

ANNUAL REPORT

2015-16



~SRUTI

Society for Rural, Urban & Tribal Initiative

ABOUT SRUTI

SOCIETY FOR RURAL, URBAN AND TRIBAL INITIATIVE

SRUTI – Society for Rural, Urban and Tribal Initiative was founded in 1983, on the belief that individuals are powerful instruments of social change and transformation. Originally conceived by social sector leaders Tara Ali Baig, Bunker Roy, Ela Bhatt, Lotika Sarkar, Poonam Muttreja, Samir Chaudhuri and Dr. Ramalingaswami, the **SRUTI Fellowship Programme** supports individual and community action towards securing justice, rights, dignity and opportunity for some of India's most marginalised groups.

SRUTI aims to harness the power of individuals in order to attain its vision of a society that is based on the core values of justice, equity, compassion, respect and dignity for all. The importance of **collective social action and local leadership at the grass root** is the crux of the SRUTI Fellowship. SRUTI and its Fellows believe that social change and sustainable economic development can be achieved by empowering oppressed and vulnerable communities to access justice, equality and opportunity and be true stakeholders in a vibrant democracy.

SRUTI's core mission, therefore, is to identify and invest in individuals armed with zeal and a vision to work towards the ideals of a more equitable society within a democratic framework; individuals with idealism, staying power and the ability to mobilize communities at the grassroots to seek solutions to address their most pressing issues through the idea of the 'sangathan', a peoples' group that facilitates community social action.

Some key issues dealt with by the SRUTI Fellows and the sangathans are: Access to, and Ownership of Natural Resources - *Jal, Jangal, Zameen*; Land and Forest Conservation; Small Holder and Sustainable Agriculture; Right to Food; In situ Livelihood; Panchayati Raj Institution and Governance; Rights to the City; Education; Right to Information; Caste and Gender, among others.

SRUTI extends a mix of financial support and intermediary inputs to an individual Fellow/a group of Fellows through the Fellowship Programme that has evolved substantially over the decades. The Fellowship Programme is financed by resources mobilized, to the extent possible, from within the country, through support partnerships and a range of fundraising efforts. The Fellowship Programme, its related Advocacy and Outreach efforts, and the Resource Mobilization program, form the key pillars of SRUTI.

For more information, please visit www.sruti.org.in

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME 2015-16

FELLOWS AT A GLANCE

Since its inception, SRUTI has supported the work of more than **128 fellows** at the grass roots in 18 states across India. SRUTI currently supports **30 Fellows, 117 karyakartas (volunteers/activists) and their groups in 13 states:** Uttarakhand, Delhi, Rajasthan, Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh. The current outreach of SRUTI Fellows is over 7361 villages and 250 urban clusters covering around 6.8 lakh families and 34 lakh people.

ANDHRA PRADESH

1. B. Sunanda - Mitra Association for Social Service, Chittoor dt.
2. K. Victoria – Navjeevan, Nellore dt.

BIHAR

3. Kailash Bharati – Mazdoor Kisan Samiti, Gaya dt.
4. Sanjeev Dom – Bahishkrit Hitkari Sangathan, Khagaria dt.

CHHATTISGARH

5. Alok Shukla – Jan Abhi Vyakti, Korba and Sarguja dt.
6. Jang Sai – Gaon Ganrajya Sangathan, Sarguja and Ambikapur dt..
7. Rajim Ketwas - Dalit Adivasi Manch, Raipur and Mahasamund dt.

DELHI

8. Anjali Bhardwaj – Satark Nagrik Sangathan, South Delhi dt.
9. Sadre Alam – People's Foundation, North-west, South-west & South Delhi districts

HIMACHAL PRADESH

10. Puran Chand – Sirmaur Bachao Sangharsh Samiti, Sirmaur dt.

JHARKHAND

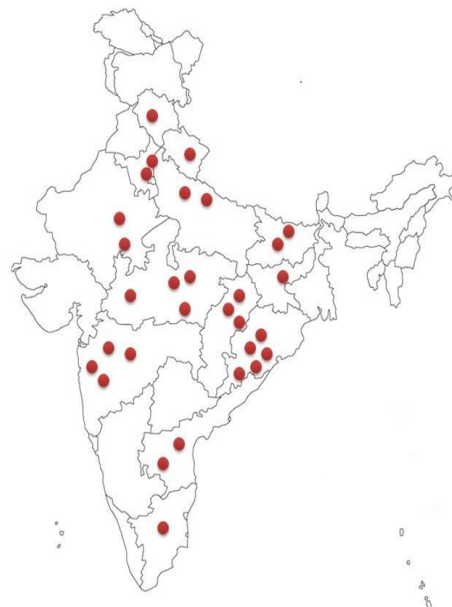
11. Arvind Anjum – Visthapit Mukti Vahini, Singhbhum dt.

MADHYA PRADESH

12. Amit and Jayashree – Adharshila Learning Centre, Badwani dt.
13. Lakhan Singh – Bundelkhand Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan, Damoh dt.
14. Yousuf Beg - Patthar Khadan Mazdoor Sangh, Panna dt.
15. Aradhana Bhargav – Kisan Sangharsh Samiti, Chhindwara dt.

MAHARASHTRA

16. Dashrath Jadhav – Shramjeevi Sangathan, Latur dt.
17. Pandurang Biradar – Shoshit Kamgar Sangathan, Latur dt.
18. Ulka Mahajan – Sarvahara Jan Andolan, Raigad dt.
19. Vilas Bhongade – Kashtkari Jan Andolan, Nagpur dt.



Geographical location of SRUTI Fellows

ODISHA

20. A K Pany – Adivasi Kranti Sangathan, Dhenkanal dt.
21. Amulya Nayak - Adivasi Chetna Sangathan, Dhenkanal and Angul dt.
22. Pradeep Dash – Lok Chetna Sangathan, Rayagada dt.
23. Prafulla Mishra– Adim Adivasi Mukti Manch, Nayagarh dt.
24. Trilochan Punji – Zindabad Sangathan, Bolangir dt.

RAJASTHAN

25. Devendra and Sudhi - Manthan Shikshan Kendra, Jhalawar dt.
26. Khemraj - Khetihar Khan Mazdoor Sangathan, Chittorgarh dt.

TAMIL NADU

27. MS Selvaraj - Vyavasayigal Tozhilalargal Munnetra Sangham (VTMS), Nilgiris dt.

UTTARAKHAND

28. Basanti and Rekha - Maati Sangathan, Pithoragarh dt.

UTTAR PRADESH

29. Dharmendra Yadav – Lokadhikar, Bareilly dt.
30. Rajnish Gambhir – Tharu Adivasi Mahila Mazdoor Kisan Sangh, Lakhimpur Khiri dt.

SATHI MILAN

An Exchange of Ideas in the Himalayas

Over 80 people from 13 states converged at Munsiri, a small town at the foothills of the Himalayas in Uttarakhand, from 23rd - 25th November 2015 as part of the annual SRUTI Sathi Milan. A previously restricted area because of its proximity between borders of Nepal and Tibet, the town is overlooked by the majestic Panchachuli peaks of the higher Himalayan ranges. The annual event sees the coming together of all SRUTI Fellows to discuss and share field experiences over the last one year; current socio-political and economic context of the country; and the challenges and victories of social movements. This year the meeting invited family members of Fellows as well in an effort to build an understanding of the wide spectrum of work undertaken by peer activists amongst immediate family that plays the role of the closest support group. After all, the personal is political!

The event was hosted by Maati, a women's collective co-founded by Malika, Basanti and Rekha among others in Munsiri. Maati has been steadily working towards life security and livelihood generation for women, and plays a significant and catalytic role in areas of women's empowerment, environmentally sustainable development, food sovereignty and diversity, and enhanced community participation in the management of common property resources.

For the past decade, members of Maati initiated and built a Home Stay enterprise to promote women's economic independence in the family while promoting eco-tourism. Several of the Sathi Milan guests were generously hosted in these spare rooms of the women karyakartas which served as a living learning experience about conservation of the forest commons which are critical for mountain communities of Uttarakhand for their subsistence use.

The highlight of the visit was the field visit to the sangathan's areas which gave a detailed picture of the ecology of the region. The gathering was divided into two main groups – one would visit the area under the Van Panchayat (Forest Council) and the other would go to villages where people have been opposing the construction of hydroelectric dams by NTPC on the Goriganga river. Researcher Emmanuel Theophilus also took a session on the history of the Himalayas and the forces that led to their formation millions of years ago.



SRUTI Fellows and Team at Munsiri during Sathi Milan, November 2015



Students of Jungle School, an initiative of Maati Sangathan to assist govt. school going children through innovative teaching methods



Researcher Emmanuel Theophilus

Through the visits, sangathan members primarily from plain areas were able to learn about the fragile environment of the mountains; understand the importance of the Van Panchayats in ensuring people's (especially women's) control over the common forest land and its conservation for future generations; and tireless resistance waged by the people against the destruction of local livelihoods, social structures and ecology being perpetrated in the name of development.

The sangathan's work includes building on the traditional skills of women in knitting, weaving, and seed conservation. Members had the opportunity of visiting the Sangathan shop where wool products, rajma, herbs and ringaal (a variety of thin bamboo) weaving were showcased.

The meeting saw intense sharings on personal struggles of Fellows and how they have handled perceptions and relationships of family and friends over the years. Khemraj bhai, a veteran activist from Chittorgarh, Rajasthan, suffered attacks by landowning community for questioning their oppressive violence against dalits and adivasis. There was a loss of respect from the community but he persevered with the support and strength from the sangathan. Similar stories of defiance and courage were shared by Kailash bhai from Bihar who fought for land redistribution among bonded labourers. Rajim Ketwas, a fiery trade union activist from Chhattisgarh was at the receiving end of oppression based on caste and patriarchy, being a dalit who was widowed early in her married life. She went on to become a respected people's leader while single handedly bringing up both her daughters and unapologetically living life on her own terms. Members spoke of how it is important to take encouragement from the smallest wins as failures will be inevitable; still they teach us important lessons in life.

Apart from this, the process of annual planning was another crucial aspect of the meeting. The joint alliance of people's movements, peasant unions and farmers organisations in the form of Bhumi Adhikar Andolan (BAA) brought together struggles against the draconian Land Acquisition Ordinance and played a significant role in defeating the move. The Government is now trying to push through State level legislations to allow land grab without people's consent. All these developments were discussed threadbare and it was widely felt that it is an opportune time for progressive forces across the board to come together and build newer solidarities for a strong opposition to land grab and to ensure land rights for all. In today's scenario with the state becoming increasingly silent on divisive issues such as communalism and caste, the role of institutions as voices of change will only be enlarged further.

The Sathi Milan was always envisioned as a crucial step in the long-term process of consciousness and perspective building. Middle class upbringing tends to blind us to class, caste and gender hierarchies; the Sathi Milan provides a space for people of diverse cultures, groups & ideologies to have open discussions on the oppression around us. This is a vital step in sensitizing the mind to such injustices that are constantly changing form and adapting to modern times. People



During field visit to the proposed hydroelectric dam area



Mesar kund lake conserved by efforts of Maati sangathan through Van Panchayat process



Cultural program organised by Maati on last day of meeting

discussed how integrity and moral strength form the foundation of building a rational and scientific society that can articulate a model of development that is inclusive.

WORK UNDERTAKEN BY FELLOWS: THEMATIC AREAS

‘Right to life with dignity’ for vulnerable groups is a central thrust of the Fellowship Programme. In keeping with this, the focus of Fellows in 2015-16 was to ensure ownership of natural resources; explore sustainable livelihood opportunities; enhance agricultural productivity; and rejuvenate traditional socio-cultural forms and expressions. During this period, the Fellows effectively engaged with land, forest and governance issues. They also campaigned at state and national level demanding repeal of undemocratic and anti-people amendments to important legislations such as the Land Acquisition Act 2013 and the Forest Rights Act 2006 through state and national-level alliances, networks and parliamentary consultations. Follow-ups with concerned administrative bodies at the local and state-level, to ensure implementation and proper functioning of welfare and social security schemes were carried out.



The key thrust of the work undertaken by the Fellows during this period was to prevent alienation of resources and form pressure groups to guarantee basic entitlements for exploited communities.

More specifically, the work undertaken by the Fellows during the period under report may be grouped into the following thematic areas:

- ❖ ***Jal, jangal, zameen (Rights over water, forest and land)***
- ❖ ***Education***
- ❖ ***Panchayati Raj Institutions***
- ❖ ***Governance***
- ❖ ***Welfare schemes and Programs***
- ❖ ***Agriculture and livelihood***



Parliament March demanding Land Rights on May 5th, New Delhi

Jal, jangal, zameen

For large swathes of India's population, survival directly depends on access to land, water and forest resources. Where communities have had long-term rights over these resources, they have often regulated their use to prevent over-exploitation and abuse, ensuring their own subsistence while conserving nature. However, this relationship between local people and their natural environment has been ruptured by policies that have accelerated exploitation and deprived village communities of their right to subsistence, destroying the natural base on which all life depends.

Most of the SRUTI Fellows are engaged in campaigns to defend jal-jangal-zameen (water-forests-land) against projects that entail large-scale acquisition of natural resources without seeking prior consent of affected families. An assessment of the environmental and social impacts of such acquisitions which cause massive displacement without suitable livelihood alternatives is also not carried out. Large scale conversion of agri-lands for non-agricultural purposes has led to a deepening food crisis as well as environmental degradation.

SRUTI Fellows mobilize communities to stake claims over resources that are rightfully theirs, using legislations like the Forest Rights Act and schemes such as the Common Land Development Program. Many Fellows in resource-rich regions are working with people to establish fair and sustainable ways of managing natural resources, as local control over these resources is a key element in achieving socially just and ecologically stable development.

Forest rights and conservation

The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act was passed in 2006, but overall awareness and understanding about its provisions is still disappointingly low. The SRUTI Fellows and karyakartas worked towards spreading greater awareness regarding rights and entitlements guaranteed by the Act. Fellow groups were involved in opposing amendments that would dilute the gram sabha's vital role in ownership and decision making over forest resources. Public meetings and network meetings were organised in Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, MP and Odisha with average participation of 1500-10,000 people to demand the proper implementation of Forest Right Act 2006, and to stop activities like forced eviction, dam displacement, and illegal undertakings by forest department, etc.

Training programs on FRA as well as formation of Forest Rights Committees, formation of cooperatives for Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP) collection, implementation challenges, empowerment of Gram Sabhas, land mapping through GPS and leveraging RTI for better realization of forest rights were organised by groups in Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, AP and Bihar.

Forest rights and conservation Outcomes:

- ✿ 21,120 individual claims and 774 community claims have been submitted in Chhattisgarh, Odisha, AP, Maharashtra, UP and Madhya Pradesh.
- ✿ 5239 individual claims and 245 community claims settled in MP, AP and Odisha. 3,728 individual claims and 78 CFR are under process in MP, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, AP, UP and Tamil Nadu.
- ✿ 1022 individual claims were rejected in Bihar following which several meetings had been held with Chief Minister, and state administration for early deliberation of forest right pattas but those forms still have not been restored.
- ✿ Mapping of 3000 acre of forest land in order to file community claim was done in Chhattisgarh and Odisha through GPS machines and lay outs of mapped lands were submitted along with claims.
- ✿ Sangathans in Odisha undertook plantation along with Forest Department planting 125 mango, jackfruit, neem and jamun tress along with 700 bamboo saplings.

Some glimpses from the states

BIHAR: *Mazdoor Kisan Samiti* in Gaya district initiated a sustained advocacy campaign through public pressure regarding the disposal of claims filed under the Forest Rights Act, 2006. This is also being done with member sangathans of Janmukti Sangharsh Vahini (JSV) in Jamui, Champaran and Caimur region, to make sure that the new government addresses them on an urgent basis.

Operation *Dakhal Dahani*, launched by the state government to ensure the redistribution of land titles to the landless groups is being closely monitored by the sangathan. Actual possession of the land by those who have patta has still not been attained by many even after all these years. JSV has been an important stakeholder in this implementation and has effectively put pressure and worked out strategies. So far about 1,40,000 claims have been recorded out of which 300 acres of land have been successfully occupied by the landless families.



Closing ceremony of Van Adhikar Yatra in Baloda Bazar district, Chhattisgarh

CHHATTISGARH: *Dalit Adivasi Manch* organised a 10 day Padyatra against the apathy of State Government towards Community Forest Rights. The yatra travelled across 35 villages of Baloda Bazar district, and culminated in a huge public meeting with demand for proper implementation of CFR. After which district administration assured to ensure Community Forest Rights in the district soon.

Land rights and development

Fellow groups across 12 states were part of the *Bhumi Adhikar Andolan (BAA)*, a national-level alliance of peasant unions, people's movements and farmers' organisations, that brought together lakhs of people to successfully stall the anti-people Land Ordinance.

The two main reasons (amongst nine amendments to the 2013 Land Act) for the intense criticism have been the removal of the consent clause and Social Impact Assessment process. A joint parliamentary committee is yet to submit its report on the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Second Amendment) Bill, 2015 for which several groups including *Bhumi Adhikar Andolan* had submitted their pro-people recommendations.

In light of the victory of people's movements in scrapping the Land Ordinance, sangathans have now decided to focus on their respective states where draconian state-level laws are being introduced to ease land acquisition while ignoring

Land Rights Outcomes:

- ❖ Sangathans facilitated 7592 land pattas covering close to 8000 acres of land. 1544 new applications for the land patta have been submitted by the Sangathan in TN, AP, Odisha and Maharashtra.
- ❖ 713 housing patta were obtained in Tamil Nadu, AP, Odisha and Maharashtra.
- ❖ Sangathan in Maharashtra ensured a compensation package of Rs.2.70 lakh each for 2,786 families displaced by the Ghosikhurd Dam
- ❖ Sangathan in Bihar filed applications for over 1.4 lakh cultivating families under the state's land redistribution program, *Dakhal Dahani*. So far, over 300 acres of land have been attained under this campaign.
- ❖ Unused land acquired for an SEZ were returned to 70 tribal farmers in Maharashtra

grave issues of agrarian crisis, food security and communalism facing the country.

Some glimpses from the states

ODISHA: Zindabad Sangathan in Bolangir district continues its struggle for the rehabilitation of people displaced by the Lower Suktel Dam. The sangathan has been organising regular public meetings with the participation of officials to assess the status of rehabilitation which is still grossly incomplete. To strengthen this 15 year old people's struggle against displacement that impoverishes large sections of marginalized communities, the sangathan has initiated a process of alliance building with similar anti-displacement struggles across Western Odisha covering 10 districts. The joint forum is expected to strengthen struggles against eviction and rehabilitation of families displaced by dams.



Meeting with families facing displacement due to Lower Suktel Irrigation Project in Bolangir district, Odisha

TAMIL NADU: Vivasayigal Thozilalargal Munnetra Sangam (VTMS) in Nilgiris district organised 4 seminars in order to form a state-level Tamil Nadu Land Rights Federation. These seminars discussed land problems faced by communities in forest and coastal areas, distribution of lands panchami land (land demarcated for dalits) as well as ways for securing the rights of people and community. In the forest region, there are attempts to deny land rights in the name of tiger reserves, elephant corridor and protection of Western Ghats through creation of Eco-Sensitive Zones. Similarly, there are the Special Economic Zones that are eyeing coastal areas which poses great risk to the traditional livelihood and habitations of fishworkers. These issues were reflected upon along with the experiences of people in resisting them.

Education

In India, poor access to education has helped further entrench and consolidate prior social advantage instead of bridging the gap between the rich and the poor. Public education, has in effect, widened the social distance between the well-off and the poor, dalit and adivasi. Additionally, conventional education systems in India promote narrow career paths driven by competition, exclusion and largely urban aspiration, often resulting in disillusionment and frustration for those that don't make 'the cut'. For most students from a disadvantaged background, the experience of formal education is oppressive, alienating and eventually turns ineffective for improving their life chances.

Improving access to, and the quality of, education for a majority of deprived Indians requires sustained interventions in public schooling processes and engagement with government policy and relevant delivery mechanisms. Some SRUTI Fellows have started independent schools that provide an alternative philosophy and

Education Outcomes:

- ♣ Fellows in Rajasthan and MP are running two alternative schools and one school for orphan adivasi (bhil) girls. 140 students were enrolled in these schools this year and 5 trainings were organised for the teachers of these schools.
- ♣ 1,466 new students were enrolled in government schools by the fellows in MP, Chhattisgarh, AP, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand and Odisha.
- ♣ 360 dropout children (a majority of them girls, tribals and dalits) were re-enrolled in Andhra Pradesh and Delhi.
- ♣ Sangathan in Delhi arranged scholarship, bags, books and other study materials for 40 students through public contribution.
- ♣ Applications were submitted to open schools for 900 children of migrant families from 6-14 years of age at 2 brick kiln sites in Rajasthan. Bridge schools are being run by the sangathan in the meanwhile.

practice of holistic, socially-conscious education, models that can help enrich and influence the way government schools are run.

Sangathans across Maharashtra, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, AP and Odisha are working with over 500 schools, residential ashrams and sevashram schools to ensure basic school facilities, mid day meals and awareness building amongst teachers.

Camps on education and RTE, follow-ups on the quality of education, irregularities in distribution of books and scholarship among students were taken up through Parent Teacher Associations and School Monitoring Committees (SMCs).

Some glimpses from the states

DELHI: Delhi Young Artist Forum organized its second Girls Convention this year. The convention saw participation of 600 youths (mostly adolescents) from the resettlement colonies of Bawana and Bhalaswa take part in sessions concerning education, communalism and collective processes. The need for having these issues on the agenda emerged from the youths themselves over several meetings and discussions on existing social problems. Children addressed the convention on the increasing communal tension in resettlement colonies, girls' education and issues of gender as experienced by them. The convention was followed by cultural programs and plays on issues like marriages, friendship between opposite sexes, gender, etc.



BIHAR: Bahishkrit Hitkari Sangathan in Khagaria district has organized village meetings with district and state administration to raise public awareness on mid day meal and conditions of schools in areas with a predominantly dalit population. They are also working closely with the police to open coaching centers in extremely ignored area affected by the ultra-left groups.

Distribution of saplings at government schools in East Singhbhum, Jharkhand

MADHYA PRADESH: Adharshila in Sendhwa district MP organized its annual function and hosted a Yuva Samwad with an exhibition of art work, instruments and projects done by the students. Children presented annual reports to their parents and held discussions on adivasi issues. They performed various kinds of sports, songs and speeches as well.

Panchayati Raj Institutions

Decentralization is a fundamental tenet of democracy which recognizes that local government must be readily accessible and responsive to the people. Decentralized governance in India was given a filip by the 73rd and 74th Amendments to the Indian Constitution which granted wider powers to village panchayats and urban municipalities. In regions designated under Schedule V of the Constitution because of their large Scheduled Tribe population, the Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas Act 1996 (PESA) empowers village communities to exercise a range of rights over land, water, forests and other commons. Government programmes for rural employment, education, health, public works and distribution of subsidized provisions now depend on the direct involvement of local communities in monitoring and execution.

Sangathans in AP, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Maharashtra, MP, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand have been struggling to democratize Panchayati Raj bodies by mobilizing people to stake a claim in the decision making process concerning the village. PRI committees in each Ward and Associations of Ward Members and Sarpanches have been formed, especially in adivasi areas, for effective and decentralized decision making.

Meetings were organised in over 1200 villages with panchayat bodies regarding implementation of key legislations that facilitate people's control over natural resources. Following the setting up of resource centres in Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Odisha sangathan groups have been collecting and disseminating relevant learning material such as books, booklets, leaflets, forms and audio-visual materials for Panchayat and Gram Sabha members

Some glimpses from the states

JHARKHAND: The Sangathan had also played an instrumental role in resisting the privatization of Ranchi Sadar Hospital but irrespective of the Chief Minister's declaration of no privatization, the new building of the hospital was not being considered a part of the otherwise government hospital. Sangharsh Vahini then met with the Civil Surgeon and organized a sit-in outside the hospital premises.

CHATTISGARH: Sangathan has taken on mass awareness in Sonakhan area where people of 24 villages are currently facing the prospect of eviction and displacement due to auction of the Baghmara mine on lease for gold mining to Vedanta Resources Inc. Conference of PRI members was organized on how the people of the area were not consulted and decided to pass a unanimous resolution against the proposed mining from each Gram Sabha.

Welfare Schemes and Programs

Community mobilisation is a necessary precondition effective implementation of welfare and development schemes. A majority of the SRUTI Fellows and their Sangathans are engaged in creating awareness among communities about these schemes. They are also monitoring the implementation of welfare schemes on a regular basis and assist eligible persons to avail of them. This includes old age pensions, widow pensions and health insurance.

○ **Right to work**

Panchayati Raj Outcomes:

- ♣ **Hasdeo Aranya victory:** A federation of 18 gram sabhas was formed asserting rights of gram sabha over the use of natural resources in tribal areas of Korba and Sarguja districts of Chhattisgarh. As a result, there has been a halt in the auction of 3 coal blocks.
- ♣ **Community Forest Rights (12)** under section 3(2) of FRA given for the first time in Chhattisgarh for more than 6400 sq kms.
- ♣ A total of 5,100 people received pensions for elders, widows, disabled under various pension schemes through the efforts of sangathans in Delhi, Maharashtra, AP, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Odisha and Bihar; Over 5,900 toilets were constructed through the efforts of sangathans in 7 states; 7,025 families in 35 villages availed drinking water facilities in AP and TN.
- ♣ Sangathans in CG, Rajasthan ascertained the irregularities in support scheme for orphan children, and fought against these irregularities which lead to a compensation of Rs. 2.18 lakh for each child.



People's march for restoring community claim in Ghatbarra, Sarguja district, Chhattisgarh

Effective implementation of the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)** continues to be a major concern among Fellows. Proper distribution of wages for the mandated number of days was facilitated by SRUTI Fellows in AP, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Odisha. Bank accounts were opened for labourers to receive wages, since most of them live in remote areas with no access to banks.

Micro-plans prioritising small irrigation methods including construction of wells and ditches in highly drought-prone regions of Maharashtra; forest and soil conservation, land development, roads and agriculture work in Odisha; tree plantation and pond digging in Bihar; tank desilting, roads and house leveling in AP were undertaken as part of MGNREGA work to benefit the community. Now that shade, drinking water and crèche facilities have been ensured thanks to the efforts of sangathans in Rajasthan, Maharashtra, AP, Odisha and Chhattisgarh, there has been a significant increase in participation of women from dalit and tribal communities. Sangathans also raised the issue of corruption by panchayat officials, Sarpanch and village Secretary and helped recover siphoned amounts.

MGNREGA Outcomes:

- ✿ Over 6.8 crores distributed as wages for 3,15,900 man days of work with 6,092 new job card holders in AP, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha and Rajasthan.
- ✿ Payment of arrears amounting to Rs.61,00,000/- for over 500 workers secured
- ✿ Sangathans in Chhattisgarh, MP, AP and Odisha took up the issue of pending payments and ensured receipt of Rs.54,92,800/- as wages.
- ✿ 512 micro plans prioritizing irrigation, fruit trees' plantation, construction of roads, digging of ponds were submitted by the Sangathan in Odisha, AP, MP and Maharashtra out of which 146 were approved by concerned Panchayats.

○ **Right to Food**

Fellows in Rajasthan, Odisha, Delhi, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra continued their involvement in state and nation-level campaigns to demand universal food security. Public meetings and village *shivirs* were organized to discuss and understand provisions of the newly enacted National Food Security Act 2013. It is generally felt that the legislation is a dilution of the various demands made by the marginalized and vulnerable sections as there are high chances of exclusion of eligible members because of its targeted nature.

The Fellows also assisted families to get BPL/Aadhar cards made and helped in the preparation and updating of beneficiary lists along with the Gram Sabhas to keep exclusion to the minimum keeping with the provisions of the National Food Security Act 2013.

Some glimpses from the states

DELHI: Satark Nagrik Sangathan in Delhi collected complains from communities by organizing Grievance Camps in slum areas of South Delhi and raised questions regarding the functioning of the Grievance Redressal Mechanism under National Food Security Act. They prepared case studies of families that are unable to access government schemes due to absence of Aadhar Card and highlighted the violation of SC order regarding the same. Sangathan also filed petition in Delhi

Right to Food Outcomes:

- ✿ 22,314 new cards were registered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) following the efforts of the sangathans in Delhi, Rajasthan, Odisha, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, AP and MP.
- ✿ 231 new PDS monitoring committees with over 1965 members (almost half of them women) were formed in Odisha, Rajasthan and AP.
- ✿ Sangathans in Marathwada region ensured timely and adequate delivery of ration to 2,252 drought affected families.

Agriculture and Livelihood

Sangathans in Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Odisha organised farmers' meetings and conducted press conferences on agrarian crises in their respective regions. They raised demands of adequate compensation against lost crops due to draught and untimely rain, free seeds to the farmers for kharif season and waiver of agricultural loan. Sangathan in Marathwada region has already been working to ensure agricultural assistance to farmers towards minimising crops loss effects.

Sangathan in Uttarakhand has been involved in various livelihood activities such as knitting and marketing of woollen clothes as well as cultivation of rajma, madua and cooking/medicinal herbs. Sangathans in Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu formed local forums to raise the issues of farmers, fishermen and displaced people. Sangathan in MP organised a Kisan Adhikar Yatra that travelled to 13 districts of MP raising the demands of farmers and fishermen.



Kendu leaves laid out for drying after collection in Dhenkanal district, Odisha

Some glimpses from states

TAMIL NADU: VTMS organized one week Traditional Rice Festival in order to bring awareness on natural farming and traditional rice varieties that was entertained by 6000 people including representatives of various farmers' organizations, researchers, media personnel from Kerala, Andhra, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka along with local farmers. Sangathan also distributed traditional rice varieties, vegetable tubers and fruit saplings etc to its participants. The festival highlighted the urgent need to revive cultivation of traditional varieties of rice. In the public meeting of festival, it was discussed that natural farming is less resource intensive and costs less, yet traditional varieties of crops are in crises these days.

Agriculture & Livelihood Outcomes:

- ♣ Sangathans in drought-hit areas of Maharashtra facilitated compensations of Rs.68,000/- for medium and small farmers, Rs. 90,000/ to 96 gairan (grazing) land holders and Rs. 1 lakh to wives of farmers who committed suicide.
- ♣ Sangathans in AP and Odisha motivated farmers towards organic farming and facilitated millet and pulses cultivation for 800 small farmers from 39 villages.
- ♣ 745 small farmers obtained irrigation facilities in Odisha. 1086 new Kisan credit cards were enabled for small and marginalised farmers before kharif crop.
- ♣ Handloom cooperative in Rajasthan produced garments and other products worth Rs. 15 lakhs.
- ♣ Over one lakh saplings of mango, jamun, teak, bamboo, eucalyptus and neem were distributed in Odisha, Jharkhand and Tamil Nadu.

NETWORKING AND ADVOCACY

Through documentation, studies, and coordination; SRUTI works to build solidarity amongst pro-people groups to advocate for universal implementation of pro-poor legislations on land, forests, displacement and public policy in the view of constitutionally recognised people's rights and universal human rights.

Events organised by SRUTI:

- Summer Cheer fundraiser | 20th -23rd March 2016 | SRUTI Office, New Delhi
- Sathi Milan (Annual Fellows' meet) | 23rd – 25th November 2015 (detailed in earlier section) | Munsiyari, Uttarakhand
- Conference on Sustainable Development: The Right to Water, Livelihoods and Environment | 12th -14th December 2015 | Hotel Potala, New Delhi

Campaigns:

- Campaigns with Bhumi Adhikar Andolan (A national level alliance of farmer unions, forest workers, and other pro-people groups with social movements), platform launched in February 2015 advocating for Land Rights, Agrarian Reforms and Land Use Policy.
- Campaign demanding accountability of private and public health services during dengue outbreak in Delhi.

Advocacy:

- Advocacy with Parliamentarians and Ministries of Tribal Affairs, Rural Development & Environment and Forests; National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, National Commission for Scheduled Castes, etc.
- Networking with people's organizations and movements such as AIUFWP (All India Union of Forest Working People), NAPM (National Alliance of People's Movements), INSAF (Indian Social Action Forum), Chhattisgarh Bachao Andolan (CBA), Samajwadi Jan Parishad, Campaign for Survival and Dignity, Delhi Solidarity Group, etc. in various states of India

DISASTER MANAGEMENT & RELIEF WORK

ANDHRA PRADESH FLOOD RELIEF SUPPORT – SRUTI extended its support to flood relief and rehabilitation work in Nellore and Chittoor districts through donations from solidarity partners. The work was carried out by Navjeevan organisation that has been working with marginalised communities in Venkatgiri district in Rayalaseema area of Andhra Pradesh for the last 23 years.

SRUTI WELFARE AND SOLIDARITY FUND (SWSF)

The SWSF was constituted with the idea of providing financial assistance to individuals and communities for medical emergencies, higher education, house construction, welfare and relief during natural and other calamities. The assistance is extended to SRUTI Fellows; staff members; associates in SRUTI's solidarity network, and communities supported

through SRUTI's Fellowship programme. A total of 25 individuals and grassroots groups benefitted from the Fund during the year.

RESOURCE MOBILISATION AND YOUTH OUTREACH

- **SRUTI Scrap Collection Program** - Scrap Collection is one of the major fundraising activities of SRUTI. Old newspapers, magazines, books, junk, useless machines/furniture/old wires or any other items that can be recycled or reused are collected on a monthly, fortnightly or weekly basis. The money generated from this scrap goes directly to support SRUTI Fellows in carrying out their grassroots work.

A total of Rs.11,37,428/- was raised through this effort in 2015-16. SRUTI interns also helped organise the Summer Cheer event in June where clothes, handloom products from Rajasthan and homemade toffees were exhibited. (A complete list of institutional and household scrap donors is included in Annexure 2)

- **Now Showing at Chor Minar** – This is a programme of monthly screenings of independent films on social movements, and on issues such as caste and communalism, followed by discussions with filmmakers. This year the films screened were Caste on the Menu Card, The Red Data Book: An Appendix, Muzaffarnagar Baaqi Hai and Teen Behenein.
- **Zer-e-Behes** – Zer-e-Behes is a monthly event involving discussions with experts on contemporary socio-political issues. The following were invited this year:
 - CP Chandrasekhar on FDI and India | 22nd May 2015 | SRUTI Office, Delhi
 - Vineet Tiwari on Cooperative Movement: History, Problems and Future Prospects | 14th August 2015 | SRUTI Office, Delhi
 - Anil Chamadia on Reservations and Related Concerns | 23rd October 2016 | SRUTI Office, Delhi

PEOPLE

SRUTI General Body

1. Amita Joseph
2. Anju Talukdar
3. Apoorvanand
4. Enakshi Ganguly Thukral
5. G.B. Panda
6. Jamal Kidvai
7. Kabir Dixit
8. Kanika Satyanand
9. L.R. Sarin
10. Poonam Muttreja (Founder Member)
11. Prabhu Mohapatra
12. Rajeswari Raina
13. Ravi Rebbapragada
14. Sanjit (Bunker) Roy (Founder Member)
15. Shibani Chaudhury
16. Shubha Laxmi Pande Iyer
17. Uma Chakravarti
18. Vijay Sardana

9. Saurabh Sinha, Assistant Programme Executive
10. Shweta Tripathi, Director
11. Sukruta Alluri, Programme Executive

**in alphabetic order*

SRUTI Executive Board

1. Amita Joseph, Treasurer
2. Apoorvanand, Member
3. Enakshi Ganguly Thukral, President
4. Kanika Satyanand, Member
5. Prabhu Mohapatra, Vice President
6. Rajeshwari Raina, Member
7. Ravi Rebbapragada, Member
8. Shubhalaxmi Pande Iyer, Member

SRUTI Team

1. Baldew Thakur, Finance Officer
2. Jojoy Mathew, Assistant Officer – Finance and Admin
3. L.R. Sarin, Financial Advisor(*part time)
4. Mahipal Singh, Admin-Fellowship Assistant
5. Nadim Ali Ansari, Assistant Programme Executive
6. Rakesh Sharma, Assistant Manager – Resource Mobilisation
7. Sanjay Verma, Assistant Manager – Resource Mobilisation
8. Satyam Shrivastava, Director

Salary Structure of the SRUTI Team (2015-16)

Slabs of gross monthly salary (Rs) plus benefits paid to staff	No. of male staff	No. of female staff	Total staff
10,001-25,000	1	0	4
25,001-50,000	6	1	7
50,001-100,000	1	1	2
Total	8	2	10

Team Capacity Building

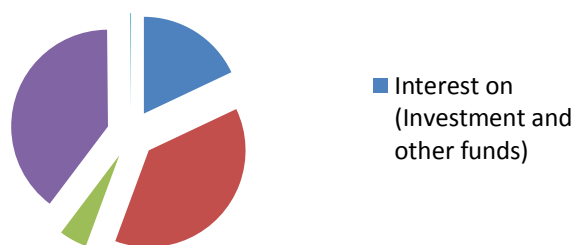
- Sukruta Alluri is pursuing her M.A. in Sociology from Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU)
- Nadim Ansari is pursuing his M.A. in Political Science from Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU)

FUNDRAISING OVERVIEW

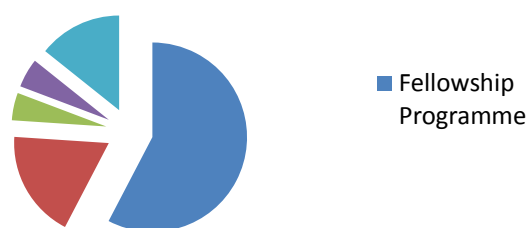
Total Income

SRUTI Income for the financial year 2015-2016		
S.No.	Details	Amount (Rs.)
1	Interest (Investment and other funds)	4,392,806
2	Donations	9,201,317
3	Scrap Donation	1,137,428
4	Grants from Donors (inc. previous year's unspent grants)	9,669,646
5	SWSF including revolving contribution	35,168
Total Income		24,436,365

SRUTI Income for the financial year 2015-2016 Amount (Rs.)



SRUTI Expenditure for the financial year 2015-2016 Amount (Rs.)



Total Expenditure

SRUTI Expenditure for the financial year 2014-15		
S.No.	Details	Amount (Rs.)
1	Fellowship Programme	11,133,468
2	Advocacy	3,552,190
3	Resource Mobilisation	908,347
4	Relief & Welfare	960,197
5	Core Cost (Admin)	2,756,507
Total expenditure		19,310,709

CONTRIBUTORS

We thank our institutional, individual and scrap donors for their continued support and trust in SRUTI



Paul Hamlyn
Foundation

CARING FRIENDS



भारतीय प्रतिष्ठान
NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR INDIA

INDIVIDUAL DONORS		CARING FRIENDS ASSOCIATES	
		Individual Donors	Institutional
Mr. R.K.P. Shankardass	Mr. Ashwini Kumar Alluri		
Mr. K.R. Dheer	Ms. Lavanya Reddy	Mr. Sudhakar Ram	Bengal Finance & Investment Pvt. Ltd.
Ms. Kanika Satyanand	Mr. Shrikumar Poddar	Mr. Prashant Sarkar	Agarwal Foundation
Ms. Pooja Sarin	Mr. Adish Bamba	Mr. Rishikesh Joshi	Optium Stock Trading Co. Pvt. Ltd.
Ms. Rita Sarin		Mr. Ashit C. Kothari	Rachna Credit Capital Pvt. Ltd.
Mr. Mukesh Sundarji Savla			
Mr. Narendra A. Mehta			
Mr. Tejinder Singh Bhogal			