

Saugaht Foundation

(Since-2005)

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ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT

2022-23

Annual Activity Report 2022-2023



From the desk of the Secretary

Dear friends, well-wishers, and donors,

I am delighted to be here as the Secretary of 'Saugaht Foundation' to present the Annual Activity Report for the year 2022-23. Since our inception in 2005, we have successfully passed an eventful 18 years. While I am presenting this Annual Activity Report today, I am taking this opportunity to make you aware of the projects undertaken by us, their status outcomes, and the constraints that we had to face during this year. You all are aware that most of our target groups have been the people of backward classes, scheduled castes, and other oppressed classes in our underdeveloped operational areas in Palamu and its surrounding districts. I am happy to mention that we have been successful in establishing a good relationship with rural masses to interact, share information and mobilize available resources. It is remarkable that during these 18 years, we have been able to reach out to the poor and the downtrodden people, especially to the marginalized women and children who are deprived of the basic amenities of life, which has made them vulnerable. I am proud to say that despite various constraints, our workers and volunteers have been working with great enthusiasm to bring about a social change for a better quality of life for our target group of people. Despite facing a host of problems during these prolonged 18 years, we have fought to overcome them all to reach out to those who need our intervention. In our future spell of journey, we want to continue with the same zeal and aim to do better in an innovative way to make the best use of the available resources and ensure that the poor and the downtrodden people can benefit from us in the best way possible.

This year we have undertaken various activities to fulfill basic needs like health, education, and livelihood. We want to focus more on the basic education of the tribal infants. Protection of the environment has also been one of our priority areas of work. We want to continue with these fields in our future course of action. I am happy to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to all 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.

It is our pride to acknowledge the dedication of our staff members at all levels for working diligently with a high degree of commitment. But we have just taken a few steps in a long journey. We have miles to go along with these underprivileged and we welcome you all in this journey with us towards future prosperity. In the coming years, we will endeavor to make better efforts to accomplish the mission of our organization. I extend my gratitude to you all for joining hands with us. I congratulate you all for your valuable contribution and for performing your responsibility for social cause. Please stay tuned with us and motivate others in this noble gesture.

Thank you all.

Jitendra Kumar Pandey,

Secretary,

Saugaht Foundation.

HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES DURING 2022-23



- Basic Education of Tribal Children
- Construction of new school building
- Awareness generation against child labour practice
- Women empowerment programme
- Community Sensitization for prevention and control of Diabetes
- Sports and Games and Yoga
- Awareness generation for conservation of Bio-Diversity
- Community sensitization on prevention of tobacco and alcohol
- Awareness of prevention and control of AIDS
- Jharkhand Jalchajan Yojna (JJY-Khunti)
- Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM-Pakur)

1. Basic Education of Tribal Children (Supported by Asha for Education) :-

In the tribal belt of Jharkhand, predominately in forested areas, poor parents cannot fulfil the basic needs of their children. Underprivileged tribal children mostly do not go to schools and do not get two 'square meals' a day. These children used to accompany mothers during their forest-based livelihood activities or roam around the forest fringe areas. For those deprived infants, Saugata Foundation has been implementing a preschool project since June 2014 in Phakiradih Panchayat in Garhwa district viz. 'Pre-primary education for tribal children'. We educate 50 such tribal kids of age group 3 to 5 years and with elementary learning. In this project, we have aimed to provide an opportunity for entering



into the formal education system' for these underprivileged tribal kids.

Children are enrolled normally for two years and are provided with school dress and basic educational kits. Apart from elementary education we also consider their nutritional issue and provide these children with nutritional breakfast and lunch. Additionally, to maintain a hygienic way of living we supply various daily-use items like toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, hair oil, comb, detergent powder etc. to the students every month.

We have a doctor under this project who visits the school weekly for students' health check-ups and if needed gives free medicines to the children. In this playschool, we also give them various educational toys, gaming items etc. Every year at the beginning of the academic session, about 20-25 kids, who pass out from this preschool, are given assistance to gain admission to government primary schools, while the vacant seats in our preschool are filled up by fresh infants.

Our project has created a remarkable positive impact on this socially isolated community, who have realized the importance of education. It is worth mentioning that this project has brought a visible change in the habits of the children of the project area who are eager to get enrolled and come to our school regularly. The project has been funded by Asha for Education - San Francisco chapter, USA. Saugata Foundation is grateful to ASHA-San Francisco for their longstanding support and especially to Ms. Ritika Gulabrani and Ms. Aditi Chandarana, the Project Stewart of AfE for their assistance and guidance for the successful implementation and sustenance of this preschool project.

2. Construction of new school building (Supported by Asha for Education) :-

During the financial year-2022-23, Saugata Foundation made a major achievement in the 'Pre-Primary Education for Tribal Children' project by constructing its own school building. Saugata Foundation started the preschool project in 2014 in a rented building in Path village. However, the setup of that rented building was not suitable for running the school. The classroom ventilation was unhealthy as there were no windows. We had to prepare lunch at the house next door. Thus, the project struggled for six years without any kitchen and toilet. During the Covid lockdown period, the school was closed for more than 18 months. After the lockdown, when we planned to reopen the school, the building owner changed his decision and asked us to vacate the rooms. Then in 2021, we shifted our school to

a nearby building having only one room. The condition of this building had been awfully bad. We accommodated the 'Lower Nursery children' in the only room while we continued with 'Upper Nursery' sessions outside the room under the open sky. Thus, we faced a lot of hurdles and applied to 'Asha for Education' for funding support for the construction of a new school building.

We were fortunate enough to have among our well-wishers Mr. Ramnath Singh, who donated 15 decimals of his land for the construction of a school building. We received funds from 'Asha for Education' to build a school building. We were able to construct two classrooms, a kitchen, a small office and storeroom, a shaded veranda, and a small toilet area in this new school building. A tubewell with a hand pump for safe drinking water has also been installed. The construction work was implemented as per the approved timeline in the financial year end of 2022-23 and continued through the next financial year.



3. Awareness generation against child labour practice :-

Among the various social problems hampering social development, perhaps child labour is the worst



problem in a developing country like India which is acutely evident in Jharkhand. We believe that every child has a fundamental right to access proper health care and formal education, which helps children, their families; and their communities to break the vicious cycle of poverty. Ignorance is a curse which gives the advantage to the unscrupulous persons to exploit the illiterate person. Child labour practice has become a harmful social norm. Economic constraints and lack of awareness are the main reasons behind this social problem. As an essential part of our community development programme, Saugha Foundation works in this regard throughout the year. Social workers associated with our organization find drop-out children and counsel their parents about the consequences, urging them to stop the practice of child labour and continue their children's education in schools. As a part of this activity, we have raised awareness throughout the year and organized a special awareness creation event on 12th June 2022 on the occasion of World Day Against Child Labour in our operational areas to prevent child labour practices. It has been a local initiative as a part of the Global drive, The World Day Against Child Labour 2022, with the theme; "Universal Social Protection to

End Child Labour". We believe that we have become somewhat successful in making the people of the society realize that education is the best weapon in the fight against poverty which can bring about a

radical change in people's lives. On the contrary, the practice of child labour is very harmful to society which creates a social hindrance in the overall social development.

4. Women empowerment programme:-

We, at Saugah Foundation, are committed to fighting against this gender injustice. We believe that if women lag behind, the nation cannot progress. Our ancient civilization shows that women were treated with due respect. Unfortunately, today in our male-dominated society we do not always allow women to enjoy their due rights. This gender inequality creates various social problems. Although our capacity is small compared to the enormity of this deep-rooted problem, we are confident of initiating a change in our community that will pay back in the long run. We strive with our activities to give women the respect they deserve and ensure that their progress is not hindered. As a reputed NGO, we are committed to establishing gender justice and work throughout the year on this social issue. We have seen from our experience that women cannot prosper and get due respect unless and until they learn to be self-reliant. Hence, we initiate promoting a society of equality based on women's self-reliance. As a part of the global movement for gender equality, we also celebrate International Women's Day on March 8 every year. The UN theme for International Women's Day in 2022 was "Gender equality today for a sustainable future, recognizing the contribution of women and girls worldwide to building a more sustainable future for all". Accordingly, to observe the day, we conducted various awareness programs in various places in Palamu and Garhwa districts to sensitize communities for gender justice. We have actively involved women in our various events. Our program has brought a positive impact in society for women's empowerment.



5. Community Sensitization for prevention and control of Diabetes:-

Among various nationwide issues in the present era, India has become the diabetic capital of the world. Since the last few decades, the country has been experiencing a significant increase in the burden of various non-communicable diseases, including diabetes. Indians are at higher risk of acquiring diabetes because of poor awareness about diabetes in the communities. In line with the lack of awareness, glycaemic control in Indian patients is also very poor, which results in a rapid increase in diabetes prevalence across the country. Unfortunately, diabetes has never been considered a public health priority in India. Lack of diabetes education is the primary reason for delayed and/or missed diagnosis in this vast country.



The government of India has taken certain initiatives at the national level but there is no such initiative to implement those policies at the grassroots level. Since the basic healthcare situation in the remote rural belt in Jharkhand is awfully poor, the situation of diabetes care in our operational area is pitiable. As a responsible NGO to provide humanitarian assistance in Palamu and its surrounding districts, Saugah Foundation is engaged in diabetes care and control. This year we have organized several community sensitization programs in various places in Palamu and Garhwa districts on 14th November 2022 to observe 'World Diabetes

Day' to make people aware of diabetes and the reasons behind this health issue. We believe that these community sensitization activities will produce substantial impact and tangible results for a behavioural change among local people for the prevention and control of diabetes.

6. Sports and Games and Yoga :-

Saugaht Foundation also provides special attention to the physical education of the local children. Despite our involvement in various welfare and developmental activities, we have never neglected Sports and games and Yoga as we believe sports and games are of utmost importance to inculcate discipline, team spirit, togetherness, and genuine good spirit in human beings. Like every year, our organization has arranged annual sports



meet this year for tribal children in Garwha district. Many enthusiastic sports-loving people in the community participated in the annual general sports in this year. Various events of athletics were organised and successful participants were awarded prizes and mementos. We also encourage the local community people of Daltonganj to do Yoga by observing the International Yoga Day on 21 June 2023. This year we disseminated the theme of Yoga Day, 'Yoga for Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' i.e., Yoga for the welfare of all in the form of 'One World-One Family'

7. Awareness generation for conservation of Bio-Diversity :-

Jharkhand is very rich in biodiversity. But in recent years the biodiversity of the hilly areas of Chotanagpur is under severe threat. Hundreds of plant and animal species are found here. But the people here are ignorant about it because they hardly know the natural wealth we have. The environmental importance of green shelters is immense in reducing the severity of natural calamities.



But people mercilessly cut trees, including rare species. The introduction of external chemical inputs into agriculture has seriously damaged biodiversity. Many species of animals, birds and insects have become almost extinct. As a result, the entire ecosystem is endangered.

Since its inception, Saugaht Foundation has been working to create awareness on sustainable environmental conservation by sensitizing the community people on deforestation, building nurseries and developing social forestry to prevent soil erosion. Besides, we have sensitized people about the harmful effects of littering, use of plastic, smoke pollution, careless use of chemical fertilizers in agriculture, open sewage, and open field defecation etc. Although this is our ongoing initiative throughout the year, every year we organise a special campaign to raise people's awareness for the conservation of biodiversity on 'World Environment Day'. Like other years we have organized some special activities to observe 'World Environment Day' on 5th June 2022 in Daltonganj city. On this occasion, we organized a massive campaign and spread the theme of the year to people.' Our campaign slogan was with the global focus on "Living Sustainably in Harmony with Nature." We believe that our efforts will bring good outcomes in future for human well-being.

8. Community sensitization on prevention of tobacco and alcohol :-

Tobacco and alcohol use pose a major public health challenge in India. So, it is also in Jharkhand. It has been found that consumption of tobacco or alcohol is higher among poorer sections of the population. Since our inception, we have been conducting various activities to address community health issues with tobacco-related and alcohol-related health risks being one of our major areas of concern.

Tobacco and/or alcohol use is indeed closely related to poverty. Tobacco users from low-income households spend a significant portion of their income on smoking at the



expense of their basic needs, plunging them deeper into the vicious cycle of poverty. Poorer sections of the population commonly smoke 'bidis', which is associated with various health risks.

Not only tobacco, we are aware of the increasing consumption of alcohol among tribal communities. The poor tribal people in our workplace are mostly used to drinking locally brewed rice beer i.e., 'Hadiya.' The economic consequences of drinking alcohol can be severe, especially for poor people.

This year we have organized several community sensitization programs in various places in Palamu and Garwha districts to make people aware of those health hazards and the reasons behind those problems. We believe that these community sensitization activities will produce substantial impact and tangible results in changing the local population's behaviour towards tobacco and alcohol consumption.

9. Awareness for prevention and control of AIDS:-

With an aim to 'Zero transmission of HIV in our operational area, we are working to bring a change in human behaviour towards sexuality. Our organization is engaged in raising awareness of the life-threatening risks of HIV-AIDS. Since the livelihood of a large number of the people of Palamu and its



rounding districts depends upon seasonal migration, these areas have become vulnerable to the spread of HIV infection. Social stigma deters many people from being tested for HIV and from seeking care and treatment after being infected. This is a major obstacle for prevention and treatment programmes. Because of these, we have been organizing awareness activities throughout the year to prevent the spread of HIV-AIDS. A special awareness event was initiated on the occasion of World AIDS Day on 1st December 2022.

Through this awareness programme community people have been educated on how a person becomes infected with HIV, the techniques of avoiding HIV infection and how to prevent further spread of AIDS in the community and also against the stigma and discrimination associated with HIV-AIDS. Our organisation is determined to fight against this social stigma to create an atmosphere by encouraging frank discussion about HIV-AIDS to combat the global AIDS epidemic.

10. Jharkhand Jalchajan Yojna (JJY) :-

Jharkhand is the land of trees, herbs, shrubs, and varieties of bio-diversity with undulated topography and different land use patterns. Watershed Mission is the process of creating and implementing plans, programs, and projects to sustain and enhance watershed functions that affect the plant, animal, and human communities within a watershed boundary. In 2021-22 a project viz. Jharkhand Jalchajan Yojna (JJY) started with the goal of increasing the groundwater table of a specific geographical area in Jharkhand. During the year 2022-23, Saugath Foundation was entrusted as the Project Implementation Agency (PIA) for the JJY for the Department of Rural Development under the 'Jharkhand State Watershed Mission'. Our project area has been the Karra block in Khunti district of Jharkhand. We were given



responsibilities to implement the JJY project in five panchayats of Karra blocks viz. Bamrajja, Chhata, Dumargadi, Kachabari, Mehan. The total geographical area of our project has been 6153.69 hectares out of which our treatable area has been 5721.22 hectares. In this treatable area, we covered 14162 population of 2710 households. Out of the treatable project area, we have worked in the Forest Areas as well as in the Rainfed Cultivable and Non-Cultivable Wastelands. In this project, the team consist of

4 staff including a WDT Engineer, one Agriculture Expert, one Social Expert and an Accountant. In the process of Natural Resource Management (NRM), our activities have been developing Amrit Sarovar (Pond), Earthen Check Dam(ECD), Trench cum Bunding (TCB), Field Bunding etc.

During 2022-23 we have been able to achieve our project objectives. Through this project, groundwater tables have been recharged, which has considerably benefited the local people. Amrit Sarovars, created by our organization have been boosting rural livelihoods by different user groups, linked to each 'Amrit Soravar' for various activities such as irrigation, fisheries, duckeries, animal husbandry etc. Barren lands have been changed into cultivable lands. It is expected



that in the long run, these opportunities will be manifolded and local people will be immensely benefited from this JJY project

11. Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)



Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) looks to create a 'Jan Andolan' for water, thereby making it everyone's priority.

Our JJM project was started on 01.11.2021 in Pakur district of Jharkhand. The project has been implemented in six Blocks of the Pakur Dist. Viz. Pakur , Amrapara, Hiranpur, Littipara, Pakuria , Maheshpur . One District

Coordinator has been appointed, who has been coordinating our implementation activities with the concerned govt. authorities. Each Block has one Block Coordinator, who works with the respective Community Mobilizers in the block.

Under this project, our main activities have been 'Water Resource Mapping', 'Water Budgeting', and Raising Awareness about the value of fresh water and sensitising people to the wise use of freshwater resources.

Our activities include Jal Choupal, which is a community-based approach. We have done a 'Water Safety Planning Exercise' in Community Meetings. We organized orientation programmes of the Village Water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC)/ Paani Samiti/ User Group by selecting five women from each village. The Water Quality Monitoring System (WQMS) has been developed for the GP level and its Subcommittees by involving Key Stakeholders who have been active through group meetings, PRA activities, organising exhibitions etc. Behavioural Change Communication has been an essential component of this JJM project.



Activities under this awareness creation have been meeting Gram Sabhas, organising various competitions in Schools, focusing on subject matter, SHG involvement and so on. For awareness creation, we observed the 'World Water Day' on 22 March events at the village level by organising Nukkad Natak (Street Play), Folk Song/Kalajatha, Street Rallies with Slogan, Exhibitions on water quality at the Block Level etc. We are hopeful that our project will go a long way toward behavioural change in people in our project area.

An appeal



**Underprivileged children can have
a better tomorrow,
only when**

YOU Extend a

helping hand today...

Please support ' Saugah Foundation '

to serve the underprivileged better

Your donation is Income Tax Exempted.