



What is Ekta Parishad ?

A non-violent social movement in India working on land rights at a national level

„Between silence and violence there is a space for active non-violence“ says Rajagopal P.V., founder President of Ekta Parishad, an organisation which has been built up over twenty years growing from the local to the international level. Displacement, landlessness, marginalization are the key concerns that affect, forest dwellers and poor peasants. Ekta Parishad binds them into a movement in order to put pressure directly on their governments.

Land reform - giving the poor access to land - is a 'game changer' that could bring one third of the

population out of absolute poverty and reduce the violence that is gripping Indian society.



What is Ekta Parishad's vision ?

Access and control over livelihood resources for all, regardless of their origins

The main goal is to see India's poorest people gain control over livelihood resources, especially land, forest and water. It is important to plant and grow the seeds of unity and

non-violence at the grassroots level in order to incorporate the necessary political, social and economic changes. The application of the Gandhian principles of non-violence, self-reliance and responsible local governance ensures respect for the fundamental rights of the most vulnerable and marginalized communities. Whole nations would live in dignity and peace if an equal access to land, forest and water is guaranteed. Development models should take into account the dignity, equity and justice for the poorest so that the rights of all citizens are fairly protected.



How does Ekta Parishad work ?

Uniting people to act for a common cause

Ekta Parishad mobilizes people and brings them together to stand firm for what springs from a deep desire for justice. Inspired by Mahatma Gandhi, Ekta Parishad uses different forms of struggle, such as marches, rallies, sit-ins, work camps and public hearings. The movement is composed of three vital aspects of empowerment: Gender justice, cultural identity and economies of self-reliance.

In order to be independent on the dysfunctional welfare state, Ekta Parishad counters the top-down ideology of the central government by a decentralized bottom-up



approach. It fosters community-based, self-reliance and responsible economies and governance.

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What is Jan Satyagraha ?

A campaign for land rights, culminating in a one-month foot march in October 2012

To raise awareness on the injustice being done to indigenous communities in India and around the globe, Ekta Parishad, in cooperation with organisations, has launched Jan Satyagraha, the people's non-violent action for justice. Since 2010, peoples' actions are taking place all over India as a part of the campaign. The campaign's conclusion is the Jan Satyagraha 2012 March, which starts on October 2nd 2012, the International Non-Violence Day. More than 100'000 people will march 350 km from Gwalior to Delhi, where they will reach one month later. The marchers will raise the issue that access to land is essential for livelihood security



and poverty reduction. The action is based on the Gandhi's Salt March of 1930. It is a massive action to demand for justice and equitable distribution of resources.

Why Jan Satyagraha ?

Get justice and equity for the marginalized around the world

Successive governments have projected industrial development and welfare as the solution to poverty in India. But these have failed to give the basic means of survival. Food Security is not provided in many countries and in India millions remain landless. Also land grabbing is a major concern and responsible for the displacement of over 60 million indigenous people. These people are no longer ready to accept this injustice, and are therefore responding to the call for a Jan Satyagraha.

This march is a continuation of the earlier march, the Janadesh 2007. The major demands that were received and accepted by the Government were formulated into a new land reform policy. Now, recommendations for this new land reform policy exist, but only on paper. After the glare

of the media faded, so did the government's intentions for implementing the reforms. Rather than addressing the land issue for the poor, the government continues to do business as usual and gives little importance to social movements. This has strengthened the resolve of Ekta Parishad to launch the Jan Satyagraha campaign.



What are the demands of Jan Satyagraha ?

Implementation of the governments land reform promises from 2007

- Implementation of the land reform recommendations by the Government of India.
- Implementation of the Forest Rights Act of 2006.
- Recognition of the peoples' rights over livelihood resources.
- Re-distribution of land, emphasizing women's land rights.
- Halt massive displacement of people in the name of so-called development projects.
- Implementation of an agricultural policy that is pro-poor and serves small farmers



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