

**FOR**

EVERY CHILD  
EVERY WOMAN  
EVERY MAN

ADEQUATE NUTRITIOUS AND CULTURALLY

**FOOD IN DIGNITY**



## **Report**

### *Miners, Minerals and Livelihood(Conference Organized by FIAN India)*

The conference “Miners, Minerals and Livelihood” was a day-long event organized by FIAN India and The Child Trust in Ranchi, Jharkhand on the 20<sup>th</sup> of December, 2015. The conference attempted to bring to discussion some of the burning socio-economic issues related to mining in India. Concerns over displacement, lack of adequate compensation, rehabilitation and resettlement, impact on the Adivasi community and environmental damage were the major issues that surfaced in the conference. These concerns were linked to policy and legislative provisions to brainstorm on possible ways to mitigate concerns relating to mining. At the same time varied participation of affected groups, local activists and NGOs ensured that conference which gave affected communities a platform to voice their concerns and express themselves freely. The conference was divided into two broad segments. The first segment followed started at 11 AM and lasted till 2 PM. After a brief lunch the second segment commenced and lasted till 4:30 PM as the event ended with a vote of thanks. The total registered participants for the conference numbered at 81 persons. A scanned copy of the list of participants will is attached as part of annexure 1 as part of this document. The chairperson of the conference was Priyadarshini who regulated the events in the conference and ensured that the discussion maintained its purposeful direction.

## Session I

### **Welcome Note by Chani Singh (Board member, FIAN Jharkahand)**

The welcome note was delivered by Chani Singh, who is a board member of FIAN Jharkhand. She greeted the participants and expressed her happiness over the sizeable participation. Mrs Singh explained the rationale behind the title of the conference and pointed out that mining operations transform affected areas and have major impact on the livelihood of local communities and sadly the impact has mostly been negative. She drew attention to the fact that Jharkhand makes one of the most significant contribution to the mining sector in India yet it the local population of the state have received the least benefits out of it.

### **Overview by Ms Suman (Vice President FIAN India)**

The overview to the conference was delivered by Ms Suman who is the vice President of FIAN India. She pointed out that mining is related to a number of socio-economic issues such as displacement, child labour and human trafficking. In this light, mining operations force us to question the meaning of development. Ms Suman asked if development simply the expansion of industry and infrastructure? Or is development really meant to be a means to empower communities and individuals? She suggested that development has to be responsive to people's concerns. It ought to really start from the mining affected communities and should be means for them to solve the problems they face in their face in their daily lives.

Ms Suman pointed out that FIAN has been involved in mining related issues for a several years now. FIAN started their work in Jharkhand with Kusum Tola village in Tandwa Block of Chatra district around the year 2011. Here the government had acquired land for coal mining many years ago and the actual process when Coal India limited took possession of the land and started mining happened much later. As the villagers of Kusum Tola saw that mining was about to start in their village they began to resist but it was already too late. In our intervention we found that as per the law under which the land was acquired (the CBA

1957) it was no longer possible to register the complaints against land acquisition, the only option left was to fight for better compensation, rehabilitation and resettlement (R&R). As the mining started the people of Kusum Tola began facing numerous hardships since blasting was done very close to their houses, the water level went down, dust levels increased tremendously and the nearby Damodar river also began to be polluted. FIAN helped the villagers take some of these issues to court which helped to highlight issues of R&R and force the company to pay attention.

Ms Suman noted that FIAN's engagement with mining issues in Jharkhand gave it some very crucial insights. One problem that we noticed at the level of policy and legislation is that there are far too many laws for land acquisition. While there is a central law (earlier Land Acquisition act 1894 and now repealed in favour of Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act 2013) there are state level laws modelled on the central law as well as several sector specific laws. Currently there are 13 sector specific laws that allow land acquisition and it includes the like of Land Acquisition (Mines) Act 1885, the Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition and Development) Act 1957, The Atomic Energy Act, 1962 and the Damodar Valley Corporation Act. The existence of so many land acquisition laws made it extremely complicated and completely out of grasp of ordinary person who have the impossible task of understanding these laws and fighting for against acquisition, for better compensation, resettlement and rehabilitation. Moreover many of these laws gave tremendous powers to the state and largely ignored the interest of communities. On the other hand those laws that are meant to protect the laws of marginalized groups such as FRA, PESA, CNTA which were being overlooked and undermined by the states acquisition of land. Ms Suman suggested that this situation pointed to an urgent need for the state to bring about a convergence between the land acquisition laws and the laws safeguarding the interests of the people.

Ms Suman then moved on the theme of R & R of displaced groups. She pointed out that rehabilitation is more than just giving jobs away. It must necessarily seek to ensure that the social life and social network of people are recreated. However the sad reality has been that people are not even consulted as to where they be rehabilitated while villages are settled separately. The state and central government hold the responsibility for R & R and they must ensure that socio-economic lives of the displaced communities are also preserved. Monitoring of R & R is woefully absent and mining companies easily get away by falsely claiming the promises they made for compensation and R & R have been completed. At the same time

women must be at the centre of R & R schemes as they are critical to the well being of their family. Adivasi women play a central role in the agrarian life of the village. Displaced women have access to jobs and other economic avenues that will help them to maintain their families. This will help curb the malignant practices such as child labour and human trafficking. Pollution of water bodies also needs to be paid adequate attention. Ms Suman informed the gathering that the survey and research work carried out by FIAN in Jharkhand revealed that the pollution level in Damodar has become so high that it has become completely unfit for human use such as for drinking. Loss of access to water also impacts food security of people. Mining operations have clearly ruined the traditional life ways and along with it the local means through which nutritional requirements were met. She pointed out that the right to food of people goes beyond mere access to PDS system and availability of ration cards. Its essence lies in ensuring that people have access to food that is culturally and traditionally appropriate in a dignified manner. It must also ensure that the food fulfils the mental and bodily requirements of different age groups such as children and old persons.

Mining is also ruining the social life of villages. One graphic example is how it is leading to conflicts and disputes within the family. Compensation policy of companies has dictated that not every member of family gets jobs. Usually sons and not all of them get jobs. Women are conveniently ignored. Among families in mining areas we have witnessed a lot of disputes regarding who gets jobs and how compensation is to be divided. Cases where brothers are fighting legal battles against their own brothers have sadly become quite common.

In the case of Adivasi community, they are often ignored when it comes to jobs in the mining companies and government sectors. The government reservation policy mandates that 7.5% of government jobs in each department must be fulfilled by Adivasis. This however hardly takes place. The quota remains unfulfilled since it is alleged that Adivasis lack necessary educational qualifications to take up the jobs.

Another issue on which the government has been faltering also relates to constitutional protection for Adivasis. As per the fifth schedule of the India constitution, the governor of the state has the right to repeal any law that is seen to be against the interests of the Adivasi community. Besides there is also a provision to call for the meeting of a council to discuss legal and policy issues that affect Adivasi community. Ms Suman pointed out that she has hardly ever heard of these councils being proactive nor has she seen the governor taking protective stance towards issues affecting Adivasi groups. Ms Suman exhorted groups

working on protecting interest of Adivasis to take up this issue and ensure that these constitutional safeguards are effectively implemented.

Much energy will be required to tackle these problems and it must ensure that communities fighting against displacement get adequate support. It is often seen that communities lose the will to resist mining operations due to the long drawn nature of legal process and judicial persecution that activists among communities are faced with.

She also emphasised the need to figure out ways in which the broader issue of mining can be peacefully resolved. There is a urgent need to come up with a clear strategy on how mining activities can be conducted peacefully without harming local communities. Specifically, it is important to be clear on what legal amendments are required, what polices need to be modified and finally how effective monitoring can be brought to ensure accountability and transparency.

Ms Suman concluded by stating that the conference Mines, Minerals and Livelihood provided exactly such a occasion where these issues can be discussed constructively and brainstorming can be done on possible strategies through which mining issues can be tackled. She exhorted the participants to provide their recommendations which will be deliberated.

**Anil Kumar Chaubey(BhawnathpurBhachaoSangharshSamiti, Bhawnatpur)**

The next speech was given by Anil Kumar Chaubey from the BhawnathpurBhachaoSangharshSamiti. He narrated the struggles and resistance of displaced communities in Bhawnatpur. The opening of a limestone crusher plant in Bhawnatpur in 1969 to feed the nearby steel industries of Bokaro led to land acquisition and displacement in this area. Mr Chaubey recalled that a lot of promises including offers of jobs were made to the people on by those managing the Crushing plant. However Mr Chaubey confirmed that only 50% of the people finally got jobs. More recently, the plant is being shut down. The displaced persons of Bhawnatpur have formed groups such as BhawanatpurBhachaoSangharshSamiti in order to ensure that interests of people are safeguarded. They are demanding compensation as well as demanding return of lands acquired for the plant but which have remained unused. Their struggles have been aided by local political leaders such as BhanuPratapShahi who is representative to Jharkhand Vidhan Sabha.

### **Gulab Chandra (Damodar BachaoAbhiyan)**

Gulab Chandra represented Damodar BachaoAbhiyan focused on the plight rivers in Jharkhand and attempts of movements to protect them. He pointed out that both Damodar and Konar rivers are the most important rivers of Jharkhand. Both these rivers have faced tremendous pollution from mines in their basins especially from the coal mines.

The people living close to mining areas in these two mining areas were being severely harmed by the pollution as they were dependent on the river water for consumption, household and agrarian use. Gulab Chandra noted that people felt extremely helpless about the situation. However a resistance movement from the people soon emerged in this area. Organization such as Kriya from Delhi became engaged in the region and trained local activists to struggle against pollution of the Damodar river. In this process the Damodar BachaoAndolan was also born in the state of Jharkhand. In 1999 the organization Damodar BachaoAndolan made a yatra or march along the river Damodar to highlight the pollution to the river caused by the mining industry as well as damage caused by mega dams in the state.

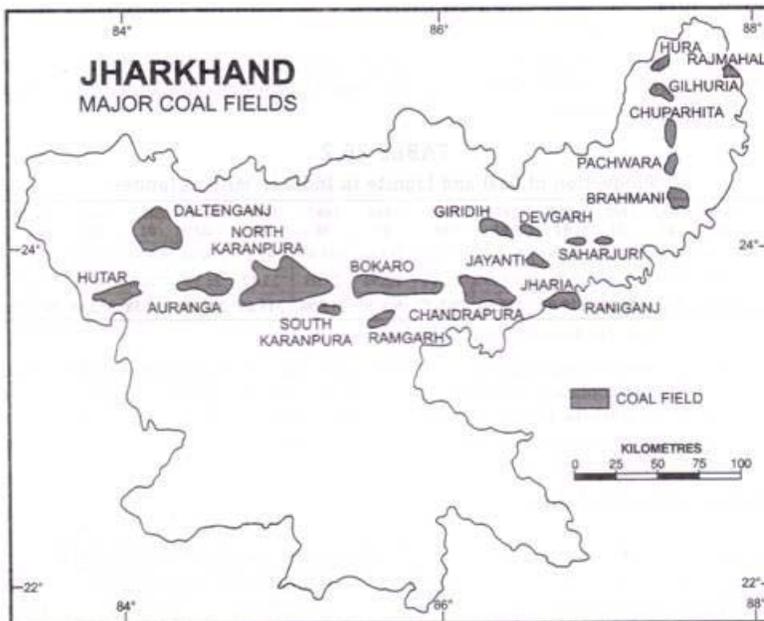
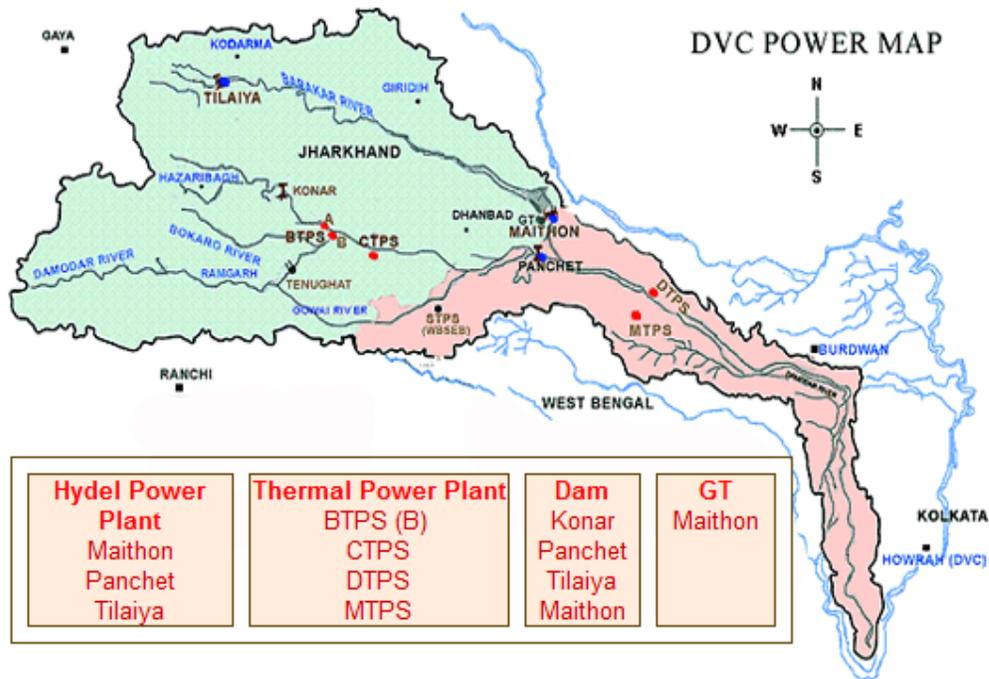


FIG. 26.2. Jharkhand : Major coal fields

## Coal Fields in Jharkhand



### Rivers in Jharkhand

Gulab Chandra exhorted the participants to help the movement in spreading awareness on the issues and influence the state to take corrective measures urgently. The state he noted has become more aware and receptive to the concerns of the people in the recent years. He however also made a dire warning that if the river Damodar is not saved soon, Jharkhand will soon turn into a “Black Desert.”

Moving away from the Damodar, Mr Chandra chose to highlight a couple more issues related to land acquisition. He pointed out that there are two types of land that the state has been acquiring from communities in Jharkhand. The first category is Rayati land and the second is GairMajurwaKhaas (GMK) land. Rayati land refers to privately owned land whereas GairMajurwaKhaas (GMK) land refers to non agricultural land owned by the government that has been transferred to the villagers. Mr Chander revealed that companies to whom the acquired land goes to have been consistently unwilling to pay compensation for GMK lands despite carrying out mining operations in them, Thenon paymentof compensation form GMK land is a major problem facing the villagers who have been displaced. Compensation for GMK land is also one of the main demands of the local movements of villagers fighting on behalf of displaced groups. Besdies GMK lands the non payment of compensation by mining

companies for others assets of displaced groups such as income earning trees like Mahua was another issue highlighted by Mr. Chandra.

**Dr Sunita(Jan MuktiSangharshVahini, Ranchi)**

Ms Sunita began her discussion by underlining the significant ways in which mining operation affects local communities. She pointed out that mining has inevitably harmed the livelihood of local people as they lose their lands due to displacement. Further she pointed out that women are the most affected group due to displacement. Due to loss of access to agrarian and forest resources and lack of R & R measures directed at women, they are unable to ensure the care and well being of their families.

She suggested that the way forward lay in people becoming more aware about policy and legal matters and prepare a strategy to face the challenges that displacement and mining bring about. She lamented that most policies lack in safeguards for local groups who are ultimately affected by the decision of policy makers. By becoming more aware and articulating their grievances people can take stock of laws and policies that govern their lives. She hopes to devise strategies through which communities will have a stronger voice in making mining related decisions so that they can decide important matter such as how much and where mining is to take place. She urged activists, NGOs and local movements to act this direction.

**Dr. Kiran (CCL officer)**

Kiran who is serving as an officer with CCL began by taking a historical perspective on legislative matters governing mining. She pointed out that many laws relating to mining and land acquisition were introduced in the British period which gave little consideration to the needs and interests of displaced communities. She suggested that fact that many of these laws have survived for so long and some continue to do so reflects a kind of policy paralysis.

Focussing on the mining sector she lamented that mining has often taken place in the name of development but hurt the local communities of mining areas the most. The dreams of jobs and progress made to these communities have had a mirage like quality and have rarely been delivered. Instead of reaping benefits local communities such as Adivasis have borne a huge burden. She reminded the audience that about 40% of all displaced in India are Adivasis.

Displacement has rendered these groups rootless. Mining transforms the environment and damages the ecological richness of an area. Their traditional life ways rooted in living in harmony with nature and exhibit attitudes that respect the land, forests and rivers. Their traditional ways are completely disrupted as they are displaced. Dr. Kiran also argued that it is important to think of displacement beyond that of the owner of the land and to think of how it impact all living beings living in the land. To make her point, she shared with the participants this lesson she herself drew from her interactions with Adivasi people in Jharkhand. She narrated an anecdote when she went to acquire land in an Adivasi area. Upon arriving in the area and interacting with local Adivasi people she encountered an Adivasi whose concern for all nature and living beings moved Ms Kiran deeply. The Adivasi lady asked Ms Kiran where will the goats she reared go once the land is acquired? The people will perhaps find a new place to live but what will happen to the animals, the Adivasi lady asked

Dr. Kiran also highlighted the harm that displacement has done to women. She rues the fact that most jobs to displaced persons inevitably go to men. Dr. Kiran alleges that these practices are in effect perpetuating patriarchy. She commented on the irony that despite trying to move from agrarian to industrial economy, the practices around mining that show that people are unwilling to let go of their feudal mentality. She elaborated on this further by suggesting that all laws claim to be progressive but ultimately a feudal mentality creeps in when it comes to their implementation on the ground. The neglect of women and marginalized groups like Dalits and Tribals she believes reflects this feudal mentality.

Ms Kiran ended her discussion by suggesting ways to minimize the damaging impact of mining. A starting point she feels should be effort on the part of the government to share information on the nature of projects. This will help give a better idea to the affected communities and broader public as to how much land do different development projects really need. Following this the minimum necessary land ought to be acquired for the development projects. Efforts should also be made to make ensure that land is used only for the purpose specified as the rationale for land acquisition. No illegal settlements on acquired land must be tolerated. This has happened in the past such as in land acquired in ATS project of Ranchi. Here while original owners lost out on the land, illegal settlers from elsewhere settled on the land and through political connections gained facilities such as electricity and water. Ultimately these helped turn their illegal existence legal even while the original inhabitants lost out completely in the whole process.

Another vital condition Ms Kiran supported was that land should be acquired only after obtaining the consent of the owners of the land. She reiterated that the principle of land acquisition must be free prior and informed consent. This she believes will be a meaningful step that can help us move away from past development practices where ordinary people came in the way of harm. She affirmed her belief that development ought not to take place at the cost of ordinary people.

**Vinod Kumar (Organization?)**

Mr Kumar reflected on the theme of the conference, Mines, Minerals and Livelihood and took a strong position that mining can never become the basis of livelihood. He argued that corporatized mining is inherently exploitative and a profit maximizing mindset drives the industry. This results in high and unsustainable of mining in areas where minerals are found which in turn destroys the environment, forest and agrarian resources.

Commenting on the utility of mining for the local population, Mr Kumar asked rhetorically, if the Adivasi people of Bokaro (here major steel plants are based) use steel utensils? What benefit does the industry really bring to them? He further argued that mining in places like Dhabad and Niyamgiri show the industry is not concerned about employment generation or work to improve socio-economic status of affected communities.

Another issue Mr Kumar highlighted is pollution of rivers. He shared a study that **his organization** carried out. The study found that PH levels in mining areas was far beyond those acceptable for human use due to heavy metal flowing into the rivers. In Chandel it was 7.0 and in Kharkya it was 6.9. What is even more worrisome according to Kumar is that labs in India are failing to detect the presence of toxic substance in the river water. He informed the gathering about another study which found that while a lab in India/Jharkhand could detect only 4 heavy metals from a sample of water another lab in USA detected the presence of about about 10 heavy metals

**Kumar Saurav(Provisional Welfare Society of India, Giridi)**

Kumar Saurav from (Provisional Welfare Society of India) shared the plight of workers in Giridi and sought suggestions from the participants on how to take this issue forward. One case he narrated was that of a widow in Tara Nakho who had her land sold under coercion to

brick kiln owners. Although the lady got a job in the same brick kiln for a while she went through advanced pregnancy when she could no longer work. The widow who already had two other children stopped receiving any pay from the brick kiln and went through immense financial and emotional distress. Mr Sauvra tried to get the attention of authorities like the National Human Rights Commission but has received no helpful response as yet.

**Kumar Dilip (Chatra YuvaSangharshVahini, Jamshedpur)**

Mr Dilip chose to highlight problems relating to ownership of minerals as seen in the case of very low rates of royalty and high revenue in contrast. He pointed out that the mining companies pay only 26 INR as royalty whereas the revenue they generate runs in millions of rupees. He also pointed out that mining companies made promise to pay 2% of royalty to the affected communities but to his knowledge this has never been done.

He also shared an experience of his organization where they have been successful in organizing local populations. In a village in X district, Manganese ores have been found. Mr Dilip's organization is fighting to ensure that rather than mining companies take over these mineral deposits, the villagers themselves mine and sell the manganese ores.

Mr Dilip feels that mining by people is important since mining companies destroy local livelihood but fail to provide employment. This is partly due to mechanization and use of heavy machines which ensure minimum manpower is required throughout the mining process. Even if local communities get jobs they are usually temporary in nature and provides very little benefit or social security. Mining by corporate entities only destroy the self sufficiency of local villages. Self sufficient villages which lived in peace and dignity once displaced lose all they have and become impoverished.

Mr Dilip also suggested that where mining by major companies cannot be avoided, the state must ensure that only minimum and sustainable levels of mining are done. A commitment must be made to honestly share with people details regarding projects, viz. Extent of mining planned, number of jobs being granted. This will help the affected communities by creating awareness and help them make informed decisions.

**Poonam Singh From NariSena, Ranchi**

Poonam Singh from NariSena also chose to share her experiences with displacement in Ranchi. He talked out two localities where local communities in Ranchi were forcefully displaced. The first case was of Pahari Mandir in Ranchi where Adivasis as well as non Adivasi communities of poorer labouring sections of the city lived. Most people lived here in shack houses for over decades but were forcefully displaced 6 years ago nor did they get any rehabilitation and resettlement from the government. A similar case is Islamnagar where people had bought land from private individuals which the government later claimed to be its own. Like Pahari Mandir, denizens of Islamnagar were also forcefully removed without R & R. Conflict including violence had ensued in both these cases and in Pahari Mandir at least 2 people were reported to be killed by police firing on protesters.

### **HemendraPratapSahi (ex MLA from Jharkhand)**

MR Shahi chose to narrate various experiences he had fighting against displacement. He talked about the Chandili dam project where over **116 villages? Went under water**. Only 25% of the people received were rehabilitated. Most displaced people were forced to live in shack houses in and around their former homes while some shifted to nearby towns. Mr Shahi lamented that Chandili dam brought little or no benefit to the people of Jharkhand and most of the water actually flowed to Bihar, UP and Orissa rather than Jharkhand itself.

Due to loss of land and heavy displacement, MR Shahi expressed fears that Adivasi communities are getting destroyed and their tradition culture and lifeways moving towards extinction. He added these marginalized groups are always offered the hope of jobs but ultimately all jobs go to educated and technically skilled persons from outside while affected people are reduced to living in tents and shack houses in their own lands. He narrated incidents of displaced people whose families have been torn apart. In one case, a displaced person was not even aware where rest of his family migrated to and how they are surviving.

Mr Shahi made several recommendations to the participants about how displacement's negative impact can be curbed. He suggested that

- Before physical displacement take place all families must already be allotted new houses
- Every member of a displaced family must get job
- Ensure livelihood by encouraging enterprises such as bee keeping, horticulture and animal other husbandry.

- All displaced persons in Jharkhand such as those in ATC, Bokaro, Chandili must be given houses.

Mr Shahi lamented that government has showed no concern for Adivasis and poor farmers while it is focussing on extravagant development initiatives like building bullet trains. It is promoting large scale retailers and super markets at the cost of small retailers and poor vendors. In sum, the government is becoming more and more pro corporate.

#### **Abdul Hassan (Van AdhikarSamiti from Palamu)**

Mr Hassan began by introducing himself and his organization and shared details on some of the key initiative this organization is carrying out. One notable project includes creating livelihood options through marketing of Tendu Leaves.

Mr Hassan also touched down some issues relating to displacement. He pointed out that signatures of Gram Sabha members granting permission for mining in their lands is often obtained fraudulently by company representatives and intermediaries. Corruption between mining officials and government employees ensure that most villagers never get the compensation allotted to them. Ultimately displaced people are forced to migrate to nearby towns and cities where they live a rootless life shorn of traditions and practices they are familiar with. In short, they lose their identity.

Another issue he highlighted was persecution of activists. Six months back, members of Van AdhikarSamiti who opposed mining activities in Palamu were put in jail without following due process such as filing of FIR. A similar case was also seen in Chatra.

#### **MohmudAlam (From Garhwa)**

Mr Alam suggested that the policies of the government regarding displacement. What ensues is that the basic rights of displaced people are always snatched away. At a deeper level when the land of communities like Adivasis are snatched away they lose the deep bonds they share with the land. The bond with Land, Water and Forests (Jal, Jangal, Zameem) runs very deep for Adivasi who have built economic, cultural, religious ties with their environment. Displacement harms Adivasis in the same way when fish is taken out of water.

Mr. Alam reiterated his commitment to fight on behalf of displaced groups to ensure their rights are respected. He also took time out to thank Mr BhanuPratapShahi, a local MLA for

the inspirational work and leadership he has provided to displaced groups in Mr. Alams region.

**Orissa Guy (Will get details from Sanjay Rai )**

**Sanjay Rai (FAIN UP)**

Mr Rai drew attention to differences in impact of displacement in different parts of the country. He pointed out that displaced land owners in places like Delhi and wider NCR have greater ability to pressure the government to grant higher levels of compensation and R & R. This is also due to their proximity to the national capital which means that the issues not only get greater media coverage and acts such as protests put greater pressure on the political and bureaucratic class to solve the issue. This is in stark contrast to places like Jharkhand where issue of displacement rarely get the attention of national media and the political impact of displacement remains localized in remote parts of the state where the mining operations occur. The inability to adequately pressurize the political and bureaucratic class severely hinders the quest of displaced persons to get decent compensation and R & R.

These groups rarely get permanent jobs in mining companies and instead get some form of temporary contract that is devoid of the various benefits and social security that comes with a permanent job. Those who fail to find any form of employment in the mining industry have to undertake distress migration to major cities like Delhi and Mumbai seeking employment. There they take up menial jobs in the unorganized sector such as construction labourers with little option of upward mobility. At the same time these nature of jobs like construction work and the shanty houses they are forced to live in expose the displaced persons to severe health hazards.

**VasaviKiro, Jorang Trust, Hedan**

VasaviKiro from Jorang trust expressed the desire of her organization to engage with FIAN and further advocacy work on behalf of displaced victims. Like other participants she also chose to elaborate on certain key issues surrounding the theme of the conference. She began by pointing out that despite the creation of Jharkhand as a separate state to protect the interests of tribal people, the situation of tribal people raises concerns. The loss of Adivasi land in particular points to a major failure of the new state.

Another issue Ms Vasavi developed was regarding the provisions of the 5<sup>th</sup> Schedule. She sought suggestions from other participants on how provisions such as Tribe Council Meeting can be utilized by activists. She informed the gathering that the meetings of the Tribe Council have not been functioning as effectively and there is a urgent need to figure out strategies to make it work as well find out ways to include the concern of various activists in these meetings. Another issue regarding 5<sup>th</sup> Schedule, Ms Vasavi highlighted was the irregularity in sending of the Administrative Reports. This is another issue she hoped the participants at the conference would take up individually as well as collectively as a network.

Ms Vasavi also lamented that fact that the principle of free prior informed consent is rarely followed in cases relating to land acquisition. This is despite the fact the Free, prior informed consent has become a key principle of the new central law Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement 2013. Ms Vasavi questioned why the new act RFCTLARR 2013 has not been discussed in Jharkhand. The absence of debate in the media and among activists is surprising since land acquisition and displacement is such a major issue in the state. She ended her discussion by highlighting the urgent need for awareness regarding this new law in Jharkhand in order to turn it into an effective corner stone in struggle against forced displacement.

### **Srinivas (independent reporter, Ranchi)**

Srinivas initiated his discussion by remarking on the curious overlap between Adivasi population, and mineral rich lands. He remarked that this is not only true of India but also of most parts of the world. Outside India too, most minerals are found in lands where indigenous people live. He then asked the participants why extracting of mining is called production at all? To his mind, all mining does is dig out minerals from an existing stock. The next point he made is regarding the idea of value of land. He criticized the principle that land can be acquired by payment of a sum equivalent to the value of the land. He pointed out that land can never be assigned any value by the market. He feels this is because land has the ability to feed people in perpetuity and not for a single generation of land owners. Payment for land can never take into account the ability of land to support the livelihood of land of people for generations to come. Mr Srinivas thus feels it is best to introduce leasing of land rather than acquisition to not only protect the long term interests of land owners but also as a means to acknowledge their real value of land which is not quantifiable. Mr Srinivas also pointed that that ordinary people cannot be expected to fight against land acquisition since

they do not have the necessary level of complex legal affairs that govern these processes. The state of affairs in Jharkhand has made it extremely crucial to deliberate on ways in which communities can resist the onslaught of displacement and mining activities.

## Session II

The second session of the conference was geared towards building strategies on follow ups to this conference. To achieve this end, participants of the conference carried out liaison among them and came up with an agreed set of points as a follow up point. The session also attempted to encourage networking building among various participants of the conference. One of the outcome was formation of a committee of 11 members to organize interested parties on behalf of different organization interested in working on behalf of the displaced communities. The session lasted for a couple of hours and yielded extremely productive outcomes.

The participant of the conference came up with the following points as a guideline for a follow up activities:

1. Create one new platform to address displacement and mining related issues
2. Involve government officials to carry out advocacy and attempt to ensure stronger implementation of policies.
3. Strategize and carry out efforts to seek stringent implementation of the Forest Rights Act 2006
4. Attempt a systematic study and documentation of cases of displacement across Jharkhand
5. Organize a workshop to the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement 2013
6. In Produce and disseminate booklets on the Central, state level and various sector specific land acquisition laws
7. Attempt Advocacy at the national and state level
8. Take up the issue of domicile whereby the concerns of citizens of Jharkhand are taken up and discussed fruitfully
9. Deliberate and strategize on the issue of supply of water and electricity.

In order implement the follow up plans, the participants of the conference decided on a committee of 11 members. Dr. Sunita of Jan MuktiSanharshVahini of Jharkhand and Chani Singh, board member of FIAN Jharkhand were as convenors of this committee. The list of 11 members of the committee and the organizations they represent are as follows

1. Dr. Sunita, JanMuktiSanharshVahini,
2. Veerchand Ekka
3. Chani Singh, Board Member, FIAN Jharkhand
4. Premlata Gupta (TCDR, Ranchi)
5. Kamala Sharma
6. Poonam Singh (NariSena)
7. Kartic Tana Bhagat
8. BhuvneshwarBhuiyan
9. Suman (Vice President FIAN India)
10. Kumar Dileep
11. Gulab Chand (Damodar BachaoAbhiyan)

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