

## Direct Intervention Initiative for Tribal Families in Eight Villages in Purulia

**Purulia, West Bengal:** In the eight villages in Balrampur block of Purulia, the ration cards of below poverty line tribal families are kept and maintained by the PDS dealers, proper implementation of MGNREGA has not begun in the absence of any systems and processes, the tribal women in these villages have suffered a lot due to lack of access to basic health care, education, legal and social entitlements.



The ineffective delivery mechanism of services and entitlements added with social exclusion of tribal people, especially women have had an adverse impact on the overall development of the Balrampur block.

IGSSS initiated a direct intervention project under its Sustainable Options for Uplifting Livelihood (SOUL) Programme in Kadamdih, Chakulia, Ruchap,

Burudih and Juradih villages from Dada Gram Panchayat and Shyamnagar, Ichadih and Suraidih villages in Bela Gram Panchayat in Balrampur block of Purulia district.

The Participatory Research Appraisal was recently conducted to help the communities develop micro plans for their respective villages. The villagers participated in awareness meetings on the various methods of execution of micro plans with support from Panchayati raj institutions and government departments. The objective of these awareness meetings was to sensitize these tribal families on the ways to accessing their legal entitlements.

## Leadership and Personality Development Workshop for Youth

**Itanagar, Aurnachal Pradesh:** A workshop on leadership and personality development was organised to orient the youth on leadership qualities and personality development through interactive engagement such as games, skit and demonstrations. The workshop emphasized that good leadership skills is key to village development process.

The session on personality development highlighted the need to harness one's inner self and the need to develop a positive attitude towards life for personality



enhancement. Essential traits required to develop good leadership skills and constructive personality was also discussed threadbare.

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"As long as I am alive, I don't want others to go through what I have gone through. Only rape survivors know what rape really is," she says.

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## Caste Discrimination Restricts People's Participation in Gram Sabhas

**Vadodara, Gujarat:** Caste discrimination restricts people's participation in gram sabhas in the villages of Madhya Pradesh, this was revealed during a day long workshop on the 'Role of Gram Sabha' organised during the field visit of IGSSS Vadodara Team to Madhya Pradesh.



During the workshop it was reflected that a significant number of the villagers are unaware about the existence of Gram Sabha and its functioning. In some villages the Gram Sabha meetings exists only in paper whereas in few villages due to caste discrimination people are not allowed to attend the Gramsabha.

The workshop demonstrated models on how to raise issues in the Gram Sabha and accessing rights with regard to the Gram Sabha and the processes involved during exercising them. Furthermore, it was stated that the villagers need to participate in the Gram Sabha to weed out corruption and progressively participate in the village development process.

## Developing Rapport among Local Institutions to Engage Youth in Village Development Process

**Churachandpur, Manipur:** An Advocacy and Networking meeting was organised under the Youth Development Programme of IGSSS and was attended by 47 people. Several key institutions of the district such as Kuki Student and Women Human Rights Organization and members of district council attended the meeting. The meeting was aimed at developing rapport with the local organizations working on the issues of youth and work together to engage the youth in the development process of their respective villages and district.

## Perspective Building on Climate Change, Governance and Women and Land Rights

**Ranchi, Jharkhand:** A perspective planning meeting was held on the issue of 'Changing state scenario and exploring the way forward through possible strategic intervention'. Around 20 representatives comprising academicians, development professionals, social activists, civil society organizations and researchers participated in the event.

Key points of discussions during the meeting focused on the current socio – political and economic status of the state, sustainable livelihood opportunities and the impact of climate change, governance, women and land rights in the state of Jharkhand and on the scenario of youth development in the state