

SAUGAHT FOUNDATION

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

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ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT 2023-2024

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Foreword from the Secretary.....

Dear Friends,

I am happy to present the Annual Report for the year 2023–2024, sharing the progress of the Saugaht Foundation. Despite facing various challenges, we are on our path to achieving our objectives. As you know, our activities are focused on improving the quality of life for those living below the poverty line, particularly the neglected tribal communities of Jharkhand.



Saugaht Foundation has always emphasized the importance of initiating need-based programs through optimal utilization of local resources. This year, we have been actively involved in implementing components of the 'Jal Jeevan Mission', various initiatives under the 'Jharkhand Jalchajan Yojana', running a Basic Education program for preschool children, and developing a school building for tribal infants, with many other activities as well.

We believe change is a fundamental aspect of life and natural law. Thus, we must adopt a fresh perspective and approach. We can humbly claim that our organization has consistently strived to turn our aims into reality to the extent possible with our limited resources; we have only taken a few steps on this long journey. I sincerely hope that in the coming years, we will strive even harder to fulfil the mission of the Saugaht Foundation, fostering community involvement and action towards prosperity. We still have a long way to go.

We welcome you all on this journey towards future prosperity so that together we can achieve the mission of our organization more effectively in the years to come. We express our heartfelt gratitude to all our well-wishers, supporters, and donors, and we acknowledge the dedication of our staff members at all levels for their diligent work and high commitment. Thank you all for your valuable support and cooperation. Let us move forward together.

Thank you.

*Jitendra Kumar Pandey
Secretary
Saugaht Foundation*



OUR ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE :-

**JAL JEEVAN MISSION
JHARKHAND JAL CHHAJAN YOJANA
RUNNING A PRESCHOOL FOR THE TRIBAL INFANTS
PREVENTION OF CHILD LABOUR
DIABETES PREVENTION AWARENESS
WOMEN EMPOWERMENT
SPORTS , GAMES AND YOGA
CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY:-
PREVENTION OF TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL**

JAL JEEVAN MISSION :-

The Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) aims to provide safe drinking water through individual household tap connections to all rural households in India by 2024. It emphasizes community involvement and includes Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) as essential components.

Our JJM project started on November 1, 2021, in the Pakur district of Jharkhand, covering six blocks: Pakur, Amrapara, Hiranpur, Littipara, Pakuria, and Maheshpur. A District Coordinator oversees the project, supported by Block Coordinators and Community Mobilizers.



Key activities include

'Water Resource Mapping,' 'Water Budgeting,' and raising awareness about freshwater importance. Our Jal Choupal initiative promotes community engagement. We have conducted 'Water Safety Planning Exercises' and orientation programs for the Village Water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC) and selected five women from each village to participate. A Water Quality Monitoring System (WQMS) has been developed, involving stakeholders through group meetings and exhibitions.

Behavioural Change Communication is a critical focus, with activities like meetings with Gram Sabhas. We celebrated 'World Water Day' on 22nd March 2023, with village events such as street plays, folk songs, street rallies, and water quality exhibitions. We are hopeful that our project will positively influence water usage behaviours in the area.

JHARKHAND JAL CHHAJAN YOJANA :-

In 2023-24, we continued the Jharkhand Jalchhajan Yojna (JJY) project, which aims to increase the groundwater table in a specific geographical area of Jharkhand. Saugah Foundation served as the Project Implementation Agency (PIA) for the JJY under the Department of Rural Development, as part of the Jharkhand State Watershed Mission. Our efforts were concentrated in the Karra block of Khunti district. We were responsible for implementing the JJY project in five panchayats: Bamrajja, Chhata, Dumargadi, Kachabari, and Mehan. The total geographical area covered by our project is 6,153.69 hectares, of which 5,721.22 hectares are treatable.

Our focus has been on forest areas as well as rain-fed cultivable and non-cultivable wastelands. The project team consists of four staff members: a WDT Engineer, an Agriculture Expert, a Social Expert, and an Accountant. As part of our Natural Resource Management (NRM) activities, we have engaged in the development of Amrit Sarovars (ponds), Earthen Check Dams (ECD), Trench Cum Bunding (TCB), and Field Bunding.



During the 2023-24 period, we successfully achieved our project objectives. Through our initiatives, groundwater tables have been recharged, significantly benefiting the local community. The Amrit Sarovars created by our organization are enhancing rural livelihoods for various user groups by providing

resources for activities such as irrigation, fisheries, duck farming, and animal husbandry. We have also transformed barren lands into cultivable lands under this project. It is expected that over time, these opportunities will expand, leading to considerable benefits for the local population from the JJY project.

RUNNING A PRESCHOOL FOR THE TRIBAL INFANTS :-

Saught Foundation has been implementing a preschool project since June 2014 for the tribal infants, who did not have the opportunity to go to the formal schools. The school is located in Phakiradih Panchayat, in Garhwa district, and is titled "Pre-primary Education for Tribal Children." This initiative serves 50 tribal kids aged 3 to 5 years, providing essential early learning opportunities, and fostering their entry into the formal education system.

Children are usually enrolled for two years and are provided with school uniforms and basic educational supplies. In addition to focusing on their education, we also address their nutritional needs by offering these children a nutritious breakfast and lunch. To promote hygiene, we supply daily-use items such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, hair oil, combs, and detergent powder to the students each month. A doctor visits the school weekly for health check-ups and provides free medicines when necessary.

Our preschool also offers a range of educational toys and games. At the beginning of each academic year, we assist about 20-25 pass-out children in gaining admission to government primary schools, while the vacant seats are filled by new infants in the area.

This project has made a significant positive impact on this socially isolated community, fostering a realization of the importance of education. Importantly, we have observed a noticeable change in the habits of the project children, who are now eager to attend school regularly rather than going to the forest accompanying their mothers.



The project is funded by Asha for Education, San Francisco chapter, USA. We extend our gratitude to Asha-San Francisco for their ongoing support, particularly Ms. Aditi Chandarana, the Project Stewards of Asha for Education, for her assistance and guidance in the successful implementation and sustainability of this project.

PREVENTION OF CHILD LABOUR:-

Every child deserves access to proper healthcare and quality education to break the cycle of poverty



and exploitation. Economic constraints and a lack of awareness force many rural families to withdraw their children from school, contributing to ongoing child labour practice. We believe education is essential for improving children's lives and creating a better future for everyone. In developing countries like India, especially in Jharkhand, child labour is a significant challenge, and many people lack an understanding of its social, moral, and legal implications.

Through our community development program, the Saugah Foundation works to address this issue year-round. Our social activists identify school dropouts and counsel their parents about the negative impact of child labour, encouraging them to prioritize education.

We have initiated a continuous awareness campaign in urban and rural areas of Palamu, Garawah, and Latehar districts, organizing meetings, rallies, and seminars to promote school attendance for children under 14. We inform parents and employers that employing children is a criminal offense. On June 12, 2023, we held special awareness events for World Day Against Child Labor, achieving some success in helping parents recognize the broader harm child labour causes to families and society.

DIABETES PREVENTION AWARENESS:-

Diabetes has been inadequately addressed as a public health issue in India. Presently our country has been titled as the 'diabetes-capital' of the world. The significant rise in non-communicable diseases, particularly diabetes, is largely due to a lack of awareness, especially among less educated populations. This has resulted in poor glycaemic control and delayed diagnoses.

To address the growing burden of diabetes mellitus, a focused approach to strengthen the health system for diabetes care is essential. While the Government of India has launched national policies, grassroots implementation is crucial. A 2023 Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) study revealed

that approximately 101 million people in India have diabetes, with an additional 136 million potentially living with pre-diabetes.

Saugaht Foundation is committed to providing humanitarian assistance in Palamu and surrounding districts, with a focus on diabetes care. We have actively worked to raise awareness among local residents, especially the youth. On November 14, 2023, for World Diabetes Day, we organized events in Daltonganj town, including doctors who educated students, teachers, and community members on maintaining a healthy lifestyle. We hope these awareness efforts will positively impact diabetes prevention and care in the community.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT:-

Economic empowerment is essential for establishing women as equal partners in social development. As women constitute nearly half of the population and possess equal potential to men, they must be given opportunities to participate in the process of community development. A self-reliant woman can lead a dignified life through active decision-making. Our women empowerment program offers livelihood training specifically for rural and tribal women, many of whom primarily collect forest products. We focus on diversifying their economic activities through various initiatives aimed at promoting economic empowerment.

Targeting tribal girls over 35 years old from disadvantaged families,



our training aims to elevate their status and equip them with vocational skills for employment. Many trained women have successfully secured jobs in the local market. This year, 'Saugaht Foundation' organized workshops on livelihood activities such as kitchen gardening, goat rearing, and running small grocery shops which have attracted numerous trainees. The workshops covered various topics, such as selecting economic activities, starting micro-enterprises, skill development, gaining practical experience, creating sustainable job opportunities, and forming Self-Help Groups etc. We also offered orientation in handicraft development based on locally available natural resources, with expert trainers leading the sessions. Overall, our vocational training initiative has significantly advanced women's economic empowerment, with many participants starting their own small ventures.

SPORTS , GAMES AND YOGA :-

Saugaht Foundation prioritizes the physical education of local children. While we engage in various welfare and developmental activities, we place significant emphasis on sports, games, and yoga. We believe that participation in sports and games is crucial for developing discipline, teamwork, friendship, and loyalty among group members, as well as fostering a positive spirit in individuals.

This year, as in previous years, our organization hosted an annual sports meet during the winter season for tribal children in the Garhwa district. Many enthusiastic sports lovers from the community took part in the event. Various athletic competitions were organized, and successful participants received awards and mementoes. Additionally, we arrange inter-club competitions in football, cricket, and volleyball throughout the year, involving several local clubs.

We also promoted yoga within the local community of Daltonganj by observing International Yoga Day on June 21, 2023. This year, we focused on the theme "Yoga for Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam," which emphasizes the idea of "One World, One Family" for the welfare of all.

CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY:-



Environmental pollution is a global issue that poses a significant threat to human society and our planet. The degradation of our environment is a pressing concern worldwide, and our existence is at risk. Pollution levels continue to rise due to the unchecked use of fossil fuels, inadequate management of industrial waste, and a general lack of awareness among people. In our project area, we have observed that the community suffers from the consequences of pollution. We felt the need to intervene and raise awareness about the dangers posed by the mindless destruction of nature, which ultimately sustains us. To address this issue, we organized an awareness program in Phakiradih village, Garhwa District, on June 5, 2023, to observe 'World Environment Day'. Approximately 65 people attended the event, including environmental experts, doctors, panchayat members, and social workers. The program featured a rally with school students, teachers, and community members, all carrying posters and banners to spread awareness. During the event, environmental experts and social workers discussed this critical issue and provided practical tips for protecting our environment. Additionally, villagers were given saplings to plant in their neighbourhoods. We are hopeful that this program will significantly contribute to our efforts to safeguard the environment from further degradation.

PREVENTION OF TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL :-

Tobacco use is one of the greatest public health threats we face today. The widespread consumption of various tobacco products, especially in our operational areas, is a major concern. Chewing or smoking tobacco can lead to serious health issues, including cancer. Many people, both men and women, young and old, are consuming different types of chewing tobacco, such as Guthka, zarda, and khaini, often without realizing that their addiction may lead to oral cancer. Additionally, smoking bidis and cigarettes can result in lung



cancer. Throughout the year, we promote the message of abstaining from tobacco. On 'World No Tobacco Day', celebrated on May 31, 2023, we organized several events to raise awareness about the dangers of tobacco use. This year, we held small events in multiple locations within the Palamu and Garhwa districts. These awareness initiatives have helped educate people about the negative consequences of tobacco consumption.



In addition to addressing tobacco use, we also raised awareness among poor tribal communities regarding the harmful effects of excessive alcohol consumption. Many individuals in our area drink various types of country-made alcoholic beverages, such as Mahua and Handia. We emphasized to these uneducated individuals that regular excessive drinking can impair personal relationships and negatively affect work performance. Our goal in these activities has been to motivate the community to improve their quality of

life and to enjoy life without the use of tobacco or alcohol

OUR APPEAL

***Please support Saugaht Foundation
for a noble cause.***

***YOU CAN MAKE
ALL THE DIFFERENCE.***

Thanks.
