JAN - MAR 2022

Volume-VI, Issue-IV



Creating Opportunities, Empowering the Poor...



Break the Bias





Mahashakti Foundation celebrated International Women's Day on 08th March 2022 at different locations of Odisha. With the theme of "Break the Bias", this year's International Women's Day was celebrated in order to make a gender equal world. A world free of bias, stereotypes and discrimination. A world that's diverse, equitable, and inclusive. A world where difference is valued and celebrated. Together we can forge women's equality. Mahashakti Foundation celebrated the day by acknowledging the contributions of all its female employees in its registered offices at M.Rampur, administrative office at Balangir, state coordination office of Bhubaneswar, all its branch offices and project offices across Odisha.





Functional Literacy Program



Though the literacy rate has increased, yet **India** has the world's largest population of illiterate adults. Illiteracy affects an individual in all areas of their life. An illiterate individual cannot read and write, and thus cannot join the workforce or may work as unskilled labour, lack awareness to make an informed decision which affects them and their community. Illiterate women can't contribute in managing their Self-Help Groups or other community-based organizations. Adult Women Literacy Centers are primarily located in & around the periphery of adult illiterate women to facilitate them with continued learning without hampering their daily functioning. The main objective is to impart basic literacy so that the women are able to at least read newspapers, bus numbers and manage their household expenditure. Down the line, these women can participate in financial literacy programs for financial inclusion and overall improvement of their economic condition. It was decided to begin with the WLC will cater around 200 illiterate adults through 10 WLC in different slums of Bhubaneswar. Before implementation of the project MSF staff visited SaliaSahi, ManhisaKhala, Labour Basti, Tarnini Nagar and Bijalaxmi Nagar, Aditya Nagar slums of Bhubaneswar and interacted with volunteers identified by TPCODL-CSR team and SHG women members. An extensive discussion was held with volunteers regarding their role responsibilities, remuneration, house rent and mobilization of illiterate adults. After discussion 10 Preraks have been identified in the above slums. Contact details and address of the Prerakas have been collected. Mr. Chiranjibi Biswal, Master in Computer Science was selected by MSF as Program Coordinator for this WLC.





TPCODL team in due consultation with TCS arranged a two days TOTs of Prerakas. Two days virtual TOTs were done on January 27th and January 28th 2022 by TCS representative Mr. Sagar Datta wherein along with the Prerakas Mahashakti Foundation staff, TPCODL representatives and 10 Prerakas participated. Hands on training to the Prerakas was provided by Mahashakti Foundation staff on use of soft study materials using Desktop.

In the presence of TPCODL representatives Mr. Shubham Pahwa and Mr. Subham Purohit and Mr. Jugal Kishore Pattnayak, Mr. Mohan K Baliyarsingh and Mr. Chiranjibi Biswal of MSF were present in the inaugural ceremony. The WLCs were inaugurated became functional from 1st February 2022. Attendance register was provided to each WLC. A booklet on Oriya vernacular language, note pad, pencil and pen were provided to all the participants. A sign Board with the Center address, TPCODL and MSF Logo and name of the Preraks were installed in all the 10 centers. A Whatsapp Group was created wherein the Preraks are sharing the photos of the participants, progress report and issues and concerns. In consultation with participants, the Preraks shared the batch timing of the WLCs.





CEO of TPCODL Mr. N. Shenbagam, CSR-Head of TPCODL Mr. Pankaj Singh and Mr. Mohan K Baliyarsingh of Mahashakti Foundation visited all the 10 WLCs and distributed sweets to the participants and discussed with them regarding the importance of Women's Day and literacy.



Project Parivartan (an initiative of HDFC Bank)



Focused Rural Development Program (FRDP)

The prime objective of this project is to establish chili and millet clusters in Sambalpur and Bargarh districts of Odisha respectively.

The project is being implemented with support from HDFC Bank Parivartan initiative, and geography of the project is concentrated to blocks of Manesar and Jamankira in Sambalpur, Bhatli and Ambabhona in Bargarh districts. During the course of the project as many as 8000 small and marginal women farmers shall be mobilized, formed into small Producer Groups and finally they'll be clubbed into an organized and registered Farmers Producer Company (FPC). As per the project plan, two FPCs will be floated in the mentioned two districts, where in Sambalpur the FPC shall deal with Chilli value chain and in Bargarh the FPC shall focus on the Millet value chain. The project envisages to introduce new agriculture technologies and best practices that will significantly improve the farm productivity and reduce the cost of production. The farmers who will gradually become the shareholders of the company, will be trained on different technical aspects which include – soil testing, updated idea on following the correct PoP for the target crops, identifying right input suppliers and marketing of their products.







MSF had organized a staff orientation program for all the CRPs, Block Coordinators under HDFC Bank Parivartan (FDP) project. The training focused on communication development, leadership skills and sharing knowledge on PG/FPO formation and management. It was organized between 15-17 March 2022 at Bargarh district.



Mahashakti Foundation will implement FRDP at the selected clusters of Bargarh and Sambalpur districts of Odisha. As part of the project activity, Mahashakti organised an awareness meeting at Ambabhona block of Bargarh district where all participants discussed about the project, benefits of forming FPOs and role of WSHG members in the entire process.







Quarterly Highlights



Migrant workers enrolled onto various schemes

Connecting migrant workers to employment and welfare schemes.

PROJECT ADHIKAAR

OUT NOW!







Mahashakti Foundation is an implementing partner of Millet Mission in Bargarh District. MSF has facilitated with a millet FPO in Bargarh and is constantly helping millet farmers with sales, marketing and distribution of millet. Ragi fields and millet tiffin centre of Bijepur, Bargarh were visited by Sri Dayanidhi Nayak, Additional Agril secretary to Govt along with CDAO, Bargarh, PD, Watershed, Bargarh, ADH, Bargarh.

Project Adhikaar enrolled over 6,000 migrants and their families from tribal districts of Odisha in ten government employment and welfare schemes. The project was implemented by Mahashakti Foundation with technical support from Daily Wage Worker Platform and funded by Omidyar Network India. The operational challenges from the field provide valuable lessons and policy recommendations for governments, donors and NGOs to improve the accessibility, enrollment, effectiveness and impact of government schemes such as the new e-Shram portal that has gathered data on millions of workers with the promise of connecting them to a dozen employment and welfare schemes.







Quarterly Highlights



In one of our project specific initiatives, we distributed vegetables mini-kit (seeds) to the beneficiaries. This will help the women farmers in managing their respective kitchen gardens in a constructive manner. We invited the local Sarpanch and Horticulture Officer to take part and oversee the event.



NABARD has appointed Mahashakti Foundation as a Resource Support Agency (RSA) to strengthen the functional capacities of FPO (Farmer Producer Organisation) and through their respective promoting institutions, Producer Organizations Promoting Institution (POPI). There are about 80 FPOs being targeted in a cluster-based approach. The FPOs are divided into 3 clusters, where in cluster 1, Mahashakti will work with the FPOs from Ganjam and Gajapati districts, Rayagada Kalahandi, Nuapada districts in cluster 2 and Koraput, Nabarangpur, Malkangiri districts coming under cluster 3. Training programs will be conducted involving experts in FPO management in the three clusters and their progress on different indicators shared by NABARD is being mapped and monitored. In the next one year of the project period, Mahashakti will closely work with the FPOs and extend required handholding support to let them achieve the desired targets on time and become self-reliant.





Photo Gallery



Inauguration of Maa Sunamukhi FPO in presence of Deputy Director Horticulture, Kalahandi DDM, NABARD, CEO ORMAS, Treasurer and PM of MSF





Adimachasi FPO at Thuamul Rampur inaugurated by DDM Kalahandi and **CEO ORMAS**







Photo Gallery



Inauguration of Safal Cahsi FPO at Junagarh by DDM NABARD and CEO ORMAS Kalahandi.





Inauguration of Krushna Hira FPC at Jharbandh, Bargarh under central sector scheme.



Development of agricultural clusters at different locations of Kalahandi. Meeting with farmers to identify potential products and value chains

Ultra Poor Market Access Linking rural women entrepreneurs with market and developing market opportunities





Photo Gallery





Sakhi Project

Beneficiary Name: ARATI NAG, Age: 33yrs

Husband's Name: Dhirendra Nag

Benefitted from Project run by Vedanta Limited, Lanjigarh:

Women Empowerment and Livelihood Implemented By: Mahashakti Foundation

Village: Kenduguda, Panchayat Name:- Lanjigarh

SHG Name:- Nagekeswari, SHG Formation Date: 18.08.2017

SHG Formed By: Vedanta Sakhi Project, Members in Group: 10 nos.

Saving Per Month (Group): ₹1000/-, Arati Nag Saving in Group: ₹5,200



Introduction: Arati Nag President of Nagekeswari SHG is married and staying with her family in Kenduguda.

Intervention: Ms. Ritanjali Mahakhud, Cluster Coordinator is working under Women Empowerment & Livelihood Project since 3 years in this area. She is looking after 29 SHGs in 6 villages like Chhatrapur, Raghunathpur, Bhatguda, Belomba, Kenduguda and Tangankona. One of the members Mrs. Arati Nag showed interest to increase her dairy farming business and requested for a loan support of ₹ 50,000/from "Samunnati" for purchase a Jersey cow. Cluster Coordinator Ritanjali Mahakhud collected her loan documents, and after CIBIL check Arati was eligible for loan. After all lending process formalities Shaktimayee foundation passed the loan in loan committee meeting. After loan sanction Arati received ₹ 50.000/- on 22th March 2022. Later she purchased a Jersey cow and improved her dairy business. The Cluster Coordinator guided her to maintain stock register, sale register, and profit and loss calculation.

Result & Sustainability: Currently her average monthly income is ₹ 6000/-. Her husband also helps her in milk sales and to take care of the cow. Arati timely repays the loan amount to Samunnati. She is very much

happy and thankful to Shaktimayee Foundation as well as Samunnati and Vedanta for this livelihood support.





Media Highlights



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