



Voice of Children

Mid-Year Progress Report 2020-2021

Project Name: Voice of Children Education Project

Reporting Period: November 2020 to April 2021

Implementing Agency: AMAN, Almora; and VIMARSH, Nainital

Voice of Children Project aims to work for the welfare of children and women residing in the rural area of Betalghat block, Nainital district and Hawalbag block, Almora district in Uttarakhand. This project has been implemented by AMAN and VIMARSH organizations with the help of TRAS Canada.

Bridging the gap between rural youngsters in getting education and technical skills, this project focuses on creating a healthy educational environment for the rural students through the two pillars – education centers, and computer centers.

Furthermore, the project also works for women and children of underprivileged and deprived section of the society to build a better social development process.

Given the Covid pandemic situation, this mid-year was a little difficult one, nonetheless the team was successful in achieving the goals while keeping in mind all the precautionary measures and guidelines provided by the government.

Under the project the following activities were conducted from November 2020 to April 2021:

1. Education Centers:

The Education centers were operated consistently under the program, keeping in mind all precautionary measures for Covid and guidelines provided by the government. All the students coming to centers were provided masks and sanitizers. The project takes care of the education centers located in Tadi, Badarkot, Songaun, Pangaktara and Simlakha in Nainital District and Rarkhila, Dangikhola, Gallibasura, Pathura, Silani, and Gailek in Almora District. During this reporting interlude, although the Schools are closed here due to Covid-19 and these village centers have provided education to children. The education facilitators are helping children in accessing online education through their mobile phones.

Along with the school course curriculum, General Knowledge, Environmental Studies and Personal Hygiene are also included as a course curriculum. Apart from this the students were also given knowledge on gender discrimination, and laws & rights. Not only this, but students were also actively informed about the helpline numbers provided by the government for Covid. Although due to lockdown the center couldn't operate regularly. Due to the surge of Covid-19, Education centers closed from April 20, 2021. Currently there are 330 students (M-143, F-197) from 1st to 10th class who are actively participating in the

Education center. Following is the record for the students according to the village and gender.

Sr. No.	Village	Girls	Boys	Total Students
1.	Pangaktara	9	19	28
2.	Tadi	11	10	21
3.	Songaun	18	11	29
4.	Simplakha	16	17	33
5.	Badarkot	14	16	30
6	Rarkhila	09	29	28
7	Gallibasura	09	21	30
8	Dangikhola	18	29	47
9	Pathura	18	22	40
10	Silani	10	12	22
11	Gailek	11	11	22
		143	197	330

2. Monthly Meeting with Guardians:

Inaugurated the activities and programs to be conducted for children with parents, guardian and public representative wherein the audience was briefed about the project and its aim. In the meetings conducted, it was concluded that there will be regular gatherings for the parents and guardians of the children participating in the program to review of the program. Monthly meetings with the participants will also be conducted.

In the field area of AMAN, the teachers of the education centers visited the children's houses every 15 days and shared children's progress with their parents.

3. Computer Centers:

Two Computer Centers operated at Govindpur and Simalakha villages of Almora and Nainital District. The Centers successfully provided workspace in both villages consistently, keeping in mind all precautionary measures for Covid and guidelines provided by the

government. All the students coming to centers were provided masks and sanitizers. The students were given basic information about the computer system. Currently 42 students are part of computer centers which include students from junior high school, high school and intermediate and 2 women. Although due to lockdown the center couldn't operate regularly.

Sr. No.	Village	Total Students	Girls	Boys	Women
1	Govindpur	20	18	2	-
2.	Simlakhya	22	14	6	2

4. Counseling and Resource Centre

Both organizations are running the resource center successfully, where they provide legal information to women. AMAN also prepared and published a booklet on Welfare Schemes of Government with application forms for women, girls, and disabled persons with the support of another agency. This booklet has been distributed among women through the resource centre. Community workers have delivered the information about the procedure for applying the Government schemes.

With the support of the resource center, ten leaders of the women and girls group have participated in the multiple purpose camp organized by Government in the Nainital district and increased their knowledge on Government schemes, application forms, and other related documents. During the camp, 11 widow, single and old women were added to pension scheme. During the camp, women of Khilad village spoke about their problems regarding education, health, road, MGNREGA, job-card, ration-card and pension scheme to DM of Nainital District.

Not just that, they were also provided modern agricultural equipment, fruitful trees, and seeds at a subsidized rate for the growth of their livelihood. From November 2020 to April 2021, they were provided with 75 peach, apricot and plum trees plums by VIMARSH.

AMAN provided the vegetable seeds to 426 women farmers of project villages for Kitchen Gardening. Seeds were distributed with the support of the Government Agriculture

institute. During the pandemic where the market was closed, vegetables became available from Kitchen Gardening.

Regular meetings were conducted with teenage girls constituted by the Institute, keeping in mind all precautionary measures for Covid and guidelines provided by the government wherein violence with girls, reproductive health, help line numbers provided by the government, laws and rights, sakhi help line, nutrition and menstrual health and hygiene and problems faced because of online classes were discussed. During the lockdown, the needy girls were helped with sanitary pads, masks and sanitizers.

Training programs for low-cost handmade sanitary pad and driving skills were also proposed during this six month but due to COVID-19 surge, it is postponed for the next six months.

5. Fellowship:

Volunteers of AMAN identified 45 poor children who studied in the 1st to 12th class who will need education support such as notebooks, books, and other learning materials. VIMARSH identified 27 children studied in 1st to 10th children. 72 poor children who might be potential child labor are getting help in continuing their education through this activity. During this period, learning material, syllabus books, notebooks etc. were distributed among 56 Children.

6. Meetings with Children

As per the project, both agencies organized monthly meetings with the participants of the program to spread awareness about personal hygiene which includes washing hands, using handkerchief while sneezing and coughing, gender discrimination, child rights, right to education, environmental conservation, child abuse and related laws and help line numbers, Global action month, My Planet My Right Campaign, Red hand day.

Moreover, given the pandemic situation they were also actively informed about using masks, social distancing and **helpline numbers provided by the government**. Awareness was generated among more than 200 children through these meetings.

7. Monthly Meetings with Women

Meetings were conducted on a regular basis with the group of women constituted by the organizations, keeping in mind all precautionary measures for Covid and guidelines provided by the government wherein domestic violence, gender discrimination, Panchayati Act, help line numbers provided by the government, laws and rights, vaccination, nutrition and government policies were discussed. Due to the lockdown the meetings couldn't be conducted regularly.

Apart from this, women were also taught about earning their livelihood for which they were provided good quality seeds, fruitful trees and modern farm equipment.

Both organizations saw the celebration of Women's Day progress in their respective field area.

8. Capacity Building of Staff

Monthly meeting was organized with VOC staff in both areas and discussed the program execution progress, output and obstacles. The team discussed the monthly progress and activities conducted and the problem faced by the members. Apart from this, other topics were also discussed to increase their knowledge.

One collective training was proposed in March 2021 but due to increase of the COVI-19 infection, it was postponed. It will be organized when the Covid-19 Pandemic is under control.

9. Other Activities Organised in VOC Field area

- 30 women leaders of Nainital district visited the Government Institute "GB Pant Agriculture University, Udham Singh Nagar" and learned the new techniques of agriculture and production of quality seeds and manure.
- VIMARSH also celebrated One Billion Rising Campaign and conducted a program on the occasion of International day against child labor
- 6 women leaders of VOC area of Almora district visited in rural development block office and discussed the problems of agriculture with the block development officer.

- 10 Youth representatives of VOC also participated in the State Youth Network meeting and addressed the print and electronic media regarding school education and unavailability of online education in rural areas.

Although, COVID has affected the activities in the work area, still we somehow managed to conduct some on-line tasks and activities such as painting competitions, poster making, teaching, etc. The youth groups also managed to create awareness among people who were suffering from COVID19 and other individuals of the village too. We are planning to cope with all the offline activities as soon as the situation permits us to do so.