

16th Session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA)

24 to 28 April 2017

Written Statement by Institute of International Social Development (IISD)

Agenda item 3: Ensuring effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals through leadership, action and means, (e) Strategies for integrated action to achieve poverty eradication: implications for public institutions

Ensuring effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals need to have the direct participation of leadership, administrative system and local awareness and cooperation.

What is sustainable development? It is a state of perpetual welfare of a society where any inmate of the society is physically, economically, culturally, mentally and spiritually contented with the opportunities and outcome of such opportunities when availed.

We have the cycle van programme which is a permanent economic solution and vehicle of self reliance for families suffering from abject poverty and thus deprived of all opportunities in society that is there for the economically deprived.

Selection of beneficiary society and family- first we approach the village or basic administrative office of the area to get a survey report of people suffering from unpredictable or seasonal income. Then we gather family details of the deprived through our volunteers who does Baseline survey. We select beneficiary families with the cooperation of the local people.

We make the family sign an agreement with us that the income from the Cycle Van would be used to upgrade the nutrition value of their food intake, no consumption of alcohol or drugs, children to be sent to school and their education should not be stopped. Mediciam/family medical insurance for the entire family should be done, savings should be done for contingency. Healthier toilets, clean kitchens should be built for use. No Domestic violence. Disobeying any of the rules of the agreement would compel the donor to take away the Cycle Van. We send follow up volunteers for the first 3 years. After that the beneficiary gets used to the strictures and does not need supervision.

Thus social change, earning of livelihood for life is ensured through the network of administrative set up, local leadership, volunteers and local people.

Example: Mr. Swapan Munda belongs to the tribal Munda clan in West Bengal. He has an unpredictable income of Rs1000-1500 per month and a family to support. He does not have enough to feed himself or his family. The local people of Munda Para of South Kolkata, West Bengal India, suggested that a cycle Van be donated to him. We made him sign our terms and engaged volunteer Mr. Indraneel Mitra to visit Mr. Swapan Munda in the evening time to take stock of his progress in income and his pattern in expenditure complying the agreement

between the Institute and him. According to Swapan Munda himself the Cycle Van would help him earn Rs400-500 a day which would mean Rs12000-15000 a month!

While selection of the area and target group was chosen with the help of administration and leadership, selection of the beneficiary family was done as per local people's recommendation!