

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INSTITUTE FOR MOTIVATING
SELF-EMPLOYMENT (IMSE)
on its various activities in the year 2015-2016**

IMSE is a voluntary social organization of national repute established in 1973, the vision of which is to create a society based on egalitarian principles and food sovereignty. The main aim of IMSE is to put an end to the socio-economic exploitation of the people by enabling them to claim and exercise their democratic rights through social movements and developing alternative models of development in general and rural development in particular. In the year 2015-16 also IMSE tried to expedite this process further in order to achieve the above mentioned vision & mission. The main activities which have been implemented during 2015-16 are mentioned below :

Women Empowerment

In the year 2015-16, IMSE's major focus was on women empowerment programme following its gender policy of the organization by mainstreaming gender aspect in all its programmes. IMSE's women empowerment included Capacity building of women activists, imparting trainings to peasant women leaders in three states of Eastern India in order to build strong women organizations at community levels. This programme was successful and peasant women gave leadership to various social movements in IMSE's working areas.

IMSE strengthened its short stay home for distressed women. In 2015-16 IMSE provided shelter to a large number of distressed women in its short stay home at Krishnakunja, Vill. Malancha, P.O. Singi, District Burdwan and had been successful in rehabilitating a good number of women in the society by developing their skills and extending counseling services.

For extending better services to the distressed women in accordance with the guidelines of the Govt. of India, the transformation of IMSE's Short Stay Home into a Sadar Greh advanced to a great extent.

With the Govt. of India, IMSE continued its mother and child care programme popularly known as Anganwadi programme. IMSE also organized regular health check up camps for the mothers and their children in remote areas in different district. However, it was always felt that the economic development programme of the women was a precondition for women empowerment.

Self Help Group Promotion Programme

IMSE mobilized subsistence women entrepreneurs in different districts in the rural areas and got them small loans to run their small enterprises. IMSE's subsistence women entrepreneurs' development programme was always linked with social development programme and programme for rights. This programme resulted into economic self reliance of many women. Economically empowered women became able to exert their rights in their families and societal levels. Through Self Help Group Promotion Programme, IMSE also mobilised peasant women to strengthen their movements for their lawful rights on land and organized state level demonstrations and rallies on these issues.

Promotion of Sustainable Agriculture

Sustainable agriculture is the act of farming using principles of ecology, the study of relationships between organisms and their environment. The phrase was reportedly coined by Australian Agricultural Scientist Gordon M C Clymount. It has been defined as an integrated system of plant and animal production practices having a site-specific application that will last over the long term.

IMSE organized a number of awareness generation camps making small scale producers aware of their rights as farmers and sensitizing them about opportunities to practice sustainable agriculture in a viable way. To facilitate/support, groups of small scale food producers were trained to acquire new knowledge and skills on methods of making small scale farming/organic farming viable like preservation of local seeds, techniques of sustainable production practices collectivization, marketing and so on.

Save River Save Villages Programme

In an area like West Bengal, where people depend on their agricultural production and live in immediate relationship with nature, the proper working of the river systems is a foundation for food security/sovereignty of the people. During the past 30 years of work committed to poverty alleviation, the social workers of IMSE have followed the steady and injurious evolution of the Kopai-Kuia River in the district of Birbhum in West Bengal. They saw at close range the troubles the villagers had to face as a consequence of floods and of the changes in the river's behaviour as a result of the development decisions and climate change.

In 2015-16 IMSE organised a number of Civil Society Consultations and also a regular village meetings on the problems created by Kopai-Kuia River due to mismanagement of the river water. It was found that 76 villages get affected during the rainy season and it was planned that the affected villages with a total population of 64,221 persons would be visited in the forthcoming months and years for rousing public opinion for people centric river water management.

Promotion of Herbal-Tribal Medicinal Programme

In 2015-16, IMSE continued its programme in its project areas in West Bengal and Jharkhand for the promotion of tribal medicine and acupuncture among indigenous communities and others, as peoples' alternative to promote realisation of right to health of the poor and marginalised indigenous groups. IMSE's herbal tribal medicinal programme has already drawn wide spread attention of the people from different walks of life.

Training Programme

IMSE organized a number of training programmes the target groups of which were social activists, small and marginal peasants, subsistence entrepreneurs, health workers and so on. IMSE training programmes included generating awareness about the economic-social cultural human rights, practicing sustainable agriculture, the significance of cultivating herbal tribal medicinal plants, mother and child health care, self help group promotion, generating awareness from different aspects of ecology, environment and climate change etc. IMSE also imparted training to the elected

representatives of the PRIs for activating Gram Sansad to achieve the goal of a functional democracy.

Support Services and Networking

IMSE believes that societal change is not possible in isolation. Therefore, IMSE like earlier years extended support services to a good number of mass organizations such as Forum of Voluntary Organisations West Bengal, Pension Parishad West Bengal, FIAN West Bengal, East Coast Fish Workers Union, Workers Owner Forum, Peoples Action Network National Integration and Communal Harmony, Indian Federation of Toiling Peasants, Right to Information Network, West Bengal Election Watch and others to facilitate the process of meaningful social change.

Research and Documentation

IMSE put major emphasis on conducting participatory action research on various issues in 2015-16. Role of Sustainable Agriculture in ensuring household food sovereignty, How to establish a functional democracy, Deprivation of elderly people from old age pension, Impact of Lokpal & Lokayukt Act on Voluntarism, Micro credit for social change were a few research projects which were undertaken by IMSE among others. The outcome of those participatory researches have strengthened the organization further.

Pre-Primary Education Centres

Running of pre-primary education centres for the children in the remote villages particularly who came from the families of the workers of the unorganised sector got adequate importance in 2015-16. IMSE organized a few pre-primary education centres called Ankur in West Bengal, Jharkhand and Odisha. This programme drew the wide spread attention of the workers of the unorganized sector in rural areas.

Seminars, Workshops, Visits etc.

IMSE organised a no. of seminars, trainings, workshops etc. for the multi stakeholders of civil society at Kolkata and other places.

In the year 2015-16 IMSE organized a good number of seminars, workshops on various subjects such as on democratic reform, peoples' media, SHGPP, micro insurance for poor villagers, good governance through Gram Sansad, minimum pension for the elderly people, particularly who are from the unorganized sector, women empowerment and so on. IMSE's representatives also participated in a no. of trainings, workshops and field visits in different states and also in Delhi during this period.

Administration & Coordination

For successful coordination of its various programme spread over hundreds of villages in three states of West Bengal, Jharkhand and Odisha, the Administrative wing of IMSE remained always active in 2015-16. In 2015-16 IMSE made arrangement to build the capacity of its core staff members at the head quarters for planning, monitoring, evaluation (PME), computerization of accounts etc. and thus to facilitate the successful implementation of its various programmes.