

## **Annual Report 2016-2017**

As a community based organization, Sahyog aims to mobilize community efforts for the overall development of weaker and marginalized sections of society. With its team of dedicated social workers, activists and volunteers, the organization works against all forms of social, economic and political injustice and exploitation.

Year 2016 was a year of success and achievement for the organization. During this period it strengthened its organizational structure and expanded its programmes and activities in new areas. With the hard work and dedication of its social workers and volunteers and the active support received from community, the organization successfully achieved its set targets. During the period under report, the organization held following programmes and activities.

### **Counseling on Reproductive Health of Women**

Sahyog conducted a four days training programme from 4<sup>th</sup> April to 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 in Ballia (Uttar Pradesh) for women of weaker sections. Approximately 100 women from the rural areas participated in this training program. Another target group covered by the organization in this training program comprised of adolescent girls. Interactive sessions were held with the adolescent girls on personal hygiene, female sexuality and sexual abuse. Representatives from other NGOs working on these issues were also invited to participate in this training program as resource persons.

The program covered various topics such as first-aid, personal hygiene, community sanitation, prevention of diseases and treatment of various common health problems. Group discussions, debates, essay competition, exhibitions etc. were held to create health awareness. Film shows on health issues were also organized. With the help of posters and charts on health, the organization conducted counseling sessions with people in which relevant information was given to the people on various health issues. The cultural group of the organization held a street play on “safe Motherhood” on this occasion. The street play was well appreciated by the audience. At the end of the play a discussion was held on the subject.

Counseling sessions were also held with community leaders in which problems related to health were discussed. The team of medical staff supported by community health worker provided them counseling on relevant health issues. The community leaders were encouraged to take care of the community health, which sometimes is badly ignored leading to serious health problems. The organization feels that despite being educated, many local leaders have very little knowledge about preventive health care system. Quite often people take their health issues very casually and don't pay proper attention to address those problems on urgent basis. The local leaders were encouraged to take up and discuss these issues in their meetings with people at grass root level.



### **Consumer Awareness Programms**

During this year, Sahyog was actively engaged in organizing various consumer awareness programmes. Its social workers organized several group meetings in rural areas, and made people aware of their rights as a consumer and various laws enacted by the government to protect them. They explained to them the specific procedure of filing complaints in precise terms if they are let down as a customers and the delivery of goods or services has damaged their interests in any manner.



The organization held three talks on various issues related to Consumer Rights. Apart from speeches and lectures, audio-visuels on consumer's rights were also shown. Various communication aids such as posters, charts etc. were developed, procured and used for these talks. Apart from other things, the talks covered topics on rights of a consumer, what

care should be taken while buying a product, fair price shops, the role of a consumer court, consumer welfare societies, various laws related to the subject and specific measures for filing a complaint in consumer and other courts. Expert Resource Persons were also invited to speak on these subjects.

### **Cutting Tailoring Center for Women**

Sahyog is running a center of vocational training for women and adolescent girls at Ratanpur in Chhapra district of Bihar. Aimed at generating alternative employment opportunities for women, this center offers job-oriented vocational training programmes. Around 40 women are attending this center. The training being provided at the center includes cutting tailoring, embroidery and handicrafts.

After the completion of training, the organization helps women get appropriate employments. The center has given training to 160 women so far. Many among them have started their own small business, and are earning for their families. This has motivated many other women from the surrounding villages to attend this vocational training programme. Despite financial crunch, the organization is planning to start another vocational center this year.



### **Center of Non-Formal Education**

Sahyog is providing non-formal education to children in Ballia district of Uttar Pradesh. Most of these children are from weaker sections. Apart from fixed curriculum, the emphasis of teaching was on imparting the life skills and strengthening moral values among children. With the help of a play-way method, these children were taught various basic skills required to solve real problems in life.

The organization made house to house visits and contacted as many as 250 households. Most of the parents of these children are illiterate and don't understand the importance of education. Thus many parents were not inclined to send their children to school. Instead they would send their children to work in the field at an early age. The organization, through house visits and group meetings, contacted these parents and motivated them to send their children to school. The social awareness created by the organization is planning to start some new centers.



### **Programme on Environment Protection**

Sahyog has been actively engaged in creating awareness among youths on subjects related to environmental protection. The organization held a seminar on environment on 15<sup>th</sup> May in Noida. The subject of the seminar was sustainable development and the need of environment protection. People coming from all walks of the life attended the seminar.

An essay completion was also organized for school children at the end of which prizes were also distributed to the winners. Various issues related to environment degradation and the need for community participation for protection our environment were discussed and alternative strategies of development were suggested. In the evening trees were planted by school children. The programme received tremendous response from the community.



### **Organic Farming & Eco-Clubs**

The organization held an awareness camp for farmers in Chhapra district of Bihar, in which vital information was given about the importance of organic farming for better agricultural production with the minimum expenses. Around 50 farmers took part in this programme. The organization also gave training to village farmers in the use of organic manures. The organization is against the use of chemical fertilizers as they are harming the fertility of land. During the period under report, the organization held several group meetings of villagers to educate them about the problem of environment pollution. The volunteers of the organization visited several schools and motivated children to come forward to help in global efforts of saving our environment. Seven Eco-Clubs were also established. The organization has developed a large nursery for small farmers. It provides free seedlings to people for tree plantation. The idea is to promote community efforts in wasteland development.



### **National Integration Camp**

Sahyog held a camp of National Integration at Seoni (Madhya Pradesh), in which nearly around 200 people from surrounding area participated. Many topics concerning National

Integration and communal harmony were taken up. A street play on communal harmony was also held on this occasion. This programme received tremendous response from the



community. Various eminent persons from the field of media and social work were invited to speak on the subject who spoke of the need to strengthen the spirit of National Integration among youths. Sahyog wants to organize similar programs in other areas. The focus of future programs will be on the mobilization of youths for welfare and developmental works in rural areas.

### **Exhibition on Rain Water Harvesting**

Sahyog held exhibitions on Water Conservation in 5 schools of Noida to spread environment awareness among children. These exhibitions portrayed the significance of water conservation in the Indian way of life and its influence on the customs, traditions, economy and politics of the country. They also explained the role to be played by every Indian citizen in harvesting rainwater and using it to combat the menace of water scarcity.



These exhibitions provided school children the know-how to harvest rain. The aim of these exhibitions was to equip the children to take leadership in the movement to conserve water and begin the process of rebuilding a society for water literates. These exhibitions were therefore a milestone in Sahyog's campaign on Water Conservation.

Sahyog is in the process of setting up these exhibitions in slums also. Local NGO's and citizen's groups have already been identified as partners to launch the campaign to spread the message of water conservation.

## Legal Awareness Programme

Sahyog organized a three days legal awareness program on women's rights at Ballia in Uttar Pradesh. This legal awareness program was aimed at educating women and girls about their legal rights, so that they could share equal power, gain full access to the means of development and to inspire a whole generation for justice. This legal awareness program was attended by approximately 150 participants. The objective of this program was to seek justice for women, safeguard their rights, and promote women's empowerment.

The organization hopes that such legal awareness programme will bring about a significant change in the knowledge base of community and lead to appropriate action for its participation in the social movement for equal rights for women. Sahyog sought help and assistance from other NGO's professional, social workers, and women leaders at various levels in conducting this program. Besides, some basic information was also given about National Commission for women, National Human Rights Commission, National commission for SC/ST and State Commissions wherever they are functioning. Those attended this programme included Shri Radha Kant Choubey (Advocate), Shri B. L. Lal (Advocate), Shri Anoop Pandey (Advocate), Shri Arun Kumar Mishra (Advocate) and ShreSarv Dev Mishra (Journalist).

## AIDS Awareness Camps

Sahyog, during the month of August this year, has vigorously campaigned against AIDS by holding awareness camps in community. In this campaign, awareness was built on safe sexual practices and reproductive health of women. During the campaign, Dr. Neena Gupta (MBBS), Senior Gynecologist spoke on the danger of spreading HIV virus and the need to initiate community efforts against this at war footing. She addressed the gathering and highlighted other important issues related to health. On this occasion volunteers of the organization staged a street play on AIDS. This programme was very successful and received tremendous support from community.



## International Literacy Day Celebration

Sahyog organized a weeklong literacy campaign in Chhapra and Ballia districts which included poster Competitions, Drawing Competitions and slogan writing Competitions.



ON 8<sup>th</sup> September, “The Internal Literacy Day” was observed. Sahyog organized a function to honor the women social volunteers from the community who have played pivotal role in literacy campaign. A colorful cultural programme was presented on the occasion, which included Bhojpuri Fold Dance, Group songs and a play on literacy.

“Teachers’s day” was also celebrated by children of Sahyog. The day began with recitation of poem on teachers speech on significance behind celebration of teaches day. Many students presented flowers, greeting cards and chocolates to their dearest teachers.



## Social Awareness Programmes

Sahyog has been very active this year in launching campaigns for social awareness among rural masses. During the year, the organization held many awareness camps in which people were educated about the danger of AIDS,

Drug Addiction and Alcoholism. The organization also raised its voice against many other social malpractices as well such as child marriage, dowry system and female infanticides etc. Its campaign has a strong package of cultural inputs such as songs, dances and street theater. It helps us in eliciting community support at grass root level.

Dalits are still very backward. They mainly work as agricultural laborers. Most of them live in object poverty. Due to the lack of social awareness, they have been subjected in the past to the utter social neglect and exploitation. Sahyog has been creating social awareness among these people. Its volunteers organized group meetings in villages and made people aware of their basic human rights. The organization also helped them in forming their own Self-Help Groups to improve their economic status.



At the end, Sahyog would like to thank everybody who helped it in organizing various programs and activities throughout the year. Without their help and encouragement, this would not have been possible. The organization would also like to thank its dedicated and committed team of social workers and volunteers, which, despite all difficulties and problems continued to support.