



CORD Training Centre

Sidhbari, District Kangra (H.P.) - 176 057

Half-yearly Narrative Report (April - September 2010)

CORD (Chinmaya Organization for Rural Development), earlier known as Chinmaya Rural Primary Health Care & Training Centre (CRPHC&TC), a development wing of Chinmaya Tapovan Trust, Sidhbari, District Kangra (H.P.), had started its work in Kangra district in 1985. CORD first started working with women in the villages for maternal and child health. It later began working with community-based organizations on several issues through people driven demand. Presently, CORD is working with more than 183 Panchayats of District Kangra with around 513 Mahila Mandals having more than 20,000 members.

CORD's empowering process has training as an integral component as a focused activity of training as well as participatory training in the process of facilitation of its various programme components. This core aspect of CORD's ability to develop people's capacities to make a difference through informed and skilled approaches received an impetus to build it further from Pentagon Charitable Trust, Mumbai from the last month of this reporting period.

In the last month of this reporting period, various programme components/departments at CORD Training Centre Sidhbari conducted their mid-term participatory monitoring and evaluation through SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) and various other participatory tools based on core principles of CORD i.e. Participation, Integration, Networking and Sustainability. Subsequently, they defined their annual programme plan for 2010-11. Participatory research methodologies and techniques were also discussed and elaborated with various programme components for expansion and evolution of their trainings components as per programme need and growth. Knowledge is power. Most research methods often alienate the respondents, the beneficiaries from actively and systematically participating in the process of knowledge production and distribution. In participatory research methodologies the beneficiaries will help generate knowledge and contribute to the process in significant ways.



Community Based Organizations (CBOs):

Mahila Mandals (Women Groups):

Mahila Mandal is the most important program facilitated by CORD. A village level forum for rural women to discuss their personal and economic concerns, which began earnestly in 1987, continues to be the hub around which the integrated program has been so designed. It is the heart, core and spine of CORD and, by and large, all programs of CORD sprout from

it. 25 years of work on the empowerment of the communities has made the conviction stronger that women play a crucial role in the overall development of rural areas. But since the age old problem of gender discrimination still persists with sorry cases like Female Foeticide, Domestic Violence and Alcohol Abuse, our 513 facilitated Mahila Mandals (MM) meet at least once a month to discuss these plus various other issues related to personal, social, economic, political and spiritual. Their asset has been the direction for them to think together and be together to analyze their problems and find the solutions within their means.

Highlights of the major activities of the reporting period:-

Many women have taken the initiative to mobilize their villages for the construction of toilets and have taken the initiative to collect the initial amount required as people's contribution. They have motivated them to take loan from their Self Help Groups (SHG). Subsequently, with encouragement and help from our Community Development Workers (CDW), the villagers have gone ahead and completed the formalities required.



- 4 women's groups participated in the Total Sanitation program at Itchi Panchayat where they cleaned two villages and took the responsibility to clean their own villages as well.
- 105 women, spread over the 28 Panchayats, participated in the Bio-Mass training organized at Kholu village of Jhikli Kothi Panchayat.
- Of the 95 new Self Help Groups (SHG) formed with 1545 total members, 44 had their SHG bank accounts opened. This completes the target of 150 SHGs under the scheme of NABARD for Formation & Linkage of new Self Help Groups.
- 40 ladies from 3 Mahila Mandals got together at Andretta and were motivated to make Vermin Compost pits. Rs.35, 000 worth of vermin compost was sold.
- 50 women from a Mahila Mandal of Andretta Panchayat collected polythene bags in their village and demonstrated the way for its disposal in proper dustbins.
- To counter the problem of scarcity of water in their village, 30 Mahila Mandal members of Nurpur Panchayat, in one of the Up Gram Sabha meetings, got one resolution passed to the Ward Panch for making a pond in their village.
- In the Rappar Yogi Panchayat, we facilitated the distribution of 3 packets each of Seeds Pest control spray among 85 women participants in the agriculture camp.
- 56 VVRP's from different Panchayats participated in a CORD conducted workshop on HIV/AIDS.
- Village Volunteer Resource Persons (VVRPs) of HIV/AIDS, facilitated training of young girls on this issue.
- 57 VVRP's participated in a follow up program held at CORD centre.
- 68 VVRP's of 16 villages were provided



training in field on various issues of Adolescent Girls, Bal Veer and marginalized groups with focus on single women and persons with disabilities etc.

- Our MM workers motivated 32 people for System of Rice Intensification (SRI) training.
- Around 60 women from MM participated in the SRI Training program in Ladwara and Jheol Panchayat.
- In Panchrukhi village, 2000 men and 3000 women celebrated St. Ravidas Jayanti including 8 of our facilitated Mahila Mandals who performed a drama portraying the prevalent social evils.
- Our different Mahila Mandals have been motivated by our CDW's for Non Farm income generating activities like making of hand knitted full and half socks, sweaters, different kinds of bags. They have facilitated the making of 7 groups of different activities.
- Three women have successfully started making fuel Bricks of biomass like pine needles, waste paper for which they had received training.
- Chinmaya Badi Mahila Mandal with their intense hard work and efforts got a grant of Rs 50,000/- for the renovation of their Mahila Mandal.
- Indpur Mahila Mandal got their Mahila Mandal Bhawan repaired with the donation amount of Rs 50,000/- from a local Member of Legislative Assembly.
- Chinmaya Jagriti Mahila Mandal (MM) got a Hand Pump constructed near their Mahila Mandal Bhawan and gave connection to a poor lady too. They also passed a resolution in their own meeting for their Mahila Bhawan's roof leakage and demanded the repair of same from the Panchayat.
- Under Tree Plantation programme, Ladwara and Bedi Mahila Mandal members planted 100 Shahtoot (Mulbury) trees each.
- The Mahila Mandal members themselves instead of the court being involved solved a serious land dispute between two families of Bundla Panchayat.

Self Help Groups and Resource Centre for National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD):

CORD being a 'Resource and Training Centre for NABARD, in the reporting period, conducted four trainings for 140 senior bank officials on Self Help Group from various local and regional banks of Punjab and Haryana. In June, CORD conducted six days SHG training at the centre for 38 DRDA Officers of district Una, H.P., which included the Panchayat presidents and Mahila Mandal presidents. 216 SHG leaders of 155 different SHGs from different Panchayats, were provided training by us on maintaining the SHG records more accurately. Under Dharamshala block, a participatory monitoring and evaluation programme was conducted with 10 SHGs in 5 different villages where 120 members participated.



Yuvati Samuh (YS):

Through our Yuvati Samuh program, we empower adolescent girls to confidently face every challenge in their lives. During this period, many volunteers and devotees from both India and Abroad had visited our field areas.

- Special mention is being made here of a group of 12, from the USA, including students and their mothers, who interacted with more than 250 adolescent girls and Bal Vihar children in 7 different Panchayats.



They provided basic knowledge about computers, internet, as well as their countries.

- Chinmaya Gauri Yuvati Samuh organized a Sanitation campaign with five members cleaning their Anganwadi compound. Impressed by the campaign, the Anganwadi staff allowed Yuvati Samuh to organize their meetings in their campus in future. They also made the nearby communities aware about sanitation.
- Mrs. Arshiya Sethi, a consultant from Delhi, on her visit to CORD held a Sensitization cum Training session on drugs vis-à-vis HIV/AIDS at our center for our Yuvati Samuh (YS) Team Members and other members from different Yuvati Samuhs. All members were



Arshiya Sethi training Yuvatis

made aware of the *Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 (NDPS)*. The members came to know the definition of drugs, types of drugs, legal and illegal drugs, and how one addicted person becomes involved in different crimes and how he may mentally and physically change, and also how a drug-addicted person may be susceptible to HIV/AIDS.

- We had organized Paralegal Training for young girls of the Yuvati Samuh groups at CORD training center. They were given training on women-related laws, Right to Information, and the Indian Judicial system, etc. with special emphasis on how to deal with subtle harassments they face specially while traveling in crowded buses. The participants learned how to legally intervene, make applications and file complaints to concerned authorities.
- A total of 15 adolescent girls from 4 villages participated in the follow up program at our centre. Topics discussed were the objectives and grading of Y.S, HIV/AIDS and menstruation cycle. The certificates of the Para-legal training also were given to the participating girls by CORD Pratibha (Pride of CORD), Mrs. Urmila Devi.
- 11 Nodal Yuvati Samuhs along with 28 VVRPs were followed-up for leadership qualities.
- 4 new Yuvati Samuhs were formed with a total of 55 members.
- 26 YS girls volunteered and cleaned their village water bawdis.
- A group of 28 members of Chinmaya Vaishnu Y.S of Rihalpura village along with their resource person went on an exposure trip visit to Chintapurni and Jwalamukhi temple with their own group savings.

- Childreach International India, New Delhi has very kindly sanctioned CORD's project proposal entitled "Unlock Child Potential." CORD has begun this project with 46 Yuvati Samuhs in 46 villages of 16 Panchayats of district Kangra from September 2010.

Bal Vihar & Bal Veer Programme:

Through the facilitation of this programme, we are empowering the children by strengthening their moral, spiritual, cultural and social values through our CBO's of Mahila Mandals, Yuvati Samuhs etc. By doing so, we hope they will become responsible contributing members of their community which will not only improve the future of the community and the society but also their lives.



- During this period, this programme facilitated the training of 21 VVRP's in seven Blocks for conducting quality Bal Vihar classes.
- 100 children from three different villages participated in different games, poems, storytelling under the facilitation of our 5 VVRP'S.
- 316 children from 13 Panchayats under the facilitation of our 22 VVRPS took very active part in their Independence Day celebrations and performed cultural activities including singing, dancing, poem reciting etc. They were told of the importance of Deepawali (festival of lights) and of their personal hygiene.
- 402 children from 4 Panchayats conducted rallies in their respective village/Panchayats on drinking water quality and monitoring of drinking water schemes. They were also sensitized towards pure water with demonstration of testing for water quality.

Panchayati Raj Institution (Local Self Governance):

Our Youth and Men's Integrated Programme is working for strengthening and increasing the participation of the villagers in the Panchayats too in collaboration with MM team members. Today's challenge is to institutionalize the system of local self-governance. We are focusing on 28 Panchayats to ensure that all wards in a Gram Panchayat have begun to conduct effective Up-Gram Sabha for active participation & involvement of the whole rural community through CBOs in each ward of the Panchayats. We also try for equal participation of both men and women in these meetings.

- During this period, we facilitated 19 Up Gram Sabhas with an attendance of 728 people of which 438 were women and 290 were male members. Discussions were focused on the functioning & importance of the Up Gram Sabhas & Gram Sabhas for village development.
- 28 Gram Sabhas were facilitated by CORD. People were mobilized with close interaction for better implementation of different schemes such as MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act & Total Sanitation Campaign).



- Personal interviews were conducted with the Pradhans and Ward Panchs during the interaction with the Elected Representatives (ERs) to make sure that they know of their roles & responsibilities.
- Under the main provision of 'Right to Information Act-2005', we have mobilized the community to get important information of their relevance from the related departments. 2 RTIs were filed during this period, one against the Panchayat for the misuse of MGNREGA funds and the other against the District Youth Office, Dharamshala, for misuse of Sports funds. Both these cases are being closely followed up.

Community Based Livelihood in Rural Area (CBL):

Poverty, being multidimensional, is best understood not simply as a lack of income but more fundamentally as a lack of meaningful choices. At its core is the lack of opportunity. Causing this lack of opportunity are not only a lack of money or resources but also a lack of the ability to use resources. The basic purpose of development is to enlarge people's choices. It also involves understanding and appreciation of the complexities of poverty alleviation. It involves efforts for livelihood projects to be linked to overall developmental initiative of the region.

Agriculture, even though it is the main occupation of people of Himachal Pradesh, is seasonal and its capacity to absorb more labor in a productive manner is rapidly diminishing with decrease in land holdings. Since the rural non agriculture activities possess too the potential for an alternative that makes for an impact on their economic situation, CORD has two main sections of its CBL programme. One is the 'Integrated Farm and Allied sector/NRM' whose activities are closely linked to the natural resources of the area, and the other is 'Non Farm and Service Sector'. Both work close in hand as a unit each one reinforcing the other.

Integrated Farm and Allied Sector/ NRM:

Average land holding of the farmers in H.P. is less as compared to the other states in the country and farmers use traditional methods of Agriculture which decreases the productivity and increases the input cost. Sustainable agriculture system is the requirement to make this sector profitable for the development of the state. Thus the objectives of this programme are the intensification of existing production patterns, diversification of production and processing, increased off farm income, both agriculture and non-agriculture and less investment with more production. We are constantly working with the farmer community to facilitate them on these issues.

Highlights of the major activities of the reporting period:-

- Of the 30 farmers of different Panchayats who had been identified and given training in groups in February 2010, for beans and brinjal vegetable farming, with hybrid seeds from Agriculture Department, a few have started earning in this period with income ranging from Rs 1000 to Rs 2000.
- 385 kg of Paddy seed was distributed to 250 farmers with the collaboration of the Agriculture department. Hybrid seed of green fodder (Barseen) and Pea was also distributed to 54 farmers.

- A Project on the implementation of 'Promotion and Replication of System of Rice Intensification' (SRI), was sanctioned to us by NABARD in April. Of the 726 farmers who had attended 20 different trainings organized in different Panchayats under SRI extension, 440 Farmers adopted the system who were then given a set of Weeder and Marker each.
- For increase of cash crop and off seasonal vegetable production through the use of Poly Houses is our focus for which we mobilized 28 farmers under a new scheme 'Pandit Dayal Upadhaya Kisan and Baagwan Samridhi Yojna', introduced by Agriculture deptt., H.P. Govt., with 80% subsidy.



- 98 meetings of 20 Kisan (Farmer) Clubs were held during this period with us facilitating them on the practice of various organic manures, sustainable Wheat and Crop Intensification, with focus on Rabi cultivation.
- 200 farmers, facilitated by CORD with guidance from PSI (People Science Institute), for SWI (Systematic Wheat Intensification), showed tremendous results in the harvesting period. Experience sharing workshop was held in 16 Panchayats with farmers giving positive inputs about the said method.
- Under the 'Doodh Ganga Yojna', a state Govt. scheme, through NABARD, for improved milk production and of better economic status for farmers through Dairy, 4 groups were formed with their bank accounts opened.
- 15th August saw 100 farmers, motivated by CORD, attending the Agriculture Camp for understanding importance of good quality seed, fertilizer, pesticide and insecticides. Another camp, on Organic Farming, was attended by 300 farmers at another Panchayat, on problems related to low productivity and high input cost, and on modern approach to be adopted.
- 144 beneficiaries were identified in different Panchayats for promotion of Vermin Compost and with the facilitation of our youth integrated team, 6 low cost units were constructed in 2 Panchayats.

Community Based Livelihood (Non-Farm and Service Sector):

This programme of ours is an economic thrust given to those activities in the community which provides the villagers, especially the women, an opportunity to earn, in their spare time, from their homes and their surroundings, and yet carry on their various domestic chores.

Since the concept of Activity beneficiary becoming an Udyami (micro-entrepreneur), the focus has been more on preparation of a much more aware, skilled and responsive work force linked to production and business in trying to bring all the direct beneficiaries under the umbrella of the Udyamis who then are linked to their own sales & marketing outlets and

'GuruDhara Self Help Group' outlet facilitated by CORD. This reporting period saw our team workers thus assisting the Udyamis to reach the unreached through more and more capacity building, follow-ups, and improvement in business environment inclusive of better regulation of their products and improvement of their small production and sale outlets.

Total number of Udyamis has gone up to 27. These Udyamis are responsible for different products mobilization, quality control and providing raw material to their groups concerned through loans that Udyamis take for other women in their groups who are not as enterprising as them or willing to take loan for their raw material.

Highlights of the major activities of the reporting period:

Training & Skill up gradation:

- At our Sidhbari centre, 18 beneficiary trainees' skills have been upgraded in their respective activities of Sewing, Handloom Weaving and Kangra Miniature Painting. Our concept for trainees to 'Earn while learning', too got a boost when some visitors impressed with what the sewing trainees were making, immediately bought the denim kit bags they were making and placed the order for additional 250 kit bags for delivery within a week.
- 07 new sewing trainees have been provided training both in center and field for Baba suits, baby frocks, and Kurta Pyjamas.
- 09 new groups of Hand Knitting with 58 new members were formed. Of these, 26 women from 3 groups have been provided with training in different products by our Resource persons. The group of 11 young Gaddi women from Kand area needs special mention as they have taken on weaving activities other than their traditional Handloom weaving.
- A young trainee, Anu Devi, having taken our facilitated Embroidery training in February 2010 at our center under the Skill Development Initiative Programme of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Department (NABARD), has become an upcoming young entrepreneur. By opening up a small little shop and having bought an embroidery machine she has started earning by imparting sewing training to 8 other girls and embroidery to 2 girls of her village.



Exposure and Market Linkage and follow-up:

- Three Udyami beneficiaries were facilitated to go for wholesale wool raw material market exposure to one of the biggest mills, 'Vardhman Mills', in Ludhiana to survey and research for different kinds of wool quality and colors and purchase accordingly.
- As part of their training process, our livelihood team facilitated two Chinmaya Yuva Veers in taking the beneficiaries' products and getting them market linked to Chinmaya Vibhooti in Kolwan near Pune.



- Two new Sewing trainees were given local market exposure for raw material and were market linked to Guru Dhara Self Help Group for selling of their products.
- Two trainers of our livelihood programme went with the beneficiary's products to 'Kumbh' Mela in Haridwar to get themselves this particular market exposure with lakhs of people from every segment of Indian society.
- A beneficiary along with our handloom weaving trainer did an exposure trip for cotton yarn raw material in Panipat wholesale market.
- Dr. Rajinder Singh, the General Manager, NABARD, Regional Office, Shimla, on his visit to CORD, was pleased to see young trainees involved in various Non-Farm income generation activities through trainings at our center. He was particularly impressed with Kangra Miniature Paintings which our speech and hearing impaired youth are doing besides sewing and embroidery, handloom weaving and in the computer awareness training program going on for the Rural Youth. He interacted with all the trainees especially Rajni, a physically handicapped young girl, having talent in hand crochet.
- Of about 368 follow-ups, 155 were at the center by ensuring regular monthly activity days and 213 at the field level by our team for formation of groups, training on skills up-gradation, for purchase of raw material from wholesale market, and for capacity building of operational and organizational skills and abilities.

Guru Dhara Self Help Group:

It is a marketing sales outlet created to provide a platform for women of our more than 1400 facilitated SHG, to sell their handmade products. The round about 300 direct beneficiaries, now under 27 Udyamis, selling their products through this outlet of theirs, has increased income and decision making power both at home and the community. It has enhanced productivity and better lifestyles thereby increasing their status. They are more self driven now and have tremendously increased sales with greater confidence and more quality consciousness.



Impressed by the performance of this outlet and for promoting Rural Mart under its venture capital support, NABARD has accepted proposals for the expansion and opening of more such sales outlets in different locations in District Kangra, H.P, to be run by the SHG members only.

During this period, Guru Dhara Self Help Group provided a loan of total Rs 95,000 to its 8 Udyamis for raw material of their respective activities for increase of its entrepreneurship.

Primary Health Care and Alcohol Abuse Awareness Programme:

Our very first programme for rural development 'Health', providing OPD, immunization and counseling facilities to the needy persons, plays a vital role in making the community aware of their health problems.

Highlights of the major activities of the reporting period:

- A total of 3964 patients, of which 1828 were old entrants and 2136 new, came to our OPD for medical aid.

- In May, a health check up camp was organized at our centre for CORD workers. 52 workers were given a careful checkup. Analysis of camp is as follows:

Low Hb	Obesity	Low BMI	Hypertension	Diabetic
15/52 = 28.8%	15/52 = 28.8%	1/52 = 1.9%	7/52 = 13.5%	3/52 = 5.8%

This was also done to make our team members aware of the changing disease patterns in India due to change in lifestyles and unhealthy food habits as well becoming aware of the increasing stress and tension in rural India too.

- Like every year from May 20th to May 23rd, CORD organized a four-day 'Diabetes Camp 2010'. The program was held in our OPD clinic with patients from surrounding towns and villages to receive counseling and treatment from Dr. Anju Virmani, a renowned endocrinologist and Dr. Anjali Chavan from Dr. Rajender Prasad Medical College, Tanda. Follow-up of this programme was conducted by Dr. Anjali Chavan on September 5, 2010.
- A total of 37 patients were given a check up during the camp, with some coming on multiple days for certain tests and follow-ups. On 5th September a total of 22 diabetic people were examined and counseled in the follow-up clinic day.
- Female patients were also counseled for monthly breast examinations, and were taught to do self examination.
- In June, a 'Anemia Monitoring and Prevention Camp', our health department discussed and shared with 77 Mahila Mandal members of 2 Panchayats the preventive and promotive measures on diabetes, anemia prevention, HIV/AIDS and breast examinations.



Anju Virmani in the OPD



Anemia Tests being taken by Darshana

- Anemia test of 251 adolescents, both girls and boys, from 6 Panchayats, was taken and the Anemics were given ferrous sulphate tablets and nutrition supplements. Interactive discussion about their nutrition, personal hygiene, menstruation cycle and legal issues too took place.
- During this period, 15 Patients were referred, for examination, to Dr. Rajendra Prasad Medical College and

Hospital, Tanda and Zonal Hospital, Dharamshala.

- 'Drug Abuse Awareness' week, and 'Breast Feeding Week', with door to door visit in different Panchayats was conducted by our health team members. 291 women of 10 different Panchayats were sensitized on Breast Feeding. Fifty CORD team members were also sensitized and examined on the issue.

- 142 children (including school children only for TT and DT) were immunized for BCG, DPT, Hepatitis, Polio, Measles, and DPT booster.
- 720 condom pieces, at average of 10 pieces per family, were distributed by us,
- 18 packets of MALA-N have been circulated.
- One piece of Coper-T has been inserted by our worker. Eligible couples for sterilization were referred to the government family planning camps.
- Three Awareness camps in Dharamshala and Panchrukhi blocks were conducted with 89 students being made aware of personal hygiene and better sanitation practices.
- Three more persons with alcohol problem were identified. During this period, we have had total 21 persons including 4 who have stopped drinking, 5 who are social drinkers, 2 on treatment and 10 dropouts.

Community Based Inclusion and Rehabilitation (CBIR) Program for Persons with Different Abilities:

The CBR Programme believes that the differently-abled people can significantly contribute to India's development. It is very necessary for all persons with disabilities to be included in the National Population Register (NPR) and upcoming Census 2011 in which CORD is playing its active advocacy role with National Disability network and Government of India. The size of the disabled population must be determined correctly so that the state and centre government can make useful schemes and facilities for the differently-able. CORD is currently working with around 401 persons with different kind of disabilities.

Highlights of the major activities of the reporting period:-

- A consultative workshop with Panchayat representatives was organised at CORD on the kind request and support of National Trust, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India, to work on 'Inclusive Panchayat'. 18 people, including Panchayat Representatives (Pradhans, Block Samiti members, Ward Panchs), disability professionals and CBR workers from CORD, participated in this workshop.
- CORD has successfully completed Status report on disability and United Nations Convention for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) implementation in Himachal Pradesh' for National Academy of Legal Studies and Research (NALSAR) University. In this report CORD highlighted status of persons with disabilities in Himachal Pradesh and level of awareness amongst various stakeholders responsible for ensuring equal opportunities, full participation and protection of rights of person with disabilities. NALSAR is drafting country report on UNCRPD for Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India.

Chinmaya Umang (CU) and Mini Chinmaya Umang (MCU):

Chinmaya Umang is a forum of persons with disabilities and their friends and relatives. It has now started its subunits called Mini Chinmaya Umang in the focused Panchayats of CORD.

- During this reporting period, 4 Chinmaya Umang general body meetings, with 114 people participating, including 36 severely disabled



people, were held in CORD Training Centre Sidhbari. It included people with disabilities, their parents, volunteers, CBR workers, and a lawyer from Human Rights Law Network (HRLN). Topics discussed were on Support for Community Based Livelihood, Disabled rights, Niramaya Health Insurance Scheme, Gram Sabha and United Nations Convention for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).

- 5 Awareness Programmes on Disabilities were held to discuss disabilities and their types, causes and prevention of disabilities, ways and means to help the disabled and their family and different schemes and facilities for the Disabled.
- 18 Mini Chinmaya Umang meetings were held with an average of 10 to 15 persons participating including Panchayat representatives, disabled persons, their parents, Mahila Mandal members, Aanganwari teachers, and Village Volunteer Resource Persons.
- 'Special Olympics Kangra' organized One-day Cricket Coaching camp at CORD, Sidhbari. 18 mentally challenged children participated with Mr. Anand Kumar from CORD and Mrs. Anuradha from 'Harmony through Education', Dharmashala, both coaches of Special Olympics Kangra, giving training. 10 children were selected for the National Coaching Camp.
- Special Olympics National Coaching Camp of Football was held in Gurgaon, Haryana with 250 special athletes from states all over India, including H.P. participating. Mr. Suresh Kumar from CORD accompanied seven special athletes from three districts of Himachal Pradesh including Kangra.
- Mr. Anand Kumar, CDW of CORD, along with five mentally challenged children, representing Kangra District, participated in the 'National Coaching Camp of Cricket' at Solan, H.P. The athletes learned new skills in cricket and Anand learned how to take their ability tests and do their grouping accordingly.
- Krishan Kumar, a mentally challenged boy participated, with our facilitation, for training in 'National Coaching Camp of Volleyball' at Pondicherry, along with the State team of Himachal Pradesh.
- One of our CDW and a person with locomotor disability VVRP took training in the 'National Master Trainer Coach' workshop & training held at Gwalior.
- A two days Community Coaches Training session was held from September 25 till September 26, 2010 at CORD Centre, Sidhbari. Approximately fifty community coaches participated in the training including disabled persons, parents, Special Educators, CBR worker and Volunteers. Under the flag of Special Olympics, Kangra they were given training on Bocci, Athletics and Badminton.
- With our team member's help and persistence efforts, a poor patient, the only bread earner of his family, with Spinal Cord injury for the last one year, got the medical disability certificate from the Medical Board. Suffering from severe bedsores with no nearby primary health care centre and an inaccessible pathway, the use of ALFA bed became a necessity. Deputy Commissioner, Kangra, was approached who sanctioned the amount for the bed through Red Cross Society.
- During this period, Mrs. Madhu Kapoor, our CDW, accompanied very poor child Uday suffering from Spina Bifida, for his MRI test at Dr. Rajender Prasad Medical College after



great struggle with the college staff for the fee and getting medical investigations done. Neena, suffering from ankylosing spondylitis, Rishi and Sneha, suffering from cerebral palsy, were taken for medical checkup. Manish Kumar, suffering from mental retardation, was sent for an IQ test at Dr. Rajinder Parsad Medical College, Tanda. Mr. Balbir Singh Guleria, after having met the District Welfare Officer of Kangra, regarding guardianship of disabled people under the National Trust Act 1999, was assured of appropriate actions to be taken.

Gender, Social Justice and Legal Assistance Cell:

CORD officially established the Social Justice and Informal Assistance Legal Cell on November 4, 1998, although it had been working with sporadic cases requiring social justice referred to it through its Mahila Mandals. Our main objective is to help establish social justice through an informal legal cell and through networking with community groups including the Panchayats and other appropriate institutions. We believe that no society can be developed if the basic rights of the individual are not protected by the state and or society. Gender discrimination emerges as an important issue to be addressed to reduce violence against women and girls.

Highlights of the major activities of the reporting period:

- Of the 50 new cases registered in this period of matrimonial, harassment, property, public interest matters, crime general and of family relations cases etc., 09 cases were referred to us by District Program Officer, Social Justice and Empowerment Department under PWDV Act 2005. Till today, a total of 592 cases were registered with CORD's Informal Legal Assistance programme. In the reporting period, 43 cases got resolved with 2 cases getting resolved with the direct involvement and help of the Panchayat. The total comes up to 397 till today. A matrimonial case (within a few months of marriage) of Rimpi Devi vs. Harish Kumar got resolved through CORD counseling.
- Mercy Appeal of one of the widows was accepted by the Public Welfare Department along with getting recommendation for a job based on her husband's death who had worked earlier in the same department through CORD's facilitation.
- In 11 cases, victims were facilitated to file applications under Right to Information Act.
- 110 persons came for legal aid and counseling during the reporting period on our legal cell days fixed every month on 15th and 20th.
- Over 45 families of more than 200 persons of ward 1 & 4 in Jheol, Dharamshala (H.P.), got relief from their water problem with the help of programme intervention.
- Radha (Pseudonym) got justice from Additional District and Sessions Court, Dharamshala, after a long wait of five years, under section 376 IPC (Rape case) with the accused getting arrested with seven years imprisonment. Mother of the victim got courage and support through her Mahila Mandal to take necessary action in this matter.
- Nimmo Devi, under our guidance, got the First Information Report registered and Medical Report from police through Right to Information Act, 2005, regarding a criminal



matter. The concerned Police officer had not been lodging FIR and the Medical officer too was not providing the copy of Medical report.

- Another Nimmo Devi of village Varana, with the facilitation of our legal cell and through the RTI, got the missing report of her husband from Police after 10 years of him being missing. The Police officers had not been lodging the missing report which had made it difficult for her for getting any kind of registration done.
- Smt. Pawna Devi got Rs. 12,000 from her husband as maintenance and compensation in her divorce case through efforts of CORD. Presently, she is living with her parents in Malan Panchayat.

Sanitation and Hygiene Programme:

Keeping in mind the proverb, 'Prevention is better than cure,' CORD lays more emphasis on preventive sanitation and hygiene issues. We not only motivate people to construct low cost toilet structures but also work towards improving overall health and sanitation through personal hygiene education and implementing proper segregation of plastic, iron, glass etc. CORD has, during this period, has continued its work as a support organization on 'Total Sanitation Campaign' with D.R.D.A. (District Rural Development Agency), Kangra at Dharamshala in Dharamshala and Nagrota Bagwan blocks of Kangra District. Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) is a comprehensive program to ensure sanitation facilities in rural areas with broader goal to eradicate the practice of open defecation.

Highlights of the major activities of the reporting period:-

- We have been successful in mobilizing 327 households to complete their toilet construction and start usage.
- Dharamshala Development block team, including our CDW as an Evaluator, monitored six Panchayats of block Rait in the evaluating week.
- Gabli Dari Panchayat of Block Dharamshala and Pathiar Panchayat of Block Nagrota Bagwan won a first prize in their respective block for 'Maharishi Balmiki Puruskar' on TSC work (Individual House Hold Latrine) and proper segregation system. Both Panchayats were facilitated by CORD. Gabli Dari Panchayat took also the first prize from Dharamshala Block out of 760 Panchayats at the District Level Competition.
- Four coordination meetings were held on progress cum review of TSC work with the Block Development Officer (BDO), Nagrota Bagwan, with plans to stress ODF through different IEC in 30 Panchayats having above 80% of individual house hold latrines.
- Two coordination meetings were organized with BDO, Dharamshala, regarding the selected 12 Panchayats for NGP (Nirmal Gram Puraskar) with the Panchayat secretary and CORD motivator chosen for verification of the NGP team in their own working concerned Panchayats selected for NGP.
- Our motivators cum field co-coordinators attended 53 Gram Sabhas in different Panchayats and sensitised more than 3574 persons on 'Methods for better health care and the negative effects of open defecation'.
- CORD as one of the 15 NGOs working on a project, 'Community Led Awareness Programme' (CLAP) for Himachal Pradesh,'(for safety of environment and hygienic issues in rural and urban areas), organised by an NGO 'Development Alternative', will be working for same in Nagrota Bagwan block of District Kangra.

- In this reporting period, CORD has organized 7 awareness rallies through Mahila Mandal members, Yuva Mandals, PRI members and school children of the respective Panchayats with a total of 389 participants. The objective of the rallies was to keep our natural resources neat and clean, conserve drinking water and keep it away from water borne diseases.



Rally on Water

Chinmaya Samaj Sevak Course (CSSC) and Monitoring and Evaluation of other CORD Centre in Tamilnadu and Orissa:

Pujya Swami Tejomayanandaji first inaugurated Chinmaya Samaj Sevak Course (CSSC) in Oriya language on 30th November 2009. Pujya Swamiji inaugurated the 2nd six months CSSC in Tamil at CORD Thamraipakkam on 22nd February 2010 for selected nine candidates. Sh. Narender Paul and I conducted introductory training of the candidates. Later Smt. Seema and Sh. Onkar from CORD Training Centre, Sidhbari, worked intensively with the CSSC candidates as trainers at CORD Tamraipakkam from 14th March to 3rd May at CORD Thamaraiipakkam and later in the month of August 2010. They also joined Sh. Narender Paul and me in the final evaluation of this programme during this period.

National Resource team from CORD Training Centre, Sidhbari, conducted final evaluation of Chinmaya Samaj Sevak Course in Oriya at CORD Deuladiha and prepared results of the candidates along with its financial and programme evaluation.

Pujya Swami Tejomayanandaji blessed the convocation of CSSC of CORD Deuladiha on 30th May 2010 by giving certificates to all the successful candidates at CCMT. Candidates and trainers from Deuladhia visited Chinmaya Vibhooti at Kolwan and also our Training Centre at Sidhbari from 1st June to 7th June for field exposure to strengthen their belief in comprehensive integrated rural development work. Of the 11 successful candidates, four have been posted in CORD Deuladiha, three in CORD Lathikatta and four in CORD Gajapati to give impetus to our ongoing activities at these centers under integrated rural development programme.



Onkar Singh training CSSC students

Mr. Vijay Singh from CORD Sidhbari Training centre later joined Ms. Seema Thakur and Sh. Onkar at CORD Thamaraiipakkam and CORD Siruvani from 30th April to 8th May 2010 for programme and financial evaluation. He also visited CORD Gajapati from May 20th to May 23rd for its financial monitoring and evaluation. Sh. Narender Paul with Sh. Vijay Singh conducted financial and programme monitoring and evaluation at CORD Lathikatta with the team from 27th May to 29th May 2010.

Sh. Narender Paul & I visited CORD Thamraipakkam for final evaluation of CSSC from 16th August to 24th August 2010. We were joined by Sh. Vijay Singh from August 15th to August

22nd after his return from the visit of monitoring financial status and accounts training of CORD Gajapati from 4th August to 13th August 2010.

From 28th August to 8th September 2010, all nine CSSC candidates from CORD Tamraipakkam with Sh. PN Kanan visited CORD Training Centre, Sidhbari, as part of training cum field exposure of various interventions in comprehensive integrated rural development work.

Pujya Swami Tejomayanandaji blessed all candidates with certificates during the convocation of this CSSC in Tamil at CCMT Mumbai on 10th September 2010. Three candidates have been posted to CORD Siruvani, one as Community Development Officer in Tamaraipakkam and three full-time workers and two part-time workers at CORD Thamraipakkam.



Pujya Swamiji blesses CSSC Students

Volunteers and Interns (India and abroad):

Six students from SP Jain Institute of Management and Research, Mumbai, completed their internship with CORD Training Centre from the last week of March 2010 to the first week of May 2010.

A group of 17 students from 14 countries led by Ms. Rupali Kulshrestha from United World College of Atlantic (UWCA), United Kingdom, came to CORD, Sidhbari, for two weeks in the month of July to volunteer in the ongoing rural development work of CORD.



Volunteers from UWCA

Four students from GB Pant Institute of Social Sciences, Allahabad also completed their Internship at CORD from 3rd June to 14th July 2010.

Ms. Mala Salvador from USA with her 2 girls and with 7 other students and their mothers came to CORD from 15th June to 03rd August 2010, and volunteered their services in the rural development beside exposure and learning for the students.

Beside these, Monika Garg, Shilpa Raja, Sheena Agarwal, Ravi and Ruchi Mathur, Sh. Somesh & Jyoti Singh, Akash Gupta, Harita Pula (all from USA) and Nitika Ramdahani (Canada) too visited CORD Training Centre and offered their services under its various programme components for duration varying from few days to few weeks.

Mr. VK Trivedi, Aman Dhadwal, Aman Sethi, Paveena Chhibber, Sudhakar Tiwari, Mayank Singh worked as interns and volunteers in various programme components of CORD from few days to one and half a month.

Under the kind innovative introduction of CORD, by Ms. Neha Kale (USA), to Kelly School of Business, Indiana University, Ms. Pam Roberts (Director, MBA Programme) and Mr. James M. Wahlen (MBA programme Chairperson) visited CORD Training Centre, Sidhbari, from 26th to 28th July 2010, to explore future possibilities of student internship programme.

A group of 30 participants including 21 foreign students from 'SIT Study Abroad' programme of 'World Learning India Private Limited', Jaipur, visited CORD to understand its community health initiatives and integrated rural development programme from 14th September to 16th September 2010. At the end of this reporting period, a volunteer from Italy Mr. Nicola Giordano joined CORD for about six months volunteer ship period. He has been allotted a Panchayat Ghorab to work on different issues of rural development for his understanding beside his work in Panchayati Raj programme. He plans to develop his thesis guideline for his PhD programme based on this experience.



World Learning Programme students with Sh Azim Khan

Training and Workshops and Networking:

National Level:

- On 7th April 2010 our CDWs, Mr. Suresh Kumar and Sandeep Kumar, attended a participatory training workshop on Deaf-Blindness at NAB (National Association for the Blind), Delhi. This was a refresher workshop for the educators, spanning across fifteen days with thirteen participants from four states.
- On 24th April 2010, Mr. Sanjeev Kumar, our Program Assistant, participated in the Annual General Body meeting of National Abilympics Association of India, at Amar Jyoti charitable Trust, Delhi. He also went to the RCI (Rehabilitation Council of India) office at Delhi to discuss on registration of CORD under RCI Act 1992.
- During this period, having been selected as one of the 65 Eminent Citizens for two years, by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, under the Eminent Citizen for Independent Monitoring, strengthening and implementing of the 'Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005', I attended its orientation workshop in Delhi on 18th May 2010.
- On 18th May 2010, Ms. Purnima Daulat Singh and I attended a meeting in Delhi with an NGO 'Khushii' for possible collaboration with CORD.
- From 22nd to 25th May 2010, I visited CORD Deuladiha, Orissa, with Sh. Narender Paul and Sh. Vijay Singh for convocation of first Chinmaya Samaj Sevak Course in Oriya.



Suresh Kumar in NAB workshop

- On 1st June 2010, Ms. Purnima Daulat Singh, Ms. Mona and I had a meeting with Ms. Shivani Wazir Pasrich, a famous dancer and theatre artist, to finalize her visit to CORD Training Centre, Sidhbari, for her better understanding of CORD's work. She, along with her family, then later visited the same on 12th and 13th June 2010 and offered to help us with fund raising for CORD's work. However, later CORD realized that the proposed fundraising event would be pretty expensive and thus dropped the idea.

- Ms. Gowerie Mahenthiran, Director, CORD Sri Lanka, visited CORD Training Centre, Sidhbari, from 15th to 19th June 2010, to see CORD's comprehensive integrated rural development work in India. Three team members from CORD Sri Lanka later joined CSSC for their orientation and better understanding of the work in CORD Thamraipakkam from 11th July to 25th August 2010 with trainers from CORD Training Centre Sidhbari. These team members also accompanied the other CSSC candidates during their visit to CORD Training Centre Sidhbari from 28th August to 8th September 2010 and received blessings of Pujya Swamiji in Mumbai.



Smt. Gowrie Mahenthiran in the field

- On 24th and 25th June 2010, Mr. Sunil Mishra, our Program Assistant, participated in a two day Sensitization Program workshop at National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD) Regional Centre, New Delhi, on Implementation of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, organized by NIPCCD, New Delhi, in collaboration with Lawyers Collective Women's Right Initiative (LCWRI), New Delhi.

- Sh. Narendra Paul, Sr. Programme Manager, CORD Sidhbari, attended five days training programme on "Elected Women and MGNREGA" from 12th July to 16th July organized by National Institute for Rural Development (NIRD), Ministry of Rural Development, Hyderabad.

- From 17th to 21st July 2010, I visited my allocated district Lawngtlai in Mizoram State to monitor MGNREGA's implementation and later submitted a detail report on the findings to Ministry of Rural Development Govt. of India.



Social Audit in Mizoram on MGNREGA

- On 21st July 2010, Ms. Kusum Mahajan, Coordinator, Community Based Livelihood programme, attended roundtable on Public Private Partnership organized by UNDP and MART to find solutions to promote public, private and community partnership impacting the poor.

- I was invited to deliver a keynote address in the inaugural function of a National conference and exhibition for professional women entitled 'WE MEET,' from 24th September 2010 to 26th September 2010, organized by College of Engineering, Pune, and 'Shakti' (A National movement for women).

- On 10th September, 2010 Mr. Sanjeev Kumar, Programme Assistant, CBR programme of CORD participated in Knowledge Workshop and Annual General Body meeting of The National Trust at Vishav Yuvak Kendra at Delhi.

State Level:

- On 24th April 2010, Mr. Balbir Singh Guleria attended an annual General Body Meeting of 'Special Olympic Bharat', H.P, held at Himland Hotel, Shimla, with more than forty other members participating.
- On 13th May 2010, Mr. Sunil Kumar Mishra participated in one day 'E-Panchayat' workshop (for online Facility in Panchayats), organized by Himachal Pradesh Institute of Public Administration (HIPA), at their training center in Shimla.
- In May 2010, Mr. Sanjeev Kumar, our Program Assistant, participated in a three-day training program for volunteers on Disaster Management.
- On 30th May, Mr. Kamlesh Dhiman and Munish Sharma, our CDWs, represented CORD in the Program Advisory Committee Meeting on 'Up Scaling and Promoting of SWI' held by People Science Institute (PSI), Dehradun, at Government School, Hamirpur, H.P.
- In June 2010, Mr. Sanjeev Kumar, our Programme Assistant, went and met in Shimla, the Director of Social Justice and Empowerment; State Coordinator (SSA), and Principal Secretary cum Commissioner (Disability). He submitted applications in the state offices to collect the information on the implementation of the UNCRPD schemes and policies in Himachal Pradesh for the State report being prepared by CORD.
- From 1st to 15th June 2010, Mr. Sandeep Kumar, CDW, participated with five of our hearing impaired youth in a vocational 15 days Training Camp held at Shoghi, (Solan).
- On 23rd September, 2010 Mr. Sandeep Kumar from CORD went to Shimla to participate in two days Festival of the Differently-Abled (FODA) at Bishop Cotton School. He accompanied six children with disabilities and one parents in this festival. In which Gaurav won gold medal in 50 mtr race, Suraj & Manish won gold medal in 75 mtr race, Gaurav and Amit won gold medal in soft ball throw, Suraj won silver medal in musical chair game, Rajesh won gold medal in senior 100 mtr race, Amit won gold medal in 50 mtr walk, Tanu won gold medal in 50 mtr walk and silver medal in soft ball throw. Tanu also participated in cultural program.



Festival of the differently-abled in Shimla

District Level:

- On the 3rd of May 2010, farm sector team members, along with 10 farmers attended a workshop on crop-cutting and experience-sharing organized by Gramin Seva Asharam, Bhawarna, under the sponsorship of PSI (People Science Institute).
- On 17th May 2010, Sh. Rashish Mishra, CDW Senior, attended a meeting of the Farmer Advisory Committee, at Rait with the suggestion for the selection of farmers for various demonstrations to be based on their actual good work and performance.

- On 23rd May 2010 Mr. Anand Kumar, CDW of our CBR program, actively participated in the ENT camp, organized by Vivekananda Kendra, Kangra, at Ripu Daman Farm House, Gurkari.
- On 6th June, World Environment Day, Mr. Sunil Kumar Mishra attended the Environment Awareness Camp, organized by HIM Renewal Energy and Environmental Consultants, Dharamshala, at Gandhi Smarak, Dharamshala.
- During this period, Mr. Narender Paul, Program Manager of CORD, attended a National Trust Committee meeting, organized at the Deputy Commissioner Office, Dharamshala. It was the first ever such meeting in District Kangra for discussion on National Trust activities going on at Kangra.
- On 13th June 2010, a team from Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL) visited CORD, Sidhbari Centre, with our facilitated Mahila Mandal and SHG members, Presidents and Secretaries as well as VVRP's participating in the program. They donated a Mahindra Max Jeep and ten computers to CORD for its rural development work. Mr. Vimal Roy Choudhary, the representative of HPCL, handed over the keys of the jeep to me.
- On 8th August 2010, Sh. Sunil Mishra, Programme Assistant, Social Justice and Informal Legal Aid programme and I participated in a dialogue on "Behtar Nayay Layega Badlav" (Better justice will bring change in the society) organized by Newspaper 'Dainik Jagran' at H.P School Education Board in Dharamshala.
- Being a Chairperson in 'Ethical Committee on biomedical research' of Dr. Rajendra Prasad Medical College, Tanda, I attended its first meeting on 11th August 2010.
- On 12th August 2010, Sh. Narender Paul, Sr. Programme Manager, CORD, attended National Trust meeting on legal guardianship for the persons with mental retardation of age 18 and above under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Kangra at Dharamshala.
- Sh. Sunil Kumar Mishra and Sh. Narender Paul have attended a one day workshop organized by 'Human Right Law Network' in the month of September where Sh. Narender Paul presented CORD's presentation on 'Scenario of disabled in Himachal Pradesh.'
- Sh. Sunil Mishra and Ms. Kusum Mahajan have attended a three days workshop organized by Tibetan Centre for Conflict Resolution (TCCR) on 'Inter - Culture Workshop on Conflict Transformation' from Sept. 21 to Sept 23, 2010.



HPCL's Event at Sidhbari



Conflict Resolution workshop

Kshama Metre
National Director, CORD