirty four youth attended the Camp. Apart from academic inputs on issues of caste, gender and religion, reflective sessions on self and multiple identities (personal as well as political) were also organised. This approach/design enabled the youth to

connect self with the society and its realities. The feed-back was positive. A broad two year plan has also been worked out comprising of exposure visits, short internships, meeting and exchanges for cross-learning and actually engaging in Social Action.

## **Research Unit**

The action research study examining the linkages between Globalization, Governance and Grassroots (GGG) came to its logical conclusion in October 2007. The study was initiated to develop a concrete and nuanced understanding of globalization. The study sought to identify and analyze the globalization induced issues and changing governance processes linked to land, water forest resources on one hand and the their impacts on the rights and ownership of the marginalized (dalits, adivasis, women, landless) over these resources. The geographical focus of the study was the tribal dominated central Indian belt comprising Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Orissa and Jharkhand.

At the end of the study a total of 31 papers were finalized. Many of them were written by grassroots activists and groups. The papers address the broad themes of natural resources and ecotourism, industrialization, land acquisition, mining, agriculture, water resources, forest resources, gender and caste based marginalisation and the Panchayat Raj Institution (PRIs) linked to changing governance and rights of the marginalised groups. Few papers also documented the people's movements and struggles for control over their natural resources. A total of the 23 papers were translated, published and printed in Hindi, Marathi, Oriya and English.

Besides the GGG study, the unit also completed a study titled "Mapping Informal Justice System in Maharashtra", in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Paralegal Studies (IIPLS). The study was supported by the Government of India and the UNDP, New Delhi. The study was part of the larger initiative to enable disadvantaged people access justice and to strengthen the capacities of existing alternative justice providing mechanisms. The mapping was conducted in the rural areas of districts of Amravati, Latur, Nandurbar, Thane, Sangli as identified by the UNDP. The research was able to determine the extent to which the informal justice system was used by marginalized segments of the population

In addition to the two research studies, NCAS organised a panel discussion "What are governments doing to promote social justice?" for the conference organized in partnership with Rai Foundation and Ash Institute, Harvard University.

NCAS published the NHRC supported study to “Assess the Realisation of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights” in 2007. The Social Watch report titled “The Citizens' Report on Governance and Development 2007”, was released by Anna Hazare in New Delhi, on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2007.

## **Media Advocacy Unit**

Influencing mainstream media and sensitizing journalists to the livelihood struggles of the ‘marginalized and forgotten majority’ of India, is a major challenge in today’s media advocacy. Today’s media, like other consumer goods, has become a commodity, a commercial product. Obviously it can not and it does not want to give priority to poor people’s livelihood struggles. It is also about creating a niche in today’s media for stories about people’s movements so that such issues enter the collective consciousness and catalyze action in civil society and policy in government.

Media Advocacy Unit works on several fronts. It conducts capacity building workshops for social activists to help them understand how media functions and how they can use media for advocacy of issues they work on.

It conducts training programmes for media students to sensitize them to human rights, livelihood issues, and social justice issues.

It also acts as an interface between media professionals and social activists, bringing the two together to facilitate complimentary action.

MAU has a state-of-the-art Media lab where it produces films, documentaries, docu-dramas, video press releases etc.

To bridge the gap between social activists and media persons MAU organized some workshops in collaboration with Rashtrasant Tukdoji Maharaj University, Nagpur and Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad (Maharashtra). In Pune, We also organised an interface between Social Activists and media persons.

This year MAU initiated a Community Radio Project and involved many organisations from Pune in it. The project was welcomed by most of the organisations.

## **Governance and Advocacy Unit**

The Unit had a mixed experience while implementing its work plan for the year 2007-08. There was immense learning when we look back; however, it also reminds us that a lot needs to be done. The Governance and Advocacy Unit (GAU) functions broadly under three themes: Parliamentary Advocacy, Campaign Support and Networking and Media Advocacy. The changing socio-political scenario presents new challenges every new day. The Unit played a facilitating role in strengthening the various ongoing struggles.



## **Advocacy Capacity Building Programme**

In the year 2007-08 under the advocacy capacity building programmes, seven advocacy orientation programmes, three International ACBP, two phases of Training of Trainers and one Regional ACBP.

### **1. ADVOCACY ORIENTATION PROGRAMMES (AOP)**

Seven Advocacy Orientation Programmes were held during the year. At a glance the Unit had interacted with the activists of the grassroots level organisations and movements. The orientation Programmes were initiated with Bastar Sevak mandal, Preak, Jan Vikas Samiti and grassroots organisations from Rohtas, Kaimur, Buxar & Bhojpur Districts. There were also orientations for the journalists and civil society organizations. The programmes were facilitated by the in – house team. In all the advocacy orientation programmes focus was given to the concept of people – centered advocacy with respect to the issues they are involved in.

### **2. INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMMES**

Three major International Advocacy Capacity Building Programmes facilitated during the year was facilitated from 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2007 for the Oxfam (Community Aid Abroad) partners, Australia; 29<sup>th</sup> July – 1<sup>st</sup> August 2007 for the Christian Aid Partners in Afghanistan and for the Oxfam Novib Partners from the 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> February 2008.

#### **Oxfam (Community Aid Abroad)**

Vijaya facilitated session on 'People Centred Advocacy' for 30 partners of Oxfam –Australia from Western region on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 07 which was held in New Delhi.

#### **Christian Aid Partners in Afghanistan**

The final phase of the ICBP for the CA partners was conducted from July 29, to August 1, 2007 in Afghanistan which focussed on media advocacy. Mr. Nilu Damle and Ms. Vijaya Patnekar facilitated the sessions understanding media its types and functioning and the process of media advocacy was

discussed in detail. In addition campaign planning and networking in their context was broadly discussed and plans were also made accordingly.

### Oxfam Novib Partners in India

The programme for the Oxfam Novib Partners in India was conducted to build advocacy capacities of partner organizations of Oxfam-Novib in South Asia to effectively advocate for the marginalized sections of society through a series of workshops. The Chief functionaries and senior level staff directly responsible for advocacy interventions in their respective organisations attended the programme which was held at Khandala from 26- 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2008. The sessions were facilitated by Amitabh Behar, Vijaya Patnekar, Jaffer and Anita Deshmukh.

### 3. TRAINING OF TRAINERS

In the following year two TOT programmes were taken with the PACS partners as well as the LWR partners. The phase with the PACS partners have been completed but with the latter are still in continuation.

Based on its knowledge and experience, NCAS has developed a three phased TOT on "People Centred Advocacy" consisting of capacity building workshops. The aim of TOT is to develop regional advocacy trainers who can facilitate workshops on "People Centred Advocacy". The focus of the first phase workshop is on consolidating the learnings of concept and practice of advocacy while the second phase workshop focuses on training methodology. The third phase will consist of series of workshops facilitated by a cluster of participants or their staff, network partners and the community with the accompaniment of NCAS team.

The objectives of TOT are

- To impart an advanced understanding of concept and practice of 'People Centred Advocacy' in contemporary Indian context
- To understand the role of institutions of governance namely the legislature, judiciary, bureaucracy and the media for identifying spaces within the system for People-centred advocacy
- To develop perspective, knowledge and skills necessary for 'People Centred Advocacy'.
- To develop training and facilitation skills for conducting workshops on 'People centred advocacy'

Training of Trainers for PACS partners

The TOT for PACS partners especially for the senior level karyakartas were held at the J. P Naik Centre, Pune from the 18th to the 20th of June 2007. This phase looked at imparting the knowledge component with respect to the concepts of Advocacy and people centered advocacy; rights based approach with reference to gender rights and Universe of advocacy.

The Second phase of the TOT intended for the capacity building was held at Sewagram, Wardha from the 10th to the 13th of September 2007. With the help of reference materials given to them in the previous workshop as well as their lecture notes the groups had discussions in detail and each group facilitated the sessions on advocacy. Comments were given about the concepts they imparted and the facilitation skills they had. Sessions on organizing and mobilization; overview of systems of governance; judiciary and bureaucracy in the context of doing advocacy at the grassroot level were discussed. Sessions were taken on the different methodologies of doing training to become an effective trainer.

The third phase of the training of trainers was held from 29th November - 1st of December at Raipur which looked at engaging with the media.

#### Training of Trainers for LWR partners

The first phase of Training of Trainers (TOT) on "People Centred Advocacy" for chief functionaries and senior activists of LWR partners from Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa and Chhattisgarh has been conducted from 7<sup>th</sup> January – 11<sup>th</sup> of January 2008.

Hopefully by the end of the workshops the unit will be able to come up with a format and module on the Training of Trainers for Advocacy.

#### 4. REGIONAL ADVOCACY CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMMES

The Regional Advocacy Capacity Building programme was held with the organizations working on the child rights issue which was coordinated by CEDAR at Madurai from 26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> of December 2007. The objective of this workshop was to develop perspective and skills necessary for advocacy and to help the participants to develop an advocacy plan that will be implemented with special reference to child rights. Vijay Patnekar, Lata P.M, Anthony, Dr Chinra Joseph, Krishna Swamy led the sessions.

PROGRAMME	GROUPS/ NETWORKS	DATES	PLACE
<b>Advocacy Orientation Programme - AOP</b>	Activists of Bastar Sevak Mandal	7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> July 2007	Raipur
	PRERAK an organization which works on adivasi rights	August 7 2007	Raipur
	Activists of Grassroot Organisations from Rohtas, Kaimur, Buxar & Bhojpur Districts	14 <sup>th</sup> and 15 <sup>th</sup> September 2007	Bihar
	Post Graduate Social Work Students of Government College	30 <sup>th</sup> October 2007	Champa
	Session on "Human rights advocacy and role of journalist" in "Rural Journalism v/s on Dvpt & Rights" for journalists	25 <sup>th</sup> November 2007	Kanker
	Session on "RTI & Adivasi issues in Chattisgarh"	13 <sup>th</sup> December 2007	Pithora
	Session on "Human rights and role of Civil Society Organisations"	14 <sup>th</sup> December 07	Raipur
	Activists of Jan Vikas Samiti, (3 days)	3 <sup>rd</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2008	Banaras
<b>International advocacy Capacity Building Programmes – ICBP</b>	Oxfam (Community Aid Abroad) partners, Australia	2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2007	New Delhi
<b>Training of Trainers - (TOT)</b>	Oxfam Novib Partners (India) Christian Aid, Afghanistan	26- 28 <sup>th</sup> February, 2008	Khandala
		29 <sup>th</sup> July – 1 <sup>st</sup> August 2007	Kabul
		Phase 3, 29 <sup>th</sup> November - 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2007	Raipur
	TOT for the chief functionaries	Phase 1, 7 <sup>th</sup> – 11 <sup>th</sup>	Pune

	and senior functionaries of the LWR partners from Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa and Chhattisgarh	January 2008	
<b>International advocacy Capacity Building Programmes – ICBP</b>	Oxfam (Community Aid Abroad) partners, Australia	2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2007	New Delhi
	Oxfam Novib Partners (India)	26- 28 <sup>th</sup> February, 2008	Khandala
	Christian Aid, Afghanistan	29 <sup>th</sup> July – 1 <sup>st</sup> August 2007	Kabul
<b>Regional Advocacy Capacity Building programmes – RCBP</b>	Capacity Building for the organizations working on child rights (CEDAR)	26 – 30 <sup>th</sup> December 2007	Madurai

## COMMUNITY LEARNING MOVEMENT

The year of 2007 - 08 witnessed substantial progress of CLM activity. By the end of March 2008, total 16 CLM are going on in six states of Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Karnataka and Maharashtra with sixteen organizations. New linkages of CLM were initiated with organizations led by people who had come from a movement background and had a political perspective. Field visits between CLMs have proved effective in terms of exposure and exchange of learnings. Majority of the meetings of CLM were held as scheduled. The attendance of the participants was consistent in half of the CLMs initiated. Broad discussions on the second phase of CLMs had also been initiated and some ideas have also emerged. A CLM review meet was held which has been providing a platform to share experiences, insights, challenges in CLM and move forward in the direction of building a strong network. Most of the CLMs have completed their first phases i.e. the workshops of six workshops are completed which are to be evaluated for the next course of the CLM.

## CHATTISGARH

One Community Learning Movement was initiated during the year with one organization namely Chhattisgarh Kisan Mazdoor Andolan (CKMA) and there is a possibility of initiating with the organization known as Sarguja Gram Vikas Sansthan (SGVS) apart from the existing one of Sarguja Gramothan Samaj Sevi Sanstha (SGSSS). The first phase of the CLM has been completed with SGSSS and an evaluation will be taken in order to enter into the second phase. CKMA is working in Sarguja district of Chhattisgarh. It is a people's organization working with adivasi, dalit and farmers for raising the

issue of right to food, work and life with dignity For CLM they selected Sitapur block, where the population primarily is of Adivasis (tribal) and Dalits (lowest in caste hierarchy). The first CLM has been initiated with them. They shared their experiences of getting cheated by the government officials. They identified their issues basically related to forest and livelihood but could not prepare action plan. There was difficulty in communication because many did not follow Hindi, the language of facilitation. The challenge lies in overcoming the language barrier and using innovative methods of communication.

A visit was made to Sarguja Gram Vikas Sansthan (SGVS) at Wadrafnagar, district Sarguja to explore the possibility of CLM with them. SGVS believes in Gandhian philosophy and works on the issues of natural resource management through rain water harvesting in the adivasi belt of Wadrafnagar. They have done a commendable work on economic empowerment through income generation work. SGVS has formed "Jal Biradari", a community based organization in 60 adivasi villages, focusing on water harvesting.

## ORISSA

The first Phase of CLM has taken place in terms of the six workshops with DISHA. DISHA is based in Rourkela working for child rights and minority rights of communities covering three tribal blocks of Nuagaon, Kuarmunda and Bisra. They did in depth analysis and sharing about the social audit on NREGA held at their village in Sanpokhar. They used 'Right to Information act' (RTI) to get details from the muster and gave testimonies during audit. The Block Development Officer- BDO and the Panchayat secretary were found guilty of committing embezzlement in the allocation meant for NREGS. Participants also shared the process of contesting Panchayat election in the month of February and the role of their organization in voters' awareness campaign. Village wise action plan was prepared in each workshop focusing on organising Gram Sabha and Palli Sabha in their respective villages, use RTI for bringing in transparency in Panchayat's and demand work under NREGS. In Sanpokhar village, they forced government to reopen closed Anganwadi by *gheraoing* (sit in) at the ICDS office. As a result of their efforts pregnant women are getting medicine, nutrition and a grant of Rs 1400 under the maternity benefit scheme. In Paniyasal village they succeeded in receiving pending wages since last year and replaced the chairperson of the school monitoring committee alleging of misconduct and misappropriation of funds. The workshop concentrated on the issues of food rights and agriculture issues. The participants mapped their village resources and decided to work for ensuring food security throughout the year through

agricultural farming, accessing government schemes and protecting common property resources.

## KARNATAKA

The Karnataka Cluster has completed the first phase of the CLM with the respective organizations namely NEEDS and Parivartan. Participants of two districts from 40 villages participated in both the CLMS and the observation is that the CLM process has been commendable in both the organizations with people taking up responsibilities.

The CLM members of NEEDS around 5000 women held a huge rally in front of the District Collector's office protesting the omission of their district from the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act NREGA. The District Collector told them that from April 2008 onwards all districts will be covered under NREGA. They decided to follow up on the Swarnajayanti Grameen Rozgar Yojana (existing employment generation scheme) and work on it and also to take information with respect to the common property resources in their villages. They performed a role play depicting the true picture of bureaucracy and its indifferent approach towards NREGA. The participants were able to relate to the play. Activists shared their experiences related to NREGA, gave inputs the NREG Act and also screened a film regarding their struggle. Participants prepared a plan for the effective implementation of NREGA in their district. Street plays were also performed to generate awareness about NREGA in the community.

A commendable feature was the attendance of all CLM participants in their respective Gram Sabhas of Parivartan. They raised questions and asked for clarifications regarding the responses they got from the Panchayat Secretary in the meeting in some of the villages. The government officials were surprised by the information people had about NREGA and were curious from where did they receive this information as the Panchayat Secretary had not received any notification yet. The village decided to combine NREGA and the bio diversity act to develop itself as a self sustainable democratic and community oriented village in terms of taking up the work they should undertake in the village which would create a sustainable village rather than taking up works of road and other constructions. The participants also engaged in opening the bank account and getting identity cards for demanding job under NREGA. They shared about the difficulties encountered while carrying above mentioned task. The inputs in overcoming these difficulties with regards to NREGA were given. Participants were asked to do village resource mapping to identify productive work under NREGA.

## EXPOSURE VISIT TO THE CLM

A team of 50 CLM participants from REACH, Davangere representing 26 villages visited had an exposure visit to Grameen Mahila Maha Okkuta – GMMO (state level rural women federation) on July 29-30, 2007. It was also a part of building the network of Karnataka cluster. Gramin Mahila Okkuta has been involved in CLM and has worked on water rights, women's rights, mid day meals etc. They are constantly engaging with government officials, elected representatives and contested panchayat elections. The 50 member visiting team stayed with GMO members. They visited SHGs run by women and shared experiences of anti arrack movement, advocacy with the state legislatures and the campaign for NREGA. The visit enriched both GMO and REACH CLM members and helped them to strengthen their bond to fight at regional level for right to livelihood and accountable governance. On their way back they visited the state assembly of Karnataka and met the home minister to discuss their issues. The minister invited them for the dinner. He was highly impressed with CLM members talking about their issues and articulating their demands. He promised to support their initiative. The members were highly impressed with GMO visit and decided to work with more energy.

Two new organizations have been identified to initiate the new CLMs and it is in the pipeline in the coming year.

## VIDHARBHA

Community Learning Movement is initiated with three organizations in this cluster namely two organizations namely Maharashtra Gramin Vikas Karya Evam Shikshan Pratisthan – Chandrapur and Vansampda – Nagpur. This cluster consists of three districts in Maharashtra namely Nagpur, Chandrapur and Gadchiroli and covers 45 villages.

The participants collected the information about NREGA and its current status in the district. They succeeded in registering the names of 100 people under BPL scheme and NREGA. For the better implementation of NREGA, fifty women demonstrated in front of Gram Panchayat. They took initiative to solve the drinking water issue in the village. Sidurand villagers restarted the Anganwadi in the village Lakhamapur. Facilitation on NREGA was done in the workshop. The participants decided to focus on employment issue by using Self Help Groups- platform. They also conducted the village level meetings for the better implementation of NREGA. Participants from the village Shivani successfully made the follow up of BPL scheme. Alcoholism on the part of men is a burning issue in many communities. In the village Bichola women demonstrated against the closure of liquor shop in their village. The



participants were able to solve the electricity problem of the Upadhyay Nagar a suburb of Chandrapur where the displaced people live. In Padoli Gram Panchayat they effectively handled the ration card issue.

The Participants of Vanasampada addressed the issue of corruption under the Jalswaraj scheme. They formed two groups to conduct the survey regarding Below Poverty Line scheme successfully launched the campaign for the effective implementation of BPL scheme. They achieved success in terms of incorporating the names of 370 people in BPL list. Decisions were taken to form a group of 40 leaders from four Gram Panchayats to address the issues of unemployment, poverty, environmental problems, and social discrimination. The participants decided to contest the forthcoming Gram Panchayat elections and the notable thing was that six participants contested the elections and five of them won it.

CLMs were also initiated with Grameen Vikas Manch, Umred and Amhi Amchya Arogyasathi – Gadchiroli but it was decided to discontinue the CLM with them for professional reasons.

## WESTERN MAHARASHTRA

In this cluster the collaborative organization where the CLM is initiated is ASTITVA at Sangola. Three workshops have been conducted. ASTITVA works on Dalit issues, Self Help Groups. Nine villages are active in the process of CLM. Inputs were given on PRI, women's participation, concept of ideal village.

In western Maharashtra cluster at present only one CLM ie with Astitva is ongoing. There is a need to identify new organizations as the experience with Andharudhi Nirmoolan Samiti – Solapur was not encouraging enough and as an organization NCAS needs to be more cautious while choosing collaborative organizations. The participants in Astitva have lot of potential but there is a danger of backlash because of feudal nature of the area historically. The participants need to be prepared to deal with the situation.

## SOUTH BIHAR

The South Bihar cluster consists of three districts namely Bodhgaya, Rohtas and Kaimur covering 35 villages. The CLMS are in collaboration with six organisations namely Navjeevan Development Center (NDC) and Rohtas Education and Associate Programmes (REAP), JEMS Chenari, DISHA, Nari Jagran Samiti and Jan Vikas Samiti. The first phase of the CLM is over in most of the organisations. The workshops helped the participants to realize that the failure of government's schemes is due to lack of political will and

weakening of Gram Sabha which is divided on caste lines. Apart from community initiatives, DISHA is trying to exert pressure on local panchayat and administration in order to monitor and control the implementations of the schemes and programme meant for the poor. Action-plans were prepared to monitor PDS and MDM schemes through seeking information about the details of the BPL survey, quota and distribution of food grains during last month. The women exposed the corruption prevalent in the mid-day-meal in the village school as a result the quality and distribution of food has improved.

Participants have developed an understanding about the systems of local governance, importance of their participation to claim their basic rights and the need of knowledge based mobilization for increasing their stake in the existing system. Some of the members like are emerging as community leaders. The participants also realized that due to deep rooted caste based discrimination they are divided and need to unite to assert their rights. CLM helped them in voicing their concerns and asking for legitimate demands initiating the process of empowerment. They have started attending Gram Sabhas and trying to monitor PDS system and NREGS. They have asked Mukhia (Gram Panchayat head) for full wages under NREGS work.

Among Dalit community the women from SHGs are taking keen interest in monitoring Anganwadi, PDS and ANM's role in providing healthcare services. Women of the Santhal community now realize that their role is not limited only to saving-credit but they should take part in Gram Sabha and ask for better facilities at village level.

## NORTH BIHAR

The CLMs in this cluster are initiated with two organizations namely IDEA Motihari and Mahila Vikas Ashram. The people discussed the issue of corruption and gaps in the implementation of NREGA. Inputs on right to information and implementation of NREGA were given. Discussion was held on the topics of implementation of PDS and starting a new school in the village.

The situation where these organizations are working is not different from other districts of Bihar as poor and marginalized communities are oppressed through denying their access to resources, be it a government welfare scheme or the ones like agricultural land or the grazing land. Women being the most marginalized bear the brunt of discrimination and exploitation. Recurring natural calamity resulted in loss of crops and erosion of fertile land due to flash flood. In such conditions CLM provided an opportunity to build capacities to strengthen their stake in Panchayati Raj system and to forge

bonding with the larger community in facing the wrath of the nature. Many of them shared that it is a unique experience to sit together and discuss the issues that affects their village. The exercises on topics such as social analysis helped in realizing their oppression and exclusion. Armed with information they asked village Mukhia to return their job-cards kept with him illegally.

## JHARKHAND

Two organisations from Jharkhand, Santhal Pargana Antyodaya Ashram and Pravah, Deoghar, are involved in CLM. The first phase of CLM is over with SPAA. Various local level issues related PRI, Women's participation, the government's schemes, role and functions of block office, Land issues NREGA, Social Analysis, women's participation in Gram Sabhas were discussed and follow up actions were taken by the participants.

CLUSTER	PARTNER ORGANISATION	PROGRAMME DATES	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS	ISSUES/ TOPICS
Chattisgarh	SGSSS	2, 3 April (3 <sup>rd</sup> ) 27, 28 July 22, 23 September 2, 3 December	52	Monitoring of PDS, NREGA, Social Audit
	Chattisgarh Kisan Mazdoor Andolan	4, 5 December (1 <sup>st</sup> )	36	Concept and Idea of CLM
Orissa	Disha	4, 5 April (4 <sup>th</sup> ) 5, 6 October February 2008	60	NREGA, strengthening PRI, food rights, agricultural issues
Karnataka	NEEDS	28, 29 March (3 <sup>rd</sup> ) 14, 15 June 27, 28 Sept 19, 20 December 2, 3 April 2008	60	NREGA, Caste, Class, Gender, Land Rights
	REACH	June 17, 18 December	30	Evaluation, Field visit to Grameen Mahila Okkutta
	Parivartan	21, 22 May (3 <sup>rd</sup> )	50	NREGA, Bio Diversity Act,

		15, 16 June 12, 13 September 21, 22 December 4, 5 April 2008		Caste, Class, Gender, Land Rights
<b>Vidharbha</b>	Maharashtra Gram Vikas Shikshan Ani Karya Pratishthan (MGVSAKP),	11, 12 June (3 <sup>rd</sup> ) 5, 6 October February 2008	47	NREGA campaign, anti alcohol movement, PDS, Panchayat Elections, Manifesto of the village, NREGA
	Vansampada	15, 16 June 2007 (3 <sup>rd</sup> ) 2, 3 October 26, 27 February 2008	42	BPL List monitoring, PRI, Panchayat Elections, Manifesto of the village, NREGA
	Grameen Manch, Umred	13 <sup>th</sup> , 14 <sup>th</sup> June 2007	45	Concept of CLM
<b>Western Maharashtra</b>	ASTITVA	14, 15 May (1 <sup>st</sup> ) 29-30 September 9, 10 February 2008	60	Concept of ideal village, water scarcity, women empowerment, health and education, 'Tanta Mukta Gav Yojana', PRI, RTI
<b>South Bihar</b>	Nav Jeevan development Center, REAP	17, 18 June (4 <sup>th</sup> ) 18, 19 September	52	Local self governance, systems and character of district administration, Mid day meal schemes
	Disha Bodhgaya	4, 5 April (4 <sup>th</sup> ) September February 2008	40	NREGA, District administration, Land Issues
	Nari Jagran Samiti & Jan Vikas Samiti	15, 16 June (3 <sup>rd</sup> ) 18, 19	40	Effective implementation of NREGS,

		September February 2008		activating women participation in Gram Sabha
	Jeevan Mashal Samiti	19, 20 June (3 <sup>rd</sup> ) 16, 17 September	50	Schemes on poverty alleviation and the various process and procedures, Social Audit
<b>North Bihar</b>	Idea, Motihari	12, 13 June (2 <sup>nd</sup> ) 30, 31 October 26, 27 December	55	RTI, PDS, NREGA
	Mahila Vikas Ashram, Darbhanga	10, 11 June (1 <sup>st</sup> ) 28, 29 December	65	Concept of CLM, people's vision of an ideal village, PRI, participation in gram sabhas
<b>Jharkhand</b>	Santhal Pargana Antodya asram Pravah (SPAA)	15, 16 April (3 <sup>rd</sup> ) 22, 23 July 23, 24 September 20, 21 January 2008	50	PRI, Women's participation, the government's schemes, role and functions of block office, Land issues
	PRAVAH	17, 18 April (1 <sup>st</sup> ) 24, 25 July 20, 21 September 18,19 January 2008	60	Concept of an ideal village, PRI, NREGA, Social Analysis, women's participation in G.Sabhas

## REVIEW MEETING

The annual review meeting of all collaborative organisations and anchor resource persons has become a regular feature at NCAS. This meeting provides a platform to share experiences, insights, challenges in CLM and move forward in the direction of building a strong network. CLM review meet

for the year 2007 was organized on 25-28 May 2007 at BAIF Pune. Total 18 organizations and four resource persons attended the meeting. This year, we were able to fulfill the wish of the participants to visit innovative projects near Pune. On 25 and 26<sup>th</sup> May, prior to the CLM meet field visit was organized to Hamal Panchayat – a union of coolies and Hivare Bazaar, a village recognized for successful watershed development programme and participatory governance. The participants were very impressed with both the projects

The agenda of the meeting was to identify strategies for second phase of CLM and build a network of partner organizations, resource persons and NCAS. Three ideas emerged from the group. One was to continue with the workshops focusing on action plan and following the activities that could not be completed in first phase of six workshops. The second was to continue with workshops giving inputs related to practical skills like using media effectively, conducting social audit of government programmes, using budget related information etc and third was to strengthen the micro campaigns initiated at village level and connect them with macro campaigns. It was decided that at the end of the first phase evaluation should be done of each CLM based on which second phase should be planned. Participants opined that review meet is a part of networking and field visits and meetings should be conducted in different regions with communities, activists and like minded organizations for strengthening the network.

## RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

Ten books with respect to understanding issues of today, documenting advocacy case studies have been published this year.

### 1) Globalization in India – Civil Society Responses by Yamini Aiyar

In the context of globalization, 'Governance' is no longer the traditional monopoly of the nation – state, rather the nation - state now has to negotiate through a complex of different layers of authority both national and supra national, private and public. It is also often seen that globalization and its policies - fiscal austerity, privatization and market liberalization have pushed the idea of a minimalist state where the state retreats from its traditional role as regulator and welfare provider to become a facilitator of trade and markets. As a civil society what is the pattern of responses to the changes happening? How does civil society relate to the nation-state in this new context? What are its critical concerns and key strategies? And finally, how does civil society activism serve to empower ordinary citizens and facilitate their participation in governance given its multilayered nature and complexity?

There has been some effort to document and analyze these issues at the global level - particularly the global north. However, relatively little is known about the nature, form and tonality of civil society activism on globalization in India. This book is an effort to address the above stated questions from the perspective of Indian civil society. It does so by examining the context of civil society engagement with the debate on globalization and what are the strategies for intervention and the primary issues and concerns for civil society activism on globalization.

## 2) Budgeting for the marginalized - Edited by Bhumika Jhamb

It is obvious that the analysis of the Central Government's budget is done by locating it in the context of overall macroeconomic policies and from the perspective of the disadvantaged sections of society. Budget and policy analysis pursued is closely linked with advocacy efforts through a network of countrywide alliances with grassroots civil society groups and social movements. Budget analysis is a potent tool to seek equity, transparency and accountability in the democratic process. Across the world we have several examples of civil society using 'Budget Analysis' as an effective tool of people centered advocacy for building pressure on governments to deliver on it's commitments for pro-poor policies and programs.

This book is an attempt to bring forward the potential of budget analysis through the lens of the marginalized sections of the population with specific reference to women, children and dalits. Each chapter gives an account of the extent of deprivation of the particular section, and then goes on looking at the gaps from budgetary perspective and flags the concerns therein and makes an effort to suggest corrective steps to be undertaken to bridge those gaps.

## 3) Social Activists and Media (Hindi) – Tarushikha Surjan

This book is an attempt to address the gap between social action groups and the media. The idea is to help activists and voluntary workers to understand the different forms of media and equip them with the basic information and perspective required for meaningfully engaging with the progressive media. This book deals with the language, technology, agency, audience and representation of the media in a simplistic manner. By analysing the various dimensions, the readers will become more active listeners, viewers, readers as well as informed creators of the media.

## 4) Social change and People Centered Advocacy - Compiled by Vijendra (Hindi)

This book deals with the concepts of people centered advocacy which is a set of organized actions to change public policies in a way that will empower the marginalized. It has different articles on People centered advocacy written by eminent practitioners in the field like John Samuel, David Cohen, Nirmala Pandit etc.

#### 5) Minimum Wages – Shirish N. Kavadi

This booklet explores many of these concepts and is aimed at the activists who are engaged with the issues of the unorganised workers. This booklet describes in a simple manner the concept of minimum wages, its evolution and lists out the legislations related to minimum wages. It also looks at the critical issues involved in the implementation of minimum wages and the struggles initiated by the workers for minimum wages.

#### Advocacy Case Studies –

These case studies deal with the struggles of the communities that are fighting for their rights. The processes through which the struggle went forward are documented in detail to understand the different stages of advocacy and different strategies used. Three case studies on the issues of: manual scavenging; struggle of the Chandyll dam oustees and campaign for the Forest Rights Act are documented.

#### 6) The struggles of the manual scavengers in Jharkhand – Urmila Bendre, Anil T. Varghese

This book documents the initiative of organising and mobilizing the Dom community involved in manual scavenging in Jharkhand. From the advocacy lens, this is a classic case story of building power of a disempowered community for waging a battle against injustice. It also looks at the "Trust for Development and Research" a partner of PACS, which played a catalyst role in mobilizing the community to fight for their rights.

#### 7) Struggle of the Chandyll Dam (Hindi)

This an attempt to document and systematically analyze the peoples' struggle against the Chandilya dam from the lens of people centred advocacy. The success of the peoples' struggles against the proposed Chandilya dam on Swarnarekha river in Jharkhand brings in a fresh breath of optimism. This peoples' struggle against displacement, for just rehabilitation,



and above all for livelihood and dignity is truly an inspirational story and would reaffirm faith in people's power.

8) Recognizing the Historic Injustice: Campaign for the Forest Rights Act 2006 – Manshi Asher, Nidhi Agarwal

This book is a compilation of the processes that played a critical role in the build up of the 'Campaign for Survival and Dignity', which finally led to the creation of this legislation. This book provides a historical sketch of forest rights and their status in India and discusses in details how did the campaign evolve through various strategies and events before and during the build – up of the Forest Rights Act. It also explores the role of parliamentary committees, civil society groups and other mechanisms in expressing the demands of the people.

Stories of change basically are the documentation of the people who got empowered in the process and the lessons learned with specific reference to the achievements. It also tries to look on the quality of life of the people involved. With respect to the stories of change one booklet has been published which looks at the women in the grassroots working to promote their role in the governance.

9) Women in grassroots governance "Crossing the Limits" – Vidya Kulkarni

This document traces the journey of Mahila Rajsatta Aandolan (MRA), a strong collective working to promote and strengthen women's role in governance in Maharashtra. Launched as an initiative by networks of NGOs across the state in March 2000, Over these years MRA has emerged as a movement facilitating women's effective participation in local decision-making processes and involves elected women, self-help-groups, Mahila Mandals and NGOs/CBOs as its key actors.

10) Filth – the struggles of the manual scavengers in Jharkhand

This document basically looks at the issues of the manual scavengers with specific reference to Ranchi. This book tells us the story of *Doms* and their struggles for basic human rights and dignity. It also documents the process of building a community identity, essential for launching a people's movement, analytically looking at the challenges and achievements of the campaign.

## Campaign Support and Networking

The campaigns that were supported this year included those on the issues of land rights, against land grab and SEZ, right to water and against privatization of water services, safe environment and livelihoods with special focus on sponge iron industries, right to work and food security. The report of the activities within this initiative is presented below.

### Campaign against SEZ

At the onset of year voices and protests against SEZs grew louder and stronger. In Nandigram and Ragad protests against land acquisition and environmental impacts of these projects also turned violent. The year saw thrust on this issue from the team which has been involved in gearing up the momentum on the issues since last two years while supporting SEZ struggles and campaigns all over India.

The Special Economic Zone Policy passed in 2005 and Rules finalized in 2006 pushed its implementation pace in 2007. The Act covering almost 20 States and Union Territories under 70 SEZ projects approved till December widened the gap between its implementation and people's dialogue on the issue. The land acquisitions for SEZs have been causing widespread discontent among the farmers, workers and common people all over the country. It is expected that over 2 lakh hectares of land is proposed to be acquired for various kinds of SEZ. The land acquired so far is predominantly agricultural, and used in multi-cropping. The displacement of people from their lands is posing a threat to more than 10 lakh people dependent for their life and livelihoods. In Maharashtra alone there are 148 proposed SEZs. Against this backdrop, various people's organizations, farmers' organizations, workers' unions and the affected people are opposing forced land acquisition and building their strength against this forced 'development'.

This year the team was involved in direct planning of local campaigns and protests, networking with groups and stakeholders on the issue and supporting people's movement's initiatives at the State and National level. The team also provided support to campaigns against SEZ by writing memorandums, pamphlets, doing film screenings in colleges and other social circles, organizing delegation meets, organizing SEZ Virodhi Yatra and documenting the processes

Highlights of the campaign support against SEZ:

- State level Jagar yatra against SEZ with Jagtikaran Kruti Samiti (Anti Globalisation Front in Maharashtra) where NCAS represents Pune chapter
- Constant planning and work on SEZ campaign with NAPM (National Alliance of People's Movement) and Jagtikaran Virodhi Smiti
- Media mobilisation, networking support in writing and being a member of delegation for 'ACTION 2007' held in Delhi in March on issues of land displacement, livelihoods displacement and SEZ
- Support to 'Twenty Four Village Committee' in Pen, SEZ Virodhi Samiti in Rajgurunagar, Nashik, Anti SEZ protest in Nagpur in Maharashtra, Orissa, Goa, Uttar Pradesh by way of memorandums, petitions, fact finding, use of RTI's, information sharing and film
- Organizing National Strategy Meet on SEZ in collaboration with other groups and representing issues of SEZ in Maharashtra in All India Convention on Nandigram, and participating in the Citizen's Research Collective meeting in Delhi
- Organized open talks on SEZ and Sovereignty in Pune organized by NCAS during Anti SEZ week in first week of August. The main speakers for this programme were Dr. Vandana Shiva, Ulka Mahajan and Dr. Mukund Ghare.
- Street Play on SEZ issue to mobilize youth, and presentation on issue and film screening at Rotary Club, MIT College pune, Samajwadi Vidyapeeth, Talegaon, Pune, St Meera's College Pune, Farmers Council and Dr. Ambedkar College.
- Organised and mobilized the action against SEZ in Sinnar block of Nashik and prepared a visual documentation. It was disseminated through the NDTV India. Film screenings were done in order to build awareness, and extended help in writing memorandums to concerned ministers on behalf of farmers protest against forced land acquisition.
- Countrywide mapping of SEZ projects with classification based on region, industry and land requirement, media scanning of news and reports analysis, and writing and publication SEZ perspective booklet in Hindi and Marathi.
- The team continued networking with groups in Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Kerala, Karnataka, TamilNadu and Goa. The documentation of campaign and protests in various states has also been undertaken by the team. We are also running an e-group on SEZ issues to share experiences and information, to build struggles, and to network.

#### Campaign against SEZ in Maharashtra: *January 2008–March 2008*

During this quarter the team submitted a memorandum on Sinnar SEZ to the Guardian minister and MP/MLAs of Nashik district and one on Nagpur MIHAN SEZ to the Revenue and Rehabilitation Ministers in the Maharashtra

Government. We have extended our action support and participated in protest against Alibag SEZ, the delegation submitted a memorandum to the Chief Minister of Maharashtra. Film screening and discussion was facilitated on SEZ for the activists of Shramjeevi Sanghatana in Thane district. We presented a paper on SEZ in a National Workshop on SEZ, organised by Tilak Maharashtra University of Pune. The film on SEZ was given to Mr. Bhalchandra Mungekar, the member of Planning Commission Government of India. We have documented the Goa SEZ as the success of people's struggle.

An article on SEZ was published in Action for Agricultural Renewal in Maharashtra (AFARM) newsletter. It was a special issue on SEZ and Agriculture in Maharashtra. An article on Goa SEZ campaign was published in Infochange, in Nityasangam (Bulletin of Council for Social Justice and Peace, Goa) and a local newspaper in Goa. NCAS is supporting SEZ campaign in Goa in filing a case against land acquisition issue. NCAS Campaign Unit participated in review and strategic planning meeting on SEZ at Mumbai on 19th Feb 2008. During the meeting a state level action programme was worked out on Rehabilitation and Resettlement policy and Land Acquisition Act and suggestions on the same were sent to the ministry. The Unit was also involved in the Regional Consultation on SEZ and undertook to contact people's groups and organizations in the state of Maharashtra, Goa, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Karnataka. In order to do lobbying and Advocacy we have prepared the list of MPs and MLAs of Maharashtra State. Team members participated in Media Interface on SEZ in Delhi. Planning on SEZ regional meeting (Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Goa) and discussions with possible organizers.

The Unit is also supporting the struggle against Gorai SEZ in Mumbai Ten villages around 5743 hectares of land are being proposed for the Pan India Tourism Ltd, SEZ. These villagers are dependent on their local livelihood sources such as fishing, cultivation of vegetables, salt, paddy and tourism. As many as 1.5 lakh people are dependent on these livelihood sources. More than 60 per cent of the families are dependent on fishing business. They have no alternative means for livelihood and have been opposing the proposed SEZ. Several groups have extended their support to the cause. On 1st March 2008 a convention was organised by the Jagtikikarn Virodhi Samiti, Maharashtra at Gorai against the proposed land acquisition and rehabilitation and resettlement bill. The convention sent suggestions to the committee concerned. The convention was organised under the leadership of Prof. N.D. Patil, Medha Patkar, Francis D'Brito, Christopher Fonseca, Ulka Mahajan, Manav Kamble. Activists and more than three thousand farmers from Gorai, Nashik, Pune, Raigad and Goa actively participated in the programme.

The Unit organised a workshop for farmers and activists of Sinnar on 24th March 2008 at Sinnar. Nearly 30 participants attended. The aim of the workshop was to make people aware about the SEZ Act, Land Acquisition and Rehabilitation and Resettlement bill and future plan of action. Farmers in the area have resolved not to give up their lands to the SEZ and MIDC because these lands are fertile and irrigated. Members of the Unit participated in the National Meeting on Land Reform with Mr. K.B. Saxena on 12th March, Delhi. NCAS representative made a presentation on the struggle against SEZs in Maharashtra and land grabbing issues before the committee. The presentation made an impact as committee members expressed interest in visiting the affected areas.

A Bhusampadan & Vistapan Virodhi Jattha was organized in Pune district during the 25-28 March 2008 to build awareness about land acquisition and resettlement and build opposition to SEZ and land grabbing taking under the guise of developing SEZ. The Jattha covered the areas of Karegaon-MIDC, Futanwadi-SEZ, Kivale-Dam and Airport, Shinde-Vasuli- Dow Company, Lonavala-Dam-Displacement, Kadhe-SEZ, Maan-SEZ, Lawasa-Tribal Land. Invitations were sent to district Collector office and Regional commissioner. A delegation placed their demands in front of the Commissioner.

### Campaign to Save livelihoods and Environment from Sponge Iron Industry

With the National Meeting held at Nagpur, the year continued to see protests growing stronger at the local level in environment clearance public hearings, and through sending of representations to Ministries and Pollution Control Boards in states. On one hand, a plunge in iron ore market made this industry to grow at a slower pace, and on the other hand strong people's protest in Chhattisgarh and Goa were pressurizing the Pollution Control Boards to take strong measures against the polluting industries. The Campaign Support Team continued to extend solidarity and support in these struggles.

Compilation of an info-pack on Sponge Iron plants with information from seven states - Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Goa, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh obtained from both primary and secondary sources has been one of the major work done on the issue during this year.

Highlights of the Campaign support Save livelihoods and Environment from Sponge Iron Industry:

- The team has been regularly collecting information on policies related to Sponge Iron from the Central pollution Control Board and Ministry of Environment and Forests
- Field visits were made to Karnataka, Jharkhand, Orissa, Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh to network with groups and collect additional information.
- Presentation of the issue in National Media in a workshop organized in Delhi by PANOS South Asia and Kalpvriksh on industries related to mining
- Information support, memorandums and action appeals for the groups continued. Lobbying with stakeholders on the issue to influence Ministry of environment and Forest and the Central Pollution Control Board to notify pollution control guidelines specific to the industry
- Publication of Infopack on the issue and its circulation to all stakeholders including Government officials, media persons, activist groups and pollution control boards and to the concerned Ministry's
- Dissemination of film on Sponge Iron Industry Issues- *Loha Garam Hai*

In Goa people have succeeded in canceling permission for the sponge iron industry by filing a PIL. In Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Jharkhand, and Kerala people have been on guard to stop these industries coming to their areas. Media highlights on the issue at the national as well as at the local level have helped the people's struggles. The team's support in this year has been more for highlighting the issue at various forums as well as strengthening the network at the state level through various campaign support activity and follow-ups with Pollution Control Boards and with Supreme Court Monitoring Committee on Hazardous waste.

Planning and preparation for meetings with CPCB and MoEF in New Delhi of affected people was undertaken. The meetings are planned for May and supported by IAAPC (Indian Association of Air Pollution Control). Campaign support was extended to the struggle against the industry in Chauranga, Chhattisgarh. Another struggle to which campaign support was extended was the one against the upcoming Sterlite industry in Keonjhar, Orissa. Similarly support was given to groups in Bellari and these were added to the network. Infopack and other information was disseminated to network partners.

Further support was given to groups working against sponge iron industries in Chhattisgarh and Goa. The team organised meetings for the implementation of the Forest Rights Act and preservation of traditional seeds with Mr. Madhav Gadgil. The team extended issue based capacity building support on livelihood rights and organizing and mobilizing to grassroots activists of Adivasi Katkari Sanghatana, Satara.

Support was also extended to Campaign for Right to Forest and Campaign for Rights of Hawkers in Maharashtra.

### Campaign for Right to Water: People's Commission on Right to Water in Maharashtra

As a part of this campaign, we envisage the creation of a People's Manifesto on water with the help of various civil society organisations and people. The Manifesto is a result of the long process of networking, media advocacy, micro-campaigning, research, information exchange and consultation and capacity building of grassroots social action groups, various other groups and people's organisations working on water and drought issues in different parts of the state.

On this backdrop the process of People's Commission on Water has begun in Maharashtra in the year 2007. The aim of the commission is to make governance accountable and transparent and build people's pressure on various political parties during the election campaign for Parliamentary and Assembly elections. The idea of forming people's commission on water rights was explored in previous year. In order to strengthen this initiative the team undertook the task of planning and organizing several regional consultations with people's groups and other stakeholders. Two regional consultations on water issues were held and amendments/revisions made in the draft Manifesto. The issues of water affecting the marginalized sections of the society like the dalits, women, nomads, landless, marginal farmers, backward classes, etc. whose very livelihood is at stake due to water scarcity and unequal distribution of water are being addressed.

Though larger networking has been one of the important components of working on the issue the team's active involvement has been in Maharashtra. This year team reviewed strategies used on this issue in past three years and decided to focus energies for coordinating and compiling case studies from the field and presenting it to the People's Commission on Water Rights.

Highlights of Campaign Support for Right to Water: People's Commission on Right to Water in Maharashtra:

- The team has provided constant support in providing strategic inputs to the Drought Mitigation forum in planning and review of the *padyatra* at the state level to raise the various dimensions related to drought and relevant policies in the state.

- Organized a meeting on people's commission on right to water in Maharashtra. Aim of the meeting was to discuss the process of people's commission, its formulation and identify members and way forward.
- Strategic planning meeting on right to water commission, on 21st June 07 in Pune.
- Planning and organizing of Regional Consultation for Vidarbha, Nagpur region on water rights on 16<sup>th</sup> Oct. in collaboration with AFARM and Vidarbha network. The consultation reviewed People's manifesto on water (of 2005) and current issues were incorporated.
- North Maharashtra Regional Water Consultation was organised by NCAS, AFARM and Yuvamitra at Sinnar district Nashik on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2007. The focus of the consultation was to discuss the process of People's Water Commission, regional water issues, identify the cases and formulate a group who will work in manifesto preparation process. For this meeting there were more than 35 participants. Groups were formed and nominations for the People's Water Commission were taken.
- The team is actively involved in watching the process of Maharashtra Water Resources Regulatory Authority and proposed Ground Water Act, along with other groups like Prayas, Pune. Through Water Rights Campaign the initiative proposes to mobilize people's opinions on water related reforms and send appeals to the concerned Ministry.
- The team has been also continuously compiling reports and disseminating them and following up with partners.
- The Group has been demanding that in deciding water allocation through water policy of Maharashtra the priority should be given to irrigation over industry.

A paper on Pollution of Rivers in Maharashtra and people's initiative to rejuvenate it was submitted to the *Third Indian River Network Conference*, Wardha held from 16-18 Feb.08. The theme of the conference was on Rivers, Globalisation and Global Warming. NCAS representatives had discussion with the Water Aid Team on the issues of water and campaign for right to water. Regional consultations in Konkan, Marathwada and Western Maharashtra were planned.

Support to other Campaigns has been as follows:

Our other initiatives broadly have been of two kinds – first, of supporting campaign and other networking processes at the National level, as well as picking up some issues at the city (Pune) level and the second, of bringing out timely publications on current and burning issues to add momentum to the process of debate and dialogue.



### *Campaign for Right to Work:*

The Government of India has enacted the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act and began its implementation all over the country. As part of this campaign, NCAS engaged in preparing a position paper on National Rural Employment Guarantee Act and Co-organizing and supporting strategic planning of Regional Consultations within the state on the issue. An attempt has been made to raise this issue by linking up with Wada Na Todo Abhiyan, a National Campaign aiming at governance accountability for realizing of the promises made by the government in its Common Minimum Programme. The team has disseminated strategic information on Employment Guarantee Scheme to the various network partners. The Maharashtra Rozgar Hami Samiti has been coordinating the state process.

The Unit also participated and made a presentation in strategic planning workshop organised by *Shetmajoor va Rojgar Hami Kamgar Samnavya Samiti, Maharashtra* on 11-12, Pune. More than forty activists attended where it was decided to ensure that the EGS budget was not transferred to other departments. It also decided to oppose changes in state EGS that would lead to diversion of funds and demand better implementation of MREGS. The committee proposed that it would lead a protest under the chairmanship of Prof. N.D. Patil during the assembly session.

### *Campaign for Right to Food Maharashtra:*

The campaign for right to food is a collective of more than 120 people's organization and NGOs which are monitoring the centre and state sponsored schemes for the poverty alleviation programme. The Campaign Support team has been an active part of this campaign since its inception. The team has coordinated and participated in regional Public Hearings that were held to monitor the performance of Food Related schemes at the regional level in Pune district. It has exposed cases of corruption in public distribution system in Pune district. Team has participated in state campaign meeting and presented the regional review of the efforts taken by the organizations in Raigad. The team has also been keeping follow-up with the regional partners and bridging the gap between the national and grassroots initiatives.

Team has supported to right to water and right to food campaign in Maharashtra through consultation and preparation for public hearing. The Unit members participated in the process of finalizing of cases for public hearing in Mangaon, district Raigad on 1st Feb.08. The public hearing was organised by the state Right to Food campaign. It was meant to assert the rights of poor people within the public distribution system. The main aim was

to make government machinery accountable and transparent and to demand the policy amendments to centrally and state sponsored food related schemes. It has received overwhelming support from social action groups. Government response was also positive. The minister of Food and Civil Supply Mr. Sunil Tatkare, well-known social activist Mr. Anna Hazare, State adviser for Supreme Court Mr. Joseantony Joseph and more than two thousand affected people from Satara, Pune, Nashik, Nandurbar, Raigad, Thane and Mumbai participated in the Public Hearing.

Networking was support extended to the Right to Food Campaign in Maharashtra. A statewide Dharna was organised on 11th March during the state assembly session for better implementation of the national EGS programme by the State Government. A delegation met the Minister for EGS Mr. Harvshvardhan Patil and submitted a memorandum with demands of budget and better implementation of the scheme. The delegation received assurance that the rights of the rural poor unorganized labourers would be protected. An article on Right to Food campaign was published in Daily Sakal titled Pragat Rajyaat Aanna Suraksha Dhokyat (Threat to Food security in developed state). The article highlights the issue relating to rationing, over all food security and violation of human rights in a developed state(Maharashtra). The article reports the research findings of 'Food to the poor' a report published by NCAS.

#### *Campaign against FCRA Bill 2006:*

The Ministry of Home Affairs had introduced the Foreign Contribution Regulation Bill 2006 in the Parliament. Some of the provisions of the Bill are likely to create severe problems to voluntary organizations receiving funds from foreign sources for socio economic development activities for the poor who are largely neglected by the Government agencies. Many of the voluntary organisations were not aware of the bill and its provisions. The team organised seven regional workshops across the state and got very good response, with more than 500 organizations opposing it and signing the petition demanding the repeal the bill. The collaborative organizations in this campaign were VANI, AFARM, NCAS, CNRI, STAPI and other nodal regional organizations. The team also wrote several articles in order to spread awareness about this bill.

#### *Our Involvement and solidarity support to these campaigns - highlights:*

- Paper on Land Rights in the Context of NCMP for 3rd civil society National Common Minimum Programme Review organized by the national campaign 'Wada Na Todo Abhiyan'

- Support in state level mobilisation for National Tribunal on Poverty and Women for 'Wada Na Todo Abhiyan'
- In October the team organised a civil society consultation on implementation of Forest Rights Act in New Delhi to mobilize comments on rules under formulation and push for proper implementation of the Act.
- A case study writing on POSCO and impacts for Globalisation, Grassroots and Governance research project undertaken by NCAS
- Participation in Western Regional Consultation at Tribal Research Institute Pune on Forest Rights Act for preparing draft rules for the implementation of forest rights process
- Participation in NBA Lok Samvaad programme in Badvani district Madhya Pradesh and media support to raise the issues of Sardar Sarovar Dam affected people. Participation in Sardar Sarovar Project (SSP) displaced people's Satyagraha in Chimalkhedi, Nandurbar
- Solidarity support to Mahila Rajsatta Andolan's convention in Kolhapur and Pune district. The team has written an article on the convention and published in Miloon Saryajani.

## Advocacy Internship

In July 1999, NCAS initiated the Advocacy Internship Programme (AIP) for young graduates and postgraduates inclined towards working in advocacy. Internship is an institutional initiative to groom young advocacy professionals to strengthen advocacy efforts and initiatives with a view to influence rights and justice oriented/based public policy. The programme is designed to train youth in people-centred and rights-based advocacy, by developing their perspective, knowledge, skills and providing experiences that would inspire them to advocate for human rights and social justice. It is conducted over a period of 18 months. So far 64 youths have been part of the AIP since its inception. AIP has entered its ninth year with 8 new interns from different regions of the country joining in from August 2007.

During the period of the internship, academic inputs on topics related to Social Movements, Human Rights, Law and Social Justice, Political theory, People-Centred Advocacy, Applied Economics, and other such contemporary topics, are provided. They go for exposure and field visits to grassroots advocacy organisations to gain deeper insights into social issues. Each intern is placed with an organisation or a people's movement for six months for hands-on-experience of social action and advocacy. During this period, they are expected to prepare for a dissertation on a subject within the context of advocacy and socio-political change. The interns also work with the various teams of NCAS - capacity building, documentation & research, media and campaign support, during their in-house training. The Academic Advisory Council advises and guides the AIP. A resource team comprising experts from diverse fields facilitates the Internship programme.

The year '07 - '08 has witnessed serious rethinking; adopting of new ideas and greater involvement of interns in the programme. This strategic rethinking emerged from the All Interns meet of all ex-interns organized in 2004 to review and rethink the Internship programme. With the feedback from interns, resource team and the Academic Advisory Council, the internship programme is being revised with special emphasis on skill building.

### *Eighth Batch of Interns (2006-08)*

In the year '07-', the eighth batch of Interns continued with the in-house academic training in NCAS until July 2007, after which they proceeded to their respective field placements.

### Academic Inputs

Input sessions of academic interest on various topics were organised as a part of curriculum in order to develop greater insights and in-depth understanding on various issues from different social science perspectives. Experienced persons and academic experts along with the team members of NCAS provided the inputs. Amitabh, Director of NCAS, Vijaya, Coordinator of Advocacy Capacity Building unit and Atul, Programme Officer from the Internship Unit gave some inputs. Mr Subhash Mendhapurkar (Gender Rights Activist) Mr. Rahul Pungalia (youth activist), Himanshu Damle (Academecian), Dr Milind Bokil, and Dr. Sanjeev Ghotge, Mr. Shriniwas Kulkarni ( Senior activists), Com. Ajit Abhyankar ( Trade Union Activist), Mr. Neeraj Jain (Activist) Dr. Ashish Kothari, (Environmentalist), Dr. Vilas Wagh, Prof. Prakash Pawar, Dr. Shrut Tambe, Prof. Nagmani Rao, Dr Abhay Shukla, were among the panel(resource team?) who facilitated other input sessions. Each input was followed by group discussions and individual presentations by interns. Inputs were primarily on State, Nationality and Indian Constitution, Imperialism, New Social Movements, Human rights and Rights Based Activism, Health Rights and Advocacy, Gender, Dalit issues, Environment issues, Capitalism, Globalisation, understanding various Isms, Social Action, Civil society, Research methodology, People Centred Advocacy, Policy Analysis, and Right To Information Act. The medium of instruction was English and Hindi.

### Field exposure visits

To sharpen their understanding of the practical implications of the academic inputs, and gain exposure to social realities and advocacy efforts put in by various organisations, unions and other collectives, the interns from April and July visited Samata Shikshan Sanstha (Talegaon) on education of tribal children, Pani Panchayat (Purandar) on equitable water distribution, and Adarsha Gaon (Anna Hazare at Ralegan Siddhi).

### Field Placement

The 8<sup>th</sup> batch of interns were placed for six-months for field experience and learning, from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2007 in various organisations and movements working with people at the grassroots. The details of their placements are as follows:

<b>Sr No</b>	<b>Name of the Organisation</b>	<b>Name of the intern</b>
1.	Astha, Udaypur Rajasthan	Amar Prakash
2.	MKSS, Rajasthan	Debdulal Deb

3.	Nadighati Morcha Chhatisgarh	Mathias Bhengra
4.	Rural Development Centre, Maharashtra	Mrigendra Pratap
5.	Orissa Bachao Andolan, Orissa	Seela Mahapatra
6.	BGVS, M.P.	Shyamalata
7.	CYSD, Orissa	Sikander Kushwah
8.	Parivartan, Karnatak	Vaishali Sonavne

A follow-up visit by the internship coordinator in the first two months of their placement helped the interns in formulating concrete learning objectives with the organisation where they were placed. One of the interns had to discontinue on grounds of ill-health but seven completed their placements successfully on 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2008. During their placements, they completed data collection related to the topic of their dissertation.

### Self –learning

As a part of self-learning approach, the interns participated in campaigns, workshops, meetings, public lectures etc. so as to gain first-hand experience of working on social issues. Their learning through such participation were around themes of Secularism and Communalism, Intellectual Property Rights, Right to education, Right to Food, Right to Water, Gender and Sexuality rights, Human rights and Globalisation, budget analysis and advocacy; They also participated in the Community Learning Movement activity of NCAS.

The interns wrote assignments on subjects of Social Change, Human Rights, Globalization, on social and political ideologies. They undertook short-term projects to enhance their understanding of issues of study and their skills. Research topics covered livelihood issues of Beedi workers, working conditions of construction workers. Some interns undertook campaign project on JNNURM policy and its implementation. The interns used the RTI Act for seeking information on these issues.

### Interaction

The AIP lays emphasis on encouraging interaction with civil society leaders, academicians, and other prominent persons. It is expected that this would motivate and inspire interns to learn and to engage in social action. This year interns had very interesting and useful interactions with eminent personalities like, Brian Lobo, Arvind Anjum, Mr. Sudarshan, Dr. Vandana Shiva, Mr. Rajgopal, and Mr. Devendra Sharma.

### Mid term Field placement review meeting

The eighth batch went for their six month field placements in August 2007. A mid-term meeting with them was arranged on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> November 2007. The objective was to share their experience with the field organisations in the light of advocacy perspective and initiatives, understand the dynamics and difficulties they faced as a part of this learning. More importantly, it was meant to guide them in deciding upon the form of dissertation (research, process documentation, case study or case stories), the methodology and design for dissertation.

### Ninth Batch of Interns (2007-09)

#### Youth Camp

The Youth Camp is organised for identifying potential youth for the AIP; It was held on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> July 2007 at J.P Naik Centre, Pune. The Camp was a two-day interactive event attended by 37 young candidates from across the country. The selection panel comprised Amitabh, (Director), Vijaya, (senior team member), Prasanna (Internship Coordinator) and Atul (programme associate) of NCAS; Dr. Shrisha Sathe a psychologist associated with the AIP as a counselor; and Rifat Mumtaz an ex-intern of NCAS. The candidates were assessed on their perceptions about social issues, articulation, skills, expression, interest and motivation to learn and to work with people. The following eight candidates were selected as interns for the 2007-09 batch:

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>Name of the Intern</b>	<b>State to which they belong</b>
1.	Ashvini Jadhav	Maharashtra
2.	Geeta Gadhavi	Gujarat
3.	Kaushik Deb	Assam
4.	Mihir Bhosale	Maharashtra
5.	Nivedan Mangalesh	Tamilnadu
6.	Rajesh Manjhi	Madhya Pradesh
7.	Sushant Panigrahi	Orissa
8.	Zaki Ahmad	Delhi

### The internship programme for the ninth batch

The new batch commenced from 21<sup>st</sup> August 2007. The structure of the 18-month programme continued as 11+6+1 (inhouse academic inputs/ training + field placements + dissertation writing). Simultaneously, the panel of resource persons was reviewed and decided for the forthcoming input

sessions. Various NGOs and social action groups were identified and short listed for exposure visits, field visits and interaction with activists.

### The orientation and induction:

The first 10 days were used for orientation and induction to NCAS. The orientation included a presentation by the different teams of NCAS – Advocacy Capacity building, Campaign Support, Media Support, Research and Documentation, Administration and Accounts. The interns were given an orientation on the Parliamentary Advocacy Unit and Centre for Budget and Governance based in Delhi. Orientation was meant to help the interns to evolve a holistic understanding of NCAS and its work. The induction included making of a formal agreement of association with NCAS, understanding mutual expectations, introducing the course design comprising input sessions, exposure visits, field visits, self-development/counseling sessions, submissions in the form of tutorials, project work, term paper, policy analysis, and dissertation. The concept of self-learning through reading, discussions, meeting experts, engaging in activities outside those organised by NCAS, writing, engaging in the work of NCAS etc. was also introduced. Assessment schedules as well as areas of assessments were discussed and mutually agreed upon.

### Academic Inputs

Experts and experienced persons from academics, activists, media and NGOs were invited to provide the various inputs. The input sessions were preceded by pre-inputs based on their readings and followed by post-input discussions for consolidating the learning identifying areas yet to be explored and suggesting strategies for self learning. Based on this, topics for assignments were decided and used as a tool for self-learning. The following academic inputs were given.

- Enhancing Learning Skills- Dr. Sumedha Lele
- Social Change Dr. Shruti Tambe, Dept of Sociology, University of Pune
- Social Movements in India – Lata P.M , NCAS
- Understanding Indian Society- Dr. Milind Bokil
- Orientation on Peoples Centred Advocacy – Satlaj and Anil, NCAS
- Fundamental Rights and constitutional Law – Adv. Aseem Sarode
- Rights-based Approach – Dr.Ramesh Awasthi
- Understanding Gender – Anand Pawar
- Being Political- Shirish Kavadi
- Right to Information Act- Mr.Atul Sulakhe
- Capitalism – Himanshu Damle
- Globalisation – Neeraj (2 sessions)



- People-Centred Advocacy – 5-day workshop by NCAS
- Research skills and developing a proposal – Amitabh Behar
- History of Capitalism in the context of Globalization – Ajit Abhyankar
- Using alternate media to reach out to people (the communication) – Raju Inamdar
- Print media and locating/ using spaces in print media for advocacy – Milind Gokhale
- Meaning and scope of various 'isms'- Himanshu Damle
- Understanding 'isms' – using a framework – Dr. Sanjeev Ghotge
- Basics of Economics

### Exposure visits:

One day exposure visits to organisations were made by the 9th batch of interns after the programme commenced in August 2007. To understand issues of unorganized labor, the interns visited the Hamal Panchayat- a trade union of head loaders and coolies, The Mathadi Kamgar Board (a statutory body under the Mathdi Kamgar Act) and the Kashtachi Bhakar, in Pune. They also interacted with the activists of Shramashakti an organization working on hawkers' issues, Hind Mazdoor Sabha, Center for Scientific Socialism, Dalit Swayam Sevak Sangh during these field visits. They also interacted with a Dalit political leader who? to understand how party politics is used for Dalit empowerment. To understand rights-based activism, interns visited MASUM, an NGO working on women's issues in Purandar taluka, Pune.

In addition, the interns interacted with activists of All India Democratic Women's Association – Janawadi Mahila Sanghatan, Pune to understand how women organise and mobilize for action. Other organizations visited were the Pani Panchayat in Naigaon village of Purandar taluka, Pune district; Sashawat in Manchar taluka, Pune district, an organization working on Forest issues and rights of Advasis; and Samata Shikshan Sanstha, an organisation working for Dalit empowerment through education.

The Ninth batch of interns also participated in public hearings organised by NBA, the massive walkathon rally of Janadesh 2007 organised by the Ekta Parishad, and the Sataygraha against POSCO. It provided them an opportunity to interact with activists, youth groups as well as people - the tribals, dalits, and women's groups.

### Week-long field placement:

The interns visited Navsarjan, which works in Gujarat for Dalit empowerment. They interacted with activists and resided with Dalit families.

This visit aimed at providing them an opportunity to also interact with people of the village and gain an insight into the social status of dalits, their struggles against discriminatory practices, the strength of the Sanghatan and to raise the interns' sensitivity towards the most deprived section of the society.

### Learning through Participation and contribution in the work of NCAS

The interns assisted the various teams in NCAS to collect information and updates on issues relating to tribals, advocacy and peoples struggles for the capacity building unit. Some of them also assisted in documenting workshops such as that organised by VANI on good governance, the 'Youth for Social Action' Camp and preparing cover designs for publications.

### Self development and counseling:

This is a relatively new activity introduced in the programme for helping interns understand themselves better, be more effective and make conscious efforts to bring about positive change in themselves. Selfawareness, interpersonal relationships and interpersonal communication have been the focus of the four sessions held since September 2007. Dr. Shrisha Sathe, a psychologist and counselor by profession conducted these sessions. The interns personally and as a team have benefited from these sessions.

### Skill Building:

Writing skills, reading skills (in English) and interpersonal communication skills were some of the skills that were focused upon and are being continued through the programme. Those interns whose computer knowledge was limited, learnt from other team members. Special sessions on communication and use of print media and alternate media were held. Exercises on preparing a picture story on a social issues helped in understanding this skill.

The interns were also provided opportunities for enhancing campaign skills – which included preparation of slogans, posters, cards, as well as scripting and performing a street play. The Ninth batch of interns took initiative to launch a bimonthly news-letter 'Nturns' in November 2007 the first issue of the news letter was launched. This initiative was highly appreciated by the NCAS team.

Project work, as a tool for skill building, is being undertaken by the interns. The interns have divided themselves in sub-groups of twos and threes, and each sub-group has opted to undertake research, campaign and media on

the issues are on livelihood and displacement of hawkers and rights of construction workers.

### Interactions

In addition to interaction with various activists during field exposure visits the interns also met activist Mr. Satyababu Bose from Dalit Sanghatan - CRSD, A.P; Raju Bhise of YUVA, and John Samuel. Some of them also sought an opportunity to meet and interact with academicians such as Gail Omveidt..

### Miscellaneous

Internship team is engaged in monthly review meetings of internship activity. The Interns have prepared monthly reports, and field/ exposure visit reports. They participate in monthly staff meetings. They also participated in the six-month review meeting of NCAS and in the general body meeting.

### Internship Expansion

The Advocacy Internship Programme forms a very important capacity building activity of NCAS that aims at building a core of young social advocates who take to social activism. The programme till date has tried to integrate various components of perspective building, knowledge building, raising sensitivity to discrimination and marginalization, as well as capacity building through its various activities as mentioned in the report above. We hope to further build on it by reducing some of its drawbacks. An Academic Advisory Council formed in the year 2006-07, comprising 9 members who are academicians, activists, NGO heads, and media experts are actively engaged in providing the necessary support for making the programme more effective. However, this has been an intensive activity and limited to 8 interns at a time.

At this stage, after a period of 8 years, while NCAS is trying to consolidate the present 18-month internship activity it is also exploring possibilities of reaching out to other youth through a rather extensive activity. The need for creating spaces for politicization of youth and for building bridges across various youth and youth groups has prompted NCAS to undertake such activity. For this purpose and to brainstorm ideas on this, a workshop on "Re-politicization of Youth for Social Action" was organised in April 2007.

This workshop was attended by 38 participants from 22 different organisations. There was a consensus on various ideas. All agreed that

creating spaces and opportunities for re-politicization is the need of the day. 'Re-politicization of youth' was understood as a process of pro-active engagement with the social reality; moving out of hierarchical structures of caste, religion and gender; realizing that social mobilization is necessary and that political parties cannot be relied upon for politicizing youth. It also meant 'de-politicization' as the first step towards re-politicization.

The workshop also emphasized the need to look at the aspirations of youth, issues relating to their identity and their own perceptions about themselves. The participants shared their experience of what strategies they use - to enable young men and women to make appropriate choices and exercise responsible citizenship, as well as of the challenges they face. Not creating a political ideology among youth would mean reducing them to mere consumers and a commodity, the group felt. Participants also suggested that a new conceptual framework be developed which is not limited to just caste-class analysis but understood in the context of globalization, and accordingly, academic inputs be provided on these.

Providing transformational experience – where youth would be exposed to hard social realities of the marginalized and their struggles, was identified as being extremely important in the 're-politicization' process. Strategies for building bridges and action strategies were also discussed. The group felt that developing collective goals and strategies are necessary in-order to make a real difference.

Further to this workshop, NCAS worked towards forming a coalition that was necessary in order to take the process forward at the national level. Invitations were sent to various organisations and groups who had participated in the workshop to be part of the coalition. NYF, SCMI, Pravah, NCAS, Samyak, Anubhav Shiksha Kendra, NCHDR, CYDA, CYSD and Gandhigram University jointly planned a four day camp for youth "Youth for Social Action" to be held from 31<sup>st</sup> Jan to 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb 2008. Criteria for selecting participants was also decided which included willingness to give a two year commitment. The group formally met at NCAS, Pune on 10<sup>th</sup> Jan 2008 to prepare the design of the camp and share various responsibilities. A two year process for this programme was visualized and a broad plan developed.

The first activity with youth - a beginning of the process for re-politicization – which is the goal of the internship expansion programme, was a four day Youth Camp – "Youth for Social Action". SCMI, Bangalore provided the venue and made the necessary logistical arrangements at their Training Centre.

The Youth camp commenced from 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2008. One hundred and thirty four youth registered for the camp. The camp began with an inspiring key

note address by activist Mr. Martin Macwan. The camp was designed in way that would enable the youth to relate themselves politically with various social realities and expose them to a pro-peoples perspective on issues of caste, gender, communalism and in the context of globalization.

The first day of the camp began with exercises for "Self Exploration" designed by PRAVAH, Delhi. The second day was dedicated to the understanding of identities and diversities, in which every participant mapped his/her own multiple identities, identified the source of these identities and why some identities were liked/ disliked by us. This session was designed by NYF, Bangalore.

On the third day were thematic sessions on caste, gender, communalism and globalization. Mr Arun Khote (NCDHR), Mr Anand Pawar (Samyak), Mr David and Mr. Samuel (SCMI), and Ms. Geeta Menon (Anubhav Shiksha Kendra) conducted these sessions. These were parallel sessions and the youth had the choice of attending any one of these. However, their learning was shared again within small groups, so that the information reached the whole group. It was a good exercise in learning through sharing.

The fourth day began with the panel (comprising all the four resource persons) that answered questions that had emerged during the sharing session on the previous day. The camp concluded with a feed-back from the participants on the content and methodology of the Camp and their ideas about the two year process. The broad two year plan that had been prepared by the organizing team was shared with the group. The youth agreed with the plan and the activities proposed in it. A few representatives were selected from among the youth by the youth themselves for being part of the planning process for the next two years. The activities would primarily comprise exposure visits to movements or groups engaged actively in social action, interning with an organization for one month, actually engaging in or initiating a campaign or any kind of social action, sharing learning with other members and cross learning and learning through exchange visits, meeting regionally and meeting annually at the national level in the next two years.

The organizing group (coalition) along with the youth representatives met after the camp for planning the next steps concretely. Guidelines for exposure visits and for mentoring were proposed to be prepared by NYF and Pravah, while NCAS would continue to coordinate the process. The coalition along with the youth representatives decided to meet next between 25<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008 for drawing out more specific plans for exposure visits and steps for working together.

## Research and Documentation

### I. GLOBALIZATION, GOVERNANCE AND GRASSROOTS STUDY :

Fostering interaction between Civil Society Organisations working on Local Governance and Global Governance issues through Action Research and Networking

In October 2004, NCAS initiated an action research study to systematically understand globalization and to also understand the linkages between globalization, governance and grassroots. Based on this systematic understanding NCAS would identify and analyse the potential spaces and strategies for interventions from the perspective of the poor and marginalized people in the current discourse of governance and globalization.

The study attempted to trace the linkages between globalization and three grassroots livelihood issues via governance. The geographical focus of the study was the tribal dominated central Indian belt comprising parts of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Orissa and Jharkhand, given the growing debate and contemporary interest in the adivasi areas as arenas for struggle against globalization. The key livelihood issues in these regions are directly dependent and organically linked with water, land and forest (*jal, jangle aur jamin*). The study also attempted to focus on the local governance institutions such as PRIs and the civil society organizations in order to facilitate a local-global dialogue for mutual learning and exchange and to strengthen civil society networks for the promotion of people centric governance.

### BRIEF BACKGROUND OF THE RESEARCH PROCESS FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER 2004 – MARCH 2007

#### *Getting started*

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 on globalisation and its impact on livelihood issues from various sources like websites and University libraries. This helped in mapping issues and struggles and also in developing a comprehensive understanding of the issues.

### *The Consultations*

A one-day civil society consultation on the study "Linkages between Globalization, Governance and Grassroots Realities" was organised at Raipur, Chattisgarh on 9<sup>th</sup>, April 2005. The objective was to launch the study among civil society leaders and to get their suggestions. During the discussion, the issue of mining in central belt of India had come out strongly. Mining is the emerging threat to agriculture and development of adivasi life and livelihoods.

Three regional consultations in the geographical study area for identifying and networking with groups were also organized. Brief details are follows:

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

Similarly a one-day state consultation on issues related to globalization and land, water and forest of Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh was held at Ranchi and Bhopal on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2005 and 30<sup>th</sup> September 2005 respectively. There were around 35 participants in each of the consultations

All these were followed by a National Consultation on 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2005 at New Delhi. More than 25 people from all over the country working with livelihood issues and globalization were present. There were discussions on changing farming pattern, declining ownership on common property resources, acts related to land ceiling, land alienation – its cause and impact, etc.

### *Analysis and Documentation*

Following the consultations, the research team focused on finalizing the research hypotheses, identification of the policies to be analyzed and preliminary identification of experts. List of policies related to land, water, forest were identified. During the analysis, effort was made to understand the manner in which the character of the particular policy has changed over a period of time especially after 1991 and how such changes have impacted the life and livelihood of the marginalized. It was envisaged, this would help in understanding and documenting changes in the governance policies, agenda and discourse in relation to these issues.

Once the issues were finalised, accordingly, activist-experts were identified, approached and oriented to carry out the policy analysis and case documentation. Building and strengthening networks and creating a platform

for dialogue among actors working on globalization and governance were also initiated and undertaken.

Twenty four policy analysis and ten case study documentations were identified.

The objective of the policy analysis is to have a systematic understanding, critical exploration and documentation of the inter-relationships among the state, national and international financial institutions, and their impact on the poor and marginalized groups. The policy analysis papers also tried to identify the linkages between the specific policy under analysis and the local governance system (such as PRIs) and analysis of the implications of the policy on the decision-making and power of the PRIs.

Similarly, the case studies that were identified in the study states, tried to understand the mutual linkages and relative influence of governance processes at micro and macro levels and their relationship with globalisation. Effort has made to see the impact or potential impacts of the project or the proposed project on the land, water and forest of the area. We have tried to find out the arguments provided in favor of the proposed project or the views of the stakeholders promoting the project, the objectives and rationale for promoting the project from their perspective, the proposed benefits, and the expected outcomes of the project. At the same time the arguments against the project, with a particular focus on the perspective of the marginalized i.e. dalit, adivasis, women, labourers, particularly the manner in which it is impacting their access to CPRs such as land, water and forest.

### *The workshop*

Once the draft papers were received, a three day workshop was organized to share and discuss on findings of the study papers on 23-25 November 2006 at IIC Annexe New Delhi. The objective of the meeting was to evolve a comprehensive understanding of the issues of natural resources linking to globalization and governance in the central adivasi belt of India. Thirty five resource persons from different states, including those who have written the papers, attended the workshop. Professor Kuldip Mathur gave an overview on the issues on globalization and governance. This was followed by 24 paper presentations by the researchers before a panel and other participants, followed by discussion. Participants gave comments on each paper.



## ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN IN YEAR APRIL 2007 – MARCH 2008

Following the workshop, efforts were directed to finalise and publish the papers. In total, draft of 31 papers in a combination of policy analyses, case studies and research papers. Once the authors have submitted the drafts, the members in the research went through those drafts, gave comments to the authors if any. The papers which broadly addressed the issue of globalisation, governance and their impact on marginalised were finally selected for publication. At the end total of 23 papers were finalised.

The papers address the broad themes of natural resources and ecotourism, industrialization, land acquisition, mining, agriculture, water resources, forest resources, gender and caste based marginalisation and the Panchayat Raj Institution (PRIs) linked to changing governance and rights of the marginalised groups.

Amongst these 23 papers, three have a nationwide span with special reference to the study states while the rest specifically address the study states. A total of six papers are from Orissa, seven papers are from Maharashtra, two papers from Chhattisgarh, four papers are specifically from Madhya Pradesh and one paper from both Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh. Thematic divisions of the papers include 12 papers linked to land issues, four papers linked to water issues and four papers linked to forest issues, one paper addressed gender issues, and two papers examined local self governance institutions (PRIs).

All the papers were edited in English language before they were published. The research papers are also translated in Hindi, Marathi and Oriya, based on the geographical scope and reach of the papers for better outreach of the research findings. Each of the Indian language publication has an overview section. Details of the publications are as follows:

- **Marathi** A total of six papers were translated into and have been published as a compilation addressing the broad themes of natural resources, land, water, SEZs and local self governance.
- **Hindi** A total of 10 papers were translated into Hindi and have been published as a compilation of two volumes. The publication addresses the broad issues of SEZs, displacement, agriculture, forest, mining, eco tourism and gender linked marginalisation.
- **Oriya** A total of six papers were translated into Oriya and published as a compilation. The papers address the broad themes of mining, water, forest and resettlement and rehabilitation.
- **English** A total of 21 papers have been published in their soft versions in CD form addressing the issues of forest, agriculture, land, SEZs,

mining, water, gender and caste linked marginalisation and local self governance.

## II. OTHER ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN IN YEAR APRIL 2007 – MARCH 2008

### 1. Study on Informal Justice system

Mapping Informal Justice Institutions in Maharashtra, a project supported by the Government of India and the UNDP, New Delhi was implemented by NCAS in association with IIPL between January 2007 till December 2007 for the

Large sections of the poor and disadvantaged in India continued to be denied access to justice. The Tenth Five Year Plan and National Common Minimum Programme of the Government recognize reforms in the justice system as one of the essential conditions for ensuring access to justice. The Government of India in partnership with UNDP aims to undertake a programme to enable disadvantaged people access justice and to strengthen the capacities of existing alternative justice providing mechanisms. Informal justice system institutions are most commonly accessed by the poor and the disadvantaged because of geographical proximity, affordability and speedy justice. To formulate a policy and programme for the IJSIs it was essential to map existing IJSIs .

The mapping was conducted in the rural areas of the districts of Amravati, Latur, Nandurbar, Thane, Sangli as identified by the UNDP.

The broad goals of the project were to locate IJSIs in the districts, identify types of IJSIs, comprehend the organizational structure and process of dispute resolution, examine perceptions of different stakeholders with regard to these IJSIs and elicit suggestions from them for strengthening access to justice through IJSIs.

Information was collected through interview schedules. Focus was on villages with adivasis, Nomadic Tribes, Denotified Tribes (nomadic tribes that had been branded as criminal under a colonial act but denotified by the Government of India after independence) populations. The most common IJSI located were traditional councils- tribal and caste panchayats and non-statutory village panchayats. Adivasi panchayats were found to be on decline with an increasing tendency among adivasis to approach formal courts or police. Nomadic tribes used their own panchayats but here too a change was noticed. Denotified tribes, given that society and police attitudes towards them had not changed and continued to be viewed with suspicions, avoided

police and formal courts. Disputes taken to these Panchayats related primarily to family matters, marital discords, property issues, money matters. Among the denotified serious crimes such as rape and murder were also reported as being taken to the Panchayats. There was a great deal of gender bias in the composition of the Panchayats and in the process of dispute resolution and it was not always inexpensive or even quick.

The research was able to determine the extent to which the informal justice system was used by marginalized segments of the population

## 2. Conference for Global Network of Government Innovators

In this conference organized in partnership with Rai Foundation and Ash Institute Harvard University, NCAS took the responsibility for the panel discussion "What are governments doing to promote social justice?" In addition to the government, the panel also examined the role of other institutions including civic organization and social networks. The key participants were Jayati Ghosh, professor JNU, Suvas Chandra, FECOFUN Nepal, Salehuddin Ahmed, BRAC Bangladesh, Sayeda Hamid, Planning commission and Gowhar Rizvi, Professor, Ash Institute Harvard University.

## 3. The Study on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights:

The Study to Assess the Realisation of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights done by NCAS with the support of NHRC was published. Re-working and editing of the report was done to incorporate comments and suggestions. Pre publication work like proof reading and cover design were also undertaken this year.

## 4. Social Watch:

This years Social Watch report titled "The Citizens' Report on Governance and Development 2007", evaluates the four key institutions of governance in India: the Parliament, the judiciary, the policy-making institutions (the executive) and the institutions of local self-government. It was released by Anna Hazare in New Delhi, on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2007.

## Media Advocacy

Workshops:

This year we conducted joint workshops in Rashtrosant Tukdoji Maharaj University, Nagpur and Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University for young journalists and media students. Both the universities took active interest in these workshops.

In Nagpur, the workshop was on 'Farmers' Suicides in Vidarbha'. Dr. Sharad Patil, a sociologist and former head of Journalism Dept, RTMJ, Nagpur, Chandrakant Wankhede (Editor, Daily Sakal) and Jaydeep Hardkar (a journalist who worked on 'Farmers' Suicides' with P.Sainath ) were resource persons. Pravin Bardapur(Resident Editor, Daily Loksatta) inaugurated the workshop and Dr. Gaurishankar Parashar, Pro Vice- Chancellor, RTMNU, was the chief guest. A field visit was arranged in Vidarbha for students and journalists.

In Aurangabad, Dr. Ratnakar Mahajan, Executive Chairman, State Planning Board, Govt. of Maharashtra, was invited to participate in the workshop on 'The Problems of Marathwada and State Planning', which was arranged in collaboration with Journalism Dept., Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad. It was followed by a field visit to meet the farmers who burnt their live sugarcane crop against the local sugar factory's reluctance to take their crop and pay with a reasonable price. Young journalists from Aurangabad and students of Journalism Dept. participated in the Workshop.

In Pune, an interface between journalists and social activists on 'The Role of Media in Promoting Human Rights' was arranged on the occasion of Human Rights Day. Anand Agashe, Director-Editor, Daily Sakal, represented the media and Prof. Ganesh Devy, a well known scholar and social activist from Baroda, Gujrat represented social movements. Both the speakers delivered key-note address on 'The Role of Media in Promoting Human Rights'. This session was followed by the discussion on the same topic. It was compered by Manisha Gupte and the participants were Anant Dikshit( Editor, Daily Lokmat; Jayant Umranikar, Police Commissioner, Pune and Sahil Joshi ( Mumbai Bureau Chief, AajTak).

Mukund Takalse participated with Sampat (Campaign Support) as a resource person in Adivasi (Katkari) Grass-root Workers' Workshop in Medha, Javali Basin. He also delivered a lecture on 'Media Advocacy'

## Audio-Visual:

This year the MAU planned and completed two films : Janadesh 2007 (for Ektaa Parishad) and Apni Dharati Ke Liye (for Astha, Udaipur, Rajsthan).

- Janadesh 2007: This film was planned to mobilize people for participating in the 'Padyatra' (a long march) which Ekta Parishad organized to pressurize the Central Govt. for land Reforms. Ekta Parishad expected 25,000 people from all over India to participate in the 'Padyatra'.

- Apani Dharati Ke Liye: This film was made for ASTHA, Udaipur. The Adivasis from South Rajsthan are fighting the State and Central Government in a peaceful and non-violent way for the last twelve years for their forest land rights. To pay tribute to this spirit of the Adivasi NCAS made the film.

We also supported a film 'Dakhal' produced by National Forum of Forest People and Forest Workers (NFFPFW).

We gave extensive coverage for the Committee on a State Agrarian Relations and the unfinished Task in land Reforms. (Mr. K. B. Saxsena and Mr. Ramesh Chaudhary); similarly we provided occasional coverage for NAPM, for SEZ-Affected Sinnar Farmers (in collaboration with Campaign Support Team) and for Anusandhan Trust (A Krishnaraj Memorial Trust Lecture by Illina Sen).

Community Radio: NCAS is taking initiative for launching a Community Radio Station in collaboration with various organizations from Punjab. NCAS organized three meetings for the CR and the response from several organizations was quite encouraging. Though the project is in a primary stage, it can take off anytime next year.

## Publications:

This year MU published the following issues of the bi-monthly – 'Advocacy Internet':

- March -April, 2007: Forest Land and Tribal Rights
- May-June 2007: Right to Health
- July- August,2007: Agriculture in the Era of Globalization
- Sept- Oct 2008: The Girl Child: The Missing Millions
- Nov-Dec 2007: Implementation of the Forest Rights Act 2006
- Jan – Feb.2008 - In the pipeline
- Feb- March -2008 –in the pipeline.

Design: Also MU designed cassette covers, book covers, pamphlets, invitation cards for the publications of the Research and the Capacity Building units.

## **Governance and Advocacy**

The Unit had a mixed experience while implementing its work plan for the year 2007-08. There was immense learning when we look back; however, it also reminds us that a lot needs to be done. The Governance and Advocacy Unit (GAU) functions broadly under three themes: Parliamentary Advocacy, Campaign Support and Networking and Media Advocacy. The changing socio-political scenario presents new challenges every new day. The Unit played a facilitating role in strengthening the various ongoing struggles. A brief review of activities undertaken in the abovementioned areas are discussed below.

### Parliamentary Advocacy

The Unit was primarily created to work on issues of governance and to examine other issues from the governance point of view. One of the prime arenas of governance is the Parliament. The Unit works with the Parliament in different ways. One of the activities in which the Unit is deeply involved is the dissemination of parliamentary information. Its periodical 'Parliament Digest' is well received by a cross section of the society. The Unit also regularly provides parliamentary information to different civil society groups and movements. The Unit also facilitates parliamentarian's involvement in civil society programmes. Some of the activities under Parliamentary Advocacy for the year 2007-08 are:

- Publication and distribution of the following issues of 'Parliament Digest':
  - Budget Session 2006
  - Monsoon Session 2006
  - Winter Session 2006
  - Budget Session 2007
- A Special Issue of Parliament Digest on Adivasi Rights was also published and distributed
- The Unit is contributing a paper on the Question Hour of the Parliament for the Social Watch India Report 2008
- Parliamentary information provided to different CSOs and Movements especially on the issues of Special Economic Zones (SEZ), Forest Rights etc.

### Campaign Support and Networking

The Unit facilitated campaign support in various ways. Being placed in Delhi the Unit supported several campaigns and provided information to small grass root groups. Some of the activities are as under:

- Campaign support was provided to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Civil Society Review of the National Common Minimum Programme. More than 200 activists from across the country participated in the exercise. A report card was released after the review.
- The Unit provided campaign and research support to the Social Watch Coalition for the release of the 2007 Social Watch India Report
- Campaign support to the People's Budget Convention organised by the Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability (CBGA)
- NCAS with NFFPFW and Amnesty International jointly organised a National Consultation on the Forest Rights Act in New Delhi on 29-30 October 2007. The Consultation was organised to deliberate the possible advocacy option for the proper implementation of the Forest Rights Act and also to press government for notification of the Rules. More than 70 activists from all over the country participated in the consultation. Parliamentarians, researchers and academicians also participated in the consultation.
- NCAS with a number of civil society organisations jointly organised a National Strategy meet against SEZ on 19-20 December 2007 in New Delhi. The meeting was organised to discuss the support needed to strengthen the struggle going on against SEZs.
- NCAS with CBGA jointly facilitated a workshop on Budget Advocacy at the National Convention on Youth and Right to Information at Bawar in Rajasthan on 11-12 January 2007

The Unit has emerged as an information house on issues of governance. Many research institutes and media houses approached the Unit for information. The Unit provides campaign support within its capacity whenever the need arises.

#### Learning:

- The unpredictability of a place like Delhi
- The various issues emerging from the Question Hour of parliament
- The importance of real and accurate knowledge in bridging the Macro and Micro
- The changing external realities
- The nuances of working in networks and alliances

#### Challenges:

- The Unit needs to reach more networks and groups
- Better use of parliamentary information