

# National Institute of Women, Child and Youth Development (NIWCYD)



## ***Annual Report*** ***2004 – 2005***

## **Introduction :**

National *Institute* of Women, Child and Youth Development (NIWCYD) was established in 1982 and registered under the Society Registration Act 1860 in the year 1985. The organization is of an all India character. Presently it is working in three states viz. Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Chhatisgarh. The major programmes of the organization are going on in remote and tribal pockets of Madhya Pradesh and Chhatisgarh.

The objectives of the Institute are :

- working for overall development of women, children and youth and empowering them for the purpose of obtaining their participation in the process of their own development,
- developing skills and leadership potential of rural and tribal youth,
- improving self sufficiency of people living in remote areas of the country by their social and political empowerment through Panchayat Raj Institutions and local CBOs without drastically altering their life styles and
- undertaking activities related to Natural Resource Management including soil and water development and conservation.

## **Vision :**

NIWCYD aims to be an instrument of tribal and rural development through the process of complete empowerment of the beneficiaries which will render them self sufficient, thereby reducing or eliminating their dependence on external support for any issue or difficulty they may face.

The guiding philosophy of NIWCYD's efforts has been to utilize natural resources - real and potential, those are available locally and enable sustainable development and empower the community based organizations to fight for the local issues to safeguard the rights of the poor and the tribal.

## **Core Issues being addressed by NIWCYD**

- Livelihood issue of the tribals through Natural Resource Management
- Strengthening of Community Based Organisations and Panchayati Raj Institutions
- Political and Economic empowerment of the women
- Reducing the Child Mortality
- Child rights campaign
- Campaign against girl child labor

## **Population Focus :**

- Work of NIWCYD revolves basically in the rural and remote tribal areas with the focus on:
- Ethnic groups viz., Baigas, Gonds, Korkus, Mowasi and Madias.
- Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe children
- Delinquent, neglected and street children.
- Child labour working in the stone hazardous situation with the special focus on girl child labour.
- New born and
- Women

**Present Area of Operation :**

States	Districts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Madhya Pradesh</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dindori, Mandla, Betul, Chhindwara, Jabalpur (5 Districts) and Bhopal city.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maharashtra</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nagpur, Bhandara and Yeotmal (3 Districts)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chhatisgarh</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kanker and Jagdalpur (2 Districts)</li> </ul>

**No. of Villages Covered :**

Madhya Pradesh - 700 Villages of Mahakoshal Region – Tribal Pocket

Maharashtra - 25 villages of Vidarbha Region – Rural Pocket

Chhatisgarh - 25 Villages of Bastar Region – Tribal Pocket

25 Slum areas of Nagpur and Bhopal city.

NIWCYD is reaching a population of about 4 lakhs through its different projects in three states of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Vidarbha in Maharashtra. NIWCYDs projectwise interventions in different areas are briefly described below.

***Integrated Rural and Tribal Development Projects*****Tribal Peoples' Organisation with Agricultural Development in Madhya Pradesh & Chhattisgarh (India)**

This project is being implemented in the 30 villages of Jabalpur, Chhindwara and Kanker districts in the states of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh respectively from September 2002 with the support of Terre des Hommes (TdH), Pune. The total population covered is 11,236 in 2,079 families.

The overall goal of this project is "To improve the status of life of the rural and tribal community through the twin interventions of Natural Resource Management (Soil Water Conservation) and Capacity Building"

And for doing so

- Improve quality of the natural livelihood resources available in order to improve the food security of the people
- Expose the community to technical and knowledge inputs to enhance agricultural yield
- Increase awareness of the community of their basic and inalienable rights
- Build community structures to take charge of all forms of development
- Foster economic activities for empowerment
- Empower women and increase their role in the village level decision making
- Improve the quality of life for the children especially those who are neglected and are working.

To achieve the above objectives following programmes were undertaken: Land and water development, strengthening of grain and seed banks, non formal education (NFE) centres for drop out children, campaign against girl child labour, women empowerment and capacity building of staff and village committees.

The results achieved can be listed as -

Land Economy : 416 acres of farm land in 30 villages developed. Due to land development activity the cultivable area of the farms have increased along with increase in water retention capacity. As a result 836 families have benefited by the first phase of the work.

- Farm productivity has increased by 30 % in 20 villages.
- About 221.5 acres of agriculture land can now be used for second crop leading to increase in the farm produce.
- 829 families benefited from seed bank. Thus they could not only do their timely sowing but also got out of the exploitation by big farmers and traders
- Landless families not only got the job of SWC but also took advantage of the grain bank

Water Management :

- Potable water is now available for 268 families due to water wells and spring development. Four wells, three springs, one lake and 32 temporary water structures constructed
- 390 families have started cultivation of second crop due to irrigation facilities developed under this project. 12 villages used the diesel pump for irrigation
- There is sufficient availability of water for cattle in 5 villages due to temporary canals

Women empowerment :

- 60 SHGs formed, Rs. 2,25,372/- collected.
- The Self Help Groups have not only empowered women economically but also provided them with a political and social space in the community. This has developed their self image and have given them confidence to raise their issue in the village council.
- Following the training, about 29 women have already initiated horticulture and goat rearing for income generation.

Rural Organizational Structure

- Rs. 2,93,656/- generated as village fund in 30 villages.
- 40 families benefited from village funds and got out of the clutches of money lenders.
- 278 families benefited from grain and seed banks. 325 quintals of seeds and grains collected.
- The village council has been revived and has started regular meetings to discuss issues concerning them
- Panchayat members have started raising about their felt need before the Local Government authorities.
- Women village council leaders (Sarpanch) have started actively participating in the village meetings and they are no more a proxy.
- Learning and management committee has been actively taking part in identifying the issues concerning the village and planning the programme. They are also gradually getting involved in the management of the community assets and participatory monitoring of the project.

Educational programme for children :

- 696 children attending 30 NFE classes
- Due to NFE centre there is increased level of awareness and motivation among the parents to send their children for education
- About 297 children through educational campaigns have started attending regular school including 50 % girls
- The normal attendance in the NFE centre is about 75 - 80%
- Due to NFE centres, gradually slow learners are moving in the mainstream school. So far about 22 % children from NFE have already joined the normal school

Support programme for girls :

- There is a greater awareness among 250 families about the ill effect of child labour
- Critical awareness has been created among the girl child labourers about the adverse affect of child labour on their personality and development
- As a result about 92 girls have stopped going to stone crusher units and migration for agriculture labour
- As an alternative to child labour the girls have been involved in collective tailoring and horticulture with the moral support from their families

Staff Capacity building :

- Different trainings have led to a better planning and effective implementation of the programmes as well as proper documentation of the work.

Major achievements can be listed as -

- The availability of 105,553 person days of work generated in the area has reduced forced migration of people by 65%
- Due to the consentization process and counseling there is greater change in the thinking of the families of girl child labourers to release them form hazardous work of stone crushing units. As a result 75 girls have stopped working in the crushing unit and started group IGP activities.
- For the first time the women have started attending an participating the village council meetings.

Challenges Ahead :

It is a big challenge to release the girl children from the child labour, keeping in mind the geo-political context wherein the project area of Jabalpur is quite influenced by the nearby city life and people do long for more than just a basic needs. Moreover, there is a pressure from the crusher unit lobby to lure more girls into labour. Therefore, it is a big challenge to create a solid, economically attractive and viable self employment in the area.

### **Rural Development Programme in the tribal belt of Madhya Pradesh**

This project is being implemented with partnership of AWO, Germany. From Jan. 2003 six more villages were added to the previous five villages of Samnapur block of Dindori district in MP. Population of 2,831 covering 556 families (mostly Baiga) are benefited in 11 villages.

The activities carried out during the year are –

- Capacity building of village organisations
- Soil Water Conservation
- Sustainable agriculture
- Income generation programmes
- Farm and Forest produce collection
- NFE Centres
- Health programme

The results achieved are –

- 655 families developed 163 acres of land in five villages.
- Stream bunding done in three villages. 27 farmers cultivated second crop using diesel pumps.
- The stock in grain and seed banks has increased to 123 quintals in 12 villages.
- People generated village fund of Rs. 11,42,454/- through voluntary labour.
- 85 families took loan of Rs. 1,35,000/- for different agricultural activities.
- 57 quintals of vermi-compost produced and used for organic farming by 30 farmers
- 140 out of school children benefited through NFE classes
- 17 TBAs trained for conducting safe deliveries

- 316 patients treated through health camps. Most of the people were suffering from Malaria.

Through this programme exploitation from moneylenders and middle men has decrease. Crop productivity has increased by 30 – 40 % in treated land. Farmers are motivated to take second crop. Functioning of schools and Aanganwadi have improved due to intervention of village committees.

### **Sustainable Adivasi Integrated Development (SAID) Programme**

Under the SAID Programme institutional building and capacity building of village institutions was done. Following training and exposure were organised in Dindori district –

- Orientation Training to Forest Management
- Indigenous seed collection
- Exposure visit on NRM and Gender Mainstreaming
- Capacity Building on management of grain and seed bank
- Demonstration on Vermi Compost and bio dung
- Dona Pattal Training
- Designing and strategizing SHG federation development for market access and trade of NTFP and agriculture produce
- Orientation training of Self-help groups
- Training on NTFP
- Joint meeting with Forest department
- Meetings - Interface between community leaders, PRI and government officials

### **Staff capacity building**

- Process Documentation
- Forest Policy and Law
- Community mobilization and village institution development
- Legal Training
- Watershed development
- Disaster Management
- Gender

The impact of work in 36 villages of Amarpur and Baiga Chak area of Dindori district is as follows:

- Land leveling on 286 acres of land belonging to 626 families in 24 villages
- Stone bunding on 35 acres of land in 8 villages belonging to 112 families.
- Earth bunding on 108 acres of land belonging to 157 families in 11 villages.
- 16 water structures have been created in the project area.
- 249 people from 38 families got access to safe drinking water. Women of these 38 families got relief from bringing the water for household purpose from far off distance.
- Landless families got the work in the villages thus preventing their migration in search work.
- In 10 villages of Baiga Chak area and In 7 villages of Amarpur area people have started taking second crop.
- 25 families from 5 villages have irrigated 29 acres of land in five villages
- Village fund has been generated in all the project villages through land and water resources development work.
- In village Samhar and Amgaon of Amarpur field area people got permanent titles of their lands. In revenue villages the process of renovation of the land titles of 1000 families has been initiated.
- In every village 5 to 6 families are engaged in kitchen gardening and vegetable farming.
- Food grain security increased to 8 – 10 months from 4 - 5 months.
- Stony and unused land converted for farming.
- 25 % families started taking second crop.

- Timely availability of Seed, food grains and cash helped in timely sowing and harvesting the crops thereby increasing the crop productivity.
- Exploitation from money lenders reduced to the extent of 80 – 90 %
- Adjoining villages demanded for similar work from Panchayat and government
- Forest department and some active Panchayats initiated similar activities through Forest Committees (Van Samiti) and Panchayat funds.
- In some villages families adopted land development activity on their own
- SHG members initiated collection of agricultural cash crop and are involved in seed and grain bank management
- SHG members playing active role in Panchayat
- Participation of women in Gramsabha has increased from 5 % to 45 – 50 %

In **Chhindwara** district the SAID Programme was continued in five villages covering 2,337 people (mostly Mowasi tribals). Following results were achieved :

- As per plan 250 acres of land treated, and brought under cultivation
- Fallow land brought under cultivation.
- 2 diesel pumps and pipes provided from additional budget. Pumps have been used for small kitchen gardening purpose. Second crop was available to 18 families.
- Bio dung pits prepared by 65 families from 5 villages
- Vermi-compost pits prepared by 36 families from 5 villages
- 42 quintals collected in grain banks and seed banks. 123 families benefited
- Five women SHGs formed. Rs. 7,835/- deposited. Internal lending of Rs. 2300/- done
- 1,615 fruit plants planted done by 249 families
- The field training organised for workers and villagers
- Knowledge of workers and villagers upgraded on soil and water conservation.
- Participants learnt different watershed area treatment techniques like CC, FB, CB, RFB grass seeding and farm contour bunding.
- Knowledge of the members of the grain and seeds bank committees updated on the storage and management of grain and seeds bank.

### **Drought Relief**

Drought relief work continued in 12 villages of Amarpur block under food for work programme which was started in the previous year. 219 families benefited. The work was completed in June 2004.

### **Community Development Project - Kanker**

This is a ongoing project supported by IGSSS. The project is being implemented in 11 tribal villages in Kanker district of Chhattisgarh. The objectives of the project are to strengthen the peoples' organisation and SHG and facilitate to improve the economic conditions of the tribals.

- Land development carried out by 71 families in 5 villages covering 2,30,562 cubic ft. The community voluntarily contributed 50 % of the cost of the work by way of labour.
- 7 new women SHG groups formed in 10 villages. The total SHGs are now 23 and the deposits have increased to Rs. 1,10,300/- in their bank accounts.
- 10 SHGs strengthened the *Mahua* and Tamarind trade. They earned an income of Rs. 24,549/-.
- Two more fair price shop started by VDC members in another two villages taking the total shops to four.
- Stock in the seed and grain banks increased to 25 quintals of paddy seed. This activity is going on in 6 villages.
- Two SHGs initiated fisheries and one group started piggery unit with government's support.
- 10 TBAs trained for conducting safe delivery.

People's participation in village meeting has increased by 50 to 60 %. Women's participation has increased to 40 – 60 %. Dependency on outside market and money lenders reduced by 60 – 70 % due to internal lending of SHGs. NIWCYD has started withdrawing from the project villages and planning to intervene in 12 new villages.

### **Food security and irrigation for tribal farmers**

This project was started in 2 villages in Kanker district, CG from July 2003 with support from AFPRO, Raipur. The project targets the poorest men of the villages and strives to sensitize the people on gender issues with community participation at all levels.

To begin with the community was made aware of the programme, VDC and women SHGs formed, construction of community centre started, construction of pond and approach roads initiated, Balwadi started for 30 poor tribal children, trainings and exposures organised for land development, organic farming, capacity building of VDC members and women SHGs.

The achievements of the project are –

- Two water structures developed for irrigation
- Seed and Grain banks established in two villages with 12 quintals of grains.
- Three women SHGs formed and they started started Mahua collection and marketing
- 23 acres of farm bunding completed for 23 families.
- Committees of PRI activated.

### **Human rights project for livelihood**

This project was to support the people rehabilitated from the Totladoah dam colony in Ramtek block of Nagpur district. The project started in March 2003 with support from SwissAid, Mumbai.

The aim of this project was to generate sustainable income, restoration options for the eligible displaced persons so that the people start earning to an extent that they are above poverty line and the affected families regenerate the destroyed resources and manage them for meeting their livelihood needs

Different activities carried out were -

- Completion of land development work for kitchen gardening
- Support for agriculture through seeds
- Strengthening of established SHGs and fisheries
- Promotion and linkages with government welfare schemes

Output of the project was -

- Seven quintals of seeds of soya been, pulses, etc. was provided to 35 families
- During the lean period provided employment for livelihood thereby stopped working migration of 225 families.
- 45 acres of land provided by the government to 325 displaced families. The procedure of land titles is initiated by the local group

The people in the new settlement with support from local group are now liaison with the government for their employment and livelihood issue.

### **Fostering Livelihood by Promotions of NTFP Based Income Generation Activities for Poverty Alleviation in Mandla and Dindori District, M.P.**

This project was supported by CIDA and was initiated in Jan, 2005 in 13 villages of Mandla and Dindori district, MP. Following activities were initiated under the project –



- Meetings conducted with women groups in all villages
- SHG Training
- EDP Training
- Skill Training Trades
- Establishment of NTFP Trades
- Plate & Bowl manufacturing
- Broom making

## ***Child Development Projects***

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### **Bachpan project, Bhopal**

The Bhopal regional office initiated Bachpan as the Action Aid India project in the year 2001 & handed over to NIWCYD in 2002. Realizing that the daily needs of children living in deprived conditions are not met, Bachpan meaning 'Childhood', was initiated to facilitate the process of ensuring rights of the children in the city of Bhopal and Itarsi. The project was designed keeping in view the child rights framework. Its mission is to address the rights of individuals, here mainly children, who suffer the densest denial of rights. Bachpan in 2004 has worked on three different levels:

- Strengthening and sensitization of community based structures on children's issues.
- Networking with Non-Governmental Organization (NGO)
- Advocacy with Government departments.

#### **1 Campaign for Universalizing Education**

Past experiences of 2 years regarding enrolment of children in formal system of education helped us in building a momentum towards universalizing education in the project area. We had thought to cover the whole project area in this campaign so that children can have access to the primary education. Various initiatives taken in this regards includes Pratham initiative in the project area, training programs for community workers, Enrolment campaign in 9 slums of project and networking with the concerning government department at different levels. The major concern of this year campaign was led on the working children of the project areas. Various activities pertaining to the issue are:

- Education Program with Pratham-

Under the Pratham collaboration, 43 centers were initiated to cover all children within the framework of education. We followed a systematic approach of conducting a baseline survey of children who had never been to school and school dropouts. After the identification of children we selected the teachers from the community and these teachers themselves started their community centers.

- Enrolment:

School enrolment campaign started in the month of June with the objective of mainstreaming the children in schools. The enrollment drive was a real success. The partnership with Pratham was helpful in developing interest among the children towards education and schools. The parents of the children are also motivated through home visits & children have shown a great enthusiasm for joining the school. The database of the enrolled children is as shown in table No.1.

**Thank you Didi** (Thank you sister) ... ..

I am Baby Malti , a 6 years girl of Mira Nagar, was having problem in my left eye. One day I have shown my eyes to Savita didi who comes to teach us in our community and asked. Didi kya ye theek nanhi ho sakti (Is this can not be corrected and she replied I will see to it. After few day Savita didi came up with the information that a free camp is going to be held in Bhopal which is going to be organized by Sewa Sadan hospital and district blind relief association Bhopal. Didi brought me to the hospital for checkup and doctors suggested to operate the eye. My eye have

got operated and doctors suggested that in later stage we would transplant duplicate eye. Now I am feeling better.

Her father Bhaiyalal is also happy of this medical assistance provided to her daughter. Now he is regular attendant of our programs with his family.

Sr.	Name of Community	Enrollment of Dropouts		Enrollment of children never been to school		Total Enrollment
		Male	Female	Male	Female	
1	Indira Nagar	21	6	17	38	82
2	Karond	15	17	52	50	134
3	Mira Nagar	3	7	3	22	35
4	P C. Nagar	7	9	9	22	47
5	Laxman Nagar	9	6	13	5	33
6	Sabji Faram	11	9	5	11	36
7	Sarwati Nagar	2	3	3	4	12
8	Gulab Nagar	2	1	4	11	18
	Total	70	58	106	163	397



Rag picking Girls at Educational Activity Centre – Mira Nagar

### Other Activities:

**1 Pulse polio program:** Pulse polio awareness program was organized in two phases first on 4th April & 23rd of May in which 1300 children benefited and in second phase 1800 children were benefited. This program was organized in collaboration with UNICEF & MPVHA, Bhopal office. Adolescent girls groups & child development groups of respective communities were trained and involved in whole program. They are organized as “Pulse Polio Tolies (groups)” who are given the responsibilities to bring the children to their booths.

**2. Awareness program on tobacco:** A program was organized to aware the community people on the bad effects of tobacco eating on 31st May (No tobacco day). For the first time, the community workers planned the whole program in their respective areas by the involvement of children. They have organized drawing competitions, dramas, & rallies on the issue. About 300-400 children participated in the programs from different areas of the project. The children were

also shown documentaries on the impact of tobacco eating. The child development group decided to promote the children who will quit the habit of gutkha eating while joining the CDG.

### Networking and Linking:

1. CACL: Campaign against child labor is a national network of different organizations campaigning against child labor. Bachpan has represented its concerns of child labor twice in CACL western region workshop held at YUVA campus Mumbai and National Meet, which was held in GOA.
2. CAGCL-HASTAKSHEP: Campaign against girl child labor- Hastakshep is a state level network of organizations in MP working towards eradicating girl child labor. This network came into existence with the efforts of NIWCYD by organizing 3 meetings and 1 state level workshop including organization from Chattisgarh state. Bachpan as project of NIWCYD Bhopal regional office represented itself in the campaign.
3. Right to food Campaign: Bachpan represented it self in state level hearing on right to food held in Bhopal this year. We have raised the issues relating to urban scenario during the hearing.

### Initiative With the Platform Children

- **Platform Initiative:**

Platform program was started since October this year. After the recruitment of the staff we have strategize the whole program into 4 steps

1. Selection of railway stations for child PPA.
2. Staff orientation o PPA techniques.
3. Child PPA on selected platforms.
4. Interventions.

### Selection of railway stations for child PPA

For selection of PPA sites and taking an overview of the situation we have visited Major railway junctions of MP i.e. Gwalior, Indore, Katani, Jabalpur, Ujjain, Ratlam and Bhopal.

Railway Station	Children on station		Children in custodial home		
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Children from platform
1. Gwalior	10	--	25	Nil	11
2. Indore	05	--	34	Nil	16
3. Katani	40	10	NA	NA	NA
4. Ratlam	15	Nil	27	---	07
5. Bhopal	25	15	52	51	23
6. Ujjain	40	10	44	--	14
TOTAL	145	35	155	51	71

### Child PPA :

Two teams of 6 members conducted platform Children Participatory Poverty Assessment. They have completed the whole child PPA exercise at 7 different locations in 15 days during the month of December. During study it was thought to collect the information by applying participatory tools for data collection. Different tools applied by these team members are:

- Daily schedule of children
- Mobility map.
- Seasonality.
- Income –Expenditure analysis.
- Livelihood analysis.
- Problem analysis.
- Well being ranking.
- Cause and effect analysis etc.

Ujjain, Katani, Betul, Khandawa and Ratlam also gave more or less same picture. These places report analysis is in process but briefly the outcomes of these exercises are summarized as:

- Maximum of their time these children spent on work, search of food, addiction and on movies.
- Their mobility is towards the sources of food, addiction, market, talkies and children home.
- According to season, they face more problems during winter and rainy seasons due to lack of proper shelter and clothes with them.
- In winter there consumptions on addiction increases to cope up with the cold.
- Their needs change according to season i.e. in winter clothes and bedding and in rainy season shelter and food is their priority.
- The children who are addict of solution, whitener, gutkha and smoking they spent more money on these things then on food.
- Average income of a child on platform varies according to their age and livelihood. They earn from Rs. 50 to Rs. 300per day.
- Children who are involved in different addictions have more or less same livelihood.
- In Khandwa and Ratlam children are used to remove dead bodies and clean railway tracks, either by GRP or contractors.
- Girls on Bhopal and Katani platforms are involved in prostitution.
- In Bhopal children also earn livelihood by selling powder or brown sugar which they call *Ticket* in their language.
- They face major problems with GRP and RPF personnel's. Small children and new comers phase problems of different gangs on platform.
- The gang leader who engage these children in work also provides bail of children when he gets arrested by police after which the child have to work to return the amount of bail.
- They also face problems with platform sweepers as they disturb them during rest time.
- On Betul Platform a different group of boys and girls found. Boys earn livelihood through boot polish and girls through rag picking and bagging. Girls have their families residing near platform since 15-20 years. All boys on Betul platform belong to Dalit communities.
- The categories of children changes on platform according to their contacts with GRP, gangs livelihood & income, habits, and shelter facilities.
- Children on platform are called as *Tapories* in Bhopal.
- Children prefer those stations where large number of trains has their stoppage.

#### **Major Achievements 2004:**

- 1003 children are covered under Pratham initiative into the circle of education.
- Community participation is increasing day by day. Families are prioritizing children interests.
- Participation of children/ groups is enhanced in the issues of their concerns through the child development groups and adolescent groups.
- Children raised their voices on various platforms like Balsunwai, rallies and street plays etc.
- Community is sensitized about Girl child education.
- Networking with Campaigns like CACL and MP network- CAGCL.

#### **Creche cum Balwadi Programme**

The organisation is running 15 Creche cum Balwadi centres. Of these 10 centres are in Vidarbha, 3 in Madhya Pradesh and 2 in Chhattisgarh. 375 SC and ST children are benefited under this programme.

## ***Health & Advocacy Projects***

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### **Ankur Project - Home Based Neonatal Care (HBNC)**

Ankur project continued in 16 villages of Ramtek block of Nagpur district covering a population of 14,000. The project was supported by SEARCH, Gadchiroli. The Arogyadoots (VHW) continued their services to neonates and children.

During this year following activities were carried out :

- NCS and VSS orientation trainings
- VHW orientation trainings
- TBA training
- Service delivery
- Biannual Survey

The village health worker (Arogyadoots) are providing services to the neonates as per the training provided to them. 19 Arogyadoots gained confidence and skills in handling the new born children after home deliveries. The VHW handled cases of low birth weight, hypothermia, birth asphyxia, sepsis, pneumonia and Vitamin K injection. As per the baseline the child mortality rate is reduced by 40 %.

### **Resource Centre**

NIWCYD has established a resource centre for NGOs and other peoples' organisations in Nainpur, district Mandla, MP. This centre is supported by own resources of the organisation.

The main activities include :

- Collection, analysis and dissemination of information on Government Resolutions, law and bills tabled in parliament and state assemblies
- Strengthening people based campaigns
- Networking amongst NGOs, academia and government officials

A number of NGOs have been taking advantage of the service provided by this centre.

### **Swayam Samarthan Project**

This project was launched in July 2003 in 450 villages of four districts of Madhya Pradesh. This is a network project lead by NIWCYD and partnered by five NGOs in Betul, Chhindwara and Betul districts. The project is supported by DFID under the Poorest Area Civil Society (PACS) Programme through Development Alternatives, New Delhi.

The overall project goal is "Building and strengthening people's institutions in 450 villages in Mandla, Dindori, Chhindwara and Betul districts of Madhya Pradesh; thereby enabling conservation and efficient use of their natural resources and benefits under government schemes".

Activities carried out during the year are –

- Village level meetings with PRI Members, villagers
- Activation / Formation of Gram Sabha
- Entrepreneurship Motivational Campaigns
- NGO Chief Functionaries review meeting
- Establishment of Cluster Information Centre
- Obtaining and disseminating information on government schemes
- Capacity Building of Gramdoots
- Baseline Survey

- PRA for felt needs of villagers
- Training of Field Workers
- Cluster & Block Level Coordination with Govt. Agencies / Advocacy
- Media / state / central level advocacy meetings
- Cluster Level Monthly Review Meeting
- Process / Photo Documentation
- Reporting to PACS
- Indigenous seed and grain bank campaign
- Entrepreneurship motivation camps
- Formation of SHG and farmers clubs
- Training on appropriate agriculture
- Horticulture promotion
- Training of SHG and PRI members

This project is first large project of NIWCYD involving capacity building of people and liaisoning with government in networking mode with NGOs in Madhya Pradesh. 450 village volunteers (Gramdoots) and team of 90 staff members trained to implement the project at grass root level.

Key achievements of the project are as follows –

- Under EDP promotion 357 proposals prepared, 104 proposals were sanctioned. 48 units were established with support from government schemes and 74 units were established with own resources.
- 390 new SHGs formed, 281 old SHGs reactivated. Out of total 671 SHGs, 496 are women, 113 are men and 62 are mixed SHGs. Key members of SHGs trained in managing the internal lending and IGP
- 671 SHG initiated 196 income generating activities
- Seed banks established in 240 villages and 145 grain banks established. 118 families were freed from the clutches of money lenders.
- 564 SHG members stopped taking support from money lenders due to internal lending within SHG.
- Migration of 268 families stopped completely and of 270 families reduced by two months.
- Increase in women's participation in 61 Gramsabhas. On an average 30 women attend Gramsabhas and raise local issues viz. health, drinking water, education, corruption, etc.
- 22 women Sarpanchs started taking their own decisions in Panchayat matters.
- 294 parent teachers associations were activated.
- Baseline survey of 450 project villages completed. This started off the process of planning on different aspects like land treatment, drinking water, nistar land, anganwadi, employment, etc., by villagers.
- 142 farmers started vermicompost production and used the compost in their fields.
- 536 gramdoots (55 women and 481 men) identified in 450 villages and trained. They initiated work on local issues
- 160 landless groups formed
- 231 farmers groups formed and 25 kisan clubs formed.
- 125 village forest committees activated
- 34 forest committees and forest protection committees activated. They carried out different activities (approach road, illegal felling, etc.) in cooperation with forest department.

### **Legal Awareness for Tribal Women**

Three days legal awareness camp was conducted for tribal women at Kanker, Chhattisgarh. 60 women including PRI members participated in the camp. They were guided on legal issues by experts. This camp was organised by support of National Commission for Women, Govt. of India, New Delhi.

## ***Supporting Agencies***

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The NIWCYD Governing Council wishes to acknowledge the support it has received from a variety of individuals and institutions in the year under report. This includes financial support from

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- Swiss Aid, Mumbai
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- Terre des Hommes (TdH), Pune
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- DFID through Development Alternatives, New Delhi
- SEARCH, Gadchiroli
- AFPRO, Raipur
- Pratham Mumbai Education Initiative, Mumbai
- Canadian High Commission, CIDA, New Delhi
- National Commission for Women, Govt. of India, New Delhi

and Technical support from

- GreenEarth Social Development Consulting Pvt. Ltd.
- National Environment Engineering and Research Institute (NEERI), Nagpur
- SEARCH, Gadchiroli
- Pratham, Mumbai

The governing council also wishes to thank the staff, volunteers and various technical associates who have contributed greatly to its programmes and mission.

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Mawai, Nainpur - Dist. Mandla, MP  
Shahpur – Dist. Betul, MP  
Sonpur – Dist. Chhindwara, MP  
Sarona, Dist. Kanker, CG  
Mansar - Dist. Nagpur, Maharashtra