

Annual Report

2008-09



CORD, Lead & Resource Centre, Sidhbari
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Introduction:

“Man can change his destiny not by wishing for it but by working for it”

- Swami Chinmayananda

CORD Lead & Resource centre at Sidhbari (now CORD henceforth) is striving to achieve its vision and mission of integrated rural development through its 24 years of experiential learning. Its outreach and close interactions involves more than 55,000 people directly & 2.75 lakhs people indirectly in 222 Panchayats (a unit of Local Self Governance) under the edges of extensive programme components addressing the multiple negative influences that burden the lives of the rural people with special inclusion efforts for most needy and marginalized ones. Earlier the activities of CORD were spread out in 550 villages of 222 Panchayats with 1 or 2 village/ward covered in majority of these Panchayats. Only some of the components of CORD were implemented in these Panchayats. To ensure more tangible results, CORD Sidhbari is focusing on 27 Panchayats since September 2007 with a broad framework for strategic intervention based on its core principle of participation, integration, networking and sustainability. During this annum the following major thrust areas include:

- Facilitating formation & nurturing of at least one Community Based Organization (CBO) village/ward-wise in focused Panchayats to increase complete coverage.
- Strengthening & up-gradation of already formed CBOs by building their organizational, operational and leadership capacities in the focused Panchayats.
- Identification of Village Volunteer Resource Persons (VVRPs) and basic orientation & trainings to build their capacity on specific issues to take responsibilities, share/transfer knowledge, build feasible linkages and networks, & implement specific social changes in their village/ ward.
- Continued extended support to the CBOs in other villages outside the focused Panchayats
- Monitoring, evaluation and support to other sites of CORD by the team led by National Director from Lead and Resource centre Sidhbari i.e. CORD Deuladiha, CORD Lathikatta, CORD Gajapati (in Orissa) and CORD Thamraipakkam, CORD Siruvani (in Tamilnadu). Various activities facilitated and strengthened with these centre's teams at field level includes water conservation, pasture & orchid management, social mapping, crop analysis, Green project of Thamraipakkam, CLAP project field visit of Deuladiha, team meetings, reporting methods, discussion on system management, personnel and finances.
- Conducted six-week intensive training on different integrated participatory programmes for the workers from CORD Gajapati (Orissa) and CORD Thamraipakkam (Tamilnadu) along with two Yuva Veers from Sikkim. Total seven members were trained in this programme.

During this year, CORD conducted a number of activities and events. The main highlights of the year were CORD UTSAV, the Chief Minister's visit (Himachal Pradesh) and Padma Shree Award to me, a tribute to CORD's rural development work.

In May 2008, I received the Padma Shree award for 23 years of social services in Himachal Pradesh from Hon'ble President of India with gratitude and humility. It is a national level acknowledgement of CORD's integrated rural development efforts by the Government



of India. The award is the grace & blessing of Pujya Gurudev and our Pujya Swami Tejomayanandaji. This award also acknowledges the many thousands of people who have contributed to this noble work in diverse ways.

The other important event took place in November 2008. The CORD head office, Delhi,



organized ‘CORD UTSAV’ from 31st October to 5th November 2008 with the blessings of Pujya Swami Tejomayanandaji. The wife of UN Secretary General Ban Sook Tek inaugurated the CORD UTSAV. Pujya Swamiji also devoted the ‘‘Gayan Yagana’’ in Delhi during the event to raise funds for CORD. Pujya Swamiji released a film on CORD entitled ‘‘The Last Village’’ during the UTSAV. Thirty villagers from Sidhbari participated with great enthusiasm in this gala event along with workers from CORD sites at Orissa & Tamilnadu. During CORD UTSAV a

beautiful exhibition of CORD’s activities on panels and products made by the villagers was also displayed. The beneficiaries sold many of their products. During this event I also had the opportunity to participate in a seminar entitled ‘‘Building Organizations of Consequences’’ organized by Chinmaya Mission & All India Management Association (AIMA) through Sh. Anil Sachdev’s initiative.

The visit of Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, Sh. Prem Kumar Dhumal, was another proud moment for CORD during this year. Two ministers, Smt. Sarveen Chaudhary (Social Justice & Empowerment Minister) & Sh. Kishan Kapoor (Transport Minister) with other State as well as District-level government officials accompanied the Chief Minister. He visited all different integrated rural development programmes. Despite his busy & tight schedule, he spent two hours with CORD teams. He was inspired by CORD’s work. He assured CORD that HP Govt. would give full cooperation to CORD for its functioning. Our



proposal for construction of a new link road approximately 500 meters for CORD’s new training centre in Sidhbari was accepted by the Chief Minister. All CORD members were motivated by the Chief Minister’s appreciation of their work. In fact, he followed up his visit by letters to various departments to see how they could collaborate with CORD.



Identifying VVRPs in each of our programme components is an initiative with great potential to build local people for issues on specific social changes in their village. We have identified a around 1000 VVRPs, mostly women, out of these approximately 800 gained first phase of basic orientation on specific issues (such as female foeticide, HIV/AIDS awareness, alcohol abuse awareness, health & sanitation, Yuvati Samuh, Panchayati Raj concept and marginalized section etc). These efforts for

VVRPs are to realize & sustain the spirit and impact of various integrated work in the community through people's ownership by coming to the fore.

Mahila Mandals (Women's group):

The objective of the programme is harnessing women's potential and leadership skills for their empowerment. In continuation of the above objectives and close interaction with these groups throughout the year, we covered a wide range of social and economic issues such as status of women, single women and livelihood, social justice, alcohol abuse awareness, female foeticide, HIV/AIDS, adolescent girls, health & sanitation, etc. Following activities & our efforts highlights their initiative & leadership progress on various issues undertaken:

- 205 women leaders from various women groups participated in follow-ups organized at the centre to share their successes and reflect on their failures.
- Mahila Mandal members planted Herbal Trees in their respective areas on 5th June, the World Environment Day.
- Shiv Mahima Mahila Mandal from village Passu donated Rs.7,000/- from their own funds for the treatment of Smt. Sarada Devi's husband, who is suffering from a major disease.
- On 13th of June 2008, around 100 Mahila Mandal and Yuva Mandal members, especially the differently abled persons from different Panchayats collectively demonstrated, and organized a march from Gandhi Chowk to Deputy Commissioner's Office at Dharamshala, in support of Prof. G.D. Aggrawal, protesting over building of a multipurpose dam over the holy River Ganges. It is a matter of national heritage, a part of our holy culture, and also of great importance to the spiritual aspects of the Hindus. A memorandum, along with the copy of signature campaign in support of the protest, was given for the President of India through the Deputy Commissioner Kangra.
- Three Mahila Mandals in Rait Block received prizes for their excellent work in social awareness. The first prize of Rs. 20,981/- was given to Mahila Mandal Kutehd, second prize of Rs. 19,471/- to the Mahila Mandal of Kuthama and the 3rd Prize to the villages Sair, Dadham and Rehlu with Rs. 16,404/- , Rs.10,000/-, Rs. 7,767/- respectively.
- Mahila Mandals Organized rallies on the issue of AIDS/ HIV in Taloti, Vaidi, Jhikli Kothi and Barana Panchayat.
- Mahila Mandal from Kirchamba along with 250 other community members especially women organized a rally on Total Sanitation Programme in their Panchayat.



- In Pathiyar Panchayat, Mahila Mandal Members and Panchayat Representatives organized a sanitation rally. Almost 600 people including children, teachers, members of the Mahila Mandal, Panchayat, Panchayat secretary and CORD workers participated in this rally.
- On 2nd October, Ekal Nari Shakti Sangathan, Himachal Pradesh organized a meeting to get together single women from across Himachal Pradesh in collaboration with Nishtha Sanstha, Sidhbari.

- 125 Mahila Mandal leaders & members from three focused Panchayats (Buned, Godav and Jadrangal Balla) participated in a daylong session including a quiz competition at the CORD centre to enhance and upgrade their knowledge and improve their skills in managing their women's groups and self help groups more efficiently and effectively.
- Garla Panchayat's eight Mahila Mandals jointly celebrated Republic Day. 350 participants, from various villages, attended this programme.
- One poor ill woman from Tang Narwana Panchayat was supported by Mahila Mandal members and elected members of the Panchayat, with contribution of Rs. 9,000/- for her treatment.
- 65 members from two Mahila Mandals from Jogipur Panchayat conducted intensive awareness programme with sanitation activity.
- Mahila Mandal members from Khasadhapur village resolved the problem of their village irrigation channel.
- Mahila Mandal members from Lumba village sold 367 kg of vermi compost and earned approximately Rs. 14,000.
- Mahila Mandal from Bundla Panchayat protected their forest from cattle by adopting a resolution to manage their village forest.
- International Women's Day was celebrated in all the 27 focused Panchayats with the active participation of different stakeholders at the Panchayat level. The programme was conducted independently by the Mahila Mandals. A mixture of programme activities were done by the members conveying the message on burning social issues such as female foeticide, alcohol abuse awareness, unhealthy hygienic environment and the need to build household toilets.



Self Help Group (SHG):

CORD has a network of 1,192 Self Help Groups with 17,606 members spread over 11 Blocks (out of 15 development blocks) in District Kangra of Himachal Pradesh. Besides working as a Resource Centre for NABARD, we have started working as a Business Facilitator (BF) with the State Bank of India to enhance financial inclusion in rural areas. The micro-banking facilities available to the poor villagers through Self Help Groups without any collateral have become a great boon for many people. All these groups together have a savings of Rs. 2,97,88,015/- of their own & have received bank loans totaling of Rs. 21,63,30,027/-.



During this period we have conducted 11 training programmes for bankers, NGOs, government functionaries, SHG members in which 312 people were trained on sensitization of micro-credit system through SHGs from Haryana, Punjab, Himachal and J&K.

Youth & Men's Integrated Programme (Y& MIP):

The rural youth of India constitutes 69% of its youth population. To CORD, youth are an important group that has to be dealt in line with the marked changes that occur in this age



group. Even within the youth group, there is marked differences and aspiration of boys and girls as well as within different age group within the youth group. Approximately ten years of lessons from working with youth through regular dialogue directly or indirectly, led to re-designing and implementing changes in a focused manner under youth programme specially for the males. Most of the youth amongst them are in a transitional phase of their lives and are opposed to living in the villages as they are charmed by the glamour of the cities. They often migrate to the cities for employment

where they live in very poor conditions. Our main objectives is reducing the percentage of their migration and encourage & involve them in the process of development by exploring local avenues of livelihoods in farm, service and allied sector activities.

Since September, 2008, we are working under this programme to identify, nurture, train, build and create a pool of youth & men volunteers called VVRP for the male population including youth and male residing in villages of 27 focused Panchayats. These are self-motivated, inspired, and informed youth and male leaders who believe in developing their village community. These volunteers will also explore various avenues for youth growth and development like employment, education etc at the village level. Youth & men's integrated programme is focusing in three main focus areas i.e.

Farm & Allied sector activities: Various activities undertaken by the Community Based Livelihood (Farm & allied sector) programme of CORD are shared, promoted, developed and implemented like SRI techniques for Paddy cultivation and SWI for wheat cultivation. A successful replication of the SRI technique during Kharif season in 27 focused Panchayats where 875 farmers participated. We have also started the practice of 'mix cropping' with farmers to sustain soil fertility. This is an important step for organic cultivation/ chemical free agriculture in Kangra valley.

Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) strengthening: Main objective of CORD's PRIs programme is to ensure that these institutions function as instruments of local self governance to mobilize village communities especially the male communities to actively participate, instead of mere representative ones. It has been observed that both young and older men do not participate much in Up-gram Sabhas whereas women's participation in these meetings through Mahila Mandal is satisfactory. CORD has been working to mobilize youth & men in this direction. During this period a total of 27 Up-Gram Sabhas (UGS) in 27 focused Panchayats facilitated. A total of 592 members including 231 male members participated in these UGS.

Purush & Kissan Club (Men's & Farmers club): Besides mobilizing male population in youth clubs, we are working to involve adult male population by facilitation of 'Purush & Kisan club' formation starting with the most mature ward of the Panchayat (where women groups are strong enough and male population is mobilized a little bit). Until March 2009, CORD has facilitated 23 Purush & Kisan Club with 526 members (471 male & 45 female) members. Some of the achievements of the programme in last one year are:

- Yuva Mandals from different Panchayats organized programmes in their villages to address various issues like Alcohol Abuse, female foeticide, gender discrimination, unemployment, corruption, natural resource management etc.

- A tracking programme was organized in the month of April where approximately 70 youth representative leaders participated. During this programme Sh. Sunil Kapur, a volunteer from USA, addressed youth to build their self-confidence by learning English, to face their interviews in the competitive world outside more effectively and successfully.

- In May, a cricket match was organized between CORD's youth team & the CHYK's (Chinmaya Yuva Kendra) team members. CORD won this match by 50 runs and Swami Mitranandaji gave a cheque of Rs.21,000/- to the winning team who later donated it to the work of CORD. This donation was offered by Sh. Madan Mohan, from Pollux Tours & Trades Private Ltd., Gurgaon.



- In June, a youth follow-up programme was organized in close collaboration with District Sports Authority, Dharamshala, where 50 youth leaders participated and

understood various services for the youth under this government programme.

- On the 13th June, Chinmaya Trigart and Chinmaya Nava Durga Youth clubs organized an awareness rally in collaboration with other youth and women group members on the issue of projected large dams on Holy River Ganga.
- Most of the youth Mandals in the district associated with CORD celebrated World Environment Day on 5th June.

Chinmaya Yuva Se Yuva (CYSY):- Basic computer training for three months is given under this Programme. A total of 90 youths (48 girls & 42 boys) in 18 different batches completed their basic computer course through this programme during this reporting period. Mr. Sunil Kapur, a volunteer from USA conducted English coaching classes for the students and helped them on how to write resume for jobs & interview preparation.



Yuvati Samuh (Adolescent Girls Group):

Empowering adolescent girls with knowledge, confidence, and life skills education to take



their own decisions and thus become an empowered woman is the main objective of the programme. The major issues addressed by this programme are physical and reproductive health issues, gender issues, social issues, spiritual development, natural resource management and environment, etc. CORD has 72 Yuvati Samuh with 1020 girl members from 27 focused Panchayats. A process of identifying women from Mahila Mandals as VVRP for running adolescent girls groups has begun in focused Panchayats.

- In April 08, 65 girls from different Yuvati

Samuh participated in a workshop on "Aaj ki yuvati kal ki nari" (today's girl is tomorrow's woman) programme at the centre.

- On 12th January 09, Swami Vivekananda's birthday was celebrated as National Youth Day in the focused Panchayats.
- 26th January 09, Republic days was celebrated with great enthusiasm and active participation.
- Importance of 23rd March 09, Shahid Bhagat Singh's martyr day (Shahidi Diwas) was discussed in different groups.

Balvihar (6-14 years children) Programme:

Balvihar programme is working in the direction of strengthening and empowering children's moral, spiritual, cultural and social values for the society. The activities involve the communities in villages, specially the mothers and Mahila Mandals. A total of 2326 children are associated with us from 27 focused Panchayats. During this period, 1141 children from various Balvihar Groups participated at different focused Panchayats on plantation, gender, dowry and sanitation issues. Some women from Mahila Mandals are being identified & being trained as VVRP to strengthen their Balvihar programme in focused Panchayats.



Community Based Livelihood (CBL):

CBL programmes for village women requires deliberate attempts to gradually build their individual organizational and operational capacities, their ability to respond to market forces with their skill and products from their homes, as well as their ability to purchase raw material, manage production, ensure quality control and market their products effectively. Integrating poor & needy women into mainstream economy by harnessing their livelihood skills is an important aspect of CORD's programme & objectives.

CBL-Non Farm & Service Sector- During this one year period, in order to enhance our



skills, our focus had been to develop a range of products that incorporate different trade skills. We have organized a total of 103 trainings with 65 at the centre and 38 at the field level. A total of 407 trainees were trained. The trainings were further strengthened with significant networking with local, district, state as well as national level. The trainings also included market orientation trips and exchange programmes within groups. A total of 52 exposure visits took place for procurement of raw materials. In the stitching training programme a total of 50 beneficiaries in

5 batches were trained under the Micro Enterprises Promotion Agency (MEPA) Project. Leaders from five groups for sewing activity representing 50 women along with CORD activity trainer went to Delhi's prominent markets to buy raw materials in bulk for their respective groups. CBL-NFS team facilitated many visits to help exposure for Kangra miniature painting to Delhi, for knitting and crochet in Ludhiana, for Soap in Pathankot, for weaving in Kullu for raw materials.

Guru Dhara Self Help Group, in itself a Micro Enterprise for carrying forward the training, promoting and selling of products of SHGs associated with CORD, participated with the full

support and initiative of the CBL team, in a Interactive Exhibition of CORD at the Chinmaya Centre New Delhi during CORD UTSAV.

Emphasis was laid on the beneficiary trainees to become 'Udyamis' (traders) for their own respective activities. The Udyami will pay the women for their work directly and conduct her business of selling the products at her own risk.

During this period, some women were identified & trained as VVRPs from Mahila Mandals. These VVRPs, apart from taking active part in other activities of CORD, are also evolving to become trainers and facilitators in non-farm and service sector activities.

CBL-Farm & allied Sector: Most of the agricultural activities are seasonal; CORD encourages and places a large emphasis on multiple livelihoods. Apart from using a resource and skill-based approach, we also integrate the essential support systems provided by the government's infrastructures to produce optimal yields for the community members. They are associated with off-season vegetables, poly houses and cash crops, vermin compost, mushroom compost and mushroom farming, fruit production through horticulture activities, dairy, poultry, fishery, sheep and goat rearing, sericulture and bee-keeping.

System of Rice Intensification (SRI) programmes. A sharing-cum-orientation workshop was organized on SRI technique. The main objective of this workshop was to provide a forum through which farmers, scientists, and also the organizers could share their experiences. In this workshop, CORD & People's Science Institute (PSI) Deharoon shared their experiences with 350 farmers and 20 scientists from Palampur University, Rice and Wheat Research Center, Malan on paddy production and with the traditional method of paddy cultivation.



System of Wheat Intensification (SWI) programmes. SWI has been introduced first

time with farmers of Kangra district with the technical assistance of People's Science Institute (PSI) under the programme Promoting SWI in mountain farms of Himachal Pradesh. CORD worked with 105 families, who are actively involved in adopting this method and demonstrated it in their farms.

Participatory Natural Resource Management (PNRM):- CORD has successfully implemented Participatory Natural Resource Management in three villages of one Panchayat in collaboration with Sir Ratan Tata Trust & PSI Deharoon. Now we are working on 2nd phase of this project known as 'Sustainable Mountain Livelihoods' (SML). As per the guidelines & proposed requirement of this programme, we have interacted with Regional Director Mid Himalaya project & additional Director Animal Husbandry. During this period all four SML proposed proposals were discussed in open forum with the members of concerned Gram Sabha.



Community Based Primary Health Programme:

During this period under CORD's health programme a total of 8334 patients received primary health care services at the centre. A number of activities were organized by CORD in

the centre (OPD) as well as in the field on the health issues including Anemia, HIV/AIDS, and Diarrhea, Prenatal and Postnatal care and immunization. A total of 75 VVRPs were trained on basics of the aforementioned issues to help needy and poor people at the village level.

In August 2008, CORD was awarded by H.P. State AIDS Control Society to work with IDUs (Injecting Drug Users) in Dharamshala and surrounding areas from August 2008 to April 2009. The objective of the programme is to prevent new infection amongst identified IDUs. The following activities reflect the efforts of the programme



- A diabetes camp by Dr. Anju Virmani was organized where sixty two (62) patients were examined, guided & treated. 24 patients were referred to medical college at Tanda for needed interventions.
- On 21st December two booths were set up for Polio Immunization Programme by CORD's health programme team in one at CORD Centre & other at Kaned Panchayat.
- Like every year, on 26th January 2009, a get-together programme was organized for Multi Purpose Health Workers (MPW (Female) who had successfully finished

training in four different batches from 1985 to 1992. A total of 126 participants (43 MPWFs and their families) attended this programme and shared their experiences on working in health at the grassroots level. They also actively participated in organizing and contributing to this programme with their husbands and children. It is wonderful to see how some of the nurses have passed on what they learnt at the Ashram to their children. Keshav, son of Sunita and Tilak Chaudhary led the chanting in Ram Mandir with devotion. Many of the children chanted the Guru Suktam and some even Medha Suktam.

- A diabetic follow-up camp was organized at CORD centre with the help of Dr. Anjali Chavan. A total of 14 patients were examined and given guidance in this camp.

Alcohol Abuse Awareness (AAA) Programme: Excessive drinking of alcohol is a big problem in our society. Research by scientists have proven that excessive drinking of alcohol is not a person's fault but a disease like any other which can be cured by taking proper counseling and medical treatment. CORD is working in the community through CBOs with the Sinclair method (using a drug called Naltrexone for treatment of Alcohol). In the last one year 29 patients came for counseling from different villages of focused areas. A total of 106 VVRPs have been identified & trained. Following achievements reflect the efforts of the programme.

- Sudhir Singh and Milkhi Ram have stopped alcohol drinking entirely under Sinclair method promoted by CORD, and their families are very happy. Another two patients, Sh. Bahadur Singh and Ramesh Chand are visiting the centre regularly under this programme. They have reduced their drinking.
- Putli Devi from Godav Panchayat is working successfully as a VVRP for alcohol abuse awareness programme. She has motivated many patients to seek treatment for alcoholism.

Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Programme:

CORD has focused on 404 differently abled people including their families in 80 villages of district Kangra. We worked closely with individual beneficiaries, their families and community groups to explore and implement the best possible ways and means for their

effective, sustainable integration and inclusion in the society. During this period a total of 149 VVRPs were trained on the marginalized groups (single women, disabled and old age) During this period many activities took place, highlights of which are given below:-

- In April, Mr. Sanchit Barua (Deputy Sales Manager ALPS Company) took impressions of the ear moulds of the hearing impaired youth at the centre and trained CORD's CBR team.
- Shilpi Narang, a Special Educator and oral rehabilitation professional from Delhi, gave speech training to eight hearing impaired youth and provided input to the speech therapy unit through individual counseling to both the youth and their parents.



- In May, Dr. J.C. Nigam, a former audiologist & speech therapist from AIIMS, trained the CBR team in speech therapy along with working on children with speech problem.
- On 8th May, Pujya Swami Tejomayanandaji had distributed five BTE (Behind the Ear) hearing aids to the hearing impaired youth.
- CORD is registered with Department of Social Justice, Govt. of Himachal Pradesh under

“Person with Disability (PWD) Act-1995”.

- 80 Mentally challenged children & around 40 volunteers from seven districts of Himachal Pradesh participated in a two-day State level Bocce event in September. The programme was inaugurated by Smt. Mamta Chaudhary Khan, (ADC), Kangra and closing ceremony with prize distribution for winning teams was graced by Smt. Sarveen Chaudhary, Honorable Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of Himachal Pradesh.
- Sh. Parveen Kumar, one of our Chinmaya Umang members, wrote a book of beautiful poems entitled TALASH, which was released by Chief Minister of HP in Una on World Disability Day.
- A five-day residential training cum orientation programme on CBR of the disabled was organized at CORD centre for parents, NGO members and government teachers under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) district Kullu, Himachal Pradesh.
- On 29th March 2009, a district level awareness programme was organized at the CORD centre sponsored by The National Trust.
- On World Disability Day, CORD & Chinmaya Umang organized a cultural programme on 3rd December at CORD centre. Providing a platform to the differently-abled encourages them to participate in such cultural programmes. About 350 people participated in this programme. Our chief guest, Swami Subodhanandaji also graced us with his presence, and spoke at the occasion.



Community Based Sanitation and Hygiene programme:

CORD continued its emphasis on various issues related to sanitation & hygiene amongst the community members. During this period we have successfully implemented our sanitation project in collaboration with the local Lions Club & Guru Dhara Self Help Group. The project supported by Lions Club International Foundation (LCIF), Chicago, made possible

the construction of 176 demonstration toilet units in 22 villages for the most marginalized beneficiaries. Closing ceremony of this programme was graced by Mrs. Sarveen Chaudhary, Hon 'able Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of H.P. During this period, a total of 105 VVRPs on Health & Sanitation were also identified & trained. Being a Support Organization CORD is working on Total Sanitation Campaign with DRDA (District Rural Development Agency), Kangra in two blocks of the district from August 2008 onward. Different activities completed From October 2008 to end



March 2009 under this programme are:-

- *Slogan Competition:* - To achieve this target we have organized 56 Slogan & Painting Competitions at various Schools at various Panchayats. Total 1,449 students participated in this activity.
- *Rallies:* CORD organized 43 rallies in different Panchayats, where a total of 5,759 people (consisting 823 male, 870 female and 3,196 children) actively participated in these rallies.
- *Demonstration-cum-training of low cost toilet construction:* - We developed three models of low cost toilet construction. Out of three, one is zero cost technology. Approximately 100 demonstrations-cum-training of low cost toilets were organized in various Gram Panchayats. Total 77 masons received training by our technical expert at CORD, 672 villagers participated in the programmes and accepted the design for low cost toilets.
- *Street Plays:* - Total 48 street plays were organized in both blocks in Pahari/Kangri accent to convey the message of the Total Sanitation Campaign in an impressive manner. Total 9212 people watched the programme with 4400 females and 3575 children.
- A coordination meeting with motivators was organized with Block Development Officer, Nagrota Bagwan at CORD center for future action plan.
- A five day training of trainers (TOT) was organized by DRDA, Kangra on the different issues of Total Sanitation Campaign. Four participants from CORD attended this event.
- A review meeting was organized by Nagrota Bagwan block officials. Sharing of information & field problems were discussed and further action plan for CLTS (Community Led Total Sanitation) exercise was decided.
- National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) working sites give us an opportunity to address them at one place. Our motivators visited 199 sites and talked with a total 4380 villagers.
- We have organized 107 film showings to benefit the Open Defecation Free campaign at Gram Panchayat level from November 2008.
- Meeting with PRI representatives: 500 focused group meetings were attended by motivators with PRI representatives at Gram Panchayats from the inception of the programme.
- Door to Door visit: From August 2008 to March 2009 our motivators visited 58719 households who do not have toilets in 73 Gram Panchayats of two blocks.



- From October 2008 we have attended 1299 meetings of CBOs in both blocks and got an opportunity to interact with 38567 people.
- Our worker/ motivator participated in a five days training of trainers (TOT) organized by DRDA, Kangra on Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) at Bachat Bhawan, Dharamshala.



- From October 2008 we have attended 1299 meetings of CBOs in both blocks and got an opportunity to interact with 38567 people.
- Demonstration cum training of low cost toilet construction: a total of 77 masons have been trained on the sites in their area, and 265 new toilets were constructed by these trained masons during the reporting period.

From October 08 to March 31st 09, CORD has facilitated construction of 4041 toilets. Additional 4890 toilets are under construction. A number of families have taken self help group loans to do so.

Social Justice and Informal Legal aid programme:

CORD's Social Justice and Informal Legal Cell focused on finding workable solutions for the victims through its participatory approach with community groups for Women and Youth, as well as Self Help Groups. We have registered 477 different cases related to women's issues until the end of March. A total of 327 cases have been resolved with the support of different stakeholders. The team works intensively towards the social and economic rehabilitation of the victims by exploring various livelihood avenues and integration opportunities.

During this period following activities were undertaken:-

- Kangra Central Cooperative Bank cleaned its sewerage tank which had been leaking for 3 years.
- Offenders punished in rape cases
- S.D.M. Dharamshala Court ordered under section 142 in Gram Panchayat Sudher vs MC Dharamshala
- Appellate authority /ADC Kangra ordered the PIO to provide information under RTI Act-2005
- Himachal Pradesh has recognized CORD as a Service Provider under section 10 sub section 1 of Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act -2005.
- Participated in National Consultation on Domestic Violence and Reproductive Rights workshop.
- Appellate authority /ADC Kangra ordered the PIO to provide information under RTI Act-2005
- The team members participated in state level training cum workshop on Women & Law in Dharamshala, organized by Human Rights Law Network.
- A team member also participated in regional workshop, Chandigarh on the "Protection from Domestic Violence Act-2005" A state level workshop was organized for two days on Domestic Violence Act, 2005 at CORD centre. This training programme was collectively organized by CORD, Human Right Law Network (HRLN), Jagori, Mountain Forum,



Himachal Pradesh Voluntary Health Association (HPVHA), SARDHA (Social Action for Rural Development of Hilly Area) and SUTRA (Society for Social Uplift Through Rural Action) organizations. A total of 157 participants from different organizations working in Himachal Pradesh attended this training programme.

Cases Status:

Category	Total Cases	Total Continue	Total resolved cases	Withdrawn	CORD	Panchayat	Police	Women 's Cell	Court	Others
Murder	5	3	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Rape	11	2	9	0	0	0	0	0	9	0
Sexual Assault	7	1	6	0	3	0	3	0	0	0
Matrimonial cases	221	69	152	4	42	27	16	17	44	2
Divorce	55	0	55	0	0	0	0	0	52	3
Dowry Death & Dowry related Issues	10	7	3	0	0	0	1	0	2	0
Family Related Issues	14	6	8	0	4	0	4	0	0	0
Crime General	36	12	24	1	1	0	20	1	1	0
Harassment /Other	53	21	32	0	16	4	8	2	0	2
Property	44	21	23	0	5	2	6	0	7	3
Child Related Issues	8	0	8	0	2	2	1	1	2	0
Job Related Issues	8	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
Public interest matter	5	4	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Total Cases	477	15	327	6	73	35	61	21	118	13

Strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI's) Programme:-



CORD has been focusing on 27 Gram Panchayats to ensure that Panchayati Raj Institutions function as instruments of local government. We have mainly focused on Up-Gram Sabha and Gram Sabha through our associated CBOs to address and prioritize issues of the village communities. Some of following activities were also undertaken during this period:-

- CORD is also giving input for better implementation of the objective of the

National Rural Employment Guarantee Act-2005 (NREGA). For better implementation of the schemes we continue to mobilize and orient the members of the Panchayats at Gram Panchayat level, CBO's, VVRPs and village community for social audit.

- On the request of the BDO, elected leaders and the electorate of Panchayat Samiti of Nagrota Bagwan were given training on social audit for effective implementation of NREGA.
- During discussion with associated CBO's (Mahila



Mandals, Pursh & Kissan Club and Yuvati Samuh) and other village communities, we also discussed the main provision of Right to Information Act- 2005. Now the community members have started getting important information of their relevance from related departments under this act.

- Facilitated 57 Up-Gram Sabhas through CBOs.
- Our team members participated in 344 Gram Sabhas (four general Gram Sabha meetings are conducted in one year) through out the year.

Gram Sabhas & Up-Gram Sabhas participation status in focused Panchayats:

Community Participation			
In Gram Sabhas		In Up-Gram Sabhas	
Male	52.20%	Male	39.29%
Female	47.80%	Female	60.71%

Volunteers:

During this period, a total of 53 volunteers from different fields and professions came to CORD centre for Sewa work to experience alternate work options from different parts of India and the world. However, on being assigned to the different components of CORD, they got very interested in learning the ins and outs of how major field level works are conducted in the rural areas of India.

- Ms. Neha Bhatt’s (Deaf educator) contribution from Gujarat with hearing impaired children is appreciable.
- In June, Smt. Joyshree Mukherji, Psychologist from Kshamata Special School, Gurgaon (Haryana) along with her team (one Psychologist, one Occupational Therapist, one Speech Therapist, one Special educator) volunteer their services to CORD’s CBR team by conducting intensive training & capacity building sessions with presentations, practical and theoretical training. The entire CBR team learned important issues related to



various types of disabilities & their management.

- Ms. Nikhat and Mr. Tarun Pal, MBA student from S.P Jain Institute of Management & Research, Mumbai and Ms. Deepali Mahajan, MBA student from Jaypee Institute of Information Technology University in Noida (UP) worked with CORD’s different programme components/activities in 2008 for some days
- Ms. Minal Patel (worked in Jogipur Panchyat on social justice issues & women related issues with social justice team of CORD) and Mr. Jay Majithia (worked in two wards/villages of Tang Narwana Panchyat on sanitation, issues, VVRP on HIV AIDS) from Canada have worked with us in the field for almost five months.

- Ms. Kriti Jain from USA, Ms. Ruchira Gupta, a physiotherapist for a short time from Singapore and Ms. Neha, a dentist from Nasik helped us in our different progamme components.
- A group of seven volunteers from USA (Poonam, Pooja Merai, Toral, Vikas, Veena, Ekta Solanki, and Supriya Nair) had helped CORD’s different activities in the summer of 2008.
- Ms. Kiran Singh and Ms. Christina from USA also worked with CORD for some days during the reporting period.



- Two volunteers from Canada, Heidi & Sejuti left after a month. They could not adjust to the environment.
- Mr. Dheeraj Kaul who worked with us earlier too, joined us for a week or two off and on during the year as a volunteer.

Networking, trainings, conferences and workshops:

International Level:

- I participated in Regional Consultation on Self Care in the context of Primary Health Care from 6-10 January, 2009 organized by WHO at Bangkok, Thailand

National Level:

- In April 2008 Ms. Kusum Mahajan and Veena Devi attended a three-day MEPA workshop in Lucknow on “Experience sharing and withdrawal strategy” Pilot Project–promotion of micro enterprises amongst mature SHGs organized by NABARD, Lucknow.
- In May, Sanjeev Kumar attended a three-day regional workshop on Disability organized by the National Human Rights Commission, Delhi
- Sunil Kumar Mishra attended a two-day workshop on ‘Right to Food’ organized by Human Rights Law Network, Delhi.
- In August, Narender Paul attended a two-day workshop on women in Agriculture in South Asia, organized by Aga Khan Foundation & International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).
- Ms. Suruchi Thapa attended a five-day Course on, “Management of Community Based Resource for NGOs” at Lucknow, organized by National Institute of Public cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD), Lucknow.
- Mr. Sanjeev Kumar participated in a training workshop on “Process Documentation in Development Interventions” in Delhi. This training program was organized by ‘Parivartan’ organization.
- Mr. Sunil Kumar participated in National Consultation on Domestic Violence and Reproductive Rights in Kerala.
- Mr. Narandra Jamwal participated in 3rd SRI National Symposium at Coimbatore, Tamilnadu.
- Mr. Narender Paul participated in a workshop on “Public Private Partnership (PPP)” organized by MART (Market Analysis and Research Technique) and GTZ in New Delhi.
- I participated in the National Awareness Workshop on Implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and the 11th Five year Plan at USI Residency, New Delhi
- Three members participated in Night Vigil organized by NDN at India Gate, New Delhi on 3rd December to ensure following three major demands to get fulfilled with Govt. of India.
- I participated in a national workshop on community based livelihood organized by UNDP & Rajasthan Govt. at Jaipur.
- In January, Mr. Narender Paul and Rajiv Bist participated in All India Chinmaya Yuva Kendra’s annual conference (AICHYK) at Chinmaya Vibooti, Pune Maharashtra.



- Mr. Narender Paul participated in a training workshop on State–Civil Society interface for Improved Policy Performance organized by Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) at New Delhi.
- Mr. Narendra Jamwal & I participated in Planning & Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting of Sustainable Mountain Livelihood (SML) programme organized by PSI, at Deharadoon.
- Bhau Institute for Innovation, Entrepreneurship and leadership honoured me with the opportunity to inaugurate its office in Pune and attend their Advisory Council meeting on January 1, 2009.
- Ms. Ranjana Sharma and Mrs. Anjana participated in a training workshop on sexuality, gender and rights from 13-24 February, 2009 organized by CREA, at Gurgaon.
- Mr. Rashish & Ms. Seema participated in a workshop on micro-finance from 30-31 March, 2009 organized by PSI, at Dehradun.
- I attended the Himalayan Foundation meeting at New Delhi in March to select Fellows for its Scholarship Programme in the nation’s Himalayan regions for developmental activities.



State Level:

- Sanjeev Kumar attended the Annual General Body Meeting (AGBM) of Special Olympic Bharat, H.P organized by Special Olympic Bharat, State Office Shimla.
- Narender Paul attended a two day workshop in Shimla on “Emerging Health issues in HP, organized by Himachal Pradesh Voluntary Health Association (HPVHA) Shimla.
- I attended and addressed the delegates at the “CEOs RETREAT” at Moshobra, Shimla, on “Creating Leaders to Build the Future” organized by All India Management Association (AIMA) in collaboration with Sh. Anil Sachdev from Grow Talent Company Pvt. Limited.
- Vikram Kumar, Vijay Singh and Indu Dhiman attended a 3 day training workshop in Shimla on “Community Needs Assessment and Proposal Development on HIV/AIDS for Targeted Groups”, organized by HP State AIDS Control Society (HPSAC’s) Technical Support Unit.
- Mr. Pawan Kumar attended a two-day workshop on “Coordination cum Orientation Conference for Mock Exercise on Earthquake”, at Shimla.
- Mr. Narender Paul and Rakesh Dhiman participated in training workshop on operating Village Resource Centre (VRC) organized by ISRO at Shimla.
- Indu Dhiman and Gopal Krishan attended 3-day training on HIV/AIDS organized by Himachal Pradesh Voluntary Health Association, Shimla.
- Sapna Nirankari and Rajni Kaishtha attended a 4 day training workshop in Dharamshala on ‘Trainers on Communication for work development’ organized by Regional Centre, National Afforestation and Eco-development Board, Horticulture University, Solan Himachal Pradesh.
- Narender Paul attended a meeting on launching of Rastriya Swasthya Bima Yojna in Himachal to ensure health insurance for BPL families.
- National Bank of Agriculture for Rural Development (NABARD) invited me as the chief guest in their State Annual Award Function for Kisan Clubs and Self Help Groups.

- Mr. Ajay and Mr. Aashish participated in a two day training workshop of block coordinators from 10th to 11th February 2009 on TSC by H.P government in Himachal Institute of Public Administration (HIPA) at Shimla.
- Mr. Sanjeev Kumar participated in a meeting on “State policy for differently abled at Directorate of Social Justice & Empowerment, government of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla. All participants discussed about their problems on facing life day to day and treatment from the community.
- Mr. Suresh along with 9 children participated in 9th Festival of Differently Abled organized by Bishop Cotton School, Shimla. In this Festival 16 special schools participated from other districts.
- Mr. Pawan Kumar & Ms. Kaushala Devi participated on 2nd October, at Ekal Nari Shakti Sangarthan, Himachal Pradesh meeting of get-together of single women from across Himachal Pradesh.
- Mr. Balbir Singh Guleria participated in a workshop on November 2008 in Regional Centre Sudernagar. “Changing Profile of Diseases and their Implications for all Rehabilitation Professionals”.
- A team of five members participated in State Level World Disability Day event at Una district organized by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt of H.P. On this occasion, a compilation of poems by Mr. Praveen (person with muscular dystrophy), was released by Chief Minister Prof. Prem Kumar Dhumal at Una.
- Mr. Sanjeev Kumar participated in quarterly general body meeting of Special Olympics Bharat, Himachal Pradesh at Shimla.

District level:

- Mr. Sanjeev Gupta and Mr. Anand Kumar along with 34 differently-abled children participated in District level Sports Event Organized by District Sports and Youth Services Office Kangra at Dharamshala.
- Kaushalaya Devi attended a five days training workshop on Gender and Development, organized by JAGORI at village Rakkar. H.P.
- A preliminary meeting organized by DRDA under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner of Kangra at Bachat Bhawan on the issue of ‘Swachhata Week’ (cleanliness day) to be celebrated from 1st -7th April 2009 in the district was held in which CORD participated actively.
- Mr. Vinod Pathania represented CORD at the District Level Coordination Committee (DLCC) meeting in January.
- Mr. Suneel Gupta & his sanitation team are networking regularly with the Block Development Officials of Dharamshala & Nagrota Bagwan on sessions of making Panchayat Open Defecation free (ODF).
- Mr. Pawan Kumar participated in the workshops on Farmers Club Programme on 5th February at Nurpur and 13th February at KVK, Kangra organized by NABARD, Kangra.



(Kshama Metre)
National Director, CORD