

## **VILLAGE LEVEL MEETING**

**Organized by: Social Service Centre (SSC)**

**In Collaboration with People's Rights Forum, Meghalaya**

**Venue: Rangtmah Village**

**Date: 14<sup>th</sup> July, 2011**

### **-----A REPORT-----**

The Social Service Centre under the programme Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction conducted the Village Level Meeting in collaboration with Meghalaya People's Rights Forum on the 14<sup>th</sup> July 2011 in Rangtmah village at the school premises. The programme began at 10: 40 am and ended at 2:30 pm. 45 village members participated during the meeting which included the village local headman, secretary, teachers, SHGs members and the women representatives. The main purpose of the meeting was to create awareness and sensitize the village community on Right to food (PDA, mid day meals, ICDS) and the rise of inflation on essential commodities.

The meeting began with a welcome address by Mr. Nicodemus, Secretary of Rangtmah village who also presided over the meeting. It was followed by briefing on the objective of the meeting by Mr. Donkumar Ranee, Animator of SSC. He highlighted the participants with the different title of the villages like PDS, midday meal, ICDS, pension, and other social scheme. He also spoke about the purpose of the project and said that the villagers are fortunate to have such kind of awareness programme at their village level. He concluded by asking the participants about the different benefits that the village entitle with.

Ms. Elizabeth Naik spoke in details on the ***Right to Food issue*** which was the first time for the participants to have such kind of meeting. During the presentation the people were very attentive and taken part with much interested. The different issues that were highlighted are the following:

- Types of ration cards
- Beneficiaries allotment of food grains
- Different food grain they received and price lists
- Accessibility of the fair price shop

- Impact on the rise of food price.
- Awareness on farmer's right

After addressing the topics, the participants were very interested and raised different questions regarding the Public Distribution System saying that the commodities are getting are not up to the sanction. Some of the participants expressed that they do not have the BPL card or received ration even though they are eligible under BPL category. Some of them expressed the need to have the ICDS centre in their area as the centre where it is located is far away and causing problem to them. Some of the aged people informed that they are still not being counted among the old people even though they are eligible, so no help is given to them which they should be enrolled under Old Age Pension. However, Ms. Naik said that those problems need to be addressed in their own committee and inform the Block Office as earlier as possible.

The reasons as to why these villages are being neglected due to ignorance as most of them are illiterate. Therefore, importance of education has also discussed with them in a very detail manner.

*Based on discussions, the following problems are being faced by the people like*

- No ICDS centre
- Very rear they get employed through NREGS
- Implementation of mid Day meals is very poor.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Mr. Mlon, local headman, who expressed gratitude and thankfulness to all the participants who have spare their available time to attend the programme, he also expressed gratefulness to the SSC staff especially to the Forum for reaching out to make the village community aware about their rights and other related issue. The programme ended with the refreshment

## PHOTO GALLERY



Mr. Nicodemus well addressing the issue related to food in Rangtmah



Participants listening attentively



Ms. Elizabeth Delivered speech



Villages of Rangtmah village



Interaction with the women's group

Village Discussion among themselves