



Awake, Arise and Liberate



'International Women's Day' signifies global celebration of women's social, political, and cultural achievements from the past and present, while pushing for development for coming generations. Saluting the incredible strength of women, 'International Women's Day' was observed at Moravan Gram Panchayat of Chittorgarh district on March 08, 2018. Boosting the foundation of the society, the success stories of the women breaking the glass ceiling were shared, and the participants were acquainted with the various welfare schemes available for women.

Sachin Badetiya, District Development Manager (DDM), National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) stated that the day calls for the equality of women in the society, where they are often not given rights that they actually deserve. Arvind Purohit, Member, Child Welfare Committee; members of Panchayat; and about 80 women actively attended the programme.

Be Cautious, Life is Precious!

Road safety is a state of mind, accident is an absence of mind. Keeping this into consideration, it is essential to stay aware of the safety rules on roads and follow them! Hence, to promote road safety measures in the community, schools and the villagers 'Road Safety Week' was observed from



April 23-30, 2018, with the collaboration of Transport Department, Traffic Police at four places in Chittorgarh and Bhilwara districts. Shakeela Banu and Satish Kumar Meena, Sub Inspectors from Chittorgarh Transport Office encouraged the participants to diligently follow the traffic rules and urged them to wear helmets and use seat belts while driving. Besides, a film based on road safety was also shown to the audience. Around 340 people were immensely benefitted by the event.



Financial Consumer Protection Cluster Workshops

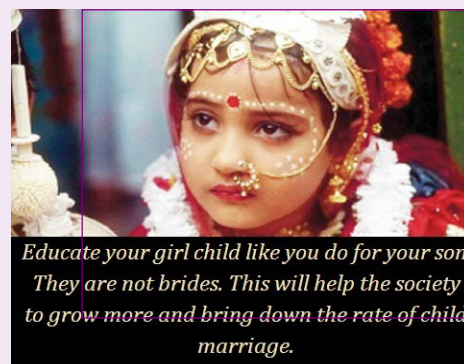
A strong consumer protection regime is the key to ensure that expanded access to financial services benefits consumers, so that they can take well-informed decisions for utilising financial services in the best possible way. Given this background, seven meetings were held in Chittorgarh and Bhilwara districts under 'Financial Consumer Protection' project. The CHD team stated that women should come forward to acquire financial information, training and education. Considering the fact that women hailing from rural areas are not aware of the banking services and financial institutions, hence, through this endeavour, they could avail banking services. In addition, bank officials explained about social security schemes, insurance, pension, investment, credit linkage and challenges faced by financial consumers. Resource persons from various banks believed that this project will build capacities of rural consumers in terms of financial literacy, by enhancing their awareness, knowledge and skills. They assured that banks will help to achieve the objectives of the project successfully. Out of the total 480 participants, 80 percent comprised women.

INSIDE

- Anti-Child Marriage Campaign
- Giving Poorer Consumers, Greater Voice
- Know your Rights as a Consumer
- Welfare Camp Organised
- Annual Stakeholder's Consultation cum Dissemination Meeting
- CHD Representations
- Visitors
- Media

Anti-Child Marriage Campaign

Anti-Child Marriage Campaign was initiated with the support from District Administration, Bhilwara, which has the highest percent of child marriage. In many communities of the district, girls are considered as burden, and thus are married in childhood only. In addition, patriarchy, caste system and poor education increase vulnerability of girls. The CHILDLINE project team convinced during the campaign that the girls who are married early tend to drop-out of school and teenage girls have a greater risk of complications during pregnancy and childbirth.



*Educate your girl child like you do for your son.
They are not brides. This will help the society
to grow more and bring down the rate of child
marriage.*



Giving Poorer Consumers, Greater Voice

Under the project 'Giving Poorer Consumers, Greater Voice' school activities in four schools and 12 community meetings were held in Eral and Netawalgargh villages. The consumers were made aware of eight consumer rights and five duties, particularly on water, energy and indoor pollution, and the need to use safe and sustainable products. Interesting stories and messages using folk music on consumer rights and duties was narrated effectively by the puppeteer. About 920 persons attended the event. Furthermore, 140 water and air samples for observing were collected

by Consumer Education and Research Centre (CERC), Ahmedabad in the two villages. The findings would be shared with the community and stakeholders to raise awareness level regarding the quality and harmful components present in air and water.

Know your Rights as a Consumer

It is said, "If consumers know what their rights are, they will be protected. If they are not then they will be exploited". Realising this fact, 'World Consumer Rights Day' was organised by CUTS CHD on March 20, 2018 to promote digital marketplaces that are more accessible, safer and fairer for consumers. C S Charan, District Supply Officer; Sanjay Bhardwaj, Lead Bank Manager, Bank of Baroda; Sachin Badetiya, District Development Manager, NABARD; Arvind Purohit, Financial Literacy Coordinator from Chittorgarh; consumer activists; volunteers; members from Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs); and Self Help Groups (SHGs) attended the event. District Supply Officer elucidated about consumer rights/duties, E-Commerce, redress mechanism, exposing scams/frauds being faced to ensure that digital marketplaces are comparatively fair. Around 85 consumers including 70 women participated in the programme.



Welfare Camp Organised

In a Welfare Camp organised by CHD, members from Disabled People Organisation (DPO) project met Vasundhara Raje, Chief Minister of Rajasthan on April 18, 2018 during her visit at Chittorgarh district. The members of the DPO shared their livelihood activities initiated under the scheme under the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment (DoSJE). The Chief Minister provided 19 assistive devices like motorised tricycles, smart cane and hearing aids to the physically challenged people to enhance their quality of life and uplift their social-economic status for self-independence. The occasion was graced by eminent

guests like Shri Chand Kriplani, Urban Development and Housing Minister; Chanrabhan Singh, Member of Legislative Assembly; Leela Jat, Chairperson, District Council, etc.

Clean India Mission

Keeping into account the saying, "If you have time to lean...you have time to clean", 'Clean India Mission' was held on March 22, 2018 at Government Primary School, Banera in Bhilwara district. The mission included school children in order to spread awareness on the importance of sanitation and hygiene in day-to-day life as well as contributing in accelerating the cleanliness endeavour of the country to achieve universal sanitation coverage.



Farmers' Exposure Visit

Farmers' Exposure Visit was held at Samrth Kisan Producer Company India Limited, on February 13-14, 2018, at District Agar-Malwa in the state of Madhya Pradesh. The aim of the visit was to know more about the background of farmers' company, working process, seed production, cleaning and grading, business development plan, business turnover, marketing tips, strategy planning, etc.

Annual Stakeholder's Consultation cum Dissemination Meeting

Financial consumer protection contributes in strengthening financial stability of the consumers. In this regard, 'Annual Stakeholder's Consultation cum Dissemination Meeting' was organised on the theme 'Enhancing Financial Protection of Consumers, Particularly Women through Financial Literacy Initiative' on April 25, 2018 at **Chittorgarh**. C P Joshi, Member of Parliament, Chittorgarh, encouraged women to come forward and acquire financial information, training and education. Depender Singh Rathod, Additional Chief Executive Officer of Zila Parishad; Sanjay Bhardwaj, Lead District Manager Chittorgarh; and Sachin Badetiya, NABARD addressed the participants on financial issues and schemes. Around 105 participants, particularly women attended the event.



In **Bhilwara**, 'Annual Stakeholder's Consultation cum Dissemination Meeting' was also organised on April 27, 2018. Kalu Lal Gurjar, Chief Whip, Government of Rajasthan said that the women living in rural areas being not aware and familiar with banking and other financial institutes should become part of the financial inclusion programme. Jaya Laxmi Kannan, Under Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs, stated that the project will play a major role in bridging the gaps in implementing government schemes for financial inclusion of citizens. Around 72 people attended and got benefitted from the event.

CHD REPRESENTATIONS

- Resource Organisation Meeting was held on February 12, 2018 on 'Childcare and Protection' at District Collectorate, Bhilwara. Gajender Singh Rathod, Chief Executive Officer, District Council chaired the meeting. CHLDLINE project team elucidated about the progress of project and its ongoing interventions.
- Madan Lal Keer, Programme Officer and Radhe Vaishnav, Programme Associate of CUTS CHD attended 'State Level Dissemination and Advocacy Meeting' held on February 28, 2018, at Jaipur. Neel Kamal Darbari; Additional Chief Secretary; S J Singh, Director Rajasthan Agriculture Research Institute; and A K Gupta, Dean School of Agri-Business Management, discussed on the outcomes of the survey conducted on organic farming.
- Madan Lal Keer, represented CHD and participated in the RPWD Act 2016 and UNCRPD Act Training for the DPO members and staff held on February 21-22, 2018 at Jaipur. Ketan Kothari was the resource person informing about registration of state DPO, strategic planning and advocacy, with the various concerned departments. RPWD Act refers to Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, whereas UNCRPD Act refers to United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act.
- Shanti Lal Dangi and Jasraj Jaat Chief Executive Officers of Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO), Chittorgarh attended Farmers' Club Meeting held on February 28, 2018 at Regional Office of NABARD, Jaipur to review the project progress focussing on shareholders membership, company legal documents and linkages with farm-based schemes.
- Gauhar Mahmood, Assistant Manager of CHD attended the Meeting of District Health Society held on April 20, 2018. Dr Inderjeet Singh, Chief Medical and Health Officer (CM&HO), Chittorgarh chaired the meeting, which aimed to enhance awareness on the harmful effects of tobacco usage, and facilitate effective implementation of the Tobacco Control Laws.
- Madan Lal Keer along with Narbada Shankar Chobisa of CHD attended workshop at New Delhi organised from March 14-16, 2018 by Sightsavers and European Union (EU) on Building Partnerships for the Sustainable Development Goals. The project will strengthen 15 DPOs to advocate for their rights, and allow them improved access to various government development schemes.

