



**NONVIOLENCE CAMPAIGN IN THE HEART OF INSURGENCY HIT
TRIBAL AREA OF BIHAR: (A Swaraj Peeth Report)
22 to 28 February 2015, Dist Banka, Bihar.**



Carrying Gandhi Shanti Mitra Posters: Why a community Gandhi peace keeper/builder, their Tasks, How to become one.



Bhola Prasad in the Center, Holding discourse nonviolence

Following the decision in the 16th 3-day Hind Swaraj Camp in a village Suiya bazaar, a team of more fifteen members under the leadership of Bhola Prasad Yadav of Tona Pathar village in Chandan Block of Banka Dist of Bihar undertook Ahimsa Samwad Yatra (a March for Dialogue on Nonviolence) from 22 to 28. They covered five out of 11 blocks of this District notified as Maoist (Naxalite) area. . In the course of our experiment in

(Hind) Swaraj awareness and nonviolent

transformation of violence in this area a number of youth have left the path of violence and have joined Hind Swaraj Campaign. No doubt it is a challenging journey.

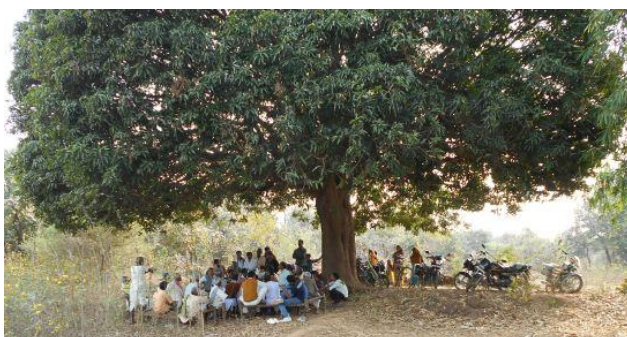


Figure 1 Meeting in the jungle



Day begins with all religion prayer



Held a couple of students' Rallies



A Lady supporter flagging off onward march

The issues discussed during the Campaign included unity

of village community;

community awareness as antidote to exploitation, corruption and apathy of the well-to-do and political classes; nonviolent resolution of disputes (particularly land-disputes). These lead to violence, killings and/or litigation. In order to deal with these and such issues the youth must come forward to provide an over-the-ground leadership to the community rather than take to violence and go underground. They distributed wall-posters, leaflets and literature about Swaraj awareness and **Gandhi Shanti Mitra** – how to empower the community and take initiative at their level. As if to bless the effort people right away



experienced the impact of the Yatra, when in one village a defunct school was visited by the district official and the school, which never ran, started functioning as a result of raising locally the issue by the Campaigners. The official too had never visited this village ever before. The positive result of the Campaign was in term of lot of the youth joining the campaign, as evidenced by more than 200 coming over to attend the conclusion of the public Nonviolence campaign on 28th February at the district HQ Banka. The campaign

team and the people gathered declared that now they will prepare for the District level Campaign including all the 11 blocks. 10 of them will be participating in a 3-day Hind Swaraj and Nonviolence camp and 25 in one-day conference of Bihar-Jharkhand Gandhi Shanti Mitra (Nonviolent peace-keepers) meet in Patna in the third week of March.

The potent weapon of nonviolence of Mahatma Gandhi was well understood by our tribal brothers and sisters who have been neglected even after independence. Bhola Prasad told us that he has been receiving a lot of inquiries from all over the district about how to join Gandhian campaign.

This strengthens Swaraj Peeth's confidence in people's acceptability of Gandhian methods of nonviolence and Satyagraha, public education and training in nonviolence which makes them capable of dealing through peaceful and nonviolent means the issues of that weaken them.



Conclusion of Nonviolence Dialogue Journey in Dist H Q Banka, 28 Feb 2015.

