

Report of the planning process of ASHA
Diocese of Sambalpur,
Venue: Mission Compound, Balangir
Dates: 27- 28, March 2008

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Participants: Program Coordinator & the Staff of ASHA

Objective:

1. To bring realization among the staff in different areas they have went through in their journey of 2 and ½ years journey of project phase of “Let Justice Roll” and identifying the areas for course correction.

Methodology:

1. Input session.
2. Individual and Group work and presentation.

Objective:

With the help of mirroring exercise, the staff we the staff could deeply realized that following areas were required for course correction:

1. Reference communities;
2. Coverage of operational areas;
3. Building peoples’ organisation to building peoples’ movement;
4. identification of issues;
5. Gender and Church Mission Engagement

Reference Communities:

The ASHA rightly cut out the main point of working with the communities. ASHA has been working for dalit, tribals, BPL group, landless and marginal farmers, women and children.

1. ASHA started work with both categories with caste wise and class wise.
2. As the result, the castes like Brahmins and the Dalit stood under one umbrella. But, these are the Brahmins who started the caste system and built the wall of un-tauchability against the dalit.

So, this time they strongly realized that they only work with dalit and OBC. So, addressing issues of livelihood & food security and social exclusion would be smooth.

Coverage of operational areas:

In spite of the coverage of operational areas is most important and vital for building peoples’ organisation and peoples’ movement, the selection of areas was not appropriate in the points of adjacent district, block, grampanchayat and revenue villages.

1. There was also the lacuna on the part of constituency model. Because, looking towards the alternative political force, the political participation starting from very grass root level to block and district level is most important.

2. Due to differentiation in different groups, they are unable to convert a small problem into big issue which already has been affected of the lives.

This time they have started the process to work in one or two compact area/s where their access would be visible.

Building peoples' Organisation and Peoples' Movement:

1. ASHA could find that there was no such structure at any level of ASHA that would lead for PO and PM.
2. More often they found different structure in same clusters/grampanchayat to amplify the voice of different communities and issues.
3. They could not establish any relation between and among the various units at all level starting from village to gram panchayat and block.
4. No role clarity among them.
5. Membership pattern and gender perspective in the unit were hijacked.
6. The selection of main issue which could unite all the CBOs and POs was missed.

This time they became so serious to effort all the possible ways out that would meet all the above points and work passionately.

Identification of Issue:

1. ASHA could realize that undertaking three issues instead of one was a mistake.
2. In terms of impact level in the issue of livelihood and food security, the community could be benefited from the focused areas of NREGA and vermi-compost. But no specific area could be successfully addressed.
3. As the vermin-compost is a double edged sword through which, income generation program as well the issue against the chemical fertilizers could be lauded. In one side the causes and adverse effects of chemical fertilizers to be rung repeated on the ears of the farmers. And other hand, awareness camp, capacity building on vermin-compost and its utility to be brought to the common man and the farmers.
4. The ASHA could not take any focus area to the campaign mode towards peoples organisation and peoples' movement.'

The DBSS could understand the how much important than just addressing of so called issues of livelihood and food security. In this process while they will take to community they would select focus areas that are existed in all the communities.

Issues of Social Exclusion:

In this issue the ASHA could bring some impact in community level:

1. Dalit group in different level like Youth Cadre group in villege level, Dalit Sanskar Sangathan in Block level were formed.
2. Some extent, these groups could network with OAM and started work at different level.
3. Strategic intervention like focusing on dalit right, atrocities against them, untauchability against them which are weakening them towards the isolated communities are found missing

Gender concern:

1. It was missing gender component at every level starting from DBSS to community base organisations.
2. It was more women issue than the human issue.

So, the DBSS could realize and took the point of human issue more than any particular sex.

Church Mission Engagement:

1. It was found that issues in the congregation to be focused was missing.
2. It was difficult to categorise the program done in between ASHA and Congregation and the programs conducted in between congregation and the community.
3. Impact level in the congregation is very negligible.

So, they are going to look this areas and equipping the congregation towards sustainability would be focused areas.

Database:

1. Data base was not complete.
2. Data were collected but the analysis of the data and their utilization in the community was not come.
3. Even the data for every area discussed above was not collected in systematic way.

Then, the staff realized and made a point to keep the data base like living document which would work as weapon and base to undertake any issue and their amplifying at every level.

Staff with their personal experience in this journey:

1. Most of the staff felt that they have been experiencing the working pattern of RBA. But, importantly they are now passionate to be a committed enabler towards building communities of resistance and hope.
2. The staffs are happy that they are working for their own community.
3. some of the staff were worried about their security for the political and other religious groups.

Facilitation:

As there was no participation of community people in the process it was little bit discouraged. However, trying the best to bring the real picture for DBSS with applying suitable tools and technique was my learning and felt happy and satisfied up to some extent. They could gather and visualize some more points that they will journey with definite impact at every areas and level.

Report prepared by

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