

**HAP Standard Review
Focus Group Discussion
Orissa, India**

Section 1: General information

1.1 Location of the consultation: Panchayat High School, Alanda,

1.2 Date of the consultation: **26 March 2010**

1.3 Hosting agency: **SEEDS, India**

1.4 Person responsible for organising the consultation and contact details: Veda Yumnam

1.5. Time allocated to the consultation: **1.5 hours**

1.6 Brief overview of method used in the focus group discussion:

The focus group discussion took place in school ground where the women regularly hold a meeting. Wooden benches are placed in a circle to ensure that all women could take part in the discussion. At the start only a few women were very vocal. When the facilitators tried to encourage others to speak they said that their leaders could speak for them. After a little discussion, the leader agreed that everyone could voice their opinions.

1.7 Number of individuals consulted:

27 women members of a SHG, age between 19- 60. Some were group leaders and two women belonged to a local civil society organisation.

1.8 The context and of the audience of the focus group discussion:

Focus group discussion was held with a group of 27 women to explore what type of information they require from NGOs working in the community and how they would like to participate in the programme. The conversation was carried out both in Orissa and Hindi. There was some translation needed from English to Orissa. SEEDS India staff facilitated the process as part of their baseline consultation.

The meeting took place after their regular weekly meeting. Women were enthusiastic to share their views.

2. Focus Group Discussion leaders and Participants

2.1 Consultation facilitators

Name	Position	Organisation	Email
Smruti Patel	Training Coordinator	HAP	spatel@hapinternational.org
Sagarika Mishra	Social Mobiliser	SEEDS, Orissa	sagarika@seedsindia.in

3. Questions asked during the discussion and participant responses:

What kind of information would you like to receive?

- NGO background information so that we can judge whether it is a genuine agency or a fake, who make promises and then disappears and do not deliver. We need to know their intent.

The women explained that there have been many instances in the past when disasters have struck that many NGOs appear and disappear without assisting. They know that money has been raised in their name but they do not see anything at the end of it.

- Where have they worked before, so we can check out what kind of work they have done and whether they are genuine.
- We would like to know what kinds of programmes they run and whether they have gender focus and want to help women.
- We want to know about the principles by which the organization is operating.
- We want to know the full plan of the organization and how long they are going to work in our area?
- NGO should provide financial information so that we can monitor that money is being spent in a correct way and there is no corruption or that the money is not going to member of family or friends.
- The best way to distribute information to women is through SHGs. Any information should be passed directly to women because often information is not passed very effectively via men or committees.
- We would like to have their contact details so if there are any problems we know where to contact them. It should be made clear that raising issues to be solved should be free; people should not be charged to raise complaints.

Participation

How would you like to participate in NGO programmes?

- Women should be involved in planning stage so their views can be considered in the decision-making of the programme.
- All the decisions should not be made by committee or representatives because often we are not consulted.
- The community should be involved at each stage of the decision-making programme.
- There should be good trust and rapport between the NGO workers and the community so that we can make meaningful contribution. They not only have to listen to us but also act on our recommendations.
- Women should take part in all capacity building activities and search and rescue training as we are often left to deal with things when the disasters first strike. Women can be good leaders and treat people more fairly. We also know who are the neediest.