


Fund for Gender Equality

GENERAL PROGRAMME INFORMATION				
Project Information				India
Project Name	The Dalit Women's Livelihoods Accountability Initiative			Programme Type: Catalytic
Lead Org	Gender at Work			Grant ID: 2183
Co-lead Org	DSS project of the Mitra Service Society			
Thematic Area(s)	Economic Empowerment			
Thematic Sub Area(s)	Improve economic conditions			
Grant Amount	\$492,400	Grant Start Date	December 18, 2009	
Additional Gov't Funding		Grant End Date	December 31, 2011	
Total Budget	\$492,400			

Partner Agencies	
Government	Representatives of States of Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh accountable to ensure the implementation of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) scheme; District and village level officials(including District Magistrate; Collector's office)
Civil Society	Lead and co-lead organizations and five other CSOs working in both States AP&UP.

Programme Summary
Dalit women, the poorest of the Indian poor, are subject to the triple discrimination of class, caste and gender. The programme aims to build a strategic network between Dalit women's organizations and organizations that work for Dalit women's rights in two states, to bring Dalit women's voices and perspectives into right to work and social accountability mechanisms.

DETAILED PROGRAMME INFORMATION				
Contribution to Law(s)				
Name of Law	Law Type	Year Implemented	Type of Contribution	Expected Level of Contribution (High or Low)
Indian National Rural Employment Guarantee Act	Law	2005	Implementation and Gender Mainstreaming	High

General Programme Goal
Dalit women in Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh effectively bring their perspectives into social accountability mechanisms and processes as part of the implementation of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act.

Expected Programme Outcomes
Outcome 1: Dalit women in Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh effectively access their NREGS related entitlements and actively contribute to state and national discussions on NREGA.

Main Achievements
<p>During the first year of implementation of the programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two baseline surveys were completed – the first a general survey to select the exact geographical area where to implement the programme, the second a household survey on Dalit women's access to India's National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) (70 households each in a total of 64 villages spread across four districts). • The findings on the two baseline surveys are being used to increase beneficiaries' skills concerning their rights, communication and advocacy campaigns, and ability to lobby local governmental structures (village, block and district levels) to implement NREGA to benefit the marginalized Dalit women. • The programme has reached 7,238 beneficiaries, involving 7202 women into NREGA scheme. • This programme is presenting direct linkage to the gender equality agenda in the country and contribution to the implementation of the NREGA. • The programme has developed a curriculum for trainers, Dalit women and organization staff and written 4 manuals about discrimination on the grounds of caste and gender.

- Programme presents a great division of lessons learned and best practices related to three categories:
 1. Institutional changes – Programme has shifted the perspective of partner organizations, as result organizations have hired Dalit women to become part of their staffs and also directed part of their projects to improve Dalit women’s situation.
 2. Programme constantly encourages beneficiaries to advocate for their rights, with constant efforts in education, exchanging knowledge and applying legislation in favor of Dalit women, with several examples of results in the report.
 3. Changing community perceptions: Report demonstrates several models that resulted in change in perceptions, practices and fighting existing stereotypes.
 4. The research and advocacy on implementation of right to work (NREGA) interventions is being replicated in other geographical areas of the country.

Key Highlights

- This programme is a great example of empowerment and direct involvement of beneficiaries in programme management.
- The development model has great potential for sustainability and replication in other regions.