

Staff of aaina is proud of its Shramik Sangha



Under PACS project, **Shramik Sangha, a labor union** has been formed so that the project moves towards its objectives more firmly. Shramik Sangha is the association of Job Card holders under MGNREGA to strengthen their voices to assert their legitimate rights.

Why do we form a Shramik Sangha?

- To make labor aware about the rules and regulations of MGNREGA so that they are empowered to raise their voice for their legal rights through the Shramik Sangha
- To support PWD's, Women and other excluded people to fight for their genuine rights together.
- To build them strong so that they can represent their voice in front of the higher level authorities.

-Activity under this project: -

- Baseline survey on inclusion of PWD under MGNREGA and other poverty alleviation schemes and inclusion in education.
- Formation and promotion of Shramik Sangha at villages including PWD's and women and promoting collectives of Sanghas at GP, Block and District level.

Outcomes: -

- Enrollment of PWD's in MGNREGS in place and providing them of suitable job
- Men and women from the excluded group have increased access to livelihood through MGNREGS and other poverty alleviation schemes

Structure of Shramik Sangha: -

1. President
2. Secretary

At least one female as either the President or the Secretary to empower them so that they get the opportunity to come out.

3. Members are the persons who are in the Shramik Sangha (Excluding the President and Secretary).

Functions: -

Meeting of Labour Union is held once in a month monthly to discuss all the functions taking place In the meetings the problems are discussed and solutions are discussed unanimously. In the next monthly meeting it is discussed whether the problem has been solved or not. MGNREGA Act is also discussed in these meetings. Discussion on how to include PWD's in MGNREGA takes place. If anyone does not have Job Card then how to help the people get the card is discussed in the meetings.

Records and registers to be maintained: -

Two registers are maintained. One register is kept with the Labour Union and the other register is kept in the office. These registers are updated at every monthly meeting.

To make sure no one is excluded *aaina* staff regularly informs about the MGNREGA Act to the people who are living in the rural areas. They discuss with them the process of PWD's getting included in the MGNREGA, The staff informs the women about their rights, help the socially excluded people to get involved in the mainstream, and give the updates of the schemes provided by the government .It helps in establishing networks which contributes in the Labour Union from the village level to the district level. *Aaina* through its networking and interventions is also playing a role to reduce the gap between the community and the government.

***Aaina* celebrated Labour's Day on May 1, 2012 with laborers.** *aaina* organized a program at Sambadik Bhawan in Phulbani. Ms. Sujata Mohapatra, Ms. Swaha Das and Mr.

Basant were the key organizers of the program. Total number of 60 participants were there from from Phulbani, Tikabali, Phirangia, G. Udaygiri, Raikia, Khajuripada and Harbhanga came to attend the event. The Chief Guest for the program was Mr. Ramesh Chandra Sai (PD DRDA), Honorable Guest Mr. Laxmidhar Kar (District Labour Officer) and Chief Speaker V V Ram Das (Advocate & Bar Association President).The program started with the guests lighting the candles and the participants singing a prayer. There was information sharing on the work of *aaina*, its mission objectives, activities and policies under NREGA. The significance of Labour's Day was also shared.



Mr. Ramesh Chandra Sai gave a brief background about why we celebrate Labour's Day and from where it started. He emphasized that laborers must know about their rights, about job card, and child labor. He said that he is there to help the laborers , to make them understand their rights and even help them in their problems. He discussed policies of NREGA in detail and encouraged the participants to apply for NREGA and and assured stringent actions if any problem arises in the process.

Mr. Basanta thanked all the guests and especially Mr. Ravinder Sahoo for his helping hand throughout the program. The program ended at 1:50 p.m. followed by lunch for the guests and the participants.