

# **NATIONAL CENTRE FOR ADVOCACY STUDIES**

## **ANNUAL REPORT – 2011-12**

### **CONTENTS**

<b>1.0 Advocacy Internship Programme</b>	<b>..... 03 - 07</b>
<b>2.0 Campaign Support and Networking</b>	<b>..... 08 - 13</b>
<b>3.0 Media Advocacy Unit</b>	<b>..... 14 - 15</b>
<b>4.0 Capacity Training</b>	<b>..... 16 - 20</b>
<b>5.0 Research and Documentation Unit</b>	<b>..... 21 - 30</b>

# **NATIONAL CENTRE FOR ADVOCACY STUDIES**

## **ANNUAL REPORT – 2011-12**

National Centre for Advocacy Studies (NCAS) takes great pleasure in presenting the Annual Report for 2011-12. The report presents detailed narrative reports of activities and programmes undertaken by the different units in NCAS during this period. It is a consolidation of the activities undertaken in the areas of advocacy internship, campaign support and networking, capacity building and research and documentation.

## **ADVOCACY INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME**

This reporting year was the last of the twelve years of the programme.

### **Learning:**

- There is a growing need expressed by educational institutions to include components of the Advocacy Internship Programme within their syllabi.
- There is a need for greater and organic involvement of interns in other NCAS activities so as to make them advocacy practitioners in future.
- The interns could be placed with some field-based organisations right from the beginning for better understanding of the grassroots realities.

Persistent efforts in reaching out to mainstream educational institutions and continuous dialogue with them have resulted in concretising ideas of interventions in the mainstream system.

### **A. Batch 2011-12**

The Advocacy Internship Programme was restructured with the Twelfth batch of interns. The duration of the programme was reduced to 15 months (instead of the earlier duration of 18 months) with 12 months of classroom and field training at NCAS and 3 month field placement. The detailed report of both the activities is presented below.

The following activities were undertaken during the period of April 2011 to October 2011. The interns joined different organisations for their three-month field placements from November 2011 to January 2012. They submitted their reports of the field placement and completed Advocacy Internship Programme.

#### **ACADEMIC INPUTS**

The themes addressed were

1. Importance of Print Media - Atul
2. Current Social Problems in India – Satyendra Ranjan
3. Women’s movement and Government approach towards gender development - Sunila
4. Research Methods – Amit Narkar
5. Report Writing – Lata P. M.
6. Understanding Paintings – Vikram
7. The CLM Process – Dilip Kamat
8. What and How of Advocacy – Sandeep Pattnaik/Lata P. M.
9. Forest Rights in Nepal – Bhola Bhattarai
10. Two-Day Workshop on Budget Analysis – conducted by CBGA
11. Workshop on United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with disabilities – organised by NCAS

Along with these sessions organised by NCAS, the interns attended and participated in academic programmes organised by other civil society organisations and academic institutes.

1. Lecture series on Science, Philosophy and Religion - organized by Academy of Political and Social Studies, Pune
2. Workshop on Advocacy - organized by Women's Studies Centre, University of Pune, Pune
3. A lecture on Political situation in Jammu Kashmir
4. A lecture on Peace by Teesta Setlevad

### **SKILL BUILDING ACTIVITIES**

1. *Electronic Media with hands-on training to use camera – Harish*  
As an outcome of this workshop, the interns made a short film “We the Interns” and learned and used their skills in script writing, costume designing, camera and editing.
2. *Voice Modulation and Women Empowerment – Prof. Beth Osnes and Rebecca Andeslton*

The interns also participated on behalf of NCAS in the following campaigns:

1. International Women's day Rally
2. Public hearing on Right to Food organized by CFAR
3. Rally in Support of Anna Hazare
4. Documentation for NAPM in LAVASA affected area
5. Hunger Strike by Medha Patkar in Golibar Slum, Mumbai
6. National Consultation on Land Rights – organised by NCAS
7. Rally to demand implementation of the PCPNDT Act
8. Right to Food Campaign

### **FIELD VISIT**

The interns went for a field visit to Navsarjan in Gujarat. In this week-long visit, they lived among Dalit families and gained insights into Dalit issues – caste-based social discrimination and responses of the dalit community, deprivation from development opportunities, mobilization around issues and participation of dalits in political processes, especially at the village level.

### **PROJECTS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

The interns wrote reports of the rallies and campaigns they participated in. One such report that deserves mention is about the Hunger Strike by Medha Patkar in Golibar

Slum, Mumbai. They also shared their experiences, observations and learning from the Navsarjan visit in the form of power point presentations.

As part of the Internship Programme, each of the interns was expected to undertake a project and submit a final product. Each intern worked under guidance of one of the senior programme team members of NACS and completed their projects between May and October 2011. The details of the interns' projects are as follows:

### **1. Aliya Tabasum**

*Title : The history of land reforms and implications for agriculture in Jammu and Kashmir.*

This study tries to understand the linkages between socio economic trends and successful implementation of land reforms in J&K, focusing on the valley.

Guides : Amit Narkar and Sehjo Singh

### **2. Chaitanya Patel**

*Title : Report on patterns of Access to preventive maternal and child health care services of the public health system in Nagpur Chawl, slum of Pune city with special reference to Scheduled Caste community.*

Guide : Prasanna Invally

### **3. Sujoy Sagar**

*Title : "Discrimination against Dalit Christians" - A study in the context of Reservation*

This study makes a case for reservations for Dalit Christians, on the basis of continued discrimination against them inside and outside the religion.

Guide : Lata P.M.

### **4. Vipul Dabhi**

*Title : Data Collection for Advocacy support to tribal and other forest dwellers of Dadra and Nagar Haveli (to help them claim Community Forest Rights under the Forest Rights Act-2006)*

Guide : Lata P.M.

### **5. Tarannum**

*Title : Women's struggle for Education: oral history documentation*

This is an oral history documentation of three women from different background. Nasima from Awaz E Niswa , Razia Patel from Indian Institute of Education and Pritam Manjusha from Samyak , Pune.

Guide : Lata P.M.

### **6. Mahadev Regar**

*Title : Sangharsh Jari hai : a documentary on Posco movement in Odhisha, and the process documentation of its making and learnings.*

This documentary is based on the people's struggle against Pohang Steel Company at Jagatsingpur district Odisha

Guides : Sehjo Singh, Harish Kulkarni and Sandeep Pattnaik

### **7. Krishna**

*Title : Mahatma Gandhi Dispute Free Village Scheme : a study of " Pait " village.*

This was a study of a dispute resolution forum in Rajgurunagar Taluka, Pune District to see how it addresses the concerns and issues of marginalized communities.

Guides : Shirish Kavadi and Bharati Takle

### **8. Pratap**

*Title : Study of social , economic and religious status of Kachiwada Basti in Pune district with special reference to Right to Education and awareness about School Management Committee in people.*

Guides : Amit Narkar and Atul Sulakhe

All the interns presented the process and findings of their projects in presence of a select audience of CSO representatives from Pune and received appreciation.

### **THREE MONTH FIELD PLACEMENT**

The three-month placement of the twelfth batch started on November 1, 2011. The process of placement started in the month of July. The interns identified subjects and areas of their interest and organisations working in those areas. NCAS team members guided and helped the interns in this process. Some of the governing body members of NACS were also actively involved in the process. Details of the interns' placements are as follows:

<b>Sr. No</b>	<b>Intern</b>	<b>Name of the organization</b>	<b>Place/State</b>
1.	Aliya Tabassum	Women Power Connect	Delhi
2.	Tarannum	Eklavya	Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
3.	Krishna Keshvani	Mahila Swaraj Abhiyaan	Ahmadabad, Gujarat
4.	Mahadev Regar	Anthra	Pune, Maharashtra
5.	Pratap Singh	Behavioural Science Centre	Ahmadabad, Gujarat
6.	Vipul Dabhi	Asivasi Jungle Jeevan Andolan	Dadra-Nagar Haveli
7.	Chaitanya Patel	Society for Social Audit, Accountability and Transparency	Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh
8.	Sujay Sagar	NCAS	Bhubaneshwar, Odisha

All the interns, except one, completed their field placements successfully. Sujay Sagar, who was placed with NCAS, could not complete his field placement due to health problems.

The interns met at NCAS on February 7, 2012 and submitted reports of their field placement. Most of them intended to continue their relations with their respective host

organisations even after completion of the field-placement. The feedback on interns by the host-organisations is very encouraging and speaks of value of the Internship Programme for people's movements, grassroots level organisations and advocacy groups, equally.

## **B. The Expansive Programme**

With an objective of reaching out to a larger section of youth, NCAS tried to collaborate with some academic institutions to take its advocacy internship curriculum into the mainstream education.

1. During the reporting period, NCAS was invited for a meeting by the Department of Adult and Continuing Education, University of Pune to discuss the idea of advocacy and a certificate course that the Department was interested in starting with critical inputs from NCAS.
2. SP Jain Institute of Management Studies, Mumbai in partnership with BAIF has started a certificate programme in Development Management. NCAS has prepared and is conducting a module on Advocacy and Networking in this programme.

These developments are recognition of NCAS' advocacy internship programme and offer an opportunity to NCAS to revisit its modules and methodologies so as to make it acceptable in the mainstream.

NCAS had also submitted a short-term proposal to Christian Aid for mainstreaming of Advocacy Internship Programme. Christian Aid has approved a part of the proposal for a programme of 12 months. NCAS team has approached a couple of educational institutions for partnering in this effort and is working out details of the expansive programme.

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# CAMPAIGN SUPPORT AND NETWORKING

## Learning:

1. Need to have logical end of campaign support to individual campaigns. To start the process, indicators have been set to know how much and how long NCAS has given support on local, regional, state and national level, whether it has approached to all stake holders and could give justice to the demands from civil societies working on that particular issue. NCAS needs to focus on specific campaigns and coordinate its efforts to be able to achieve tangible goals.
2. Being a supporter in the campaigns, the role is to work within institutional limitations. It is understood that at times this limitation weakens our stakes.
3. There is an emergence of local leadership even in large campaigns as against earlier when this was only true in local campaigns. A positive change in people's movement is that in these struggles people are not waiting for any leadership, but are directly challenging the governance.
4. Framing and raising issues of forceful land acquisition at state, national and international levels and putting consistent pressure on the state government is becoming challenging day by day.
5. Most of the tribal and other forest dwellers especially in remote areas of the forest are still unaware about the provisions under FRA for claiming rights over their forests. Moreover, women are quite invisible in the claiming process.

## Summary

NCAS continued its support to campaigns and networks on land, forest and livelihood issues of women and adivasis. NCAS played an important role in forging networks for proper implementation of the Forest Rights Act and provided support to anti-POSCO struggle in Odisha. In addition, it also rose to the occasion and brought people together to discuss the Draft Labour Policy of Maharashtra and submit recommendations to the Government of Maharashtra. NCAS supported various campaigns by way of organising and co-hosting consultations, actively participating in campaign activities and publishing campaign material.

### **1. Campaign for Right to Land**

Land once again emerged as one of the most contested issues in the last year with introduction of a new Land Acquisition & Resettlement and Rehabilitation Bill in the parliament. People's struggle for protecting their land from being handed over to POSCO continued in Odisha. Land-grabbing and eviction of slum-dwellers in metropolitan cities were met with people's resistance. The issue of LAVASA continued being debated. All these and other such events demanded responses in more than one ways. NCAS played the role of supporting people's movements and struggles in a variety of manners.



## **A. National Consultation on Land Acquisition and Land Redistribution**

The Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India prepared a Land Acquisition and Resettlement and Rehabilitation Bill and invited comments and suggestions from people. NCAS made an attempt to draw together leading voices on the subject and activists from the field for a National Consultation on the above bill and the land rights issue on August 24, 2011 in Pune. The consultation was attended by around 100 participants and was addressed by important social leaders and activists from all over the country, from Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Punjab, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Chhatisgarh, Odisha, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Suggestions and recommendations to the proposed Bill were prepared after deliberations in the day-long consultation. The recommendations were later sent to the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India.

## **B. Support to Janadesh Yatra**

### **B.1. Consultations Concerning Land Rights in India**

Ekta Parishad, in cooperation with other organisations, has launched a Jan Satyagraha – a people’s non-violent action for justice. This campaign will conclude in the Janadesh Yatra with a month-long foot march starting on October 2, 2011 which is celebrated as International Non-Violence Day. Stretching over 350 kms, the march will begin in Gwalior and culminate in Delhi. The marchers will raise the issue ‘that access to land is essential for livelihood security and poverty reduction’.

NCAS, in association with Ekta Parishad, had organized a Land Rights Consultation in Pune on the February 21 and 22, 2011.

The second consultation on Land and Livelihood rights was organized on May 27, 2011 at NCAS Office. The consultation was attended by about 15 people comprising of youth group leaders, representatives of NGO’s and activists in the field of land rights. The participants decided to raise the issue of National Fish Workers’ Forum in Sandeshyatra. The route of the Yatra was finalized in the meeting.

### **B.2. Secretarial Support to the Janadesh Yatra**

NCAS has agreed to provide secretarial support to Janadhikar and its Maharashtra State convener Mr. Subhash Lomte. NCAS organized three state level meetings and hosted the event when the Yatra entered Pune district on December 6, 2011.

The first meeting regarding the preparation of the event was held on November 17, 2011 at S. M. Joshi Socialist Foundation Pune, which witnessed the participation of thirteen Pune based organizations. The group drafted a broad outline of the event which included a welcome of the Yatra at Baur (a place in Mawal taluka, Pune district where the farmers, who were fighting for the land rights, were brutally killed by the police), a press conference and a Convention on Urban Poor and their Land Rights.

In the second meeting that was held on 24th November, 2011 a small group named Jansatyagrah Samvad Yatra Swagat Samitee Pune was formed. The group constituted of 12 city based people's organizations. The group charted a program to strengthen the message of Janasatyagrah.

NCAS organised public meetings in Pune during the Jansatyagrah Samvad Yatra. A local organising committee was formed for the same. A press conference was also organised which was addressed by P. V. Rajagopal and representatives of the organising committee.

## **2. Support to Anti-POSCO Struggle**

NCAS continued to provide support to the people's struggle against POSCO. NCAS lent its support in the form of drafting appeals and memoranda, sending out action-alerts and deposing before various commissions. Articles written by NCAS team member highlighting the human rights violations in area were published in Odiya newspapers. Draft of an account of anti-POSCO movement is ready and is being designed for printing.

## **3. Campaign for implementation of Forest Rights Act**

### **A. Facilitating Sessions**

NACS team facilitated a session for the field volunteers of Anthra on FRA and Community Claims in Maharashtra. The training was held on May 19, 2011 in which participants from five districts of Maharashtra participated.

### **B. National Consultation on “Women, Livelihood and Community Rights”**

NCAS was one of the organisers for the National Consultation on “Women, Livelihood and Community Rights” held at Ranchi on September 14-15, 2011. The consultation discussed the issues of forest governance, NTFP rights, cooperatives and marketing, PTG groups, community rights and forest right movement and leadership from the women's perspective. Women leaders from across the country participated in the consultation.

### **C. Participation in National Meeting on Community Forest Rights**

NCAS team member participated in a national level brainstorming meeting organized by Vasundhara and Kalpavriksh in collaboration with Oxfam on December 17, 2011. The objective of this meeting was to initiate a process of information sharing and collective action on key issues related to recognition of Community Forest Rights (CFRs) under the Forest Rights Act 2006. The main focus of the meeting was to explore the possibility of initiating a national level learning and advocacy process with a predominant focus on CFRs. Many grassroots level organizations, community leaders and conservation organizations from all over the country participated in this meeting. The participating organisations decided to work in collaboration to put together case stories and advocacy material and undertake advocacy with Government of India on CFR related issues.

#### **4. Campaign for Implementation of Right to Education Act**

NCAS has prepared a handbook on RTE Act for workers in field. The draft and design of the book is ready for printing. The handbook in Hindi is written by Satyendra Ranjan with inputs from Ad. Ashok Agrawal (Delhi), Mr. Pravin Mahajan (Aurangabad, Maharashtra) and Ms. Geeta Mahashabde (Pune, Maharashtra).

#### **5. Campaign against LAVASA**

NCAS is supporting NAPM in its campaign against LAVASA from the very beginning. During the reporting period, NCAS lent its support to NAPM in the process of collecting evidence from people in the area to claim rights over their lands. In addition, NCAS team has been actively engaged in preparing submissions and sending out alerts on LAVASA issue.

#### **6. Fact Finding in Firing at Farmers in Maval Taluka of Pune District**

Three farmers protesting against diversion of water to the city of Pimpri-Chichwad and acquisition of their land for the pipeline were shot by the police near Pune. NCAS team visited the site and the injured in the hospital. Local organisations set up an independent fact finding committee to investigate the matter to which NCAS provided support in drafting the questions for investigation and solidarity support.

#### **7. Struggle against Forceful Eviction of Slum-Dwellers**

NCAS team participated in a three-day hunger strike led by Ms. Medha Patkar against forceful eviction of residents of Golibar area by Shivalik Ventures Ltd., the project developer for Golibar Societies.

#### **8. NCAS hosts Western Region People's Convention on Union Budget 2012-13**

People's Budget Initiative (PBI) is a network of budget groups and other CSOs interested in budget analysis and budget related advocacy. NCAS is a founder member and member of the organising committee of the PBI. One of the core mandates of *People's Budget Initiative* is to organize a National Convention on the approaching Union Budget every year for arriving at a common set of prioritized policy and budgetary demands for different sectors. The Charter of Demands prepared in the National Convention forms the basis of advocacy with the policymakers and members of legislature in the ensuing months. PBI organizes National Convention on Union Budget every year to prepare charter of people's demands from the Union budget.

This year, in order to decentralise the process of demand formulation and to ensure wider participation and better representation of people's aspirations, PBI has decided to hold regional conventions on Union Budget 2012-13. NCAS hosted the Convention of the Western Region that was held on November 26, 2011 at the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune. Around 50 activists and CSO representatives from Maharashtra, Gujarat,

Rajasthan and Dadara, Nagar-Haveli participated in the convention. Objective of this convention was to bring people (and groups working among people) together to discuss people's needs and aspirations and formulate concrete demands from the Union Budget 2012-13.

Dr. Ratnakar Mahajan (former Executive Chairman, State Planning Board, Maharashtra) inaugurated the Convention. He welcomed the initiative taken by the PBI in bringing a technical issue like budget in larger public discourse. He suggested that CSOs engage and collaborate with the State by way of such constructive actions.

The Convention discussed important issues in Indian Economy. Mr. Ramesh Padhye, a freelance journalist highlighted important issues in agriculture. He pointed out the fact that rain-fed agriculture and research and development have been neglected in budgets and special provisions be made in these two areas.

Com. Ajit Abhyankar (State Secretariat Member, CPI (M), Maharashtra and Joint Secretary, Maharashtra State Committee, CITU) flagged important issues in labour and employment. He stated that social security should be provided to all workers, whether in organised or unorganised sectors, and resources for this could be mobilised by charging a cess on corporate taxes. He called for abolition of contract labour practices and suggested that this rampant practice could be controlled by levying a tax on corporate employing contract workers. He criticised the Mauritius Route of FDI and appealed to the participants to demand restructuring of resource mobilisation methods – expansion of tax-base and increase in tax-GDP ratio.

Mr. Abhay Shukla (Convener, Jan Swasthya Abhiyaan) criticised the neo-liberal agenda of making an omelet without breaking eggs – social development without challenging growth trajectory. He advocated for effective and efficient public health system. He stated that public health system needs to be strengthened by employing sufficient human resources, improving work-conditions of people working in public health services and fund provisioning for procurement of diagnostic equipment and medicines. He called for strict regulation of private health sector.

Ms. Kiran Moghe (Joint Secretary, All India Democratic Women's Association) demanded strengthening of the public distribution system to ensure food security for all. She criticised the current debate on poverty line estimates that leads inevitably to targeting and demanded universal food security.

Ms. Pooja Parvaty (Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability) highlighted important issues in education and demanded at least six per cent of GDP be spent on education.

The participants broke into groups and discussed issues and framed demands from the forthcoming Union Budget. The groups discussed sectors and themes such as rural development, agriculture, marginalised sections of population (women, adivasis, dalits and

religious minorities), employment, education and health. The demands were presented in the plenary. The discussion on demands was moderated by Mr. Ravi Duggal (International Budget Partnership).

These demands were shared at the National Convention on Union Budget 2012-13 (held on December 7-8, 2011 at New Delhi). Dr. Shirish N Kavadi of NCAS was a panel speaker at this Convention and spoke on 'Adivasi Demands' .

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## **MEDIA ADVOCACY**

### **Learning:**

1. Spaces in mainstream print media for people's issues are fast shrinking and it is becoming increasingly difficult to find friends in media.
2. New forms of media – new generation media like blogging and e-groups - need to be explored.
3. Audio-visual medium, especially news channels play an important role in generating public discourse. This needs to be tapped keeping in mind content that is needed by the television media.

Basic objective behind media advocacy of NCAS is to support campaigns and highlight people's issues in the media to generate public discourse. The media team at NCAS worked closely with the campaign support team. The interns also played an important role in documenting events and campaigns which later helped media team in preparing press briefs.

### **Support to Campaigns**

NCAS supported campaigns (as mentioned above) by organising and conducting press meets, producing press briefs and audio-visual documentation of the events. NCAS team members also wrote articles in the main-stream print media in Hindi, Marathi and Odiya on issues of adivasis governance in Chhattisgarh, human rights violation in POSCO area, decentralised approach to development, etc. In addition, NCAS website hosts blogs in Hindi, Marathi and English where articles on people's issues and campaign initiatives are published regularly.

### **Workshop on Media Advocacy**

A two days workshop on media advocacy Skills was organised at Chenari, Dist. Rohtas (Bihar) on June 28-29, 2011. The workshop was facilitated by NCAS with the help of 'Jan Adhikar Kendra'. The workshop was organised around the following themes: (i) Media - the fourth pillar of democracy, (ii) People centered approach in media advocacy, (iii) History of media, (iv) alternative media and its impact,

The participants also discussed skills required for effective media advocacy. The participants wrote news about the workshop also they handled the still camera and understand the importance of photo in news paper. The participants created a 'Media calendar' for their own purpose. Participants also proposed to create a group of writers and publish handwritten quarterly magazine on dalit rights and other Issues in the nearby area where Jan Adhikar Kendra is working.

### **Media Directory**

NCAS has undertaken to prepare a media directory for use by activists and organisations in Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and Odisha. The work for the Maharashtra directory is over.

### **News Coverage of Activities in Press**

Most of the programmes organised by NCAS were covered by the press. Following is the list of news items published in print media.

25 August 2011	National Consultation on Land Acquisition and Land Redistribution	News published in Daily Lokmat
7 December 2011	Jana Satyagraha Samwad Yatra	News published in Pune Mirror
8 December 2011	Jana Satyagraha Samwad Yatra	News published in Daily Sakal (Marathi)
9 December 2011	Jana Satyagraha Samwad Yatra	News published in Daily Pudhari (Marathi)

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## CAPACITY TRAINING

### **Building Capacities, Perspective & Knowledge for People Centered Advocacy in South Asia: PHASE II**

*Report for the period April 2011 – Dec 2011:*

Since the year 2007, NCAS proactively as well as on invitation, engaged in building capacities of activists and organizations from South Asian countries in People Centred Advocacy – phase 1. In order to bring together fragmented efforts, and build a collective front, South Asian advocacy practitioners from five South Asian countries – Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and India, decided to create a learning platform with the aim of developing a perspective for South Asia level advocacy – phase 2. They undertook to critically study people’s advocacy struggles in the respective countries and collectively deliberated on the fundamental processes and issues in People Centred Advocacy through four workshops. Besides, the model of the ‘Community Learning Movement’ – for strengthening grass-roots micro-level advocacy that has been developed and demonstrated in India by NCAS, has been experimented in other South Asian countries as well.

A group of 25 committed individuals – consisting of activists, political scientists, NGO leaders and academicians from the five South Asian countries participated in this process. Believing that the best learning emerges from live and ground experiences of people’s struggles and movements operating within the given socio-political contexts of each of the South Asian countries, 12 case stories were documented in great detail and were central to all the thematic discussions in the workshops. Issues of livelihood, survival and access to natural resources have been addressed in these case stories. The experiences of ‘Community Learning Movement’ from each country were also brought into the workshops. These case stories and the learning that has emerged out of the entire process have been captured in “Resource books”. The books address the fundamental processes of ‘Organising and Mobilising’, and ‘Campaigning and Networking’ in people centred advocacy; and also address issues of ‘sustainability’ in people’s advocacy struggles.

The effort of phase 2 that began in Oct 2009 concluded this year in Dec 2011. The activities undertaken under the three components of the process during this year are as under

#### 1. CAP workshops:

This year was marked by two important workshops of CAP. The first titled ‘*People Centred Advocacy in South Asia “South Asians for Peace and Human Rights”*’ was held from July 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> July 2011. The contents of the resource books was approved, the members decided to translate into the local language of the country for better dissemination; and expressed ideas on continuing the CAP platform for building bridges across South Asia. During this workshop one day was dedicated for interactive sessions of the South Asian participants with youth and civil society groups in Pune in order to promote sense



of solidarity. Several resolutions for peace were passed by these groups. Following this workshop, a special public lecture by eminent journalist and peace activist Kuldip Nayar on role of media for promoting peace in South Asia for journalists and students of journalism/ media schools; and discussion with youth and other public in response to terrorist attacks in Mumbai, was also organized.

***‘Spaces For People Centred Advocacy In South Asia’***, the last workshop of this phase, was held on Dec 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011 in New Delhi. This workshop was held in collaboration with ‘SANSAD’ – South Asian Network for Social & Agricultural Development, and served a dual purpose – (i) The learning, the findings arising out of the process were shared with several Delhi-based groups engaged in South Asia level work and other interested civil society groups and (ii) The cross-cutting issues of gender, religious minority and caste based discrimination among south Asian countries were deliberated upon in order to make sure that they get addressed while planning the way forward. Members of the ‘Community of Advocacy Practitioners’ formed out of the project process and few other experts from Nepal and Sri Lanka also participated in the workshop. In all 41 delegates (18 women, 21 men) attended the workshop.

2. Resource books on the three themes in ***PCA Organizing & Mobilizing, Campaigning & Networking***, and ***Sustainability and Ownership*** were published and disseminated within India and in Pakistan, Bangla Desh, Afghanistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka. The entire discourse in these resource books emanates from live experiences of case studies documented from each of the participating S Asian countries. The copies of these books were provided to CAP members. Soft copies that had the design of the books were also provided so that translations could be easily accommodated in similar format.
3. The CLMs that were carried out in Bangladesh, Pakistan and India were completed and experiences shared and were found to be effective models for grass-root advocacy - that had potential for mobilization of grass-root groups across S Asia.

4. An evaluation by two external experts – one from India and other from Bangladesh was conducted in Nov 2011. While the project largely completed its commitments, the following recommendations were made in the evaluation report :
  - **For NCAS:** NCAS should continue to work on South Asian issues at two levels. One is to bring a SA perspective in advocacy practices among many organizations/movements it works with in India as well as develop strong SA linkages with networks. NCAS should possibly focus on the livelihood issues arising out of Globalization, Privatization and Liberalization policies, reforms pushed by IFIs in SA, Militarization and its impact both within each country and across SA.
  - **For all Stake holders:** The work done on the themes, case studies and resource books should continue and gaps should be filled by all stake holders individually and collectively. On the other hand, there is a vast experience of people centered advocacy in SA countries, the knowledge of its strengths and limitations; on the other there are newer and broader challenges. Therefore continuous learning and dissemination/sharing of the learning should be planned and worked upon in different ways by CAPs and participating organizations. Though there is corporatization of main stream media, social media has opened new avenues. These should be explored and used for further learning, sharing and building up linkages among struggles and networks in SA. NCAS in particular should also take the learning to grass root level activists and common people of India through the movements and groups it is working with.
5. The CLM process has successfully taken its roots at the grassroots level of four SA countries. It is being emerged as a social movement by the grassroots people themselves. Now it is important to consider the process of capturing the learning of these CLMs before devising any strategy relating to it. There is a possibility of building strong alliances among these grassroots group to create an active platform to exchange ideas, views and opinions through sharing experiences among them. The CLM process can facilitate a space bringing these groups/movements together in order to form such strong platform of these unheard voices.
6. Before devising effective strategies relating to the future of the CLM process in South Asian countries, it is highly important to hold an effective dialogue among the partner organizations with a view to comprehensively capture learning, opportunities and challenges associated with it. It is also important to include some participants in this dialogue sessions. Mere evaluation report is not enough to develop future direction of CLM process in South Asia.
7. Based on the learning from the project further workshops, conferences, for further political and strategic analysis of issues of South Asia and to evolve ways to work ahead collectively should be organized in each country and even collectively. More

organizations, experts, grass root activists, movements, networks, etc should be involved in the process.

8. The next project proposal should be formulated involving the CAPs who have participated consistently and actively in this project after few brain storming sessions. Some more people and experts as required should also be involved.
9. The work ahead/program should be planned for a longer period and not in project to project mode. However the roles and responsibilities, monitoring and evaluating strategies should be clearly defined and adhered to.
10. The way forward will not be possible without proper resources both human and others. This also should be worked out in detail.

Several important learning emerged out of this process. The collective process has created strong bonds within the South Asian study group and has in itself been an expression of solidarity. South Asian level advocacy, we learn, is a political proposition. Divisive politics, growing fundamentalism, caste-hatred, communal intolerance, terrorism have resulted in severe human rights violations across South Asia. State budgets show clear withdrawal from their welfare responsibilities and a heavy investment in militarization, also causing a war-like situation in the region. Marginalized communities heavily bear the brunt of such policies - be it the landless, small and marginal farmers, unorganized labourers, Dalits, religious minorities and other minority communities, indigenous and tribal communities, and especially women among these. Strict visa regimes of our governments have also kept the South Asian people apart.

The study process was insightful for both – advocacy at the local and national levels, as well as regional level.

- The case stories clearly show that mobilization has to be central to People Centred Advocacy in the wake of strong dominating and repressive forces. The requirement of a ‘critical mass’ in advocacy campaigns for impacting policies/ practices has been revealing. This has lead us to believe that mobilizing the vulnerable grass-roots marginalized communities is an essential requirement not only for local and national level advocacy but also for South Asian advocacy, without which it will not gather strength.
- All rights-based local struggles have to learn to perceive issues as being ‘South Asian’ in character and go beyond political boundaries. Policies of one country affect policies and peoples of another. National level advocacy for policy change – be it economic, social or any other - has to therefore consider the impact that such policy change can have on its neighbouring countries, as we see in the campaign against ship-breaking. Advocacy campaigns – whether local or national have to therefore analyse issues and frame them keeping this South Asian dimension alive. This

strategy would enhance South Asian solidarity of advocacy struggles and at the same time promote mobilization and better organisation.

- It clearly emerges from the case stories, as in the anti-SEZ campaign of Raigad, Maharashtra, that People Centred Advocacy addresses governance systems – the policies and structures - and uses spaces within it. Advocacy campaigns also use instruments such as laws, treaties etc. that reinforce entitlements as citizens and human beings, and for demanding state accountability. Such strategies provide the necessary legitimacy to the struggles and their demands, and thus promote the non-violence character of advocacy. The structure of SAARC, its charter and the several treaties that the eight member countries have signed thus emerge as potential instruments that should be studied, understood and used for South Asian advocacy.
- Advocacy struggles are long drawn and their sustenance poses as a great challenge. Strategies used for this purpose have been several and innovative. Engaging people in constructive endeavors that provide visible results, celebrating small victories, building collective leadership, inclusive politics, having conflict resolution mechanisms within the group, as in the anti-POSCO struggle, are among those that earned dividends.
- People Centred advocacy in war-like dictator regimes and in unstable political situations has always been a challenge. We find that media, be it print and electronic, internet blogs, twitters etc - has been extensively used for providing first-hand information on socio-political issues and shared with global media to generate global solidarity and vice-versa, as in case of Afghanistan during the Taliban rule. It is therefore imperative that a strong South Asian media front with a people centric perspective can go a long way in making an impact.
- We find that several advocacy struggles when organised as ‘South Asian’ have helped local groups to advocate with their own governments for the rights of citizens of another South Asian neighbour – eg. for release of fisherfolk who crossed borders and held prisoners, the ‘peace caravan’ etc. Such success stories provides us hope that it is South Asian level advocacy that can work in tackling our common and graver issues of communal violence, militarization, growing disparities due to economic reforms, exploitation of cheap labour, environmental hazards etc.
- Lastly, and importantly, we realize that as south Asians, we share a common culture, and mainstreaming culture would prove to be an effective strategy for mobilising the South Asian population for People Centred Advocacy.

For NCAS, as the facilitator of this South Asian effort, it has been a great learning process. It is imperative that only a collective effort can lead to a South Asia where its people will enjoy social justice, peace, human rights and a life of dignity. With this mission, NCAS resolves to work its way forward towards creating an enabling and empowering environment for the people of South Asia.

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## **RESEARCH AND DOCUMENTATION UNIT**

### **Adivasi Resource Centre**

NCAS has been working on governance and livelihoods issues of the marginalised communities from a rights based perspective since its inception. Adivasi Resource Centre (ARC) was initiated in 2008 as a special programme of NCAS to address governance and developmental issues of the adivasi community in central-eastern part of India. In the first two years it generated, demystified and disseminated knowledge on adivasi issues. The second phase of ARC began in November 2010 with an objective of strengthening its efforts and building on achievements and learning of the first phase.

#### **LEARNING**

1. The activities that are emerging from the experiences of the reporting year show us a ray of hope that in the coming two years there will be coordinated efforts for proper implementation of TSP, PESA and FRA by grassroots groups.
2. Many organisations and networks are incorporating adivasi issues in their agenda. Formation of broad-based networks on forest rights issue is an example.
3. Government and bureaucracy are engaging in some dialogue with the civil society. The civil society needs to identify and use opportunities and spaces for initiating dialogue.

#### **CHALLENGES**

1. Incorporating issues such as TSP into the agenda of civil society groups still remains a challenge. A non-confrontationist issue like TSP somehow is less appealing than implementation of the Forest Rights Act.
2. There are different opinions about PESA and its implementation and also about the role of the Governors in governance of the Scheduled Areas. It is a challenging task to bring all these different voices together to form unequivocal demand for implementation of PESA.
3. Pace of introduction of new policies and legislations in the name of inclusion poses a challenge before advocacy and training organisations like NCAS. These newly introduced policies and legislations need to be analysed, understood and demystified from an adivasi perspective. Increased role of the Union Government in framing policies and legislations in subjects in the States List make it very difficult to advocate for proper policy formulation.
4. Legislative advocacy still remains a challenge for ARC. The state level adivasi governance institutions and district or project level monitoring mechanisms are non-existent or defunct. Advocacy for proper implementation of schemes and programmes is a challenge in such a vacuum.

## ACTIVITIES

### A. Strengthening Knowledge creation and information dissemination

ARC published five booklets/report cards between April 2011 and March 2012 in Hindi, Marathi and English. In the coming year, ARC is committed to bringing out more publications, covering wider range of issues of *adivasi* governance. Importantly, all the forthcoming publications have been conceived and designed after consulting the target groups- NGOs, campaigns and community. Most of the publications do have a focus on advocacy and are used and referred to by advocacy groups and practitioners, public interest professionals, lawyers, media, academics, bureaucrats and the legislators.

1. **TSP in Union Budget 2011-12:** ARC had carried out an assessment of TSP under the Eleventh Five Year Plan period in its first phase. ARC continued tracking TSP and published a booklet on Assessment of TSP in the Union budget of 2011-12. This booklet assesses TSP in the light of recommendations of the Narendra Jadhav Task Force which was appointed by the Planning Commission in the year 2010.
2. ***Jungle Mein Ek Nayee Subaha*** (Ashok Chowdhury, Roma and Rajnish Gambhir): This booklet which documents the people's struggle for proper implementation of FRA in Uttar Pradesh is based on extensive feedback from the groups using the Hindi manual on Claim Filing Procedure for Community Rights under FRA.
3. **A Hindi CD-ROM on FRA:** A CD ROM in Hindi was published. The CD contains detailed case studies on community forest rights claims and copies of forms to be filled with clear and simple instructions on how to fill them, and tips on collection of required evidence. The audio-visual manual has also been included in the CD-ROM.
4. **Two booklets on Adivasi Governance Institutions in Chhattisgarh:** A series of booklets has been planned with the objective of providing adequate and relevant information about those government institutions and structures whose mandate is to work in the interest of adivasis in Chhattisgarh. The booklets contain general information about the institutions, their objectives, functions, structure, contact details and insights about the system. The idea of having a series of booklets, written in simple language, is to provide information which will help the activists in accessing these institutions and work towards making these institutions more accountable, participatory and responsive. This year **Two** such booklets were published. They were:
  - *Adivasi Mantrana Parishad* – Tribal Advosory Council
  - *Adivasi Anusandhan va Prashikshan Sansthan* - Tribal Research and Training Institute

## **5. Publications under Preparation**

The following briefs and booklets are in process.

Final drafts and designs of the following are ready and are being sent to printing:

1. A booklet on Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) in Maharashtra (Marathi)
2. A booklet on PESA in Maharashtra (Marathi)
3. *Eklavya ki Khoj (Hindi)* - Ashram schools in Chhattisgarh
4. Atyachar-Pratadana Nivaran Adhiniyam ke Pravdhan va Vyavasthaen (Hindi) – Rules and Systems under the SC-ST Prevention of Atrocities Act - a booklet in the series on updates on Adivasi Governance Institutions in Chhattisgarh.

Drafts of the following briefs are ready.

1. Tribal Sub-Plan in Union Budget 2012-13 (English)
2. Tribal-Sub-Plan in Odisha (English) – being translated into Odiya
3. Anusuchit Janjati Kalyan Samiti (Hindi) – Scheduled Tribes Welfare Committee in Chhattisgarh
4. Janjati Vikas Pradhikaran evam Abhikaran (Hindi) – Scheduled Tribes Development Commission and Authority in Chhattisgarh

### **Field testing of publications**

To understand usability of ARC publications, a special workshop was held in Chhattisgarh. Activists of grassroots based organisations participated in this workshop and gave their feedback and opinion on ARC publications. They found the publications informative. Though language used is easy, it needs to be made more reader-friendly. ARC team is preparing new texts keeping in mind suggestions made by the activists.

## **B. Adivasi Centred Advocacy**

### **1. Consultations on Land Rights**

A series of consultations with grassroots organisations, representative of affected communities, mass organisations were organised in the state of Chhattisgarh on proposed draft of Land Acquisition and Rehabilitation and Resettlement Bill, 2011 (LARR, Bill) on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2011, 20<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> Aug 2011. To understand the impact and consequences of land acquisition on adivasi community, the provision of existing LA Act and the status of rehabilitation were discussed along with sharing of experiences by affected community who were displaced and alienated from their land. The output of the consultations enhanced understanding on the draft bill, enlisting of suggestions

and demands and approved text of recommendations for the Ministry and the Parliamentary Standing Committee.

Similarly, a national level land rights consultation was organized on August 24, 2011 at Pune to gather views, comments and suggestions from across the civil society groups and to forward it to the policy-makers. A petition consisting objections, demands and suggestions on proposed LARR Bill was forwarded to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Rural Development.

### **3. Advocacy for FRA**

To give the groups working on FRA, an insight on importance of community forest rights, an interface with Nepal's CFR experience was planned under ARC by NCAS. ARC organised experience sharing meetings of Bhola Bhattarai, founder of FECOFUN (a nation-wide federation of Forest users groups in Nepal) with activists, various grassroots groups and networks actively involved in campaigns for implementation of FRA in Maharashtra, Odisha and Chhattisgarh.

Bhola Bhattarai shared his experience and exchanged thoughts with eminent personalities which included scientist Dr. Madhav Gadgil, and forest rights activists, practitioners and NGO representatives. Bhola's insights which evolved over the last 20 years of exercising community forestry in Nepal were appreciated by NGO representative working on FRA. Details of his interaction are as follows:

1. Interaction with eminent activists - Pune, 11 July 2011
2. Experience shared with the community of *Mendha* and *Marda*, who successfully claimed CFR - 12-13 July
3. Interaction with NGO representatives - Raipur, 14 July
4. Interaction with *Odisha Jangal Manch* (a network of grassroots groups working on CFR) - Bhubaneswar, 15 July
5. Interaction with various groups - Delhi (16 July)

A day later, at Dehradun, representatives of National Federation of Forest People and Forest Workers (NFFPPFW) and the Van Gujjar community from Rajaji Park met and shared with each other the story of struggle and experience of community forestry.

In addition a community claim workshop under FRA was organised for Chakeri Gramsabha in Udaipur block of Sarguja (Chhattisgarh) on September 05-06, 2011, with the objective of building the capacity of organisations and communities for proper implementation of FRA.

NCAS under ARC also jointly organised a national conference on September 14-15, 2011 with Women's Forest Rights Action Committee, National Federation of Forest People and Forest Workers (NFFPPFW), Centre for World Solidarity, Jharkhand Women Commission and Shramjeevi Mahila Samiti to make women's rights on forest



an important aspect of FRA. Around 200 women delegates in convention from Jharkhand, U.P., M.P., H.P., A.P., Odisha and Chhattisgarh gave a unanimous call to involve women of forest dependent communities to make FRA a success by demanding ownership rights for single women (who depend on forest produce for livelihood). In the inaugural session, NCAS's booklet "*Jungle Mein Ek Nai Subaha*" was released by Mr. Champai Soren (Minister, Social Welfare) and Ms. Bimala Pradhan (Minister, Child Welfare), both renowned adivasi legislators from Jharkhand.

### C. WORKSHOPS

**Maharashtra** - A state level workshop on TSP in Maharashtra was organised on July 28, 2011. Around 25 activists working on ground with adivasi communities participated in the workshop. The participants discussed concept of TSP, its implementation, problems associated with and spaces for advocacy.

**Odisha** – A workshop on “Understanding Tribal Sub-Plan” was organised at Koraput, Odisha on January 5, 2012 in collaboration with SPREAD, a local organisation. Around 50 activists participated in the workshop.

**Chhattisgarh** – A workshop on TSP was organised with the help of other civil society groups. The workshop was held in Raipur, Chattisgarh on January 7, 2012. Around 50 participants representing a broad range of organisations, tribal communities and academics, discussed the TSP in the state. During the discussion, a clear demand was raised that the *panchayats* should be made the implementation unit for the TSP and at least one agency made for development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PTGs) must be monitored and analysed.

### D. ADVOCACY WITH GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS

State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD), a training and resource center for elected representatives of Panchayats under the Odisha State Government has shown interest in collaborating with ARC in organizing training on the provision of PESA. Exchange of publications and sharing of information is in process with SIRD, Bhubaneswar. Similarly, the Odisha State SC & ST Research Institute, a state institute that provides the government with relevant support on policies and programmes related to adivasis has expressed interest in collaborating with ARC in studies on aspects of adivasi governance in future.

### E. ADVOCACY WITH MEDIA

ARC continued its efforts to bring issues of adivasi governance in public discourse through media. Interaction with media persons and providing them with information, briefings and ARC publications on adivasi related issues are part of ongoing efforts for generating public discourse. Newspaper articles on adivasi issues in Marathi, Hindi, Odiya and English have also been written in the year.

NCAS website is another important platform where stories, news and views on adivasi governance have been posted and published for wider dissemination.

## **F. CAPACITY BUILDING AND NETWORKING**

### **1. The Community Learning Movement (CLM)**

NCAS built network with various organisations active on adivasi related issues in the first phase of ARC. Continuation of that relationship with a more focused approach was felt as a necessity by both NCAS and its partner organisations. Therefore, it was decided that ARC build capacities of select partners on adivasi related governance issues through the Community Learning Movement (CLM). NCAS has partnered with two such organisations, one each from Odisha and Chhattisgarh.

*Chhattisgarh - Dalit Adivasi Manch* (DAM) is working in the districts of Raipur and Mahasamund in Chhattisgarh on the issues like right to food, right to work, against forced displacement and atrocities. Since partnering with NCAS, DAM has undertaken to enable people to get entitlements under FRA. The young and trained cadres from the villages have taken the responsibility to make people aware about the Act. The first workshop was organised on August 16-17, 2011 at Pithora. The second workshop was held on October 30-31.

*Odisha - Adivasi Kranti Sanghatana* (AKS) in Odisha is a 15 year old people's organisation of adivasis community in the district of *Dhenkanal*. The first workshop under CLM was organised at Gangamunda on October 22-23, 2011. Participants from 25 villages largely populated by adivasi community participated in the workshop.

### **2. Facilitated Sessions in other Capacity Building Workshops**

ARC team members were invited to facilitate session related to adivasi governance. This is the sign of growing recognition of ARC's work on adivasi issues. ARC representatives facilitated sessions on adivasi governance, PESA - its provisions and its realisation in the context of adivasis and Chhattisgarh, Impact of provisions of Mining Act, and on right to land and FRA, etc.

## **G. Networking for Promoting Adivasi Issues with other Organizations**

From the perspective of putting adivasi interest forward in government budgetary process, the ARC members participated in the National Convention on Union Budget 2012-13, where the demands of adivasis from the Union Budget were prepared and discussed. Also, in October 2011, they contributed on the thematic papers on TSP, SCSP and agriculture, which were discussed during a consultation of civil society groups on the Twelfth Five Year Plan.

ARC also provided inputs and information in various state consultations on PESA organized by Agramami in Odisha (October 11-12, 2011), People's convention on

rights over natural resources at Gandhmardan (Odisha), consultation on LARR Bill 2011 in Odisha, consultation on Traditional Communities' Livelihood and Need of Strategic Alliance at Shimla and consultation on De-notified and Nomadic Tribes in Maharashtra.

ARC team participated and presented cases and instances of violation of human rights of adivasis in the states of Chhattisgarh and Odisha in 2010-11 through meetings with Special Rapporteur of UNHRC at Bhubaneswar and Kolkata in Jan 2011 and, later with NHRC (September 13, 2011) and gave inputs in Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process of status of Human Rights in India.

As a part of Secretarial support to Janadesh (nation-wide campaign for land rights) by Ekta Parishad in Maharashtra, NCAS organised various state level consultations and meetings with groups and networks involved in land rights in Maharashtra. Five such consultations and meetings were supported throughout the year.

Regular support to anti-POSCO struggle in Odisha is provided by the ARC team member through helping them in writing reports and updates, action alerts and connecting them with other support groups and resources.

## **H. AN UPDATE OF ACTIVITIES BETWEEN APRIL AND AUGUST 2012**

### **1. Maharashtra State Level Consultation on Adivasi Issues**

A day-long state level consultation on "Adivasis in Maharashtra: Issues in Development and Governance" was organised on 17 April 2012 at YASHADA, Pune. The consultation was organised jointly by NCAS and the Centre for Equity and Social Justice, YASHADA. Around 30 participants from various organisations in Maharashtra participated in the consultation. The consultation discussed issues in implementation of FRA, formulation and implementation of developmental programmes for adivasis and status of PESA implementation on Maharashtra.

Main objective of this consultation was to bring together activists and government officials to discuss and explore ways for proper formulation and implementation of policies for adivasi development and just governance. The Government Officials were invited to the consultation, but could not join due to their busy schedule.

### **2. CLM Workshops**

**Chhattisgarh:** A CLM workshop was held in Pithora on 15 and 16 July 2012. The content of the discussion in this workshop was Community Forest Rights. The team conducted four follow up meetings with the villagers and Ban Adhikar Samitis in those respective villages to discuss about the implementation of the FRA.

**Odisha:** The third CLM workshop was held in July 2012 in which 50 participants from 28 villages in the field areas of Adivasi Kranti Sanghtan, Dhenkanal participated.

**Maharashtra:** The team of Maharashtra met with a representative of Garib Dongri Sanghatana (CLM partner). The team discussed detailed on the nature of the partnership with “Garib Dongari Sanghatana” and the plan for one year. The first workshop for the tribal activists of the GDS is planned on August 28, 2012.

### **3. Participation in Other Programmes**

#### **Odisha:**

- The ARC team member participated in a meeting on draft rules 2012 under FRA proposed by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2012. The team member took responsibility to coordinate, facilitate and provide support to the programs for consultations on the draft rules.
- The team member facilitated session on TSP in a one day workshop to discuss on the Tribal Sub-Plan and its relevance in the context of tribal area development organized by RCDC on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2012.
- The team member participated in the meeting of leaders of all mass movements in Odisha organized by National Alliance of People’s Movement (NAPM) on 30<sup>th</sup> July.
- The team member commented on the draft complain on human rights violation by POSCO Jagatsinghpur district, Odisha for National Contact Point (NCP) of Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries like South Korea, Norway and Netharland.
- ARC facilitated consultation on the role of governor in the scheduled areas on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> July 2012. This consultation was a preparatory process for sharing the ongoing critical situations in the Scheduled Areas and to sensitize the Governor of Odisha for exercising his power as enshrined in the 5<sup>th</sup> Scheduled of the Constitution.
- Sandeep presented a detailed advocacy plan to reach out the authorities concerned at State Level Monitoring Committee (SLMC), other policy makers and media in the state level consultation at Bhubaneswar on assertion of community rights on forest within framework of FRA-2006 on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2012. The consultation was organised by Odisha Jungle Mancha, a network of organisations working for the people’s right over forest and forest produces. NCAS video manual “Kagaj Ki Ladi Kagaj se” was well accepted by the participants of the consultation.
- Extended support to Paudi Bhuinya (PTG) of Khandhar Hills of Sundargarh district, Odisha. In a very tragic and inhuman incident Government of Odisha Forest Department burnt down 18 houses of Paudi Bhuinya- a primitive tribal group (PTG) in Bonai Forest division of Sundargarh district on 15<sup>th</sup> April 12. A memorandum was written and submitted to the SCST Development Department and Governor of Odisha. The DFO visited the site and gave Rs3000/- (three thousand) to Derula Van Sarkshan samiti as immediate assistance towards food and other necessary things.

- Facilitated a session in a meeting on 'Three years of BJD Government in Odisha & UPA Government at Centre : A Report Card from Adivasi Youth Perspective' on May 22, 2012 organised by Janata Vikash Manch.

### **Maharashtra**

A day-long meeting was organized by the Garib Dongri Sanghatana ( GDS) at Chawand village on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2012. The GDS is working for the adivasi's right over forest and forest resources at Junnar and Ambegaon talukas, District of Pune. The purpose of the meeting was to identify issues/priorities of tribals of Junnar related to Land, Forest Rights Act and Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP). It was decided that with the support from ARC, GDS will organize training programmes for the villagers and activists of Garib Dongri Sanghatana on the provisions of Forest Rights Act 2006, motivate people to formulate 'Van Hakka Samiti'' in their respective villages and file claims to individual and community's claim to recognize rights over forest land as per the Forest Rights Act, 2006.

## **Accessing Economic and Social Rights**

This project, titled ‘Accessing Economic and Social Rights: A Bottom-Up Approach’ seeks to understand the extent to which people in both urban and rural India access their economic and social rights within the existing district level judicial and quasi- judicial system and the systemic features that constrain them from accessing these.

In February 2011, the team in Maharashtra began its fieldwork. This consisted of interviewing lawyers, litigants and judges in two district courts and four taluka courts. The geographical areas mapped for this purpose were: Pune District, including Junnar and Khed (Rajgurunagar) talukas and Osmanabad District including Paranda and Kalamb talukas.

The fieldwork was split into two parts to be completed over six to eight months each. In the first phase, beginning March 2011, the team focused on respondents in the Pune district court, Junnar Taluka Court and Khed (Rajgurunagar) Taluka Court. Pune has a very large and busy district court. The Bar Association has more than 1500 lawyers. The teams met with about 20 judges in the district court and four judges in the two taluka courts to discuss with them their understanding of economic and social rights (ESRs), the hurdles they face in deciding ESR claims, if any, and their perceptions of alternative forums of dispute resolution. Team members also interacted with litigants in the courts to know more about the types of cases commonly filed, the challenges in accessing institutions of justice and preferred forums of dispute resolution. Besides the district court interviews were also conducted in the family court, labour court and with the juvenile justice board.

In the second phase that began in October 2011, the team proceeded to conduct similar interviews in Osmanabad district. As compared to Pune, the social demographics of Osmanabad indicate a relatively low level of development. The maximum cases in the courts of Osmanabad district court concern land acquisition claims. Paranda and Kalamb taluka courts have very small bar associations. The quantum of litigation is also not large with maximum disputes relating to women’s maintenance and land.

Between March 2011 and April 2012 the team has conducted a total of 175 interviews. The team in Maharashtra continued fieldwork in Osmanabad district until July 2012.

This project has been a multi-state study. Along with Maharashtra, research is also being carried out in the state of Gujarat by Centre for Social Justice and in Himachal Pradesh by Jagori Grameen. The team in Maharashtra was actively involved in training the teams in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh with respect to modifying questionnaires to suit the social demographics and working methods of the local judiciaries, conducting and transcribing interviews and making quarterly summaries.

In Gujarat the fieldwork began at the same time as in Maharashtra. The team in Gujarat covered a total of twelve districts focusing on one taluka in each district. The study in Himachal Pradesh began only in August 2011. Jagori Grameen is carrying out research in one district with focus on the district court and all the taluka courts there.

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