



CUTS Centre for Human Development (CUTS CHD)

# PACE

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Orientation Workshop of FNGOs at Chittorgarh

## Mother NGO Programme

### CUTS' Initiative on Health Services to Mother & Child

CUTS Centre for Human Development (CUTS CHD), Chittorgarh, in close cooperation with the selected Field NGOs (FNGOs) of Chittorgarh has been implementing the Mother NGO (MNGO) programme in remote areas of the district covering a population of about 36000 where medical services have either been negligible or non-existent.

Under the project, the Centre organised a five-day orientation workshop of FNGOs representatives at Chittorgarh, during October 09-13, 2006. The purpose of the workshop was to provide in-depth information to the selected FNGOs. It also aimed to prepare a broad view of the areas to be covered under the project after taking into account the current health scenario.

"The people of villages and hamlets of far-flung and inaccessible areas should receive medical services, and there should not be untimely death of the mother or the child during childbirth for want of such facilities. For this, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) should work as facilitator in providing

medical services", said Dr Hemraj Niyarta, Chief Medical & Health Officer, Chittorgarh.

Speaking on the occasion, Shashi Prabha, Centre Coordinator informed the participants that the Mother NGO scheme, which is initiated by Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India (Gol), focuses on creating awareness about health services related to reproduction and enhancing the capacity building of NGOs, so that they could assist the villagers in getting these services. She further informed that the Reproductive and Child Health Society, Chittorgarh has selected *Help Sansthan*, Pratapgarh, *Arunodaya Sansthan*, Bari Sadri and *Vikas Sansthan*, Bari Sadri to implement the scheme effectively.

RK Sharma of CUTS, Jaipur, informed the participants that in comparison with other countries, India has a very high woman mortality rate during childbirth, and hence there is a need for increasing public as well as institutional participation. He said that the main objective of the scheme is to lessen the mortality rate among

## CUTS Selected as Mother NGO

CUTS has been selected as the MNGO for Chittorgarh and Bhilwara districts of Rajasthan under the 'Reproductive and Child Health (RCH)' scheme of the Department of Health and Family Welfare, Gol. CUTS CHD has been selected as the Mother NGO in the district.

In the ninth five-year plan (1997-2002), Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India introduced the Mother NGO under the RCH. Under the scheme, the Department identifies and sanctions grants to the selected NGOs called MNGOs in allotted district(s).

These MNGOs, in turn, issue grants to smaller NGOs called FNGOs. The grants are used for promoting the goals/objectives as outlined in the RCH programme of Gol. The objectives of the scheme are:

- to utilise and deliver health services for reduction in maternal mortality;
- to reduce reproductive mortality;
- to check infant mortality and ensure fertility;
- to improve maternal health care;
- to ensure child care;
- to address general health care; and
- to address family welfare through multi-stakeholder involvement and action.

mothers and children during childbirth. In addition, it also aims to disseminate information on family welfare programmes, so that people could adopt them and help check the population growth he added.

Chandramohan Saxena and Rajendra Joshi were the resource persons. Madan Giri Goswami, Madan Lal Keer, Manoj Dixit, Seema Yagnik, Devendra Paliwal – all from CUTS also spoke on the different aspects of the programme.

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## National Consumer Day

To mark the National Consumer Day, CUTS CHD, jointly with District Supply Office, Chittorgarh, organised a seminar on “Empowerment of Consumers – Assert Rights, Pursue Remedies” at the Centre, on December 24, 2006.

P L Agarwal, the District Collector, Chittorgarh was the chief guest in the seminar, while Rajeshwari Meena, *Pradhan panchayat samiti*, Chittorgarh and Mohan Lal Tailor, President, District Consumer Forum were the special guest and the president of the seminar respectively. The seminar was inaugurated with lighting of the lamp by P L Agarwal, Rajeshwari Meena, Mohan Lal Tailor and Shashi Prabha.



Throwing light on the practical aspects of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, Chandmal Garg, an advocate, opined that there should be control on the prices of goods. He further elaborated that retailers and shopkeepers charge arbitrary prices from the consumers. He asked the retailers

to mention both – maximum and minimum prices on the goods.

Addressing the participants, P L Agarwal informed that there is a need for sustained educational campaign to create awareness among the consumers for their rights.

Rajeshwari Meena called for a resolution for a wide awareness campaign on the Consumer Protection Act, 1986. She said that sometimes educated consumers, along with the illiterate ones, are also cheated; hence both need to be aware of their rights.

Shashi Mathur, Member, District Consumer Forum, Chittorgarh showed satisfaction that consumers are becoming aware of their rights and praised the work being carried out by CUTS, in this regard.

Mohan Lal Tailor said that an aware consumer is a precious asset for the country. If the

consumer is aware, then he/she will resist cheating.

He called for the need to regulate some activities of private educational institutions, such as charging hefty fees but hiring unqualified and incompetent teachers, which hampers the educational system.

## Training Workshop of SHGs

CUTS CHD, with support from the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), is implementing the Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and Bank Linkages project in Bhilwara district, with an aim to make women self-reliant and raise their living standard.

This SHG programme has led to an enormous network of almost 550 people out of which, 90 percent are women. This network has not only contributed to the economic upliftment but has also been instrumental in liaisoning with the local self-governance bodies to facilitate the overall development of the area. The SHGs have also helped in mitigating the social problems of the villages and coming up with solutions.

During October-December 2006, the Centre helped in connecting 26 SHGs of Bhilwara in income generating activities by assisting them in receiving bank loans. In addition, it helped other SHGs to submit their forms in the banks.

CUTS CHD organised a one-day training workshop of SHGs officials at Banera district, Bhilwara in which 40 members of 13 SHGs received training.

## World Food Day

To mark the World Food Day, CUTS CHD, jointly with District Supply Office, Chittorgarh organised a seminar on “Investment in Agriculture for Food Security” at the Centre, on October 16, 2006. In his welcome address, J P Bohra, the District Supply Officer, Chittorgarh opined that India is an agricultural country and there is an urgent need for investment in this sector in order to enhance food production. He further said that India needs to focus on both quantity and quality in terms of food production, including protection to the farmers, so that the possibility of greater investment could be realised. He called upon the NABARD to come forward for providing investment in the agriculture sector.



Vijay Kumar Pandey, Deputy Director, Agriculture (Expansion) opined that it is very urgent for the country to be self-sufficient in the area of food production. He voiced his concern over the rising population in recent years *vis-à-vis* declining food production. He stressed the need for producing those crops that could yield more production in adverse conditions.

Y K Ujjawal, the Regional Manager, National Seeds Corporation, Chittorgarh, called for adequate management of agriculture in order to promote investment and save it from animals and birds, so that the production could be enhanced.

Professor, Ratan Lal Khateek, the Assistant Professor Agriculture Science Centre, Chittorgarh while stressing the need for promoting bio fertiliser to raise the soil fertility, said that the fertility of land is declining due to indiscriminate use of chemical fertiliser. He also pointed out that farmers should be paid fair price for their produce.

## Legal Education Week

The Consumer Information and Counselling Centre of CUTS CHD, jointly with Bhopalsagar *panchayat samiti* and District Judicial Services, Chittorgarh organised legal education week during December 09-16, 2006.

On the last day, a seminar was organised at Bhopalsagar *panchayat samiti's* conference room. The objective of the seminar was to provide maximum legal information to the villagers and to sensitise common people against social crimes.

Participants in the seminar included P N Khandelwal, District and Session Judge, Chittorgarh; Praveen Jain, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Chittorgarh; Dr J L Bhatnagar, retired medical practitioner; and Roop Singh Ranawat, President, Bar Association, Kapasan. P N Khandelwal inaugurated the seminar, while Dr J L Bhatnagar lit



the lamp, which was followed by a prayer. In his address, P N Khandelwal opined that social crimes cannot be remedied only by legal provisions, but also by love, harmony and mutual conciliation.

He provided legal inputs to the participants on social crimes like dowry, alimony and divorce. Praveen Jain said that the first effort of the police

is also of conciliation, and information related to laws and rights is being provided to the people during the monthly Community Liason Group (CLG) meetings held at the police stations in order to make them aware of their rights.

Dr J L Bhatnagar informed the attendees that many a times people get fake medical report to lodge a complaint to the police, and in the absence of actual information, the police is misled. Thus, people spend their hard-earned money uselessly.

Roop Singh Ranawat said that many a times people, for taking revenge or scoring personal motive, file fake petitions on harassment due to dowry or foeticide, which creates problem for the police. He asked the people to consider this aspect of social obligation.

### Redressal Effort for Consumers

CUTS CHD has been at the forefront in working for the people. In this regard, Kishan Lal approached the Centre with a problem. On October 11, 2006, he was provided with fake mobile handset by Amar Agency, Kapasan, but paid for original handset. When CUTS CHD sent a notice to the said Agency for remedial action, it gave no reply. Then the Centre filed a written petition in the court of the District Judicial Services Authority, Chittorgarh, which is still sub-judice.

During October-December 2006, the Centre helped solved eight cases out of the total received, which included two about telephone department, three with electricity board, one life insurance and two water department.

### Consumer Awareness

An awareness rally was organised at Gardana village of Bhadesar *panchayat samiti*, Chittorgarh, on December 23, 2006, with active support from local *Bal Panchayat*.

In the rally, around 105 participants took part, which included members of *Bal Panchayat* and students of Government Senior Secondary School. The rally echoed the message of consumer awareness.

On this occasion, Madan Lal Keer, CUTS' representative and Prithviraj Keer, the *ex-sarpanch* of Gardana and Mangi Lal Regar, a CUTS' well wisher were present.

उपभोक्ता



शक्ति

## Rally on Female Foeticide



The student union of Maharana PG College, Chittorgarh, organised a social awareness rally against female foeticide and organised a signature campaign against this social evil at Chittorgarh, on December 23, 2006.

The campaigning student party visited CUTS CHD and asked its staff to sign the oath paper and pledge that they would also take up female foeticide issue in tackling the problem.

On this occasion, Shashi Prabha, the Centre Coordinator explained how female foeticide could be prevented. She also assured the visiting group that she would get reports registered against the guilty provided the people of neighbouring areas inform about such incidents.

**VISITS**

- During October 11-14, 2006, Lalchand, Samod Kumari and Bhavna Kumari from *Pratham Rajasthan* (Education Initiative Trust) visited CUTS CHD and collected information about the impact of Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) survey 2006, being conducted by *Pratham Rajasthan*, in order to make an annual assessment of the status of education in Rajasthan.
- On November 24, 2006, Shilpa Jain of *Shikshantar* visited CUTS CHD and gathered information about the steps taken towards the achievement of girls' education. She also briefed the *Asha Ri Goth* programme being conducted through *Shikshantar*.
- On December 24, 2006, P L Agrawal, District Collector, Chittorgarh; G P Bohra, the District Supply Officer, Chittorgarh; Rajeshwari Meena, *Pradhan, Panchayat Samiti*, Chittorgarh participated in the National Consumers' Day held at CUTS CHD.

**CHD REPRESENTATIONS**

- On October 11, 2006, Madan Giri Goswami participated in a one-day State level workshop held under the Grassroots Reachout and Networking in India on Trade & Economics (GRANITE) project, at Jaipur, Rajasthan.
- On October 16, 2006, Shashi Prabha participated in the district level workshop held under Self Help Groups and Bank Linkages project organised by the NABARD, at Ajmer, Rajasthan.
- On November 07, 2006, Madan Giri Goswami participated in one-day workshop held under *Srijan* Network organised by the Centre for Community Economics & Development Consultants (CECOEDECON).
- On November 22-24, 2006, Madan Lal Keer participated in a three-day Training of Trainers (ToT) programme under 'Family Welfare Schemes' organised by State Institute of Health and Family Welfare, at Jaipur, Rajasthan.
- On December 28, 2006, Madan Lal Keer and Manoj Dixit participated in a Road Safety Week meeting held at the District Collector Office, Chittorgarh.

**PUBLICATIONS**

CUTS CHD has been engaged in publishing resource materials since 1991. The aim is to disseminate information on issues of people's concern at the grassroots level and to support its interventions by providing knowledge-based modalities. Some select publications are:

- *Soochna Hi Shakti Hai* (Information is Power)
- *Logon Tak Nyaye* (Justice for People)
- *Sasakt Nari Sudrid Samaj* (Empowered Women Robust Society)
- *Jaiv Vividhta Ke Samvaahak Guni* (Traditional Healers are the agents of Bio-diversity)
- *Alakh Jaga Hai Gaon-Gaon* (Awakening in the Rural India)
- *Khuli Khidkian Khule Darwaze* (Open Windows and Open Doors)

