



Defining Quality of Education

CUTS Centre for Human Development (CUTS CHD), with support from Save the Children, UK, is implementing 'Improving the Quality of Elementary Education Project (IQEEP)' in 27 government schools in 25 villages of Chittorgarh district of Rajasthan. The project aims to improve the quality of education in 27 schools and ensure increased participation of stakeholders including children in education planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

- The *Bal Mela* was organised at CUTS CHD on February 15, 2009. About 350 children attended the *Mela*. The purpose of the *Mela* was to provide an opportunity to the members of *Bal Sabha* formed under IQEEP to interact with children from different villages and exchange views on their rights, responsibilities and quality education. Children also presented cultural programmes.

Mitali Gupta, Assistant General Manager, Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Rural Planning and Credit Department (RPCD), Jaipur; K Sundari, Deputy General Manager, Ombudsman Cell, RBI, Jaipur; Neetu Shahi, Programme Coordinator, Save the Children, Jaipur; Dr Sonica Sharma, wife of Dr Samit Sharma, District Collector; Narmada Bhambi, Additional District Education Officer (DEO), Primary; Mahavir Krishnaiya, Chief Medical & Health Officer; Rajeshwari Meena, *Pradhan*; Govind Kabra, Chairman, *Nagar Palika*, Chittorgarh; and BL Sishodia, Senior Advocate attended the programme.

- Education tour of *Bal Panchayat* members from IQEEP villages to three selected NGOs (*Vikash, Manav Aashrita Sansthan* and *Mahan Sewa Sansthan*) of Udaipur was organised on February 22-23, 2009. Around 69 participants, including 56 children, 10 animators and three staff members of CHD visited these NGOs. The purpose of the tour was to help children learn from experiences of other child forums and inculcate a spirit of team-building.
- Consultation workshops for School Development & Monitoring Committee (SDMC) members of 27

schools from 25 IQEEP villages were held at CHD on February 02, 03, 10 & 12, 2009 respectively. The purpose of the meeting was to activate SDMCs and make them feel accountable towards their responsibilities. SDMCs have been constituted for every government school for reviewing school activities on a regular basis.

- The *Jan Sabha* (public meeting) was held at CHD on March 16, 2009. The purpose of the meeting was to bring stakeholders, policy makers and government officials on a common platform to discuss the problem of quality education. Stakeholders assured to provide their assistance promoting quality education in schools. Amit Chowdhury presented the findings of the survey carried out in the IQEEP villages on quality education. About 225 participants attended the meeting. Narmada Bhambi; Chandra Kanta Tripathi Additional DEO (Secondary); Suresh Sharma, Additional DEO (*Sarwa Sikhsha Abhiyan*); Madam Mehta, Senior Professor, District Institute of Education and Training (DIET); Kumar Bikram, District Convergence Officer, UN Agency; and officers from District Education Office attended the meeting.
- A consultation workshop with policy makers and local leaders on quality



Narmada Bhambi, Additional District Education Officer (Primary) lighting candle during Jan Sammelan

education was held at CHD on March 16, 2009. The purpose of the meeting was to update district officials on IQEEP and discuss the problem of quality education in villages.

- The life skill education training for children of IQEEP villages were organised in two phases. The purpose of the training was to teach children about the characteristics of life skill and develop a habit of saying no to wrong things. Two training workshops were organised at CHD on March 16-17 & 21-22, 2009 respectively.
- Training on composting for farmers with support from *Krishi Vigyan Kendra*, Chittorgarh was conducted in Chittorgarh, on March 26, 2009. About 20 participants attended the programme.

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Enhancing Environmental Awareness

CUTS CHD, in association with CUTS Centre for Consumer Action, Research & Training (CUTS CART) and with the support of the Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF), Government of India is implementing a project entitled, 'National Environmental Awareness Campaign' (NEAC) to create environmental awareness. CUTS CHD was one of the partners for implementing the project in Chittorgarh district.

The Centre carried out project activities during January-March 2009: drawing and essay competitions and plantation work in Government Upper Primary School, Lalji Ka Khera, Government Upper Primary School, Jitawal, Government Upper Primary School, Bojunda, Government Upper Primary School, Raghunathpura and Government Upper Primary School, Bilola. Students and teachers overwhelmingly participated in all project activities. The project provided students an opportunity to show their creativity to address the environment problem through drawing and essay competitions. Prizes were given to students for participating in competitions.

CUTS CHD also carried out monitoring work in 17 schools. A poster on environment was released by Dr Samit Sharma, District Collector during a function at CUTS CHD.



Samit Kumar, District Collector, Chittorgarh unfolding NEAC poster

Tobacco Control Intervention in Rajasthan

CUTS CART has been implementing a project, 'Tobacco Control Campaign by Mobilising Key Stakeholders in Rajasthan' with the support of World Health Organisation (WHO India) & Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. A district-level workshop under the project was held at CHD on January 07, 2009.

The purpose of the workshop was to disseminate the findings of tobacco survey, create a common platform for advocacy towards tobacco control and sensitise students and general public about ill effects of tobacco. 45 participants attended the workshop. Additional Chief and Medical Health Officer, Chittorgarh chaired the session.



A tobacco control awareness rally in Raghunathpura

A tobacco control awareness rally was conducted in Raghunathpura on January 09, 2009. The purpose of the rally was to sensitise students and the general public about ill effects of tobacco. 115 children of Government Upper Primary school participated in the rally. The rally was flagged off by Giriraj Prasad Sharma, Headmaster of Upper Primary School, Raghunathpura.

Team Building Workshop

A team building workshop for staff members of CHD along with CUTS Head Office was held at on February 07-08, 2009. The training programme was planned to enhance the work efficiency of CUTS staff. Seven members from CUTS HO and 12 from CHD attended the workshop. Major General Lal Ram Rakhyani of TASMACH Management Training Resources Pvt. Ltd, Pune facilitated the training.

Role of Micro Credit in Poverty Alleviation

CUTS CHD is implementing two projects in Bhilwara and Chittorgarh on micro credit for poverty alleviation to ensure socio-economic development and enhance livelihood security in rural areas. The projects are being funded by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

Under the project, Self Help Group (SHG) meetings were regularly held at Gangrar, Nimbahera & Chittor blocks of Chittorgarh district and Mandalgarh, Banera & Suwana blocks of Bhilwara district. Local banks were contacted and assistance was sought in opening SHG bank accounts. Problems related to some banks of Bhilwara were sorted after consulting higher authorities.

The project has provided a platform to women to share their problems and help them in developing saving habits. Few groups have started coming up with plans to begin entrepreneurial activities.

Empowering Consumers

CUTS with the support of the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) is undertaking an initiative over two years (2008-2010) in Nepal, Bangladesh, and two states of India (West Bengal and Rajasthan). The project is being implemented in association with local partner organisations across project territories.

Under the project, Sub Grassroots Interface Meetings (SGIMs) were held in Bhopalsagar on January 06; in Gangrar on January 07; and in Begu and Rashmi blocks of Chittorgarh on January 09, 2009 respectively. The objective of SGIMs was to reach out to the local people who were targeted during the baseline survey and pass on the advocacy skills to them.

Road Safety Week

The road safety awareness programme were organised in schools of Lalji Ka Khera, Laxmipura and Sahanwa villages of Chittorgarh district.

Nitu Joshi of CUTS CHD delivered lecture on Road Safety and requested children to be cautious while crossing the road. Om Prakash Jaiswal of CUTS CHD expressed his views on road safety.

International Consumer Day

A function was organised on the occasion of International Consumer Day at CHD on March 15, 2009. Samit Sharma, District Collector; Vimla Sethiya, Member, State Consumer Forum; Shayam Sunder Sharma, District Supply Officer; and BL Sishodiya, Senior Advocate graced the occasion. More than 100 participants, including district officials, teachers, members of consumer club, villagers, businessmen and non-governmental organisation (NGO) workers were present in the event.

Discussions were centred on consumer problems. Samit Sharma stressed on the need for generating awareness on generic medicines. Since two-three months, consumers of Chittorgarh have saved more than Rs 15 million by using generic medicines. Vimla Sethiya lauded CUTS' effort in resolving consumer problems. She requested consumers to be cautious while purchasing goods.

Shayam Sunder Sharma briefed about the initiatives taken by the District Consumer Cell and CUTS in raising consumer awareness and resolving consumers problems. Amit Chowdhury spoke on junk and canned food and how it is affecting children's health. He shared the findings of a sample survey, 'The Junk Food Trap' carried out by CUTS.

Participants during the event raised concerns on the behaviour of shopkeepers and stressed on the need to strengthen information dissemination process to educate consumers about their rights and responsibilities. CUTS was requested to take the lead role in addressing consumer problems.

Rallies were also organised in two blocks: Rashmi & Begu of Chittorgarh district. CHD consumer volunteers were given the



Participants sharing views on consumer problems during International Consumer Day

responsibility for organising rallies involving local school children. The purpose was to raise consumer awareness.

International Women's Day

A function was held at Ghatiyawali village on the occasion of the International Women's Day on March 08, 2009. More than 100 women gathered to share their experiences. Rajender Sharma, Manager, Baroda Rajasthan Grameen Bank, Ghatiyawali attended the programme. Sharma appreciated women for their courage for coming together and encouraged them to keep their unity. Sharma assured to help them in procuring bank loans to support their livelihood work.

Successful Advocacy

SHG meeting takes precedence

The date of marriage of Sohani Bai's (Secretary, Jognia SHG, village Nanodia of Banera Panchayat Samiti) son coincided with the SHG monthly meeting date. CUTS' worker sent message to Sohani Bai through a member to postpone the meeting. Sohani Bai refused to change the meeting date and walked for three kilometers to reach the telephone booth and informed CHD worker that the meeting will be held on the pre-determined date and place. The meeting was successfully organized as planned. The secretary gave priority to the SHG meeting above her son's marriage and showed her commitment.

Treasurer shows the way

Some of the members of Jognia Women's SHG were being misled by other women. Taking note of this untoward development, another SHG of Nanodia, Bhairunath Women's SHG, led by Vaalibai (Treasurer of the SHG), invited the trouble makers to Kamaalpur and introduced them to the members and laid to rest their apprehensions.

Displaying leadership skills, Vaalibai convinced members of her SHG to put

aside their timidity and venture out of the confines of their homes. She was instrumental in getting a resolution passed in her SHG, which called upon each woman-member to take turns to deposit monthly collection of money in the concerned bank and expose themselves to the outside world.

Further, husbands of the members used to dissuade their wives from becoming members of SHGs. This situation has also changed and the husbands now ask their women folk to seek small loans from their SHGs. Ganga Devi Gujjar is a member of the Jagriti SHG at Kamaalpur but when she was joining the SHG, her husband had an altercation with her. Now he himself visits the meetings of the SHG and seeks a loan for installation of an electric motor in his farm.

Advocating against use of tobacco

Bal Panchayats formed under IQEEP being implemented by CUTS are working on various issues related to children. One of the main problems which came into light was the consumption of tobacco among children. *Bal Panchayats* in various villages are sensitising children on the ill-

effects of tobacco and are convincing them to give up their habit of tobacco consumption. A tobacco control awareness rally was conducted in Raghunathpura on January 09, 2009. The purpose of the rally was to sensitise students and the general public on the ill-effects of tobacco. Three students of Government Upper Primary school pledged to give up their habit of tobacco consumption and took oath to sensitise other children as well in this regard.

Drive against alcohol

Alcoholism is a major problem in Rithola village of Dewri Gram Panchayat. A liquor shop was located near a school in Rithola which vitiated the environment. CUTS with the support of the local school conducted an awareness rally against the ill-effects of alcohol. Training of SDMC members were conducted at CHD in which SDMC members of Rithola discussed ways to have the liquor shop located near the school removed/relocated. SDMC with the support of other aware villagers wrote a letter to the district collector who took the matter seriously and forced the vendor to remove the shop near school.

CHD REPRESENTATIONS

- Amit Chowdhury attended a consultation workshop on 'Social Protection: Means to Enhance Children's Rights in South Asia' in Jaipur, on January 30, 2009.
- Amit Chowdhury and Madan Lal Keer attended a district-level consultation workshop on Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PC&PNDT) Act organised by DRCH and PNDT Cell, Chittorgarh on January 01, 2009. Amit made a presentation on 'Decreasing Sex Ratio'.
- Madan Lal Keer, Neetu Joshi, Vandana Chauhan, Sanjay Moud and four animators of IQEEP attended a training programme on 'Life Skill Building' organised by SC – BR Jaipur office in Jaipur, during January 15-18, 2009.
- Amit Chowdhury attended 'National Conference on Challenges in Human Development in India' organised by Centre for Development Studies, in Trivandrum, on January 24-25, 2009. Amit presented a paper on 'Working towards a Commune Based Sustainable Health Education: Lessons from Bal Panchayat Approach'.
- Madan Giri Goswami attended a consultation meeting on NABARD Micro Credit project in Udaipur, on January 23, 2009.
- Om Prakash Jaiswal attended District Task Force for Polio Eradication meeting at Collectorate office on January 27, 2009.
- Sanjay Moud attended the district consultation meeting on HIV/AIDS on January 29, 2009.
- Om Prakash Jaiswal attended the annual review meeting of Nehru Yuva Kendra, in Chittorgarh on February 17, 2009.
- Madan Giri Goswami attended the Swarn Jayanti Swa-Rojgar Yojna (SJSY) Chittorgarh District Review Committee meeting in Zila Parishad hall on February 26, 2009. The purpose of the meeting was to review the progress of SJSY's work.
- Madan Lal Keer attended Chittorgarh District Health Committee meeting on February 24, 2009 to review health projects and programmes.
- Amit Chowdhury attended the District Consumer Advisory Committee Meeting to review consumer club activities and selecting schools, NGOs and individuals for district and state prizes given every year to recognise their good work in March 2009.
- Amit Chowdhury attended the consultation workshop on 'Decreasing Sex Ratio' organized by Indian Medical Association and CMHO office on March 09, 2009. Amit delivered lecture on PC&PNDT Act. District Collector, CMHO and doctors from Chittorgarh participated in the discussion.
- Vandana Chauhan and an IQEEP animator attended a training programme on 'Preparing Module on Life Skill Education' organised by SC-BR at Jaipur, on March 19-20, 2009.

VISITORS

- Mitali Gupta, AGM, Rural Credit and K Sundari, DGM, Ombudsman Cell, RBI, Jaipur visited CHD on February 15, 2009. The purpose of the visit was to attend *Bal Mela* and discuss the activities of the Centre.
- Neetu Shahi, Programme Coordinator, SC-BR visited CHD to attend *Bal Mela* on February 15, 2009. She visited IQEEP villages and interacted with stakeholders/IQEEEO staff to review project activities.
- Pradeep S Mehta, Secretary General, CUTS visited CHD along with his wife and grandchild. A brief discussion on CHD projects was held between CHD staff and Mehta.
- Samit Sharma, Vimla Sethiya, Shyam Sunder Sharma and BL Sishodiya visited CHD to attend the function held on the occasion of International Consumer Day on March 15, 2009.
- Narmada Bhambi, Chandra Kanta Tripathi, Suresh Sharma, Abha Mehta and Kumar Bikram visited CHD to participate in *Jan Sammelan*, on March 16, 2009.
- Manomoy, Accountant, Save the Children – Bal Rakhsha Bharat, Jaipur office visited CHD on March 29, 2009 to check accounting system of CHD and resolve queries.

जागरूक होकर ढगी से बचें
विश्व उपभोक्ता दिवस पर विचार गोष्ठी

शिक्षा से वंचित कई बच्चे
केंजूर कॉलोनी में बैठक चित्तौड़गढ़, 18 जनवरी (पसं)

सजगता से हितों का संरक्षण संभव-शमा
चित्तौड़गढ़, 15 मार्च। जिला कलेक्टर डॉ. समित शर्मा ने कहा कि सजगता से ही हम अपने हितों का संरक्षण कर सकते हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि उपभोक्ताओं को अपने अधिकारों का पता होना चाहिए और वे अपने हितों का संरक्षण कर सकें।

पोस्टर व निबन्ध प्रतियोगिता आयोजित
राज्य में कम उम्र के बच्चों को तम्बाकू उत्पाद बेचे जाते हैं

अनुभवों का हुआ आदान-प्रदान
बाल मेलों में बच्चों ने दिए जवाब