

ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023

AAKANKSHA SEVA SADAN



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PREFACE

I am happy to present our Annual Progress Report for the year 2022-2023. Aakanksha Seva Sadan (ASS) is an NGO operational for the last 26 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 vocational training, strengthening women's leadership potentials, organizing state level rethink event, outreach and advocacy meetings, safe drinking water through bio-sand water filters, ending violence and gender-based discrimination, workshops/seminars 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 and expresses 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 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 operational districts 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**

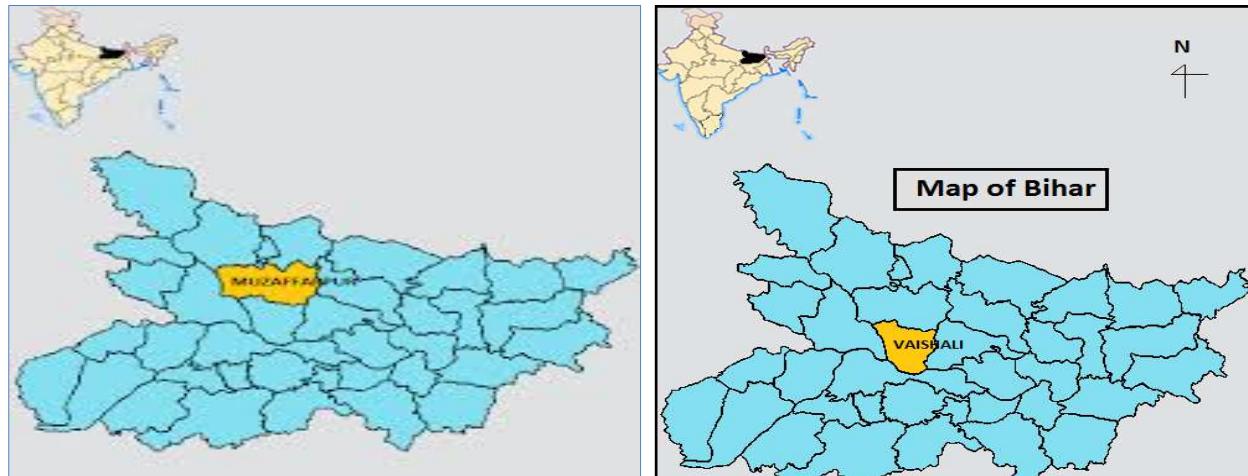
- To campaign against poverty, inequality, exploitation, injustice, and ignorance.
- To promote socio-economic empowerment of women through livelihood promotion and other meaningful programs.
- To create awareness and organize rural poor towards their rights, entitlement, duties, and responsibilities 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	50 years; F	President	Intermediate	18 years
2.	Seema Devi	39 years; F	Vice-President	Graduate	09 Years
3.	Bandana Sharma	56 years; F	Secretary	L.L.B.	29 years

4.	Babita Sharma	44 years; F	Treasurer	Intermediate	16 years
5.	Chandini Kumari	32 years; F	Member	Post-Graduate	20 years
6.	Meena Devi	60 years; F	Member	Literate	21 years
7.	Rekha Kumari	39 years; F	Member	Graduate	16 years
8.	Premshila Devi	44 years; F	Member	Matriculate	11 years
9.	Nitu Kumari	36 years; F	Member	Graduate	09 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 Bisharthan, 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)
2022-2023	34.64	34.57
2021-2022	23.64	23.26
2020-2021	17.10	16.70

♦ 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**

Kumar Shankar & Co.
Muzaffarpur, Bihar

ACTIVITY/PROGRAM DETAILS

(I) TREE PLANTATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM: Growing fruit with children offers a unique chance to teach them about the importance of healthy foods and nutrition. Whether the fruit-eaters are children, animals, or impoverished neighbors -- fruit trees take advantage of Mother Nature's natural resources system and deliver shade and soil conditioning, and food for humans and our animals. And it lasts for decades! That's a lot for one simple plant to gift us with. ASS is supported by People for Progress in India, USA for promoting environmental awareness, environment exposure, conducting environmental quizzes and essay competitions, and doing school plantation work for conserving our environment with particular emphasis on schools and the communities around them. The project objectives are:

- (a) To pass on environmental education for the protection of our environment among the school students, teachers, members of the School Management Committee (SMC) and their family members on carbon credit issues in the selected schools.
- (b) To educate and motivate students, teachers, SMC members & families for tree plantation in schools.
- (c) To plant fruit and shade trees in the schools.
- (d) To provide a good learning environment for children.

The program has been successful in putting positive impacts by involving children of 6 Govt. schools of Marwan and Minapur blocks of Muzaffarpur district in environmental awareness programs thus helping them to become sensitive to environmental issues. The school children also participated in the environmental exposure programs that promoted good learning for the children on the plantation and protection of trees and preservation of the environment. The quiz and essay competitions improved knowledge of school children on the importance of tree plantation, preservation of environment & climate change. All 6 schools were covered under the plantation work.



(II) TAILORING TRAINING PROGRAM: Supported by PPI, ASS is implementing a one year tailoring training program for 180 women (20 women x 9 batches) @ 3 batches x 3 centers (per batch x 4 months training) in Marwan, Sakra and Musahari blocks in Muzaffarpur district in Bihar with a goal to bringing improvements in the socio-economic condition of the poor women through tailoring skills and income generation opportunities. 60 trainees have been selected for the first batch of training and quality training has been imparted to them.

10 Panchayats were also covered under the village awareness programs. A good number of people participated in these awareness programs and were apprised about the program goals and objectives. A positive environment was created for the tailoring training in the villages.



(III) EDUCATION PROGRAM: With the financial support of Robert and Ghislaine af Sandeberg, a devoted couple from USA, ASS is running 02 Centers (1 Education Centre and 1 Vocational Training Centre) at Motha and Maidapur Choube villages in Muzaffarpur district in Bihar for 23 children and for 21 women and adolescent girls who are unable to progress because of the poverty and timely opportunities. In terms of beneficiaries- Kurhani, Musahari, Marwan, Sahebganj and Saraiyan blocks were covered under the program. 1 instructor for education centre and 1 trainer for vocational training centre were recruited for the education and vocational training centres.

- 23 children (Boys-13 & Girls-10) received a quality education and were admitted to schools for continuous education. A positive environment has been promoted for child education in the area. Parents are now sending their children regularly to schools.

- 21 poor and marginalized women and girls received training in tailoring and beautician skills. All of them are now earning well through the learned skills.
- Raised the socio-economic status of the target groups.



(IV) WOMEN GAINING GROUND (WGG) PROGRAMS: On 17.11.2022, a “Rethink” Stakeholders Meeting was organized on the issue of “Leadership of Young and Disabled Women Leaders and their Political Participation” at Hotel Panache in Patna by ASS with the support of CREA, New Delhi. A total of 71 participants participated in the Rethink” Stakeholders Meeting. Distinguished guests participated in the Rethink meeting to make it a success.

This “Rethink Meeting” was organized by ASS and supported by CREA covered 17 Panchayats of Muzaffarpur district in Bihar highlighted WGG’s aims to equip women and girls with the necessary tools and skills to be architects of a society free from violence, and lead the political and social transformation to redefine, prevent, and eliminate SGBV. It was said that by law, 33% of seats in the local governance systems at the village level (Panchayat) have to be occupied by women gives women an opportunity to raise their voices in local governments but, despite being enshrined in law, many elected women representatives are silenced in practice. It was told that the MPMS program of CREA is trying to make Elected Women Representatives (EWRs) responsible and develop their leadership capacity so that they may maintain the dignity of their position, not that their husband or any other family members should work in their favor. The need is to work for the Leadership of Young and Disabled Women Leaders and their political participation is a necessity.

Babita Singh, Representative of CREA said that all efforts should be made to eliminate violence against women and we have to “Rethink” on the issue. First, we have to understand the term- VIOLENCE. It is necessary to work for those who are standing on the margins and to work on the Leadership of Young and Disabled Women Leaders and their political

participation. Other dignitaries also shared their views emphasizing the need to promote the right of all women and girls to live free of violence and abuses.

Conclusion Emerged

- (1) Leadership building of the young women and disabled women is essential.
- (2) Domestic violence against young women and disabled women should be prevented.
- (3) Environment building in the family and society is important.
- (4) Priority in the family on choice and freedom should be promoted.
- (5) Improved mentality of the people on disabled socio-economic and political participation.
- (6) Giving Equal opportunity to the disabled.
- (7) Improved knowledge of the disabled on Govt. schemes and programs and about the linkage process.
- (8) Demand should be made for separate registration for transgender and disabled women.
- (9) Counseling the family members of the transgender and disabled should be done so that they can move forward.
- (10) Giving 4% reservation for the disabled in the Panchayat and civic body elections.

- 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 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 the society then real women empowerment will achieve. Every effort should be made to establish a safe society.



On 14.03.2022, a “State Level Consultation on Landscaping of Advocacy Strategies with State and Non-State Actors” was launched. A total of 68 participants participated in this state-level consultation.

In this State Level Consultation, it was emphasized that women should not only go for political participation but they should look forward to improving their identity too. Gender discrimination makes it difficult. Central and state governments are not working smoothly for women's empowerment and therefore the gap is increasing. Women have to secure their rights in a demanding manner and should try to come on one platform to work with solidarity in this direction.

It was emphasized that awareness of the young and disabled girls at different levels (government, non-government, local bodies, and panchayats) should also bring them on one platform.

ASS also organized a “16 Days Activism (Campaigning) Program and International Women's Day in Muzaffarpur district to end violence, gender-based discrimination and protect the rights of women, girls, transgender and disabled people. It was observed that there was a time when no one was ready to listen to us. But today, the mindset has changed and its results can be seen in this consultation. The 80s and today's time are a symbol of struggles for women. Women should stand on their own feet, earn and be financially strong. This will improve their overall status and help them to make decisions. These programs helped in reducing violence, discrimination and social binding of women.



Success Story

This story is of Reema Kumari of Jiyan Khurd Panchayat in Muzaffarpur district who has been associated with the MPMS program for the last 3 years. Reema has 02 brothers and 02 sisters. He has studied till Intermediate. Reema wants to study further also.

For some days, when she used to go to coaching for her studies, a boy from the nearby village used to harass her. He used to talk obscenely and talked about her abduction. Reema was very upset about it.

When she told this incident in her house, her mother and some Panchayat people together went to the Sarpanch and Mukhiya and told them about the problem. Immediately, a Panchayat meeting was held and boy was made present in the meeting. But after a strict warning, he was released with an assurance that he would not harass Reema again. But when he started harassing her again, Reema lodged a complaint against him at Karja police station. When the boy came to know about this, he came to his house, beat up his brother, abused Reema and asked her to settle the complaint. The boy had access to the top, that is why the police also started supporting him and started calling Reema to withdraw her complaint.

Reema told her story on the occasion of International Women's Day on March 8, 2022 in front of the government officials. She said that women have to face discrimination everywhere and therefore they are left behind. If a girl or woman goes alone and complains, she is considered wrong. Reema also requested that the boy should be punished and police should support to all girls or women in such a situation.



(V) CHHALANG PROJECT: Supported by ELMS Sports Foundation-Mumbai, ASS implemented the "Chhalaang Project" aiming to develop Life Skills and Physical Skills among children leading to improvement in their learning outcomes (non-cognitive competencies), encouraging girl children's participation in schools, improving attendance for all the children and ensure retention. Under the project, we placed the rights of children to play and their right to joyful learning in 10 schools of Muzaffarpur district in Bihar thus enabling the access and ambience of the school students to gain a holistic education experience.

The children were involved in Sports activities like Builders and Bulldozers, Steal the Treasure, Postman, Dodge Ball 1, Dodge Ball 2, Frisbee Football, Addition Relay, Traffic Rules, Pittho Football and Secret Agent. Some additional games like Kabbadi, Kho-Kho, Janjir and Current Pass were also organized.

The Sports activities has helped children become sensitive to physical education and incorporating it into their daily life. The sports activities are now helping them to become sincere towards their education.



(VI) WORKSHOPS & SEMINARS: ASS believes that information dissemination is crucial for the progress of society. In 2022-23, 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
01.05.2022	Bal Sharamik Unmulan Program (Majdoor Diwas)	25
02.05.2022	Baal Vivah Unmulan Program	22
21.06.2022	World Water Day Celebration	37
14.08.2022	International Yuva Diwas	75
02.10.2022	Mahatma Gandhi Jayanti & Sanstha Sthapana Diwas	21
24.01.2023	Rashtriya Balika Diwas	80
17.02.2023	Gharelu Hinsa	25
31.03.2023	Antarrashtrya Transgender Workshop	58
22.02.2023	One Stop Centre/Mahila Helpline	65
Total		408

Important events like National Day & Bihar Celebration, 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.

