

ANNUAL REPORT-2019-20

VIKASAARTH TRUST

Vikasaarth Annual Activity Report

March 2020

Working with Faith Leaders of Bihar

The project supported by UNICEF, Bihar, “Strengthening Bihar Inter-Faith Forum for Children (BIFC) to promote and protect child rights in Bihar”, as extension of earlier initiative the current project aimed to continue its effort towards strengthening BIFC as key influencers for taking up self-driven initiatives for advocacy, public engagement and mobilizing behaviour change amongst communities on issues related to the well-being and rights of children, especially related to key priorities focusing on new-born health, nutrition, ODF, quality education, child protection and adolescent participation.

As the world is celebrating 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) the focus in this year would be on helping BIFC core group to use this opportunity to influence and advocate with the policy makers to create an environment where the children have a better socio-economic and cultural conditions for ensuring their well-being. The attempt of the project will be to capacitate the member FBOs to take full charge of the interventions in the state. They plan interventions for the forum as well as for their respective organizations, implement them and review them through an active support from UNICEF and Vikasaarth.

Project Achievements

Strengthened Bihar Interfaith Forum for children (BIFC)

BIFC has a core committee formed at the initial stage just after its establishment. This committee comprises of representatives of all key religions present in the state such as Hinduism Islam, Christianity Sikhism, Jainism and Buddhism along with representatives of supporting agency, UNICEF and facilitating agency Vikasaarth. Although it was planned to administer at least one Core Group meeting every quarter, but Given the busy schedule of Core Committee members have always been a challenge for the project. As a result, only three meetings of core committee could take place this year. However, the project staff kept on meeting them on one to one basis. 57 nos. of such meetings during September 2019 to March between the core as well as other members of BIFC were held. These meetings were largely as a follow up of the activities/ tasks decided in the Core Committee meetings.

Plans of Faith based Organization

Seven Member shared their yearly calendar Most of the activities planned were around their own festivals and religious events. In order to make the plans comprehensive and ease the documentation process, a flexible format was shared with them but no plan could be finalised because the head of FBOs could not give time. 7 out of 10

Individual FBO plans have been prepared. Efforts are being made to further refine the plans and also cover the remaining 6 member FBOs. The member FBOs – GayatriParivar, Khanka Munemia, Idare Sharia, Imarat Sharia, Jamate islami Hind, Patna Arch Diocese and BramhaKumaris have prepared the plans for the year 2020. Most of the activities planned are around their own festivals and religious events. In order to make the plans comprehensive and ease the documentation process, a flexible format has been developed by the project and shared with them but no plan could be finalised because the head of FBOs could not give time.

Thematic workshops/Interface/sharing events.

- 3 out of 5 planned Thematic workshops were organised. 1 out of 5 planned Thematic workshops (Conclave) was organised. More than 75 persons from different faith participated in the Conclave. It is envisaged that the participating faith leaders, spiritual leaders/organizations will become strong influencers/ change-makers for bettering children's lives esp. health education, protection and participation.
- Apart from that the member Faith Leaders also visited the OPEN Day event in UNICEF to get an idea about different activities undertaken by UNICEF in Bihar.
- As an indicator of mutual sharing and action by member FBOs several members participated in the All religion conference organised by Bramhakumaris in Patna and Christmas event by Arch Bishop house, Patna.
- Bramhakumaris on the occasion of Shivratri organised a rally in which messages for preventing child labour and child marriage, promoting total immunization, education and sanitation were displayed on placards.
- Head of Khanquah Munemia participated in Asia regional meet of Faith leaders in Bhutan. He raised the pertinent issues of child rights in the meeting.
- Little evidence of advocating for child rights publically by the FBOs have been gathered. However, all members have been publically speaking on child rights in the BIFC forums.
- During Poshan Pakhwara Faith leader from BramhaKumaris, BK Jyoti visited an Anganwadi centre in Patna Sadar to encourage community members for taking care of nutrition among their children.
- FLs came together to address the issues related to COVID 19 and their roles which led to issuance of joint appeal during Navratra, Chhat, Ramjan and Eid.
- Interaction and sharing among the partners and their participation in government schemes and campaigns have intensified.
- Tracking of media coverage related to Faith based and child related news have been done regularly however, channels for its regular dissemination through daily newsletter.

Social media (WhatsApp, Facebook) is being used to disseminate the messages of efforts of member FBOs/ FLs relevant messages.

In order to respond to the increasing crisis of Corona virus and spreading myths and rumours related to this pandemic a webinar to update the FLs and their cadre was organised with support from technical specialists from UNICEF.

Another webinar in view of the threats of floods and other disasters in the state was organised in collaboration with Bihar State Disaster Management Authority and UNICEF. Altogether 98 participants from state as well as district FBOs joined the event.

Most of the FBO partners are engaged in wellbeing activities for children and with additional technical inputs from BIFC the interventions have sharpened in last one year. Bramhakumaris organised a webinar on addressing the mental stress of adolescents due to the closure of schools and disruption in their studies. Sewa Kendra, Maria Ashram Shiekhpora engaged in creating awareness towards myths related to Menstrual Hygiene on the occasion of World Menstrual Sanitation Day. Also, the FLs shared related messages on social media. FLs came together to

address the issues related to COVID 19 and their roles which led to issuance of joint appeal during Navratra, Chhat, Ramjan and Eid. During pandemic motivating people to adhere the guidelines have been a challenge for the administration. In this situation the FLs in order to help the people take appropriate precautions particularly during the religious events issued several appeals and shared messages.

District level forums

Among the district level interventions only one district forum in Sitamarhi could be constituted against five planned. District level activities could not be taken up due to enforcement of lockdown in view of the Covid-19 pandemic. Although, preparations in terms of finalizing the relevant documents like district profiles, concept note and experience of state level BIFC had been prepared for dissemination during meetings of remaining districts.

In Sitamarhi, a workshop to constitute the district level Forum was organised on 26 February 2020 in Hotel Shree, which was attended by 20 representatives from 10 FBOs. Prominent among those were Acharya Kaushal Kishore Das from Punauradham; BK Anshu from Bramhakumari Ishwariya Viswavidyalaya; Raushan Kumar from Gayatripeeth; Aamir Iqbal from Jamate Islami Hind; Rudra Kumar Singh from Sudarshan Kendra; Pastor Joseph from GEMS church; Khurshid Alam from Madarsa Islamia; Sushil Kumar Jain from Shree Jain Mithila Tirath Samaj and Indrapal Kumar from Bagghidham.

The FLs in this meeting deliberated on the need of working towards ensuring child rights and their commitment for this cause. They also signed an oath to work for the wellbeing of children particularly from the marginalised communities and do their best to end the plight and exploitation of these children.

Strategy of the Forum was decided with suggestions by the present Faith leaders, which is as under;

- Meeting of this forum will be held in the premises of each member FBO in turns and discuss and plan to improve the status of children in their district.
- Member FBOs will be part of the forum willingly and fully cooperate in all activities of the forum.
- Date, time and venue of the meetings will be decided well ahead of the meeting and members will be informed accordingly.
- WhatsApp group in the name of Sitamarhi Interfaith Forum including all members will be created to share messages and plans.
- Names, addresses and contact details of all members will be shared in the WhatsApp group.
- Reputed Faith Leaders from all religions will be invited in the meetings.

In terms of output of this meeting, the FLs realized that the status of children from poor families in their district is precarious and the Faith Leaders are in position to bring about remarkable change. They felt that a joint effort of FLs would be very effective and this forum is an appropriate means to achieve this objective.

Communication material developed and disseminated

As per the need of project communication materials were prepared and disseminated. The table below provides the details about types of materials that were compiled and customized for the project.

Posters/ Messages
Environment building for children wellbeing
Sex determination
Poshan Abhiyaan
World Breastfeeding Week
Eid Greetings
Menstrual Sanitation Day
Ganesh Chaturthi greetings
Raksha Bandhan greetings
Greetings of Eid-ul Azaha
Greetings on Paryushan Festival- Jain
Appeals
Video appeal for Promotion of Breastfeeding
Ensuring Immunization of children
Adhering to Government guidelines on Covid-19 during Ramzan and Eid
Adhering to Government guidelines on Covid-19 during Janmastmi, Vat Savitri puja and Chhat puja
Reports
All Religion Conclave on CRC 30
Core Committee Meeting Report (3)
Report on formation of District Forum - Sitamarhi
Webinar Report on Covid-19
Brochures
BIFC Brochure Report
Religion wise brochure on Child rights- Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Jainism, Buddhism

Glimpses of Project activities



Gharaunda Vikasaarth Rainbow Home

Vikasaarth has taken over the management of Gharaunda Rainbow home in September 2019 with 75 girl children enrolled. The activities performed by the Home are described below.

Nutrition Care

Keeping in the view the taste and preferences of children, the food menu is changed in every 3 months. The food menu is decided after discussion with the children in Balsabha.

As of now four children are underweight and five children have been found overweight. Their names are displayed in the kitchen so that special care can be taken regularly. Underweight children are provided one glass of milk and one egg daily for additional nutrition. The overweight children are advised to go for regular exercise under the guidance of team member.

As usual the children of food committee are taking part in purchasing of vegetables and ensure that the food is prepared as per menu maintaining cleanliness.

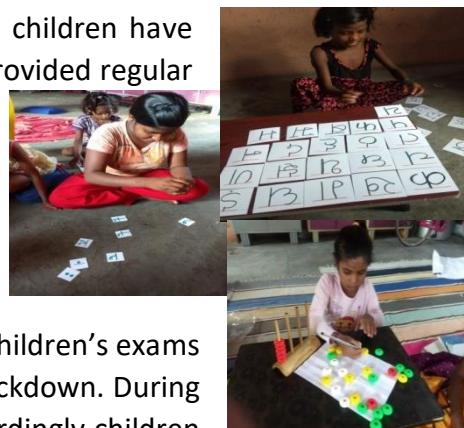
Health

In the month of February one girl named Rohini had pain in her throat. She was examined by doctor and it was found tuberculosis. She is undergoing treatment from Gardanibagh hospital and regular medicines are being given. Two girls were having skin problem and both the girls are undergoing treatment. Another girls Dolly's has developed some eye infection, which started with minor swelling that grew big on both eyelids. She is being treated at New Gardener Hospital. Now both her eyes have completely recovered. Rest of the children during the reporting period dis not had any major ailment except some children had problems like headache, stomach-ache, fever, leg pain, ear pain, toothache, etc. for which they were taken to concerned hospitals such as Patna Medical College Hospital, New Gardener Road hospital, Gardanibagh hospital.

Education

Bridge course- There are 14 children in bridge course and 2 new children have joined bridge course named Chandani and Laxmi. They are being provided regular teaching support in the home. 8 children has completed their bridge course out of 14 children. Rest of the children will be provided regular classes by part time teacher.

There is a part time teacher who provides coaching to the children of class VII,VIII,IX for Maths, Science and English. Children of class IX has given their final exams and promoted to class X. Rest of the children's exams were not conducted at school because school was closed due to lockdown. During this lockdown special routine have been prepared class wise, accordingly children are studying in the home on a regular basis and performing other activities too like drawing and



painting. Gunja Kumari had given exam of class 10th and waiting for results. Nikki and Ramanti Kumari had appeared for class 12th examination and has passed in second division. Kajal and Khushboo are staying with their family. They were doing coaching classes with Rainbow support. These two girls also appeared for exam of class 12th. Kajal Kumari has passed with 1st division and Khushboo with 2nd division.

Life Skills



In constantly changing Environment, having life skill is an essential part of being able to meet the challenges every day. During these 6 months 13 life skill sessions have been taken by the team members with two groups. Life skill session were taken on the topics of self-confidence, self-awareness, art of appreciation, me- my friend, when I am sixteen and value mall. Benefits for the individuals, in everyday life the development of life skills helps the students. Children are finding new way of thinking and problem solving, recognising the impact of their action, being responsible, building confidence both in spoken skills and group collaboration and make decisions. Developing a greater sense of self awareness and appreciation for others.

Co- Curricular Activities

Arts



Regular classes of dance and music classes are being conducted in the home by the specific teachers once in a week. Children are doing very well in the dance and music and also performing in different programmes in schools and social activities. Drawing and painting are being taught in the home by volunteer and team members. Every Saturday children do library where they also read Rainbow Saathi book.



Future Programme- Every Saturday children do future meeting. They have made life plan for their future, Life plan shared with their parents. A special Future meetings was conducted at Rajvanshi nagar by Mr. Parminder and Ms. Shahin. They talked about the children's future plans and gave suggestions.



Crafts

Children are learning making jewellery with crochet art by Ms, Vibha Karn (volunteer).

During Lockdown-In this period children are doing lot of activities which is mentioning below-



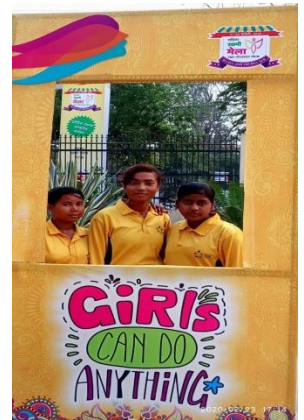
Special routine has been made for children for education and for daily routine. Regularly washing hands every after two hours. Doing online classes on television, art and craft work. The children who are staying in the home being taken special care by residential team. The children who has return from their home, there is special arrangement for those children according to the advice.

Exposure visit

Women's entrepreneur fair, this fair was held in Gyaan Bhawan on 23 February



2020. 11 girls were taken to see this amazing women's entrepreneur fair. An exhibition of handicraft made by women was organised in that fair. Dolls made with wool, flowers, toran, jhumar, Madhubani painting, saree, blouse. lahanga and things made with



wood which can be used to decorate in the home. exhibited lot of jewellery made with crochet and flower vase, doll made by jute. All children got inspired to see all these amazing things. Women and girl can do anything with their strong will power. Many things are doing and moving forward. In future children are also determined to put their stalls.

5 children from Gharaunda went to visit News 18 Bihar television channel which is located in Boring Road, Patna to see how news are telecasted on television. Before telecasting the news on television what preparations are made. The children learnt several things from this visit like; it is very important to have all the team together then only the work is possible all team members read newspapers carefully and churn new and difficult words and prepare a list of words for themselves; there is a big role of a reporter who has to attend the incidence spot as and when required because the news that has to be shown on Television should have information about the entire incident. Truth has to be shown real live news along with photos.

Training on Safety

How to rescue people in case of fire? It was also done in practical by the children as well as team members. Three saris were arranged for this practical and children learnt how to tie lot of knots in one time. The sari was tied on first floor and mattress were placed at the bottom for the safety. Mr. Yogesh Kumar showed first trial getting down from first floor with the help of the rope which was made with sari. After that many children showed courage by descending form the first floor using the same rope. Team member also tried it. This training is very useful in the time of difficult situation.



Sports and Games

Self Defence skill- In Karate, belt test was organised at Rajvanshinagar. 28 children were selected



for the belt test. Belt test was conducted in the presence of 3 Sansai. First test was taken of 'BASICS' and then of 'KATA'. After the belt test all children were provided certificates according to their qualification in karate. Names of the children who were certified with color grade.

YELLOW belt.

- Sulekha, Priya, Sapna, Anchal, Reeta and Jiya were certified with
- Rekha, Neha II, Soni II, Tanisha, and Kiran were certified with ORANGE belt.
- Punita, Julie II, Chanda, Vibha, Soni II, Kavita, Deepa, Rani, Madhu III were certified with GREEN Senior belt.
- Kajal IV, Aasha, Santoshi, Pooja III, Hemanti, Madhu IV, Aarti I, Pooja II were certified with BLUE belt.

With the help of karate teacher classes are going on twice in a week and children practices on the regular basis in the home who are seniors in karate.

Celebrations and Festivals

On 15th November the Convention on the Rights of the Children It was organised at UNICEF



office, Patliputra. This programme was organised to celebrate the Anniversary of CRC (30yrs) and UNICEF in India (70 yrs). Children of the Rainbow homes were invited on this occasion, 5 children from Gharaunda home and 6 children from other Rainbow homes. We entered after being registration of ours. All got T-shirt, cap, batch and blue ribbon and got inside by wearing it. Many different counters were put up there. Children visited all counters and from each counter there was something to learn. Children saw unique water purifier, which can turn the dirty water of the drain in to potable water. With the help of the tread children made beautiful paintings and children gained information about career queries.

Children learnt how to protect themselves and where to contact in difficult situation also they were taught that they should never involve in child labour because their right is to get the education. The daily meal should be full of nutrients. Consumption of nutrients everyday is very



important for our health. Girls were taught how to keep hygienically clean during the menstruation period. They got measured height and weight and examined blood test. They were provided syrup to drink and also taught how to wash hands after defecation or before eating and showed the steps of washing hands. Many children asked questions related to the

disaster. Champa also asked question on same topic. In between the programme all children got snacks, bag and certificates. Children enjoyed a lot.

Christmas Celebration –Just like every year the way children decorates the home, this year also decorated the home on Christmas occasion. Decorated black board with beautiful drawing and wrote 'Happy Christmas'. All children dressed up nicely. Performed classical dance. On this occasion many guests came to visit our children and children presented beautiful handmade Christmas card and wished Christmas. Mr. Abhishek Kumar provided special food on Christmas. Children's birthdays were also celebrated and given lunch boxes as a gift to those children. Children enjoyed a lot by celebrating their birthday, christmas and special food.

Saraswati Puja and Birthday celebration- on 30th January 2020 children celebrated Saraswati puja as well as birthday of the children- Hemanti, Madhu II, Sapna, Punita and Gayatri. Children participated in Puja which was organised in their respective schools. Children also decorated the home and made stage where they can perform the programme. Asha Kumari hosted the whole programme. Birthday children were called on the stage and sang birthday song for them and team member also wished them for their bright future. She shared about



Basant Panchmi in brief, that Saraswati the mother goddess of wisdom is worshipped on this day. Children performed solo song, dance group dance.

Human Chain- On Sunday 21st January 2018, the success of the longest human chain was series repeated in Bihar. This time the chain was made for Jal Jeevan Hariyali (Water, Life and Vegetation) along with alcoholism, drug addiction, dowry, child marriage and eradication of evil practices in Bihar. All children of Gharaunda home took part in human chain. All children of Gharaunda home created a history in this human chain from 11:30 am to 12:00 pm with their respective school holding their hand at Anishabad, Gardanibagh and Airport. We have to hand over such a Bihar to our next generation which has good quality of water, life and greenery. A Bihar that is free from evils like dowry and child marriage.

Republic Day Celebration on 26 January 2020- On this day all children participated in different



kinds of programme in their schools. Children performed dance and patriotic song. Kajal Kumari who is the student of class 10th from high school, Gardanibagh, who has been selected for NCC, participated in parade during flag hoisting.



In another activity in Home 4 students of Chanakya Law College, Patna namely, Shubh, Alok, Prince Raj and Adity

visited Gharaunda Home to interact with the children on Republic Day of India. The session started with quick introduction. Each none of them explained about republic day, freedom fighters and explained some incident of Gandhi Ji, Bhagat Singh, Jawahar Lal Nehru, Dr Rajendra Prasad. Prince recited motivational poem "Hum nanhe munhe bache hai" and conducted quiz

contests among children. Later they provided chocolates to those children who answered quickly and distributed gifts too.

Champa Kumari of class 10th was selected to visit Vidhan Sabha from her school with 20 girls to see and know the activities of State Assembly

Birthday Celebrations — Birthday celebration of children was organised by children at Gharaunda. Children decorated the home very nicely. Prepared the stage to perform the programme. Birthday children were called on the stage and invited to cut the cake. All of them sang the birthday song. All team members wished for their bright future. After cutting the cake, children performed dance, solo song, group dance, said jokes and kids recited poems too. Special food was prepared in the home. At the end of the programme all danced together and had a lot of fun. Children enjoyed a lot.



Team Training- 12 training has been conducted on following topics-

- 1.(20.12.2019) NRC/CAA and Fund raising, conducted by Ms. Shadan and Mr. Saket Priyadarshi.
- 2.On (27.12.2019) Orientation programme for Young Adult and Entitlements and Rights Conducted by Ms. Anuradha and Mr. Banmali.
- 3. (28.12.2019) Entitlement, conducted by Mr. Banmali.
- 4. (17.01.2020) Emergency Protocol and Rainbow approach, Gender (23.01.2020), Emergency Protocol(25.01.2020), Homeless (01.02.2020), Reproductive health education (06.02.2020), Caste discrimination (07.02.2020), Home management (29.02.2020), Anger (03.03.2020), Home Management (07.03.2020) conducted by Ms. Sunita K. Sinha (TOT)
- Induction training for new team members (Danish Hameed, Pinki Kumari and Reeta Devi) held on zoom call by National team (Ms. Preeti and Ms. Satya)

Visitors — During this reporting period 10 visitors visited the Gharaunda home. Some of Sharing their lovely compliments just like what they have written.

On 05 December 2019, From Notre dame Academy, 60 children of 5 std. visited our home. They



introduced themselves to each other with their hobbies. One girl played Casio on 'Hum honge kaamyab and all children joined with her. Some girls played a skit on moral value. Some children did an action song and taught our children. Beautiful Handmade cards, chocolates, handkerchiefs and story books presented to all children. Our children also showed their

talents.

Marriage Anniversary- Ms. Sunita Singh (PI) and Mr. Shailesh Singh celebrated their 30th marriage anniversary with the children. Children extended a warm welcomed to them and performed their talent. Mr. Shailesh Kumar encouraged the children to go ahead and focus on studies.

Visitors Comments

"I feel fortunate to come among these smart and intelligent kids. They were very nice and I think in the future they will be great for our country" - **Mr. Alok Kumar**

"We are immensely happy to see the happiest and homely environment here. Girls are very talented and very cheerful. May God bless them. The organisation is really taking good care"- **Ms. Reeta**

"It's a pleasant experience after a long time. It is my daughter's birthday but I am feeling like all kids are so talented which is giving immense happiness to us. May good wishes to all kids and the centre. Everyone is very cooperative and involved. Thanks!" - **Mr. Alok Anand**

Conclusion

This was an eventful year for the Gharaunda Vikasaarth Rainbow Home. Also, the children accomplished higher goals in education as well as co-curricular activities. The support from the parents, education department and local people were of immense value. The home looks forward to continue its performance in the years to come.