

Report of Activities

February 2005–August 2006

The time period of February 2005 to September 2006 marks the beginning of Vishwas, and our preliminary work. This was concentrated in the village of Sanp ki Nangli

About Sanp ki Nangli

Sanp ki Nangli is a village about 3 kms from Sohna, Gurgaon District, Haryana. The village has a population of around 3,000 people. Agriculture is the primary occupation of the village.

The village houses a primary school, which caters to around 270 students in, classes I through V. The school recently completed 50 years of existence.

Located close to the main town of Sohna, the villagers have access to medical facilities at the Sohna Government Hospital. Primary Health Care services are provided by a visiting ANM (Auxillary Nursing Midwife) appointed by the State. However the village-based midwife still assists in most of the deliveries in the village. One Anganwadi worker provides early intervention services for children in the age group 0-5 years through the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS).



The village has electricity and potable water is supplied through two tubewells, both based in the Gujjar area. Gujjars are the dominant caste in the village. Water availability in the Scheduled Caste (SC) area is still a problem. Roads and drainage systems in the village are primitive. Few houses have toilets built within their compound.

The villagers are seeing increased prosperity through the sale of their land (much in demand around Sohna). However this has exacerbated the already existing alcohol-related problems in the area. This is the root cause of many problems in the village and the surrounding area.

Discrimination on the basis of gender and caste still exist. Although there are women representatives on the Panchayat, they have no say in its working. Scheduled Castes still do not sit at the same level in the meetings as those from the higher castes.

Education

Background

The Primary school at the village has been in existence for 50 years. 270 students study in classes I through V. The school has one Head Master and three teachers.

Activities

Renovation of the school was a major activity carried out at the school in consultation with the staff.

VISHWAS helped the school authorities to get the funds released by the Deputy Commissioner's Office for the completion of the construction of one additional classroom under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme.

Other renovation activities at the school like providing flooring, putting up windows and doors for the classrooms, building ramps and accessible toilets (separate toilets for girls) and providing blackboards for all the classes were also undertaken. The entire exercise was made possible through the support of VATIKA Group, Gurgaon who provided material and manpower for the completion of the project.

The project was completed before the 50th Anniversary celebration of the school.



Before the renovation...



...and after

Impact

With more rooms available for children, the learning environment has improved. Renovation of an existing extra room attached to the school resulted in the Anganwadi worker shifting operations to this venue. This has now made her accessible to a larger number of persons. Storage of material and medicines has also been made possible.



Before..



..and after

Health

- **Early Intervention**

Background

Located close to the main town of Sohna, the villagers have access to medical facilities at the Sohna Government Hospital. As mentioned before, Primary Health Care services are provided by a visiting ANM (Auxillary Nursing Midwife) appointed by the State. However the village-based midwife still assists in most of the deliveries in the village.

Activities

Linkages were built with the Shroff's Charitable Eye Hospital (SCEH), Darya Ganj, Delhi for early screening and intervention. Two teachers from the primary school were sent to SCEH for a one-day training in functional visual screening. Following this they conducted a screening session for all 270 students of the primary school. A team from SCEH then visited the school for follow-up activities. The checkup is shown in progress in the picture below.



Impact

- ❑ 31 students identified by teachers following the screening were then tested formally by resource personnel from SCEH who visited the school Eye exercises and eye drops were recommended for 6 children.
- ❑ 3 children were taken to SCEH for further testing. Glasses were prescribed and provided following detailed examination.
- ❑ Other villagers also availed of the services of the team from SCEH.

Karamveer, 22, is a young married man who came to the eye camp at the primary school. Severely myopic, and astigmatic, despite his activities being limited by poor vision, he had so far refused to wear glasses. Following counseling sessions with Vishwas and SCEH personnel, Karamveer, right, is now using spectacles. Thrilled with the result, he now wants his younger brother to be screened as well.



● Women's Health

Background

There are currently no services at the village level to deal with women's health issues.

Activities

Vishwas contacted Indraprastha Apollo Hospital, New Delhi to conduct a health clinic for women's general health screening (gynaecological concerns and general health). Two doctors and two nurses were part of the mobile clinic equipped with facilities for basic testing like height, weight, blood pressure and blood sugar. Villagers were informed of the date of the clinic with the help of the Anganwadi worker and the teachers.

Impact

Around 130 women availed of the services of the clinic. Photographs of the day are shown below. The doctors identified 4 women who needed further follow up at the hospital. Apart from women, some men and children also consulted with the doctors about their problems.



The doctors in action

One of these was a young boy named Dharmender, who suffered from convulsions, and was brought by his grandmother for a check up. Dharmender was referred to the neurologist at Apollo who recommended an MRI. The Mahajan Imaging Centre, SDA, New Delhi very kindly agreed to perform the MRI for free. Some medication has been prescribed and surgery recommended for Dharmender, who is suffering from arterio-venous malformation.

Children with Special Needs

Background

Although the SSA board at the primary school talks of providing aids and facilities for children with special needs, no such children had been identified. A teacher in fact when asked said “*Yahan ka paani itna accha hai ki koi disabled hi nahin hain*”(The water here is so pure that nobody is disabled) However, a cursory survey and talking about it with the Anganwadi worker did reveal that there were children with disabilities in the village.

Activities

Vishwas initiated work with Gaurav, a child with severe multiple disabilities. With the help of Shri Ramdayal, Head Carpenter at the Resource Centre at Action for Ability Development and Inclusion (AADI), Delhi a chair was built for him, as shown in the picture on the right. Individual sessions were also initiated with the family and school teachers as preparation for his inclusion in the primary school.



Unfortunately Gaurav was left alone in the fields while his grandmother, the lady in the picture above, was attending to the crops. While playing in a tub of water, he lost balance *and drowned*. If, like the other children, Gaurav had been in school, the incident may have been avoided.

The Vishwas team also visited the Government Secondary Schools (for Boys and Girls) in Sohna to interact with the officials of the Integrated Education of Disabled Children (IEDC) and IE (Inclusive Education) component of SSA to get details of children with disabilities studying at the schools and services provided. To broaden our understanding of the issues being faced by children with disabilities in general schools, we visited schools in **Mohamadpur Mev, Berka and Dhunela** accompanied by the Head master of the primary school at Sanp ki Nangli.

Impact

- The primary school at Sanp Ki Nangli has been made accessible for wheelchair users and the teachers have been sensitized to the needs of children with disabilities.
- The beginning of interaction between teachers and students with disabilities has helped to identify issues that need to be addressed.

A group of 18 children and young adults with disabilities from Handicapped Children's Parents Association, home for children with Cerebral Palsy, Dwarka visited a farm near Sohna for a fun day out. Pictures of the happy day are shown below. They were so thrilled that they want to organize another trip

