

Panchayati Raj Institutions in India -- A Scoping Study for the World Bank

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INTRODUCTION

This report is a scoping study of national organisations working on or with panchayati raj institutions (PRIs) in India. It is intended provide background and preliminary information about these organizations. The report consists of the following sections:

1. An Executive Summary identifying key characteristics of PRI support organizations and noting some issues for the World Bank to consider in its work on local governance
2. A Matrix of organizations working on panchayati raj in different states, categorizing their efforts by activity and sector focus.
3. An Inventory of these organizations summarizing their PRI related work and contact details.

A separate, short discussion paper by the Consultant is also available on request from the World Bank.

To prepare these materials in May and June 1999 the consultant contacted a number of PRI support organizations throughout India to learn about their work and views on panchayati raj. The Matrix and Inventory were compiled through a combination of field visits, secondary research, and interviews. Suggestions contained in the Executive Summary are drawn from:

- meetings with representatives of the listed organizations
- discussions with other actors in local governance including government officials and resource persons from other organizations
- the consultant's own experience of the field

Although the inventory and matrix are broadly representative they are not comprehensive. Similarly, substantive suggestions emerging from a process of participatory consultation in the field and touch on only some of the issues that need to be further investigated. This paper is therefore best seen as a starting point to be supplemented with further studies on issues such as panchayat inclusiveness and community participation; legislative and administrative reform; and potential PRI effectiveness in the long-term. In combination with this report, several aspects of these envisaged studies may be of interest both to the Bank and to other constituencies engaged in Indian local governance reform.

While the study was commissioned by the World Bank and many organizations made valuable contributions to the contents, the author accepts full responsibility for the analysis and views contained in the following document.

Executive Summary

Organizations working on PRIs

1. National organizations working in support of panchayati raj fall into three broad categories:

- Government bodies such as state training academies and institutes of rural development
- Research and academic groups that are often funded by national or state governments but have their own separate identities
- NGOs working on PRIs

NGOs can be further divided into two categories:

- Large institutions whose work to strengthen panchayats as elected bodies as well as panchayat capacities to intervene in support of local development needs spans several communities or locations.
 - Smaller, localized institutions typically working with fewer resources either on panchayati raj or on PRIs as rural development functionaries.
2. Organizational activity and sector focuses appear to bear no significant relation to organizational scale. Large organizations can bring a range of funds and skills to bear on diverse community needs. However, smaller groups also often creatively use the more limited resources at their disposal to strengthen panchayats.
3. Significant differences across states, needs, and organizations imply that the range of panchayati raj related activities in India is very extensive. In addition rapid changes occurring within States means Panchayati raj support organizations face the challenge of continually reviewing and refining their efforts to take account of shifts and changes in the political and social contexts in which they work.
4. Many organizations are testing the waters before more fully committing to work on PRIs. This has created opportunities for innovative experiments in rural governance such as:
- Using radio and other electronic media to disseminate information on panchayati raj
 - Encouraging learning and exchange visits among elected representatives from different districts and states
 - Developing community assessment tools on the quality of rural service delivery
 - Building panchayat capacities for improved microplanning and budget analysis
5. Key areas of work shared by otherwise disparate groups working on PRIs include:
- Energizing gram sabhas or village electorates and encouraging them to participate in panchayat functioning

- Ensuring the accountability and transparency of these bodies.
- Sensitizing officials and facilitating stronger panchayat-administration links
- Enabling panchayats to deliver on their promise of facilitating more equitable and effective development
- Encouraging states to take PRIs seriously and commit resources to them

Issues for the World Bank

Consultations in the field produced the following list of possible interventions for the Bank to further consider as it deepens its work with PRIs:

1. Assess the status of PRI legislation and decentralization in key states, especially devolution of financial and administrative powers.
2. Begin developing broad based relationships with NGOs, state governments, and research institutes in selected states to target lending for greater impact and effectiveness.
3. Use statewide networks as multiple sources of information about how PRIs take hold on the ground over the next two to three years.
4. Conduct further studies on panchayat capacities to effectively and inclusively perform multiple development functions.

Organizations consider information gathering, observation, and analysis important preludes to providing Bank assistance to panchayati raj institutions.

Other suggestions from the field to the Bank include:

1. Using a scheme such as the Village Immersion Program to directly engage with representatives from all three levels of the panchayat system by, for example, sitting in on panchayat meetings.
2. Exploring with state governments the possibility of extending support to new kinds of training, capacity building, outreach, and dissemination initiatives.
3. Bringing PRI support organizations together with resource persons from other fields, such as development communications or rural marketing, to share learnings.
4. Creating a pool of small funds to help generate new and replicable ideas such as peer exchange and learning visits among elected representatives.
5. Examining links between state governments and the panchayat hierarchy and identifying improvements in information and resource flows along this chain.
6. Supporting focused research on comparative governance experiences of India and other countries engaged in devolution, such as China, to shed more light on how to address the public management challenges inherent in devolution efforts.

The quantum of resources invested or the level of scale at which a support initiative operates may be a less important consideration than the number of newly emerging ideas or the level of fit of innovative governance principles with panchayat needs

Field respondents suggest that as the Bank begins to factor PRI concerns into some of its other programs in India in sectors such as education, health, or gender equity it seek to directly work with PRIs on project implementation. The Bank could also involve elected representatives in project design, evaluation and monitoring efforts.

Matrix of Organizations working on Panchayati Raj

This matrix summarizes the work done by various PRI support organizations in India. Each organization's efforts are categorized by activity focus and by sector focus. For the most part, organizations do not fit a specific activity focus to a particular sector but instead use a variety of approaches across sectors. Brief descriptions of activity and sector focuses follow.

Activities

1. Advocacy and policy debate: Activism, community organizing, lobbying, and public interest litigation
2. Implementation support: Project development and execution, technical support, and project appraisal
3. Monitoring and commentary: Surveys of devolution status, governance reform, and public management
4. Outreach: Information dissemination, awareness creation, written and audio-visual materials
5. Research: Field and secondary source based, literature surveys, linked to civil society and decentralization
6. Training: Providing information to communities, building panchayat planning capacities, sensitizing officials

Sectors

1. Education: Primary schooling, literacy programs, vocational studies
2. Finances: Local budgets, financial resource mobilization, audit techniques
3. Gender: Women's needs and rights, female children's needs, sensitizing panchayats and communities
4. Health: Basic health services, reproductive health, preventive care, nutrition, water supply
5. Livelihoods: Credit and savings, microfinance, income generation and informal sector employment
6. Local governance: Administrative structures, implementing 73rd amendment, state-panchayat relations
7. Natural resources: Common property resources, conservation, sustainable resource management, agriculture
8. Community participation: Civic empowerment, collective decision making, electoral participation
9. Rural development: Poverty alleviation, improving rural living standards, creating resources for growth

10. Social justice: Disadvantaged community rights, public legal services, panchayat equity, affirmative action

State	Organization & Focus	Education	Finances	Gender	Health	Livelihoods	Local governance	Natural resources	Community participation	Rural development	Social justice
Andhra Pradesh	Asmita Advocacy and policy debate Outreach Training	✓		✓	✓						✓
	BASIX Implementation support, Monitoring and Commentary Research Training		✓								
	Janamitra Implementation support Outreach Training							✓	✓	✓	
	National Institute of Rural Development Monitoring and commentary Training									✓	
Bihar	Adithi Advocacy and policy debate Implementation support Research Training			✓		✓					
	CENCORED Implementation support Outreach Training					✓	✓				
	Lok Jagriti Kendra Advocacy and policy debate Implementation support Training					✓		✓			
State	Organization & Focus	Education	Finances	Gender	Health	Livelihoods	Local governance	Natural resources	Community participation	Rural development	Social justice
Bihar	PRAXIS Monitoring and commentary Outreach Research							✓	✓		
	Shramjivi Unnayan Implementation support Training			✓		✓					
Delhi	AVARD Advocacy and policy debate Implementation support	✓			✓	✓		✓			
	Centre for Women's Development Studies Advocacy and policy debate Implementation support Outreach			✓							
	Churches Auxiliary for				✓	✓		✓		✓	

	Social Action Advocacy and policy debateImplementation supportOutreach Research										
	Indian Social Institute Monitoring and commentaryOutreach Research	✓			✓						✓
	IGNOU Training	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓				
	Institute for Social Sciences Advocacy and policy debateMonitoring and commentaryOutreach Research						✓				

State	Organiz- ation & Focus	Educa- tion	Finan- ces	Gender	Health	Liveli- hoods	Local gover- nance	Natural resou- rces	Comm- unityparti- cipation	Rural develo- pment	Social justice
Delhi	Institute for Social Studies Trust Outreach Research Training			✓							
	Nirantar Advocacy and policy debate Implementation support Training			✓							
	Rajiv Gandhi Foundation Advocacy and policy debate Monitoring and commentary Outreach						✓				
	PRIA Implementation support Monitoring and commentary Outreach Research						✓	✓	✓		
	VANI Monitoring and Commentary Outreach								✓		
	Voluntary Health Association of India Implementation support Monitoring and commentary				✓						
Gujarat	Aga Khan Rural Support ProgrammeImplementation supportMonitoring and commentaryResearch			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	
State	Organiz- ation & Focus	Educa- tion	Finan- ces	Gender	Health	Liveli- hoods	Local gover- nance	Natural resou- rces	Comm- unity parti- cipation	Rural develo- pment	Social justice

Gujarat	DISHA <i>Advocacy and policy debate Outreach Training</i>		✓	✓							
	Foundation for Public Interest <i>Monitoring and commentary Outreach Research</i>						✓		✓		
	Gram Vikas Trust <i>Implementation support Training</i>	✓			✓			✓			
	Unnati <i>Advocacy and policy debate Outreach Research Training</i>			✓					✓		
Haryana	CAVE <i>Outreach Training</i>						✓		✓		
	Chetna Shiksha Samiti <i>Outreach Research</i>	✓					✓				
	Haryana Institute of Public Administration <i>Outreach Training</i>			✓			✓	✓			
	Social Centre for Rural Initiative & Advancement <i>Advocacy and policy debate Training</i>			✓							

State	Organization & Focus	Educa-tion	Fina-nces	Gen-der	Hea-lth	Liveli-hoods	Local gov-ernance	Natur-al resou-rces	Comm-unity parti-cipation	Rural devel-opment	Soci-al justi-ce
Haryana	Society for Rural Employment & Technology <i>Implementation support Outreach Training</i>					✓	✓	✓			
Himachal Pradesh	Chinmaya Tapovan Trust <i>Advocacy and policy debate Outreach Training</i>			✓		✓					
	Himachal Pradesh Institute of Public Administration <i>Training</i>		✓				✓				

	Lok Kalyan Mandal <i>Research Training</i>						✓				
	SAVE <i>Implementation support Outreach</i>					✓		✓			
	SUTRA <i>Advocacy and policy debate Outreach Training</i>			✓			✓				✓
Karnat aka	Asian Institute for Rural Development <i>Monitoring and commentary Research</i>						✓				
	Centre for Budget and Policy Studies <i>Advocacy and policy debate Monitoring and commentary Research</i>		✓				✓				
State	Organiza- tion & Focus	Educa- tion	Fina- nces	Gen- der	Hea- lth	Liveli- hoods	Local gover- nance	Natur- al resou- rces	Comm- unitypa- rticipa- tion	Rural develo- pment	Soci- al justi- ce
Karnat aka	FEVORD <i>Advocacy and policy debate Implementation support</i>	✓		✓		✓					
	India Development Services <i>Implementation support Outreach</i>			✓	✓						
	ISEC <i>Monitoring and commentary Research</i>					✓	✓	✓			
	AP Kripa <i>Outreach Research Training</i>			✓				✓	✓		
	Mahila Samakhya <i>Implementation support Training</i>			✓							✓
	Public Affairs Centre <i>Monitoring and commentary Research Training</i>						✓				
	Rural Development			✓							✓

State	Organization & Focus	Education	Finances	Gender	Health	Livelihoods	Local governance	Natural resources	Community participation	Rural development	Social justice
Madhya Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh Institute of Social Science Research <i>Monitoring and commentary</i> <i>Research</i> <i>Training</i>	✓			✓		✓			✓	
	Prabhas <i>Advocacy and policy debate</i> <i>Training</i>					✓				✓	
	State Institute of Rural Development <i>Outreach</i> <i>Research</i> <i>Training</i>						✓		✓	✓	
	Samarthan <i>Monitoring and commentary</i> <i>Research</i>	✓				✓			✓		
	Srijan Kendra <i>Implementation support</i> <i>Training</i>	✓						✓			
	Tarun Sanskar <i>Advocacy and policy debate</i> <i>Implementation support</i> <i>Outreach</i>					✓			✓	✓	
	XIDAS <i>Advocacy and policy debate</i> <i>Outreach</i> <i>Research</i>										
Maharashtra	Aalochana <i>Advocacy and policy debate</i> <i>Outreach</i> <i>Training</i>			✓							✓
State	Organization & Focus	Education	Finances	Gender	Health	Livelihoods	Local governance	Natural resources	Community participation	Rural development	Social justice
Maharashtra	All India Institute of Local Self Governance <i>Monitoring and commentary</i>						✓		✓	✓	

	<i>Outreach Research Training</i>												
	<i>Manavlok Outreach Training</i>					✓							
	<i>SPARC Monitoring and commentary Outreach Research</i>					✓		✓					
	<i>Vacha Charitable Trust Advocacy and policy debate Outreach Training</i>					✓	✓						✓
Oriss a	<i>Aragamee Advocacy and policy debateImplementation support</i>										✓	✓	
	<i>CYSD Outreach Research Training</i>	✓									✓		
	<i>Gram VikasImplementation support Outreach Research</i>	✓					✓	✓					✓
	<i>ISED Implementation support Monitoring and commentaryOutreach Training</i>	✓				✓	✓						
State	Organiz- ation & Focus			Edu- c- atio n	Fin- a- nce s	Ge- n- der	He- alt h	Livel- i- hoo ds	Loca- l gove- r- nanc- e	Nat- ural res- our- ce s	Com- m- unity parti- cipa- tio n	Rural devel- o- pme- nt	So- cial just- ice
Raja sthan	<i>Ankur Sansthan Advocacy and policy debate Outreach Training</i>					✓			✓				
	<i>Gram Vikas Samiti Outreach Training</i>									✓			
	<i>Indira Gandhi Institute Research Training</i>								✓			✓	
	<i>Magra Mewar Vikas SansthanImplementation support</i>						✓			✓	✓	✓	

	Outreach Training											
	Seva Mandir Implementation support Research Training					✓		✓				
	Shanti Maitri Mission Advocacy and policy debate Outreach			✓			✓		✓			
	Society for Sustainable Development Advocacy and policy debate Outreach							✓				
Tamil Nadu	Action Aid Outreach Training			✓					✓			
	Assure Outreach Training			✓								
State	Organiz- ation & Focus	Educa- tion	Fin an- ces	Ge nd er	He alt h	Livel i- hoo ds	Loca l gove r- nanc e	Nat ural res ou- rce s	Com m- unity parti cipa tio n	Rural devel o- pme nt	So cial just ice	
Tamil Nadu	Gandhigram Trust Monitoring and commentary Outreach Research	✓					✓			✓		
	Integrated Rural Development Trust Implementation support Outreach Training				✓	✓		✓	✓			
	Karunya Trust Training						✓		✓			
	SIRPI Advocacy and policy debate Outreach			✓					✓		✓	
Uttar Prad esh	Ankur Advocacy and Implementation support Outreach									✓		
	Rural Litigation							✓				

	and Entitlement Kendra <i>Implementation support</i> <i>Training</i>											
	Sahbhagi Shikshan Kendra <i>Advocacy and policy debate/Implementation support</i> <i>Training</i>						✓		✓			
	Sahyog <i>Advocacy and policy debate</i> <i>Outreach</i> <i>Training</i>									✓		
State	Organization & Focus	Educational	Finances	Gender	Health	Localities	Local governance	Natural resources	Community participation	Rural development	Social justice	
Uttar Pradesh	Upvan <i>Advocacy and policy debate</i> <i>Outreach</i>						✓		✓			
West Bengal	Child in Need Institute <i>Advocacy and policy debate/Implementation support</i>	✓			✓							✓
	Institute for Motivating Self-Employment/ <i>Implementation support</i> <i>Training</i>		✓			✓						
	Socio Economic Development Program <i>Implementation support</i> <i>Training</i>							✓	✓			
	Tagore Society for Rural Development <i>Outreach</i> <i>Research</i>									✓		
	West Bengal SIPRD <i>Research</i> <i>Training</i>						✓		✓			

Inventory of Organizations Working on Panchayati Raj

Andhra Pradesh

Asmita Resource Centre for Women

201 Padma Mohan Apartments
Street # 6 Teachers' Colony
Secunderabad 500026
Tel: 040-7803745
Fax: 040-7733745
Ms. P. Lalita Kumari

Asmita works on women's rights and access to social justice with an emphasis on the role of women in PRIs. It uses village level data in Andhra Pradesh and nationwide to produce awareness building materials on rural women's issues. Asmita also networks with groups working on women and governance in south India.

Nature of work: Advocacy and policy debate, Outreach, Training
Substantive focus: Education, Gender, Health, Social justice
Audience: NGOs, State and central governments
Methodology: Field and secondary research, Information dissemination, Reports and studies
Funding: Fees, Government grants, Private donations

BASIX

403 Nirmal Towers
Dwarkapuri Colony, Punjagutta
Hyderabad 500482
Tel: 040-3350171
Fax: 040-3358846
Mr. Vijay Mahajan

BASIX focuses on issues of rural livelihoods and income generation. It works with village savings and credit collectives, including panchayat associations, to improve access to credit and microfinance opportunities in the agriculture and non-farm sectors. It also provides technical support and research services to NGOs and financial engaged with rural resource and governance issues.

Nature of work: Implementation support, Monitoring and commentary,
Research, Training
Audience: NGOs, State and central governments, Village communities
Methodology: Community level projects, Field and secondary research, Meetings and workshops,
Reports and studies
Funding: Donor assistance, Fees, Government grants

Janamitra

28-49/5 Pungannur
District Chittoor 517247
Tel: 08581-53081
Fax: 08581-53005
Mr. M. Kamal

Janamitra works in several districts of Andhra Pradesh on microplanning and natural resource management issues in the context of panchayati raj. It conducts training and awareness building programs and uses local folk theater and craft forms to devise innovative training methods. It also seeks to engage gram sabhas in local development projects.

Nature of work: Implementation support, Outreach, Training

Substantive focus: Natural resources, Community participation, Rural development

Audience: NGOs, Village communities

Methodology: Community level projects, Information dissemination

Funding: NGO grants, Private donations

National Institute for Rural Development

Rajendranagar
Hyderabad 500030
Tel: 040-4015741
Fax: 040-4015277
Dr. S.P. Jain

The NIRD is the government's national coordinating body for rural development training and project management. In conjunction with state ministries of rural development it oversees the functioning of state institutes of rural development. NIRD houses a panchayati raj cell which issues publications and evaluates the status of panchayati raj development projects in a few states, especially Karnataka.

Nature of work: Monitoring and commentary, Training

Substantive focus: Rural development

Audience: State and central governments, Research institutions

Methodology: Community level projects, Field and secondary research, Reports and studies

Funding: Government grants

Bihar

Adithi

2/30 State Bank Colony 2
Jagdeopath, Bailey Road
Patna 800014
Tel: 0612-284832
Fax: 0612-283018
Ms. Viji Srinivasan

Adithi works on gender and livelihoods issues throughout Bihar. It organizes women into collectives engaged in various income generating activities that help them play a larger role in

village level decision making. Adithi also runs training programs on women's legal rights and researches and publishes studies on disadvantaged women's issues.

Nature of work: Advocacy and policy debate, Implementation support, Research, Training

Substantive focus: Gender, Livelihoods

Audience: Interested publics, Research institutions, State and central governments, Village communities

Methodology: Community level projects, Field and secondary research, Meetings and workshops, Reports and studies

Funding: Donor assistance, Government grants, NGO grants.

Centre for Communication Resources Development

Shyama Bhavan
West Boring Canal Road
Patna 800001
Tel: 0612-264858
Fax: 0612-233309
Dr. B.K. Sinha

CENCORED is engaged in training and community development projects throughout Bihar, with a focus on microplanning. It works closely with tribal populations and organizes mock panchayats to create awareness about PRIs in a state where elections have not been held for several years. The organization maintains an extensive publications cell and networks other Bihar-based groups working on panchayati raj.

Nature of work: Implementation support, Outreach, Training

Substantive focus: Livelihoods, Local governance

Audience: NGOs, Village communities

Methodology: Community level projects, Information dissemination, Meetings and workshops

Funding: Government grants, NGO grants.

Lok Jagriti Kendra

PO Madhupur
District Deogarh 815353
Tel: 06438-24562
Mr. Arvind Kumar

Lok Jagriti Kendra works at the community level on rural development, especially resource management. It seeks to strengthen village level organizations including panchayats to take more effective part in managing community resources for sustainable development. It also seeks to enhance participation by tribal populations in panchayats and other local decision making forums

Nature of work: Advocacy and policy debate, Implementation support, Training

Substantive focus: Livelihoods, Natural resources

Audience: NGOs, Village communities

Methodology: Community level projects, Reports and studies

Funding: Private donations

PRAXIS

12 Pataliputra Colony
Patna 800013
Tel. and Fax: 0612-262027
Mr. Somesh Kumar

PRAXIS is a wing of Action Aid Bihar dedicated to research and outreach on participatory rural development. It disseminates literature on PRA, microplanning, and local resource management, among others. PRAXIS is working with village communities to better understand local decision making processes and constraints and to share these learnings more widely.

Nature of work: Monitoring and commentary, Outreach, Research

Substantive focus: Natural resources, Community participation

Audience: NGOs, Research institutions

Methodology: Field and secondary research, Information dissemination, Reports and studies

Funding: Donor assistance

Shramjivi Unnayan

Village and PO Gobarghusi
Jamshedpur
District Singhbhum 832105
Tel: 0657-434630
Mr. Pranab Choudhury

Shramjivi Unnayan works in south Bihar on women and livelihood issues in the context of panchayati raj. A specific project focuses on tribal groups in the Chhota Nagpur area.

The organization emphasizes the role of village level organizations in promoting enterprise development, micro-credit and income generation programs for women.

Nature of work: Implementation support, Training

Substantive focus: Gender, Livelihoods

Audience: NGOs, Village communities

Methodology: Community level projects, Meetings and workshops

Funding: NGO grants, Private donations

Delhi

Association of Voluntary Agencies for Rural Development

5 Institutional Area
Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg 110002
Tel: 3234690
Fax: 3232501
Dr. B. Mishra

AVARD is a network of several Gandhian organizations across India engaged primarily with the issue of village self-reliance. It works with its partners (mostly small, local NGOs) on issues of food security and economic self-reliance at the village level. It is active in northern states and is a member of various international NGO coalitions.

Nature of work: Advocacy and policy debate, Implementation support

Substantive focus: Education, Health, Livelihoods, Natural resources

Audience: NGOs, State and central governments, Village communities

Methodology: Community level projects, Meetings and workshops, Reports and studies

Funding: Donor assistance, Private donations

Centre for Women's Development Studies

25 Bhai Vir Singh Marg 110001
Tel: 3345530
Fax: 3346044
Dr. Kumud Sharma

CWDS seeks to enhance women's participation in community development and village political life. It works in north and east India to encourage women to participate in panchayats and gram sabhas and to assist in developing policy measures to facilitate these changes. CWDS also disseminates informational materials on women and civic participation.

Nature of work: Advocacy and policy debate, Implementation support, Outreach

Substantive focus: Gender

Audience: NGOs, State and central governments, Village communities

Methodology: Community level projects, Field and secondary research, Meetings and workshops, Reports and studies

Funding: Government grants, Private donations

Churches Auxiliary for Social Action

Rachna Building
2 Rajendra Place
Pusa Road 110008
Tel: 5715498
Fax: 5715538
Mr. J.K. Michael

CASA works with village communities on a range of development programs in which panchayati raj issues are gradually being integrated. Rural livelihoods and resource management are emphasized in CASA's programs and the organization conducts research, public outreach, and advocacy campaigns on these themes.

Nature of work: Advocacy and policy debate, Implementation support, Outreach, Research

Substantive focus: Health, Livelihoods, Natural resources, Rural development

Audience: Interested publics, NGOs, Research institutions, Village communities

Methodology: Community level projects, Field and secondary research, Information dissemination, Reports and studies

Funding: Government grants, NGO grants

Indian Social Institute

10 Institutional Area
Lodi Road 110003
Tel: 4625015
Fax: 4690660
Dr. A. Padmavati

ISI is a long-standing research and community development institution. Its panchayati raj activities focus on the role of PRIs in promoting primary education and basic health care. It also serves as a discussion forum among NGOs, researchers, and government agencies on development and governance issues. ISI also maintains a publications cell to reach the results of its work to the wider community

Nature of work: Monitoring and commentary, Outreach, Research,

Substantive focus: Education, Health, Social justice

Audience: Interested publics, NGOs, Research institutions, State and central governments

Methodology: Field and secondary research, Meetings and workshops, Reports and studies

Funding: Government and private grants

Indira Gandhi National Open University

Maidan Garhi 110068
Tel: 6962313
Fax: 6855102
Professor M. Aslam

IGNOU runs a distance-education program on panchayati raj for village communities and NGOs. It produces educational and training materials and organizes periodic study courses. These materials courses focus on the panchayat's role in village development and on specific issues such as the reservation of seats for women in PRIs.

Nature of work: Training

Substantive focus: Education, Gender, Health, , Livelihoods, Local governance

Audience: NGOs, Village communities

Methodology: Community level projects, Information dissemination

Funding: Government grants

Institute of Social Sciences

8 Nelson Mandela Road 110070
Tel: 6121902
Fax: 6185343
Dr. George Mathew

ISS is a leading research center working on PRIs and issues of rural and urban governance and decentralization. It maintains a separate office in south India and disseminates frequent reports and updates on the status of PRIs nationwide. It also monitors state compliance with the 73rd Amendment. ISS serves as a clearinghouse for information on panchayati raj besides commissioning its own studies. ISS staff frequently write for national newspapers and magazines on devolution issues.

Nature of work: Advocacy and policy debate, Monitoring and commentary, Outreach, Research

Substantive focus: Local governance

Audience: Interested publics, NGOs, Research centers, State and central governments

Methodology: Field and secondary research, Information dissemination, Meetings and workshops, Reports and studies

Funding: Donor assistance, Fees, Government grants

Institute for Social Studies Trust

Habitat Centre, East Court, Zone 6
Lodi Road 110003
Tel: 4647873
Fax: 4648724
Dr. Swapna Mukhopadhyay

ISST maintains offices in New Delhi and Bangalore focusing on women and PRIs. It collects and disseminates information on women's participation in panchayati raj and also organizes workshops and meetings on this theme. ISST also conducts a number of training programs for women panchayat members in southern states.

Nature of work: Outreach, Research, Training

Substantive focus: Gender

Audience: NGOs, Research institutions

Methodology: Field and secondary research, Information dissemination, Meetings and workshops, Reports and studies

Funding: Donor assistance, Private donations

Nirantar

B64 Sarvodaya Enclave 110017

Tel: 6966334

Fax: 6517726

Ms. Renuka Mishra

Nirantar promotes rural women's education and political participation. It is active in north India where it focuses on the development of training methods and materials for poor women and on integrating women's needs and concerns into wider rural development projects. Nirantar also supports the production of audio-visual materials on women and panchayati raj.

Nature of work: Advocacy and policy debate, Implementation support, Training

Substantive focus: Gender

Audience: NGOs, Village communities

Methodology: Community level projects, Information dissemination

Funding: Donor assistance, Government grants, NGO grants

Rajiv Gandhi Foundation

Jawahar Bhawan

Raisina Road 110001

Tel: 3755117

Fax: 3755119

Mr. O.P. Rehan

The Foundation has set up a panchayati raj task force to monitor the implementation of the 73rd Amendment across the country and to suggest improvements in PRI functioning. The task force has brought out several reports on panchayati raj in different parts of the country and works to build greater awareness and understanding of PRI-related issues.

Nature of work: Advocacy and policy debate, Monitoring and commentary, Outreach

Substantive focus: Local governance

Audience: Interested publics, NGOs, State and central governments

Methodology: Field and secondary research, Information dissemination, Meetings and seminars

Funding: Donor assistance, Government grants

Society for Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA)

42 Tughlakabad Institutional Area 110062

Tel: 6981908

Fax: 6980183

Mr. Chandan Datta

PRIA houses a panchayati raj wing that collects and disseminates information on PRIs and implements microplanning and other development projects for PRIs with partners in other states. The panchayati raj group also supports research on panchayati raj, devolution, and civil society and serves as a clearinghouse for primary research conducted by its partners in different states. PRIA also organizes regular workshops in which groups working on panchayati raj are brought together to share information and learn more about new techniques and ideas in participatory development.

Nature of work: Implementation support, Monitoring and commentary, Outreach, Research

Substantive focus: Local governance, Natural resources, Community participation

Audience: NGOs, Research institutions, State and central governments

Methodology: Field and secondary research, Meetings and workshops, Reports and studies

Funding: Donor assistance, Fees, Government grants

Voluntary Action Network India

H17/1 Malviya Nagar 110017

Tel: 6428369

Fax: 6220674

Mr. Anil Singh

VANI is a network of voluntary associations throughout India with affiliates in various states of which the Uttar Pradesh branch is directly engaged with panchayati raj issues. VANI's own involvement focuses on facilitating meetings among NGOs working on participation and community development and disseminating information and learnings gained from these networking opportunities.

Nature of work: Monitoring and commentary, Outreach

Substantive focus: Community participation

Audience: Interested publics, NGOs

Methodology: Information dissemination, Meetings and workshops

Funding: Fees, NGO grants

Voluntary Health Association of India

40 Qutab Institutional Area 110016

Tel: 6568071

Fax: 4676377

Mr. D.C. Bhatt

VHAI has conducted a pilot program in six states to investigate the links between panchayats, NGOs, and state ministries in the provision of basic rural health care services. The project has emphasized the role of the panchayats in targeting service provision to local needs and in holding service providers accountable. VHAI has also participated in forums of groups working on panchayati raj to share learnings on PRIs and rural development.

Nature of work: Implementation support, Monitoring and commentary

Substantive focus: Health

Audience: NGOs, State and central governments, Village communities

Methodology: Field and secondary research, Meetings and workshops

Funding: Donor assistance, Government grants, NGO grants

Gujarat

Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (India)

Choice Premises

Swastik Cross Road

Navrangpura

Ahmedabad 380 009

Tel: 079-6427729 / 6427029 / 6427205

Fax: 079-6420864

Mr. Barry Underwood, Chief Executive Officer

AKRSP (I) is part of the Aga Khan Development Network, and is engaged in a range of rural development projects in western India, focussed on natural resource development. It works through community organisations of various kinds, and has a clear focus on gender. It has begun to work with panchayats. It conducts action research on local development needs, is involved in several NGO networks, and attempts to influence government policy in key areas. It provides support and capacity building to other NGOs and development organisations through its outreach AKRSP (I) Services.

Nature of work : Implementation, support, monitoring, research and commentary.

Substantive focus : Rural Development, Natural Resource Management, Gender (particularly with PRIs) and support services.

Audience : NGOs, State and Central Governments, Research Institutions, Funding Agencies.

Methodology : Community level projects, PRA, field and secondary research, meetings and workshops, reports and studies.

Funding : Donor assistance, government grants, income from own Corpus Fund investment.

Development Initiatives for Social and Human Action

9 Mangaldeep Flats, Near Gandhi Ashram
Ahmedabad 380027
Tel: 079-7489142
Fax: 079-7410782
Mr. M.D. Mistry

DISHA's work on PRIs focuses on enhancing women's participation in these bodies and on improving panchayat resource mobilization and allocation capacities. DISHA conducts panchayati raj training programs in west and south India and works with NGOs on increasing awareness about budget and resource issues.

Nature of work: Advocacy and policy debate, Outreach, Training

Substantive focus: Finances, Gender

Audience: NGOs, Village communities

Methodology: Information dissemination, Meetings and workshops, Reports and studies

Funding: Donor assistance, Fees, NGO grants, Private donations

Foundation for Public Interest

412 Sakar Building
Ashram Road
Ahmedabad 380009
Tel: 079-6583607
Fax: 079-6582962
Mr. Mihir Bhatt

FPI engages in research and evaluation of decentralization and local governance in Gujarat. Its panchayati raj work monitors the status of state PRI legislation, the effectiveness of these bodies in meeting local development needs, and panchayat-government relations. FPI circulates its studies widely and its staff participate in public awareness creation programs on local government service provision.

Nature of work: Monitoring and commentary, Outreach, Research

Substantive focus: Local governance, Community participation

Audience: Interested publics, NGOs, Research institutions, State and central governments

Methodology: Field and secondary research, Meetings and workshops, Reports and studies

Funding: Donor assistance, Government grants, NGO grants

Gram Vikas Trust

Dwarka
Jamnagar 361335
Tel: 02842-34791
Professor D.S. Kher

Gram Vikas Trust is active in several Gujarat districts on issues of panchayati raj and rural development. It focuses on natural resource management and basic rural service provision. It also trains elected members on community development issues.

Nature of work: Implementation support, Training

Substantive focus: Education, Health, Natural resources

Audience: Village communities

Methodology: Community level projects, Information dissemination

Funding: Government grants

Unnati

G1 200 Azad Society
Raksha Apartments
Ahmedabad 380015
Tel: 079-6746145
Fax: 079-6743752
Mr. Binoy Acharya

Unnati is an outreach and advocacy organization working primarily on gender and development issues. Its panchayati raj-related work emphasizes the role of women in gram sabhas and panchayats and the organization trains village women and elected members to participate more effectively in these bodies. Unnati also networks with other NGOs working on this issue to build awareness about women and panchayati raj.

Nature of work: Advocacy and policy debate, Outreach, Research, Training

Substantive focus: Gender, Community participation

Audience: NGOs, State and central governments, Village communities

Methodology: Community level projects, Information dissemination, Meetings and workshops

Funding: Government grants, NGO grants, Private donations

Haryana

Centre for Advancement of Village Economy

Dhara Village
PO Salhavas
Jhajjar 123404
Mr. Roshan Lal Jakhar

CAVE is a training and networking organization that works with gram sabhas throughout Haryana. It runs village information centers that disseminate information on panchayati raj and serve as training venues. CAVE also facilitates meetings among government representatives, gram sabhas, and elected panchayat members.

Nature of work: Outreach, Training

Substantive focus: Local governance, Community participation

Audience: State and central governments, Village communities

Methodology: Information dissemination, Meetings and workshops

Funding: NGO grants

Chetna Shiksha Samiti

Village and PO Sehlang
District Mahendragarh 123573
Mr. Prakash Arya

Chetna Shiksha Samiti is led by a panchayat samiti (second tier) representative and focuses on building awareness in local communities on panchayati raj issues. It also conducts research on panchayat led development activities and facilitates dialogue between panchayats and block level government officials.

Nature of work: Outreach, Research

Substantive focus: Education, Local governance,

Audience: State and central governments, Village communities

Methodology: Information dissemination, Meetings and workshops

Funding: NGO grants

Haryana Institute of Public Administration

Plot 76, Sector 18 HIPA Complex
Gurgaon 122001
Tel: 913-345778
Fax: 913-340413
Dr. Suresh Mishra

HIPA is a government institute that provides training services to administrators and panchayat members on several issues. Specific training modules have been devised on decentralized

planning, women and panchayati raj, and natural resource management. HIPA also maintains an extensive publications wing.

Nature of work: Outreach, Training

Substantive focus: Gender, Local governance, Natural resources

Audience: State and central governments, Village communities

Methodology: Information dissemination, Meetings and workshops

Funding: Government grants

Social Centre for Rural Initiative and Advancement

Village Khori
District Rewari 123101
Mr. Sundarlal

SCRIA trains women panchayat members and builds awareness on women's political participation among local communities. It also networks with other NGOs working on gender issues in Haryana and with women's cooperative organizations.

Nature of work: Advocacy and policy debate, Training

Substantive focus: Gender

Audience: NGOs, Village communities

Methodology: Community level projects, Meetings and workshops

Funding: Donor assistance

Society for Rural Economy and Technology

Village Deepalpur
Rewari District 123401
Mr. Sardar Singh

SRET seeks to place panchayats at the center of village development programs. It works with these bodies to implement income generation, microplanning, and natural resource management projects. It provides panchayat members with specialized training on these issues and builds awareness on these issues through outreach programs.

Nature of work: Implementation support, Outreach, Training

Substantive focus: Livelihoods, Local governance, Natural resources

Audience: NGOs, Village communities

Methodology: Community level projects, Information dissemination, Meetings and workshops

Funding: NGO assistance, Private donations

Himachal Pradesh

Chinmaya Tapovan Trust

Sidhabari
Kangra District 176057
Tel: 01892-22180
Fax: 01892-24356
Dr. Kshama Metre

CTT is an activist organization working on a range of rural development projects focusing on women's needs. It organizes village women to participate in gram sabha and panchayat meetings, and conducts awareness building meetings with local communities and NGOs. It also publishes a newsletter and disseminates PRI-related information throughout the state

Nature of work: Advocacy and policy debate, Outreach, Training

Substantive focus: Gender, Livelihoods

Audience: NGOs, State and central governments, Village communities

Methodology: Community level projects, Information dissemination, Meetings and workshops

Funding: Donor assistance

Himachal Pradesh Institute of Public Administration

Fairlawns
Simla 171005
Tel. and Fax: 0577-242855
Mr. S.S. Chandel

HPIPA supervises two panchayati raj resource and training institutes that train elected panchayat members at all three levels as well as panchayat secretaries, district administrators, and state government officials. Training curricula address questions of panchayat powers and responsibilities, and of resource mobilization and local development needs.

Nature of work: Training

Substantive focus: Finances, Local governance

Audience: State and central governments, Village communities

Methodology: Information dissemination, Meetings and workshops

Funding: Government grants

Lok Kalyan Mandal

Theog
District Shimla 175027
Tel: 01783-22550
Fax: 01783-37500
Mr. Paras Ram Ramesh

Lok Kalyan Mandal is a research and training organization active in several districts. Its training work focuses on encouraging civic participation and on energizing gram sabhas. The organization also conducts action-research projects on ways to make panchayats more accountable and effective in service delivery.

Nature of work: Research, Training

Substantive focus: Local governance

Audience: NGOs, Village communities

Methodology: Community level projects, Field and secondary research, Reports and studies

Funding: NGO grants, Private donations

Society for Advancement of Village Economy

VPO Sainj
District Kullu 175134
Mr. Iqbal Singh Koundal

SAVE works with village communities on natural resource and panchayati raj issues. It helps panchayats implement income generation and entrepreneurship development projects that sustainably utilize local resources. It also works with other NGOs to conduct outreach and awareness building activities on these themes.

Nature of work: Implementation support, Outreach

Substantive focus: Livelihoods, Natural resources

Audience: NGOs, Village communities

Methodology: Community level projects, Information dissemination

Funding: NGO grants, Private donations

Social Upliftment Through Rural Action

Jagjit Nagar
District Solan 173225
Tel: 01792-83725
Fax: 01792-83734
Mr. Subhas Mendhapurkar

SUTRA is one of Himachal Pradesh's largest NGOs working on panchayati raj issues. It conducts PRI training programs for village communities and focuses on the role of panchayats in

securing women's needs, particularly social justice. SUTRA also conducts a variety of outreach and information dissemination activities for local communities, NGOs, and government.

Nature of work: Advocacy and policy debate, Outreach, Training

Substantive focus: Gender, Local governance, Social justice

Audience: NGOs, State and central governments, Village communities

Methodology: Community level projects, Information dissemination, Meetings and workshops

Funding: Donor assistance, Government grants, NGO grants

Karnataka

Asian Institute for Rural Development

4032, 28th Cross, 17th Main
Banashankari 2nd Stage
Bangalore 560070
Tel: 080-679911
Dr. B.K. Chandrashekhar

AIRD is engaged in an effort to map the extent to which Karnataka's state panchayati raj act mirrors the provisions of the 73rd Amendment. The intention is to uncover both where state practices improve on national legislation and where they work to its detriment. The end product is expected to help shed light on panchayati raj legislation in Karnataka and nationwide and how the legislative process can be refined to benefit PRIs.

Nature of work: Monitoring and commentary, Research

Substantive focus: Local governance

Audience: Interested publics, Research institutions, State and central governments

Methodology: Secondary research

Funding: Donor assistance

Center for Budget and Policy Studies

SV Complex, 1st Floor
55 KR Road
Basavanagudi
Bangalore 560004
Tel: 080-6671756
Fax: 080-6618401
Dr. Vinod Vyasulu

CBPS works on panchayats and financial devolution. It has conducted surveys of social sector expenditures in Karnataka and the manner in which these are channeled through panchayats. It

is now working to make development budgets more accessible and accountable to panchayats and to broaden awareness on panchayats and resource mobilization.

Nature of work: Advocacy and policy debate, Monitoring and commentary, Research

Substantive focus: Finances, Local governance

Audience: Interested publics, NGOs, Research institutions

Methodology: Field and secondary research, Reports and studies

Funding: Donor assistance, Fees

Federation of Voluntary Agencies for Rural Development

44 New Bamboo Bazaar Road
Cantonment
Bangalore 560051
Tel. and Fax: 080-561503
Mr. T.K. Jose

FEVORD is a network of several Karnataka-based NGOs and provides a forum for them to share experiences and to develop advocacy strategies. FEVORD has coordinated a number of efforts by local NGOs to enhance panchayat autonomy and effectiveness. FEVORD works particularly closely with women and tribal communities in Karnataka.

Nature of work: Advocacy and policy debate, Implementation support

Substantive focus: Education, Gender, Livelihoods

Audience: NGOs, Village communities

Methodology: Community level projects, Meetings and workshops

Funding: NGO grants

India Development Services

Sadhankeri Road
Dharwad 580008
Tel: 0836-347207
Fax: 0836-748401
Ms. Shyamala Hiremath

India Development Services coordinates a program of activity linking panchayats with village community health needs in North Karnataka. Special attention is given to women's and reproductive health issues. The organization also focuses on disseminating information from its projects to other NGOs.

Nature of work: Implementation support, Outreach

Substantive focus: Gender, Health

Audience: NGOs, Village communities

Methodology: Community level projects, Reports and studies

Funding: Donor assistance, Private donations

Institute for Social and Economic Change

Nagarbhavi
Bangalore 560072
Tel: 080-3355468
Fax: 080-3387008
Dr. N. Sivanna

ISEC is a research institution housing a panchayati raj wing that conducts research studies on the history and status of panchayati raj in south India. It is also engaged in monitoring and evaluating a panchayati raj training project being conducted by Karnataka's State Institute of Rural Development. ISEC also publishes periodic reports on devolution and decentralization.

Nature of work: Monitoring and commentary, Research

Substantive focus: Livelihoods, Local governance, Natural resources

Audience: NGOs, Research institutions, State and central governments

Methodology: Field and secondary research, Reports and studies

Funding: Donor assistance, Government grants

Dr. A.P. Kripa

14, 1st Main,
New Kalidasa Road
Vijaynagar 1st Stage
Mysore 570017

Tel: 0821-510762

Fax: 0821-421550

Mr. G.S. Ganesh Prasada

1340, 3rd Main, 9th Cross
Vivekanand Nagar
Mysore 570023

Dr. Kripa coordinates an action-research project on building awareness about PRIs and panchayat capacities in Karnataka. The project is being supervised by the Institute of Development Studies at Sussex University and covers issues such as information dissemination, NGO and panchayat skill-building, and academic research on decentralization. Mr. Prasada is a doctoral student and Dr. Kripa's research colleague.

Nature of work: Outreach, Research, Training

Substantive focus: Gender, Natural resources, Community participation

Audience: NGOs, Research institutions, Village communities

Methodology: Field and secondary research, Meetings and workshops, Reports and studies

Funding: Donor assistance

Mahila Samakhya

389 1st Cross, HAL Second Stage
Bangalore 560008
Tel: 080-5277471
Fax: 080-5297765
Dr. Revathi Narayan

Mahila Samakhya Karnataka is a government-affiliated body that focuses on organizing village women to enhance their access to rights and resources. The organization encourages women to participate in panchayat elections and provides elected members with training support. MS also networks organized women in different states to share experiences and learning.

Nature of work: Implementation support, Training

Substantive focus: Gender, Social justice

Audience: NGOs, Village communities

Methodology: Community level projects, Meetings and workshops

Funding: Government grants

Public Affairs Centre

578 16B Main, 3rd Cross, 3rd Block
Koramangala
Bangalore 560034
Tel: 080-5537260
Fax: 080-537260
Dr. Suresh Balakrishnan

PAC has developed new methodologies to assess the quality of urban and rural service delivery and governance systems. It also works with NGOs to develop specialized training modules for elected representatives focusing on efficient governance. PAC has an extensive documentation and research wing.

Nature of work: Monitoring and commentary, Research, Training

Substantive focus: Local governance

Audience: Interested publics, NGOs, Research institutions, State and central governments, Village communities

Methodology: Field and secondary research, Information dissemination, Reports and studies

Funding: Donor assistance, Fees, Government grants

Rural Development Organisation

Muddenahalli Village & PO
Kolar District 562101
Tel: 08156-78095
Mr. N. Manjunath

RDO is an activist organization focusing on panchayats and the rights of disadvantaged communities, especially women. It organizes village women for training and awareness building sessions and works with other NGOs on issues of panchayat transparency and accountability.

Nature of work: Advocacy and policy debate, Training

Substantive focus: Gender, Social justice

Audience: NGOs, Village communities

Methodology: Information dissemination, Meetings and workshops

Funding: Donor assistance

SEARCH

219/26, 6th Main, 4th Block
Jayanagar
Bangalore 560011
Tel: 080-644226
Fax: 080-6635361
Mr. F. Stephen

SEARCH is a leading training and outreach organization working on a variety of community development issues in south India. It facilitates peer exchange and mutual learning activities among panchayat members from different districts and also works to increase NGO interests and capacity in panchayati raj. SEARCH also develops and disseminates new training modules and information on PRA and development indicators.

Nature of work: Outreach, Training

Substantive focus: Community participation, Rural development

Audience: NGOs, State and central governments, Village communities

Methodology: Community level projects, Information dissemination, Meetings and workshops

Funding: Donor assistance, Government grants, NGO grants

Abdul Nazir Sab Karnataka State Institute of Rural Development

Lalitha Mahal Road
Mysore
Tel: 08512-47732
Fax: 08512-520906
Mr. K. Sundar Naik

The Karnataka SIRD trains gram panchayat members on livelihood and economic development issues. It emphasizes the planning and implementation of village level development projects and works with NIRD and ISEC to prepare evaluations of how training efforts can most effectively respond to this need.

Nature of work: Implementation support, Training

Substantive focus: Livelihoods, Natural resources

Audience: Village communities, Research institutes, State and central governments

Methodology: Community level projects, Meetings and workshops, Reports and studies

Funding: Government grants

Kerala

Arsha Bharath

Nathemkunni
Wayanad 673577
Tel: 04936-82500
Mr. M. Augustine

Arsha Bharath focuses on microplanning and participation in several Kerala districts. It conducts capacity building programs for NGOs and panchayats to address local development needs. The organization also conducts training and orientation programs for elected members and awareness generation campaigns about PRIs.

Nature of work: Implementation support, Outreach, Training

Substantive focus: Local governance, Community participation

Audience: NGOs, Village communities

Methodology: Community level projects, Information dissemination, Meetings and workshops

Funding: NGO grants

Forum for Rural Environment and Economic Development

Near Mattancherry
Alappuzha 688007
Tel: 0477-260032
Mr. P.J. Mathew

FREED works on the intersections among rural livelihoods, income generation, and panchayati raj. It conducts action-research projects, organizes and trains gram sabhas, and disseminates information on financial resource mobilization in PRIs. FREED also works with government officials to refine district and village level development plans.

Nature of work: Implementation support, Outreach, Research, Training

Substantive focus: Finances, Livelihoods, Local governance

Audience: Research institutions, State and central governments, Village communities

Methodology: Community level projects, Field and secondary research, Information dissemination, Meetings and workshops

Funding: Government grants, NGO grants

Grama Vikasana Samiti

PO Kamballoor
Kasargode 670511
Tel: 0499-75318
Mr. K.P. Narayanan

GVS works on PRIs and rural development with an emphasis on building panchayat skills to identify and implement appropriate local development projects. It works with panchayat members to carry out development plans and also attempts to build awareness in local communities about participation in panchayat elections and gram sabha meetings. GVS also campaigns for greater political and administrative devolution to PRIs.

Nature of work: Advocacy and policy debate, Implementation support

Substantive focus: Rural development

Audience: Village communities, State and central governments

Methodology: Community level projects

Funding: Donations

Kerala Institute of Local Administration

PO Mulamkunnathukavu
Thrissur 680581
Tel: 0487-721768
Fax: 0487-721312
Mr. V. Ramakrishnan

KILA is the Kerala government's nodal training and research institute for decentralization and local administration. It is involved with a range of PRI related programs including training of elected members and government officials, research on financial and administrative devolution, and documentation of panchayat best practices.

Nature of work: Monitoring and commentary, Research, Training

Substantive focus: Local governance

Audience: Interested publics, Research institutions, State and central governments

Methodology: Field and secondary research, Meetings and workshops, Reports and studies

Funding: Government grants

Kerala Shastra Sahitya Parishad

Parishad Bhavan
Vanchiyoor
Trivandrum 695035
Tel: 0471-460256
Dr. M. Parmeswaran

KSSP is a well-known organization focusing on administrative and financial devolution in Kerala. It has mapped panchayat level resources in several districts and is now using this information to help district planning committees more effectively target their village level development plans. KSSP also maintains an extensive documentation center.

Nature of work: Monitoring and commentary, Research

Substantive focus: Natural resources, Community participation

Audience: NGOs, Research institutions, State and central governments

Methodology: Field and secondary research, Meetings and workshops, Reports and studies

Funding: Government grants

Sahayi

TC5/789 Perookada PO
Trivandrum 695005
Tel: 0471-434664
Fax: 0471-431347
Mr. G. Placid

Sahayi conducts action-research and training programs for rural communities in southern Kerala with a focus on PRIs and natural resources. Recently, it has begun to work with panchayats on the development of community microplans. Sahayi also serves as a coordinator for meetings that bring together community service organizations to exchange information and build skills to work with panchayats.

Nature of work: Implementation support, Research, Training

Substantive focus: Natural resources

Audience: NGOs, Village communities

Methodology: Community level projects, Field and secondary research, Meetings and workshops

Funding: NGO grants, Donations

Shreyas

Post Bag 7, Sulthan Bathery
Wayanad 673592
Tel. and Fax: 0493-620479
Mr. M.M. Joseph

Shreyas is an activist organization working on panchayats and natural resources, particularly water resources. It works with village communities to develop and implement local resource management and income generation schemes and facilitates peer exchange and learning visits among Kerala panchayats working on these issues.

Nature of work: Advocacy and policy debate, Implementation support

Substantive focus: Finances, Natural resources

Audience: Village communities

Methodology: Community level projects, Information dissemination

Funding: NGO grants, Donations

Madhya Pradesh

Eklavya

E1/25 Arera Colony
Bhopal 462016
Tel: 0755-563380
Fax: 0755-567552
Mr. Anwar Jaffrey

Eklavya works on primary education and panchayati raj in several districts of Madhya Pradesh. It has been closely involved with the state government's efforts to make primary schools more accountable to panchayats and also works on public health issues. Eklavya maintains a publications and information dissemination cell on issues related to basic education in Madhya Pradesh

Nature of work: Implementation support, Outreach, Training

Substantive focus: Education

Audience: NGOs, State and central governments, Village communities

Methodology: Community level projects, Information dissemination, Reports and studies

Funding: Government grants

Madhya Pradesh Institute of Social Science Research

20 Mahashweta Nagar
Ujjain 456010
Tel: 0734-510978
Fax: 0734-512450
Dr. R.S. Gautam

The MPISSR conducts action-research projects on aspects of rural development and PRIs in Madhya Pradesh. It has advised the state government on the implementation education and health related initiatives in state panchayats and subsequently evaluated their impact. It also trains elected members and organizes seminars and workshops on local governance in the state.

Nature of work: Monitoring and commentary, Research, Training

Substantive focus: Education, Health, Local governance, Rural development

Audience: Research Institutions, State and central governments

Methodology: Field and secondary research, Meetings and workshops, Reports and studies

Funding: Fees, Government grants

Mahatma Gandhi State Institute of Rural Development

Adhartal
Jabalpur 340684
Tel. and Fax: 0761-340864
Dr. A.K. Singh

The Mahatma Gandhi Institute focuses on providing training, research, and consulting support to the state government's panchayati raj programs. It works with elected representatives and district administrators on devolution issues. It also seeks to build NGO capacities to engage more effectively with panchayats and to disseminate information about PRIs and rural development more widely.

Nature of work: Outreach, Research, Training

Substantive focus: Local governance, Community participation, Rural development

Audience: NGOs, State and central governments, Village communities

Methodology: Information dissemination, Meetings and workshops

Funding: Government grants

Prabhas
Bhatti Road
Kedarpur
Sarguja

Tel: 07774-20625
Mr. Anil Kumar

Prabhas works with tribal panchayats on a range of development programs and panchayati raj issues. It runs training programs for gram sabhas and elected members with an emphasis on credit and savings and on microplanning for rural development.

Nature of work: Advocacy and policy debate, Training

Substantive focus: Livelihoods, Rural development

Audience: NGOs, Village communities

Methodology: Community level projects, Information dissemination

Funding: NGO grants, Private donations

Samarthan

E7/81 Arera Colony
Bhopal 462016
Tel: 0755-567625
Fax: 0755-568663
Dr. Yogesh Kumar

Samarthan researches and evaluates PRIs throughout Madhya Pradesh. It focuses on microplanning and livelihoods issues and maintains a documentation and publications wing to disseminate its research. It also works with the state government on participation and community development and networks smaller, local NGOs.

Nature of work: Monitoring and commentary, Research

Substantive focus: Education, Livelihoods, Community participation

Audience: NGOs, Research institutions, State and central governments

Methodology: Field and secondary research, Meetings and workshops, Reports and studies

Funding: Donor assistance, Fees, Government grants, NGO grants

Srijan Kendra

Village and PO Ubhra
District Bilaspur 495688
Mr. Murlidhar Chandran

Srijan Kendra focuses on training panchayat members and on helping gram sabhas devise and implement local development plans. It emphasizes agricultural and natural resource management and works to involve panchayats in state primary education programs. It also conducts information dissemination and awareness building programs.

Nature of work: Implementation support, Training

Substantive focus: Education, Natural resources

Audience: NGOs, Village communities

Methodology: Community level projects, Information dissemination

Funding: NGO grants

Tarun Sanskar

1784 Ranjhi

Jabalpur 482005

Tel: 0761-32045

Fax: 0761-330881

Dr. V.P. Chaturvedi

Tarun Sanskar works with panchayats on livelihood and community development issues. It seeks to build capacities in panchayats and gram sabhas to initiate participatory development projects and to better assess outcomes. Tarun Sanskar also lobbies for greater panchayat autonomy and serves as an information clearinghouse on state PRIs.

Nature of work: Advocacy and policy debate, Implementation support, Outreach

Substantive focus: Livelihoods, Community participation, Rural development

Audience: NGOs, State and central governments, Village communities

Methodology: Community level projects, Information dissemination, Meetings and workshops

Funding: Government grants, NGO grants

Xavier Institute of Development Studies and Action

Sneh Sadan Campus

599 South Civil Lines

Jabalpur 482001

Tel: 0761-326843

Fax: 0761-326341

Dr. Michael V d. Bogaert

XIDAS works with tribal and other disadvantaged communities in Madhya Pradesh to encourage their greater participation in village level decision making. It conducts awareness building campaigns and presses for greater representativeness in village panchayats. XIDAS also researches and documents the status of PRIs in the state.

Nature of work: Advocacy and policy debate, Outreach, Research

Substantive focus: Community participation, Social justice

Audience: State and central governments, Village communities

Methodology: Community level projects, Field and secondary research, Information dissemination

Funding: Private donations

Maharashtra

Aalochana

Kedar Bungalow, Kanchangalli

Erandwana

Pune 411004

Tel. and Fax: 0212-344122

Ms. Medha Kotwal Lele

Aalochana works to increase women's participation in PRIs and to make these bodies more gender-sensitive in their functioning. A particular emphasis is placed on the role of panchayats in securing women's rights to social justice and legal services. Aalochana uses a variety of training and awareness building methods to organize women and disseminates the results of its work to other NGOs in Maharashtra and nationwide.

Nature of work: Advocacy and policy debate, Outreach, Training

Substantive focus: Gender, Social justice

Audience: NGOs, State and central governments, Village communities

Methodology: Community level projects, Information dissemination, Reports and studies

Funding: Donor assistance, Government grants, Private donations

All India Institute of Local Self Governance

11 Horniman Circle

Botawala Building Fort

Mumbai 400023

Tel: 022-2661910

Fax: 022-6288790

Mr. Ranjit Chavan

The AIILSG is a national level institution that works principally on urban governance and public administration but also has some interest in rural governance. The institute maintains and information and documentation center on decentralization, conducts research on a range of devolution issues, and networks with elected representatives, NGOs, and government officials. It also runs training and refresher courses through its centers across the country.

Nature of work: Monitoring and commentary, Outreach, Research, Training

Substantive focus: Local governance, Community participation, Rural development

Audience: Interested publics, NGOs, Research institutions, State and central governments

Methodology: Field and secondary research, Meetings and workshops, Reports and studies

Funding: Donor assistance, Fees, Government grants

Manavlok

Dhadpad
Ambajogai
Beed 431517
Tel: 02446-47217
Fax: 02446-47497
Dr. D.S. Lohiya

Manavlok focuses on women and political participation in Maharashtra. It seeks to build awareness among women about panchayati raj and trains women panchayat members. Manavlok also collects and disseminates information about women's issues and PRIs.

Nature of work: Outreach, Training

Substantive focus: Gender

Audience: NGOs, Village communities

Methodology: Community level projects, Information dissemination

Funding: NGO grants, Private donations.

Society for Promotion of Area Resources Centres

Byculla Area Resource Centre
Meghraj Sethi Marg
Mumbai 400008
Tel: 022-3096730
Fax: 022-2851500
Ms. Sheela Patel

SPARC focuses on panchayats and women's livelihoods in Maharashtra. It conducts research and training projects and is also a leading coordinator of state NGOs and government agencies working on economic development and women. SPARC maintains a publications cell and also participates in reviewing legislation and policy implementation related to poor women in Maharashtra.

Nature of work: Monitoring and commentary, Outreach, Research

Substantive focus: Gender, Livelihoods

Audience: Interested publics, NGOs, Research institutions, State and central governments

Methodology: Field and secondary research, Meetings and workshops, Reports and studies

Funding: Donor assistance, Fees, Government grants, NGO grants

Vacha Charitable Trust

5 Bhavana, S.V. Road
Vile Parle (West)

Bombay 400056
Tel: 022-8363469
Ms. Sonal Shukla

Vacha works on gender and governance issues in Maharashtra and Gujarat. It conducts training and awareness building programs for rural women and seeks to enhance panchayat capacities to respond to women's needs, especially in the areas of reproductive health and rights.

Nature of work: Advocacy and policy debate, Outreach, Training

Substantive focus: Gender, Health, Social justice

Audience: State and central governments, Village communities

Methodology: Community level projects, Information dissemination

Funding: Donor assistance, Government grants

Orissa

Aragamee

PO Kashipur
District Rayagada 765015
Mr. Achyut Das

Aragamee works with tribal populations in several Orissa districts to enhance their participation in state panchayats. It also seeks to improve panchayat accountability and representativeness and to link issues of governance and food security.

Nature of work: Advocacy and policy debate, Implementation support

Substantive focus: Community participation, Rural development

Audience: State and central governments, Village communities

Methodology: Community level projects, Information dissemination

Funding: Government grants, Private donations

Centre for Youth and Social Development

E1 Institutional Area
Bhubaneshwar 751007
Tel: 0674-582377
Fax: 0674-583726
Mr. Jagadananda

CYSD trains panchayat members and NGOs on issues of panchayati raj and community development. It maintains a network of centers throughout Orissa that organize district-level training programs, disseminate non-formal educational materials on PRIs, and conduct research on local governance and civic participation issues.

Nature of work: Outreach, Research, Training

Substantive focus: Education, Community participation

Audience: NGOs, Research institutions, Village communities

Methodology: Field and secondary research, Information dissemination, Reports and studies

Funding: Donor assistance, NGO grants

Gram Vikas

PO Mohuda

Behrampur

District Ganjam 760002

Tel: 0680-209755

Fax: 0680-209763

Mr. Joe Madiath

Gram Vikas works with local panchayats on education, health, and livelihoods issues. It trains panchayat members to implement development programs in these sectors and collaborates with other NGOs to conduct research and awareness creation activities. Gram Vikas also serves as a network node for NGOs working on governance in Orissa.

Nature of work: Implementation support, Outreach, Research

Substantive focus: Education, Health, Livelihoods, Rural development

Audience: NGOs, Research institutions, State and central governments, Village communities

Methodology: Community level projects, Field and secondary research, Meetings and workshops, Reports and studies

Funding: NGO grants, Private donations

Institute for Socio-Economic Development

28 Dharma Vihar

Bhubaneswar 751030

Tel: 0674-407072

Fax: 0674-470312

Mr. Balaji Pandey

ISED works with panchayats and NGOs in several Orissa districts on the role of PRIs in community development, with an emphasis on the role of tribal and other disadvantaged groups. ISED also disseminates audio-visual awareness building and training materials and is part of a network of institutions monitoring the status of panchayati raj in Orissa.

Nature of work: Implementation support, Monitoring and commentary, Outreach, Training

Substantive focus: Education, Gender, Health

Audience: NGOs, State and central governments, Village communities

Methodology: Information dissemination, Meetings and workshops, Reports and studies

Funding: Donor assistance, NGO grants, Private donations

Rajasthan

Ankur Sansthan

Village and PO Jhadol
District Udaipur 313702
Tel: 029591-22285
Mr. Mangila Purohit

Ankur Sansthan works with tribal communities and panchayats in southern Rajasthan. It encourages women to participate in gram sabha meetings and panchayat elections and trains elected women representatives. Ankur Sansthan also advocates for greater administrative autonomy for Rajasthan's tribals.

Nature of work: Advocacy and policy debate, Outreach, Training

Substantive focus: Gender, Local governance

Audience: State and central governments, Village communities

Methodology: Information dissemination, Meetings and workshops

Funding: NGO grants, Private donations

Indira Gandhi Panchayati Raj and Rural Development Institute

Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg
Jaipur 302015
Tel: 0141-510575
Mr. Bhagirath Sharma

The Indira Gandhi Institute trains elected panchayat members and government officials on panchayati raj and rural administration. It also conducts research on decentralization and rural development. The Institute maintains a publications wing and also networks with state administrators and panchayat members.

Nature of work: Research, Training

Substantive focus: Local governance, Rural development

Audience: Research institutions, State and central governments, Village communities

Methodology: Field and secondary research, Meetings and workshops, Reports and studies

Funding: Government grants

Gram Vikas Samiti

79 Paniriyon ki Madri
Udaipur 313001

Tel: 0294-486246
Mr. Bansilal Garg

GVS is engaged in training and awareness building activities on panchayati raj in Udaipur and neighboring districts. It focuses on natural resources and education and works closely with tribal populations for whom it prepares and disseminates PRI information modules.

Nature of work: Outreach, Training

Substantive focus: Education, Natural resources

Audience: Village communities

Methodology: Community level projects, Information dissemination

Funding: Government grants

Magra Mewar Vikas Sansthan

Kalatkheda Village
Ajmer 305922
Tel: 01462-87547
Mr. Dhaneshwar Acharya

MMVS is engaged in building panchayat capacities to engage in village development programs. It provides training to panchayats in PRA and microplanning with a focus on natural resource management and public health. MMVS also houses a resource center to assist gram sabhas in accessing information on various development programs.

Nature of work: Implementation support, Outreach, Training

Substantive focus: Health, Natural resources, Community participation, Rural development

Audience: NGOs, State and central governments, Village communities

Methodology: Community level projects, Information dissemination, Meetings and workshops

Funding: Government grants, NGO grants, Private donations

Seva Mandir

Fatehpura
Udaipur 313001
Tel: 0294-560951
Fax: 0294-560047
Mr. Ajay Mehta

Seva Mandir is engaged in linking panchayats to natural resource management, rural poverty, and livelihoods issues. It conducts training and action-research projects and is credited with forward-looking research on community resource management in Rajasthan. Seva Mandir's target groups include tribal populations and women and it also works on a limited number of urban poverty issues.

Nature of work: Implementation support, Research, Training

Substantive focus: Livelihoods, Natural resources

Audience: NGOs, Village communities

Methodology: Community level projects, Field and secondary research, Reports and studies

Funding: NGO grants, Donations

Shanti Maitri Mission

Pugal 334023

Bikaner

Tel: 01523-66033

Fax: 01523-22324

Mr. Kapil Gour

SMM seeks to create support for panchayati raj in rural communities. It organizes outreach programs, conducts awareness building programs, and organizes village groups to press for greater panchayat effectiveness. SMM also works to energize gram sabhas and encourage women to participate in these bodies and in panchayat elections.

Nature of work: Advocacy and policy debate, Outreach

Substantive focus: Gender, Local governance, Community participation

Audience: State and central governments, Village communities

Methodology: Information dissemination, Meetings and workshops

Funding: NGO assistance

Society for Sustainable Development

Shah Inayat ki Khirkiyan

Karauli 322241

Tel: 07464-21065

Mr. Arun Jindal

SSD is engaged with natural resources and panchayati raj. It works with higher panchayat tiers to bring about changes in resource management policies at the block and village levels. The organization is also setting up a panchayat resource center at district headquarters.

Nature of work: Advocacy and policy debate, Outreach

Substantive focus: Natural resources

Audience: NGOs, Village communities

Methodology: Information dissemination, Reports and studies

Funding: NGO grants

Tamil Nadu

Action Aid

8, First Floor
1st Cross Street
C.I.T. Colony, Mylapore
Chennai 600004
Tel: 044-4994229
Fax: 044-4993584
Mr. Bhakter Solomon

Action Aid Tamil Nadu produces films and other outreach products designed to enhance community awareness about panchayati raj. It also conducts election-related training and community evaluation programs. Women are the principal target group of these projects.

Nature of work: Outreach, Training

Substantive focus: Gender, Community participation

Audience: NGOs, Village communities

Methodology: Information dissemination, Meetings and workshops

Funding: Donor assistance

Assure

20-50-A Cauvery Nagar
Mettur Dam 636401
Tel: 04298-43591
Fax: 04298-43145
Mr. R. Sampath

Assure works on women and panchayati raj issues in Tamil Nadu. It conducts training programs for rural women and men and also forms collectives to energize gram sabhas. Assure also engages in outreach and awareness building efforts on PRIs.

Nature of work: Outreach, Training

Substantive focus: Gender

Audience: Village communities

Methodology: Community level projects, Information dissemination

Funding: NGO grants

Gandhigram Trust

Gandhigram
District Dindigul 624302
Tel: 0451-52371
Fax: 0451-52323
Mr. G. Palanithurai

The Gandhigram Trust incorporates a rural institute that conducts research and policy analysis on the state of panchayati raj in Tamil Nadu. It also conducts education and awareness building campaigns based on Gandhian ideas of village self-rule. The Trust maintains a publications and information dissemination wing.

Nature of work: Monitoring and commentary, Outreach, Research

Substantive focus: Education, Local governance, Rural development

Audience: NGOs, Research institutions, State and central governments, Village communities

Methodology: Community level projects, Field and secondary research, Reports and studies

Funding: Government grants, Private donations

Integrated Rural Development Trust

5D 1 Suddamani Street
Dharmapuri 636701
Tel: 04342-61068
Mr. G. Nagarajan

IRDT works on a range of rural development and governance issues including natural resources, livelihoods, and public health. It conducts PRI training programs to involve panchayats directly in these issues and assists panchayats in implementing local development projects. It also networks with other Tamil Nadu NGOs working on panchayati raj and maintains a documentation and publications cell.

Nature of work: Implementation support, Outreach, Training

Substantive focus: Health, Livelihoods, Natural resources, Rural development

Audience: NGOs, Village communities

Methodology: Community level projects, Information dissemination, Meetings and workshops

Funding: Government grants, NGO grants

Karunya Trust

5/49G Ambathurai Colony
Ambathurai 624302
Tel: 0451-452024
Mr. S.M. Usman

Karunya Trust works with elected panchayat members in several Tamil Nadu districts, particularly women and scheduled caste representatives. It conducts training programs for these members on their roles and responsibilities within panchayats. It also conducts training activities to strengthen participation in gram sabhas.

Nature of work: Training

Substantive focus: Local governance, Community participation

Audience: Village communities

Methodology: Information dissemination, Meetings and workshops

Funding: NGO grants, Private donations

Social Initiatives for Rural People's Integration (SIRPI)

1A Raja Street, Periyakulam Road
Theni 625531
Tel: 04546-74220
Mr. K. Chandrashekhar

SIRPI encourages local communities to participate in gram sabha and panchayat meetings and to use these bodies to secure their legal rights. It engages in advocacy and outreach activities to increase knowledge about PRIs and networks with other state NGOs working on social justice issues.

Nature of work: Advocacy and policy debate, Outreach

Substantive focus: Gender, Community participation, Social justice

Audience: NGOs, State and central governments, Village communities

Methodology: Information dissemination, Meetings and workshops

Funding: NGO assistance

Uttar Pradesh

Ankur

Shahababad, PO Jagatpur
Varanasi 221313
Ms. Sheela Singh

Ankur is a Gandhian organization working with panchayats in eastern Uttar Pradesh. It engages in community development programs, PRI related training, and awareness creation efforts for greater decentralization to the village level.

Nature of work: Advocacy and policy debate, Implementation support, Outreach, Training

Substantive focus: Rural development

Audience: State and central governments, Village communities

Methodology: Community level projects, Information dissemination

Funding: Government grants

Rural Litigation Entitlement Kendra

21 East Canal Road
Dehradun 248001
Tel: 0135-745539
Fax: 0135-656881
Mr. Avdesh Kaushal

RLEK works with forest and foothill dwelling communities in northern Uttar Pradesh to enable them to sustainably manage local natural resources. PRIs are emphasized as decision making systems in which local community resource needs can be appropriately met. RLEK also provides non-formal education on panchayati raj and rural development topics to the groups it works with.

Nature of work: Implementation support, Training

Substantive focus: Natural resources

Audience: Village communities, NGOs

Methodology: community level projects, Information dissemination

Funding: Donor assistance, Government grants, Private donations

Sahbhagi Shikshan Kendra

Sitapur Road
Lucknow 227208
Tel: 0522-23305
Fax: 0522-23303
Mr. Ashok Singh

SSK works on strengthening grassroots civic participation through panchayats and other village level decision making structures. It conducts a variety of training programs for gram sabhas and gram panchayats and also works with other NGOs in the state to make them more responsive to the role of participation in rural development

Nature of work: Advocacy and policy debate, Implementation support, Training

Substantive focus: Local governance, Community participation

Audience: NGOs, Village communities

Methodology: Community level projects, Information dissemination

Funding: NGO grants

Sahyog

40, Sector 18
Indira Nagar
Lucknow 226016
Tel: 0522-358067
Mr. Rakesh Dubey

Sahyog seeks to make panchayats and gram sabhas more responsive to social justice needs in rural communities. It conducts awareness building programs for panchayat members on legal and civic rights and facilitates peer exchange visits among elected members from different districts. It also maintains a documentation cell.

Nature of work: Advocacy and policy debate, Outreach, Training

Substantive focus: Social justice

Audience: State and central governments, Village communities

Methodology: Information dissemination, Meetings and workshops

Funding: NGO grants, Private donations

Uttar Pradesh Voluntary Action Network

13/96 Indira Nagar
Lucknow 226016
Tel: 0522-380228
Fax: 0522-343230
Mr. Diwakar Bhatt

Upvan works throughout Uttar Pradesh on panchayat elections, energizing gram sabhas, and building awareness about panchayati raj. It also brings together local NGOs to build capacities for PRI-related work and to create a forum for advocacy and awareness creation. Upvan is affiliated with the Voluntary Action Network of India.

Nature of work: Advocacy and policy debate, Outreach

Substantive focus: Local governance, Community participation

Audience: NGOs, State and central governments, Village communities

Methodology: Information dissemination, Meetings and workshops

Funding: NGO grants

West Bengal

Child in Need Institute

PO Pailan, Via Joka
24 Parganas 743512

Tel: 033-4678192
Fax: 033-4670241
Mr. S.N. Chaudhury

CINI's principal focus is children and women and it has begun working with local panchayats in support of the needs of these groups. It partners with panchayats to implement child and women-focused development programs and networks with other NGOs to create greater awareness about these issues.

Nature of work: Advocacy and policy debate, Implementation support

Substantive focus: Gender, Social justice

Audience: Interested publics, NGOs, Village communities

Methodology: Community level projects, Information dissemination

Funding: Government grants, Private donations

Institute for Motivating Self-Employment

244 Jodhpur Park
Calcutta 700068
Tel: 033-4732740
Fax: 033-4349047
Mr. Biplab Halim

IMSE focuses on income generation and livelihoods issues in the context of panchayati raj. It provides training to gram sabha members on panchayat finances and opportunities for small-scale employment. IMSE also works with panchayats and other NGOs to implement livelihoods programs at the village level.

Nature of work: Implementation support, Training

Substantive focus: Finances, Livelihoods

Audience: NGOs, State and central governments, Village communities

Methodology: Community level projects, Meetings and workshops

Funding: Government grants, Private donations

Socio-Economic Development Programme

65A Mahatma Gandhi Road
Calcutta 700009
Tel: 033-2414089
Fax: 033-2412742
Mr. P.K. Chakraborty

SEDP administers a range of rural development projects throughout West Bengal and works closely with panchayats to monitor progress. Its principal interests are in forestry and agriculture

and it emphasizes the role of panchayats and gram sabhas in collectively managing local development resources.

Nature of work: Implementation support, Training

Substantive focus: Natural resources, Community participation

Audience: Village communities

Methodology: Community level projects, Information dissemination

Funding: Donor assistance, NGO grants

Tagore Society for Rural Development

14 Khudiram Bose Road
Calcutta 700006
Tel: 033-5554391
Mr. Tushar Kanjilal

The Tagore Society works on a range of rural development and PRI issues in Bengal and Orissa. It conducts action-research projects and seeks to build awareness about local development needs in local communities, for action by panchayats.

Nature of work: Outreach, Research

Substantive focus: Rural development

Audience: NGOs, State and central governments

Methodology: Field and secondary research, Information dissemination

Funding: Donor assistance, Government grants, NGO grants

West Bengal State Institute of Panchayats and Rural Development

Kalyani
District Nadia 712248
Tel: 033-5827876
Fax: 033-5828257
Mr. Alok Mukhopadhyay

The West Bengal SIPRD conducts a range of training and capacity building programs for panchayat members and district level administrators. It also engages in research on local governance issues and maintains a documentation and publications wing.

Nature of work: Research, Training

Substantive focus: Local governance, Community participation

Audience: Research institutions, State and central governments

Methodology: Field and secondary research, Reports and studies

Funding: Government grants