

CRY had partnership with Samagra Seva since last 10 years. In this stint we had worked together to address the issue of child rights violation in Jhajha and Sadar block of Jamui district. Initially we started the project on holistic child rights framework. During this phase, the organization has built a dedicated team and was closely working with the reference groups and activating the service institutions like ICDS, schools and most importantly the local rural decentralised governance structure. Large numbers of out of school children were enrolled in the schools including the children who were engaged in workplace brought back to school. Awareness campaign, mobilizing the parents, linkages with the schools and more over building community based groups to take accountability were the significant program emphasis. Other critical success factor was formation of child protection committees in the field and building an accountable unit to look after the child protection safety net. Formation and capacity building of the children groups to empower them was an important activity. These children group members are now acting as change makers in the field. Spaces were created in the community for the children to exhibit their innovations, skills and creativity. Attempt was also made to link them with different incentives schemes launched by the state Govt so that they continue with their school education program. This phase was mostly an effort to build pro-child environment in the target community.

After few years of partnership we made a shift in our programming. To ensure in-depth programming on some specific themes, we made a strategic shift and focused on health and nutrition issues of children and women in the field area. This move was made in Pan India level based on secondary data analysis and prioritization of issues. This transference was very much reciprocating with Samagra Seva's capacity and goal alignment. Head of the organization and senior leadership team was very much skilled to take up the health and nutrition issues and more over built a good relationship with the policy makers in the district level. Therefore, our alignment was very much matured to address the issue of child survival, maternal health and nutrition. In this journey they had built a sustainable community based malnutrition management model engaging a range of stakeholders in the community. The most encouraging part in this comprehensive programming was alignment with the State and Central Govt sponsored flagship programs. A robust coordination with the outreach health workers in the operational field has been most critical success factor. Institutional strengthening in the field, inclusion of some replicable model, building capacity of the outreach workers in coordination with the state Govt had been a significant thrust. This comprehensive planning and effort of the dedicated team has made some earmarked achievements in the field of increasing immunization of the children, increasing institutional child birth, enhanced numbers of mothers who are following exclusive breast feeding and more over institutionalizing the growth monitoring of under 5 years children as per the WHO guideline. Intervention with the adolescent girls and adoption of multi layered, multi level engagement helped us to address the issue of malnutrition (Underweight and wasting forms both) under 5 years age group. Participation in district level Nutrition Exhibition has heightened their brand visibility in district level. In recent past CRY also commissioned a scoping study for further programme build up. This report is available with SAMAGRA SEVA.

Samagra Seva has built up a team with fair understanding on public health and nutrition issues and largely developed cohesion amongst the outreach workers in the field. They have also placed a MIS system in the organization to review the progress. They were also gradually developing the skill of documentation and evidence based advocacy with the state machinery. It was also shared us that SS had been also working with the Mushar children on their education issues.

As far as their organizations systems and process is concerned, we must say that senior leadership has created a democratic space in the organization where team members can share their views and opinion.

Collective decision making process has been also observed. Team members grass root level orientation, understanding of local dynamics and more over their dedication must be appreciated. We also found that, organization has created opportunity for growth of the people and took many steps to enhance their skills and technical capacities through exploring external avenues and opportunities. Team members re-shuffling issues were also noticed during this stint of partnership.

Regarding the Financial systems and norms, SS has been progressively dealing with the statutory compliance related issues (and filling up the systemic gaps). Frequent turnover of accountant in last couple of years has impacted the accounting and control systems. However, we never faced any obstacles while doing thorough financial review of overall organization's books of accounts. CRY had also conducted periodic audit of SS by internal Project Audit team as well as by external agency. Recommendations of these audit visits were positively accepted by the senior leadership and assured us to ensure measures to address the gaps areas. Therefore, we could found their readiness to improve the situation and also accepting the gaps without any hesitation or conflicting opinion. However, due to some internal reasons we withdrew our support from March 2020.