



# ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19



## PRERAK

GARIABAND, CHHATTISGARH

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## From the Director's Pen.....



Dear Colleagues and Friends,

I have the pleasure of providing a brief message to you all for this year's Annual Report based on the activities of PRERAK organisation for the financial year 2018-19. I am proud to see that our organisation, during this financial period, has carried out an ambitious work plan and all the projects and administrative staff have worked in an outstanding manner, and I would like to thank all.

PRERAK is an established non-profit organisation that empowers community people to reach their full potentials. We believe in helping people help themselves. During the year 2018-19, the organisation has implemented different ongoing projects and the progress of interventions is described here in this report. However, our goal is to have a much greater impact in helping our targeted beneficiaries. I want to thank all who work with us in this year and looking forward to your continued support. Thank to your generous support and it gives me great pleasure to share with you an update on the performance of our team, works and all initiatives during the year.

**RAMGULAM SINHA**  
President, PRERAK

## About the Organisation .....

PRERAK was started in 1988 for promoting the social, economic, political, educational and cultural life of the under privileged and marginalized sections of the society. It was founded by a few intellectual and experienced community volunteers to empower these communities and provide them with the required skills and capacity to fight against any social injustice. At PRERAK, we focus on preparing innovative strategies to create awareness in communities about their fundamental rights and duties and help them utilize their rights to live with dignity.

PRERAK, the social development organisation was registered under Madhya Pradesh Society Registration Act 1873, Foreign Contribution Regulatory Act under the Ministry of Home Affairs of the government, PWD Act under the Department of Panchayat and Social Welfare and also 12A & 80G Income Tax Act under Government of India, Ministry of Finance.

**Vision:** The main vision of PRERAK is to establish concretized-structured organizational strategies for changing the lifestyle of marginalized groups of society i.e. Children with Disabilities (CwDs) and Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), marginalized farmers and Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) etc. to be self-dependent, healthy and wealthy in the community through peaceful interaction; and avoid social violence, exploitation and injustice.

**Mission:** The mission of PRERAK is to empower human resources specially women's skills through trained professional guidance, to develop village level activities to make local environment survivable and sustainable through the process of by the people, of the people and for the people.

**Strategy and Objectives:** At PRERAK, we aim to help build self-sufficient empowered communities. Our key strategy to help achieve our goal is to build and strengthen community involvement in the process of development. By building capacity of the communities through awareness generation, community mobilization, formation of community groups to address rights based issues identified by people themselves, and creating linkages with markets and various government departments or schemes, the communities are encouraged to focus on and manage various issues collectively.

To create a lasting impact and to help the communities to self-sustain, we work with an underlying aim of empowering women by giving them opportunities to establish their rights and also work on promoting indigenous knowledge for managing and protecting their natural resources. In this regard, some of our key objectives are:

To create awareness about various issues faced by the communities, provide a common platform to think analytically and to take action, and promote collective effort for community development.

To promote people's economic condition through participatory action and sustainable development process which will include community based natural resource management and conservation for enhanced livelihood, strengthening of Gram Sabha, PRIs and other local institutions and implementation of acts and schemes set up for the benefit of indigenous people.

To empower women to demand their rights with their communities and be more involved in the decision making process.

To empower people with disabilities by promoting community based rehabilitation and mainstream children with special needs through inclusive development.



## PROGRAMMES OVERVIEW

### Inclusive Development for Children and Youngsters with Disabilities

During the year 2018, PRERAK organisation, under the project worked directly with 100 children with special needs and among them 38 female and 62 male. These children have different disabilities like Cerebral Palsy, Multiple Disabilities, Mentally Retarded, Orthopedic, Visually Impaired and Hearing Impaired. Apart from this, other persons with disabilities and stakeholders under the project have received support services through our various field level interventions during the year.



#### ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN DURING THE YEAR:

##### (i) Intensive Service:

Intensive services under the project interventions include door step services to the children with special needs. Services are provided and monitored as per the direction and suggestion of physiotherapist. Project field staff motivates and mobilizes through counseling and constant home visits. The services provided under intensive care services are physical exercise, physiotherapy, daily living skills, educational interventions, socio-cultural interventions, school enrollment, social inclusion etc.

##### ❖ Physical Exercise:

During the year, 28 children with cerebral palsy have been provided with physical exercises through door to door visit by field workers on daily basis regularly. These children (19 male and 9 female) are receiving services at their home. Parents are being counseled regularly to have physical exercise of their children regularly. All types of physical exercises are on the basis of inputs provided by physiotherapist. 3 children with cerebral palsy namely Khomeswar Gond, Nutan Sahu and Khemchand have improved in their physical condition.

##### ❖ Physiotherapy Visit:

Mr. Vivek Singh (Physiotherapist) visited the 8 field area during the year to conduct physical exercises of children with cerebral palsy with support of field workers. Parents/guardians supported at their level best during each visit of physiotherapist. The project field workers worked as bridge between the physiotherapist and parents/guardians for physical

improvement of child. They learn the feedback from physiotherapist each time and share the same with parents/guardians to have better physical exercises for children with cerebral palsy. Field staff provides the demo on physical exercises and advice parents to follow the same regularly to improve their children physically.

#### ❖ Daily Living Skills:

The daily living skills continued during the year with physical exercise of children. The care givers in their daily visit provided daily living skills to children for their better improvement and make them self reliant in mobility and doing their own daily works by themselves. The care givers provides the techniques on mobility to the children with visually impaired like use of cane sticks, the techniques of two touch and three touch in cane stick, use of upper cross and lower cross methods for easy moving inside and outside the home. Side by side the children with visually impaired and mentally retired get the techniques of doing their own works such as bathing, brushing teeth, taking food, dress up themselves, purchasing materials from shops. There are 19 children with special needs (03 female and 16 male) 6 mentally retired children (4 female and 2 male) and 4 visually impaired children (2 female and 2 male), multiple disability 2(1 male and 1 female), cerebral palsy 6(4 male and 2 female) and 1 hearing impaired child (male) are getting daily living skills.

#### ❖ Education Intervention:

The children with special need like visually impaired children and mentally retired children are getting the educational supports in their home. In this supports the care givers and I.E. Facilitator visits the houses of the children with specially need and help them mainstreaming in education with other children. They provide the study materials and support them in their study course curriculum and make break down course curriculum in different subject like mathematics, english, hindi, science, sanskrit etc. In this process the care givers and I.E.Facilitator gives counseling with teachers for the better education of children with special need. 8 children namely Chandrabhusan Thakur, Kamraj, Kumar Kenjal Sahu of Churra, Yashwant Netam, Rakshi, Rakesh Bhunjia, Khailapam, Yogendra Kumar Patel, Khatti, Dhanraj Dhruv, Jargaon and Hemant Dhruv, Junwani have improved in their education.





#### ❖ Socio-cultural Intervention:

In regular contact with community members, CBOs, DPOs, Parents Federation, SMC members, the care givers and I.E.Facilitator have the best efforts to mobilize the community persons and parents for social inclusion of children with special need in their community like participation in socio-cultural festivals Ganesh Puja, Saraswati Puja, independence day republic day, games and sports and welcome the views and information of children with

special need in any kind of community meeting for their welfare. Meetings were conducted during the year with DPOs, Parents Federation, SMC members, child club etc. in regular interval of a week in villages of project area.

#### ❖ School Enrollment:

The community at large is often unaware of the potential of children with special needs. In the popular mind, special needs are usually identified with very low expectations. Parent should believe in the value of educating children with special needs. The higher the expectations, the higher will be their acceptance in the family. All the children with special needs must be enrolled in primary schools. After the assessment of their disabilities by a team of a doctor, a psychologist, and a special educator, in schools, the child will be placed in appropriate educational settings. Children with mild and moderate disabilities of any kind may be integrated in normal schools, severe in special schools/ remedial schools, drop outs that have problems in availing benefits of normal schools can join open schools. All the children with learning disabilities alone are first managed in the normal schools. Open and special schools also offer vocational courses also for children with disabilities.

#### ❖ Adoption of innovative ideas to improve in health status of CWSN:

The new innovative ideas have been taken to make the physical exercise easier for the children with special need. The parents/guardians were worried about the physical exercise of child when they go out of their home for work. So, with their existing resources like bamboo railing, rope railing, mashing potato etc will be applied for physical exercise of children with special need.





## (ii) Supportive Service:

**Disability Certificate:** In order to receive the benefit from Government welfare schemes, facility, and reservation, 45 disabled children, during the year, have received the disabilities certificates from government. This has been done through medical certification of disabled children with more than 40% disability.

**Scholarship and Pension:** 61 applications have been submitted for scholarship and pension for the children with disability during the project period.

**Assistive Device:** 27 children with disabilities have been provided with assistive devices during the project period.

**Incentives for marriage of PWDs:** One Couple (disabled) has applied for incentives.

**Mukhya Mantri Teerth Yatra Yojana:** Under the scheme 25 children with disability visited Somnath, Nagapattinam, Dwarka and West India.



## (iii) Capacity Building and Awareness Programmes

❖ Awareness Programmes for Anganwadi Workers and Mitans:

The training programme for the Anganwadi and Mitans were organized in the project area for awareness generation on causes of disability and decreases the rate of disabilities in the project area. In spite of disability the lactating,

pregnant women were also participated in the training to collect information on nutrition, health, and other facility for children with special needs. In these trainings the participants received information on RTE Act 2009 for Children with special needs.

❖ Workshop on Better Education and Social Inclusion of children with disabilities:

In order to avail the qualitative education and social inclusion of children with special needs in their society there were meetings conducted in the project areas. In the workshop the Village Level Leaders, disabled association members, Palak Samuha members, PRI member, villagers and children with disability participated in the workshop. In this workshop there were PRI members, teachers and parents. Three such block level meetings were held during the project duration. This initiative has created a conducive environment for smooth implementation.

❖ Awareness programme for AWW, Asha Worker, Leaders of Palak Samuha and village, Mitans, mothers and pregnant women, PRI representative and PwDs:

The awareness programmes were conducted on the protection of children with special need from physical, sexual, psychological abuses and accessibility of potable water, sanitation, hygiene facilities. The training programmes were conducted for Anganwadi worker, ASHA workers, local community leaders, PRI members for good health.



- ❖ Block level Meetings of parents, school teachers, PRI members and community leaders on accessibility in education and health services for children with disabilities:

The block level meeting for parents of disabled and School Teachers, PRI members, Community Leaders on various rights of children with disabilities and effective implementation of schemes and provisions availed by the government. Problems and issues of disabled have been discussed and how the same can be



smoothly handled at cluster level regarding Disability certificates need in future course and Ration Card and pension, handicapped materials how can they avail etc. were discussed. At last all the participants decided that any problems / issues based on disabilities as well as other children works should be collectively faced in order to materialize the works smoothly.

- ❖ Parents Federation Meetings:

Parents federation conducted in village level to raise awareness on requirement of children with disability access the benefits of children with disability. In this meeting PRERAK spread awareness on disability and boost up the capacity of parents in accessing the benefits for children with benefits in future.

#### **(iv) Celebrating International Days –**

World Disabled Day: The world disable day celebration was conducted on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at Madheli and Deori by Prerak organization with the support of Janavikas samiti Varanasi. The day started with saraswati puja and the children were standing in queue register their name in different soprts programme like mathki phod, musical chair, and try cycle race followed by cultural programme. The children with disability have enthusiastically participated in the sport events and cultural programme. The event has given the children with disability have given ocean of confidence and courage.

#### **(v) Vocational Skill Training:**

27 persons with disabilities have been provided vocational training during the year. 12 persons in Basic Computer, 8 persons in Tailoring and 7 in Sales Associate have been enrolled in Saksham Vocational Training Centre and have completed their one month training successfully.

#### **(vi) Voters Awareness Campaign:**

During the last assemble election of Chhattisgarh, the government has taken special initiative to make aware and mobilize the voters with disability by organizing block level awareness camps in all the blocks of the state of Chhattisgarh.

On the line, PRERAK has initiated intensive voters awareness campaign for PwDs in Churra block of the Gariaband district with the a objective building awareness for effective participation of all stakeholders in an electoral process and deliberate effort by EMB's to inform voters of electoral activities to enable them to make an informed choice on voting day. PRERAK has organised 8 awareness camps where 520 participated.

The expected outcome of this process of awareness is free and fair election that will deliver acceptable results and active electoral participation more importantly increased participation of the voter with disability.

❖ **Creating access from home to booth for PwDs:**

The impact of the voter awareness so that almost all the eligible PwDs very enthusiastically decided to their rightful franchise during the assemble election but the limitation of the their mobility has been concern for the PwDs and also the family.

However volunteers and workers have taken the initiative to see that most of the eligible PwDs voter must vote. The PwDs were taken to both on jeeps, motor cycles and cycles and they have been into the both the wheel chair and other support aids. About 500 PwDs have voted during the last assemble election.



**(vii) Videography of Chandra Bhusan Thakur (Visually Impaired):**

On 10<sup>th</sup> April 2005 a boy born to Phiran Singh and Gayatribai in Kamraj village of Churra of the Gariaband district in Chhattisgarh. Family was very happy but this did not last long as they come know that the new born boy is visually impaired. The parents bit disturbed thinking about the future of the impaired child. It is said that if God takes one thing from you, He gives enhanced capacity in the other areas. This is very true in case of Chandra Bhusan Thakur (name of the boy). Chandra Bhusan Thakur had long struggle life within the family and outside the family. But the will power of the child Chandra Bhusan created history.



The contribution of PRERAK in the growth of Chandra Bhusan is unmatched. With guidance and training from the PRERAK Chandra Bhusan could attained a height which a not child normally could not. Presently Chandra Bhusan is reading class 8<sup>th</sup>. He can read and write in English, hindi and Sanskrit fluently. He good a sport and cultural activities. He is totally

independent. He uses cane technique for mobility and sighted guide. This amazing improvement in Chandra Bhusan made us to prepare a videography of the Chandra Bhusan Thakur.

#### **(viii) Advocacy:**

People with disability have greater need for advocacy, or that they are more likely to need expert help, or that they are always getting into bad situations. It is rather a response to the unwelcome reality that people with disability are often marginalised, devalued and disadvantaged, and therefore do not attract the attention of those who are focussed so much on advocating for the rich and famous.



When a group of citizens are motivated to come together and build an organization which acts to protect and defend the rights of people with disability, they are taking action to redress a serious imbalance in the way that our community functions. Over the years, something really important has been lost. Much of the routine, unremarkable willingness to speak out on behalf of people who are being unfairly treated has been set aside by a community who seemed to be focused on other, more selfish pursuits. Like a police station or a court house, an advocacy office is to a large extent a profound statement that this is a community where things aren't quite as they should or could be. After all, a place without crime doesn't need a police station, and a community where people with disability are valued, protected and given a fair go, doesn't need an advocacy.

Course of meetings, individual contacts and the amount of awareness that is being generated among the community, parents of the children with disability, elected representatives more particularly the children has given rise to a sense of right to live in a dignified way and need for responsive and responsible government. All the stakeholders felt like buzzing the bell of government to make due provisions to lead a life with dignity. On the process, the community has given representations at Jan Darshan and Lok Suraj Abhiyan to mitigate the problems.

The 2018 is a year where there is great improvement in terms of enhanced capacity of the children with disabilities in mobility, participation in education, socio-cultural activities more importantly their acceptance at the family and community level. The growth graph on education skills also seems satisfactory.



## Sustainable Tribal Livelihood Promotion

PRERAK has worked, during the year 2018-19, with 546 direct and 2535 indirect beneficiaries under this project in 20 selected villages of Gariaband district of Chhattisgarh state. The major achievements, impacts and interventions are stated below:



### (i) ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE YEAR UNDER THE PROJECT:

- *Tribal families in 20 targeted villages under the project have improved and applied their knowledge and skills on improved agriculture practices* - Through kitchen gardening by 253 women and 81 men; Mix-cropping in demonstration plot is done by 20 farmers (16 women and 4 men) in 13 villages using 10.90 acres of agricultural land; 58 women farmers and 76 men farmers have adopted mix-cropping system and paddy cultivation in 55.75 acres of land; 76 women farmers have adopted ecological farming practices; 296 families have been able to maintain the diversity of vegetables for a period of extra 3 months; out of 4265 livestock, 3148 livestock have been vaccinated which is 74% of total livestock; 28 farmers have newly adopted the integrated farming process and they are producing vegetables, pulses and oil seeds, tuber and fruit trees; fish cultivation is done in 28 individual and 6 community ponds for which 22600 fingerlings were distributed to fish farmers.
- *Tribal families have improved and applied their knowledge and skills on Soil Water Conservation measures* – 28 farmers in the project area have adopted soil and water conservation measures and have increased their production by 10-15%.



- *There is a significant improvement in the capacity of CBOs and Gram Sabha in effectively mobilizing resources for the farmers* - 20 village micro-plans have been developed and submitted at block office after Gram Sabha approval for various village level developmental works; 22 farmers have received support from government scheme to construct farm ponds and have developed water resources and 87 farmers have received support for their agricultural land development; Rupees 4,33,69,300.00 has been sanctioned over the year from government for different development works; Mahila Gram Sabhas were organized in 12 villages and 35-40% women participation has been ensured; women in the project area have been capacitated to raise their issues in Gram Sabha and its solution such as hand pump repairing, gas connection, construction of nirmala ghat and widow and old age pension; 12 farmers groups which is 60% of the total farmers in the project area have participated in making plans for project activities.



#### **(ii) THE PROJECT IMPACT OVER THE YEAR:**

- 97 peasant families having increased their household availability of diverse food to 12 months in a year by adopting the mixed-cropping systems, developing kitchen garden at household level. Food pattern have been changed as per availability of different vegetables from kitchen garden.
- Beneficiaries are preparing and using bio-pesticides and fertilizers and it costs very low as compared to chemical fertilizers and pesticide. So, cultivation cost has been reduced through ecological farming practices.
- After visiting and exposure to demonstration plots and receiving trainings, farmers are sharing thoughts, experiences and benefits of ecological farming to their relatives, neighbors and other farmers and so spreading ecological agriculture techniques.
- Being motivated through visit of learning plots and various exposures, women farmers are applying ecological farming techniques by adopting mixed-cropping systems, mixed-cropping in winter season and vegetables production.
- Organisation field staff under the project are facilitating and helping people to apply for new ration card and currently 803 families in the project area are receiving benefits from government's PDS scheme and having access to subsidized food provided by the government.
- Farmers including 668 families are receiving seeds, fertilizers and pesticides from agriculture department and so having access to public or publically subsidized agricultural inputs and services.
- Works under MGNREGA, PMAY, various pensions, village road construction, household gas cylinder connection and other social security schemes/projects, other development projects are being implemented by Gram Sabhas and PRIs.

### (iii) GENDER INTEGRATION UNDER THE PROJECT:

- 58 women farmers have adopted ecological farming through being motivated by experimental learning process.
- 107 women from 10 SHGs are involved in preparation of Bio-pesticides.
- 253 women farmers have developed kitchen garden at household level.
- 2 community nurseries have been developed by 2 women SHGs.
- Done capacity building of women from the project area through various trainings and exposures.



### (iv) MAJOR ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR:

Gender Sensitization Meeting for men and women farmers at village level were organized in the targeted villages during the months of July, November and December in which participants received knowledge and information. Discussion was held on women's participation in different domestic works, work balance between man and woman, women working in farming process. The objective of this activity is to make gender equality in every development work especially in improving knowledge of women farmers in techniques of ecological farming.

Meeting of Fish Farmers on sharing and discussion of technical aspects of fisheries was conducted during the month of November in which participants were given information on food for fish (quantity and quality), growth, water availability, different diseases and other knowledge and information.

Developing experimental learning plots to demonstrate ecological practices and mixed cropping system: 16 demonstration plots have been developed using 8 acres of land to train farmers on mixed-cropping system, different crops planning, composting, bio-pesticides and green manure preparation, identification of different diseases and to promote ecological practices.

Learning visits of farmers to the experimental learning plots were conducted during May to November in which farmers were motivated to adopt mixed-cropping in their regular cultivation. They developed knowledge on techniques and information was disseminated about mix-cropping cultivation such as line sowing, process of preparation and using bio-pesticides.

Bio pesticide production facility centers at farmer group level: during the year, 8 centers have been established and being managed by farmer's groups and women self help groups. At these

centers, Bio-pesticides such as Tambakhu Kada, Neem Oil, Panchparni are being prepared and used by farmers.

*Community Nurseries for production of seedling and propagation material:* During the year 4 community nurseries have been established, produced seedlings including Papaya, drumstick, lemon, mango, jackfruit Koliyari, guava and distributed 8326 seedlings among farmers.

*Development of integrated farming models of farm pond, vegetables, fishery, duck and mixed farming:* 15 farm ponds have been constructed in the field area during the year. Farmers have been encouraged for fish cultivation in these farm ponds and apart from this; they are encouraged to cultivate vegetable and oilseeds surrounding the farm ponds.

*Facilitation of exclusive Gram Sabhas for approval of micro plans:* there were organized Gram Sabhas in 8 villages during this period for approval of village micro-plans. Micro-plans have been submitted at Block office.

*Mahila (Women) Gram Sabhas* have been organized in 12 targeted villages during the month of August and September to develop women participation in Gram Sabha meetings, to raise their voice on all decision making process and to capacitate them for making discussion on women related issues in Gram Sabha meetings.

*Developing kitchen garden:* During the year farmers have been given technical support to develop kitchen gardening at their household level for producing different vegetables for household consumption. Also, they have been supported for arrangement of vegetable seeds and saplings.







Meeting of Kisan Samitis have been conducted each month in 20 project villages and facilitated by the field staff to discuss on project level planned activities and other developmental works and to empower farmers to be engaged in all project level planning and implementation.

Facilitation support for fingerlings and transport: 22600 fingerlings have been distributed among the beneficiaries under the

project during this year to support fish farmers for fish cultivation.

Centralized training on Institutional building: 2 trainings were organized for project partners staff on institutional building during the month of November and December in which 47 persons participated and discussion was held on formation and strengthening of various institutions at village level.

Conducting Studies: under the project, two field level studies were conducted on (i) Food & Nutrition Consumption of the Families and (ii) Indigenous Technical Knowledge on Farming Systems Available with the Communities. After completion of study, reports have been shared with the donor agency for planning of the future new strategies.





## People's Empowerment Through Accessing Rights on Land, Forest, Water and Sustainable Livelihood Practices

During the year 2018, PRERAK implemented the project 'People's empowerment through accessing right rights on land, water, forest and sustainable livelihood' in the project selected area including 6 districts of Chhattisgarh and 2 district of Madhya Pradesh State, covering 149 villages in 11 blocks through 4 partner organizations and 10 fellowships. The main objectives of this project are:



- Strengthen the capacity of CBOs, village cadres, village leaders on legal provision on mining, water pollution, PESA, FRA and forest conservation.
- Developing community forest management plan, strengthening Gram Sabhas and Forest Rights Committees.
- Gender sensitization to mainstreaming women in the development process.
- Promotion of organic agriculture and bio-diversity conservation.

Our focus is on community mobilization and capacity building of forest tribal people for accessing their various rights on land, forest, water and agriculture based livelihood promotion. The detail activities undertaken during the period from January to December 2018 are as follows:

- **Information collection, printing and dissemination:** all required information on CFR/IFR status were collected by fellows and partner organizations through visiting different offices and filing RTIs. All the related information received from different offices were disseminated among the community people in the project area.
- **Orientation and sensitization meeting/training:** 34 meetings/trainings were organized in the project area during the period in which community leaders and other village people oriented and developed their knowledge on Forest Rights Act, PESA, MGNREGA and other government schemes and provisions. They received knowledge and information that will help them in accessing their various rights.
- **Selection and training of village cadres:** 218 village cadres were selected in 109 targeted villages by our fellows to facilitate all the village level interventions. 18 training programs were organized for selected youth cadres on leadership development, various legal provisions, promotion and federating people organizations. These trainings helped the selected cadres in developing leadership quality, knowledge on legal provisions, CFR/IFR claiming process.

- **Formation, promotion and strengthening people's organizations:** fellows have formed 10 CBOs (Jan Sangathan) in their respective area to facilitate community led advocacy as per legal provision for any village level issue/problem and 143 meetings have been organized for strengthening CBOs and to develop their knowledge and skills on legal provisions.
- **Organizing seminars:** during the period, 16 seminars have been organized in the project area to increase awareness among community leaders, village leaders, PRI members and political leaders and they have developed their knowledge on community forest rights and forest management.
- **Foot march / community meeting / cluster meeting:** fellows have organized 5 community rallies, 10 cluster meetings, 10 foot marches, and 1 motorcycle rally in the project implementing area to increase awareness among people on their various rights.
- **Networking, media and advocacy:** fellows and partner organizations have developed, during the period, their networks at block, district and state level with local NGOs/CBOs and local political leaders and networking has developed with Chhattisgarh Van Adhikar Manch at state level. There were regular interaction with print and electronic media for highlighting various issues in the project area and spreading news/information among community people within and outside for awareness building. Community led advocacy have also been done to address such issues/problems.
- **Exposure visit:** fellows have organized exposure visits of community leaders at inter-district and inter-state level in which they have acquired knowledge/information through interaction with people in other partner's area on various issues/difficulties in CFR/IFR claims, mining and NTFPs
- **Regional meetings:** PRERAK organized 3 regional level meetings on natural resource rights and livelihood rights in different parts of the project area with support of project fellows. In these meetings, community people from 31 villages participated including PRI members, village leaders, local political leaders and government officials and received knowledge and information on various tribal rights, forest protection, conservation and management.



- **Workshop on Forest Rights Act (FRA):** PRERAK organized a state level workshop on forest rights act (FRA) to implement in its full spirit consultation to enforce FRA, PESA, new mining by industries/companies and water policy of the state and for gathering people's opinion (CBOs), at Raipur



in which community leaders from 5 states (Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Odisha) participated and shared their experiences and developed their knowledge on FRA, PESA, Mining and NTFPs issues/problems and the way to mitigate these burning issues.

- **Village level meetings:** project partners in their respective field area organized village level meetings for community awareness on

natural resources, MGNREGA and gender sensitization. People received knowledge and information on FRA, PESA, mining and NTFPs related issues. People have been sensitized and awareness has also increased among people on gender issues. Also, meetings were organized in the targeted area including 110 villages in which community people learned and developed their knowledge on CFR claims, area identification, mapping, collection of other required documents and overall process documentation for CFR claims.

- **Trainings for PRI members:** During the period, 16 training programs were organized by project partners on active role of Gram Panchayat in community forest management in which PRI members from selected villages participated and received knowledge/information.
- **Orientation for FRCs/CBOs:** Orientation programs were organized for FRCs and CBOs members in the targeted villages on follow-up activities and they will start advocacy at block and district level after submission of applications for CFR claims. Participants were oriented on way forward process after submission of application for CFR.
- **Strengthening women's SHGs:** 50 women self help groups were formed in the project area by the partner organizations and these groups have been promoted and strengthened for participating in different developmental works at their village level and participating in decision making process also.
- **Trainings for women leaders:** 13 training programs were organized by partner organizations in which women leaders from 50 groups actively participated and received skills and knowledge on record keeping and group management/support. 14 training programs were organized in which women SHGs members received knowledge and techniques for preparation of bio-fertilizers and bio-pesticides by using locally available resources and women groups have started making bio-fertilizers and pesticides at their household level and using the same for their different crops cultivation. 31 training





programs were organized in which women participants received knowledge and techniques to develop kitchen garden at their household.

- **Workshop on gender sensitization:** 40 workshops were organized by partner organizations in the project field area in which both men and women participants received information on gender discrimination and other gender issues prevailing in the community. Participants were provided with knowledge on gender equality and equity.
- **Support for kitchen garden:** 275 families were supported for developing kitchen garden at their household by providing them with quality seeds and fertilizers. They are producing fresh green vegetables for household consumption and for sales also.
- **Support for zero budget agriculture to women farmers:** during the period, technical support has been provided to 54 women farmers for adopting SRI technology and mixed cropping system in their regular cultivation.
- **Seed collection, nursery development and plantation:** 33600 saplings were developed in nursery and about 33000 saplings planted during the year by the partner organizations.
- **IEC materials:** 1565 IEC materials (pamphlet, booklet) have been printed and disseminated among the people in the project area to bring community awareness.
- **Legal literacy camps:** 14 legal literacy camps were organized in the field area by our partner organizations in which community people received knowledge and information on various legal rights and tribal rights.
- **Wild food festivals:** The project fellows, during the year, organized wild food festivals in their working field areas in which different wild foods and traditional seeds varieties were demonstrated and community people from different villages visited and developed their knowledge and information about various wild foods and conservation methods.





## Using Diversity (UD) Programme

Under the Using Diversity (UD) Project, PRERAK has been working with two tribal groups in Chhattisgarh State – the **Kamars** and the **Birhors** – who are classified as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). The project has involved 9 villages of the *Kamar* adivasi community in Mainpur Block of Gariaband District of Chhattisgarh and 10 villages of the *Birhor* adivasi community in Pali and Podi Blocks of Korba District, Chhattisgarh.



### Major Activities Undertaken (Progress & Achievements):

#### ***“KAMAR” Community – Gariyaband District, Chhattisgarh***

One community leader and one facilitator are engaged in Kamar community to carry out all field level interventions in the project areas. During the project implementation period, January to December 2018, Community Leader and Facilitator (Mr. Dhansaya and Mr. Bhola) have carried out community meetings and consultations in the 9 project villages on issues pertaining to Traditional Mixed Cropping Agricultural practices of the Kamars, current crops being cultivated, erosion of traditional seed varieties, the collection and consumption of uncultivated food, forest rights and the implementation of the Forest Rights Act, 2006 with a focus of Individual Forest Rights (IFR) and Community Forest Rights (CFR).

Initial surveys on traditional mixed cropping practices, status of traditional crops, uncultivated food, community forests, IFR and CFR titles have been completed. With regards to promoting mixed cropping and ecological agricultural practices and supporting establishment of kitchen gardens by *Kamar* households across all project villages a



community seed bank has been established at Kuladighat village. Through the community seed bank 19 different varieties of seeds have been distributed to 50 Kamar farmers at the onset of the monsoons in June and July 2018. Sowing was carried out in July and early august. The farmers are also being provided training and technical support in appropriate mixed cropping practices with regards to sowing and other steps in the cultivation of the seeds they have received. Saplings of fruit

bearing plants have also been distributed to villagers in Kamar community at project area of Gariaband district.

### ***“BIRHOR” Community – Korba District, Chhattisgarh***

In the Birhor project area in Korba District regular meetings and community consultations have been carried out with village communities in the project villages to explain the project concept, aims and objectives; discuss and plan activities around the core thematic areas of mixed cropping agricultural practices, collection and consumption of uncultivated food and forest rights with a focus on FRA and the filling and follow up of IFR and CFR claims. Baseline information on uncultivated food, forests, IFR claims and CFR status has been collected. With regards to the promotion of mixed cropping practices and kitchen gardens a community seed bank has been established in Malda village and 21 varieties of seeds have been distributed to 50 farmers across the 10 project villages.

Sowing was carried out in July and early August with a further sowing of *Hirwa* in October-November. The farmers were also provided training and technical support in appropriate mixed cropping practices with regards to sowing and other steps in the cultivation of the seeds they have received. Due to poor and erratic monsoons the minor millets like Kutki and pulses like *Jhunga* and *Rahar* did not fare well. Most beneficiaries who received seeds of minor millets and pulses were not able to sow their seeds due to delayed monsoons. The vegetable seeds distributed for planting in kitchen have fared better with 20-25 farmers reporting that vegetable plants of tomato, chilli, brinjal and mulli have grown. A second round of seed distribution involved *hirwa* seeds being provided to around 15 farmers in Gurumura village with sowing being carried out in November-December. Due to acute water shortage the experimental mixed cropping plot is yet to have been carried out. In addition to seed distribution Tiharu also procured fingerlings from PRERAK and has released them in a Community pond. Farmers groups meeting and an FRA training program were conducted during November-December.



### ***Major Project Outputs:***

- 120 men and women villagers from ‘KAMAR’ and ‘BIRHOR’ communities have been trained in different aspect of the Forest Rights Act, 2006 with a focus on Individual Forest Rights (IFR) and Community Forest Rights (CFR).
- 105 men and women villagers from ‘KAMAR’ and ‘BIRHOR’ communities have received orientation on ecological agriculture and associated practices.

- 108 men and women villagers from 'KAMAR' and 'BIRHOR' communities have received training on mixed cropping methods of agriculture.
- A farmers committee has been formed for the Kamar project villages and 70 farmers belonging to the committee have received training on institution building and supporting the kitchen garden and mixed cropping initiatives in the region.
- 2 Community Seed Banks have been established, one in Kuladi Ghat village in the Kamar project area and another in Malda village in the Birhor project area. These community seed banks are making available a variety of traditional seeds of rice, millets, pulses and vegetables to marginalised farmer families of their respective project areas. These community seed banks are also facilitating seed exchanges between the different communities covered by the Using Diversity project.
- Around 20 different varieties of seeds for mixed cropping and kitchen gardens have been distributed to 100 marginalised farmer families of the target communities – 50 farmer families in the Kamar project area in Gariaband District and 50 farmer families in the Birhor project area in Korba District. These seeds were sown in July and August. In the Birhor area only the vegetable seeds have been successful and that too only for 20-25 families. Poor rains and inexperience of the Birhors are the reasons for lack of success.
- The fellows in the Kamar areas have distributed saplings of fruit bearing tree species to villagers.
- Data on traditional agricultural practices, traditional crops, uncultivated food and its consumption and collection; and the status of FRA implementation with a focus on IFR and CFR rights has been collected in both project areas and is in the process of being compiled.



### **Selection, Training and Capacity Building of UD Community Fellows and Facilitators**

In order to implement and carry out project activities in the *Kamar* project area in Gariaband District one community leader from Kuladighat (one of the project villages) Dhansaya Sori and one facilitator Bhola Nagesh were appointed. In the *Birhor* project area in Korba District activities one community leader from Malda (one of the project villages) Tiharu Birhor and one facilitator Nakul Netam were appointed. All project fellows commenced their activities in January 2018. They all attended training and capacity building programs on participatory research and documentation, project concept and objectives, and carrying out of project activities held in Raipur and at the PRERAK office in January and first week of February 2018. In addition they were assisted in drawing up overall long term plans and further drafting monthly plans and submitting associated monthly reports. Unfortunately due to personal reasons the facilitator Nakul Netam left the project in April 2018 and community leader Tiharu Birhor was responsible for implementation of project activities till September 2018 with due support from PRERAK staff and the UD coordinator through meetings at PRERAK office, phone



discussions and field visits. In September 2018 a new facilitator Ashok Marawe was appointed. A meeting with all four fellows from the *Birhor* and *Kamar* project areas was held in September 2018 and the progress till date was discussed and analysed and plans for October to December were drawn up.

The *Kamar* project area fellows Dhansaya Sori and Bhola Nagesh along with Tiharu Birhor the community UD fellow from the Birhor project area represented their areas at the Using Diversity Network Annual Meeting in Bhopal in May 2018. Along with *Kamar* and *Birhor* farmers from the respective project areas the fellows presented uncultivated food and indigenous crops from the *Kamar* and *Birhor* project areas the Exhibition on wild food and traditional agricultural produce which was held on the first two days of the meeting. The *Kamar* and *Birhor* fellows presented issues with regards to forest rights and FRA being faced in their areas during the session on FRA with Tushar Dash. They also presented reports on progress and activities carried out in their project areas and also drew up 6 month plans.

The fellows from the *Kamar* and *Birhor* Project areas along with farmers from their regions also participated in an exhibition on wild food, forest medicine, organic farming and traditional indigenous seeds held in Raipur which was part of a “Workshop on Communities Rights on Natural Resources and Associated Livelihood Avenues”. They also participated in the workshop through which the farmers and fellows were able to share the issues, challenges and problems faced by their respective communities with respect to their natural resources, and interact with community representatives, NGOs, experts, government representatives and researchers from across Chhattisgarh and India. They were also exposed to a variety of information and knowledge with regards to sustainable livelihoods, FRA, PESA, natural resource issues and management and other challenges faced by adivasi communities from across central India with regards to the environment and natural resources.





## Community Based Seed Systems of Tribal Women

PRERAK is implementing the project ‘Community Based Indigenous Seed Systems of Tribal Women’ in selected villages of Chhura and Graiaband Block of Gariaband district in Chhattisgarh State. This is a one year project started in January 2019 and this project is financially supported by Keystone Foundation, Kotagiri, Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu.



The main purpose of this project is to promote traditional seeds among small and marginal women farmers, its storage and conservation within and outside of project area. This project is based on three major components i.e. (i) Individual woman and group seed savers, (ii) Seed producers groups and (iii) Small and medium women farmers. The major activities under this programme, during this period are as follows:

### COMMUNITY MOBILISATION ACTIVITIES:

- Village level meetings were conducted with farmers and the community people to motivate and play a vital role in seed collection, production, distribution, conservation and demonstration to promote the use of traditional varieties of seed. Date wise details of meetings are given below:

S.No.	Date	Village Name	Participants	
			Male	Female
1	05.01.2019	Kodamal	3	12
2	09.01.2019	Palema	7	10
3	15.01.2019	Chhindoli	3	14
4	18.01.2019	Thuhapani	3	7
5	24.01.2019	Matarbahara	5	10
6	28.01.2019	Kalmidadar	3	7
7	10.01.2019	Anjoradih	3	4
8	27.01.2019	Kasarbaya	1	12
9	12.02.2019	Bhujiyamuda	1	11
10	20.02.2019	Rampur	1	16
11	02.02.2019	Kodamal	4	10
12	12.02.2019	Kalmidadar	4	6
13	09.02.2019	Palema	3	14
14	22.02.2019	Chhindoli	3	10
15	18.02.2019	Thuhapani	3	7
16	25.02.2019	Matarbahara	7	8
17	11.02.2019	Anjoradih	5	7
18	12.02.2019	Bhujiyamuda	1	11
19	20.02.2019	Rampur	1	16

20	02.03.2019	Anjoradih	2	8
21	04.03.2019	Thuhapani	3	10
22	15.03.2019	Matarbahara	2	8
23	06.03.2019	Bhujiyamuda	1	17

- 142 women farmers (87 in Chhura Block and 55 in Gariaband Block) have been identified and selected to be involved in this project for seed production of different varieties. Likewise, two groups (one in each block) have been formed as seed savers. The main purpose is to cultivate and produce different varieties of traditional seeds.
- Two field workers have been appointed to facilitate all field level activities and to provide technical support to women farmers in their cultivation. During the month of March 2019, quarterly meeting of farmers' leaders has been organized to promote and strengthen women farmers as per below details:

S.No.	Block Name	Village Name	Date	Participants	
				Male	Female
1	Gariaband	Hardi	11.03.2019	22	17
2	Chhura	Chhindoli	09.03.2019	13	24

- Establishment of Community Seed Banks: 4 community seed banks have been established in the project field area with a purpose to collect and storage of seeds. By establishing community seed banks, different varieties of seeds can be available and small and medium farmers can easily get the seeds according to their need and interest. Details of seed banks are as follows:

S.No.	Village Name	Name of Seed Bank
1	Chhindoli	ANKUR COMMUNITY SEED BANK
2	Hardi	PAIREE COMMUNITY SEED BANK
3	Pariyabahara	KACHNAA DHRUVA COMMUNITY SEED BANK
4	Bhilai	VASUNDHARA SEED BANK



## School Education & Construction of School Building for Underprivileged Children:

PRERAK is running academic school (from Nursery Class to Class VIII) for socially and economically backward and poor children in Abhanpur Block of Raipur district. The main purpose is to impart qualitative academic education to underprivileged rural children. Parents, those who are very poor, are not able to provide their children better education facilities. The organisation found that so many rural children are deprived from their basic education due to their various socio-economic problems.



Right to Education Act provides provisions and facilities for children to study but it is seen in the area that many more poor parents engage their children in domestic works and other income generating activities. So, parents counseling is a regular process that we are following and motivating parents for their children's education. The school is named as 'Sanskaar Public School' and during the year 2018-19, there are 130 students enrolled in nursery class to 8<sup>th</sup> Class. This is a English medium school, however medium of instruction is followed by both English and Hindi language. Our committed school staffs (both teaching and non-teaching) are always making their best efforts to impart quality education to the students.

The school is being run in a rented building. The organisation had applied to **GGP Mumbai** for grant assistance for construction of new school building and during the year, in the month of December 2018, 'The project for the construction of school for underprivileged children' was approved by GGP Mumbai. After signing contract with **Consulate General of Japan in Mumbai** during the last week of December 2018, fund was released for the construction of school building in the month of January 2019. Since the fund was released, construction work is on progress and till the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019, construction has been completed up to ground floor slab level. It is expected to complete the whole construction work till December 2019.





## Vocational Skill Training of Persons with Disabilities at SAKSHAM

PRERAK has been providing vocational training to persons with disabilities (PwDs) since 2010 in its SAKSHAM Training Centre. The organisation provides different trainings like computer education, tailoring, welding and fabrication, carpentry, file and folder making, candle making to enhance and sharpen their skills. Each course trains nearly 20 disabled male and female students who are provided with study materials, residential facilities totally

free of cost and assistance in employment opportunities after completion of the course. During the year 2018-19, under PMKVY, government of India, one batch for Data Entry Operator and one batch for Retails training was conducted in which 40 trainees received skills trainings on these two trades.



## Old Age Home (Siyan Seva Sadan)



Rehabilitation for aged and needy persons is a dire need of the hour. PRERAK organisation has established one Old Age Home at Bhilai in Gariaband Block of Gariaband district. This old age home is functioning since July 2018 in a rented building. The main purpose is to provide cares for the destitute old people who have no one else to care for them, sick and abandoned by family and those uprooted by disasters. At present, 25 old persons are living in

Siyan Seva Sadan (Old Age Home) and they are being provided with shelter, food, clothing and medical care. Apart from this, all the inhabitants are receiving recreational facilities like music and watching television.

The organisation has applied to Social Welfare Department, Government of Chhattisgarh for grant assistance. The proposal for running Old Age Home has been approved and the grant is yet to be received from district social welfare department, Gariaband district. Since the centre is started, all the expenses are being met from organization's own resources.



PRERAK

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