

## Community Based Rehabilitation

**W**ith the goal that *'No person in Chittorgarh district remains needlessly blind and those with irreversible blindness or low vision should have the same rights and access to services as their sighted counterparts'* CUTS Centre for Human Development (CUTS CHD) has partnered with Sightsavers to implement Chittorgarh District Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) project.

The project is intended to make Persons with Disability (PwDs) aware about their rights and responsibilities and mobilise them into groups so that they can collectively ensure that their rights are well protected. Once the PwDs are identified and provided the basic facilities such as disability certification and the mobility training, it is expected that their access to services will be better and the system will also be more acceptable to them. The project will raise awareness and create demand for the eye care services in Chittorgarh district.

## School Eye Screening

During February 2012, school eye screening of students of 1<sup>st</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> class of government and private schools was done in Nimbahera and Chittorgarh blocks of Rajasthan. The screening was completed with the help of government school teachers. 4000 "e-charts" were printed and reporting formats prepared.

Nodal officers of Education Department were trained so that they could provide training to school teachers. School teachers did eye screening of children. Filled formats were collected from teachers/nodal officers and the data was entered in the computer. The number of children facing eye-related problems was 437 in Nimbahera and 415 in Chittorgarh respectively.



their role, responsibilities and duties towards the needs of PwDs. It is in this context, a one-day training was organised for them at Mangrol Village of Nimbahera block for eight *panchayats* on January 23, 2012. More than 61 PRI members, *Viklang Mitras* and other active persons from government departments and the community attended the programme.

## PRI Training

*Panchayati Raj Institution* (PRI) members play an important role in the development, employment and welfare of people at the village level. All concerned government departments such as Rural Development and *Panchayati Raj* Department, Medical and Health Department, Women and Child Development Department, Social Justice and Empowerment Department, and Education Department are directly under their supervision.

Therefore, it is necessary that PRI members should know

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## Mumbai Trip of VI Students

Four visually impaired (VI) students visited Mumbai along with one escort during January 30-February 06, 2012. They participated in tournaments organised by National Association for the Blind (NAB) and also visited historical/tourist places of Mumbai and NAB office.

During February 01-03, 2012, VI students participated in various competitions such as long jump, race, ball throw, spoon race etc. On February 04, 2012 they visited NAB office and saw the process of Braille printing press and how the blind students study with advanced technologies. One t-shirt, bag, shoes and sport suit was provided to every child.



## VI Persons' Training on SHGs

One-day orientation programme for adult VI people was organised at *Savaliya Vishanti Grah*, Nimbahera on March 05, 2012. They were oriented as to how they can increase their income by availing loans through Self Help Groups (SHGs) and what kind of occupation they can adopt. More than 16 PwDs participated in the training. Two successful SHG members (one making soft toys and other making cloth bags and design earthen pots) provided orientation to them. One bank manager also gave his valuable suggestions. PwDs were motivated to be self-reliant towards the end of the meeting.

## Giving a Voice to the Voiceless

Save the Children – Bal Raksha Bharat, under the International NGO Partnership Programme with the Department for International Development (DFID) UK, has launched a project entitled, 'Stronger Voice to Excluded Children in Government and NGO Policies and Programmes' (IPAP) in three backward districts of Rajasthan, viz., Alwar, Chittorgarh and Bharatpur, in partnership with Alwar Mewat Institute of Education and Development (AMIED); CUTS CHD, Chittorgarh; Prayatn Bharatpur; and Society for All Round Development (SARD), New Delhi.

The goal of the project is 'By 2012, socially excluded children (Schedule Caste and Schedule Tribes) in Rajasthan have improved status with their voices being heard and recognised institutionally by formal and informal structures'. The overall objective of the project is Socially excluded children (Schedule Caste and Schedule Tribes) in 28 villages of Chittorgarh district in Rajasthan benefit from the development programmes, policies and schemes of the government, donors and NGOs by the end of 2012. The duration of the project is four-and-a-half years.

### Bal Sabha

45 *Bal Sabhas* have been conducted during the period. More than 1506 children participated out of which 786 were girls and 725 boys. Major topics of discussion were importance of education in life; child rights; tracking drop-out children; violence in schools; village level issues like problem of drinking water in school, delay in getting scholarship, corporal punishments in schools, and health & sanitation etc.





## SMC meetings

13 School Management Committee (SMC) meetings were organised. Before organising, issues for discussion were decided after interacting with school teachers and efforts were put on making proposals to resolve issues.

Participation of all members was ensured through proper communication with them. Problems of drinking water, sanitation, boundary wall and toilets were raised. Five proposals were prepared and submitted to *Gram Panchayat* and *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan*.

It is not possible to ensuring education for all without regularising meeting of SMCs and making them accountable and responsible towards schools for its development work whether it is construction or education.

## Bal Panchayats

71 *Bal Panchayat* meetings were conducted, in which 1473 children participated, out of which 647 were girls and 826 boys. Major topics of discussion were roles and responsibilities of *Bal Panchayat* office-bearers; personal health and hygiene; ill-effects of chewing tobacco; child labour; child marriage; disability; corporal punishment; child rights; importance of education in life; importance of pre-primary education; and tracking drop-out children.

## Block Level Bal Panchayat (BLBP)

One of the unique initiatives carried out under this project is formation of *Bal Panchayat* (Children's Parliament). Children of age between 6 to 18 years participate in *Bal Panchayat*. Members of the *Bal Panchayat* have intervened on issues such as school dropouts, child marriage, etc. and done really well to improve the overall situation.

Two Block Level *Bal Panchayat* meetings were held during January-March 2012. Discussion were held on preparation for exams and drop-out or irregular children in the meetings.



## World Consumer Rights Day

CHD in collaboration with the District Supply Office (DSO) organised a district-level consultation on World Consumer Rights Day (WCRD) at *Panchayat Samiti Hall*, Chittorgarh on March 15, 2011. On the occasion, various programmes were organised on the topic "Our Money Our Rights" in six schools of Chittorgarh *Panchayat Samiti*. More than 100 children participated in poster making and slogan writing competition. Shyamsundar, District Supply Officer; and T S Samma, President of District Consumer Forum addressed the participants on consumer issues. More than 150 people participated in the consultation.



