

ANNUAL REPORT

2005-06

LOK PRERNA



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LOK PRERNA

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• **Moving together**

We feel honour to present the Annual Report of Lok Prerna for the year 2005-06 before you. Over the past 15 years the organization has improved in many parameters including its operational area, staff strengths and experience; yet we believe that inclusion of poorest in the decision making process has been one of the most difficult task. Every time the new challenges have opened up new dimensions of development initiatives and the organization has grown with assimilating the knowledge and experience to improve further.

The ongoing effort of Lok Prerna strives to mainstream marginalized communities. Our recent efforts have been focused on strengthening of people's institution for self governance, community based management of natural resources, water and sanitation and community health services. The organization has also introduced action research and study into its ongoing programmes to understand the dynamics involved in the process. This further opens up new dimensions for improving our efforts and help us to serve the people better. The field experiences suggest need of consolidating the ongoing efforts with more focus on livelihood issues. We feel urgent need of regional study for better understanding the natural resource management perspectives in Santhal Pargana region of Jharkhand with focus on its bio-diversity and common pool resources.

We feel indebted to the unflinching faith of our donors especially Water Aid India, Department for International Development (DFID), Development Alternatives (DA), Andheri Hilfe, Bonn, Terre Des Hommes (TDH), National Agriculture Bank for Rural Development (NABARD), Society for Promotion of Wasteland Development

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(SPWD), Govt. of India, Ministry of Textiles & Handicrafts, Govt. of Jharkhand, DRDA Dumka district, MESO, Dumka, Water and Sanitation Department, State Aids Control Society, Jharkhand & Govt. of India, Ministry of Forest & Environment. Their full support and feedback have been driving force of our initiatives.

We are also grateful to SRI, Ranchi, ATMA Dumka, Sutra Consultants, Ranchi Active, Ranchi and Abhiviyakti Foundation, Giridih for their technical support and cooperation.

We are very much thankful and owe much to the community we work with and their institutions that have been our active field partners.

Last but not least, we express our sincere thanks to all the staff, advisors and governing body members of Lok Prerna for their tireless work and endeavor to translate thoughts into action. We can not forget to express our gratitude to A. N. Pandey for his noble guidance and sharing his experiences repeatedly.

We would be looking forward to your suggestions and valuable feedback to improve it further.

Madhav Kumar Das
Secretary

Satish Kumar Karn
Director

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About the Organization

Lok Prerna is a podium of like minded people who believe in the philosophy of 'helping people to help themselves'; and implement it for the cause of marginalized and disadvantaged sections. The founders were involved with the development action in Santhal Pargana region with good knowledge and understanding acquired through the working experiences in the field and came together in the year 1991 to put their thoughts into action.

Legal Status

Society Registered under Societies Registration Act (Act XXI of 1860) vide Registration No. 22 dated 03.04.1992

Registered under section 12A & 80G of Income Tax Act.

Registered under FCRA,1976

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Vision, Mission and Guiding Principles

Vision

To establish a non-exploitative, self reliant social order devoid of inequalities based on caste, creed, religion and sex and characterized by dignity of the individuals with the primacy of truth and non-violence for it's perpetuation.

Mission

Empowerment of the lowest rung of the society.

Guiding Principles

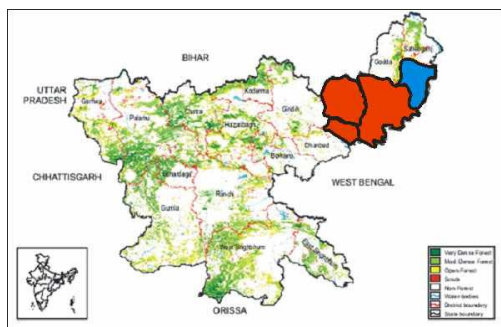
The organizational philosophy of Lok Prerna believes in the principles of equity, justice and peace which enables a community and strengthens the social harmony and indigenous development process. The organization believes in a life cycle approach to tackle the emerging issues.

Working Area

Present activities of Lok Prerna are focused in Dumka, Deoghar and Jamtara districts of Jharkhand. All the districts fall within Santhal Pargana region which has been largely dominated by the tribal and dalit communities. The focus of organizational interventions are more on the rural inaccessible areas.

State map showing the operational areas of Lok Prerna

Working area of Lok Prerna



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Strategy and Approaches

The community development initiatives of Lok Prerna incorporate different level interventions to augment the community empowerment process. The organization develops its understanding of development action through following approaches:

- Community organization and their motivation
- Capacity building of community based organizations
- Participatory mapping of existing conditions and gaps
- Awareness and Education to promote the Right Based Approach
- Encourage Community led initiatives for small working models
- Establish new linkages and convergence
- Develop interface among different stakeholders
- Action Research

The organization has following thematic areas cross cutting each of its interventions–

Marginalized communities :
Tribal / dalit/ women/ children

Gender

Environment

Livelihood

While working with the communities the organization realized that access of poor to services and

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their participation in development activities is one of the most difficult challenges. Lok Prerna's efforts have been intended to increase their reach to basic amenities and address the problems in a life cycle approach.

Thematic areas

The organization has reframed its thematic areas to develop appropriate strategies for building an enabling environment to cater the needs of poor-

- Women and child development
- Sustainable Livelihood
- Natural Resource Management
- Appropriate Rural Technologies
- Community Health
- Local Self Governance

Major Activities During the Year 2005 – 06

Community Organization

The community organization activities are starting point of Lok Prerna interventions. So far the organization has been able to promote different community based organizations which include women self help groups, farmer's clubs, Village level Water Sanitation Committees, User groups and Watershed Associations. These institutions have shown marked progress with time in terms of their participation in the community led initiatives.

Empowering the village through land and water management

This programme supported by Andheri Hilfe Bonn, was intended to organize local communities for development action. All the four villages Chihutia, Bihajori, Jamdhara and Kusumaha covered about 210 poor households who depend on the local

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resources for their daily life. In the past the communities had subsistence farming and supplementary income met with the minor forest produces from nearby areas. As the forest shrived the supplementary income squeezed and the intensified surface runoff caused severe erosion to cultivable lands and made the traditional irrigation structures virtually defunct. The people were frequently migrating in lean seasons as wage laborers and come back during the paddy seasons.

Here Lok Prerna started with mobilizing local communities for construction of irrigation structures. The people managed the programme by a Programme Implementation committee. On the basis of original work plan 3 villages Bihajori, Jamdhara and Kusumaha got more attention in the current year.

Following construction activities were undertaken during the period-

- Construction of 3 intake wells
- Installation of 3 lift irrigation systems
- Construction of 2 water harvesting tanks



The irrigation sources developed under the programme are presently managed by the local user groups who take care of operation and maintenance of community based irrigation services.

The programme has been instant success as it has significantly increased the irrigated area within the village by 57 acres. Before the intervention the farming activities were confined to paddy cultivation and very limited farming during the monsoon periods. Availability of water has significantly increased the farm diversity and food grain availability within the village which is now in surplus.

The project has also developed equity principles to ensure that every one gets the water for irrigation which further encouraged the people to mobilize additional resources

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under the Swajaldhara project.

The role of women has increased as the group dynamics emerged among them. All the 7 self help groups are actively engaged in small thrift and credit activities and have been to amicably resolve village level conflicts particularly related to women. These self help groups have been able to manage effective and small credit services for the target communities. These groups have been further mobilized to cooperate in the Catch Up Round for immunization of children and pregnant mothers which has also encouraged the health seeking behaviour among the communities.

Improved irrigation sources has increased linkages of farmers with commercial banks and now we are looking forward to introduce sustainable agriculture practices to control the input costs and help the farmers reap more benefits.

Water and Sanitation

Poor sanitation and access to safe drinking water has been one of the major concerns for the marginalized communities. In Santhal Parganag most of the rural communities depend on open water sources which have severe health implications and one of the major reasons of poverty. In these areas women are worst sufferers since they have to travel long distances to collect water.

For the past 3 years Lok Prerna has intensified it's activities to mobilize local communities for safe drinking water and good sanitation to improve people's health.

At present the water and sanitation activities of Lok Prerna are confined in community development blocks Raneshwar, Jarmundi & Masalia of Dumka district, Devipur block of Deoghar dist. and CD block Nala of Jamtara district.

In Jarmundi block the organization initiated the water sanitation project in 47 villages with support of Water Aid India, and the Total Sanitation Campaign has increased it's outreach to 65 villages.

The initiatives started with the Water Aid India supported project in community development block Jarmundi of Dumka district. Here Lok Prerna is working in 47 villages with support of Water Aid India.

Area coverag (no. of villages under water sanitation activities

67

55

65

60

141

Jarmundi

Raneshwar

Masalia

Nala

Devipur

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Jamtara district

Dumka district

Deoghar district

Construction of New Toilets

The block level awareness and IEC activities have increased interest of people in proper sanitation. The Total Sanitation Campaign support for construction of new toilets has further helped new constructions of toilets.

In Masalia block we have not been able to start construction of new toilets which could be started by the next quarter. Recently the TSC Prakash has also extended support for superstructures which will help the people to avoid difficulties in rainy seasons.

480

1200

247

206

Jarmundi

Raneshwar

Nala

Devipur

Blockwise construction of new toilets

Jarmundi

Raneshwar

Nala

Devipur

Recently 6 villages in Jonka and Shankarpur panchayats of Jarmundi have been made open defecation free villages. Efforts are going on further to make 3 villages of Devipur block of Degohar open defecation free.



The water sanitation initiatives have also motivated the local communities for their active involvement in improving access to water.

Fig: hand pump repair by the people in

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supervision of skilled technician

Total 126 wells and 58 hand pumps have been renovated whereas new water sources were developed through 5 wells and 8 hand pumps. This has significantly reduced the drudgery of women. For most of the families safe drinking water facilities are now available within 200 meters saving precious two women hours of each household.

The water and sanitation committees have taken proactive role in taking ownership of the water structures developed under different water and sanitation initiatives. Lok Prerna has made special care to encourage equal participation of women in such committees. Though initially it has achieved the marks in numbers we sincerely believe that much groundwork is needed to increase their active participation. The water and sanitation committees have been able to mobilize a sanitation fund of Rs. 1,55,954/- only.

During the period Lok Prerna has followed some major activities to promote water sanitation practices which include –

- Renovation and new construction of water sources
- Construction of soak pits with and without washing platforms.
- Desiltation of water harvesting tank,
- Institutional training to village based institutions including gram sabha, self help group women, Kisan clubs, VEC /PTA members on water sanitation and community based management.
- Skill development training of caretakers, operators and masons.
- Sensitization of other stakeholders including teachers, anganwadi workers, ANMs, Bank employees, Block development office staff etc. to develop effective linkages.
- Water quality test for 34 samples have revealed no major contamination in the ground water and good sanitary practices will help to sustain this quality.
- Recycling of waste waters for kitchen gardening.
- Construction of NADEP Compost pits,
- Awareness and education activities on water sanitation through village meetings, street plays, display of Poster/ card sets and other IEC materials.

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Use of tisney, a local device for safe handling of drinking water, has manifold increased and the safe habits have significantly reduced water borne diseases in the area which has resulted into increased savings and more productive man hours.

Construction of new latrines has made very positive effects in the lives of women who have to travel longer distances and that too in very unsafe hours in the past. This has significantly reduced their inconvenience and social risks. The women self help groups have been very instrumental in developing the self confidence among women and these structure have imbibed the sense of self decision among the women.

School Sanitation



The health concerns starts with the hygiene and sanitary habits of the community and particularly children. To improve the health status of children Lok Prerna has organized school sanitation events which included training of teachers, capacity building of Village Education Committees / Parents – Teacher Associations, school based events and the hand wash campaign.

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In 34 villages VEC/PTA have been constituted in formal schools, ICDS centres and SSA run education centres. The local community has developed some sense of ownership which has increased its active involvement in the school management. These committees are also managing periodic games, sports and other recreations to educate children on healthy practices and hygiene.

Fig: drawing competition for children



This has also increased the interest of children who are now more conscious about healthy habits of nail trimming, regular bath and washing hands. Local children have been involved in educating their peers about the benefits of hand wash which has shown very good response. Village level street plays, peer based events and the 9 card sets have been effective IEC materials to educate the community about hygiene and sanitation.

Fig: peer based hand wash campaign

Rooftop rainwater harvesting

Regular fall in ground water level has caused a serious think for rainwater harvesting and Lok Prerna has facilitated community base rainwater harvesting techniques to increase the ground water recharge. In Jarmundi block the organization has demonstrated 3 low cost rooftop rainwater harvesting structures with a total cost of Rs. 19734. This has been one of the pilot initiatives in Santhal Pargana and presently

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the number of rooftop rainwater harvesting structures has been increased to 7.



Lok Prerna was the host of Regional workshop on Rooftop Rainwater Harvesting organized by Water Aid India. 35 participants from WAI partners of Jharkhand, Bihar and Orissa states actively contributed to the workshop with their field based experiences and also observed the RTRWH structures at Jonka village. Facilitators of the workshop Prof. Indrajit Dey and Mr. N. K. Tiwari provided relevant information and technology of RTRWH to the participants. The workshop was inaugurated by the Commissioner, Santhal Pargana Mr. Siyaram Pd. Sinha and Mr. Yoglal Mishra, Deputy Development Commissioner, Degohar was guest to the occasion. This also provided an unique platform for advocacy on rooftop rainwater harvesting which is at present not very common in Jharkhand.

Watershed Initiatives

Lok Prerna is the Programme Implementing Agency for DPAP project in Raneshwar block of Dumka district. With support of District Rural Development Agency, Dumka the organization is implementing 2 watershed units which covers 1000 ha area in 9 villages of the Raneshwar. The watershed approach has been participatory experience to capacitate the local communities in community based conservation of natural resources. The process started with a participatory microplan developed after PRA exercise with the people. Following activities were accomplished during the period –

- Construction of 2 water harvesting tanks
- Installation of one lift irrigation system.
- Renovation of one cross dam.
- Promotion of kitchen gardens.
- Capacity building of watershed associations and self help groups

The entry point work involved training of local people on hand pump repair. This has helped the people who were facing acute water shortages to repair 4 hand pumps.

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Kitchen gardens have been promoted in the early phase to increase the bio-diversity of the area since gharbari are traditionally and culturally available in Santhal Pargana with every household.

Natural Resource Management

The marginalized communities strongly rely on the locally available natural resources for their livelihood. In fragile landscapes of Dumka district participation of local people in managing natural resources have been very poor. The Lok Prerna initiative under the DFID supported Poor Area Civil Society (PACS) Programme is to empower the village based institutions for their active participation in community based management of natural resources in 205 villages of Masalia and Ramgarh blocks, Dumka district. Under this networking programme Lok Prerna is working with its partner organization Gram Jyoti.

The programme started in the month of April 2005. The organization has devised the empowerment strategies in following lines –

- Involvement of local resource persons has improved the communication with particular focus on area specific inputs.
- Effective linkages have been developed by facilitating the convergence with line departments and existing services and schemes.
- Strengthening of women self help groups for their increased participation in Panchayati Raj Institutions and decision making process.

Major activities conducted under the PACS programme during the period includes – Promotion of community based institutions 308 self help groups, 168 kisan clubs and 188 gram sabha. Capacity Building of these community based institutions in following manner:

Capacity building of gram sabha

Micro planning

PRI system with focus on PESA, Natural Resource Management and institutional management



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Capacity building of Kisan clubs

Natural Resource Management

Convergence with Agriclincs

Capacity building of Self help groups

Leadership development

Accounts and microfinance

Entrepreneurship development

Convergence with different line agencies

Status of village institutions

Groups	Nos.	Members	Savings
SHG	308	3919	228752
Kisan Clubs	168	2820	
Gram Sabha	188	18797	

Convergence Meeting at Basmatta, Dumka

3 exposure visits were organized for 150 community leaders to best practices in adjoining areas.

Access to Market.....

In Basmatta cluster area of 5 villages the farmers increased vegetable cultivation, with improved access to agriculture services. However the access to market has been very poor. The remoteness of the villages has been one of the major hurdles to ensure fair returns for the farmers. Since the vegetables are perishable in nature they had to suffer heavy losses. The farmers club contacted the agri business centre and the department agreed to support the farmers with a tempo. The farmers have developed their rules and regulations to manage the recurring costs of tempo transportation. The tempo collects the vegetables to Palojori market which is about 12 Km from Palojori. This has also reduced the individual task to visit markets daily. The farmers are going to market on rotational basis. This has also saved productive man hours and reduced the burden of farmers looking for markets.

Convergence has been one of the strong points of the ongoing PACS programme. This has increased access to services for the marginalized communities under following schemes –

- Indira Awas Yojna
- SGSY
- Kisan Credit Cards
- MLA funds
- Support to persons with disability by Welfare Deptt.

The convergence activities have opened

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up further scope for extension of agriculture services in the area. District Horticulture Officer in convergence meetings with farmers realized the needs of extension services and has taken initiatives to open an Agri Business centre in Basmatta. This has increased farmers' access to technology and better quality of seeds and bio-fertilizers. The forward and backward linkages for poor farmers have made positive intervention in their lives.

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) has opened up further space to develop employment opportunities. Since the gram sabha has crucial role in implementation of NREGS Lok Prerna has put special focus to facilitate village based perspectives to ensure proper infrastructure with water structures and irrigation as core objectives to sustain the rural agriculture based economy and food security. The perspective planning has been recently started and it involves community based appraisal, mapping and validation through GIS. The perspective plan may be completed by September, 2006 and definitely help the villagers and different agencies involved in developing realistic work plans.

Community Health

Lok Prerna has developed good convergence between the CBOs and district & Block health departments. The organization has facilitated community mobilization parts for following health care initiatives –

Catch up round II

Under the Catch up round Lok Prerna facilitated the outreach of services in rural areas through –

Awareness and education of village institutions on immunization and preventive care, Community mobilization for organized immunization and check up camps.

Total 1200 children and 140 mother benefited from the vaccines and iron, folic supplements. Deworming medicines and Vitamin A was also administered to children.

Pulse Polio

In pulse polio campaign the organization has facilitated monitoring of pulse polio campaigns. The organization has also encouraged village based institutions to facilitate local services for the community health workers and ANMs which has helped them in reaching more number of children at common places.

Health Education

In SHG meetings Lok Prerna facilitators have used different IEC materials to educate mothers about health and nutrition.

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Rural Entrepreneurship

The rural entrepreneurship is facing many challenges in the globalized economy. The people need to update technical skills with good access to market. Lok Prerna has organized 2 training programmes and one exhibition with support of Ministry of Textile and Handicrafts to strengthen the local arts and crafts.



Bamboo Training

In this 6 months training supported by Ministry of Textiles and Handicrafts, Lok Prerna has provided technical and entrepreneurship skills to 30 marginalized families of Telbhanga burhiyari. The fine bamboo work has received much appreciation from local markets and has significantly contributed to the income of target beneficiaries.

Lac Bangles

Thadi Dulampur village of Deoghar have been famous for lac bangles. The Muslim community here has been traditionally skilled in manufacturing of lac bangles. The tradition has weaned over past decade in absence of capital support, fair market prices and stiff competition from new designs of large scale manufactures.



Lok Prerna organized a six month training with support of Ministry of Textile and

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Handicrafts to revive the dying tradition. The new designs and initial linkages have helped 30 trainees to instantly capitalize the lost market. They have explored good market potential in Deoghar especially during the months of sawan.

Exhibition of Rural Crafts



6 days exhibition of rural crafts was organized by Lok Prerna. The organization identified Asansol as one of the emerging markets to showcase local products made by entrepreneurs of Deoghar and Dumka. The product varied from Terra kota to bamboo works, handicrafts, appliques and other items. This has also provided the craftsmen and groups an exposure to market opportunities.

Capacity Building Events

During the period Lok Prerna has encouraged capacity building of it's human resources in following areas through training and exposure to –

Programme	Organized by	Venue	No. of participants
Programme Management, Accountability Transparency & Responsiveness of CSOs	Development Alternatives	Taragram Jhansi	3
Participatory Livelihood Study	MIT	MIT Ranchi	1
3 days workshop on Participatory Livelihood Study	MIT	MIT Ranchi	2
Strategic Planning	Development Alternatives	Taragram Jhansi	1

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Project Management Tools			1
Women Empowerment			1
PRI and Microplanning			2
Local Market Development	ICCO	Ranchi	2
Livelihood Development	NABARD	Lucknow	1
Exposure on Water sanitation	Development Alternatives	Gram Vikas Orissa	3
Organizational Developmnet		Traagram Jhansi	1
ICT			1
Right to Information & NREGA		Ranchi	3
Anti Trafficking strategies		Taragram Jhansi	1

Study and Research

Study and action research have been core strategies of Lok Prerna to develop better understanding of development dynamics and it's implications on the target communities. Following Studies and Research have been organized by Lok Prerna during the period –

Status of traditional small water harvesting structures in Matihara River Sub basin

This study was supported by Society for Promotion of Wasteland Development to understand the present status of traditional water harvesting structures in Matihara river sub basin. Matihara river originates from Trikuti hills and culminates into Mayurakshi river. In this sub basin the study reveals that the traditional water harvesting structures are dying because of poor community participation. In most of the cases the bunds are badly damaged due to negligence of the people. The water holding capacity of the reservoirs has drastically reduced and the catchment area has massive encroachments.

The study has further suggested different strategies to adopt agronomic measures and specific focus on sub surface recharge of ground water.

Knowledge, Attitude and Practices about Personal Hygiene and Sanitation in Dumka district

This study was aimed to understand the knowledge, attitude and practices on water and sanitation management and gender roles involved therewith. The study covered a sample of 400 respondents from each of the 18 villages in Dumka district representing diversified groups.

The study revealed that poor hygienic practices and consumption of unsafe drinking

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water have been major cause of poor health status and perpetuates poverty. The study also suggested some innovative strategies to develop good hygienic practices and access to water for the marginal communities.

The organization is looking further for following research areas to develop perspectives for the Santhal Pargana region –

- Natural Resource Management and Sustainable Livelihood Interrelations
- Community Pricing and Sharing Mechanism for Natural Resource
- Vulnerability Mapping of Natural Resources in Santhal Pargana.

Network Initiatives

Network of Organizations for Rural Resource Management in Santhal Pargana (NORRMS)

Lok Prerna has been one of the founders of NORRMS network and took initiatives to launch NORRMS network to strengthen community based management of natural resources in Santhal Pargana region of Jharkhand. The NORRMS network is a strong platform of voluntary organizations, researchers, academicians and social activists working on community based natural resource management.

Women Development Core Group (WDCG)

WDCG is a working group of women leaders from 8 voluntary organizations of Deoghar district to ensure development opportunities for the women and child population who are poorest among the poor.

The network has made good field presence and has established working relationship with different stakeholders for development action with special focus on women and children from poor and marginalized societies.

Confederation of NGOs OF Rural India (CNRI)

Lok Prerna is one of active members of CNRI to strengthen grass root initiatives in Deoghar district. The organization links local issue to larger CNRI platform at appropriate forum. This has helped the organization especially in awareness and follow up action in the areas of Right to Information Act, and National Rural Employment Guarantee Act.

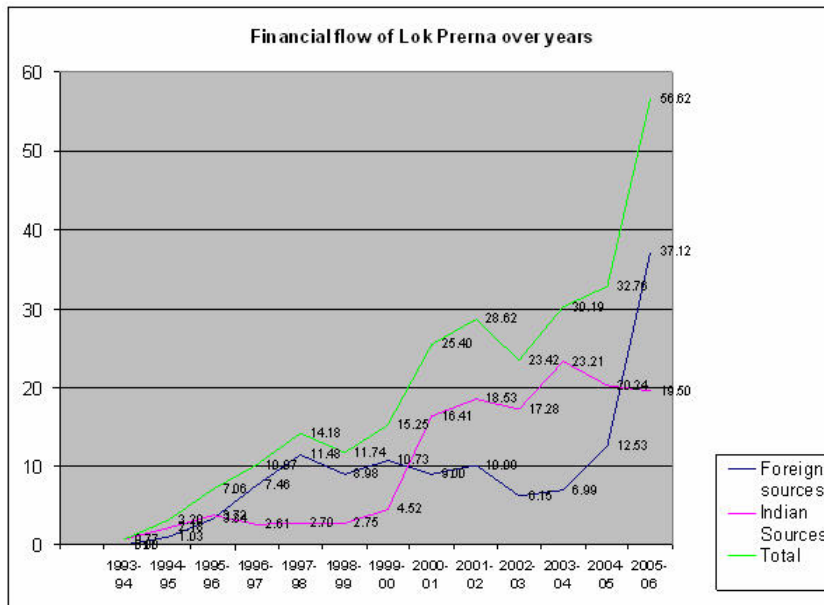
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Our Governing Body

Members of Governing Body	Designation	Occupation	Address
Mr. Awadh Nandan Pandey	President	Social Worker	Vill Bakarganj, PO Kisgo Via Raj Dhanwar Distt Giridih
Mr. Satish Kumar Karn	Vice President cum Director	Social Worker	Swaroopangan, Belabagan, Main Road, Deoghar 814132
Mr. Madhav Kumar Das	Secretary	Social Worker	Krishnayan Belabagan, Main Road, Deoghar 814132
Mrs. Aloni Devi	Member	Social Worker	Vill Phuljori, PO Kamardiha Via Ghormara, District Dumka
Mr. Raju Murmu	Member	Social Worker	Village Bhorandiha Via Jarmundi, District Dumka
Mrs. Manju Singh	Member	Social Worker	C/o Mr. Chotu Singh Professors' Colony Bilasi Town, Deoghar
Ms. Teresa Hansda	Member	Social Worker	Village PO Kathikund District Dumka
Mr. Pradeep Kr. Singh	Member	Social Worker	College Road, Madhupur, District Deoghar
Mr. Dinesh Pd. Mandal	Member	Social Worker	Village Kala Dumaria Via Jarmundi, District Dumka

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Financial Reports



Rs. in Lakh

