

# **HARIJAN ADIWASI SIKSHAN PRASHIKSHAN KALYAN SANSTHAN**

## ***ABOUT US***

With an overwhelming rural population, India's development is dependent on the upliftment of its villages. In its objective towards rural rehabilitation, HASPKS aims at the social, economic, educational, cultural & entrepreneurial empowerment of the weaker sections of the society. Our organization is situated at Harda in Purnea district, Bihar. The people of this district are far from being educated, suffer from health problems and live in sheer poverty. Our organization has initiated efforts in order to bring them out of this situation. We focus mainly on the women, the schedule castes and the schedule tribes. Due to our consistent efforts ranging over 17 years, we have been able to bring about a significant improvement in the lives of these people.

In all there are 56 full time and 20 part-time members in the organization. Also there are 75 voluntary persons who are working for the organization, contributing their respective shares towards the achievement of the targets.

## ***OUR VISION AND MISSION STATEMENTS***

- "Sustainable Development, Our Promises".  
To highlight the problem related to education, health, self, depending, social security of the people belonging to weaker sections who have been left far behind in the race of progress and development.

- To protect environment through the proper operation of new activities.
- To reach the benefit of development to the marginal people of the society.
- To bring children into mainstream of the society as they are our future.
- To develop innovative ideas and bringing about their implementation.

In accordance with Mahatma Gandhi's legacy, the organization aims at the formation of a healthy, pure and peaceful developed society, on a long term basis. For this purpose, the organization has been organizing programmes which aim at the welfare of the masses, the funds for which are mobilized from different sources including governmental and non-governmental organizations.

In the field of education, we have started programmes like Harijan Adiwasi residential school, NEG programme and others for raising literacy standards. Other fields where our role has been significant are health, micro credit, jute production and training, environment.

## ***HISTORY***

Bihar is one of India's poorest states. Its performance has been worse than the national average in terms of human development. Other conditions that affect the rural poor are literacy, employment status, health etc. Low social indicators reflect the significant constraints in the state's ability to extricate itself from long run poverty.

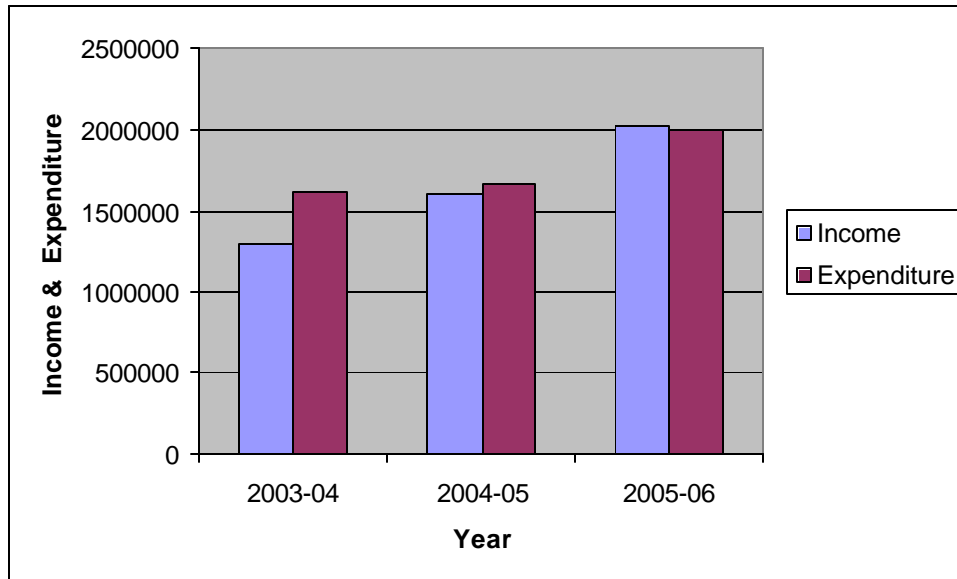
Data shows that Human Development Index in 2001 for Bihar was 0.367 while it was 0.472 for India as a whole in the same period. Literacy rate for Bihar was 48% and it was 65% for India.

Keeping all this in mind, Harijan Adiwasi Shikshan Prashikshan Kalyan Sansthan (HASPKS) was set up to bring about awareness regarding co-operation, unity and joint responsibility among the people. The long term aim of our organization is to achieve social welfare. The organization was set up by Ramachandra Pandit in the year 1988 (registered on 21<sup>st</sup> March, 1992 under Societies Registration Act. 21, 1860). He is a committed Gandhian and a grass root leader. Mr.Pandit is currently the secretary and is also the chief functionary of the organization.

Due to the poor conditions prevailing in Bihar, our organization faced certain external challenges like:

- Delayed payments by the funding agencies could lead to high employee turn-over rates.
- Power conditions at Begusarai poses serious threat to office automation and work environment.

In spite of the above mentioned challenges, the organization has moved in the desired direction. The growth of our organization can be measured in terms of the income and expenditure in the three year period from 2003-04 to 2005-06. This is represented in the graph below:



## ***OUTREACH***

Over the years, our organization has spread its wings across various sectors which effect human development. Let us review the phenomenal work undertaken by the organization.

### ***A) EDUCATION***

The organization undertook various educational programmes for the rural women, SCs and STs. Our achievements in this field can be discussed in detail.

1) Harijan Adiwasi Residential School-This was set up in the year of establishment of the organization, 1988. It imparts education to the children, belonging to the Harijan and Adiwasi groups, in the age group 1-6 years. But the problem faced is that of funds. It is able to carry its operations from whatever little grants are made by the people, in the local areas, and not by the government.

2) National Education Group (NEG) Programme-This programme is directed towards the children who are not able to attend school because of the financial constraints faced by their parents. For this purpose, a survey has been conducted regarding the financial conditions and inability to attend school by the children of 10 villages in Harda district. The report of this survey has been sent to the government for approval of the NEG Programme in these villages. However, due to shortage of funds, the implementation of the programme awaits government's approval.

3) Setting up of Crèche-National Social Welfare Board has started a crèche for children between 1-5 years of age. This was done considering the problems faced by the working women. The kids are made to learn the numbers and alphabets with a playful mechanism and are also taught about some basic things like cleanliness, etiquettes etc.

4) Women Education-Formal and informal education is provided to the women in the area of its operations by The National Social Welfare Board, New Delhi. The informal activities include sewing, embroidery etc. The motive behind this is to enable the flow of additional incomes in the hands of the women, once they are free from the agricultural activities.

The National Social Welfare Board imparts education to 25 women from the target groups. It has already done so with 2 batches of such women, who appeared for the middle school examination and passed it.

All this has helped to improve the lives of the neglected people and also made them understand the local issues and problems. This would further help them to take appropriate decisions for betterment.

5) Kasturba Gandhi Residential School for Girls-Government of India has initiated this school for the deprived girls of the society. This was set up in February 2006 in Dagrua.

50 girls of over 10 years of age have been enrolled in the school. The activities for the day start at 5 in the morning. The classes take place from 10 in the morning to 5 in the evening. Apart from studies, sports programmes, seminars and lectures are also conducted so as to bring an all round development.

Once in 15 days, the children are allowed to meet their guardians on a pre fixed date.

6) Child Labor Special School-As per the Government's plan, such schools were opened in January 2006 at Belori, February 2006 at Sahara, Budiya Rahi Tola, Thakur Patti and Chakla.

In each of these schools, 14 children, who have left their studies and are working in order to earn their living, are imparted education. Apart from this, they also specialize in activities like candle making, toys, incense sticks etc to enable them to set up businesses after completing their education. The children are also provided an evening meal daily.

All the students are given Rs.100 in the form of scholarship and bank accounts are opened. This money is saved so that they do not fall short of funds while starting the business of their choice.

The guardians of the children in these schools are given loans, on priority basis, from the Government so as to improve the children's economic status.

## *B) MICRO-CREDIT*

The process of micro-credit is encouraged as it enables the poor to take loans on easier terms and use the funds for a productive venture. Our organization has given loans to 7100 beneficiaries out of the 3.75L rupees received from Rashtriya Gramin Vikas Nidhi, Patna. Of these, 80-85% of the loans have already been returned.

The organization circulates the credit through the Self Help Groups (SHGs). This ensures easy delivery of the funds and speedy recovery too. They also generate money through internal mobilization of funds and hence save rupee one on a per day basis. Out of the 70 SHGs, 36 have already opened accounts with the banks. There is a grading system according to which, 10 SHGs have been graded. Also, 9 SHGs have received Rs.25000 each and this is used for business purposes. As per the plan, every SHG would get a credit of Rs.2.5 L for running the chosen businesses. Currently, 680-700 members which form the 70 SHGs are benefiting from this plan.

## *C) ENVIRONMENT*

There has been a major threat to the environment due to the activities of the human beings. Scientists have increasingly warned of the ramifications of a deteriorating ozone layer. Rising temperatures, incidence of floods are some of them. Therefore, our organization has started certain awareness campaigns through which, we tell the people about the benefits associated with planting trees and maintaining cleanliness around the wells and ponds. Another concern in front of us is the need for potable drinking water. For this purpose, we have undertaken a door-to-door based campaign and thus educated the people. During the

year 2004-05, a workshop aimed at developing an environment-saving approach was organized which was attended by 575 people. The workshop was funded by the Forest & Environment Ministry of the Government of India. Also, a workshop was organized in 2003-04 wherein trees were planted in the presence of a large number of guests, organization workers and general populace.

#### *D) HEALTH*

The health of the people in the area of operations has been one of the major concerns. The problem arises due to the bad delivery mechanisms.

Another reason is the wide spread prevalence of AIDS. 6000 people in Bihar are HIV positive. Our organization prevents its spread among the truck drivers and the sex workers, as they are the ones mainly affected with this virus. This programme is referred to as the Truckers' Intervention Programme. With regard to this, our area of operation is between Harda and Maranga (NH 31-8KM Distance) in Harda district. Around 10,000 truckers have benefited from this.

Efforts are on to create awareness by contacting individually as well as collectively. In this direction, our organization has started awareness programmes among the truckers and also in the villages in its area of operation. Education with regard to the practice of safe sex, use of condoms and being loyal to one's partner, has been provided. The exemplary work is illustrated by the nearly 4-fold increase (from 6000 to 25170) in the number of people contacted individually from 2002-03 to 2004-05. Also, posters have been put up in the villages in order to spread awareness. Road shows (Nukkad Natak), video shows & condom-presentations are other mediums.



There is a provision of specialized doctors to take care of those infected and all this can be kept a secret. STD clinics have been started in the villages in the area of operations and drugs, condoms are made available to the people. The year 2004-05 saw the treatment of 1307 patients with medicines worth Rs. 89387 being freely distributed.



#### *E) BIHAR FORCES (Forum for Crèche and Child Care Services)*

FORCES is an informal and growing network of more than 58 organizations, 6 regional network and individual members. Founded in 1989, to act as a pressure group, the network is

committed to the survival and development of young children, particularly of women working in the informal sector.

This programme was started in the year 2004-05. It basically deals with the issues related to child care. The main aim of FORCES is to solve the problems of working mothers with regard to the care of their children. The activities involved are the research and documentation on the status of 0-6 age group children, dialogue with the stakeholders, workshops, seminars, creating panchayats/wards as models to be replicated, networking with like minded organizations, individuals and campaigns. The grass root interventions and the policy advocacy will form the mainstay of the FORCES.



Under the programme, awareness is created among the women through the below mentioned points:

- Child Vaccination: In the period 2004-05, the following vaccines were provided-polio drops, DPT, BCG, whooping cough, vitamin A, and booster. A total number of 29041 vaccines were given.

- Pre-primary education: In the period 2004-05, pre-primary education was imparted to 1737 students.
- Nutrition
- Maternity rights
- Birth and death registration

### *JUTE PRODUCTION AND TRAINING*

Purnea is basically a farmer based area where jute production is primary due to the abundant availability of the raw materials required. Keeping this in mind, the Government has provided 6 months training to 40 women living below the poverty line. Of these, 10 have adopted the work of jute production and are earning Rs.400-500 per month.

In order to start some new projects, we have approached the textiles department of the government of India to help us and have been assured by the officers. In the current training programmes, both men and women have manufactured jute threads, mats, carpets etc worth Rs.50 thousand. These have been sold in the local markets.

### **STRATEGIES**

The main concern of any NGO is its delivery and monitoring system. Only if these two systems are effective, can the organization efficiently achieve its objectives.

Our organization has various means to ensure an efficient delivery system:

- Weekly training which aims at orientation of all staff.

- Rapport building with core groups like ESH, SHSP, Community administration, Social Worker etc.
- Think tank is the calibration of Social, Educational and Technical Experts. It does the socio economic studies and research.
- Innovative methods are used regularly for behavior change.
- Other regular works are done efficiently.
- Capacity building at all levels.

With respect to the monitoring system, following are the means:

- Weekly monitoring and evaluation of work and up-to-date reporting, at every level.
- Weekly, monthly and mid-term review meetings are continually organized.
- Right from the beginning, our organization is publishing the project budgets on the signboard, in accordance with the right to information.

## ***ACHIEVEMENTS***

HASPKS commands a highly trained taskforce committed to deliver critical support to the people of rural Bihar. Some of our key accomplishments are:

- Convening organization for Bihar State AIDS Control Society's Bihar Partners forum of OTI, TC and other projects.

- HASPKS is selected by Bihar State AIDS Control Society for TI Project for Begusarai district on the basis of performance.
- Organization's secretary has been selected by BEP as "State Resource Person" for SSHE programme.
- HASPKS has been selected for the formation of DPR of Purnea. It is MORD, GOI plan.
- Our organization has provided employment to one HIV positive women for the first time in Bihar.
- Organization is the foremost to advocate the legalization of pre-marital HIV test in accordance with the law prevailing in Goa.
- The organization has promoted gender neutrality. 40% of Office bearers are Women and they participate actively.

### ***RESOURCE PROVIDERS***

We are very much grateful to all are donor agencies and individuals, the State and the different banks, without whose support it would not have been possible to work towards the programmes. Here is the list of our funders:

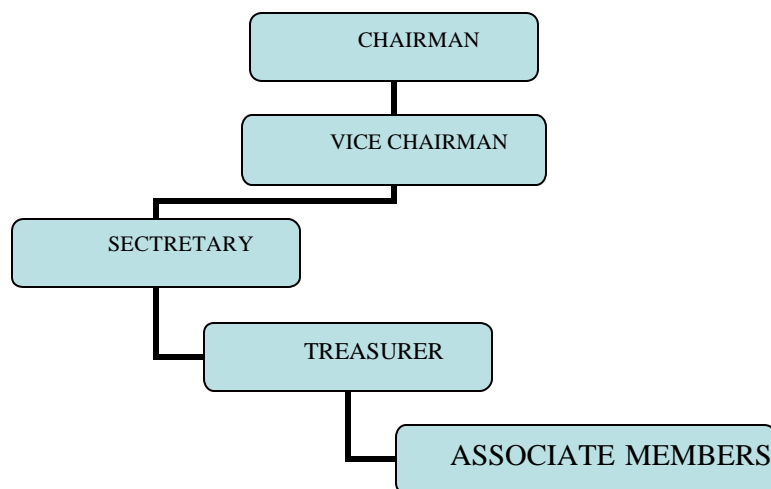
- Bihar State AIDS Control Society, Patna
- Rural Youth Co-ordination Committee, Delhi
- Hunger Project, Patna
- NIDAN, Patna(for Bihar FORCES and NASVI)
- Rastrya Gramin Vikas Nidhi, Patna
- DRDA, Purnea
- RCH
- State Social Welfare Board, Patna
- NABARD, Patna
- Labor Department, Purnea

- Bihar Education Project, Purnea

## ***ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE***

Our organization is composed of 56 full-time, 20 part time and 75 voluntary employees with the following heads:

- Haridas Paswan- Chairman
- Shivshankar Sahu- Vice Chairman
- Ramchandra Pandit- Secretary
- Shankar Prasad Maholi- Treasurer



The working departments include:

- Advisory Committee
- Women's Committee
- Planning and Implementation Committee
- Panchayati Raj Institution Committee

- Targeted Intervention Committee
- Staff Selection Committee
- Purchase and Printing Committee

## ***CONCLUSION***

Our organization has continued performing its duties, towards bringing about social welfare, with great vigor. Through the various programmes initiated, we have been able to bring a substantial improvement in the lives of the people. For further betterment, we are:

- On the process of---Residential School for SCs and STs by the Welfare Department, ICDS Training Centre (Government of Bihar, Purnea), Crèche Programme and UNDP-TAHA project for source district Purnea at Bihar-Nepal border.
- Running TI Project smoothly to step into the fifth phase at Purnea.
- Developing ourselves as a RESOURCE ORGANIZATION in development sector, focusing on Health, Education, Women Empowerment and PRI.

Thus, we are enhancing our capabilities and introducing ways to improve the conditions in the areas where we operate.