

What's In:

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UPDATES

An initiative for improving the payment systems of Self Help Groups, Anganwadi workers and helpers of ICDS:

In the state of Maharashtra, more than 70,000 Self Help Groups are involved in the process of cooking and supplying food for the children coming to the Anganwadi centre. These Self-Help-Group members are being paid by the government (ICDS) for their services, but there are certain procedural delay identified in the current payment system (esp. delay in flow of funds) of SHG, Anganwadi worker and Helper which hinders the smooth implementation of Supplementary Nutrition Programme as well as services of ICDS Anganwadi Centre. Also in many tribal districts and blocks since the nearest banks from the villages are kilometres away, any kind of transaction with the banks is difficult. More over any transaction would involve at least one to two days of loss of wage which makes it even less feasible. Though there has been a multiple attempt at various levels, but with little success.

To address this issue, BA brought together FINO (Financial Information and Network Operations Ltd.) and ICDS wherein FINO would be supporting ICDS by bringing in the technological expertise for introduction of biometric smart card based solutions available at the door step. IFMR Trust has agreed to support the project by bridge funding.

This intervention would be one of the potential ways to reduce the time lag, support in bringing in transparency at every level.

The proposed intervention being safe and adaptable to work with illiterates and semi-literates makes it a viable model and has already been a tested in a few states with different communities in India.



Mr. Harmandeep from FINO and Mr. Mahadev from KHOJ understanding the payment issues of SHG's /NREGA with People in an interior village of Boratyakheda, Chikhaldara block

The above intervention is proposed to be piloted in Melghat, Amaravati. Currently the operational issues are being explored by FINO .ICDS funding for the same is being explored.

Training Of Trainers On 2nd Phase Of Module For Girls Gaining Ground Project Held:

Training of Trainers for GGG Module 2 was organised from Feb 2 to Feb 11, 2009 at YUVA centre, Kharghar, Navi Mumbai. This 10 day training also provided space for reflections from the implementation of the programme thus far.



Training of Trainers on Module 2

In many villages, girls as well as their parents thought that programme was an opportunity for them to learn many critical things in their life and hence their participation was encouraged. In some of the villages, trivial issues of boys and girls eloping were linked to the programme and thus impacted in short term closure of the sessions. Migration of the girls with their families in search of livelihood opportunities had its toll on the programme with approximately 15% to 40% migration in almost all the blocks. Feedback on the resource materials revealed that pictorial books with little reading were enjoyed most by the girls as well as it was useful to include pictorial flip charts in the Resource kit.

Module 2 of the Training programme focuses on Health and Personal Hygiene, Reproductive & Child Health, Child Growth & Development, Malnutrition and Balanced Diet and Nutrition.

Training sessions were facilitated by Ms. Anju and Ms. Seema from Media Matters. Participants used the 10 day session to get maximum information as well as also share some of the practices and perceptions from the field through the sessions as well as the evening discussions.



GGG sessions on rights being conducted in Vikhroli Park site, Ghatkopar, Mumbai, Facilitated by SNEHA

An initiative by Facilitator Sunanda Pawar in GGG project, Mokhada

About 37 adolescent girls are a part of the GGG training programme in the 3 hamlets Viz. Kalampada, Patilpada and Barafpada of village Bariste. These hamlets fall in the interior part of Mokhada and are quite inaccessible. Therefore the proportion of school drop – outs is high in these places. Also many girls in these places have never attended schools. The facilitator, Sunanda Pawar, identifies this problem as the most important reason for the backwardness of the village and always wanted to take up this task in the village but she did not know how to organize the girls.

Sunanda, mentions that this project has provided her with such opportunity. Before the sessions began, the facilitators during their training were advised to take up certain activities appealing to girls e.g. taking games and awareness songs with the girls, helping girls to identify their malnourished siblings, guiding them to improve their weights or taking literacy classes, etc. to help them bond with the facilitators.

The facilitator therefore thought of starting literacy classes with the girls and thus grouped 11 such girls who either never attended the school or were early school drop – outs. Now these girls have started writing their names and signing their attendance sheets. This was an important development for the girls as they stood up with those other girls who either went to school or at least knew to read and write.

- *A note by Ms. Shradha, Programme Manager, Arohan, Mokhada*

Health & Nutrition Awareness component added on to Computer Aided Adult Literacy Program –

Baseline survey to understand the current Health and Nutritional Status among mother and children in community is completed and currently data is being analysed. The add-on Health & Nutrition module rolled out with the community.

Illiterate Adolescent girls taking interest in Literacy in Peth



10 yrs old Anita living in a village Paate of Peint Taluka in Nasik left her school after Std. 1 due to lack of her interest in studies and assists her parents in agricultural field. Now, she has joined literacy program since 3 months and has started writing short sentences and reading lines from primers. She is one of the 4 adolescent girls, all of whom are showing progress, who come to this center along with 19 other women for literacy classes. Her mother is very happy with her taking interest and regularly going to the center as her elder sister has already completed Std.9th in Ashram school and brother is also studying in school. Sangeeta,

the facilitator feels proud for running the classes and feels that computer has been attraction for these women and girls, though electricity is a problem in the area.

Behavioural change in Hand washing:

New Tailor-made Behavioural Change Campaign on hand washing (modelled on Lifebuoy Swasthya Chetana of Hindustan Unilever) is integrated with village micro planning process, Schools in Development Program and Deepshika Programs facilitated by UNICEF.

This integrated program is being piloted across Nandurbar district with a special emphasis in Navapur Block. Hand washing is included as one of the components during the 21 days of training facilitated by UNICEF in which 40 trainers of Navapur would be trained. The trainers trained during this process are expected to further reach out the messages on Hand washing to the village communities of Navapur block during 5 days micro planning process to be conducted in all villages.

Readers Response

Greetings from CHETNA! Thank you very much for November '08 issue. After a long time, I was able to read the newsletter. It is really very well documented and design. I recall and miss the Bhavishya lab process and interactions. I am also happy that Bhavishya is moving ahead. I hope that Bhavishya has been able to reduce the malnutrition with various interventions. Keep it up. All the best. Give my regards to BA team. *Ila Vakharia, CHETNA, Ahmedabad*

Thanks for the news letter very informative one. Gives a glimpse of what BA is involved in. Just a suggestion when you mention any initiative if the partnering NGO's name can also be mentioned it will be very useful. Regards, *Sushma Shende, SNEHA*

Thanks. It's an extremely well done newsletter. Congrats!- *Rama Iyer, Green kettle Consulting.*

The issue has come quite nicely. Keep your efforts to upgrade this as time passes. I do miss the fun of BA. Convey my regards to every one. Regards, *C.V.Sharma, Ex- Chief of Operations, Bhavishya Alliance*

If you have any feedback, suggestions or contributions, feel free to write to Sangeeta Dasmohapatra at sangeeta@bhavishyaalliance.org.in or sangeetadm@yahoo.com Ph: +91-22-27823202/27821657, Fax: 91-22-27824629.