



[VOICE OF CHILDREN]

ANNUAL Progress Report 2019-2020

Report

Voice of Children

Period- November 2019 to 31 October 2020

Project- Voice of Children Education Project

Implementing Agency- AMAN and VIMARSH

Reporting period -1 November 2019 to 31 October 2020

Background

VOC project is paving the path of education to Children who belong to the poor and rural communities of Uttarakhand. This project has been very helpful in creating the environment of learning among the kids of remote mountains through the education centres, tuition centres, and coaching centres.

All the education learning centres have positively affected the growth of children, now they are excelling not only in centres but also in academics as well as in various other activities conducted in school. Earlier it was very difficult for the rural youngsters to get higher education and learn technical skills but the computer centres run by the program helped them polishing their skills by learning the basics of computer which also improved their chances of success in future.

The VOC project also worked for children, girls and women of underprivileged and deprived section of the society and increased the social development process among the community. Although Covid-19 Pandemic outbreak has badly affected the entire mountain region and it has led dramatic adverse impact on people's lives.

The VOC project activities has also been affected due to it but the VOC team made strategies for completing the activities and due to hard work and dedication of the team; we succeeded in completing all the program activities in this unprecedented and unforeseen situation.

Activities conducted during this period.

Education Centres-

Education centres are being run where along with supporting children in their academics they are also taught many things like poetry writing, drawing, teaching through flash cards, etc so that they don't lose interest in studying. In addition to this, various competitions are also conducted on different occasions as children's day, world nutrition day, red hand day, World Play Day, Environment Day etc and these children are awarded for good performance which keeps them enthusiastic and motivated.

During this period 180 Children (68 Male and 112 Female) get education support from five education centres at Rarkhila, Silani, Pathura, Gallibasura and Dangikhola of district Almora 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 were supported children' education by visiting their home with maintaining social distance. After the April 2020, the Education centres reopened were also taught children course as well as about cleanliness and all the guidelines to be followed for their safety

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	

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. Tuition Centres are being operated. This Year, in the tuition centres information of thematic course, civic sense, environment, personal hygiene's helpline numbers and Gender Discrimination and laws were provided to the Children. So far, 93 children are associated with tuition centres.

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, preparedness of COVID-19 and Mental Health

Monthly meetings with Parents-

During the first six month, 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' behaviour and attitude towards education. But after lock down Facilitators visited to the family and motivated parents for their ward's education and progress at home.

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.

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 and domestic violence. 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.

. In addition to this, the volunteers of Aman also helped 20 children to get their caste certificate, 40 people to get their income certificate and 10 people in making their job card. VIMARSH also facilitated the process of Job card through resource centre and with their support job cards of 31 women were made and 6 women were also linked with widow pension plan. Moreover, 197 kg of Pea seeds and 350 fruit saplings were also provided to families with the efforts of VIMARSH.

Computer Literacy Centre

In both areas, the computer centres are being run free of cost for the needy people as they cannot afford computer classes due to their poor financial condition. Here children and youth are taught about the basics of computer like creating files, English and Hindi typing, learning Microsoft and copying text or images, sending emails, etc. **In this year 56 students were enrolled in computer centers and computer literacy increased in VOC Field area.** The computer centres were also opened during the lock down but children were not regular in Computer centres on April and May 2019.

In AMAN Field Area First batch started on November to May 2020 and second batch started on June 2020 to November 2020. 17 Students (2 boys and 15 Girls) enrolled in first batch and 21 Students (Male-6, Female-15) enrolled in Second batch.

In Nainital District, computer centre of Simalkha is operating smoothly. In this year, the basic education of Computer was provided to the children. Moreover, a weekly visit of the computer teacher was also scheduled. In the visit, the teacher provided more computer-related information to the children. So far 18 children of Junior School, High School and Inter-School are part of the computer centre.

Bal Mela-

Three Children Fairs (Bal Mela) were Organised in the Voice of Children Project area. VIMASH organised two children fair in the month October 2020 at Simalkha and Jinauli Villages While AMAN organised one Children Fair at Govindpur. The theme of the children fair was "Children Safety on COVID-19 Pandemic". Bal Mela was Organised with the safety measures and Unlock-6 guidelines to be taken by state Government. In the occasion of Bal Mela, Children were gathered from VOC project villages between the age group of 12 to 18 years and shared their fear, stress, anxiety and problems are facing during this pandemic through writing, drawing, poem and skit. VOC volunteers & resource person also discussed and gave the tips on to stay healthy and psycho-social wellbeing of Children.

209 children were participated in both areas. Head of local self-governance and elected women representatives, women group member representative were also participated in this programme. Bal Mela Provided the good platform to children to express their views and helped to pulled down the children from COVID-19 Outbreak.

Sponsorship with Children-

AMAN provided the education support (Note books, Syllabus books and stationary) to 45 Children and VIMARSH provided the education support to 20 Girls of the VOC field area. **Through this activity 65 children of poor and deprived families got text books and note books, and this helped them to continue their education.**

List of children of Nainital District- supported by VIMARSH

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.

After lockdown, Both Organisations visited the women group members house and also organised focus group discussions on Covid-19 Pandemic and its preparedness. Women organisations played an important role in beneficiary selection of ration distribution. In both areas, with the support of local facilitators, community workers and women leaders made the list of needy person which was suffering most in the lockdown period. Women organisations also played an important role in increased the awareness on hand washing and village

sanitisation. During unlock-5 and 6 meetings were organised with the women group regularly.

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, Earth Day, World Play Day, Environment 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 awarded 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.

After lockdown the women were told about the effects and prevention of Covid -19 and were also taught to make masks and after that masks were made and distributed by them in the village.

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.

Other Activities-

Some other awareness programmes were also celebrated and organised to raise the awareness of Women, children and Youth

- 1- Both Organisations organised the International Women day in which the women representatives of VOC field area were also participated.
- 2- VIMARSH organised OBR campaign and Human rights day and also organised welcome ceremony for elected women representatives of local self-governance.
- 3- VIMARSH was organised meeting with adolescent girls groups and discussions have made on Reproductive health and Hygiene.
- 4- Both Organisations were organised the hygiene drive with adolescent girls and distributed the sanitary pads to 480 Girls.
- 5- AMAN conducted the study on Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan accounts situation and details would receive cash transfer of 500 INR from Government in each month of lockdown period.

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. It creates an opportunity to strengthen the girl child education. 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.

COVID-19 changed the whole situation. Children and women are struck at homes due to which women violence has increased and pregnant women faced the problem in institutional delivery and care and medical support to new-born. Children are facing problems in studying, vaccination process and the wholesome development process of children has also been hindered. VOC team home visits, individual meetings and VOC learning centres played as instrumental role to overcome the situation. COVID-19 Relief Programme contributed in survival of

poor families and helps in to overcome from the Socio-psycho impact and hunger situation.

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

Success Story of VOC programme

Name: Bhuwan

Father's name: Kanti Ram

Mother's name: Pushpa devi

Village: Pathura

Block: Hawalbagh



Bhuwan belongs from socially deprived and underprivileged family of the Pathura Village of Voice of Children Project area. Bhuwan was an active member of the children's group since 2011. He has partial physical disability by birth. Due to this, he was feeling ignorance and isolated among children. On 2011-2012, he attended the education support centre and Children Fair organized in his village. Collective reading, exposure visits and extra-curricular activities made him confident and active. Later on He was also elected as the president of children's group of Pathura village. He completed his 12 standard on 2015 and after that he conducted Education centre of his village, simultaneously he continued his graduation and computer education from VOC computer Centre. He learnt the basics of computer from the centre. After that on February 2018, he was appointed as computer instructor for VOC computer literacy centre. He taught computer to other children with all dedication. He also learned two- wheeler keeping aside his physical disability. Regardless of being from a very financial unstable family he learnt computer and now he has started his own Common Service centre at Govindpur town. Common Service Centre is an

initiative of the ministry of Electronics & IT, Government of India. It is delivering e-services to rural and remote areas. He has become self-dependent which is helping his family too.

He is very thankful to VOC and TRAS to provide opportunities for self-reliant.