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Participation and Action towards Community Empowerment

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Community Based Rehabilitation

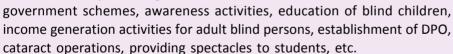
With the goal that 'No person in Chittorgarh district remains needlessly blind and those with irreversible blindness or low vision should have the same rights and access to services as their sighted counterparts' CUTS CHD has partnered with Sightsavers to implement Chittorgarh District Community Based 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.

Workshop of Government Officials and Networking NGOs

A one-day meeting was organised for government officials and networking NGOs at Meera Hotel, Chittorgarh, on August 23, 2012. Total 25 persons were present in the training. The participants were explained about the CBR project activities and achievements so far. The participants assured that they will provide their full cooperation for the welfare of PwDs. The participants came from various government departments, and NGOs.

The work which has been done in CBR project was shared with them like making of disability certificates, providing them benefits of



Some case studies were also shared with them. It was explained to them how they can play an important role in the betterment of PwDs. In the end, an open season was kept for them in which they shared their views.



Orientation Camp for Adult Visually-impaired Persons

A four-day residential camp for visually impaired persons was organised at Jain Dharamshala, Chittorgarh block, during July 16-19, 2012. More than 24 persons came from 17 villages. In the camp, many blind people were oriented on "mobility and daily living skills". Safe indoor and outdoor walking techniques were explained to them.

Training was given to them as to how they can walk with the help of a cane. Everyday activities were also done with them like brushing, bathing, using the toilet, personal hygiene, washing clothes, folding clothes,

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keeping things at decided place only, identification of coins and rupees, identification of pulses, grains, spices, use of all five senses, knowledge of directions and knowledge of different types of tastes and foods.

After that, their mobility was improved and they were more comfortable and confident. They were oriented on many issues, such as rights of disabled persons, disability certificate, government schemes for the disabled, community-based incomegenerating activities/employment, etc.

The participants sang songs and played *dholak* and harmonium. Two blind people were linked to an orchestra group (which sings religious songs in

functions) and after some time their regular income will be started.



School Eye Screening

Eye screening was done in 19 *Gram Panchayats* of Nimbahera block with the help of Vision Spring and the Education Department. For that purpose, the camp was organised in the centrally-located government school of that *Panchayat* and children came from all the government schools, private schools and those who are dropouts. The children came from 1st to 12th class. Total 2445 students were screened, out of which 1587 needed



spectacles. Spectacles have been prepared for those children. There is a provision of giving spectacles to 1300 children as per the budget availability.

Spectacles were distributed to 252 children in four *gram panchayats*. Counselling was also done at the time of the distribution of spectacles. The students were told how to use spectacles daily and should not be careless. Spectacles will be distributed to all the 1300 children by the end of October 2012.

During eye screening, 73 children were found suffering from other problems and needed treatment. These children were referred to the district hospital for treatment. CBR team is following-up with these patients.

A Roundtable on Self Help Groups

CUTS CHD organised a SHG Sammelan in Chittorgarh and Bhilwara districts in June 2012 in which it is inviting representatives from SHGs so formed and discuss the issue of 'Rural Sanitation' and also 'Building the Human Capital' in addition to livelihood. The idea was to explore the possibilities of creating awareness among SHG members on these issues and receive their responses. Based on the outcome, CUTS designed an intervention programme to work on some of the issues with SHG members.

With this background and willingness to take the movement forward, the Centre organised a small roundtable discussion along with some selected SHG members from both Bhilwara and Chittorgarh districts at Chittorgarh on August 24, 2012.

The main objectives of the roundtable discussion was to make future strategy based on their experience so far; identify some innovative activities or idea for their income generation activity as well as skill development; start small income generation activity based on local market; make strategy on financial inclusion; and identify resource agencies to promote skill development activities. More than 30 SHGs members from both the districts participated in the event.

2 PACE

Child Line Helpline 1098, Bhilwara

The Centre with the support of Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India has implemented a project entitled, 'Child Line Helpline 1098, Bhilwara'. The objective of the project is to reach out to every child in need of care and protection by responding to emergencies on 1098 and advocate service for children those are inaccessible.

The project was launched in Bhilwara on August 06, 2012. Six persons were interviewed who would be working as Counsellor as well as telephone users 24×7 . The phone line had already got activated, and once the names of the personnel in charge of Child



line were shared with the funders they would be providing exhaustive training as to how to handle calls, follow up, report to police etc. Initially all the calls are going to be monitored by Mumbai Child line as well.

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 structure'. 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.



Media Visit

A Media visit was conducted at our field area – Sindhwari, Samri, Kesarpura and Netawalgarhpachli on July 16, 2012. Media directly interacted with community members and children. Media persons from various newspapers, such as *The Hindu, Daily News, Danik Bhaskar* etc. visited. Many case studies and rights-based issues were covered by them.

Training on Gender and Institution-Building

A training programme was organised by the Centre at Chittorgharh, on July 15-17, 2012. In the training, all project partners from Rajasthan participated. The training was imparted on gender discrimination and institution-building.

PRI and Child Rights

Another major activity on 'PRI and Child Rights' was organised at Chittorgarh, on August 28, 2012. The main aim of the workshop was to sensitise *Panchayati Raj Institutions* (PRIs) towards child rights and PRI's role and responsibilities at the *gram panchayat* level. More than 80 participants along with PRIs participated. Media applauded CUTS' efforts and provided wider coverage to the workshop.



VISITORS

- Media persons from The Hindu, Daily News, Danik Bhaskar, Rajasthan University (Department of mass communication and journalism) visited the Centre.
- Sonam Jha and her colleague from Kotilya Vikas Sansthan from Rajsamand, Rajasthan visited CUTS CHD in context of future association.
- Abrham George (Area Director, Sight Savers, Jaipur); Praveen Kumar (Programme Coordinator, Sight Savers, Jaipur); Rajeev Ranjan (Lafarge India Ltd.); and Kumar Bikram (District Facilitator, United Nations Children's Fund) visited CUTS CHD on September 12, 2012.

CHD REPRESENTATIONS

- Madan Giri Goswami attended a four-day Training Programme on "ICPS and JJ Act" organised by Save the Children at Jaipur on August 30-September 02, 2012.
- Dharamveer Yadav attended a meeting on "Status of PwD Act in Rajasthan" at organised by Rajasthan State Commission of Protection of Child Rights on August 23, 2012.
- Kisan Lal Bharti participated in a five-day residential training organised by ASER & Pratham Rajasthan under education survey of Rajasthan state at Pilani, Jhunjhnu district, Rajasthan.
- Dharamveer Yadav attended a workshop on 'Perspective Building on Muslim Issues and Development' organised by Save the Children at Jaipur on September 25-26, 2012.
- Madan Giri Goswami attended a three-day Training Programme on Child Rights organised by Save the Children at Jaipur on September 26-28, 2012.

