

Child Marriage Prevention Campaign

We should have a vision of making the society a place where women and girls live with dignity, are healthy, have choices and equal opportunities to contribute activity in the upliftment of the society. Realising this fact, an awareness campaign on prevention of Child Marriage was conducted in collaboration with District Legal Service Authority at Abhaypur Gram Panchayat, Chittorgarh. The main objective of this programme was to sensitise and aware villagers, stakeholders on the issue of child marriage. More than 150 people participated in this campaign.

Abdul Sattar, Advocate from District Legal Service Authority elucidated about 'Child Marriage Prohibition Act, 2006' and stated that child marriage is a legal crime. Rakeshpuri Goswami, Advocate from District Legal Service Authority expressing his views stated that it is an incontrovertible fact that a large number of child marriages are performed in violation of the existing provisions of the law, particularly on 'Akha Teej' or 'Akshaya Tritiya'.

Ratan Lal Gurjar (Community leader – Orthopedic Handicapped) explained that Child marriage is an evil for our society and is practiced due to lack of awareness and illiteracy.

Madan Giri Goswami stated that child marriage prevention campaign will be started with District Legal Service Authority for making the community at village-level aware of its evils. Rajendra Singh, *Sarpanch* along with all participants took an oath for not encouraging child marriages and committed to stop child marriages in the community.



Harsh Realities of Child Marriage

Moreover, in Bhilwara quite often many minor girls and boys who are married every year before reaching the marriageable age. Bhilwara district has witnessed the highest percentage of child marriages in the State of Rajasthan.

There are three major causes of child marriages like social, economic, and safety and security. Also, because of skewed sex ratio, girls are married at an early age. Poverty and dowry are other causes for child marriages.

Under CHILDLINE Bhilwara initiative, about 26 child marriage were stopped with help of district administration. Besides, the CHILDLINE team also communicated with the parents and counselled them about the adverse effects of child marriage and directed them

neither to encourage nor to indulge into such an evil practice.

Child marriage is a well-recognised problem to the socio-economic development. Bhilwara is among the districts with very high prevalence of child marriages. The prevalence is mainly concentrated in poor, illiterate and economically backward classes. Some of the reasons for its occurrence are gender inequality, social norms, perceived low status of girls, poverty, lack of education, safety concerns about girl children etc.

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Farmers' Consultation on ProOrganic

A district-level consultation was organised on April 08, 2015 at Pratapgarh and on May 06, 2015, at Chittorgarh. Over 105 people participated in the programme including farmers, resource persons and consumers.

Gauhar Mahmood, Centre Coordinator, CUTS CHD welcomed all the esteemed guests and delegates and briefed the participants about the objectives of the consultation.



Prakash Panwar, Programme Coordinator, *Krishi Vigyan Kendra* (KVK), Pratapgarh said that most of the farmers are using chemical fertilisers in agriculture, unaware of its adverse effects. Therefore, farming should be shifted from chemical to organic methods.

Deepak Sexena, Senior Programme Coordinator, Amarjeet Singh Programme Coordinator, Arjunkant Jha and Dharmendra Chaturvedi of CUTS CART, gave presentations and shared the details of the ongoing activities. They explained about major outcome from the project in both the Consultations.

Ramlal Bishnoi, District Forest Officer Pratapgarh, mentioned that the farmers should avoid chemical farming, because due to this people suffer from various kinds of diseases. Rajendra Singh, Programme Coordinator, *Krishi Vigyan Kendra* (KVK), Chittorgarh shared about the adverse effects of chemical farming. In addition, he also encouraged

the farmers to change their habits and adopt ProOrganic agriculture. Nathu Lal Meghwal, Department of Horticulture informed about the government schemes for promoting organic farming. It was stated that Animal husbandry is an important source in rural area along with agriculture for income generation and livestock is based of organic farming. Radhe Vaishnav and Madan Lal Keer of CHD summed up the event proceedings and concluded the session with a vote of thanks to all stakeholders and farmers.

IEC Material Development and BCC Strategy

A two-day's workshop on 'Information Education and Communication (IEC) Material Development/Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) strategy' was organised on May 29-30, 2015. Gauhar Mahmood, welcomed the participants. Aarti Joshi, Resource person from Anubhuti CIRA *Sansthan* and Noorjahan, State Coordinator from Astha *Sansthan* facilitated an important session on BCC strategy and guidelines for developing IEC material. Madan Lal Keer (BSIF-RSIP) facilitated the introductory session through few attractive games 'Joda Banao'.

Kamlesh Kumar Jangid, Project Coordinator CUTS CHD facilitated a session on identification of target audiences, issues for IEC development alongwith the project objectives. The participants were divided into three groups and on the identified issues presentations were provided by each group.

Posters were also prepared by IEC designer, Yogiraj Yadav. At the end of the workshop, Madan Giri Goswami delivered vote of thanks to the participants for their active participation and their valuable contribution in making the workshop successful.



Skill Development Programme

A five day skill development camp (Orientation and Mobility, Daily Living Skills) for visually impaired people, was organised at CHD. About 21 visually impaired people including five females were part of the event. The training was residential from 22-26 June, 2015. The major practical session were conducted in five-day's training programme i.e. carry out day-to-day activities with safety and least possible external assistance; Instil confidence to enable them to be socially integrated; Develop healthy personal and family relationship; reduce dependence upon the care-takers and safety measures, develop a positive self-image and accelerate comprehensive rehabilitation including economic independence.

Orientation and Refresher Training

A two-day's staff orientation and refresher training programme was organised under 'Rajasthan Social Inclusion Programme (RSIP)'. Gauhar Mahmood facilitated a session on types, causes, identification and classification of disabilities and delivered another session on People with Disability Act, 1995 and United Nation Convention on Rights of People with Disabilities (UNCRPD).

Kamlesh Kumar Jangid facilitated about a pre-assessment of staff through questionnaires to understand the knowledge level about the RSIP project. Moreover, O P Toshniwal, Deputy Director, Social Justice and Empowerment rendered some valuable information on social security schemes. Madan Giri Goswami, Assistant Centre Coordinator of CHD facilitated the session on inclusive development and livelihood through Self-help Groups (SHGs). Moreover, Gayatri Moad, a Community Mobiliser and Mohan Lal Meghawal, a Community Based Rehabilitation Programme trainee provided an orientation and mobility training to the office staff for enhancing their awareness.

O P Sharma (Resource person from *Shree Sanvaliya Bahuddeshya Viklang Sewa Sansthan-Chanderiya*) facilitated on social inclusion, enabling environment and inclusive education. Khemraj Choudhary, a resource person from *Pratirodh Sansthan* facilitated a session on strengthening of Disabled People's Organisation.



Organising Welfare Camps

The supportive welfare camp was organised in Gangrar block, where the Disabled People's Organisation (DPO) members spread the information about camps and liaison with *Panchayati Raj* Institutions (PRI) members to provide camp benefits.

The DPO was immensely helpful to the physically challenged people for filling their application forms and acquiring required aids and appliances. Suresh Dhakad (MLA), Block Development Office, Devilal (*Pradhan*) and Omprakash Toshniwal, Deputy Director, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment participated in camp, total 52 disabled persons were benefitted. As 25 tricycles, four crutches, 18 rail passes and disability certificates were provided to them.

In *Nimbahera* block, the camp was organised at Government Hospital. Omprakash Toshniwal, Srichand Kripalani, Member of Legislative

Assembly and Ashok Navlakha, former MLA attended the camps. About 95 physically challenged persons were benefitted with 51 tricycles, four crutches, 32 rail passes and eight Disability certificates, 15 visually impaired persons were provided with 15 white canes from the Department of social justice and empowerment in five day's camp.



Capacity Building of Physically Challenged Group

A capacity building workshop was organised for four new formed SHGs of 42 members on June 12 and June 20, 2015. The workshop encompassed many sessions as on how to create an understanding on disability, sensitising general members, importance of self help groups (SHG), orientation of SHG book records, group management skill and livelihood promotion.

Kamlesh Kumar Jangid, facilitated sessions on disability issues, community's response towards the physically challenged people. Besides, malnutrition, immunisation, and safety to prevent from accidents, child and mother care issues were also covered in this training. Madan Lal Keer, Block Social Inclusion Facilitator shared some motivational videos and stories to elucidate about the SHGs, its objectives, advantages, dynamics of group, role of SHGs in mobilisation of the community. Other advocacy-related issues were discussed in the workshop. Gayatri Moad delivered a session on savings of benefits, internal loaning, process of bank linkages and credit linkages, benefits of the Government schemes and other income generation activities.



VISITORS

- O P Toshniwal, Deputy Director, Social Justice and Empowerment visited CUTS CHD Centre regarding the supportive camps in two blocks with the help of Disabled People Organisation.
- An Evaluation and Monitoring visit was carried out by Jagdish Prasad, Deputy Director, Department of Women Empowerment (DWE), Jaipur and Devanand Nayak, Programme Officer, DWE Bhilwara in Kodukota village SHG groups, visited income generating activities promoted under the *Priyadarshni* project.
- S K Gupta, District Development Manager (DDM) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) Bhilwara visited the training of leadership development for minority women. He spoke about the importance of SHGs in women, after this he is also visited two SHGs in Bhilwara area.
- Praveen Kumar Programme Manager, 'Sightsavers' visited the Centre and reviewed the activities and further planning of the ongoing project.
- Sunil Kumar Solanki, Programme Coordinator, RCDSSS Ajmer (an NGO) visited CHILDLINE Bhilwara, where he monitored the CHILDLINE activities and interacted with the CHD staff.
- Bank Manager of Chittorgarh Kendriya Sahkari Bank (CKSB) visited the 15 SHGs, under NABARD Project in Bhilwara and
- Noor Jahan, State Coordinator, Rajasthan Social Inclusion Programme (RSIP) had a monitoring and networking visit to see the RSIP activities in two blocks. She also met the SHG members, identified the persons with disabilities engaged in livelihood activities.

CHD REPRESENTATIONS

- Madan Lal Keer and Radhey Vaishnav of CUTS CHD attended a day's workshop organised by Department of Child Rights, Government of Rajasthan and Childline India Foundation at Jaipur.
- Gauhar Mahmood and Madan Giri visited World Vision India office at Udaipur to find out the possibility of partnership in between two noble organisation K K Babu (KKB), Programme Manager briefed about all projects.
- Gauhar Mahmood and Madan Giri visited KCSB Bank's Managing Director, Chittorgarh to share the information about the SHGs and its new credit linkages to the eligible SHGs.
- Madan Giri Goswami attended the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) monthly meeting in Chittorgarh, where the issues related to child rights were discussed.
- Madan Giri Goswami and Gauhar Mahmood participated in Telecom Regulatory Authority of India's (TRAI's) consumer outreach workshop at Chittorgarh. The workshop's objective was to build a good rapport and understanding among the service providers, consumers.
- RSIP team attended training on livelihood promotion for the physically challenged people at Udaipur from May 18-23, 2015. The training was facilitated by Basix, Institute of Livelihood Research and training (ILRT) to understand the identification of livelihood opportunities for the disabled section in the project area.

MEDIA

