

World Consumer Rights Day

The consumer is the supreme mover of economic order... for whom all goods are made and towards whom all economic activity is directed, according to a famous saying. Keeping this fact in mind, CUTS Centre for Human Development (CHD) observed the 'World Consumer Rights Day (WCRD)' on March 15, 2015. The theme of the WCRD 2015 was 'Helping Consumers to Choose Healthy Diets'. The day was observed in village Nagri in Chittorgarh and was organised jointly by the Office of District Supply Officer (DSO) Chittorgarh and CUTS CHD.



Gauhar Mahmood, Centre Coordinator of CUTS CHD mentioned that the day was celebrated on March 15, 1983, for the first time by the former US President John F Kennedy to protect four basic consumer rights comprising: right to safety, right to be informed, right to choose and the right to be heard. Various community members also expressed their views on the occasion, regarding the consumer protection rights.

International Women's Day Celebrated



A woman is the epitome of tenderness, care and wisdom

Realising the fact that there is no tool for development more effective than the empowerment of women, the newly elected women representatives of Panchayati Raj celebrated the International Women's Day in Chittorgarh on March 08, 2015. The event was organised by CUTS CHD, under 'Strengthening Women Empowerment through Electoral Process (SWEEP)' follow-up convention supported by 'The Hunger Project'. This was the first time when all the newly elected women gathered under one roof to share their experiences related to Panchayat elections. To celebrate this significant convention, more than 225 people were part of the programme comprising women Sarpanch, Wardpanch, members of Panchayat Samitis from Chittorgarh, Nimbhera and Suwana blocks.

Gauhar Mahmood stated the objectives of the women convention and also provided a brief introduction of CUTS and its endeavours for the betterment of the society. Virendra Shrimali, Programme Officer of 'The Hunger Project' indicated that SWEEP being a CUTS' initiative has resulted in an increased participation of women in the campaign and aims at spreading awareness among women at the grassroots through encouraging their increased role in governance.

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Clean India Campaign

On 10 March 2015, *Sawachh Bharat Jagrukta* (Clean India Awareness) rally was organised at village *Bigod*, block *Mandalgarh* of *Bhilwara* supported by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development. (NABARD). Women from Self-help Groups (SHGs), volunteers from various community-based organisations participated in *Swatch Bharat Abhiyaan* (Clean India Campaign) to develop awareness about cleanliness in villages. About 115 people from the village community were part of the rally.

Students also contributed in the rally by raising concerns on issues of cleanliness, health, and hygiene and environment protection. Shiv Kumar Gupta, District Development Manager, NABARD said that the event proved to be extremely beneficial for raising consciousness of the rural people towards sanitation.

Amit Gordon, Director CUTS and Madan Giri Gowswami, Assistant Centre Coordinator, CUTS CHD mentioned that the SHGs and the villagers should come forward to participate in enhancing and fostering water and sanitation activities in their villages to maintain a clean and healthy environment.



from the training programme.

S K Gupta, District Development Manager, NABARD said that vermi-composting is the process of turning organic debris into worm castings. He also stated that vermin-compost should be adopted and the process could be a good source of earning money also. Radhe Shyam Vaishnav, Project Officer, CUTS CHD explained that vermi-composting offers numerous returns to the farmers, their communities along with the environment, as a whole.

Work of DPO Commended

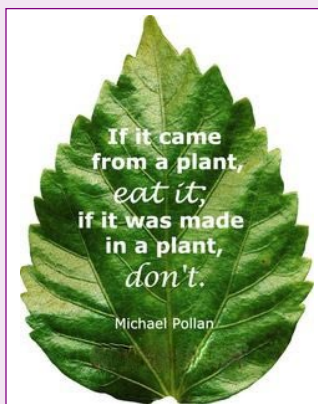
On the 66th Republic Day, a programme for the physically challenged people was held by the District Administration in Chittorgarh. In the programme, about 56 proficient persons were invited and honoured for their valuable contribution in various fields. *Mewar Viklang Sewa Sansthan* (Disabled People's Organisation or DPO) was awarded for its exclusive contribution for the welfare of physically challenged people of the society. The honour was given by Anita Bhadel (State Minister, Women and Child Development, Government of Rajasthan) and Additional District Collector, Chittorgarh, Neeraj Ladhha. The Secretary of DPO, Chittorgarh received the honour on behalf of *Mewar Viklang Sewa Sansthan*.



Training on Organic Farming

A training cum exposure programme for farmers was held at the International Horticulture Innovation and Training Centre in Jaipur on February 24-25, 2015. About 19 farmers of Chittorgarh district participated in the event, which was supported by NABARD.

Scientists and Experts of International Horticulture Innovation and Training Centre (IHITC), Jaipur provided practical and theoretical training sessions on 'Organic farming and vermin-compost technology'. B D Yadav, Scientist, *Krishi Vigyan Kendra* (KVK) discussed, about organic manure and vermin-compost technology in Horticulture. The farmers learnt about organic farming, greenhouse farming, drip system, plant diseases and pest control and management.



Empowering Minority Women

A six-day Leadership Development programme for minority women was organised in Bhilwara. About 76 women from various localities of the district attended the programme. The objectives of the training was to empower the minority women by providing knowledge, tools and requisite techniques for interacting with the government system, banks and other institutions at all levels; and embolden them to assume leadership roles and assert their rights, collectively or individually, in accessing services, facilities, skills, and opportunities.



Road Safety Week

A day's training programme was organised during 'Road Safety Week' by Transport Department at Zila Parishad in Chittorgarh. The main objective of the training was to reduce road accidents by generating public awareness about traffic rules. Ved Prakash, District Collector of Chittorgarh was the eminent guest of the event. People from Mewar Viklang Sewa Sansthan and Gauhar Mahmood, Madan Giri Goswami and Kamlesh K Jangid, Project Coordinator of

CUTS CHD participated in the event. Ved Prakash stressed on implementing new preventative measures to lessen the risk of death or injuries caused in road accidents, maintain the required speed and distance from other vehicles and stated that all citizens should promote road safety measures in the community, schools, colleges, work places etc.

Fair for the Farmers

Recognising and valuing the role of the farmers, a Kisan Mela or Farmers' Fair was organised at Gurukul Asharam of Chittorgarh in which about 120 farmers from various villages of the district got benefitted. The event was organised by All India Radio (AIR) and NABARD. The objective of the event was to promote farmers' skills in organic farming and mobilising mass media support for sharing organic farming information. About 25 farmers participated from CUTS' ProOrganic project region. Furthermore, the highlight of the event was conducting a 'Quiz Programme' for the farmers. At the end of the programme, prizes were distributed to the winners of the contest.

District Collector, Ved Prakash was chief guest of the programme; Pankaj Yadav, District Development Manager, NABARD and General Manager AIR, Chittorgarh were also present in the programme. The District Collector assessed the knowledge of farmers' skill in organic farming and commended them for adopting organic farming.

The ultimate goal of farming is not the growing of crops, but the cultivation and perfection of human beings.

Masanobu Fukuoka

Child Labourers Rescued

Five minor working as child labourers were rescued from local areas of Bhilwara city in Rajasthan on March 23, 2015. The children were forcibly working in shops. The child labourers were saved with the support of Child Welfare Committee (CWC) and anti-human trafficking unit. The rescued children were taken to the CWC and were sent to 'Shelter Home' and afterwards were handed over to their parents. The news acquired a good the coverage in most of the leading local newspapers.

Madan Lal Keer, Project Coordinator of CHILDLINE said that there is a need for proactive action against human trafficking and child labour by the Government to control such inhuman practices. In addition, safety and security of the children is not only the duty of the Government it is in fact the citizens who should ensure that children are not employed and they have safe and secure future.



VISITORS

- Pradeep S Mehta, Secretary General, CUTS and Udai Singh Mehta, Director, CUTS visited CHD on Jan 19, 2015 to review the progress of all ongoing projects, upcoming projects and planned for developing new project proposals.
- Virendra Shreemali, Programme Officer of 'The Hunger Project' visited the working blocks to examine Strengthening Women Empowerment through Electoral Process campaign activities and attended the 'International Women Day' at Chittorgarh.
- A networking visit was made by Lavina Rathore from 'CHILDLINE India Foundation (CIF)' on March 09-10, 2015. An open house was also organised at Paldi village in Chittorgarh on March 10, 2015 in the presence of Lavina Rathore and Gauhar Mahmood.
- Amit Gordan visited CUTS Branch Office of Bhilwara on March 10, 2015. During his visit the ongoing activities of the Centre and new project proposals were discussed.
- S K Gupta, District Development Manager, NABARD, Bhilwara visited the leadership development training for minority women on February 25, 2015, where he discussed about the importance of SHGs in the development of women.
- On March 25, 2015 George Cheriyan, Director CUTS, visited CUTS CHD and Bhilwara Office and had detailed discussions with the CHD staff regarding the progress of ongoing projects and administrative issues.

CHD REPRESENTATIONS

- Anuradha Tolambiya attended Divisional-level workshop on Juvenile Justice Bill 2014 at Ajmer on January 25, 2015. The workshop was organised by 'KhiltiKaliyan', Department of Social Justice and Empowerment. Besides, Child Welfare Committee members, Juvenile Justice Board members and CHILDLINE Representatives also were also present in the workshop.
- Madan Lal Keer, Kamlesh Sharma, Shanti Lal Dangi of CHD and Meena Suthar from CUTS Bhilwara Office attended a Partners' meeting at Udaipur on January 21-22, 2015, under SWEEP campaign. The meeting was organised by 'The Hunger Project'.
- Kamlesh Kumar Jangid attended 'National-level Dissemination cum Advocacy Meeting' on 'Right to Choice of Consumers on Financial Services' on February 20, 2015 focussing on the issue of 'Misselling and Financial Incentives in Indian Banks' in Jaipur. The meeting was organised in Jaipur and about 40 participants including CUTS' staff, representatives from Reserve Bank of India (RBI), NABARD, and other banks etc. were part of the event.
- Gauhar Mahmood attended a conference on People-centred Development on February 11-12, 2015 at the State Institute of Health and Family Welfare (SIHFW) in Jaipur. The event was organised by 'COMMACT India Chapter' and 'Astha Sansthan' of Udaipur. The main objective of the conference was to understand the people-based development programme and discuss the activity framework to take the initiative forward.
- Madan Lal Keer and Kamlesh Kumar Sharma visited Jaipur on March 16-17, 2015 to attend two day's meeting organised by 'The Hunger Project' in Jaipur under the SWEEP Campaign.

MEDIA

