

एकल नारी इकाईको इंग्रथान

A SINGLE WOMEN FEDERATION IN JHARKHAND

AN INSIGHT

(2012-2015)



BACKGROUND

The Ekal Nari Sashakti Sangathan is an association of single women in Jharkhand State which includes widows, destitute, unmarried aged women, judicially separated and divorced women. The single women were organized under the banner of Ekal Nari Sashakti Sangathan and its inception was laid down in 2005. The association has come a long way since its inception and it has completed its 10 years of journey that has been struggling and challenging. It is a dilemma that the prevalent social system discriminates and marginalizes this class of women in more ways than one. They are excluded from the mainstream, victims of social neglect and loneliness and lack of support from the family and or the society. Their status never improve and suffer vulnerability and exclusion right through their life into death. Their vulnerability is linked to their utmost poverty absence of male members in their life, high dependence on daily wages labour for livelihood, ill health both physical and reproductive, children being forced into child labour, adolescent girls being trafficked and numerous other problems that prevail their life.

The 2011 census reflects that above eight per cent of the women are rendered single in our country. There are about 13 lakh single women in Jharkhand. Out of 4, 97, 62,887 national statistics i.e. about 3.2 per cent is the state figure. They have to lead a miserable life to achieve their milestone life to achieve their milestone; their existence being at stake. They do not have any individuality, social dignity and their constitutional, legal, social and economic rights are infringed upon.

In India, single women are those who are deprived of all kinds of rights—they are devoid of roof above their heads, devoid of resource, devoid of societal support, devoid of land resource and so on. They do not get the social position that they would otherwise be entitled to as a daughter, as a wife, as a mother. They get the brunt of all groups of the society their entire life. The gradual increase in the number of single women is an indication of the downfall of the society and social degeneration.

Single woman means the alienation of a woman due to oppressive social norms, system and structures. This is a group which is born without its own will, which is sandwiched between adverse situations. The situation of single women who have made this choice on their own is different from the situation of women whom this status has been forced upon.

Single woman is one who is divorced without her willingness, deserted by husband without her willingness, widowed, or remains unmarried due to some unwanted situation or else forced to remain alone due to physical inability. This concept of 'single woman' is a newly emerging one in India, which is slowly gaining focus due to debates and discussions at different forums.

It is important to dwell concretely upon the situations that make a woman a single woman, in order to give a proper definition of the word. Widowhood is not the sole reason for a woman to lead a life of single woman. If the widow is well-taken care of by the family members and the children, the single woman's pain decreases to a great extent.

Contrary is the situation of the single woman who does not have support from any quarters of the society. In fact, she is forced to live the life of an Alien Woman even in her own human society. In this category are such women who remain unmarried, are deserted by husbands or even those widows of soldiers and security persons whose husbands have made supreme sacrifice with their lives. Thus, a single woman is not only deprived on social and cultural dignity, she also is a deprived woman financially.

The journey for single women is long and difficult but not impossible and shall continue whatsoever be the repercussions. It is our continuous unending endeavour that ENSS has been successful in spreading its operation to 62 blocks of 21 districts in the state of Jharkhand in the present scenario.

Background

Ekal Nari Shashakti Sangathan (ENSS) has been the voice of the voiceless for more than a decade now. It has been engaged in lending voice to all single women and empowering them across 62 blocks of 20 districts in Jharkhand. Single women are cursed with social and economic backwardness. This segment of the population comprises of desolate women. Raising voice against the atrocities committed on these women and seeking equality has laid the cornerstone of ENSS in Jharkhand.

An organisation has helped these women invoking their inherent leadership skills and introduced a vibrant strategic effort to dissuade injustice. ENSS has triggered passion amongst single women to reclaim their rights. Today, all these women are well adapted to counter every challenge in an indomitable manner. These single women are courageously defying patriarchal social structure and feudal mindset which is deeply entrenched in our society. They have been able to make their presence felt in all walks of life. Their solidarity has eventually framed their destiny.

Objectives of ENSS

They train single women with varied knowledge and information for their overall development so that they can raise their voice in urge for fulfilment of their rights.

To formulate legal policies framed in accordance of the interest of single women. They strive to build necessary policies through advocacy campaigns and prioritize single women in wake of their capabilities in all domains.

To act as the pressure group in advocacy efforts to bring about positive change in lives of single women at legal, political and planning level;

To ensure the implementation of income generation schemes through collectivization efforts for the economic benefit of single women;

Organizational Structure

National Level Committee
Core Committee
State Level Committee
District Level Committee
Inquiry Committee
Block Committee
Panchayat Sanghathan
Village level CBO

Issues of ENSS

Reduce discrimination & Violence
Leadership building & establishing dignity
Accessing land Rights
Reach health and health services
Skill and capacity building
Recognition towards a women farmer and a labour
Reached towards decision making bodies

Pertaining Interventions to Organization

Membership campaign
Strengthen block level ENSS
Block Level Convention
Panchayat Camps
Camp on National Health Insurance Scheme
Block Committee Meeting
District Committee Meeting
State Committee Meeting
Training of ENSS Members (leadership, land right, RSBY, MNREGA, Livelihood etc)
Formation and Orientation of Self Help Group
consultation with District & state level Officials

ENSS – It's Deeper and Wider

Since 2005, ENSS has been actively engaged across 38 blocks of 18 districts in Jharkhand. It strives hard to sensitise single women of their rights, to ensure their participation in government schemes and to reduce the cases of domestic violence etc. In 2012, ENSS spread its intervention across 62 blocks of 20 districts in Jharkhand. Thereby, ENSS has reached across 605 panchayats of 62 blocks situated under 20 districts. Altogether 3017 village, ENSS has its presence across Jharkhand.

Membership Drive

In order to associate poor single women with ENSS, membership drive has been regularly carried out. It eases our effort to gain necessary information pertaining to social and economic status of single women. Panchayat level committee extends membership to the women who are needy. Any women who belongs to the category of singlehood attains the membership of Ekal Nari Sashakti Sangathan with the nominal payment of rupees ten as the membership token. This amount is deposited in the bank account of block level committee of ENSS. Name of member and her membership amount is mentioned across meeting registers. After obtaining the membership of ENSS, single women are entitled for all the benefits deemed under the organization. 44389 members have joined ENSS from across 62 blocks of 20 districts. Single women can raise their voice for the fulfilment of their rights once they are associated with ENSS; hence membership drive is regularly carried out on mass scale. A profile of each and every single woman is created once they attain the membership of ENSS. Today, ENSS has 44,389 members. Under membership profiling, the details of 32900 single women has been gathered.

Total Members	Scheduled Caste	Schedule Tribe	Muslim	PWD	Others	Dalit
44389	7358	20489	2967	1046	9373	3156

In 2011, ENSS had a total number of 1461 block committee members. 690 new members were added amid 2012 to 2015. Today, ENSS had 2151 block committee members. There was an addition of 12726 members through the membership drive until 2011. Between 2012 and 2015 number of members grew. In 2015, 10341 new members were added and currently ENSS has 44,389 members.

Meetings of ENSS

1. Panchayat Level Meeting

With an aim to spread ENSS to each and every village and to associate every single woman with the organization, Panchayat meetings were introduced and kicked off. Hence, eventually panchayat level organisation strengthened to foster awareness campaign. In every panchayat level meetings, on average 40-45 single women takes part. During the year 2012 to 2015, 717 panchayat meetings were held. The total attendance was 28680.

Objectives

- To build organization at the panchayat level and create awareness among single women;
- To spread the organization and increase its membership;
- Addressing and resolving different issues emerging out of meeting;
- Quantitative increase in claim of government schemes and land has been witnessed;
- Significant awareness generation for land entitlement rights and application for the same and
- To raise different problems, cases and events through meeting

Outcome

- Decision taken at panchayat meeting shall be set in action;
- ENSS should be propagated across each and every village;
- Increase in membership to be significantly witnessed and
- Different issues, cases and problems were resolved

Panchayat	Total Meeting	Members Present	Scheduled Caste	Scheduled Tribe	Muslims	PWD	Others
717	11568	28680	5164	11957	2734	1035	7790

1. Block Committee Meeting

Block Level Committee is the apex committee of ENSS. The block level committee represents three selected members from each Panchayat committee. Every meeting has registered considerable increase in related activities. During block level meeting itself, ENSS activities and government schemes are discussed in a detailed manner. Here issues pertaining to various rights – like land entitlement, livelihood generation and health cases are discussed and are sorted out. Block Level Committee successfully liaises with block administration to resolve various issues of single women in their concerned area. 24-30 members attend every panchayats meeting. They further diffuse the information at the panchayat level.

Objectives

- Strengthen of ENSS at the Block level;
- Initiation and formulation of strategy to resolve the issues of single women;
- Raise voice for the land and property entitlement rights of single women;
- Stay in constant touch with the block administration for the resolution of issues;
- To reduce violence against women and to ensure fulfilment of women rights;
- To shield single women with health security rights and
- To sensitize government through advocacy lobbying

Outcome

- 62 Block committee is strengthened;
- 1542 women are enabling direct contact with block administrative to set up and thereby putting up strong grip over government schemes;
- Single women and their children are getting health services;
- 11710 Single women claimed for land out of this 8373 claims were sanctioned;
- ENSS directly intervened upon varied issues pertaining to single women;
- Committee members are taking victimized women to administrative officials and their issues are being adequately resolved;
- ENSS has emerged out in a good rapport with all the block officials, media-persons, court etc. and
- 4534 Single women have joined the decision making bodies at different level

District	Block	Total Meetings	Total Members	Average Attendance	SCs	STs	Muslim	PWD	Others
20	62	2976	2151	90 per cent	462	813	192	99	585

2. District Committee Meeting

A Total of eight meetings were held in the past four years. 248 members from 20 districts attended the district committee meetings. It was conducted to launch advocacy and lobbying at district level. It is the sole responsibility of the committee to put forth various issues from block committees in front of different departments for its resolution. Besides issues originated district-wise, it was discussed with district administration. Claiming applications pertaining to different schemes were handover to district officials. Through these meetings, awareness generation initiative was carried out regarding different government schemes at district level.

Objective

- To raise all the issues of block level at the district level;
- To enable the reach of organization at different departments of district;
- To ensure advocacy and lobbying with different officials of district and
- To urge various demands of single women before district administration through memorandum

Outcome

- Claim was eventually converted into rights;
- Different issues of blocks were resolved at district level and
- Women were linked with various income generation programmes and loans at district level

Details of district committee meetings

District	Meeting	Average Attendance	Total Members	Schedule Caste	Schedule Tribe	Muslim	PWD	Others
20	8	100 per cent	248	52	102	26	21	47

These meetings are held so as to ensure prominence of ENSS at the district and state level. District level and state level committees were also formed to liaise directly with officials and intellectuals concerned in order to enable advocacy lobbying. Earlier it was difficult for ENSS to contact with officials at district and state level. It was tough indeed to procure essential input and information from district and state officials concerned. Hence, to bridge the gap these committees were formed. Today, ENSS members are able to cooperate with district and state level administration. They are capable of sharing related information for its smooth execution. Today, district and state level committees have ensured that single women can lend their voice and demands before the administration. In the past two years, ENSS has conducted four district and state committee meeting each. In all, 20 district committee meetings and state committee meetings were held.

Objectives

- To bring forth the issues pertaining to block and district level and launch advocacy campaigns;
- To share information at district level and associate women with government schemes and
- To inform and educate members with every new bit of information

Outcome

- With an organized structure, ENSS is active across Jharkhand;
- ENSS is recognised across India;
- ENSS has compelled government to formulate policies for the uplift and betterment of single women;
- ENSS has successfully emerged out as a pressure group for the larger cause of downtrodden, oppressed and vulnerable section of women and
- ENSS has ensured social as well as economical security for vast chunk of single women

1. Core Committee Meeting

Core committee is the decisive committee of ENSS. It has formed with selected 13 members from state committee members. It meets twice in a year. In past two years, it has concluded 6 meetings. It has framed to trigger advocacy lobbying initiatives at state level.

Core committee meeting is a decisive committee of the organization. During this meeting decisions were made regarding various aspects of Ekal Nari Sashakti Sangathan

Objective

- It plays crucial role over different economic issues besides the expansion of the organization;
- Core committee undertakes the task to link the organization with various national forums beyond state level;
- Core committee monitors the progress of different structures within the organization and the responsibility of its members;
- It is responsible to formulate various policies for the development of single women through advocacy and lobbying programmes;
- It not only sensitized the government machinery but brought forward the issues of single women before community at large and
- Core committee played tremendous role to urge the amendment of laws meant for single women in a better way with the inclusion of new provisions

Outcome

- ENSS entered into dialogue with departmental secretary, which resulted into survey of widow women. These widow women were later classified into single family;
- The amount of widow and old age pension was increased;
- Single women were given priority in government schemes and
- Byelaws of ENSS were drafted

Capacity Building Trainings

ENSS is relentlessly trying its best to ensure the appropriate representation in every domain. It is conducting workshops, training programmes and various other camps to promote capacity building.

Single women are deprived of social assistance and hence they often remain victim to economic backwardness. Ultimately, it restricts their thought process limits their capacity building. Hence, series of capacity building programmes on routine basis needs to be conducted.

1. Training of facilitators

Ekal Nari Sashakti Sangathan organized three days facilitators training programme at Mahila Kalyan Samiti Hall in Sundernagar from March 17 till March 19, 2012. It's second phase was held at Vikas Maitri in Ranchi from June 26 through June 29, 2012. The third phase of workers training concluded at Tribal Culture Centre in Jamshedpur from March 25 through May 5, 2013.

Objective

To ensure the capacity building of workers/ staffs so as to promote knowledge regarding various aspects of project;

To ensure the ability to engage with community so as to counter act against discrimination towards women, especially one who are single and

To ensure the increase of knowledge concerning various laws and its provisions concerning the safety and fulfilment of women's right.

Outcome

Ensuring capacity building of workers and engage with the community;

Understanding of various legal provision was developed and

Understanding over discrimination and other related issues

2. Training of Trainers (ToT)

A training of trainer's session in February 2014 was attended by 15 associates.

3. Leadership Development Training

Leadership development training was held for block committee members of Ekal Nari Sashakti Sangathan. 603 participants from 62 blocks of 20 districts attended the training programme. 405 members of Shramajivi Mahila Samiti from 27 blocks of eight districts were also trained. 15 members from each block ensured their presence during the training. In 2012, members from 19 blocks of West Singhbhum, Giridih, Bokaro, Lohardaga participated in the event. Whereas in 2013, it witnessed the participation of eight blocks across Pakur, Gumla, Dumka and Palamu. Participants from 17 blocks and 18 blocks attended the training session in 2014 and 2015 respectively.

Objective

To introduce a sense of responsibility and ability to operate various activities of the organization and enhance their leadership capabilities too;

To ensure an understanding over the property and resources, schemes, rights and social security schemes concerning single women and

To develop thorough understanding over the procedures of advocacy and lobbying besides various other issues of single women.

Outcome

Leadership ability amongst single women enhanced;

Phenomenal increase over different sets of claim through leading women across block level was noticed;

Questions were raised over local issues and the participation in decision making process was ensured;

Increase in understanding level over varied issues and rights concerning single women and the awareness level of single women and

Significant increase in the number of single women across different permanent committees of village and panchayat

1. Training of State Level Committee Members

Two day long leadership development training programme of state level committee members of Ekal Nari Sashakti Sangathan was held on December 17-18, 2013 at Vikas Bharati in Ranchi. There were 42 members from 27 blocks of eight districts who attended the training programme.

Objective

- To upgrade the method of advocacy and lobbying; lobbying with government over different women issues;
- To prepare members for a face to face interaction programme with government authorities and
- To impart knowledge over tabling and passage of memorandum and resolutions

Outcome

- Understanding the procedure of advocacy and lobbying;
- Capacity building ensured over the dialogues with government representatives and officials;
- Knowledge over drafting of memorandum, resolution, recommendation and its follow up

2. State Level Issue Based Training Programme

Training was imparted to the two active members from each block. It was held at Jan Vikas Kendra in Hazaribagh from November 21, 2014 through November 24, 2014.

3. Capacity Enhancement Training over Land Right and Livelihood Issues

A total of 20 training programmes were held at 214 villages of 130 panchayats from across 27 blocks in eight districts over land and livelihood issues in 2013 and 2014. 19 blocks from West Singhbhum, Lohardaga, Bokaro and Giridih ensured their participation in 2013. Capacity enhancement of members from eight blocks of Dumka, Pakur, Gumla and Palamu was resulted in 2014. Capacity development training was imparted to Self Help Groups in total 780 CBO members on land rights and livelihood promotion. on September 26, 2013 till September 29, 2013 at Dumbar village in Hazaribagh, which was attended by selected 21 single women possessing leadership skills hailing from across different nine districts.

Objective

- To impart ability over different livelihood schemes of women groups;
- To impart knowledge over rules and regulations as well as the procedures of documentation;
- To ensure proper exercise over maintenance of meeting and registering a loan and
- To impart knowledge over livelihood generation through collectivization of resources

Outcome

- It instilled a sense of confidence amongst members after the training. Single women emerged capable of retaining their land rights;
- Capacity enhanced over livelihood generation through agricultural and animal husbandry. Single women contacted the department of animal husbandry and attended their training sessions. They were imparted training by Atma training centre;
- In-depth understanding over the importance of resources and property rights not only increased quantitative growth in numbers of claims but land was recognized as the source of income by the trained women and other single women;
- Single women gained knowledge over Forest Rights Act;
- Information over filling up of claim forms ensured the increase for land claims and
- Landless single women started exerting claim forest land

4. Orientation building for village level CBO

Training was imparted in two phases. Capacity building training for Groups was conducted over land entitlement and livelihood generation programmes. Capacity building training was imparted for CBO members across 27 blocks of eight districts over different issues.

Objective

- To inculcate the sense of responsibility towards ENSS and develop thorough understanding upon its operation;
- To ensure knowledge and information upon property rights and various other resources concerning social security etc.;
- Documentation and upkeep of assets associated with Self Help Groups;
- To develop capacity over various facets of functions and performance of Self Help Groups and
- To enhance capacity and ensure livelihood generation through animal husbandry and agricultural practises.

Issue Based Campaigns

1. MGNREGA Campaigns

Ekal Nari Sashakti Sangathan conducted awareness drive on Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act from August 16, 2012 through August 31, 2012. It was simultaneously held across 30 blocks. Under MGNREGA scheme Kaam Maango Abhiyan was carried out across 492 villages of 152 panchayats of 30 blocks in 15 districts.

MGNREGA Act is an instrument set for the upliftment of oppressed and deprived ones. However the campaign led by single women ensured the extension of the guarantee of employment to single women too. The campaign enabled drastic impact onto the lives and economic prosperity of single women.

Objectives of Campaign

- To aware single women about MGNREGA act;
- To evaluate current scenario of MGNREGA status;
- To develop a conducive environment for the maximum employability of single women;
- To ensure awareness regarding the payment of labour through a bank account;
- To motivate village panchayat of MGNREGA scheme.

Under MGNREGA campaign, the social audit was conducted at six village panchayats across two blocks (Chaibasa and Sonua) of West Singhbhum and four village panchayats across single block of Bokaro. In this regard, a training programme for the volunteers was conducted and a Social audit surfaced was issued. In order to resolve those grievances, the MGNREGA public hearing was held. Officials associated with MGNREGA resolved such grievances associated with the scheme. Total numbers of 858 job applications were made during a public hearing on February 8, 2013 and March 1, 2013 in Chaibasa and Sonua respectively.

MGNREGA Kaam Maango Abhiyan was held across 35 blocks of 20 districts. During the campaign the applications for job and unemployment allowances were submitted before Project Officer and Employment Assistance of the scheme. Altogether 9478 applicants applied for the job; out of which 8293 applicants were offered employment. 5006 individuals applied for job card and 4006 were benefitted.

2. Land Campaign

In the era of women empowerment, many initiatives have been taken to promote the cause of women and their rights. Its impact is evident despite the fact that women even today are not identified by their status. Certain unavoidable circumstances often restrict their emergence at fringe. Sometime they are termed as widows and often brandished as an agent of ill omen. The patriarchal trend of our society has always branded women for having a relationship with another male. Whenever women urged for a single identity, they were set aside of their rights. Single women have witnessed tremendous ignorance since time memorable. Current complexities do not allow women for accommodation, land, property and heir rights. Hence, they are pushed towards insecurity, underprivileged environment, and domestic violence and devoid of ownership rights in their own house.

In India, 60 per cent of women population is involved in agricultural activities whereas 20 per cent of families are led by women. Despite of the fact less than two per cent women have land ownership in India. Women have a pivotal role in agrarian mode of occupation where they have tremendously contributed. However, it is yet to be assessed and recognized properly. It has been the main cause of misfortune for women. Women are deprived of loan facilities because of no land entitlement and right over property. They hardly stake over any immovable assets. Women are cursed of meagre economic benefit, adequate nourishment and lengthy work profile.

Hence, it was utterly important to initiate a campaign for land ownership of single women across Jharkhand. The campaign has been held across 62 blocks of 20 districts in Jharkhand for the past two years. Under the initiative, an awareness programme for land entitlement of women is done at a grass-root village level. There must be equal sensitization of block officials for its easy and hassle free execution and mounting of pressure at district level for its final approval. Lead Team was formed to spearhead the campaign. Different set of activities are prioritized. Tasks are divided, targets are set and slogans are designed. Different phases of campaign, routine meetings, monitoring, aims and objectives were determined and various activities of claimants were activated. Media was active in to carrying out publicity and promotion. Single women who were earlier deprived of land and residence can today take possession over community and forest land. The entire activity was taken across 800 villages and 204 panchayats. The Allocated land holdings have been utilized in a different manner.

This campaign has resulted in increase of manifold resources and has registered growth in ratio of female population. Women have being linked with land resources. Benefits of Kishan Credit Card are also provided to single women. Government is sensitized to carry out the procedure of land allotment in a smooth and dynamic manner.

Ekal Nari Sashakti Sangathan conducted training programme from September 26-29, 2013 over land rights at Dumur village of Hazaribagh district, which was attended by selected 21 single women with leadership potential from nine districts. It aimed to promote knowledge regarding Schedule tribe and other traditional forest dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) under the act 2006 rule 2008 and amended act 2012. a detailed explanation was made before the participants on how forest land can be obtained individually and collectively through series of steps.

Detailed presentation was laid on forest land rights act. In addition, the scheduled tribe and other traditional forest dwellers residing at the forest land before December 13, 2005 for the purpose of livelihood were explained practical method of obtaining lease rights. Information regarding the necessary terms and conditions along the prerequisites of supporting evidences along with the lease claims were provided. Single women efficiently learned the usage of GPS machine required during the lease allotment procedure. Along with the devise the procedure of land measurement and its mapping was explained too. Resource person Mr. Virendra Kumar informed, as per the law individual lease are subject to joint allocation to both husband and wife. In this case, the head of the family is either single woman or man then only it is allocated on single name as applicable. He further said that community lease is made on the name of entire village; in which names of each family heads of that particular village is mentioned. Rights on forest land are hereditary however unsigned. Participants are trained for measuring land, filling claim form etc. Everyone witnessed map preparation after land measurement by Amin.

It is noteworthy that Jharkhand has a total 14, 69,280 acres of Bhoodan land holding. Whereas only 5,69,183 acres has been distributed so far; rest 9,00,097 acres of land holdings are yet to distributed. Hence, ENSS is trying their level best to obtain information regarding the objective of government of Jharkhand's plan to form Bhoodan Yajna Samiti. It is implemented through Right to Information in order to ensure the allotment of land holdings to landless single women. Further, various other information was sought from government officials to pressurize for the formation of Bhoodan Yajna Samiti which worked for the allocation of land rights for single women. ENSS is constantly engaged in livelihood generation schemes of single women through land resources. This way ENSS kicked off initiative for the distribution of Bhoodan lands too.

ENSS has noticed increasing demands for revenue land. We are contemplating every possibility to develop more and more such land to increase vegetable cultivation. Today government is providing single women with seeds to engage them in agricultural occupation. Thus single women have registered considerable increase in agrarian occupation. (Single women are today actively associated with natural resource management groups, forest committees, forest protection committees, Market committees and agricultural committees etc.)

If land entitlement rights will be granted to women then it will be advantageous affairs since they are more attached to agrarian practices and other land related activities. Women are managing their land holdings in more progressive manners. It has significantly promoted the concept of ownership. Hence, ENSS firmly believes that land alone can establish and assert identity of women especially desolate ones. In this campaign, 54416 single women are directly associated whereas around two lakhs other committee members have registered their support and cooperation. Under the aegis of this campaign, the data of allocated land holdings are mentioned below –

Sl. No.	Types of Land	No. of Applications	No. of Women Applied	No. of Women Obtained
01	Government Land	328	328	118
02	Community Land	617	9255	6535
03	Forest Land	267	267	29
04	Forest Land	1860	1860	1691
Total		3072	11710	8373

The campaign has been spread state-wide where it took the shape of mass movement.

1. Campaign on National Health Insurance Scheme

The Government of India has introduced National Health Insurance Scheme. It was implemented by Ministry of labour and Employment. It commenced in 2008-2009. It aims to benefit families below poverty line, job card holders under MGNREGA scheme, footpath vendors, other labourers, rickshaw pullers and labourers from different unorganized sectors through health insurance.

In order to ensure health insurance benefits for single women under National Health Insurance Scheme, a series of awareness camps were organized at panchayat level. Numbers of awareness campaign were held at 27 blocks of eight districts in 2012-2013. 233 smart cards were generated in 2012 in response to these awareness campaigns. Number of smart card gradually increased with the increase in number of awareness campaigns. In 2013 alone, the number of smart card generated was 2553. Till the end of 2015, 17284 people had smart card across 35 blocks of 20 districts. Out of all these entire figures, 9284 smart card holders were single women.

Smart card enrolment camps are being held to register the names of smart card holders. Department of Labour shares route chart before any such enrolment campaign. Aanganwadi Sevikas retain the programme schedule of smart card enrolment campaigns. Sevika distributes slips as per schedule. As per schedule smart cards are generated at enrolment camps. In any of the beneficiary remains absent during the camp days, they are supposed to contact Department of Labour and get it done at district level.

In order to classify single women in labour category; labour card are generated for the same. ENSS is in touch with employment enforcement officer to generate labour card for its members. Along with the receipt of 100 rupees deposited at State Bank of India and the duly filled application form for labour card is submitted before Department of Labour. Department of Labour provides labour card. It ensured the recognition of single women as the labour which benefitted their children with different scholarships and other government sponsored incentives. Labour card favours participation of single women at different capacity building programmes. It also provided the basis of distribution for different aid materials among single women. Women labour were provided with bicycles, sewing machines etc. 2384 single women hailing from across 30 blocks along 15 districts. 2062 single women gained out of the initiative.

2. Entitlement of Government Schemes

ENSS is constantly engaged with single women across the state. The organisation has facilitated them to avail all the government schemes since its very inception. It gathers all claim applications and collectively puts it before the government authorities with due recommendation on its own letter-head. Single women are being regularly informed about the means to access benefit under different government schemes easily and smoothly. As a consequence, they have been witnessing all possible way to benefit themselves at the earliest. There has been considerable increase in availability of government schemes. In 2011, a total number of 8669 applications were made under different schemes and 5272 single women were benefitted. During the period of 2012 to 2015, total number of 45767 applications was made and 33720 women were benefitted. Total number of 11710 applications was made for land allotment and 8373 women were allotted land. 4062 single women have been identified as labourers.

Below mentioned are the government schemes benefitted summarized details of single women.

Sl.	Name of Scheme	Applied for	Benefitted	Under Process
01	Widow Pension	6211	5135	1076
02	Old-age Pension	5098	4112	986
03	Differently-abled Pension	1052	1052	0
04	Family Benefits	1986	986	1000
05	Indira Awas	4056	2532	1524
06	Antyodaya	1932	932	1000
07	Annapurna	1582	579	1003
08	Ration Card	1672	1672	0
09	Red Card	592	442	150
10	BPL	1842	1535	307
11	Birsa Awas	59	59	0
12	Job Card	8028	5028	3000
13	Job Application	5532	3532	2000
14	Labour Card	4062	4062	0
15	Sewing Machine	2062	2062	0

1. Cases Filed and Legal Support Provided

In the state all Domestic, social and land related disputes are associated with single women. In order to resolve these issues, different set of format have been prepared. Under this format each case is carefully documented and followed up regularly till it's eventually resolved. ENSS is bound to help single women in all instances. Issues pertaining to Gram Sabha are referred to Mukhiya for its consideration. Certain issues require intervention through concerned police station whereas some other directly went up to court.

Since many of ENSS members have apt legal knowledge therefore, they have left no stone unturned to resolve it through due intervention of police station, legal services authorities and judicial courts. During past three years, following different set of issues have reached before our organization.

Sl.	Types of Cases	No. of Cases	No. of Cases Resolved
01	Land Related	560	301
02	Witchcraft Related	680	323
03	Domestic Violence	476	173
04	Nourishment	98	62
05	National Health Scheme	242	198
06	Social Oppressions	66	52
07	Govt Related Corruption	267	159
Total		2389	1268

2. CBO's formation and its Linkage with Livelihood

ENSS views to organize single women and collectively link them to different livelihood programmes. We have many sets of examples to prove the virtue of single women that how they single women have earned livelihood through land and other natural resources. At many occasions single women have collectively obtained land rights over community land for vegetable cultivation and farming. In another instance, these women have collectively harvested forest products and have successfully marketed it for earning their bread and butter. These initiatives are worth to be mentioned till date.

In order to link single women with means of livelihood diverse groups were formed with 10-15 women.in this group, Women members were depositing 20-30 rupees monthly which ultimately generated small capital. These groups were further extended bank loan to start small self-employed business schemes.

Likewise these women groups obtain community land on lease for farming and cultivation. Besides this agricultural initiative, these women groups have created small ponds for fishing. Different assignments and workloads are duly divided among all members of the group.

Production is done keeping under consideration local needs. Groups then lends personal loan out of their collective saving and bank loan to promote individual employment initiatives. Occupation is both individual and collective too. ENSS has formed 701 such CBOs across 27 blocks of eight districts. It accounts for the total strength of 8432 single women and 2083 other women members. The total saving of these cbos are Rupees 53,43,746, where rupees 32,44,080 is in bank and rupees 20,99,666 as inter loan . They have 287 bank accounts. 283 CBOs have been provided with the Rs. 44,12000/- credit linkage.

In order to strengthen different livelihood efforts, CBOs members were imparted training over different subjects. So as to link them with agricultural and animal husbandry occupation they were given the exposure of Birsa Krishi Vishwavidyalaya. They were also taken to Atma Training Centre. They were provided seeds for vegetable cultivation from these two institutions. Women were imparted training on raising piggery, poultry, fishery etc. through series of training programme on regular basis. They were provided with theoretical and practical training on mushroom cultivation.

Under livelihood 159 CBOs from 60 blocks of 20 districts were imparted proper and planned trainings. Altogether 2270 women attended these training programmes. All these women are today associated with one or other form of livelihood.

Sl. No.	Livelihood	No. of Groups	No. of Single Women Associated
01	Vegetable Cultivation	150	1800
02	Rice from Paddy	27	405
03	Animal Husbandry	36	432
04	Puffed Rice	67	804
05	Forest Product	36	360
06	Bangle Production	20	200
07	Poultry	20	312
08	Tent House	22	264
09	Sewing-Broadry	24	288
10	Ration Shop	60	700
11	Paddy Machine	10	110
Total		472	5675

Publication Work

ENSS took active initiatives to ensure the articulation and publication of different kinds of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) from time to time for the sake of wider publicity. These IEC materials had been disseminated among the dignified intellectuals, officials of district administration, Panchayat committee members, Members of Parliament, Members of Legislative Assemblies and journalists of the society.

In the past three years various booklets titled 'Police, Laws and Our Rights'(Police kanun eham hamara adhikar), 'Government Schemes', 'Forest Land Entitlement Rights', 'National Health Insurance Scheme', 'Formation of Self Help Groups', 'Membership Profile', 'Role of Gram Sabha' and 'Gram Panchayat', 'Our Identity' etc. has been published so far. Case study booklets of the Singhbhum Zone were released as well.

1. National Health Insurance Scheme – A Prominent Initiative to Ensure Health Security Coverage

It is a Government of India sponsored social scheme. It was implemented under the aegis of Ministry of Labour and Employment across the nation. In order to inform, educate and aware the rural section of the society about this government scheme, around 5000 pamphlets were published and distributed. Pamphlet distribution enhanced awareness among masses and thereby increased the number of enrolment under the scheme.

2. Single Women Accessibility upon Land and Resources

Leaflets were published to inform the single women of the society regarding various aspects of land entitlement and different kinds of land holdings. A brochure to increase the number of claims towards the allocation of varieties of land holding was also introduced. It increased the awareness level among the single women over land entitlement and property related laws.

3. A Step towards Economic Empowerment through Group Formation

It aimed to impart knowledge over different objectives of group formation. Besides it proved to be an instrument for the capacity building to ensure livelihood generation schemes and sharpen up the vocational capabilities. It also favoured the entry of single women into the market committee which enabled their role in deciding the price and holding grip over various productivity related aspects. Moreover it imparted knowledge over different dimensions of livelihood. Knowledge and understanding over the documentation part concerning the formation of self-help group was disseminated through this brochure.

4. Self Help Group Booklet for Single Women

Single women were educated over the various aspects of rules and regulation concerning self-help group besides the rules concerning over general guidelines of meeting resolution, drafting the income and expenditure drafting. Documentation required for obtaining the bank loan was also provided.

1. The Role of Gram Sabha and Gram Panchayat towards Allocation of Land Entitlement Rights for Single Women under Jharkhand Panchayati Rule Act

Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act has introduced special provision for Gram Sabha across tribal areas. The brochure emerged instrumental in generating awareness in this regard. It informed, educated and communicated the importance of Gram Sabha. It also provided provisions in favour of land entitlement rights to landless ones.

2. Jharkhand Membership Profile of Ekal Nari Sashakti Sangathan

All single women hailing from and across the 62 administrative blocks of 20 districts in Jharkhand are being enlisted in order to maintain, follow and develop the updated record concerning their social and economic source of income along with a total number of dependant family members. The format has enabled the enlisting and identification of single women with their names and respective details of correspondence.

3. Ekal Ki Pahal – Kal, Aaj aur Kal

This booklet introduces the stories of all such single women who have been the victims of atrocities and suppression within their family and community. It has been depicted through the booklet that how Ekal Nari Sashakti Sangathan played instrumental role in transforming their lives in a positive manner. It was published in order to sensitize the government administration and society at large. It serves as the classic set of examples for thousands of single women and hence influences them to emancipate themselves out of oppression through the strength of organization.

4. Police, Law and Our Rights

This leaflet emerged as a medium to tackle critical manoeuvres associated with administration and police. It proved significant in dealing with legal complexities. Besides various dimension associated with legal enquiry and arresting of any individual was illustrated in the leaflets so that no single women is victimized with any unfair legal action.

5. Forest Land Rights Act 2006

This leaflet-brochure entails different aspects and dimensions of claims for forest right, individual forest rights, community forest rights and other resources rights of forest for single women under schedule tribe and other traditional dwellers forest rights act 2006. It was introduced in order to increase the number of claims from single women forest resources and properties. It aimed to yield maximum benefits to single women through forest land entitlements.

6. Knowhow of Government Schemes

The main objective behind the publication of brochure titled Knowhow of Government Schemes was to highlight and bring forth information about different government sponsored public welfare schemes. It had major impact upon single women which eventually increased number of applications for the approval of scheme benefits. Later it helped in transforming applicants into beneficiaries.

7. Our Identity

It is a journal of single women which highlights some of the extraordinary and combatant initiatives laid down by single women groups, federations and civil societies across different parts of Jharkhand. Various success and failures to various approaches in dealing with the issues of single women have been broadly reviewed and explained. It has been successful in promoting and publicizing the cause and concern of single women under the aegis of Ekal Nari Sashakti Sangathan. Beginning in the year 2012, the sixth edition of the journal has been published till 2015.

List of Publications

Sl. No.	Name of Brochure & Booklets	Quantity
01.	National Health Insurance Scheme – A prominent initiative towards health security coverage	5000
02.	Single Women Accessibility Upon Land and Resources	5000
03.	A Step towards Economic Empowerment through Group Formation	5000
04.	Self Help Group Booklet for Single Women	750
05.	To Role of Gram Sabha and Gram Panchayat Towards allocation of Land Entitlement Rights for Single Women under Jharkhand Panchayati Rule Act	5000
06.	Jharkhand Membership Profile of Ekal Nari Sashakti Sangathan	1500
07.	EKal Ki Pahal – Kal, Aaj Aur Kal	400
08.	Police, Law and Our Rights	3000
09.	Forest Land Rights Act 2006	3000
10.	Knowhow of Government Schemes	3000
11.	Our Identity	5000

Communication with Media

Ekal Nari Sashakti Sangathan, Shramajivi Mahila Samiti and SHARC etc. are conducting press conferences over various issues from time to time. We used press conferences for disseminating information associated with apathy of single women before government authorities, representatives, intellectuals etc. Press conferences were held across HPDC at Bahubazaar and Vikas Bharati at Bariatu in Ranchi on January 24, 2013 and September 25, 2014 respectively.

The point of discussion during the press conference mainly focused on scopes and procedure to procure special, community and forest land for single women to ensure their means of livelihood. Similarly during another press conference issues concerning dignity, rights and entitlements for single women were prime motto of discussion.

Another press meet was held on September 25, 2014 at Jan Vikas Kendra in Hazaribagh. It aimed to disseminate information regarding the participation of single women in various government sponsored welfare schemes. It was decided to ensure the accessibility to all government officials in order to bring single women in social mainstream. In this regard, various other press meets and conferences were held to assert socio-economic demands before Deputy Commissioner, Member of Parliament, and Member of Legislative Assembly.

Esteemed dailies such as Hindustan, Prabhat Khabar, Dainik Jagran, Dainik Bhaskar, Khabar Mantra and other local and regional electronic media have always voiced our opinion concerning lives and conditions of single women.

As soon as the assembly election was declared in Jharkhand, ENSS along with other organizations put forth various issues concerning single women in front of all the major political parties, so that it could incorporate into their election manifestos.

ENSS took the help of the media and other means of mass communications to convey its objectives, roles and rights before people representatives.

Objective

It was the third assembly election since the creation of Jharkhand despite that women issue was sidelined. ENSS raked up number of campaigns and movements to sensitize different political leaders through kind cooperation from various dailies. Consequently many political parties inducted core issues of single women in their respective election manifestoes. Hence it gained enormous momentum.

A state level media advocacy programme was conducted at Bagicha in Namkom on November 6, 2014 which was duly attended by all the core committee members of ENSS, secretary of Shramajivi Mahila Samiti Ms Purabi Paul and Shark's secretary Dr. Binny.

While addressing the gathering at a media advocacy programme Ms. Purabi Paul said that women policy had been passed in cabinet but is yet to be approved by the Legislative Assembly. Election to Legislative Assemblies is underway. Election manifestoes are being presented which has included Dalit, Scheduled Tribe and women issues. Issues concerning single women should be included into the election manifestoes. National policy, framed in 1995 has not been reviewed till date. No Documentation work has been done upon women policies, which is utter compulsory. Socio-economic and educational survey has been carried across entire nation. It hardly represents any sort of improvement. Political parties are formulating their election manifestoes. Following points are to be shared with all the parties for its due inclusion in their respective election manifestoes –

National women policy should be reviewed and laws should be formulated in the interest of women. Every state's policies concerning women needs to be reviewed.

Laws associated with women are yet to be reviewed since 1995. We demand the review of those laws for its incorporation to state and national women policies.

Women hailing from and across deprived groups/classes (Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, Minorities and Backward Classes) should be brought into mainstream for their development as the economical, political, educational surveys carried out across the nation reveals their appalling condition. The provisions for socio-economic uplift of single women need to be included in the 12th Five Year Plan.

Witch crafting is phenomenal across each and every state of the nation. Hence a national level witchcraft abolition law is required. In Jharkhand alone, Witch Abolition Act 2001 is very weak. The Act should be strengthened in stricter terms.

Despite the provisions laid under Forest Rights Act, women are not being allocated land leases. Therefore women should be strictly associated in the lease right along with the name of male counterpart and the lease should be allocated in the name of single women in the families led by single women. Date to be separately maintained for lease accorded in the names of single women and the cases registered by department of forest should be immediately revoked.

- Women from deprived section are more prone to anaemia and malnutrition which is responsible for their poor health and early death. Hence in order to promote the culture of Horotherapy through different livelihood measures should be promoted. Colleges and universities need to set up in this regard.

National Domestic Servants Welfare and Social Security Acts should be formed immediately so that the interest of women could be safeguarded and particularly single women could also be protected.

The government should work upon to formulate policies and schemes for the women who have been victim of unwanted pregnancy and motherhood out of forced migration and sexual harassment. Women Helpline should be made effective.

Appropriate mechanism needs to be developed for the safe migration. Instances of human trafficking should be immediately checked. A clear and effective policy over human trafficking should be formulated and the Prevention of Human Trafficking Act to be implemented sternly.

The act concerning the provision of women commission should be elaborated in a comprehensive manner. In the purview of the act women coming from diverse background (legal activists from different fields) should be included and should be assigned the authority equivalent to the civil court so that women could be delivered with immediate justice and social security.

An initiative should be taken to establish small industry of forest based products in Jharkhand and through imparting self-employed orientation of training the scope of livelihood should be ensured for tribal, Dalit and other women.

The age limit should be hiked from 35 to 50 years under the National Livelihood Mission programme employment generation scheme. Also the minimum educational qualification to be applied to accommodate least educated women from remotest part of rural landscape to achieve employment.

Different categories of single women (widow, divorced, unmarried aged women and wife of missing person) should be adequately identified and defined for the purpose of ensuring all the possible benefits under different government schemes.

Better scope of provision should be formulated and introduced to rehabilitate women and children displaced due to mega industrial and development projects. Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition and Rehabilitation Resettlement Act 2013 and LARA Act should be effectively implemented.

Under the provision of Women Protection Act 2005 a protection officer should be appointed to protect women from domestic violence.

All the above demands were put forth before senior executives of seven prominent dailies through media advocacy programme so that demands concerning the single women from across the state could reach the state government. These demands were also placed before the representatives of different communities. District level advocacy programme was also conducted based on the method and format of state level advocacy programme on November 18, 2014. The other various organizations too supported the district level advocacy programme. The demands raised at state level were made available to the representatives of different political parties through different media. Several important chapters of women struggle for their rights gained prominence during decisive hour of election campaigns. Media advocacy witnessed the success of the struggles for the inclusion of women interests particularly interest of single women across election manifestoes of almost all the major political parties.

After the conclusion of state and district level media advocacy in wake of the above mentioned charter of demands, it was handed over to the representatives of different political parties so that it could be included into their respective manifestoes.

Single Women Identity and Leadership across Different Decision Making Committee

Women have been granted secondary status in Indian social perspective. They are challenged and bound to struggle for the realization of their rights and obligations. Socio-economically downtrodden women are more vulnerable to deprivation of rights and entitlements. The conditions of single women were more apathetic. They were hardly recognized a decade back now. Today single women have established their identity in all walks of life. Government has institutionalized various committees at village. Single women are active and contributing across all these committees. Single women are coming at the forefront decision making roles. Decisions taken by single women are recognized today. And they are also leading different committees

Sl.	Name of Committee	2012	2013	2014	2015
01	Mata Samity	106	232	244	444
02	School management committee	96	189	221	391
03	Health Committee	85	142	167	282
04	Forest Protection Committee	33	79	129	149
05	Water Sanitation Committee	35	169	248	398
06	Vigilance Committee	59	119	231	259
07	Panchayat Member	27	-	-	801
Total		441	930	1240	2724

During the span of four years, 5335 single women joined different permanent committees.

MIS and Documentation

MIS (Data collection) and documentation is a must affair of ENSS. Organization will appear stronger if it collects maximum data. Data collection and documentation ensures family conditions and social status of single women. It accounts the information associated with disbursement of various benefits under government schemes.

It enables organization to enter into an advocacy with government. Documentation and data collection may fetch numerous projects from various aid organizations too.

Different sets of data were collected from 2012 to 2015. Information's related to land property, smart card under National Health Insurance Scheme, hospitalization, socio-economic status, availability of government schemes, membership, member profile and various case studies of single women were documented.

Sl. No.	Particulars	Shramajivi Mahila Samiti	SHARC
01	Membership Profile	24440	14120
02	Government Schemes	30967	6969
03	Land Data	12353	647
04	Smart Card	16000	1284
05	Hospitalization	2581	156
06	Labour Card	4062	894
07	Linkage to Livelihood	5675	218
08	Case Collection	892	374

Aligned with National Single Women Rights Forum

Participation of ENSS members from Jharkhand at National Single Women Rights Forum was established on October 7, 2009 at ISI in New Delhi. Simultaneously, its state forum was spread to eight more states, including Jharkhand. Three executive members represented Jharkhand at the national forum. Two members from assistance group and 10 members from advisory committee extended their participation in the forum.

All the three members from Jharkhand state attended executive member training programme in 2012. Legal training programme was conducted in Rajasthan. Two members from Jharkhand attended the legal training programme and implemented it across Jharkhand too. Our members from ENSS have contributed in different programmes of national forum.

National level meets over land reform bill.

Participation at national convention over land, livelihood, social malpractices.

Participation at programme of pension council.

State level capacity building training.

Advocacy with Congress president Sonia Gandhi.

Advocacy with secretaries of different departments concerned at central level over various issues by national forum. It impacted a lot across state.

Provision of Rs. 200 crores were made in the budget of central government with respect to single women and old-age.

In the 12th Five Year Plan, a scheme was formulated with the focus upon single women.

Pension amount of old-age, widow, differently abled was increased upto Rs. 600.

The compulsion for BPL eligibility was lifted.

Widow recognized as single women.

Single women were involved in the meetings with regard to pension council.

Fifth Advisory Meeting

Fifth Advisory Meeting concluded on November 12th-13th, 2014 at Indian Social Institute in New Delhi. Members from 13 states attended the meet. During the course of meeting, a delegate from national forum met women and child secretary Mrs. Geeta Choudhary, assistant secretary Mr. T.R. Meena and incharge cum secretary of National Livelihood Mission Mrs. Vijaya Srivastava and secretary at the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Mr. Manoj Jhelani to put forth their issues related to single women and difficulties concerning various government departments. Dr. Madhavi from Women and Child Welfare, Dr. Sanghamitra from National Women Empowerment Mission and Mrs. Sharda Alikhan, assistant secretary from women and child development addressed the meet and shared valuable suggestion. During the meet the charter of demand was delivered to the Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi through social networking site Facebook.

To
Shri. Narendra Modi,
The Hon'ble Prime Minister,
Government of India
New Delhi

With respect we would like to aware you of the fact that single women comprises of 10 per cent of the total female population. It includes all such women who are kids, adolescents, youth and old age single women. And it would be much more than one's expectation if anybody considers only female population. Within female population the sizeable portion of single women would be around 18-20 per cent of the total populace. Single women are those who are either widow, destitute, divorced, left, banished from house or unmarried old age women (We are awaiting data of marital status from population census of 2011). Single women are bound to face tough living conditions especially those single women who are hailing from low income group and striving hard to lead their life.

In 2009, single women from all age groups, caste, creed and community came together from different states and thus National Single Women Rights Forum was established. We represent thousands of single women under the banner of this forum. Our membership is 1,06,195 and its still increasing with each passing day.

Since five years, we are regularly holding meetings in New Delhi from across eight to ten states to discuss various issues of single women. But do you care about us?

Today government employees have obtained benefits recommended by sixth pay commission, which is adding all sorts of comfort and luxury to their lives. However the provision for social security in the same social settings for women seems pathetic because the disbursement of pension is applicable only for widow and the amount which they receive on the name of pension per month is much less than their actual need. (Rs. 200 in Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar; Rs. 250 in Punjab and Rs. 300 in Odisha). The state of Gujarat records the highest amount of widow pension but that too is Rs. 750 per month only.

We single women are bound to spent our live working at farmland, as construction labourers, domestic servants etc. either throughout or till maximum days of our lives. For the sake of our livelihood we are compelled to take such jobs and continue till the end of our life. If the provision of social security would have been extended to us for lifelong than it might have eased our struggle for existence and livelihood.

Maximum number of we women have children dependent upon us, who have infancy till teenage. The provision for social security might assist us in their upbringing, education and health.

We are working and will continue to do so but whatever we earn is much less to suffice our daily needs. The minimum eligibility age to obtain training under government sponsored Livelihood Mission Programme is 35 years, which could be increased to 50 years or 45 years at the least. Besides, the minimum educational qualification meant for the same is class eight which could be further reduced to class five for less. We have the possibility to emerge good cook, phone repairer, school rickshaw driver etc. But standard laid down by government does not permit us to perform.

We want to enhance our educational qualification through open schools/ universities but the fee structure at open educational institution stands too high. Can the fees be reduced for women hailing from the background of low income group?

Nation has given a strong referendum to your government to serve them at the best. We single women have higher expectation from your government. We hope you will resolve our issues.

A meeting of National Single Women Rights Forum held on August 23rd-24th, 2015. Jharkhand's four member delegates presented activity progress report of Ekal Nari Sashakti Sangathan. Delegates from 13 states attended the meet. Activity report from April to August was also presented.

Preparation for sixth advisory committee meeting was discussed. A detailed discussion was laid upon advocacy lobbying. It was decided to chalk out the plan of action for the registration of National Single Women Rights Forum.

Results

Compulsion of BPL category for the disbursement of widow pension was lifted.

Widows were categorized under single womanhood.

Pension amount of widow, old-age and differently able was increased up to Rs. 600.

Central government introduced the budget provision of Rs. 200 crores for single and old-age.

Under 12th five year plan, schemes were formulated with focused attention upon single women.

4062 single women were recognized as labourers.

5675 single women were linked with livelihood.

32194 women were associated under different government schemes.

Under MGNREGA, 9478 applications were made for job; out of which 8293 were offered the same till date.

Out of 17284 smart cards, 9284 were acquired by single women.

12107 single women applied for Uwin card.

1266 issues of single women reached ENSS; out of which 870 cases were resolved with the help of Mukhiya and administration.

11710 single women applied for land entitlement rights. In all 6373 single women were allocated land.

Increase in membership (approx.44,389).

5316 leadership oriented women are active across block level.

4534 women were associated with different village committees.

Participation of single women was ensured in its one third activities.

With the assistance of membership profile, the status of 38560 single women was gathered.

2737 patients obtained treatment with the help of smart card.

Challenges Ahead

Patriarchal social setting and gender inequality are responsible for the secondary status of women. Further it victimizes them of discrimination. It poses severe threat in front of us. It seems quite tough to abridge this gap. It put them into vicious trap of illiteracy, poor health facilities and unskilled labour force. Lack of proper education facilities for kids of single women have been noticed on large scale since most of them are either less literate or economically weaker. Livelihood is another prime concern before single women. Negligible section of single women is exposed to employment opportunities. A Large section of single women are even deprived of their fundamental rights such as citizenship and property ownership. Single women are lagging behind in the human development index too. It is difficult to bring forth this section of the society in mainstream. Number of single women is increasing day by day however our society is bound to refuse singlehood liberty to them. It is our main social problem. Most of single women are deprived of social status on the account of resourcelessness. It is another most important factor for their backwardness. We have our challenges ranging from rights till provision.



H.No. 15, Raj Bhawan, Gunmoy Colony
PO Mango, Jamshedpur - 831012
+91-657-2364012, 2364015