



## 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; Prayathn 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.

### Meetings with Children's Collectives



This is an approach towards community sensitisation, create awareness and increase the participation of children in related decision making by, to and for the children. CUTS CHD has been training the community on various rights of children and other development issues, especially child health, education and protection.

The Centre has also been adopting various approaches towards building their capacity, viz. regular meetings and hand holding support, linking with *Gram Panchayat*-level child protection committees (CPCs), workshops, orientation, interface meetings, exposure visits and participation at district, state and national-level meetings.

Presently, children collectives are playing significant role in protecting child from labour, admitting in schools and linking with various government welfare schemes. They also curb child marriages, discrimination based on gender, cast and religion etc. During the period, 152 children collective meetings at various levels have been facilitated. More than 2901 children participated.

### Community Meetings, Orientation & Sensitisation

Various community meetings were organised to raise awareness about government schemes. Regular follow-ups with *Gram Panchayat* were conducted where forms were



submitted for government schemes for the community through community meetings. During the period, 73 community meetings were organised. More than 1792 participants attended the meetings out of which 50 percent were females.

### Child Protection Committee Meetings

CPC Meetings are regularly conducted on a monthly basis. During this period, 16 *Gram Panchayat* level CPC and 43 Village-level CPC meetings were held respectively. Three District Child Protection Unit meetings were also held and a very important decision was made and intimated to all concerned *Gram Panchayat Pradhans* to include the agenda in their monthly meetings and report at district-level meeting. Many *gram panchayats* are reporting it on a monthly basis and have included it in their monthly meeting agenda as well.

Deepak Kalra, Chairperson, Rajasthan State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (RSCPCR) and Govind Beniwal, Member, RSCPCR along with Child Welfare

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Committee President and Deputy Director, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment visited Eral *Gram Panchayat* on September 13, 2013 and interacted with *Gram Panchayat*-level *Bal Panchayat* members and *Gram Panchayat*-level CPC members and knew about the working process of *Bal Panchayat* and discussed cases registered with members at *Gram Panchayat*-level CPC.

### **PRI and Stakeholders Training Programme**

A workshop entitled, 'Capacity Building of Community Stakeholders with Volunteers' on government schemes and child rights were held at Eral and Sawa Rajiv Gandhi IT Kendra on August 13-14, 2013. More than 125 participants actively participated including government officials, CPC and PRI members etc.

Kalu Ram Meena, Block Development Officer provided the information of government flagship programmes. He stated that the community will be made aware towards communication with service providers so that they can question them and maintain the documentation for future advocacy purpose.



Two major issues cropped up during the programme, i.e. shifting of wine shop situated near school and linking of left-behind families with government benefits. It was decided that CPC will write a letter to the *Gram Panchayat* and CWC to remove the wine shop and start a movement to link left-behind families with various schemes.

### **Block Level Bal Panchayat Exposure Visit**

A Block Level *Bal Panchayat* Exposure visit was held at ChildLine Bhilwara on August 17, 2013 to enhance their



knowledge and skills about the working process and activities of ChildLine. Children interacted with Chairperson and members of CWC and Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) and understood the working process of CWC and JJB. More than 35 participants actively participated in the visit.



Another Block level *Bal Panchayat* Exposure visit was held at Sita Mata Abhyaran, Badi Sadri-Chittorgarh on September 07, 2013 to enhance their knowledge and skills on the importance of forest in human life; protection of forest animals; bio-diversity; medicinal plant; and environmental balance. More than 20 participants actively participated in the visit.

### **Mission Enrollment Campaign**

Education is a fundamental human right. Every child is entitled for free and compulsory education. It is critical to our development as individuals and as societies, and it helps pave the way to a successful and productive future. Exclusion condemns millions of children, particularly deprived, to a life without quality dignity, proper education and other fundamental rights.

It is in this context, a Mass Rally was organised in 34 schools of 28 villages. More than 1674 participants joined the rally. The Mission Enrollment campaign commenced on July 04, 2013 from Village Chittori, Kheri and Bamniya and concluded on July 12, 2013 at Bheru Singhji Ka Khera and Sawa village. Through this campaign, 235 students were enrolled in 1<sup>st</sup> Class.



### School Management Committee Meetings

School Management Committees (SMCs) are working for the management of schools in each and every village school up to senior secondary. Each SMC have 15 member-Executive Committee selected by the community through general meeting for one year. The President will be from the community. Presently, SMC members are conducting regular meetings on a monthly basis and discussing and resolving various. The school-in-charge is playing a very crucial role. During the period 80 SMCs meetings in 28 IPAP intervention villages were facilitated.



### ChildLine 1098, Bhilwara District

The Centre, with the support of the Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India, is implementing a project entitled 'ChildLine 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 services for children which are inaccessible.

Total 97 cases were registered during the period from toll free number 1098 service. Some cases were very important in terms of child rights, such as child marriage; and a case was handled by ChildLine 1098 successfully.

#### Case

A female child of 15 years from Bhilwara wanted to study after 8<sup>th</sup> Class but parents were fixing her marriage. The girl did not agreed and called up 1098 and sought help and also made a complaint at the police station. ChildLine intervened in the matter and after long counselling of parents they agreed to continue her education and readmitted in 9<sup>th</sup> Class. Her parents were bound to not to fix her marriage before 18 years of age. The girl belonged to Kanjar community and was awarded on Independence Day by the District Collector, Bhilwara.

### Village and Health Sanitation Committee Meetings

National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) envisages the community to take leadership at local level, related to health and its related issues. It will be possible only when the community is sufficiently empowered to take leadership in health matters. Clearly, it requires involvement of *Panchayati Raj Institutions* in the management of the health system. This could be possible if a committee is formed in each village under the chairmanship of *Gram Panchayat* member and representative from the community. Hence, for the development of the village, Village Health & Sanitation Committee (VHSC) has been formed by providing untied grant for village level activities.

The Centre has organised various capacity building activities, such as orientation, workshop, training and providing hand holding support to VHSCs.

VHSCs are developing a village health plan based on an assessment of the village situation and priorities identified by the village community and using the untied fund of Rs 10,000 per year provided by the Government of Rajasthan under NRHM.

### Swadharini

**S**wadharini is a pilot project with an objective to upscale and intensify the SHG-Bank Linkage Programme (SHG-BLP) in Rajasthan, based on Resource NGO (R-NGO) model. Though the SHG is spread across in several parts of the state, it has limited success in terms of impact. It is in this context, National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development (NABARD) Regional Office has initiated a project entitled, 'Swadharini' to strengthen and upscale the SHG programme in Rajasthan State.

The objective of the project is to promote, nurture and link SHGs to banks in identified districts through R-NGOs in 11 districts of Rajasthan. It will also focus on capacity building and training of various stakeholders, viz. PIAs, Bankers, SHG workers and members and other related functionaries. The selected R-NGO will identify the potential Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs) for forming and linking SHGs to banks in their respective areas. The R-NGO will train PIAs' personnel's to promote SHGs programme. At the same time, R-NGOs will also provide training to bankers and other stakeholders as identified during situational analysis by them. The R-NGOs will monitor the programme in assigned districts and ensure that progress reports are submitted to NABARD in time.

A two-day CEO-level orientation was held at Chittorgarh on November 11-12, 2013 and at Bhilwara on November 13-14, 2013. During the event detailed information was provided on several issues. More than 30 participants actively participated in both the events.

## Priyadarshani

The Centre with the support of Department of Women & Child Development, Government of Rajasthan is implementing a project entitled 'Priyadarshani' to train and build the livelihood skill of members of Self Help Groups (SHGs) raise their living standards and increase and do their economic empowerment in Suwana Block, Bhilwara.

During the period, orientation and management training was provided to 10 SHGs members in association with ICDS, Bhilwara. A one-month long income generation activity has been scheduled in December 2013.



## Self-Help Group Formation and Bank Linkages Project

CUTS CHD with the support of National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development is implementing Self Help Groups-Bank Linkages Programme to ensure socio-economic development and enhance livelihood security in rural areas of Bhilwara and Chittorgarh districts of Rajasthan.

The project commenced in January 2013 with 200 SHGs for Chittorgarh and 150 for Bhilwara district respectively. During the period 31 SHGs were formed and savings' accounts in nationalised bank were opened for them. 22 SHGs has been credit linked with various banks to start income generation activities.

### CHD REPRESENTATIONS

- Dharmveer Yadav attended a workshop on Child Safeguard Policy organised by Save the Children, Jaipur on August 30, 2013.
- Dharmveer Yadav and Majid Khan attended a workshop on 'Institutionalising Community Ownership in Education' organised by Rajeev Gandhi Foundation Delhi at Chittorgarh on September 08, 2013.
- Majid Khan, Kailash Vyas, Shanti Lal Dangi, Sumitra Garg and Rajendra Kumar Khateek attended a workshop on 'Child Sexual Abuse' organised by Save the Children at Jaipur on September 16-18, 2013.
- Kailash Vyas, Ratan and Devi Lal attended a meeting for Pre selection of Children Collective members for National Alliance Meet organised by Save the Children at Jaipur on September 20, 2013.
- Madan Lal Keer attended a 'Child Sexual Campaign' launch meeting organised by Rajasthan State Commission for Protection of Child Rights and INGO partners at Jaipur on September 24, 2013.
- Madan Giri Goswami attended a two-day resource group training on ICPS at Udaipur on August 16-17, 2013.

### VISIT

- Rajat Mandal and Lavina Rathore from ChildLine India Foundation, Delhi visited ChildLine Bhilwara on July 18-19, 2013.
- District Development Manager, NABARD, Chittorgarh and District Coordinator, Chittorgarh Kendriya Sahkari Bank, Chittorgarh visited at the Centre on July 03, 2013.

### MEDIA

