

## World Disability Day

CUTS Centre for Human Development observed 'World Disability Day' on December 04, 2014 in collaboration with the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of Rajasthan, and *Mewar Viklang Sewa Sansthan* (Disabled People's Organisation or DPO), with the objective to raise awareness and educate the physically challenged people. In addition, the day also called for better programmes and policies to ensure equal opportunities to the people with disabilities (PwD).

A camp was also organised on this day where more than 350 physically challenged people along with their family members participated. Honourable District Magistrate Ved Prakash addressed the issues concerning disabilities and the challenges faced by such people in the society. It was found that approximately 15 percent of the total population of the world consists of disabled people. Furthermore, in the camp, about 246 applications were received demanding supporting services and aids like tricycles, crutches, callipers etc. and these were distributed to around 91 people along with medical certificates. Moreover, rail /bus passes were also issued to the concerned persons and they also applied for the various pension and employment schemes.

In a series of alliance with the government officials, another camp for the physically challenged group was organised with the support of the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of Rajasthan (GoR), CUTS Centre for Human Development and *Mewar Viklang Sewa Sansthan*.

In addition, the District Collector and other dignitaries awarded the mementoes to few disadvantaged people and special award was given to CUTS Centre for Human Development (CHD) for their valuable contribution in working with the physically challenged people and for educating them for their social rights.



## Quality Standard Assessment

A team of dignitaries comprising Andy Tate, Programme System Manager, Sightsavers, UK; Tracy Vaughan Gough, Programme Development Advisor, UNDP; Archana Bhambal, Area Director; Praveen Kumar, Programme Manager and Noorjahan, State Coordinator, Rajasthan Social Inclusion Programme (RSIP) came for a two-day visit on November 24-25, 2014 at CUTS Centre for Human Development, Chittorgarh.

The team interacted with the Community-based Rehabilitation (CBR) of RSIP staff as part of the developing quality improvement actions like Quality Self Assessment Tool (QSAT) and reviewed perception of the

team on the principles of inclusive development and disability rights.

Likewise, there was also an interactive session where the team interacted with the DPO members, acquired updates regarding the progress of DPO achievements and plan of action for the same was also discussed in the session.

Furthermore, the Sightsavers team (UK) reviewed a documentary film on the previous and ongoing project work, discussed the project proposal, implementation plans, evaluated the project reports, evidences in support to the aid rendered to the disabled group, advocacy plans, and documentation reports and eventually prepared a draft of action plans on the basis of the evaluation of the earlier and ongoing work. Moreover, they expressed their satisfaction on the progress of the project and also shared the quality standard assessment feedback of the programme with the CHD staff.

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## ProOrganic Awareness Camp

The objective of the Project is to promote organic consumption and production in Rajasthan (India) covering six major agriculture potential districts by awareness generation, sensitisation, capacity building, advocacy and networking activities.

Various programmes implemented for awareness generation campaign comprised:

- Organising awareness generation campaigns in rural areas of the district.
- Information dissemination through plays by folk team of drama
- Distribution of Information Education and Communication (IEC) material to the farmers and common public of the locality
- Preparing promotional videos on *Desi* (local) products
- Intensive Interaction with the farmers and the consumers
- Training sessions by agriculture experts or concerned departments along with few important stakeholders and
- Sharing experiences and exchange of views with the ProOrganic beneficiaries.

### Perspective

*Bagdiram Prajapat, a village farmer Mamadev said, "Organic farming is necessary for good for healthy life. In his village, some farmers took a pledge for promoting and adopting organic farming. Farmers also stated that the state Government is providing subsidies on chemical fertilisers, it must also give the subsidy on organic farming products and must run a full swing campaign in the community to adopt the organic farming".*

Working in Districts	Gram Panchayats covered in Oct-Dec, 2014	No. of Participants			
		Male	Female	Children	Total
Chittorgarh	16	1366	533	500	2399
Pratapgarh	4	218	126	130	474
	20	1584	659	630	2873

## Outcome of the Campaign

- Acquiring better insight into the organic consumption and farming.
- Boosting the adoption of ProOrganic consumption and farming.
- Raising awareness on the side-effects of chemical farming in regard to health as well as the environment.
- Generating awareness among the farmers about organic farming, vermin compost, vermin wash, soil treatment, organic certification, marketing methods and other myths and
- Getting the famers linked with the various government schemes and programmes through related departments to get benefitted from organic farming.

## Leadership Development Training

A two-day leadership development training was organised by the Sightsavers for DPO members at Astha training Centre, Bedla, Udaipur, on 16-17 December, 2014 where total eight members participated from *Mewar Viklang Sewa Sansthan*.

The training was facilitated by Ketan Kothari, Advocacy Manager, Sightsavers; Noorjahan Khatun, State Coordinator, RSIP; Chandan Jain, Project Coordinator, *Astha Sansthan*; Goverdhan Lal Pareek, Community Mobiliser, CUTS CHD. Around 25 DPO members participated in the training session.

The training facilitators provided a fruitful session to all DPO members where the DPO members learnt about various prevailing disabilities, disability movement in India and the world: its evolution, development and current scenario, regarding the same. Discussion was held on PwD's participation in good governance, various government policies and schemes, Self-advocacy for their rights, encouraging atmosphere, understanding the necessity of the Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) Act, PwD Act, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and its new amendments.

## Rights-based Advocacy

RSIP is a programme for enhancing various skills, empowerment and advocacy for the physically challenged group. *Mewar Viklang Sewa Sansthan*, one such institute is committed for the welfare and rights of the disabled people. In its monthly review meetings, the problems of the disability group were identified and remedies were taken accordingly. It was found that the PwDs are not only ignored in the society but also kept isolated from the family affairs. A disabled child does not get adequate care, attention and affection in the family and society as well.

The DPO members extended all possible support to the PwDs for disability certificates/Pension/Rail pass/Bus pass etc. After audit access to evaluate the facilities for the PwDs, three elevators were also sanctioned (one each in Collectorate, Women and Child Hospital and Samaliya District Government Hospital in the district).



## Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan

Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan (Make India Clean) campaign was started in village *Ochri*, the villagers of *Gadia Lohaar Colony, Ochri* where various cleanliness campaigns were held and pledge was taken to make the campaign successful through collective efforts. District Collector Ved Prakash commended CUTS's active involvement in *Swachh Bharat Abhiyan* through *Jan Bhagidari* (public participation).





## CHILDLINE Se Dosti

A National campaign 'CHILDLINE Se Dosti' (CSD) or Friendship with CHILDLINE week was celebrated at different localities in Bhilwara from November 13-15, 2014. The objective of this campaign was to interact with urban community; to make a large number of people

associated with CHILDLINE; to make ordinary citizens stakeholders in CHILDLINE 1098; Boosting liaising and networking with different stakeholders' government organisations and non-government organisations for better work for the campaign and to spread awareness regarding the work done by CHILDLINE and to make CHILDLINE Dosts (friends) everywhere. Puppet shows, signature campaigns pledging to stop child labour and tying friendship bands to the Police staff were among the main activities of the three-day event.

CHILDLINE Bhilwara team was highly appreciated by the District Magistrate of Bhilwara for their incredible work in this direction. CHILDLINE 1098 hoardings were displayed at Nehru Garden and District Hospital after acquiring permission from the District Magistrate.

## Anti-child Labour Awareness

On October 10, 2014 Anti-child labour awareness event was organised at Bhilwara city in collaboration with child welfare committee and anti-human trafficking unit. The visiting team visited 40 hotels, *Dhabas* and restaurants and information was given regarding juvenile justice



act as well as instructions were given for not involving child below 18 years at their work places. Child labour rescue event was organised at Bhilwara city in Rajasthan State on 14, 17 and 21 November, 2014 in collaboration with Child Welfare Committee (CWC), Anti-human Trafficking Unit and labour department. About 13 children were rescued during this period. A medical examination of such children was also conducted by CWC.

## Leadership in Minority Women

'*NAI ROSHNI*' project of CHD has been initiated for upliftment and empowering minority women in Bhilwara, supported by the Ministry of Minority Affairs; Government of India. The main objective of this project is enhancing women empowerment through capacity building, inculcating leadership skills, improve livelihood and health, family planning, women rights and minority women schemes.

A six-day's 'Leadership Development of Minority Women' training was organised at *Madarsa Bhopalpura*, Bhilwara, Rajasthan from 17 to 22 November, 2014. Various modules covered by resource persons comprised: child health, health and hygiene, family planning, HIV/AIDS, home management, women-related issues, crimes, educational schemes for women, employment opportunities for sustaining livelihood, women leadership, welfare schemes and programmes for minorities, Public distribution System (PDS), electricity, safe-drinking water, water purification and solid waste management and banking system. Under *Nai Roshni* Minority Leadership Development initiative, a training programme was also conducted with the participation of around 25 women of Bhilwara.

## National Consumer Day

A 'Seminar was jointly organised by CHD and District Supply Office, Chittorgarh on the theme of combating misleading advertisement' on 'National Consumer Rights Day' on December 24, 2014, at the CHD Centre.

Speaking on the occasion, District Collector, Chittorgarh, Ved Prakash said that the consumers should be more vigilant while buying things and should also take a note of the manufacturing and expiry dates of the product bought, their batch numbers, weights etc. and should also get the receipt of every procurement as it alone would help the consumers get his grievance redressed, if any, after the process.

Virender Singh Shekhawat, District Supply Officer, Chittorgarh (DSO) presented an overview of the 'National Consumer Rights Day' and on the theme 'Combating Misleading Advertisements' he raised the concern that only collective action by the Government and consumer organisations can ensure consumer justice.

R C Daad, Secretary, Senior Citizen Forum, Chittorgarh, said that Consumer Protection Act seeks to create and promote an economic environment that supports and strengthens a culture of consumer rights and responsibilities and promote fair, efficient and transparent market place for consumers and business.

Some local based non-government organisations/civil society organisations (NGO/CSO), media, academics, government officials, consumers and several other dignitaries participated on the occasion.

Gauhar Mahmood, Centre Coordinator CUTS Centre for Human Development, concluded the discussion and thanked all the participants ensuring them to raise issues in interest of the consumers. Madan Giri Goswami Deputy Centre Coordinator of CUTS CHD facilitated and proceeding the seminar successfully.



## Women Empowerment in Electoral Process

CUTS CHD is implementing Strengthening Women Empowerment Electoral Process (SWEEP) project for Women participation in *Panchayati Raj* in Rajasthan.

The objectives of this project is to promote women participation in leadership in election; to ensure for non-violence and safe elections and awareness for more participation of women candidates in elections; to promote participant of minority, backward classes like SC, ST and OBC women in societies; to make women aware of the reservation policy in elections and to ensure their representation in the same; to create a dialogue with the concerned stakeholders to play a pro-active and significant role to fulfill the above objectives; to prevent and address gender-based violence and to creating good political environment.

## Screening of *Katiyabaaz*

*Katiyabaaz*, an award winning documentary film on power theft was screened on November 05, 2014 in Gayatri Vidhyapeeth School, Bhilwara with participation of more than 140 people, whereas on 12 November, 2014 in *Kisan Bhawan*, Udaipur 126 people were part of the event. In both these events, government officials, power distribution companies, elected representatives of *Panchyati Raj*, academic institutions, consumer groups, media and other key stakeholder were present. The purpose of the screening was to reach out to the relevant stakeholders and sensitise them about the issues being highlighted in the documentary, so as to initiate a debate/discussion among the stakeholders on the issue of 'Electricity Theft' and its negative impact on electricity producers and consumers.

## International Girl Child Day

On the Occasion of 'International Girl Child Day' the Social Justice and Empowerment Department and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) had organised an event of Rajasthan level '*Ladli Samman*' referring to equality of girl child in the society at Maharana Pratap Auditorium of Bhartiya Vidhyashram School, Jaipur, on Oct 11, 2014.

State Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment Department Arun Chaturvedi felicitated around 50 girls across Rajasthan out of which three girls marked their representation in CUTS Chittorgarh and Bhilwara fighting against the prevalent barriers in upliftment of girl child in the community with the intervention of CHD.

## CHD REPRESENTATIONS

- Gauhar Mahmood, Centre Coordinator and Madan Giri Goswami, Assistant Centre Coordinator of CHD visited Lead Manager Banks, Chittorgarh, to share information about the SHGs new credit linkages and stated that few bank officials are not cooperating to the Self Help Group (SHG) members for their credit linkages,
- Gauhar Mahmood participated in a workshop on Child Education on Oct 12, 2014 organised by Azim Premji Foundation at Vision Management Institute, Chittorgarh.
- On October 22, 2014 Madan Lal Keer and Rajendra Kumar Khatik, team member of Bhilwara attended child labour task force meeting at District Collector's chamber. District Collector Ravikumar Surpur was the chairperson in meeting and child labour related issues were discussed during the meeting.
- Kamlesh Sharma, Meena Suthar, Shanti Lal Dangi attended five-day's SWEEP Training of Trainers' Programme from October 15-19, 2014 organised by Hunger Project at Bodh Shiksha Samiti, Jaipur.
- Madan Giri Goswami attended meeting of Self Help Groups-Bank Linkage Programme major stakeholders at National Bank of Agriculture and Regional Development (NABARD) on October 28, 2014 at Rajasthan Regional Office, 3, Nehru Place, Tonk Road, Jaipur organised by NABARD.
- Madan Lal Keer participated in '*Workshop on Government Merged Schools*' on October 30, 2014 at Jain Nasiya Centre, Narayan Singh Circle, Jaipur, organised by Rajasthan Child Rights Network.
- On November 05, Hemant Singh Sisodiya attended a state-level workshop on Juvenile Justice Act 2000. The workshop was organised by CHILDLINE India foundation and State Commission for Protection of Child Rights at Institute of Development Studies campus in Jaipur.
- On November 11, 2014 Anuradha Tolambiya, Project Coordinator and Hemant Singh Sisodiya, Team Member, CHD attended a meeting at the District Collectorate, Bhilwara on 'Street to School Campaign'.

## MEDIA

