Annual Report
2014-15

sahyogi

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About Sahyogi

BACKGROUND AND GENESIS

Sahyogi is a not-for-profit NGO registered under Society Registration Act XXI, 1860. Sahyogi was founded by two youth from its target group in association with other members active for change and development. The founder members of Sahyogi themselves hail from being the victims of the prevailing marginalization undergone by its target group. Sahyogi registered under Society Registration Act, XXI, 1860 on 19 February 2008 in Patna, Bihar. Sahyogi is also registered under 12 A and 80 G of Income tax in India and Foreign Contribution Registration Act.

VISION:

To establish an egalitarian society, where, citizens enjoy human rights without discrimination and live a dignified life in mutual cooperation.

MISSION:

To facilitate and encourage a participatory process of change and development, of the poor, with the poor and in favour of the poor thereby empowering them for their fuller growth and participation.

OUR OBJECTIVES:

- To promote caste and gender equity
- To provide support for initiating, establishing, consolidating institutions, processes and programs aimed at development and improvement of living standards of its target group.
- To foster conditions for enhanced access of target group to the govt. services and entitlements
- To enable and empower its target population through organizing them as self-defining groups with a strong sense of self-identity and with capacities to act as a pressure group
- To create models of community participation and action so as to sensitize the govt. for formulation of programs and policies aimed at improving the living standard of the target group
Aadhi abadi (Women and Girls)

**Skill Development (Vocational) Training to Women in Villages and Slums:**

Women are generally treated as second-class citizens and seen as someone to look after the home and bear children. The women and girls of the area are mostly involved in household chores, does not have any say in the family affairs. Excluded from receiving higher education and entirely dependent on their male counterparts, they have to bear the brunt of most of the evils like dowry, domestic violence etc. Being a patriarchal society, women and girls are not allowed to step out of their houses which lead to lower educational status, low confidence to face the world. In view of the financial constraints that a family faces, this skill-building program strives to empower the women, and community at large.

Sahyogi has provided training to 2456 women of different groups in Hajipur, Biharsharif, Chhapra, Buxar district of Bihar and Jhumri Tilaiya of Koderma district Jharkhand with the support of HDFC. The trade of training were Candle making, Garment Designing, Soft toys Making, Artificial Jewelry, Tailoring, Bindi making, Papad makin, Phenyl and Artificial Flower. They will be further supported with HDFC Bank Ltd. in accessing fund for business/enterprises. Sahyogi volunteers and community leaders has turned good training with Master Training of Trainers on different trainer and ensured delivery of quality training for participants. This helped Sahyogi in retaining these community leaders to support their community people and also developing their skill resulting in leadership development.

**Campaign against VAW and Domestic Violence**

Violence against women (VAW) in India is rampant. The accurate information regarding domestic violence, sexual harassment, dowry, rape and other types of violence remains unknown, due to social harassment of victims of Violence against Women. The data of NFHS-III shows that there has been alarming increase in these cases. Bihar in the India is on the top in terms of Domestic violence and 59 % (62.2 Urban and 58.5 rural) women have reported spousal
violence. As per data of National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) in India 94041 cases of Cruelty by husband and relatives, 22172 cases of rape, 40613 cases of molestation, 9961 cases of sexual harassment (eve teasing), 5182 cases of Dowry, 2499 cases of trafficking was reported in 2010. The statistics of increasing crimes against women is shocking, where women are subjected to violent attacks i.e. foeticide, infanticide, medical negligence, child marriages, bride burning, sexual abuse of girl child, forced marriages, rapes, prostitution, sexual harassment at home as well as work places etc. In all the above cases, woman is considered as the aggrieved person. These data are enough to say that all the safeguard measures are not sufficient to stop the violence against women.

Experiences shows that in case of VAW no one comes forward to help the victim and in first case people start blaming the woman since the whole societal texture promotes men to harass women. Even in case of eve-teasing, misbehaviour with girls/women or any unfair deed with them, people first start commenting on behaviour, gesture and dress code of women/girls rather than catching the culprits. There is need of cadre who can stand with the victim and advocate against the misdeeds. This year Sahyogi intervened on the issue and organised a no. of training programmes of gender based violence and DVB to train and create a cadre base in its target area, which can take action if any such incident takes place or is reported. Sahyogi also ran campaign against gender based violence to educate the general mass on GBV through street play, wall painting, pamphlets etc. Sahyogi has organised women on their issues and formed committees in slums and villages to response VAW. Sahyogi has build linkages with Women Help Line and other agencies to take up domestic violence cases. At first Sahyogi staffs and volunteers resolve the cases through counselling of either party.

**Training on GBV and Campaign on Gender Based Violence with Cadre:** Gender-based violence has turned an epidemic in India. Women across India have unanimously cited gender-based violence as a widespread and persistent challenge, linking it directly to alcoholism and dowry. Violence against women in the work place was identified as another “blind spot,” especially in poor settlements and areas where women work as informal labour without any rights like house help work, vending, agriculture labourer etc.

The main objective of training was to help participants understand GBV and its dimensions as well as to understand community based action to stop it. Thus the following objectives were outlined:

- To understand the differences between ‘Sex’ and ‘gender’.
- To explore social and cultural expectations for males and females, and illustrate the difference between those based on sex and those based on gender.
- To identify the many forms of gender-based violence.
- To understand the causes and consequences of gender-based violence.

As a result of the training Sahyogi has created a force of cadre on GBV in its target area. A intensive campaign was launched in the target area aimed at wider awareness and orientation of stakeholders. We reached to around 10000 people in general through messages on GBV
through community meeting, IEC and folk media shows. Cadre celebrated women’s day and appealed to a larger group of women to “End the Silence to Stop the Violence” at family and society level. They also urged govt. to strengthen the support and redressal system.

Rally of children to sensitize community: A rally was organized by children with key messages on domestic violence to sensitize community. The rally was organized in 10 villages. Fellow and other stakeholders like Aganwadi worker, school teacher, ward members and religious leaders participated in the programme. After the rally a community meeting was organized in villages in which community people participated and discuss the domestic violence as well as gender based violence issue. The meeting was addressed by Aganwadi worker, cadre and fellow. In the meeting participation of male counterpart was also ensured so that they are also aware on this issue and their support was sought.

Creating Conducive Environment: There is widespread hesitancy amongst most women who experience domestic violence to report or prosecute against such crimes. Fellow is trying to create conducive environment at community level through one day orientation for women to create a conducing environment in which they can report domestic violence in the committee and prosecute if required.

Education on value of women’s household cores: The patriarchal household structure affects marriage, active discrimination by means of abuse marriage and diminished women’s agency through limited economic opportunity through stifled opportunity for independence. In all these dimensions, there is a clear relationship between strong patriarchal familial structures and limited capabilities and agency for women, which are strongly correlated with causal factors for domestic violence such as gender disparities in nutritional deprivation and a lack of women’s role in reproductive decisions. In context of target community at village and slum level women have less access to money given their engagement in non-monetary work like their engagement in household cores. Now local level committee is educating male and female member of community about importance of work being done by women at household level.

Meeting with stakeholders: One to one meeting was organized with stakeholders (Mukhiya, Ward Councillors, Teachers and Opinion leaders) of targeted slums and villages. As outcome of the programme the stakeholders in the target area are aware of the programme.

Committee Meeting: Domestic Violence Committee of 15 slums and 20 villages organized regular meeting and discussed the situation of domestic violence in their respective slum/village. They also decided to protest any form of violence at first stop by educating member of their family.

Participation in Bihar Sajha Manch : Fellow participated in Bihar Sajha Manch deliberations and consultations on Women Empowerment Policy. The process of preparation of Action Plan is under process and a no. of meeting has been organized in which fellow participated and suggested action needed to support women and girls.
**Awareness on Adverse Sex Ratio**

Gender discrimination is widely prevalent in the state. As per Census 2011 ratio of male and female in Bihar is 916 women per 1000 men while child (0-6) sex ratio is 933. In Patna district, it stands at 892/1000 while child (0-6) sex ratio is 899. Women literacy rate is 63.72 percent. As per sex ratio Patna district stand 34th out of 38th in the states\(^1\). Work participation rate is very low 13.3 %\(^2\) and so is their participation in meaningful decision making. The prevalent situation of women is due to poor access to information and services, early marriage and early pregnancy, denial of their rights and other stereotypicalities. Less or no access of women to services and participation in decision making process contribute to Adverse sex ratio. To address the adverse sex ratio Sahyogi campaigned in its target area and educated the target groups on the issue especially women through street theatre and wall paintings as well as distributing pamphlets.

**Urban Initiative**

RAY envisions “Slum Free India” with inclusive and equitable cities in which every citizen has access to basic civic infrastructure, social services and decent shelter. Sasaram is one of the cities of Bihar where WAPCOS ltd. has been working as consultant for preparing DPR. In the process of DPR preparation a one day orientation cum sharing meeting on Rajiv Awas Yojna (RAY) was organized in conference hall of Nagar Parishad, Sasaram on 14\(^{th}\) March 2015. A total of 29 people participated in the workshop. 2 female ward councilors also participated in the meeting. The main participants were ward councilors and officials from Sasaram Nagar Parishad, social activists and representatives of different organizations working with urban poor. Mr. Chandrashekhar Singh, Honorable, Vice Chairperson, Sasaram Nagar Parishad was present throughout the sessions of the meeting.

Another One day orientation cum sharing meeting on Rajiv Awas Yojna (RAY) was organized in conference hall of Nagar Parishad, Bhabhua on 16\(^{th}\) February 2015. A total 19 ward councilors along with community leaders from slums and representative of civil society organization participated in the meeting. The meeting was facilitated by Sahyogi (A not-for-profit NGO) and supported by Aakar Abhinav Consultancy Private Limited (Agency involved in survey work for DPR preparation under Rajiv Awas Yojna).

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1. Provisional data Census of India 2011
2. Census of India 2001
The objectives of these meeting were:

A. To provide insights to the participants on the aspects relating to objectives of RAY
B. To construct the participants to implement RAY effectively in Sasaram and Bhabhua and to achieve the goal of Slum Free city.
C. To orient the Ward Councilors of Sasaram and Bhabhua Nagar Parishad on Rajiv Awas yojna
D. To share with them the initiative taken and work done towards survey process
E. To develop common understanding among elected representatives of ULBs
F. To ensure their participation in the process
G. To seek the support of elected representative

A step towards emerging as resource organization:

From the inception Sahyogi has a plan to emerge as Resource Organization for Capacity Building, Research and Study, Skill Development Training and different facilitation support to organization/CBOs/Programmes. It has planned to pioneer in field testing of different scalable solution to the issue.

**Facilitating Communication Training**

Sahyogi Communication Training for programme staffs of GPSVS. The training spans over 3 days and comprises of class room sessions and hands on in community. This training resulted in strengthening knowledge base of Sahyogi’s Resource Persons and helped it in emerging as resource organization.

**Human Development through security, health and education for all**

**Child Rights in Slums**
Unicef’s State of the World’s Children 2012 report states, “The children living in around 49,000 slums in India are invisible”. The growth of cities gives rise to several child protection issues. There was a 24% increase in crimes against children between 2010 and 2011 and a further 52.5% increase from 2012 to 2013. child rights protection remains a marginal concern in community against the issue of housing and shelter, basic amenities and services, livelihood etc. Sahyogi this year intervened on the issue. Community meetings were organised to make the target population aware that how child labour impede the societal development in a long run and is also harmful for children health. Sahyogi also intervened at school level and in one school teachers were counseled on child psychology. Sahyogi undertook regular community meeting with the support of its volunteer on Child rights issue with stakeholders of targeted villages to work out the rights of children and present scenario in area as well as to outline some actions to ensure child rights. Apart from training and awareness, this year Sahyogi started case based counseling and support system in community, which look for specific solution on the issues.

**Awareness on Education and Enrolment Drive:**

Low literacy rate in the state emphasizes on special attention on education in the state. There are many related issues need to be addressed like enrolment of children in the school, their retention at school, quality education etc. Enrolment in school is one of the major concern demands extra effort. At all India level the gross enrolment ratio has improved to 82.35. The situation of Bihar where the enrolment rate is 59.69 is needed urgent attention nationally and some extra effort by the state government. As far as girls enrolment is concern Bihar stands for 45.78%. All the achievements in term of increase in the enrolment are more than negated by an accordingly high dropout rate of 66.04% for classes I-X (6-18 years) nationally and 82.87% in the state Bihar4.

After a long struggle by Civil society groups and different stakeholders Govt. of India enacted Right to Education Act. The Act makes it mandatory for every child between the ages of 6-14 to be provided for education by the State. This means that such child does not have to pay a single penny as regards books, uniforms etc... too. Any time of the academic year, a child can go to a school and demand that this right be respected. Private education institutions have to reserve 25% of their seats starting from class I in 2011 to disadvantaged students.

Despite Right to Education Act and promising provisions made under Act children of marginalised community are still out of school. Bihar has not ensured enrolment of all children in school. Sahyogi campaigned on education awareness under banner of “Sikha Jagrukta

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3 Abstract of selected educational statistics 2001
4 Abstract of selected educational statistics 2001
Abhiyan” in Patna. The campaign was aimed at increasing enrolment of marginalized section in school and their retention in school. Teacher complains that teacher comes only for entitlements like at the time of mid day meal and distribution of clothes for them but after availing it they disappears, which discourages the purpose of their enrolment in school. Looking into the situation Sahyogi also organised community based education awareness events and used different medium for retention of children in school after enrolment. Bal mela was organised to give the children an opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities and bring the out of school children back to school.

Environmental Action

**Water, Sanitation and Hygiene**

Sahyogi runs a small campaign with the support of community, to bring awareness in community on saving water. The objective of the programme is to bring behavioural changes in the community. On the occasion of World Water Day, Sahyogi organised awareness programme for community leaders. Through wall painting, folk shows and nukkad meetings, it spread the message of saving water and reuse of water. Sahyogi initiative is focused on promoting water conservation behaviour among people like they waste water in agriculture, brush in running water, do not reuse the water, extract much water than they need, promote water recharging and reuse of water etc. Apart from making community aware Sahyogi conducted training of community leaders on WASH to promote sanitation and hygiene behaviour change in community.

Panorama