

Annual Report 2017-2018

Sahyog has come a long way in the journey of working with people at grass root level. During the year 2017, the organization successfully conducted various programmes and activities aimed at improving living standard of people in most background areas of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and MP. The organization has the satisfaction of having established a trustworthy relationship with local community. As a result, it has been receiving wholehearted support from the lowest level. Despite financial crunch, the organization was able to reach out to a large number of people who required help and assistance.

The valuable experience gained by the organization over the years has given it tremendous confidence and enhanced its capacity to understand and solve people's problems at different levels. To achieve its aims and objectives, the organization conducted the following programmes and activities.

Flood Relief Work

The eastern part of Uttar Pradesh in which Sahyog works, was affected by wide spread flood this year. It caused wide spread damage to the crop and property. A large number of people were forced to leave their homes and shifted to safer places. A large part of this area was inundated by floodwater causing great loss to life and property. Sahyog was actively engaged in providing relief work to the flood victims in this area. Its volunteers went from house to house and helped in emergency evacuation of the marooned people. With the help of Govt. Agencies and local community support, they also distributed food and clothes to those who suffered.



Education for Poor Children

Sahyog is running a school for children belonging to weaker sections in Ballia district. During the period under report, the school continued its strengths and a large number of

new students were enrolled this year. The school added various new facilities to its departments. New books were bought for the library. The school also held various extra-curricular activities for children throughout the year. A painting competition on environment was organized for children in the month of September in which a large number of children participated. Children were asked to make paintings on the spot on selected topics related to environment. The chief guest awarded the successful children the prizes. Children staged a short play on this occasion. Parents were also invited for the programmes.

Besides formal education the school held special remedial classes for children who were poor in studies. Most of the parents of these children are illiterate and work as labourers in nearby fields. If a child fails in exam he is dropped out the school and put to some work. To check this trend, the organization is providing some extra coaching to these children to that they remain in the mainstream education.

The organization also conducted classes of non-formal education for children working in the fields. There was no fixed or uniform curriculum. The objective of this non-formal education was to provide these children access to schools for better participation in social life. Literacy formed the core of this package. The emphasis of this programme was on reading and learning basic arithmetical skills. Through Non-formal education, serious attempts were made to link it to elementary schooling so that these children don't face much difficulty in moving from these centers to formal schools. More emphasis was laid on the activities related to the physical, language, social and emotional development.

Teachers paid the home visits to those children who were absent from classes for more than two days. During these visits, they motivated the parents to realize the importance of education. Parents were asked to send their children regularly.



Vocational Training and Formation of Self-Help Groups

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 various job-oriented vocation training programmes. More than 50 women are attending this center. The training being provided at the center includes cutting tailoring, book binding and handicrafts.

After the complete of training, the organization helps women get appropriate employments. The center has given training to 120 women so far. Many among them have formed their own self-help groups. Of them some have started income generation activities and are now earning for their families. Ms. Gita Devi, the convincer of the center says that various new women of surrounding villages want to join this vocational training programme.

Community Health Programmes

During the period under report, the organization held a week-long health camp from 21 April to 28 April, 2017 at Ballia in which health check-ups were conducted and medicines were distributed free to the patients. Some cases requiring further diagnosis were referred to other agencies. Sahyog has a very good team of trained doctors and health workers with the help of which group meeting were organized to give relevant information to people on prevention and treatment of various diseases. Doubts and apprehensions in people's minds were removed and they were advised to go for regular health check-ups. Direct interaction with people is leading to better health awareness. Since the target group was mainly illiterate and uneducated people, charts and posters were extensively used to explain various points. The method of visual communication was proved to be very helpful.

Due to poverty and ignorance people neglect their health and suffer from various diseases, which are, most of the time, preventable and curable. Timely treatment can thus save many lives. Therefore there is an urgent need to approach and educate all sections of the society and make them aware of the importance of timely and proper health treatment.

The organization has also identified some volunteers from local community whom it wants to train as health worker. These health workers will then go house to house and create health awareness among people. In the health awareness programme, special emphasis was given on women's participation. They were encouraged to raise questions and remove all their doubts, if any. Besides, the organization held one health talk on community hygiene on 3 March 2017 at Ballia. Dr. Gura Bechan Singh, (MBBS) and Dr. Neena Gupta (MBBS) Senior Gynecologist were the main resource persons for this programme. They stressed on the importance of community hygiene and highlighted the role of every person to keep its surrounding neat and clean to safeguard against various health problems. This talk was attended by a large number of people including women and adolescent girls.

Awareness and Counseling on Drug-Abuse

According to a survey conducted by the organization, most of the people try drugs or alcohol for the first time in their life because someone they know uses drugs or alcohol and also due to the ignorance of the harmful effects it has on their personality, family and society at large. Drug abuse is increasing in India at an alarming rate. It is a problem which affects all age groups. If we are to successfully reverse this trend, all segments of the community must become involved in the fight against the social evil.

The family counselors of Sahyog along with its social workers held a camp on drug abuse prevention at Chhapra. The camp was organized under the supervision of Dr. C.N. Gupta (MBBS) and Dr. Asha Rani (MBBS). Prior to this camp people were contacted through home-visits. Pamphlets were distributed in the community. A large number of people including women attended this camp. The purpose of this camp was to make people aware of the danger of drug abuse.



During the camp the organization identified some cases of drug addiction some of whom were using drugs for a long time. They very often shared needles and syringes among themselves to shoot drugs. They didn't even clean it with water. They were counseled not to share needles and syringes to inject drugs. They were advised not to use drugs, as it may badly affect their health. Addiction is dependency on any substance without which a person has physical or psychological problems. Drug users are also exposed to HIV/AIDS infection if they share needles. The organization held 8 group meetings with drug addicts. The counseling was given to them on harmful affects of drug addiction for health. They were warned if they keep using dirty needles and syringes, they may also fall victims to AIDS, which is a dreaded disease. They were advised to undergo if necessary for HIV test to find out whether they are HIV positive or not.

Save Your Environment Programme

The organization conducted a 'Save Your Environment' programme under which several group meetings were held in the villages of Ballia district. The topic of the meeting was 'Community Environment and the Role of Citizens'. Sahyog's volunteers also visited



several schools in the area, and motivated children to come forward to help in global efforts of saving our environment. Seven Eco-Clubs were also established.

It also organized a photo exhibition on natural disasters on 14 Feb.2017 in at Seoni in Madhya Pradesh. The purpose of this photo exhibition was to educate people about how natural disasters are the result of our neglect and misuse of environment. 23 photographers from different parts of the country took part in this exhibition. The photo exhibition attracted a large number of people including school and college children.

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The organization has also developed a large nursery that provides free seedlings to people for tree plantations. The idea is to promote community efforts in wasteland development. The organization will soon give training to village farmers in the use of organic manures. The organization is against the use of chemical manures and fertilizers as they are harming the fertility of land.

Social Awareness Campaigns in Delhi Slum

Sahyog organized a street play based on the problem of dowry at Kayanpuri in Delhi. This street play showed women raising their voice against dowry and increasing incidents of bride burning. These shows received overwhelming response from community. A



documentary film show on the problem of child prostitution was also held in the Jhuggi Clusters of Noida on 24 December 2017. The film show was followed by a brief

discussion with the audience. The organization in its social awareness programme, has made extensive use of traditional mass media such as Puppetry, Storytelling, Street Plays, Group Dances etc., with tremendous success.

Training to Women in Animal Husbandry

Sahyog is encouraging rural women in Ballia district of Utar Pradesh to be involved in agriculture, dairy production and livestock management activities. Traditionally, women are responsible for the activities such as giving feed and water to the animals, cleaning and bathing of animals, maintenance and cleaning of cattle shed, fodder collection, collection of cow dung and preparation of cow dung cakes and preparation of milk products. They also participate frequently in taking care of sick animals, care of pregnant animals, care of newborn calves, milking and grazing of the animals.



Sahyog is providing training to rural women in the field of livestock care, management, feeding and processing of livestock products. This has improved their participation in animal husbandry activities. They are now playing an important role in taking decision regarding livestock production. The organization is trying to develop educational and training programmes in appropriate livestock production technologies for these women which would be duly supported by input agencies and credit facilities for increasing the productivity of farm animals.

Social Campaign for Women Empowerment

A three days campaign against gender discrimination and violence against women was held by Sahyog in Ballia district between 3 Jan. 2018 to 5 Jan 2018. Its volunteers organized several group meetings with the women living in this area. Many issues of gender discrimination were discussed with them. They freely shared their views and experiences. Some women complained that their husbands, some of who are alcoholic or drug addict, often misbehave and physically assault them.

These women have long been subjected to physical and mental tortures. They did not know with whom to share their feelings. The group meetings organized by Sahyog provided them an opportunity to express themselves and discuss their common problems. Among the resource persons who were actively involved in this programme were Shree Radha Kant Choubey, (Advocate), Shri B. L. Lal, (Advocate) and Shri Anoop Pandey, (Advocate). To address at preventive level, Sahyog intends to organize awareness programs in community.

Vision for the Future

The organization has planned to expand its activities in future and reach out to new target groups. Sahyog would like to build relationship with other community based NGOs, working in similar areas and launch joint campaigns against neglect and exploitation of women and children. The organization has received tremendous response from community at grass root level. Without its support, perhaps it would not have been possible for it to

organize all these programmes so successfully. The organization thus would like to thank all who helped and supported it during this period.