



## Early Childhood & Elementary Education

**B**al Sammelan was organised at CUTS Centre for Human Development (CUTS CHD) on October 22, 2009 to provide an opportunity to the members of *Bal Sabha* formed under Improving Quality of Elementary Education Project (IQEEP) to interact with children from different villages and exchange views on their rights, responsibilities and to have an interface with district level officials. In this event, 350 children from 28 IQEEP villages participated.



Rajeshwari

Meena, *Pradhan, Chittorgarh Panchayat Samiti*; Narbada Bhambi, Additional District Education Officer Elementary; Dr. Girraj Meena, Superintendent of Police Chittorgarh; Suresh Sharma, Additional District

Project Coordinator, *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)*; and a team of new inductees of Save the Children, viz. Sidharth Pande, Programme Coordinator, IPAP; Rajdeep Rao Chaudhary,



Communications Officer; Divya Ganta, Corporate Fundraising Officer; Tapas R Mahapatra, Grants Officer; Satish Pakki, Marketing Officer; and Amit Chowdhury, Advocacy Officer attended the programme.

Welcoming the guests and children, Ashish Tripathi, Acting Centre Coordinator said that high educational attainments are crucial in promoting and sustaining inclusion. He requested the children to get out-of-school children into schools. Rajeshwari Meena praised CUTS' efforts in empowering children through *Bal Panchayats*. Narbada Bhambi motivated children to continue their studies. Dr. Girraj Meena said will power is important in achieving success in life. Children displayed their creativity through the medium of dance, songs, play, etc. '*Baatan Gyan Ri*' Volume I (Useful Things to Remember) was also released on the occasion.

### Teacher Training on Social Inclusion and Child Rights

One-day teacher's training on 'Social Inclusion and Child Rights' was held at CHD on November 24, 2009. About 36 teachers from government schools participated. Meena Raghani, Principal District Institute of Educational Training (DIET); Chandrakanta Tripathi, Additional District Education Officer Secondary; and Suresh Sharma facilitated various sessions.

### Life Skill ToT

A four-day Life-skill education Training of Trainers (ToT) was organised at CHD from November 26-29, 2009 to orient the staff on life skill education. First two days of the training were devoted to build conceptual

understanding of life skill issues. On third day the participants were requested to deliver the same to *Bal Sabha* members in four different villages. On the fourth day the staff visited four villages and conducted the training.

### Animator Training

A two day refresher training of animators was organised at CHD on December 07-08, 2009 on quality dimensions of school education, child rights, effective community mobilisation, attributes of a good employee, model of *Bal Panchayat* and *Bal Sabha* etc. Jitendra Ojha, Block Programme Manager, National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) discussed various schemes under NRHM related to children.

### Stakeholder Consultation for Quality Education

A Stakeholder Consultation and Orientation workshop was held at CHD on October 09, 2009 to share the progress of IQEEP and sensitise about their responsibility towards ensuring quality education to their children. Ashish Tripathi welcomed all the participants and discussed 'Quality dimensions' under IQEEP. Suresh Sharma shared various provisions in SSA for increasing the role of community in school management.

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## Role of Micro Credit in Poverty Alleviation

CUTS CHD is implementing two projects in Bhilwara and Chittorgarh districts 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).

### Bhilwara NABARD PIMC Meeting

Bhilwara NABARD Project Implementation & Monitoring Committee (PIMC) meeting was held at Bhilwara on November 16, 2009. The committee after reviewing the progress approved the release of next installment and suggested to encourage women for inter-lending.

### Chittorgarh NABARD PIMC Meeting

Chittorgarh NABARD PIMC meeting was held at CHD on November 17, 2009, which was attended by five members of the committee. The committee after reviewing the progress approved the release of next installment. The members also requested bankers to cooperate in opening bank accounts and asked CUTS to start thinking on the lines of federating the groups so as to make this effort sustainable.

## Public Hearing on Quality Education



*Jan Sunvaai* (Public hearing) was held under the IQEEP at CHD on December 16, 2009. The purpose of *Jan Sunvaai* was to bring the community members of all project villages on

a common platform to share issues and problems related to ensuring quality education in their villages. The main issues emerged out were lack of *Anganwari* in Haapawas, liquor shops located near schools, lack of separate toilet facilities for girls, lack of water facility in some schools, poor quality of mid-day meal, etc.

## Giving Stronger Voice to Excluded Children

'*Bal Adhikaar Samvaad*' (Interface of excluded children with structures of local governance) under the project entitled, *Stronger Voice to Excluded Children in Government and NGO Policies and Programmes* was organised at CHD, on December 08, 2009. The purpose of this workshop was to raise the awareness level of children about various government schemes and programmes meant for children and how children can participate in order to make it more accessible.

Jitendra Ojha, Block Programme Manager, NRHM; Shyam Sundar Sharma, Additional Block Education Officer; and Pradeep Dixit, Project Assistant, SSA Chittorgarh briefed the children about the schemes related to their project. Initiatives should aim at empowering children by promoting their participation.

## CSO's Orientation on Child Protection

A one-day training to orient NGOs working in the area of child rights on research, documentation and sharing of learning was held at CHD on December 20, 2009. The staff of NGOs shared their experiences of working on child rights and protection. Chandmal Garg, Advocate, discussed the *Juvenile Justice Act* in detail. Anil Vyas, *Arunoday Sansthan Bari Sadri* discussed the provisions of Child Labour Prevention and Regulation Act (CLPRA). Dinesh Joshi, President DNGO, emphasised on the need of a discussion forum on child rights in Chittorgarh.

## Sensitising Media on Child Rights

A one-day media sensitisation and consultation workshop was organised at CHD on December 27, 2009, to sensitise the media about child rights. Around 27 participants including representatives from electronic and print media, few children and their parents attended the workshop. Media applauded CUTS' efforts in getting socially excluded children mainstreamed, as every child who is out of school is a potential child labour.

## SHG Leaders Interact With Media

Interaction of Self-Help Group (SHG) office-bearers with media was held in Bhilwara, on December 25, 2009. SHG office-bearers from Banera, Suwana and Mandalgarh block participated. The SHG office-bearers shared their experience of being a part of SHG movement with the media persons from Punjab Kesari, Lokjivan, Dainik Bhaskar, Rajasthan Patrika, Lovani, TV99, ETV Rajasthan, Sbn News, etc.

## Stakeholder Consultation on Social Exclusion

Stakeholder's consultation and sensitisation meeting under the IPAP project was organised at CHD on December 15, 2009 to orient the parents of excluded children on various schemes and programmes meant for children and child rights. Discussions were also held on the importance of educating the girl child, child labour and child marriage under the framework of child rights.

## Orientation on Child Related Schemes

A meeting of key stakeholders under the IPAP project was held at CHD on December 18, 2009 to raise awareness of key stakeholders, such as *sarpanch*, ward panch, secretary, community volunteers, opinion leaders, etc. on schemes directly or indirectly related to excluded children. Key stakeholders discussed the schemes related to their department and urged the opinion leaders to cooperate in the implementation of schemes by coming up with innovative solutions to the problems.





**Improving Hand Hygiene**

Global Hand Washing Day was celebrated in 33 project schools under the IQEEP at CHD on October 15, 2009. The objective of the programme was to create awareness among children, teachers and community members about the importance of washing hands before



meal and after toilet. They were shown the correct way of hand washing with soap. In one major programme organised at Upper Primary School Raghunathpura, Head Master Giriraj Prasad Sharma, Suresh Sharma Additional District Project Coordinator, SSA and Shyam Sundar Sharma, Additional Block Education Officer were present. A rally was flagged off by Ashish Tripathi and Giriraj Prasad Sharma. On this occasion 60 soaps each were provided to 33 schools.

**Assessing Learning Skills**

Annual Survey of Education Report (ASER) 2009 survey training was organised at CHD on October 23-26, 2009. The purpose of the ASER survey is to assess the learning level of school going students. CHD is one of the partners in conducting the survey for Pratham Rajasthan. The survey was carried out in 30 villages of Chittorgarh district, in which 30 volunteers participated.

**National Consumer Day**

To mark the National Consumer Day, a consultation workshop was organised by CHD with the support of District Supply Office, Chittorgarh on December 24, 2009. The theme for this year was '*Sajag Upbhokta, Surakshit Nivesh*'. S R Gander President, District Consumer Forum was the Chief Guest and D C Jain, Additional District Collector was special invitee. Gander lauded the efforts of CUTS in empowering consumers. Around 68 participants attended this workshop.

**Bal Mela to Promote Child Rights**

One *Bal Mela* was organised at Upper Primary School, Kesarpura on October 06, 2009, to create awareness in the community regarding child rights, provide children with a platform to display their skills and sensitise the government school teachers towards child friendly teaching and learning. This *Mela* was part of the *Bal Sabha* strengthening campaign under the IPAP project.

About 155 children from Kesarpura, Medi ka Amrana, Neem Ka Amrana, Bad Ka Amrana, Samri and Shambhupura participated. Seema Desai, Head Teacher UPS Kesarpura, inaugurated the Mela by cutting the ribbon.

This was followed by *Saraswati Vandana* by Sumitra Garg.

Indu Puri Goswami, Senior teacher of UPS Kesarpura while welcoming CUTS staff, children and

teachers thanked CUTS for giving her school an opportunity to host this event.

Children were divided in 10 groups of 15 children each. One teacher/CUTS staff was designated as facilitator for each group. The facilitators then distributed sheets of newspaper to their groups and helped in making paper caps. It was mandatory to wear the cap including teachers and other staff otherwise they will not be considered part of the *Bal Mela*. Children were also provided with drawing sheets and colours to draw paintings. *Bal Mela* concluded with distribution of snacks to children.

Successful Advocacy**A Society for Welfare of Child Labour**

A meeting with District non-governmental organisation (DNGO) members and media persons was organised at CHD, on November 30, 2009 to build common understanding on the issue of closure of National Child Labour Project (NCLP) schools in Chittorgarh; and formulate an action plan by involving media, civil society organisations (CSOs) and funding agencies. It was discussed in the meeting that on one hand, the government has passed the 'Right to Education' Bill to provide free and compulsory education to the children up to the age of 14 years, but has decided to close down the 37 NCLP schools in Chittorgarh due to shortage of funds on the other. This clearly reflects that vulnerable children are not in the priority list of the government. It was decided to take up this issue for further discussion.

'*Samvaad*' against closure of NCLP schools in Chittorgarh was held at CHD on December 08, 2009. Participants raised their voice against sudden closure of NCLP schools and demanded its re-opening with immediate effect. Due to collective voice of stakeholders and mounting pressure on the district administration all the NCLP schools have re-opened from January 03, 2010.



## CHD REPRESENTATIONS

- Ashish Tripathi and Madan Lal Keer attended Mother NGO (MNGO) project review meeting at *Swasthya Bhawan* in Jaipur, on October 12, 2009.
- Ashish Tripathi, Parth Joshi and Vandana Chauhan attended Baseline Orientation Workshop organised by Save the Children in Bharatpur, on October 12-14, 2009.
- Madan Giri Goswami and Madan Lal Keer attended District Health Society (DHS) Meeting in Chittorgarh on October 16, 2009. The meeting was organised under the Chairmanship of MP Girija Vyas to review the progress of health related schemes in the district.
- Shiv Lal Prajapat and Seema Yagnik attended a workshop on Pre-Election Voter Awareness Campaign at Astha Udaipur, on October 22-24, 2009.
- Sanjay Moud, Neetu Joshi, Chanda Jaat and two animators visited Society for Sustainable Development (SSD) for an exposure visit organised under the IQEEP, in Karauli, on November 02-03, 2009.
- Madan Lal Keer attended two-day Janmangal Couple ToT at Rajasthan Family Planning Training Centre in Jaipur, on November 09-10, 2009.
- Madan Giri Goswami participated in State level Workshop of NGOs on 'Experience Sharing in Capacity Building of PRIs' at *Indira Gandhi Panchayati Raj & Gramin Vikas Sansthan* in Jaipur, on November 19, 2009.
- Piyush Kumar Baranwal attended a three-day workshop on Advocacy organised by Save the Children-Bal Raksha Bharat in Jaipur, on November 26-28, 2009.
- Madan Lal Keer and Shiv Lal Prajapat attended a two-day refresher training for MNGOs of Rajasthan organised by Regional Resource Centre-Voluntary Health Association of India (RRC-VHAI) in Jaipur, on December 17-18, 2009.
- Sanjay Moud attended State Level consultation on Advocacy organised by Save the Children in Jaipur, on December 18-19, 2009.

## VISITORS

- NK Sanadhya, Lead Bank Manager, Bank of Baroda visited villages Bari, Arnoda and Satkhanda with Madan Giri Goswami and interacted with office bearers of about 50 SHGs. The purpose of his visit was to assess the performance of SHGs.
- A team of 25 B.S.W. III year students from Athawale College of Social Work, Bhandara Nagpur visited CHD on a study tour on December 12, 2009. Madan Giri Goswami provided brief introduction of CUTS International and various projects of CHD. Neetu Joshi discussed the concept of *Bal Sabha* and *Bal Panchayat*. Other CHD staff also shared their experiences with students and responded to their queries.
- Biswa Ranjan Patnaik, State Programme Manager, Save the Children, Malay Kumar, State Coordinator for Advocacy and Child Protection, Campaign Against Child Labour, Rajasthan and Director, Prayatn Jaipur; and Rajiv Nagpal, Programme Officer, Save the Children visited CHD on December 08, 2009. The purpose of their visit was to provide momentum to the campaign against closure of National Child Labour Project (NCLP) schools in Chittorgarh and initiate discussion on how to take up this issue at state level in consultation with Chittorgarh District Officials, DNGO members and media representatives.
- Amit Chowdhury, Advocacy Officer, Save the Children visited CHD on December 30-31, 2009. The purpose of his visit was to explore opportunity and planning for partnership with DIET and SSA and review the progress of Save the Children supported projects.

## MEDIA

