



## Positive Discipline in the Classroom

A two-day teachers' training was organised at the District Institute of Education & Training (DIET) in Chittorgarh on March 19-20, 2010. The purpose of the training was to equip teachers of DIET with skills and knowledge on positive discipline methods so that they can inculcate healthy etiquettes in children. The training was facilitated by independent consultants: Deepika Nair and Chhavi Vohra. 36 persons, including 22 government school teachers and CHD staff, attended this training. Meena Raghani, Principal DIET, and Rajiv Nagpal, Programme Co-ordinator, Save the Children, were also present during the training.



Durga, President of Ghagsa *Bal Panchayat*, was felicitated by Girija Vyas, Chairperson, National Commission for Women and Member of Parliament, at a National Seminar on Child Marriage organised by the Mewar Education Foundation at Mewar Girls College in Chittorgarh on March 20, 2010 for raising voice against her own child marriage, with the help of the *Bal Panchayat*. In this programme, the District Collector, the Chairman of the Municipality and two MLAs were present. The Chairman of the Mewar Education Foundation announced that the Mewar Education Foundation will bear all expenses related to the education of Durga. Since then, Durga expressed her commitment to work against the social evil of child marriage in her and adjoining villages.

## Quality Education is a Public Service

*Jan Sammelan* (public meeting) under the Improving Quality of Elementary Education Project (IQEEP) was held at CHD on February 11, 2010. The purpose of the meeting was to bring stakeholders, policy makers and government officials on a common platform to discuss the problems of quality education and encourage them to coordinate efforts for addressing the problems. Welcoming the guests, Ashish Tripathi, Acting Centre Coordinator, said that education is one of the most important means of empowering children with the knowledge, skills and self-confidence necessary to participate in the developmental process.

Harish Chandra Gaud, Block Education Officer; Shyam Sundar Sharma, Additional Block Education Officer; Jitendra Ojha, Block Programme Manager, National Rural Health Mission (NRHM); Shabiruddin, Child Development Project Officer, Chittorgarh (Rural); and *Sarpanches* of Semaliya and Sehnava *Gram Panchayats* attended the programme and expressed their views on quality education. Madan Giri Goswami briefly described the advocacy efforts undertaken by CUTS in ensuring quality education in the district. Sanjay Moud shared the findings of the learning level assessment survey.

The meeting was attended by stakeholders of IQEEP project, especially the members of the School Development and Monitoring Committee (SDMC) and *Bal Panchayat* office bearers. More than 300 participants attended the programme. IQEEP Newsletter, *Bal Darpan*, was released on the occasion.

## Lessons from Democracy in Practice

One meeting of children was organised on January 15, 2010, under the project entitled, '*Stronger Voice to Excluded Children in Government and NGO Policies and Programmes*' to jointly prepare a Children's Charter of Demand. 46 children and 25 animators participated in the meeting. *Bal Panchayat* members presented the Charter of Demand to the *Panchayati Raj* Institution (PRI) contestants from their village and took a promise from them in writing that after getting selected they will make their best efforts to fulfil the demands of children on priority and will work towards in building child-friendly *gram panchayats*.

### INSIDE

- Quality Education and Key Role of Teachers
- Child Rights: From Paper to Reality
- CHD Representations

## Children Learn to Generate IEC

One workshop to train children to generate Information, Education and Communication (IEC) material was held at CHD under the 'Stronger Voice to Excluded Children in Government and NGO Policies and Programmes' project at CHD on February 18-19, 2010. About 100 children from 28 villages and 24 animators participated in this workshop. The workshop started with making paper caps and ice-breaking games. This was followed by group discussions on child rights, child labour, ill-effects of child marriage, problems faced by excluded children in attending school, importance of activity-based teaching-learning, climate change, etc. After the discussion, children made drawings and wrote poems, stories and jokes on these topics. Pradeep Dixit, Additional District Project Coordinator, *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* (SSA), praising the efforts of CUTS, said that such initiatives should be taken regularly to raise the interests of excluded children in school education.



### Training of SDMC (child members)

A three-day residential training of children, who are SDMC members, was held at CHD, on February 25-27, 2010. The purpose of this training was to create awareness among children about their rights and duties as SDMC members. 45 children from 33 SDMCs of 28 villages participated. The training was facilitated by independent consultants: Kamal Kishore and Manisha.

### Orienting PRI Members on Child Rights

A one-day orientation of PRI members on Child Rights was held at CHD, on March 26, 2010. The workshop was facilitated by independent consultant and trainer Arti Joshi. She discussed the origin of child rights, United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the responsibilities of PRI members in ensuring child rights in their villages in a participatory and activity-based manner. 56 persons, including 32 PRI members, attended the orientation workshop.



### Excluded Children-Duty-bearers Interface

*Bal Adhikar Samvaad* – Interface of excluded children with structures of local governance – was organised under the 'Stronger Voice to Excluded Children in Government and NGO Policies and Programmes' project at CHD, on February 09, 2010. The objective of the meeting was to provide an opportunity to the excluded children to have an interface with government officials and raise their awareness level about child-related schemes and discuss the role of *Bal Panchayats* for effective implementation of such schemes. Jitendera Ojha highlighted the importance of proper nutrition and the health of children. He provided information about *Janani Suraksha Yojana* (JSY), ante-natal and pre-natal check-ups of pregnant women and other schemes of the health department.

Meena Sharma, Deputy Director, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, discussed in detail the provisions and process for availing the benefits of widow pension, old age pension and *Palanhar* scheme. Raghunandan Moud, Field Coordinator, Department of Labour, described the government's initiative of addressing child labour through National Child Labour Project.

### Quality Education and Key Role of Teachers

A one-day Teachers' Training under IQEEP was organised at CHD on February 18, 2010. 34 teachers from 33 project schools of 28 villages participated in this training. Stressing on the importance of community participation in school education, Giriraj Sharma, Headmaster Government Upper Primary School, Raghunathpura, said that regular meetings of the SDMC can play a major role in proper management and conduct of school activities. He further highlighted that it is the responsibility of teachers to make community aware of the roles and responsibilities of SDMC members.

Bhairushankar Purohit, Senior Librarian, Government Secondary School, Ghosunda, said that books are the best friends and teachers must ensure that the books in school libraries are transacted with children and do not just remain showcased in the cupboards. Pradeep Dixit informed that Chittorgarh is leading in Quality Assurance Programme in Rajasthan, in which CUTS has contributed substantially through its concerted efforts.

### World Consumer Rights Day

The Centre in collaboration with the District Supply Office (DSO) organised a district-level consultation on the eve of World Consumer Rights Day at Chittorgarh, on March 15, 2010. Sunil Kumar Jha, Retired CEO, *Zila Parishad*, Chittorgarh, was the Chief Guest. Shyam Sundar Sharma, DSO; Meena Sharma, Additional Director, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment; Narbada Bhambi, Additional District Education Officer; Dinesh Joshi, District NGO Forum President, and representatives of NGOs and media were present. Ashish Tripathi discussed the history of WCRD and shed light on the theme for 2010 'our money our rights'. Similar consultations were also organised in all the blocks of Chittorgarh by CUTS, with the support of the DSO.





## Social Exclusion and Child Rights

A one-day Teachers' orientation on 'Social Exclusion and Child Rights' was held at CHD on February 22, 2010. The purpose of the workshop was to sensitise the teachers toward the needs of excluded children from a child rights' perspective.

Anil Vyas, President, Arunoday Sansthan and Child Rights Activist, discussed in detail the history and origin of child rights and conducted group exercises among teachers on how child rights are violated in the schools and what teachers can do to ensure the rights of each and every child, with special focus on excluded children.

Suresh Sharma, Retired Additional District Project Coordinator, SSA, lamented the fact that still a large number of children are out of school and there is a huge discrepancy in the actual number and the number reported by schools. He requested teachers to be more sensitive towards the needs of such children and make efforts to make schools more child-friendly, so that no child is left behind.

## Consultation with Key Duty Bearers

One District-level Consultation Meeting of Key Duty Bearers under IQEEP was organised at CHD on February 23, 2010. The purpose of this consultation was to share the learnings and issues emerging from the project with district level duty-bearers and seek their co-operation in addressing the challenges.

Mitthulal Jaat said that all stakeholders must come together and take the responsibility of ensuring quality education to each child. Meena Raghani, Principal DIET, said that CUTS is engaging constructively with the education department and the SSA, and there is a need to make more intensive efforts to bring these children into schools and ensure that they continue their studies.

## Drive Against Child Marriage

Campaign against Child Marriage was organised in 28 villages under the 'Stronger Voice to Excluded Children in Government and NGO Policies and Programmes' project in February 2010. The purpose of this campaign was to increase awareness on the menace of child marriage, by involving children to advocate against child marriage. In this campaign, a rally was organised in villages where the incidences of child marriage are very high, with the support of schools. The media was involved in this campaign by issuing press releases, which resulted in good coverage of the issue in three leading newspapers, *Rajasthan Patrika*, *Dainik Bhaskar* and *Dainik Navjyoti*.

## Climate Change – Challenges and Possibilities

One District-level Consultation on 'Climate Change – Challenges and Possibilities' was held at CHD under the National Environment Awareness Campaign (NEAC) 2009-10 on February 25, 2010. The purpose of the workshop was to deliberate on the increasing problem of climate change, the arising challenges and possible alternatives for adaptation and mitigation.



Mitthulal Jaat, *Up Zila Pramukh*, was the chief guest on this occasion. He stressed on the need of environment protection. Depicting the impact of climate change on earth and humans, a documentary film, 'Inconvenient Truth', was also screened. One poster, *Chhota Kadam Bada Parivartan* (small step big change), published by CUTS, was also released on the occasion.

## Achieving Financial Independence

One loan *mela* was organised in Singoli village on March 25, 2010. 30 Self Help Groups (SHGs), promoted under National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) supported SHG Promotion and Bank Linkages project, were credit-linked with Barundani branch of Baroda Rajasthan Grameen Bank (BRGB) and loan of Rs 16,65,000 were disbursed to SHG members. One other loan *mela* was held in Ranikpura village in Banera block of Bhilwara on March 05, 2010 where 9 SHGs were credit-linked with BRGB Maandal Branch. The loan amount was Rs 2,25,000.

## Child Rights: From Paper to Reality

A one-day Orientation workshop of Health Department Officials was organised at CHD on February 24, 2010. The purpose of the workshop was to orient the Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs), Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) and *Anganwari* workers to child health and rights. Vijay Kantiya, Retired Chief Medical and Health Officer, emphasised upon the regularity of vaccination, nutrition and care of malnourished children. He urged the participants to look at the services provided by them from a child rights perspective. More than 40 participants attended the workshop.



## CHD REPRESENTATIONS

- Ashish Tripathi attended one meeting with Regional Resource Centre- Voluntary Health Association of India officers and Mother NGO (MNGO) representatives at RVHA office, Jaipur, on March 12, 2010 to discuss the revamping of MNGO guidelines.
- Shiv Lal Prajapat met H S Sekhawat, District Development Manager (DDM), NABARD, Bhilwara, on February 22, 2010 and briefed him about the progress of the NABARD supported project.
- Madan Giri Goswami attended a one-day workshop on Recycling of Marble Slurry Waste organised by the Indian

Environmental Society, New Delhi, in Udaipur, on January 06, 2010.

- Madan Lal Keer and Madan Giri Goswami attended the meeting of the District Health Society at the Samiti Hall, Collectorate, on January 14, 2010.
- Ashish Tripathi and Sanjay Moud attended a one-day IQEEP Partners Consultative Group Meeting on January 21, 2010. The meeting was organised by Save the Children to share information about the visit of IKEA delegates to one of the IQEEP partners and review the physical and financial progress of the project.

## VISITORS

- Amit Chowdhury, Advocacy Officer, Save the Children, visited CHD on March 27, 2010. The purpose of his visit was to visit the 'Stronger Voice to Excluded Children in Government and NGO Policies and Programmes' project villages, review the progress of the project with the team and work on IEC material generated in the project.
- Rajiv Nagpal visited CHD on February 19-20, 2010. The purpose of his visit was to review Save the Children-supported projects, identify relevant advocacy issues and prepare strategy for taking up the issues at Chittorgarh level.
- Pankaj Yadav, DDM, NABARD, Chittorgarh, visited village Arnoda with Madan Giri Goswami on February 23 and interacted with members of nine SHGs promoted by CUTS. He praised the members

for being part of the SHG movement and requested them to observe strict financial discipline in group transactions.

- A team of 61 adolescent girls, facilitated by Manav Ashrita Sansthan, Udaipur, visited CHD on February 23, 2010. They visited village Thukrawa and interacted with the Bal Panchayat, facilitated by CUTS.
- Jaleshwar Kaiwartya, Project Officer, Pratham, visited CHD on January 22, 2010 to understand the reporting and other systems of CHD.
- Pankaj Yadav, DDM, NABARD, Chittorgarh; N.K. Sanadhya, Lead District Manager, Chittorgarh, and R.P. Sharma, Director, Baroda Rajasthan Swarojgar Sansthan, interacted with about 100 SHG members in Bassi on January 05, 2010. The purpose of the meeting was to assess the possibility of linking the SHGs promoted by CUTS under the NABARD project in some profitable livelihood option.

## MEDIA

The collage features several newspaper clippings in Hindi. Key headlines include:
 

- जानकारी बढ़ाएं और जागरूकता लाएं** (Increase awareness and bring awareness) - A report on the 'Stronger Voice' project.
- विश्व उपभोक्ता दिवस पर गोष्ठी** (Seminar on World Consumer Day) - A report on a seminar held on March 15.
- बच्चों ने बनाई कागज की टोपियां** (Children made paper hats) - A report on a campaign where children made hats from recycled paper.
- बच्चों का हक** (Children's rights) - A report on a campaign to raise awareness about children's rights.

 The clippings also mention the participation of children and the support of various organizations like NABARD and the District Development Manager.