



SHGs *Sammelan* Celebration

Self Help Group (SHG) *Sammelan* was celebrated in Bhilwara district on June 2012 and in Chittorgarh district on June 06, 2012 respectively. The *Sammelan* in both the districts was chaired by M L Mehta, Former Chief Secretary, Government of Rajasthan and President, CUTS International and Pradeep S Mehta, Secretary General, CUTS International. Other distinguished members were Ravi Jain, District Collector, Chittorgarh; Jiji Mammen, Chief General Manager, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), Rajasthan; R S Jodha, Regional Manager, NABARD; S K Gupta & Pankaj Yadav, District Development Manager, NABARD; Brij Baheti, Regional Manager, ICICI Bank; and Yogesh Bairwa, Lead District Manager, Chittorgarh. More than 250 and 300 SHG members attended the *Sammelan* at Chittorgarh and Bhilwara districts of Rajasthan respectively.

their production. Question of interest subsidy from state government on loans granted by ICICI Bank was also raised that state government is not giving any interest subsidy on loans granted by ICICI Bank while it is being given in case of public sector banks.

Pradeep S Mehta, Secretary General, CUTS addressed the participants and said that apart from economic empowerment, social and political empowerment of women is also necessary, and that it is our goal for total empowerment. He spoke on sanitation and said that SHG women should consider the provision of latrines in their house or village. He related the issue with high mortalities of children due to diarrhoea, which happens due to lack of hygiene. He emphasised on taking advantage of different government schemes, which include rural sanitation.



Both the programmes were inaugurated by Arun Talwar, Deputy Executive Director, CUTS International. While delivering the opening remarks, he provided a brief overview of CUTS and focussed on the possibilities of rural sanitation and building human capital through SHGs.

SHG members/animators shared their experiences as to how they benefitted from SHG formation through CUTS. They also narrated their small difficulties etc. Some of them said that bank loan provided was not sufficient and more loans should be given. One member stated that bankers insist that all three (president, secretary and treasurer) signatories should be present at the bank for doing the transaction to which, Chief General Manager, NABARD said only two should be sufficient. Some of them wanted some skill training and marketing facilities for

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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; Prayath 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.

Workshop with Anganwadi Workers

Training of Anganwadi Workers of ICDS department was organised on 'Pre-school Education' at *Sanvaliya Vishanti Grah*, Chittorgarh on June 19, 2012. In the training, more than 27 Anganwadi workers participated from 28 IPAP villages. They were explained the importance of pre-school education which plays a very important role in the overall development of a child. The Anganwadi workers were motivated to conduct pre-school education campaigns at Anganwadi centres.



Key Stakeholder Meeting

A Key stakeholders meeting was organised at Chittorgarh, on May 15, 2012. A small research was conducted on the basis of last two years' experience and how it was possible to form an ideal and active School Management Committees (SMCs). It was found that very less community members were aware of SMC and its functioning. Generally, villagers can spare time in the evening and teachers do not have time during evening hours due to their busy schedule. It was 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.



Inauguration of Suggestion Box

A suggestion box was fixed at Samri village during April 2012. In the suggestion box, one member of *Bal Panchayat* dropped a letter suggesting that *Anganwadi* Centre should be constructed by the government. At present the Centre is running in private-rented room and there is lack of adequate space. On the basis of the letter, it was decided by the *gram panchayat* to construct a Government *Anganwadi* Centre immediately and the fund has also been released. It is expected that the Centre will be constructed within two-three months.

Celebration of World Day Against Child Labour

CUTS CHD organised an event to mark 'World Day Against Child Labour' at Chittorgarh, on June 12, 2012. The hon'ble guest was N S Modi President CWC-Chittorgarh. The topics of discussion were: Child Labour in mining, agriculture, restaurant and *dhabas*, domestic and bonded labour. More than 64 participants attended the event and main activities were interaction and discussion with children on child labour issues, develop information, education and communication (IEC) material and exhibition, movie shows on *Jiya* and *Anmol Moti*.



Community Based Rehabilitation

With 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 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.

PRI Training

Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) members play an important role in the development, employment and welfare of people at 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 their roles and responsibilities and duties towards the needs of PwDs.

It is in this context, a one day training was organised for PRIs at Kanera village of Nimbahera block on June 22, 2012. More than 73 PRI members, *Viklang Mitras*, ANM, ASHA, *Anganwadi* workers and other active persons from government departments and community attended the programme. It is expected that after receiving training they will be aware of their duties towards PwDs.

The agenda of the training was as under:

1. Role of PRI members for the welfare of PwDs
2. Types of disabilities
3. Condition of PwDs in our society and share PwDs data of their *panchayats*
4. Welfare schemes of government departments for PwDs
5. CBR programme
6. Rights of PwDs
7. Function, care, major diseases and treatment of eyes
8. Education and rehabilitation of low vision and blind persons

The PRI members ensured that they will extend their full cooperation for PwDs so that PwDs will get benefit of all schemes of the government and get right place in the society. PRI members gave donation of ₹6500 to *Mewar Viklang Sewa Sansthan* (DPO), which will be utilised for PwDs.

Skill Development Camp

Skill development camp was organised at CUTS office, Chittorgarh during May 15-19, 2012 for visually impaired (VI) children. More than 13 children participated in the camp and were benefited. Following activities were organised for them:

- Various games like animals, rings, building blocks, bats, balls etc. and fruits were given to them to develop their understanding.
- Different types of shapes like circle, triangle, rectangle, birds, were given to them in big and small size.
- Their skills were developed as per their hobbies – a 13-year old blind Manju and 16-year old blind Gopal played *dholak* and harmonium respectively.
- Good environment was given to them where they can move freely and do what they want.
- Children were taught on in-door and out-door mobility.
- Braille was taught to blind children.
- Day-to-day activities were also done with them like brushing, bathing, using toilets, personal hygiene, washing clothes and folding them, keeping things at decided place only, identification of coins and rupees and pulses, grains, spices etc., use of all five senses, knowledge of directions, different types of tastes and foods, poems and cultural programmes, exercises etc.



