

# REPORT

## PROJECT:

## RE-CONSTRUCTION OF 'CENTRE FOR EMPOWERMENT'

DISTRICT, STATE, COUNTRY: **SOUTH 24 PARGANAS, WEST BENGAL, INDIA**

**Project duration:** - 3 months (January 2014 to March 2014)

**Donor** : - Asha For Education

<i>Organisation name:</i> <b>NISHTHA</b>	<i>Reporting Period:</i> <b>January 2014 – March 2014</b>
<i>Report prepared by:</i> <b>Mina Das, Secretary</b>	<i>Title:</i> <b>Re-construction of 'Centre for Empowerment'</b>

## PROGRESS TOWARDS OVERALL AIM OF THE PROJECT

- The project had aimed to re-construction of the Centre for Empowerment which was severely damaged by the torrential rain and flood.
- There has been enormous damage, like damage of walls, garden, training hall, residential room, drinking-water tube well, kitchen, latrine and urinals, boundary wall, garbage pits, etc., including damage of the land, the costly guava orchard, etc. The neediest ones were prioritized. For example, repair the walls, raise the completely damaged floors and repair, increase the height of the roof and re-construct the same.
- All the trainings of direct beneficiaries of Asha- Jagaran project were being conducted in this training centre. In addition to these 200 girl children, the capacity building and other trainings of their parents and more than 650 community people are held here. The skill building trainings are also conducted here. The children of night shelter are also coming here to attend training and other purposes. Besides, a Day Care Centre is also run here for 100 most deprived and vulnerable girl children. The project aimed to reconstruction work and take up other related works in such a way so that the building is not damaged in future floods and water stagnation or water logging do not lead to any problem or difficulty.
- The works were carried out as per plan. The project work was started in January 2014 and major work completed in March 2014. However, some earth filling of the pond at the centre and little other works could not be completed within March 2014.

## **PROGRESS OF WORK**

- i. Three rooms near the main gate each of 12'x10' and 6'x36' were constructed and floors of all the three rooms and hall were raised by 2 ft. with complete finishing.
- ii. Old room and bath room were renovated with plastering and raising floor level.
- iii. Kitchen was constructed including toilet block with GI sheet roof and tube well.
- iv. The whole front side was filled with earth so that water does not accumulate and drains out quickly. The area was raised by one ft.
- v. One 10' x 12' room was completely repaired and renovated including a veranda of 10' x 6' (including toilet) with floor, plastering and new roof.
- vi. Constructed 4' wide lane around the four sides of the new building instead of constructing a veranda as proposed. This was done because construction of two verandas would not safeguard the foundation of the new building and further this four side lanes will enable the children to easily enter into the building, go to bathrooms, ponds, gardens etc. during rains.
- vii. A 520 ft long drain was constructed from the main gate to the big pond with inside 10" and outside 20" wall.
- viii. Earth work was done in the existing pond and the sides of the pond were raised. A drain fitted with a lock gate was constructed. Further, earth filling was done from main gate to Sarada Bhavan to raise the level and then brick paving was also done and gap filled with sand & cement mixture. In front of the main gate an area of 18' x 25' was completed with full finishing so that cars, etc. can be parked there. From this area, the whole pavement of 270' x 9'6" was completed till Sarada Bhavan.
- ix. The earth filling of the pond situation at the centre of the location is in progress.
- x. One side of the boundary wall (180' length and 8' height) nearest to the pond was repaired including inside plastering.

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## **MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS**

- The roads have been raised and the roads will now not be inundated unless severe flood takes place.
- The floor of the residential staff room has been raised above the level where the flood water was raised.
- Bathroom and kitchens have been constructed so that they do not face any further difficulties.
- The boundary wall which had collapsed had been plastered and the wall will not collapse in the near future.
- A drain has been constructed which will carry the water of the whole campus to the big pond. A lock gate has been fitted in the drain so that in case of heavy rainfall, excess water can be drained out through this lock gate.
- The situation of the whole Sarada Bhavan is now safe in many respects.

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## CHANGES TO PLANNED ACTIVITIES

The building was under water and for nearly four month and water receded very slowly, the infrastructure, demonstration plots, etc., were totally damaged, shattering all training and other programme of Nishtha. Hence, it was imperative to take up different re-construction work. Hence, with support from ASHA for Education, USA, the project took up the re-construction work. Although all activities were as per plan, there had been little changes, for example, while constructing the drain from the main gate to the big pond, the total length of the constructed drain has become 520 ft. in place of original plan of 500 ft.

Nishtha had constructed 4' wide lane around the four sides of the new building instead of constructing a veranda as originally proposed. This was done because construction of two verandas would not safeguard the foundation of the new building and further this four side lanes will enable the children to easily enter into the building, go to bathrooms, ponds, gardens etc. during rains.

Thirdly, earth filling was done from main gate to Sarada Bhavan and the level was raised. Then brick paving was done all through the road. This work was not there in the original plan, but as the budget permitted, Nishtha decided and took up the work.

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## CHALLENGES

The original plan was to start the work in October 2013, but unfortunately, the work could not be started in October because the water did not recede by this time and the project had to wait. Ultimately the construction work started receding in November and continued till January 2014. Even at the time of starting the work in January, water was still there. Under the circumstances, the work could not be started before January 2004 and hence the major work could only be completed in March 2014 and some little work spilled over.

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## LESSONS LEARNED AND ADJUSTMENTS TO PROJECT

It has been a great learning for the project. The Project has learnt that in these low lying areas, special attention should be given to all constructions. Being low lying area, it is a regular phenomenon that the area suffers from flooding and remains water logged for months together adversely affecting all work and activities. Hence, it is necessary that the level of the land should be high and if not already high, it should be raised by earth filling. The roads and lanes should be enough high and drains should be properly constructed and kept clear so that those drains water quickly.

Further, in any building the ground floor level should be raised enough so that the same does not go under water. Plinth areas should be raised to a safe level and then the ground floor should be constructed.

Alternatively, no construction should be done in the ground floor of extremely low lying areas and the same should be left constructing foundation and raising posts for the first floor only. The main construction should start from the first floor. Thus, all work will continue smoothly and heavy rainfall, flood or water stagnation will not pose any threat to programme activities. This will be more cost effective too.

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**Pictures Taken During the Execution:**















