



## State-level Best Performing SHG Award

Women are said to be the largest untapped reservoir of talent in the world. Since ages, women are trying hard to break free from the barricades of cultural prejudice, social inequity and tags of an inferior sex to fulfil their domestic duties. CUTS' SHG, *Radhe Krishna* has been awarded as the 'State-level Best Performing SHG' by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) on March 09, 2016 at Hotel Jaipur Palace, Jaipur. Earlier, it was also awarded by Chittorgarh district administration for 'Excellence in Women Empowerment'. This is a well-known woman SHG of nomadic community, *gadia lohars* (ironsmiths) of village *Ochri* in district Chittorgarh (Rajasthan) producing agricultural and

household tools. Moreover, this SHG has inspired other women to establish 10 more such women SHGs in their neighbourhood and to utilise their loans in promoting their traditional ironsmith work.

## Minority Women Leadership Training

Nearly 300 women trainees from five urban localities of Chittorgarh (Rajasthan) were provided six day's training in the period from February 11, 2016 to March 16, 2016. The aim was to empower and instill confidence among minority women, by providing knowledge, tools and techniques for interacting with government systems, banks and other institutions at all levels. The training also helped to embolden them to move out of their homes and the community and assume leadership roles and assert their rights.



## Capacity Building of Farmers

*Swabhiman Kisan Gehun Utpadak Company Ltd*, Chittorgarh and *Anokha Santra Kisan Utpadak Company Ltd.*, Bhilwara have finally registered 50 farmers in each district by April 21, 2016 under Company Registration Act. The selected farmers will be provided capacity building training, networking meetings, awareness, business development plan, credit and market linkages, training need assessment of the producers, assessing infrastructure requirements, market intervention and other support facilities/linkages.



*Vigyan Kendra*, Chittorgarh. Rajaram Sukhwai, Plant Manager, Rajasthan Seeds Corporation provided an overview of the role of his corporation for strengthening Farmers Producers Organisation and seed production. Following this, a two-day organic farming training on making vermin compost and natural manure was held at *Krishi Vigyan Kendra* in the district.

## Farmers' Trainings

About 28 farmers attended trainings on quality seed production on March 15, 2016 and March 28-29, 2016 at *Krishi*

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## Child Marriage: A Loosing Game!

Child marriage is a violation of child rights, and adversely affects physical growth, health, mental and emotional development, and education opportunities. It also affects society, as a whole, since this practice reinforces a cycle of poverty and perpetuates gender discrimination, illiteracy along with high infant and maternal mortality rates. In its endeavour against child marriage, CHILDLINE team Bhilwara (Rajasthan) intervened in prevention of four child marriages at *Gajuna* village of Block Kareda on February 25, 2016. The Child Welfare Committee, CHILDLINE team monitored the matter behind the scenes with the support of police and local people for stopping child marriages.

Furthermore, an FIR was lodged against three persons under the prohibition of Child Marriage Act.

## Market Linkage Training

An intensive training on Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) SHG's Market Linkage Training was provided to around 103 women on February 09, 2016 at Mandal and Bagore block of Bhilwara for developing leadership qualities, initiating new income generation activities, linkages with social/economical security scheme, and enabling financial capability. The resource person spoke on marketing system and later visited Raipur Rajasthan Skill and Livelihoods Development Cooperation (RSLDC) Centre to know about the startup of some income generating activities. Merigton Soni, Programme Officer met all the group members and asked them to start their employment activities as per their interests and market demand.



## District-level Consultation Cum Convergence Meeting



The purpose of the District-level Consultation Cum Convergence Meeting held in Community Hall, Collectorate on February 16, 2016 was to share the disability baseline survey, analysis report and share plan of action with all concerned departments to meet their needs. Ved Prakash District Collector of Chittorgarh directed all the District-level Officers to understand the problems of the disabled people and work to bring these people into mainstream of life. Namit Mehta, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), District Council instructed the departments to be focussed for bringing government schemes to downtrodden people.

## Accessibility Audit of Public Facilities

A State-level Sensitising Workshop on March 03-05, 2016 was organised by Sightsavers at Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh) to know about national legislations, guidelines, building codes, to understand diverse access needs, barriers for built environments and accessibility standards for universal design. Anjali Aggarwal and D Chakravarti from Samartham; Domnic Aslam, Director of Programme Policy Sightsavers UK; R N Mohanty CEO Sightsavers and 30 representatives from Non-government Organisations (NGOs) and health institutes participated in the Workshop. In continuation with the Workshop, CHD also conducted an audit at six places in Jaipur and Chittorgarh districts.







## Vocational Training for the Disabled Youth

About two batches of 10 days vocational training was organised from March 30-April 12, 2016 on 'Electrical Trade'. Each batch was organised for 30 disabled youth in collaboration with Academy of Information Technology (AITECH) Institute, Chittorgarh. During the training, they acquired an insight of electric appliances, house wiring and repairing home appliances. In the closing session of the training, Pankaj Yadav District Development Manager, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD); Ravindra Jain, Financial Literacy and Credit Counselling Centre (FLCC) Baroda *Swarojgar Sewa Sansthan*; Anil Anchaliya, Director Baroda *Swarojgar Sewa Sansthan*; R P Sharma, Lead Development Manager (Bank) and Diwedi, Lafarge Cement distributed training certificates to all the participants after completion of the course.

## Antibiotics off the Menu

World Consumer Rights Day was celebrated on March 15, 2016 on the theme 'Antibiotics off the Menu' in CHD. In the introductory session, Gauhar Mahmood, Centre Coordinator, CHD welcomed the guests. Ved Prakash District Collector (Chittorgarh) said, "this is an opportunity to promote the basic rights of all the consumers and to spread awareness regarding antibiotic resistance driven by overuse of antibiotics in agriculture". Upender Mishra, Food Inspector and Virender Singh Shekhawat, District Supply Officer; Chandmal Garg, Consumer Activist; and Sunil Kumar Jha, Rtd. Rajasthan Administrative Service (RAS) official urged that the consumers should be vigilant for their rights.



## Women Tailoring Training

With the support from Birla Cement Works (Chittorgarh) nearly 45 women successfully completed tailoring programme and course on entrepreneurship, income generating activities and market linkages from February 15 to March 17, 2016. After completion of the training, sewing machines were distributed to women trainees to initiate their tailoring work in the district.



## Open House on International Women's Day

With the support from the Department of Women Empowerment, an Open House with 45 *Gram Sathin* – Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) officials was conducted on March 10, 2016 by CHILDLINE team to share the information about CHILDLINE and Self Help Group (SHG) projects. The ICDS workers were asked to share CHILDLINE and women oriented projects information through their *Anganwadi* Centres.

## CHD REPRESENTATIONS

- Madan Giri Goswami, Assistant Centre Coordinator of CHD participated in Mayor's conference under the 'Rajasthan City Mayor's Learning Platform at Udaipur on April 27, 2016.
- Gauhar Mahmood, Centre Coordinator and Kamlesh Jangid, Project Coordinator of CHD attended Sightsavers meeting on April 04-05, 2016 at Hotel Royal Orchid Central, Jaipur.
- Mohan Lal Megwal, Field Supervisor of CHD participated on 'Review Workshop on Formation of Farmers Producer Organisation' on March 09, 2016 at NABARD Regional Office, Jaipur.

## CHD REPRESENTATIONS

- Mohan Lal Meghwal, Field Supervisor, CHD attended 'Training Programme on 'Formation and Management of SHG Federations and Understanding their Financials' conducted by APMAS, a national-level technical and managerial support institution, Hyderabad in collaboration with NABARD on February 23-27, 2016 at APMAS campus, Hyderabad.
- Radhey Shyam Vaishnav, Project Officer, CHD attended a workshop on Child Rights Acts organised by Department of Child Development (Government of Rajasthan) on February 21, 2016 at Institute of Development Studies (IDS) Jhalana Dungri, Jaipur.
- Kamlesh Jangid and Kamlesh Sharma, Block Incharge (Chittorgarh) attended workshop on 'Business Development Plan' during the quarter. The workshop was organised by the Sightsavers at Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh) to understand business development plan for Self Help Group (SHG) as an enterprise. The workshop was facilitated by BASIX Institute of Livelihood Research and Training.

## VISITORS

- George Cheriyan, Director, CUTS and Head Centre for Consumer Action, Research & Training (CART) and Varidhi Singh Project Officer of CART visited CHD on April 26, 2016 to review the progress of the Centre and discussed many projects and administration related issues. After the visit they facilitated the Mayor's conference, under the 'Rajasthan City Mayor's Learning Platform' (RCMLP) partnership with the Asia Foundation at Udaipur.
- Veena Vidhyadharan, Policy Analyst of Centre for International Trade Economics and Environment (CITEE) visited CHD on April 01 and 02, 2016 to prepare a concept note on 'Water Resource Management' and field analysis.
- Bipul Chatterjee and George Cheriyan from CUTS Jaipur were on a two-day visit to CHD on March 18 and 19, 2016 to review the CHD projects and possibility and progress of the various projects in pipeline. A detailed presentation exhibited various ongoing projects and explained about the efforts made for new project proposal.
- Students from Mewar University's College of Social Work, Gangrar, Chittorgarh were on an exposure tour during the quarter to know about the various community action programme of CHD. During their visit they interacted with the CHD staff on various developmental issues and visited field to interact directly with beneficiaries, CHD briefed about the achievements of all implementing projects.
- Susil Sharma, Chairman, Nagar Parishad (City Council), Chittorgarh attended Rajasthan Mayors' Conference organised by CUTS in collaboration with the Department of Local Self, Government of Rajasthan on February 17, 2016 at Hotel Country Inn, Jaipur.

## MEDIA

