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**DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT PROGRAM FOR STONE QUARRY  
AFFECTED COMMUNITIES IN WEST BENGAL AND JHARKHAND:**

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**Pilot Project 2010-2012**

**EVALUATION REPORT**

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Dr. Raj Kumar - Mrs. Priya Ashvita Rajkumar - Dr. Rupak Ghosh

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## 1. PROJECT BACKGROUND

The project is implemented particularly for the benefit of those Santhal communities who are working in stone quarry and crusher units of Jharkhand and West Bengal. The major focus areas of the project are occupational Safety, Health, Livelihood, Food Security, Water and Sanitation, Protection and Management of Natural Environment, Education and Information, Advocacy on Human Rights. The overall objective of the project is to empower women and men of the disadvantaged communities affected by the stone quarry work and create enabling conditions to secure their rights and achieve greater control over their lives and livelihood by facilitating their participation in sustainable development process.

The project is in the pilot phase (2010 to 2012) and is working in Md. Bazaar Block under Birbhum district of West Bengal and Shikaripara block in Dumka district of Jharkhand.

Based on the experience gained from the pilot project and feasibility of future intervention, it was envisioned to further explore the possibilities of continuing the project in second and third phase.

In the pilot phase, the project plans were to organize communities, strengthen their capacity, identify potential stakeholders, build awareness on issues, increase livelihood opportunities, identify and refer cases with respiratory problems.

At the close of the pilot phase it was thought imperative to conduct an evaluation to assess the current strategies, impact of the activities, the working partnership and review future plans. According to the project proposal an external evaluation was planned at the end of the second year of the project period.

## 2. THE EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

The evaluation team had initial discussions with the Deputy Programme Manager Ms. Anjana Biswas, at Kolkatta and thereafter with the project staff at the Birbhum unit office to gain an understanding of the project activities and form plans for data collection with the community,

partners and stakeholders. Project documents<sup>1</sup> were reviewed and the terms of reference<sup>2</sup> discussed. Data collection tools<sup>3</sup> and evaluation schedule<sup>4</sup> were developed in consultation with the project staff. Field visits were conducted for three days in which the evaluation team had opportunity to visit three villages of Shikaripara in Jharkhand and four villages of Mohammad Bazar in West Bengal. The team met with self help group members, adolescent girls and boys, communities engaged in alternative livelihood through ESAF, project partners and other stakeholders. Debriefing meetings were held with local project staff and stakeholders on 16<sup>th</sup> April and with head office staff in Kolkata on 17<sup>th</sup> April. In all 99 persons participated in the evaluation<sup>5</sup>. The evaluation team led by Dr. Raj Kumar included Dr. Rupak Ghosh and Mrs. Priya Rajkumar.<sup>6</sup>

### **Persons participated in Evaluation**

10 Self help groups members	48
Child Care centre / crèche workers	5
Adolescent boys and girls	9
Partners	5
Stakeholders	1
Local and head office Project staff	12
Other community members	19
	<b>99</b>

The evaluation report was finalized after receiving feedback<sup>7</sup> from Norjmission and LWSIT.

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<sup>1</sup> Project proposal and annual reports, partners meeting minutes, documentary 'Courageous Maku'

<sup>2</sup> Annexure 1

<sup>3</sup> Annexure 2

<sup>4</sup> Annexure 3

<sup>5</sup> Annexure 4

<sup>6</sup> CVs of evaluation team members in Annexure 6

<sup>7</sup> Feedback received on draft report

### 3. ANALYTICAL OBSERVATIONS

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#### 3.1 THE CURRENT INTERVENTION STRATEGIES OF THE PROJECT

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The following section addresses two specific objectives of the evaluation given in the Terms of Reference:

- To review the current LWSIT intervention strategies
- Analytical observations of the failure of strategy

##### **Intervention strategies**

In the project proposal the major strategies mentioned were mobilizing and strengthening CBOs and SHGs, building local leadership, cooperation with national and local authorities, improving the situation of women and working towards sustainable change in relation to the environment.

##### **The intervention strategies currently used by the project**

The major problem addressed by the project is the life situation of the stone quarry workers and consequences of their work in the quarries and crushers. The broad strategy adopted by the project is to facilitate development of community involved in stone quarry work and minimize the harmful consequences of their work.

*The strategy adopted by the project includes*

- A. Mobilizing and strengthening women's groups
- B. Addressing health concerns of stone quarry workers through health camps, awareness programs, referral services and provision of protective gear
- C. Supporting local organizations in advocacy
- D. Generating alternative sources of income through animal husbandry, agriculture support
- E. Improving food security through grain banks

- F. Encouraging Education through preschool centers and tuition centers
- G. Promoting environment through plantation, afforestation.

In the future possibilities can also be explored to establish a forest management committee of local residents in collaboration with the forest department and block development officer. The purpose of this committee would be to protect the forest and manage the forest resources in a sustainable way.

- H. Partnership with organizations having expertise in health and livelihood

### **Analytical observations of the failure of strategy**

The strategy has focused on women and children and addressed issues related to their well being.

#### **A. Women's groups**

The project has targeted women's groups who live in areas where stone quarries and crushers are located. Mobilizing the women's groups has been quite an effective way of facilitating community development. However, not all the women in the groups work in stone quarry. Many of them have discontinued working in the crusher and stone quarries. The self help groups have yet to gain enough confidence to work independently in terms of SHG management and mobilization of resources. This may be due to limitations of the duration of pilot project interventions.

#### **B. Health of Stone quarry workers**

The project has adopted a mixture of curative as well as preventive measures in providing health services through health camps and referrals. The health camps help to make health services more accessible and referrals to hospitals provide expert medical services. During the health camps emphasis should have been laid on strengthening the knowledge of community on health related issues. The provision of protective gear was good initiative however; this



may not have been as effective as expected. The community members working in the stone quarries are not used to wearing protective gears.

In the opinion of the project holders - *“The project provided mask, shoes and spectacles to some of the quarry and crusher workers. It has been observed that all of them are using the spectacles and shoes but resistant to use masks due to feeling of discomfort as reported. In some places workers are using all the gears. The Project is in the process of building awareness among the workers. These protective gears were given just few months back and it takes some time to develop the habit to use those. The objective of providing protective gear was to create an example of positive impact of preventing injuries by using some simple protective gears as well as to influence the crusher owners to introduce the protective devices. It will take some time to assess the effectiveness of providing protective gears to only 100 workers.”*

### **C. Advocacy**

The project has helped to raise awareness on human rights and supported local organizations working for the rights tribal in some ways. Though awareness of rights is the first step towards the process of advocacy, the support to local organization could have been done actively.

In the opinion of the project holders - *“Project did not have such plan during the pilot phase, moreover, no such organization was there during the initiation of the project. Therefore, project concentrated on developing the advocacy skill among the community leaders through training and awareness.”*

In the future phases, this strategy can be further developed to take up right based issues in a non threatening manner.

### **D. Alternative sources of Livelihood**

Some of the women’s groups have actively taken up animal husbandry, cultivation and plantation as a joint venture. This strategy is largely relevant to the local women who are mostly unskilled, less literate and can be taken up along with other household chores. These initiatives may have helped to supplement family income and prevent debts in cases of

sickness, children education etc. However at this stage, the size of the income from these ventures may not be enough to completely disengage from stone quarry work.

Through ESAF, traditional skills in stone craft and bamboo craft have been taught and linked to a larger market. Selected individuals and groups have benefitted from this venture. It should be kept in mind that while teaching new skills to the local artisans the traditional and locally relevant skills should not be lost. The artisans should also be encouraged to continue making locally consumable items such as baskets, winnowing tray etc. along with the new items they have learnt through ESAF.

Last year ESAF supplied 200 bamboo saplings i.e. Jamrupani -120, Latakandar-40, Pakdaha-20, and Dimbadaha 20 of Block Shikaripara but the survival rate was not satisfactory. (Partner's meeting dated 22.02.2012)

#### **E. Improving food security through grain banks**

The Grain banks seemed to have lessened dependency on moneylenders during the lean period. The system of providing grain and facilitating community contribution to the grain banks make this quite a sustainable strategy. The community feels strengthened and the culture of supporting each other is further nurtured through grain bank initiative.

#### **F. Encouraging Education through preschool centers and tuition centers**

Preschool centers have addressed the urgent need of caring for children of quarry workers while they are away at work. Through these centers the children are prepared for further schooling and health needs are met. Tuition centers have used local resources and seem to serve the purpose of encouraging children to continue schooling. The quality of education and the environment where the children sit and learn need to be improved.

#### **G. Promoting environment through plantation, afforestation**

Deforestation due to the spread of quarries has deeply affected agricultural cultivation and the green cover. Through women's group efforts some good models of plantation and afforestation

have been taken up. These initiatives may be useful in reviving community efforts to address environmental degeneration at the local level.

#### **H. Partnership with organizations having expertise in health and livelihood**

Aspects related to partnership have been addressed in other sections of this report. However as a working strategy, partnership has been effective in addressing specific needs of the target group particularly in health and livelihood.

Overall the strategy has worked well, particularly aspects related to livelihood, health and mobilization of groups. However the strategy should focus more on women and adolescent girls who are currently regular workers on the quarry and crusher units.

During interaction of the evaluation team with the project beneficiaries it was found that some women had discontinued working in the quarries and crusher units and other women and girls had not worked in the quarries. The project would do well to concentrate on those women and adolescent girls who are currently regular workers in the quarries and crusher units.

The strategy has led to deep engagement with stone quarry workers and improving their life situation through their own efforts.

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### **3.2 IMPACT OF THE INTERVENTION**

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- To identify and analyse the impact of the strategic interventions on the life and livelihood of people of operational communities (how far it has worked to meet the objectives, identify where it has not worked; where it has worked and why)

#### **Right to Occupational Safety and Health**

##### ***Observations of Dr. Rupak Ghosh***

##### **Environmental Scenario:**

The villages under the project areas and the adjoining areas are seriously under the threat of Environmental Pollution due to the toxic dusts emanating from numbers of Stone Crusher Units constructed in the vicinity of villages of tribal communities. As the quarries during blasting of

stoners and the crushers during operation generate huge amount of silicate dusts and other toxic dusts the workers are directly affected along with all persons residing in the surrounding area inhaling the dust through the atmosphere which has become polluted. The extent of damage is directly related to the period of exposure and the load of pollutants. These toxic products are seriously affecting the lung health of the tribals as they are inhaling the toxic dusts since their birth causing frequent respiratory tract infections in the form of cough and cold, running nose, respiratory distress and breathlessness ultimately causing the incurable disease called silicosis .The most common disease is pulmonary tuberculosis (Lung TB) and it often becomes difficult to treat due to underlying lung infection by toxic drugs.

#### **Jharkhand:**

The environmental situation is grave at Makrapahari village of Shikaripara District of Jharkhand. Villagers are directly exposed to the dust emanating from nearby crusher units existing for about 5 years only. If this situation prevails the inhabitants of the locality will certainly be victims of lung diseases and other related diseases in near future. The workers of LWSIT have done a commendable job in organizing them and successfully making them aware of the probable health hazards, maternal and child care, sexual diseases. The team has been actively guided by the doctors and staffs of Mohulpahari Christian Hospital by organizing local camps and rendering investigation facility at the hospital .However being a remote place with poor infrastructural facility in all sectors including health and education, special attention from Government sector is urgently needed .In spite of poor support from Government Sector the people are well aware of their health and related problems and always try to avail modern medical treatment .

#### **West Bengal:**

The situation at Bharkata of MdBazar Block of Birbhum district and adjoining areas are different due to various incidences and agitations for the last 2 years. The area is famous for black stones and large number of crushers in the vicinity of mines and villages are operating for many years. The people of the localities are already suffering from lung diseases specially tuberculosis, dust related lung diseases, sexually transmitted diseases and many other diseases. Government

health facility is available including DOTs treatment for tuberculosis. Chapribathan and Tetulbandhi are two remote villages of Birbhum district adjacent to the state of Jharkhand where the LWSIT Workers have successfully formed women's self help groups who are engaged in earning their livelihood by various logistic support from LWSIT and they are also actively engaged in health education, primary education and maternal and child health. Here they have got very close liaison with various Government organizations and offices.

### **Suggestions**

#### (A) Scientific Documentation: Research

- Initiate a research on the effects of dust from stone industries (mines and crushers) on the workers with direct exposure over many years
- Effect on environment causing air pollution and its effect on human systems specially lung and other organs require scientific documentation. Scientific proof has become absolutely mandatory for the purpose of compensation as per laws prevailing in India.
- However this is not an easy task, needs active participation of certain experts in this field and their coordinated effort.
- With existing infrastructural facilities including a team of dedicated doctors, Mohulpahari Christian Hospital can be an ideal centre for such a Research

#### (B) Periodic small group meetings with Doctors, female and male community health

Workers and local volunteers (if possible trained) can be organized for:

- 1) Identification of diseases specially tuberculosis and other diseases including Sexually transmitted diseases and their proper treatment
- 2) Health Education on Protection from effects of toxic dusts, maternal and Child health, food habits, safe sex.
- 3) Subject to the availability of funds, providing low cost protective devices.

- 4) Awareness regarding environmental pollution and diseases arising out of it.
- (C) To utilize the Government Health Care Facility for treatment specially treatment of Tuberculosis under RNTCP (DOTs) where complete treatment is available to all Diagnosed patients free of cost.
- (D) To arrange meetings with concerned Government Officials, Local Leaders, Community Volunteers, Panchayat members, stone mine and crusher owners with staffs with scientific data regarding the ill effects of the dusts from the industries causing serious diseases to the local community. We should also highlight the importance of damping down the dust at source preventing pollution to the environment.
- (E) Awareness amongst the workers regarding their personal safety and safety of their family members.
- (F) Provision of free medical facility nearby .in the form of ESI or such scheme.
- (G) Scheme for rehabilitation or alternate placement for victims of dust related diseases

## **B) Right to livelihood and Food Security**

In stone quarries the workers earn between Rs. 100/- to Rs. 200/- per day for different types of work. Two times a week there is work involved in carrying stone with daily wage of Rs. 120/- . For breaking stones a worker is paid Rs. 100/- per day. For loading stone in transport vehicles the workers are paid Rs. 200/- per day. In Chapribathan village more than 8 women said that they work in the Khadan and six men from 31 families in the village also do work in the Khadan. (Chapribathan.)

From the Pagdoha village about 20 young boys and girls go to stone Mines and stone crushers. Male gets Rs.0. 50 for one basket load and female gets Rs.0.25 for one basket load.

This situation explains the struggles of tribal workers. After doing hard work, they get minimum amount of wages and thus remain in the vicious cycle of poverty.

### **Support through livestock**

The groups received piglets which have multiplied; ducks provided by LWSIT are being looked after by the Self help groups. 8 women were helped to start fish rearing through an LWSIT loan of Rs. 1500/- and they made profit of Rs. 1000/-. They sold 27 kg of fish. (Two women's self help groups of Makrapahari village – Champa and Jopabaha)

Parsina group of Chapribathan village have been given 12 pigs from LWSIT. They also were helped to start fish rearing and have been able to make a profit of Rs. 16,000/-. They were also given 100 ducks which are being reared in the deep ground cavities created by the abandoned mines. 20 ducks were sold for Rs. 100/- per kg and the profit made was Rs. 3800/-. Some of the money was given to the members and the rest was used as a contribution to the community hall. In Rajina group of Chapribathan village the fund is Rs. 7000/-. The groups are also taking care of mango saplings and piggery initiated with the help of LWSIT. They are able to tell the common diseases affecting pigs and have also been able to procure vaccination for them.

### **Support through grain Bank**

In August and September there is lean period and with the help of LWSIT a grain bank was started in which 10 quintal grain was given by LWSIT and three and half quintal by the community. 10 kg was distributed to the members of the community through the SHG and records have been maintained. Members then return 12 kg of grain to the grain bank. Grain banks are usually in the house of a member and made by the community. (Two women's self help groups of Makrapahari village – Champa and Jopabaha). In Chapribathan village there are two grain banks with 12 quintal of grain.

### **Support through livelihood generation program**

Three youth in the age group of 17 years to 19 years from the community have participated in stone cutting training conducted by ESAF. They used to work in Khadan and earn around Rs. 100/- per day in loading trucks. Now they have learnt to make different stone craft items. They also went to Rajasthan for 20 days and at Shikaripara for training. Now they want to do stone craft and do not want to work in the Khadan. (3 trained youth from Chapribathan village)

### **Stone crafting unit at PAGDOHA village ESAF**

Pagdoha stone crafting unit has given employment to 13 artisans. All the artisans are locals from nearby villages who have been trained to do quality professional jobs of stone carving. Initially this unit was started with the help of Mr. Yacob Jacob with just 4 items. Now about 90 items are produced in this unit. Ten local artisans (5 from Shikarpur and five from Jethia , West Bengal) were taken to Jaipur , Rajasthan for 10 days stone carving training . In Jaipur a large scale of stone crafting work is being done. The local artisans were trained to do varieties of stone crafting and designing. Jairam Mohata who hails from Hazaribagh, Jharkhand was working as skilled artisan in Jaipur, Rajasthan. He was involved in training the local artisans in Jaipur and later on he joined ESAF and has started working at Pagdoha stone crafting centre. Now he earns Rs.12, 000/- per month with additional benefit of free accommodation and food. This unit is managed in collaboration with Anupam Swayam Sahayata Samuh( Anupam SHG). Earlier the SHG was marketing few stone craft items through a middle man which was less beneficial. The working shed for the stone crafting is constructed by SHG members. The new artisans are trained here. It takes about 2 months for the artisans to be trained to do quality job. The artisans are paid wages @ Rs.130/- per day. (Jairam Mohata and Martin Hembrom - artisans)

### **Women's self help groups from Village Pagdoha<sup>8</sup>**

Anupam and Jagruti SHG were formed in the year 2004 with the help of a women's representative of the Block Development Officer. The community belongs to traditional stonecutters who used to sell stone craft made of the available local stone. The business men from the town would come to the village to buy the items produced. The men worked individually and earned around Rs. 60/- per day. The men would also work in the stone quarry and earn around Rs. 100/- per day. Now with the help of ESAF, they have been trained in making stone craft items of different designs and are earning @ Rs. 150/- per day. The youth have learnt to make about 80 stone craft items.

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<sup>8</sup> There were 6 members from three self help groups. Renuka Pal – Jagruti group, Manjudevi and Purnima Pal – Anupam group, Bilasi pal – Madurda group. Kalavati Murmu , President of Anupam group.



The self -help group members have received health awareness training, agriculture and bamboo plantation training from LWSIT. At present the group fund of Anupam group is Rs. 1100/- and the Jagruti group is Rs. 800/-. Group members of Jagruti expressed dissatisfaction that they are not earning enough money out of this initiative. It seems that Anupam group has been registered with the Government and ESAF is helping them to monitor the process of the stone craft work and they are being helped to take over the record keeping and overall supervision of the work. One of the local artisans Kashinath Pandit who has completed schooling is helping the group with record keeping.

In the opinion of the ESAF staff *“We have started the initiative with partnership of one SHG and in the coming days more SHG shall be considered for participation as per their interest and cooperation”*

### **Bamboo craft at Jamrupani village**

Out of 12 members, five members of Jagruti Self Help Group were present during the discussion. Jamrupani village is inhabited by 12 families of Mahali communities who traditionally do bamboo craft work. From ages they are used to making bamboo baskets and winnowing trays for a living. Making basket was a family business. At home the wife will make the lower part of the basket and the husband had the skill to put the bamboo ring on the brim of the basket. If the husband is away from home then the basket would be left incomplete and there would be no chance to earn money. With the training given by ESAF, they began making lamp sets, penholders, mats and other bamboo craft items. The training was held for 1 and half months and 13 persons participated in the training. Now they have been trained to do varieties of bamboo craft and the finished product is purchased by ESAF at a reasonable price. The women along with their household chores can earn money by doing bamboo work.

Initially, all the community members worked in the stone quarry. Now the women do not go to the stone quarry and do the bamboo craft work and the men still work in the stone quarry. It is estimated that men from 6 families still work in stone quarry. The women used to earn @ Rs. 40/- per day through traditional bamboo craft work and now they are able to earn @ Rs. 80/-

per day. They say that the money they receive for their work is reasonable and would appreciate if there is an increase in the wages.

During the project evaluation visit the women were talking with the evaluation team members and the staff of ESAF and were simultaneously doing bamboo work. They purchase bamboo with the help of the men, split the bamboo into long thin strips and weave them into mats and baskets. They are able to do this work along with household work and child care.

The evaluation team observed them weave small baskets with high quality of weaving work. This SHG was formed by Jagruti Manch which is based in Dumka. Later on this group became in active and ESAF and LWSIT staff helped to revive this group.

### **Business Incubator - ESAF**

Business incubator is located in a rented three storey building in Dumka. It is a central location where stone and bamboo craft items are brought from different villages. In these villages the stone craft and bamboo craft items and their parts are produced and collected at a common place. In business incubator the craft items are assembled, painted, further designed and final finishing is done. Finished items are also stored prior to despatch. The items are designed by ESAF in consultation with local tribal artisans using local tribal designs. In the production of such items the quality of products are ensured. Marketing and sale of items have been taken up by ESAF. They have displayed items in state level, National and International level fairs and exhibitions. They also receive bulk orders from organizations. The sale over the past two years has gone up from 17 lakh per year to 24 lakh per year. It will be useful to maintain a separate record of LWSIT project funds used for the business incubator.

## **C) Right to Health, Water and Sanitation**

Health training was given to the members of SHG. Two women explained that HIV is not curable and it can be spread through injection, unprotected sex and even from a mother to child through breast milk. Knowledge about HIV helps a person to protect themselves from HIV/AIDs. Two women were able to identify the symptoms of RTI such as tuberculosis and coughing. They

also said that the symptoms of STD were backache and white discharge. They are aware of healthy diet for pregnant mothers such as fruits, vegetables, eggs, banana, dried fish etc. Except for a local plant called 'pui saag' and stale food, a pregnant mother can be given any available food to eat. The local ANM helps in deliveries and now there is increase in hospital delivery and decrease in home deliveries. (SHG– Champa and Jopabaha from Makrapahari village)

The respondents were aware about the importance of vaccination and minimum birth weight of a child. So far no maternal or infant death has occurred in the village. During the meetings the women discuss about child education and vaccination. The group has Rs. 13000 in the bank and the women operate the bank account with the help of other educated adolescents in the village. The group members of both groups work together. (Parsina and Rajina groups, Chapribathan village)

With the help of LWSIT, two men from the community were helped to avail testing and diagnostic services of MCH. They were diagnosed with TB and are availing DOTS treatment through a Government centre which is 15 km away. One child who was critically ill was helped to avail urgent medical treatment at a nearby hospital in the middle of the night. Chapribathan village)

### **Adolescent girls**

The respondents are studying in 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> class and plan to study till 12<sup>th</sup> class. However, they do not know what they will do after passing class 12. They help in household work and also do agricultural labour work with their parents during harvest time. They have not worked in the khadan. Through MCH they participated in 2 days health training where they learnt about how to maintain cleanliness during menstruation – particularly about use of clean cloth, washing and drying cloth in the sun after use. However, they use Stayfree sanitary pads which cost around Rs. 26/-. The used sanitary pads are disposed off in a deserted Khadan area. The respondents were not clear about the ill effects of poor hygiene in menstruation. They know about HIV AIDS – how it spreads and how to protect themselves. Previously they heard about HIV/AIDS through their school but did not know much in detail. Previously girls in their

community used to get married before 18 years of age, but this has now changed. They have learnt about menstruation but do not know the reasons why pain is experienced during menstruation. They are interested to know about pregnancy and child birth and caring for their future families. (6 adolescent girls- Chapribathan village)

## **D) Right to Protection and Management of Natural Environment**

### **Nurturing the environment**

Four women's self help groups namely- Singhchand, Rajloki, Jawabahar and Mahaloki were formed in the village Chapribathan. Out of these, three groups have been helped to start a mango plantation of 700 trees. The groups have maintained the trees through pitcher irrigation. The land is taken on lease from a community member. The group members made a boundary wall with bamboo sticks, prepared the ground and planted the saplings given by LWSIT. They also grew Arhar dal and sold for Rs. 4,500/-. Part of this money was used to buy yam tubors which were also planted. (Respondents: 4 women from Chapribathan)

### **Protection against health hazards**

Altogether 20 persons from village Chapribathan have been provided protective gear by LWSIT. They are using these protective gears. Around 15 women from Makarpahari village have received shoes, spectacles and masks from LWSIT which they are using to protect themselves from flying dust.

## **E) Right to Education**

### **Child Care centre**

Surutnami Hasta has studied till 9<sup>th</sup> class. He manages 30 children in the child care centre which is in his home. The children are from 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> class. Children come from 3 pm to 5 pm after school.

Vinod Soren also teaches 31 students who are from Class 1 to Class 5. Parents of the children work in the stone quarry. Both receive honorarium of Rs. 500/- per month from LWSIT. They have not received any training in child learning and development.

### **Creche at Sagarbandi Village**

The crèche was started with the help of LWSIT in a community club at Sagarbandi. There are 20 children (9 female and 11 male) who are preschoolers. They are being looked after by two mothers from the community Bodo Baske (class 8) and Urmila Hasdak (class 10) who have been selected by the community. The crèche timings are 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. The children bring tiffin boxes from the home and are also given a meal. Community contributes rice and Rs. 50/- for each child every month. Women from the SHG visit the crèche from time to time.

Previously all these children accompanied their parents to the stone crushing site. LWSIT has provided toys, cooking utensils, water filter and part of the salary of the two women workers. The workers have not been given training in child care and development.

### **Child Care Centre, Chapribathan**

There are 40 children in the centre who are studying in class 1 to 5. They are taught English, Bengali and Maths in the centre. They pay Rs. 50/- per month. Every day they spend 2 hours in the centre. The child care worker is in class 10 and has not been trained as teacher yet.

## **F) Right to Information and advocacy on Human Rights**

### **Leadership Training programs for women**

In a discussion with two women's SHG Champa and Jopabaha of Makrapahari village three of the respondents said that they have participated in women's leadership training provided by LWSIT in which they learnt about how to strengthen women's group, the role of women and how to protect themselves from HIV/AIDs. They have also learnt about the role of the group office bearers.

### **Self help group training, Chapribathan village**

Women were given training in group functioning, adolescent girls' health training and animal husbandry. In group functioning training they learnt about how to manage the group, maintain group register and account keeping.

### **Celebration of Important days**

Two women's self help group from Makarpahari village have celebrated health day, Independence Day, Children's day and Women's day. These celebrations were organised by LWSIT to sensitize the communities on issues of National interest and for sharing information.

### **Strengthening local leadership for advocacy**

Rabin Soren is a young tribal leader from Village Mohul Donga. He has completed high school and six months course in Mass Communication from Kolkotta.

The movement initiated by Rabin Soren and his supporters was against the illegal crushers, sexual harassment of women workers and deterioration of the environment. In the recent past the houses of some of the protestors were burnt by a group of men who were allegedly sent by the mine owners to quell the movement. Those who were involved in burning the houses of tribals are still at large though some of them have been caught by the police. A case has been lodged in the high court in this regard. The tribal movement took up a procession in village Sagarbandi to protest against the harassment of stone quarry workers.

There are around 200 villages and all the headmen of these villages have joined the movement. They have a core committee of around 9 persons. An organization by the name of Adivasi Development Organization has been initiated by Rabin Soren. At present few well wishers and supporters provide some monetary support. They have made presentations to the Pollution Control Board and Government representatives regarding their situation.

They are of the opinion that the mining should continue. However, illegal mines should not be allowed to function. There should be no new mining work without permission of the Government. Women workers should be provided toilet facilities at the work site. Following the

protests by the tribals, the government took action and 70 illegal mines were closed. One illegal mine was sealed and 26 stone crushers were also sealed. The harassment of women workers was also stopped. The tribal movement has also had dialogue with the Stone Miners Association. At present there are 400 members in this Association. Some of them believe that they should work in partnership with the workers and care for their needs and others do not. The Association has been split over this issue.

In the opinion of Rabin Soren, LWSIT support can be extended in the following areas:

- Education of children
- Child health
- Periodic health check up of stone quarry workers
- Community awareness camps on health issues
- Developing a documentary on the lives of the stone quarry workers
- Research on effects of dust on people's lives
- Help to document the evidence based situation of community and environment when presenting facts to the lawyer and in court.
- Help in documenting and preserving local culture – Setting up a museum with local cultural artefacts.
- Explore possibilities of training and strengthening the Tribal Development organization through exposure visits, capacity building, research, documentation etc. after a need assessment.

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### 3.3 CHANGES WHICH MAY AFFECT THE WORK AND STRATEGY

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- To identify occurrence of any change in the context that may significantly affect the work and strategy ( could be related to change in attitude of the local Government, the local people, quarry owners or partnership relations)

#### **Change in the context**

- a. A change in the attitude of the tribal community has taken place. This is due to enhanced awareness of their rights and an attempt to build local leadership. Through

community based organizations, local leadership has been developed which can be further strengthened.

- b. In Chapribathan village area there were many stone quarries. Over the past 2 years, seven stone quarries have been closed down since they were illegal. This is a good indication that the government is taking action against the illegal stone quarries.
- c. Tribal development movement has awakened the community. The movement has been successful to a great extent in influencing the government to pay attention to the issue of pollution and threat to the environment.
- d. Following the protests by the tribals in relation to illegal mining, the government took action and 70 illegal mines were closed. One illegal mine was sealed and 26 stone crushers were also sealed. The harassment of women workers has also been stopped.
- e. The tribal movement has also had dialogue with the Stone Miners Association. At present there are 400 members in this Association. Some of them believe that they should work in partnership with the workers and care for their needs and others do not want to pay attention to the needs of workers. The Miners Association has been split over this issue. (Rabin Soren-Tribal leader)
- f. We were informed by the project staff that the extremists' activities are gaining momentum in and around the project area. Staff movements in the project area after 4.00 PM involve risk.
- g. More number of younger generation adolescents are completing high school and aspiring for higher education. Gradually the number of younger generation members opting for working in the stone quarries will reduce.
- h. With increase in education and more youth joining the mainstream local tribal customs, traditions and lifestyle are changing.



Some of the changes in the local context are good indications of a better future. The momentum for generating positive change has been created which needs to be further sustained. This situation also requires change in the working strategy. Greater emphasis will be required to strengthen the local leadership and equip them with assertive approach and positive attitude. The issue of advocacy may need to be taken up sensitively and wisely so that the claiming of rights should not be done by compromising principles of non violence.

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### 3.4 UNINTENDED IMPACT OF THE INTERVENTION

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Critical analysis of unintended impacts if any due to project intervention

- The plantation of fruit trees at Chapribathan had a great impact on the local block development authorities. Through the block development officer, fruit trees were planted which did not survive. Adjacent to the same land LWSIT through the local Self help group planted fruit trees which are growing fast and soon there will be a beautiful example of plantation through local initiatives. The BDO, seeing the successful plantation has now requested LWSIT to take up the adjacent land where the earlier fruit plantation had failed. This result was not expected but it happened due to demonstration of successful community based initiative.
- To enhance the skill of the local artisans a training program was organized in Rajasthan. This initiative inspired the trainer Jairam Mohata who hails from Jharkhand to come back to the homeland and train the local artisans. Now Jairam is participating in the development of his own community. This was an unintended effect of the program.

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### 3.5 SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE STRATEGY

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- To suggest modification of strategy/approach where required.
  - a. The community awareness programs should be done in a focused manner primarily targeting the members of community based organizations. The frequency of community awareness programs need to be enhanced so that the message is well understood.

- b. The livelihood generation program for artisans, stone crafting as well as bamboo work may be done through SHG's who should control the inputs of artisans, their fair wages and enhancement of their skill. This will strengthen the confidence of community based organizations and will also reduce their dependency. LWSIT need to strengthen engagement with community groups and individuals taking up alternative livelihood through ESAF and support them in the process.
- c. Promote the concept of village health workers who after getting adequate training becomes agents of promoting health. These health workers along with traditional healers would refer the patients to the nearest health care centres/hospitals for treatment.
- d. Train adequately the teachers placed in education centres. The quality of education through these centres needs to be further improved.
- e. Support the existing tribal development organization, strengthen their knowledge base and help them do advocacy in different ways including support in seeking legal remedy.
- f. At present avoid expanding the program to new areas and consolidate the work in existing project locations. After mid- term evaluation, if it is considered essential to further expand the project area, then consider expansion appropriately.

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### 3.6 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE INTERVENTION

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- Suggestive recommendations based on the analytical assessment for possibilities of further intervention; expansion into other needy communities and developing the proposal
  1. Emphatically and in a focused manner continue working in the existing project area. At this stage we suggest that the activities may not be geographically expanded. Impact oriented intervention will be required in the project area.

Impact oriented intervention may include:

- The self help groups should be competent enough to have quality documentation, quality meetings and quality discussion with effective decisions in the meetings.
  - The local leadership , primarily the leadership of CBO's should gain enough confidence and be equipped with adequate information to mobilize the local resources
  - Number of self employed people should be significantly increased who earn reasonable amount of money to improve the quality of life.
  - Local leadership should be adequately equipped to do advocacy with the government authorities primarily in relation to control of pollution and protecting the rights of tribals in all respect
2. Identify men and women working in crushers and in stone mines who would be encouraged to choose alternative source of livelihood.
  3. Strengthen the community based organizations such as Self help groups and Adivasi development organization. Frequency of staff visits to these organizations and frequency of capacity strengthening initiatives for them need to be increased.
  4. Do advocacy through local leadership and local community based organizations. Avoid direct involvement in advocacy initiatives. Help Adivasi development organization seek legal remedy to claim their rights and protect themselves from all types of exploitation. LWSIT can help the Adivasi development organization in the process of registration and also equip the key leaders of the organization following analysis of learning needs. These activities can be part of the strategy for strengthening local organizations.
  5. Establish a group of locally trained health workers who could provide first aid treatment and would also help organize medical events as well as referring the patients to the recognised referral centre.
  6. On a priority basis arrange training of doctors of Mohalpahari Christian Hospital to diagnose lung diseases and gain expertise in respiratory infections. With this training

they can not only treat the patients and provide expert opinion but can also become instrument in reviewing and modifying existing laws relating to pollution and environment.

7. Do chemical analysis of flying ash to establish its harmful contents. At the same time initiate a research on correlation of flying dust with respiratory diseases. With solid medical evidence through research, approach the pollution control board, mining authorities and health ministers with respect to the harmful health consequences of stone quarry work.
8. Conduct health check up camps with a specific purpose of investigating the impact of flying ash on the health of the communities who live closer to the mining area or work in the mines and related activities.
9. Activities of child education are much helpful for the community. Such activities can be expanded in partnership with ESAF. ESAF has a credible experience of children's education in the local context. It will be useful for LWSIT to learn and share work experiences in relation to child education in the context of the project.
10. Ensure that Self Help Groups are fully empowered in undertaking income generation activities and they manage the production and sale either directly or through ESAF. Make sure that in learning new skills the local artisans do not loose skill of making items locally required. Even the plantation of variety of bamboo should not only be relevant for the business purpose but also for the protection of the environment and for local use for building huts etc.
11. Continue working in partnership with existing project partners. Ensure that the focus of all the project partners should be primarily on community development in terms of their health, social status, food security and economic development. The role of each partner in complementing each other with their skill, expertise and commitment need to be nurtured and appreciated.
12. Continue strengthening and nurturing tribal traditions, knowledge, lifestyle and social customs through all the program activities.

In order to increase the impact of the project additional funds can be useful for:

- a. Capacity strengthening of CBO's and local leadership
- b. Capacity strengthening of Project staff
- c. Initiating a research project which may support advocacy initiatives
- d. Support to locally formed tribal organization for advocacy
- e. Small business initiatives for local groups

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### 3.7 PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN LWSIT, ESAF AND NELC THROUGH MCH

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13. Assess the success and failure of joint venture in partnership mode and possibilities of continuation

There is a formal agreement with NELC and LWSIT to work in partnership. The coordination meetings are held regularly to address the emerging issues. The LWSIT staff organizes medical camps and take the help of MCH to conduct the camps. The medical camp is conducted by one doctor and minimum three nurses. Small medical camps are useful rather than large crowds. The nutrition demonstration program is done primarily addressing the nutritional needs of women and children. (Dr. Joel Kisku, Medical Superintendent, and Dr. Noel Kisku of MCH)

ESAF and LWSIT partnership has worked very well in the past. Strengthen the partnership further in addressing the problems of stone quarry workers. LWSIT staffs identify communities needing help for income generation, ESAF helps these needy communities to generate alternative livelihood options. Parents of children going to school can be taken care of. The middle men from town would give loan to the Mahali community (local bamboo artisans) and then ask them to supply the bamboo baskets and winnowing tray at a very cheap rate. This is

one form of exploitation which can be addressed through the partnership. (Ajit Sen Sr. Branch Manager ESAF)

The partnership between Lutheran World Service India Trust, Evangelical Social Action Forum and Northern Evangelical Lutheran Church is a unique partnership in which all the partners have deep commitment in facilitating community development. Each partner has potential to contribute its speciality with professionalism in promoting community empowerment and community development. The LWSIT has wide experience in development, relief and rehabilitation, the NELC through Mohal pahari Christian Hospital has rich contribution to make in promoting health in the community and has a good referral hospital with adequate equipment and medical staff. The ESAF is highly professional, business oriented NGO with expertise of facilitating community development through entrepreneurship development and creating alternative livelihood opportunities. In this unique blend of expertise there may be challenges.

- a. The LWSIT has exclusive inclination towards community development and has an informal working culture with a blend of professionalism.
- b. The MCH promotes health by adopting hospital based and community based methods and believes in scientific approach in providing preventive, curative and rehabilitative services. The MCH service is a good mix of hospital based curative services as well as primary health care services through outreach program.
- c. The ESAF is a professional organization who believes in making profit and empowering the community through opportunities of earning and minimising unemployment. ESAF believes in strengthening the capacity of local communities in local art and craft.

Thus in this unique partnership, there may be possibilities of difference of opinion while working with the communities. This difference of opinion was observed by the consultants in a subtle way. However, on the whole, all the partners enjoyed the partnership and working together in community development. In the monthly coordination meetings the emerging issues were addressed with mutual satisfaction. The minutes of the meeting were documented

for future reference. This partnership is proposed to be continued in future community development initiatives.

The existing staffs are good, hard working and willing to reach out to the communities. They are performing to the best of their abilities.

The project require at least 50 % of female staff who could freely interact and relate with female community members

At the project coordination level the staff may require additional skill to comprehend the ultimate outcome of the project, its relationship with objectives and activities. More specific skills are required to monitor the project meaningfully, document it and use the lessons learnt for improving the work strategy and activities. Documenting lessons learnt and identifying unintended impact of the project is a special skill that the staff need to acquire. For future intervention it is highly recommended that staff should write project goal/s, objectivities and activities precisely, explicitly and specifically.

For the project level staff, additional training is required to enhance facilitation skills, assesses the relevance of activities being undertaken in the community, community empowerment through information, skill and technology. For staff working with children require additional training in child psychology and facilitating joyful learning for the children.

Advocacy is a sensitive as well as an important issue. The staffs needs to enhance their skill in advocacy which may include obtaining, preserving and sharing information which is relevant as well as exposure to other interventions where advocacy has been successful.