

# Fellowship: Nandlal Master Updates for Jan-June 2009

July 2009

# Bihar Flood Relief Work – Jan 2009

- Team of 5 people went to Bihar for a week to help with the relief work – Nandal Master, Sulekha, Urmila, Kallu and Mahendra
  - Helped with cleaning in the relief camps
  - Helped in distribution of food in the camps
  - Started a balwadi for about 80 children in the camps. Within a couple of days got the SSA to adopt the balwadi. They supported teachers and materials.
  - Helped with providing medical aid



Cleaning in and around the relief camps



Distribution of food at the camps



Creating food bags for distribution, using some of the relief money sanctioned by Asha



A Balwadi was started for the children in the relief camps



Medical aid being administered to people



Using disinfectants to clean up places around the relief camps

# Seminar on Challenges of Water Shortage and its Solutions

22<sup>nd</sup> Feb 2009

- Speaker for this event was Sri. Sundar Lal Bahuguna, noted environmentalist and activist, famous for his work with the Chipko Andolan. Received the Padma Vibhushan
- Trees are directly tied to water, and an effort needs to be made to plant more and more trees. The sarpanch should try to do more tree-planting and pond construction under NREGA
- He denounced the exploitation of groundwater by Coca-Cola in Mehdiganj and called for action by the govt.

Sri Sunderlal Bahuguna  
speaking about water issues



Many different groups and  
representatives were present  
for the seminar





BDO, Sarpanch and Sri Bahuguna planting a tree at the block level office

# World Water Day

## March 2009

- World Water Day was celebrated on March 22<sup>nd</sup> 2009
- Create awareness about water issues
- The villagers along with the children participated in a rally through the neighboring villages



Villagers and children participating in a rally on  
World Water Day – 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2009

# NREGA Progress Report - Feb 2009

- Lok Samiti is working towards the proper implementation of the NREGA scheme to make sure people get atleast 100 days of work – in Arajiline Block and Vidyapeeth Block
- In Arajiline Block it is working with 10 gram panchayats and a lot of work is getting done because of help from the BDO
- Many people have gotten work for 100 days and they are being a minimum wage of Rs 100/day
- In some of the panchayats, a lack of money has caused the work to come to a standstill.

# NREGA Progress Report - Nagepur

- Workers worked on creating many roads (mud-roads) in Nagepur
- Upto now about 180 families have received work
- About 25 families have received 100 days of work, and about 50 families have received more than 50 days of work and new job-card holders are also receiving work
- A success is that here women are also getting equal opportunity to work
- Village sarpanch – Mukesh was recognized for his work and invited to Delhi for a meeting on NREGA
- Work totalling Rs. 750,000 has been done and payments have been made for Rs. 450,000

Workers working on a  
mud road in Nagepur



# NREGA Progress Report - Nagepur

- On 13<sup>th</sup> Jan, 2009 Magsaysay recipient Rajendra Singh inaugurated the construction of a community pond which should cost about Rs 123,000.
- 504 man days of work has already been done on the tank but there is no money to be paid to the laborers, so the work has stalled.
- There is still work to be done on another tank – repair and revival of an old tank which would cost about Rs. 300,000

# NREGA Progress Report - Mehdiganj

- Upto now about 350 families have received job cards
- 275 families have received work of which about 37 have received 100 days of work, 50 families have received 50 days of work
- Work totalling Rs. 900,000 has been done and Rs 600,000 has been disbursed. More money needs to come from the central government
- Women, dalits and musahar communities are receiving work



Workers working on a tank construction in Mehdiganj

# NREGA Progress Report - Mehdiganj

- As part of the work – a 90 x 90 meter tank is being constructed, which should cost about Rs. 687,000. 230 workers work at a time on this project. In 16 days 3680 human days of work has already been done. But work has stopped because the money has not come
- There are many proposals with the gram panchayat for the construction of more tanks and ponds

# NREGA Progress Report

- NREGA activities are also being tracked in the following villages - Dholapur, Kullipur, Harsos, Dunhariya, Jalalpur, Jansa, Ganeshpur
- Lok Samiti had published a report on NREGA in Oct 2008, which was covered by the media. The BDO and DM were appreciative of Lok Samiti's efforts and they have been working together with the govt. The Additional Commissioner met up with the volunteers and asked them to adopt the 10 villages.
- In previous survey people had on an average received 2.5 days in 6 months, but in the latest survey people have received about 50 days of work in the last 6 months, in the areas in which Lok Samiti is working

# Community Marriage Program

## 10<sup>th</sup> May 2009

- Lok Samiti organized a community marriage for 32 couples on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2009
- This is mainly for very poor families and for people from socially marginalized groups – musahar, dalit, rajbhar.
- This is the third year of the program and in the past 22 and 28 couples were married through this program
- Another message is to provide an alternative to expensive marriages and to move away from the practice of dowry





# Community Marriage Program

- Lok Samiti volunteers collected about Rs 260,000 in contributions – cash, grains, clothes, bicycles, etc for this event
- The couple are given so many gifts like – sewing machine, bicycle, clothes, utensils, and other things which would be useful in a house
- The event was attended by a local MLA, the BDO and about 3500 people







# Summer Camp – Kishori Kendras

## May-June 2009

- 63 girls from different villages participated in the summer camp from 15<sup>th</sup> May to 14<sup>th</sup> June
- Few of these girls go to school, and the rest either stay at home or they attend the Kishori Kendras run by Lok Samiti
- Courses taught during the training -
  - Painting, sewing, embroidery, dancing, computer skills, handicrafts, beautician-training, candle making, papad-making, etc



**Sewing**



**Papad-making**



06/08/2009 14:55



06/09/2009 12:24

**Computer Training**



06/09/2009 12:19

**Handicrafts**

# Summer Camp – Kishori Kendras

- The camp was run from 9am to 3pm
- The girls learnt to make simple products from things found around the house like paper, cloth, etc
- About 20 girls participated in the computer training
- Two computers were donated through volunteers in Bangalore
- On 14<sup>th</sup> June there was a meeting organized to mark the end of camp which was attended by the girls, the villagers, the sarpanch and the BDO

# Summer Camp – Kishori Kendras

- Different things made by the girls during the camp was put on display. Many people bought items made by the girls
- All girls who participated in the camp received participation certificates from the BDO



Display of products made by the girls during camp : 51



**Girls receiving certificates from the BDO**