
XISA

XAVIER INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL ACTION

Annual Report

2022 - 2023



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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



It gives me immense pleasure to present the Annual Report of XISA for the Financial year 2022 - 23 and reporting on the crucial development activities undertaken to help tribal and deprived people finding greater equality. The implementing partners and colleagues undertaking the program strategized in mobilizing distressed people setting ambitious goals and presenting their best efforts in building sustainable practices across all the target areas.

The year 2022 - 23 witnessed several initiatives undertaken by the Institute in the areas of health, tribal entrepreneurship, education, human rights etc. the major objective was to aware the destitute people about their social rights, exploring opportunities on generating sustainable livelihood, importance of education, saving the rich cultural tribal heritage and health benefits.

To undertake such noble initiatives, XISA partnered with various organizations like Sightsavers, Bhopal, CARITAS, networked with Human Right Lawyers and respective Government stakeholders to bring about the desired changes. XISA aims to become a Centre of Excellence in the social field by developing linkages and partnership with national and international institutions thereby catering to the needs of its clients through relevant research and training activities.

Fr. Binod Kumar Toppo, SJ



XISA is a non-governmental, non-profit, and charitable organisation registered under *Chhattisgarh Societies Registrickaran Adhinyam* 1973 on 30-April-2005, bearing registration number of Chhattisgarh State - 1010. The organization has availed income tax exemption (Approval No. AAATX0068RE20214) under section 12 A of Income Tax Act 1961. Along with it, XISA is also exempted under section 80G of Income Tax Act for internal donors to the organisation (AAATX0068RF20214). It utilises the CSR funds for development of people, and has registered itself with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India (Reg. No. CSR00007011). XISA also has acquired FCRA certification (Reg. No. 327520060) from the Government of India which facilitates overseas' donation to achieve the objects of the organisation.

VISION, MISSION & OBJECTIVES

XISA visualises an egalitarian, just and people empowered society with a mission of action-oriented interventions in favour of the target groups for their emancipation and development so that they become fully participants in the development process and owners of a just and prosperous community.

Vision

An egalitarian and developed society

Mission

Action oriented interventions for emancipation and development of human communities towards building a just and prosperous Society where love and peace prevails

Objectives

- To ensure and support community-based people's organisation for development interventions.
- To build self-reliance among the people by mobilising resources, capacity building, employment opportunities, increasing assets and ensuring economic security.
- To assure social justice to the less fortunate members of the society who have been denied.
- To propagate participatory approaches in development.
- To affirm the strength of Tribal communities for their own development.
- To promote sustainable livelihoods of the marginalised, especially tribal
- To promote health awareness.

Xavier Institute of Social Action (XISA) is the fifth Xavier Institute in the Central-Northern part of the country followed by Xavier Labour Relations Institute (XLRI), Xavier Institute of Social Services (XISS), Xavier Institute of Management (XIMB) and Xavier Institute of Development Action & Studies (XIDAS).

After the formation of Chhattisgarh on 01-November-2000, the Madhya Pradesh Jesuits seriously thought of establishing a centre in Raipur, which would function as a nodal resource centre for development of the newly formed State in terms of project implementation, training, research, networking and advocacy. It was also envisaged that this centre would facilitate the utilisation of the government resources for the development of scheduled tribes, scheduled castes and other poor communities. As it is located in the capital city of the State, the centre also has a task of information dissemination on development and related fields. These thoughts of Jesuits have been actualized as Xavier Institute of Social Action.

Jesuit presence in Southern part of Chhattisgarh was there as Xavier Institute of Development Action and Studies (XIDAS), Jabalpur had an extension centre in Raipur. This extension centre was made because then Madhya Pradesh State was geographically too big and XIDAS wanted to do development work in the South-Eastern part of the State. With the help of Broederlijk Delen (BD) a Belgian agency, XIDAS worked with and for Panchayati Raj Institutions for socio-economic development of four Panchayats of Bastar (now these Panchayats come under Kanker district). The extension centre was in a rented house. After the construction of XISA building, the President of the Institute

asked the Director of XIDAS to shift the extension office to XISA. Till 31st December 2010 XIDAS extension programme was managed from XISA. During this period all the programmes of XIDAS extension at Raipur were executed by XISA.

XISA is a charitable non-profit social and developmental Institute. It is registered under the Chhattisgarh Society Registration Act, 1973. It engages in implementing programmes, conducting action research, training & capacity building programmes for holistic development of the deprived and vulnerable people. Institute is working for the empowerment of disadvantaged and deprived masses, especially poverty-stricken men, women, youth and children. Its services, benefits and resources are available to all irrespective of caste, creed, race or gender.

XISA's APPROACH



XISA adopts action oriented participatory and consultative approaches for community development to achieve its objectives through following initiatives:

a. Field Project Implementation

XISA is committed to the cause of people and communities, especially for their holistic and sustainable development. It involves itself in the selected communities and villages concentrating on various development thrust areas for development initiatives. To this end XISA, takes up development projects and implements them for people's development. It has taken many such projects in and around Chhattisgarh and it made its presence felt. XISA has built up rapport in villages and people come forward to collaborate with it with open heart. It is their participation in the project that makes development projects successful.

b. Training and Capacity Building (list of training)

Everyday world is changing and the dynamics of development, and the capacity for action needs changes. It necessitates an apt strategy of adaption to meet the needs of the time. Knowing and understating the needs of the communities their people, XISA is into training and capacity building for developing the peoples' mental capabilities, knowledge and skills so that they are able to cope with their development gaps they face in their life and at work front.

c. Networking

Every person, civil and government organisation and corporate entities has some specific knowledge and skills and strengths. These specificities give them an edge to their life and organisation. XISA as an organisation believes in learning good and suitable things from others in and through collaboration and networking activities. It identifies various individuals, organisations and programmes for collaboration to enrich itself and the collaborating entities mutually. On the other hand, there are many organisations and entities which

have similar objectives that of XISA for their actions, XISA takes the opportunity to mutually work to achieve the objectives so that greater impacts are created in communities and people.

d. Documentation

One of the ways to create a development history is to document one's activities on a timely basis. This process helps to replicate the tested strategies to develop in some other place and communities or to avoid mistakes of the previous place of action in the new place of implementation. Thus, documentation is an essential part of XISA's day-to-day activity. XISA also helps government bodies and other civil organisations by undertaking studies and research on various development related issues and topics to generate knowledge to help itself and others to give new perspectives for development and communities. These well-researched documents become beacon lights to take initiatives for further peoples' development issues.

e. Conferences and Workshops

XISA believes in pooling and sharing resources so that more and more people benefit from the available resources. It brings together persons from academia, civil society, corporate and Government to share their knowledge and expertise from their research and experiences so that people's problems and issues can be addressed with new perspectives and dynamics. It also brings together experts of various fields for round table discussions and deliberations.

MAJOR PROJECTS ACCOMPLISHED



A. Tribal Entrepreneurship

To advance the concept of Tribal Entrepreneurship, a gathering of key resource personnel was organized, including Shri Nicolaus Kerketta (Delhi), Miss Anupama Chelekchela, and Mr. Neelam (Jawaharlal Nehru University). The resource persons engaged in discussions with Shri Sunil Kujur and Shri Serjius Minj, both retired IAS officers, about fostering tribal leadership and the economic empowerment of tribal communities in Chhattisgarh.

The meeting was attended by approximately 25 village community leaders who contributed valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities within their communities. Discussions highlighted strategies for sustainable development, resource management, and entrepreneurial growth tailored to tribal areas. The initiative underscored the importance of empowering tribal communities through leadership, education, and entrepreneurial ventures to ensure self-reliance and prosperity.



B. Human Right Lawyers Networking

A significant workshop held at XISA, Raipur, brought together over 100 human rights activists and lawyers from across Chhattisgarh. The participants unequivocally condemned widespread human rights violations affecting marginalized communities, including Scheduled Tribes (ST), Scheduled Castes (SC), Other Backward Classes (OBC), and Dalits. Women and children, identified as the most vulnerable victims of such violations, were a focal point of discussions.

Attendees shared personal experiences of human rights abuses and collaborated to develop actionable plans aimed at countering future violations. The workshop served as a platform to unite advocates and activists, strengthen legal frameworks, and promote awareness about human rights, particularly for underprivileged sections of society.



C. PESA

A dedicated workshop was convened to address discrepancies and misinterpretations in the PESA Act. Participants included Shri Nirdosh Ekka, Shri Vincent Ekka, Shri Nicolaus Kerketta, Shri B.S. Rowte, Shri Sewti Panna, and 15 other members. The group meticulously analysed the Act, identifying gaps and provisions that had been omitted or diluted over time.

The participants collaboratively redrafted the Act, incorporating amendments and restoring its original intent to empower tribal governance and self-determination. The revised draft was subsequently submitted to the Governor with a request to implement the proposed changes, ensuring the Act's integrity and effectiveness in protecting tribal rights and autonomy.



D. Oraon Adivasi Kalyan Samiti: Workshop on Cultural identity

A workshop focusing on cultural identity was organized for members of the Oraon tribe residing in Raipur. More than 75 tribal men and women participated, engaging in in-depth discussions about their unique cultural heritage, which encompasses language, songs, traditional attire, and artifacts.

Participants expressed concern over the gradual disintegration of their cultural identity in recent decades. The workshop culminated in the creation of an action plan aimed at preserving and promoting Oraon customs, traditions, and values. Efforts include the documentation of cultural practices, community awareness programs, and intergenerational knowledge transfer to safeguard their rich heritage for future generations.



E. Sightsavers

XISA collaborated with Sightsavers Bhopal, an NGO focused on eye health, to extend medical benefits to underprivileged sections of society. A workshop was conducted to address prevalent eye health issues in the region. Participants explored the root causes of vision problems, including genetic factors, environmental conditions, and lack of medical access.

The session resulted in the identification of practical solutions and strategies to prevent and treat eye-related ailments. XISA's involvement reinforced its commitment to addressing broader health challenges and improving the quality of life for marginalized communities through healthcare initiatives.



F. Orientation Programme for the School Teachers

An orientation workshop was organized for 95 teaching staff members from Champion School and Holy Cross Theresian Academy in Raipur. The two-day program, led by resource person Shri Norbert Menezes, SJ, from Patna, emphasized innovative teaching methodologies.

Shri Menezes highlighted the importance of student-centric education, advocating for a teaching approach that prioritizes the holistic development of students. He also stressed the significance of instilling human and moral values in both educators and students. The workshop aimed to enhance the participants' teaching skills, making education more engaging and value-driven.

G. Adivasi Sammelan: 12-13 Sep. 2022

A large-scale Adivasi Sammelan was held in Raipur, attracting thousands of tribal participants from across India. The event featured a rally from Jai Stambh to the Science College auditorium, organized under the banner of Sarva Adivasi Samaj. Over 200 tribals from states such as Gujarat, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and West Bengal stayed at XISA, Raipur, to take part in the event.

XISA actively participated in the Sammelan, which served as a platform for discussing tribal rights, cultural preservation, and socio-political challenges faced by tribal communities nationwide. The event showcased unity among tribal groups and strengthened their collective voice for advocacy and empowerment.



H. CARITAS INDIA -AUSTRALIA: Khushhaal Bachpan

On March 1, 2023, the “Khushhaal Bachpan” project, aimed at promoting a happy and secure childhood, was launched at XISA, Raipur. This initiative was a collaboration between Caritas Australia and Caritas India. Distinguished dignitaries in attendance included Shri Robert Fitzgerald (Chairperson, Caritas Australia), Shri Richard Francis Landels (Advancement Director, Caritas Australia), Most Rev. Victor Henry Thakur (Archbishop of Raipur), Dr. Fr. Jolly Puthenpura (AED, Caritas India), Dr. Fr. Paul Moonjelly (Executive Director, Caritas India), and Most Rev. Sebastian Kallupura (Archbishop of Patna, Chairman, Caritas India).

The event was attended by directors of social work commissions and representatives from five dioceses (Jagdalpur, Jashpur, Ambikapur, Raipur, and Raigarh). Archbishop Henry Victor Thakur emphasized the importance of family unity in nurturing happy children, likening the family to a divine temple. Shri Robert Fitzgerald and Shri Richard Francis Landels expressed their admiration for the resilience and cultural richness of India. Children from Gram Nirman, Jagdalpur, performed role plays highlighting children’s rights, including participation, development, security, and the right to life.

The project launch emphasized the need for collaborative efforts to ensure a safe and fulfilling environment for children, promoting their overall well-being and development.



CONCLUSION

A series of impactful initiatives were undertaken to address diverse social, cultural, and developmental challenges. A meeting on **Tribal Entrepreneurship** in Chhattisgarh emphasized leadership and economic empowerment, with community leaders discussing sustainable development and entrepreneurial growth for self-reliance. Similarly, a **Human Rights Lawyers Networking** workshop at XISA, Raipur, united over 100 activists to combat human rights violations against marginalized groups, including women and children, through strengthened legal frameworks and actionable strategies. In a focused effort, experts at a **PESA** workshop addressed discrepancies in the Act, drafting amendments to restore its intent of empowering tribal governance, with proposals submitted to the Governor. Cultural preservation was a key theme at the **Oraon Adivasi Kalyan Samiti** workshop, where 75 Oraon tribe members created an action plan to safeguard their language, traditions, and artifacts. On health, XISA collaborated with **Sightsavers Bhopal** to host a workshop addressing eye health issues in marginalized communities, identifying preventive solutions to improve access to care. For education, an **Orientation for Teachers** program engaged 95 educators, promoting innovative and student-centric teaching methodologies focused on holistic development. The **Adivasi Sammelan** in Raipur brought together thousands of tribals nationwide to discuss rights, cultural preservation, and socio-political challenges, fostering unity and advocacy. Lastly, the **Khushhaal Bachpan** project, launched with Caritas India and Australia, focused on promoting children's rights and family unity, using performances to highlight critical issues and ensuring a secure, fulfilling childhood.