



CUTS-Centre for Human Development (CUTS-CHD)

PACE

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A View of Reproductive Child Health Project in Bhilwara

Implementing Health Services in Remote Areas

CUTS Centre for Human Development (CUTS CHD) was selected as the Mother NGO (MNGO) for Chittorgarh and Bhilwara districts of Rajasthan under the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) scheme of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. The Centre, in close cooperation with Field NGOs (FNGOs), implemented the scheme in remote areas of Chittorgarh and Bhilwara districts where health services have been either negligible or non-existent.

For the next phase of the programme, a total of 11 NGOs submitted their Expression of Interest for the programme. Out of which 10 NGOs were invited for final selection. They were: *Mewar Sewa Sansthan, Prayas Sewa Sansthan, Saraswati Bal Sewa Samiti, Bakhtawari Sikhshan Sansthan, Sadhak Sewa Sansthan, Divine Mother Society, Viklang Kalyan Sahayata Samiti, Ashakiran Sewa Sansthan, Gareeb Nawaz Mahila Ewam Bal Kalyan Samiti and Help Sansthan.*

The NGO representatives were asked for a five-minute presentation

about their organisation and how their organisation has planned to execute the programme in target villages. The selection committee members included: ML Yadav (Additional Deputy Magistrate, Bhilwara City), Dr Yashpal Singh (Reproductive Child Health Officer, Bhilwara), BL Chowdhury (Additional Account Officer, Bhilwara) Niraj Jha (District Programme Manager, National Rural Health Mission, Bhilwara) and Amit Chowdhury of CUTS CHD. After prior consultation with Hemant Ghera (District Collector, Bhilwara) four NGOs were selected.

The four NGOs selected were: *Mewar Sewa Sansthan, Bhilwara, Prayas Sewa Sansthan, Shahpura, Gareeb Nawaz Mahila Ewam Bal Kalyan Samiti, Ajmer and Viklang Kalyan Sahayata Samiti, Byawar.* An orientation programme will be organised for these NGOs. The selected Field NGOs will have to carry out a survey on maternal and child health in unserved and underserved areas after the orientation programme.

Concept of Mother NGO

The Government of Maharashtra introduced the concept of 'Mother NGO' in 2001 in order to provide support to implementing non-governmental organisations (NGOs) under the Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP).

In the ninth five-year plan (1997-2002), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India introduced the Mother NGO under the RCH. Under the scheme, the Ministry identifies and sanctions grants to the selected MNGOs in allotted district(s). These MNGOs, in turn, issue grants to smaller NGOs called Field NGOs. The grants are used for promoting the objectives as outlined in the RCH programme.

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; and
- to address general health care; and to address family welfare through multi-stakeholder involvement and action.

Mother NGO Programme in Chittorgarh

CUTS CHD submitted the final proposal to the the State RCH Department, Jaipur on July 05, 2007 for their approval. Once the State RCH approves the final proposal, the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will be signed between CUTS and Chief Medical and Health Officer (CMHO), Chittorgarh for implementation of the programme activities.

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Income Generating Activities of Self Help Groups

Manju of Bhairo Nath Women Self-Help Group (SHG) has bought a paper plate making machine and started her business. After consulting with CUTSCHD members and her husband, she decided to start her own business. She is now extremely happy with the new development in her life. She told that she has decided to pay back the loan amount at the earliest to get more loan.

The women of Parvati Women SHG of Bilola village under the Chittorgarh block got Rs 100,000 as loan from Bank of Baroda, Senti (Chittorgarh) Branch on September 25, 2007. The members of this group have started dairy business with that loan amount. The Bhilwara and Chittorgarh dairies are providing technical knowledge through training and have also given equipments to run the business. The women SHGs members are working in a group and running the business on their own without taking any assistance from their husbands.



A Practical demonstration from the SHG members

A Success Story

One of SHGs of Chamanpura village became the role model for other SHGs in Chittorgarh and Bhilwara districts. Chamanpura village is 20 km from the Bhilwara district headquarter. With the sustained efforts of CUTS representatives, *Jawala Mahila SHG* came into being on June 15, 2006, in which there were 11 members. Slowly and steadily, a close relationship was built among the women members because of regular meetings of the group, and on September 18, 2006, the first loan of Rs 20,000 from the bank was disbursed among them.



A SHG member with her poultry Farm

One of the members was Reshma whose husband used to be a truck driver, and is now staying at home due to illness. As the family was struggling for their livelihood, Reshma decided to join the labour work to earn for her family. The other member of the group suggested her to start her own enterprise. With regular interaction with other members of the group and CUTS field workers, her mind changed and she decided to start the poultry business. On September 18, 2006, she got a loan of Rs 4500 from her group and started her business. Her husband supported her, which gave her the required moral strength. She worked hard and paid back the first loan. She applied for another loan and bought a sewing machine. Right now she possesses two business of her own and earning a decent amount to support her family. She has become a role model for other members of *Jawala Mahila SHG*.

Training for the Officials of SHGs

A one-day training programme for the SHG members was organised at Barundini village of Mandalgarh block of Bhilwara district in which members were trained on how to maintain accounts. They were also oriented on different types of registers for maintaining SHG account. Hari Singh Shekhawat, Assistant Manager, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), Bhilwara; Ashok Kathuria, Branch Manager, Rajasthan Gramin Bank, Barunduni, Claudia from Mexico, Amit Chowdhury and Ganga Dadhich from CUTSCHD shared their experiences on SHG activities and encouraged them to start their own enterprises.

A loan distribution ceremony for the SHGs was organised at CUTS CHD on September 25, 2007. The Bank of Baroda, Senti (Chittorgarh) Branch sanctioned the loan amount of Rs 50,000 to the *Devalrani SHG* and Rs 100,000 to the *Parvati SHG*. The members will utilise the fund for income generating activities. Sudhanshu Kumar, Assistant Bank Manager, NABARD and Tribhuvan Narayan Yadvendu, Branch Manager, Bank of Baroda, Senti, requested members of the group to utilise the money for income generating activities, so that they might not face difficulty in repaying the loan and earn credit with the bank. This would help them get bigger loan amount in future. About 23 participants attended the meeting.

Maternal Health Care Project

The survey on "Identification of Gaps in Safe Motherhood, Reproductive and Child Health" under the Maternal Health Care project has been completed. The project was funded by Joffe Charitable Trust. CUTS CHD is working on the data compilation work, which will be followed by preparation of the final fact sheet.

Vermi Compost Pit

A vermi compost pit was built at CUTS CHD campus as a part of physical work under the National Environmental Awareness Campaign (NEAC) 2006-07. About 230 kg of compost was taken out from the pit during July-September 2007, which is being put to experimentation through its use in vases and plants of the CHD premises.

ACTIVITIES & PROGRAMMES

Celebration of International Youth Day

International Youth Day was celebrated in Banera block of Bhilwara district on August 11, 2007. The peer educators organised activities like rallies, poster competitions, debates, and quiz programme to enhance understanding of the young people on issues like migration, HIV/AIDS.

Youth leaders (peer educators) interacted with the *Panchayati Raj Institution* (PRI) representatives, medical officers and Block Development Officer (BDO) on problems of youths. Various competitions were held to encourage schoolchildren to show their interest in development issues and raise awareness on health issues. Winners of all competitions were awarded during the function.

The objective of the event was to enhance understanding and advocacy skills of the partners on issues, policies and



A view of the International Youth Day

schemes related to Young People's Reproduction and Sexual Health and Rights (YRSHR) with the focus on HIV/AIDS, migration and livelihoods.



A group of children enrolled back to school

Balika Pravesh Utsav

Continuing the practice of celebrating *Balika Pravesh Utsav* (Function for Girl Child Enrollment in School), CUTS CHD organised two functions, one each in Bhilwara and Chittorgarh districts. The purpose of the function was to welcome un-enrolled and drop out girl children, admit them in the school and raise awareness among parents and villagers about the importance of education.

In Chittorgarh district, one such function was held in a school in Bilola village on July 06, 2007. In another function in the government middle school, Kamalpura, Bhilwara on July 07, 2007, a rally was organised with the school children. Eight children in Chittorgarh and ten children in Bhilwara district were re-enrolled to the school.

Pre-proposal Workshop on Bio-diversity Conservation

Pre-proposal workshop on bio-diversity conservation under NEAC 2007-08 project was organised in Bhilwara and Chittorgarh districts with the support of CUTS CART on September 18-19, 2007.

George Cheriyan, Dharmendra Chaturvedi and Madan Giri Goswami attended both the workshops. Ganga Dadhich attended the Bhilwara workshop, while Amit Chowdhury attended the Chittorgarh workshop. George chaired both the workshops and shared his views on bio-diversity theme. He requested all participants to incorporate the component of people participation in the project proposal. All participants were asked to submit the proposal by October 01, 2007.

CUTS had organised various programmes like rally, seminars and essay competition on the theme "Solid Waste Material Management" under the NEAC of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India. It also highlighted local environmental problems in order to create awareness among rural people, so that a long and lasting solution to these problems could

be found. Also, the Centre has been able to highlight problems occurred due to industrial wastes from time to time in Chittorgarh and Bhilwara districts to make the people aware of their surrounding. Establishment of Vermi Compost Pit is an example to show and encourage the rural people to use vermin compost instead of chemical fertilisers.



Discussion at the Pre-proposal workshop

CHD REPRESENTATIONS

- On July 09, 2007, Madan Lal Keer attended a meeting on Education for All Campaign at District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) Hall, Chittorgarh. Representatives of *panchayats* and government functionaries attended the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to review the project and discuss the programme on "Chief Minister Education Support Campaign, 2007".
- On July 16, 2007, Amit Chowdhury and Madan Giri Goswami met K S Meena, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Chittorgarh and enquired about potential partnership between CUTS and *Zila Parishad* Chittorgarh for implementing the *Swanjayanti Swa Rojgar Yojna* (SGSY) project.
- On August 11, 2007, Amit Chowdhury met Dr D V Singh of Regional Resource Centre (RRC), Voluntary Health Association of India (VHAI), New Delhi and briefed him the status of MNGO Chittorgarh and Bhilwara Projects.
- On August 17, 2007, Madan Giri Goswami attended a divisional level workshop on SHG Bank Linkage Programme at Ajmer. The purpose of the workshop was to share problems faced by NGOs on SHG activities while dealing with bankers.
- On August 25, 2007, Amit Chowdhury attended a workshop on 'Delivering Health Services through Self Help Groups' organised by Action Research & Training for Health (ARTH) and Association of Rural Advancement through Voluntary Action and Local Involvement (ARAVALI) with financial assistance from Sir Ratan Tata Trust (SRTT) at Udaipur. Fifty participants from around 30 NGOs attended the workshop.
- On September 05, 2007, Amit Chowdhury and Madan Giri Goswami attended a State Inception Workshop on Grassroots Reach-out and Networking on Trade and Economics, (GRANITE) Phase-II project organised by CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment (CUTS CITEE) at Harish Chandra Mathur-Rajasthan State Institute of Public Administration (HCM-RIPA), Jaipur. Approximately 60 participants attended the workshop. The purpose of the workshop was formally launching GRANITE Phase II in Rajasthan and bringing all the relevant stakeholders to a common platform, to discuss the opportunities and challenges in sectors of agriculture and textiles with reference to Rajasthan.
- On September 27-29, 2007, Madan Lal Keer attended the three-day training programme for Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) survey organised by *Pratham* Rajasthan at the Centre for Community Economic and Development Consultant Society (CECOEDECON), Jaipur.

VISITORS

- On July 13, 2007, Anoop Khinchi and Surender Kumar, Rajasthan Administrative Service 2007 batch visited CHD for a discussion on the project management topic, as they are in probation period. CUTS was selected for orienting them on issues on NGO management and development issues.
- On September 22, 2007, Nikhil Verma, Assistant General Manager, Child Rights and You (CRY), New Delhi visited CHD along with Anil Vayas of *Arunodaya, Badi Sadri* and had conversation regarding CUTS intervention on child empowerment.
- On September 29, 2007, Vaisav from *Arunodaya Sansthan Badi Sadri* visited CHD along with 20 schoolchildren. It was an education exposure visit. Children were interested in knowing the *Bal Panchayat* concept and its activities. The children were taken to Biliola village where they had a great time interacting with the *Bal Panchayat* members.

