Project: Holistic Rural Development Program (HDFC Bank)

Awareness meeting regarding various Government Schemes

Today, with a multitude of information sources available, ranging from the modern (mobiles, audiovisual, Internet) to the traditional (street plays, wall paintings, puppet shows), the challenge is not a mere lack of awareness but of confidence. Confidence in believing the message, confidence in accepting government programmes, confidence in reform policies, and confidence in the governance provided by our political leaders. Other reasons such as quality, access barriers, leakages and, most importantly, trustworthiness of such services are ignored. This is the reason most campaigns fail or result in a backlash. The main purpose of these meetings to ensure access on govt. schemes and enhance accessibility on it. 38 Awareness meetings covered to Sukanaya Samaridhi Yozana, Atal pension Scheme, Pradhanmantri jivan suraksha yojana, Sawacha Bharat Campaign were organized on June 17 where 20 villages covered from five blocks (Cholapu, Harahua, Pindra, Kashi Vidyapith, Arajiline.

Community Sensitization Meeting for promoting education

On 18–26 June, 17,20 meetings on promoting education was organized in 20 villages To promote education and to highlight its added value for the education systems, for learners and for societies in general across the village. The campaign will also aim to fight negative attitudes, stereotypes and prejudices (of the general public and of professional communities) that hamper intercultural dialogue and inclusive approaches in education. For the education community, the message will also be conveyed that not only can they promote education, but they must do it by highlighting its added value for the education systems, for learners and for societies in general. The participants also agreed that: Building on existing experiences, increased efforts have to be made to improve monitoring and evaluation of development education and awareness raising activities in order to systematically enhance their overall relevance, efficiency and effectiveness.

To empower women by formulation of women collectives known as SHG

On 3-30 2017, 57 meetings for formation of women collectives is organized in 20 villages. In this meeting covered key points of the discussion are as follows-

- Sensitization of women for the need of SHG and its relevance in their empowerment.
- To mobilize the resources of the individual members for their collective for economic development.
- To uplift the living conditions of the impoverished.
- To create a habit of savings, utilization of local resources.
- To identify the need of training for skill development.
- To facilitate collective wisdom in organizing and managing their own finance and distributing the benefits among themselves.
- To create group feeling among women and enhance the confidence and capabilities of women.
- To sensitize the women group acts as the forum for members to provide space and support to each other.
One day Kitchen Gardening Training for women

SSK organized three One day Kitchen Gardening Training at Sushwahi, Nagepur, Amarakhera Chak. Total 75 women, farmers were present in the Training. In the training it was explained that the aim of this program is to increase the saving of the household and also plan to provide an alternative livelihood option to women through vegetable cultivation in their own backyard. This is especially important in rural areas where people have limited income-earning opportunities. Kitchen gardens are also becoming an increasingly important source of food and income for poor households in rural areas. In the training the present food intake and its effect on the body was discussed. How to generate income through Kitchen Gardening. Participating families have about 2000 sq.ft. land near their house. They should have some source of water required to maintain kitchen garden. The beneficiary must be willing to participate in training, learn and adopt the new practices.

Monthly Cluster level Meeting with Youth Core Group-

On 5 June,17 monthly meeting was organized, total 22 participants attended this meeting. Objective of monthly meeting was to have a discussion on the initiative taken by youth in Cholapur to stop VAW. Objective of monthly meeting is to have a discussion on formation of youth federation by youth core group to have a better linkage between community and youth core group. Discussion on the works accomplished in previous month regarding gender equality and VAW programs in the schools and discussion on the experiences regarding Complain committee formation in the schools was done.

Facilitating Sessions on Gender/VAW etc in Schools, institutions and villages by Core group

Facilitating session was organized on Gender & VAW issues on 7 June,17 at Cholapur & Tadi. KBC youth led campaign so that understand the potential of young people to engage young people in Facilitating Sessions on Gender/VAW & efforts to prevent violence against women (VAW), the facilitating session designed to raise awareness and motivate young people to take action against VAW. Through sessions, Youth revealed their practical lessons on violence prevention & Gender based discrimination.

Multi stakeholder plan- On VAW issues

Objective to draft future action plan with Various stakeholder like PRI members, Education Depart. officials, health department officials on VAW’s issues and sharing the PSA findings of 20 places in cholapur block. With this objective on 28/06/2017 block level Multi stakeholder Sharing work organized at Cholapur CHC. Dr. Arun Kumar from CHC, Mr. Kamal Singh (BRC) Mr. Ravindra Kumar Singh (Pradan Tadi-GP), Mr. Amit Kumar (Pradhan – Munari GP), HIV counselor from (CHC), 3 PRI members, 6 head from educational institutes actively participated in this workshop. Total -52 participants attended it.
**Experience Sharing Workshop with various Stakeholders**

Experience-sharing workshop was organized on 30 June in Plaza Inn Hotel. The objectives of the workshop was to: Increase awareness on Youth role on VAW issues, Exchange experiences and lessons on KBC project implementation. Enhance institutional networking and interaction with them on issues related to VAW. The workshop included a series of introductory presentations and four sets of thematic panel presentations on Journey of KBC on VAW issues, Current Status on gender discrimination, Exploring new Strategies on VAW, and Draft Relevant strategies to Stop Violence against women.

**Vegetable seeds distribution –**

On 27thJune’ 2017 SSK has distributed 271 packets of seeds among 250 families. The objective of this program to encouraged livelihood promotion and influence them about nutrition especially village women. Most of the village women are unable to consume nutritious food. Everybody needs proper diet like fruits, vegetables, grains, meat, fish, egg, nuts, grains, cereals, bread, crackers, rice and sugar etc. But poor families cannot eat proper balance diet. It has huge cost and expensive. But last two years SSK has distributed vegetable seeds like lady finger, Brinjal, pumkin, bottle guard, beans and ridger guard to promote kitchen gardening. Excess vegetable will sold by the Women in neighborhood.

**Computer training Center -**

From 1st June’ 2017 Ninth and tenth batch has started at rural computer center at Tikerper of Mahuari Gram Panchayat. 41 students (Girls and Boys) were enrolled in these two batches. Most of the students were come from Bel Bigha, Baniya Dih Barahi, Lotaniya & Mahuari Gram panchayats. During introductory class all the students were very energetic to learn about basic computer fundamental course. 47 students from seventh and eighth batch were successfully completed the two month course. They developed the understanding about the history of computer, Paint, window, MS-office, excel, power point and internet etc. The previous batch of the students was told that the computer book was very useful for them and few students were applied for front office job in Honda.

**Orientation training for ASHA worker –**

On 25th June 2017 SSK has organized one day orientation training program for ASHA worker of Hussainabad block under URMI Project. 24 ASHA workers were actively participated in this training. The objective of the training to briefed about MHM and URMI. During the training ASHA worker were understood about the menstruation problem and related diseases. During discussion with ASHA worker on menstruation they told us most of the rural women and teenage girls were used a piece of cloth on behalf of sanitary napkin pad. Because most of the available sanitary napkins were high cost and women were not access easily in village. They were not enough money to purchase the high price sanitary napkins pad. SSK has short out this problem and setup the low cost sanitary napkin pad unit at Mahuari Gram panchayat. Now in every village women and adolescent Girls will found SSK manufacturing sanitary napkin URMI at rupees ten. All the ASHA works will assure that they will promote the URMI sanitary napkin in every village.
**Sensitization meeting with school Girls –**

On 28th-29th June’ 2017 Sahbhagi Shikshan Kendra was conducted one day orientation training programme for school girls on MHM at Utkramit Madhya Vidhyalaya, Sonbarsa and Dulhar of Mahuari Gram Panchayat. 87 adolescent girls were actively participated in this training. The objective of this training was to promote URMI product and sensitized them about menstruation health and hygiene management especially to school going girls. During the training basic information on menstruation and menstruation cycle were given, what precaution should be taken during these days, use of sanitary Napkin pad and process of disposed etc. It was an open discussion with adolescent girls; they told us that they were not aware about menstruation circle. Some girls were aware about it tough. In the end of the training students were realized that this topic was very useful for each and every girl. Trainer has also demonstrated the SSK made URMI sanitary Napkin pad and his quality. Girls were asked where they will purchase the URMI sanitary Napkin Pad.

**Capacity Building training for Adolescent Group on MHM -**

On 19th May 2017 one day orientation training on MHM for adolescent Groups organized at Sahbhagi Shikshan evem vikash Prathisthan, Tikeper of Mahuari gram panchayat. Four Kisori Group members were took part in this training. 30 Adolescent girls from Juriband, tikerper, kakoriya and vishrampur village were actively participated. The purpose of this training to sensitization girls on MHM and also their experience towards URMI. During the training major topics were discussed such as- age transformation, physically change, menstruation circle, personal health and hygiene. Girls were expressing her experience of using URMI during training. They told us that URMI is a better option in comparing to use clothe at the time of menstruation. The cost of URMI is affordable than other sanitary pad which is available in market.

**Youth encouragement in sport -**

Youth cannot set their dreams in their childhood. They are more depended on their parents their career is decide by their parents. But if we look today’s situation sports has a great scope to make career in it .Parents somewhere do not encourage their children to become a sports person also they have not enough money to send their children for sports college .But SSK has always encouraged the rural youths to make a carrier in sport. Under Youth encouragement activity SSK has provided a cricket kit to eleven tiger sport club, Tikeper. In Hussainabad block they also organized sports tournaments on regular basic. State level sport coach closely observed these tournaments and selected the ideal candidate. Eleven tiger sport club, Tikeper regularly participated in the block level cricket tournament.

**Identified URMI Vikray Shakhi -**

Under the URMI project Sahbhagi Shikshan Kendra has formed different kind of Mahila and Kisori group in its intensive gram panchayat. These group members were large no. of URMI sanitary Napkin user. But question is that who will sell the URMI product in village so that women could easily access the product. After a long discussion we were indentified widow, poor, sparking women, Muslim, Dalit women for this profession. Who easily sold the URMI sanitary napkin pad door to door in their village. These women called URMI vikray shaki. Currently SSK has indentified 16 URMI vikray shaki in five Gram panchayat. All these URMI vikray shaki received URMI sanitary napkin pad from Tikerper production unit on cash or credit base. Then they go to their village and sell it door to door. Women and Girls are very happy that they have a great option rather than clothes.
As from baseline survey which was held in Nov, 2016, it was come out that 7% of the population who wish to take training on different skill development, want to learn mobile repairing. So, SSK Saharsa had been taken responsibility and discussed it with Gramin Vikas Samiti members. With the help of GVS members, 20 trainees from different-different areas were identified and selected. On April 10, 2016 inauguration of “Mobile Repairing Training” was done. Before inauguration, some of the trainees were left out, but updating was done immediately by SSK Saharsa team.

SSK, Saharsa had contact Rashtrawadi Ulma E-Hind who is involving in “to provide underprivileged women and children with an education as well as training in vocational and social skills, to support them in developing confidence and self-esteem, and help them work toward financial independence” for providing training on “Mobile Repairing” for 20 trainees in the project area. Training was ended by June 5, 2017 and certificate was distributed on June 22, 2017.

**RSDC, Nepal Visit**

Team Saharsa had visited RSDC, Nepal for two days dated on June 13 & 14, 2017 towards the activity "Exchange visit of Project Staffs". Malteser International (MI) carries out the project in collaboration with the Sahbhagi Shikshen Kendra (SSK) from India and the Rural Self-Reliance Development Centre (RSDC) from Nepal with objective “Strengthening the Resilience of Communities in the flood affected areas of Mahishi block Saharsa, India and Sunsari, Nepal”. Both partner organizations SSK and RSDC work in similar flood context in their project areas with a project approach that was jointly planned and coordinated.

The impact of flood disasters and recurrent flooding are similar in both border districts, which have similar cultural background. People in majority of these areas have developed in many innovative coping mechanism and preparedness strategies at their own level. But this strategy is restricted in border areas. It is very necessary that their innovative coping mechanism and preparedness strategies should be exchange. 11 staffs from SSK Saharsa had visited RSDC Nepal for this purpose.

RSDC formed Income Generation Group (IGG) with objective of “To saves money by IGG members and circulate it with some benefits”. They monthly deposited the minimal amount, which is decided by poorest family of the group, to IGG. If anyone failed to deposit this amount, then there was a provision of penalty of very minimal amount. The collected money of IGG is now available for loan. Only IGG members can take a lone with 1% interest rate per month. By this way, they enhance the income of IGG.

RSDC was implementing all the activities only with IGG members. In Thakurbadi, Mahendra Nagar, the number of household was approx 60, but only 27 households were in IGG. So, the left household i.e. approx 33 were missing the implemented activities.

Economically people of the project area were very poor and their livelihood was only dependent on shared agriculture and also on migration. People were migrated for some income generation. Even they move to border side of India. Farmers had no land for agriculture, so, they take land for agriculture with agreement of sharing of 50% production. Farmers of that area were shared only production of agriculture but not investment. So, all the losses during agricultural cycle were burden on farmer.

Generally, they use to live in hut houses. They use hand pump for drinking purpose. RSDC also constructed many hand pumps with bore of 35 feet (which is maximum deep for that area). They were facing all basic problems. Even their basic needs were not fulfilled. Education, health, livelihood option were the main problems of IGG. Some of the IGG members had land but land was full of sand. This type of land is not uses for agriculture. RSDC had gave them training on agriculture and taught them about the process of agriculture in sand. In this process, RSDC provide them jute bag with full of fertilizer. Farmers had put it into sandy land seedling the vegetables which was of very good quality.

**Water Container Distribution**

As per our one activity “Distribution of 1000 Water Container”, we have distributed Approx 700 water containers in this June, 2017. The main target for distribution of water container was very marginal people who have no any source to store the drinking water. People of the areas have take water direct from hand pump.

For this we have followed the following steps:

- We have done a small survey to list out the all 1000 beneficiaries
- Have done triangulation with GVS members
- Verification of triangulation by SSK Saharsa Team and GVS members
- Distribution of water container
**Kit distribution for Sewing Training**

Sewing training has been going on for March, 2017, with 163 trainees from three targeted panchayats. Venues for this training were Samani, Baghwa, Nawada, Ghonghepur, Gandol and Panchbhinda. Samani, Baghwa and Ghonghepur centres were finished the training in June, 2017. In this regards, for trainees help, distribution of sewing kit is going on. In this kit tools like bag, cloths, thread, needle, scissor, measurement tap and cloth chock etc were existing. The kits were distributed under consideration of their future aspects.

**Leadership**

Leadership is the ability to inspire or influence others towards the leader's goal. It is both a research area and a practical skill encompassing the ability of an individual or organization to "lead" or "guide" other individuals, teams, or entire organizations. Leadership means different things to different people around the world, and different things in different situations. Leaders are work in difficult and challenging circumstances. Even they worked under limited resources. They have dynamic personalities, management aptitude and skills.

SSK Saharsa had formed 12 GVS and each GVS has 3 Leaders and 12-15 members. They all are from grassroots level. Their economical status was not good. Even they are fight for their livelihood. Government has many schemes for resolving of their problems, but because of unawareness about the government benefits, they are not availing the benefits. It is also seeing that they are not able to talk with others or economically better personnel. Their hesitation level is high. To put all these in mind SSK Saharsa had organized two days training on Leadership for GVS bearer. This training was very fruitful for all participants. They learned about the leadership which is not only useful for their role and responsibility in GVS but also for betterment of their personal and social life. Work as team, decision as a team, cooperation among the team, better communication with all and take lead for any work are some key qualities of leader have feel by the GVS bearer.

Now GVS bearer understood about the importance of team for successful completion of any task. Even they have following knowledge

- How team decision is effective
- Harm of team confliction
- How to adjust with minimal available resources
- How bring confidence in team and individuals
- Usefulness of communication

**Training on Menstrual Hygiene Management**

SSK Saharsa had to organised two days training on MHM cated on June 29 & 30, 2017. Participants for this training were adolescent girls and women of Baghwa, Gandaul, Dhapari and Bahrampur. The main objective of this Training was to make them understandable about meaning of menstruation, precaution during menstruation and remove all delusion related with menstruation. Followings were some important points which were discussed with them

- Introduction of menstruation
- Importance of menstruation
- Misadventure during menstruation
- Use and disposal of sanitary pad
- Nutrition management during the period
- Useful exercise to prevent painful menstruation