

NEWS from October to December 2019

THREE DAYS STATE LEVEL TRAINING: There was three days (from 3rd to 5th October) evaluation-cum-planning meeting took place for the three partners of the project “**Community and social Mobilization for improving Child Health through Health system strengthening**” at Social Development Center, Ranchi. As project entered the second year of the project period this 3 days meeting was right time to share the learning of the 1st year and planning for the 2nd year. 22 field level project staff were present for the meeting. SIGN Health Coordinators Mr. Satyendra Tudu and Mr. Edmund Kerketta coordinated it.

During the meeting a brief evaluation of the 1st year project was done. The challenges and opportunities were discussed in the group. During the training new suggestions and ideas were shared to improvise the work with the communities.

Training on pointed gourd vegetable cultivation (parval)



SIGN organized two days training on integrated farming (especially growing pointed gourd) on dated 4th – 5th November 2019 at Mahamilan Sevashram Sangha, Shalboni, Jamshedpur, Jharkhand. In the training total 25 farmers of Jamshedpur and daltonganj were present. T Brahmachari Sukdev Maharaj, the founder of Mahamilan Sevashram Sangha, trained the farmers about the pointed gourd vegetable. The training was given totally in practical mode. Dr. R.M. Mishra specialist of animal husbandry motivated and taught the farmers about animal husbandry. Thus inspired from the training the farmers purchased some small pointed gourd nursery plants to add such types of agriculture activities in his work.

Meeting with Manos Unidas



On 14th November 2019 SIGN and its partner had a Face to face interaction with Maria Cabal and Laura Castan of Manos Unidas, Spain at Social Development Centre, Ranchi. 40 participants were present for this interaction. All partner dioceses Directors shared about the strength of organization, impacts of the project, changes among the community, challenges and tentative plan for way forward of respective diocese. During the interaction, there was a sharing of overall project impact and way forward plan by the SIGN Regional coordinator Mr. Walter Kerketta.

Father Bipin Pani Director of SIGN presented the four basic strategic goals for the way forward tentative plan, which are as following:

- Empowered and animated farmers' club
- Dialogue with and for the marginalized
- Promote volunteering
- Sharing resources and networking - Support of ATMA, KVK, Like minded Agriculture Institute, Sharing the resources within partner organization.

Finally the Maria Cabal and Laura Castan gave their suggestions and feedback.

SELCO Foundation one day training on Solar energy

On 28th November 2019, SIGN and its partner directors and coordinators had a meeting with SELCO Foundation, a Bangalore based organization working on the livelihood program for the poor by uplifting their life through solar energy generating source.

The training was divided into two parts i.e., field visit in the morning hour and theory class in the afternoon at SDC. In the morning session participants were taken to the field for exposure visit to Mobile Agricultural School and services Agri- Business centre at Angara Block of Ranchi, to see how solar energy is used for income generation activities.

In the afternoon, Mr. Roshan presented a power point presentation on the structure and work carried by the SELCO foundation. During his talk few stories of change were shared through visual presentation. He talked on empowering the poor and link small businessmen to the main streams of business and income generation with the help of Bank Loans and other helps.

The presentation was motivating and informative. All the participants had a satisfying learning and showed interested in the solar energy income generation activities in the near future.

SIGN Strategic plan

SIGN, Ranchi organized two days workshops on SIGN Strategic planning on 29th and 30th November 2019 at Social development centre, Ranchi. Mr. Khileesh Chaturvedi, a freelance consultant was the resource person .

The two days workshop was mainly to revisit the Vision, Mission, Goal and Thrust of SIGN and make a strategic plan for the coming five year. All the SIGN staffs and partner directors along with the coordinators and members from Caritas India were present during the two days workshop.

After two days workshop following thrust area came up for the SIGN to work in coming five years:

- Tribal Identity
- Community Led Development
- Human Trafficking and Migration
- Children's Parliament
- Natural Resource Management & Livelihood
 - Climate Adaptive Agriculture
 - Sustainable farming
 - Food Sovereignty
- Fund raising
- Volunteerism
- Institutional Development and Good Governance
- Inter-Religious Harmony

It was decided that Gender, Health and Education will be the cross-cutting issues in most of the Strategic Pillars. Thus, two days workshop ended preparing a road map for SIGN and its partners.

Month of Christmas: On 19th December all the staff of SIGN made a visit to the Leprosy Rehabilitation Center at Baramasia, Dhanbad run by Damien Social Welfare Centre, Dhanbad. It was for the first time



staff of SIGN witnessed cured leprosy with disability working something very productive. In the rehabilitation center there are 83 cured leprosy patients, who are earning their bread and butter by making bandages, gauzes, gamchhas, bed sheet, shawl, carpet on handloom and power loom. SIGN staff provided lunch for these cured patients and had meals with them. It was quite inspirational to see these disable making so many beautiful things.

On 20th December SIGN office celebrated Christmas Gathering. Fr. Manoj Kullu blessed the crib and then



staff searched their Christmas friend by lot. Fr. Bipin began the process of finding the unknown friend and exchanging the gift. It was quite interesting. Everybody enjoyed it. When everybody got his or her friend, Fr. Bipin ended this activity of searching friend with a Christmas message. Everybody had Christmas meal together and then they proceeded to greet SDC staff with carol. Gifts were given to everybody. With this Christmas gathering got over.