

## **Yearly Report** **(July 2017 to June 2018)**

**Coordinate work of ASHA Trust & NJSS :** This year under the project of ASHA & NJSS we have prepared and implemented our plan. Meeting with teachers and workers were organized every month. At every center like ASHA school, Self-help groups, Girls organization, we organized meetings for planning, their implementation and evaluation regularly on monthly basis. Under this, the main work was to report ASHA Chicago Chapters and accounting of whole project. The following works has been done during the period so far:

- **ASHA Samajik Vidyalaya :** At present, under ASHA Rajatlab and NJSS project, one permanent center in Nagepur village and a temporary center in Harsos village is running with a strength of 350 students. In the month of July, a new session has been started and essential arrangements like study material for students, appointment of teachers, purchasing of books and notebooks, and other school-related arrangements were made. We have prepared necessary documents and contacted Officer of Basic education to provide government affiliation for Asha social school, under the Right to Education Act. At the same time, meetings were held with children along with their parents. Teachers were given training and the celebration of school festivals were done responsibly. The school in Harsos village has been closed in the month of April as suggested by Chicago chapters.
- **Making of furniture in ASHA Samajik School (Nagepur) :** For the sitting arrangements of student wooden tables and benches has been made for which purchasing raw materials and processing them in school campus was the main responsibility.
- **Library and Computer lab for students :** From months ago, it was being planned to construct a computer lab and library for childrens in Asha social school. A new lab of 10 computers has been built using money from the general fund of ASHA for Education. Along with this, a library has also been opened for children from LKG to college, in which other than students from Asha social school, about 300 poor children from other nearby schools has become its member. Making availability of books in the library and regular communication with childrens were the major responsibilities. From time to time, training programs were organized on their education, career and other social issues.

- **Organizing the Kishori Center and summer training workshop :** At present, a total of 8 teenage centers are running, in which around 250 teenage girls above age of 14 years are learning the sewing, embroidery and getting educated. Responsibilities for operating of these centers, such as monthly meeting with the teachers of Kishori center, contacting the girls, arranging sewing machines and other important things was carried on successfully. Teenagers were also trained on leadership development twice.
- **Awareness Program on Health and Menstruation for Teenagers :** This year special awareness program was organized for the girls of the teenager centre and women from villages, on their health, especially on menstruation. In collaboration with the MUHEEM Organization, meetings, trainings and workshops were organized on the topic of menstruation at all the teenage centers and the girls were made aware. Cotton Sanitary Pads are also being made by the girls at selected centers.
- **Teenager summer training program :** Teenage summer training program was organized from 15th May to 15th June 2018, in which about 80 adolescents has participated. In the camp, training was given for computer work, handicraft, beautician, martial arts, dance, painting, scooter or bike running. The main responsibility for the operation of this camp was mine. I had responsibilities like arranging teachers, purchasing training goods and making plans with the help of everyone.
- **To conduct education and training programs for the youth :** The work is being done with the youth of eight villages, by making organizing them for their education, career, gender equality and other social issues.
- **Self Help Groups :** At present, 75 women self-help groups are running, with a strength of more than 1500 women. Every month the money from groups is being deposited and women are trading among themselves as per their need. The saving of all the groups collectively is more than twelve lakhs rupees (1.2 million). Training of group operations was given to the officers of these groups. At the same time, the upcoming plan was made by meeting with them and fellow workers from time to time. In order to empower women in these groups, training programs were organized on issues such as violence against women, women's rights, their participation in Panchayat, and also participated in various events organized by them. Preparations are also underway to create a federation of these groups.

**An annual conference of Self Help Group was organized in the month of March, in which about 1500 women participated.**

- **Sakhi Chaupal House started:** Sakhi Chaupal House has been started this year at Lok Samiti Ashram Nagepur. At this center programs like meetings, seminars, workshops and training on the issues related to women's rights are being organized.
- **Organizing Balika Mahotsav:** Kishori Balika Mahotsav was organized in eight villages where the Kishori sewing centers are being run, in which from the preparations of the event to organize them was the main responsibility. Girls got good leadership development and confidence in this program compared to the last year.
- **Organizing a without Dowry Group Wedding :** On 10th May 2018, a dowry free mass wedding was organized, in which 51 married couples got married. I was highly engaged in this work more than a month. The crowdfunding of around 18 lakh get collected in the form of marriage related goods, food grains and some cash, and I took over the main responsibility of the entire program. The marriage ceremony was completed with the help of people, in which around ten thousand people had lunch and each newly married couple were provided gifts like bicycle, sewing machine, TV, fan, bed, quilts, utensils, clothes and other household items. This year, there was a significant success in inter-caste marriage of two couples.
- **Anti-Coca-Cola Movement :** For the last 12 years, the movement has been going on for the demand of bringing down groundwater exploitation and the pollution against the Coca-Cola factory located in the MehdiGanj village of Varanasi district. Last year, the movement got historic success and on June 6, 2014, the Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board ordered the closure of the factory of Coca Cola. The Coca-Cola Company then appealed against this order in the National Green Tribunal but they completely shut down the new plant made by Coca-Cola with a cost of 235 crores. Also, the debate is still going on the issue of the old plant. Last year, the demand for closure of the company, by preparing comprehensive reports and complaint letter, was sent to the government. In relation to which there has been demand for information by introducing an RTI from several departments. A number of protests and mass movement has been organized with the help of nearby farmers and people agitated by the company.

- **Participation in the programs of Sajha Sankriti Manch :** There is a common platform for about 65 self-help groups and organizations in Banaras district known as Sajha Sanskriti Manch. Various events were organized from time to time by the forum such as Protests against government and administration on issues of rights to education, corruption, human rights and violence against women in the form of street plays, education meetings, seminars were organized, in which I always ensured my active participation.
- **Participation in the Indo-Pak Peace program :** The 300 KM pedestrian journey from the Sabarmati Ashram (Ahmedabad) to Pakistan Border Nalawat (June 15 to June 30) under the leadership of Raman Magsaysay Award winner Dr. Sandeep Pandey by National Coordination of Public Movements for India-Pakistan Friendship (NAPM) was organized, in which there was my highly active participation.

### **Other programs organized by Lok Samiti :**

**Organizing Lok Panchayat for problem solving :** In villages there are fight cum quarrels on small issues like family disputes, marriage disputes, land disputes, etc., on which unnecessary expenses are spent in the police and court. Here, we have taken this initiative that if there is any such problem, then we try to resolve the issue by talking with both parties collectively and onwards resolved through the panchayat by interacting with both sides. In a week, at least two to three such cases appears in which we have to take the initiative.

**Organizing health inspection camps :** A health inspection camp was organized in Asha Ashram (Nagaepur) and in different villages with the help of Shah Hospital, Aghor Foundation and District Health Center (Araaji Line Block) of Doctors Chambers (Rajatlab), in which children, women and unhealthy people were examined, get proper health advises and free distribution of essential medicines was ensured.

**Environmental protection and plantation programs:** In the monsoon session environment protection mass awareness rally was organized and plantation was done from village to village, by the childrens of the school, the girls of the Kishori organization and women in the organization. Over one thousand trees were planted throughout the monsoon session.

### **Some important plans for upcoming year :**

- **Coordinating the work of ASHA Rajatlab, Lok Samiti & NJSS**
- **Working on qualitative education with the children of ASHA Rajatlab School**
- **Organizing the library efficiently and connect more youth with it**
- **Working on Gender equality through groups of teenage girls and boys**
- **To make federation of women (members of women self-help groups)**
- **Starting some Employment programme for women of self-help groups**
- **Organizing without dowry mass marriage program**
- **Participating in programmes of Sajha Sanskriti Manch and NAPM**
- **Participating in programmes organized by ASHA India**
- **To work for environment protection**
- **Working on menstruation and health of adolescent girls and women.**

**Reporter**

**Nandlal Master**

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