



## Consultation on World Sight Day 2010



A district level consultation on World Sight Day 2010 was jointly organised by CUTS Centre for Human Development (CUTS CHD), Chittorgarh in partnership with District Blindness Control Society (DBCS) and *Viklang Manch*. Ashish Tripathi of CUTS CHD welcomed the participants and highlighted the fact that more than 70 percent of blindness is avoidable and that the treatment is cost-effective. He called for a joint action by Government, CSOs, Disabled Persons Organisation

(DPO) and *Panchayati Raj* members to end avoidable blindness. Dr Devesh Sharma, Eye Specialist, Sri Sanvaliya Government Hospital made a presentation on 'Vision 2020' and discussed the theme for the current year 'Countdown to 2020'. He stressed on regular check-up of eyes and briefed about the common problems of eyes and how these could be avoided. Dr Hemant Sant, President Nursing Association said that the government is making its best efforts to improve the eye care services but it is also important to increase awareness about such initiatives so that a larger number of people benefit from it. 52 participants were present in this consultation including the visually impaired, who narrated their stories and shared current vocations to earn their livelihoods.

## Consultation of Child Protection with Key Stakeholders

A one-day consultation with key stakeholders under the project *Stronger Voice to Excluded Children in Government & NGO Policies and Programmes* was organised at CHD on November 13, 2010.

The purpose of the consultation was to share the achievements, highlight the challenges that emerged from the project and to discuss the roles and responsibilities of the stakeholders. Suggestions of the stakeholders were invited with a view to involve them in better implementation of the project. More than 68 participants including *Shambhupura Sarpanch*, *Wardpanch*, *Anganwadi* workers and parents of excluded children participated in the consultation.

Ashish Tripathi welcomed the participants and briefed them about the aims and objectives of the project.



Shanti Lal Dangi made a presentation on activities and achievements of the project. Parth Joshi facilitated session on roles and responsibilities of stakeholders in promoting inclusion.

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## Consultations on National Consumers' Day

CHD with the support of District Supply Office Chittorgarh organised a district level consultation to mark the National Consumers Day at *Panchayat Samiti Hall* on December 24, 2010. Vimala



Sethia, Member, State Consumer Redressal Council was the Chief Guest. Awadhesh Singh, ADM (Administration); Shyam Sundar Sharma, District Supply Officer; Dinesh Joshi, President DNGO Forum; Gangadhar Solanki, District President Akhil Rajasthan Uppbhokta Sangathan Mahasangh were the key speakers. Vimala Sethia said that awareness is necessary to prevent consumers from exploitation. Awadesh Singh mentioned that besides being aware of our rights we should also be aware of our duties to promote consumerism in its true sense. Besides the event at the District level, 10 block level consultations were also organised by networkers of CUTS.

## Children Learn to Generate IEC Material

One workshop to train children to generate IEC material under the project *Stronger Voice to Excluded Children in Government & NGO Policies and Programmes* was held at CHD on October 29, 2010. 40 children from 14 villages and 14 animators participated in this workshop. The workshop started with ice-breaking games such as making paper caps. This was followed by group discussions on child rights, child labour, ill-effects of child marriage, importance of activity based teaching-



learning, climate change, problems faced by excluded children in attending schools, etc. After the discussion children attempted drawings, writing poems, stories and jokes on the topics discussed. Narbada Bhambi, Additional District Education Officer (elementary) praising the efforts of CUTS, said that such initiatives should be undertaken regularly to raise the interest of excluded children. Harishchanda Gour, Block Education Officer also shared his views on mainstreaming out-of-school children and requested for support.

## Baseline Survey of Persons with Disability

Orientation of Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Team and *Viklang Mitra* (friends of the disabled) on baseline survey was conducted at CHD on October 15-16, 2010. 33 *Viklang Mitras* and the CBR Team participated. Ashish Tripathi reiterated the aims, objectives and the background of Sightsavers supported CBR Programme. Rameshwar Pachoriya presented an overview of the condition of the Persons with Disability (PwDs) in the society and their participation in the developmental schemes of the government. He pointed to the need of a rights based approach for community-based rehabilitation. He also highlighted that before PwDs become



part of any government scheme it is important to identify them as they are, at many times, invisible. He discussed the objective of the baseline survey and its methodology. Kishan Lal Bharti discussed different types of disabilities as per the PwD Act and the National Trust Act. Madan Giri Goswami of CUTS CHD discussed the do's and don'ts of the baseline survey and reiterated that this survey should be conducted with sensitivity so that no PwD is left out.



## Bal Panchyats - Up one more level

**B**al Samagam (Children's meet) was organised at Samela Mahadev in village Khor on November 09-10, 2010. 172 Bal Panchayat office bearers from 15 villages of Sawa, Samri and Shambhupura Gram Panchayats participated to select the office bearers for their respective Gram Panchayats. In a democratic manner the President of Gram Panchayat level Bal Panchayat and other office-bearers were selected. In the introduction session Bal Panchayat office-bearers shared the work done by them in their villages and highlighted the work identified as priority. The children took an oath to work for the development of their villages and also for mainstreaming the excluded children of their villages.



Another such a meet was organised at village Keljhar Mahadev on October 23, 2010. In this meet Bal Panchayat office bearers from 8 villages of Eral Gram Panchayat participated to select the office bearers for their Gram Panchayat level Bal Panchayat. In the introductory session Bal Panchayat office-bearers shared the work done by them in their villages and described the works taken up on priority. In a democratic manner the President of Gram Panchayat level Bal Panchayat and other office-bearers were selected. The children took an oath to work for the development of their village and also for mainstreaming the excluded children of their villages.

## Consultation on Social Exclusion and Development Schemes

**A** district level consultation on 'Social Exclusion and Development schemes' was organised under the project *Stronger Voice to Excluded Children in Government and NGO policies and programmes* at CHD on December 28, 2010.

Community leaders, health workers, Sarpanch, Wardpanch and other opinion leaders were invited from the project villages. About 85 representatives from the above participated in the consultation. Vinod Jain, Project Officer CHD mentioned the objectives of the workshop. He said that participation of the community and parents could enhance the development of the children of their villages.

Aradhya Shankar Gour, Project Officer CHD, briefed about the CBR project supported by Sightsavers International. He mentioned that there would be a survey in which PwDs will be identified. 28 villages full were included in their area. Some benefited children narrated their success stories, *interalia* describing how they benefited from the project activities. In the post lunch session, Narmada Bhambi Additional District Education Officer, Elementary interacted with the participants. She mentioned that education is necessary not only for procuring jobs but also for self dependence.

## ASER Survey

Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2010 survey work was conducted by CHD in partnership with Pratham Rajasthan from October 07-10, 2010. On October 07-08, a two day workshop was organised to orient the researchers on the tools and methodology to be adopted for conducting the survey. On October 09-10 the survey work was carried out in 30 villages of Chittorgarh. Akhilesh (Promotion Officer Pratham) and Shanti Lal Dangi facilitated the ASER 2010 orientation and survey work.

- ## MEDIA

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