

## **Field Report**

### **Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL)**

<b>Team from CRR</b>	Dr Laxmi Vadapalli and Ms Gayatri Patra
<b>Dates of travel</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> to 27 <sup>th</sup> June 2013
<b>Sites visited</b>	<b>Day 1:</b> Goleti GM office <b>Day 2:</b> Bellampalli, Goleti open cast mining, Khairaguda, Dorli 1 and 2 centres <b>Day 3:</b> Mandamarri for interaction with the GM and his team <b>Day 4:</b> SRP
<b>Stakeholders we met</b>	<b>Goleti and Bellampalli</b> Mr Nagaiah, GM Mr Ramachandra Murthy Mr Srinivas Rao, SO to GM Project Managers at Dorli 2 Venkatesh Goud and Tirupatiah, Community Mobilizers Tailoring instructor Mrs Lakshmi (TDP party worker) PDFs from Indira Nagar R & R centre <b>Mandamarri</b> Dr Ramachandraiah, GM SO to GM R & R Officers and their team <b>SRP</b> Mr Balasubramaniam PDFs from Guttedarpalli

#### **Itinerary of the field visit**

The main focus of the current visit was to understand the activities that are being undertaken by Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) in different parts of Andhra Pradesh. It is also important to look at the historical context of each region where the mining happens, the socio economic and geographical conditions of the community which are affected by the mining activities of each region. Further to this,

## Day 1

### Social context of Bellampally

After reaching Bellampally at 01.00 PM, I and Gayathri had a chance to interact with the officials in SCCL dealing with R & R activities in this region of Adilabad district of Andhra Pradesh. During this interaction, I understood that the mining region fell in the mandals of Asifabad and Utnoor mandals which are predominantly inhabited by tribals – Gonds and Konwals. Apart from shifting axe agriculture which is the main source of livelihood for these tribals (primarily for the Gonds), Kondwals are also engaged in other activities such as basket weaving, tadika making from bamboo. However this is not the case with the Gonds who prefer to depend solely on agriculture for their livelihood. In case their land is lost in the process of land acquisition, they prefer to buy land near the R & R centres with the compensation money from SCCL. In other cases they prefer to lease land for cultivating crops. The main crops that are cultivated are castor, cotton, jowar, maize and pigeon pea. The significant feature of this area is that there is no usage of chemical inputs in agriculture (except in Bt cotton), which has retained moisture and quality of the soil. Since this is a homogenous community of two tribes, there are no occupational groups in this region. The tribes as of now are surviving on the compensation package that they have received from Singareni Collieries. But now that the money is dwindling by way of domestic consumption, they are worried about the sustainability and security of livelihoods in this region. Also another important feature of this region is that the men are addicted to arrack and are not meaningfully engaged in income generation activities. In such a situation, the women are entrusted with the responsibility of running the household by way of undertaking rainfed agriculture with no chemical inputs (no chemical pesticides and insecticides). When we look at the profile of R & R activities, there are 12 to 13 villages which got relocated to 9 R & R centres in the past 6 years and the number of PDFs is about 700 families. The following table provides details of year of relocation of PDFs to different R & R centres.

Year of relocation	No of centres	Names of the centres
2007	2	Ontimamidi and Dampur
2008	1	Chopidi
2012	6	Cherrakunta, Keslapur, Indira Nagar, Rambaiguda, Saleguda and Ginnedari

## Day 2 and 3

**R & R centres visited** Chopidi, Keslapur, Cherrakuntapalli, Rambaiguda, Saleguda

As already mentioned, the visit to SCCL in Bellampalli area comprised of visit to the 5 R&R Centres. The profile of these centres is as follows:

- 1. Chopidi:** This was the first R & R Centre we visited under the Khairagura Open Cast mining Project. All the PDFs in this village migrated from Aareguda in 2009 and total number of households is 65. Majority of the population in the village are tribals comprising of Gonds

and Konwals. After coming to the R&R centre they have tried to help themselves by forming a Self Help Group with a active participation of the village women. Although they depend on agriculture they are very much interested to add some more income through making Rexene Bag, preparing different materials from bamboo. They have a special interest of learning agarwati making and tailoring, not only the girls but the boys are also interested for the training of motor driving. Although these trainings are provided by SCCL people want to make it sustainable. One of the best things of this village is collection of natural products from forest. If they will able to sell it in a proper market with a proper price there will be no tension for their living.

2. **Chirrakunta:** This is the new R & R centres of SCCL in which the PDFs from Chanduguda shifted in 2012. The total number of PDFs who shifted to this centre is 78 households. The main profession in this village is agriculture and cattle rearing. They have one SHG which had formal credit linkage with a bank in the nearby town.
3. **Keslapur:** The third R&R centre visited is Keslapur to which 98 tribal PDFs from New Bordham have been shifted. Out of these 98 families, it was reported that only 20 families have constructed houses and the rest are staying in the original village. Majority of the remaining 78 BC families have received compensation from the Vattivagu reservoir (under irrigation project). These PDFs have been shifted to Appapelli R & R centre, hence they have not undertaken the construction of the houses in this R & R centre as they are not willing to relocate to this place. In the erstwhile New Bordam village, the primary occupation was agriculture and all the lands and structures were acquired by SCCL for mining purposes. So far no trainings have been conducted either in the original village or the R & R centre. Also the transfer of ration, Aadhar and election cards has not happened in this village. They have to travel to the original village which is about 35 kms away from the centre for buying ration. The PDFs in this village had mentioned that the immediate needs of the community are not taken care of. It was also reported that agricultural labor was the main source of livelihood for the PDFs. In all about 7 individuals in this village go to SCCL as casual labor on daily basis. It is a regular practice in SCCL, it was observed by the employees of SCCL that they would accord priority to the displaced tribal PDFs to be provided with hamali work on rotation basis and that each of them thus employed would earn about Rs 600 per week. This is in addition to the income from agriculture and other occupations engaged by the family.
4. **Rambai Guda:** In this R & R centre, 20-25 PDFs from Lingaiguda (Tiriyani Mandal of Utnoor division) have been settled in 2012 in an area of 2 acres of land allocated for R & R centre. The population is predominantly tribal i.e., Gonds. Due to the shifting of the PDFs to different R & R centres, there has been a disintegration of the SHGs in the erstwhile village. The women who are currently part of the SHGs in this centre contribute Rs 60 for the SHG and deposit Rs 10 in the VO. As in the case of other village in this region, agriculture and agricultural labor is the predominant source of livelihood. When engaged as agricultural labor, the men are paid Rs 200 and women are paid between Rs 130 and 150. Another interesting aspect observed in this village is that the men also rent the ox for tilling the lands

of those who don't own the animals for which they are paid Rs 600 per trip. In this village there were formal and informal sources of credit which come handy to help the farmers in times of crisis. When asked about the credit situation of the village, we were told that on an average each family was under debt of Rs 20,000 to 30,000. It was also observed that the village has given up on agriculture 3 years ago when the land was acquired and majority of the PDFs are currently living on the compensation package they received from SCCL towards the acquisition of the lands and structures.

5. **Saleguda:** In this R&R Centre 34 PDFs from Khairaguda have moved in 2012. Agriculture is the main source of income for the PDFs both at the R & R centre and the original village too. The SCCL provided training to the women in tailoring in 2007 in their original village but they have not undertaken any training in the R & R centre. Out the 34 PDFs, it was stated that 2 families had bought lands (1 – 2 ½ acres on an average) in the nearby regions on which agriculture was undertaken in one season of the year. Another 10 families have reported taking agricultural land on lease (not sure if the land belonged to tribals or non-tribals). Another 8 to 10 families reported working as agricultural labor in the fields of those who either owned land or leased land in the vicinity of the R & R centre. From among the respondents present at the time of field visit, 12-15 respondents mentioned that they worked as hamalis with SCCL. In this village predominantly inhabited by Gonds there was no sale of timber, bamboo making and fishing is not commonly practiced. The villagers complained that the election cards, Aadhar cards and ration cards were yet to be transferred to the R & R centre. The SCCL officials clarified that the process is currently under way with the district administration. Also NREGS cards existed in the village but job allotments have not started yet in the village. There were 5 SHGs in this village with 12 members in each group.

After our field visit to Saleguda R & R centre, we had left to Mandamarri to interact with Dr Venkataramaniah, General Manager and his team of officers to have an overview of R & R activities in this division. During the discussion, it was clear that 4 to 5 underground mines were being converted into open cast mining which actually requires more area for dumping the material extracted during mining. This activity covered an area of 2300 acres from among which about 730 acres was with SCCL for their underground mining activity. In this activity, SCCL has covered 4 revenue villages in Mandamarri division. The Estates Officer of Mandamarri had mentioned that there is a need to acquire the lands and structures (100-120 structures and 1516 acres of land) in Dubbagudem village. However it was also mentioned that the requirement for this land is not immediate and there is a time lag of 5 years. They had sought a clarification from the CRR to this extent. The GM Mandamarri had mentioned that there is a need to evolve a mechanism in which the services of the Livelihood Specialist from the CRR could be availed by SCCL. This is a crucial input since the PDFs seem to presume that the Livelihood Expert is working on behalf of the Company and that their voices would not be heard effectively. There is a need to take this forward at the CRR level and see how best the work could be executed effectively.

#### **Profile of R & R centres visited**

<b>R &amp; R centre</b>	<b>Original village</b>	<b>No of PDFs</b>	<b>Main occupations</b>	<b>Trainings imparted</b>
Chopidi shifted in 2009	Aareguda	65 households + 4 – 5 families (unofficial)	Agriculture Agriculture labor Basket making Tailoring – 20	Tailoring – 20, Rexine bag making – 23, Agarbathi making – 32, Motor driving - 20
Chirrakunta shifted in 2012 (planning started in 2011)	Chanduguda	35 families	Agriculture Agriculture labor Cows – 60 – 80 Goats – 50 -60 Hamali with SCCL– 15 – 20 men (600 per week) Agriculture loans provided Job cards for NREGS exist but no activities taken up so far No forest produce collection Case study of Manjula and Shilpa (value addition for tailoring – scope for training in embroidery and fabric painting)	
Keslapur shifted in 2012	New Bordam	20 ST households (though 20 BC families were allotted houses here, they did not undertake construction of houses since they had houses elsewhere. They also received compensation from the Vattivagu reservoir)	Agriculture in the original village Agriculture labor – as a source of livelihood in the centre Hamali – 7 people (get work thrice a week) No cows and small ruminants in the village	No trainings undertaken so far for this village
Rambaiguda	Lingaiguda	20-25 families shifted		
Saleguda shifted in 2012	Khairiguda mining area	22 households	Agriculture bought – 6 families (1 – 2 ½ acres) Agriculture land on lease – 10 families Agriculture labor – 8 – 10 people Hamali with SCCL – 12-15 families	

## **Day 4**

On the fourth day of the trip, we had an opportunity to interact with the Project Officer of Srirampur region of the company. We also visited open cast mining site and interacted with some of the PDFs from Guttedarpalli. During the course of our interaction, it has become evident that the situation in SRP is quite different from that of Bellampally region of the same district. In this region, the PDFs are heterogeneous group and the dynamics of R & R interventions would be entirely different. In this region, it was observed that the PDFs from the neighboring villages are provided employment depending on their age and educational qualifications. Also interestingly, if there are number of villages, the PDFs are provided employment on rotation basis.

We then visited the village of Guttedarpalli which is a hamlet for a bigger village (Rampur village). Here we interacted with some of the PDFs and got to know some of the issues that they were facing. One of the major issues in this village is the identification of the educated youth (both boys and girls) for training in their areas of interest. Another issue was that though there were 10 – 12 SHGs in this village but many of the members have not been paying the loan amounts on time. As a result the formal banking institutions have declined offering further loans to these groups. This is one of the issues that need to be sorted out in coordination with SERP office in Adilabad.

### **General observations**

1. As an organization working in mining, SCCL is doing good job about being sensitive towards the needs of the PDFs. However, not all officials do have a comprehensive understanding about the R & R Policy of Andhra Pradesh. One of our first and foremost recommendations is that there should be an officer exclusively undertaking R & R activities in each area. This is important considering the fact that SCCL operates in 11 areas across four districts in Andhra Pradesh. There are plans for the expansion of their mining activities in other states as well.
2. Skill based training to be promoted among different categories of PDFs
  - a. Different sets for men and women
  - b. Various trainings for women with certain skill sets (like tailoring)
  - c. Driving and motor licensing for men
  - d. Agarbathi making for women
  - e. Basic course in tailoring for women
3. Promotion of better educational facilities for school going children – needs to be worked out in coordination with government schools which needs to be facilitated by SCCL
4. Organizing the women into self help groups and establish the credit linkage with the local banking institutions
  - a. Encourage members of the SHGs to undertake wider range of economic activities to make them financially viable and sustainable

## **Minutes of the Brainstorming debriefing session with the Officers at CRR**

The initial feeling that I had was that of excitement and euphoria about the nature of activities that are being undertaken by Singareni Collieries (SCCL) for the benefit of the PDFs<sup>1</sup>. However during the course of interaction with the Officers from the Commissionerate of Resettlement and Rehabilitation (CRR), it was evident as to how SCCL has been surpassing teams of the district administration in implementing the R & R activities. In case of the irrigation projects, these district officials are responsible for acquiring land (both agriculture lands and also village lands with the houses of the PDFs) in the affected zone. However in case of SCCL, these officials have been involved to the extent of patta distribution to the villagers. SCCL is responsible for identifying R & R centres and shifting of the PDFs from the original villages to R & R centres.

While identifying

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<sup>1</sup> This field trip has also enhanced my understanding of the Policy in terms of the significant role of the district administration in implementing the Policy for the benefit of the PDFs.