



Effective Implementation of Samaritan Guidelines

CUTS in partnership with the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH), Government of India has undertaken a project which aims to create awareness on road safety and advocacy for effective implementation in Jaipur, Bhilwara and Chittorgarh districts of Rajasthan, India.

Good Samaritan Guidelines on Road Safety

A District Level Workshop on Good Samaritan Guidelines on Road Safety was held at Chittorgarh and Bhilwara on May 28 & May 30, 2019 respectively. Gauhar Mahmood, Assistant Director, CUTS Centre for Human Development (CUTS CHD)

provided detailed information on rights of Good Samaritan. Deepak Saxena, Assistant Director, CUTS Centre for Consumer Action, Research & Training (CUTS CART) said that 150,000 die each year on the roads in India, yet through a dangerous mix of weak law enforcement, a lack of emergency medical care and an unwillingness by the public to come to the aid of those injured, 80 percent of victims of road traffic crashes do not receive help within the critical first hour.

Jagdish Chand Chawaria, Director, Social Justice & Empowerment said that Law Commission of India states that 50 percent of those killed in such crashes could have been saved if timely medical care had been provided to them. Sunil Kumar Jha said the most crucial role is played by the person at

the scene of the crash, they can also play a game-changing role in saving lives of victims by providing them first aid. More than 158 participants attended the event.

Evening Chaupal on Road Safety

An Evening Chaupal Meeting on Road Safety was organised with support from the MoRTH, Government of India at Bhilwara on May 17, 2019. The aim was to focus on diverse aspects of road safety to sensitise road users about safe road usage.

Mahesh Pareek, Inspector, District Transport Office spoke that road accidents are mainly attributed to behavioural tendencies, such as not wearing helmets/seat belts, jumping traffic lights, over speeding, drunken driving etc. Ramkishan Godara, Traffic In-charge said people should be made aware of the perils of not following traffic rules. Nathu Lal, ASI, Police Department stated that most accidents occur due to lack of road safety awareness.

Deepak Saxena shared the statistics of road accidents. Madan Giri Goswami and Gourav Chaturvedi encouraged behaviour among current and prospective road users. The signature campaign was organised; and folk drama, music, dance and puppet shows were performed by local artists to make the programme informative. Awareness materials were distributed and 200 people participated in the event.



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Capacity Building of Electricity Consumers

CUTS International and Bask Research Foundation, with the support of Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation (SSEF), has been implementing a project entitled 'Capacity Building of Electricity Consumers' that aims at creating awareness among the rural electricity consumers in six blocks of Rajasthan spread across districts of Chittorgarh, Sawai Madhopur, Bikaner and Jodhpur about their rights and responsibilities.

Consumer Assistance Cells (CONASCs) would be established in these six blocks to assist consumers on grievance redressal process, educate them about their rights and responsibilities and create healthy local electricity ecosystem by working with local electricity administration.



Launch Event

An event to mark the launch of the project was organised at Chittorgarh on June 20, 2019. Ramesh Chand Sharma, Superintendent Engineer and SK Singh, Executive Engineer, Electricity Department said that this platform will address key issues and improve the quality of service with joint exercise of consumers and utility officials and develop long-term relationship with local stakeholders.

Mangi Lal Dhakad and Gopal Sharma, Pradhan laid stress on the need to raise awareness about relevant initiatives undertaken by distribution companies (discoms) and the government. Vote of thanks was given by Udai S Mehta, Deputy Executive Director and Madan Giri Goswami, Senior Programme Officer, CUTS International. More than 68 participants attended the event.

Awareness Workshops

32 workshops were held in Chittorgarh and Bhadesar blocks. Information was provided about CONASC, consumer rights, safety, electricity theft and related issues, government schemes etc. Handouts and reference materials were distributed to the targeted community. The local artists of Puppetry and Folk Drama spread the message of the project through their arts, which was easy to understand in local dialect. Participants emphasised on the need of such initiatives in the sector in future as well so that there is effective participation of consumers.

Promoting Organic Consumption in Rajasthan

In Promoting Organic Consumption in Rajasthan (ProOrganic II) project, the focus is on sustainable food and farming, and formulation of an agenda to achieve it. This will be achieved through promotion of organic production of farm products on one hand, and promotion of organic consumption, on the other. Consequently, this would lead to sustainable development in agricultural and environmental sectors.

Media and Organic Farming

Three workshops were held in Bhilwara, Chittorgarh, Pratapgarh on July 12, 15 & 18, 2019 respectively. Gauhar Mahmood, Madan Giri, Gourav Chaturvedi welcomed the dignitaries and provided a brief overview of the role of media in promotion and consumption of organic farming. Deepak Saxena and Rajdeep Pareek narrated the role of media in raising awareness and sensitising the community.

Rajaram Sukhwai, Deputy Director, Horticulture; Ratan Solanki, Scientist, Krishi Vigyan Kendra; and Bal Mukund, Agriculture Officer attended the event. More than 92 participants, including media personnel, farmers and agriculture experts participated.



Knowledge Sharing Meeting on Seed Cell

A Knowledge Sharing Meeting of Community Managed Seed Cell was held at Keli, Nimbahera, Chittorgarh on July 15, 2019. The objective of the community seed bank is to regain, maintain, and increase control over seeds by community farmers and strengthen or establish community forum of cooperation among and between farmers and others involved in the conservation and sustainable use of agriculture seed.

Deepak Saxena, Gauhar Mahmood, Madan Giri Goswami and Shanti La Dangi and Mohan Meghwal expressed that the aim of community seed bank is to store and manage seeds that aim to provide community members with seeds to use. Community seed bank is important in promoting and sustaining the cultivation of a variety of crops.

Formation/Establishment of Organic Clubs/Gardens

Six Inception Meetings were held in Schools at Asind and Paldi in Bhilwara, Netawalgargh Pachli and Khadi Baodi in Chittorgarh, Bhambori and Karunda in Pratapgarh districts on July 13, 16 & 19, 2019 respectively. The main aim was to use schoolyard, reconnect students with the organic farming and consumption and integrate them for valuable gardening skills that integrate several studies, such as health, physical education, social and natural science as well as educational goals, including personal and social responsibility.



Changing Attitudes Towards People with Disabilities

CUTS CHD is implementing Social Inclusion project with the support of Sightsavers (Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind). It primarily focuses on ensuring economic empowerment of persons with disability (PwDs) and developing the network of PwDs at the state as well as district, leading to social inclusion of all PwDs. The project also intends to engage visually impaired and other disabled people in mapping sustainable livelihood.

The project focuses on bringing about a change in outlook towards disabled people among all stakeholders including government thereby developing an enabling environment for disabled people to avail their rights.



Livelihood Skills Trainings on Artificial Jewellery

A five-day Livelihood Skills Trainings on Artificial Jewellery were held at Chittorgarh and Nimbahera on May 20-24 and June 19-23, 2019 respectively. The main aim was to enhance opportunities for economic empowerment of PwDs through their self-help groups (SHGs). The training was provided to 75 members from SHGs.

Rural Eye Health Camps

20 Rural Eye Health Camps were jointly organised by CUTS CHD, Government Hospital, Ram Snehi Eye Hospital, District Eye Relief Society, Sightsavers. Total 1162

eye screening of patients were done in camps; where 205 cataract patients were identified and 119 referred to District Government Hospital for their eye surgeries. During the first year of the project, eye screening of 4783 patients were done, 915 cataract patients were identified and 537 admitted into government hospital for their eye surgeries.



Developing Skills in Tailoring

Tailors Training for Disabled was organised at Nimbahera block of Chittorgarh. The main of the training was to give skills training in tailoring to 21 persons with disability. With this training, PwDs will live with dignity by earning themselves. During this training, they will learn and develop skills in tailoring which will boost their morale.

Stocktaking of Project Progress

The meeting was held to discuss the gaps, challenges and impacts of the project. Officials from Department of Social Justice & Empowerment, Rajasthan Roadways, Labour Department, District Industrial Centre, Education Department, Bankers, Disabled People Organisation attended the event.

Gauhar Mahmood explained objective of the project which is to facilitate enhanced opportunity for PwDs, advocate for rights of the disabled and effective implementation of policies in detail. Madan Giri Goswami, Senior Programme Officer and Puran Mal Sharma presented the baseline survey and progress of the project, departmental roles and responsibilities as mentioned in PwDs Act 1995. Jijo Mathew, State Coordinator, Rajasthan Social Inclusion Programme (RSIP) urged all district level organisations to understand the gaps and challenges of the project, and benefit PwDs in all aspects. More than 28 participants attended the meeting.

Vulnerable Child Assessment Survey

A Vulnerable Child Assessment Survey was conducted in 280 villages of Sajjangarh and Gangad Talai blocks. The aim was to identify those children who comes under vulnerable category. Focus Group discussions were held with children, women, teachers, members of *Panchayati Raj Institutions* and social mapping was also done with help of PLCPC members and villagers.

The objective was to understand the risk, barrier and provide vulnerable children the support as per need of the project. The second phase of Vulnerable Assessment Survey will be carried out in 280 villages to cover around 5353 households.



Advocating for Child Rights

A Training was provided to *Sarpanches* and Secretary to enable them to carry out their duties related to Panchayat Level Child Protection Committees (PLCPC). Vinod Pareek, Block Development Officer, Gangad Talai urged PLCPC members to work as child rights advocates in their respective villages.

Madhu Sudan Vyas, Child Welfare Committee Member cautioned PLCPC members about the exploitation of children at various locations. He asked *Sarpanches* to keep a check on government schemes (*i.e. Palanhaar*) meant for the protection and welfare of the children and link children with such schemes. About 71 *Sarpanches*, Secretary and Associates attended the training.



e-Mitra Training

An e-Mitra Training was provided to eMitra persons who can play an important role to connect the vulnerable people with various social security schemes through their kiosks. e-mitra is an ambitious e-governance initiative of the government using public-private partnership model of convenience and transparency to citizens in availing various services under a single roof at their door steps using an e-platform.

Nanu Lal Rout, Social Security Officer, Social Justice and Empowerment and Pawan Kumar, Information Technology Department oriented them about various social security schemes, process, criteria, requirement of supporting documents. More than 76 eMitras attended the training

World Day Against Child Labour

CUTS CHD celebrated The World Day Against Child Labour Day on June 12, 2019. The theme was 'Children shouldn't work in fields, but on dreams! Around 12 rallies and interaction meetings were organised with school children, parents and the community.

The objectives of these events were to bring attention to the cause of child labour, create awareness fight against the practice of child labour, provide information about basic rights and advocate for enrollments of children in schools. More than 600 children, PLCPC members or community participated in events.

World Environment Day

Every year, World Environment day is celebrated on 5th June to spread awareness, encourage people to take action and protect the environment. The current theme is Air Pollution. CUTS CHD observed this day on June 05, 2019.

CHD participated in 'Run for Chittorgarh' for raising global awareness on the importance of green environment and also spreading message to the community that every year approximately seven million people die prematurely due to air pollution. Therefore, the urgent need of the hour is to come together to combat air pollution and explore various sources of renewable energy and green environment, which in turn, will help improve the quality of air.



CHD REPRESENTATIONS

- Gauhar Mahmood attended a District Health Society Meeting on 'Tobacco Control' in presence of Inderjeet Singh, Chief Medical & Health Officer and Namrata Vrishni, Chief Executive Officer, District Council, Chittorgarh on May 29, 2019.
- Shanti Lal Dangi and Rajesh Khoiwal attended a Stakeholder Consultation Meeting on Legislative Gap Analysis on Road Safety in Rajasthan at Jaipur on May 29, 2019.
- Puran Sharma attended a two-day refresher training on Sustainable Development Goals at Jaipur on May 20-21, 2019.
- Madan Giri and Gourav Chaturvedi attended Partners Orientation Meeting on ProOrganic project at Jaipur on May 23, 2019.
- Hemant Singh attended a Workshop on Child Rights and Child Protection for the ICPS functionaries organised by the National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development and Child Recourse Centre at Jaipur on June 24-25, 2019.
- Gauhar Mahmood attended Measles and Rubella Campaign at Chittorgarh on July 18, 2019.
- Madan Lal Keer attended Dissemination of PANCHSHEEL (community mobilisation project) study findings organised by Save the Children at Banswara on July 22, 2019.

VISITORS

- The team from Auriga Consultancy and Management Service visited CUTS CHD on May 14-16, 2019 to review the progress of Rural Eye Health project.
- H N Senapati, Marketing Manager, Mahyco; and Rajesh Jalwania, Scientist, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Chittorgarh attended Board of Directors FPO Meeting on May 27, 2019.
- Jijo Mathew, State Coordinator, RSIP met four SHGs doing livelihoods activities on Dairy, Goatry, Jewellery, washing powder, tailoring etc. on June 27-28, 2019.
- Tushita Mukherji, Programme Officer, Sightsavers along with four team members under Rural Eye Health Programme met Medical officer, ASHA worker, Sarpanch and conducted interview with project beneficiaries and staff to measure the impact of the programme.

MEDIA



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