

Consolidated Report

Mahila Sammelan (Women's Convention)

Date:

October 21-22, 2016

Venue:

**CREDA Rural Resource Centre
Sukhra, Halia, Mirzapur**

Organized by:

**Centre for Rural Education and Development Action
(CREDA)**

Sponsored by:

Landesa - Rural Development Institute (RDI)

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Introduction

International Rural Women's Day provides an opportunity to the rural women to come together, organize themselves, discuss issues related to them and take forward the issues that are associated with their living with dignity. In spite of all efforts, the awareness level of rural women is still low. In far flung areas, it is deplorable.

Women in rural areas need special attention to strengthen their thought through focused programme such as sammelan and meetings. Quite often women in programme implementation and awareness building are left behind. Men in all walks of life do not give much attention on development processes related to women and family.

Objectives of the Sammelan:

To bring together the rural women who have already been trained to understand and involve the discussions on issues related to land rights, social justice, social security schemes, and also process of getting joint patta and presenting themselves in Tehsil Diwas on the above issues.

Theme of the Sammelan

- Giving opportunity to the rural women to discuss themselves on their problems and share the experiences.
- Formation of women collectives for collective farming.
- Many issues of the women's socio-economic related or concerned with government departments. The Mahila Sammelan encouraged the women to take their issues to the Tehsil Diwas and Women Support Centre established by Landesa-RDI for redressal.
- Awaring women against anti-social practices.

Identifying the Target Villages

25 villages around our organization's resource centre were identified. While identifying the villages, it was kept in the mind that women can easily reach to the Sammelan venue and reach back home before sunset.

Identifying the Participants for Sammelan

The list of 500 women participants was prepared. Priority was given to those women who had participated in Land Legal Literacy Training in the past.

Invitation

Specially designed invitation card was handed over to 500 participants by our volunteers. It was encouraging to share that in stead of 500 invitees, the number of women participants arose upto 950.

Pre-Sammelan Mobilization

A group of our volunteers were oriented for mobilization of invited women for Sammelan. During the mobilization, the women participants were made aware about the importance of participating in the Sammelan and interactive learning which will benefit them in the future.

Role and Responsibilities of CREDA in Organizing the Sammelan

- Identifying the villages
- Identifying the participants
- Distribution of invitation letter to participants
- Hiring public address system
- Lunch and drinking water facilities at the venue
- Printing and stationery
- Film show / role play on women's empowerment
- Video and photography
- Media coverage
- Documentation

Participants from CREDA and Landesa-RDI

From CREDA

Mr. Shamshad Khan, Founder of CREDA; Ms. Shamim Bano, Project Manager; Mr. Manoj Kumar Srivastava, Coordinator; Mr. Ramroop Rao, Coordinator; Mrs. Chandrawati Devi, Coordinator; and a group of women cultural team.

From Landesa-RDI

Mr. Abhishek Gupta, District Programme Manager; Mr. Ishteyaq Ahmad, Field Support Officer; Mr. J.P. Singh, Field Support Officer; Mr. Promod Kumar Maurya, Trainer; Mr. Amrit Lal, Trainer; Mr. Radheyshyam, Trainer; Mrs. Photo Singh, Trainer.

Speakers

Mr. Shamshad Khan, Mr. Abhishek Gupta, Ms. Shamim Bano, Mr. Ishteyaq Ahmad, Mr. J.P. Singh, Mr. Pramod Kumar Maurya.

Issues Highlighted during the Sammelan

- Land right issues in general
- Type of lands available in the villages
- Role of Land Management Committee
- Approaches for getting land patta
- Social security schemes
- Approaching Tehsil Diwas
- Women Support Centre and its benefits/activities

Proceedings of Sammelan

Lighting of the Lamp and Inauguration

The inauguration was done by a group of women from the villages by lighting the lamp.



Inaugural Address

Inaugural address was given by Mr. Shamshad Khan, Secretary, CREDA. During the address he highlighted the importance of Mahila Sammelan. He also spoke on various social security and land related issues for the benefit of the women.

Cultural Programme

The cultural team of the CREDA consisting 12 women presented three songs related to the empowerment of women. The songs were so encouraging that the participating women were repeating it. The cultural team was equipped with musical instrument while presenting the programme.



Address by Speakers



Mr. Abhishek Gupta, DPM, Landesa-RDI told about the Landesa and its spread in the country. He highlighted the role of the Landesa-RDI on land rights and social security schemes to the poors and how Landesa-RDI is involved with poor rural women in the form of training, organizing camps, establishing the women support centre, etc.

Ms. Shamim Bano told that Landesa-RDI is doing very important intervention for the cause of women. She also spoke as how she was in past involved on land related issues. She told that the women particularly the mothers, who were present there, must be aware about the problems and need of adolescent girls and try to mitigate their problems as far as it is possible.





Mr. Ishteyaq Ahmad deliberated as how women can organize themselves and benefit by their linkages with Landesa-RDI. He also spoke about the cooperation of CREDA with Landesa-RDI particularly during the training, orientation of women pradhans and today for Mahila Sammelan. He also told that he will always be available to support and cooperate women on land right and social security schemes.

Mr. J.P. Singh from Landesa-RDI spoke in detail about the condition of women and their categories, who are being targeted by Landesa-RDI for support. He also spoke on the land types in the villages and human right condition of those households who are living on other's land by putting their hut. They live in a condition of bondage.



Mr. Pramod Kumar Singh detailed about the importance of camp which is being organized in the villages under the aegis of Landesa-RDI. He also spoke on how the poor women can benefit from these camps.



Distribution of the Materials

Landesa-RDI staffs distributed the material in the form of a calendar to all the participants. They were happy to get the Landesa-RDI calendar.

Exhibition by Landesa-RDI

Landesa-RDI put large sized banners depicting several issues that affect the rural women. Women interestingly were looking to the banners. Some women were able to read it.

Role Play

Cultural team of CREDA and local women performed a role play on the story of Rukmani Devi. The play was directed by Mrs. Photo Singh. The play was so touching that the women became very serious and some of them were relating their condition in the family.

Documentary Show

A documentary was shown by Landesa-RDI which created immense interest. They were very serious on the subject of documentary.

Provision of Lunch

The lunch was served on both the days. About 950 women in two days participated in the lunch. The lunch was cooked by a contractor in the kitchen of CREDA.

Transportation

Most of the women were provided transportation cost @Rs. 50.00 but women of far off villages were provided the transportation facility by CREDA.

Concluding Remarks and Vote of Thanks

Mr. Shamshad Khan gave the vote of thanks to the participants on both the days. During his deliberation, he told that CREDA will also cooperate with the women in need.

Shamshad Khan
Secretary, CREDA