

Western Region Social Service Forum (WRSSF)

Annual Report of Activities

April 2001 – March 2002



**Western Region Social Service Forum
Is the Regional level Forum of the
Diocesan Social Service Societies
In the States of Goa, Gujarat and
Maharashtra.**

Western Region Social Service Forum.

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Report of the Activities : April 2001 – March 2002.

Introduction.

The **main thrust** of this period was **capacity – building** at different levels in the Region. The Regional Perspective Planning (RPP) that was held by the WRSSF in January 1999 brought to light the need for capacity building for the personnel involved in the field of Social Development in the Region. This was planned with a view to help our interventions with the poor and the marginalised groups of people may become increasingly systematic, scientific, and effective.

In order to realize the same WRSSF decided **three levels of capacity-building** programmes for the Region

Thus the **first level** would be the '**Top Level Functionaries' Training**' for the Diocesan Directors of Social Works (DDSWs), Women Co-ordinators from the Dioceses, members of Diocesan Perspective Planning (DPP) Working Committees and Diocesan Project Selection Committees (DPSC) members.

The **second level** would be the '**Middle Level Functionaries' Training**' for Directors of Organisations, Middle level managerial staff of Regional Forum and Diocesan Social Service Societies (DSSS).

The **third level** would be the '**Grassroots Level Functionaries' Training**' for field staff / animators of grass roots groups of DSSS and other organisations.

The Zonal Directors of the Regional Forum had decided to form a 'Zonal Resource Team' for their respective Zones to realize this goal. Thus WRSSF and the Zonal Directors' Forum proposed a four-phased "Training of Trainers" / 'Training of Animators' to form the Zonal Resource Team and equip this team with the necessary expertise to fulfill the above aim

The **second thrust** was an effort to come up with **sustained strategy for documentation** in the Region. Therefore, we have now in the Region, different Dioceses coming forward to sponsor the Quarterly Newsbulletin, WRSSF DIARY, each time focussing, and highlighting the activities of that particular Diocese.

Here we have presented the Capacity –Building Programmes in the chronological order of events.

A. CAPACITY-BUILDING PROGRAMMES.

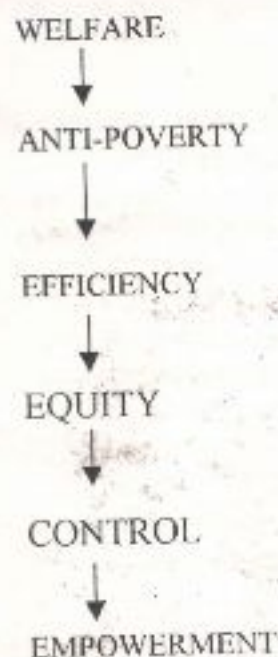
1. Grassroots Level Functionaries' Training:

The following were the Training sessions conducted at the Zonal Level:

1. **Zonal TOT (Phase 1)** : Vidharbha zone
- Dates : April 17 to 19, 2001.
- Venue : Pastoral Centre, C/O. Bishop's House, Balharshah,
Dt. Chandrapur, Chanda Diocese.
- No. of Participants : 35 from the dioceses of Nagpur, Chanda and Amravati.
- Topics covered : Gender Sensitisation, Legal Education and Social Analysis.
- Resource Persons : Dr. Mrs. Patricia Gokhale - CRS, Dr. Pillai - Professor,
Law College, Chandrapur and Bro. Francis and
Sr. Carmel, Social Centre, Ahmednagar.

Gender Analysis:

It was explained well to the participants that the levels of policy development for gender planning were:



It was also highlighted that in the Gender Planning both men and women must be included for the meaningful and lasting change in the community / society.

In the **legal education**, the topics of free legal aid, consumer protection and Hindu Civil Code, The Indian Constitution, preparing affidavits, FIR, Police and one's rights, the difference between Criminal and Civil Proceedings and so on were discussed in detail.

In **Social Analysis**, they were made to think and reflect on situations in which people live, who is responsible for what happens in a situation and what steps people take, who is responsible for the situation and with the help of the animators how can they address the situation and so on.

Fr.Patric Lemos, Fr.Jose Kattekara and Mr.Blaise D'Souza were directly responsible for this TOT.

2. Zonal TOA (Phase 1.)	: Konkani Zone.
Dates	: 9 -11 June, 2001
Venue	: Pastoral Centre, Bandra, Mumbai .
No. of Participants	: 34 participants from 4 dioceses of Vasai, Mumbai and Daman. (No one from Goa and Kalyan)
Topics covered	: Gender Sensitisation, Perspectives in Social Development and Legal Education.
Resource Persons	: Dr. Mrs. Patricia Gokhale, Mr Santosh Shinde & Mr. Ronnic D'Souza and Fr.James Mascarenhas S.J.

Mr. Dayanand Ambolkar, Fr.Andrew Rodrigues, Fr.Rocky Banz and Mr. Blaise D'Souza were responsible for this TOA.

Evaluation of the Training Sessions: This has been a typical feature of TOTs each time. Often the feeling of great satisfaction was expressed. The coming together has helped for new bonding and contacts for future collaboration among themselves. The cultural Programmes were a regular feature, which have given them opportunities for leadership, organisational and creative skill formation. On the other hand however, the participants have felt that duration of the workshop could be for a minimum of 4 to 5 days.

TOA (Phase II)

Rational for the Second phase of TOA.

At each of the Training Programme of Phase I of the TOT Programmes, the participants were introduced to inputs on gender sensitisation and the "Need for gender Sensitive Planning" – to involve both men and women for an equitable and sustainable development process. Thus for a second phase of the TOT / TOA, it was decided to give deeper inputs and amore comprehensive understanding on Gender and Development

(GAD). The Zonal Co-ordinators took note of those participants who had the ability to become trainers themselves in the near future.

3. Zonal TOA (Phase II) : Konkani Zone

Dates	: 1 to 3 October, 2001.
Venue	: Atma Darshan, Andheri (E), Mumbai.
No. of Participants	: 34 participants from Mumbai and Vasai dioceses. (No one from Kalyan, Goa or Daman.)
Topics covered	: Women & Gender Development.
Resource Persons	: Mr. Vijay Xalxo – CRS.

At the evaluation of this TOA, there was much dissatisfaction expressed by the participants. Obviously the Resource person was not satisfactory. There was a felt need for Marathi language for the course, which the resource person did not know. The participants made concrete suggestions for the future programmes such as information regarding legal issues, how to handle an issue, problem solving, new economic policy, personality development, income generation, how to conduct community meetings and so on.

The organisers of this TOT were Mr. Cletus Zuzarte and Fr. Andrew Rodrigues.

4 Zonal TOT (Phase II) : Vidharbha Zone

Dates	: 26 to 28 November, 2001.
Venue	: Pallotine Animation Centre, Nagpur.
No. of Participants	: 30 participants from Nagpur, Amravati and Chanda Dioceses.
Topics covered	: what is development, its historical perspective, women in development and gender development.
Resource persons	: Dr. Mrs. Patricia Gokhale.

Fr. Patric Lemos, Fr. Jose Kattekara and Mr. Cletus Zuzarte were the organisers of this TOT.

5. Zonal TOT (Phase II)	:	Marathwada Zone
Dates	:	6 to 8 December, 2001.
Venue	:	Ishwani Kendra, Pune
No. of Participants	:	28 Participants from dioceses of Pune, Nashik and Aurangabad.
Topics covered	:	Gender Development Training which covered The difference between sex and gender, patriarchy, the status of women, women's movement.
Resource Persons	:	Ms. Kranti and team - IWID

The organisers of this TOT were Fr. Raphael Muntode and Mr. Cletus Zuzarte.

IMPACT OF THE TOA PROGRAMMES IN THE REGION :

The following impact has been observed in the region as a result of the programmes.

- The participants received orientation to community organisation.
- They have learnt various methods of forming effective working groups in the community.
- The different steps in the process of group formation
- Motivation and leadership qualities of leaders
- Second line of leadership of groups
- Basic skills for effective community organisation
- Participatory planning and tools for planning such as PRA
- Knowledge of Panchayati Raj.
- Knowledge of income generation / employment schemes and other people centred development schemes of the government.
- Knowledge of legal and human rights
- Gender sensitivity.

Gujarat Zone:

Due to the Gujarat Earthquake that struck the whole of Gujarat State on January 26th 2001, WRSSF could not organise any TOA in the Gujarat zone. Since then, all our Directors of Social Service Societies, Social workers, animators and grassroots workers of Gujarat State were fully engaged in mobilising resources for the relief work of earthquake victims from February 1, 2001 to May 31, 2001. Hence, no TOA was organised for Gujarat Zone.

III. Top Level Functionaries Training:

1. Capacity – building Programme for the Diocesan Directors of Social Works in the 13 Dioceses of the Western Region:

Venue	: Atma Darshan, Andheri (E), Mumbai.
Date	: July 9, 2001.
Topic	: Gender Sensitivity and Organisational Program.
Resource Person	: Dr. Mrs. Patricia Gokhale & Team – CRS.
No. of Participants	: 24 Participants including Bishop Filipe Neri Ferrao – Chairman of WRSSE.

Topics covered :

Gender awareness, Basic gender concepts, Exercise and discussion on roles and activities, Institution of Socialisation (The Gender Process Interactive Session), Approaches to women empowerment (group work Introduction to gender analysis and Planning Methodology, gender development (exercise and groupwork), Gender responsiveness & Development Organisations – Blue print for organisational change, group work and presentation of the action – plan.

The group presentation on the action plan came out with a specific design plan. This design plan included:-

- ❖ Identifying women's groups
- ❖ Federate them
- ❖ Analyse their level of empowerment
- ❖ Workout ways and means to reach the level of control
- ❖ Enhancing participation of women at all levels and creating equal opportunities
- ❖ Taking up of various activities such as income generation programmes aimed at the economic empowerment of women.

At the end of the workshop the Diocesan Directors expressed that they were drawn to get A conceptual clarity of the question of Gender Development and they were further sensitised to the point of having a full time women co-ordinator at the diocese and regional levels.

2. The meeting of the 13 Diocesan Directors of Social Works together with the Chairman of WRSSF, Bishop Filipe Neri Ferrao.

Venue	: Atma Darshan , Andheri (E), Mumbai.
Date	: July 10, 2001.
Topic	: Sharing of the work done by the WRSSF and the DDSWs, especially, of the Gujarat Zone – Rajkot, Ahmedabad and Baroda dioceses.

A special invitee to this meeting was Fr. John Noronha – Executive director of Caritas India, New Delhi.

A detailed planning was done at this meeting for the future TOT programmes especially on the topic of Gender Sensitivity.

An advanced Capacity Building Programme was planned for the Diocesan Project Selection Committee (DPSC) members and was chalked with the Executive Director of Caritas India.

3. Advanced Capacity Building Programme for the Diocesan Project Selection (DPSC) members of 13 dioceses of the Western Region.

Venue	: Atma Darshan, Andheri (E), Mumbai.
Dates	: 14 to 16 December, 2001.
Resource Person	: Mr. Steven Caswell – Development Consultant, New Delhi & Mr. Nelson – Caritas India, New Delhi.
No. of Participants	: 32 participants from the Dioceses. (There was no representation from the dioceses of Aurangabad, Baroda and Chanda)

Topics covered:

- ❖ Different models of Development (Charity model, Institutional Model and Input Model), Development as fight against injustice i.e. the aggressive way being Legalistic, Development seen as participatory by the people in the process of Development (PRA) and Animation Model. Besides these, Steven added one more as seen by him i.e. Development seen as working through people. This in other words means participation. This has the following steps / stages:-

- ❖ Clearly spelt out objectives
- ❖ Facilitation
- ❖ Planning
- ❖ Formation / Development
- ❖ Monitoring stage
- ❖ Evaluation / review / assessment stage.

The role of DPSC members were discussed as follows:-

- ❖ Facilitating development process in the dioceses
- ❖ To be aware of groups / issues in the dioceses
- ❖ To know the needs / problems of potential partners
- ❖ To be able to analyse and prioritise programmes and proposals
- ❖ Evaluating & monitoring
- ❖ To ensure completion of programmes / reporting.

Other topics discussed were:-

- ❖ Qualifying criteria for DPSC members
- ❖ Constitutional Norms for DPSC members
- ❖ Functional Norms for DPSC members.

Later, application of facilitation skills at various stages such as planning stage, monitoring stage, evaluation stage were taken up and dealt with.

The workshop was found to be extremely useful to the participants and they suggested that perhaps there is a need to rename the DPSC as DPMC – Diocesan Project Managing Committee.

II Middle Level Functionaries' Training:-

1. Diocesan Capacity Building programmes:

Venue : Salvation Church, Dadar (W), Mumbai

Date : 25, January, 2002.

No. of Participants : 58.

Resource Persons : Representatives of Income Generating NGOs such as Creative Handicrafts, Annapurna Mahila Mandal, Society to Heal, to Aid, to Restore and to Educate,(SHARE), National Association of Blind (NAB) – Utkarsh Job Development Centre for Blind Women, Women's India Trust (WIT) and Dr. Neela Dabir from Tata Institute of Social Sciences.

Topic : Innovative NGOs and Community- Based Livelihood Programs with special emphasis on Income Generation and marketing strategies.

Centre for Social Action, The Archdiocesan Social Work Society of Bombay, conducted a One-day Capacity Building Programme for the Co-ordinators of Community Centres and for the Organisers of Other Church-based NGOs in the Archdiocese of Bombay. The topic was chosen on request by the participants at the previous Capacity Building Program, which was conducted on August 24, 2001 on Credit Societies and Self-Help Groups.

The specific objectives of this Program were a) to get to know the innovative women NGOs in Mumbai City b) to get to know some possible income generation / livelihood programs that are socially useful and economically productive and c) to plan out some community-based action-programmes for future either area -wise or parish-wise for livelihoods of marginalised people.

The training manual titled '**Innovative NGOs and Community-base Livelihood Programmes**' for the occasion was released as Course material. A complimentary copy was given to each organisation present for the Program. The same Training Manual was presented to the DDSWs of the Western Region also later on.

2. Workshop on TRIBAL ISSUES of the Western Region.

Venue : Nashik Social Service Society, C/O Bishop's House, Jail Road, Nashik.

Dates : 4 to 8 February, 2002.

No. of Participants : 50 participants including Bishop Filipe Neri Ferrao, Bishop Thomas Bhalerao and the two resource persons.

Resource Persons : Fr Tony Tuscano S.J. & Mr. Ananda Umbarsada of Shanti Seva Mandal, Manor, Palghar Taluka, Vasai Diocese

Objectives of the workshop on Tribal Issues:

- ❖ To introduce and initiate the Directors of Social Service Societies, the women co-ordinators of social work Centres and organisations, social activists and other interested collaborators in the field in the Western Region to the issues and problems faced by the tribals in the Western Region
- ❖ To share among the participants themselves the various programmes initiated in their respective dioceses
- ❖ To work out a specific action plan to take up the issues concerning the tribals in the Western Region.

Rationale of the workshop on Tribal Issues:

- ❖ One of the focus groups that was identified at the Regional Perspective Planning was Tribals.
- ❖ Caritas India has taken up the Campaign Against Hunger & Disease for the year 2002 – “PROMOTE SELF – HELP, EMPOWER HUMAN TRIBES”.

Topics covered:

- Total constituent of tribals in India and in Maharashtra
- Tribals and culture of silence
- Health of tribal women
- Tribals and live stock
- Tribals and PDS (Public Distribution System) –Rations
- Tribals and herbal / traditional medicines
- Tribals and their displacement in Maharashtra
- Tribals and their land and forests

The above inputs and discussions emerged into the following three specific items which the Western region would take up.

1. Viability of an Adivasi Desk for Adivasi problems in each Diocese
2. Women's empowerment leading to specially of Tribal women.
3. Adivasi Vs. Vanvasi – What can WRSSF do regarding this issue?

Meeting with the Women co-ordinators of the Western Region.

Venue : Nashik Social Service Society, C/O Bishop's House, Jail Road, Nashik.

Date : 4 February, 2002.

No. of Participants : 10

Facilitator : Sr. Rosamma George – Caritas India, New Delhi.

Topics covered :

HIV / AIDS as a Gender issue in the 13 dioceses of the Western Region.

- Data collection in all the dioceses
 - Health camp
 - Home visit
 - Primary Health Centre
- Rehabilitation Centre
 - Time involvement
 - Influencing other planning
 - Temporary shelter

- Awareness
Men and women at village level
Young men and women at youth groups
Schools and colleges run by religious and non-religious
- News letter of all the diocese & regional documentation
Sr. Geeta Joseph is willing to do the newsletter provided the news arrives from the dioceses.
Make studies of incidents
- Two days training on HIV /AIDS for diocesan women co-ordinators, lay women who knows English / Hindi from the diocese to attend this training programme & continue the work in the absence of religious sisters who are transferred and gone away. CRS may perhaps be willing to sponsor such programmes. Fr. Felix SVD, Pune can be the resource person. Venue of the programme can be also in Pune. Organisation can be done by WRSSF. Impact and time plan has to be planned further.
- A follow up of the same will be done as per the suggestion given by the participants.

PRISON MINISTRY

Venue	: Nashik Social Service Society, C/O Bishop's House, Jail Road, Nashik.
Dates	: 6 February, 2002.
No. of Participants	: 48 participants including Bishop Filipe Neri Ferrao, Bishop Thomas Bhalerao.
Resource Person	: Sr. Mary Jane SFN - Goa, Co-ordinator of Prison Ministry.

Topics Covered:

- The origin and subsequent spread of the prison ministry in India and in the Western Region
- The vision, mission, action plan of prison ministry
- Activities outside the prison with the families especially women and children - prisoners.
- Expectations of the prisoners
- Expectations of the family members of the prisoners
- Issues to be taken up while working with the prisoners.

A round of questions and answers followed the input and later the participants insisted to have an in depth training programme for the core team of prison ministry for each of the 13 dioceses.

A personal visit by the participants to the Central Prison in Nashik was arranged for:

This visit included interaction with the prison authorities, with the inmates of the prison – undertrials and convicted.

The visit helped the participants to see for themselves the various infrastructure facilities that are made available for under trials & convicts inside the prison such as work, healthcare, education, counselling, Savings, food arrangements and facilities offered to the prisoners.

Both the input and the visit have motivated the participants and the Directors to take up The human rights issue concerning prisoners and their families. A two days workshop has been planned for the core teams of the Prison Ministry of the 13 dioceses of the western region in July / August 2002.

A FIELD VISIT TO THE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS OF NASHIK DIOCESE

Date of visit : 7 February, 2002 from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Participants : 40 out of the 48 only managed to make this visit.

The first field visit was to the Sangamner Mission – Ahmednagar. The Director of the Mission FR. J. COELHO S.J gave input. This was followed by interaction by the mission staff and beneficiaries with the participants. This visit gave the participants an insight into how the Dalit and the marginalised groups have come up in life because of the efforts of the staff of the Mission especially with respect to health, education and agriculture.

The afternoon visit was to the Watershed Management Programm at Malegaon Pathar at Ahmednagar District. The Social Centre of Ahmednagar had initiated this programme. A walk by the participants together with the villagers and the beneficiaries of the Watershed Programmes to the hills and terrain of the villages made the participants realise that through Watershed Management, the drought hit areas could be converted into green valleys producing paddy, fruits and vegetables and thus making the villagers self-reliant.

An interaction with the Mahila Mandal groups made the participants realise that even uneducated rural folk and women could rise up and become leaders of their Grampanchayat. The role of the Social Centre, an NGO, made the participants realise the importance of bringing people together on issues concerning the lives of the people.

SOCIAL WORK DIRECTORS MEETING TOGETHER WITH BISHOP FILIPE NERI FERRAO.

Venue : Nashik Social Service Society

Date : 8 February 2002.

No. of Participants : All the DDSWs, Their representatives and the WRSSF staff.

This meeting was organised to review the past events of the Region and to plan for the next year.

Topics like the Endowment Fund, Prison Ministry, Gujarat Earthquake, Gender Development in the Region were taken up.

A decision has been taken in the region with the collaboration with the Diocesan Directors to create the Endowment Fund for the Region. Every year an Archdiocese of the Region will contribute Rs. 10,000 a year and a Diocese will contribute Rs. 5000 each year to the Endowment Fund. This eventually will help the Regional Forum to stand on its feet.

3 Diocesan Capacity Building Programme(Vasai):

On the Occasion of the International Women's Day on March 10, 2002, Shanti Seva Mandal, an NGO, together with Jyoti Nivas, Manor organised a full day awareness programme on Gram Panchayat and Gram Sabha. A total number of 1000 tribal women got together for this program. The purpose of the meeting was to make aware of the fact that the funds of the government would reach the grassroot tribal women at the grass root. This programme was organised to ensure that they are able to procure these funds, which is meant for their own development. Ms. Medha Patkar was the facilitator to give inputs on this topic. This Melawa has resulted in bringing the tribal women together to share the problems and achievements and strengthening the bond to take up further issues concerning their lives.

4. Women Empowerment Program (Mumbai):

Venue : Asha Kiran, ST.Pious College, Goregaon (E), Mumbai.

Date : 16 March, 2002.

Resource Persons : Mrs. Sharada Sate – Stree Mukti Sanghatana
Mrs. Purav – Annapurna Mahila Mandal
Mrs. Vijayshree – Nirmala Niketan College of Social Work

No. of Participants : 400 from different parts of slum community of Mumbai.

Objective was to form a federation of these women groups to grow as an independent organisation future.

Topics that were covered are:

- Importance of 8th March
- Women's Movement
- Status of women today
- Income generation activities
- Cultural program which were prepared by slum women

This program resulted in bringing together these groups to enable them to form to network and grow as an independent organisation in future.

B. DOCUMENTATION :

The following documentation work had been done by the Regional Forum:

a) Newsletter of the Region WRSSF DIARY:

- ◆ Vol.2. No.2. April – September 2001. Focussed on Vasai Diocese
- ◆ Vol.2. No.3 December 2001 Focussed on Western Region Social Service Forum.
- ◆ Vol.3. No.1 January – March 2002 Focussed on Nagpur Diocese

b) Other Documentation work:

- Training Manual on - Credit Societies And Self – Help Groups – released in August 2001.
- Training Manual on – Innovative NGOs and Community-based Livelihood Programmes – released in January 2002.
- Writing reports of workshops, meetings and events as when these took place.
- Collating the Annual Report of Activities of the Region for the year April 2001 to March 2002.

CONCLUSION:

We need to ask ourselves if our programmes are helping the target groups to get into the main stream of growth with the Government and the rest of the people or if they are taking them away from the main stream, making them dependent on us.

Animation can be a mere service, like a doling out, if it does not lead to an attitude of self-reliance. In the past, we distributed food and clothes.

Now we distribute knowledge. Our ability to withdraw from the scene, while activities continue in full vigour, without us, is the test of our effectiveness.

WESTERN REGION SOCIAL SERVICE FORUM
(WRSSF)

Our vision

Is

*To establish a just and sustainable society
Where gospel values of love,
Equality and peace are lived and nurtured.*

Our Mission

Is

*To restore the human dignity
Of the poor and marginalised
Through a process of empowerment.*