

Vikasaarth Trust

ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT 2024-25

Introduction

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. 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.

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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 such as 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. The empowerment process needs to initiated with a lifecycle approach starting from the birth of the girl child.

Genesis

It was early 2010 when the state of Bihar had witnessed rapid strives towards development and improved governance. In this backdrop, a group of women hailing from the state, with a keen interest to contribute to the development of the state came together to form an organization of women in the name of Vikasaarth Trust.

The organization Vikasaarth registered under Indian Charitable Trust Act in April 2010 is a not-for-profit organization and 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 initiatives

Vikasaarth continued its partnership with Rainbow Home Program since 2019 wherein it focused on improving the lives of underprivileged children, particularly girls, by providing comprehensive care including food, shelter, education, security, career guidance, and emotional support. Throughout the reporting period, the organization achieved significant milestones, highlighted in the main report. During 2024-25, Vikasaarth made notable progress in all the three programs/sections: Residential Hostel (RH), CBC (Community-Based Care), and

Vision
<i>Vikasaarth envisions a society where all persons have an equal opportunity, equal access and control over the available resources for their self-development.</i>
Mission
<i>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.</i>

Future Program. Some of the key achievements include academic success, participation in co-curricular activities, career advancements, and community engagement.

Further, in pursuit of ensuring the basic rights of children in the state the organization has partnered with **JUST RIGHTS for Children** for its programme, **Access to Justice for Child Rights**. Under this project three key issues are addressed to ensure that an environment for helping the children to exercise their rights. The key issues are child marriage, child labour and trafficking and child sexual abuse. Since all these three issues are at significantly higher stage in the allotted district-Lakhisarai the programme had a series of challenges to overcome. However, the organization has taken it as a challenge with new zeal and committed workforce.

Besides, **Vikasaarth Support Services (VSS)** a unit established by Vikasaarth Trust, is a group of experienced and qualified development professionals endeavouring to provide technical and managerial support to development partners in achieving their social development goals through undertaking social research, baseline studies, project evaluations, capacity building initiatives and other strategical needs of the concerned organizations.

Current Programmes

Rainbow Home Program

Vikasaarth, in partnership with Rainbow Home Program is focuses on improving the lives of underprivileged children, particularly girls, by providing comprehensive care including food, shelter, education, security, career guidance, and emotional support through three broad areas viz, RH (Residential Hostel), CBC (Community-Based Care), and Future Program. Currently, the number of children enrolled under three broad interventions are depicted in the table below;



Interventions	No. of Children	Age Group
Residential Hostel <i>Underprivileged girls who come from different slums of Patna</i>	52	6-18 yrs.
Community Based Care <i>Identified Children who are living with their parents and some of them are in KGBV</i>	24	6-18 Yrs.
Future Program <i>Girls above 18 years are being provided all the support for their career building.</i>	24	18-23 Yrs.
Rainbow Community Child Learning Centre <i>Girls & boys from unprivileged families of Digha slum, Patna</i>	57	6-18 Yrs.

Key Achievements

The key achievements in this period include academic success, participation in co-curricular activities, career advancements, and community engagement.

Residential Hostel

- ❖ Four children appeared for the class 10 board exams. Out of which two girls secured first division and two girls secured second division.
- ❖ Two girls from CCI appeared for the intermediate exam in which one girl secured the first position and the other secured the second position.
- ❖ In the academic year 2024-25 there were 28 girls in the bridge course, 16 of them successfully moved on.
- ❖ In the Nakshatra event, 19 girls participated taking part in many activities and secured a total of 31 medals.
- ❖ In the Saksham cultural event 32 children participated and won 33 medals.
- ❖ The students from hostel were invited to perform a group dance at Bihar Diwas.

Community Based Care & RCCLC

- ❖ 42 children are presently attending the classes in learning centre, who are from the poorest of the poor families and were earlier engaged in rag picking and some of them in distribution of illicit liquor
- ❖ 21 children from Learning Centre enrolled in government school and are attending school currently
- ❖ 6 drop out children has been re-admitted in government school.
- ❖ 9 children have been admitted in the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV), a Government run girls residential school
- ❖ Literacy and numeracy classes for the non- literate parents particularly women have been initiated in the RCCLC.

Future Program

- ❖ Five children each will appear in the board examinations of 10 and 12 grade in 2025.
- ❖ Several Young Adults (YAs) have joined professional job- oriented courses such as Diploma in Computer Application (DCA) Advanced DCA, Tally, KYP etc. and some have completed the courses. One YA has completed ITI with 71% marks.
- ❖ Young Adults had appeared in the entrance test for Para Medical course run by Government of Bihar in which one has been selected and was allotted a seat in Darbhanga Para-Medical Institute
- ❖ Counselling has become a regular activity in the programme as a significant number of children have come in their teenage experiencing changes in their physical and mental wellbeing.

Access to Justice (A2J) program



The Just Rights for Children (JRC) under its ‘Access to Justice for children programme has entrusted Vikasaarth to lead the initiatives in the Lakhisarai district of Bihar, one of the most vulnerable district in terms of child protection. This initiative aims to prevent and eliminate child marriage, child sexual abuse, and trafficking for labour and sexual exploitation in the country through community engagement supporting concerned government departments and other agencies engaged in child protection. In its third phase the JRC with help of its 400 plus partners in more than 250 districts of India aim to achieve the following:

- A Child Marriage Free India
- Increase conviction rate in cases of child sexual abuse by 10%
- Increase the prosecution rate of child trafficking cases by 10%

A snapshot of the progress during the year 2024-25 is as under;

No. of villages covered	No. of child abuse cases registered	No. of child labour cases registered	No. of child marriages prevented	Total pledges taken
50	61	29	134	76,274

Success Stories

From Dung Cakes to Dreams: A Story of Hope and Education

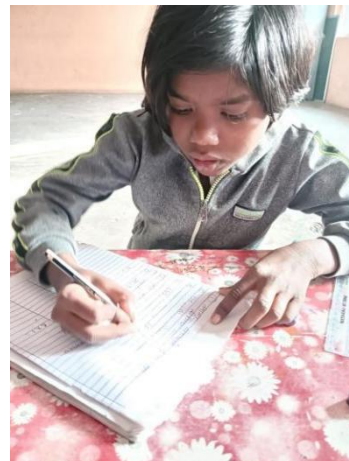
“Two sisters, Priyanka (9) and Priya (7.5), were making dung cakes when our social mobilizers saw them. They lived in poor conditions with their father as the only earner, and their mother struggling to manage their five children. We convinced the parents to send the girls to our learning center, where they learned Hindi, English, and basic maths in just eight months. They also excelled in arts, crafts, and sports. In April, they were admitted to a government school, and their younger sister began attending our center. Now, the sisters attend school and our center regularly, and their mother is more relaxed and content.



The journey from rag picking to becoming the best in the class

Julie was eight years old when she came hostel in July 2021. She had been living with her grandfather in LCT Ghat, Mainpura. Julie's father had passed away due to an illness, and her mother had remarried and left Julie and her brother behind. Ever since her mother left, Julie's grandfather had been taking care of them. Unfortunately, her grandfather had poor eyesight and was unable to work.

When our social mobilizer reached out to them and explained the objective and approach of Rainbow Home, Julie's grandfather agreed to send Julie with them. Before coming to Rainbow Home, Julie used to rag-pick with her grandfather and cooked food for themselves by burning wood.



Although Julie didn't know a single letter when she first arrived, her keen willingness to learn and her quick grasping capacity allowed her to learn letters and numbers quickly. She was soon admitted to school and is now a student in class 3. She is one of the best students in her class, smart, and active, and takes part in many activities at Rainbow Home. Julie is keen to learn new things, and her transformation from a rag-picker to one of the best students in her class is a very motivating example for us as well as her community.

A sigh of relief for Amisha

Amisha (name changed), 16 years, daughter of Satyanarayan Paswan lives in Jagdishpur village of Jakarpura GP in Suryagarha block, Lakhisarai. Presently, Amisha is studying in class XI of local government school. She is a good student and secures good marks in all examinations. One day she came to know that her marriage is being fixed with a boy in Rampur Panchayat. She was shocked to know this because she wanted to continue her studies and secure a good job. She talked to her mother but it was in vain. Her mother told that the groom is very good match and if we lose him we may not get another one. Also, in our community the girls are to be married as early as possible.



As a last resort Amisha sent this message to the Community Social Worker, Shweta Kumari who works for Vikasaarth Trust on the issue of Child Marriage in her Block.

Shweta, when came to know about this she immediately approached Satyanarayan, the father of Amisha and spoke to him about the news. Satyanarayan told that they have already fixed the marriage in the next month and this cannot be changed. Shweta asked him whether he wants a good future of his daughter or just wants to get rid of his responsibilities. She also asked him whether he is aware about the laws of child marriage.

He said that he although known this but there are several reasons like economic condition of

family, difficulty in getting a good match and above all 'what people will say if the grown up girl is not married. So keeping all these in mind he has decided to get his daughter married.

Then Shweta explained him about the ill effects of early marriage on the girl as well as the family. Finally she said that even then he wants to continue with the decision, she will have to report to the authorities who will forcefully stop the marriage and the groom's family will also have to face the consequences.

After a long discussion, Satyanarayan agreed to speak to the groom's father and come back.

Later after couple of days he said that both the parties have agreed to postpone this marriage. He in the presence of prominent people of the village signed an undertaking that he will get her daughter married only when she attains 18 years of age.

Amisha took a sigh of relief!

Babita's battle with Trauma

Babita (name changed) is 14 years old she is dumb by birth. She lives with her mother, father and one elder brother in village Arma which comes under Arma Gram Panchayat of Suryagarha Block of Lakhisarai district in Bihar.

Babita comes from a very poor family and her father's daily wage labour is the only source of income. Since she is not able to speak, she has not been admitted in school and performs household chores. Her family could not afford medical treatment so having no options her parents has left to her fate.

On 7th October 2023 she as usual took her goats for grazing in the nearby agriculture field where four young boys aged 13-14 years from the same Arma village caught and took her to a lonely place and raped her. Although she could not speak but tried hard to make noise which was heard by a woman who was passing by. Seeing a young girl in clutches of four boys she raised an alarm and in no time the villagers gathered to the place of incident. All four boys were caught red handed. Mother of Babita immediately filed an FIR against those four boys in women police station of Lakhisarai. The police came in action and arrested all four boys. Being minors the accused boys were produced before the Child Welfare Committee which sent them to the remand home.



The counsellor appointed by Vikasaarth Trust under the Access to Justice Project by Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation is on constant vigil for such cases of abuse and as soon as she came to know about the incident, she along with the Community Social Worker rushed to the village met the family and enquired about the incident. The victim child was immediately taken for medical test that confirmed the rape. Babita was consoled by the Project Counsellor, who in constant touch thereafter.

The child has overcome the trauma and now she is normal. Case is being followed up by the project and the processes for compensation is being made.

Rekha's incredible Journey

Rekha comes from a very poor family based in Kharuara, near Patna. Her father pulls cycle rickshaw as his income was not enough to feed the family of five persons hence, her mother works in a Rainbow Home to earn some additional income. Because of family's poverty Rekha had faced many hardship and difficulties at the very young age, however, these problems made her very hardworking and provided the self-esteem to keep up her ambition for a brighter future.

As the family was not able provide even the basic education on their own she was brought to Anisabad Rainbow Home where she was enrolled in a bridge course and was later admitted to Class 7 in Government Middle School Dhirachak, where the Rainbow Home was housed. At the initial stage, since she had not been to any school, she struggled to focus on her studies. However, with support from teachers, volunteers, and her elder sister, she gradually developed an interest towards learning. Rekha's dedication paid off, and she passed her 10th-grade exams with a 1st division, despite the challenges of online classes and coaching during that period.

Her talents extended beyond academics; she participated in extracurricular activities like dance and painting, earning a medal for her achievements. Rekha continued to excel, passing her 12th-grade exams with 1st division once again.

After completing her higher secondary education, Rekha joined the Mahindra Institute for Banking and SSC preparation. Alongside her preparations, she also enrolled herself in B.Sc. program. Her regular effort paid off and she secured a seat in ANM Training School at the Sub-Divisional Hospital in Darbhanga. Rekha's journey exemplifies her determination and hard work as she continues to strive for a brighter future.

Partners

Since its inception in 2010 Vikasaarth has received support from several esteemed organizations such as NABARD, UNICEF and Rainbow Home Program- ARUN Just Rights for Children. Apart from that the organization has received support from several other organizations as well in lieu of providing technical support. This includes, UNICEF, Save the Children, Landesa, India, Caritas-Switzerland- India Country Programme, Bal Sakha- Karl Kuber Foundation, MTBA (Alliance of Save the Children NL, Oxfam Novib, Simavi NL and Population Council), ActionAid India Association, Bennett and Colman Pvt. Ltd and others.

Human Resources

There are 23 full time, 4-part time resources and 62 volunteers dedicated to the two ongoing projects. Besides, 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.

Legal Details

Registered as Charitable Trust	No. 14885/2010
Registered under FCRA	No 031170581
Registered under 12A,	No. 112/2011-12-952-55
Permanent Account No. (PAN)	AABTV3350R
TAN:	PTNV00818G
Registered under DARPAN	No. BR/2018/02204 32
CSR Registration	CSR00090422
Executive office: Ground floor, Saroj Apartment, Rd No. 11, Rajendra Nagar, Patna 800 016 Residential hostel: Dheerachak Government Middle School, Anisabaad, Patna 800 002 RCCLC: Mahatma Gandhi Community Centre, Chauhatta, Digha Patna- 800 012 Lakhisarai office: Sarma Chowk, Jamui Road, Lakhisarai 811311 Registered office: 104, Maheshwar Kutir Apartment, Road No. 12, Rajendra Nagar, Patna 800016	
Contact: 91-9931891339/9430285666 email: contact.vikasaarth@gmail.com	
website: www.vikasaarth.org.in	
X: @Vikasaarth	
Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/vikasaarth/	
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100070099381755	
LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:share:7094012004276867072/	

News Clippings

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बिहार

धनबाद, मुंगेर, 10 'मृग 2024

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बाल विवाह मुक्त भारत अभियान के सहयोगी संगठन विकासार्थ ट्रस्ट ने पूरे देश में बाल विवाह व बलात्कार मामले को फैसलों की जहरत बताई

बाल विवाह व बलात्कार मामलों में 49 वर्षीय मुजरास को 10 साल की सज़ा (एनजीओ ने की पूरा देत में इसी तरह के फैसलों की अपील)

दिल्ली की जेल में बंद बाल विवाह के आरोपी को 10 साल की सज़ा (एनजीओ ने की पूरा देत में इसी तरह के फैसलों की अपील)

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अंतर्कथा

विविध

धनबाद, मुंगेर, 9 मई 2024

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अक्षय तृतीया के दिन विवाह बाल ना हो लिए इसके लिए प्रखंड विकास पदाधिकारी, बीपीआरओ,जन प्रतिनिधि से किया अपील

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नवादा/लखीसराय

धनबाद, 20 मई 2024

सरकार के बाल विवाह मुक्त भारत अभियान को विकासार्थ ट्रस्ट ने दिया समर्थन

सरकार के बाल विवाह मुक्त भारत अभियान को विकासार्थ ट्रस्ट ने दिया समर्थन

सरकार के बाल विवाह मुक्त भारत अभियान को विकासार्थ ट्रस्ट ने दिया समर्थन

सरकार के बाल विवाह मुक्त भारत अभियान को विकासार्थ ट्रस्ट ने दिया समर्थन

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