

Study Tour to ITDP, Dharni: Awareness initiative

Introduction

Limited awareness about tribal schemes continues to exist in tribal areas. The tribal population is unaware of the tribal welfare schemes and procedures involved in applying for benefits. There has been limited involvement of NGOs in creating awareness among tribal masses. Also, the administrative machinery is not sensitized towards peculiarities of tribal habitat.

Intervention

In order to generate awareness amongst tribal masses, an NGO named Efficore in Dharni, Maharashtra, conducts study tour of Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP) office which is meant for the villagers. The idea behind the study tour was to generate knowledge about what ITDP does, how it functions, the roles and responsibilities of the various officials, and the procedures involved in applying for tribal welfare schemes. The NGO, in collaboration with ITDP Dharni, arranged several 'Knowhow Visits' to the ITDP Project Office. Such awareness initiatives are carried out once in two months. The ITDP officers also provide details about the various tribal welfare schemes and serve as the 'point of contact' for any scheme-related queries.

Impact

Involvement of NGOs in generating awareness in the tribal areas has yielded good results with respect to greater participation of villagers in scheme implementation. Earlier, villagers of Dharni were not familiar with procedures. Through this initiative, they got the opportunity to visit the ITDP Project Officer and were also briefed about the roles and responsibilities of the officers and also regarding the procedure for applying for various tribal welfare schemes. This initiative has helped achieve greater knowledge about the tribal welfare schemes, and also helped in building confidence of the tribal community in applying for welfare schemes. Moreover, this has helped in reducing people's dependence on agents for applying for benefits.

Source: KII with Maharashtra tribal officials