



Annual Report 2016-17

CORO

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About CORO

CORO (Committee of Resource Organisations), established in 1989, works for empowerment of marginalized community people adopting the constitutional entitlement based development approach with three flagship programmes. i.e. **Quest Grassroots Leadership Development Programme (QGLDP), Gender Sensitization and Women Empowerment.** CORO's 'Unique Demonstrative Proposition' (UDP) over the last two decades has been about facilitating leadership from within marginalized community, especially from within women and youth. Strategically, CORO evolved from an implementing organisation to an organisation equipped with expertise in training, intervention research and participatory communication.

Vision

To create a society based on equality and justice with no discrimination based on caste, gender, class, religion, region, ethnicity and age, amongst other factors

Mission

We work to build a world based on equality and social justice by working with the most marginalized communities on facilitating leadership from within these communities to steer entitlements based, collective actions for social change.

Ideology and Approach of the Organization

Participatory processes and collective leadership are at the core of CORO's approach to facilitate the social change. Over the last two decades, CORO has developed a community-based approach to improving the lives of India's most marginalized and oppressed. CORO mobilizes and inspires local people and concerned authorities to stand for equality and justice in gender-related issues.

In marginalized communities, people are discriminated on the basis of caste, class and gender. One of the biggest challenges is an acceptance of discrimination or oppression as part of 'fate' - combined with a culture of silence. Raising awareness of constitutional entitlements and challenging social norms is the key in overcoming such hurdles through the capacity building programmes. CORO is changing mindsets - from 'victim of circumstance' to 'change-maker'.

Our Current Strategic Framework

'Initiative from within' and 'Solidarity is the biggest asset of the marginalised people' are CORO's two key premises about the envisaged social change. Mobilising marginalised people on the Constitutional Entitlement Based Approach is a challenging task. People are sometimes exposed to risks while breaking the culture of silence on marginalisation. But this is the way for bringing qualitative and sustained change in people's lives. The inequalities in power relationships must be addressed in the democratic framework of constitution.

Looking at the enormity, diversity and complexity of the issues faced by the marginalised people, the right strategy of intervention is to invest in building up leadership from within the marginalised so that these leaders then become change agent in their own communities (micro level) and collectively they can impact at the macro level.

Women Empowerment

Programme Concept:

Women Empowerment Programme works with the households in Mumbai slums and facilitates a dialogue with people in family community on violence related social constructs and challenges, inequitable deep-rooted social norms at family, community and systemic level (police, administration, and judiciary) through simple, accessible strategies.

Operation Strategy:

To break social norms and tackle domestic violence issues, the programme does a focussed intervention through conducting trainings, counselling, providing legal aid service, organising awareness programs and building campaigns.

Geographical Reach

The Programme is being implemented in the following districts in Maharashtra:



Key Highlights of 2016-17

Expansion in Rural Area (Nashik and Ahmednagar)	Formation of Mahila Dakshata Samiti at Police stations in rural and urban areas	Reopening of Maiko Maternity Hospital
Started a library for women in rural parts	Self Defence sessions conducted by Police officers in rural schools	Mandir pravesh for women and protest at Hazi Ali Dargah
Organization of meetings and Campaigns in communities in Mumbai	Women Security Campaign	Celebration of festivals and international days at community level
Pledge taken by men for protecting the rights of girls/women	Muslim community participated in Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Jayanti	Increased women's participation in gramsabha

❖ Training on counseling techniques

Simply put, counseling means “The provision of professional assistance and guidance in resolving personal or psychological problems”. In CORO everyday women come seeking help for their problems and many of them are emotionally or psychologically disturbed. In such cases a counselor plays a very important role. CORO has two counselors and often they are sent for trainings to enhance their knowledge and skills in this field. Training was organized by Mason organization from 19th July to 24th July at Pane for counselors working on women related issues all over Maharashtra. Out of the 35 participants 5 were from CORO. The topics covered in the training were Domestic Violence Act, Health of women, Gender, a documentary on women’s harassment etc. The training enhanced understanding about the different perspectives of same problem and also sharing of other’s strategies to deal with these problems and the techniques used in counseling.

❖ **Training of Trainers (TOT)**

30 expert trainers from all over Maharashtra working in the field of women empowerment were invited to attend the TOT organized by Women and Child Welfare Department at Pune from 26th July to 29th July. The purpose of this training was to create a team of trainers who would further conduct trainings in any part of Maharashtra. The topics highlighted in the training were DV Act, Manodhairya (Scheme for survivors of Rape), POCSO, Human Trafficking etc. Major focus was given on the technicalities and procedures followed in these acts/schemes. Through these trainers the WCWD can reach to other NGOs/CBOs and will be successful in giving justice to many more women.

❖ **Training on Psychological counseling**

Women undergoing trauma or women in distress need counseling. To help such women Sneha Organization had conducted a training programme on Psychological Counseling at Sukh Shanti Short Stay Home, Anushakti Nagar. Around 40 counselors participated in the training. The training highlighted topics like the concept of Psychological counseling, its importance, how to identify a woman in distress, techniques to do it etc. 5 representatives from CORO attended the training. It was beneficial to CORO as the organization come across many such women and necessary interventions with regards to her psychological wellbeing are important.

❖ **Identifying Social Norms through Songs and Bad Words (Gali)**

“Sajana hai mujhe sajana ke liye”, “Gandi baat” “Chikni Chameli”, “Munni badnam hui”, “Sheela ki jawani” and many more such songs depicts a wrong picture of women through Indian cinemas. A woman herself finds it difficult to understand the real meaning of the song. If we observe majority of these songs have been written by men, they show the image of a woman as they perceive it. All the bad words are on the name of one’s mother/sister/wife. Be it anybody’s fault, bad words will be given on the name of a woman only. Often the status of a woman in Indian society is considered to be low, less powerful and such songs diminish her status further. In order to identify such derogatory songs, understanding the social norms thorough it and spreading awareness among the society, a workshop on “Identifying social norms through songs and bad words” was conducted at the head office of CORO at Shell colony. The staff members were first educated on these concerns and are expected to spread awareness in their respective communities.



❖ **Debate on Marital Rape**

Marital rape is rape committed by the person to whom the victim is married. But Indian society does not believe in marital rape. The husband can have sex with his wife without her consent and it will not be seen as rape because they both are married to each other. To increase the staff's knowledge about the issue a debate was facilitated for 35 staff members by Ms. Sujata Bhise (Women Empowerment Programme Coordinators) at CORO's office at Shell Colony. Few questions were raised like, "What is marital rape?, do we believe/accept that it can be called as rape?, why it happens?" Various perspectives came forward through the debate and some of the concepts were also clarified. This clarity among the staff members will lead to initiation of breaking the social norms in the society by their interventions on this issue in their respective communities.

❖ **Team training of rural and urban staff**

It is important to reinforce or enhance the knowledge and information of the staff members on the issue they are working. And hence CORO had organized a residential training of all the 55 staff members of Women Empowerment Programme at Lonavla. The topics highlighted in the training were POCSO, Gender and gender roles, Social Norms, Plight of Dalit and Muslim women, Self Identity. Majority of the training topics are same throughout the year, but the aspects covered in each training are different.

❖ **Training of task force committee**

A training of Task Force Committee (TFC) was conducted by Mr. Suresh Khopade (Retired, IG). He is the pioneer of the concept of Mohalla Committee which was first started in Bhiwandi. As the name suggests, Mohalla Committees are formed at the local area level and consist of a cross-section of society. The local Police Station acts as a facilitator for the formation and functioning of the Mohalla Committees. The main task of the Mohalla Committees is to assist the Police in maintenance of law and order and prevention of crime in the area. The TFC consists of influential people of the committee and is formed by CORO to protect the rights of women. The training focused more on understanding the functioning of the Mohalla Committee and the model can be replicated by TFC and how they can help the police in reducing crime against women and maintain peace and harmony in the community.

❖ Session on understanding Social Norms

Social norms are very complex to identify and understand and hence a session on understanding social norms was organized by two experts from TISS Ms. Aparna Joshi and Mr. Buddhadeep Godambe on 27th September for all the staff members of CORO. The concept of social norms was touched upon and major emphasis was given on how to identify it in the community. The interventions adopted by CORO were also analyzed in the session, whether they are in alignment with the vision, mission and values of the organization or not. Total 40 staff members participated in the session at Shell colony's office of CORO.

❖ Meetings with Dalit and Muslim men

It is believed that “A woman is responsible for her own problems”, to understand the perspective of men behind this myth and also to analyze the actual reasons for problems faced by women, two meetings were conducted at Suman Nagar in August with Dalit and Muslim men from the six selected communities. Around 73 men participated in the meeting. Various topics concerned with problems faced by women



like domestic violence, eve teasing, and rights of women as per the constitution of India etc. were discussed. During the meeting men shared their views and beliefs, some of them said that they have been raised in a male dominated family and hence are carrying forward the

patriarchal values. They have never been exposed to such discussions and this meeting helped them understand the other perspective.



The outcome of this meeting was, these men participated in huge numbers during 15th August celebration and both men and women did flag hoisting. A signature

campaign was organized by these men in their respective areas and they motivated other male members to take an oath and sign the campaign. The men also showed interest in attending more such kind of meetings. After seeing the positive feedback team CORO is planning to organize more such meetings on monthly basis with men to continue their support.

❖ Meeting with Mother-In-Laws

An Indian Mother-In- Law (MIL) from Mother India itself has a lot of cultural baggage and hence it is difficult to build a strong and friendly relationship with her. To understand this baggage and the ways in which this relationship can be improved, a meeting of MIL of Dalit families among 1000 households was conducted at Suman Nagar's office of CORO. Around 58 MILs participated in the meeting. The meeting touched upon some of the issues like role of Daughter-In-Laws (DIL) and MILs, relationship between the two



and how it can be made stronger and supportive, how the patriarchal values play a vital role and how all this influences domestic violence and the ways we can stop it etc.

The discussion was very healthy and informative for MILs as well as team CORO as it helped them understand the perspective of MILs. At the end of the meeting it was decided to plan a Melava (Fair/Joint meeting) of MILs and DILs which would encourage them to put forth their perspectives in front of each other.

❖ Meetings with Yari Dosti and Sakhi Saheli

For youth empowerment, the organization has formed a group of young men called YaariDosti and young women called SakhiSaheli through community level workshops. The main objective of the formation of these groups is to increase the knowledge and understanding of youth regarding gender, violence and domestic violence. In every area there are 20 members in each group to carry the activities to change behavior of the people. YaariDosti and SakhiSaheli play an important role in community to reduce



domestic violence in the community. In the year 2016 CORO conducted various community-level workshops with youth groups of women and men (age 16-35) based on Sakhi Saheli and Yari Dosti modules - 8 sessions on violence and approximately 967 people participated in the workshops.

❖ **Community meetings**

CORO also conducts meetings in 1000 households of all the 6 selected areas of M-ward. These meetings are conducted mainly to inform the families about the upcoming events, programmes, rallies etc. The meetings also try to address the community level issues of water, sanitation, ration etc. Through such meetings the organization intends to make people aware about the issues faced by women, to take initiative in eliminating the inequalities, proactively participate in all the programmes organized by CORO and also show their support for the organization.

Approximately **22,000** people participated in the meetings throughout the year

❖ **Lokshahi Din**

Every month one meeting in each police station among the 6 areas is organized by CORO. This year the organization held 15 meetings in all the Police Stations of these 6 selected areas of intervention. The topics highlighted in the meeting were regarding the roles and responsibilities of police officials while dealing with cases of violence against women, the community women and CORO team were of the opinion that FIR should be lodged immediately in cases related to harassment of women, the police officers should not force the woman to compromise against her will etc. Such meetings take place frequently to reinforce the demands of women.

❖ **Hospital meetings**

Police station and hospitals are two places where women give a visit after any incidence of domestic violence against her, keeping that in discourse and through continuous efforts by the organization it has been able to start a counseling center in collaboration with Shatabdi hospital for the affected women at hospital premises only. It is intended to help them to overcome with their problems and get mental as well as health support.

❖ Meeting with Protection officer of Women and Child Welfare Department

The department of Women and Child Welfare is responsible for providing justice to women and children facing any kind of harassment. The Protection officer assists in the process and is supposed to fill a Domestic Incidence Report (DIR) form for cases of Domestic Violence. The meeting was held on 24th September at WCWD office. Around 10 people participated in the meeting and it was facilitated by Ms. Sujata Bhise (WEP, Coordinator) and Mr. Patankar (WCWD Officer). At the end of the meeting it was decided that the DIR form should be filled by the protection officer as soon as the case reaches him/her, as this will fasten the process of getting justice for the woman.

❖ Meeting of Task Force Committee

The Task Force Committee is made up of the community people who could be community leaders, religious leaders, Doctors or any influential person of the community. The role of Task Force Committee is to support CRC leaders, team leaders and exert social pressure to address incidents of violence against women. The Task Force Committee helps domestic violence cases by sending the male counterparts for counseling. The Doctors have started talking to their patients about domestic violence and also refer cases to CORO.

❖ Meetings with Partner organizations

CORO has a network of organizations called “We action” working on various issues concerned to women. These organizations meet frequently to share their knowledge, strategies or discuss on various topics related to women. In September 2 such meetings were held in Mumbai, one at St. Pius College, Goregaon and the other at CRH at Bandra. During these meetings the issue of Triple Talakh was discussed by 23 organizations. The concept of Triple Talakh and how it is being misused by men etc. The participants were expected to share this information with their colleagues and spread awareness about it in their respective



community. The Coordinators of CORO participated in the meeting and shared the same with rest of the team members.

India's leading philanthropist, Azim Premji visits CORO

We were privileged to host Azim Premji, Rishad Premji, Ananth Padmanabhan and Tasqeen Macchiwalla of Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives (APPI) on Monday, 27th June, 2016 at CORO.



Mr. Premji and his team first visited a slum in Nirankari Colony, Shivajinagar and interacted with the women in the community who were once victims of domestic violence and have now become grassroots leaders working on the same issue in their respective localities. CORO's women empowerment program team, Bijutai Bhosale, Mumtaz Shaikh, Sujata Lawhande explained to Mr. Premji how in

the name of social norms women are victimized and have to often face unlawful social practices which CORO's intervention is changing.

The visit ended at CORO's administrative office in Suman Nagar, Chembur where there were more detailed discussions on this program and other flagship programs of CORO viz., Quest Grassroots Leadership Development Program and the Meena Raju Manch Gender sensitization Program.

The day ended on a very motivating note for the CORO team and the visit by APPI team will remain etched in our minds.

Gender Sensitization (MRM)

Programme Concept:

Maharashtra Government's Meena Raju Manch (MRM) Programme imparts gender education to students in the age group of 11 to 14 in 23000 upper primary schools in 36 districts of Maharashtra impacting 4 Lakhs children.

Since 2012, CORO in collaboration with Maharashtra Government and UNICEF does focused training, hand-holding and monitoring of this program in 120 schools and village-level awareness and campaigns in 120 villages in 6 districts of Maharashtra.

Operation Strategy:

CORO trains and guides school system to implement the sessions on gender equality with the children. Along with it, we also seek support for the programme from village through awareness and campaigns around gender equality and girl's education.

Key Activities:

UNICEF documented a film on Meena Raju Manch

UNICEF documented a film in two schools of bid. The aim was to capture the behavior changes in children & impact of Shivi Band Campaign (Do not use the abusive language). They also spoke with some parents & SMC members. It would be helpful to motivate people at school and admin level.

Meeting with Single Women: We conducted a survey through the young boys of the villages to gather information on Single Women in their villages. The purpose was to get these youth involved in the process started for the development of single women. We also met single women and introduced them to the process we have started for their development. Many of them showed interest to take up leadership for the same.



Career Guidance Program for 10th / 12th Std. Students: A career guidance workshop was organized for these students in which they were updated on various careers available in agriculture, police department and the process to go for the same. The workshop was conducted in Rajewadi, Kadvanchi, Pathardevul and Pokal vadgaon villages.

The workshop received good response from the students. Many of them knew what career to choose but they didn't know how to go for it. The students got the guidance on the same.

Intervention at Village Level

Visit to Sundarde Village: We discussed in the meeting what program we are doing at school level and the challenges in the same.

Meeting of School Management Committee : To encourage the parents for the education of their children , meetings were organised in Rajale, Sundarde and Khodasgaon villages. We discussed about education and our stand on the same with the participants. SMC showed interest to take initiative in this matter.

Visits to Sarpanch: The purpose was to gain the support from Sarpanch for the work we are doing in the village. Recently elections of Grampanchayat happened in these villages. We interacted with 5 Sarpanch in Lakkadkol, Bokalzar, Kolade, Lahan Kadwan and Pimpale villages.

Village Profile : Profiles of all villages were collected through frequent visits and interaction with Anganwadi assistant, Self Help Groups, Mahila Mandal, Sarpanch, Grampanchayat and School Management Committee and elderly people in the villages. Some people also took objection for collecting the information asking if it was government survey or what was the purpose of the survey. The villagers were given detailed information.

Workshop to prepare an Annual Plan of Meena Raju Manch Programme, Pune

The workshop aimed at reviewing work done under Meena Raju Manch program during past one year and understand government's stand regarding the program and their future plans. We presented the work we did in 6 districts and our role and work in village setup. We shared the strategies we used while working with villages and system. The presentation was good and now government is showing interest in interacting with parents through villages. The information we presented was of much

use for them. At the workshop, films by Comet Media on Meena Raju Manch and Advanced Education Policy of Maharashtra Government were screened. The films on Meena Raju Manch were of low quality and it was suggested to do it again. A meeting was planned in Mumbai for the same. The meetings came up with a lot of points which decided further direction of the work. A major point came from the meeting that what we were discussing to do in the village last year now government is saying the same.

Government wants to work on Approach of Equity. Equity cell is started at state level. The Government and UNICEF both took notice of the work we did in villages and both have realized the seriousness of the work.

Menstruation Kit Distribution :

Girls avoid going to school during their menses as school doesn't have required materials. School teachers send girls home if they get their menses during the session. It



majorly impact regularity of girls in school. After realizing this issue, CORO decided to distribute Menstruation kit to 120 schools in 6 Districts of Maharashtra. It consists of Sanitary Napkins, Soap and Balm. Each school received the kit from CORO as an

initiating action. It was recommended that such kit should be arranged by School or School Management committee. School Principals appreciated our efforts and assured us about the further management of Kits.

CORO distributed menstrual hygiene kits for girls in 120 schools across 6 districts of Maharashtra. This campaign on menstrual hygiene aims to make sure that girls do not miss school during their menses due to lack of medical resources and unhealthy environment.

CORO also celebrated International Women's Day on 8th March by organising engaging events for women in schools of 24 villages that it works with. For the first time, the teachers from the schools took an initiative to organise various activities and invited women from villages. Around 150 women from every village joined to celebrate their

big day. Even the elderly women participated in fun games like musical chairs and *jalebi todho*. The games were designed in such a way that all the

women found themselves breaking away from the social stigmas and stereotypes. There



were also gifts and prizes for winners which motivated everybody to participate actively. Many experienced women from different professions also

shared their stories which encouraged the women and young girls present there.



For past 4 years, our Learning Community Programme has been working towards building leadership in adolescent girls from communities. Its MAKE MY SPACE Campaign aims at claiming girls' right to use public places like play grounds etc. As a part of this campaign we started cricket coaching/practice for community girls with an intention to break the social norms like

“Only boys can play on public grounds or outdoor games are for boys only”

On 23rd April, 2017 a tournament “Learning Community Girls’ Cricket League” was organised at Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Ground, Vashi Naka. 8 teams of girls participated in the tournament demonstrating an excellent performance at each round. The Grand Finale ended with Popular Girls Team from Vashinaka



winning the match

Quest Grassroots Leadership Development Programme(QGLDP)

Programme Concept:

Quest Grassroots Leadership Development Programme (QGLDP) aims to transform marginalized communities from villages/urban-slums through providing a yearlong training and mentoring to the grassroots community leaders to equip them to find solutions to a critical community problem.

Over the period of 9 years, this program has facilitated the development of **1000+ grassroots leaders** from 280 organizations impacting over **1.6 million people** from marginalised communities in Maharashtra ,Rajasthan and Delhi/ NCR. In the course CORO also facilitated 6 regional campaigns on a variety of themes mentioned below steered by leaders and their organisations.

Operation Strategy:

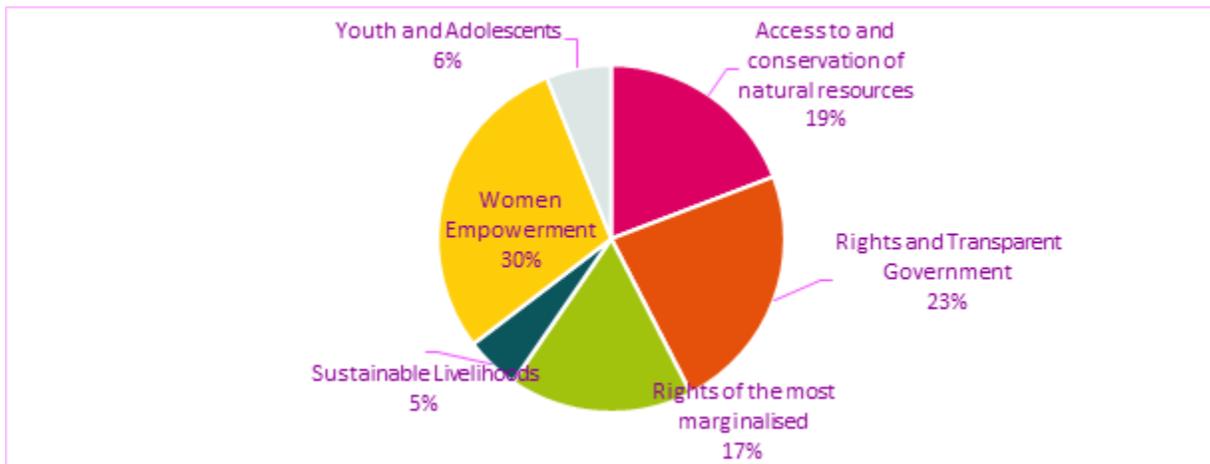
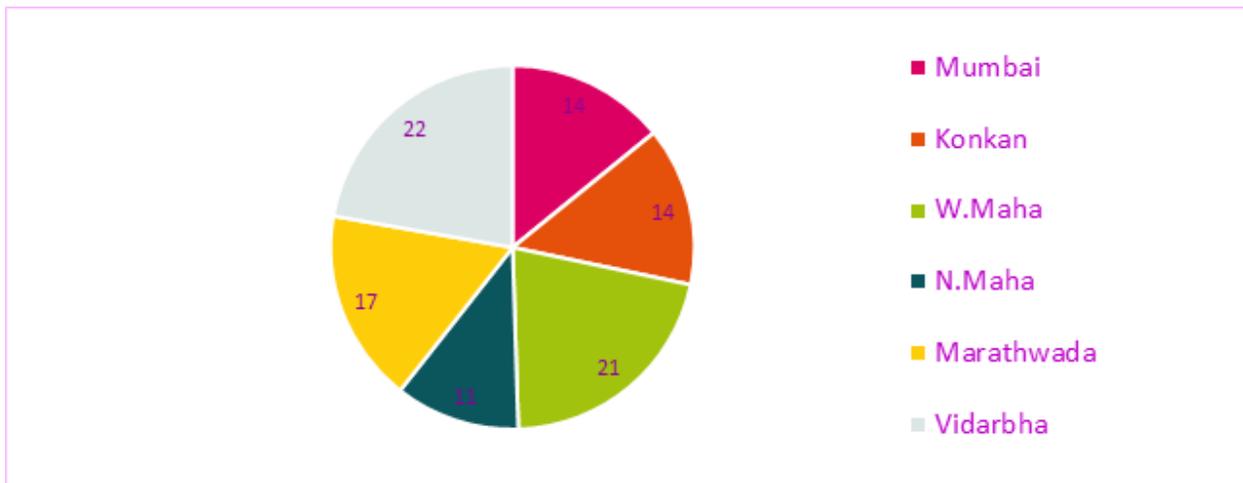
Looking at the enormity, diversity and complexity of the issues faced by marginalised people, the right strategy of intervention is to invest in building up leadership from within the marginalised so that these leaders become the change agents in their own communities (micro level) and collectively they can impact at the larger scale (macro level).

Key Activities:

8th Cohort of our Quest Grassroots Leadership Program in Maharashtra continued till December 2016 followed by an assessment of the programme in the months from January to March 2017.

Regionwise Distribution of grassroots leaders and their thematic areas

Throughout the year 99 grassroots leaders from 6 regions of Vidarbha, Marathwada, North Maharashtra, Western Maharashtra, Konkan and Mumbai worked on a variety of issues. Along with grassroots leaders, we have also selected 75 mentors and all these grassroots leaders and mentors belong to 69 Organisations(NGOs/CBOs). The distribution of grassroots leaders across locations and their chosen theme/issue is given below.



Theme wise distribution of QGLDP Maharashtra 2016 in %

Grassroots Leadership Trainings

The period April to December 2016 saw Third and Fourth trainings of grassroots leadership development programme.

Experts from within CORO and other organisations conducted the trainings on each of the issues who provided information and context about each issue. Assignments were given to the Grassroots leaders at the end of each training session to apply their learnings and take action towards resolving the issues they were working on . Details about the sessions covered in these two training sessions are given below:

Topic	Key Learnings
RTI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed information on the Right to Information Act, 2005: Why the need of RTI, What is RTI, Challenges to RTI, Agents of RTI, How to file and RTI
Participatory communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role of leaders in communication – mobilization and empowerment • Leadership & communication styles • Elements of communication • Use of communication in conflict resolution: Community dialogue, Negotiation, Mediation, Consensus • Different communication methods: Community dialogue, Collective action, Community theatre, radio, video
Research Methodology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding of the participatory research process • Research methods: Focus group discussion, Interview, Survey • Fundamentals of participatory research methods • Ethics of participatory research methods • Challenges to participatory research
People Centric Grassroots Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding the key concepts of grassroots advocacy • Understanding the key elements of grassroots advocacy • Identification of advocacy issues with related to work. • Importance of advocacy for the collective process

Lanuch of QGLDP at Delhi

Quest Grassroots Leadership Development Program spreads its wings to the Capital

In the first week of September, 2016, CORO launched Quest Grassroots Leadership Development Program in Delhi with 30 enthusiastic Grassroots Leaders. These leaders



have chosen to work in the areas like Child Protection (Trafficking, Child labour, Child-abuse), Education, Women Empowerment, Entitlements/Accountability/Transparent Governance, Health & Sanitation, Entitlements of Transgenders, Issues of socially/economically backward groups. The leaders are from 25 organisations like Ashray Adhikar Abhiyan, Nav Srishti, Pravah, Delhi Forum, Agrasar (Gurgaon), Satark Nagrik Sanghathan etc.

The first training spanning over 5 days included interactive sessions with group activities & discussions, graphical presentations by trainees covering the topics : 'Identity and Understanding Self', 'Understanding Social Context', and 'Leadership Journey'. These sessions prompted them to introspect and understand the gender and social norms relevant to the issue they are working on, the socio-economic, political and administrative contexts which impact their issues and the problems, influences and facilities that support / oppose them.

During the training one of our ex-fellows from Rajasthan, Suresh Bala had a sharing about her fellowship journey in the year 2015. Suresh worked on educational facilities for the students in her village. She made school management committee active, addressed the issue of shortage of teachers, initiated construction of



school building and revived midday meal program. Today Suresh is confidently organising women in her village to resolve other pressing issues of the village. Suresh Bala's bold journey reaffirmed fellows' belief in the change process and energised them to work on their respective issues.

The first chapter of this wonderful leadership journey came to a conclusion with a guiding and motivating speech by **Our Chief Guests , Dalit Writer/Activist Ms. Anita Bhartiand Dalit Activist/Academician Dr. Hemlata.** They shared their experiences while working on the issues in society.

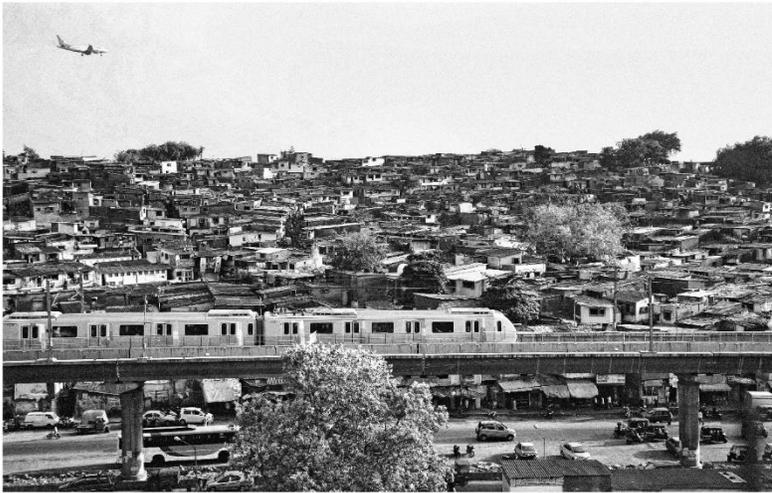
The fellows and mentors under the Quest Grassroots Leadership development programme of CORO had their trainings in January in Delhi and Rajasthan. In Delhi, 30 fellows and 20 mentors were trained for three days in participatory communication, participatory research and Right to information. In Rajasthan as well two day process planning meetings were conducted with 50 fellows and 35 mentors across 12 districts. While in Delhi the fellows learnt to create new communication strategies, in Rajasthan they learnt to adopt a process based approach instead of project based approach to find permanent solutions to prevalent issues in their society.

RIGHT TO CITY EXHIBITION AT KALA GHODA FESTIVAL



On 8th February, 2017, the Photography Promotion Trust (PPT) and CORO fruitfully hosted a panel discussion on "RIGHT TO CITY" at Kala Ghoda Festival with participation by the Chairperson of the Centre of Urban Planning, Policy and Governance in the School

of Habitat Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumtaz Shaikh, leader of 'Mahila Mandal Federation' a grassroots based women's organization and Prachi Merchant, Urban planner, All India Institute of Local Self Government. The panel discussion culminated with an interactive session with the audience present at the event.



Swapnil Sukhare

Through a collaborative effort of photo exhibition, PPT and CORO highlighted the exclusion of the marginalized in cities like Mumbai and advocated for inclusive 'Right to City' movement.

Awards & Recognition

Our Single Women's Empowerment program supported by EdelGive Foundation, won the FICCI CSR award 2016 in the Women Empowerment category!



Through its Quest Grassroots Leadership Development Programme CORO in collaboration with The EdelGive Foundation, supports the organisation of single women and building leadership in them so that they get their constitutional entitlements and live a life with dignity.

This program has been facilitating social, economic and political empowerment of 3000 Single women in 150 villages and small towns in 4 districts of Marathwada over the period of past 3 years.



Right To Pee National Convention

CORO organized the first ever **National Convention on Women's Right To Pee** with support from UN Women India at Yashwantrao Chavan Pratishthan, Mumbai on 1st September, 2016 to give impetus to the implementation of RTP agenda by generating commitment at all levels of stakeholders.



It was a brilliant culmination of what RTP Campaign pursued for last 5 years and an opportunity to take the issue nationwide. Media representatives, women leaders from political parties, key people from bureaucracy, administrative and

implementing authorities, representatives of civil society organizations, women organizations from different parts of India attended the conference.

The Convention went through four sessions having three panel discussions which centred around the role of the media in the campaign, perspectives of political parties on the current implementation of schemes and future plans on the issue of women's sanitation and hopes & challenges in the collaborative efforts of administration and RTP in taking RTP campaign to national level.



The Convention shared learnings, challenges, the way forward with best practices and was a great place for networking for the various stakeholders and authorities working on sanitation, safety, gender and move towards developing a national strategy for RTP.

Single Women Conference in Marathwada

‘‘**Äapli Bharari**’’- The [Single Women](#) Conference was held in Ambejagoi, Marathwada on 25 & 26th March, 2017. The two day conference was facilitated by [CORO](#) and EdelGive Foundation and turned out to be a successful and inspiring event for all its stakeholders. The event opened with a rally where women expressed their defiance against the social stigmas and gender stereotypes by wearing phentas instead of pallus



covering their head and carrying the banner of preamble of the Constitution of India.

The panel discussion was inaugurated in a very creative way as the wall of social norms and stereotypes attached to single women was prepared only to be broken. The women shattered the wall in one go by a model of preamble while recognizing their constitutional entitlements as their weapon. It was a moment of glory for each single woman present there as it marked their breaking from the regressive social norms.



The opening session focussed on the **'Issues of Single women'** and how universal and deeply layered they are. The panel discussion began with Ashalata Pande, the representative of Ekal Mahila Sanghatan, introducing the objectives of the conference.

Thereafter, a series of encouraging messages were given out to women by prolific social activists and personalities like Mangal Khinvsara, Noorjehan Safia Niaz (Muslim Mahila Andolan), Pallavi Renake (working on

issues of NT/DNT), Dr. Lakshmi Lingam (TISS)

The prominent feature of the conference was the publication of a Research Report on Single Women issues as an output of 2 Year painstaking research done by the single women. This collectively prepared report was based on the survey conducted in 7 blocks from 3 districts of Marathwada namely Beed, Usmanabad and Latur, spanning



150 villages. The research report disclosed some interesting facts like 2% women consider themselves as MNT (Mahilene Navaralya Takale – meaning a woman has dumped her husband inflicting violence on her). The term, MNT, was coined by single women themselves. Dr. Laxmi Lingam, Professor at Tata Institute of Social Sciences, congratulated the women for completing such a tedious task without any professional

help and also pointed that such a research will help them understand the politics of the issue.

Both the days ended with movement songs and performances including a one-act play named “**Mi Savitri Boltey**” – a great saga of legendary social reformer, Savitribai Phule.

Standard Chartered Mumbai Marathon 2017

On 15th Jan 2017, CORO, for the first time, participated in the 14th Standard Chartered Mumbai Marathon. Our youngest runner, 14 year old Sarita Gawade who came all the way from a small village named Sonarwadi in Kolhapur, ran the Dream Run and stood third overall and first amongst women. Sarita's win is all the more commendable as she practiced her running over uneven village roads with no sports training facilities whatsoever.



Sarita’s running since she was eight years old with the same discipline in practising as she possesses today. Her victory inspired many more children from her village and encouraged to participate in sports as well as pursue academics in school. She has been winning district level and inter-school running competitions for the past few years and has several trophies to her credit.

Stories of Impact

Maya Devi – Grassroots Leader from QGLDP, Delhi



According to Constitution of India, women are legal citizens of the country and have equal entitlements with men. Because of lack of acceptance from the male dominant society, Indian women suffer immensely. Women are held responsible for bearing children, yet they are malnourished and in poor health. Women also overwork in the field and do all domestic work. Most Indian women are uneducated. Although the country's constitution says women have equal status to men, women are powerless and are mistreated inside and outside the home.

Women, especially the young girls, get very little respect and standing in this country. Even though the constitution guarantees free primary schooling to everyone up to 14 years of age, very few girls attend the school. Only about 39% girls in India actually attend primary schools. There are several reasons why families choose not to educate their daughters. One reason is that parents get nothing in return for educating their daughters. Another reason is that all the females in a household have the responsibility of the housework. So even though education does not financially burden the family, it costs them the time she spends at school when she could be doing household chores.

Situation of women in Delhi is worst when we talk about women living in slums. Slum life has never been easy for the urban poor in so far as housing and living conditions are concerned. For women, the problems are especially acute. In slums across the Delhi, there is a noticeable lack of basic infrastructure, services, and basic shelter. Moreover, with the growing influx of slum dwellers to the informal and unplanned settlements they find themselves in, governments around the world are using increasingly callous methods to 'beautify' cities, erase the urban poor from sight, and clear urban lands (which are skyrocketing in value) for 'development'. Women living in slums are often susceptible to forced evictions by governments and other actors, and too often face gender-based violence before, during, and after eviction.

In these circumstances, one of our fellow, Maya is fighting against domestic violence in Shahbad Dairy; it is situated in North Delhi. In Shahbad Dairy, situation is burst, consumption of alcohol is so high, In every street at least one liquor shop is opened there. Male gazing, molestation, eve teasing, kidnapping of girl child have become usual incidents.

Maya created a group of 12 women who talked and discussed their problems; they understood what violence is and why they need to oppose it. What are their entitlements as a citizen, what should



they do if they or other woman faces domestic violence. Finally they decided that each member would create her own group in her street to keep the watch on cases of domestic violence. If they noticed any case they would call all group members, have talk with victims of domestic violence, and take appropriate steps to ensure such incident wouldn't be repeated. They did proper follow-ups with the women.

Now these group members are going to start a Women Panchayat where women can come with their issues and problems. Now these women are well aware of what to do if there is any kind of violation against women. They call PCR van, get their complaints registered. Most important thing is the issues of domestic violence have been reported frequently since presently women are aware that it is not just their personal matter.

Gayatri's Struggle for the Basic Needs

The daughter of a widow, who works as a vegetable hawker and as domestic help to meet her ends, Gayatri just wants that her husband provides for her and her children. A deep sense of humiliation and grave anger is clearly seen in her eyes when she speaks of her husband not earning and that she, her children and her step-mother-in-law have nothing to feed upon at times. With moist eyes, she tells a member of CORO, who is trying to counsel her that she does not want a separation from her husband and children, all she wants is that her husband shoulders his responsibilities, takes care of the needs of his family, respects and stops abusing her. His husband being a habitual alcoholic, often beats her up, abuses her and forces her to get money from her mother, which she is reluctant to do but many a times she is compelled to do so for the love of her children as they have nothing to eat or for the unending abuse. Her husband with no regular and stable source of income wants Gayatri to get half of the compensation amount that her mother gets every month for a house destroyed in an earthquake in their native place. She has been married for eight years now and mostly her needs and the needs of her three children have been and are met by her mother, who toils day and night to sustain herself and also the family of her daughter.

Married at the age of 21 years, Gayatri dreamed of a bright future as her husband belonged to a relatively well off family with good amount of property in their native place as well as in the city like Mumbai. They owned a flat in Mumbai and had their ancestral home in their native place – Solapur, Uttar Pradesh. Her husband lived in Mumbai with his stepmother, while his father, mother and two brothers lived in their native place. Within a short span of time after her marriage Gayatri came to terms with reality that was quite averse of what she had dreamt of, with her husband abusing her and even physically torturing her. With no stable source of income and the habit of drinking, he



would often abuse Gayatri and force her to extort money from her mother. When she resisted, the argument between the escalated into a fight, resulting in the physical abuse. She would leave her in-laws house and go to her mother's. After some time, her husband would also come there and stay with them for few months, feeding upon them and sucking their blood like parasitic vampire. This has been often recurring event in her life after marriage.

Gayatri's falling tears speak a million stories of shame and horror. Her husband does not allow her to work neither does he himself have a sense of responsibility to fulfil the basic needs of her family. Her stepmother-in-law works as a domestic help and they are mostly dependent on her income. She also brings the left over food, etc. from the households where she works and they somehow manage to meet their ends. This disgraceful life is and was never acceptable to Gayatri. She recently has had a fight with her husband and has been at her mother's place for about four months now. She has no whereabouts of her husband since she had left her home four months back. He has neither contacted her nor is his own phone connecting. She in the mean time came in contact with CORO and has approached them for help. CORO team has been talking to Gayatri since then and trying to persuade her to recognise her rights and boost her confidence. But Gayatri has maintained that she does not want a separation from her husband instead she has sought help from in making him realise his responsibility and give respect and honour to her and their relationship. She says that in pursuit of life, she will be contented if her husband provides just the basic needs for her and her kids.

Financials

CORO FOR LITERACY (COMMITTEE OF RESOURCE ORGANISATION)				
BALANCE SHEET				
AS ON 31st March 2017				
LIABILITIES			ASSETS	
CORPUS FUND			FIXED ASSETS	
Balance as on 01/04/2016	50,000.00		As per schedule	9,58,032.00
Additions during the year	5,00,000.00			
		5,50,000.00		
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT			CURRENT ASSETS	
Balance as on 01/04/2016	1,71,28,964.68		Loans and Advances	22,51,080.00
Add: Surplus during the				
Year 2016-17	1,37,93,318.99	3,09,22,283.67		
Current Liabilities		5,42,938.00	Cash Balances	
			Of Various accounts	28,066.50
			Bank Balance of	
			Various accounts	2,87,78,043.17
				2,88,06,109.67
		3,20,15,221.67		3,20,15,221.67

Verified and Found True and Fair
As per Our Report of Even Date

V S Gokhale And Associates (FRN: 136791W)

Chartered Accountants

V. S. Gokhale

Vinayak S. Gokhale

Partner

(MRN: 031155)



Y. Ghansal
08/09/2017



CORO FOR LITERACY (COMMITTEE OF RESOURCE ORGANISATION)					
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT					
FOR THE PERIOD 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017					
EXPENDITURE	Amount in Rupees	Amount in Rupees	INCOME	Amount in Rupees	Amount in Rupees
Expenditure for Activities against FC Grants (As Per Schedule 1)	1,04,67,427.00		Receipts - FC (As per Schedule 7))	1,74,26,548.19	
Expenditure for Activities against other Domestic Grants (As Per Schedule 2)	75,87,439.00		Other Domestic Grants (As per Schedule 8)	85,55,966.00	
Expenditure for Activities against Unicef Grant (As Per Schedule 3)	33,97,642.00		Receipts from UNICEF (As per Schedule 9)	30,63,099.00	
Expenditure for Activities against Tata Trust Grant (As Per Schedule 4)	1,58,66,751.20		Receipts From Tata Trusts (As per Schedule 10)	2,24,32,967.00	
Expenditure for Activities against APPI Grant (As per Schedule 5)	60,65,715.00		Receipts from APPI (As per Schedule 11)	56,80,912.00	
Expenditure for Organisation Overheads (As Per Schedule 6)	3,38,784.00	4,37,23,758.20	Receipts for Organisational Overhead (As per Schedule 12)	3,57,585.00	5,75,17,077.19
Excess of Income Over Expenditure		1,37,93,318.99			
		5,75,17,077.19			5,75,17,077.19

Verified and Found True and Fair
As per Our Report of Even Date

For V S Gokhale And Associates
Chartered Accountants

V. S. Gokhale

Vinayak S. Gokhale
Partner



S. J. Jambal
08/09/2017





Vote of Thanks to Partners & Supporters

Our work is enriched with a broad range of partners and supporters from Grassroots Organisations, NGOs, International Foundations, Research Institutes & Corporate like:

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