

ANNUAL REPORT: 2011 -2012

“Social Initiatives for Growth and Networking” (SIGN) is the official Body of the Catholic Bishops of Jharkhand for social concern and human development. It anchors the efforts of the 8 Social Service Societies of the dioceses of Ranchi, Gumla, Jamshedpur, Simdega, Khunti, Daltonganj, Hazaribagh and Dumka in promoting a just and humane society based on the gospel values of love, peace, equality and dignity to all. The Society, established in June 2006, was registered in Jharkhand on 23.12.2009 bearing the Registration Number 731. It was granted the 12A registration of tax exemption on 25.05.2010 and has been granted FCRA Registration on 24th December 2010. The Registration Number of FCRA is 337800203.

SIGN, the official organization of the Catholic Bishops of Jharkhand for social concern and human development is extremely pleased to bring out its second Annual Report and share with you our friends, well wishers, benefactors the passionate engagement of SIGN in the development of the rural poor eking out their living in the far flung villages of Jharkhand. SIGN is enjoying a wonderful partnership with all the Diocesan Social Service Societies in the dioceses of Jharkhand and offers them quality support in their initiatives and jointly works with them for the uplift of the poor.

SIGN remains indebted to its President, Vice President, the members of the governing body and the general body, the partner Directors, the donor agents, friends, benefactors, well wishers and very specially the people for whose cause SIGN is working. SIGN appreciates the support and the great partnership.

THE PROGRAMES UNDERTAKEN BY SIGN DURING THIS YEAR (2011-12)

1. **Natural Resource Management** programme is continued with the facilitation and coordination and implementation by all the eight partners in the dioceses of Jharkhand promoting sustainable livelihood by restoring and regenerating Natural Resources through Integrated Management techniques and enhancement of capacity of the partners and communities to empower them for an effective takeover of the responsibilities for the implementation of development plans, strategically for better accessibility, impact, control and the management of the resources available in the area. The programme used the strategy of capacity building through trainings on watershed management, mapping of local livelihood, community mobilization, rights to food etc. The project inspired the people to appreciate the natural resources available in their villages and helped them to find ways and means to make the optimum use of the resources towards sustainable development and also empowered them to make claim on their rightful entitlements. The program also focussed on hardware activities like farm bunding; percolation tanks, Nadep compost pit etc. The project had great impact on the people as they organised themselves into various groups to work for the development of their respective villages.
2. **Modal Panchayat: Integrated, Sustainable, and Development programme** is an on going programme to empower and to enable the village people to be partners in the process of the development of their community. Thus the adopted approaches are door to door visit, village meetings, getting a welcome letter from every village community, mobilization of the community, completing a micro plan, conducting capacity building programs based on the outcomes of the micro-plans and needs of the place, tapping government resources wherever it is possible and taking up campaign to register children in the school, health education, kitchen garden etc. People are awakened, motivated and getting organized into Self Help Groups, Kisan Clubs and Youth Clubs etc. The effort is expected to reap much fruit in the

course of time shown by the signs of growth in the life of the target villages spread in all the 8 dioceses of Jharkhand. The approach is fully people centred and right based.

3. **The Capacity Enhancement Programs** for the different stakeholders were organized in the partner places on **Livelihood, Rights and Governance**. The participants were given sufficient information and knowledge on the 3 mentioned themes. The aim of this programme is developing persons of resourcefulness in each partners areas through the capacity enhancement programme on the major themes of livelihood, governance, rights and system management. The objective of the programme is to build solid resource teams in the villages to achieve integrated development of the poor, making the participants experts in the thrust areas of livelihood, governance and rights for the development of the people and imparting expertise to the participants on the art of implementing monitoring, reporting and documenting. SIGN has conducted the workshop on good governance providing clarity and enhancing the understanding of good governance, revival of the traditional governing system and its values.
4. **Health related Capacity building programs** were organised for the nurse sisters to strengthen and capacitate them as they are rendering quality health service to the rural poor. The new initiative to capacitate the health sisters working in the rural health centres on Primary Health Care, Health based Community Development, National Rural Health Mission and Behavioural Change Communication paved the way for an involved reflection and discussion on quality health service to the poor. The programme facilitated to increase the knowledge, improve the skills, imparted clear understanding on primary health care. Another objective of the programme was to bring health behaviour change among people living in the rural areas and provide knowledge about the government programs. The trainings brought to light the need of '**Standard Treatment Guideline**'. Many doctors and experts in collaboration with CDMU, Kolkata prepared the guideline and it was released on the Regional Golden Jubilee celebration of the Caritas India on 21st March 2012 at SDC, Ranchi. The Nurse Sisters working in Jharkhand have been given a copy of the same for study and reference.
5. SIGN networked with **NABARD** and in close association with them organized capacity building programs for the faith based NGOs in all the partner places. The programme concerned on gathering Data on the existing SHGs formed by the partners, re-orientation on SHG formation, its goals and objectives and to make block based action plan for forming more SHGs in partnership with the faith based NGOs – the partner organizations of SIGN. The outcome of the training is that people received more clarity on the subject and a close interaction was made possible with many faith based organizations.
6. **WORKSHOP ON AWAKENING THE ADIVASI SOUL'** SIGN also has taken up a novel program called '**Awakening the Adivasi soul**' which inspires the Adivasis to relive their rich heritage and traditions while gaining sufficient knowledge on their rights and entitlements. Workshops were conducted in the State and the diocesan levels. The purpose of the program was to prepare trainers on tribal heritage and rights in order to make them the enlightened instruments in working for the awakening of the Adivasi souls. The workshops received a animated response from the participants.