

## DHAS GRAMIN VIKAS KENDRA

### ALIRAJPUR, MADHYA PRADESH

ANNUAL REPORT 2009-10

This was a year of consolidation and expansion. The awareness and mobilisation work in Alirajpur tehsil was taken forward further and as a consequence the formal membership of the union crossed the 1000 mark. A very big mass rally was held in Alirajpur and a smaller one in the new one in Jobat as a culmination of the expansion of work in that tehsil. The indicator based detailed performance appraisal and the plan for the next year is given below.

**1. Status of membership in the union and benefits received:** The Union membership status as on March 31st 2010 is given in the table below -

**Table 1 : KMCS Membership Details**

District	Block	Village	Members upto Sep 30 2009		Members enrolled in Oct 09 - Jan 10		Members upto March 31 2010		Total
			Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Alirajpur	Sondwa	Semlani	12	2			12	2	14
		Darkali	39	2			39	2	41
		Burgaon	73	24			73	24	97
		Jetpur	8	0			8	0	8
		Badi Vegalgaon	11	1			11	1	12
		Attha	21	0			21	0	21
		Chhoti Gendra	20	12	89	37	109	49	158
		Vakner	54	17	6	2	60	19	79
		Khodamba	45	5			45	5	50
		Jalsindhi	38	2	8		38	10	48
		Chilakda	48	7	22	10	70	17	87
		Akdia	41	1	7		48	1	49
		Sirkhari	10	9	13	14	23	23	46
		Ojhar	4	5			4	5	9
		Umralli	0	2	3	2	3	4	7
		Gatha			63	50	63	50	113
		Barda			18	1	18	1	19
	<b>Block Sub Total</b>		424	89	229	116	653	205	858
Alirajpur	Thorsindhi		8	0			8	0	8
	Sukhi Vavdi		9	0			9	0	9

District	Block	Village	Members upto Sep 30 2009		Members enrolled in Oct 09 - Jan 10		Members upto March 31 2010		Total
			Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
		Pujara Chowki	10	0			10	0	10
		Behadva	3	1			3	1	4
		<b>Block Sub Total</b>	30	1	0	0	30	1	31
	Katthivada	Somniavat	4	2			4	2	6
		Darkhar			3	0	3	0	3
		<b>Block Sub Total</b>	4	2	3	0	7	2	6
	<b>District Sub Total</b>		<b>458</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>690</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>898</b>
Dhar	Dahi	Kotba	19	8	11	9	30	17	47
		Khattami	26	19	4	5	30	24	54
		Phipheda			11	12	11	12	23
		Rebarda					7	6	13
		Ummedpura					4	1	5
	<b>District &amp; Block Sub Total</b>		<b>45</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>142</b>
	<b>Total</b>		<b>503</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>772</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>1040</b>

The total number of members as on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010 is 1040. Since unorganised workers do not easily become formal members of the union preferring to approach it only when some problem arises it is generally difficult to get a large number of members. Nevertheless intensive work in the Sondwa Block which is the main area of work of the organisation has resulted in more members from there. As many as 142 people from the adjoining Dahi block of Dhar district have also become members as they find that the identity card gives them considerable leverage with their employers and the administration in their destination work locations in Gujarat and in Indore. Membership of the union has helped some of the people to gain benefits as is detailed in the case work list given at the end of this report. A quarter of the members are women which is a very encouraging sign. In fact women have particularly asked for better facilities at the destination sites where they are the most disadvantaged.

Those members who had been enrolled by September 30<sup>th</sup> 2009 have been also enrolled for the group health insurance scheme that has been taken out by PCLRA. The identity card that has been issued to the members has the phone number of PCLRA office in Ahmedabad and so the migrants can call for help at any time though such a situation has not arisen yet. However, once the village meetings are held on a more regular basis this facility will be used more. This will also increase the pace at which membership is going on which is about 50 members per month at present. There is a need for setting up complaint redressal centres in Surat, Navsari,

Saurashtra and Kutch as most of the workers from Alirajpur go to these places for work and it is impractical for them to approach the office in Ahmedabad for help.

## 2. Other Actions Undertaken

The other actions undertaken and their impacts are detailed in Table 2 below.

**Table 2: Actions and Their Impact.**

Action	Changes Brought About	Number of People Benefited	Challenges Faced	Future Plans
1. Village Meetings	Awareness about rights and entitlements under the ISMW Act increased. Migrants have been able to use the IC issued by KMCS to bargain better with their employers and also prevent harrasment by the police and other government regulatory staff.	50,000 people have been benefited at a conservative estimate ( It is difficult to estimate accurately without conducting surveys). Even though only 1040 people have paid up to become IC holders normally one IC holder in a group is able to provide rights and entitlement support to all the other members of the group.	The ISMW Act is available only in English and so a translation had to be done into simple Hindi. The Madhya Pradesh government and the district administration is least bothered to implement the Act on its side of the border let alone pressurise the Gujarat government to implement it. People are still afraid to assert themselves in Gujarat and so in all the cases of deaths and wage issues they have settled for negotiations with the employers instead of going to court.	The main migration areas are Surat, Navsari and Saurashtra. So organisations will have to be identified in these areas to provide effective support to the migrants. Further mobilisation of the migrants in the source areas will be done.
2. Workshops	The village level activists of the KMCS have been trained in various issues and their	250,000 people as the KMCS activists have addressed issues relating	The Sarpanches and Panches and the local bureaucracy have continuously	12 Sarpanches, many panches and Janpad members affiliated to the

Action	Changes Brought About	Number of People Benefited	Challenges Faced	Future Plans
	capacity has been built up.	to migration and also local matters.	opposed the KMCS.	KMCS have won and so their help will be taken. Already these people have moved forward on the KMCS agenda in their work.
3. Surveys	Household survey of 5032 respondents spread over the whole of Alirajpur district has been completed and analysed (The reports in Hindi are appended). This has brought out the detailed characteristics of the households vis-a-vis migration and livelihoods. A survey of 800 migrant groups in Surat and Navsari districts has been completed and the data is being analysed.	Not quantifiable	The surveys have given a broad idea of the problem but the generalisation of the findings is a little difficult given the smallness of the sample compared to the number of people migrating.	A detailed household survey to better capture the livelihood situation is planned.
4. Seminars	Workers of other NGOs and mass organisations in Jhabua and Alirajpur districts have been invited to discuss the learnings from the implementation of the project and the	Not quantifiable	Theoretical issues regarding inter-state migration of unorganised tribal labourers have to be clarified.	Further thought has to be given regarding the inaction of the state agencies with regard to implementation of the laws. Pressure will

Action	Changes Brought About	Number of People Benefited	Challenges Faced	Future Plans
	findings of the surveys. These organisations have gained knowledge regarding the issue of migration			have to be put on the administration.
5. NREGS	People have been made aware of the provisions of this scheme and been helped to demand work and then get it implemented. Crores of Rupees of work has been done and in many cases pending payments amounting to a few more crores have been facilitated.	250,000 people. The KMCS has continually put pressure on the administration to deliver on this scheme and has initiated action against corrupt sarpanches, panchayat secretaries and other government staff and improved the implementation of the scheme substantially throughout the district.	The main obstacle is the provision that the works have to be evaluated by the sub-engineer. There is only one sub-engineer per block and with the huge increase in the number of works he is overstretched. Thus evaluations and payments get delayed.	The KMCS will try and get more NRM based works sanctioned so as to build up the natural resource bases and enhance the sustainability of local livelihoods. Some progress has already been made in this regard in panchayats in which KMCS members have won in the elections.
6. Forest Rights Act	The KMCS has pro-actively followed the administration's implementation of this Act. Through an RTI application it was found that only about 10% of the applicants for rights were being entertained and in that too there were	200,000 people.	The administration is bent on depriving the tribals of their rights and so eventually the matter will have to be fought out in the courts.	A legal battle will be fought in the courts.

Action	Changes Brought About	Number of People Benefited	Challenges Faced	Future Plans
	many anomalies. A further RTI has been submitted to get the copies of the orders regarding all these applications so as to be able to move courts later.			
7. Mass Rallies	Several mass rallies have been held attended by thousands to put pressure on the administration and also to create publicity for KMCS among the people and the media. The rally held in Alirajpur on October 12 <sup>th</sup> 2010 was attended by upwards of 4000 people both men and women and it firmly established the KMCS as a major people's force in the district.	500,000 people. The impact of the rallies is to improve the functioning of the administration and this benefits many more people other than those who are directly connected with the KMCS.	The rallies in the newer areas of Jobat and Bhabhra have not been so well attended because of lesser mobilisation.	Mobilisation in Jobat and Bhabhra tehsils to be increased.
8. Advocacy	Media advocacy has been the strength of the organisation and this has created considerable pressure on the administration.	500,000 people. All the newspapers publish news of the work of the KMCS and this puts pressure on the administration to deliver.	Larger level advocacy has to be done at the state level where there is little action in favour of migrants.	Attempt will be made to hold a meeting of other organisations in the state who are working on migration.

### 3. Case Work

Legal case work has been hampered by the fact that there is no institutional mechanism in Alirajpur itself and cases have to be filed in Ratlam where there is a labour court that is understaffed. Thus, even after efforts no formal cases have been registered. Moreover, the migrants generally do not prefer to file court cases and have mostly used the intervention of the KMCS to bargain for better informal compensation from the employers. The details of the four major cases handled by the organisation are given in Table 3 below.

**Table 3 : Case Work Details**

Sl. No.	Name and address of workers	Employer Name and Address of work place	Date of incident	Date of complaint registration with Union	No. of workers	Case details	Action undertaken by Union	Financial benefit created
1.	Jhinla s/o Naru, Damri Falia, Village Kundwa at, Sondwa Block, Alirajpur, M.P.	Prakash Building Contractor, Village Kotri, Police Station Rajula, District Jamnagar, Gujarat	23.11.09	30.11.09	1	Jhinla fell down from the 4th storey of an under construction building and died. A case of accidental death was registered in the Police Station and the contractor paid the family members money for transporting the body back.	A villager from Jhinla's village came to the Union and filed a complaint whereupon the Union spoke to the contractor on the phone and told him that legal action would be taken against him. He then made a compromise with Jhinla's family and the latter withdrew their complaint with the Union.	Rs 30000 accepted by Jhinla's family member as addition al compensation from the contract
2.	Pidla s/o Gadria, Village Sondwar, Alirajpur, M.P.	Employer Suresh Building Contractor, Navsari, Gujarat	5.10.2008	14.10.2008	1	Pidla was electrocuted in an under construction building and died. A case of accidental death was registered in the Police Station and the contractor paid the family members money for transporting the body back.	Pidla's family filed a complaint with the Union whereupon the Union spoke to the contractor on the phone and told him that legal action would be taken against him. The contractor compromised with Pidla's family and the	Rs 40000 accepted by Pidla's family member as addition al compensation from the contract

Sl. No.	Name and address of workers	Employer Name and Address of work place	Date of incident	Date of complaint registration with Union	No. of workers	Case details	Action undertaken by Union	Financial benefit created
							latter withdrew their complaint with the Union.	or.
3.	Chovria s/o Pirla, Village Darkali, Alirajpur, M.P.	Bhajansingh Building Contractor, Navsari, Gujarat	12.10.09	21.10.09	1	Chovria fell down from the 5th storey of an under construction building and died. A case of accidental death was registered in the Police Station and the contractor paid the family members money for transporting the body back.	Chovria's family filed a complaint with the Union whereupon the Union spoke to the contractor on the phone and told him that legal action would be taken against him. The contractor compromised with Pidla's family and the latter withdrew their complaint with the Union.	Rs 50000 accepted by Chovria's family members as additional compensation from the contractor.
4.	Bhursingh s/o Nahala, Village Burgaon, Alirajpur, M.P.	Ghiyasuddin, Cattle bone Processing Factory Owner, Chhota Udepur, Gujarat	Three years upto November 2009	2.11.09	12	The complainants are Dalit landless labourers who had been working for a paltry wage of Rs 30 per day for three years in the factory. They would be given advance money by the factory owner and then be forced to work off the loan and effectively they would get even less than the daily wage as the factory owner used to make many deductions. They came away in November 2009.	The Union activists went to the Police Station and said that various labour laws were being violated by the contractor and it is he who should be arrested instead of the labourers. The contractor beat a hasty retreat and the labourers were freed from bondage to him.	Rs 50000 being demanded by the contractor was saved and the complainants were freed from bondage to him. They are now going to Naswari where they get much

Sl. No.	Name and address of workers	Employer Name and Address of work place	Date of incident	Date of complaint registration with Union	No. of workers	Case details	Action undertaken by Union	Financial benefit created
						The factory owner then came to Sondwa Police Station and bribed the police there and took them with him to Burgaon village. He threatened the workers that either they would have to pay him Rs 50000 or go back and work for him. Otherwise they would be arrested by the police for breach of contract. This is when these labourers who are all cardholders of the Union complained to the Union.		better wages.

MIGRATION PROJECT ACTION PLAN APR '10 - MAR '11

- 1) The feedback from the migration household survey conducted in Jobat tehsil, is that the people there are facing a lot of problems and would welcome the help of the KMCS. Consequently a team of KMCS activists are now visiting the villages in this area and establishing contacts. Apart from the usual problems there is also the impending threat of displacement in the Kattivara forest range due to its being declared a wild life sanctuary in the near future under the provisions of the Wild Life Protection Act 1972. The KMCS has already conducted some preliminary meetings in this regard. Thus in the coming year mobilisation work will be begun in Jobat tehsil with the ultimate goal of covering the whole district and building up a broader mass base of the organisation than at present. With this in mind a public rally has been held in Jobat on February 18<sup>th</sup> 2010 to increase the visibility of the KMCS there. So far the work in Jobat tehsil has been done with informal and ad hoc funding. However, to take the work forward systematically formal

funding support will be necessary in the coming year and a brief proposal has been submitted in this regard.

- 2) The migration surveys both in Alirajpur and in Surat have revealed that there is a necessity for setting up a proper support structure in the destination areas where the migrants face the most problems. At the moment there is such a support structure only in Ahmedabad where the PCLRA has set up its office to coordinate the overall work of the project. However, most of the people from Alirajpur district migrate to either South Gujarat or Saurashtra and even further. Thus it will be necessary to work out a system wherein support can be provided in the destination areas more effectively than at present. As reported earlier in most cases people now do not want to pursue legal proceedings in Gujarat because of their fear that they may be further victimised. Therefore a contact programme needs to be conducted in Gujarat to identify suitable organisations which would be ready to become part of the project in future and carry out support work with the migrants who will be conscientised by KMCS in their source areas. This will considerably increase the impact of the work being done in Alirajpur.
- 3) Greater emphasis will be laid on operationalising the NREGS which is now functioning well below its potential. Village meetings are being held regularly to explain to people the need to submit work proposals in time and then implement them well so that payments also get made in time. Once the first level of implementation of 100 days of employment is ensured then the second level of implementation involving comprehensive natural resource management plans at the watershed level can be taken up.
- 4) A programme of formation of self help groups of women to increase their mobilisation will be begun. These kind of groups are a very good platform for the implementation of other programmes also and will in the long run help the mobilisation process around various kinds of rights .
- 5) A detailed household survey will be conducted to form an accurate idea of the contribution of migration to income and the constraints in increasing income locally so as to bolster up the demand from the Madhya Pradesh administration to intervene more pro-actively in support of the tribal migrants who are at the moment bereft of support.
- 6) The achievements of the organisation through this project have not been properly documented in a systematic manner. With the development of an MIS this lacuna will be addressed in the coming year and regular information will be available of all actions undertaken.