



SAUGAHT FOUNDATION

A NON-PROFIT, NON RELIGIOUS, NON-POLITICAL NGO

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ANNUAL REPORT : 2019-2020

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..... **From the President's Desk**

Dear friends,

It's my honor to present the Annual Report of Saugahrt Foundation for the year 2019 – 2020 to share our information on the activities undertaken, progress made, experience gained, lessons learned and hurdle faced during the year under review. Being the President of 'Saugahrt Foundation' let me tell you about our organization, which has been a major contributor to social development, with its historical background of prolonged 15 years. While I am presenting this Annual Report today, I am taking this opportunity to make you aware of the projects undertaken by us, their current status outcomes and the constraints that we had to face during this year. You all are aware that the majority of our target groups have been the people of backward classes, scheduled caste, and other oppressed classes in our underdeveloped operational areas in Palamu and its surrounding districts. Although, during the last few years we had some uneven bounces in our financial matters, yet we haven't distracted ourselves from our overall mission of the organization. During this year we had a major setback in our organization. Unfortunately in this year Mr Uday Pratap Singh, the Secretary of Saugahrt Foundation has become seriously ill and has been detected as a cancer patient. He has been suffering from 'Multiple Myeloma' and couldn't function actively for our organization this year. Presently we don't have anyone in our governing body who can replace Mr Uday Pratap Singh to take over his responsibilities. Subsequently, in the middle of the year, we didn't have any other option but to wrap up most of our projects. Under these circumstances, we the members of our governing body are in an acute dilemma to find a proper way out to run our organization.

In this year we have undertaken various activities to fulfill the basic needs of the community people like health, education, and livelihood. Protection of the environment has been one of our priority areas of work. Although we have faced tremendous hurdles this year, yet I am happy that community people in our operational areas have provided us with tremendous support to whom I would extend my sincere gratitude. We are grateful to all of our donors, well-wishers, and supporters. I hope that they will continue with their support and assistance for years to come. We express our sincere gratitude to the local and district level authorities for extending their support and cooperation.

Although we are facing various obstacles this year, still as the founder of this organization, I am hopeful that Saugahrt Foundation will bounce back to continue its mission. I appeal to you all to extend your cooperation and assistance in this critical period. Let's join hands once again.

Thanking you all.

*Jitendra Kumar Pandey ,
President,
Saugahrt Foundation*



PROGRAM-HIGHLIGHTS :-



- ❖ Pre-primary Education for Tribal Children
- ❖ Open-field Pre-schools for tribal kids
- ❖ Women Empowerment
- ❖ Farmers' Agriculture Training
- ❖ Sanitation Campaign
- ❖ Awareness against Child Labour

Pre-primary Education for Tribal Children (Asha For Education San Francisco Chapter) :-

Saught Foundation has been implementing a project viz. 'Basic Education for Tribal Children and their illiterate Parents' in Path village under Phakiradih Panchayat in Bhandariya Block in Garhwa district since June 2014. The project is meant for children under 3-5 years, which is being supported by Asha for



Education - San Francisco chapter, USA. In this project, our aim has been providing an opportunity for entering into the formal education system' to some underprivileged tribal kids who usually roam around the forest-fringe areas.

The implementation of this project for the last 5 years (since June 2014) has brought a substantial change in the outlook of the community people towards the education of little children. Even today it is a

normal scenario in many other villages in our rural belt that the poor children are roaming here and there unprotected and playing in the community, wearing rotten garments, half-naked, barefooted. Out of those large numbers of unfortunate children, our project can annually serve only 50 children. But it's worth mentioning that the Asha-SF project has brought a visible change in the habit of the children of the project village who are eager to go to our school regularly. The children have learnt the English alphabet and can read and write from A to Z. They can also count and can write numerical from 1 to 100. It is wonderful to see that they know the names of various fruits, vegetables, animals in English and can easily identify those things. Apart from the education we also focus on another two vital aspects for those poor children. We found that parents of our students cannot fulfil the basic needs of their children. Most of them don't get two 'square meals' every day. Due to lack of nutrition, our students

suffer from poor health. Considering that issue we provide nutritional food support for all the children of our school. Children are served food twice daily, breakfast at the beginning and lunch at the end of school. Additionally in order to maintain a hygienic way of living we supply various daily use items like toothpaste, toothbrush, soap, hair-oil, comb, detergent powder etc. to the students. We also provide school dress to all of our children. Apart from these one of our major



programme objectives has been providing health care facilities to the children. We have a doctor under this project who visits the centre regularly to provide health check-up for each and every student.

Medicines are served among the children as and when required. Sometimes the parents, especially the mothers meet the doctor to get healthcare advice from our project doctor.

Our project has created a remarkable positive impact on the community. Community people have



realized the importance of education and they are now interested to send their children to schools rather than sending them to the forests to collect firewood. Even the school going children are also creating a positive impact in the minds of their little brothers and sisters who are also eager to come to our school to study. So this is amazing.

So far as the ratio of the boys and the girls is concerned, our project is evidently effective in promoting girls education in the tribal communities, while the scenario of girls' education all over rural India is really miserable. We are happy to mention that during the last five years since the starting of the school in 2014 till 2019, altogether 60 children from this tribal community have passed out from our school and have entered into the formal education system.

However, it has been an unfortunate affair for Sugaht Foundation that due to some unavoidable circumstance and internal issues, our organization had temporarily suspended all its projects in mid-2019-2020. Nevertheless, it is mentionable that despite the project funding period being ended on 30 June 2019; yet Mr Jitendra Pandey, the founder of the school continued financing this project from his personal capacity. Thereafter, Asha for Education transferred the management of this School Project from Sugaht Foundation to another local NGO in September-2019 but interestingly the school continued to



run under the direct supervision of Mr Pandey. Sugaht Foundation is grateful to ASHA-San Francisco for their longstanding support and especially to Ms Ritika Gulabrani, the Project Stewart of ASHA-San Francisco for her assistance and guidance for the successful implementation and sustenance of this project.

Open-field Pre-schools for tribal kids (Asha For Education -Stanford Chapter) :-

We are taking pride to mention that Saugah Foundation participated in the 'Global Contest for Innovation in Education' of Asha for Education- Stanford Chapter, USA and won the 'Global Award'. Although we received funding support in 2017, yet the project implementation started in the following year 2018. Hence the project implementation period has been the FY 2018-19 and a part of 2019-20.



The project was designed to organize 20 preschools for 600 underprivileged socially isolated tribal infants. Those preschools were located in the forest fringe remote villages in tribal-dominated Ramgarh block in Palamu district in Jharkhand. The innovative idea of promoting cost-effective schools without any school-building and classes without any classroom made this project unique. Direct assistance and guidance from the project teachers

enabled the beneficiaries to get admission in standard-I in local formal primary schools in the mainstream society.

Saugah Foundation has made an impact assessment to measure the overall effectiveness of this project over the past years. It was found that we have been able to replace the conventional teaching techniques by introducing new method of imparting preschool education. Use of educational toys has been very effective for the socially isolated children. The teaching technique of our teachers has made our children sharper and intelligent and modest in nature. Special orientation was given to the children

and their parents to maintain hygienic way of living. Our project created a positive environment in terms of children's education. We observe that the children and their parents have become receptive not only towards education but also to health and hygiene. They were sensitized to improve their quality of survival. Parents of project children used to join the afternoon adult education school once a week and they realized the eternal truth that 'education is the only weapon to fight against their



perpetual poverty and backwardness' and they are now convinced about the importance of their children's education. Thus the project has brought a positive impact on their community. Our organization completed this project successfully in the FY-2019-20.

Women Empowerment:-

We dream of an ideal society based on social justice. We believe that promoting economic activities for women is the best way of women empowerment. The society cannot progress if women lag behind. Time has come to stress on the fact that women are not a liability as many feel. Rather, they are an



asset to the society who can work wonders if their efficiency and dedication are properly nurtured. Saugha Foundation is dedicated to support women empowerment. We advocate the cause of women's rights. The organisation advocates for defending women's rights. In fact, the local initiative of our organisation in the field of women development is embedded in a commitment to the gender justice and an appreciation of the value of women's experience, which can be considered as a part of a global women's

movement. We believe that women should have a full range of choices, and that women themselves know best how to determine their needs and propose solutions for lasting change.

In order to create awareness regarding this global women's movement, our organization has observed the International Women's Day on 8th March 2020. The theme for this year's International Women's Day has been, 'I am Generation Equality: Realizing Women's Rights'. On this occasion we organized street rallies, street dramas, cultural functions in Phakiradih Panchayat of Bhandariya Block in Garhwa district . Nearly 150 local tribal women participated in these events. We tried to make our participants realize their equal rights and responsibilities in the process of social development. Local dignitaries were involved.

Apart from the above, we also organised a weekly open-air educational sessions for the tribal mothers of few villages of Phakiradih Panchayat . In fact it has been a supplementary component another project of children's basic education. In our operational areas we have observed that most of the tribal ladies are engaged basically in collecting forest products. Since we aim to provide a proficient intervention in special regard to the underprivileged tribal ladies, we give special thrust on diversification of their livelihood activities in above said sessions.



We have not only encouraged our tribal mothers for their livelihood diversification, additionally we have facilitated various occupational endeavours for their economic empowerment. Our overall efforts for women empowerment have yield tangible outcome in our targeted communities.

Farmers' Agriculture Training:-

The economic well-being of our country largely depends upon good agricultural production. But,



Unfortunately, the volume of agricultural production is a great variant in every year as several places of our country are prone to either drought or flood. The efforts of the government to ensure high yields do not always bear fruit. Consequently, farmers get financially ruined. Many lose interest in agriculture as a profession and migrate to other areas to work as daily labours.

Apart from the above, we have observed another issue.

Extensive use of inorganic fertilizer is creating havoc in India and the Palamu district is not exempted from it. Being attracted by the short-term gains, farmers opt for inorganic farming. The uses of synthetic or chemical fertilizers enhance crop production for the time being. But its long term effect is disastrous. Though the yield gets slightly higher in the initial years, it decreases drastically in the long run. But most of the farmers are unaware of the hazards of it and go for short term gains. Besides, crops produced with the help of artificial fertilizers carry health hazard threats. Many have been affected by this menace. Long term consumption may lead to several diseases, including cancer. But the common people are blissfully unaware of it.

In view of the above, we initiated our intervention to address these issues. We initiated a two-day training programme at Hisara-Barawadih village of Paton Block in Palamu District by involving 70 farmers of the block. Experts of the related fields provided them with training on judicious use of available natural resources, how to use high yielding seeds and fertilizers and also how to make proper marketing and



distribution of their crops etc. our efforts have been very much beneficial to the participating farmers.

Sanitation Campaign:-

Evaluation of the activities under the 'Swachh Bharat mission' in India showed a gloomy picture of the



overall outcome of the program. It was pointed out that the target-oriented approach had not been successful in creating and sustaining functional toilets. Hence, behavioural change from open defecation to the usage of toilet is the major challenge that needs to be addressed.

Saugah Foundation has been functional in the backward areas of some districts of Jharkhand, inhabited mainly by the indigenous people. Backward people of the

area are completely unaware of these sanitation aspects in their lives and suffer from various types of waterborne diseases. Although these tribal people in general drink water from tube wells, this source of water is found not very well maintained. Moreover, excepting the drinking purpose, water used for other purposes are mostly taken from either river or pond which is getting contaminated continuously because of many reasons, mainly due to human excreta.

Hence, Saugah Foundation took the initiative to address these social issues in tribal communities to raise awareness and improve access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation. We gave priority to make the rural people habituated with the use of safe drinking water and rural sanitation through the development and use of individual family toilets in their villages. In order to combat waterborne

diseases some awareness generation programmes were conducted by our organization in different areas, mainly in tribal belts. Special events were conducted in 6 villages in Bhandariya, Block in Garhwa district on 7th April 2019 on the occasion of World Health Day. On this occasion, we have organized various events by conducting small street rallies, street dramas, motivation talk in community gatherings etc. to educate communities about the importance of sanitation and encouraged them to



adopt the good practice for a total ban on open defecation. Community people enthusiastically participated in those special events. We are hopeful to get some positive outcomes from our initiatives.

Awareness against Child Labour:-

We believe that education is essential to ensure a better quality of life for all children and a better future of the world for all people. Among various social problems hindering social development, perhaps



child labour is the worse issue in a developing country like India which is severely blatant in Jharkhand. Most of the people here do not understand the social, moral and legal implications of the issue. We feel every child has the fundamental right to have proper health care and quality basic education, which helps the children, their families; and their communities to break the vicious cycle of poverty, ignorance, exploitation and social custom. Economic constraints and lack of

awareness are the main reasons behind this social issue. The poor socio-economic background of most of the rural families compels poor children to drop out of school that perpetuates the worst forms of child labour depriving those children of proper education and nutrition. As an essential part of our community development programme, Saugah Foundation works round the year on this issue. Social activists associated with our organization find out the school-dropouts children and counsel their parents about the consequences, urge them to stop child labour practice and continue their children's school education. As an integrated part of this activity, we have started a center in Phakiradiha Panchayat for basic education for adults where our social animators discuss the harmfulness of child labor practice with parents. We have undertaken a continuous campaign in several locations in town and rural areas in the districts of Palamu, Garawah and Latehar by organizing street corner meetings, rallies, seminar etc. to highlight the issue.

We have raised awareness in those events to provide scope to all the children below 14 years to study in schools. We have made the parents and also the employers aware that engaging children as child labour is a criminal offence that may put the offender in prison. As a part of this activity, we organized special awareness generating events for the prevention of child labours on the occasion of World Day against Child Labour on 12th June 2019. We have been



successful to some extent in making their parents realize that child labour practice is awfully harmful to their children, their family and for society, rather imparting education is the best weapon to fight against poverty which can bring about radical changes in the socio-economic structure in the society.

An APPEAL

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for a noble cause.***

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Make***



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a better tomorrow**

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