

Annual Report July 2015 to June 2016

Coordination of ASHA Rajatalab and NJSS:

As in the previous year, this year's work was also planned and all the responsibilities of ASHA Rajatalab and NJSS project were fulfilled. Monthly meetings were conducted with teachers and staff for all programs like Social School, Adolescent Girls Center and the SHGs, evaluation of work was done and further plans were made. Reports for ASHA Chicago were prepared and accounting of the whole project was done.

ASHA Social School:

There are two permanent centers under ASHA Rajatalab and NJSS project – one in Nagepur and the other in Harsos village along with the other non-formal education centers. In all there were 500 children enrolled in the new session in July. Materials were arranged for the students and teachers for the new session such as stationary, books and other teaching aids. The District Primary Education Officer was approached and study materials for the primary level children were requested of him, which was given free of cost. Arrangements were made for the class 5 students to appear for the government board exams. The Education Officer was approached for getting government approval for ASHA Social School, Nagepur. The necessary documents were produced. Children and parents' meeting was also conducted. Training program for teachers was also organized. All school celebrations were conducted timely. Application has been moved for the approval of ASHA Social School, Nagepur upto Class 8. We hope to get this approval in this year.

Adolescent Girls Center and Summer Training:

This year 04 new centers were opened. In all, at present there are 08 training centers and 200 adolescent girls of 14 years and above are being trained in stitching and embroidery along with their regular educational curriculum. Regular meetings were conducted in order to ensure proper functioning of these centers. Materials needed such as sewing machines and other requirements were made available. Two trainings on leadership development skills were conducted.

Adolescent Girls Summer Training:

This year this training was organized from 20th May to 15th June in which 75 girls participated. The girls learned Computer skills, handicrafts making, beautician course, dance, martial arts, painting and other skills in this camp. I took the responsibility of conducting the program. I made plans with the others and made arrangements for necessary things.

Coordination of Chance India Program:

30 children under this program were helped in admission in different schools. All the necessary things for studies were made available to these children. I was responsible for the accounting work, to contact the supporters of this program and kept them informed about all programs and progress.

Training and Education Program for other children with Chance India:

All Chance India children are going ahead with their studies in different schools. A need for a dialogue with the students was felt so that they may have an understanding of the present social issues. With this in mind, I have been conducting classes on Sundays and other public holidays with these children. Along with the present social issues, their personal problems are also being discussed and they are learning how to come to solutions.

In one instance, in a village there were certain men gambling and quarreling every day. The adolescent girls formed a pressure group and stood against this problem. Soon the gambling stopped. Likewise children in Benipur and Nagepur villages make teams on Sundays and do cleaning work in public places such as roads and market areas. Jagdish and Ashish from Chance India are coaching the adolescent girls in Computer in the summer camp. Pooja, Radhika and Rekha are teaching dance to these girls. Krishna is teaching other children of his village in the evenings.

Planting of trees for environment preservation:

In the month of August, the girls of Adolescent Center, children of Chance India and the women of SHGs collected Rs. 10 per family in the villages and shade and fruit plants were given to 300 families to sow. These plants were given in the responsibilities of these families.

Self Help Groups:

In the previous year we had decided to form a federation of all the SHGs and also to open a Women's Savings Bank. Presently there are 60 SHGs and 1000 women are members. These women are depositing a fixed amount on monthly basis and loan is given to the women in need, from this amount. Since SHGs are new in their formation, the Federation has not yet begun. The women are learning and understanding accounts at this time. Plans have been made with the staff and trainings were conducted for the SHG office bearers so they can efficiently manage their work. The SHG women were given trainings on issues such as violence against women, women's rights, role of women in the panchayats. I participated in all the yearly activities of these groups. The formation of a Federation with these SHGs in the coming years is proposed.

The starting of ASHA Reading Room and Library:

A reading room and a library has been made for ASHA Social School children, other children and women of the village. This library has books for students from Nursery to M.A. classes. At present there are 270 members who regularly come to the library. There are other books too such as social, religious, historical, entertainment etc. for people to come and benefit by them.

The starting of OUR seed bank:

ASHA Center, Rajatalab has a collection of indigenous, Indian seeds. This bank has seeds of Indian vegetables, pulses and other crops. This bank is run by women farmers and 200 women farmers are linked. They can exchange seeds here. The bank has a help coming from Dehradun.

Collective Marriage program free of dowry:

This year, on 10th May dowry free collective marriage program was organized in which 136 poor couples were married. I was engaged for more than a month to materialize this program, collected materials, cash and grains amounting to INR 35,00,000 from the people. I was responsible for the whole program. The expenses of the marriage program were met by donations from the people. 10,000 people participated and took part in the feast. Every couple was given a bicycle, sewing machine, T.V., fan, bed and bedding, kitchen ware, clothes and other household items as gift.

Protest against Coca Cola:

A protest against Coca Cola plant in Mehendiganj village, Varanasi is in progress since the past 12 years. This plant has been responsible for depletion of water table and environment pollution in the area. The local inhabitants and farmers have joined had in the protest. A detailed survey report along with the complain has been submitted to the government.

Participation in Sajha Sanskriti Manch Programs:

There is a collective platform of 65 social organizations called Sajha Sanskriti Manch. Many programs have been conducted under this banner in respect to human rights, violence against women and issues related to common man. Protests in various forms have been organized to draw the attention of the government and administration on important issues and I have taken active part in them.

Other programs conducted by Lok Samiti:**Organising peoples panchayat for dispute settlement:**

There are many kinds of dispute occurring in the villages such as in families, between spouses and related to land. People waste their time and money in courts and police for their disputes settlement. In many such cases we intervene and arrange for a dialogue between the two parties in the presence of other local people, thus helping in the settlement of the dispute.

Panchayat elections and voters awareness program:

Panchayat elections of Uttar Pradesh province were held this year in the month of September. During these elections in every village we can see factions based on caste, religion, class etc. which generate animosity. To address such problems, voters' awareness programs were conducted. By street plays and pamphlets distribution and other means the rural folk were made aware. Government policies and schemes related to them were told. After the results declaration of panchayat elections of Arazilines block, welcome and commemoration program for the newly elected village pradhans i.e. head and members of the village committee was organized. In the villages where we directly work, such programs were held by the village people.

Health Training Camp:

A health training camp was held at ASHA Ashram, Nagepur with the support of Doctors' Chamber, Rajatalab. Medical checkup of 200 children, women and sick was done and prescribed medicines were distributed to them free of cost. Another health camp was held at Adolescent Girls Stitching Center, Benipur with the help of Ananta Hospital, Rohania. 400 people benefited from this camp.

Participation in T.V. Show “Aaj ki raat hai zindagi” hosted by Mr. Amitabh Bachhan:

A T.V. program “Aaj ki raat hai zindagi” is being hosted by Mr. Amitabh Bachhan- the Indian movies star on STAR Plus T.V. channel. In this program, individuals from all over in the social field are called and honored. I was also selected for this program and my interview was broadcasted on 10th January. The social work done by me is also being published in the local news papers.

Nagepur village adopted by Prime Minister of India:

Nagepur is the village where ASHA center is located and it is that the education program is being conducted since 1994. Now this village has been selected as ideal village by Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi. After this selection, the development of this village has taken pace and the programs of ASHA Center have been highlighted. I am a part of the vigilance committee that oversees the development work done in this village.

Main programs in the forthcoming years:

- Coordination work of ASHA Rajatalab, Lok Samiti and NJSS
- Coordination of Chance India Program
- Formation of Federation of SHG women
- Systematize library and reading room
- Systematize OUR seed bank
- Collective marriage program
- Participate Sajha Sanskriti Manch and NAPM programs
- Participate in other programs of ASHA India
- Organise a peoples awareness program on food security act
- Formation of Women Police friend platform
- Formation of union of adolescent girls
- Work on environment protection, afforestation
- Open two new stitching centers

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