

# Vikasaarth Annual Report

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ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN DURING 2020-21

**VIKASAARTH TRUST**



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Year 2020-21

## 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.

### Project Achievements

#### Strengthened Bihar Interfaith Forum for children (BIFC)

As mentioned in the last report 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 Budhism 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, no formal meeting for planning and review could be organized because of the lockdown However, 41 one-to-one meetings till May end and regular interactions were held with each of the Core committee members over telephone were held by the project staff regarding the project activities.

#### 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.

#### Thematic workshops/Interface/sharing events.

- ✚ 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.

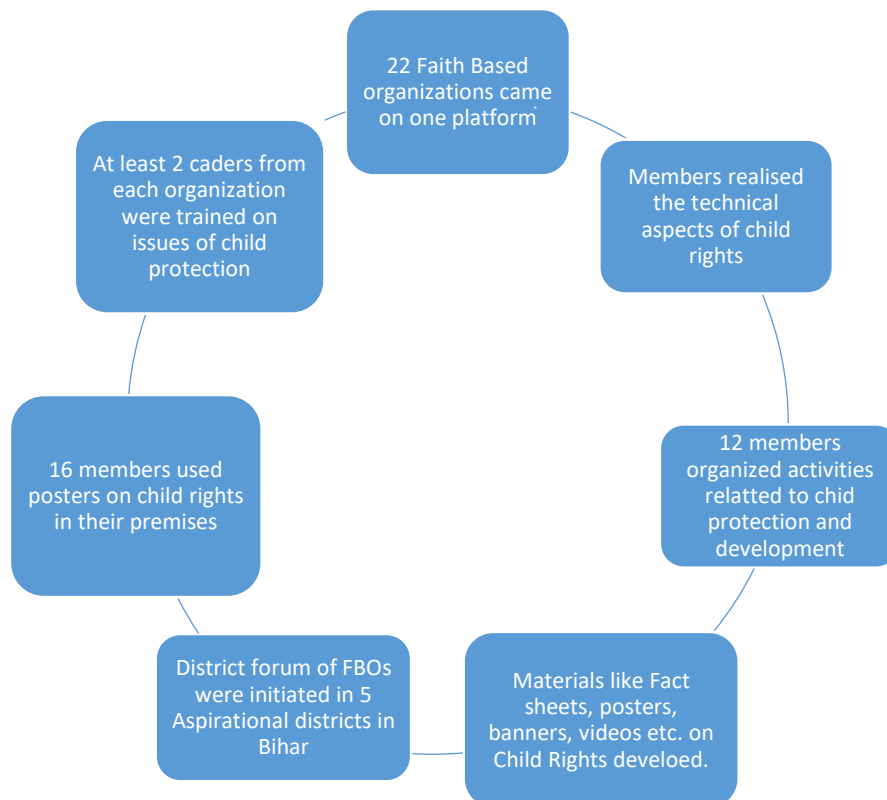
- ✦ Another webinar in view of the threats of floods and other disasters in the state was organised in collaboration with Bihar State Disaster Management Authority and UNICEF. Altogether 98 participants from state as well as district FBOs joined the event.
- ✦ Bramhakumaris organised a webinar on addressing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

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

There was no movement because of lockdown and therefore the activity of building district level forums of Faith leaders in Aspirational district was postponed. As reported earlier, the 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.

### Achievements of BIFC



## Experience of the project

Working with Faith based Organizations towards ensuring rights of the children is although very challenging but also satisfying. the forum is gradually evolving as action group as some tendrils of hope are visible now. But the pandemic COVID 19 has made trivial impact on the project implementation. Constant support and handholding from CAP, UNICEF has helped a lot towards the project achievements so far. The project has been able to create a sound rapport with the FBOs at the state level. In the concluding part protect aimed to emphasize on consolidation of efforts through documenting the experiences and learning. However, despite all preparation the district level forums could not be formally organised due to the prolonged lockdown for curbing Corona pandemic.

## Addressing the pandemic

### Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

RCCE is one of the key pillars of UNICEF's COVID-19 response and in Bihar UNICEF partnered with Vikasaarth for the implementation of RCCE strategy and plan to augment social and behavior change in response to COVID-2019 in the state.

Under the project 387 Episodes have been developed in the desired format, so that they can be telecasted on DD channel every day for the "School Chalein Hum" and Safe Saturday Program". The production continued till the end of year 2021. The quality of episodes is as per the discussions held with UNICEF, Bihar Education Programme Council (BEPC) and the appropriate department heads within these two organisations. The government is pleased with the production of these episodes, so as to maintain the continuity of the school education for children especially belonging to the marginalised communities and vulnerable groups.

Additionally, 41 different collaterals were created for the state in local languages and Hindi and English. These included a range of topics which were COVID specific as well as COVID sensitive. All the materials were developed based on requests from the government departments. The agency has helped produce different collaterals as and when requested by the State Government departments. These collaterals were COVID sensitive and specific as per the RCCE interventions for various departments like Health, Education, Child Protection, Disaster Risk Reduction, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene as well as Nutrition. A list of material are given below.

### List of communication materials prepared

For Risk Communication and Community Engagement during Covid 19

POSTERS	
1.	Precautions towards Covid-19- DOs and DON'Ts
2.	Do you need test for Covid-19?
VIDEOS FOR CHILD PROTECTION CAMPAIGN	
1.	Online Safety - Technology for Good - Rural
2.	Online Safety - Managing Screen Time - Rural
3.	Online Safety - Children based App - Rural Online Safety - Building Trust - Rural

4.	Online Safety - Technology for Good - Urban
5.	Online Safety - Managing Screen Time - Urban
6.	Online Safety - Children Based App - Urban
7.	Online Safety - Building Trust – Urban
<b>VARIOUS CREATIVE FOR COVID-19 CAMPAIGN</b>	
1.	10 Pages Booklet (Hindi)
2.	Social Media Creatives (Hindi +English)
3.	FAQ Leaflet (4 Pages)
4.	Children's Leaflet (1 Pager)
5.	Diagrams (Hindi + English)
6.	Flyer - PCB Bihar
7.	MHM Day Creative English
8.	MHM Day Creative - Hindi
<b>PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT (PSA)</b>	
1.	Narrative on WASH
2.	Long and Short Skits on WASH
3.	Audio on WASH
4.	TV discussion programme
5.	Narrative audios on Routine Immunization
6.	Wash Anthem with jingle
7.	Narrative on Government Schemes
8.	Narrative on parenting during lockdown
<b>ANIMATION</b>	
1.	Animation on cleaning roads and passages ‘sadak aur galion ki safai’
2.	Short animation of drain cleaner’s safety
3.	Short animation of septic tank cleaners
4.	Short animation on community toilet cleaners
5.	Short animation of FSTP workers
6.	Short animation of roads and passage cleaners ‘Sadak aur Galion ke safai karamchari’
7.	Short animation on Sanitation workers of Health Facility
<b>CLASSROOM TEACHING EPISODES</b>	
1.	For Grade 1 to 10 telecasted daily from May to December on DD- ‘Mera Doordarshan Mera Vidyalaya’

## Gharaunda Vikasaarth Rainbow Home

As reported earlier, Vikasaarth has taken over the management of Gharaunda Rainbow home in September 2019 with 75 girl children enrolled. There has been a change in the strategy of Rainbow Home programme wherein the emphasis is more on rehabilitation of these children in their families and cater to their needs through a community-based centres (CBC) in the catchment areas of the homes. Therefore,

the number of children in hostel has reduced to 50 because 25 children are attached through CBC. The activities performed by the Home are described below.

### **Nutrition Care**

There are two children who are underweight. Their names are displayed in the kitchen so that special care can be taken regularly. Underweight children are provided one glass of milk and an egg daily so that their health can be improved. Keeping in the view the taste and preferences of children, the food menu is changed after every 3 months. The food menu is decided after discussion with the children in Balsabha.

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

### **Health**

Barring a couple of cases, Health status of children in Home during 6 months was good. None of the children were infected by any major disease. Some children had problem like (headache, fever, stomach aches, toothache) for all these problems children were taken to appropriate hospitals like Gardanibagh Hospital and Garnier Hospital.



In view of Covid-19 pandemic guidelines were issued time to time by Government authorities which were completely adhered in the Home. Practices like daily checking of temperatures, frequent hand

washing, use of sanitizers, use of mask, maintaining physical distance, cleaning of home trice a day, provision of warm drinking water, confining to home, not allowing any outsiders, regular exercise, etc. Were ensured in the Home with full cooperation from children.

### **Education**

Bridge course- There are 9 children in bridge course. They are providing regular teaching support in the home. 4 children have completed their bridge course out of 9 children. Rest of the children will be provided regular classes by Mrs. Pramila Kumari & Rajni Kumari.

There are part time teachers 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 quarantine period there has been made special routine class-wise, accordingly children are studying in the home on a regular basis and providing other activities too, like (drawing and painting), Champa, Rani, Kajal, Jully, Chanda, Soni, Aarti, Vibha who has completed her matriculation except (Soni & Julie not completed). Dolly Kumari has completed class 12<sup>th</sup> Examination and has passed with second division.

### Co- Curricular Activities

Children are doing very well in the dance and music. Although children have been practicing dance and singing on their own honing their skills. First year dancing examination was also held in this year. Drawing and painting classes are conducted in the home by volunteer and team members. Every Saturday children do library. Children also read the 'Rainbow Saathi' magazine in library.



## Team Training

The Home team received following training during the reporting period.

1. CPP Training
2. Induction Training
3. Ensuring safe Restoration of children in Institutional Care
4. Role & Responsibility
5. Bridge Course Maths
6. Bridge Course Hindi
7. Covid- 19
8. Hygiene
9. Education Workshop
10. Nutrition Care

## Visitors

During this reporting period 10 visitors visited the Gharaunda home. Some of shared their views which are mentioned below;

**Vidya Sharma:** *“Well-maintained premise, Girls are well behaved & have smile on their face. Feels like the staffs & management is friendly towards the girls. My family & I enjoyed the company of everyone present today. We would love to visit frequently here”.*

**L&T Construction:** *“It’s an excellent work to keep children’s future bright and helpful. This initiative needs more appreciation. We hope to support further for this noble work”.*

**Putul Foundation:** *“Lovely meeting the kids. It was fun and informative. Enjoyed the interaction with the kids”.*

## Local Contribution

- ❖ The home received 42 meals (lunch, Dinner and snacks) as donations during these reporting period. Apart from this the home received kind donations such as; stationary, sweaters, vending machine, TABLETS, sports items, books and sanitary napkins.
- ❖ 59 sets of new school uniform for children were donated by Surya.
- ❖ Aditya Vision donated a Deep Freezer and 2 month’s ration for the children.
- ❖ During last winter season Lion’s Group of Patna donated a Geyser for the Home children.

## Conclusion

This was a year mixed experience. The organization had to take a shift in the strategy because of pandemic that prolonged for a longer duration than expected. However, the organization developed new skills to cope up with the situation. The field level interventions literally came to stand still. The major focus was on dissemination of up-to-date information related to the protocols of Covid-19. At the home level the children had more time to study and complete their syllabus. This resulted in the better results after the schools re-opened. Despite adversities Vikasaarth was engaged in its activities although different from earlier interventions.

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