

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2021-2022

### AAKANKSHA SEVA SADAN



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**Contact Person: Bandana Sharma, Secretary**

## PREFACE

I am happy to present our Annual Progress Report for the year 2021-2022. Aakanksha Seva Sadan (ASS) is an NGO operational for the last 25 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 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 women's leadership potentials, Organizing WGG State Level Consortium, safe drinking water through bio-sand water filters, ending violence and gender-based discrimination, awareness on POSCO Act 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

# **ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022**

## ♦ **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 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 March 2027.
- Registered under Section 12(A) and 80(G) of Income Tax Act, 1961.
- Registered with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Govt. of India with Registration No. CSR00035619.
- 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 the rural poor for achieving social justice, economic growth, and self-reliance.

## ♦ **MAJOR OBJECTIVES**

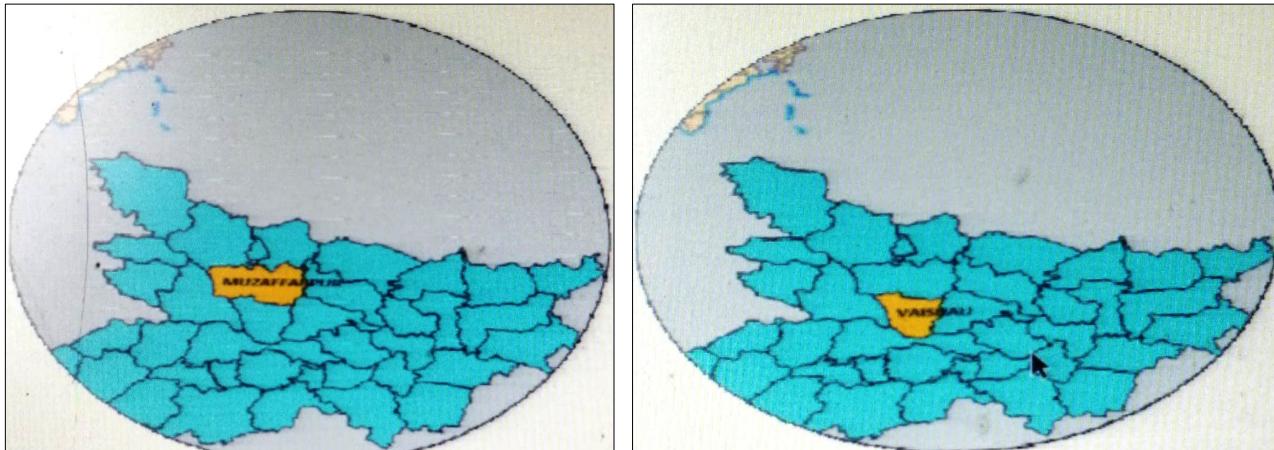
- To campaign against poverty, inequality, exploitation, injustice, and ignorance.
- To promote socio-economic empowerment of women through livelihood promotion and other meaningful programs.
- To create awareness and organize rural poor towards their rights, entitlement, duties, and responsibilities 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.      | Rukshana Jamil | 49 years; F | President      | Intermediate  | 17 years                    |
| 2.      | Seema Devi     | 38 years; F | Vice-President | Graduate      | 08 years                    |

|    |                 |             |           |                |          |
|----|-----------------|-------------|-----------|----------------|----------|
| 3. | Bandana Sharma  | 55 years; F | Secretary | L.L.B.         | 28 years |
| 4. | Babita Sharma   | 44 years; F | Treasurer | Intermediate   | 15 years |
| 5. | Chandini Kumari | 31 years; F | Member    | Post- 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                 |
| <b>Total: 1 State</b> | <b>2 Districts</b> | <b>6 Blocks</b>                     | <b>21 Panchayats</b> | <b>86 Villages</b> |

#### ♦ INFRASTRUCTURE & FACILITIES

The registered office of ASS is at Vill. Maidapur Choubey in Muzaffarpur district in Bihar while the coordination offices are at Bisharshan, Near Airport in Muzaffarpur, and 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) |
|-----------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 2021-2022 | 23.64               | 23.26                    |
| 2020-2021 | 17.10               | 16.70                    |
| 2019-2020 | 24.43               | 23.49                    |

#### ♦ HUMAN RESOURCES

| Gender       | Paid Staff (Full-Time) | Unpaid Volunteers |
|--------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| Male         | 03                     | 02                |
| Female       | 08                     | 02                |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>11</b>              | <b>04</b>         |

#### ♦ OUR BANKERS

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

#### ♦ OUR AUDITOR

Arun Kumar Singh & Co.  
Motijheel, Muzaffarpur, Bihar

### ACTIVITY/PROGRAM DETAILS

#### 1. 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 bio-layer, which is simply a colony of bacteria and microorganisms that gobble up most of the pathogens in the water.



Since August 2019, PPI supported ASS with the BSF project to address drinking water quality issues in 10 remote villages of the Minapur and Kanti blocks in Muzaffarpur district in Bihar. The project helps to better access to safe drinking water to 210 rural households by the end of three years along with the orientation, education and awareness activities.

### ACTIVITIES & ACHIEVEMENTS

- ♦ Organized 09 awareness cum training programs to create awareness to the users and the community on maintaining cleanliness, personal hygiene, family hygiene, drinking water storage, and cleaning practices of BSF.
- ♦ Conducted 02 demonstration workshops on BSF construction, usages, and maintenance to project key staff and masons.
- ♦ Mobilized people's contribution to bio-sand water filter construction and installation.

- ♦ Information and publicity by printing of wall posters, handbills, a handbook on BSF, wall writing, and street play on personal hygiene, community hygiene, family hygiene, potable water storage, and drinking practices.
- ♦ Distributed 210 BSF to the project beneficiaries. BSFs were prepared as per standard norms by ASS in its office premises at Patahi, Muzaffarpur. Necessary arrangements like procurement of raw materials were made at the filter construction site and maintained high standards during construction, testing, and transportation to respective beneficiary households by the ASS team.
- ♦ Regular follow-up visits by the ASS team continued to all filter beneficiaries and motivated them about regular use of filters, quality /taste of water, issues related to operation & maintenance of filters, the impact of filter water on personal health improvement & reduction of water-borne diseases, etc.
- ♦ The beneficiary families are now using BSF regularly.



## 2. **COVID-19 RELIEF WORK**

India was very seriously affected by COVID-19. Apart from the virus affecting people and their relatives entire nation was in distress. The economic recession was at its highest. Unemployment increased due to the lockdown, manufacturing activity was at standstill. Because of the impact of COVID-19 poor people in the villages, daily wage earners, migrant workers, etc. have lost their work and faced hunger and starvation.

In this period of distress, ASS took a lot of relief activities in the form of a supply of dry ration (rice, flour, Pulse, Potato, Salt, Cooking Oil) and preventive materials kits (Face Mask and Sanitizer) through its partner donor agencies in Minapur, Musahari and Marwan blocks in Muzaffarpur district in Bihar. The details are as follows:

| <b>Sl. No.</b> | <b>Donor Agency</b>     | <b>Activities Done</b>  | <b>Period of Support<br/>(From-To)</b> |            |
|----------------|-------------------------|---|--|------------|
| 1.             | Urgent Action Fund, USA | Distribution of essential dry ration and preventive materials | 1-07-2021                              | 30.09.2021 |
| 2.             | PPI, USA                | Distribution of essential dry ration and preventive materials | 15-07-2021                             | 15.10.2021 |
| 3.             | CREA, New Delhi         | Distribution of essential dry ration and preventive materials | 1-06-2021                              | 31-08-2021 |

**Impact:** The project beneficiary received timely relief in a difficult situation of COVID-19. Prevention from hunger and starvation was successfully realized.



### **3. 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 the ASS office in 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.
- ◆ Poonam 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.



#### **4. WOMEN GAINING GROUND CONSORTIUM**

During the year, ASS was supported by CREA, New Delhi for organizing “State Level Meeting with Stakeholders and Networks on Disability Rights and Movements” and “State Level Consultation on Landscaping of Advocacy Strategies with State and Non-State Actors.” The consortium was organized on 13-14 March' 2022 at Hotel Red Velvet in Patna, Bihar.

On 13.03.2022, a State Level Meeting with Stakeholders and Networks partners was organized on the issue of disability rights and movements in Bihar at Hotel Red Velvet at Patna by ASS in a joint venture with CREA, Akili Dada, IWRA, YUVA, SRUTI Disability Rights and Gramonatti Sansthan-Mahoba. 58 stakeholders and network partners participated in the State Level Meeting successfully.

Throwing light on the subject, Bandana Sharma, Secretary of ASS said that ASS has been working without any discrimination with the support of CREA by taking every community and language together for the true development of society. She highlighted the need to work on the rights of adolescents and disabled women, their political identity, youth participation, and the sexual rights of Dalits and the marginalized in Bihar.

Representatives of CREA and NGOs expressed their views on Disability Rights and Movements in the Open Session/Debates. Further group discussions were arranged on two issues: (i) Gender-Based Violence and (ii) Political Participation of Young Disabled Women by framing up 2 panels.

#### **Conclusions Emerged**

- Lame, dumb, etc. names are given to the disabled by society. Sexual violence is also more with the disabled. The disabled are seen as a burden in the family. They have no respect.
- There is no scheme for the disabled in Sugam Bharat Yojana. It is also necessary to arrange separate toilets for the disabled. There is a scheme for pension only for the old person.
- Special disability schools should open up in every district of Bihar.
- Society is the real culprit for GBV. The life of a young girl (marriage, livelihood, education, etc.) is decided by males only.
- Most of the girls are harassed after marriage.
- The disabled are always suppressed. They should get their rights.
- The cases of violence happen not only with disabled women but also with women overall. If the husband beat her wife then she does not protest. The violence put women confined to the boundaries of their homes. The panchayat women representatives are also not spared by this.

- This evil (GBV) has been for centuries and we have to make a strategy with its changed form like gang rape, burning, accident of Hijab, etc.
- There should be no discrimination in society then real women empowerment will achieve. Every effort should be made to establish a safe society.



#### **Future Strategies Formulated**

- Inclusive movement and a united platform should be promoted.
- Capacity building of Adolescents.
- Women's Leadership Building and Mentoring.

On 14.03.2022, a “State Level Consultation on Landscaping of Advocacy Strategies with State and Non-State Actors” was launched. The guests were welcomed by Bandana Sharma. She expressed her happiness about the launching of the state-level program and said that we will work in partnership with the Government.

A 5 member team of the panelist was prepared. The team consists of the Representatives of NGOs, Govt. NGOs and Govt. Partner Organizations. The panelists expressed their views on different women's issues, women's leadership development, women's socio-economic development, trafficking of women, govt. rescue and support programs, women's equality to men, women's rights, gender discrimination, education, legal rights, etc.

## **CHARTER OF DEMAND ON POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE**

### **(I) Challenges faced by the young women and disabled women**

- No control over sexuality.
- Banned on gender education.
- Young and disabled women are denied their rights.
- Knowledge to prevent violence that they are facing.
- Non-reservation to disabled women at the Panchayat level and denial of opportunity.
- Sexual abuse of women and adolescent girls.

### **(II) Strategies to be adopted**

- Young and disabled women should get the opportunity for their political participation.
- Disabled women should get a reservation in all fields.
- Ramps should be established in all govt. and non-govt. offices and other places for disabled.
- Disabled and youth should be linked in all committees formed at the Panchayat level.
- Participation of women in Gram Sabha in which women never participate should assure. In Gram Sabha, different issues about women should be raised.
- No one should make fun of his/her disability in society.
- Disabled should get jobs in government or non-government organizations/institutions at the villages, panchayat, block, and district levels.



Before conducting the WGG State Level Consortium, a need assessment survey was conducted by Praxis in Marwan block in Muzaffarpur district in Bihar. Karjadih and Bhatauna GPs were covered by the team of Praxis.

### **5. 16 Days Activism (Campaigning) Program**

Ending violence and gender-based discrimination against women, girls, and transgender people 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 ending violence and gender-based discrimination in society. It is a structural issue that we all need to work together to address.

Supported by CREA, ASS organized a “16 Days Activism (Campaigning)” from 25-11-2021 to 10-12-2021 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 theme of the program was- **“Mujhe Nahi Mere Adhikaron Ko Surakshit Karo”**. Activities like Rallies, Street Plays, Group Meetings, Football Tournaments, Awareness Programs in Schools, posters, and wall writings were organized under the program to make it a success. A total of 1177 women, 423 adolescent girls, 30 disabled women, and 16 transgender successfully participated in this campaign to make it a great success.



## 6. Workshops, Seminars, Meetings

ASS believes that information dissemination is crucial for the progress of society. In 2021-22, several workshops and seminars 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 |
|------------|---|--------------|
| 14.04.2021 | Bhim Rao Ambedkar Jayanti and Sambidhan Ke Uper Charcha | 75           |
| 12.06.2021 | Baal Shramik Unnmulan Program                           | 65           |
| 15.09.2021 | Skill Development                                       | 55           |
| 12.01.2022 | District Level NGOs Partner Meets                       | 45           |

|            |                           |            |
|------------|---------------------------|------------|
| 08.03.2021 | International Women's Day | 123        |
| 18.03.2022 | Volunteer Orientation     | 35         |
| 22.03.2022 | World Water Day           | 62         |
|            | <b>Total</b>              | <b>460</b> |

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.

## 7. POSCO ACT AWARENESS PROGRAM

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 the enhancement of punishments for various offenses to deter the perpetrators and ensure safety, security, and dignified childhood for a child.



In 2021-22, ASS organized several awareness meetings on POSCO Act in Muzaffarpur district in Bihar. The meetings highlighted different provisions of the POSCO Act and the formation of the CPCs for making children's protected and become safe.

♦♦