

# SAHYOGI ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21



## AAN – Ab Aur Nahi “Hinsa”

AAN-Ab AurNahi “Hinsa” project is aimed at reducing Gender Based Violence especially Domestic Violence being implemented in 25 villages and 6 slums of Patna district by Sahyogi. Initially Sahyogi focused on community engagement through regular interaction in community, training identified women leader as cadre who can support survivor and also provide counselling and legal support. Sahyogi successfully built a community cadre base in community who are not only creating enabling environment for reporting or responding case but have also working as referral point person for survivors. Sahyogi is also working with schools in community through designed school sessions.

### PANDEMIC AND LOCKDOWN

COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown imposed to stop the spread of corona infection created a situation where community and organization both were clueless. The system which Sahyogi has adopted throughout its life was direct community contact, assessment, plan and action but it was not possible during lockdown. Sahyogi had to learn new way of working and supporting community. So first thing Sahyogi learnt during the period was use of technology for doing the process of situational assessment/analysis, plan and action. Sahyogi used two platform zoom and jio-meet for the purpose and plunged into action. Sahyogi did two things during lockdown:

**Providing information and Psycho-social support:** The first role which Sahyogi team played during lockdown was to ensure correct messaging on precaution to be taken based on guidelines and advisory issued by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, State Health Society Bihar, World Health Organization and Indiafightscovid website. We passed the correct information to our cadre and they passed it to community members in their neighbour. They played crucial role in the whole process of passing information and also ensure psycho-social support. Meanwhile we also collected telephone number of 550 women from different families in community so that we can regularly talk to them and pass-on information. We also passed on information on news announcement by govt. like free ration and cash support to families in the trying time. In the whole process and throughout the whole lockdown phases till 4.0 we ensured regular touch-base. With ease in lockdown our local team members started visiting community just to reinforce the CAB and help them accept the new normal this pandemic has created. Hand washing is one of the simplest and easiest way to avoid corona contraction so we focused on it and demonstrated it with community to bring the behavioural change of in hand hygiene related practices.

**Ration distribution among the vulnerable:** Lockdown aimed at containing the pandemic made vulnerable groups more vulnerable with lack of food, due to stoppage of livelihood options for them especially those of daily wage earners. The community with whom Sahyogi works, is urban and rural who have least buffer stock of food items compared to similar group residing in rural areas. The targeted population started struggling for survival in the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of lockdown and there was immediate need of humanitarian response until govt. support reaches them or many of them would not get that as well because they are out of social security net. For example, ration announced by state will be given to those only who have ration card but many of the target group population do not have those entitlements. So with support of Paul Hamlyn Foundation Sahyogi distributed 15 days ration among 200 identified musahar, slum dwellers, street dwellers, single women and old age person. We also mobilized support from Jagori to distribute ration to 150 families in the target area. So we reached to 350 households with ration support. Sahyogi team also followed-up with service providers especially with PDS through Mukhiya and other Panchayat representatives for ration and other support announced by govt, to ensure that none of the community members are left out.



### **SURVEY TO UNDERSTAND THE IMPACT OF LOCKDOWN ON WOMEN AND GIRLS:**

When functionality is disrupted as it happened during the lockdown, the fundamental bias of the society clearly reflected in the behaviour and attitude of the people. In the name of honour and stability of the family the women must compromise so that peace prevails. It all boils down to the century's old tradition of honour and respect which the women of the family need to uphold. The survey laid down some bare facts which we cannot ignore. We have witnessed a spike in domestic violence during the lockdown, it boils down to the fact that the outcome was not natural. The community reacted because of the prevailing crisis. No one had ever faced such a situation where

there was no work; no money and no were to go due to the lockdown. In such constricted space they felt vulnerable and exposed. The frustration and fear of not knowing how to survive created chaos in their lives affected the women most. The challenges with findings of the surve were two, 1. Sahyogi do not have similar data for comparison and 2. Sahyogi has been working in the area for 4 years and women are able to identify all kind of gender based violence so data reflected that violence was much higher than normal situation.

## **OBSERVING MENSTRUAL HYGIENE DAY:**

Menstrual Hygiene Day is an annual awareness day on May 28 to highlight the importance of good menstrual hygiene management. Sahyogi planned to observe this day to create awareness and give adolescent girls and women a platform and space for engagement, amplifying their voices for MHM. In May there was lockdown so there was challenge for Sahyogi to organize this programme. Sahyogi used social media for the same and requested people to promote MHM bracelet. It used infographics and messages of Menstrual Hygiene Day official webpage and shared it across through social media and messaging apps like whatsapp. A good number of people came in support and shared their picture with Menstrual Hygiene Action bracelet. It was covered by media as well.

## **Resumption of Gender and Gender Based Violence Discourse in Community**

After slowing down the impact of COVID-19, visits and meetings with community level paced up gradually. As different reports and studies showed increasing number of cases of domestic violence and gender based violence, interaction with community members including female and male, adolescents, youths and other stakeholders was conducted in all the intervening villages and slums under the programme. It was envisaged that staying of male members at their homes added with financial stress due to lockdown have increased the incidents of domestic violence. During and after lockdown, community members were regularly interacted through phone and social medium to maintain awareness level about issues of violence against women and girls at domestic level and at other places. Cadre members also helped the sufferers at immediate level and counselling and making aware about legal implications made many perpetrators of domestic violence resolving the issues. The discussions remain focussed upon raising voice against violence and discrimination against women and girls, and significance of breaking silence on these issues would be of great help for them. Emphasis



upon educating girls and taking care of their health and hygiene with overall development was ensured during discourse with community members. Discussions and activities on making them financially self-dependent, group level (JLGs) savings and formation of new groups were also done.

Women participants also shared their experience during meetings; they shared that they could not oppose their husbands or other male members at their homes as they depend upon them for family income. If they would defy them, male members would create nuisance and even beat. If they resist avoiding making physical relations due to unwillingness or sickness, their husbands use to thrash them.

### **Engaging male in community on Gender based discrimination and Violence**

Under AAN-III, meetings with male members were imparted in different villages. As the community members have become well aware about interventions made by the organization, many participants told that awareness among women has given them unwanted confidence as they use to visit local police stations even if there would be very small problems. On this, it was told that such incidents should not be taken as trivial issues, they gradually become bigger and many times, even fatal for the family. Such incident cast harmful implications upon family members and especially upon children. Having patriarchal mindset, various norms and values have been defined for girls and women in our society which are unjust and deny equal rights and opportunities for them. During sessions with male members, few participants were of view that they have very little income, having male and female children; preference would be given for educating male child whether he is younger or elder. They were made aware about gender discrimination elaborately through participatory interaction.



### **Community level Sessions with adolescents:**

We facilitate sessions with adolescent in schools on Gender based discrimination and violence to shape their knowledge, attitude and behaviour from the beginning of their life. As this is the time when their beliefs get cemented. School based session was not possible in this new normal as schools remained close due to pandemic. So we started facilitating session with these adolescents in community. This was helped them both way first it helped them learn the gender roles



and discrimination and secondly this help them ease out the tension/pressure rising among them due to limited mobility and closed door life as schools were closed.

### **Session on Menstrual Hygiene Management:**

Under AAN, health and hygiene of adolescents girls and boys are also focused. During meetings at villages with adolescent girls, discussions on menstrual hygiene and health were conducted. They were asked about menstrual cycle and ways of personal care, most of them could not respond. Few participants told that during this cycle, girls and women use dirty clothes to deal with. It was told that initially most of the girls use to scare about, but they should be informed properly about its management and care. During discussion, it was shared that different prohibitions are imposed during menstrual cycle for girls and women at family level, they are forbidden to visit temple, public places, etc. They were told that it is a natural biological process and there is nothing to be ashamed about. Adolescent girls were given messages about gender based violence through tools of forum theatre also.

### **Meeting with stakeholders**

Minimizing incidences of domestic violence require involvement of stakeholders for being influential. Sahyogi has ensured regular one-to-one meetings with different stakeholders, i.e. teachers, community leaders, PRIs, police personnel, etc. and sensitized them about the subject and sought their support for this purpose. They have helped in addressing issue of GBV in the intervention areas and different PRIs have expedited the process to reach support for the sufferers. They support in organizing different activities in their respective areas also by mobilizing the community members.



### **Reinforcing knowledge of cadre in community**

Training and skill building programmes were organized for female cadre members and male cadres at different locations. They belong to different villages and most of them have already participated in training and orientation programmes on leadership development, although, few new members were also included for this purpose to extend the base of cadre members.

Cadre members were oriented on the issue of domestic violence and gender based violence through discussions,



group activities, film showing, etc. All the sessions remained interactive and participants were prompted to share their experience and concerns. During discussions, participants were said that gender discrimination and violence are of different kinds and layers. Women are still considered inferior to men and boys; they are suppressed by their family members and colleagues. Every day they face inequalities and tolerate them silently because of not recognising them or remain silent to protect face values of families. It was shared that remaining silence promotes such incidents and many times, they turn in incidences



which cause grave consequences. Ms Rajani from Sahyogi told to increase awareness on such aspects of atrocities and violence and find ways to curb them as there are different safeguards provided under legal provisions. She appealed participants to raise strong voice against discrimination to stop them at the earliest.

Through group activities, participants were made to understand about gender based discrimination, its negative impacts upon health, education, psychology, financial condition on girls and women. Participants understand that most of the household chores are performed by them, but they do not get proper recognition in making their families. At work places too, women face different kind of discrimination, do not get equal remuneration for their works in comparison to their male counterparts. It is seen that due to improper nutrition of girls and women, they remain unhealthy which add more burden upon family. Mothers should take care of this and provide them facilities equally as of their male children.

These cadres are regularly contacted through visits to their respective villages; they support in organizing activities at local level, and support each other in resolving their domestic problems.

### **Legal & counselling support to survivors**

Sufferers of DV/GBV from intervention areas and beyond use to visit Sahyogi for counselling and legal aid to resolve their problems. Community members have become well aware about organizing of counselling centre by



the organization on every week. They come with their family members, however, Sahyogi follows a protocol that it will help everyone to recognize violence but will not compel or build pressure on the victim/survivor to report the same until survivor is mentally ready to do so. Cadre members also support sufferers to reach at the centre with their problems, where they receive services of counselling and legal aid.

### **16 days of activism to end Gender Based Violence**



Sahyogi organizes different programmes under banner of larger campaign like “EVAW fortnight” and “One Billion Rising” to create platform for community and community leaders to amplify their voices and advocating end of gender based violence in community. This year with support of CREA, Sahyogi organized 16 Days Activism programme in Patna with its theme “Organge the World: Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect”. The programme started on 25<sup>th</sup> of December, day of ending violence against women and ended on 10<sup>th</sup> December, International Day of Human Rights. Several programmes/events were organized during this fortnight which briefly included community leader’s discourse, sensitization of elected local bodies representatives, sensitization of police personnel, interaction between adolescent and adults on their dreams, using social media for spreading message, mass media and mid media engagement like street theatre at public places.

- Total number of participants in different programmes during this fortnight campaign – 3141
- No. of legislature participated in the campaign – 1
- No. of panchayat elected representatives – 176
- No. of service providers – 43
- No. of school teachers – 39
- No. of police personnel – 65
- No. of media persons – 8
- No. of trained cadres - 156
- Total number of media reports (mid media, media portals & social media) emerged – 138

### **One Billion Rising Campaign**

In Bihar, Sahyogi has coordinated to organize various activities in different districts, blocks and villages since 2016 with culminating at state level programme. Because of limited gatherings allowed due to impact of



pandemic, promoting of herbal gardens at panchayat and village level was decided and on 14th February, 2021, a programme was organized with the theme of 'Empowered Women, Rising Gardens' at Panchayat Bhawan, Hathiyakandh, Danapur, Patna, plantation of herbal and flower plants was done. Around 200 female, adolescent boys and girls and elected Panchayat representatives participated in the programme. Designing of the programme was made with the objectives to make participants sensitized towards mitigating violence against girls and women and emphasis was given to break silence against any kind of violence. Nurturing awareness among them was to empowering girls and women and preserving our earth and environment. Message was given to honour our workers including labour, health workers, domestic workers, farm workers, values for their works should be ensured with protecting our mother earth. Uniting for bringing due honour to our valuable workers and celebrate through promoting gardens was made. Promoting gardening would support women and making our environment greener and pollution-free. Also, it would help women and girls to become financially self-reliant. Message among community would be made towards protecting mother earth and women and girls through empowering women in our society.

### **SAFE Gender based violence free personal and public space project**

SAFE Gender based violence free personal and public space project which is being implemented by Sahyogi in 26 villages and five panchayats of Bihta block in Patna. The programme remained focussed upon mitigating gender based violence and domestic violence in these intervention areas. During the prolonged and unprecedented phase of pandemic all over the world, different studies substantiate about growing incidences of violence against girls and women at indoors and outdoors as well. Staying of male members indoors coupled with financial crisis and very limited scope of works caused the situation worse.

With the spread of Pandemic and subsequent lockdown, programme activities at field level could not be imparted. Although, after slowing down the effects of pandemic with emergence of new normal, gradually situation has been changing and people have started working with limited scopes. During these phases, Sahyogi made efforts to remain in regular connection with community members and different stakeholders to ensure

minimising incidences of violence against girls and women. With the use of social media and limited movement, opportunities were created to interact with community members. Adolescent boys and male members were especially made aware and sensitized about sharing their contribution at domestic level for positive domestic environment.

#### **Sessions on GBV with adolescents and youth at community & school level –**

Different session on GBV and DV were organized with adolescent girls and boys. During interaction with them, they were introduced about the purpose of the programme that it would help participants to learn about different forms of GBV and DV, discrimination among male and female child at family level and their impacts upon their lives, their understanding about gender would increase. They were urged to be interactive and share their views openly about the subject as they would learn adequately through programme about handling this social menace and would become able in helping each other. While discussing about the issue, it was shared that girls and women need to be strong and be careful in providing safeguard to them through minimizing atrocities, ensure equal regard and opportunities. Women and girls must abstain in making atrocities, violence and disregard for other women and girls. Today's girls have been doing praiseworthy efforts in all fields. Women and girls should realize that they are home-makers and should not consider themselves merely as housewives. They should be given recognition of their contribution at family and society.

During interaction with adolescents, it was shared that female members suffer a lot of discrimination through



their lives, and differences cause atrocities and violence against them and family, society and govt. remain silent to strengthen the culture of violence. Discrimination against female on the basis of clothes, food, nutrition, work, behaviour, etc. are conducted. However, our constitution gives equal rights to every citizen, it has given right to all female and male to live equally, but discrimination against them makes their lives inferior and suppressed. In modern times, many girls and women have come out and have engaged in different kind of works, share their contribution in making earnings, but male do not cooperate in furnishing domestic works. It is ridiculous that if any male member support in doing household chores, he becomes subject of mockery by his peers. It is also seen that incidents of violence on the name of dowry, child marriage, female foeticide, denial of property rights, etc. against female members happen. Besides, they have to suffer different kind of atrocities

behind the walls which go unreported. Many women have come to Sahyogi for counselling and legal aid to get rid of their traumas. Incidents of violence get reported only when the situation becomes unbearable or fatal.

For creating positive environment among community to address gender based violence, Sahyogi has engaged in interacting with adolescent at community and school level. Separate and mixed sessions of male and female adolescents are imparted to broaden awareness among community with the support of local stakeholders. It envisages that engaging adolescents will weaken rigidity towards gender norms and perceptions prevalent in society bring attitudinal and behavioural changes among them to create conducive environment. Male adolescents are given information on harmful notions of masculinity and their contribution to cause GBV. They are elaborately discussed on the significance of taking part in domestic chores also to help in creating positive environment. School level orientation programmes for adolescents are imparted also to create positive



environment and prevent gender based violence, since they have the potential to address gender norms and attitudes before they become deeply ingrained. They are also ideal to work with their peer groups, where rigid ideas about masculinity can be questioned and redefined. The sense of promoting gender equality among adolescents would help in creating environment where gender based violence shall no longer perceived as normal or endorsed by gendered stereotypes.

#### **Session with community members at villages:**

Regular meeting and interaction with women along with orientation and training on the issue have been ensured. Such activities have helped in enhancing their awareness and identifying cases of domestic violence in their surroundings. Many of these women members have been associated as cadre members who provide valuable support at local level in their respective areas to the sufferers. Many cases have been resolved with their timely intervention and created positive hindrance to become the matters worse. Although there is very high rate of GBV and DV is prevalent in the intervention areas, awareness and sensitization of various stakeholders, especially women folk through regular sessions have reflected results as they use to visit the counselling centre being run by the organization to address their problems. At the counselling centre, sufferers of domestic violence are provided counselling and legal aids to minimize their woes and restore normalcy in their personal lives.

During interaction with women, discussions on many facets of inequalities, atrocities and violence of GBV is made. They also share their experience of facing such atrocities in their families. They are sensitized towards providing proper education to their children, especially daughters, equal treatment of their female and male children. Elaborate discussion on different aspects of legal remedies and institutions are also made with them. The community mobilization approach is made to reach individuals, relationships communities and the larger



society. It is envisaged to adopt proactive rather than reactive stance to address prevalence of GBV in our society. Preventing domestic violence requires commitment from the whole community and their engagement as well.

#### **Nurturing & strengthening of female and male cadres –**

Nurturing of leadership skill among female and male members to combat the social menace of gender based violence against girls and women were organized at different villages. Sessions were designed with engaging participants in different activities and interaction with them. It was said that women and girls face different kind



of discrimination in their families and outdoors as well. Gender discrimination and violence are of different kinds and layers. Women are still considered inferior to men and boys; they are suppressed by their family members and colleagues. Every day we face inequalities and tolerate them silently because of not recognising them or remain silent to protect face values of families. It was added that remaining silence promotes such incidents and many times, they turn in incidences which cause grave consequences. Emphasis to increase awareness on such

aspects of atrocities and violence and find ways to curb them as there are different safeguards provided under legal provisions were given. Participants were appealed to raise strong voice against discrimination to stop them at the earliest.

They were made to understand about gender based discrimination, its negative impacts upon health, education, psychology, financial condition on girls and women. Participants understand that most of the household chores are performed by them, but they do not get proper recognition in making their families. At work places too, women face different kind of discrimination, do not get equal remuneration for their works in comparison to their male counterparts. It was shared that working women have to work indoors and outdoors. Different kind of works which brings money is done by men and they do not perform such works at their homes. It is seen that due to improper nutrition of girls and women, they remain unhealthy which add more burden upon family. Mothers should take care of this and provide them facilities equally as of their male children.

#### **Door-to-door visits with community members –**

Although, the first half of this period remained difficult to approach the community members at large gatherings, individual visits and interaction were made with them on regular basis. Field workers made visits in all the target villages to meet community members at household level and discussion were made on gender issues with family members. Overall, 4268 HHs was contacted and interaction was conducted with them on regular basis. Visiting them on personal basis helps in strengthening rapport with them and supports in making awareness at local level.

#### **Orientation & training of stakeholders on GBV –**

Under 16 days activism, different activities were organized with different stakeholders for a fortnight. Police personnels, teachers, service providers, panchayat representatives, etc. were communicated and oriented on the issue of gender based violence and their support to mitigate this social evil was solicited. Different community leaders, local elected representatives, artists, media persons also attended activities organized during the campaign.

#### **Training & orientation of panchayat representatives –**

Influence of panchayat members upon local community is evident and therefore, making them aware about high prevalence of gender based violence in our society and its harmful effects. In such meetings, panchayat elected representatives were sensitized towards addressing the social menace. It was said that domestic violence is not personal issue and it affects everyone apart from family members. Therefore, it is very significant to support in resolving such problems using their influence. It is seen that local people approach them for resolving their



domestic problems, thus, their roles become very important. It was shared with the participants that panchayat elections are to be held in a couple of months, more and more female representatives should be supported to emerge as panchayat leaders. They were asked for their support to make panchayat development plan with better scope towards development of girls and women at villages.



### **Counselling and legal support –**

Sahyogi has been engaged in running a counselling and legal centre to provide required support to victims of domestic violence through counselling, hand-holding support for legal courses, etc. Communities have become aware about the intervention being made by the organization, thus number of victims of domestic violence come to seek support in resolving their problems. Sahyogi organizes sessions for counselling and legal aid on weekly basis for survivors of DV with support of legal expert and Project personnel. Different sufferers of domestic violence and gender based violence have approached Sahyogi's workers for resolving their problems. Their family members were contacted in this regard and their support were sought.

### **Promoting groups towards income generation activities –**

Women at villages are being promoted towards attaining financial reliance through formation and nurturing of Joint Liability Groups (JLGs). New JLGs were formed having 5 members in each group. These groups are given handholding support to learn group activities with saving and thrift. All groups perform regular savings with groups. These groups are also supported to have bank accounts to realize loans for income generation activities. The group members have shown willingness to involve in different kind of income generation activities. These groups use to attend regular meetings and maintain registers for groups' proceedings. Liaisoning with NABARD has been made for loan realisation which would support the group members in realizing the financial freedom. During meetings with women members, many of them have use to share that financial freedom would help them in taking decisions and minimizing the incidents of domestic violence.

### **SuPoshan**

Sahyogi implemented SuPoshan programme since April'19 in 12 villages and seven panchayats of Manihari block, Katihar. The prime objectives of the programme are to address the poor health and nutrition status among the community especially among children and women and improve livelihood opportunities with sustainability of natural resources. The target community under SuPoshan are the most deprived community and suffers poverty, lack of resources, poor health and nutrition and awareness. Being landless, they lack other resources of income generation; hence, most of them remain engaged as manual workers or agro-labours. Inadequate level of awareness push them away further, they seldom make resistance or raise voice to access their entitlements.

Condition of this community in the target villages of Manihari is similar. They are treated badly even by other marginal communities in these villages, and in absence of community organizations, they behave meekly and submissively. Since the community mostly depend upon manual labour, exodus from the cycle of poverty remains very difficult for them. They earn least wages and suffer poor nutrition. Being one of the most socially excluded, they face chronic poverty, still have to live in hamlets earmarked exclusively for them. Most of their habitations are away from mainstream habitations and at many places, rather difficult to reach there.

Sahyogi organized community members to educate and raise awareness among them through regular visits in the community and orientation and training events for them on different issues. Enhancing their awareness about rights and entitlements, improving personal and community level health and nutrition, sanitation and hygiene, education, etc. issues have been included and specific focus upon improving their livelihood through exploitation of locally available resources were ensured and also minimizing the incidents of migration among them.

The world has witnessed an unprecedented situation of pandemic since month of March of the previous year and consequent lockdown pronounced by our Govt. to check the spread of virus have resulted emergence of different problems especially for communities belonging to marginal and excluded sections. The rapid spread and threat of the virus/COVID-19 created an atmosphere of distress and ultimately affected the bottom of the pyramid - migrant workers, slum dwellers, daily wage workers and even domestic help – the most.

It would be suitable to mention here that the pandemic has already disrupted the pace of interventions under SuPoshan, changes brought and enacted in the FCRA caused abrupt halt of the project. It was officially communicated that the project has been terminated from October, 2020 and no activities would be performed. Although, ways were sorted out with mutual understanding to utilize the remaining funds with the projects. Keeping in view of the objectives of the SuPoshan, interim budgetary allocations were made to spend resources. It was decided to ensure nutrition and livelihood opportunities for the target community with support them towards accessing hygiene and sanitation during spread of pandemic.

**Promotion of nutri-garden** Promotion of nutri-garden was ensured in all the intervention villages under SuPoshan. Sahyogi has formed and strengthened community based organizations and strong rapport with local community leaders including panchayat representatives and service providers. Women from poor families suffer from anaemia which is one of the prime reasons of high rate of low-birth weight of babies. An unbalanced diet and lack of nutritional food items are directly linked to high rates of stunting, low weight, death in children under five years of age. Community and nutrition garden can play an important role in enhancing food security dietary diversity to



combat malnutrition. Under SuPoshan programme, emphasis has been given for children that the 1000 days from conception till two years of age are crucial and provide an opportunity to prevent childhood stunting and obesity problems later in life. Fruits and vegetables from kitchen gardens are good source of micronutrients especially in the poor households. In the month of November, 2020, community members in all villages were persuaded to engage in planting vegetables and fruits in their backyards. It was envisaged that few identified families should be provided saplings of fruits and vegetables to promote others as well. Such families were asked about taking proper care of these plants. It would ensure fruits and vegetables at no cost for the family



members and also would generate income by selling the produce at local markets. Since these village and especially hamlets of the target community are mostly situated in low land and the areas is flood prone. The recent rain and floods have inundated these villages. Therefore, it became difficult to plant seeds and sapling in these areas. Therefore, families were identified who could ensure survival of plants and proper care. Saplings of drumstick, mango, lemon, guava, papaya, etc. were provided among the identified families.

**Roof-top vegetation and kitchen garden** were also promoted in all the target villages. It was envisaged that this would increase frequency and quantity of vegetable consumption which would fulfil the nutritional



requirements of these families. Having very meagre income, these families mostly avoid purchasing of fruits and vegetables, thus remain deficient of necessary nutrients in their food. Growing local vegetables in their kitchen

gardens would ensure easy availability of different vegetables in their plates at no cost. Moreover, these plants require very little care and being agro-labour, community members have knowledge about growing them adequately. While discussing with community members they were said that kitchen gardens could be established and maintained on a small patch of land with minimum technical inputs; hence, these gardens provide the rural resource poor communities with a platform for innovations in supplemental food production as well as an opportunity to improve their livelihoods. Family labour, especially efforts of women, becomes particularly important in the management of these gardens. Empowered with reasonably minimum amount of skills and knowledge, these women members of the target families can easily fight crop losses and other negative implications, thereby making kitchen gardening a profitable initiative. Besides, the major use of organic



farming practices makes these gardens environment friendly as well. In the previous quarters, families were given seeds and saplings of vegetables and fruits, but floods and rain damaged them. Therefore, it became significant to provide seeds of local vegetables among community members in all the villages. Before distribution of seeds, they were elaborately explained about proper care and benefits of this measure. Seeds of gourd, bitter

gourd, pumpkin, and other seasonal vegetables were provided among them. Regular follow-up were also made by field level workers in order to ensure promoting and preserving kitchen gardens to improve nutrition security with supplementing household income for these families.

### **Promoting of sanitation & hygiene at community level (AWCs/Schools) –**

The current COVID-19 pandemic has increased appreciation for sanitation and hygiene everywhere. Among the most effective ways to prevent the spread of infection are safe and clean water, proper and frequent hand washing, taking care of personal and community level sanitation and hygiene. The lack of access to basic water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities, especially among the marginal communities, is example of lethal



effects of inequalities being exposed by the pandemic. The target community under SuPoshan programme has also been reeling under additional burden created by the pandemic. It has disrupted the job opportunities

abruptly, and status of this community has become more pathetic. They merely depend upon supports or schemes sponsored by govt. or non-govt. organizations. Awareness towards sanitation and hygiene among them is at very low level, and lack of resources make them more susceptible of falling ill. Poor hand washing practices and limited access to sanitation facilities perpetuate the transmission of disease causing germs.

Under SuPoshan programme, it has been mandated to improve sanitation and hygiene status among the target community and reducing the incidents of water-borne diseases and combating illness caused by poor nutrition and hygiene with sustaining of natural resources. The prolonged span of pandemic has hindered every aspect of our lives, i.e. livelihood, health and hygiene, etc., and the poor and excluded communities have suffered on these fronts the most. Hence, it became inevitable to make them aware about staying safe and healthy and managing sources to provide items of sanitation and hygiene for maintaining their well-being.



With these purpose, the target communities in all the intervening villages were reached to increase their awareness and educate them to break of myths and misconceptions about pandemic. For this, local community



leaders, PRIs and ward members, service providers were also sensitized for their support to keep our community safe and healthy. But, economic impoverishment caused by the pandemic will have an adverse knock-on effect on utilisation of WASH services because due to limited resources, these communities would give priority to spent money on food over soap or water or taking other measures to remain hygienic, where it has to be paid for.

Therefore, identifying reaching to schools and AWCs were made to access community for ensuring their health and hygiene within limited resources. Resilience and tenacity of frontline workers has enabled us to proactively implement relief and health protocol. Making increased outreach for helping community for improved hygiene and sanitation services, their skills to respond on public healthcare were utilized. It was envisaged that infusing



philanthropic capital to further capacitate established system (AWCs, schools) would lead to greater impact as items of sanitation and hygiene were provided at schools and Aanganbari centres for use of its beneficiaries, especially children and women. After intensive interaction with community on these issues, items of sanitation and hygiene were provided as these institutions at different places for creating soap banks and pad banks. At selected places, children were educated properly about methods of hand washing along with taking care of other components of personal hygiene. The local CDPO and Lady Supervisors were approached for this purpose and different items containing buckets, mugs, mirrors, combs, nail cutters, soaps, etc. were distributed for use at Aanganbari centres in the intervening areas.

#### **Promoting of livelihood and income generation through goatary & poultry**



Since the target community under the SuPoshan belongs to the most deprived and excluded community, they suffered in the severest way. Being landless, their only source of sustenance is being engaged as manual labour in farm or at construction sites in different parts of country. As the situation became grimmer for them, it was of greatest importance to find ways for their income generation at local level.

These communities have skills of animal rearing. Sahyogi has organized training and orientation programmes for these communities under SuPoshan programme since initiation, also provided knowledge for better management of their animals with support of experts. It was envisaged that community in all the target villages should be promoted for goatary and poultry for making income to get rid of shocks of pandemic. With this purpose, experts were engaged to motivate community for this and organized meetings and interaction with them. Many of them have cows, goats, hens, duck, etc. But their animals do not provide expected produces because of their poor management and health. During meetings, they were explained in detail about different methods of scientific management of their animals for better produce. Few of them showed willingness for having support for this purpose. As having limited resources, Sahyogi made efforts to access the target community to improving their nutrition, sanitation and hygiene under SuPoshan. For promoting their income generation, provisions were made to provide livestock among the identified families. During the times of hardships, these supports would bring them respite.





# जेंडर आधारित हिंसा को समाप्त करने की जरूरत

बिहटा | एक संवाददाता

सहयोगी संस्था की ओर 'क्रिया' के सहयोग से मानवाधिकार दिवस के अवसर पर जेंडर आधारित हिंसा के विरुद्ध मनाए जाने वाले 16 दिवसीय अभियान के समापन समारोह का आयोजन पैनाल उच्च विद्यालय, बिहटा के प्रांगण किया गया।

इस कार्यक्रम में मुख्य अतिथि के रूप में मनेर के विधायक भाई वीरेन्द्र के साथ पैनाल पंचायत की सरपंच बबीता देवी, सिमरी के मुखिया जवाहरलाल विश्वकर्मा ने दीप प्रज्वलित कर किया। मौके पर विधायक भाई वीरेन्द्र ने कहा कि हमें अपने घर-परिवार से ही जेंडर

समानता को प्रोत्साहित करने का प्रयास करना होगा। विशेषकर माता-पिता एवं अभिभावकों को अपने लड़के-लड़की के प्रति समान व्यवहार अपनाना होगा। सरपंच बबीता देवी ने भी समाज में व्याप्त घरेलू हिंसा को समाप्त करने के लिए सभी के योगदान जरूरी है। इस अवसर पर ढिबरा की महिला बैंड को भी सम्मानित किया गया। सहयोगी संस्था पटना के विभिन्न गांवों-बस्तियों में घरेलू हिंसा एवं जेंडर आधारित हिंसा को समाप्त करने के लिए ठोस रणनीति के तहत अलग-अलग तरह के कार्यक्रम का आयोजन करती है, मौके पर रजनी, उन्नति रानी, धर्मेन्द्र कुमार सिंह, सेशन राजू पाल के साथ कई लोग मौजूद थे।



## 'बढ़ती महिलाएं खिलते बाग' थीम के साथ उमड़ते सौ करोड़ अभियान का हुआ आयोजन

**पटना/मनेर** इस उमड़ते सौ करोड़ अभियान के अंतर्गत आज 14 फरवरी, 2021 को हरियाणवांच पंचायत मनेर, बसपुर, पटना में सशोरी संस्था के द्वारा उमड़ते सौ करोड़ अभियान कार्यक्रम का आयोजन किया गया। अर्धशताब्दी कार्यक्रम में सहायक कार्यकर्ताओं, पंचायत प्रतिनिधियों, महिलाओं, किसानों के द्वारा महिला विभा एवं शोषण के विरुद्ध आवाज बुलंद किया। इस अवसर पर महिला विभा को सफल करने के साथसाथ धरती पर पंचायत को सुदृढ़-संश्लिष्ट रखने का आह्वान किया गया। इस अवसर पर कुल 170 प्रतिनिधियों ने भाग लिया। विभिन्न बुनियादी ढांचे का समर्थन करती है महिलाएं। उमड़ते सौ करोड़ अभियान के अंतर्गत सशोरी संस्था के द्वारा सशोरी संस्था के द्वारा उमड़ते सौ करोड़ अभियान कार्यक्रम का आयोजन किया गया। अर्धशताब्दी कार्यक्रम में सहायक कार्यकर्ताओं, पंचायत प्रतिनिधियों, महिलाओं, किसानों के द्वारा महिला विभा एवं शोषण के विरुद्ध आवाज बुलंद किया। इस अवसर पर महिला विभा को सफल करने के साथसाथ धरती पर पंचायत को सुदृढ़-संश्लिष्ट रखने का आह्वान किया गया। इस अवसर पर कुल 170 प्रतिनिधियों ने भाग लिया। विभिन्न बुनियादी ढांचे का समर्थन करती है महिलाएं।

इस अवसर पर सशोरी संस्था के द्वारा सशोरी संस्था के द्वारा उमड़ते सौ करोड़ अभियान कार्यक्रम का आयोजन किया गया। अर्धशताब्दी कार्यक्रम में सहायक कार्यकर्ताओं, पंचायत प्रतिनिधियों, महिलाओं, किसानों के द्वारा महिला विभा एवं शोषण के विरुद्ध आवाज बुलंद किया। इस अवसर पर महिला विभा को सफल करने के साथसाथ धरती पर पंचायत को सुदृढ़-संश्लिष्ट रखने का आह्वान किया गया। इस अवसर पर कुल 170 प्रतिनिधियों ने भाग लिया। विभिन्न बुनियादी ढांचे का समर्थन करती है महिलाएं।



कथान के माधुमि अचलक है। इसके लिए सशोरी संस्था द्वारा सशोरी संस्था के द्वारा उमड़ते सौ करोड़ अभियान कार्यक्रम का आयोजन किया गया। अर्धशताब्दी कार्यक्रम में सहायक कार्यकर्ताओं, पंचायत प्रतिनिधियों, महिलाओं, किसानों के द्वारा महिला विभा एवं शोषण के विरुद्ध आवाज बुलंद किया। इस अवसर पर महिला विभा को सफल करने के साथसाथ धरती पर पंचायत को सुदृढ़-संश्लिष्ट रखने का आह्वान किया गया। इस अवसर पर कुल 170 प्रतिनिधियों ने भाग लिया। विभिन्न बुनियादी ढांचे का समर्थन करती है महिलाएं।

एवं शोषण के विरुद्ध आवाज बुलंद किया। इस अवसर पर महिला विभा को सफल करने के साथसाथ धरती पर पंचायत को सुदृढ़-संश्लिष्ट रखने का आह्वान किया गया। इस अवसर पर कुल 170 प्रतिनिधियों ने भाग लिया। विभिन्न बुनियादी ढांचे का समर्थन करती है महिलाएं।



# निर्भया घटना की बरसी पर चलाया सुरक्षा मेरा हक...कोई शक अभियान महिलाएं बोली- हमें चाहिए आजादी, रात में भी बिना खौफ के बाहर आने-जाने की

मिस्ट्री रिपोर्टर, घटना

सुरक्षा मेरा हक, कोई शक? हमें चाहिए आजादी, रात में भी बिना किसी खौफ के बाहर आने-जाने की। पुरुष को समझना है.. महिलाओं को साथ लाना है। कुछ ऐसे ही स्लोगन के माध्यम से करीब 300 से अधिक लोगों ने अलग-अलग गांव, बस्ती और मोहल्ले से 'महिला सुरक्षा की मांग' अभियान को अपना समर्थन दिया। दरअसल, बुधवार को दिल्ली में हुई निर्भया घटना की बरसी थी, जिसे लेकर सहयोगी संस्था ने महिला सुरक्षा की मांग को लेकर एक अभियान चलाया। इस अभियान के जरिए गांवों से महिलाओं और किशोरियों ने बैनर, सेल्फी व संदेश के जरिए महिला सुरक्षा के विभिन्न सवाल पर अपनी आवाज बुलंद की। सभी ने गांव हो या शहर, चौपाल हो या उगर, रात हो या दिन, भीड़ भी सड़कें हो या सुनसान रास्ता, एक महिला कहीं भी बेखौफ आ जा सके की मांग रखी। इन किशोरियों का कहना था कि निर्भया कांड के आठ वर्ष बाद भी यह कहना मुश्किल है कि वैसी घटना दोहराई नहीं जा सकती।

300 से अधिक ने 'महिला सुरक्षा की मांग' अभियान को दिया अपना समर्थन



## महिलाओं के प्रति हो रहे भेदभाव और हिंसा पर लगे लगाम

'महिला सुरक्षा की मांग' अभियान को अपना समर्थन दे रही किशोरियों व महिलाओं का कहना है कि सरकार की ओर से निर्भया घटना के बाद लड़कियों-महिलाओं को सुरक्षित करने के उद्देश्य से बनाया गया 'निर्भया कोष' में उपलब्ध राशि का अभी भी सही से उपयोग नहीं हो सका है। जरूरत है कि महिलाओं के प्रति हो रहे भेदभाव व हिंसा जैसे विषयों को लेकर सभी लोगों के

बीच जागरूकता लाई जाए। साथ ही इसे रोकने की पूरी कोशिश की जाए। राजु पाल ने कहा कि जेंडर के आधार पर होने वाली हिंसा किसी भी समाज में असवीकार्य होनी चाहिए। उन्नति ने कहा कि महिलाओं के साथ हो रहे भेदभाव के बीच की प्रक्रिया में जहां परिवर्तन होना है, वह है पुरुषों का व्यवहार। इसलिए पूरी प्रक्रिया में पुरुष का शामिल होना बहुत जरूरी है।

## सुरक्षित नहीं महसूस कर रहीं किशोरियां

सहयोगी की निदेशिका राजनी कहती हैं, राष्ट्रीय परिवार स्वास्थ्य सर्वेक्षण-5 के आंकड़े महिला सशक्तिकरण की दिशा में जरूर कुछ उत्साहजनक हैं, लेकिन इसके व्यावहारिक मायने तभी होंगे, जब महिलाएं व किशोरियां खुद को सुरक्षित महसूस करें। राष्ट्रीय परिवार स्वास्थ्य सर्वेक्षण के हालिया आंकड़ों के मुताबिक पति की ओर से होने वाली हिंसा में कमी आई है, यह पांच वर्षों में 43.7 से घटकर 40% हुई है। वहीं यौन हिंसा भी 14.2 से घटकर 8.3% रह गया है। इसके बावजूद महिलाएं व किशोरियां सुरक्षित एवं आजाद नहीं महसूस कर रहीं।