

Annual Report

Of

Stewards Trust

Apr'2023 – Mar'24



Stewards Trust

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Message from the Team

Dear Friends & Partners.

The journey of Stewards Trust started in 1987 with a promise to improve the lives of underprivileged community members of rural areas. The organization had a vision, “to build the capacity of the people & empower them to become responsible citizens and enable them to avail their fundamental rights.” Many positive transformations in the lives of the target rural population have been observed during its journey.

In the last 37 years of our work we have tried to bring attention and resources to underprivileged rural community masses. One thing came out loud and clear – that we do our best to fulfill the vision of the organization by working towards basic needs, dignity and the voice of the last person.

Little seeds were sown in different aspects to improve the lives of people which are bearing fruits now. We hope our values and our work continue to resonate with our friends and partners and it nudges you to get involved and take action.

Dr. John Sylvester
Executive Director

[On behalf of Team Stewards Trust]

Highlights 2023-24

24
Awareness on MHM
& screening of film

11203⁺ till date
beneficiaries under MHM
project

70⁺ in RYTP and 37 in STC
Youths' capacity built under
RYT & STC project

5000⁺
Disposable pads produced

150⁺
Children in Primary school
Under Precious Hand project

60^{till date}
Washable pads distributed

MENSTRUAL HEALTH & HYGIENE

Sanitary pad distribution and manufacturing

The Menstrual Hygiene Management Project aims to educate the girls and women [14-50 years old age group] in menstrual hygiene management (MHM) and also production of single use biodegradable sanitary pads for selling on full price/discount price and for free distribution. The project is being managed and operated by local women [e.g. sanitary pads will be produced by a group of women, selling of pads is done by another group of women and education on menstrual health is provided by women]. Besides developing a network for sanitary pad selling, door to door selling by women is also encouraged. School going children have support and information on sanitary health through project female staff in their respective schools whereas women in villages will be engaged in group meetings to share the information.



In the project year Stewards Trust installed a semi-automatic sanitary



pad making machine to enhance the quality and quantity of pads. In the last three

months – after installation of the semi-automatic machine, the trained women were able to produce 40 quality pads per day [in 4 working hours/day]. Because of the quality pad, it has gained popularity in the local market.

More than 11203 young girls and women between the age of 14 – 60 years were covered under an awareness programme under the project. The awareness was done through using SHG, women meet, school, and Anganwadi platforms. The Asha workers were motivated to encourage the young as well as women to use sanitary pads for better hygiene. In two years i.e. 2022-23 & 2023-24 there were more than 4000 disposable & 60 reusable pads distributed free amongst the target population. Apart from free distribution, Stewards Trust aims to self-sustain the project and hence selling of pads is also promoted in the area. Till date more than 3500 pads were sold on a no loss and no profit basis.

Stewards Trust took one step forward and introduced washable pads among the target audience. Before introducing the second option for managing Menstruation, Stewards Trust conducted a feasibility study on the topic to know the opinion of the target audience on washable pads. On the basis of study it was decided by the Stewards Trust and US Pad Project that Stewards Trust must opt procurement of washable pads instead of manufacturing [as it was proposed in the initial proposal].

PRIMARY EDUCATION

Free primary education to underprivileged children of rural areas

Education is the most important and essential need for children. A nation could not develop without education. In the target area, many children could not go to school because of several reasons. BPL families send their children for work and fetch some extra income for their family consumption.

Therefore, the organization is providing free education to underprivileged rural children through its three education centers situated in villages Baithakwa, Hardoan (Koroan Block) and Derwa (Shankergarh Block) of Prayagraj. Children are getting school kits which include school dress, shoes, stationery, and books according to their classes. National festivals and sports are organized by the school staff along with the children from time to time. Further, children are also entitled to get a mid-day meal and/or nutritious meal for their proper health



development. The

organization motivates the parents for sending their girls to education centers specially.

Stakeholders e.g. Parents, Teachers and community members are involved in addressing the issues in children education and taking initiatives

to solve them.

Through three primary education centers, the organization is reaching more than 150+ underprivileged children who without support would have been working in the fields or as unskilled labour in nearby towns.

RURAL YOUTH TRAINING PROJECT

Capacity building of rural youth

Selected young men and women from the village background were provided a 1 year training on building their capacity in different aspects e.g. identification of community needs, identification of resources, uniting people to address the needs, getting help of existing local government & non-government agencies to fulfill their needs and tools and techniques to make small community based proposals to



benefit their community. Reference materials on tools and techniques were developed and translated in Hindi by the organization which was provided to trainees. In the two rural/urban areas of Bastar i.e. Jagdalpur and Bakawan there were 60 such key persons selected and their capacity was built.

The project is meant to bring a number of benefits e.g. safe drinking water (hand pumps), village sanitation, Awas Yojana, making of Aadhaar Cards/ration cards for BPL, pothole implementation and many more to the rural community. More importantly, it is also anticipated that more Community Based Organizations [CBOs] will be formed by these training youths [boys and girls] in their villages and/or neighboring villages where more communities can join the existing CBOs.

Under the training/capacity building programme; rural youth participate in two or three days' workshops and thereafter they go back to their community to practice the learnt skill. The workshop is conducted every month. During the training period, the participants were provided with accommodation, lodge and food along with learning material e.g. diary, pen, charts etc.

The second component of the project i.e. Satellite Training Center [STC] is to train young youths online. The project was initiated as a pilot project in 2021 for



6 months. A broadcasting setup [camera, internet, smart board] is installed at Prayagraj whereas the receiving end i.e. rural areas where the target youth is living had TV, inverter, camera,

internet, speaker and sitting arrangement. Through the STC, experts discussed different topics and procedures/methods which were directly received and understood by the youths. The session was interactive. The pilot project was a success. After which the organization extended the length of the course from six months to one year. After completing the course, the receiving end setup is shifted to another area. Presently i.e. in 2023-24 the STC activities are being delivered to rural areas of Bastar and Odisha simultaneously.

There are 37 boys and girls enrolled in the STC project during the 2023-24 session. Once these trainees will gain the capacity [complete the course] they will involve their respective community and bring desirable changes.

FINAL NOTE

We thank all our partners who have been with us on this journey. Please note that each and every contribution/suggestion to us is important.

Every year more needs are identified which urgently need to be addressed. Stewards Trust is committed to fulfill the rights of each and every citizen in its capacity.