

Woman & Child Development

HIGHLIGHTS 2005 – 2006

Regional Workshop on Women and Sanitation

- A two-day workshop was organised on Women & Sanitation at RGF in collaboration with WSSCC, Water Aid India, UNICEF, and GRWHC in March 2006. Activists, professionals and policymakers from the sanitation sector participated in the conference. Issues and constraints were discussed and actions were suggested to overcome them

Response to disaster

- Support provided to 220 tsunami-affected children from Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Andhra Pradesh and Karaikal, Pondicherry for their school education and general maintenance
- Psychosocial Support Programme for the tsunami-scarred communities of A&N islands. Training provided to 14 Lead specialists and 240 Site Leaders from the Health, Education and Social Welfare sectors

Support to conflict victims

- A total of 56 children orphaned by acts of militancy selected for financial assistance through project INTERACT. They are from Manipur (31), Jammu & Kashmir (17), Nagaland (2), Andhra Pradesh (3) and Assam (3). A total of 738 children are being supported under INTERACT project
- Nine INTERACT children selected for higher education and professional courses
- Continued educational support to 55 children affected by violence in Gujarat
- Continued RGF's Psychosocial Support Programme in Budgam J&K. Provided training to a total of 75 people consisting of Multipurpose Health Workers, Teachers and Anganwadi workers
- Psychosocial Support Programme has been extended to two more



districts of Baramulla and Kupwara in J&K affected by the earthquake. In all 152 people were trained in March 2006

- Child Counselling and Guidance Centre in Srinagar provided psychiatric care to 260 patients directly affected by conflict

Workshops for conflict and disaster- affected children

- An eight-day workshop – 'Exploring the World' was organised for children in Assam. More than 30 children and some of their guardians participated in it. These workshops helped them explore a world beyond their own, learn new things and share them with others
- A four-day Workshop was organised in March 2006 for 53 INTERACT children from Assam and J&K in Delhi. It promoted interaction, understanding and integration among children from two different corners of the country, in addition to learning and playing
- A three-day Workshop at Karaikal for 30 tsunami-affected children was organised in January 2006

Elimination of Child Labour

- Supported a programme to restore rights of the child to education and development and initiate a process of elimination of child labour

Support to street children

- Continued support to the ongoing programme of safe shelter and rehabilitative skills to 50 children in Indore, 155 in Bhopal

Capacity building, Microfinance and Micro enterprise

- Formed 612 SHGs under phase – III of the Rajiv Gandhi Mahila Vikas Pariyojna. Initiated Phase – IV of RGMVP for setting up 300 SHGs in Sultanpur and Rae Bareilly Districts of U.P.
- Continued support to project in Bokaro district, Jharkhand to promote entrepreneurial skills like food processing, soap making and sewing to 30 women. Established outlet for selling the produce
- Livelihood programmes for economically-disadvantaged women: ginger processing in Imphal, Manipur
- Initiated a programme in Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand for farmers to make their regular vegetable cultivation practices market-oriented and economically viable
- Initiated a project on Livelihood Programme through Bamboo Products for tribal women in Jajpur, Orissa
- Initiated a project in A&N Islands for Capacity Building through training in Food Processing
- Initiated a project on Community Managed Water Supply & Sanitation in rural areas of Orissa
- Continued support to a center of learning in Ahmedabad for women and children especially from the minority community affected by violence in Gujarat under project CARAVAN. Students received coaching for secondary and senior secondary exams. 50 women received basic literacy under the project called Talim
- Scholarships to two women trainees for Commercial Pilot License (CPL) at Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi, Rae Bareilly

Woman & Child Development

Caring for children orphaned by terrorism, communal violence and natural disasters, providing shelter and education to street children and working for the empowerment of women are well-established RGF programmes. This year, the Foundation expanded its work into a critical new area – that of women and sanitation.

WOMEN AND SANITATION

Many of India's distressing health indicators are caused by the lack of sanitation and hygiene. As many as 700 million people still have no access to toilets. Women are the worst affected, and have to suffer the indignity of open defecation on a daily basis, with all its problems. In the absence of sanitation, water supply gets polluted and lakhs of children die every year due to water-borne disease. Making people more aware about the link between hygiene and health and providing vastly increased access to sanitation are essential for reducing this disease burden. Sanitation is thus a key development intervention.

Dr. Kamla Chowdhry, a member of our Board of Trustees who passed away in January 2006, devoted the last years of her life to this cause. She believed passionately that civil society needed to play a much larger role and that the leadership of women in promoting sanitation needed to be recognized and encouraged. RGF's Board of Trustees agreed that the Foundation should give the issue a special niche in its programmes, as well as try and raise the profile of the problem.

Community-Managed Water Supply and Sanitation in rural areas of Orissa

To signal its entry into sanitation, RGF entered into a partnership with Gram Vikas to assist in the construction of toilets

PROGRAMME VISION

We believe that women and children should be full participants in the development process.

Our programmes aim to

- Support children and communities affected by conflict and natural calamities

- Empower disadvantaged women through greater livelihood options

- Rahabilitate street children

- Promote women's leadership in sanitation

for 1000 households in 11 villages in the 3 districts of Ganjam, Gajapati and Nayagargh. The majority of the population are BPL families.

Gram Vikas is trying to bring about a sanitation movement in Orissa through its rural health and environment programme. Its approach is distinctive. Water and sanitation are seen as entry points into the larger process of development. The Gram Vikas model emphasizes hundred per cent sanitation coverage in a village, leading to a total eradication of open defecation. It also insists on high quality – toilets that anyone would be happy to use - along with a proper and separate bathing room as well as a tap in the kitchen, all backed by a

24-hour running water supply. Provision is made for a corpus fund, contributed by the entire community, to maintain 100 per cent sanitation coverage for new households in the future.

The Gram Vikas model of sanitation infrastructure costs about Rs 8500 per household, towards which individual households contribute a little over half. The rest comes from government programmes such as the Total Sanitation Campaign and Swajaldhara with significant supplementation by Gram Vikas. Training in masonry (for toilet construction) and plumbing is an integral part of the Gram Vikas model.

In nearby villages, the conventional and cheaper government programme of concrete rings and pan has been implemented but with a very low rate of success. Most are simply not used. The Gram Vikas model is more expensive, but in the long run much more economical. Its contribution to the community's health and overall sense of well being is palpable. RGF's partnership with Gram Vikas is a valuable learning experience for the Foundation.

South Asia Regional Workshop

To develop priorities and a strategy for policy advocacy, a two-day South Asia regional workshop on Women and Sanitation was held at the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation from 20-21 March 2006. It was organized in partnership with the Global Rainwater Harvesting Collective (GRWHC), the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC), WaterAid India and UNICEF India and brought together about 70 leading grassroots activists and experts from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan to share their experiences and suggest how progress could be accelerated.



The workshop was dedicated to the memory of Dr. Kamla Chowdhry and inaugurated by Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairperson of the Planning Commission. Dr. Ahluwalia welcomed the holding of the workshop because it would give the government “a sense of what is likely to work and what is not likely to work”. Acknowledging that the majority of Indian households still lack access to sanitation, Dr. Ahluwalia said that “as long as the practice of open defecation continues in rural areas, it is going to be almost impossible to have access to safe drinking water”. South Asian countries had much to learn from each other. The missing ingredients were knowledge and the will to bring about change.

The Workshop focused on three particular issues – rural sanitation, urban sanitation and school sanitation.

It was pointed out that hygiene education is an essential precursor to sanitation awareness and action. It currently receives little serious attention. An approach for hygiene education on a national scale should be an 11th Plan priority.

The administrative and programmatic weaknesses in India's total sanitation campaign and Swajaldhara were starkly delineated: there was an urgent need for convergence between the multiplicity of authorities and financial mechanisms involved. Sanitation should be viewed as

a matter of right, not mere welfare. If 100 per cent sanitation coverage – essential for improved public health – was to be achieved, the distinction made in government programmes between those above and below the poverty line should be abolished. The one-size-fits-all approach, which ignored variations in local circumstances, had proved unworkable. With growing and irreversible rural-urban migration, the problems of urban sanitation needed much more focused attention. NGOs needed to acquire greater experience and stronger managerial capa-

bilities to contribute to the urban sanitation challenge.

High among the workshop's recommendations were mechanisms and processes for community mobilization and the empowerment of women who are and must be the prime engines of sanitation change. In response to Dr. Ahluwalia's invitation for a dialogue with the Government, particular proposals emerged for consideration by the Planning Commission, designed to:

- bring women and civil society into the

South Asia Regional workshop on Women and Sanitation Message from Smt. Sonia Gandhi

“Gandhiji attached great importance to hygiene and sanitation, yet almost 60 years after independence we have failed to make progress at all commensurate with the scale of the problem. The majority of our people are still without basic sanitation facilities. We have also failed to recognize that sanitation is a key issue for women, consistent with their need for privacy, dignity, safety and self-respect. Clearly, we must pay greater heed to women's voices in our development thinking, planning and action and give sanitation higher priority. There are many examples of the key role which women have played in bringing about better environmental awareness and health in different parts of India, in our neighbouring countries and beyond. The issue is not one of resources alone, but of purposeful and genuine community participation and management in which the central role of women is recognized and harnessed for the greater common good. I hope this workshop will help all the stakeholders to learn from past experience, scale-up existing efforts and develop a plan of action which acknowledges the continuum between hygiene awareness and education, sanitation and safe drinking water. All three are linked in an inseparable chain. There is much scope for partnerships between government agencies and the voluntary sector which put women at their heart.”

centre of sanitation planning and decision making

- institutionalize women's role and authority in sanitation problems
- change top-down models of official latrine construction programmes
- build a reliable database on the sanitation sector
- make available financial supports to help NGOs scale up their activities; and
- initiate a much more determined effort to end the shame of manual scavenging.

The Foundation in collaboration with its partners will pursue these ideas with the Planning Commission in the hope of making government policy more sensitive to ground realities, as well as fostering greater cooperation within civil society as well as between civil society and the government. RGF looks forward to being part of the growing South Asian network to promote more effective action on sanitation.

CHILD SUPPORT PROGRAMMES

RGF's child support programmes focus principally on children affected by conflict, man-made and natural disasters and extreme economic deprivation.

INTERACT-I

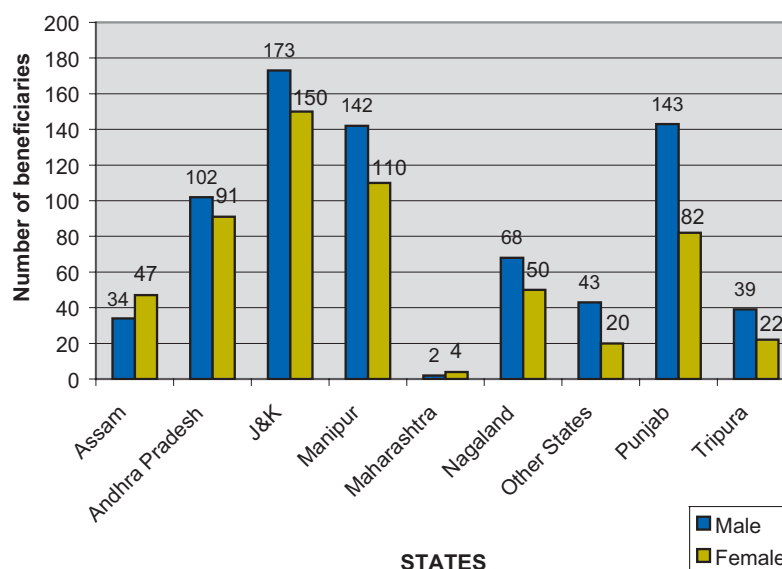
INTERACT[Initiative to Educate, Rehabilitate and Assist Child-Victims of Terrorism], one of the major programmes of RGF, is an effort to rebuild the lives of children orphaned by terrorism and provide them opportunities for all round development and a better future. It focuses on their education up to higher secondary level, providing for their fees, books and maintenance, as well as working for their physical and mental well being through counselling, group activities and exposure visits. Its uniqueness lies in the fact that the children are not dislocated from their customary environment and are provided support to grow among their kith and kin.

PROJECT - INTERACT

Cumulative 1993 - 2006

| States | Male | Female | Total |
|----------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| Assam | 34 | 47 | 81 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 102 | 91 | 193 |
| J&K | 173 | 150 | 323 |
| Manipur | 142 | 110 | 252 |
| Maharashtra | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| Nagaland | 68 | 50 | 118 |
| Other States | 43 | 20 | 63 |
| Punjab | 143 | 82 | 225 |
| Tripura | 39 | 22 | 61 |
| Total | 746 | 576 | 1322 |

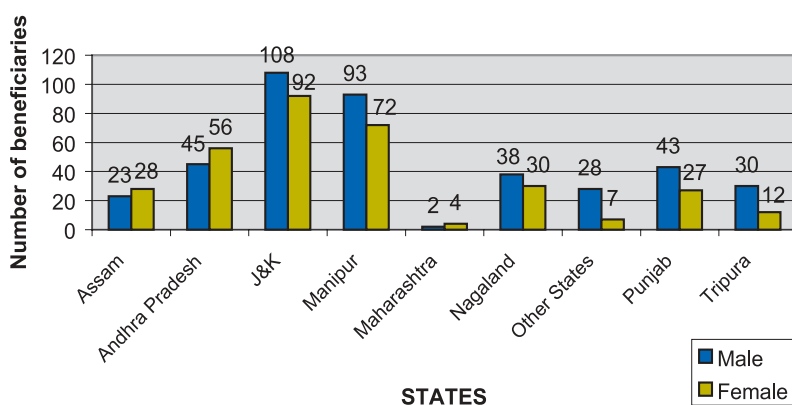
Gender and State-wise distribution of 1322 INTERACT beneficiaries (1993-2006)



INTERACT BENEFICIARIES- GENDER & STATE WISE DISTRIBUTION

| Current 2005-2006 | | | |
|-------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| States | Male | Female | Total |
| Assam | 23 | 28 | 51 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 45 | 56 | 101 |
| J&K | 108 | 92 | 200 |
| Manipur | 93 | 72 | 165 |
| Maharashtra | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| Nagaland | 38 | 30 | 68 |
| Other States | 28 | 7 | 35 |
| Punjab | 43 | 27 | 70 |
| Tripura | 30 | 12 | 42 |
| Total | 410 | 328 | 738 |

Gender and State-wise distribution of INTERACT beneficiaries (2005-2006)



PROJECT - INTERACT II (HIGHER EDUCATION)

| Cumulative | | | |
|----------------|------|--------|-------|
| States | Male | Female | Total |
| Assam | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 8 | 6 | 14 |
| J&K | 7 | 8 | 15 |
| Manipur | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Nagaland | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Other States | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Punjab | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| Total | 20 | 21 | 41 |

PROJECT - INTERACT II (HIGHER EDUCATION)

| Current | | | | |
|-----------------------|------|--------|-------|---|
| States | Male | Female | Total | Vocational Course |
| Assam | 0 | 1 | 1 | L.L.B |
| Andhra Pradesh | 7 | 3 | 10 | M.B.B.S, Engineering, B.Tech, B.Sc-Computer Science |
| J&K | 4 | 5 | 9 | M.B.B.S, Engineering, B.Tech, B.Sc Multimedia & Animation, B.Sc- Veterinary Science |
| Manipur | 1 | 1 | 2 | Nursing & Midwifery, Diploma - Electronics Engineering |
| Other States (Kerala) | 1 | 0 | 1 | Nursing & Midwifery |
| Punjab | 0 | 2 | 2 | Nursing & Midwifery |
| Total | 13 | 12 | 25 | |

The project is an ongoing one and over a period of 12 years the Foundation has supported 1322 children in 8 states. Every year the Foundation selects new children for support. In 2005-06, three children from Assam, 17 from Jammu & Kashmir, 31 from Manipur, three from Andhra Pradesh and two from Nagaland – a total of 56 were inducted. As many as 738 children received assistance in the current year.

INTERACT-II

The Foundation also extends help to a limited number of talented children to pursue tertiary education / professional courses. So far, 41 children have been given assistance for various professional courses. For the academic year 2005-2006, four children from Andhra, two from Jammu & Kashmir, and one each from Assam, Manipur, and Punjab were selected for courses in M.B.B.S, L.L.B., B.Tech in Computer science, Aeronautical Engineering, B.Sc. Multimedia and Nursing and Midwifery. (*See Tables*)

Workshops for INTERACT children

The Foundation organizes workshops from time to time to involve the INTERACT children in various extra curricular activities to broaden their horizons and help the process of healing.

Exploring our World- An eight-day workshop was held in Guwahati from 1-8 April 2005 with separate hours for music, dance, art and theatre. More than 30 INTERACT children from Assam and some of their guardians participated in it. These workshops help them explore a world beyond their own, learn new things and develop greater self-confidence.

Workshop in Delhi - A four-day residential workshop was organized in Delhi for 53 INTERACT children from Assam and J&K in the age group of 13 to 18. It promoted interaction, understanding and integration among children from two different corners of the country, in addition to learning and playing.

The workshop provided varied opportunities for self-expression. The various sessions on performing and creative arts, film appreciation, quiz and competitions, and discussions among themselves made a difference to their self-perception and self-esteem and their sense of well-being.

Some children who had completed their schooling with the support of Project INTERACT also took part in the workshop and expressed their gratitude to RGF for its years of support in educating them.

Our Trustee Shri Rahul Gandhi met the children and shared an hour of joy with them. He arranged for them to go to Agra to see the Taj Mahal. The children also saw something of Delhi. "We became a family" wrote Ifrah Fayaz of Kashmir after four days of togetherness.

Child Counselling and Guidance Centre, Srinagar

RGF supported Child Counselling and Guidance Centre in Srinagar, run by the Aman Public Charitable Trust, which



Exploring our World: INTERACT workshop for children in Assam

provides personalised professional help to children and families directly affected by conflict. Children have been the worst sufferers. With the breakdown of social support systems, behavioural and mental disorders have increased.

The Centre has child development experts, psychologists and trained counsellors on its panel and integrates counselling and

treatment. It provides comprehensive, cost-free psychiatric care to children and their families in a friendly and positive environment. So far, 260 patients have received treatment at this Centre.

Psychosocial Support Programme in J&K

Terrorism in the state of Jammu & Kashmir has created enormous stress for

INTERACT children from Assam and Jammu & Kashmir with Shri Rahul Gandhi





Children doing an exercise with Dr. Karuna of Apollo Hospital



Middle and above: Psychosocial Support Training in Baramullah and Kupwara in Jammu & Kashmir

its people, who live in a state of uncertainty and widespread personal tragedy. To help them cope, the Foundation has created a cadre of barefoot mental health caregivers trained in recognizing trauma symptoms and offering basic counselling. They are teachers, health workers and anganwadi workers, who interact often with the communities in which they live and work.

The first series of trainings were held in two blocks of Budgam district in 2002-03 and a total of 175 people were trained. In 2003-04 it was extended to two more blocks and a total of 259 were trained. As a sequel to the training in 2004, a refresher course was conducted for 64 teachers and 166 aanganwadi workers in August 2005. A batch of 75 multi-purpose health workers from all the four blocks was a new addition to the participants.

The programme was extended to two new districts - Baramulla and Kupwara - in addition to Budgam. Being close to the LOC, both the districts are severely affected by militancy and this is the region that was struck by the massive earthquake on 8th October 2005 causing heavy damage to life and property and post-disaster trauma.

The training was conducted in both districts in March 2006. Thirty-six Anganwadi workers, 48 multipurpose health workers and 68 teachers were trained from the two districts.

Evaluation of INTERACT project

A basic evaluation was planned in Assam, Tripura, J&K and Punjab to assess the impact of the project and facilitate improvements in delivery.

It was found that the children receive their cheques on time for uninterrupted schooling. Most of them enjoy satisfactory health with no special ailments. Some children have gone on to higher education and are well settled in life. The children and their guardians expressed gratitude to the Foundation for its timely support.

The evaluation report mentions that the programme was successful in its primary goal of ensuring school education and helping the children to move ahead in life. Since 1993, 225 children affected by militancy-received support in Punjab. A total of 101 have completed their education, of whom 64 have got jobs. The majority of girls have got married after finishing school. Forty-eight children out of 212 are still studying.

TSUNAMI RELIEF AND REHABILITATION PROGRAMME

Tsunami orphans

The tsunami in December 2004 caused massive loss of life and property in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands and in the coastal districts of Pondicherry, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

In the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the Foundation reached out to the people with its child support programme, extending help to 140 orphaned children from the tribal communities of the southern group of islands, viz., Car Nicobar, Campbell Bay, Nancowrie, Kamorta, Katchal, Terressa and South Andamans. The children will be supported till they complete their higher secondary schooling. Their requirements of school fees, books, health and nutrition will be met.

In Karaikal, Pondicherry 77 children including 43 who had lost their fathers received support. One child has since died and another got married at the age 15. A total of 75 children are currently being looked after.

In Andhra Pradesh 5 children are being supported, who are all studying.

A distinguishing feature of the programme is that the children remain with their extended families and are not moved to orphanages.

Workshops for tsunami-affected children of Karaikal

A three-day workshop was organized in

Karaikal for the tsunami-affected children in the age group of 13 to 18 in January 2006. The objective of the workshop was to enable children to cope with trauma, deal with emotions, raise their self-confidence and levels of motivation and inform them about various issues which affect their lives.

The workshop provided an opportunity to the children to ventilate their pent-up feelings, a forum where they could discuss their doubts and queries, receive counselling and encouragement to negotiate the challenges of life.

Psychosocial Support Programme in A&N islands

The tsunami not only devastated life and property but also left unforgettable and disturbing memories in the minds of those who survived. A large-scale disaster such

as this leaves people shocked and emotionally crippled, at times for life. The Andaman and Nicobar islands, nearest to the epicenter, were the worst affected. Trauma was widespread and severe.

Since professional psychiatric help is scarcely available, a well-designed psychosocial outreach programme with components of training and counselling was initiated with the cooperation of the local administration.

A core group of 14 counsellors - 'lead specialists' who are principally doctors and teachers by profession and 253 community-level counsellors - 'site leaders' - was developed over a period of one year through a series of trainings.

Briefly, the programme was implemented in four phases:

Healing with mask therapy: psychosocial support training in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands



Phase 1: Training of 14 Lead Specialists was completed in June 2005.

Phase 2: Identification and training of the first batch of site leaders from the Andaman group of islands comprising 131 school teachers identified by the Lead Specialists was completed in September 2005.

Phase 3: Identification and training of second batch of 69 site leaders from the Nicobar group of islands was completed in October 2005.

Phase 4: Identification and training of third batch of 40 Site leaders from the Nicobar group of islands was completed in January 2006.

In addition, tribal captains, priests and other community leaders, 13 in all, were also trained.

The programme has been making a useful contribution to the psychological healing of the people. However, not all the site leaders have been equally effective. Refresher training will be given to upgrade skills as well as to rejuvenate and motivate the team. An orientation programme for heads of schools is also required to help them understand the rationale of the programme and extend cooperation to counselling staff in their endeavour.

Riot-affected children in Gujarat

The Foundation continued to extend support for the school education and maintenance of 55 children orphaned by the communal riots in Gujarat in 2002. SEWA coordinated the local arrangements support project and provided health insurance benefits to supplement RGF's programme.

Project CARAVAN: Empowering a Disadvantaged Community through Knowledge and Information

As a post-riot rehabilitative measure in Gujarat, RGF collaborated with the Society for Promotion of Rational Thinking [SPRAT] to establish a centre for

information and learning at Vatva in Ahmedabad under project CARAVAN in January 2003. This was to provide educational services to children from the minority community. The community in Vatva has a very low literacy rate and suffers from various social and economic problems born out of lack of education and employment.

The centre has a small library and provides coaching to students of class 10 – 12. During the year a total of 30 students received coaching. A basic literacy programme called Talim is conducted in the area and around 50 women received basic literacy skills under this programme. In all 90 students received coaching in the last three years.

Earthquake-affected children in Latur

The Foundation is continuing its support to 4 children, under the Earthquake Victims Rehabilitation project, Latur.

Street children

Project REACH (Rehabilitation, Education & Assistance to Children on the Street) in Indore and Bhopal and a rehabilitation programme in Faridabad have all provided a new beginning to street children. Our three NGO partners, Aarambh, Nitya Seva and Karm Marg have given access to education, vocational training and self-development opportunities to the children and initiated a process of rehabilitation for them. Many have been repatriated to their families.

Aarambh has given shelter to 50 children in Indore out of whom 42 are receiving formal education. Nitya Seva in Bhopal has provided shelter and protection to 155 street children out of whom 105 received formal schooling. Karm Marg in Faridabad has cared for 45 children with an emphasis on vocational training.

Elimination of Child Labour, Sonebhadra, UP

RGF supported a Child Rights and You

[CRY] –initiated effort to eliminate child labour in Dudhi-Sonebhadra region of Uttar Pradesh among tribal and dalit communities. The operational area consists of 10 panchayats (Aamwar, Bhisur, Nagwa, Hathwani, Belhathi, Goidha, Berkhand, Korchi, Gaursingha & Gardarwa) of Sonebhadra district in eastern UP.

The project is directed towards generating awareness on a child's right to education and development, motivating the community to send children to school and activating the local institutions including the panchayat, district administration and the state government to recognise this right, address the root causes of child labour and make pragmatic interventions into issues of survival, protection, development and participation.

Community-based local motivators have been active in all the project villages. One new primary school has been opened. There are 5 NFE centres where 246 children are receiving education. There is a 100 per cent enrolment rate and retention in schools in 16 villages.

POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMMES

Rajiv Gandhi Mahila Vikas Pariyojana, Uttar Pradesh

This programme, in collaboration with the Rajiv Gandhi Charitable Trust [RGCT] has been able to create women's thrift and credit groups on a significant scale and conduct entrepreneurship development for them in Rae Bareilly and Sultanpur districts of UP.

Currently the focus is on business development activities like rearing of farm animals, poultry, fruit processing, vermicomposting as well as candle and pickle making. A number of groups have established small income generating activities. Alternate avenues of income have been opened and the women provided exposure to group dynamics and



Top and above: Skill Building for micro enterprise

management through democratic processes.

In the first two phases from 2002 to 2005, 621 SHGs were formed.

In the third [2005-06] and fourth [2005-08] phases so far, 758 SHGs were formed with 10920 members, who collected Rs. 13,60,326 in a year as saving in district Sultanpur. A total of Rs. 1,43,250 worth of loans were taken. There are 20 income generating activities, which gave an income of Rs. 17,01,234. In Rae Bareilly District 743 SHGs were formed with 11289 members. The total savings were Rs. 15,70,085 of which Rs. 3,94,160 was disbursed as loans. There are 17 income

generating activities in this district, which gave an income of Rs. 2,87,157.

Ginger Processing in Imphal, Manipur

RGF, with additional support from Small Industries Development Bank of India [SIDBI] and the Spices Board in 2002 supported the Destitute Women's Upliftment Society (DWUS) in Manipur to set up a ginger processing plant and training and production in ginger processing. They trained 50 local women in the first year of the project and with their active participation have been able to produce crystallized ginger, ginger candy and other ginger produce. They have also been able to capture both

domestic and international markets, which has given impetus to the business. This socio-commercial venture is at present benefiting 120 women to enhance their income.

The products have been accepted in the international markets. Napiers, a UK based importer, placed an order for ginger candy, ginger syrup and ginger juice as finished products, which is a big achievement for the project. Ginger oil is also in demand. Many direct contacts with importers from Europe and USA have been made.

Income-Generating Programme for Women in Bokaro, Jharkhand

The Foundation extended support to Jan Chetna Manch, Bokaro, an NGO in Jharkhand to train women from marginalized farming families in various skills such as processed health foods, soap making and sewing. A total of 30 women in the age group of 25 to 45 received training in small economic activities, entrepreneurship and marketing.

In the food processing unit, the women used raw material worth Rs. 1,13,485 and after processing increased its value to Rs. 1,99,897, i.e., by 76.14 per cent. Similarly, in soap making unit women purchased raw material for Rs. 13,171 and produced soap worth Rs. 20,060, a value addition of 52.3 per cent. The women have formed microfinance groups to enhance their business opportunities, which is a very positive development in the project.

Vegetable Cultivation in Pithoragarh, Uttaranchal

RGF is partnering with Muskan Samajik Utthan Samiti [MSUS] in Pithoragarh district, Uttaranchal to diversify agriculture. The project aims to help women farmers transform their regular vegetable cultivation into a market-oriented and economically viable practice by producing marketable quantities. It also gives attention to the quality of the



Training in scientific vegetable cultivation, Pithoragarh



A microfinance group member is now a proud owner of a *paan* shop



Sewing Unit: Income generating programme for women in Bokaro

produce by introducing scientific practices and regular monitoring as well as provides trade literacy to the women and connects them directly to the market.

Till now, six groups of 80 women have been formed. They were given training in scientific methods of vegetable cultivation. Nurseries have been developed and 1,00,000 plants were distributed among the members of the groups. Twenty acres of land are being cultivated for vegetables. Construction of a vermicompost pit was also started.

Bamboo Products in Jajpur, Orissa

RGF in partnership with the Schumacher Centre for Development [SCD] is helping 100 landless women from the tribal district of Jajpur to enhance their traditional bamboo craft into a more rewarding livelihood option.

Bamboo baskets are used by the mining and transportation industries in the bordering districts of Keonjhar and Paradeep to transport mineral ore. Women cut, slice and sliver the bamboo manually

to make these baskets, producing no more than 2 baskets a day. SCD has introduced bamboo-cutting machines to make cutting faster so that the women can produce as many as 6 baskets per day of better quality.

Eight Self Help Groups each with about 13 members have been formed till now. Orders for the machines have been placed and training in their use will then begin.

Training in Food Processing in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

In addition to its work for tsunami orphans, RGF in collaboration with a local NGO Unnati has initiated a livelihood programme for women in A&N islands. They are being trained in food processing using the facilities at the Extension Centre for Food Processing at Diglipur in North Andamans. Trainees are being selected from the already formed women's groups and are being trained in select processing and business skill, such as fruit and vegetable processing, jam and jelly making, bakery products, fish and prawn products, papad making, aerated drinks, canning and packaging. They will then be

helped and counselled to set up business or to find suitable employment.

The first batch of 20 women was trained in savouries and aerated drinks. This will be followed by training in bakery products, fish processing and spices.

Training in Sewing and Tailoring in a Delhi Slum

The Foundation has collaborated with Concern for Humanity to provide skills in tailoring and functional literacy to 20 adolescent girls and women in the slum area of Bhatti mines in Delhi. After the training the women have started getting orders to stitch clothes, especially uniforms for the Child Development Centre of the organization.

While 35 young women have received training under this project, 3 could start

their home-based tailoring units in the limited volume of business that the slum cluster provides. They earn around Rs. 300 to 500 per month.

CAPACITY BUILDING IN OTHER AREAS

Scholarships to women pilot trainees from IGRUA

The Foundation gives two scholarships every year to meritorious women undergoing training for a pilot license at the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi [IGRUA]. So far, scholarships have been awarded to 28 women cadets. This year scholarships amounting to Rs. 2,00,000 each were awarded to Ms. Amrit Namdhari and Ms. Deepti R. Dhone. Most of the previous scholars are working as commercial pilots in various airlines.

Pilot trainees Ms. Amrit Namdhari and Ms. Deepti Dhone of IGRUA receiving their scholarships



WOMAN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Highlights 1992 – 2006

PEOPLE AFFECTED BY CONFLICT

1993-present

Project INTERACT

- provide long-term support to child victims of terrorism across eight states- Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Nagaland, Punjab Tripura and Maharashtra
- 1322 child victims provided financial support for school education, maintenance and trauma counselling. Selected 56 children this year for support
- organised 4 meets in Delhi, attended by 200 children, for INTERACT children to meet each other
- supported 41 children to pursue post-school education in professional and vocational courses. Selected 9 new children for higher education under Interact II
- published 19 bi-annual newsletters for children to exchange news and experiences

1995-2003

Counselling support to INTERACT children in Punjab, Andhra Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir

- trained 20 para-counsellors
- para-counsellors interact with children regularly and offer them and their families guidance on personal problems and other concerns

Camps to share experiences

- women and children share their experiences and problems in Batala, Jalandhar, Karimnagar, Warangal and Srinagar
- conducted 'Exploring our World' residential workshop for INTERACT children in Jammu & Kashmir

Response to disaster

- supported the school education of 220 tsunami affected children from Pondicherry / Karaikal, Andhra Pradesh and Andaman & Nicobar Islands

- In A&N Islands, psychosocial training has been provided to 252 staff members from the Health, Education and Social Welfare sectors
- Counselling Workshop organised at Karaikal for Tsunami affected children in January 2006

2002-present

PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT PROJECT

Pilot project of Psychosocial Support for people affected by violent conflict

- initially in collaboration with UNICEF and at present with District Administration of Budgam, Jammu & Kashmir
- trained 586 community level workers like teachers, doctors, paramedics, village level workers in counselling and theatre therapy
- Psychosocial support programme has been extended to two more districts of Baramulla and Kupwara in J&K, for teachers, Anganwadi workers and Health workers
- project creates a first line of defence against stress-related problems
- produced a documentary film 'A Ray of Hope' highlighting the psychosocial support project & the impact of violence on the lives of people affected by conflict in J&K
- provided practical inputs in counselling and issues of social significance to the Post graduate students of the Deptt. of Psychology and Social Work, University of Kashmir

Developed Publications

- focused on psychosocial support issue
- "Living again: counselling support for dealing with traumatised persons" and "Mental health concerns of people affected by terrorism"
- manuals on counselling for teachers and community level workers in Urdu and English

People affected by violence in Gujarat

- launched a project similar to project INTERACT to support 74 children orphaned by communal violence in Ahmedabad in 2002
- supporting a community centre at Vatva in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, for the socio-economic empowerment of minority communities affected by communal violence

WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Workshop for women

- Two days International workshop on Women & Sanitation has been organised in Delhi in collaboration with WSSCC, Water Aid India, UNICEF, and GRWHC in March 2006

1992-present

Scholarships to 28 women pilot trainees of the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi, Rae Bareli

Economic empowerment & livelihood projects

- for tribal women, women living in areas with few other employment opportunities, and those affected by terrorism, displacement or widowhood
- benefit over 1982 women in different parts of the country, and 900 women in the North - East states
- craft based pottery, bamboo work, durry weaving, screen printing, embroidery and beadwork projects
- masonry training to rural women in Ahmednagar, Maharashtra trained 80 women to help them gain better-paid jobs
- Organic ginger processing and product distribution in Manipur.
- formation of 1960 Self Help Groups in Sultanpur Rae-Bareli districts, Uttar Pradesh. Providing vocational training and educational inputs for SHG members
- Programme in Uttaranchal for farmers to make their regular

vegetable cultivation practices market-oriented and economically viable

- Project in A&N Islands for Capacity Building through training in Food Processing
- Project on Livelihood programme through Bamboo Products for tribal women in Orissa
- Project on Community Managed Water Supply & Sanitation in rural areas of Orissa

Non-conventional occupations for women

- a Delhi - based project for providing scholarships to 50 women to do courses in small business management

2003 - 2004

Income generation cum education programme

- for migrant women and rag pickers in slums of Delhi
- for adolescent girls and widows affected by militancy in Budgam District of J&K Project 'Jagriti'
- building capacities of young women in educational institutes to combat sexual violence in Delhi

CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

1995-present

Project REACH, Madhya Pradesh

- shelter, education and suitable vocational training for over 500 street children in Indore and Bhopal
- about 40 older children have gained employment

2002-present

Economic self-reliance of street children

- Project in Faridabad district, Haryana with NGO Karm Marg
- Impart vocational skills and education

2000-present

Capacity building of mid-level NGO personnel working with street children

- develop self-learning courses in English and Business skills in collaboration with the Commonwealth of Learning, Canada and the Indira Gandhi National Open University

2005-present

- Child Counselling and Guidance Centre in Srinagar provided psychiatric care to 260 patients directly affected by conflict
- Project for elimination of child labour focussing on three components- education, advocacy, and right to participation

RGF's WOMAN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

