

A Brief Profile

Vikasaarth (for Development) is a not-for-profit organization formed with the central idea of promoting women empowerment especially amongst the disadvantaged section of the society in order to address the issues affecting their standard of living. **Vikasaarth** envisions “a society where all persons have an equal opportunity, equal access and control over the available resources for their self development.” The strategies therefore, adopted by **Vikasaarth** are threefold; Understanding the people and area, Sharing information to all stakeholders and Handholding for change towards betterment of life.

Vision and Mission

Vikasaarth believes that promoting women empowerment is an appropriate approach to the development of Bihar since women, who form around half of the population of the state, lag behind on number of accounts be it health, education, control over resources or decision making on the matters related to their own lives. Also, women by its position in families and community could act as the key change agent in the development processes of the society. With this belief, Vikasaarth envisions a society where all persons have an equal opportunity, equal access and control over the available resources for their self development. Thus Vikasaarth aims to facilitate holistic development of the poor and marginalized section of the society, with special focus on women and children through need based and community led interventions primarily in education and health.

Genesis

It was early 2010 when the state of Bihar had witnessed rapid strides towards development and improved governance. In this backdrop, a group of women hailing from the state, possessing keen interest to contribute to the development of the state come together to form an organization of women under the banner of Vikasaarth i.e. ‘For Development’. Vikasaarth registered under Indian Charitable Trust Act in April 2010 is a not-for-profit organization was formed with the central idea of promoting women empowerment especially amongst the poor in order to address the issues affecting poor living standard of the people in Bihar.



Key Interventions

Group Mobilization

As a strategy the groups of Mata Mandali, Kishori Samuha, Bal Sansad and Meena Manch were mobilized in Vaishali and Gaya in order to bring about behavior change for a healthy life. Besides, formation of women Self Help Groups and farmers Clubs have been facilitated in Saran district and members were capacitated to exploring livelihoods activities. Currently the groups are merged under the JEEViKA programme supported by GoB.

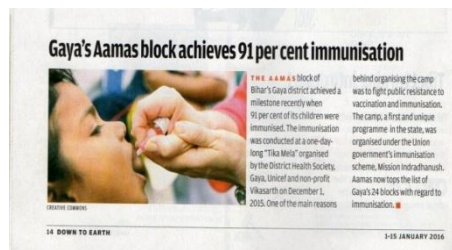
In view of the need for Early Childhood Education efforts are being made to activate the Anganwadi centers in the project areas of Vaishali and Gaya through sharing information and hand holding support for capacity development of the frontline workers. In Saran the community were mobilized to start their own centers with support from Vikasaarth.

Social and Behaviour Change

Mobilizing communities towards adopting preventive health behaviors and availing facilities of Reproductive Maternal Neonatal Child Health and Adolescent were undertaken in Vaishali with support of UNICEF. The effort resulted into capacity development of frontline health workers and revitalizing Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Committee for activating VHSNDs.

Forum of Faith leaders

Collaborating with UNICEF to strengthen its Bihar Interfaith Forum for Children (BIFC) through increasing the membership FB leaders/ organization having significant reach in the communities, capacity building of these leaders and their cadre for addressing the children related issues and helping them plan and implement initiatives for joint state-level advocacy as well influencing change in practices of community /followers, through providing relevant information and materials, acknowledging their support and sustaining their engagement as key influencers for children and adolescents in Bihar.



Routine Immunization

In association with UNICEF facilitated the process of demand creation and social behavioral change towards promoting total immunization for children in Gaya district. The effort in Amas block of Gaya resulted into more than 90 percent of children getting total immunization. The supply side mechanism also played a pivotal role in achieving this goal.

Counseling

In order to aid the central idea of women empowerment special focus has been given to ensure participation of women in all the activities through several interaction processes.

Capacity Development

For sustainability of the change process it is imperative that the capacities of the programme implementers are developed in for adequate efficiency of the programme. Hence, Vikasaarth has been engaged in capacity developed at various levels including from frontline workers to block, district and state level functionaries of government as well as other civil society organizations. The organization till date has organized several trainings on women and Child Health, Child education, HIV/ AIDS, Gender rights, Non-formal education, Early Childhood Care & Development, Social and Behavioral Change Communication.

Experience in developmental projects

Sl. No.	Project Name and year	Donor Agency	Coverage	Achievements
1	SHPI- 2012-13	NABARD	20 villages of Dariyapur block in Saran District of Bihar	100 SHGs formed and linked with Jeevika Programme
2	Capacity development of NRHM functionaries on SBCC- 2012-13	Unicef	District managers of 38 district, ANMs AWWs and ASHAs of Vaishali district	25 District Health Managers from 25 districts of Bihar along with AWWs, ANMs and ASHAs related to 277 Anganwadi centres in 16 blocks of Vaishali district were trained on SBCC. Besides, 511 panchayat representatives of Vaishali were trained on Facts for Life Framework.
3	Baseline study on Women land rights in Bihar- 2015-2016	Landesa	30 sample villages from 5 districts	The current status of land rights of women was studied and the report was also presented to the land reforms department of GoB.
4	Micro Study on land rights and livelihoods in	Landesa	1 sample village from one block of Kishanganj district	The findings of the study helped initiate pilot project on addressing land issues related to poor families.

	Bihar - 2016			
5	Status of land tenancy in Bihar-2016	Landesa	4 sample villages from four districts	The findings led to programme initiatives in the sample districts.
6	Implementation of DKD 2014-15	Unicef	66 villages of Rajapakar block of Vaishali district, Bihar	Out of 45 middle schools School Management Committee was activated in 36 schools. Meena Manch and Bal Sansad were activated in 37 schools. ANMs, ASHAs and AWWs were provided hands on training to address pre schools and adolescent's issues through Anganwadi centres. Besides, at all 13 GPs reached out to 189 PRI representatives, 1375 SHG members 433 Kishori Samooh members and 13 Vikas Mitras.
7	Strengthening RI through SBCC-2015-16	Unicef	95 villages of Amas Block of Gaya district, Bihar	Because of the interventions Amas was adjudged number one among all blocks of Gaya in routine immunization. School Management Committee, Meena Manch and Bal Sansad were strengthened in all schools of the block. ANMs, AWWs and ASHA were trained to strengthen routine immunization.
8	Vulnerability mapping of children in disaster prone areas 2015-16	Save the Children	35 villages of one district	Final report was submitted to Save the Children for further implementation
9	MHM Stall in Bihar SARAS Mela 2016-17	UNICEF	Patna	Various tools and Information related to Menstrual Health management were displayed and communicated through various activities.
10	Workshop with key stakeholders to increase demand for Routine Immunization in Amas, Gaya 2017-18	UNICEF, Bihar	9 Gram Panchayats of Amas Block in Gaya District of Bihar	District, Block officials and FLWs of Health and Social Welfare departments, PRIs, volunteers, SHG members, School level forums and community members were engaged in discussions through different activities to address the bottlenecks towards total immunization in the block.
11	Consultation for formulating SBC	UNICEF, Bihar	4 state level consultations in Patna and 4 district	Report submitted to Bihar Education Project council for further

	strategy to enhance children attendance in Government schools of Bihar 2017-18		level consultations in Gaya, Rohtas, Bhagalpur and Kishanganj	implementation,
12	Strengthening Bihar Interfaith Forum for Children 2018 onwards	UNICEF Bihar	Mobilizing Faith leaders and Faith based organizations to address the child issues related to child rights	At the state level forum of all key faith based organizations in Bihar being strengthened through capacity building on technical aspects of child rights. District level forums in Gaya, Banka, Purnea, Sitamarhi and Seikhpura districts are in process.

Human Resources

Apart from the project based human resources Vikasaarth has a pool of resource persons comprising professional development workers, academicians, activists, grassroots workers, students and volunteers, who support the programmes as and when required.

Support Services

Vikasaarth Support Services (VSS) a unit established by Vikasaarth Trust, is a group of experienced and qualified development professionals endeavoring to provide technical and managerial support to development partners in achieving their social development goals.

Key assignments undertaken in the recent past were;

- Developing a concept note and master proposal on elementary education in Bihar and Jharkhand for OXFAM India.
- Planning and monitoring a capacity building intervention for the members of School Management and Development Committee for 75 districts under *Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyaan* (RMSA) of Uttar Pradesh with support from Kusuma Foundation, an international organization working on children education in India.
- Supporting Kusuma Foundationn for in developing Training and Monitoring manuals for capacity building and enhance participation of School Management Development Committee members in Uttar Pradesh.

- Supporting Landesa, India for a macro study on the status of women's land rights in Bihar. This study has been undertaken in 30 sample villages of five districts.
- Capacity building of master trainers for training resource persons for Elders Self Help Groups of Jharkhand State Livelihoods Promotion Society in collaboration with Helpage, India.
- Supported in analysis of qualitative data and report writing of Perception Survey on Tracking Public Expenditure Tracking for Population Foundation of India in 4 districts of Bihar
- Planning interventions on addressing Climate Change in Bihar for Centre for World Solidarity (CWS).

Legal Profile

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Legal Status:	Registered as Charitable Trust No. 14885/2010 dated 28 April 2010 Registered under 12A, No. 112/2011-12-952-55 dated 14 Sept. 2011 Registered under FCRA No 031170581 dated 11 May 2016 Permanent Account No. (PAN) No. AABTV3350R

