



Knowledge. Voice. Democracy.

**PRIA**

August, 1998

# Strengthening Panchayati Raj Five Years of CENCORED

## **CENCORED PRI Activities**

### **Background:**

In 1993 August, CENCORED had an opportunity to attend a workshop organised by Rajiv Gandhi Foundation which made the organisation think about the 73rd constitutional amendment and need to intervene on the issue. Being a state level Support Organisations on many occasion CENCORED had opportunity to see the profile of local field level Voluntary Organisations and observed that Bihar had basically three types of VOs i.e, Gandhian (Khadi) organisation, Sarvodya (Followers of J.P.) and third, those with modern professional approach. It was also evident that inspite of all ideological differences people's participation & Self Governance "Gram-Swarajya" were the core concern among all. People's organisation and democratisation of grass-root organisations these were few points on which everyone agreed. Thus, CENCORED perceived that it could, in collaboration with the field based VOs, work on the issues of New PRI which would also promote the above stated beliefs.

### **Concept:**

In the above background & context "CENCORED" realised the importance of PRI on partnership and planning process on PRI. These two aspects were also found very close to the mission of CENCORED that of "People Centred Development" based on participation and partnership" Thus, the PRI programme was conceptualised as follows:

- The present PRI talk more of legal provisions and it is a challenge to disseminate intricate legal messages to the community.
- The Gram Sabha is a body which needs to be strengthened.

### **Challenges:**

- How people of deprived and marginalised section will benefit from the reservation provision!
- How to make women active partners in the whole political empowerment process?
- How to establish participatory culture at panchayat level

Visualizations based on the past experiences about these questions and coming challenges provided a way to decide strategy and approach to the issues.

### **Approach and Strategies:**

CENCORED also had in mind the various seminars/workshops and training it had participated in which were mostly regarding legal aspects and analysis of the Panchayat Raj Act. These workshop were mostly confined to the state capital hence it did not have much impact on rural community for whom the act and amendments were made. With this fact in consideration CENCORED decided to approach the issue with special focus on Information dissemination at grass-root level. As Information dissemination was the main area of concern in PRI programme, a strategy was chalked out to involve various grass-root VOs as partner, and several efforts were made through educational interventions i.e. training/workshop to sensitise the grass-root VOs on the provisions of New PRI Act and on the compelling factors of their involvement so strategically, it was also decided to create a spearhead team at the zonal level in the state for the transmission of the messages on 73rd amendment.

### **Our Efforts:**

Gaya Experience: The whole process or interventions was discussed with VOs in an orientation workshop organised jointly by Bihar Panchayati Raj Samanvay Samiti and CENCORED at Gaya in which 18 VOs

participated. During the workshop a joint decision was taken to work on PRI issues. The workshop also stressed the need for creating a team of field level workers to transmit the messages. During the workshop two methods for message transmission were agreed upon; one was lecture and another was the use of local folk and cultural media. It has been a well recognised fact that use of folk culture as a medium of communication is very effective; especially among weaker and marginalised sections of the society. The need for popular communicating media emerged from the workshop.

### **Outcome of Gaya experience:**

During the workshop, two methods of communicating messages, one the lecture method and second the folk media through songs were tested in the nearby village in small groups where the training was organised. It was the finding of the participants that the message given in form of song was well received by the community. This workshop proved as an event which strengthened the above stated beliefs, In this light VOs participating in that workshop stressed the need for developing communication resources for wider application in PRI awareness. In the light of the resolutions in the workshop it was decided at CENCORED level to work in that direction.

### **Creating Cultural Team:**

Subsequently, it was felt at CENCORED level that so far communication through folk media was concerned it could not be achieved without training, specially of those who were identified at community level and were ready to get involved in it. To meet this need to organise a separate training programme on folk media it was decided to conduct a separate training of communication trainers for VOs and develop linkages with local (grass-root) mandalis which constituted the cultural team at VOs level. With this intervention a good number of impressive cultural teams got developed at different organisational level. SA VERA, UJALA, DEEP of Betiah (West Champaran), Mahila Shishu Kalyan Sansthan, Gopalganj are some good examples.

The formation of cultural team and its internal linkages with VOs and Support Organisation proved quite effective tool to communicate the messages on the 73rd Amendment. In the early phase of PRI programme the first primed materials published was APNA GAON APNA DESH a simple illustration of Panchayati Raj including the new provisions of 73rd constitutional amendment. This book was used for orienting VOs regarding Panchayati Raj preparing reading materials for the grass-root community as well as for the VOs and the workers on PRI and its related activities. On the strength of the indications received from the field experiences and from different workshops and trainings CENCORED developed more materials which is heartily used by the VOs.

### **Madhupur Experience:**

Based on Gaya experience CENCORED organised its first state level training of trainers on Panchayati Raj aided with communication and folk media at Lok Jagriti Kendra, Madhupur. The first session was on theoretical understanding on Panchayati Raj and second half dealt with converting the messages into the media in the form of Nukkad Natak, Puppetry, Story Telling Slogans, Posters etc. Field demonstration and feedback from community was part of curriculum. In the whole process the responses which came from the community was very positive and encouraging. Based on Madhupur experience communication and development of folk media (songs, nukkad etc.) was conceptualised as integral part of PRL programme and as an innovative tool providing joyful understanding of the intricate legal provisions of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment in favour of dalits and women.

### **BDVS (Barh) Experience:**

Bihar Dalit Vikas Samiti working for the Dalits having a very large network in North and Central Bihar, requested CENCORED to organise a training on Panchayati Raj for their Chief Organisers (Pramukh) and Community Workers. The first training was held in Dec. 1995 which was attended by participants from 12 districts. It was a memorable experience for CENCORED training team because it was a learning process

tor them too. Training was designed for VOs staffs but the participants were not upto the level expected. It was observed that participants did not follow the lessons imparted through lectures. Subsequently the training design was changed and posters were made simultaneously covering different messages of PRI and through these poster training was conducted. Approximately 51 posters were prepared and deliberated through lectures. On evaluation, it was found that this method proved very effective to pass on the messages to the participants having lower level of education. After the training BDVS requested CENCORED lo prepare a book, based on those posters with simple sentences. "Asthaniya Swasashan ka Paigam" was Thus, prepared and was in the form of a folder and this folder was effectively utilised by the trainers and workers of PRI in small group contact and proved to be very effective.

Audio Cassettes were developed in Magahi, Bhojpuri (Regional Language) from the songs prepared and composed by the participants in various trainings and workshops on PRI. Songs were also collected from VOs who were given training in effective use of folk media. These songs were compiled and recorded by CENCORED and the cassettes were prepared which was purchased by VOs for their use. It proved to be very popular in the field. In this process cassettes in three regional languages were prepared and these songs were also compiled in the form of a booklet for distribution to VOs for their use in group meetings and field programmes.

## Innovation in Panchayati Raj

### Information Centre

Information must be accessible to the common people so that they can intelligently and effectively participate in the development processes of their area. Information available today is confined to a particular class of people in the society and common men do not have any access to those information. The government mechanism has made the problem more difficult, more over the irony is that middle men, local workers, political leaders are exploiting innocent and ignorant masses due to non-accessibility of information.

### Origin

A workshop was organized on the role of voluntary organizations in Panchayat by CENCORED immediately after the passage of 73<sup>rd</sup> Constitutional Amendment. After this amendment in 1993, anticipating early Panchayat election, it was difficult to inculcate among the masses in simple way the intricacies of legal aspects of Panchayati Raj enactment. In this context voluntary organizations felt the need of a Centre, through which the common men of society and intending candidates contesting election could be provided with messages of New Panchayati Raj, as well as to provide information regarding the casting of six votes, filling up nomination form, rectification of voters list, demarcation of constituency. To make available details on these counts the concept of Information Centre was developed.

The intention behind the implementation of Information Centres was also to strengthen women folk, specially women of deprived and backward class, in discharging their roles in sharing power in Panchayati Raj under the provision of reservation for them for the first time in Panchayat history.

Role of Information Centres has been envisaged at three levels.

- (a) Before Election Period
- (b) During Election
- (c) Post Election period

#### (a) Before Election Period

- Voters' awareness dissemination of messages of New Panchayati Raj.
- Rectification in Voters' List delimitation of ward and Panchayat constituency to help communities know about their placement in this respect.
- To make voters and would be candidates, aware regarding the process of casting votes and filling up nomination norms.
- To make available the various Nomination Forms for the various Panchayat positions.

#### (b) During Election Period

- To help in conducting clear, impartial and peaceful Panchayat elections.
- To encourage and motivate voters to cast their voters.

#### (c) Post Election Period

- Training and capacity building of elected representatives, of wards and Panchayat.

In the light of above circumstances, following objectives were set for the Information Centres.

- To disseminate the information related to 73<sup>rd</sup> Constitution Amendment in simple language.
- To ensure the community participation in rectification of voters' list, demarcation of ward and Panchayat Constituencies.

- To enable the candidates, intending to contest election, to fill up the different nomination forms for different Panchayat position.
- To provide information regarding, value of Panchayat election and six votes, to common voters.
- To ensure the decrease in the cases of invalid and cancelled votes.
- To act as a link between community and government in holding clear, impartial and peaceful election.
- To act as a facilitator for Dalit and women during election period.

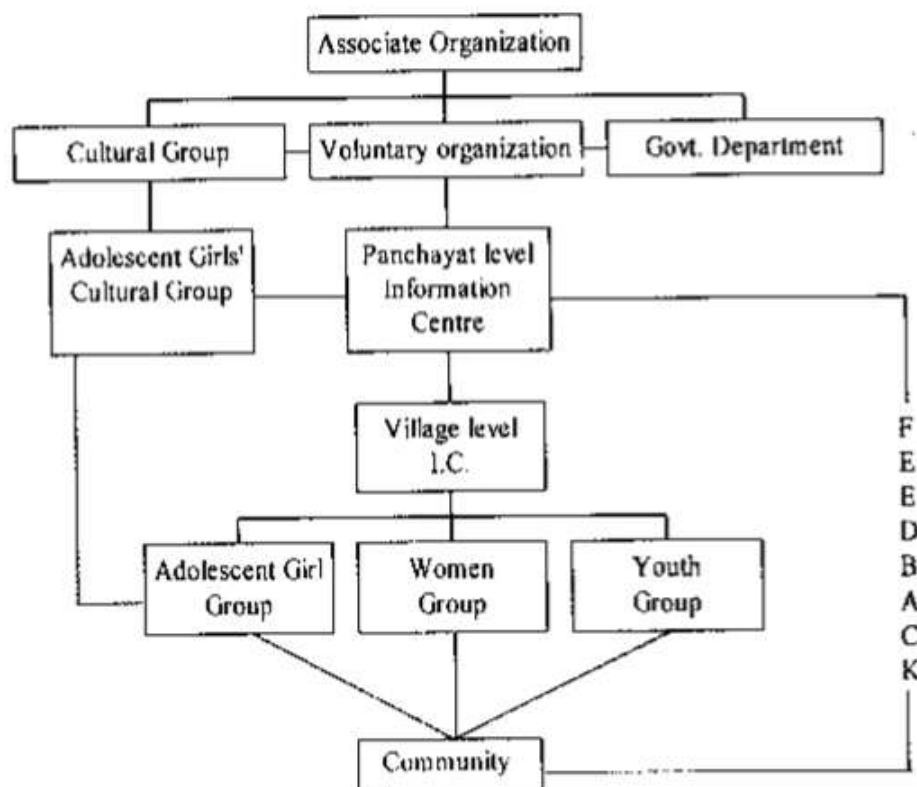
Considering the immediate Panchayat election, duration for Information

Centre was considered as till one month after the Panchayat election and its structural process was started.

## Structure

Volunteers were selected at village and Panchayat level through organising meetings. Responsibility of conducting and implementing Information Centres was given to one or two people male or female who were selected and elected by the community organizations themselves and were willing to take responsibility of implementing/running Information Centres at Panchayat levels. Locations of Information Centre were too decided by the community itself. Organizer/incharge of such Centres is called Sanchalak/Sanchalika, and are available at Information Centres daily for three hours on regular basis; they also have to move in community to motivate people to be associated with the Information Centres. They used to impart knowledge regarding group formation, women reservation, Panchayati Raj system. Later on a new group of Adolescent girls (Kishori) was formulated and trained. This group of Adolescent girls motivate female folk who are hesitant in coming out from their home courtyards. Thus, Information Centre developed as a body of male, female and Adolescent Girls. Panchayati Raj activists remained in regular contact with the masses through training, monthly meeting and other such activities, people who got associated with groups through Information Centre, participated in activities organized by Information Centre and motivated their fellow being. A cultural team was also constituted and its members were trained in street plays, puppetry, song, story telling - mass media. This could only be possible through proper coordination between Information Centre and voluntary organization. Later on the members of cultural team used to disseminate the messages of Panchayati Raj and Information Centres in remote villages.

## Design of Information Centre



Flow of Information has been demonstrated through the above formal

### Activities

For generating awareness regarding the 73rd Constitutional Amendment following activities were undertaken by Information Centres.

- Organization of meetings and camps (Shivir) at village and Panchayat level by organizing people.
- Training on New Panchayati Raj through Sanchidak/Sanchalika of Information Centre and regional trainers of field level voluntary organizations.
- Pulling show or street plays, Puppetry and other cultural programs through cultural team.
- Demonstration of posters, slogan, wall writing based on Panchayati Raj.

Organizations of programme like prabhat pheri. Cultural nature by Adolescent Girls (Kishori).

### Resources

It was decided that Information Centres should be implemented with community help and cooperation, volunteers should be selected by community to monitor the functions and activities of Information Centres. Supporting organization made learning materials to partner VDOs organization on subsidised rate and were kept at the centre.

## Information Centre afterwards

Panchayat election in Bihar is being put off due to reservation and demarcation issues and as such people's enthusiasm started turning into frustration. Thus, it became more difficult to keep them associated with Panchayati Raj activities further. But in course of time, people's curiosity for knowing more about development schemes and programs of common people's interest, increased among the masses. Helping people in sorting out solution of their problems at Block office and providing benefits or development scheme, the utility of Information Centres enhanced further. Information regarding development schemes apart from Panchayati Raj was also linked with Information Centres, in its new dimension. After the dissolution of previously established Panchayati Raj through Hon'ble Supreme Court rulings, Information Centres emerged as strong medium for enhancing women's participation in Gram Sabha meetings organized by govt. departments. A clear and vivid role of Information Centre seen in project formulation, and its proper and scheduled implementation.

For example, community hand pump scheme was proposed by women group of Kanahara Panchayat of Bochahan Development Block of Muzaffarpur district, Bihar and got it passed in Gram Sabha and that too was passed for implementation under the suspension of Information Centre. It was revealed that if Information Centre could be developed as a pressure group, it would be helpful in strengthening Gram Sabha for longer duration.

For it, regular meetings of women groups, youth groups were organized, in which development issues were discussed in detail. Collective efforts were taken for their solution. Information Centres Thus, got transformed into community organization and got acceptance from community. Women also demonstrated their interest in Information Centres as only such forum could help them in their struggle for getting 33% reservation for them. They also felt that Information Centres had filled the vacuum of those information which they needed more.

In the study conducted by CENCORED before entering second phase of Panchayati Raj activities, it has been revealed that only those Information Centres remained functioning during first phase,

- Which were engaged in linking people for their participation in development work and Gram Sabha meetings.
- Which continued the programs organized by women groups.

It was also seen that such Sanchalikas who were active in conducting activities of Information and helped beneficiaries in getting benefits, got her recognition, as future representatives of Panchayat, from the community as happened to Ram Pardhi of Kanahara Hardas (Bochahan, Muzaffarpur) and Lalamuni of Kanahauli (Basantpur Siwan).

As emerging out of the analysis or information during study following indications were clearly perceptible;

- Information Centre could be a such platform, where women could share their feelings and they could provide due expression to their feelings and interests.
- It could become such a platform where people can confer with their representatives and keep vigilance on the working of Gram Sabha.
- People could raise the problem of community in Gram Sabha and put collective pressure for their solution.
- It could also work as a resource centre, from where all sorts of information/data regarding development be made available to people.

## Achievement

- Linkage of Information Centre with another community organisations increased.
- Linkage of govt. officials such as women extension officials, with Information Centres enhanced
- On information regarding filling up nomination form, on the basis of learning materials developed by support organization, number of women as representative, emerged in good numbers.



- Women participation in Gram Sabha increased, and they became internally strong.

### Problems

- Lack of information concerning ward and Panchayat at govt level.
- Lack of proper resources for implementing information Centre organizational level.
- Hindrances by Ex-Panchayat representatives and govt. officials.
- Frustrations due to legal dispute regarding Panchayat election.

### Information Centre at Present

Panchayati Raj programme in second phase is known as PARAMSHAKTI meaning hereby Panchayati Rai Women Strengthening Programme. This programme is being provided federal shape right from village level to Block level and is getting women participation to a great extent. Women development committees established at every level, are being linked with respective Information Centres, for providing information to women leadership emerging from every level. Study reports also confirm it like Ramdutha patti Panchayat, women of Rampur Jaipal Panchayat of Bochahan Block also got Gram Sabha meeting held after pulling pressure on Block administration and got community latrine scheme passed. In the same way women development committee Balthi Rascolupr too, passed the resolution of rural road scheme and took the responsibility of its construction.

It also appears that Gram Panchayat can become strong institution, when its efforts for village development and people welfare work, identifies local necessities, and provides concrete shape by planning.

Panchayats do feel and realise local requirements and necessities, as it is a body implemented by people themselves. People have mutual closeness, and they want solution of personal problems as well as of community, but they lack information. Unavailability of important information poses problems before them here. Information Centres as resource centres have much value for collecting and sharing information along with providing cooperation in disposal of problems after planning activities, so that organization, govt. and community all get mutually benefited.

#### EXAMPLE

#### General Meeting of Ramd-utta patti Panchayat

A Gram Sabha was organized by Block administration this year in Ramdutta patti Panchayat of Supaul District of Koshi region of northern side of Bihar. Sanchalika of established Information Centre communicated information regarding meeting to women folk of Panchayat and motivated them for their massive participation in that meeting. Consequently 125 women participated in the meeting and discussed in detail regarding their problems. On inquiry from the Block Development office about their source of information all responded in favour of Information Centre as source.

When the question about the appointment of an agent for road construction work under Jawahar Rojgar Yojana was raised women replied in one voice that they wanted to select a woman as an agent. The women selected Ms. Chanda Devi as their agent for the road construction work, who wanted to help other women members of her group by engaging them in construction work as they all were feeling that road construction work should be done properly.

Ms. Chanda Devi got an opportunity of meeting with D.D.C. of Supaul in that connection, who was astonished to see a female as an agent. Ms. Chanda Devi provided information to D.D.C. regarding the working of women development committee and Information Centre by linking the endeavour of organization with panchayati Raj. D.D.C. appreciated the endeavour and expressed his desire to meet the Head of organization. It is hoped that such organization and women development committee are able to get sufficient cooperation in implementing the programme under her leadership.

## Kishori Panchayat

Strengthening women Leadership has been a major focus of the programme. Here it is a point to be considered that major chunk of these women who are to be strengthened with leadership qualities and capabilities so that they might discharge their roles and responsibilities effectively in Panchayat activities are simply not within access due to various social constraints.

CENCORED during its intervention in Panchayati Raj activities got an opportunity for organizing training programme for women in its experimental area Bochahan, Muzaffarpur. It was observed during training that Adolescent Girls also accompanied their mothers in it and took great interest in Panchayati Raj institution like wise their presence and cooperation in Information Centres and other activities like-meeting of women groups was also visible. CENCORED anticipated the possibility as Kishon group due to following reasons;

- This age group has dose relationship with mothers and women of the community.
- This is such an age group in which adolescents develop quick understanding and learn things properly,
- They are eager in sharing new information and experience, which lead towards their intellectual enhancement, and makes them more knowledgeable.
- They can easily influence their parents specially mothers,
- They have free access to women of any age group.

All these trails of Adolescent Girls of experimental area Bochahan proved quite helpful in tile formation of women groups and Information Centre programs which are being implemented under Panchayati Raj awareness programme. It was then decided to organize Adolescent Girls (Kishori) in a group and involve them in Panchayati Raj awareness programme. The concept of Kishori Panchayat emerged out of these perceptions and certain objectives were set for its formation.

## Some other Observations

Due to timely Panchayat Election in other states, following observations are worth noticeable.

- Female representatives in Kerala state got elected in more numbers due to high literacy rate.

With cooperation of various political parties in West Bengal, number of elected women representative of Panchayat is quite visible.

- Apart from these two states tendencies of other states were observed and found that most of the women representatives of Panchayat are mere names.

Keeping in view the participation of women in Gram Sabha and Gram Panchayat under 73•d institutional Amendment CENCORED endeavored to view Kishories as probable candidates for the future. If they were made aware of Panchayati Raj at this age following advantages can easily be gained

- Through them messages of Panchayati Raj can easily be disseminated to those women if community, where workers have no access.
- Being involved in this process they would have clarity about their roles and be much more aware before becoming adult voters, which would provide strength to them at their individual as well as social levels.

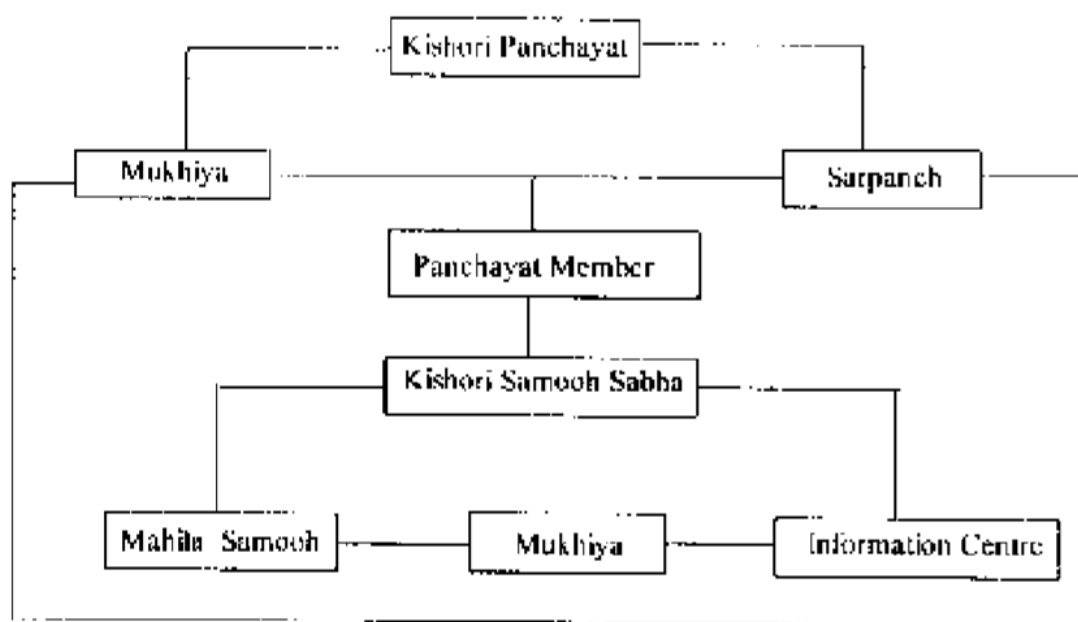
## Objectives

- To develop awareness among Adolescent Girls (Kishories) about Panchayati Raj.
- To utilize them as a strong media for reaching women groups.
- To develop consciousness for their future participation in Panchayati Raj activities.

## Structure and development process

In the beginning, as an experiment, classes were held on topics of Panchayati Raj in middle and High Schools. Teachers and Kishories were oriented on various issues and aspects of Panchayati Raj-three tier system of Panchayati Raj. Its contents were communicated through songs for making them joyful and memorable. As the contents are the part of curricula, their interest in topics increased.

After advocating about 73rd Constitutional Amendment for clear understanding and providing training, it was decided to reach Adolescent Girls of age group of 7-14 years who were out of schools through educated girls. The structure that emerged from the establishment of Kishori Samooh would be clear from the following design.



Sanchalikas and Sah-Sanchalikas were elected after establishing Kishori Samooh at household level and they were entrusted with the responsibilities of implementing Kishori Panchayat. They were provided training on communication under Panchayati Raj for discharging their responsibilities effectively and making messages effective and interesting while disseminating it among other them group and women folk. Folk cultural medium was major topic in it. After training formal kishori samooh, they were linked with Mahila Samooh and Information Centre, for which workers facilitated the meetings, as a result kishories could understand easily and became active, besides their capability of taking decision and leadership could also be developed. Capability of implementing Panchayat among Kishories also developed. The Mukhiya of kishori panchayat took responsibility of developing other Kishories,

## Achievement

Achievements and experiences of first phase of the activities undertaken in the experimental region were shared with associate organizations which were engaged in Panchayati Raj awareness programme, which they had done their best efforts to implement in their respective target areas. Severa and Ujala, voluntary organizations of West Champaran have performed commendable jobs. The impact is visible at local level. They held mock election of Kishori Panchayat, The tremendous success of the election has encouraged us to further promote the concept of Kishori Panchayat one hand while on the other hand it was an enthusiastic experience for the community as well as the guardians too. Panchayat Pramukh (Kishories) were keen and conscious for the upliftment and development of peer groups. They along with women development groups took great pains in reopening closed Kishories' Centres of Bihar Education Project and

look collective responsibilities of re-construction the school building too. It was clearly evident from the impact study of the programme that they used this forum to discuss their disputes and tried to find out solution through joint efforts, as it is clear from this event.

### Disposal or Dispute

Seema, aged 14 years, a member of Kishori Samooh of Hardas Tola of Kanahara Panchayat under Bochahan C.D Block Muzaffarpur raised the issue before guardian by organizing meeting of Kishori Samooh regarding the admission of her younger sister in High School which is situated at a distance of 9 K.M. from her village. After getting approval of female guardian Kishories of that village started attending schools. After some time dispute aroused between school going Kishories and Asha was held responsible for that. The issue reached before Seema who in turn referred the matter to Rekha, Sarpanch of Kishori Panchayat. The issue was discussed in the meeting and the meeting came to the conclusion that if the matter be referred to guardians they would not be allowed to attend school further. While disposing the dispute, it was decided that Asha may be pardoned it was her first mistake, if she repeats the same thing in future she would be expelled from the Samooh, at present she may be allowed to attend school samooh after all we belong to the same village.

Successful experience has of Kishori Panchayat were also shared at the national level workshop. UNICEF also decided to work on the concept of Kishori Panchayat so that child right might be protected through that Panchayat. An organization of Andhra Pradesh is busy at present to organize child labour under "Makal Panchayat" which invited these Kishories in the seminar convened for it.

On the wholistic review, two dear cut benefits appear for the future, one in other states where women even after their election have remained inactive role, the same might not be repeated again in future, second-even after their managers, they would try to universalise their experiences and messages of Panchayati Raj in their in-laws areas too. In fact the realisation has emerged that Kishori Panchayat is the best strategy for the development of women leadership of the future.

## **PRAMSHAKTI PROGRAMME:**

### **A, Background**

'PRAMSHAKTI' is the abbreviation of Panchayati Raj Mahila Sashakukaran Karyakarm, (Panchayati Raj Women Empowerment Programme). CENCORED evolved this programme to promote impact-generating participation of women in the democratic institutions. In evolving Paramshakti as a programme package CENCORED kept the following hard facts in mind.

- i) Women constituted almost 49% of the total population in general. But in cases like North Bihar where the migration menace took away most of the male members to employment areas in other states, women constitute the sole able and active population in the rural areas. As such, the empowerment of women, specially those of the weaker sections had to be concerted and undertaken in order to have a really vibrant panchayati Raj Institutions.
- ii) Women in general and those of the deprived sections of society in particular, were subjected to a host of socio-economic constraints that hindered their fuller participation in any activity beyond the realm of household requirements. As such, women had to come out of their present involvements and include their individual identity and independence among their prime concerns.
- iii) the 73<sup>rd</sup> constitutional amendment having 33% reservation for women in PRI could not be fully realised unless women were properly empowered and enthused with conceptual clarity about their role and functions in PRI.
- iv) Women have been used to taking lead from the male members within as well as outside the family encourage. As such, they had to be oriented to assume leadership to participate and contribute responsibly and responsively to the democratic processes. This was more pressingly required where the male members had migrated and women left to manage the household and the family.
- v) Women constituting almost 49% of the population and in places like most of the rural areas in North Bihar, majority of the population and decision taken through democratic processes will evenly carry only half and even less than half of the population's care and concern, only half of their priorities and preferences and thereby a distortion of democracy.

### **B. The Programme Package**

With the above hard facts in view, the PARAMSHAKTI programme was evolved and conceptualised to consist of a series of activities.

- i) A workshop of the enlightened individuals of the Panchayat, ex-office bearers of the Panchayat, Panchayati Raj related govt. officials and the social activists in the area.
- ii) Awareness generation programme through folk media about the PRI and its special provisions for women in the Panchayati Raj.
- iii) Identification and selection of 25 to 30 women volunteers.
- iv) Training of the selected women volunteers in information gathering on Panchayati Raj and dissemination among women and others.
- v) Leadership training to three of the most active of the selected volunteers.
- vi) Setting-up of Information Centre with the help of these trained leaders and providing them requisite support and help to make the centre a scat of activities for women and others.
- vii) Promoting the Information Centre to include other socio-economic details also for catering the needs of the people and thereby make itself more meaningful and useful.

### **C. The Objectives**

These activities put together were intended to achieve the following objectives that emerged out of the hard facts about women as stated above. The objectives were:

- i) To make women aware about their priorities placement in the 73<sup>rd</sup> amendment.

- ii) to let them know and understand to the extent possible their legal rights and duties as citizens.
- iii) to keep the created awareness enlivened through the leadership and the Information Centre.
- iv) to 'create leadership among women that could match and even out-match the male leadership in its vociferousness and vividity.
- v) to ensure, to the extent possible, women's active participation in the democratic processes.
- vi) to achieve the concept of the evolving socio-economic growth through participation and partnership by creating a process for women by women and of women's empowerment.

#### **D. The Key Contributors.**

The implementation strategy for PARAMSHAKTI some key contributors upon whose role play the success of the whole programme, if not depended, then certainly rested. Those key contributors were:

- i) the local Voluntary Development Organisation (VDO) which is nodal to the whole range of activities. Like Janus it has to look both ways and sideways too. On the one hand are the community, and the activities and on the other arc the Regional Resource centre and the support organisation. And on the side lines are the government agencies & the social activists. So, if the VDO lacks on any count, the impact and inclusiveness of the programme would suffer.
- ii) the programme co-ordinator, the prime mover of the programme. If PC would be a women then the inputs included in the programme package would have direct and best penetration. If PC would be a man then the penetration was bound to have less penetration and be indirect.
- iii) the Women Leaders (WL) who would be providing concrete shape to the inputs. Therefore, their quality of leadership would determine the quality and coverage of the impact on women in general.
- iv) the women Volunteers (WV), who would be spearheading the Mahila Vikas Samiti (MYS), would determine the extent of participation of women in the samiti and the kind of issues that get discussed and re-dressed in the samiti, its timely organisation and smooth functioning.
- v) the Sanchalika of the Information Centre would be responsible for information gathering and discrimination, and promoting the centre as a seat for community related activities,

#### **E. The Organisational component & Activities**

The organisational building running and the intended impact generating exercise included in the PARAMSHAKTI programme package included:

- i) Mahila Vikas Samiti (MVS): would be the prime and grass-root level organisational component which will be the recipient of all the developmental inputs and through which the they will percolate in the community. It will provide members in deliberations, discussion and finding collective solutions to the problems and issues.

The MVS was to be formed at all the three tiers of a Panchayat - the panchayat, the Gram-Sabha and the Ward - and function with the following objectives in view.

- a) to enhance the participation of the community.
  - b) to organise community participation in development works.
  - c) to function as a group for the systematic implementation of Panchayat activities.
  - d) to provide protection to the interests of women in the workings of the Panchayat.
  - e) to ensure women's participation in the democratic processes.
  - f) to work for women becoming responsible and responsive citizens.
  - g) to work for achieving gender equity in the community.
- ii) Information Centre (IC) would be an organisational set-up mainly to gather and disseminate informations related to Panchayati Raj and community development. The prime objectives of IC would be:
    - a) to gather and disseminate all the legal Information on Panchayati Raj and its functioning.



- b) to gather and maintain well-documented about the material and human resources available in the Panchayat,
- c) to update and maintain voters' list of the Panchayat.
- d) to gather and make available information and details about the govt. schemes and programmes related to the community development
- e) to provide help and support the individuals in grievance redressal by co-ordination with the right person or agency.

iii) The Consultative Committee (CC) would consist of members nominated from ex-office bearers of Panchayat. The related govt. officials, the social activists, The Press and the elderly citizens. The committee would be mainly providing guidance and expert opinion to individuals, groups or organisations on specific issues and provide from time to time due support and help in the activities of MYS and IC.

## The Implementation

The implementation of PARAMSHAKTI programme package was initiated with an interaction meet of VDOs and the MIND Fellows from 20 Panchayats of 11 Blocks of I districts. The partners were carefully selected as the whole programme package required highly involved interventions. The selection parameters primarily were:

- i) intense community-based activity experience.
- ii) considerable access in the community.
- iii) comparatively free to put in maximum of time and attention to the programme implementation.
- iv) communication skill and composed temperament wise above average.
- v) Had organisational set up in the thick of the area they worked in.
- vi) Had some previous interactions with CENCO RED in its programme and activities and was quite familiar with its organisational workings through participative method.

Subsequently, each of the partners provided information about the entry-point in the area, the individuals to associate as resource or support persons and the venue to hold the first activity of the programme package.

## G. The Main Hurdles

Having sufficient experience of working at the community-level and through community-based organisations, while setting ourselves to implement the programme package all those involved in CENCORED has the following hard facts well-spelt and set in their mind:

- i) that the very act of approaching women was going to generate problems of all hues and dimensions.
- ii) that the real test of our ingenuity lied in find an access to women.
- iii) that the materials prepared required great adjustments in order to be communicative.
- iv) that the dependence on the local organisation for the implementation of activities had to be minimal and.
- v) that the co-operation of the male community above would help in making the interventions sustainable.

In order to surmount the last hurdle we had kept the application of PRA up in our sleeves. But to the first two ones we had no answer which we happily innovated in promoting adolescent girls as harbingers and carriers of our inputs.

## H. The Achievements

As a demonstrative part of the programme package the following were achieved

- i) the formation of MVS at each places of intervention.
- ii) the setting up of Information Centre.

- iii) the conducting of PRA to provide information base to the centre and to get the participation of male members of the community to a large extent.
- iv) the formation of consultative committee at each places.

By way of impact the interventions of following survey revealed that

- i) The women have started taking interest in the development activities and at some places they have resorted to pressure tactics for getting their due.
- ii) The Information Centre has become a platform for grievance redressal.
- iii) In the MVS women come in increased numbers to discuss issues and take collective decisions.

As the implementation of PARAMSHAKTI programme was done at Gram Sabha level, its best impact could be seen there for it is there that the interventions provided have been tangible results.

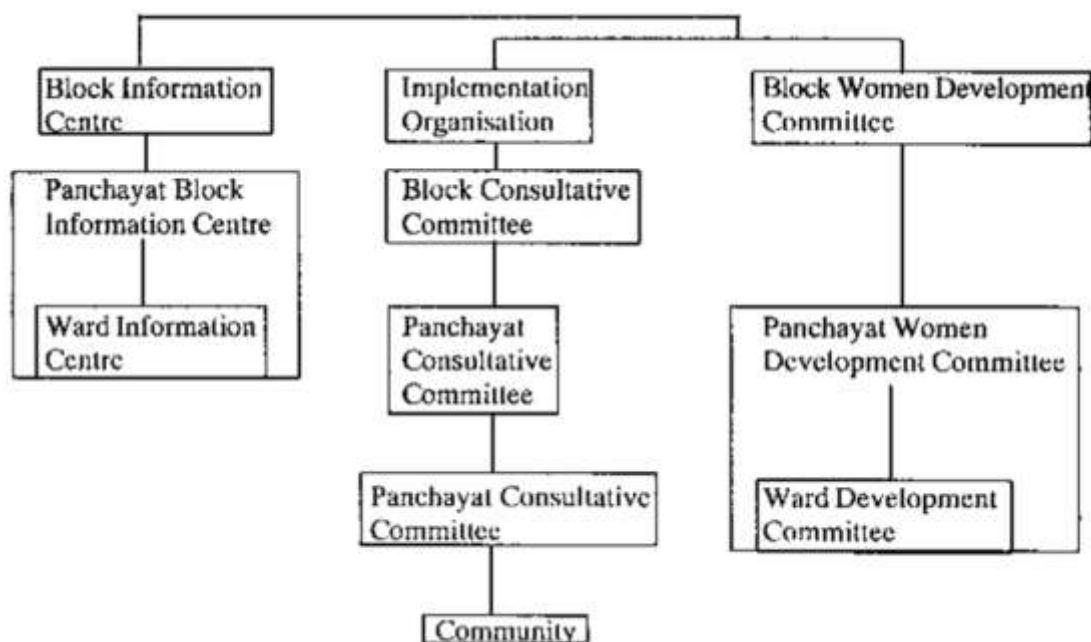
Before the implementation of the programme the meet or Gram-Sabha although provided in the Act to be held regularly, was not properly done. But after the constitution of the MVS, women have been successful in prevailing upon the Block Development Officers to hold the meetings regularly and discuss the developmental projects and ear-mark the areas for women's participation. This is a remarkable achievement in itself specially in view of the fact that the participation of women in Gram-Sabha meetings in other states has been declining but in our case, although Panchayat elections have not been held, their participation has been increasing at those places where PARAMSHAKTI interventions have been provided.

### **I. The Case-Study**

Pachrukhi Panchayat is situated at a distance of 2 k.m. from the Akabarpur Block under the Paramshakti programme. Information Centre and M,VS were set-up at ward level in this Panchayat. Daughter of Ms. Usha Devi, Sanchalika of Information Centre was poisoned to death by her in laws. Ms. Usha Devi lodged F.I.R. at Police Station. Ms. Usha Devi got threatening and allurements to hush up the case, she refused. Members of the in-laws family of the daughter is got her arrested by the Police at midnight of 18th August 1998, by greasing in the palm of Police. The news of her arrest spread in the wad like fire. Secretary or the M VS in a meetings, involved the women for the release of arrested Ms. Usha Devi. Nearly 20-30 women went to Police Station and enquired the reason of the arrest of Ms. Usha Devi from officer-in-charge of the Police Station who refused to oblige them. Women started raising slogans which created a situation which compelled officer-in-charge of the Police Station and got her released after some enquiries



## J. The Organisational out-put lay-out



### Our Advocacy Effort

In spite of our field intervention, continuous delay in PRI election created stigma in community. Thus, being a pioneer organisation on the issue it became legitimate for us to take up delay of election cause to national level because a special leave petition was impending at Supreme Court level filed by the Govt. of Bihar. CENCO RED along with its partner VOs like minded activist forum & Network of PRI functionary (Bihar Rajya Panchayat Parishad) set forth their hand to highlight the whole gambit of grass non-governance in Bihar, and draw up attention of National activist forum, media, intellectuals, NGOs. The key activity under this process are as follow:

1. Organising meetings at district & state level.
2. Organising 1 day 'dharna' before High Court.
3. 'Sankalpa Diwas' on 9th August 1999 at saheed smarak.
4. Signature campaign.
5. 'Ghanta Julus' from High Court to Gandhi Statue.
6. Organising 'Jan Panchayat' at Raj Ghat, New Delhi.
7. National level consultive meeting at Gandhi Peace Foundation, New Delhi on 'Gram Panchayat' and Gram Kachhari in Bihar.

Apart from above key activities several press conference were organised to sensitise media on the issue. Personal meeting and lobbying were done at the political party level to include PRI in their election manifesto. An early hearing petition were filed at Supreme Court level to expedite delay in Panchayat election.

**Impact:**

PRI issue has now become agenda of almost all prime political parties in the state and almost all prime news daily are continuously highlighting the issue. Realisation of Gram Sabha as a vibrant democratic institution have become important at grass-root level and women leadership has taken part in various demonstrative activities at Block and District! head quarters and put pressure on govt. to hold periodic Gram-Sabha.

**Appendix**

**Effort in Panchayat Raj Advocacy Programme  
1999 to 2000**

Year	Activities Adopted	Objective	Achievement
1	2	3	4
May 1998.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact with some VOs Intellectuals and enlightened citizens.</li> <li>• Meeting of active members.</li> <li>• Press correspondents meet.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Search of active citizen to establish coordination committee or forum by enlightening understanding of election of nearly dead Bihar Panchayat.</li> <li>• To initiate regarding political discourse for early Panchayat election in Bihar and to take initiative in formation forum.</li> <li>• Wide declaration of nature of campaign.</li> </ul>	<p>Acceptance for setting up a team of active members.</p> <p>General consensus for Panchayati Raj forum.</p> <p>Dissemination of campaign programme in villages through press.</p>
June 1998.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public contact through representatives of Regional organisations.</li> <li>• State level programme of post card writing to H'ble Supreme Court.</li> <li>• Signature campaign at state level.</li> <li>• Demonstration by 200 women and VOs representatives before H'ble Patna High Court.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People awareness.</li> <li>• To put pressure for early disposal of dispute.</li> <li>• To activate High Court regarding the gravity issue and to solicit advocates's cooperation through distributing printed materials.</li> </ul>	<p>Development of understanding regarding Panchaya election among people, media and others under agritational banner of campaign.</p> <p>Submission of memorandum before H'ble Supreme Court and H'ble High Court consensus regarding future Action Plan through advocate's of network.</p>

Year	Activities Adopted	Objective	Achievement
1	2	3	4
July 1998.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State level meeting.</li> <li>• Contact and meeting with Delhi based <i>genteries</i> and organisations. Topic Election in Bihar who is culprit?</li> </ul>	<p>2. Wide endorsement of wider campaign for Bihar Panchayat Election.</p> <p>1. To prepare design for the National level campaign for drawing attention of govt. courts, Political parties, through public movement at state level and to review the progress.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cooperation of state level organisation, as well as organisations of network.</li> </ul>
August 1998.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State level public contact.</li> <li>• Press conference.</li> <li>• <i>Protest demonstration, rally Natak seminar, foot march cycle rally and signature campaign at District and Block levels.</i></li> <li>• Meeting of Delhi level Implementing Committee at CSDS.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To mobilize resource for programme implementation.</li> <li>• To make aware regarding programme.</li> <li>• To organise Press conference at Delhi.</li> <li>• <i>To organise seminar and Jan Panchayat at Rajghat New Delhi.</i></li> <li>• to prepare for seminar, Press conference.</li> <li>• To provide information of seminar and Jan Panchayat programme.</li> <li>• To demand Justice from Babu (Mahatama Gandhi) to sensitise journalists political leaders, jurists, and Intellectuals for early Panchayat election in Bihar.</li> </ul>	<p>Success in contact campaign. Appreciation by the representative of all News papers, committed to highlight the issue.</p> <p>Sensitization of people of state towards the issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consensus decision was taken.</li> <li>• Seminar and Jan Panchayat were organised under leadership of Mr. V. M. Tarkunde.</li> <li>• Nearly 300 men and women participated in Jan Panchayat.</li> </ul>

Year	Activities Adopted	Objective	Achievement
1	2	3	4
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting of Mr. Amerendra Sharan Advocate Supreme Court with active members of campaign committee.</li> <li>• Contact with Mr. Ramanuj Sharan petitioner of Panchayat Parishad.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To persue the case of petitioner as per decision of Jan Panchayat.</li> <li>• To get NOC.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was decided to procure NOC from previous Advocate and to mention the case.</li> <li>• Determination of date for Delhi departure.</li> </ul>
September 1998.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To procure NOC for Amaredra Sharan Advocate Supreme Court.</li> <li>• To participate in the meeting of and formation fo joint coordination committee of CENCORED and Bihar Rajya Panchayat Parishad.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to mention the case.</li> <li>• to sensitise the members of Parishad regarding the issue and decide or the future linkage.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NOC and affidavit were made available on 07.09.98 to the Advocate.</li> <li>• A joint coordination committee of CENCORED and Parishad was formed.</li> </ul>
October, 1998.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To have contact with enlightened citizen politicians and media people through co-ordination committee and to appeal through Akhil Bharitiya Jan Vigyan Congress for early Panchyat Election.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To sensitise People regarding the issues.</li> <li>• To mention the case.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bihar govt. filed before H'ble Supreme Court for early hearing.</li> <li>• Available documents were presented to Advocate.</li> </ul>
November 1998.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocate to mention the case before H'ble Supreme Court.</li> <li>• Meeting with retired Judges and Advocates.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early disposal of pending cases.</li> <li>• As above.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The case was mentioned on behalf of Govt. of India on 10.11.98 and by Amarendra Sharan on 21.11.98</li> <li>• Meeting was held at the residence of Mr. V. M. Tarkunde and emphasis was laid down on organising national level seminar.</li> </ul>



Year	Activities Adopted	Objective	Achievement
1	2	3	4
December 1998.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To procure relevant documents.</li> <li>To available all sorts of documents relevant to Panchayati Raj.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To prepare the material for National Seminar.</li> </ul>	<p>Following materials were prepared and produced.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- main paper.</li> <li>- Panchayat Election &amp; Bihar.</li> <li>- Panchayati Raj system in Bihar - updated status.</li> <li>- Rural Justice system in Bihar.</li> <li>- Chronology.</li> <li>- Bihar Panchayati Raj Act 1993 and Panchayati Election - a reality.</li> <li>- Panchayti Raj Act in Bihar and its electoral problems.</li> <li>- Present status of Panchayat in Bihar - Election &amp; enactment.</li> </ul>
January 1999.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Media management at Delhi level.</li> <li>Organisation of National Seminar on topic-Panchayat Election and Bihar.</li> <li>Procurement of 50,000 signatures from 2,00,000 signatures from ISS, a Delhi level organisation and submission in the office of H'ble Chief Justice, H'ble Supreme Court in a deligation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to raise issue at national level.</li> <li>to widen the path of early election in Bihar.</li> <li>To sensitise Judiciary regarding the issue for early formation of constitutional bench for early disposal of panchayat election case.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contact and discussion with Press correspondants and others.</li> <li>Successful organisation of programme on 19.01.99 at Gandhi Shanti Pratisthan.</li> <li>A deligation of five people submitted the signatures in H'ble Supreme Court.</li> </ul>

Year	Activities Adopted	Objective	Achievement
1	2	3	4
February 1999.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remained in regular contact with officails of Panchyati Raj department of Bihar Govt, other VOs and Library of Bihar Vidhan Sabha.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To procure copies of Govt. orders regarding PRI system.</li> <li>to establish cordial co-ordiantion with Govt. officials for obtaining relevant documents for helping Advocate.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Copies of orders were pro-cured and co-ordination was established.</li> </ul>
March 1999.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visit of three Panchayats of Bihar.</li> <li>To obtain signature by dispatching letters to H'ble President of India, and H'ble Members of Parliament.</li> <li>Signature campaign.</li> <li>Meeting and discussion with core team of Delhi, Ex-Justice Mr. V. M. Tarkunde and Advocate.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To obtain documents of Judge-ments passed by old Gram Kachahari.</li> <li>To obtain signature after sensitising political leaders so that consti-tutional bench be formed early.</li> <li>As above</li> <li>To give preference to case number for early hearing by mentioning it.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minute books of Gram Kachaharies of Mokama, Beldaur, and Saharsa Gram Panchayat were procured.</li> <li>Draft of letter was prepared with consultation with core team and Advocate.</li> <li>Bundle of 50,000 signature was taken back from H'ble Supreme Court and News of constitution of Constitutional Bench came. M.P.'s signature campaign was postpond.</li> <li>An application was filed on 23.03.99 for the case men-tion.</li> </ul>
April 1999.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contact with Rajyapal, Panchayat Minister and Govt. officials at state level.</li> <li>Meeting and discussion with core committee, advocate and others.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For doing advocacy for making the rules and regulations of Panchayati Raj enactment.</li> <li>To search out the measures of early hearing of the case.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Memorandum was submitted and assuration received.</li> <li>Formation of new strategy on the order of H'ble Supreme Court.</li> </ul>

Year	Activities Adopted	Objective	Achievement
1	2	3	4
May 1999.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analysis of available data, documents and orders by core team.</li> <li>• To get the case mentioned before H'ble Supreme Court for early disposal of pending case.</li> <li>• to obtain the photo copy of order of H'ble Chief Justice of H'ble Supreme Court, given at the time of case mention.</li> <li>• To contact and to solicit the cooperation of Bihar Raj Panchayat Parishad.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To help the Advocate.</li> <li>• To provide priority to case of early Panchayat Election in Bihar and for its early hearing.</li> <li>• To document the orders of H'ble Supreme Court.</li> <li>• To monitor and evaluate the endeavour undertaken regarding Panchayat election in Bihar.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final copy of all available data and documents prepared.</li> <li>• The case was listed on 23.03.99 and 11.05.99 for mention and order of H'ble Chief Justice for listing the matter was given.</li> <li>• Efforts were made to procure the document from H'ble Supreme Court through contact person.</li> <li>• to obtain guidance from Mr. B.B. Singh, Advocate, Govt. of Bihar and A.I.P.P. officials from time to time.</li> </ul>
June 1999.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Constant contact with B.R.P.P. and suggestions.</li> <li>• Contact and lobbying with Welfare Department, Panchayati Raj Directorate, Village Developments Deptt. Social Welfare Board of Govt. of Bihar and voluntary organisations of rural level and their representatives and associates</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To solicit suggestion and cooperation in the efforts of Research and Advocacy.</li> <li>• To chalk out activities of and hold discussion about people awareness regarding Women's participation in development programme, strengthening of Gram-Sabha and Panchayat election of Panchayats at regional level</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acquired adequate suggestion and co-operation.</li> <li>• Acceptance of time and date for holding one day women conference on the topic of participation of women of North Bihar in Panchayati Raj to be organised by Social Welfare Board.</li> </ul>

Year	Activities Adopted	Objective	Achievement
1	2	3	4
July 1999.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To evolve network of voluntary organisation at regional levels in North Bihar.</li> <li>To organise contact meeting with Sathi group VOs.</li> <li>Organisation of one day women met on 07.07.99 at Town Hall Bettiah.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To establish a organised structure of voluntary organisations in North Bihar for achieving goal.</li> <li>To ensure strategy of making one day women conference, proposed by Social Welfare Board, a successful.</li> <li>To generate people awareness regarding decision making of women regarding development and women's participation in Panchayati Raj activities.</li> <li>To link Sathi network with Social Welfare Board.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Formation of regional network of 18 voluntary organisations in North Bihar, under 'Sathi'.</li> <li>To determine direction of programme after getting co-operation Sathi.</li> <li>Dessemination of message of women's participation in PRI activities among 5000 women who assembled at Town Hall Bettiah on 7.7.99 with the collaboration of Sathi network.</li> <li>Proclamation regarding other programmes by chairpersons of both central and state welfare boards and application from VOs were invited too.</li> <li>Assurance from Chairperson of these boards for securing full cooperation from Prime Minister and Law Minister at Centre for early disposal of cases of Bihar Panchayat Election.</li> </ul>



Year	Activities Adopted	Objective	Achievement
1	2	3	4
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact meeting and discussion with <i>Bihar Rajya Panchayat Parishad</i>.</li> <li>• Telephonic conversation with AIPP, Delhi.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of case work at H'ble Supreme Court level.</li> <li>• To make relevant present information available for planning future strategy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Telephonic dialogue with contact persons of Delhi and plan for Delhi visit for planning strategy.</li> <li>• Possibility of hearing of Panchayati Raj election case of Bihar in H'ble Supreme Court on 22-23 July '99.</li> <li>• Departure to Delhi for ascertaining meaningful efforts.</li> </ul>
August 1999.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting with Mr. Ram Jethmalani <i>law minister, courtesy of Mrs. Mridula Sinha Chairperson Cenral Welfare Board.</i></li> <li>• To discussion the present position of cases of Bihar Panchayat election with Advocate who is monitoring the case.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To ensure help and lobbying from Attorney General at H'ble Supreme Court for providing priority of pending case in H'ble Supreme Court for its early disposal.</li> <li>• to sollicite necessary instruction from State Advocate Mr. B. B. Singh and Mr. Amarendra Sharan, Advocate of VOs for early disposal of case.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With the help and cooperation of Ms. Mridula Sinha Chairperson, it was possible to brief law minister with the facts relating to this case and assurance regarding intervention as per availability of Attorney General.</li> <li>• Mr. Amarendra Sharan is well prepared for early as argument he was provided with relevant and useful documents.</li> <li>• The same was also made available to Mr. B.B. Singh <i>State Advocate.</i></li> </ul>

Year	Activities Adopted	Objective	Achievement
1	2	3	4
September 1999.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To meet with secretaries and officials of voluntary organisation of Delhi.</li> <li>Organisation of Block level meeting.</li> <li>Accorded sanction from Bihar Record room for using documents for Research work.</li> <li>Monitoring of activities at Delhi stage.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To have intensive discussion on the issue of Bihar Panchayat election and to decide future strategy.</li> <li>To take initiative for impressing upon political parties for incorporating the issue of Panchayat in their election manifesto of 13th Parliamentary election.</li> <li>To develop pressure group.</li> <li>To collect information and facts for Research.</li> <li>To effort for providing priority to the case.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>White paper, as prepared by Mr. B.B. Singh Advocate was submitted to H'ble Supreme Court as desired by it in its judgement of 11.05.99. It is being presumed that the case has been given priority and it might be possible for its hearing before constitutional bench during the month of September.</li> <li>Advocacy was done through a committee of six members in the collaboration with AIPP with prominent political parties for incorporating the Panchayat issue in their election manifesto, which was preferred by their leaders.</li> <li>Formation of regional organisation.</li> <li>Gate pass of the Record room obtained.</li> <li>After contacting with core team and othes and assessing the position of case in H'ble Supreme Court, PRJA was informed regarding position on 30.09.99.</li> </ul>

Year	Activities Adopted	Objective	Achievement
1	2	3	4
October 1999.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organisation meeting/seminar/conference of co-ordination committee at District/Block/Panchayat level.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To raise people confidence towards panchayat election by making them aware and to form a strong pressure group for providing making mass movement.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional network of voluntary organisations of Bihar was formed.</li> </ul>
Nov.-Dec. 1999.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Documentation work.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To preserve documents related with Advocacy efforts and to prepare report on the basis of available data and information.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Documents were collected with the help of members of coordination committee and draft report was prepared.</li> </ul>
January 2000.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To formulate monitoring and follow up plan of action for the dimensions of previous activities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To effort for the early listing of the case before constitutional bench of Hble Supreme Court.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting and consultation with core committee members and Advocates at Delhi level.</li> </ul>
February 2000.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Departure to Delhi for monitoring the activities.</li> <li>To organise meeting of core committee at G.P.F. New Delhi.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To become aware with the position of listing of the case.</li> <li>To discuss on political line for providing priority to case.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting was organised at Gandhi Peace Foundation New Delhi on 10.02.2000 as a result the case of Bihar Panchayat election was not getting priority.</li> <li>Appeal was made for protest demonstration before Hble Supreme Court in the meeting.</li> </ul>

Year	Activities Adopted	Objective	Achievement
1	2	3	4
March-April 2000.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regular contact and discussion with various ministers and officials of directorate of Bihar Govt.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To undertake advocacy efforts for formulation of rules and regulations of Bihar Panchayati Raj.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Being impressed by the suggestion Panchayat minister entrusted the work of formulation of rules and regulation to concerned officer and assured to implement Vigilance Committee even before election.</li> </ul>
May 2000.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advocacy to all the political parties by issuing a request letter.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To involve party workers in organising Gram-Sabha at Panchayat level.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All the political parties appreciating such types of works and give us green signal.</li> </ul>

## Coverage of Paramshakti Programme

Table:

Regional Resource Centre (RRC)functional

Partner Voluntary Org, active

No. or District covered

No. of Block covered

No. of Panchayat covered

No. of ward level Information Centres

No. of Panchayat Information Centres

No. of Block level Information Centres

No. of Mahila Vikas Samiti organised

No. of active women leaders

No.of Sanchalika (ICs)

Field level orientation workshop organised

No. of training

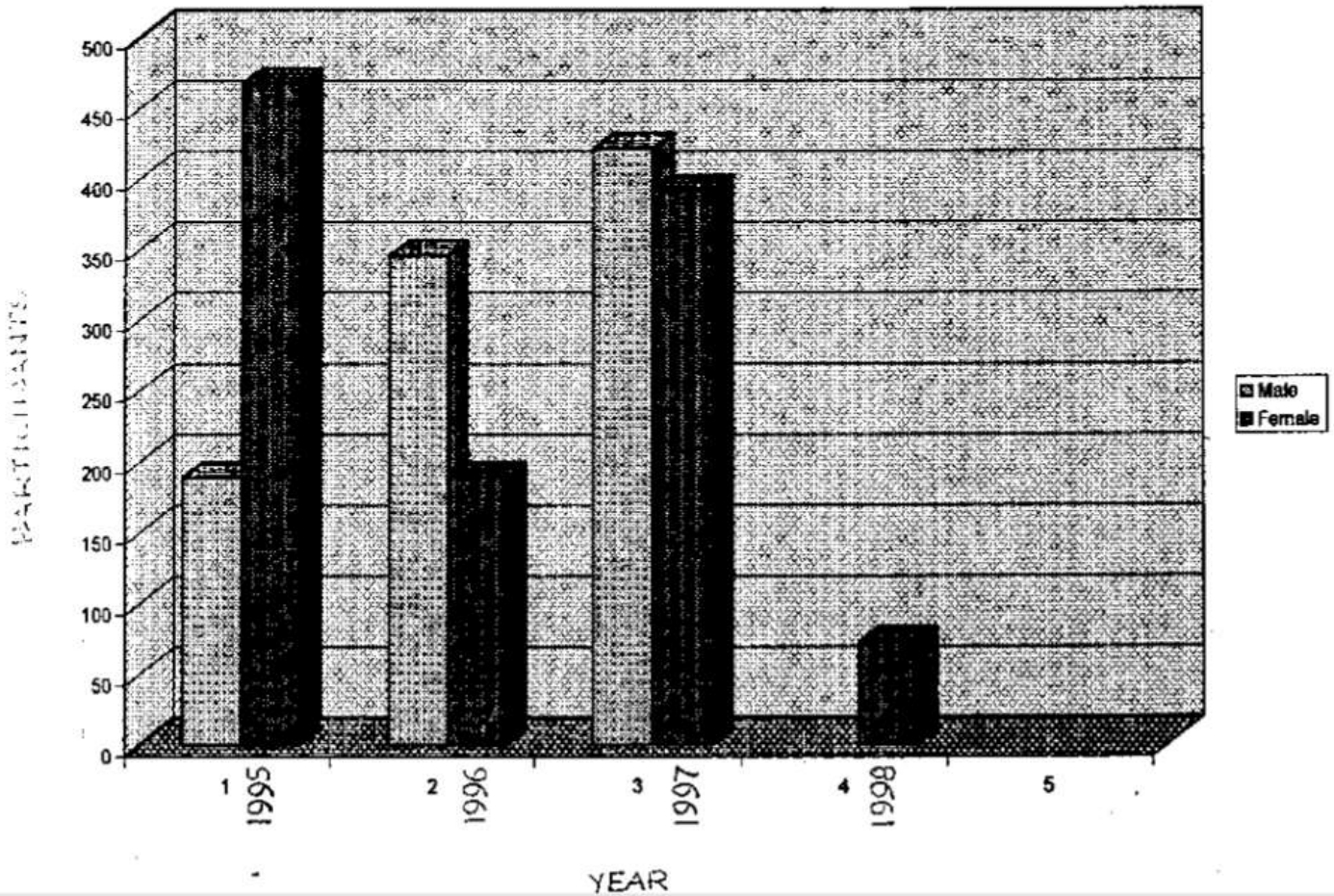
State level review and planning workshop

Year	Sl.	Name of Trainings	No of Trg.	No. of Participation			No. of VO's. Participated	Place of Training
				M	F	Total		
1995	1.	Panchayati Raj women awareness training	12	·	3	360	12	Gaya, Patna,
	2.	Panchayati Raj Communication training	03	75	0	126	45	Muzaffarpur.
	3.	Panchayati Raj Environment	01	15	5	30	01	Madhupur, CTC,
	4.	PRITOT	01	20	2	30	01	Muzaffarpur, BDVS.
	5.	Panchayati Raj Building and material preparation W/S	02	45	1	65	·	Lohardagga.
	6.	PRI Information Centre training	01	21	0	30	26	CTC,(Censored Training Centre) CTC.
	7.	Need Assessment w/s of NGOs on PRI WIS of NGOs secretaries on	01	12	0	13	12	CTC.
996	1.	Panchayati Raj Communi-cation training	08	156	7	123	85	CTC.Nawada, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur
	2.	w/s Training on Information Centre.	02	45	2	66	15	Sahebganj, CTC.
	3.	PRITOT	01	15	1	30	07	Katih
	4.	PRI Kishori Panchayat	01	20	1	40	01	ar
	5.	NGOs secretary orientation	01	13	5	25	12	Muzaffar pur
	6.	Panchayati Raj Women awareness training	02	30	2	62	02	pur CTC Samstipur, Patna.

Year	Sl.	Name of Trainings	No of Trg.	No. of Participation			No. of VOs, Participated	Place of Training
				M	F	Total		
	7.	PRI material preparation w/s	01	12	1	24	01	Sahebganj Muza ffarpur
	8.	Training on Community participation in PRI	01	17	2	26	01	
	9.	PR! impact study w/s	01	37	03	40	11	
1997	1.	Panchayati Raj women awareness training	06	89	1	210	38	Jahanabad, Muz. Madhupur, Patna
	2.	PR! people centred	02	33	1	53	16	
	3.	Development training	07	174	20	299	114	CTC. Khagria, CTC, BDVS. Supaul, Nawada, Siwan, Muz, Madhubani W. Champaran, Khagria, Stamarhi.
	4.	PRI Orientation w/s Block level women Volunteer training	09	125	1	250	09	
1998	1.	Stale level women leadership dcw, trg. under Paranshakti programme	01		23	23	11	CTC.
	2.	Quarterly review meeting of programme. Training-Cum-WrS on Process documentation related to PRI intervention	04		24	24	11	CTC.
	3.		01		25	25	12	CTC.



Participation in PRI Training (1995-98)



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