

# Centre for Organisation Research & Education

## CORE

**Indigenous Peoples' Centre for Policy and Human Rights in India's North East**

**NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social  
Council of the United Nations**

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**Annual Report  
2006-2007**

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## MISSION STATEMENT

“To work towards recognition and respect for the right to a self-determined future in partnership with the Indigenous Peoples of the North-Eastern Region of India, with respect for our ancient inheritance building on our faith in humanity’s role of trusteeship of resources in peace with all other peoples”



## INTRODUCTION

**This last year has been another challenging one for CORE. Performing the role of a specialized support organisation for grassroots community organized and workers has always been a challenging role, especially as the ground situation and needs shifts constantly. As our interventions and support capacity building activities continue, the needs of our partners have transformed from basic requirements to more advanced ones.**

**During this year, we have also had a change in the managing executive board, our Elders’ Council. We have had to also shift our working office premises twice during the earlier part of 2007 due to many reasons including security, infrastructure access and financial considerations. These changes have also contributed to the challenges faced by us during the period of this report.**

**Nevertheless, our programmes engagement has continued through the generous support received from the Norwegian Church Aid, a new partner for us, and other supports received from our community. Over the years of our work CORE’s initial assumption of community as the centre of initiative has proven itself as each year, it remains the source of our most steadfast support. As the strength and impact of our efforts continue to grow albeit in a modest frame, it is the communities we support to serve who enable us to fulfill our commitments and encouraged us with moral and material**

**contributions, understanding and accepting our limitations while challenging us to greater effort .**

**It has played in persevering in the struggle of the indigenous peoples of the North-East region of the recognition and realization of our human rights.**

**The global climate, the on-going struggles of peoples everywhere and most especially in our region, the support and good wishes of committed individuals have all contributed in their own to the changing context. The work we do is demanding of both skills and commitment and the rewards are less tangible, so it is not surprising that this should be so.**



## Strategic Interventions

### **Documentation and Research**

Documentation and research is the back-bone CORE activity. It has been based on continuous and systematic processing of information from the newspapers, journals, magazine with follow up and research on selected issues or events from internet and ground verification. We continued to document violations of human rights under special legislation granting impunity to the government and its security forces, torture, extra judicial executions, arbitrary detentions, rape, enforced disappearances, violence against women.

Environment and social issues like election violence indigenous peoples right to land, water and natural resources with special references to gender aspect and rights to development. We are also compiling information for the time to time social Issues. Based on this documentation and research CORE has developed a numbers of research and reports to various united nations and International forums including the permanent Forum of Indigenous Issues, the working group on Indigenous populations, Convention on Climatic Changes, World Social Forum, National Police reforms. CORE has contributed papers, organized side events and consulted and provided resources to wide spectrum of international, national and regional issues platform.

### **Library and Resource Centre**

Since the time CORE was established till date CORE as a resource center has compiled education materials, books, information, reports periodicals, journals, occasional papers and a range of gray literature for many years. We have a modest but unique collection of almost 5500 books, over 1200 journals and more than 12000 documents. Furthermore, our electronic database includes a wide range of reference materials and literature acquired from resourceful websites like that of the United Nations Treaty Collection (dab Hammarskold Library), United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Human Rights International, Derechos Human Rights, Amnesty International, Human rights Watch, Physicians for Human Rights, the University of Minnesota Human Rights Library and other. We have experimented and begun several time in fits and starts, to establish and provide a friendly user service without much success. In this Endeavour, our experience we discover has not been very different from many other organizations similar to ours. The challenge facing us is to strengthen the management of the library and resource system in order to make it more productive and relevant. In order to do this to do this we are intending this coming year to build capacity of 23 members of CORE to produce regular

outputs in the form of periodic News letter to inform our partners in the region regarding developing situations and initiatives at the local regional and international levels.

### **Internship, Capacity building and Training:**

For several years CORE have been facilitating interns from formal institutions as well as those independently conducting research or requiring field exposure. Each year CORE three such interns for varying periods between three and nine months. With locals indigenous peoples, human rights organizations need skills and information for effective monitoring, campaigns and advocacy, conducting orientations and capacity-building programmers both in situ and at CORE premises, informal training workshops.

### **Women Leadership Training**

CORE has engaged in a programmed to strengthen women's capacity to protect and promote their rights and to build solidarity and support mechanisms for those who have experienced violence either individually or as a group, as women through the programmed women of the state have been slowly beginning to mobilize for solidarity and to offer various kinds of support and services to directly affected women. We also closely working with many of the traditional Institutions and other women's organization in its various Programmes including in its work on support it traumatized people.

**Natural Resources: Lands, Water and Air;**

CORE continues research, documentation, Sensitization and advocacy campaigns to restore the connectivity of indigenous life and eco-systems from

Rampant invasion, occupation and erosion of land and Land rights, process which is destroying the interests of the peoples of the northern region.

We concerned with the conservation, promotion, an enrichment transmission issues of indigenous cultures assuring ecological and social stability and sustainability on various aspect, including the revival of spiritual and equitable economic traditions of the peoples.

A pilot episodes of “ Two Thirds of Us” on *Eshingi Wapham* ( The question of water ) highlighted the sacred meaning of traditional indigenous attitudes and practices, the impacts and Consequences of mismanagement and abuse on social, biodiversity and ecological balances, of water.

CORE supported local communities to organized public awareness cum protest campaign on International River Day, 14 March against environmentally and socially disastrous big dams and their financing for private profit by public money.

CORE also support several locals organizations and campaign groups working on dangerous extractive industries on indigenous lands without prior, free and informed consent of the peoples, ejections of indigenous from their lands for wildlife and forest conservation projects.