

ANNUAL REPORT

2020-21



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The end of Year 2020-2021 year year of despair, hopelessness, fear and losses. But, still we tried hard to come to terms with the Pandemic, which engulfed the whole world. The struggle between personal issues and official dilemmas continued. During the Covid-19 times, the journey has been tough. With several issues related to lockdown and economy seeing backlash, some hard realities and questions have been raised. Migrant workers in the brick kiln and many of them are returning back to their home. No employment, lack of employment opportunities for the migrant workers, fighting hunger, ignorance related to the pandemic, stigma and violence are the major issues the migrant workers are fighting with

COVID-19 brought with it the new normal in our lives. This normal was difficult for all, painful for some but it brought with it suffering for many. Many invisibles suddenly became 'the visible'. The government utterly failed in planning for the lockdown, which was sudden and brought to stand still lives of many.

The worst affected were the people engaged in the unorganized sector and the migrants. This sudden closure showed its effect after a week when gradually people were spending whatever they had saved. There was dearth of food and no work. In the bigger cities, these invisibles had nowhere to go, as they were

homeless and the landlords had started demanding rent (even though the government had asked them not to take rent). With no choice, these workers had to return back to their homes, so they walked back, paddled, sat in trucks, autos, ferries etc. It was only later that the government started special shramik trains or buses for 'the visible'.

In this backdrop we also contributed our bit in supporting the families in whatever limited capacities we could.



Provision of cooked meal and dry ration to the community

As soon as the lockdown started we started liaising with the government finding about their facilities. We came to know about the community kitchen and later about the ration availability for the people in need.

We contacted the people from civil defense, as a result of which every day 70 packets of cooked meal was provided in two areas (where were also working).



With Some resources for the urban area, we distributed dry ration to families 200 families.

Now was the time to turn to the rural community, as many of them were daily wage earners or also worked in the field of others. We moved strategically in this direction. The steps we followed were-

1. Quick survey of the most vulnerable families- This was done with

the help of village volunteers and as soon as there was some relaxation in the lockdown rules, the team went to the villages and finalized the list of these families.

2. Identifying those in need, vulnerable community, single women, widow etc.
3. Keeping a track of or monitoring the schemes of the government (MNREGA, PDS, Pradhan mantra Gareeb kalyan Yojana, the NRLM scheme etc)

Role of our women and adolescent girl leaders

During these adverse times our women leaders and adolescent girls emerged as vibrant leaders, taking initiative and supporting others in the times of distress. They supported us in identifying families, support in distribution and also in conducting awareness about covid -19, writing slogans and doing one to one meeting with the community.

Dry ration kits were made which included, flour, pulses, nutrela, basic condiments, cooking oil, potatoes, onion, biscuit and a soap. As per the list this was distributed, keeping in mind the precautions needed during the time of



pandemic. In fact wherever possible before distribution we made the community aware about the pandemic (many myths are associated with it). We discussed about the problem they are facing emerging out of the lockdown and how it has affected them.

A total of 300 families got dry ration in this period.

In the second phase, we tried to reach out to migrant workers and in different points, in the outskirts of the city we provided some snacks to them. This included laeya, gram, water, jiggery and biscuits.

We reached out to approximately 1000 migrant workers.

Facilitating people to avail monetary Aid

Our community engagement started and we did advocacy work also.

We have facilitated the work on MNREGA, linked SHG groups with NRLM, ration card, access to other government schemes etc. Monitoring of government schemes is going on. Till now this is the kind of work that has been done by SAKAR.

| S.No | Govt. Scheme | Beneficiary |
|------|--------------------------------|--|
| 1 | Linkage of SHG group with NRLM | School dresses being prepared by 33 women in 3 groups Training of women in Sewing- 25 women Identifying Samuh Sakhi- 5 Identifying Bank Sakhi- process is on Preparing face mask- 1 group have |

| | | |
|---|------------------------|--|
| | | made nearly 1000 masks Filling form of those who sell items in thela/redi (1000Rs. To be credited to their account) 25 forms were filled |
| 2 | Support to SHG | The SHGs did meeting on their own. Taking out money and using it for employment |
| 3 | MNREGA | In 15 GPs 700-800 people are doing MNREGA work daily |
| 4 | Health facility | 675 women got facility of vaccination, family planning, iron tablets etc. |
| 5 | Ration Card | In 15 GPs, 105 people applied for online ration card. |
| 6 | Other schemes | Liasioning with the gram Pradhan, Aasha, aanganwari, B.D.O, A.D.O, discussion with lactating mothers, pregnant women, discussion on reproductive health etc. |
| 7 | Marriages during Covid | Approximately 70 girls were married during this period. The reason being less expenses were incurred as there are restrictions related to mass gathering. |

Spreading Awareness about Covid-19:

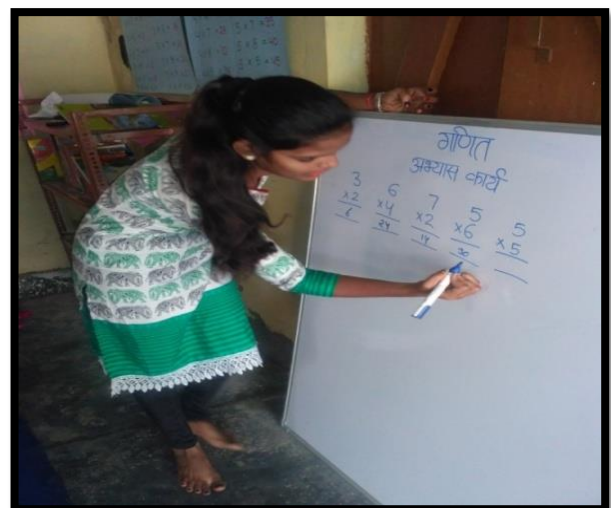
Slogan writing for spreading awareness about the pandemic. Community awareness about hand washing, use of mask and physical distancing is on full swing. Cluster meeting to spread awareness about pandemic as well as the about the schemes of the government r any other support that the organization can give. This support also included, support to violence survivors as there were cases of domestic violence during the lockdown.

Advocacy work, identifying people and then supporting them in getting the benefits is being done. Meetings in the community has started, with 5-6 people in one meeting. Work has started in MANREGA.



PACE Program:

After the Lockdown ceased, we continued our work in the learning centres, where the course was completed and new centres were started. The course culminated in Hajiapur and Jatavpura, where we did relief work and community meetings. We also did sessions with girls, in groups of 10 each. Awareness on vaccination and myths related to it was also done and then there was identification of area for new centres, base line of girls in the new centres was also started. We started new centres in Biharipur and Hajiapur. There were 30 girls each in the centres.





Meeting with the community and camps continued. Base line & End line, Daily classes in learning centres (Hindi, Maths, Theme), Library, art and craft learning visits. Letter writing, assessments were all a part of the pace program. Birthday celebration of girls was associated with their identity and their being!



SRHR Rights of adolescent girls, VAW and ending Early Marriage

Sessions with girls on SRHR issues was done only after the lock down ended. The numbers were reduced but the sessions continued.

We could only organize sports in the villages and many residential programs had to be avoided. Small events were held in the field and did organize 16 days campaign on violence against women, but still our hands were tied because of the pandemic and its fear in the community. We reached out to nearly 800 girls through this program and their families.

Personal losses, economic loss, deterioration in health and education, cases



of violence against women, early marriages all created difficult situation.

We like many other we also continued working for the uplift of the girls and women apart from supporting them through relief work.

The biggest success of last year is sheer grit and the result of commitment of the

yesteryears. Girls and women voicing for their rights. In the difficult times we could see the girls and women coming closer in their collectives and speaking on issues like violence, specially sexual violence, reproductive health issues, also early marriages. Some of the major activities which we did with the girls were-



Theme based meetings with the girls collectives on sexuality, gender discrimination, power, patriarchy, rights, violence against women, domestic violence act 2005, POCSO act 2012, PCPNDT Act, SRHR issues, family planning etc.

Meeting with the parents specially mothers, brothers of the girls. This was a follow up of the meetings done with the adolescent girls. It was important to discuss the same issues with mothers too.

Outdoor activities like exercises, games, sports were done to help improve the stamina, confidence of the girls also supporting their mobility.

Workshops/meetings with champion girls on themes like leadership, patriarchy, legal literacy etc. The girls also carried out the process of identifying safe unsafe places in their villages and then shared it with the

panchayat, so that it becomes responsible and accountable to the needs of the girls. This was a good exercise, where the girls themselves led the process and analysed the findings.

Organize 16 days activism campaign on violence against women in which we organized meetings, nukkad natak, slogan writing etc and session with the girls on the issue. 8th March international women's day was organized in the district, with Mission Shakti, to strengthen the voice of women and girls and directly interface with the administration. As a result a case of child marriage was brought in front of the SDM, who immediately asked the police to look into the matter. The marriage was immediately stopped by the police, though later the girls had to face resistance from the villagers.

Open Spaces and Adolescent girls during Covid-19

Orientation on MHM (Menstrual Health Management)

This activity was focussed on orientation of girls on MHM, their issues related to menstrual health, cleanliness, myths & problems. 20 orientation workshop was conducted with girls at village level addressing issues of girls and involving health service providers like Asha, Aganwadi worker and ANM. The health workers shared their practical knowledge & experiences with girls. Along with the girls the young women also shared their problems and were happy to learn new knowledge under MHM, how new practices can help them maintain good hygienic conditions. 400 girls were trained.



Sanitary kits were distributed to girls at the end of the training program, which contained a bottle of sanitizer, mask, soap & sanitary napkins. Covid Appropriate

Behaviour was part of the session and girls were oriented to share the new learnings with others in the community.

Sanitary Pad Making

Sanitary Pad making workshops were conducted for making girls and women learn cheap and healthy napkins for maintaining hygienic conditions. For this task, a small survey was done to understand the practices that girls follow and the problems they are facing at present.

Based on this 2 resource persons from a missionary organization were requested to facilitate workshops of Pad making, so that girls make for themselves in the workshop and can also make for future usage.

Collective Reading and digital literacy Workshops

Due to onset of Pandemic, girls were confined at home with no schools and opportunities to learn and share their issues with friends or mentors



We at SAKAR thought of creating platforms for girls where they can come for some time and share their issues, experiences related to Pandemic, have safe spaces to share their stories and at the same time be connected to studies.

Adolescent groups became a study circle, where girls would sit together and do collective readings from curriculum books and some time from books taken by the facilitators having messages related to their issues. A few girls had phone but did not know how to connect to the digital platforms with safety and dignity.

In these study circles girls also learnt to use android phones, made their email, facebook id's, learnt how to use internet, how to retrieve information from google and enjoy the benefits of exploring the ocean of knowledge.

Rukhsana said, " Is chhote se dibbemein (phone) itnakuchhaikarne ko, hume to pata hi nahitha"

Zameelan said, " hum to bas phone karlete the jab miltatha, ya film dekhlete the, kabhikabar photo kheechlete the, ab to hum google aur youtube ki duniyajangayehain, ab humaripahuch se door kuchbhinahin."

The digital literacy workshops also helped to understand zoom and how to access zoom links, girls were given two month free internet subscription to explore and practice various applications in whatever little time they have.



These girls also became a source for information dissemination during this Pandemic, they could now get information on phones and shared it with the community.

These girls also helped young women and other girls attend webinar and calls during this tough period.

Library Setting & Management Cost

During covid times, it was also important that girls have a place where they can spend some time to themselves and for this we thought of setting up library for them. We were lucky enough to get books free of cost from Nirantar and a few other donors and so we arranged for an event in which the girls were invited to understand about the importance of library, reading, the variety of books to be offered and also how the library will be managed. It was decided that the girls will

manage the library and the books will be kept in the house of the girls who are in leadership. They will keep an account of the books issued and returned. The idea was welcomed by the girls and also showed hope for a better future.

The process then started, but the second wave of Covid-19 changed the whole scene and we started the process again.