

ANNUAL REPORT

(2017-18)



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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

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTORS

We are happy to share SRUTI's 34th Annual report for year 2017-18. In December 2018, SRUTI will complete its glorious 35 years of serving the society by building and nurturing leadership within the marginalized communities; through its well proven model of the Fellowship Programme. We believe this journey will go a long way as the state has not been able to build a just, equal and peaceful space for all citizens. Right to life with dignity for everyone remains a distant dream.

The year has been remarkable in many aspects. A special outcome has been the identification and capacity building of emerging leaders from the most marginalized sections of the society. This year we could nurture 248 young leaders through the School for Social Change. The school is an attempt at leadership building of sangathan volunteers and is being conducted through shivirs organized in 4 languages i.e. Hindi, Marathi, Odiya and Tamil, with its curriculum and pedagogy evolving on local and regional contexts. We are happy to share that we could induct around 15 emerging leaders from various organizations in addition to those directly associated as SRUTI Fellows.

This year we could induct 3 new Fellows in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Uttarakhand. Afaq has been working in Faizabad (UP) with issues faced by youth and other members of minority communities. In the era of sharp polarization, he has been working to create systems for getting due rights and entitlements recognized for citizens. Santosh Marandi has been working in Banka (Bihar) for forest rights essentially for tribal communities in the state which is among the most lagged state in implementation of Forest Rights Act. Gopal Lodhiyal is working in Nainital (Uttarakhand) on recognition of forest rights for Van Gujjar community which has been facing exclusion due to administrative prejudice. Some Fellows have exited this year with mutual understanding. We believe that our relationship extends beyond the Fellowship Programme, and continue to extend support and solidarity for their work.

We are very happy to share that we have published an informative report on Inland waterways, '*The Strategic Status Report on National Inland Waterways in India*' which has now become a new dimension of contemporary development paradigm in India. Development of inland waterways has been among the priorities of the current government. An overall perspective on environmental and legal issues emerging has been addressed in this report, which has been authored by Shripad Dharmadhikary, well-known activist and researcher on issues of water use and development.

A detailed report has also been published on historical disputes on Forest and Land issues existing in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh by learned advocate Shri Anil Garg.

Some major achievements and processes have been mentioned in the annual report from the field areas done by SRUTI Fellows. Hope you will get a sense of the wide range of interventions done by SRUTI and its Fellows to develop the nation with focus on constitutional values of equality and social justice.

As always, we are thankful and express our heartfelt gratitude towards your continuous support, engagement and encouragement.

Satyam, Shweta and the SRUTI Team
New Delhi

ACTIVITY REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2017-18

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

SRUTI 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 **31 Fellows, 143 karyakartas (volunteers/activists) and their groups in 14 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. K. Victoria – Navjeevan, Nellore dt.

BIHAR

2. Kailash Bharati – Mazdoor Kisan Samiti, Gaya dt.
3. Santosh Marandi – Bahishkrit Hitkari Sangathan, Khagaria dt.

CHHATTISGARH

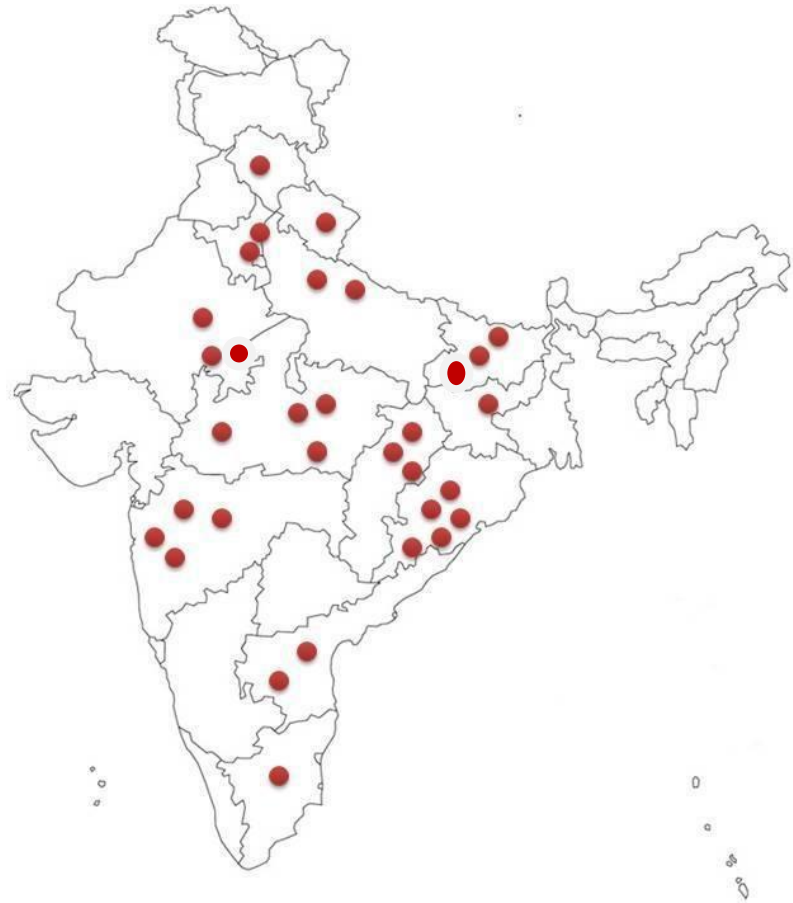
4. Alok Shukla – Jan Abhi Vyakti, Korba and Sarguja dt.
5. Jang Sai – Gaon Ganrajya Sangathan, Sarguja and Ambikapur dt..
6. Rajim Ketwas - Dalit Adivasi Manch, Baloda Bazar and Mahasamund dt.

DELHI

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

HIMACHAL PRADESH

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



JHARKHAND

11. Arvind Anjum – Visthapit Mukti Vahini, Singhbhum dt.
12. Jerome Kujur – Jan Sangharsh Samiti, Latehar dt.

JAMMU & KASHMIR

13. Dr. Sheikh Ghulam Rasool – J&K RTI Movement, School for Rural Development and Environment

MADHYA PRADESH

14. Amit and Jayashree – Adharshila Learning Centre, Badwani dt.
15. Veerendra Kumar – Bundelkhand Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan, Damoh dt.
16. Aradhana Bhargav – Kisan Sangharsh Samiti, Chhindwara dt.

MAHARASHTRA

17. Dashrath Jadhav – Shramjeevi Sangathan, Latur dt.
18. Ulka Mahajan – Sarvahara Jan Andolan, Raigad dt.
19. Vilas Bhongade – Kashtkari Jan Andolan, Nagpur, Bhandara, Wardha and Gondia dt.

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 – Him Kisan, 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.
29. Gopal Lodhiyal, Uttarakhand Van Adhikar Manch, Nainital dt

UTTAR PRADESH

30. Afaq Ullah, Faizabad dt.
31. Rajnish Gambhir – Tharu Adivasi Mahila Mazdoor Kisan Sangh, Lakhimpur Khiri dt

NEW FELLOWSHIPS

1. Gopal Lodhiyal, Uttarakhand Van Adhikar Manch



Gopal belongs to Nainital district in Uttarakhand. At a young age of 19, he became involved with the working of civil society groups in the region. Over a period of 6 years, he worked with 3 groups which initially shaped his understanding of issues people face, of the various aspects of the natural resources he grew up around, and later on of the impacts of policies and laws on people belonging to marginalized communities. He worked with Central Himalayan Rural Action Group (CHIRAG), an organization working in the Kumaon region for 3 years and moved on to work with Aurbindo Ashram in Ramgarh region (Nainital district) where he realized that it is essential to see the end of discrimination for seeing any positive change in the society. He also worked briefly with SADEO in his home district where he got involved with research on education, van panchayats and the social-

economic conditions of dalits and van gujjars. Here he also got opportunities to participated in national-level seminars and symposiums where he got the opportunity to understand the nature of social movements across the country. He closely worked on traditional habitats and lives and culture of pastoral communities. The atrocities forest-dwelling communities face by actions of the forest department, negative changes made in laws governing forests and the post-colonial conditions in the hill states made a huge impact on him.

Since 2006, he has been working as a core member of the Uttarakhand Van Adhikar Manch, a state-level network taking forward the issues faced by forest-dwelling communities. A specific focus of his work has been involving with community members, mobilising them to take on leadership, involve in advocacy the state and national level. Over a period of 12 years now, he has developed close relationships with community members, and have taken forward the baton of progressive social change. His formal education has been till class 12th, but is considerably well-informed of the works of social reformers and political activists. He motivates sangathan members to read and write, get involved with the processes of work and develop wider outlooks on inherent societal discriminations on caste, gender and religion.

2. Santosh Marandi, Adivasi Mazdoor Kisan Mukti Vahini



Santosh completed his graduation from Sidhu-Kanhu Murmu university in Jharkhand. He comes from the Santhal community and has been working since 2013 to address the marginalization and rights of Adivasi communities in Banka district of Bihar.

Adivasis in the region, mostly Santhals, Ho, Munda also occupy the nearby districts of Jharkhand, and are also a strong political force in Jharkhand. In Bihar, the status of adivasis is completely different. A small minority spread out across pockets, forest dwelling communities in the 3 blocks in the district – Banka, Katoria and Baunsi have little negotiating space with the administration, especially with a long history of oppression from the revenue and forest departments of the state government. Administrative lethargy

coupled with systemic exclusions have kept the Santhals and other tribal groups dependent on the wishes of the administration. Babu-dom is widespread. Indicators on public health, education, employment and livelihood reflect a poor picture of the area.

Santosh Marandi, and a small group of volunteers have been associated with Janmukti Sangharsh Vahini and they have been going to meetings in Champaran, Gaya or Patna to involve with the state-level campaign on Forest Rights Act. This brought them into the fold of working towards their alienation of land, and the extractions made by the forest department over the years. He has close bonds with community members and helps them get access to social security schemes, health and education.

3. Afaq Ullah, Awadh Peoples Forum



Afaq works in Faizabad, Uttar Pradesh. After completing his post-graduation in human rights from Jamia Millia Islamia University, Afaq went back to his home town Faizabad in Uttar Pradesh and started Awadh Peoples Forum, a non-government organization focused on promoting communal harmony in the region. He has spent the last seven years in the city trying to nurture peace and harmony in the community through varied interventions with adolescents and young people. Afaq, with his team of volunteers has set up five learning centers in different pockets of Faizabad to build social capacities of youth towards civic participation. All programmes at these centers are woven around education and life skills with an aim to build a positive narrative towards

social transformation. Over the years Afaq has been able to establish credible work relationship with the district administration, civil society organizations and educational institutions. During his graduation and post-graduation in Delhi, Afaq interned and actively volunteered with different civil society organizations including the National Foundation for India, Pravah and Sanjha Manch. He also worked with Hazards Centre in Delhi for three years.

Fellowship Exits

1. B. Sunanda, Andhra Pradesh
2. Sanjeev Kumar, Bihar
3. Pandurang Biradar, Maharashtra
4. Yousuf Beg, Madhya Pradesh

Sathi Milan

The SRUTI Sathi Milan, an annual feature of SRUTI Fellows Meet was organized between **12th to 15th July 2017** at Hareli Resorts in Barnawapara Wildlife Sanctuary, about 120 kms away from Raipur city. The event was hosted by **Dalit Adivasi Manch, an organization that has been working with tribals and dalits communities in Mahasamund district (Chhattisgarh) on their issues for over 11 years.** The meet was organized in the backdrop of the growing intolerance, rising communal tension and the systematic attacks on the constitutional rights and democratic values of the country.

Dalit Adivasi Manch, founded by Rajim in 2007 with the primary objective of working on natural resource rights of dalit and adivasi communities. The sangathan sees considerable participation of women, and takes up issues of trafficking, sexual violence, domestic labour wages, health and employment. Youth leadership amongst the community has also gradually emerged, with the sangathan forming 'Rashtriya Grameen Rozgar Union' with the participation of educated boys and girls to help ensure proper delivery of the MGNREGA scheme. Rajim is a senior leader who is been known for her work with peoples organisations in Chhattisgarh for over 30 years. Prior to Dalit Adivasi Manch, Rajim had worked on the workers' rights movement in Bhilai under the leadership of Shankar Guha Niyogi, founder of Chhattisgarh Mukti Morcha (CMM). She was an active member of the CMM movement which demanded a separate regional identity for the predominantly adivasi areas of Central India, and for upliftment of workers and peasants.

Apart from the issues that are being dealt by Dalit Adivasi Manch, sangathan is active on effective implementation of pro-people policies and laws like Forest Rights Act, Panchayati Raj Institution and others in favour of communities of the area. Currently, the Sangathan is also working on the land and forest issues of affected villages and communities from the proposed gold mining in the region of their area known as Sonakhan Region. On the first day of Sathi Milan, field visit was organized in three villages to try and understand the social, cultural, political and economic situation of the villages. The gathering was divided in three groups – one would visit the area that was one of the first villages where sangathan became active in; two would visit the area where sangathan had worked on forest issues and; three would visit in area that would be directly affected by the proposed gold mining in the Sonakhan region. A brief visit was also made at the memoir of martyr Veer Narayan Singh who had led a rebellion against the British Raj even before the 1857 Sepoy mutiny, making him a go to reference, an example of Chhattisgarhi resistance to oppressive forces to draw inspiration from. After the visits, a detailed discussion on the experiences of the field visits was facilitated by Rajim, Devendra and other members of Dalit Adivasi Manch for overall understanding of the contexts and issues in the area.

The next session was on understanding Chhattisgarh. Senior political activists and social members in Chhattisgarh, Comrade Nand Kashyap and Anand Mishra –also joined-in the session. They threw light on the history of social movements in the state, geo-political issues, and on the role of media and corporate groups in the functioning of the state.

The session was followed by a brief session on understanding Kashmir. Dr. Sheikh Ghulam (fellow from J&K) spoke about the situation in Kashmir and took us on a historical journey of social and political conflicts, state and non-state actors and how progressive movements can come to support the legitimate demands of the Kashmiri people.

The last day of meeting saw a talk on UID, and goods and services tax by Gopal Krishna, a journalist and member of Citizens Forum for Civil Liberties, followed by **intense sharing and discussions.**



The last session of the meeting was a discussion on growing communalism and related issues under the name of divisive tools and terms such as 'Ghar Wapsi', 'Love Jihad' and 'Gau Raksha'.

In the present contexts, the responsibility of peoples' movement has become even more important to counter the inhuman and unconstitutional act for maintaining communal harmony in the society. SRUTI fellows during the Sathi Milan 2017 shared their views and developed strategies to counter this growing attack on peaceful and democratic movements.

School for Social Change

The aim of the School for Social Change is to develop a critical understanding of the existing social, economic and political structures, to develop a vision of society based on the constitutional goals of equality, secularism and justice; and to think and actively take part in struggles working towards this vision.

A total of 214 participants including 70 females were part of shivirs organized in different geo-political regions, residing in the work areas of SRUTI fellows. They were selected by local sangathans on the criterion that they should be connected to the local organization, proportionate number of female participants are represented and that they would have completed education till class 10th.

School for Social Change during the year 2017-18 covered the following states and districts - Maharashtra (2 Districts Raigarh, Palghar), Tamil Nadu (8 Districts Nilgiri, Coimbatore, Salem, Villipuram, Kanyakumari, Namakkal, Erode, Chennai), Odisha (6 Districts Ongool, Dhenkanal, Raigarh, Jharsuguda, Bolangir, Nayagarh), Kashmir (Budgam District), Himachal Pradesh (Sirmour District), Uttarakhand (Nainital district), Rajasthan (3 Districts Chittaurgarh, Jhalawaad, Ajmer), Madhya Pradesh (3 Districts Barwani, Chindwara, Damoh), Chattisgarh (3 Districts Baloda Bazaar, Mahasamand, Korba), Jharkhand (Gumla District), Delhi (North and North Western districts)

Curriculum - topics covered during School for Social Change

Origin of Universe and Earth; Origin of Life; Origin and Spread of Humans; Gatherer Hunters, Pastoral and Development of Agriculture; Neolithic Revolution – Development of tools, skills, knowledge; Origin and Development of Religion; Emergence of Social Structures – Caste, Gender inequalities; Economic Inequalities; Kings, Kingdoms, Empires; Process of extraction from farmers, craftsmen in different periods; Nationality; Adivasi and Dalit question; Cash flow from rural to Urban; Basic Economic Concepts; Democracy and other Political Structures; Capitalism, LPG policies; Ideologies – Gandhi, Marx; Saffronisation; Our vision of society; Organising to achieve our vision

Skills developed with participants includes News Report Writing; Theatre; Poster Making; Report Writing; Public Speaking; Basic Math Skills; Basic Analytical Skills; Adjusting with unknown people; Pamphlet Writing; Thinking; Debating; Team Work; Questioning

Evaluation process included formal written Evaluations with short Q&A, descriptive writing at end of shivirs, and session-based questions. Informal Written work included evaluating writing skills from daily news writing, pamphlet writing etc. Observation were shared through the preparation of notes on individual participants during the shivir regarding their participation in discussions and cultural activities, articulation, interest, questions, etc. Peer Evaluation including listing skills, strengths and weak areas of each other by participants allowed for sharing of critical feedbacks with each other.





At end of the whole range of shivirs the participants were empowered to have the idea of society, they dream for. It is the society based on humanitarian values, equity and justice. The idea of how to develop strategies to achieve this goal was envisioned in a nutshell which would further enhance the ability to work strategically in the field. At the end the major task was to figure out how to keep the participants engage with the issues and continuously motivate them to carry out the work. This is not only to encourage them in terms of work but to build the broader perspective through constant reading, writing and critically thinking. In order to keep the pace of learning there was some ideas that were put forward and at the end it was finalized by the participants to carry out this through coming up with monthly magazine. Each area group was ready to write to develop the writing skill and critical thinking power and report them to the concerned person.

The methods that were used during these shivirs were through lecture, Power point Presentation, Group Work, Group activities, group discussions and presentations, debate, individual guidance, play, songs, posters and pamphlet, speeches, writing, field visits etc. various expertises as resource persons were invited along with our own fellows to take sessions based on set curriculum.

School for Social Change has become the source for constant engagement, learning and reaching out to sangathans. The culmination of shivirs across the language schools This was followed with the Youth Festival on 26th – 28th May, 2018 (held at Mangaon, Maharashtra) which was an amalgamation of learnings and evaluation of the program.

Please find more information through this link – <http://www.sruti.org.in/?q=news-media/many-colours-youth-festival-2018>

WORK UNDERTAKEN BY FELLOWS: THEMATIC AREAS

The central thrust of the Fellowship Programme is 'Right to life with dignity' for vulnerable groups. In keeping with this, the focus of Fellows in 2017-18 was to fortify effective participation in planning and decision towards decentralised democracy, 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 local democracy, land, forest and governance issues. They also campaigned at state and national level for effective implementation of pro-people policies and laws such as Forest Rights Act, governance and decentralisation of democracy as provided under the 73rd and 74th Amendments of the Constitution. 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)***

☐ ***Panchayati Raj Institutions and Governance***

☐ ***Agriculture and Livelihood***

☐ ***Social Inequality***

☐ ***Education***

☐ ***Welfare Schemes and Programs***

Jal, jangal, zameen (Rights over water, forest and land)

Forest Rights and Conservation

Securing ownership over forest resources has been a primary focus of sangathans, who have involved over this period to organise public meetings, sammelans and mass processions. In addition, trainings of members of the Forest Right Committees at the village and panchayat level have been done. It has given people the confidence to learn about the Act and try to get the provisions in place. Due to changes introduced through the Draft Forest Policy, amendments to CAMPA and the repeated attempts by the administration to introduce plantations without the consultation of the community has led to resentment in the sangathans.

Regional networks have increased their assertions following the interventions of the government, and people have approached the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) for seeking due interventions. Following the instances of attempted forced displacements, advocacy with the National Commission of Schedule Tribes (NCST) has led to passing of orders to secure complete rehabilitation before any displacement, which has again been ignored by the administration.

Trainings and meetings with local panchayat members has allowed for like-minded people to come together to oppose such anti-people policies. Below are some activities undertaken by the sangathans to come together to demand their constitutionally rights on ownership of forests, forest produce and recognition of Gram Sabhas as the decision-making authority on these matters.

Some glimpses from the States

Uttar Pradesh - Tribal and other traditional forest dwellers have to still fight for recognition of their rights under FRA. In the working area of **Tharu Adivasi Mahila Mazdoor Kisan Manch** at Lakhimpur Khiri, especially in the villages falling under the Dudhwa National Park, people have filed claims for community forest rights but no further process has been carried out. They have been continuously raising objections and demanding for their rights.

An annual regional conference on the implementation of Forest Rights Act was organized at Lakhimpur Khiri on 14th and 15th of March 2018. The conference was organised by Tharu Adivasi Mahila Mazdoor Kisan Manch, Tarai Kshetra Mahila Mazdoor Kisan Manch, Adivasi Janta Union and All India Union for Forest Working People. The meeting was called to discuss the issues related to community forest rights claims under FRA which has been long pending. Different inhuman activities which were faced by tribals and other forest dwellers were also discussed. People were facing physical torture and arbitrary arrests by the Forest department. Many villages were forcefully evicted. Later a mass procession was organized demanding community forest rights, stopping encroachment of village land by forest department and taking action against errant officials who have meted out inhuman behaviour and carried out forceful evictions.

Forest Rights and Conservation - Outcomes

- ❖ A public meeting was organised by Netarhat Jan Sangharsh Samiti in Jharkhand on 11th December, 2017 where around 2000 people from three districts - Latehar, Gumla and Simdega had come together. This meeting was held for spreading awareness about the proposed plans for establishment of Palamau Tiger Reserve, non-recognition of tribal tenancy laws and of ongoing and proposed acquisition in critical habitats including those of PVTGs. The public meeting was held at Ground of Kachahari campus under Hadtaal Tree. This also saw the presence of representatives of various political parties in opposition to any displacement to the tribal groups. The in-principle sanction of a critical tiger habitat in this region was granted by the MoEF. Workshop on resource mapping and keeping records of bio-diversity was organised by sangathans in Chhattisgarh, MP and Bihar are on how to maintain bio-diversity register, how to identify the traditional uses of a particular plant/tree, from where people can get information on the use value of trees and plants, how to revive the traditional ways of medicine and how to map the resources village forest etc.
- ❖ GPS trainings for filing of claims was done in Banka district (Bihar) for the filing of claims. Workshops followed in 14 villages of 5 districts of Bihar, creating awareness on the process of claim filing, resource mapping. Trainings were conducted in Bihar for the formation of FRCs as mandated under the FRA, as the administration has been unresponsive to the 652 claims filed by the Mazdoor Kisan Samiti.

be assertive for their rights.

Maharashtra - Sangathans reviewed the individual and community claims and followed it up with concerned revenue and forest officials at every level. On 27th and 30th of March 2018 workshops on 'Panchayati Raj and Forest Rights Act' was organised by by Kashtakari Jan Andolan at Nagpur. The program was attended by 40 people who were members of the Forest Rights Committee, Panchayat committees and community leaders.

Chhattisgarh-In Baloda Bazar district in Chhattisgarh, around 600 forest dweller families received land rights under forest rights (Recognition) Act. Each forest dwelling family received an average of 3 acres of land as claimed during the process.

Madhya Pradesh - Kisan Sangharsh Samiti has been focusing on community awareness activities on FRA. A public meeting was organized on 29th March at Jaamtara village. In over 100 villages in the buffer zone of Pench National Park, almost no claims have been processed. This meeting was also a platform for people to bring forward their complaints against forest department where almost people from 10 villages took part. These villages have been facing several problems such as lack of protection of their crop, no access to forest products, no permission to take the domestic animals to the forest, no jobs for youths etc. Now sangathan has taken the initiative to file the individual and community rights over forest and address the other problems prevailing in the area. The public meeting created pressure for the concern department to work properly, and allowed an opportunity for people to

Odisha -In terms of claims under the FRA, radical steps have been taken by Government of Odisha which had issued an order in 2013 for giving title of record of rights of the people residing in revenue forest. But this was not worked upon. Recently, verification has been completed for 1456 people in Kanakdahad block who had filed for claim for forest rights. Among them 3200 applicants have been included in the register for grant of record of rights. 576 people who were missed out, the process of filing application form have been going on in Kankadahad block.



Cycle rally and public march to celebrate the historical order of the High Court, 11th Sep, Gaya

Cycle march in Bihar celebrating High Court interim order for no displacement till settlement of forest rights

villages participated in it. In the training general information about the provisions in Forest Rights Act were discussed including different processes for claims of individual and community rights, roles and responsibilities of village level committees, sub divisional level committees, district level committee and Gram Sabhas. The workshop also facilitated participants to fill individual and community rights claim form. Later village level Forest Right committees were formed in 11 villages in Kamakhyanagar. In 9 villages demarcation of boundary was done.

In Kamakhyanagar block 17 unsurveyed villages were identified for converting into revenue village. For these unsurveyed villages a workshop was organized on 27th - 28th March at Kamakhyanagar. Around 56 sangathan members, panchayat leaders and members of the FRCs from all 17

Stories from the field – Addressing forced evictions through sangathan-building: The case of Barnawapara Wildlife Sanctuary



40 villages in the Barnawapara wildlife sanctuary in Chhattisgarh were threatened with eviction following orders of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (which was later questioned by MoTA as an illegal order). While on one hand Dalit Adivasi Manch, a local people's group has continuously worked for rights of adivasi and other forest dwellers on their traditional forest land, the forest department was reluctant to recognize the rights and not willing to transfer power to gram sabhas. The forest department regularly used force and violence for vacating the villages falling

under Barnawapara wildlife sanctuary, in addition to restriction on movement and imposing fines. On 15th January, a villager from Rampur village - Rajkumar Kondh got into an argument with the on duty forest Ranger, Sanjay Rautia. Later, his family members who reside at Rampur village were assaulted by the said forest ranger. The intent of law was further compromised when the Baya police station accepted the FIR filed by Sanjay Rautia for illegal encroachment and refused Rajkumar's family to lodge a counter FIR for assault. Rajkumar was then arrested while on his way to Raipur with sangathan members for a press conference on 18th January, and was kept in custody for two days.

The tensions between the forest department and the forest dwelling communities of Barnawapara have been steadily increasing over the years as restrictions have been more and more strictly imposed, curbing their day to day life as well as livelihood needs. Following the above incident, a public demonstration was organized by Dalit Adivasi Manch at Baya on 23rd January 2018 to resist the violent behaviour of forest department on people living in the sanctuary. Around 1000 people participated in the meeting which also brought the other 22 villages that lie in the sanctuary area. The demonstration saw the support of regional groups including Chhattisgarh Bachao Andolan. It became pertinent that unlawful and inhuman behaviour of forest department towards the people living in sanctuary and how the department used threat to vacate the villages instead of recognizing their rights. This was not considered an isolated incident but a reflection of exploitative practices for long. Jan Sangharsh Samiti in the Barnawapara region was born out of this campaign.

Through continuous support of villagers, sangathans and other organizations and through legal intervention, Rajkumar was given bail on 12th February 2018. Marking the event, a small victory meeting was also organized with around 300 people. Later, all the barricades and restrictions on the movement of villagers were lifted for sometime. Claims verification for community forest rights (CFR) were also initiated in 9 villages.

Land Rights and Development - Outcomes

- ❖ Adivasi Kranti Sangathan in Odisha has been involved in working for land rights. Around 240 number of new applications filed for homestead land pattas. Since long time the government of India did not take the process further. Therefore, on 5th December 2018 a mass demonstration was organized in Kankadahad block. Later Revenue inspector himself had inquired the cases. Inquiry of 132 cases was done.
- ❖ Zindabad Sangathan in Odisha organized skill development trainings for migrant brick kiln workers are organized in 15 villages of Khaprakhol block for around 391 participants. The issues of migrant workers are being addressed by utilizing Odisha Building and other Construction Workers Welfare Board and necessary records have been obtained for online registration under OBOCWWB for 5643 workers. The department of labour has been given written demand for assistance to 27 families of brick kiln worker who died in Telengana, Andhra Pradesh, Bangalore and Tamil Nadu. Bonded Labour is significant phenomena in the area of sangathan and in order to rehabilitate the rescued 183 bonded labourers. It has also collected information on land distribution rule to land less families under Vasundhara Yojana by State Govt.
- ❖ **Mahanadi Bachao Campaign** - The sangathan is involved in different national and state level network groups. The sangathan is also member in Mahanadi Bachao-Jebika Bachao Abhiyan a state level forum for saving river Mahanadi. A pad yatra was organized from 19 December 2017 from LARA, Chhatishgarh to Odisha Cuttack. The yatra went thorough sangathan area of Adima Adhibasi Mukti Mancha and Gramin Sramajibi Chetna Sangathan (Gania wing) where discussions on the project and its impact on the lives of fishing communities were done.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Land Rights Coalition came into being to taking up issues as lands classified as panchami lands which are set up by British exclusively for the depressed class - forest dwellers, fish workers and slum dwellers rights to housing and basic facilities.

Land Rights and Development

Some glimpses from the States

Madhya Pradesh - In the working area of Kisan Sangharsh Samiti (Chhindwada district), the industrialization and dam project has great impact on the farmers. Displacement is major phenomenon in this area where the presence of Adani Power Plant and Machogora Dam have exiled the farmers from their land. The compensation received is very little to be able to procure land in other places. The compensation amount is again taken by chit fund companies such Sai Prasad, B. N. Gold, Pals India etc. promising double the amount. This was a deceitful act because they did not fulfill the promise made and cheated people. At this hour of need no political party is helping them out. This again has further their alienation from the basic needs.

During October 21st-23rd, mass processions were organized demanding justice for fair compensation, better livelihood, for basic amenities and for redressal of people being duped of their money. The procession started on 21st October from Sihora village and reached Chindriya adivasi village; on 22nd October through 7 villages - Jamunia, Karaghat, Jatlapur, Bohnakheri, Kakaiyi, Jamhodi Panda and Vilwa villages taking the livelihood issues of fishing community. On 23rd October the procession from Bhutera to Machogora village. It is important to note that these two villages are



Narmada Yatra, Madhya Pradesh

which come under the catchment area of Machogara Dam. These villages lack basic facilities with no employment opportunities for people.

At the end of the yatra, the people coming from different villages marched with a resolution of their demands to the District Magistrate Office in Chhindwara, under the banner of Kisan Sangharsh Samiti. Using the LARR 2013 the sangathan is advocating for fair compensation for displaced people.

Himachal Pradesh - Renuka Bandh Ajeevika Bachao Sangharsh Samiti is engaged with the families who have lost

their land in Renuka Dam project. The people are facing problem getting the compensation because of the mistakes in entry in the revenue land records. So the distribution of compensation was stopped for the time being. Many families are not even aware how much of their land is acquired for the project and what is the kind of land they have lost. Therefore, they do not know the compensation amount. The sangathan has been spreading awareness and assessing the social and environmental impact.

The sangathan is also mobilizing people for demanding fair distribution of land compensation. Some people have their land near dam but they are given land far places. Therefore, they are facing problem. The sangathan is working on it.

Odisha – In the working area of Adivasi Chetna Sangathan Industrial Development Corporation of Odisha (IDCO) an agency of Odisha govt. had issued notice to 7 gram panchayats (namely Rohila, Injidihi, Keeajam, Munduribeda, Alluri, Karadapal and Jharbada) in July 2017 for acquiring all the government land in those villages. The notice was issued without mentioning any purpose of acquiring land. The sangathan could realize that acquired land were to be given to private companies. Later the sangathan spread awareness on the issues in all those gram panchayat and people had opposed to the unlawful land acquisition. But the administration did not respond positively. So a mass procession was organized on 30th October 2017 by Adivasi Chetna Sangathan and Bhuyan Samaj at Pallahara demanding the repeal of the notice for land acquisition. Due to public pressure, the notice for land acquisition was withdrawn.

Tamil Nadu - The migration of young labours aged between 15 to 23 years from Odisha, Jharkhand, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Assam, Nepal to Tamil Nadu have been increased over the last years. Most of them were working at construction site of bridges, roads and metro. And such employment is characterized by poor working conditions and lack of effective social protection. In this condition, V.T.M.S made a study of the socioeconomic conditions of unorganised sector migrant labourers and also organised meeting with workers to discuss strategies need to be adopted for improving the working condition and to secure the benefit of different schemes of state and centre government.

Estate workers and Repatriates -Issues of estate workers and repatriates have been an important focus of VTMS since the inception. TANTEA- Tamil Nadu Tea Plantation Corporation Limited (an

undertaking of the State Government of Tamil Nadu, India) was formed in 1968 to rehabilitate Sri Lankan Repatriates. Authority of TANTEA took decision to shut down the Cherambadi Tan Tea without discussing with workers. In this context, the sangathan has organised meeting with workers to strategies the struggle against the corporation. On 12.12.2017 a meeting of the representatives of repatriates was held at Kothagiri. The issues such as economic hardship, scarce employment opportunities in and around refugee camps, and poor living conditions were discussed. Also identified the need to assert the right of TAN TEA workers over welfare measures like rent free accommodation-free water supply, primary education.

Stories from the field – Mining leading to loss of traditional wildlife habitats and violation of PESA provisions in bio-diverse rich Hasdeo Forests

The impact of widespread coal mining has greatly affected the wildlife in the rich Hasdeo forests. Resultantly, over the past years there have been several instances of elephants coming into the villages – killing people and destroying houses and crops. Official records note that 23 people have been killed in the past 10 months alone, while 775 houses have been destroyed. While local people keep watch and make themselves ready for such

Following the unanimous resolution of the Chhattisgarh assembly in March 2005, the Ministry of Environment and Forests gave its consent to the formation of two elephant reserves - Lemru in Korba (450 sq km) and Badalkhol-Tamarpingla in Jashpur and Sarguja (1048 sq km) on October 5, 2007. However, over the years, the state government in negotiations with the CII state bureau, silently struck off the Lemru Elephant Corridor from the list. With the realization that the area in

around the (elephant) sanctuary will block at least 40 million tonne per annum of coal production, the state government allowed for mining in these areas as well, violating its own commitment to address the growing concerns. In Korba district, a significant campaign has been waged over these questions in the past few months. On 12th February, a public meeting demonstration was organised at Morga in Podi Uproda block by members of Hasdeo Aranya Bachao Sangharsh Samiti and Chhattisgarh Bachao Andolan. Villagers have locally rejected the increasing illegal mining and said that it is because of these mining activities that elephants have started migrating into populated areas. A memorandum of demands was submitted through the deputy ranger of the forest department to the district collector. In the meeting it was shared that in the past two weeks alone 5 people have been killed and two dozen houses have been destroyed in Hasdeo area. They also raised questions on the preparedness in dealing with these attacks and their apathetic responses to the problems faced by the people.



Public meetings for PESA implementation in Korba district, Chhattisgarh

instances, the increasing magnitude of mining has continued to displace wild animals from their habitats.

A district level deliberation on violations of role of the Gram Sabha under the Schedule 5 areas was held on 5th June 2017 at Paturia Dand in Korba district. Members from Hasdeo Aranya Bachao Sangharsh Samiti a district-level meeting to highlights the illegal procedures being followed by the district administration, forest department and mining companies to take over the forest for non-forest activities. The deliberation was also organized to observe the world environment day with the pledge to save the forest and environment from the companies. Hasdeo Aranya is a very critical and important region to maintain the bio-diversity and climatic changes observing due to the growing temperature of the earth. This dense forest earlier declared as No-Go region for the non-forest activities by the Ministry of Environment and Forest later it was opened for some pre sanctioned projects now it is completely open for extraction of coal. To protect the forest and region around

24 gramsabhas in two districts Korba and Sarguja formed the Hasdeo Arand Bachao Sangharsh Samiti as a federation of Gram sabhas. All the gram Sabhas have received the community forest rights under the forest rights Act with the ownership and management rights over around 50000 hectares of forest. Now the district administration and forest department are initiating the process of allotment of coal blocks for extraction. Many violations are taking place. Gram Sabhas are opposing it constitutionally but the administration is denying the role of the gram sabhas on this issue. Around 500 people from 24 Gram Panchayats participated and shared their views and incidents of violations. At the end of the deliberation it is resolved to prepare a comprehensive report and meet to the Governor to share the details and will request to intervene and also send the report to Tribal Advisory Council for further intervention.

Panchayati Raj Institutions and Governance

Information sharing and lively discussions on the roles, efficiency and functioning of panchayat members has led to greater collaborations with sangathan members. Due to several other stakeholders actively present in villages, it becomes imperative that sangathan keeps regular touch with functionaries, developing enabling spaces for women to participate, articulate and take up leadership positions. During village meetings, sangathans have ensured women take up leadership roles in village committees, forest rights committees and core decision making of the sangathan. It has also translated to vibrant Gram Sabhas where women have taken active leadership.

Livelihood generation, formation of cooperatives, agriculture development, convergence with social security and line departments are important outcomes for these engagements with panchayats and gram sabhas. Sangathans have also organised resource mapping to better understand and then include their demands with memorandums and village planning processes. In PESA regions, declaration of self-rule, conducting constitutional trainings have been effective in the formation and association with regional, national networks. A resource centre at SRUTI office established and related trainings with the SRUTI team were also organised to facilitate the processes in the field.

Some glimpses from the States

Jharkhand

The Sangathans reached out to more numbers of families through awareness building on around issue and collectivization processes in their respective working areas. The continued processes of perspective and capacity building on PRI and PESA could build awareness on bridging the two - rights & entitlements within PRI systems and related socio-economic practices of their areas. This could bring-in awareness and assertion for their citizenry rights among the communities. Gram sabhas were organized with full quorum



କାଠ, ବାଉଁଶ, କେନ୍ଦୁ,
ଶାଳ ପତର,
ପରମ୍ପରା ଭାବେ ଅଛି
ଆମ ଅଧିକାର ।
(ମାଟିନା ମଟିନା ମଞ୍ଚ)



Meetings of Kendu leaf pluckers

for and under FRA processes that helped securing community and individual forest rights. Apart from planning for village developments and decisions over entitlements, the gram sabhas could also settle numbers of grievances in the area. Resource centres were also established in the field areas of the SRUTI blocks. This is further helping in knowledge and perspective building on around the issue. A community network and liaison with administrative bodies were also strengthened by organizing various meetings, sharing and laborative programs through the year.

Chhattisgarh

The SRUTI Fellow Groups organized various perspective and capacity building shivirs in their areas around the issue. This could bring

awareness on and strengthen the processes of rights & entitlements within PRI systems in line with the socio-cultural contexts of the area. The sustained processes of mobilization, trainings and dialogue have helped strengthening gram sabhas for the benefits of communities of the area. Resource centres turned out to be very helpful in the area in terms of furthering the knowledge of communities around the relevant issues. Around 40 gram sabhas were organized with full quorum mostly for and under FRA processes. Around 40% Grievance issues were also settled during the gram panchayats. There are strong networks that were further strengthened by expanding the horizons among various likeminded civil society organizations, media and various other stakeholders of the society.

Tamil Nadu - V.T.M.S has initiated the self-declaration campaign to assert their right over the forest. On the 10th December 2016, Gram sabha declared the self-rule and put up the sign board describing the right over the resources in 2 villages Devil Atti, Kattimattam in Gudalure.

Odisha - Panchayati Raj institutions are responsible for implementing different welfare schemes. To strengthen local democracy Adivasi Chetna Sangathan organised trainings with PRI members and community people. About 3520 applications have been submitted in 38 gram panchayats under the concerned schemes and 1618 people have got benefits from different schemes through PRIs. It also enabled the formation of 7 village level forest committees. Meetings were conducted with women PRI members for capacity building. Leading to discussions on three tier panchayati raj system, roles of PRI members, different schemes coming under PRI, provisions of gram sabha etc.

Bihar -Mazdoor Kisan Samiti organized a special series of awareness building among the communities and panchayat representatives on Targeted public distribution system and especially for Mahadalit communities in Bihar. Scholarships for students from the Mahadalit communities and forest rights as provisioned in Forest rights act who have been residing in the forest and Mukhyamantri housing scheme applicable in the state. The series started from 17th July to 23rd July in Barachatti and Fatehpur Blocks of Gaya district. 8 such meetings held and covered 10 villages and reached out to around 1200 families.



Declaring self-rule in two villages – Devil Atti, Kattimattam, Tamil Nadu on 10th December 2017

A particular case was the operation of a stone crusher at Raijhara near Mohanpasi village which was illegal as per the guidelines of Odisha State Pollution Control Board (OSPCB). After a public demonstration a case was filed in NGT, Kolkata in July 2015 after which NGT had ordered OSPCB to cancel the permission and give another chance only after it becomes eligible. So again the company was given permission to operate. Following consensus building among PRI members, second time case was filed again in 2017. The case was referred to appellate authority, Odisha. Finally, the crusher was closed on 16th of December 2017 after the owner submitted affidavit of the closure of the company. Later the crusher unit was removed from Raijhara.

Madhya Pradesh - Bundelkhand Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan in Damoh district has been working to raise issues – primarily on securing rights over land, both forest and revenue in favour of dalits, adivasis and other marginalised groups in its working area. Many parts of Damoh and Panna district are facing the threat of displacement and evictions in its wake. The Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary plans to evict 180 villages in Damoh, Panna and Sagar district. BMKSS has been working to activate the delayed verification of claims through pressure building, gram sabha resolutions, developing interactions among panchayat and ward members. In the past they identified forest rights committees formed without information to members or any awareness on the matter, proposed to dissolve these committees and re-elect forest rights committees. Many of panchayat members are also with the sangathan as through various meetings, they have extended their support in the struggle against evictions.

Panchayati Raj and Governance - Outcomes

- ❖ Sangathans in Andhra Pradesh, MP and Maharashtra organised trainings and leadership development programmes, with special focus on women leaders in the community.
- ❖ Through convergence with line departments and social security schemes, VTMS in Tamil Nadu facilitated 79 Income certificates, 301 residence certificate and old-age pension for 45 persons. They also facilitated access to drinking water, footpath, wild animal problem in 13 villages. Suggested action from gram panchayats took place in 17 villages.
- ❖ Sangathans in Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, MP, Maharashtra, AP, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu organised workshops on development of leadership skills, strengthening of sangathans, analysis and discussion of pending claims filed under FRA and welfare schemes. This allowed the sangathan to also make effective inputs in the Gram Sabha and with convergence meetings with district officials including from government departments of agriculture, horticulture, tribal welfare and block/mandal development officer.
- ❖ Sangathans in Bihar organized workshops on history of Panchayati Raj, women's leadership and focused on overall development of Gram Sabhas

Stories from the field – Establishment of village republics in Chhattisgarh

Gaon Ganrajya Sangathan has initiated a process of self-rule in the village under the section 244 (1) and (2) of PESA Act in its working area of Surajpur, Balrampur and Ambikapur districts of Chhattisgarh. Through this process of self-declaration by a village there is a process to form a local government under the provision of and re-formation of traditional village government.

The formation of these village republics have questioned the unlimited powers conferred on the district administration and the gradual taking away of all recognised rights. PESA provisions have been documented by the sangathan and awareness campaigns, for the establishment of Gram Sabhas as the larger decision making body. Instances of intervention from the administration have been challenged through resolutions passed by Gram Sabhas, at times notifying the collector of his illegal actions of organising a meeting on behalf of the mining company, or granting land without permission from the Gram Sabhas. The sangathan used pamphlets and other resource material for awareness on PESA and other judgements made by the Supreme Court which recognise the rights of adivasis on their land and natural resources.

Stone slabs declaring the self-rule of villages have been put up in many villages. The gram sabhas are the empowered decision making bodies within these villages and play a significant role in safeguarding people's rights. They are also carriers of the traditional way of living and resolving conflicts within the community. About 70 villages are established as one Gadh sabha and blocks within one geographical area are recognized as a Kut sabha, which further strengthens the decentralized village republics and vests them with autonomy.

This has reduced police harassment on tribals and minorities in the region and has developed a more inclusive mechanism of grievance redressal. Village republics have also empowered the people to assert for the recognition of their rights at state level as well. One case in point is the fraudulent SECL mining in the third phase of MAHAN project which did not take free and



Gram sabha meetings for passing of self-rule, Formation of Gaon Ganrajya Sarkar in Chhattisgarh

informed consent of the gram sabhas before starting the process of eviction and extraction. This was met with mass resistance and village meetings were conducted in the 16 affected villages in Surajpur tehsil. Finally, a public demonstration from Jagannathpur to Surajpur was led with about 500 hundred tribal men, women and children in February 2018, and a memorandum of key demands was submitted to the SDM pressuring the administration to take due action.

Recently, the Chhattisgarh High Court has ruled in favour of the petitioners, and disallowed the functioning of MAHAN-III. It also gave respite to false cases filed against activists and dismissed cases against them.

Agriculture and Livelihood

To address changing policies by the centre and state governments, change in MSPs, getting access to skill building courses offered for community members, sangathans organised workshops, public meetings for demand for legal entitlements. Work with cooperatives allowed people to come together and learn better production techniques and its improved linkages with the market.

Some glimpses from the States



Land development for horticulture under MGNREGA



Andhra Pradesh - Navajeevan sangathan has been promoting the 50 farmers club since 2009, over the ten years the farmers club made noticeable intervention in the organic farming. In this context the farmers formed “Navajeevan Agri & Horticulture Rythu Producers Company Ltd in 2016 with the purpose of promoting direct marketing of their agriculture produce. Trainings were organized with for development of livelihood options, on sustainable agriculture methods for the leaders of farmers group. Fabric painting and vermy compost building trainings were also organised.

Madhya Pradesh - At Adharshila School in Badwani district of Madhya Pradesh, various activities were conducted and some special days were observed to bring awareness among children Vishwa Khaadya Diwas (World Food Day) was observed on 16th Oct, 2017 and a discussion was conducted with children about

the importance of millets. Due to tubewell irrigation and cash crops, farmers are less interested nowadays in millet varieties i.e. Jowar, Bajra, Bhadi, Batti. A lesson in Hindi and English was prepared stressing importance of millets. Jowar ki khichdi was prepared for the occasion. On the occasion of Diwali school putai, making of lanterns and rangoli decoration was done by children. Teachers made udid wada while volunteers made gulab jamun.

Uttarakhand - MATI is closely working with many cooperatives that are promoting community based livelihood methods. The livelihood involved farming, handicraft and eco-tourism. Sangathan also organized trainings and workshops on how to do good farming and how to make woollen cloths.

Tamil Nadu - On 1st October 2017 farmers meeting was organised in Gudalur to discuss the state and central government agriculture policy and its effect on the farmers. On 21st October 2017 public meeting was organised by farmers at Delhi, in which 21 people from VTMS had participated. On 6th February 2018, public meeting was organized by VTMS and the Non-party Tamil Nadu Farmers Organisation in which around 5,000 people participated. The main speakers were Vetri, Easwaran, NKT Ponnuswamy, Chandrasekhar, Dr.Thangaraj and M.S Selvaraj. The situation of farmers, impact of government policies on farming were discussed.



Two-month training for weavers at Adarsh Hatkargha, Rajasthan; Certificate giving ceremony for 20 trainees

Education

Young people in every society are expected to be the change agents as they carry lots of energy, creativity and the will to change the monotonous flow. All sangathans associated with SRUTI are taking extra efforts to build perspective of the youths. Along with SSC, sangathans have their own interventions for building the support of young people they have been working with.

Some glimpses from the States

Uttar Pradesh - Awadh People's Forum in Faizabad district of Uttar Pradesh organised a summer education programme at Mehdona village during the period of 10th May to 10th July. It aimed at developing youth participation and building volunteers to raise issues of marginalised communities, migrant labour, running bridge schools with 50 young adults. As the area has been prone to attack from communal elements, the group has been going to the common culture of peaceful coexistence – the culture of Ganga-Jamuna.

Bihar – Janmukti Sangharsh Vahini organised a two-day seminar on Champaran Kisan Struggle at Betiah district in Bihar on 04th Nov, 2017. 40 participants from across the state attended the meeting. At the centenary celebrations of the historical Champaran struggle people raised the issues faced in social movements, the legacy of the struggle and how they can together continue to bring the issues of common people to the forefront.

Agriculture and Livelihood - Outcomes

- ❖ At Adarsh Hatkargha in Rajasthan, two months of training for unskilled weavers was organized at Aklera which was facilitated by the Rahmat from Bara. The training was attended by 20 people and out these 16 people became weavers. Cooperative has distributed loom for trained weavers and with their contribution the cooperative has achieved the turnover Rs. 35-45 lakh.
- ❖ **Navajeevan Sangathan** in Andhra Pradesh along with the community identified total 476 acres of land for land less people and also initiated the process to submit the application to the concerned officials. The sangathan facilitated land development activities in 599 acres for horticulture for downtrodden communities in 4 mandals under MGNREGA. Concentrated effort made to facilitate the implementation of basic facilities such as drinking water for 1025 families, sanitation for 915 families, street light for 12 village and roads for 12 villages. Awareness camps and health camps were conducted in 30 villages which was attended by the 4188 people.
- ❖ **Cooperative Initiatives in Odisha** - Last year in the month of April 17, 1200kg Mahua Flower @Rs15/kg (costs Rs18,000) had been purchased by Maa Panthei Mahila Primary Cooperative Society. During the month of Oct 17- Jan 18 the same stored Mahua flower was sold @ Rs.30/kg. The profit amount is Rs.15/kg. Around Rs12000/- was distributed among the members.
- ❖ MATI sangathan in Uttarakhand organised a 10-day training and workshop program starting from 27th September 2017 for students from Imli- Mahua school who came from Chhattisgarh. In the training the students were taught some handicraft such as weaving, earthen pots etc. they were also taken to local tribal museum and for trekking trough they were given exposure to the nature and the history.
- ❖ Sangathans in Jharkhand carried on their campaign to plant 500 fruit-bearing trees with the support and participation of the community, based on the belief that the development of their region will take place through fishing, afforestation and agriculture. Workshops on public health issues, availing rations and development of cooperative agriculture models were also done with young sangathan members and PRI representatives.

Right to Education - Outcomes

- ❖ 15 students including 9 girls from Manthan school in Rajasthan were registered for 10th board exam 2017 and 14 students appeared for the exam; out of these 13 students passed exam. Nine students scored first class and 4 students have scored second class. The highest percentage scored is 88-89pc. 9 students of Manthan appeared for the 8th standard board exam conducted by the state government and all of them were able to secure first class. A total number of 125 students were enrolled into school out of which half are girls. This year started with the 8 teachers. This year one ex-student of Manthan school got admission for M.Tech at IIT.

- ❖ **ttarakhand** - Sangathan members from **MATI** organised a one-day training with 19 tribal students from Imli Mahua school in Chhattisgarh. The students from Jungle School (a school run by young children for themselves) also joined to discuss common issues faced by communities. Environment concerns, depletion of natural resources and the challenges they face in their education were discussed in the day.



Annual Convention of Delhi Young Artists Forum, 29th March, Delhi

Delhi - Volunteers of the Delhi Young Artist Forum (DYAF) undertook a school admission campaign in which they identified 194 dropout members. Following the completion of class 8th, many students drop out either due to lack of financial or other support from their families, and to get involved with working to earn incomes. Young girls are the most affected also due to existing societal biases. In absence of support, parents do not invest time or resource on their education, and entrust them to take care of household chores or other members of the family. Due to the breaking out of fire at Bawana on 12th April which gutted almost 500 houses and damaged many houses

there was additional pressure on the limited resources of the family, many of whom are daily-wage hawkers, or work in the nearby factories, or engaged in work at per-piece rates. It took some convincing for these families to realise that the effort many of these parents are making to earn a living would be wasted if their children do not continue their education. During the campaign, meetings were conducted with the school administration to see which documents are required for the admission. Most people had documents but the lack of Aadhar was a significant problem. Even after help with securing these documents, only 90 students could be admitted before the start of the session, which is a daunting task considering there are many who are already running around for 'necessary documents'.

Gender, Caste and Communalism - Addressing social diversity through collectives

Raising awareness through discussions, workshops on issues of gender, caste and communalism, sangathans undertook work with either young sangathan members or with panchayat representatives and women from the community. Trying to assess policies affecting the communities from a gender lens, people realised how there is mostly no space given to the concerns of women. At the end of these workshops, the sangathan noticed active participation in regular work from the young community members and women, many of whom had questions on how to take ahead their struggles. Through collective discussions, issues of violence against women, assigned gender roles and the everyday discrimination they experienced by their own families and the larger community was also brought out. For many women, this were unique experiences where they could come together with other women, look at community issues at the village level and the country level, and discuss ways of extending support to each other.

Some glimpses from the States

Uttar Pradesh - At Faizabad, **Awadh Peoples Forum** conducted workshops on gender based violence. Gender-based violence includes a host of harmful behaviours that are directed at women and girls because of their sex, including wife abuse,

sexual assault, dowry-related murder, marital rape, selective malnourishment of female children, forced prostitution, female genital mutilation, and sexual abuse of female children. One workshop was conducted by Awadh Peoples Forum on this issue on 24th November at Uday public School.

Delhi - Similar workshops were also conducted by Delhi Young Artist Forum at Delhi through focused group discussions, public meetings, capacity building trainings and awareness camps. On 19th November, around 45 youths from resettled colonies of Bhalaswa, Khanpur, Bawana and Rohini attended a workshop on 'Gender Discrimination'. Another meeting on Child Marriage was conducted on 26th November.

Uttarakhand - MATI has been working to eradicate alcoholism, raise issues in management of van panchayats, increase livelihood opportunities and provide trainings on local self-government and the proper implementation of social welfare schemes. In their work against liquor mafias following which they had faced false cases against some of the karyakartas. After six years on 26 July 2017 the case was proved false and the court dismissed the case. Celebrating this victory there was a meeting organized on 6th September 2017 by the sangathan at Almora. There the history of the whole movement was recalled; how they had started the movement against liquor mafia, the problems they faced, how govt. and mafia tortured and filed false cases against them. Later a memorandum with demands of closure of the sale of liquor and other demands were sent to the CM of Uttarakhand. There were 3 more village level meetings were conducted for spreading awareness regarding impact of liquor. addressing violence. Four individual cases were addressed and through meetings awareness was spread among people.



Leadership building training with women sangathan members, 1st Nov, Latur dt, Maharashtra

There was a 2 day women's convention on 27th and 28th December 2017 organized by Uttarakhand Mahila Ekta Parishad, Sauniyo Sangathan, Bimarsh, Prayas, Saral, Maati, Maetri, Sohara Jan Sewa, Arpan and Laxmi ashram. In the convention many issues such as education, Health, Unemployment, migration, violence on women, women's rights on land etc. were discussed.

Maharashtra - On November 1st 2017 a workshop was organized by Shramajivi Sangathan, Latur on women leadership. During the session pointers were discussed on defining gender, difference between men, women and others genders, gender roles and discrimination based on gender. The discussion during the workshop delved in depth on how a Gendered society is oppressive for all the sexes, where the structure of power and

hierarchy come down to the smallest unit of society and the family.

Odisha- A two-day tribal festival known as *Mage Parab* was organized by Adivasi Chetna Sangathan on 31st January to 1st February 2018 at Mahuldagar. About 300 tribal men, women and children participated in it. It was an annual cultural festival organized by the sangathan every year to promote tribal culture. Tribal music and dance was performed by different groups from 10 villages.

Delhi - Several cultural programmes, community celebration of festivals, painting, crafts and art competitions were organised as activities to foster better friendships and cooperation. Interactions with university students through visits also allowed them to build a better understanding of teaching methods, helping individual students to dream of going to these universities one day, and be able to realise their dreams for themselves and their families. The conditions in the resettlement colonies reflect the long-ignored dreams of many in the young populations, and to continue to



Delhi Young Artist Forum (DYAF) organizing cultural programs and community celebrations of festivals

support their independent, well-thought and executed programmes remain an important aspect in working with these communities.

Welfare Schemes and Programs

A strong regional network with a young leadership has also emerged in all states where existing forums and networks have addressed local-regional issues, involved with media advocacy and formed delegations to pursue and demand action from public representatives at the state and national level. We also see strong mobilisation and legal advocacy campaigns on understanding changing legal implications on development projects, forest policies and rehabilitation.

Some glimpses from the States

Madhya Pradesh -Patthar Khadan Mazdoor Sangh organised 1st May (International Labour Day) celebrations at Panna district with about 500 union members. Noting the continuous attack on the rights of workers employed in diamond mines and others, the sangathan resolved to struggle against the anti-people legislations the state and central governments have brought in. The concerns of public health – those affected by TB, silicosis and others were raised and compensation and effective treatment was sought. Panna district also faces proposed evictions due to the Panna Tiger Reserve. Community members from affected communities were also present and added solidarity with other issues. The sangathan vowed to continue their struggle against exploitative forces and their fight to restore their constitutionally recognised rights.

Rajasthan - Khetihar Khan Mazdoor Sangathan organised Human Rights Day on 8th of December 2017 which was attended by 314 women, local Pradhan, Deputy Superintendent of Police and all the karyakartas of the sangathan. During the meetings the issues discussed were; Right to employment, Right to health, Right to education, Gender discrimination, Government benefits for mining workers and widows, GST and its effect on common people and laws and acts talking about women rights. After the program all the participants took out a mass procession in the Bhadeswar main market which marched till the Sub-Divisional Office. The women submitted a memorandum to the SDO to resolve the issues of water, PDS and all other promised benefits. They also asked the officials to work on war footing to complete the works.

महिलाओं ने रैली निकाल सौंपा ज्ञापन



भदोसर। अंतरराष्ट्रीय मानव अधिकार दिवस पर करखे के स्वयंसेवी संस्थान की ओर से महिला सम्मेलन का आयोजन भदोसर महादेव परिसर में आयोजित किया गया। संस्था की सुपन, चौहान ने बताया कि जन समस्या निवारण हेतु एक ज्ञापन राज्य

सरकार के नाम उपखंड कार्यालय में सौंपा गया। सम्मेलन में भदोसर क्षेत्र की 300 से अधिक महिलाएं शामिल हुईं। ज्ञापन में बताया गया कि नरबंदिया करखे में पानी की समस्या है। होडा गांव में शौचालय निर्माण का भ्रमस्तान नहीं मिलता है। लेखा करखे में कुछ

व्यक्तियों के पेशन रुकी हुई है। लेखा, मंडपिया एवं कन्नीज ग्राम पंचायतों में राशन को लेकर समस्या आ रही है। महिलाओं ने करखे में रैली निकाली तथा तहसील मुख्यालय, पंचायत समिति मुख्यालय होती हुई उपखंड कार्यालय पहुंची व ज्ञापन सौंपा।

Welfare Schemes and Programs - Outcomes

- ❖ **Odisha - Zindabad Sangathan** facilitate payments for Rs. 25000/- for 15 families under MGNREGA for land development. Job demand for 125 families in two villages was also done by the continuous engagement with people through sangathan. 18 beneficiaries under old age pension and 25 beneficiaries under Prime Minister Awas Yojna were facilitated in the sangathan
- ❖ **Adivasi Chetna Sangathan in Odisha** facilitated the inclusion of 189 new people in NFSA and secured getting rations regularly. 325 adhaar were linked with MGNREGS job cards and bank account of people. Along with this 465 new job cards, 655 new bank accounts were opened for people. The total 9,625 people have done 2,59,837 mandays work and received Rs. 4,57,31,312/- through their bank accounts. Main activities done under MGNREGS are 300 farming ponds, 16 water harvesting treatment, 65 ponds, 62 water canals, 10 mud roads. 10 anganwadi centres and 12 community centres.
- ❖ celebration of International Women's Day and World Forest Day, World Environment Day was done by sangathans across the country. It was used to raise issues on delayed wage payments, ration delivery on time, old-age and widow pensions and securing entitlements under housing schemes.
- ❖ Special awareness drives were organized for access to housing schemes, old-age pensions, scholarship for dalit communities in Bihar, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh, facilitating applications from about more than 4000 families.

Odisha - Ever since Adhaar has been made mandatory it has become indispensable for securing rations or getting access to social security schemes. Now adhaar number is required to get all the benefits. But there has been lot of spelling mistakes of names, surnames, address etc. due to which poor and labour class people have been facing problems. Correction is also costly and time taking. Therefore, sangathan karyakartas have been assisting people for correction. In the reporting period, 1200 adhaar cards of people were corrected. These adhaar numbers are linked to ration cards for availing benefits. Around 465 adhaar were linked to ration card for benefits.

NETWORKING AND ADVOCACY

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

- National convention and photo-exhibition on agrarian crisis, cattle economy and lynching of dalits and minorities | 20-21 March 2018 | Constitution Club of India

Campaigns

- Campaigns with state and national networks like Campaign for Survival and Dignity, Bhumi Adhikar Andolan, CFR-LA and other regional and national groups on PESA, FRA, Land Rights and Panchayati Raj Institutions

Advocacy

- Advocacy with Parliamentarians and Ministries of Tribal Affairs (MoTA), 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

Assam and Bihar are the two states that witnessed huge devastation with more than 3.3 million people spread across 25 districts and over 17 million in 21 districts have been affected by the current flooding in Assam and Bihar respectively.

More than 700 people lost their lives in the two states only. We were able to help approximately 750 families during the period of crisis.

In Bihar emergency relief services was provided to the flood affected 500 people (100 Households) in Nirmali block of Supaul district by Gyan Sewa Bharti Sansthan with the help of SRUTI. Need assessment based on means of livelihood of the households and extent of loss due to flood. In this way, we assessed 100 households. Delivery of relief materials started on 9th October 2017. SRUTI also helped Nav Jagriti to distribute 4000 hygiene kits in the flood affected areas like Katihar, Khagaria and Sithamarhi.



Children playing in relief camps in Barpeta district, Assam

The post flood relief service in Assam was planned to carry out in two phases. The locations chosen based on the aspect, where devastation of flood was high, the need for relief service was more and where very less support was been provided to the victims of floods. Phase I was focused on the Char areas of Barpeta district and Phase 2 was focused on the Jowai area in Dhemaji district of Assam. In the first phase, relief service has been carried out by The open Window (TOW) & alumni of TISS

Guwahati and Jhai Foundation on 09.09.17 & 10.09.17 in Majidbheta char area of Barpeta district & the 2nd phase started on 26th of November 2017. The team carried out a psycho – social intervention with the community, where the major focus was given to the children, who were the worst affected by the devastating flood. A day long workshop on psycho-social care & support with the children, youth, adults & the elderly group in the area was also conducted.

SRUTI during this time of crisis extended its support to organisations working at grass root level to help people recover their lives. An amount of Rs 2 lakh and 10 lakhs were given to sangathans in Assam and Bihar respectively.

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 9 individuals and grassroots groups benefitted from the Fund during the year.

Structure of the SRUTI Team (2017-18)

| Slab of monthly salary (Rs) plus benefits paid to staff | No. of male staff | No. of female staff | Total |
|---|-------------------|---------------------|-------|
| 10,001-25,000 | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 25,001-50,000 | 7 | 1 | 8 |
| 50,001-100,000 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Total | 10 | 4 | 14 |

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

SRUTI Executive Board

1. Amita Joseph, Member
2. Apoorvanand, Treasurer
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. Aishwarya Vaishnav, Assistant Programme Executive
2. Asha Raveendran, Assistant Programme Executive
3. Baldew Thakur, Finance Officer
4. Elin Archana Lakra, Assistant Programme Executive
5. Emlon Tirkey, Assistant Programme Executive
6. Jojoy Mathew, Assistant Officer – Finance and Admin

*in alphabetic order

7. Juheb Jhony, Assistant Programme Executive
8. L.R. Sarin, Financial Advisor (*part time)
9. Mahipal Singh, Admin-Fellowship Assistant
10. Rakesh Sharma, Assistant Manager – Resource Mobilisation
11. Sanjay Verma, Assistant Manager – Resource Mobilisation
12. Satyam Shrivastava, Director
13. Saurabh Sinha, Programme Executive
14. Shweta Tripathi, Director

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Income for FY 2017-18

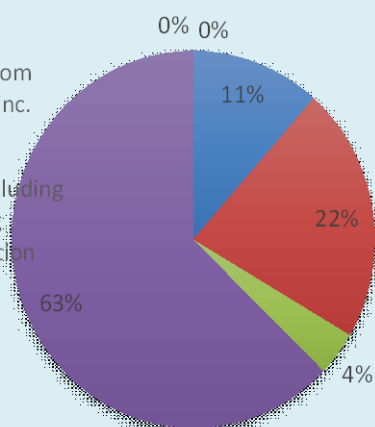
Interest
(Investment
and other
funds)

Donations

Scrap Donation

Grants from
Donors (inc.
previous
year's)

SWSF including
revolving
contribution



SRUTI Income for the financial year 2017-2018

| S.No. | Details | Amount (Rs.) |
|-------|---|--------------------|
| 1 | Interest (Investment and other funds) | 38,11,167 |
| 2 | Donations | 72,53,984 |
| 3 | Scrap Donation | 12,68,248 |
| 4 | Grants from Donors (inc. previous year's) | 2,07,30,863 |
| 5 | SWSF including revolving contribution | 4,000 |
| | Total Income | 3,30,68,262 |

Expenditure for FY 2017-18

Fellowship Programme

Resource Mobilisation

Emergency relief and welfare

Administrative Expenditure

Depreciation and loss of fixed assets

Other expenses

2%

13%

78%

0.3%

4%

3%

SRUTI Expenditure for the financial year 2017-18

| S.No. | Details | Amount (Rs.) |
|-------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | Fellowship Programme | 2,16,71,660 |
| 2 | Resource Mobilisation | 9,51,784 |
| 3 | Emergency relief and welfare | 10,39,747 |
| 4 | Administrative Expenditure | 36,58,968 |
| 5 | Depreciation and loss of fixed assets | 4,06,696 |
| 6 | Other expenses | 91,330 |
| | Total expenditure | 2,78,20,185 |

CONTRIBUTORS

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

SIR RATAN TATA TRUST

Paul Hamlyn
Foundation

CARING FRIENDS



भारतीय प्रतिष्ठान
NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR INDIA

