CUTS Centre for Human Development (CUTS CHD)

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Participation and Action towards Community Empowerment

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Differently Abled Women on a Mask Mission

Due to face masks speedily vanishing from the market, Persons with Disabilities' Self-help Group (SHG), particularly, women are making masks with full enthusiasm and motivation to fill up the scarcity in the market. These masks are made of 100 percent cotton cloth and can be reused after home sterilisation.

The differently-abled made 20,000 masks and supplied those to government departments, NGOs, and local donors in Chittorgarh. Each member of SHG is now being able to earn at least Rs 400 per day by devoting six to seven hours and that gives them a sense of pride. It is an opportunity for them to contribute to the pandemic war. This initiative will meet the shortage of masks and also be helpful in the prevention of the pandemic in the community.

CUTS also distributed face masks to the vulnerable community, village councils, police and corona warriors for free of cost to meet the demand for masks and the poor people still do not use them due to dearth of supply as well as they cannot afford it.

District Supply Officer, Village Councils, Social Justice Department appreciated the efforts made by the organisation.

Overall 25,000 face masks were distributed by the project beneficiaries, volunteers, networkers, and consumer activists in Chittorgarh, Bhilwara, Banswara and Pratapgarh districts.



Immediate relief to Disabled People and General Community

CUTS Disabled People Organisation (DPO) contacted approximately 400 persons with disabilities and provided immediate relief regarding the problem of supplying ration, release of pension, ensuring government entitlements to those in need.

We are disseminating information about health literacy on COVID-19 and provided emotional support and guidance as required in this challenging time.

In consultation with doctor Ayurvedic *kadha* (syrup) was prepared to increase immunity power and it was distributed along with face masks to approximately 200 persons with following health instructions by government. 38 consumers' problems/complaints were resolved regarding water, electricity, and banking with their officials concerned.



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Emergency Relief Services to Children in Bhilwara and Banswara

We provided emergency relief services to 45 children and reach out to every child in need of care and protection by responding to the emergency calls and advocacy service for children in the department concerned.

Two got medical help, two rescued from abuse and 41 children's families were provided soap, sanitisers, and reusable masks, and 19 labour families were provided ration kits such as 5 kgs wheat flour, 1 kg lentil, 1-litre cooking oil and 1 kg salt.

The team disseminated information among the community to adopt safety measures like use of mask, social distancing, hand washing, staying home, and call to helpline numbers 1098 if any child was in distress during COVID-19 and shared District Supply Officer helpline number for need and assistance.

In Banswara, 1056 made phone calls to panchayat representatives, village development officers, school teachers, Auxiliary Nurse-Midwives (ANMs), Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) to provide all necessary relief and food items to migrant families and basic information about coronavirus prevention and asked PRIs members to make accessible all necessary relief and food items to vulnerable families.



The staff prepared the list and shared with PRIs where they distributed food items to needy families. About 30 families got food materials with support from *panchayats* and the public distribution system (PDS).



Scorecard Training

Scorecard pre-orientation was held to orient 10 DPO members from five districts about Right to Persons with Disabilities, Right to Education, etc. The team conducted an audit in selected schools and anganwadis. The main training was held from February 12-14, 2020 in which discussion was initiated with different groups, such as children, parents, women with disabilities, teachers, anganwadi workers. More than 58 people participated.

Organic Fairs to Showcase Organic Products

organic fairs were organised at Pratapgarh, on February 29, 2020; at Bhilwara on March 01, 2020, and at Chittorgarh on March 15, 2020, respectively. The aim is to showcase and popularise the organic products by local farmers who switch from chemical to organic farming. The progressive farmers and consumers shared their achievements, challenges and the way forward in promoting organic farming.

Gauhar Mahmood and Gourav Chaturvedi provided a brief overview of the organic fair in respective districts. Rajdeep



Pareek, Programme Officer, CUTS briefed the participants about the achievements and plan of action under the project entitled, 'Promoting Organic Consumption in the State of Rajasthan'.

Ashok Kumar Meena, Additional Superintendent of Police; R K Damor, Agriculture Expert; Sanjay Geel, Agriculture Department, Bhilwara; C P Goswami, RCHO Bhilwara; Balmukund Sain, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojna; Shashi Shanker, District Forest Officer; Sachin Badetiya, District Development Manager, National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development; RC Sharma, Superintendent Engineer, AVVNL; OP Sharma, Deputy Director, Agriculture; Ratan Lal Solanki, Scientist, Krishi Vigyan Kendra; Prahalad Vyas, Senior Advocate; Sushila Laddha, Chairperson Child Welfare Committee; Gopal Singh Kanavat, Financial Literacy Coordinator, Baroda Rajasthan Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Bhilwara and Farukh Pathan and Rajesh Chaparwal Member of Child Welfare Committee spoke on the importance of organic farming and products and its proper marketing.

Farmers from all blocks placed their different products in the exhibition. Madan Giri Goswami was the moderator of the event.

2 PACE

Special Training for Newly-elected Ones

The Sarpanch and Village Development Officer Training was held at Gangad Talai and Sajjangarh on February 14 & 18, 2020 respectively. Gauhar Mahmood delivered the welcome speech. Madan Lal Keer, Project Manager provided a brief overview of project activities. Mohan Lal Meghwal presented Integrated Child Protection Services and structure along with the role of Panchayat Level Child Protection Committee (PLCPC) members.

Nanu Lal Rout, Social Security Officer and Mazhar Khan, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment provided information about social security schemes and its process. Jagdish Prasad Sharma, Block Development Officer stated that children are valuable assets of our country, therefore it is our responsibility to ensure their rights.

Madhu Sudan Vyas, Child Welfare Committee member opined that the empowerment of children is necessary



for the development of villages. Dinesh Kumar Meghwal, Project Officer, Save the Children shed light on the importance of Village level Child Protection Committee (VLCPC) and its active role in the best interest of children. The newly-elected *Sarpanches* and Village Development Officers were felicitated.



How to Stop Child Trafficking?

Public Dialogue on Child Trafficking was organised jointly by Kailash Sathyarthi Children Foundation and Gaytri Seva Sansthan in Bhilwara and Chittorgarh districts of Rajasthan on February 14 & 24, 2020.

The dialogue aimed to create awareness of child trafficking and protection among the general public and government officials.

Shailender Pandya, Member Rajasthan State Commission for Protection of Child Rights spoke that child

trafficking is rampant all over the Rajasthan. Innocent children are being forced into labour at agriculture, domestic or factory, prostitution, begging, illegal adoption.

The focus is on 'Sustainable Consumer'

The day was observed on March 15 on the theme of 'Sustainable Consumer' to spread awareness about environmental breakdown and global climate changes. The theme aims to focus on the need for sustainable consumption globally, as well as highlighting the important role that consumer rights and protection can play.

S K Ojha, Additional District Magistrate was the Chief Guest of the event. Total of 110 persons participated.



e-Mitras (e-kiosk) Training

— Mitras (e-kiosk) Training was held in Gangadltalai on March 16, 2020, and in Sajjangarh on March 18, 2020, respectively. The objectives of the training were to build a better understanding on various social protection schemes, the process of applying and information about key departments dealing in child schemes, enhancing practical knowledge, skills, effective facilitating and processing of an application.

Gauhar Mahmood delivered a welcome speech and provided a brief overview of ongoing projects at the grassroots. Madan Lal Keer shed light on the objective and expected outcome of the training.

Nanu Lal Rout, Social Security Officer, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment and Mazhar Khan provided detailed information about social security schemes and required documents. Pawan Kumar, Department of Information & Technology explained the process of submitting an online application. A practical exercise was done on online application uploading process by Puranmal Sharma.

A vote of thanks was given by Surekha Bhuriya. More than 85 participants attended the training.

Reaching the Unreached Eye Care Services



Light Rural Eye Health Camps were organised with the collaboration of Government Hospital, Ram Snehi Eye Hospital, District Blindness Control Society and Sightsavers India.

The objectives were to identify people with cataract and provide them with the necessary treatment, prescribe glasses for refractive errors, undertake eye health education and train and capacity building of para-medical or Anganwadi workers.

As of now, eye screening of 399 patients was done, 75 cataract patients were identified and 44 eye surgeries were done in the government hospital.

During July 2018-February 2020, eye screening of 8556 patients was done, 1680 cataract patients were identified and 972 eye surgeries were in the government hospital.

VISITORS I

• Tushita Mukherjee and Niyanand from Sightsavers visited Chittorgarh about eye surgery follow-ups under Rural Eye Health Programme on February 03-04 and March 19, 2020, respectively.

CHD REPRESENTATIONS

- Farmers meeting on Animal husbandry and Integrated Farming was held on February 19, 2020. The Project team met Deputy Director, Plant Manager, RakSeeds, IFFCO for providing subsidised seeds and land allotment for cleaning and grading plant to FPO.
- Farmers Training was provided by Krishi Vigyan Kendra regarding warehouse scheme on February 14-15 and 20, 2020. A total of 72 FPOs members attended, out of that two farmers made an exposure visit by Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO) at Agriculture University, Udaipur.
- A dialogue on 'Apni Baat-Sabke Saath' was held on February 28, 2020 at CUTS Conference Hall, which was moderated by Arun Maira, Emeritus President, CUTS International, and eminent personalities, such as bureaucrats, academia, NGOs, CHD DPO Chittorgarh and FPO Bhilwara, media and senior management of CUTS. Total of 20 people participated.
- A state-level Stakeholder Consultation meeting was organised at Jaipur on March 13, 2020. A K Gupta, Director, Research, SKN Agriculture University, Jobner, Jaipur; R K Yadvendra, Joint Director, Department of Agriculture and Gajendra Sharma, Research Officer, Department of Agriculture; George Cheriyan delivered the welcome speech and spoke about the objective of the event. Rajdeep made a presentation on activities, achievements as part of project outcome over the last one year. More than 72 participants participated as district partners, progressive farmer, local NGO and CSO representatives and media.

- TelCall meeting with Amaresh Kumar Pandey and Jijo Mathew, Sightsavers was held on April 27, 2020, to understand the status of the programme in the intervention district, discuss foresee, staff engagement into now and after post-lock-down, plan of action to complete target, contingency plan prepared to streamline activities after post lockdown.
- Skype orientation meeting was organised by Save the Children on April 17 & 19, 2020 respectively. The project team shared the progress, challenges, resolved the problem of the target community during the lockdown. Om Arya, Pankaj Tiwari, Sanjay Moad, Dinesh Kumar all from the SCBR team explained the strategic plan that will be implemented with following government advisory on the pandemic.

MEDIA

