

## **APT Consortium two years work report from March-2018 to March-2020**

### **1. Introduction about consortium**

APT Consortium for TSAP is a small group of Voluntary organizations with volunteers working together for the rights, development and welfare of tribal and marginalized communities in 2 States (AP and TS) covering 3 districts (East and West Godavari districts in AP, Bhadrachalam Kothagudem in Telangana).

### **2. Background of the interventions**

#### **Internally Displaced Tribal (IDTs)**

The violence that erupted in tribal villages of South Bastar districts in Chhattisgarh state in between 2004 and 2009 was due to political reasons; the native tribal could not live in peace. Day to day living became a nightmare for them. Forcibly having to live in base camps was the worst experience. The family members were under continuous surveillance of the armed forces. The tussle between the Greenhunt police and the Maoists made living difficult for the families that were living in the villages as well. Both these conditions forced thousands of tribal to leave their immovable properties in their native villages and migrate to the neighbouring Districts of Khammam and Warangal in undivided Andhra Pradesh. The tribal families belonging to the 'Dorla' community settled in and around revenue villages as they have family based relationships with the 'Koya' community of the migrated villages but the families belonging to 'Muria'(Gottikoya) community had to settle in deep forests as they have no such family connections with the local 'Koya' community. Their settlement in the forest and reserve forest areas of Andhra Pradesh raised many other issues. The Forest Department did not want them to clear off the forest and erect huts in the reserve forest as per their departmental rules. The forest officers demolished, burned these huts repeatedly and booked cases against the migrant Muria community tribal families. Through the action of NGO's Human rights organisations and NCPR (National Commission for the protection of child rights) the pathetic situation of the migrant tribal families came to light. Human Rights Forum and other Civil Societies approached the Court and could succeed in acquiring stay orders in favour of the migrant tribal families in and around 2007. This court order could ensure only shelter for the migrant Muria tribal families in the forest areas, but living conditions were very bad and livelihood opportunities were almost not existent.

Lack of drinking water facilities in the settlements, malnutrition and sickness were common among the children, pregnant women and lactating mothers, old and sick people were not taken due care of due to lack of government services and resources.

#### **Polavaram dam submergence affected communities**

The Polavaram Dam Project was expected to displace 2, 37,000 people according to the 2001 census. By now, a decade later, the population has grown considerably in the project affected villages. According to three surveys carried out till date, the tribal population constitutes 53.17% to 61.11%. The Koya and Konda Reddy population at a



conservative estimate of 53% constitute 1,25,610. The Dalit SC community constitute 12.5% of the population amounting to 29,625. As per the Constitution, if more than 50,000 tribals are to be displaced, a Constitutional Amendment is necessary to get approval for the project. In the above case more than 1,00,000 ST population will be displaced. To date, no efforts have been made in Parliament to make necessary changes in the Law.

The Planning Commission gave a conditional investment clearance on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2009, subject to the condition that the displaced ST population will be provided land in the command area. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has shifted 5 villages and has proposed to shift another 105 villages in 2011-12. To date, after four years, not even a single acre of land has been identified for distribution to the ST community. It is clearly not possible to provide the necessary 1,37,074 acres to the ST community in the command area. This is a clear violation of the Law as well as the conditional clearance. Since land cannot be found for rehabilitation, people will be forced to move further into the forest to higher ground and this will contribute to disturb the habitat. The Government of Andhra Pradesh is going ahead with tender processes while it has not met any of its constitutional obligations to provide rehabilitation and further jeopardizing the environment.

#### **A. Community Forest Rights**

##### *Call to correct historic injustice in Eastern Ghats and other regions of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana - relevance of CFR and 1 of 70 for Tribal self rule*

Older than the Western Ghats, these hills do not form a contiguous patch as major rivers like the Mahanadi, Godavari and Krishna pass through them. The National biodiversity Strategic and action plan lists the large number of species in the region including those endemic to the region as well. The historic peasants struggles in Telangana led to passing of the Andhra Pradesh Scheduled areas land regulation, 1959 subsequently modified by the Land Transfer Act 1970. However ignoring the commitment made to the people, in the face of rich mineral resources like Bauxite, successive governments have dreamt up innovative ways to undermine the provisions of the Act in order to hand over these resources to industry on a platter. The grandiose Polavaram Dam too is one such innovation destined to destroy the backbone of not only tribals in the region, but also the livelihood of fishers downstream as well. Another innovative scheme to take advantage of the resultant pauperisation of the tribals was the Eucalyptus plantations by Bhadrachalam paper mills of ITC. The story of loot and rape of the countryside in the interest of Corporate Multinationals is endless be they private or in State garb of Public sector companies.

Haimendorf traveled extensively through the region and has extensively documented their way of life. While respecting the findings of his studies, we would like to point out that things have changed considerably since then. The FRA 2006, does not merely recognise historical injustice, it also places it in the context of modern democratic society. So a twin approach is needed to correct the injustice, one where the relevance of the advancement in renewables can play a role in democratic decentralisation conducive to the practise of Local self governance (something that tribals the world over are renowned for).

##### *Our demands*



a. Change the way the FRA is looked at by the Government. Instead of putting the onus on people, make it central to the way development is looked at in Andhra and Telangana, integrating other concerns with it as well.

b. Educate Departmental officials to consider the Gram Sabha and appropriate Community based organizations for CFR as the supreme body for development and keeping this in mind initiate processes where the Gram Sabha and Community based organization of forest dwellers, fishers and farmers are educated about the ecology, the promise provided by renewable and its potential for sustainable ecology and livelihoods using local knowledge about the biodiversity and its ecosystem services.

c. Facilitate Development of micro plans by the gram sabha and community based organizations keeping the larger ecological conditions of Sundarban in mind. Wage labour provided under MGNREGA is not a dole given as largess but a compensation for concrete work done to restore the ecology of the region conducive to creating conditions for correcting historical injustice done to its people not just by destruction of the ecosystems, undermining their knowledge systems as well.

d. Reorient the education system to take into account the need for children to absorb the historical knowledge embodied in their elders and which is now slowly becoming defunct. This knowledge relates to how science and scientific principles can be better learnt by observation of nature and long term study of the local ecology and its relation on the larger ecosystem services.

e. Scrap Corridor and Sagar Mala (Coastal Corridor) form of development, only maintaining those elements conducive to balanced ecologically sustainable livelihood promotion.

f. Encourage the development of larger ecosystem bodies having gram sabha membership and representation from these bodies as its base.

### **3. Implemented Interventions**

#### **B. Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)**

- **Formation of Settlement level committees and meetings**

In the process we initiated and rejuvenated settlement level IDP committees in AP and Telangana. We conducted regular meeting with committees and orientated them on committee



importance and process and identification of essential entitlements



and preparation of representations to concern government offices. After the orientation committee members are approaching to the government offices on the settlement

wise issues.

- At present Forest department people visiting IDP settlements regularly and harassing them for evictions from settlements In Telangana. The forest department planning to establish plantations in the settlements. So we discussed about this issue in the settlements and prepared settlement wise application on the





issue. And submitted applications to Local MLA and chief vip of Telangana Government Mr. Rega Kantharao. So he is discussing with local forest department for solution. **Local MLA discussed with local forest offices temporally it was stopped.**

- In Chintur Mandal of East Godavari district we visited some IDP settlements. In Balimela settlements we Identified NREGS pending payments from 2018. In all 4 mandal (newly merged in AP) same situation continuing. So we are collecting Job card wise data on pending payments in IDP settlements first we concentrated on Balimela settlement. In Balimela 18 IDP families are continues working under NREGS from 2018 but payments are still pending. After the data collection we are planning to submit a representation to PO ITDA Chintur.



#### Entitlements sanction status

State	District	Mandal	No of Comm ittees forme d in settle ments	No of Applications submitted to ITDAs amd MLAs, Sarpanches through committees	Status
Telangana	Bhadradi Kothagudem	2	18	For Anganvadi Buildings- 6	2 buildings sanctioned but forest department not allowing construction
				For Solar righting – 2	Pending
				For Drinking water- 6	1 well constructed through local GP
				On Forest eviction issue -3	Local MLA discussed with local forest offices temporally it was stopped.
A.P	A.P	1	4	For Anganvadi Buildings- 2	Pending
				For School Buildings - 3	Pending
				For Solar righting – 2	Pending
				For Drinking water- 3	Pending
				NREGS pending Payments-1	Payments pending in Postal department. APO, NREGS Chintur monitoring this
				For children Cast Certificates -1 (consolidated for 9	it's in PO ITDA Chintur Notice



				Settlements)	
		3	22		

- In Pinapaka Mandal of Bhadradi Kothagudem district we constructed thatched huts and wood fencing for schools and



Aganwadis in 5 settlements with the support of Goonj- New Delhi under the cloths for work programe.

- On 28<sup>th</sup> Feb-2020 in Pinapaka Mandal of Bhadradi Kothagudem district we distributed Agriculture Implements to 120 IDP families from 8 settlements with the support of Asha and NBPGR organizations. Under this support each family got crow bar-1, spade-1 , Gamla-1, picaxe-1.



- The Telangana Government (forest and Revenue Departments) collected settlement wise IDPs HH and Population details and taking their opinion on sending them back. In the process we participated in the data collection process. And facilitated them to cover all interior settlements. With this effort we enrolled much interior settlement in the data collection process. We participated directly in the survey in Karakagudem and Pinapaka and Manuguru mandals. In remaining mandals of Bhadradi Kothagudem district our consortium team members are participated and facilitated along with IDP youth.

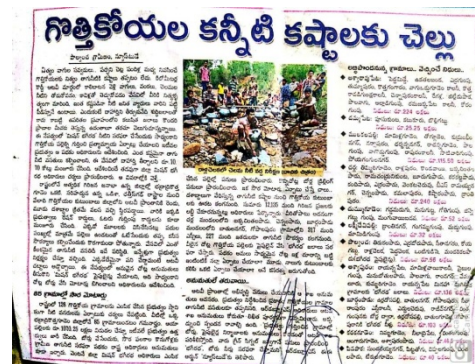
#### IDPs Data outcome in the Bhadradi Kothagudem District.

Sl. No	Name of the Mandal	No of Habitations	No of families	No of Population
1	Allapalli	8	138	424
2	Annapureddipalli	1	20	63
3	Aswapuram	12	263	784
4	Aswaraopeta	11	204	558
5	Bhurgampahad	8	289	1134
6	Sandrugonda	2	65	152



7	Charla	17	705	3390
8	Dammapeta	1	38	133
9	Dummugudem	2	83	304
10	Gundala	1	29	73
11	Karakagudem	8	200	776
12	Laxmidevipalli	4	76	381
13	Manuguru	6	181	596
14	Mulkalapalli	11	329	899
15	Pinapaka	9	215	747
16	Tekulapalli	3	43	114
17	Palvoncha	11	307	1133
	Total	115	3185	11661

- For Telangna, Badrdradi Kothagudem District, Telangana Government sanctioned 10.70 crores for (Chattishghar) Migrant tribal Settlement's drinking water



facility in reserved forest areas. Under this scheme Government planning to establish new borewells for drinking water facility through solar motors under Mission Bhagiratha. Bhadrachalam ITDA and RWS Department started negotiation process with Forest department for official permissions for digging of bore wells.

In Telangana Bhadrdradi Kothagudem District 128 IDP settlements are getting drinking water facility under this scheme. Most interior mandals are covering under this scheme. (1. Charla 2.Karakagudem, 3. Pinapaka, 4. Bhurgampahad 5. Palvoncha 6. Awaaraopeta 7. Laxmidevipally 8. Dammapeta 9. Mulkalapally 10. Dummugudem. )

From last several years IDP leaders are made much Representation to T S and A.P Governments on the Drinking water issue through different ways. In Telangan and A.P. 90% of Migrant tribal having voter identity cards and voting in elections in TS and AP.

Local political parties and Local MLAs are done solid effort on the sanction.

Please see Telugu Press Clipping for further information

From APT consortium our partner members Mr. Sinivas (MORE) and. Mr. Rmesh(ADAR) from Pinapaka and Manuguru are collected Information regarding sanctions status. We are planning for regular follow-up on implementation status at ground in Telangana. Now we are planning to submit a detailed representation on the Drinking water issue in A.P to Chintur Project Officer ITDA.



## C. Community Forest Rights

### Capacity Building Training to Tribal Youth on FRA implementation status in AP and TS



On 15/12/2018 we organized a capacity building training programme to Tribal Youth and village leaders in Chinturu at ITDA meeting hall in Andhra Pradesh. From Telangana 22 tribal youth attended this training from 6 villages. From AP 27 tribal youth leader attended from 3 Mandals. Chintur TIDA Project officer provided meeting hall for this training programme. Mr. P Trinatha rao Advocate attended as resource person. He reviewed village wise FRA implementation status problems and explained about the state wise implementation status to participants. From afternoon he explained about the history and importance of FRA act and provisions, and process.



After the series of awareness meeting we initiated the CFRA calming process in October-2019. In Kannaigudem, and Bangarigudem villages of Karakagudem Mandal at Bhadrachalam district in Telangana, we conducted a GRMASBHA on 03/12/2019. With FRC committee members and chairperson. These two villages are comes under Kannayagudem G. P. Mr. P Rangaiah chairperson and members of FRC committee participated and identified traditional boundaries of villages, along with village elders. Whole team Identified and recorded, 1. Cattle grazing lands, 2. Fishing ponds, 3. NTFP collection areas 3. Firewood collection points etc in the two villages. Through FRC committee whole process documented in the minutes book of GRMASBHA. Based on the resolution of Gramsabha FRC committee prepared a detailed application for survey process. It will be submitted very soon to concern department.



### D. Awareness on R&R in Polavaram submergence area



- With the support of Asha our Partner organization we have continuing this awareness programmes in selected submergence villages in Chintur Mandal. Asha provided Telugu LA act

Training material and printed posters for us. We selected leaders and youth from every Political party (having presence in the village), and trying to build the common understanding on the issue and R&R distribution. At the same time





we are giving trainings to them on R & R, PESA, land acquisition acts to update knowledge on Projects-displacements- RnR policies.

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#### Training Materials used

1. Posters on LA
2. Booklets with full act in Telugu
1. We Provided a detailed LA act TELUGU copies (booklets) to each selected village we printed booklets and distributed.
2. Now they are comparing compensation along with AL act provisions

#### The Poster explains the following:

1. Background of Act and importance in tribal area
2. How many tribal displaced in LA up to now in India
3. What are all special provisions to tribal in 5<sup>th</sup> scheduled area
4. Land to land for tribal's
5. Importance of GRAMASABHA in Land Acquisition.



#### E. Networking linkages

We are members in ADIVASI BHARATH MAHASABHA (ABM), AKLILABHARATA BAJUDUR KISAN SANGHASHAN SAMITI, from APT Mr. Ramesh, Mr. Srinivas and A S Anand are the Member in ICAN they are regularly participating all meeting and sharing state wise tribal issues in state and national forums.

#### Meetings Attended

On 10<sup>th</sup> October 2018 from our team Mr. Ramesh , Venkatesh, Sd Subhani, AS Anand and K Srinivas are participated and presented IDP and Forest rights issue belongs to our area in Jharkhand ABM meeting.

On 17th November 2018 Mr. Ramesh convener APT participated in Jalandhar ICAN meeting, and shared about the APT work report.

On 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 18th November 2019 Mr. Ramesh and Srinivas participated in Sevagram ICAN meeting and presented APT work Report.

On 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 31st October- 2019 Mr. Ramesh and Srinivas participated in ABM meeting Adilabad.

#### Our Partners Details



SI No	Name of the Volunteers	Name of the Organization	Back ground of the founder	Email ID	Phone Numbers	Designation in Consortium
1	Mr. T Ramesh	ADAR	Having 5 Years experience in voluntary field and particularly worked with IDPs and belongs to Tribal Community	<a href="mailto:tribalfoundati onlifegrow@gmail.com">tribalfoundati onlifegrow@gmail.com</a>	9849304021	Convener
2	Mr. Sattiraju	TEAMES	Having 25 years of experience in tribal area worked with IPDs and local tribal	<a href="mailto:teamsksr@gmail.com">teamsksr@gmail.com</a>	9948416354	Member
3	Mr. A S Anand	SRUTI	Having 35 years of experience in voluntary field worked for aged rights, IDPs and irrigation in tribal area	<a href="mailto:asanand959@gmail.com">asanand959@gmail.com</a>	9493162418	Member
4	Mr.K.Srinivas Rao	MORE	Having 30 Years experience in Voluntary field, worked on AIDs and IDP issue with the support of INGOs	<a href="mailto:moresrinu@gmail.com">moresrinu@gmail.com</a> , <a href="mailto:moresrinu@rediffmail.com">moresrinu@rediffmail.com</a>	9441816975	Member
5	Mr. J .Venkatesh	Jana Vikas Society (JVS)	Having 25 years of Experience in tribal area, and knows C G and AP Gond Languages. Work with IDPs in 4 states from last 10 years with different organization.	<a href="mailto:janavikaschintur@gmail.com">janavikaschintur@gmail.com</a> , <a href="mailto:jvs_285203@rediffmail.com">jvs_285203@rediffmail.com</a>	8333886103	Co-convener
6	Mr. Sd. Subhani	Asha	Having 35 years experience in Tribal area he is an expert in rural innovative Ideas & livelihoods development.	<a href="mailto:ashachintur@gmail.com">ashachintur@gmail.com</a>	9492381609	Member
7	Mrs. M Ramanamma	AWS	Ramanamm is a tribal women activist. Since last 30 she is working on tribal women issues. In the process she established women SHGs and canalized many Income generation activities by Government agencies.		9652993209	Member