



[VOICE OF CHILDREN]

Half Yearly Progress Report 2019-2020

Report

Voice of Children

Period- November 2019 to April 2020

Project- Voice of Children Education Project

Implementing Agency- AMAN and VIMARSH

Reporting period -1 November 2019 to 30 April 2020

Background

This is the third year of Voice of Children extension Project. VOC programme provided an opportunity to work for the children of mountains living in margins of Almora and Nainital district, which proved to be a magnificent journey leading to their development. During the Journey of VOC significant transformation is observed in children and women through education and awareness is very progressive.

In this period Education Centers, Tuition Centers, computer centers and women resource Centers have been operated successfully. Both agencies worked on sensitization of Community towards Education and Health issues. Focus group discussions were also organized with women group to understand the impact of Voice of Children programme.

Activities were carried out smoothly, but after the COVID-19 Pandemic disrupted the Voice of Children routine programme , services and facilitators started to work on sensitization of community to combat Novel Corona virus. Pandemic and Lockdown situation changed the scenario of children's education, health and children and women safety issues.

Activities conducted during this period.

Education Center-



Education centre is the learning centre for children. Education centre provides a safe and nurturing environment in which the kids learn while having fun. Different curricular activities and group exercise increase the confidence of children and motivate them to study. During this period five education centres at Rarkhila, Silani, Pathura, Gallibasura and Gailek were run with the support of local volunteers/Facilitators. After the mid of March, due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, education support centres were temporarily closed but facilitators are supporting children' education by visiting their home with maintaining social distance.



SN	Village Name	Total Number of Children	Male	Female	Name of Facilitator
1	Rarkhila	28	9	19	Rajni Arya
2	Silani	23	11	12	Bhawna Arya
3	Pathura	52	23	29	Hemanti Arya
4	Galli Basura	30	9	21	Bhawna Arya
5	Dangikhola	47	16	31	Arti Dangi
	Total	180	68	112	

In this period, 180 children (68 Male and 112 Female) are continuously getting education. Education support centres also organised different cultural programmes, such as drawing, speech and writing competitions time to time. These activities kept the interest of children as well as increased the learning also. Facilitators impart the subject base knowledge to the needy children and try to empowering them to become informed and competent.

Tuition Centre –



Objective of the tuition centre is to provide support, encouragement and facilitate the learning process. 115 children (56 Male and 59 Female) are associated with tuition centre. During this period, tuition centres are operated in the villages - Jinouli, Tadi, Basgoan and Simalkha of Nainital District and Gailek of Almroa District. Facilitators support the students to learn subject knowledge effectively and it observed that the students who come to tuition get good grades in their examination and have good knowledge about their subjects taught at centers. .

SN	Village Name	Total Number of Children	Male	Female
1	Jinouli	25	15	10
2	Tadi	22	7	15
3	Basgaon	21	11	10
4	Simalkha	25	13	12
5	Gailek	22	10	12
	Total	115	56	59

In both areas, along with the subject knowledge facilitators/teachers also provided different information on General knowledge, environment, health and legal awareness.



Monthly meetings with Parents-

Both agencies conducted meetings with children's parents enrolled in education support centres and tuition centres on regular bases. These meetings encouraged and ensured the parents responsibility towards their kids education and learning. Facilitators/ teachers regularly stayed in touch with



parents and shared their ward's learning progress and motivated them to take interest in their child's education. The result displayed an increase the involvement of parents in their ward's education and progress, it also showed an improvement in children's behaviour and attitude towards education.

Resource centre for children and Women

Special Coaching Education for children from deprived section of society

From November to March a coaching centre was being run in each area. AMAN operated the Coaching centres in the field office Govindpur and VIMARSH operated the coaching centre in Simalkha village. 33 (19 Girls and 14 Boys) students from 9th to 11th Class got help in studies through Coaching centers. Two facilitators guided the students in Science, Maths and English and prepared them for their semester and final examinations.

Uttarakhand Board's 10th standard examination was completed before lockdown but yet the sheets are to be evaluated. It has been decided by the Uttarakhand board that the results will be declared after lockdown ends. Primary, Junior, 9th and 11th classes' students completed their examinations and all students are promoted to next class.

Women counselling and resource centre –

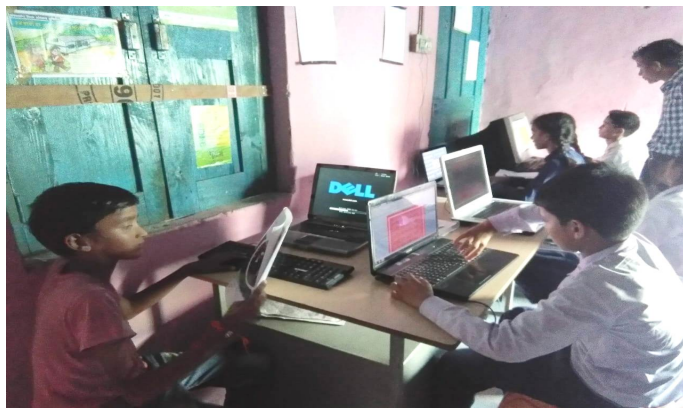
Women Counselling and resource centre provide counselling for individual women and their families. Counselling centres helped women in accessing government schemes. We also provided individual counselling to women, girls and children who have experienced domestic violence and abuse.

In this period, facilitators provided individual counselling to adolescent girls who faced Eve teasing. The legal booklets of law related to women, children and girls have been provided to the centres.

In this interlude, Women Counselling and resource centres played an important role in information dissemination on government schemes related to women and children welfare. Seasonal agriculture production, seed distributions for vegetable production and pulses production is also supported by centres.

Computer Literacy Centre

For promoting computer education both agencies have established computer literacy centers. This programme aims to reach deprived students. VIMARSH is running computer centre at Simalkha Village and AMAN at Govindpur. 31 Children and youth are enrolled in both computer Centers. 17 students (2 Boys and 15 girls) in Almora District and 14 students (6 boys and 8 Girls) in Nainital District are learning computer literacy.

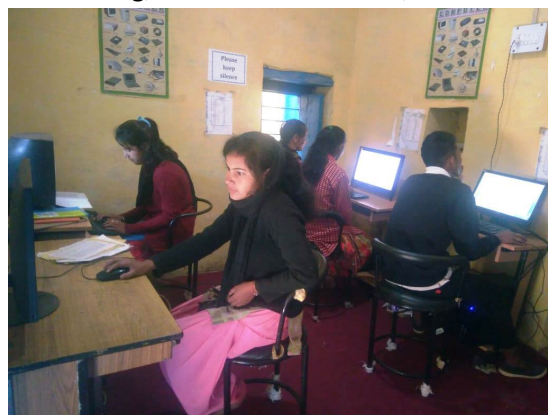


payments etc.

Bal Mela- This activity is proposed but due to the COVID-19, it is postponed. It will be organised in coming month.

Sponsorship with Children-

AMAN selected 42 poor and needy children to support their education. Due to lockdown this activity will be completed in the month of June and July. VIMARSH also postponed the sponsorship activity due to same situation.



Meeting with Children and Women group



Regular meetings were organised with women and children group in between November and March at Hawalbagh Block on Nutrition & Malnutrition, Government Welfare schemes, Local Self Governance meeting, Pension Schemes and COVID-19 Pandemic and Precautions. Regular meetings were organised at Betalghat block on local self governance, PCPNDT act, National Population Register, Village Panchayat, Women issues and Pension Schemes, Gender discrimination & OBR, National Employment Schemes etc.

Both Organisations conducted meetings with women group and also organised focus group discussion to understand the impact of VOC programme.

Regular meetings were also conducted with Children groups in both areas; it was focused on increasing children's information and awareness on Child Rights, Child labour, Transport and pedestrian rights, Education, health, Child protection, Personal hygiene and Vaccination. Children groups also celebrated some important days such as International Child Rights day, Youth day, Red Hand day and Earth Day collectively.

Campaign to spread the awareness on COVID-19-

To raise awareness on Novel Coronavirus and importance of precautionary measures to combat COVID19, a campaign was organised. Village animators/ facilitators, Youth volunteers and children were awared on Safe hand washing and Social distancing. VOC team and youth volunteers helped in emergency relief programme in COVID-19. They contributed in selection and identification of beneficiaries and distribution. We encouraged the youth and children to read and write and Play at home. Children started sharing their expressions through painting and writing using social sites.



Monthly meeting with Staff-

For the smooth implementation of the programme monthly meeting was organised with VOC team in each area. One Joint coordination meeting was organised to understand the progress of project, activities, challenge, learning and future plans and strategy for VOC programme.

Our Learning and Challenges-

Since the starting of VOC programme a stage has been set up for students to express their views, education among them has taken a leap and children came out of the web of child labour.

Through these programmes we have experienced that the society changes as a whole, the VOC programmes for education acted as a beginning step to vocalize women against violence. On one hand the programme was able to bring the dropout rate to zero while on the other hand it also reduced child labour in the area. But we noticed that the Indian cast system and gender discrimination became a challenge and made this process a bit slower which further needs to be worked on.

Due to COVID-19 the whole situation has changed and children and women are struck at homes due to which women violence has increased, children are facing problems in studying, vaccination process and the wholesome development process of children has also been hindered. Lockdown led to reverse migration in these places and people have become jobless, as a result there is an urgent need to focus on children's education and development to stop them from running back to child labour.

