



CUTS-Centre for Human Development (CUTS-CHD)

PACE

Participation and Action towards Community Empowerment

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Programme on Self-Reliance at the Grassroots

CUTS Centre for Human Development (CUTS CHD) has got approval from National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) for the formation of 800 Self Help Groups (SHGs) in Chittorgarh and Bhilwara districts. 400 SHGs will be formed in each district during the project period. The project is for three years. The project will target mainly Above Poverty Line (APL) families. In the first year, the focus will be on mobilising men and women, formation of groups, inter loaning, opening bank account at local banks and capacity building of group leaders and members.

In Bhilwara district, project will be implemented in Banera, Suwana and Mandalgarh blocks. In Chittorgarh district, the project will be implemented in Chittorgarh, Nimbahera and Gangrar blocks. CHD has already formed 200 SHGs under NABARD SHG project in Mandalgarh and Banera blocks of Bhilwara district.



A view of the SHGs meeting in progress

Project under JSRY Scheme

Under the *Swarna Jyanti Grameen Swa Rojgar Yojna* (JSRY), CHD has got approval for forming SHGs in Chittorgarh, Nimbahera and Bhadesar blocks of Chittorgarh district. The project duration will be between 3-4 years. Under the project, groups should comprise 10 to 15 members from Below the Poverty Line (BPL) groups. The agreement paper has been submitted to Chief Executive

Officer (CEO), Chittorgarh for his signature. CUTS has already been asked to start the project.



Women of SHGs at International Women's Day

A Successful SHGs Case

Dhakadkheri village of Mandalgarh Panchayat Samiti in Bhilwara district is situated some 19 km from Tehsil headquarters and 60 km from district headquarters. People of various castes, such as Dhakad, Rajput, Regar, Bhil, Suthar and Patwa live in this village comprising of 200 families. Agriculture is the main occupation of villagers. This village has a higher secondary school, an *aanganwadi* and a health centre.

CUTS, with the help from NABARD, formed *Jai Ambe* SHG in the village. In the beginning, the group had to undergo many hurdles, but as the saving money started increasing, member's faith also increased. Regular meetings of the members helped strengthening their belief and they started taking loan from the group and reimbursing back to the group on time.

Hence, the group created a healthy relation with the bank, which provided loan as per the demand. Moreover, members began their own enterprises such as grocery store, photography, computer work, vermin compost, fertiliser production, motor welding, sewing and agricultural works etc.

Due to organisational zeal and dedication of the villagers, *Jai Ambe* SHG has started showing positive results. Not only this group has started generating income through loan but also has become a role model for others to follow. This case shows that with will and hardwork, SHG can achieve success.

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Mother NGO Programme in Bhilwara

Under the Mother NGO Bhilwara project, a two-day baseline survey-cum-orientation workshop was organised with the workers of *Viklang Sewa Samiti*, Aasind, Bhilwara on February 17-18, 2008. In the workshop, the workers presented the report of baseline survey that was conducted in their respective areas.

In the two-day training programme on data entry package organised by Regional Resource Centre, Voluntary Health Association of India (RRC-VHAI), New Delhi on February, 01-02, 2008, Madan Lal Keer and Ganga Dadhich participated.

During March 24-28, 2008, RRC-VHAI, New Delhi organised project proposal development workshop in Jaipur in which Amit Chowdhury and Madan Lal Keer participated. Manoj Dixit also took part in the workshop on March 27-28, 2008.

Mother NGO Programme in Chittorgarh

The final proposal has been submitted to State Reproductive Child Health Department, Jaipur on July 05, 2007 for their approval. Once State Reproductive Child Health Department approves the final proposal, the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will be signed between CUTS and CMHO-Chittorgarh.

In this regard Amit Chowdhury talked with Seema Gupta, National Coordinator, RRC-VHAI, New Delhi regarding release of project fund.

Project with Save the Children

Bal Panchayat Meeting

It has been decided to revitalise all the *Bal Panchayats* formed at the village level by CUTS. Save the Children, Jaipur office has given consent on starting Child Empowerment Project from April 2008. Vijata Uppal, the Programme Coordinator, Save the Children visited CHD, which was the part of preliminary exercise carried out with proposed partner organisation for the new project.

Madan Lal Keer and Seema Yagnic started attending *Bal Panchayat* meetings in Chittorgarh. During the meetings, issues related to child health, education, sanitation and environment are discussed. Children are told about their rights and responsibilities. Discussion also includes good manners, behavior and etiquette and its importance in daily life.

Cases of Bal Panchayats' Efforts

Bal Panchayats for Surva Shiksha

Bal Panchayats of the project area are busy in promoting child education. They have speed up their efforts to ensure 100 percent enrollment and retention of children in their village. *Bal Panchayats* are also preparing a list of children denied of education and drop-outs. On the basis of the list, they will work towards ensuring enrollment of such drop-out children through social awareness campaign.

Children Started Getting Development Opportunity

Due to sustained efforts by CUTS for child empowerment through *Bal Panchayats*, positive result is visible in the area. Because of regular *Bal Panchayat* meetings children are being made aware of their rights. Also, children are getting rid of household works and due to increased level of awareness among parents and guardians, children are getting enough time to study and play.

Child Rights Situational Analysis Study work

Save the Children is conducting a survey on child rights for development of its country strategy paper on health, child protection, education, HIV/AIDS and hunger. Bhilwara district was selected as one of the most industrially developed district of Rajasthan. Save the Children, UK approached CUTS CHD for support in conducting the study. A plan was drawn and a three-day orientation programme was organised at Jaipur, on February 18-20, 2008. Ganga Dadhich

attended the programme along with two CUTS volunteers.

One-day orientation programme was attended by Ganga Dadhich in Bhilwara, on February 23, 2008 for the survey work. A team of six people was formed for conducting the survey. The survey was planned for six days, from February 25 to March 01, 2008 in two blocks of Bhilwara district. During the orientation programme, surveyors were oriented about the survey method and survey questionnaire. All reports and data have been submitted to Save the Children.



Polio Immunisation Programme at CHD

Bal Panchayat Election

In order to ensure children's participation under the child empowerment policy, three *Bal Panchayats* were re-organised according to which *Panchayat* President, Vice-President, Secretary, Education Minister, Health Minister, Environment Minister and Minister of Culture were elected. On the occasion, all the members of the *Bal Panchayats* took oath to stop violence against girl child and ensured their proactive participation in promoting education for girls.

ACTIVITIES & PROGRAMMES

International Women Day



SHGs member taking part in World Women's Day Celebrations

International Women Day was celebrated in collaboration with *Sanjha Manch* (CARE, Bhilwara Dairy, FES, BAIF, *Asha Kiran* and *Prayas*) of Bhilwara on March 05, 2008 in Bhilwara. More than 400 SHG members attended the celebration.

The occasion gave the women a platform to share their problems and pains, an opportunity to raise their voice against discrimination and show their strength. It also provided an opportunity to forget all household responsibilities for the day and enjoy the life mingling with women of different background. Women were given a bag with literature, pen, pencil, eraser, sharpener, salt packet, filter net and food packets.

International Women's Day was also organised in Chittorgarh on March 08, 2008. Madan Giri Goswami coordinated the function. Discussion was held on rights of women, *Janani Suraksha Yojna*, violence against women and wage for women in National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NAREGA).

World Consumer Day

In collaboration with the District Supply Office, Chittorgarh, CUTS CHD organised a series of activities during the World Consumer Day on March 15, 2008 at the *Panchayat Samiti* office.

First, a rally was taken out in which about 50 school children participated. The rally was flagged off by GP Gupta, President, District Consumer Board. Later, a consultation workshop was held at the BDO office, Chittorgarh. The workshop was chaired by RS Shekhawat, ADM, Chittorgarh, in which was attended by 30 participants.



Children taking part at the consumer awareness rally

Guni Workshop

One-day *Guni* (local healer) consultation workshop was organised at the CUTS CHD, Chittorgarh on February 15, 2008. The purpose of the workshop was to discuss the disappearing herbal plants and fading skills for curing diseases through herbal medicines. In all, 35 people participated in the consultation workshop in which 20 were local healers from different parts of Chittorgarh district.

Participants raised their concern on vanishing herbal plants and felt for wider media coverage about the benefits of herbal medicines. TR Nimawat, Ayurvedic consultant was the lead speaker for the workshop.

Media Workshop

One day consultation workshop was organised with the local media representatives at the Centre on March 14, 2008. The purpose of the workshop was to sensitise media people about the importance of herbal medicines. The subject of the advocacy workshop was 'Disappearing Knowledge of Herbal Plants'. TR Nimawat, Ayurvedic consultant was the lead speaker in the workshop.

Two local healers named Surajmal Bawari (Chipakhera, Dungla block) and Dalli Chand Keer (Punawali, Badi Sadri) were also invited for the workshop to share their experiences with media people. Media praised CUTS' initiatives in promoting herbal plants.

Road Safety Week

CUTS CHD, in association with District Transport Department, Chittorgarh, organised the road safety week in Chittorgarh during January 07-13, 2008. During the campaign, replicators were stuck on the rear side of the vehicles at the Collectorate and Chanderia Police Station on January 11, 2008, to make the drivers aware of the transport rules.

Campaign was launched by RS Rathore, sub-divisional officer and Gopaldan Charan, regional transport officer, by

sticking red and green replicators on the rear sides of the vehicles. The district transport officers, Nemichand Pareek and AS Rathore along with Deputy-Superintendent of Police, Perna Shekhawat also addressed the participants.

The drivers of 163 vehicles, which included 56 auto rickshaws, 28 tankers, 18 trolleys, 23 jeeps, 4 farmer's vehicles and 3 bullock carts were made aware of the traffic rules on the spot. MS Bhati, the SHO of Chanderia Police Station, SK Pathan, Inspector of Transport Department also provided information on safe driving and carrying passengers and weights not more than the required capacity.

Child Anti-labour Campaign

CUTS CHD, in association with *Bachpan Bachao Andolan*, New Delhi, organised action week against child labour. The objective of the campaign was to create awareness on child labour, and ensure the people's participation in stopping it.

On February 17, 2008, a child meeting was organised at Bilola village of Chittorgarh *Panchayat Samiti*. Madan Giri Goswami of CUTS, said that parents and guardian send their children to work due to selfish reasons. On the occasion, pamphlets brought out by *Bachpan Bachao Andolan* were distributed among the participants. A total of 95 participants attended the meeting.

An awareness rally was organised in which children from local *Bal Panchayat* and members of *Urmul Simant Bajju Bikaner Bal Mandal* took part. With the slogans like '*roko re bhai rok, bal majdoori rok*' (stop child labour brother), '*ghar, ghar alakh jagayenge, bal majdoori rukwayenge*' (we will create awareness in every household, we will help stop child labour), '*bal shram ki chore burai, hum sab ki isi mein bhalai*' (we need to get rid of the abuse of child labour, this is beneficial to all), the message against child labour was disseminated. A total of 60 children took part in the rally.

CHD REPRESENTATIONS

- During January 29-February 02, 2008, Shiv Lal Prajapat attended an SHG training programme at Alwar conducted by NABARD. In all, 25 representatives from NGO attended the training programme where discussions were focused on maintaining records and linking SHGs with livelihood activities. Trainees were taken for field exposure for interaction with SHG federation members.
- On February 01-02, 2008, Madan Lal Keer and Ganga Dadhich visited Jaipur to attend the Mother NGO data training, which was organised by RRC-VHAI at SIFU, Jaipur. The purpose of the training was to orient Mother NGO representatives about the software to be used for computer data feeding and data analysis.
- On February 13, 2008, Madan Lal Keer attended a consultation workshop on Safe Motherhood organised by Arth, Udaipur at Chittorgarh. The purpose of the workshop was to discuss issues related to mother and child health. In all, 30 participants from the district attended the workshop.
- On February 06, 2008, Madan Giri Goswami visited Institute of Health Management Research (IHMR), Jaipur to attend a project bid on Training & Capacity Building of Panchayati Raj representatives under Total Sanitation Campaign project.
- On February 18, 2008, Amit Chowdhury met P Mallikar Junaiah, Director, Handicraft and JS Audhkhasi, Under Secretary, National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), Ministry of Rural Development to enquire about the proposal which has been submitted by CUTS CHD.
- On February 19-20, 2008, Amit Chowdhury met Sanjay Nirala and Nitu Shahi, Programme Coordinator, Save the Children, UK, for confirmation of the project, which will be started from the beginning of the new financial year.
- On February 21, 2008, Amit Chowdhury met Prof. Ajay Veer Singh, In-charge, Indira Gandhi Panchayati Raj & Gramin Vikas Sansthan (State Institute of Rural Development) regarding proposal status submitted by CUTS CHD. Prof. Singh enquired whether CUTS could help State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD) in training & capacity building programmes.
- On March 26, 2008, Madan Giri Goswami attended the monthly meeting of District Health Committee, Bhilwara. The meeting was chaired by Hemant Geera, District Collector. The meeting was attended by officials of district health departments. The progress of all health related programmes of Bhilwara district were discussed during the meeting.

VISITORS

- On January 20, 2008, Nikhil Verma, General Manager, Child Rights and You (CRY), New Delhi visited CUTS CHD. The purpose of the visit was to discuss Bhilwara project proposal and possibilities of partnership for creation of Rajasthan Dai Association.
- On January 20, 2008, 50 BA & MA final year social work students from Orange City College of Social Work, Nagpur visited CUTS CHD. The visit was the part of their course curricula. The purpose was to gain knowledge on NGO management, social issues and be acquainted with activities of CUTS.
- On February 27-28, 2008, Vijeta Uppal, Programme Coordinator, Save the Children visited the Centre. The visit was the part of preliminary exercise carried out with proposed partner organisation for the new project. The visit also included a brief interaction with the community, CUTS has already worked with.