

Girls Gaining Ground (Gheu Bharari)

Project Objective: Empowering adolescent girls (between the ages of 11-19 years) so that they become more confident, aware and are responsive to the child's health and nutrition.

Assumption on how it meets the Core Objective: Investing in girls' empowerment and improving access to government and other programs/services relating to nutrition/health education will reduce anaemia, school drop out rates, age of marriage, age at first pregnancy, and positively affect the health & nutrition of their children in future.

Project Scope: 10,000 girls to undergo a 6 months adolescent training program on life skills in 9 tribal blocks and one urban ward in five districts and urban slums of Mumbai in Maharashtra.

Project Background & Genesis:

Girls Gaining Ground is a part of lifecycle based approach within a larger comprehensive malnutrition program of Bhavishya Alliance. Hence while in the short term there is focus on reducing the problem of severe under nutrition, it is also critical to address the issues of adolescent girls who are themselves victims of anaemia and under-nutrition that gets aggravated with marriages at an early age with early pregnancy leading to low birth weight babies.

Partners Involved and Roles:

This project is funded by NIKE Foundation through Synergos Institute and the content of the module being followed is largely designed by UNICEF. The NGO's viz Nirmala Niketan, KHOJ, VACHAN, NYK, Ashray Seva Bhavi Sanstha, NSSS and SNEHA are implementing the project in the tribal blocks and the urban ward. ICRW and IHMP are involved in the project evaluation and SPARSH- Center for Learning would support in training the master trainers for the program.

Activities taken up so far:

Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between BA and NGO's. Project Evaluation design has been finalised with ICRW and IHMP. Initial evaluation research is expected to be initiated in 4 tribal blocks and urban ward and will cover 800 girls by the end of May 08 and project implementation will start in the month of July'08.

The implementation villages and the facilitators have been identified. The first round of training of Master Trainers, consisting of a coordinator and an assistant from each NGO, was held in January 2008. 27 Trainees from the 9 blocks /Urban Ward underwent this training programme. The training was imparted by a group of 3 trainers from SPARSH – Centre for Learning. Another round for the same will be repeated because of the Gap between training and implementation. These Master trainers will further train the facilitators who will further train the adolescent girls at villages.

Besides this 6 months module, Vocational Training will also be taken up separately with the girls. This component may not be uniform across partners and will differ from place to place and, the trainers, modules or execution will be different in different areas.