

CAPACITY BUILDING FOR SELF EMPLOYMENT

The practice of managing economic activities through groups is comparatively very new in Assam. Few years back, the number of groups running economic activities was almost negligible in the rural areas of the state.

Development of human capacity through improvement in knowledge and skill is a necessary requirement for economic development. The SIRD, Assam has been organising rural people to build their capacity for taking up self-employment activities after the introduction of SGSY.

Considering the importance of mobilising people into groups and keeping in view the emphasis given by the Government of India on the subject, the SIRD, Assam embarked upon an effort to organise rural poor into SHGs as one of the thrust areas of the institute.

The institute has been inculcating the spirit of Self Help among its trained up people so that they can take up self-

employment activities on their own initiative after being trained up.

During the last decade, SIRD has developed 7000 Self Help Groups involving 70,000 families in different pockets of the state. Most of them have been running income-generating activities for their self-employment demonstrating the spirit of self-help.

The SIRD has followed the following sequence in building the capacity of rural people for self-employment.

1. Self-employment oriented awareness building.
2. Exposure to avenues for self-employment in the state.
3. Transfer of technical and managerial skill through different training programmes.
4. Inculcation of the spirit of self-help for development.
5. Development of the managerial capacity.
6. Building of confidence and risk bearing capacity.
7. Building Capacity to take decisions.

8. Building Capacity for planned development.
9. Building capacity to access to support services.
10. Post training guidance in the field.

Following training programmes are required to build the self-employment oriented capacity of the rural people.

1. Awareness building camps in the remote villages of the state.
2. Training programmes for capacity building for self-employment.
3. Specialised training programmes on selected key economic activities for self-employment.

Major impact of the trainings on capacity building of the SIRD

- a. Re-orientation of the beliefs and values of the rural people towards self-employment.
- b. Changing the mindset and attitude towards self-employment.
- c. Inculcation of the spirit of self-help.

- d. Building confidence and risk bearing capacity among the rural people particularly unemployed youth.
- e. Collective efforts on the part of the rural people for self-employment.
- f. Resource mobilisation at the grassroot level.
- g. Building the social capital.
- h. Self-employment initiative among the unemployed youth & women.

Lots of rural people particularly unemployed youth have taken own initiative to take up self-employment activities after their capacity have been built.

During the year 2007 - 2008, the institute organized **232 courses covering 13514** persons through Institute of Development of Entrepreneurs in Assam (IDEA) for management development, skill upgradation etc. Training has been imparted to the youth, entrepreneurs, women, weavers etc. for different activities like agriculture, animal husbandry, handloom, handicraft etc.

