



Annual
Report 2008-09

Centre for Legislative Research and Advocacy
9, Ferozeshah Road, New Delhi-110001

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Executive Director's Note

This Annual Report recounts the programmes and activities during the year 2008. There were many forward-looking programmes among this year's activities, such as formation of the PG-MDGs and releasing the Handbook for MPs.

In the last few years, CLRA has been at the forefront of taking advocacy initiatives on behalf of civil society organisations working on a variety of different social sector issues. CLRA frames new advocacy strategy for each issue that it works on to ensure that the specificities of each issue are taken into account. CLRA has devised successful strategies for many policies and legislations like the Right to Information, National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, Domestic Violence Bill, Draft National Health Bill, Prevention of Sexual Harassment at the Workplace Bill, etc. and several issues such as HIV/AIDS, tobacco control, maternal health, sexual and reproductive rights, TB and malaria, climate change, etc. As this list of policies and issues suggests, CLRA has a range of expertise on a variety of different subjects and can be tapped for the (legislative) advocacy strategies on any socio-economic and development sector issues. With this matchless strength, CLRA continued to provide an enabling and unique policy space for civil society groups to interact constructively with the Members of Parliament and key policy leaders on a regular basis on various development issues.

Multiple issues exist in the public policy making. Pre-legislative consultation is evidently a missing link in our policy making process. There is no established procedure or mechanism in place to address this participatory deficit in policy making. Policies or laws are being made by a few hands in the government with a modicum of representation of larger interests of the nation. This is more serious when we understand the structural and functional weakness of the pre-legislative scrutiny that exists in the system. Nothing much has been changed to the extent of the claims choreographed in a democratic constitution to make an inclusive democracy, and parliamentary democracy falls short of a legitimate expectation of the citizenry. For addressing these issues, CLRA has been at the forefront through its strategic interventions and programmes.

On behalf of trustees, members of the advisory council and the team members of CLRA, I present this Annual Report for the year 2008-2009, and also take this opportunity to place on record my sincere thanks to all our partners, supporters and well wishers for their generous support and encouragement.

Vinod Bhanu
Executive Director, CLRA



CLRA's Initiatives

Parliamentary Internship Programme

In summer 2008, CLRA initiated a Parliamentary Internship Programme to expose young students to the workings of Indian democracy in general and the working of the parliament in particular and to increase their knowledge of the actual policy making processes of the country. This programme was framed with the hope that this exposure would lead young students to participate in the democratic process.

Over the last one year, CLRA has successfully placed about 60 students with as many Parliamentarians and these internships have proved crucial in harnessing the leadership potential of the students.

As part of the Parliamentary Internship Programme, students have assisted Parliamentarians in a variety of different capacities. They have helped in framing questions and in preparing background notes on issues of interest to Parliamentarians. At the beginning of each session of the Parliament, CLRA trains young students from all over the country so that they can make the transformation from being young students to parliamentary interns.

Specifically, the assigned tasks of all the parliamentary interns are the following:

- i) Interns would be expected to contribute to the work of the office of Members of Parliament and other political party leaders in a variety of ways, from writing press releases and speeches to organising briefing notes and representing their MPs or party leaders at meetings and functions.
- ii) The interns would also provide research and information support to the parliamentarians and other party leaders as and when the need arises. This research and information support would help them participate in debates in parliament with a prior understanding of the issue.

- iii) The interns would also be required to attend the parliamentary sessions and meetings of parliamentary standing committees.

Students with different backgrounds have benefited immensely from this programme as it has put them in direct contact with the centre of our political system. This programme has given them a chance to move beyond theoretical texts and into the domain of day to day politics of our system. As witness to live debates and discussions in the parliament, students have gained exposure to the actual process of legislation formation. This exposure has also helped the students understand their own potential and capacity to put pressure on the government to adopt progressive policies.

Parliamentary Internship Programme (PIP)
The Centre for Legislative Research and Advocacy (CLRA) is offering a unique opportunity to undergraduate and post-graduate students to intern with parliamentarians and political party leaders, and contribute to the policy making process of the country.

Programmatic Details
The four week internship would require students to do the following:

- Contribute to the office work of Members of Parliament, parliamentary party offices and other political party bodies on a variety of issues, from speaking press releases and speeches, to organizing meeting notes and maintaining their files on specific areas of meetings and discussions.
- Provide research and informational support to the Parliamentarians and other staffs as and when the need arises. This will include preparing to Parliamentary orders, as they will have to write in-depth understanding of the issues.
- Assist in the legislative process and prepare meaningful Bills.

Before the internship programme begins, CLRA members will hold a series of days orientational programme to impart students including the a session on the functioning of the working system.

A certificate of completion will be awarded to all participating students after successful completion of the internship programme.

Profile of the Potential Interns :

We are looking for young, dynamic and talented students in the second or third year of bachelors programme or in postgraduate level. A broad-based knowledge of Indian politics and an interest in the parliamentary processes and procedures is desirable. The interns should have to be available to the working hours of the Parliamentarian and/or publication.

How to Apply
Interested students can apply directly to: clra@clra.org, clra@clra.in
An application form can be got at: www.clra.org

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Overview of our Programmes

Parliamentarians' Group on MDGs

In October 2008, CLRA launched the world's first Parliamentarians' Group on the Millennium Development Goals (PG-MDGs). This is a unique forum of proactive and vocal parliamentarians, who are willing to take up critical issues related to human development within India's legislative/policy making spaces. Around 70 MPs from both Houses of Parliament made up this group. These MPs have joined together from across party lines to raise political awareness of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in India. The PG-MDGs has received formal messages of support from both the President and the Prime Minister.

Many independent reports suggest that this initiative has directly led to increased discussion about the MDGs and ways forward on each goal. CLRA has successfully managed to link civil society experts to Parliamentarians on each MDG. Most recently, the PG-MDGs organised a meeting between the Union Ministers and a civil society delegation made of the leading experts of the country on MDGs to help put pressure on the government to draw up a national breakthrough plan among other policy and process related recommendations.



Focus Groups on Climate Change, and Health and Education

Stemming from the PG-MDGs, two focus groups were set up, one on health and education (to encourage joint planning) and the second on climate change (as this issue, if not addressed, threatens to undermine previous and future progress on development). The groups provide civil society and other actors a platform where they can cross-collaborate on specific issues related to the thematic areas on MDGs and make policy interventions where needed. For example, on climate change we are working with MPs from the Northeast on how best to deal with the increasing number of environmental refugees and will be working on a national policy on how to deal with the migrants whose human rights are currently neglected.

Launch of PG-MDGs and Release of the Handbook

The launch of the Parliamentarians' Group on the MDGs (PG-MDGs) was inaugurated on the evening of Wednesday 22 October, 2008, at the Speaker Hall, Constitution Club, New Delhi.



Parliamentarians' Group on the Millennium Development Goals (PG-MDGs) is a group of around 70 MPs from both Houses of Parliament who have joined together to increase political awareness of the MDGs in India. The event was attended by Union Ministers, MPs, and national experts from academic and civil society.

The PG-MDGs is nationally and globally pioneering. High level advocacy and collaboration with parliamentarians, through parliamentarians, has the potential for state/nation wide policy intervention that is unique within the development community. This will bring opportunities to collaborate with groups from other nation states to develop global partnerships and work towards the international goals of mutual understanding and co-operation.

The function witnessed the release of the first publication of PG-MDGs is the Parliamentarians' Handbook on the MDGs in India: Political Support & Action, which details the eight MDG goal areas, existing policy, and suggestions for future direction and strategy. The book suggests that progress against many indicators could be enhanced by a fresh conceptualisation of existing policy. It has already received endorsement and a message from both the President and the Prime Minister.



I am happy to learn that the Parliamentarians' Group on the Millennium Development Goals (PG-MDGs) is bringing out a handbook for Parliamentarians on MDGs to raise awareness amongst policy makers about progress in key areas of human development in India.

Smt. Pratibha Patil, Hon'ble President of India

India is still home to nearly a quarter of the world's poor and one third of the world's underweight children. Within five states, half the population is living in severe poverty. With the 2015 deadline fast approaching, it is now essential to enhance accountability and generate wider engagement amongst MPs and policy makers.

The Parliamentarians' Group on the MDGs, is chaired by Smt. Supriya Sule, MP.

Charter of the People 2009 for Political Party Manifestos

Before the last General Elections, CLRA launched the 'Charter of the People 2009' (a charter of demands developed through consultation with civil society) for which we lobbied all political parties to include these points in their manifestos with the hope of building consensus on certain issues and to successfully link up experts with Parliamentarians intending directly to help change laws, policies and implementation in the future. This meant that we were considering each party manifesto deadline and were negotiating with the key political party people to put pressure on the manifesto writers to incorporate our demands. The manifesto included many points that were based on the MDGs themselves and specifically on how to meet the MDGs by 2015 and the Charter was indeed launched by our Parliamentarians' Group on Millennium Development Goals (PG-MDGs) in the presence of civil society groups and journalists. The Charter covered every area of MDGs and there was specific focus on health, education, ending poverty, reducing inequality, and ensuring functional drinking water and sanitation facilities for all rural and urban households.



Charter Release Hon'ble MPs

The 'Charter of the People 2009' has been prepared after a series of consultations with civil society organisations from across India and also utilises or supplements the extensive research and policy recommendations made in the Handbook for Parliamentarians on the MDGs. This charter is crucial as it sets the tone for what the electorate expects from their representatives. It points to the pressing issues that need to be urgently tackled for development to be made all-inclusive and its fruits made available to the most vulnerable sections of our population. An inclusion of this charter in different political party manifestos is an urgent priority felt so as to necessitate sustained efforts needed to realise the MDGs which will ultimately save lives and provide people with the equality and freedom required to improve their standard of lives.

Ms. Agatha K. Sangma, Mr. Naveen Jindal, Smt. Viplove Thakur, Mr. Madhu Goud Yaskhi, Mr. Suresh Prabhu and Dr. Vallabhbai Kathiria, Dr. R. Senthil, Mr. Thomas Sangma, Mr. Mani Charenamei, all Members of Parliament, released the 'Charter of the People 2009' at Ms. Agatha K. Sangma's residence in New Delhi on Tuesday, 24 February 2009.



Charter Discussion – MPs with CSOs

Partnerships & Networking

CLRA strives to create a unique and enabling space for legislative advocacy, and CLRA has been instrumental for many of its partner organisations and other civil society groups to pay attention to the need of engaging with Members of Parliament and other key political leaders. CLRA has been trying to build formal collaboration with many of its partner organisations and thus to improve its effectiveness and sustainability of its advocacy efforts.

The following organisations are our programme based working partners on various issues of intervention:

Oxfam India
New Delhi

Publications

For Parliamentarians: Energy Steps to Cut Down on Your Carbon Footprint. Take Leadership. Act Now on Climate Change!

1 Use Energy Efficient Light Bulbs
By using compact fluorescent (CFL) bulbs, you will use 3 times less energy than with a standard incandescent bulb. They also last up to eight times longer!

2 Unplug Battery Chargers When the Battery is Fully Charged or When Not in Use
Many chargers draw power continuously even when the device is not plugged into the charger, so use energy and keep them switched off!

3 Turn Off All Lights and Electric Appliances When You Leave a Room
Energy is still consumed when electronic products are still plugged in and not in use. Save on energy bills by plugging home electronics into power strips and turning the power strips off when equipment is not being used.

4 Use a Laptop Computer
Consider buying a laptop for your next computer upgrade. They use much less energy than desktop computers and will also save money on energy bills.

5 Drive Carefully
Avoid sudden acceleration and braking. Aggressive driving leads to considerably higher fuel consumption and greater vehicle emissions. Also try driving a smaller car to and from work, which will have lower fuel consumption and emissions.

Indian MeditParliamentarians Form Newsletter
Vol. 4, No. 1
October 2008

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5. Turn Off All Lights and Electric Appliances
6. Use a Laptop Computer
7. Drive Carefully

Editor
Dr. M. Jagannath

CLRA Centre for Legislative Research and Advocacy
CLRA Policy Brief for Parliamentarians
Women's Reservation
A Long Delayed and a Much Needed Step

Introduction
Women represent more than half of the population of a country and therefore have the right to half of the political power in that country. In India, this right is not fully exercised. Women have different social and biological experiences which demand to be represented in the political arena.

Background
The 73rd Amendment to the Constitution of India provided for the reservation of seats for women in local self-government bodies. This was a landmark step in the history of women's representation in India.

Current Status
The 73rd Amendment has been implemented in all states and union territories. However, the 74th Amendment, which provided for the reservation of seats for women in urban local bodies, has not been implemented in many states.

Way Forward
The government should take immediate steps to implement the 74th Amendment. It should also consider extending the reservation of seats for women to other levels of government.

Parliamentarians' Group on the Millennium Development Goals (PG-MDGs)

Statement on Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in India

22 October 2008, New Delhi (India)

1. Eradicate poverty
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Develop a global partnership for development

'Charter of the People 2009'
for
Inclusion in all political party manifestos

Parliamentarians' Group on Millennium Development Goals (PG-MDGs)
New Delhi

Handbook for Parliamentarians on the MDGs
Political Support & Action

Parliamentarians' Group on MDGs PG-MDGs

Financial Summary

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2009

CENTRE FOR LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY
160, SOUTH AVENUE
NEW DELHI-110001
Balance Sheet
1-Apr-2008 to 31-Mar-2009

Liabilities	as at 31-Mar-2009	Assets	as at 31-Mar-2009
Capital Account		Fixed Assets	77,650.00
Loans (Liability)	57,676.00	Computer Account	77,650.00
Vinod CB	<u>57,676.00</u>	Current Assets	1,44,469.00
Current Liabilities	6,000.00	Deposit (Asset)	1,01,143.00
P.D. Thomas & Co.	<u>6,000.00</u>	Cash-in-hand	13,410.00
Profit & Loss A/c	2,90,032.00	Bank Accounts	<u>1,81,505.00</u>
Opening Balance	58,244.00		
Current Period	<u>2,31,788.00</u>		
Total	3,53,708.00	Total	3,53,708.00



Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended March 2009

CENTRE FOR LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY 160, SOUTH AVENUE NEW DELHI-110001

Income & Expenditure Account 1-Apr-2008 to 31-Mar-2009

Particulars 1-Apr-2008 to 31-Mar-2009	Particulars 1-Apr-2008 to 31-Mar-2009
Direct Expenses	Direct Incomes
Computer Maintenance Charges 17,125.00	CENTAD/CLRA 5 Policy Briefs 93,500.00
Coordination Charges 85,000.00	IMPF GM Brief 29,600.00
Courier Charges 6,821.00	IMPF Newsletter Support 23,000.00
Hindi Translation & Proof Reading 7,000.00	Legislative Advocacy (Climate Change) 2,10,000.00
Internship Fee Paid 11,000.00	Legislative Advocacy on MDGs 5,55,000.00
Linux Renewal Charges 3,301.00	Policy Brief Green Peace <u>(-) 2,000.00</u>
Meeting Expenses 30,927.00	
Newspapers & Periodicals 1,832.00	
PG MDG Meeting 2,250.00	
Printing and Stationery 2020.00	
Printing Charges 3,60,130.00	
Salaries Paid 1,08,756.00	
Subscription Paid 100.00	<u>9,31,100.00</u>
Travel & Conveyance Expenses 13,075.00	
Website Development Charges <u>10,000.00</u>	
Gross Profit c/o	Gross Profit b/f
2,31,788.00	2,31,788.00
<u>9,31,100.00</u>	
Excess of Income over Expenditure	
2,31,788.00	
Total	Total
<u>2,31,788.00</u>	<u>2,31,788.00</u>



CLRA Team

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