

NEWSLETTER JUNE 2024

Value Addition Training for Women Farmers: To empower women such a way that they would start earning immediately, SIGN organized value addition training for women farmers in five different Districts. The purpose of the training was to make



participants realize that how, easily available things, like Mahua, and Maruwa could be made more valuable. These are easily available things in the villages. If these are sold without adding any value to it. It would bring less income. But value is added on these so that it would bring more income. With this intention in Gumla from 4th June to 5th June, in Hazaribagh from 7th June to 8th June, in Khunti from

15th to 16th June and in Simdega from 23rd to 24th June and in Ranchi from 29th to 30th June these two days' trainings were organized, where 31 participants in Gumla, 30 Participants in Hazaribagh, 34 participants in Khunti, 42 participants in Simdega and 31 participants in Ranchi participated. Trainer Jyoti Tirkey taught the participants how to make MOMO, Laddu, and Cake out of Ragi, whereas the Trainer Romola Toppo taught the participants how to make pickle out of Bitter Gourd (Karela), Peas (Channa), tamarind, and Jack fruit. The training was conducted in participation method in which all the participants equally participated.

One-day workshop on Tribal Philosophy and Gram Sabha: SIGN organized many one-day workshops on tribal philosophy and Gram Sabha in seven districts viz. Ranchi, Lohardaga, Gumla, Simdega, Khunti, Latehar and Garhwa of Jharkhand, where the Project Coordinators talked about Adibasiyat saying Adivasi means the first settlers of



the land, whereas adibasiyat means the way of living the philosophy of a Tribal (Adivasi). Then they went on to discuss the philosophy of Tribal saying that

the first sign of tribal is **Co-existence** with the nature. Tribals by nature do not exploit the nature, but save the nature. Secondly, tribals believe in **Communitarian Living**. It is reflected in their day-to-days life like settlement of a village, or in marriage celebration or in hunting or say plantation. Third one is **Equality**. In tribal community every is

equal. There is no difference between rich and poor. Fourth one is **Autonomy**. They have their own **(Self) Governance system**. **Self-reliance** is the fifth one. Earlier



tribals never dependent on anyone. Sixth one is **Mutual Support**. **Honesty** is the mark

of a tribal. They do not cheat anyone. Eighth one is **Self-Respect**. They are not into begging, nor they like to be slave of anyone. One cannot make them work by abusing them. Tribal people are **Fearless** people. They are not frightened to live in the forest. They were the first one raise voice against the British Government. They have the fight ability. And finally tribals are known for **Respecting the rights of others** like they do not drink the milk of animals only because according their understanding young



animals has first right over the milk of its mother. During these one-day workshop Coordinators also talked about Gram Sabha, which is self-governance system of tribals. The traditional system of governance has been recognized in the 5th schedule area. To implement this, PESA law

has also been made in 1996. In the traditional governance system Pradhan, Mahto, Kotwar, baiga, Pahan etc. people come who are responsible for running village. Gram Sabha is also called the third government. There are total 8 committees of Gram Sabha which run the Gram Sabha smoothly. It is the need of the present time that a union of Gram Sabha be formed, where there could be Village Level Gram Sabha, Block Level Gram Sabha, District Level Gram Sabha and State Level Gram Sabha. The traditional Self-Governance system runs according to collective thinking. The post of village head is hereditary, but if the village head is not qualified, that is, he is drunkard, a lunatic, a criminal, a mental patient, he can be removed. Youth are unaware of all these and so it is an eye opening of them. These workshops are quite beneficial for them and whole of villagers at large.

World Environment Day: SIGN celebrated World Environment day from 5th June to 15 June in 5 project blocks i.e., Amrapara, Barhet, Chainpur, Mahudanr and Jagannathpur in the districts of Pakur, Sahebganj, Palamu and West Singhbhum successively. These are the blocks where SIGN is implanting Mother and Child Health care project. In Kumardiha village of Amrapara block 38 participants, in Gorma village of Barhet block 45 participants, in Kothimahua village of Chainpur Block 59 participants, in Surkain village of Mahudanr Block 40 participants



and in Kakuita and Gitlpee villages of Jagannathpur Block 49 participants gathered for World Environment Day. The World Environment Day celebration was based on the theme of the day which was “**land restoration, halting desertification and building drought resilience**”. The day was planned with the community, PRI (**Panchayati Raj Institution**) leaders, SHG (**Self Help Group**) Leaders and the children. The Day was celebrated with a Rally in and around the village with slogans exhorting the community to need for taking care of environment. Those slogans were: ‘**Paryawaran Bachaye to Pran Bachaye**’, (If we Save the Environment, we Save our lives) ‘**Paryawaran hai sabki Jaan, Wriksh laga kar karo iska samman**’ (Environment is everyone’s life,

respect it by Planting tree), **Mat failao pradushan, Paryawaran ka karo Sanrakshan'** (Don't Spread the pollution, Save environment). After the rally with slogan and placards, they gathered in a common place in village where project team gave the



key messages to the community. After this there was time for discussion, where they agreed to restore land by planting trees, avoiding the use of polythene bags, reducing use of chemical fertilizer etc. Everybody agreed to plan at least 5 plants per family.

Besides these, in Hazaribagh 45 participants came together under the leadership Sukhram, the field staff of SIGN to celebrate World Environment on 5th June. These 45 women had a rally in and around the Village. In the rally they exhorted the villagers to protected Jal (Water), Jangal (Forest) and Jameen (the Earth). After the rally they discussed about Global warming, where they discussed year after the temperature of Hazaribagh so also the world at large in increasing. It is because at local level there is lot of cutting of trees, so they made promises to protect the forest and plant trees.

Revisiting of Regional Perspective Planning and Community-led Development:

From 27th June to 28th June, SIGN organized two-days' workshop on Regional Perspective Planning and Community-led development. There were 32 participants from eight dioceses of Jharkhand. On the first day Fr. Bipin facilitated the discussion on revisiting SIGN's Strategic Planning. He said that SIGN has ten thrust areas on which mandate is given by the Governing Board to work on it. This is the second Strategic Planning, the discussion of which SIGN had in 2019, where the Directors of all the partner Diocesan Social Service Societies were present. It was approved by the Governing Board in 2021. He said that the first thrust area in Natural



Resource Management and Livelihood, which divided into three areas viz. Climate Adaptive Agriculture, Macro Level Farmers' Producers Organization and Food Security to Food Sovereignty. The second thrust area is

Safeguarding of Child and Vulnerable Adults, which is very necessary in the present context. Third thrust area is Resource Mobilization, where he talked about visibility of

our work through social media. Fourth thrust area is Human Trafficking and Safe Migration. He said that migration is a big concern in today's world. Even Church is concerned about it, so each diocese need to work on it. Fifth thrust area is inter-religious harmony and networking of like-minded NGOs. Then rest of the thrust areas are Gender

Equality, Education for all, Health for all, Volunteerism and Institutional Development & Good Governance. In the afternoon, participants were asked how they would take it forward. With this first day was over. On the second day, Mr Walter discussed the Four Key Pillars Strategies introduced by Caritas Indian i.e., Empowering Animation, Dialogue, Volunteerism and



Sharing Communities. He said that all these are part of Community-led Development. As long as our approach of project-led or NGO-led, we are not going to succeed. We need to take community-led approach. For this, first of all we have to empower the community, through various trainings. And then listen to their worries, their struggle and their needs. We also have to dialogue with the duty bearers. Then in order to build their confidence, send them to Block office or Panchayat office to meet the officials, where you have already made connection. In this way we can build their confidence and empower them. Third thing we can ask the community to give few people, who work on behalf of the community. And finally, sit with the community and plan for the development of the community. If it is their plan, what community can give and rest all from where shall we get. This way community can start working on their development issues.