



DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES BY SOCIAL ANIMATION (DISA)

ANNUAL REPORT – 2007-08

“The people who live in darkness will see a great light. On those who live in the dark land of death the light will shine.” (*Matthew-4: 16*)

1. Introduction

DISA, a registered Civil Society Organization, completed six years of interventions as a catalyst and guide and has been continuing its association with the lives of the poor and the marginalized for their empowerment. The Organization has been walking with the disadvantaged in their struggles with the strategies of Social Animation and Right Based Approaches. The Vision, Mission and Approaches of DISA are:

- ♣ **VISION:** Communion of human communities, nurturing the universal values.
- ♣ **MISSION:** To restore the human dignity of the poor and the marginalized and achieve their rights as citizens.
- ♣ **STRATEGY:** A process of Social Animation among the poor and the marginalized for enabling awareness, capacities and collective actions.

The following pages indicate the summary of various activities and interventions we have made during the period 2007-08.

2. Rural Development Activities:

2.1. Building the Social Capital

Awareness, Participation and Signs of Change have been the flow of sequence and the strategy of social animation and are the means to build Social Capital for the marginalized sections. We have used PRA, Focus Group Discussions, one-to-one discussions, Group Meetings, village visits and mass communication media like street plays and puppetry etc as tools to create awareness in the communities. DISA Communication Team performed puppetry in 104 villages for awareness creation. The Students of St. Basil's School and Jyoti Gurukul continued to extend their support for the reach out and awareness programmes in villages.



2. 2. Savings, Credit and Livelihood Programmes

In Sadar and Harraiya Blocks in Basti District and Mitahaval Block in Siddharthnagar District, DISA has involvement for integrated community development programmes. In these villages communities were mobilized for participatory development and motivated for Group Formation. Thus we facilitated to form Community Based Organizations in the form of Self Help Groups. In Ikauna Block of Shravasti District, we have established contact and rapport with

30 villages in 10 Gram Panchayats with a view to form Self Help Groups and Women' Associations.

Details	Sadar Block	Harraiya Block	Mithaval Block
No of SHGs as on 31 March 08	53	29	105
No. of Members	711	392	1088
Total Savings by SHGs in Rs.	4,10,042/-	1,82,610/-	4,20,471/-
Total Amount as inter-loaning -Rs	5,52,081/-	1,68,582/-	2,91,527/-
Total amount repaid by members	3,17,777/-	1,05,212/-	1,69,977/-
Total amount outstanding	2,34,304/-	63, 370/-	1,21,550/-
SHGs with CCL with Banks -Rs.	2,64,000/-	nil	2,20,500/-

We have financial support from NABARD to facilitate 50 Self Help Groups and the Project was approved in December 2006. All the 50 Groups are formed and linked with Banks by opening their Savings Accounts. We have initiated them to have inter-loaning followed by CCL with Banks. The people of the villages have understood the meaning and usefulness of these SHGs and are eager to form into groups.



IGA TRAINING →



← GROUP DISCUSION

2.3. Women's Association and Empowerment:

With the name - DISA MAHILA SANGHARSH MANDAL, we could form 25 Women's Associations in Sadar Block with 520 Members and 20 Women's Associations in Harraiya Block with 430 Members of the empowerment of Women and gender balance in the society. Besides the village level formation of the Association of Women, we could facilitate the federation of these associations in the Block level at Sadar and Harraiya Blocks. In Mithaval Block, we have Panchayat level and Cluster level Federation. The Village level and Block level association have five office bearers each and these office bearers started taking their responsibilities. These Associations have become the platform for the women to come together, share their experiences, joys and sorrows, get some input and learning exercises, support each other and thus build the social capital for their empowerment and gender balance. They have undertaken many collective actions and organized common celebrations on Independence Day and Republic Day.

We had the Women's Day Celebrations jointly together with CSO Partners for PACS this year at Khutehana on 07 March and with CSO partners of SATHI Forum at Basti Club on 08 March 2008. The women participated in the Gorakhpur- Basti Division level Celebrations in Gorakhpur on 11 March. All these celebrations were very effective in showing the strength of women and could instill greater confidence in them by associating themselves with the Groups and CSOs. Women came to the meeting places in rallies and slogans, performed cultural programmes and participated in the meetings with great interest. Many men and children also attended the programme and the celebrations created great effect in

villages. The themes for this year were *Women's health as a Right, Women's Rights on Property and Increasing the Participation of Women in Panchayats*.



2.4. Promotion of Primary Education

Promotion of primary education of the children specially the girls of the villages being a top priority for DISA, we tried our best to create awareness on the need of education and sensitize the community of enrolling their children in schools and ensure their education. *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* has been the slogan and efforts of Govt. We intervened in creating awareness in communities and motivated the parents to enroll their children in nearby Schools. Our Motto has been *all in children in school and studying well*. Our focus was to make the CBOs as Pressure Groups to monitor and ensure availability, accessibility and quality of primary education especially of girls and the facilities attached with the schools.

We collaborated with PRATHAM, Mumbai and Sadbhavana Gramin Vikas Sansthan, Basti to conduct the ASER 2007 Survey (Annual Status of Education Report) in the District of Basti to assess the conditions and the quality of education in the Govt. primary schools. This survey also intended to test the impact and utility of *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* of Govt. and the utilization funds channeled for this purpose through special education tax and other budgeted resources. The Survey Report has been published by PRATHAM at national and state level.

Facilitation of studies of very deserving students with the financial support and scholarships also has been an important activity for DISA. During the Year we could extend scholarships to ten such students to pursue their studies.

2.5. Promotion of Good Governance:

We focused our attention to increase the awareness of the communities in the affairs of Panchayati Raj Systems. In the villages the participation of people especially the women is minimal. The Gram Sabha and Panchayat meetings are not regular. In many villages we conducted trainings for the elected members and Pradhans. In 40 % of the villages of Bahadurpur and Harraiya Blocks, under the SURE START Programme we could rejuvenate the Gram Panchayats and make them more participatory and functional. The VHSCs (Village Health and Sanitation Committees) became very active. We motivated the Groups to be more vigilant and watchful to participate in the PRIs and act as pressure groups for their entitlements. One of the themes for the Women's Day was to focus on the increase of participation in PRIs by women and men. Our aim is to develop few model Panchayats. The capacity building programmes of Partner CSOs under the leadership of PANI Sansthan enabled DISA to have better understanding, focus and direct interventions with PRIs.

2.6. CHILDLINE Programme

Considering the involvement with children in difficult situations – the abandoned, truants, the orphans, the children on streets, laboring children, DISA has been made the Nodal Organization for the CHILDLINE, Gorakhpur. We joined hands with PGSS, Gorakhpur and Little Flower Society, Gorakhpur to take care of these

children. We got the guidance from CHILDLINE India Foundation from Mumbai for this programme and financial support from Ministry of Women and Child Development to meet the expenses related to this noble cause. DISA as the Nodal Organization is working for city coordination and we started this activity effective from January 2006.



2.7. Partnership in Programmes

DISA is Partner for the implementation of the following Programmes:

a) PACS Programme

Poorest Area Civil Society (PACS) Programme was implemented from January 2006 to December 2007 for the empowerment of the Dalits and marginalized sections in 53 Gram Panchayats, having 137 villages of Mithaval Block in Siddharthnagar district in which DISA was responsible for 18 Gram Panchayats with 48 villages. We have facilitated community Development through 108 Self Help Groups in these 48 villages. The Department for International Development (DFID) of the British Govt. financed PACS programme through Indian Govt. and the programme management was done through Development Alternatives and Price Water House Coopers Pvt. Ltd, New Delhi as Management Consultants. Under the network of Sahchar Samuh and PGSS, DISA jointly implemented this programme in Mithaval Block together with *Nari Kalyan Seva Sansthan*, Kasia and *Ankit Seva Sansthan*, Barhaj, Deoria. We continued our interventions in the selected villages



b) Revival of Agriculture for Rural Economy Development

This programme has been initiated in April 2007 for the marginalized farmers in selected 10 villages of Mithaval Block and the programme intended to promote good package of practices for safe, scientific, profitable and sustainable agriculture. It is directly benefiting the village communities who find it difficult to carry on with agriculture due to various difficulties they face and make it viable and economic. The Programme is being implemented under the guidance and network of Grameen Development Services, Lucknow and is supported by Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, Mumbai.



c) Community Based Rehabilitation of Physically Challenged Children

DISA is involved in the rehabilitation of the Physically Challenged children by adopting children for their integrated development for which Stichting Liliane Foundation has extended support through Jan Vikas Samiti, Varanasi. We follow the principles and practices of Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) model. Seven of our children participated in the Special Olympics in Lucknow on 1-2 Dec. 2007. The children adopted are given medical, educational, social and emotional support to cope with their disabilities and integrate themselves in the mainstream of the society.



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d) TARA KSHAR Literacy Programme

DISA is one Partner CSO for the implementation of TARA AKSHAR – Literacy Programme for Adult Women in PACS Programme area. This is a new and world acclaimed literacy programme for the illiterate women in the villages who learn with the audio-visual aids of the lap top computer and manual exercises on slates and then on note books under the guidance of the trained instructor. One instructor teaches a group of 8 women for two hours in one shift and there are total three shifts in a day. They learnt to read, write and count with in 30 working days. We have completed seven batches and total women who studied are 168 as on 29 February 2008. Even though the financial support under PACS has been over, we have planned to continue the programme with own resources so as to carry on with this enriching programme. The support of the village Pradhans and the enthusiasm of the women compel us to go ahead with this intervention.



e) SURE START Programme

Ensuring the safe motherhood, with all the aspects of prenatal and postnatal care of Pregnant Women and New Born Children has been a new venture of DISA in Bahadurpur and Harraiya Blocks in this year. In collaboration with PATH and PANI Sansthan, the SURE START programme was initiated in May 2007 by DISA. Under Level -1, we cover the whole block, under level-2 we reach out to 40

% of the block and take up intensive interventions under level-3 in 15 % of the block. System Strengthening in collaboration with PHC, Block, ICDS, Panchayats and the Govt. machinery has been the hallmark of this programme. We could make substantial progress in this field.



f) Integrated Development through Empowering Actions (IDEA)

DISA is partner with PGSS (Purvanchal Gramin Gramin Seva Samiti) Gorakhpur for the implementation of IDEA Programme at Harraiya with the financial support of Caritas India, New Delhi. Integration with the development actors at local level, collaboration with CSO partners, various Departments and Commissions, Organization Development Processes etc are the main ingredients under this programme. The implementation of this programme by DISA commenced in April 2007.



2.8. Capacity Building Programmes:

During the Year 2007-08 the Staff of DISA received following trainings:

Subject	Date/Month	Resource Team / Facilitation	Participants
Peer Learning Workshop	20-21 April 2007	GEAG, Gkp	Mr Ashok Kumar Yadav.
Training to CSO Head & Accountant Under PACS Programme	24-25 July 2007	Global IDEAS	Roy Mathew & Mr Romanush Linda
Micro Finance	06-10 Aug 2007	D.A. New Delhi	Mr. Ashok Kumar
Training on Advocacy	01-04 Sep 2007	MANODAY SANSTHAN	Mr Rajendra Prasad
SHGs Formation	Sep 2007	MANODAY SANSTHAN	Mr. Mantram, Mr. Damodar Khanal
ASER Survey 2007	03-04 Oct 2007	PRATHAM	Mr. Mantram, Mr. Rajendra Prasad
CCL of SHGs Group	05 Nov 2007	DISA, Basti	Mr. Mantram, Mr. Rajendra Prasad, Mr. Damodar Khanal, Mr. Romanush Linda & Ms. Rekha Bharti.
Child Rights Advocacy	Nov 2007	Bete Foundation, New Delhi	Mr. Mantram, Mr. Ashok Kumar.
NRHM	13-15 Nov 2007	PGSS GKP	Mr Krishna Kumar
Training on Human Rights	15-26 Nov 2007	Dalit Foundation- New Delhi	Ms Rekha Bharti
Training on Community Radio Operation	11-15 Dec 2007	Common wealth Educational Media Centre/INAFI INDIA	Mr Romanush Linda
NREGA Workshop	19 Jan 2007	UPVAN, Lucknow	Mr. Mantram, Mr. Rajendra Prasad, Mr. Damodar Khanal, Mr. Romanush Linda & Ms.

			Rekha Bharti.
Sustainability of People's Organization	26-28 Feb 2008	Agra	Mr Krishna Kumar
TOT Training on Human Rights.	13-14 March 2008	DISA, Basti	Mr. Rajendra Prasad, Mr. Mantram, Mr. Romanush Linda, Mr. Zakir Hussan, Mr Ashok Kumar, Mr. Santosh Kumar & Ms. Rekha Bharti.
Training on Process Documentation and Communication	19-28 April 2008		Mr Shiv Bhushan Srivastav
Training on NRHM	13-15 June 2008	PGSS GKP	Mr Krishna Kumar
Ham Radio Training	21-25 June 2008	Disaster Department - Basti	Mr. Mantram, Mr. Rajendra Prasad, Mr. Romanush Linda, Mr Surendra Nath Yadav, Mr Shiv Bhusan, Mr Raja Ram, Mr Shri Ram, Mr Krishan Kumar, Mr Ram Pravesh, Mr Santosh Kumar, Mr Ram Krishan Dubey & Ms. Rekha Bharti.
Aser Survey	25-26 Sep 2008	PRATHAM, Lucknow	Mr Rajendra Prasad & Mr Mantram



We could arrange the following Trainings for the CBOs during the year 2007-08

Subject	Date/Month	Resource Team / Facilitation	Participants
Training of Balwadi Teacher - Harraiya	14-15 Sep 2007	DISA, Basti	Balwadi Teachers
CBO Leaders Training	15-17 Oct 2007	DISA, Basti	CBO Leaders of Mlthaval Block, Siddharthnagar
CBO Leaders Training	25-27 Oct 2007	DISA, Basti	CBO Leaders of Basti Sadar, Basti
CBO Leaders Training	24-26 Mar 2007	DISA, Basti	CBO Leaders of Harraiya, Basti
CBO Leaders Training	04-06 April 2008	DISA, Basti	CBO Leaders of Basti Sadar, Basti



3. Little Flower School and Community Centre, Harraiya:

The Primary School at Harraiya established with resources mobilized partly by DISA is picking up fast and growing as prestigious institution in that area. There were 377 Students and 15 Teachers in the school in the academic year 2007-08. They have all the curricular and extra curricular activities to impart integrated education and personality development of the children as envisaged. The growing demands for the school have resulted in the up-gradation to Junior High School with the introduction of Class VI. The Rural Development Programmes got great impetus with extension of DISA activities in the entire Block and specific activities in about 100 villages under the IDEA and SURE START programmes. They have also promoted the education of the poor by facilitating 8 Balwadies in the villages as pre-schools. The school children also participate in the village reach out activities and this is a new model we have tried to develop under DISA.



4. Financial Position

We have got the financial support in the year 2007-08 from different sources by way of local contributions from personal friends, well-wishers, interest on deposits and foreign contributions to the tune of Rs. 41,00,092/- from DFID/DA, New Delhi; PANI, Faizabad; PGSS, Gorakhpur; NABARD; PRATHAM; Ministry of Women and Child Development, New Delhi; Bibertal, Germany; Loyola Foundation, St. Basil's School, Little Flower Society and Jan Vikas Samiti, Varanasi. Besides, we have received the technical and financial support from PGSS, the Diocesan Social Service Society and support from Little Flower Mission, Gorakhpur for the personnel, accommodation, office space for DISA and land for School at Harraiya and cooperation from the Govt. Offices, Departments and village communities. Thus it has been a joint venture with many collaborators and helping hands.

5. Organizational

As a Registered Society, DISA completed six years and promptly fulfilled the legal and community obligations. It has held its Annual General Meeting and two Governing Body Meetings as per the Time Schedule proposed in the Annual Plan. Statutory Auditing has been done by M/s Shatrughna Aggarwal and Co. Deoria. Internal Auditing has been done by Fr. Jose Paul and Mr. Thankachan. Project Financial Support Supervision has been done by M/s Amit Kapoor and Co, Varanasi and Mr. Chanchal Pandey of GDS, Lucknow. Organizational Assessment has been done by SATHI Forum, Basti. Auditors' Report has been sent to Ministry of Home Affairs under F.C-3 and Consolidated Auditors' Report has been sent to the Department of Income Tax under 10-B. Annual Plan for year 2007-08 has been made. Schedules for next Annual General Meeting and Governing Body Meetings have been fixed. The Governing Body has got Sr. Lily SRA as Member in the place of Fr. Binoy. M. DISA has been able to adopt and implement H.R Policy, Financial Manual and Gender Policy as part of organization Development Processes. We could expand the infrastructure facilities for trainings and meetings at Basil Bhavan Training Centre by adding one floor on the top of the building. The work is expected to be over by August 2008.



6. Activity Plans for the Year 2008-2009

The major interventions by DISA envisaged in the focus area in the coming year, besides continuing and intensifying with the above-mentioned activities are:

1. Strengthening the existing groups and facilitating their better management, Capacity building, Inter-loaning and Bank linkages for CCL.
2. Women Empowerment and promotion of gender balance with forming their Associations and their Federations and networking in all the Blocks adopted.
3. Promotion of Good Governance in selected Gram Panchayats, developing them as Model Panchayats and capacity building of the elected PRI members for effectiveness and greater participation and responsibilities.
4. Strengthening DISA as the Nodal Organization for the CHILDLINE programme, to coordinate all the activities related to CHILDLINE Collaborative Organization and Resource Organizations for rescue relief and rehabilitation, rapport with local administration and soliciting their support etc.
5. We will identify very poor physically challenged children and increase the activities related to Community Based Rehabilitation.
6. Continue the Capacity Enhancements of the Office Bearers and members of the groups and also of the Staff on various development issues. We will facilitate exposure visits of other CSOs and Learners to DISA area and arrange exposure visits for our staff and CBOs to other Organizations.
7. We wish to establish one community centre between Basti and Bansi in Mithaval Block, Siddharthnagar and one community centre in Ikauna in Shravasti for coordinating the activities.
8. Collaborating with PRATHAM for ASER Survey 2007 and monitoring of *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* in villages and promotion of primary education.
9. Strengthening the activities in Ikauna Block of Shrawasti District.
10. Partnership with PANI for SURE START, with GDS, Lucknow for Revival of Agriculture, with PGSS, Gorakhpur for IDEA Programme in Harraiya, SDTT for Women Empowerment and Good Governance and with DFID for PACS Plus and TARA AKSHAR Programmes
11. Developing a Web site for DISA and improved documentation.
12. Grooming and Developing Second Line Leadership for DISA.

7. Conclusion

The collaboration, guidance, resource support and good leadership of many enabled DISA to reach up to this level and become a shining star to *the people in darkness and valley of death*. We feel this is a sure and definite start for many more noble and useful ventures for the empowerment of the disadvantaged and the marginalized. We bow our heads in reverence and gratitude to all the partners, collaborators, well-wishers and co-workers of DISA. We appreciate the dedication of the Staff and the Members of DISA in promoting the core values of the Organization.