

Newsletter



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Social Accountability and Social Audit

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is a flagship rights-based programme of the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, to provide manual work for all wage seekers. As one of the largest social protection programmes in the world, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme has great potential to stem rural distress and lend a supportive hand to the more disadvantaged people in the rural society. The programme is known to work best in areas with higher levels of community involvement and where effective accountability mechanisms are in place. In this context, considering the widespread nature of the scheme and being the rights-based programme, it is essential to make the implementation transparent and accountable. The Social Audit process which ensures mobilisation of community, right insights on the programme interventions, verification of records, public hearing, etc., is the in-built mechanism of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS to ensure transparency and accountability to ensure effective implementation of the programme. In this background, there is a necessity to create trained manpower for undertaking the social audit at Panchayat level. Consequently, the Ministry of Rural Development, in collaboration with NIRD&PR evolved comprehensive capacity-building initiatives on Social Audit. The nation-wide capacity building measures on Social Audit were recently launched by NIRD&PR.

The NIRD&PR in collaboration with the Ministry of Rural Development and Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, launched the Master Trainers programme to conduct a one-month Certificate Programme on Social Accountability and Social Audit through a standardised training module for the purpose of strengthening Social Audit process across the country while implementing the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA. It is aimed that all the Social Audit Resource Persons, operating at State/District/Block level, will undergo the one-month Certificate Programme and the successful candidates will be awarded Certificate in Social Accountability and Social Audit.

An elaborate process is adopted while evolving the content and process of organising the Certificate Programme



and NIRD&PR played key role in this regard. The process involves organising a series of workshops to arrive at strategy and content of the training, a series of writeshops to develop the content of the programme and then holding consultations with MoRD to evolve the process of organising the programme through SIRDs.

In detail, the process involved consists of:

A. Training Content

- NIRD&PR in collaboration with Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, developed the Course Content and Manual, etc.
- NIRD&PR arranged the publication of Manual in Hindi and English languages and made available sufficient number of copies to SIRDs and SAUs

B. Identification of Master Trainers

- Team of Master Trainers comprising Lead Course Coordinators, SIRD Coordinators and SAU Coordinators were brought in place to organise the programme
- The representatives of NIRD&PR, SIRDs and SAUs identified the list of Lead Course Coordinators for each State
- The Lead Course Coordinators, SIRD Coordinators and SAU Coordinators are given specific mandate while conducting the one-month Certificate Programme

- The Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, shortlisted and finalised the list of Lead Course Coordinators, SIRD Coordinators and SAU Coordinators from the nominations received by setting up an internal committee with representation from MoRD

C. Conduct of State Visits

- The representatives of NIRD&PR and TISS made joint visits to each State to verify the preparedness of the SIRDs concerned and SAUs concerned to execute the training
- The SAUs are responsible for providing the list of resource persons to undergo training and enter the names on NREGASoft

D. Training of Master Trainers

- The identified Master Trainers will be trained at NIRD&PR. On completion of training, Master Trainers will be certified by TISS to train SAU Resource Persons

E. Training of SAU Resource Persons

- Master Trainers certified by TISS will conduct training of all SAU Resource Persons (at State, District and Block level) of the State in the SIRD concerned

Based on the strategy adopted, at the outset, NIRD&PR organised a three- day National Workshop at

New Delhi from April 27 to 29, 2016 to evolve the content of the Certificate Programme. Based on the outcome of the Workshop, a series of writeshops were held both at NIRD&PR, Hyderabad and TISS, Mumbai, leading to evolving of Social Audit: A Manual for Trainers, and Tool Kit, etc.

Dr. W.R. Reddy, IAS, Director General, NIRD&PR and Smt. Aparajitha Sarangi, IAS, Joint Secretary (MGNREGA), MoRD jointly addressed the representatives of State Institutes of Rural Development and Social Audit Units from all States in regard to strategy adopted for organising the one-month Certificate Programme.

On evolving the Manual for Trainers on Social Audit, the Centre for Wage Employment of NIRD&PR in collaboration with Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai organised three 10-day Master Trainer programmes from September 6 to 16, 2016 wherein 121 representatives from SIRDs, SAUs, identified Lead Course Coordinators participated.

On conclusion of the Master Trainer programmes, the NIRD&PR is in the process of launching a one-month Certificate Programme for approximately 5760 State/ District/Block resource persons in the country from November 2016 onwards. The Centre for Wage Employment of NIRD&PR coordinated the mentioned programmes.

Dr. G Rajanikanth, Associate Professor & Head, Centre for Wage Employment, NIRD&PR, Hyderabad.

Meetings

Working Group Meeting on Development of Nutrition-sensitive Agriculture Module

From various studies and reports, it is a well known fact that poverty and poor health are not the only causes of stunting among the children. Under-nutrition can be the major cause of stunting too. Under-nutrition can be dealt by scaling up the nutrition-sensitive interventions through the involvement of non-health sectors like water and sanitation, agriculture, education, and women's empowerment. Hence reducing under-nutrition will require a collective effort involving multiple sectors across different Ministries by integrating nutrition goals into their programmes/platforms.

Sangam project, funded by United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), India, is a multi-sector capacity building initiative which intends to bring together seven allied departments to develop, pre-test and institutionalise multi-sector nutrition capacity building curriculum in Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Odisha. This curriculum will be implemented through NIRD&PR for the State, district and block -level officials of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj and the allied departments; Drinking Water and Sanitation, Agriculture, Water and Land Resources, Tribal

Welfare, Health and Family Welfare, Environment and Forest, Tribal Welfare and Education.

Agriculture is one of the domain areas in which layering of nutrition-sensitive practices is required. A two-day brainstorming workshop was organised to finalise promising practices for the development of Nutrition-sensitive Agriculture Training Module from August 3 to 4, 2016 at NIRD&PR, Hyderabad. In continuation with this workshop, a working group meeting with Agriculture experts to develop Nutrition-sensitive agriculture was held from September 14 to 17, 2016. Four agriculture experts viz. Anil Verma - PRAN (Bihar), Jayesh Joshi - Vaghdhara (Udaipur), Ashish Kumar Dhuku - World Vision (Chennai) and Varun Kakde - Taru (Delhi) along with Prof. C. S Singhal, PI for the project, Dr. Siddhayya, Dr. N V. Madhuri, Dr. Sucharita Pujari and Dr. Lakhan Singh participated in the four-day meeting. Dr. C. S. Singhal shared his experience of developing manuals on gender focus and emphasised that this agriculture module should be developed in such a way that it is comprehensive, user-friendly, simple and interactive for the end user.

During the four-day meeting with agriculture experts, NIRD&PR staff and UNICEF staff, the basic structure and framework was decided after detailed discussions. Several questions on the need of this step-wise participatory guide, who will be the trainers and what will be the process to develop



this guide, were answered by the experts. It was decided on the first day that the module will have three parts:

- First part for the agricultural officers at the State, block and district level
- Second part will be simpler, step-wise and more participatory meant for the extension worker to train the farmer and
- Third part will deal with package of practices containing the promising practices to be implemented by the farmer

The format in which, each unit and each promising practice will be documented, was finalised by the experts.

Training

Training Programme on Human Resource Planning and Development

The training programme on Human Resource Planning and Development was organised by Centre for Human Resource Development from September 26 to 30, 2016 at National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Hyderabad. There were 26 participants representing eight States across the country, namely Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Odisha, Puducherry, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Tripura. The participants were from the Departments of School Education (Sarva Sikhsha Abhiyan), Health and Family Welfare Department, Universities and NGOs.

The programme was organised with the objectives:

- To describe the importance of human resources in organisation
- To acquaint the methodological and conceptual issues in human resource planning, development and utilisation
- To describe the methods of human resource development and
- To evolve the framework of policies, strategies and programmes for effective planning of HRD initiatives

In order to fulfill the objectives, the programme schedule was designed with 24 sessions which included field-cum-exposure visit to Vivekananda Institute of Human Excellence, Hyderabad. The participants were made to interact with experts of personality development and philosophy of Ramakrishna Mission for attaining Human Excellency.

The programme was coordinated by Dr. T. Vijaya Kumar, Associate Professor, and Dr. Lakhan Singh, Assistant Professor of Centre for Human Resource Development.



Training Programmes on 'Convergence of Plan Programmes'

The Planning and Convergence Department of Government of Odisha requested the Centre for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (CPME), NIRD&PR to conduct training programmes in two batches for their senior officers. The first batch of training was held from August 17 to 19, 2016. The officers in the rank of Additional Secretaries, Joint Secretaries and others attended the three-day training programme as they were involved with planning, monitoring and evaluation of different developmental programmes implemented by the Government of Odisha and launched by the Government of India.

The training programme covered various topics such as Convergence concept and self-employment with other Rural Development Programmes, Role of PRIs in Convergence and Convergence of MGNREGS with other Rural Development Programmes, Gram Panchayat Development Plan and Integrated Resource Mobilisation, Agriculture through Watershed Development Programme, Convergence of Drinking Water and Sanitation Programmes with Housing. All the sessions were dealt by NIRD&PR's faculty.

The Director General of NIRD&PR, Dr. W R Reddy, IAS, delivered inaugural address and laid emphasis on proper planning and implementation. He was impressed to know that



Planning Department of Odisha has been renamed as Planning and Convergence Department.

Altogether 25 officers (6 female and 19 male) in the rank of Additional and Joint Secretaries and other senior level officers from Government of Odisha attended the programme. Mrs. Chanda Pandit, IA&AS, Registrar and Director (Admin) of NIRD&PR addressed the participants on August 19, 2016 and observed that such type of training scales up capacity building. She distributed certificates and encouraged the officers to give their valuable feedback for further improvement of the training programme as another batch of officers will be trained in NIRD&PR. The programme was conducted by Dr. Shankar Chatterjee, Professor and Head (CPME), NIRD&PR and Dr. (Mrs) N. Kalpalatha, CPME.

After successful completion of first batch in August 2016, the second batch of training was held from September 19 to 21, 2016. The officers in the rank

of Additional Secretaries, Joint Secretaries and others attended the three-day training programme as they were involved with planning, monitoring and evaluation of different developmental programmes.

The training programme covered various topics such as Convergence concept and self-employment with other Rural Development Programmes, Role of PRIs in Convergence, Convergence of MGNREGS with other Rural Development Programmes, Gram Panchayat Development Plan and Integrated Resource Mobilisation, Agricultural Development with Convergence of Other Programmes, Project Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Convergence of Urban Development Programmes and GIS Based Convergence of Programmes. All the sessions were dealt by NIRD&PR's faculty except urban development programmes which were dealt by guest speaker. The participants were taken to the Rural Technology Park (RTP) of NIRD&PR and also arrangement was made for local visit.

The Director General of NIRD&PR, Dr. W. R. Reddy, IAS, delivered inaugural address and laid emphasis on proper planning and implementation. According to him, each of us is having huge potential which may be harnessed. He felt that at the gram panchayat level convergence of different plan programmes should be done. "India does not have dearth of resources but lacks sincerity in implementation," observed the Director General.



Altogether 23 officers (4 female and 19 male) in the rank of Additional and Joint Secretaries and other senior-level officers from Government of Odisha attended the programme. At the end of the programme, course director distributed certificates and encouraged the officers to give their valuable feedback for further improvement of the training programme. All participants appreciated the academic inputs, case study presentations and field experiences of the speakers. They interacted with the speakers with enthusiasm and interest. The programme was conducted by Dr. Shankar Chatterjee, Professor and Head (CPME), NIRD&PR and Dr. (Mrs) N. Kalpalatha, CPME.

National-level Training Programme on 'Development of SHG Based Livelihoods for Rural Women'

The Centre for Gender Studies and Development, NIRD&PR organised a national-level training programme on 'Development of SHG Based Livelihoods for Rural Women' for DRDA officials from Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Departments and other line departments, faculty from SIRD's and academicians from September 19 to 23, 2016.

The main objectives of the programme were:

- To familiarise the participants with the concept of sustainable rural livelihoods
- To expose the participants to various innovative strategies and best practices for promotion of SHG based farm and non-farm livelihoods for rural women



A total of 31 participants from States like Bihar, Haryana, Jharkhand, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Andhra Pradesh have attended the

programme. The participants were mainly DRDA officials working at the middle and senior level.

The four-day deliberations were spread over several sessions in order to fulfill the objectives of the programme. Besides NIRD&PR faculty, eminent speakers from BRLPs, NIMSME and BASIX, shared their expertise and experiences with the participants.

Various pertinent subjects like rural development and livelihood opportunities - need for institutions of poor, agriculture based livelihoods for SHGs, agriculture related livelihood - SHG experience in Ranga Reddy district, innovative approaches for promotion of Micro-Enterprises, sustainable livelihoods, technology transfer, value chains and

markets, presentation and discussion, MKSP for sustainable livelihoods promotion, approaches of livelihoods promotion were discussed. Dr. N. V. Madhuri, the course coordinator took the participants to field visit and exposed them to Farmer Producer Companies in Yacharam Mandal, Ranga Reddy district of Telangana State.

The programme received an overwhelming response and a very positive feedback from the participants. All the sessions were highly interactive and participatory.

The programme was coordinated by Dr. N. V. Madhuri, along with Dr. Sucharita Pujari as team member under the guidance of Dr. C.S. Singhal, Prof. & Head, Centre for Gender Studies and Development.

International Training

International Training Programme on 'Good Governance for Management of Rural Development Programmes'

An international-level training programme on 'Good Governance for Management of Rural Development Programmes' was organised by the Centre for Good Governance and Policy Analysis (CGGPA) from September 5 to October 2, 2016 at NIRD&PR. The international delegates included the professionals and people from developing countries and the international delegates from ITEC countries, sponsored by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.

The international programme aims at addressing the following objectives:

- To teach international perspectives of good governance
- To explain the context of governance, theory and practice
- To experience the good practices of good governance
- To appreciate the ethics and values of governance
- To prepare a plan of action and
- To make the participants familiar about rural development programmes in India

The training programmes focused on several modules such as Good Governance: A disciplinary transformative concepts; Good Governance: A significant transformative in

contemporary society; Good governance is leading to best practices; Leadership Governance as empirical factors of State performance and flagship programmes - role of governance in effective implementation.

As a beginning, the programme was designed to cover topics including Good Governance - International Perspectives, Devolutionary Process, Good Governance - Indian Perspectives and Significance of Good Governance in Rural Development, Good Governance as Essential Indicator of Change Management, etc. This was further followed by lectures by eminent persons on flagship programmes towards achieving sustainable development where the participants discussed about, IWMP, MGNREGA, SAGY, and Swachh Bharat, etc.

To strengthen the participants' knowledge on Good Governance practise, lectures on different social accountability tools like Community Score Cards (CSC), Citizen Report Cards (CRC), Social Audits, and PRA, etc., were also organised.

The role of ICT and IT in Governance was also covered in the training programme mainly focusing on E-Governance in India: Concept, Initiatives and Success stories, IT Agriculture - Rural Development, Geo-information Technology in Rural Development, and Rural Livelihood Opportunities through Extension Services and Financial Inclusion and Emerging Issues for Rural Development.

As part of the exposure visit, international participants visited Centre for Good Governance (CGG) to discuss on Good Governance as essential indicator of Change Management and visited ICRISAT to discussion on 'Inclusive market oriented development' and RKVY.

As part of the field training in Puducherry, the participants visited MSSRS for understanding and learning about the extension activities at the grassroots-level and also visited RSETI, Puducherry branch for understanding and learning about the initiatives of MoRD as well as NIRD&PR in promoting skill development and gender entrepreneurship. During field visit, participants had an opportunity to meet Dr. Kiran Bedi, IPS, (Retd.), Hon'ble Lt. Governor, Puducherry and their discussion focused on 'Democracy Realism and Development Realists' and 'Gender Biases in Democracies and Gender Friendly Institutional Changes.'

The training programme contents were delivered through a judicious mix of lecture-cum-discussion, role plays,



debate, exposure visits, group exercises, and mock panchayats, presentation by groups and individual, and report submission.

Dr. M. Sarumathy, Head & Associate Professor, and Dr. K. Prabhakar, Assistant Professor, of Centre for Good Governance & Policy Analysis (CGGPA) were the organisers of the international training programme.

International Training Programme on 'Planning and Management of Drinking Water and Sanitation Projects'

The Centre for Rural Infrastructure (CRI) organised an International Course on 'Planning and Management of Drinking Water and Sanitation Projects' from September 05 to October 2, 2016 at NIRD&PR, Hyderabad. The course was sponsored by ITEC/SCAAP / AARDO, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India. Altogether, 14 participants from 11 developing countries, namely Algeria, Bhutan, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mauritius, Nepal, Nigeria, Sudan, Syria, Tanzania and Vietnam attended the course. The participants included senior and middle level officials of Drinking Water and Sanitation Departments of their respective countries. Several themes including Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation, Project Planning for Drinking Water and Sanitation, Water Budget and Audit, Solid and Liquid Waste Management in Developing Countries, and Governance in Rural Water Supply and Sanitation: Indian Experiences had been covered in the training programme.

Training Methods

A variety of conventional and participatory training methods had been used in the training programme. The methods include lecture-cum-discussion, role plays, large scale



interactive event (LSIE), video film based discussion, flash card exercises, energies, field visits, panel discussions, and case presentations, etc.

Exposure Visits/Field Visits to:

- Traditional rainwater harvesting structures of Himayat Sagar of Telangana State
- Hajipalle Model village, Mahabubnagar district of Telangana State
- Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) works of Ultratech Cement in the villages of Kurnool and Kadapa districts of Andhra Pradesh

- Comprehensive Bulk Drinking Water Supply in Nalgonda district of Telanaga State
- Best Practising villages in the context of Drinking Water and Sanitation in rural Bengaluru, Mandya and Mysuru districts of Karnataka State

Valedictory Session

On last day of the course, Dr. W.R. Reddy, IAS, the Director General, NIRD&PR, had addressed the

participants and interacted with them. In his deliberations, the Director General had stressed on the importance of drinking water and sanitation in developing countries.

The Course team included Dr. P. SivaRam, Professor and Head, Centre for Rural Infrastructure and Centre for Livelihoods and Dr. Y. Gangi Reddy, Professor and Head, Centre for Innovative Appropriate Technologies.

Seminar

National Seminar on 'Health Psychology: Contributions to Health and Well-being'

Centre for Human Resource Development, NIRD&PR organised a national seminar on 'Health Psychology: Contributions to Health and Well-being' in collaboration with Centre for Health Psychology, University of Hyderabad and Association of Health Psychologists from August 4 to 6, 2016. The seminar focused on promoting health as well as the prevention and treatment of disease and illness. The seminar attempted to discuss the increasing need for Health Psychology in the contemporary world, various emerging issues and contexts where the need for application of Health Psychology is felt. The seminar intended to discuss a vast array of areas, ranging from communication, lifestyle modifications and management, adherence to treatment and compliance to dietary and exercise regimen, pain management, stress and anxiety management, role of social support, illness prevention and health promotion, end of life care, and others in rural and urban areas. It also seeks to explore the challenges faced by the health care professionals, patients, families, hospitals, community and possible solutions to handle them.

The seminar began with a welcome note by Prof. Gyanmudra, followed by background note on theme of seminar by Prof. Meena Hariharan, Head, Centre for Health Psychology & President, AHP. A special note on Rural Health: Need for Psychological Interventions was delivered by Dr. W. R. Reddy, IAS, Director General, NIRD&PR, Prof. Geeta K Vemuganti, Dean, School of Medical Sciences, University of Hyderabad talked on Holistic Health: Significance of Health Psychology. Prof. Girishwar Misra, Vice-Chancellor, Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi



Vishwavidyalay, Wardha was invited to deliver keynote address on future of human health and well-being. The inaugural address was delivered by the Chief Guest of the seminar Dr. Gangadhar, Director, NIMHANS followed by presidential remarks by the Vice-Chancellor of University of Hyderabad.

The seminar has invited well known personalities in area of psychology from different parts of India such as Prof. Janak Pandey, Prof. Ajit K Dalal, Prof. A K Sexena, Dr. Kumar Ravi Priya, Dr. Romate John, Dr. K. Niranjan Reddy, and Dr. Shamanna, etc., for plenary sessions and invited lectures. Seminar has received overwhelming response from academicians, researchers, research scholars, and practitioners from different parts of India. Several research papers were submitted for presentation, of which only 40 research papers were selected for presentation under different themes.

Dr. Gyanmudra, Prof. & Head, Centre for Human Resource Development coordinated this programme in collaboration with Centre for Health Psychology, University of Hyderabad.

Distinguished Visitors

Visit of Trainee IAS Officers

As part of the IAS training at MCR HRD, Hyderabad, a batch of four IAS Officer Trainees (2015 Batch - Telangana State Cadre) have visited NIRD&PR on September 1, 2016. During their visit, the officer trainees had interaction with Dr. W. R. Reddy, IAS, Director General, NIRD&PR, who has shared various approaches and initiatives for rural development and also briefed them on the perspective and activities of the Institute. The officer trainees also had an interactive session with Dr. K. Jayalakshmi, Prof. & Head (CPR), Dr. Gyanmudra, Prof. & Head (CHRD) and Dr. Sarumathy, Prof. & Head (CGG&PA), followed by visit to Centre for Geo-informatics Applications on Rural



Development and Rural Technology Park. The study visit was coordinated by Dr. R. P. Achari, Assoc. Professor (CRTCN), NIRD&PR.

Visit of Namibian Delegation



A high level ten-member delegation from Namibia under the Chairmanship of Mr. Silvia Gonaone Makgone, Hon'ble Deputy Minister for Urban and

Rural Development, Government of Republic of Namibia visited NIRD&PR on September 2, 2016. The purpose of the benchmark visit was to learn from India's experience in various rural development initiatives. During their visit, the delegates had interaction with Smt. Chanda Pandit, Registrar & Director (Admn), NIRD&PR, who has shared the perspective and activities of the Institute with them. The delegates also had interaction with Dr. V. Madhava Rao, Prof. & Head (CGARD) on Geo-informatics Applications. After the interaction, the team visited Rural Technology Park in NIRD&PR campus. The study visit was coordinated by Dr. R. P. Achari, Assoc. Professor (CRTCN), NIRD&PR.

Visit of Trainee IFS Officers

The Centre for Forest and Natural Resource Management Studies, Hyderabad organised a Course on 'Livelihood Enhancement Strategies in Forest Fringe Villages' for IFS Officers from September 19 to 23, 2016 at Telangana State Forest Academy, Dulapally. As part of the programme, the participants visited NIRD&PR for the study-cum-exposure visit on September 21, 2016. Dr. W. R. Reddy, Director General, NIRD&PR, interacted with the officials and made a presentation on Forests for Sustainable Development and Self- Enrichment. Dr. Ch. Radhika Rani, Assoc. Professor (CNRM) also interacted with the officials and shared her experience with them. After the interaction,



the team visited Rural Technology Park. The study visit was coordinated by Dr. R. P. Achari, Assoc. Professor (CRTCN), NIRD&PR.



Update for JRD

The Journal of Rural Development, a quarterly journal published by NIRD&PR has gone online with regard to the submission of papers. Henceforth, the contributors are requested to follow the procedure given in Online Journal Management System (OJMS). One can access the OJMS site on the link <http://nirdprojms.in>.

OIGS

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