



Annual Report - Stewards Trust



Apr'2019 - Mar'20



Stewards Trust

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Dear Friends & Partners,

The year 2019-20 was difficult for all of us because of the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak. Most of the project activities stand at halt because of the lockdown initiated.

The organization extended helping hands in partnership with the local administration by supplying a one month ration to the families who have been affected the worst during the lockdown and have lost their employment.

Due to the COVID pandemic, Stewards Trust could not its regular planned project activities in the field i.e. Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. However, in Prayagraj UP during the low or no COVID cases, the organization started its training/workshop with the help of active staff and participants following COVID protocol (thermal screening, sanitizing hands and workshop place and maintaining required social distancing norms).

The staff of the organization has worked in the field to generate awareness among the rural masses on COVID prevention and infection.

On behalf of Stewards Trust and board, the Executive Director would like to thank the partners who have supported not only morally but also financially and staff who worked in the field during pandemic helping to the rural families in the pandemic.

Dr. John Sylvester
Executive Director

[Team Stewards Trust]

Highlights

- **Online classes for 175+ children**
- **Capacity building for 40 rural youths**
- **118 Women in 10 Self Help Group**
- **70 Women in 5 literacy classes**
- **3115 people in 75 Awareness camps**
- **682 sanitizers and 3078 mask provided**

Primary Education

Education to the underprivileged community children



The schools:

Stewards Trust is running three primary education centers in remote villages of Koraon and Shankargarh Blocks of Prayagraj district Uttar Pradesh. The school is providing free education to rural BPL children.

The Challenge: During COVID pandemic most of the time the education centers were closed. Therefore, an online classes strategy was adopted to educate the enrolled children. However, the staff faced a huge challenge i.e. BPL children cannot afford to have a smart phone on which classes can be held. Most of the parents were devoid of phone facilities. It was difficult to reach the children through the phone.

The Solution: To overcome the challenge, I decided to have audio classes (standard wise) with the enrolled children. A class wise list of children was prepared and each staff member was given responsibility to visit the child's home and find out what type of phone (key pad or smart phone) his/her parents had. On the basis of the survey a list is prepared showing the names of parents having a type of phone (key pad or smart phone) and also those who don't have any phone. Thereafter staff organized a parent teacher meeting following COVID protocol to ensure that the child's parent has a phone and is willing to share the same with those children whose parents do not have any phone at the time of audio class. A time table is prepared on the basis of facts available and shared with the parents.

Once everything was in place, audio online classes started and staff was able to connect each child class wise through phone.

Women Empowerment - Self Help Group

Social and Economic Empowerment of BPL women

Women in the areas where Stewards Trust are functioning don't have any say in financial matters of the family. They do have a considerable share in family income by working in the fields but have to surrender all their earnings to their husband.



Women Self Help Group was designed to train BPL women to organize themselves for supporting each other and pull in money for emergencies as well as for income generation. A group of 10 – 12 women from weak financial backgrounds was

identified and motivated to make a self – help group with a motive to save and earn. Training on bookkeeping, recording meeting minutes and operating bank procedure was provided by the organization to run the group activities once the organization draws from the area. However, technical support to groups by the organization is always available through phone call or physical meeting.

In the year 2019-20 the organization helped 118 women to form 10 SHG which saved INR 20300 in their respective groups. The amount saved in different groups varied from INR 40 – 100/- However, in COVID pandemic and loss of employment, some of the group members could not share their monthly savings in the group.

The organization also organized 5 literacy centers for illiterate women in whom 70 women participated and learnt simple Hindi and Math. There were 4 awareness camps on COVID pandemic conducted where 140 women participated.



One of the members of the group namely Mrs. Gudia was very active and was recognized by organization for Bank Sakhi. Standard pass) and very training by the bank and village supervising other SHGs responsibility is to check the ledgers and passbooks, and and VOs meetings. She has the VLO.

the village level She was literate (8th brilliant. She had 4 days started working in the in her network. Her main groups' records e.g. represent herself in SHGs been on salary given by



Capacity building / Training

Of rural youth

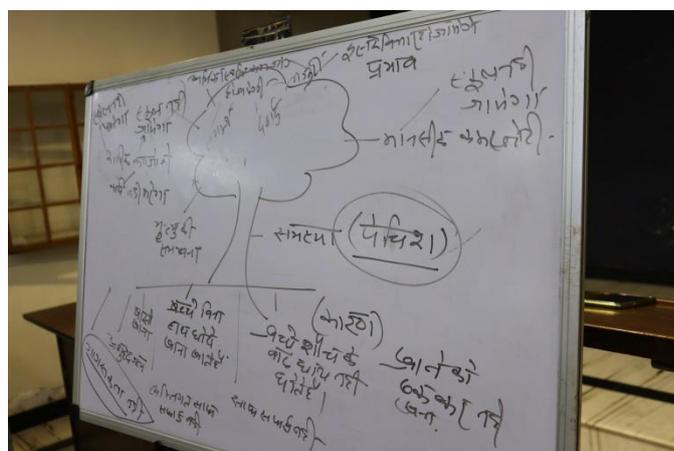
Because of COVID pandemic, the organization had to postpone few workshops planned to build the capacity of rural youth in West Bengal. However, some of the workshops were conducted at Prayagraj when there were no COVID cases following the COVID protocol norms as instructed by WHO and Government of India.



40 youth leaders attended 5 workshops conducted in 2019-20 sessions in 5 months i.e. one workshop per month. Each workshop was for two days from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM with facilities of night stay (if a participant is coming from a

distance and not possible to go in the evening and return the next day). Further, conveyance/travelling of participants for attending were provided by the organization along with the two days meal. These facilities are necessary since the youth who come to attend the workshop are from BPL background and cannot afford to lose their daily wage (for the days they are in workshop) and also have a difficult financial situation to buy bus tickets from the respective villages to workshop center.

ITIR workshop is a continuing process where the selected participants have to attend all workshops for a two year period. In 2019-20 the youths were given training on identification, mobilizing the community to participate in the



development process, development of leadership skill, formation of groups for development, sharing responsibilities and identification of community needs.

Covid -19 awareness & relief

Fighting COVID 19 - Creating awareness on COVID-19

Since the outbreak of Pandemic COVID-19, most of the activities of the organization stopped but mass awareness through different platforms to



prevent COVID infection was continued in the rural areas of Koraon Block of Prayagraj District, Uttar Pradesh.

The platforms used to create

awareness were door to door visitation, small public meetings and self-help groups. 75 awareness camps were held in 37 villages where 3115 people participated. The topics of awareness were; (1) How to prevent COVID infection e.g. sanitizing hands, social distancing and using mask in public place, (2) from where to get COVID test (3) if COVID positive then how to seek help (4) how to take care of COVID patient at home (5) what is isolation and how its prevent infection spread (6) important telephone numbers in case of emergency.



The organization also organized distribution of COVID prevention kits. Under the programme 682 sanitizer bottles (250 ml) and 3078 masks were distributed among the rural mass. Community people were encouraged to use clean 4 layer cotton cloth to keep their nose and mouth covered in case they don't have a mask at the time of going out.

Women were encouraged and trained to sew masks for their family members. Under this activity 8 women were trained from 4 SHGs who made 1848 masks for their use as

well as selling. Masks were sold in their neighborhoods. However, raw material and training tools (sewing machines) were provided by the organization in initial phases.

Menstruation Awareness

Among adolescent girls & women

Menstruation Health and Management (MHM) is an important topic which has not been covered among the rural adolescent girls & women. It is important to sensitize the girls and women about their period and using proper methods to keep their hygiene.

Stewards Trust took initiative and started MHM awareness among the neighboring adolescent girls and women of the center in village Baithakwa, Block Koraon, Prayagraj Uttar Pradesh.

A trained nurse (staff of the organization) was given responsibility



to start awareness on MHM and also identify girls/women who are not practicing good hygiene practice. The topics e.g. puberty, anatomy,

menstrual cycle, irregularities in menstruation cycle and how to take care of it, pain during menstrual period, menstrual hygiene were selected on different awareness camps. Small groups of girls/women were targeted to bring in awareness.

6 Awareness camps among the adolescent girls/women in the village were created and more than 800 sanitary pads were given to the identified beneficiaries.

Final Note

We thank all our partners who have been with us on this journey and provide necessary resources to help community members in need. Please note that each and every contribution/suggestion to us is important.

As the years are passing more needs are identified which are to be addressed immediately. We welcome each contribution from the partners and friends which can help us to address the identified needs.

Stewards Trust is committed to fulfill the rights of each and every citizen in its capacity.