

Annual Report

Asha Rajatalab NJSS & Lok Samiti (April 2019 To March 2020)

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

1. **ASHA Samajik Vidyalaya (ASV):** *At present, under ASHA Rajatlab and NJSS project, one permanent center in Nagepur village is running with a strength of 205 students (Last year count was 195). In the month of April'19, 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. This year the "Asha Social School" has been registered officially with Government affiliation under the Right to Education Act. We have started the next level class also from this year i.e. class 6th onwards. Teachers were given training and the celebration of school festivals were done responsibly. Following steps has been taken this year –*
 - In the New Session of School (April'19) – in Preschool (LKG) 80 Students & in Class 6 -18 Students has taken Admission.
 - We have also started teaching practice through Computer classes & kids play.
 - We have also formalized the dress code policy after discussing with the parents also & now all students are wearing School dress only.
 - we have changed the govt Syllabus School Books now.
 - Various School Functions has been celebrated like Independence Day, Republic Day, Gandhi Jayanti, Children's Day and other religious & Social events.
 - Regular knowledge session & debates is being organized for students on Various topics like Gender issues, Human rights, Child rights, Domestic Violence & other Social Issues .
2. **Asha Library for students:** In the currently running Library of Asha School Children from LKG to college & about 250 poor children from other nearby schools are also members. Making availability of books in the library and regular communication with children were the major responsibilities. From

time to time, training programs were organized on their education, career and other social issues. Highlighting few major achievements below here –

- Three Students studying from this Library has been selected in the Government Jobs.
 - R & R Program has been held for the student qualifying in the 10th & 12th class Exam with Good Score.
 - Painting Competition was also organized for Asha School Student & Good Paintings were rewarded also.
3. **Kishori Sewing Center & Training Program:** At present, a total of 9 Sewing & Vocational training centers are running, in which around 189 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. Highlighting few major points below here
- Various Trainings on Self-defence, Health, Domestic Violence, Girls rights & Empowerments were also given, which is now helping & leading the girls to express their Viewpoint's clearly on their issues in more open way & also standing against the miss treatment done with them
 - At present 40 girls who were provided training from Asha Vocation training Schools are now running their own Sewing centers making them Self dependent
 - Celebration of “Balika Mahotsav” was organized at all these 9 Centers where mass meetings & Debate, Cultural program & Rally was also organized on girls' rights, Domestic Violence & drug addictions & other issues.
 - These Girls from Various Centers were also made to visit the nearest Police station where they have been educated on various helpline numbers & their Constitutional rights by Local Police In charge.
4. **Awareness Program on Health and Menstruation for Teenagers:** This year again awareness program was organized for the girls of the teenager centre and women from villages, on their health, especially on menstruation. Various 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.
5. **Teenager Summer Training Program:** Teenage summer training program was organized from 15th May to 15th June 2019, in which about 81 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.

6. **To Conduct Education & Training Programs For the Youth:** The work is being done with the youth of six villages, by discussing with them for their education, career, gender equality and unprotected Pregnancy , Domestic Violence & other issues , A significant improvements can be seen in these youth in respect to the above mentioned topics
7. **Self Help Groups:** At present, 81 women self-help groups are running, with a strength of more than 2000 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 close to fifteen lakh rupees (1.5 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 participated in various events organized by them.
8. **A Dowry Free Group Wedding:** This Particular program got cancelled this year due to National Election happening in India, Due to which the permission to hold the Event was not received.
9. **Anti-Coca-Cola Movement:** For the last 15 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.
10. **Participation in the programs of Sajha Sankriti Manch & NAPM:** There is a common platform for about 65 Social 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.

11.Educational Tour Program: In the Month of February a Educational tour program was organized for the Students of ASV & Kishori Sewing Centre girls where they were made to visit Sarnath Temple, St. Mary's Church & Govt. Handicraft Museum.

12.Participations in Asha US Conference & Visiting Other Asha US Chapters: In the month of June & July 2019, I have visited Asha Chicago, New York, Boston, Atlanta & Austin. Some other org. visit was also done like AID, Corporate Accountability International groups, I have also visited Various historical & famous Tourist places in the USA. This visit was very Knowledge enriching & was very blissful time spent there.

13.Covid-19 Relief Work: We have Appealed for Crowd Funding through which we have provided reliefs by distributing various Essential items during this Covid 19 epidemic situation , Till now we have distributed total 3100 Parcels to 3100 poor Families here , these Essential packets are consisting of daily use dry items like Flour , Rice , pulses , Biscuits , Nankeens , Bath Soaps & Vegetables .We have also distributed food packets & waters to the migrant workers coming from Various cities , a total of 9200 Food Packets is distributed till now (A detailed reports will be forwarded separately)

Other programs organized by Lok Samiti & Asha RajaTalab:

- ❖ **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 appear 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 Govt & Pvt Hospitals .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 children of the school, the girls of the Kishori organization and women in the organization. Over Two thousand trees were planted throughout the monsoon session.
- ❖ **Work with Shadhika Group:** Lok Samiti & three others NGO's collaborated with Shadhika groups on issues like Domestic Violence & gender-based Violence & have been raising awareness since July 2019 in 3 village name Nagepur, Benipur & Ganeshpur.

Some important plans for upcoming year:

- Covid 19 Relief program will continue as needed
- Daily wages worker & Migrant Workers Union will be created & the unions will help them to get workers' right/full work
- Identify people who need Ration Cards and help them to get ones
- 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
- Starting some Employment programme for women of self-help groups
- 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

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