

ANNUAL REPORT

2020-2021

AAKANKSHA SEVA SADAN



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PREFACE

I am happy to present our Annual Progress Report for the year 2020-2021. Aakanksha Seva Sadan (ASS) is an NGO operational for the last 24 years in Muzaffarpur and Vaishali districts in Bihar to bring positive qualitative and quantitative changes in the lives of the poor and marginalized sections of the society. The year was of implementation, expansion, and intensification of our different developmental programs with greater people's participation and realistic approaches. The programs implemented by ASS have been able to reach the people it strives for. During the year, ASS has successfully reached women, men, children, adolescent girls, unemployed youths, EWRs, SHGs, transgender, and the poor and marginalized community as a whole through meaningful development programs. During the year we focused on relevant issues like relief materials distribution (COVID-19), vocational training, awareness of POSCO Act, strengthening of EWRs and SHGs for leadership potentials, safe drinking water through bio-sand filters, **ending violence and gender-based discrimination**, and other need-based and community-oriented programs with emphasis to the neediest sections of the society. As we are a learning organization and are constantly innovating based on experiences that are being generated in the field. ASS hopes to continue doing this in the future also.



I acknowledge with gratitude for the financial and technical assistance and cooperation extended by our donors, well-wishers, professional bodies, partners, district administration, staff, and volunteers. I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to the members of the governing board of ASS for their sincere guidance and support in every step.

In brief, the year was quite challenging in terms of the growth and development of our service offered to our direct and indirect stakeholders.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bandana Sharma".

Bandana Sharma
Secretary

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♦ ORIGIN

Aakanksha Seva Sadan (ASS) is an NGO promoted by a group of active and committed social workers in the year 1995. ASS is registered under the Society Registration Act, 1860 and FCR Act, 1976. Since its inception, ASS is committed to working for the upliftment of poor women, children, adolescent boys and girls, and other needy and deprived sections of society, so that they can live a meaningful life. With its sincere efforts over the years, ASS has been successful in building a good rapport with local communities, PRIs, and local administration in its area of operation to reach the people it strives for.

♦ LEGAL STATUS

- Registered under the Society Registration Act, 1860. Reg. No. 332 dated 28.6.1995.
- Registered under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976. Registration Number 031140061 dated 09.07.2004. Valid till 2021.
- Registered under Section 12 (A) and 80 (G) of Income Tax Act, 1961.
- PAN AAATA6994R.
- Niti Aayog Unique ID Number: BR/2017/0167191.

♦ VISION

To form a just and self-reliant society based on the values of equality and mutual help.

♦ MISSION

To educate, organize, and empower rural poor for achieving social justice, economic growth, and self-reliance.

♦ MAJOR OBJECTIVES

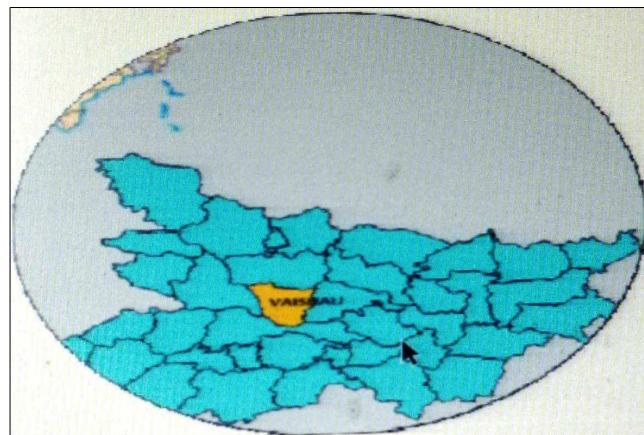
- To campaign against poverty, inequality, exploitation, injustice, and ignorance.
- To promote socio-economic empowerment of women through livelihood promotion and other meaningful programs.
- To create awareness and organize rural poor towards their rights, entitlement, duties, and responsibilities by providing information and sensitization.
- To mainstream disadvantaged youth and children with vocational training and education.
- To improve health, hygiene & sanitation status in the villages.
- To implement programs and projects to keep the environment and atmosphere clean.
- To conduct programs for the welfare and development of old age people.
- To strengthen self-governance at the village level.
- To organize programs for awareness of the masses on the issue of public and country interest.

♦ GOVERNING BOARD

Sl. No.	Name	Age/Gender	Designation	Qualification	Experience in Social Sector
1.	Nirala Kumari	57 years; F	President	Graduate	22 years
2.	Rukshana Jamil	48 years; F	Vice-President	Intermediate	16 years
3.	Bandana Sharma	54 years; F	Secretary	L.L.B.	27 years
4.	Babita Sharma	43 years; F	Treasurer	Intermediate	14 years
5.	Sangita Kumari	45 years; F	Member	Graduate	19 years
6.	Meena Devi	59 years; F	Member	Literate	20 years
7.	Rekha Kumari	38 years; F	Member	Graduate	15 years

8.	Premshila Devi	43 years; F	Member	Matriculate	10 years
9.	Nitu Kumari	35 years; F	Member	Graduate	08 years

♦ AREA OF OPERATION



State Coverage	District Coverage	Block Coverage	Panchayat Coverage	Village Coverage
Bihar	Muzaffarpur	Kurhani, Kanti, Marwan and Musahari	17	75
	Vaishali	Vaishali and Hazipur	04	11
Total: 1 State	2 Districts	6 Blocks	21 Panchayats	86 Villages

♦ INFRASTRUCTURE & FACILITIES

The registered office of ASS is at Vill. Maidapur Choubey in Muzaffarpur district in Bihar while the coordination offices are at Bisharsthan, Near Airport in Muzaffarpur, and at Dighi village in Vaishali district in Bihar. Both these offices are equipped with basic office facilities like internet, phone, and fax.

♦ INCOME & EXPENDITURE

Year	Income (Rs. in Lac)	Expenditure (Rs. in Lac)
2020-2021	17.10	16.70
2019-2020	24.43	23.49
2018-2019	19.47	19.44

♦ HUMAN RESOURCES

Gender	Paid Staff (Full-Time)	Unpaid Volunteers
Male	03	02
Female	08	02
Total	11	04

♦ OUR BANKERS

For National Fund	For International Fund (Foreign Contribution)
A/C No. 593506043 A/C No. 964124453 (Utilization Fund-FCRA) Indian Bank, Pakri Branch, Rewa Road, Muzaffarpur, Bihar	1. A/C No. 40108380516 (FCRA Saving A/C) State Bank of India, New Delhi Main Branch, Sansad Marg, New Delhi 2. A/C No. 593520987 (FCRA Saving A/C) Indian Bank, Pakri Branch, Rewa Road, Muzaffarpur, Bihar

♦ OUR AUDITOR

Arun Kumar Singh & Co.
Motijheel, Muzaffarpur, Bihar

ACTIVITY/PROGRAM DETAILS

1. COVID-19 RELIEF WORK

India's lockdown for curbing COVID-19 has hurt the daily wage earners and poor underprivileged families severely. They have lost their income. Poverty had prevented them from saving any money, they are now unable to buy food. They are starving.

During these challenging and uncertain times, ASS supported poor and vulnerable communities in different blocks of Muzaffarpur district in Bihar especially reaching out to migrants, rickshaw pullers, disabled, and women facing acute hunger and starvation because of no work- no income situation.

In 2020-21, ASS helped 1014 poor families of 4 blocks- Marwan, Musahari, Minapur, and



Kurhani blocks of Muzaffarpur district in Bihar supported by PPI, USA, SAMA, New Delhi, and by Robert and Ghislaine af Sandeberg a devoted couple of USA and Dr. Arun Shah, USA. Foods and essentials preventive items like rice, pulses, potatoes, oil, salt, biscuits, masks, sanitary pads, and soaps were distributed for ensuring poor people's survival.

The block-wise details of the distribution work are as follows:

Sl. No.	Block	Village	Family Benefitted
1.	Marwan	35	350
2.	Minapur	06	200
3.	Musahari	12	233
4.	Kurhani	06	231
Total		59	1014



2. VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM

With the financial support of Robert and Ghislaine af' Sandeberg, a devoted couple of USA, ASS organized 2 batches of training (25 women and girls/batch) in tailoring and beautician trades for 50 girls and women of the poor SC and OBC classes who are unable to make progress because of the poverty and income generation opportunities. The training was organized at ASS office at Muzaffarpur and the beneficiaries were covered from Kurhani, Musahari, Marwan, Sakra, and Turki blocks of the Muzaffarpur district in Bihar. After getting skilled all of them are earning well and leading a good life.



Measures Implemented

- ◆ Vocational training classes were conducted in Muzaffarpur.
- ◆ Rekha Kumari- Instructor recruited for tailoring training.
- ◆ Premshila Devi- Instructor recruited for beautician training.
- ◆ Regular classes are conducted for quality skill generation among women and girls.

3. BIO SAND WATER FILTER PROGRAM

Every year, nearly 6,00,000 children die in India due to illnesses associated with unclean drinking water. Inspire of this, 2 out of every 3 households still do not treat their drinking water and half of the rural water supply, where 70% of India's population lives, is routinely contaminated with toxic bacteria. In the villages of Bihar, people are not aware of the dangers of contaminated water and also do not have the means of convenience to obtain potable water. Bio Sand is a simple water filter method that uses sand, gravel, and living microorganisms to clean water. A compact, concrete, or plastic body is filled with layers of prepared sand and gravel. These layers remove the pathogens and suspended solids from the contaminated drinking water. At the top 2 cm of the sand layer, is the biolayer, which is simply a colony of bacteria and microorganisms that gobble up most of the pathogens in the water.



In 2020-21, ASS with the financial support of PPI, USA addressed safe drinking water issues in the villages of the Marwan and Musahari blocks in Muzaffarpur district in Bihar.

The project activities were organized by ASS under the shadow of COVID-19 with ongoing restrictions by the Govt. of Bihar as safety norms for the people from COVID-19. However, ASS organized BSF project activities regularly in the lines of COVID-19 guidelines of the Government. During the year following activities were organized:

(a) **Awareness Generation:** 2 awareness programs were organized. On 23.02.2021, it was organized at Kesho village and on 08.03.2021 at the office premises of ASS. Women, young girls, and village communities were highly benefited from the program. In these awareness programs following important matters were discussed:

- How does BSF function?
- General health, young girl health, and how unsafe drinking water affects health especially women's health.
- BSF is very easy to maintain and it is non-expensive and problem-free.
- People were encouraged to drink BSF water regularly.



(b) **Construction and Distribution of BSF:** 62 BSFs were constructed and distributed in the poor people's homes at Minapur block with the education of users for keeping the filters maintained and works for replication.



4. MERI PANCHYAT MERI SHAKTI PROGRAM

Under Meri Panchayat Meri Shakti (MPMS) program, ASS is working since January 2018 covering 10 Panchayats and 3 blocks namely Marwan, Kurhani, and Musahari of Muzaffarpur district in Bihar benefitting Elected Women Representatives (EWRs) of the Panchayati Raj Institutions and SHGs.

Under the program, EWRs and SHGs are regularly sensitized on issues that affect the wellbeing of women and girls in the Panchayat such as Gender-Based Violence. Further, they are given the skills and support to raise these issues in the Panchayats for positive

transformations. Under the vision of Feminist Leadership building, this MPMS program also enhancing the leadership potentials and skills of village women leaders (EWRs and SHGs) and building a positive ecosystem for women and girls.

Measures Implemented

- Issues of general health, gender, women leadership, and RH were discussed.
- Regular meetings organized with Panchayat stakeholders at the PHCs and Anganwadi Kendra that took them to a new journey of self-reflection and to explore their strengths, talk about their struggles and come out with concrete plans to achieve their dreams and aspirations.
- Meetings were organized with the EWRs families for giving them more freedom to work for bringing changes in the low status of women in the family and society as well.



5. Workshops, Seminars and Camps

ASS believes that information dissemination is crucial for the progress of society. In 2019-20, several workshops, seminars, and camps were organized by ASS in Muzaffarpur and Vaishali districts in Bihar covering different issues/topics of socio-economic importance. Experience resource persons and eminent personalities were invited on these occasions to share their views and knowledge with the participants. The details are as follows-



Date	Subjects/Topics	Participants
16-12-2020	Meet to Sleep	43
12.10.2020	International Girl's Day	60
31.07.2020	COVID-19	230
24.01.2021	Balika Diwas	101
08.03.2021	International Women's Day	153
23.02.2021	Health Camp	40
	Total	627

Important events like National Day & Bihar Celebration, Gandhi Jayanti, L.B. Shastri Jayanti, J. P. Jayanti, Teachers Day, etc. were also celebrated by ASS with great

enthusiasm and larger community participation in Muzaffarpur and Vaishali districts in Bihar.

6. 16 Days Activism (Campaigning) Program

Violence towards women is a community problem. Everyone in the community, from schools to sporting clubs, can play a role in changing the structures, norms, and practices that lead to gender-based violence. Some of these actions will be individual and some will be collective: gender-based violence is a structural issue that we all need to work together to address.

Supported by CREA- ASS organized a “16 Days Activism (Campaigning)” from 25-11-2020 to 10-12-2020 at Marwan, Kurhani, and Musahari blocks of Muzaffarpur district in Bihar covering 10 Panchayats overall to end violence and gender-based discrimination against all women, girls, and transgender people. The main objective of the program was “**NAZRIYA BADLO**”, “**Know – Desire, Recognise – Vividhata and Understand – Concern**”. A total of **218** adolescent girls and **118** transgender participated in this campaign to make it a success.



7. AWARENESS, MEETINGS AND RALLY ON POSCO ACT

To effectively address the heinous crimes of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children through less ambiguous and more stringent legal provisions, the Ministry of Women and Child Development championed the introduction of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012. The Act has been enacted to protect children from offenses of sexual assault, sexual harassment, etc., and provide for the establishment of Special Courts for the trial of such offenses and related matters and incidents. The Act was amended in 2019, to make provisions for enhancement of punishments for various offenses to deter the perpetrators and ensure safety, security, and dignified childhood for a child.

In 2020-21, ASS with the support of World Vision India, Muzaffarpur had organized the following programs:

(i) **POSCO ACT Zoom Meeting with Children:** Children who have been sexually abused are not only traumatized as a result of their experience but are also more vulnerable to further and repeated abuse and at risk of secondary victimization at the hands of the justice delivery process. A common example is the handling of cases of child victims by unspecialized police, prosecutors, and judges who have not trained injustice for children, children's rights, or how to deal and communicate with victim children and their families.

To discuss the POSCO Act and make adolescent girls familiar with different provisions of the Act, Zoom Meetings were organized on 4-12-2020 by ASS in which 102 adolescent girls participated.

(ii) **Children's Rally:** (a) Children's rallies on child sexual abuse were organized in 18 villages of Marwan block in Muzaffarpur district in Bihar in which children below 18 years participated. These rallies were organized following the standard practices of COVID-19. These rallies helped in sensitizing PRI representatives on their roles and responsibilities in child sexual protection and the promotion of child rights. Awareness was also promoted on CHILDLINE 1098 service for services to children in need of aid and assistance in India.



(b) A Rally was also organized on the issue of "Child Protection Rights" in Rupwara Panchayat of the Marwan block in Muzaffarpur district. 40 children participated in this rally with success.

(iii) **Meeting on POSCO Act:** On 17.12.2020 an awareness meeting on POSCO Act was organized at Block Office, Marwan in which 39 people participated. The meeting highlighted different provisions of the POSCO Act and the formation of the CPCs. It was urged by BDO to initiate the process of CPC in all wards and Panchayats of Marwan block so that the children will be protected and become safe.

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