Press Note for News Letter

FIAN Rajasthan with the collaboration of GRAVIS has organized a community training for migrant sand stone mine workers. The training was conducted in Bheel Basti (Dharmpura) on 27th Of June 2014, 56 participants participated in this training and Bhat Banjara Basti (Arna fanta) of Soorsagar Dist. Jodhpur (Rajasthan) India on 30th June 2014, 63 participants participated in this training.

Training was focused on provision of Right to food act and its implementation, Right to work regarding MGNREGA and Provision of silicosis compensation to sand stone mine workers. In this training from Rohila, Gram Panchayat MGNREGA in charge Mr. Ganga Ram Choudhary gave in detail information on MGNREGA Act 2005 to participants of Bheel Basti people that how they can apply and get Job card to access 100 to 150 days employment under NREGA. Mr. Choudhary said around 25 Job cards make for Bheel Basti People and we ensure the remaining household will be get job card in next Gram Panchayats meeting. So, these people can do work on this activity in next month and got 100 days employment. Nadi also provided water for them as well as their animals.

Mr. Rajendra Kumar, Secretary of FIAN Rajasthan, explains provision of National Right to food act and its importance and implementation for migrant mine workers perspective. Mr. Kumar distributed folder on right to food in local language (Hindi) for further references to ask government department officials.

Mr. K.K. Vyas, Senior Advocate of Rajasthan High Court, said if laborer people live in Govt. land long time anywhere, they have Right to live with shelter as well as right to work, Right to water, Right to food, Right to health. But Govt. does not fulfill such human rights for Arna fanta Bhat Banjara Basti people.

Bhat Banjara people said now 10 to 12 families got voter ID, Ration Card. But still we are waiting to get Job Card, Shelter facilities, drinking water and sanitation facilities in our hamlets.

Mr. Vinod Kumar, Social Activist, said the effort of GRAVIS with the support of mine workers now in Jodhpur Pneumoconiosis Board formed by Health Department. Now, Silicosis patient check up their health in Kamla Nehru Nagar Chest Hospital, Jodhpur and if they are positive OR effected by silicosis can submit their application with medical certificate to above board in Jodhpur. FIAN Rajasthan and GRAVIS together working to fill applications of silicosis affected
mine workers for compensation. Around 16 silicosis mine workers got compensation from Chief minister Relief Fund amounting to 29,00,000 (Twenty Nine Lac Rupees).

Ms. Sanju Devi, In charge of ICDS center of Bheel Basti, said in our center now we are providing 1 kg of nutrition packed food to adolescents’ girls four times in month in our center. Under this program those girls are covered, who are not going to school and working at their home and doing labor work in mining quarries. She said after FIAN intervention, around 35 children are getting supplementary nutrition and education in our center every day.