



Saugah Foundation

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

At+ P.O. Sudna ,Medininagar (Daltonganj)
Dist- Palamu , Jharkhand-822102, India. Website:
www.saugahfoundation.org

Email : saugah.palamu@gmail.com Tel.no. 918877067911.



ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22

PROVIDING SERVICE TO HUMANITY SINCE 2005

Forewords from the Secretary.....✍

Dear friends,



I feel honoured to be present here to submit the Annual Report of the 'Saugaht Foundation' for the financial year 2021-22. Since its formation in 2005 it has been working with the sole objective of alleviating the condition of the poor rural people, many of whom are poor marginalized tribals. Despite facing a host of problems in these prolonged 17 years we have tried to surmount them all to reach out to those who need our intervention. We want to continue with it and face challenges head-on-- come what may. But we have faced those barriers with a positive bent of mind and conquered them with the sole objective of fighting for the cause of the poor and the downtrodden. We want to continue with it and try to do better in an innovative way to make the best use of the available resources and ensure that the poor and the downtrodden women can

benefit from us in the best way possible. Apart from continuing with the projects that have been running for years, we have broadened our sphere of activities and we intend to take up more projects towards the holistic development of poor rural people. The adversity of the Covid-19 pandemic in the preceding year brought immense hurdles for our organization. We have been facing massive hardships since the lockdown, in terms of funding and running our projects smoothly. Even then, we have been able to undertake our vital projects to a satisfactory level this year.

During 2021-22 we have undertaken Pre-primary Education for Tribal Children in Garwha district, Community sensitization on safe sanitation in Pakur district, community sensitization for road safety in Palamu district, and some other IEC activities in general in various areas in our operational areas on various social issues to prevent Corona Virus, on women empowerment and against child labour practice.

Let me take the opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to all our donors, well-wishers, supporters, and our project community people. I am confident that they will continue with their support and assistance in future years. I gratefully acknowledge saluting the dedication of our staff members at all levels for working diligently with a high degree of commitment to the overall development of society.

Thanking you all.

Jitendra Kumar Pandey
Secretary
Saugaht Foundation

ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS OF 2021-22: -

1. Basic Education of Tribal Children
2. Wall writing
3. Sanitation Awareness
4. Women's Training WQMS
5. Announcement Van with IEC
6. Jal Rath
7. IEC activities to prevent Corona Virus
8. Community sensitization on Women's Empowerment
9. Awareness generation against Child Labour practice
10. Community sensitization on road safety



DETAILS OF OUR ACTIVITIES DURING 2021-2022

1. Basic Education of Tribal Children: -

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

This project has brought a substantial change in the outlook of the community people towards the education of little children. Out of the large numbers of unfortunate tribal 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. We found that the parents of our students cannot fulfill the basic needs of their children. Most of them don't get two 'square

meals' every day. Due to a 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 center regularly to provide health check-ups for each and

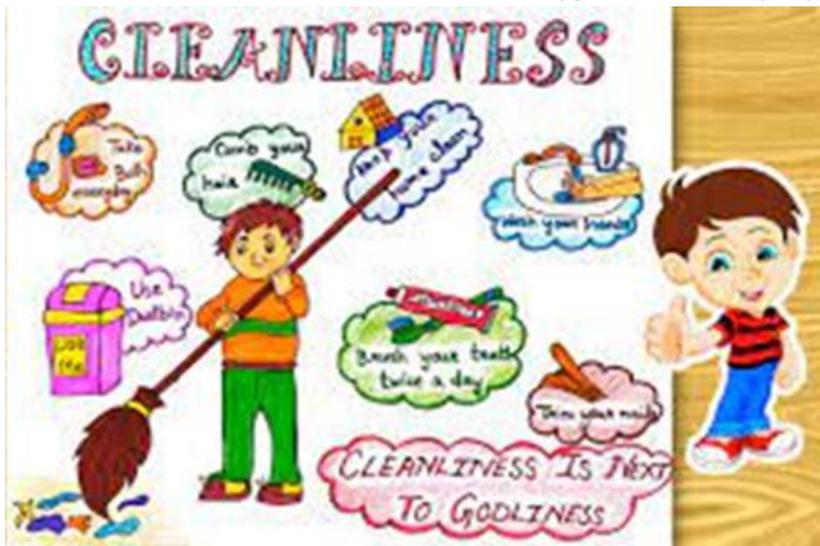
every student. Medicines are served among the children as and when required.

However, our project was disrupted due to the Covid-19 lockdown. To combat the post covid situation, we kept our school closed as per government guidelines. After prolonged suffering due to Covid-19 -lockdown we opened village-based tutorial sessions and continued those for several months. During this period we made arrangements to distribute monthly dry rations among our beneficiaries. Our doctor visited villages to do health check-ups of our children. The community people were happy with the overall functioning of the project in various adversity.

Saugaht 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.

2. Wall Writing: Community sensitization - health and hygiene: -

Among multifarious humanitarian activities, our organization gives special stress upon community sensitization on safe sanitation, health, and hygiene, because people in our project area are mostly



indigenous and uneducated. But Jharkhand is the worst performer in terms of sanitation coverage as compared to other states. Although people in general drink water from tube wells, this source of water is found not to be very well maintained. Tube -wells and wells get dry in the summer months as water levels fall drastically. Large numbers of the tribal villagers in our

operational area are living without any safe drinking water facilities and they strive for collecting drinking water from distant places. During this year we launched a large-scale public awareness campaign especially among the tribal community people by applying mainly wall writings in several

selected places in Palamu, Garwha, and Latehar districts. Considering the literacy level of the local tribal people we used the pictorial method in those wall paintings. We also used various methods such as posters, and audio recordings broadcasted from auto rickshaws. We highlighted various social issues which promoted various vital issues such as hand-washing behavior, safe drinking water hygiene, the use of sanitary latrines, children's education, abstaining from alcoholic habits, prevention of Corona-Virus attacks, etc.

We also included Covid appropriate behaviour learning sessions in terms of water sanitation in the school. The children were asked to convey this Covid-appropriate water sanitation behaviour learning to their family members and also to their neighbours because we believe that a lesson, learned from a child has more impact on the human mind.

3. Sanitation Awareness:-

It is mentionable that we also disseminated the knowledge of water sanitation among the



community people through our children, who have been the students of our school project. Our school teachers also tried to inculcate the knowledge to adopt the habit of washing hands as part of the daily routine of the tribal children. We have been successful in rural areas of the Garwha district where children also persuaded their parents to be clean.

Our operational area is a hilly forest area and drought-prone in nature. Since community people have very little knowledge about the importance of safe drinking water and many of them don't have any other option to drink water they collect from the open wells and ponds, they consequently suffer from various water-borne ailments like diarrhoea, cholera, hepatitis, jaundice and so on.

In order to combat waterborne diseases awareness generation programmes were conducted this year by our organization in different areas mainly in tribal belts.

4. Women's Training WQMS :-



Presently Saugath Foundation is the project partner of the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti (GOI) and has been carrying out activities under Jal Jeevan Mission at the village level in Pakur district of Jharkhand as an Implementation Support Agency (ISA) for promoting awareness generation, capacity building, handholding support and community mobilization in rural areas of Jharkhand. Our project aims to provide a Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) to every rural household in our allocated project area. During this year, we have organized workshops for the capacity building of project workers to check the quality of

safe drinking water. For this purpose, we

have distributed the water-testing kits among the

workshop participants. We hope to produce a far-reaching impact on this project for the common people.

5. Announcement Van with IEC:-

We have multifarious activities for social development in our operational areas. As an essential part



of these activities, during the FY 2021-22, we also disseminated the knowledge among the community people by plying a mobile Van with IEC materials on the road to sensitize people on various issues. We highlighted that household water, sanitation, and hygiene practices play a crucial role in every sphere of life. Open-field defecation is quite common here which aggravates waterborne diseases. The majority among them is cholera

is the largest cause of concern. Our organization has undertaken various activities in several villages in creating awareness regarding the need and importance of using their family toilets. By developing and using IEC materials we conducted successful public information campaigns. Our project has been based on rural or tribal lifestyles, having rural characters, and has been presented in local languages.

6. Jal Rath: -

Saugaht Foundation is working in remote rural areas, mainly in tribal communities. We are familiar



with various social issues which create hindrances to social development. We have identified various social problems, which affect the lives of poor underprivileged tribal community people. As a leading NGO, working in those tribal communities our organization always extends humanitarian assistance to those socially isolated people. We believe that sensitizing community people is the ideal way to combat those issues. Moreover, apart from the drinking purpose,

water used for other purposes is mostly taken from either rivers or ponds which is getting contaminated continuously because of many reasons, mainly due to human excreta. In order to sensitize community people, we promoted a tableau viz. 'Jal Rath' produced high visibility in our operation area to raise awareness among the community people in this regard.

7. IEC activities to prevent Corona Virus :-

Like other years during 2020-21, our organization has undertaken social awareness activities to address some specific social problems. Since this year has been the Covid stricken year of lockdown, we felt it our prime responsibility to educate community people to follow Covid 19 appropriate behaviour. However, it has been a critical job for us this year to create awareness among the illiterate tribal communities without following the familiar ways of mass sensitization. Tribal community people are accustomed to getting information from social gatherings. But we couldn't organize any social gatherings in the Covid restrictions. Hence we had to depend upon various IEC



techniques. Our prime efforts this year have been educating community people to improve barriers to human-to-human transmission of the COVID-19 virus in homes, communities, market areas, healthcare facilities, and other public spaces. In our fight against COVID-19, Saught Foundation undertook activities for raising awareness

through a massive public outreach campaign in the rural areas of Bhandaria Block of Garhwa district of Jharkhand. Although we undertake this kind of awareness programme around the year yet some special initiatives were taken in several Panchayats under the Bhandaria block this year to educate the poor rural people about Covid -19. Under these activities, we prepared various types of IEC materials like festoons, posters, and pamphlets to disseminate information among tribal community people. The subject line catch-up has been 'Know about COVID-19 and follow COVID Appropriate Behaviours'. Because most of our community people are illiterate, we tried to reach them in the local language and also use pictorial messages containing 15 points guidelines circulated by MoHFW, Government of India. We conveyed the guidelines:-

- ▶ Greet without physical contact,
- ▶ Maintain Physical distance,
- ▶ Wear reusable hand-made face-cover or mask at all times,
- ▶ Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth,
- ▶ Maintain respiratory hygiene,
- ▶ Wash hands regularly and thoroughly,
- ▶ Regularly clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces,
- ▶ Do not spit in the open places,
- ▶ Avoid unnecessary travel,
- ▶ Do not discriminate - Against anyone,
- ▶ Discourage crowd - Encourage safety,
- ▶ Do not circulate social media posts which carry unverified or negative information,
- ▶ Seek information on COVID-19 from credible sources,
- ▶ Call government helplines for any query related to COVID-19,
- ▶ Seek psychosocial support in case of any distress or anxiety

Our IEC materials helped rural households to learn how they could maintain social distancing within their settings. We conveyed proper and adequate information on Covid testing and vaccination. While preparing the IEC materials we ensured that our efforts would motivate people to take the desired actions to prevent and control the spread of Corona Virus in those remote and hard-to-reach tribal belts where the government health support system is hardly accessible to community people. We have been able to convey our message to good number of people in the Bhandaria block in the Garhwa district in Jharkhand.

8. Community sensitization on Women's Empowerment :-

Our organization is committed to gender justice. Gender inequality and gender injustice are rampant in all sections of Indian society and are worse in underdeveloped tribal societies where the rays of education are yet to filter through and make an impact on the lives of women. During our close interactions with women, we have realized that they themselves do not know their rights and as a consequence, they are being exploited and suffer and admit those miseries as their fate. Although



due to Covid related restrictions, this year we could not organize any big gatherings of women to sensitize the community on women's empowerment, yet for changing their mindset we used to conduct regular sessions with women and made them aware of the rights and dignity that they rightfully deserve from their male counterparts.

We worked with their small groups to promote gender justice. In group meetings, we invited village elders and representatives of local self-government and also

common people. Speakers spoke on the importance of treating women with dignity. Some women social activists delivered speeches and motivated the women to actively participate in the process of social development as equal associates with their male counterparts. Since Saugah Foundation is dedicated to supporting women's empowerment, we worked at the micro level. We also hold counseling sessions with the male members of society and also try to make them aware of the legal rights of women in society. We give emphasis and try to make everyone realize that it is important to ensure the legal rights of women for family prosperity and ultimate social development. We train both genders to realize that women are equal associates with men. We are hopeful that our intervention in this issue will go long way in supporting women's empowerment.

9. Awareness generation against Child Labour practice: -

Like other years Saugah Foundation worked this year also on community sensitization against child



labour practices. As an essential part of our community development activities, we search out the school-dropout children and counsel their parents about the consequences, urge them to support our endeavor to eradicate child labour practice, and assist them to continue their children's school education. In order to highlight the issue we have undertaken a continuous campaign in several locations in town and also in rural areas in the districts of Palamu and Garawah by organizing community

meetings, seminars, group discussions etc. We have made the parents and also the employers of child labours aware that engaging a child as labour is a criminal offense that may put the offender in prison. As an integrated part of this activity, we also worked in Phakiradiha Panchayat in Garwah district where our social animators used to discuss the harmfulness of child labor practice with parents. We have our endeavor to sensitize the participants in this activities that 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 harmful social custom. We have observed some positive impacts of our interventions however we understand that proper implementation of an integrated child development programme can

abolish child labor practices in our society. We feel that government needs to undertake legislative reforms and take strong steps to implement policies that would guarantee the elimination of child labor.

10. Community sensitization on road safety: -

Recently, there is a growing concern over the road crash problem. Road traffic safety refers to the methods and measures used to prevent road users from being killed or seriously injured. Road safety



is a result of contributing efforts from all sectors of society including both civilians and Govt. officials. India has the second largest road network in the world with over 3 million km of roads. The death toll is on the higher side for the countries like India where pedestrians, motorcyclists, and passengers are vulnerable and vehicles lack the safety norms. While new roads are being built, faster and faster automobiles are being invented in high numbers making road safety a crucial question. In recent years Jharkhand has witnessed a rise in road accident

cases. Even the accident severity ratio is high in Jharkhand in comparison to other states.

Like other previous years, Saugaht Foundation has undertaken various activities to create awareness regarding road safety. As a local initiative in Daltonjganj, we observed 'National Road Safety Week 2022' from January 11 to January 17, 2022. We engaged an orator with an auto rickshaw and a loudspeaker to talk on this issue. Local people appreciated this initiative. We alerted two-wheelers about the bad practice of using their mobile phones while riding the motorcycle. The activity had a good impact on the community people to realize the risk involved in this matter to ensure road safety.

A few photographs courtesy of Google image

AN APPEAL

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UNDERPRIVILEGED**



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