

government schemes like honey collection or saplings planting in which the government fails but the NGO succeeds sending a message to the senior officials who in turn pressurize the local officials. This strategy has not been articulated or documented but works well.

Overall Impression

1. Advocacy and lobbying for health and development rights in the form of designated government entitlements is the main focus of this project, with supporting field activities. This is an important lesson for other community-based projects. A bold approach of advocacy and leadership training has been taken up for a neglected and ignorant tribal community with low literacy levels yet there are positive results. The nurturing of community leaders and of the health seeking behavior from the community is the most valued aspect of the project.
2. Ensuring regular health services, the livelihood training, the cultivation of vegetables for consumption and ensuring a functional ICDS programme are the most successful components of the project.
3. Strategic planning has not been articulated and documentation has been used only for advocacy and reporting by the project staff. There is no view to document for replicability or review. It would be worthwhile for SDTT to sponsor documentation now, at the end of the project and after phasing out of the project.
4. This project has succeeded largely because of the fact that the principal project holder is a known activist who is very well networked in the human rights circle, the government and the press. Grooming local leadership is the key aspect for the sustainability of the advocacy. This initiative needs to be the strongest part of the project now. When the project phases out, the local leaders will no longer have the benefits of the pressure created by the efforts of the principal project holder in the higher echelons of the government and the media. They should be equipped to safeguard their interests at the local level. The state level community leaders will be the most powerful members of the community if they know how to assert their rights.

Thanks and regards,
Kavita Bhatia