

## QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

**Report prepared by: Tapan Das.**

**Date of submission of report: December 15, 2011**

### **1. Project information**

#### **1.1 Basic Project Data**

**a. Title of the project:** 'Suraksha'. Prevention of trafficking of disadvantaged girl children in the districts of south 24 Parganas , West Bengal.

**b. Duration: 2011 -2014**

**c. Reporting period: September 2011 – November 2011**

#### **1.2 Status of the project at the time of reporting:**

The reporting period is the first reporting period of the three year project supported by FADV. Obviously the period being the beginning, our all out effort has been to reach the message of trafficking to the community through home visits., one on one sessions, campaigning, etc. Our special focus was laid upon collection of base line data on random basis targeting 2614 families out of total 8714 families. It is expected that the tabulation and analysis of the data will be done during the next quarter.



The total survey was completed and first round of home visits to gather the first hand knowledge on trafficking. It was revealed that nearly 5% of the people have some knowledge about trafficking and only 2% people are really concerned on this issue.



A two day orientation programme on trafficking was conducted for the project staff to orient them on the objective and mission of the project. It is felt that they will need more such orientations in future.

Preliminary discussion and initial sensitization programme with the school authorities of seven schools have been done. The project shall undertake the work for the remaining three schools too. As the schools had been passing through annual examinations, the programme could be initiated only after January 2012.

So far 15 community sensitization meetings were organized, and is expected that during the next quarter the project activities will gear up and gain momentum.

So far, the project could twenty one peer educators in two GPs. Training for these peer educators will be organized after a few more are identified.



Informal discussions were held with the Pradhans and members two GPs, Sabhapati Panchayet Samity, BDO, etc. Preliminary discussion with Police Authorities and Legal Aid will be done during next quarter. A Block level meeting has been planned for the next quarter.

The work of developing a handbook of guideline is going on. If not finalized by the end of next quarter, the project expects to give a final shape to it.

Social drama, street theatre, video show, etc on trafficking, early marriage, dowry, gender discrimination, etc. will be started from the next quarter.

### **1.3 Executive Summary of the project:**

**(Main issues, Objective, activity, target area and target group etc.) {Kindly refer to the project proposal}**

#### **MAIN ISSUES**

The incidence of buying and selling of minor girls is highest in West Bengal of which South 24 Parganas is worst affected when it comes to trafficking of girls and Magrahat II block is amongst the most vulnerable areas in South 24 Parganas District. The parents do not feel it prudent to send their girl children to school and feel it as rather non-productive. They regard it as a luxury and also worry that if their girls become well educated then they have to search for a better bridegroom who will ask for more dowry beyond their limits. Normally, in this society, the birth of a girl is not a happy event, but is regarded as an added burden. This feeling of burden is transformed to the girl from her very childhood and the child too starts believing that she is a burden of the society. The new four lane high road running through Magrahat block II among other blocks and reaching up to Kulpi port is not only eating up a lot of agricultural land, but is also paving the way for increase in the evils of urbanization, especially trafficking of young girls. The traffickers very intelligently trap these girls, by asking the girls to come with them to a different town where they would get them married to good brides. The girls responding to these proposals end up everything of their life. We, therefore, need to be doubly alert to protect the girls in the area.

As per empirical studies from the civil society sector including NISHTHA almost 70% of the women, who are above 30, have been victims of early or premature marriage and suffering from gross under development syndrome of early and repeated pregnancies, morbidity, malnutrition, incidence of MMR, discrimination, desertion and violence, and destitutions resulting from inability to earn a decent living. In the villages of Magrahat II Block, approximately 850 marriages take place every year, of which around 595 were under-age marriages. The adolescents are mostly threatened by poverty (43%) and nature of their shrinking employment opportunities (52%). Merely 20% (16000 approximately) of the 80,000 adolescents girls are growing-up within protection of mainstream schooling. The rest are exposed to exploitation and abuse in some form or other, be it at home or in various fields in quest of job to supplement family income without necessary skills and knowledge.

In turn, recent data shows that North and South 24 Parganas are the two most significant source areas for trafficking in the state. A 2003 study of trafficking in a village in South 24 Parganas, showed that every second to third household in the village lives off the income of a trafficked girl between the ages of 13 and 15. Another study conducted in 2004-2005 discovered that, in only 4 villages of North 24 Parganas, more than 100 girls below 18 had been trafficked to Mumbai for forced prostitution during the preceding two years. Kolkata, in South 24 Parganas, is also a major trafficking destination.



## **GENERAL OBJECTIVE**

To contribute to prevention of girls and adolescents from trafficking in south 24 Parganas

## **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE**

To ensure an effective prevention system against trafficking in Magrahat II Block of South 24 Parganas, West Bengal

## **ACTIVITIES**

### **Result 1: Capacities about prevention of trafficking of vulnerable group or traffic victims increased inside schools.**

- 1.1 Selections of project staffs and train them to build their capacity.
- 1.2 School Sensitization Program
- 1.3 Meeting with school authority and teachers to create the sensitization program
- 1.4 Capacity building of the leaders of adolescent/peer group
- 1.5 Motivating the group to take actions to reduce factors contributing to trafficking
- 1.6 Preparation of guideline/ handbook for prevention of trafficking
- 1.7 Implementation of guideline /handbook in school sensitization program for school students

### **Result 2: Communities of 5 GPs of Magrahat II block are aware about risk of trafficking and prevention measures**

- 2.1 Relevant data collection and analysis of data
- 2.2 Identification of vulnerable families and develop a database of vulnerable household:
- 2.3 Stakeholder sensitization and dissemination meeting
- 2.4 Linkages with vulnerable households and existing poverty alleviation scheme
- 2.5 Awareness building through social drama, street theatre, and video show
- 2.6 Promotion of IEC materials
- 2.7 Building a strong network with Police, NGOS, Legal aid and other relevant institutions:
- 2.8 Vocational Training for rehabilitation

## **TARGET AREA AND TARGET GROUP**

The project is being implemented into two parts, namely community sensitization and school sensitization. Total 10 high schools have been identified by NISTHA for school sensitization of which 4 are situated in Nainan and Dihi Kalas GP. The other 6 schools are from three GPS called Magrahat East, West and Dhamua. Thus, the project will work in both for community and School sensitization in Nainan and Dihi Kalas GP and other three GPs will be focused on school sensitization only.



**Working villages under Nainan GP:**

Mirjapur, Joypur, Kuldia, Hansuri, Baganch, Enothpur, Dodaliya Nainan, Nariya, At-pouri, Barobashpur, Chotobashpur

**Working villages under Dihi Kalah GP:**

Dihi Kailash, Uttar Kailash, Iswaripur, Belgachia, Chagachia, Mohanpur Suripukur, Halderhat, Khapur, Kashimpur. Name of the Schools Identified by NISTHA for School Sensitization Program:

Sl.No.	Name of the School	Name of the GP
1.	Kuldia High school.	Nainan
2.	Hansury High school	
3.	Kuldia Mohanpur High school.	
4.	Kalash high School	Dihi Kalas
5.	Mograhat Anglo oriental Institution.	Magrahat West
6.	Mograhat Muslim Anglo oriental Institution	
7.	Mograhat Girls Madrasah Sisksha Kandra.	
8.	Maheshpur High School	Dhamua
9.	Karamanuraj High school.	Magrahat East
10.	Radha nagar BNM Institution	

**2. Review of Progress as per project indicators: (Kindly refer to the logical framework of the project proposal)**

Logical intervention	Indicator	Yearly Target	Achievement		
			Till previous quarter	Current Quarter	Cumulative
Capacities about prevention of trafficking of vulnerable group or traffic victims increased inside schools	At least 60% of the members of the group are able to provide help to victims of trafficking	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	A guideline is implementing inside the school for trafficking prevention.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	70% of vulnerable girls and adolescents	2000	Nil	50	50

	sensitize				
Communities of 5 GPs of Magrahat II block are aware about risk of trafficking and prevention measures	At least 70% of community members are aware of causes and consequences of trafficking and measures of prevention	8374 (3 years)	Nil	10%	10%

### 3. Activity and Expenditure

#### 3.1 Description of key activities: (Details of each activity)

##### 1 Selections of project staffs and train them to build their capacity.

###### 1.1 School Sensitization Program

After preliminary discussions with the school authorities for some days, a School sanitization programme was organized in Kuldiha High School where 50 students were present. The major subjects of discussions were anti-trafficking, child marriage and girls' education. A total of three teachers were present in the programme. In spite of the ongoing School Annual Examination,



the authorities came up overwhelmingly and agreed to allow to organize such an important programme. The session was conducted for one and a half hours. The teachers present in the programme were very happy and spontaneously participated in the discussion and agreed upon the fact that these programme / sessions are very important and relevant to the lives of the village girls. They assured to extend all possible support and help in future sensitization programme.

A general feed back was also received from among the participant students. A few of the students told the house that they are knowledgeable of a few such incidences of child marriage and trafficking. They asked for the contact telephone number of Nishtha staff and informed to narrate the those stories later. Some of the students expressed their concern that they opinion may not be paid heed to by the elders or their parents and may get suppressed by them as they are young.

It has been observed during the home visits that some other villagers and young girls have learnt about the child marriages and trafficking. On enquiry it was revealed that some of the students present in the school sensitization programme had discussed the issues with their family members, neighbors and friends.

Through the sensitization programme at Kuldiha High School, four peer educators have been identified.

### **1.3 Meeting with school authority and teachers to create the sensitization program**

Out of a total Project target of ten schools, during the reporting period seven schools could be contacted and preliminary discussions held. In one schools the project could discuss with the MC where 18 persons attended.

Informal discussions were also conducted with the school teachers regarding formal and detailed meetings in future. Teachers of a number of schools were covered under this campaign. On discussion, the Head Master of Kuldia High School had finalized a formal campaigning with the students of the school. The date has been finalized to be 17.11.2011 at 2.00 pm. He had overwhelmingly appreciated such an effort from the part of Nishtha. During the informal discussion with Mr. Timir Bose, Secretary of the Managing Committee of Hansuli High School and Mr. Brojendra Nath Naskar, Head Master of the school, have assured to extend all possible cooperation to Nishtha. But since at present the Annual Examination is going on, they have assured us to give a date (after the exam) for formal and detailed campaigning with the students of the school. They have expressed hope that if this school campaigning programme is done effectively, the incidence of trafficking will down to a great extent. Mr Abu Taher and Mr Kalimuddin Ahmed, Head Master and Secretary of Kalash High School respectively have also welcomed the effort of Nishtha. Both of them have expressed their happiness that Nishtha has come up with such a difficult and challenging work for the adolescent girls of the society. They have said that it is a very sensitive issue and they are feeling very happy and assured full cooperation in campaigning programme in their school.

Pranab Kumar Mondal, Head Master and member of the Management Committee Mr. Abdulla Fakir of Magrahat Anglo Oriental School has opined that if Nishtha continues this effort of campaigning in school and community simultaneously, then the rate of trafficking is sure to come down considerably..

### **.4 Capacity building of the leaders of adolescent/peer group**

During the reporting period twenty one peer educators has been identified in two GPs. On selection of a few more and streamlining the module, necessary training will be organized for them.



### **1.5 Motivating the group to take actions to reduce factors contributing to trafficking**

During the reporting period the project has conducted fifteen community sensitization meetings were held. In these meetings peer educators (adolescent groups) with 40 adolescent members, another group has been formed with ICDS and ASHA workers with 12 members. A number of meetings have been conducted with these groups, and a regular contact is also being maintained with them. The groups are apparently quite impressive and interest to work



for the noble cause. Necessary trainings shall be organized for them during the next quarter.

### **1.6 Preparation of guideline/ handbook for prevention of trafficking**

The project has already initiated discussion with an expert. A material / guide line is under preparation.

### **1.7 Implementation of guideline /handbook in school sensitization program for school students**

As the guideline is still under preparation, the implementation has not been started.

## **Result 2: Communities of 5 GPs of Magrahat II block are aware about risk of trafficking and prevention measures**

### **2.1 Relevant data collection and analysis of data**

The base line survey of all the target villages is complete. The project has collected all information of the target villages of all the GPs. However, the tabulation and analysis of data has not yet been started.

### **2.2 Identification of vulnerable families and develop a database of vulnerable household:**

We expect to tabulate, analyze the baseline data and identify the vulnerable families within the next quarter.

### **2.3 Stakeholder sensitization and dissemination meeting:**

The Pradhan of Kalash Gram Panchayet has said that if the work could be done with honesty and sincerity then the objective of Nishtha will surely be fulfilled and further result into benefit of the village community. Pradhan of Nainan Ms Maharani Mondal has promised all cooperation from her end to make the programme successful.

Mr. Mafizul Laskar, Karmadhyaksha of Magrahat II Block is a well wisher of Nishtha's programme over the years. He has explained that he is very happy to know that Nishtha is now implementing a project on Anti-trafficking and it is really a commendable effort. He has told that this being a very challenging and difficult project, Nishtha may come across different types of problems; however, whatever the problem may be he will always be available for all types of assistance and help.



During the discussion with Mr. Khairul Laskar, Sabhapati of Magrahat II Panchayet Samity, he has told that incidence of women and child trafficking in the Magrahat II area is very common and is over a long period of time and is continuing till today. But unfortunately, till date no government of NGO has come forward to combat this severe problem of the society. He has expressed happiness and best wishes to Nishtha to make the effort successful. He has promised all support, help and cooperation to the project as and when necessary.



It has been observed by the social workers that a section of the society, including a part of stake holders, is quite surprised to note that in spite of several many other important existing social problems, Nishtha has started working on Anti-trafficking.

The project staff has conducted a meeting with the Management Committee of Magrahat Muslim Anglo Oriental School. In this meeting besides all members of the MC and Head Master of the school, the Sabhapati of Panchayet Samity of Magrahat II block and Ms Namita Saha Hon'ble MLA were present. They have overwhelmingly welcome Nishtha's effort on anti-trafficking and expressed to launch the programme in the school from the next session; because at present the schools are conducting the Annual Examinations. Similarly, a meeting was conducted at Kuldiha High School with all the Teachers and Management Committee.

In both the cases the response from the teachers had been very satisfactory and it appears that they will extend full cooperation from them. They have agreed that under the present situation, such an effort is extremely necessary to prevent trafficking.

#### **2.4 Linkages with vulnerable households and existing poverty alleviation scheme**

The project has not started working on it. However, discussions with the Panchayet authorities have already been started.

#### **2.5 Awareness building through social drama, street theatre, and video show**

As this reporting period is the first project period, the project has conducted awareness building through discussions, home visits, etc. The programme of Social drama, street theatre, video show, on different subjects such as early marriage, trafficking, dowry, gender discrimination, domestic violence etc will be organized from now onwards. This is because the reporting period is the initial project period, and collection of base data and other relevant information was done during this time. The programme of drama, video show etc. Shall be organized at a later part when it is all set.

#### **2.6 Promotion of IEC materials**

The process of developing different types of IEC materials for disseminating knowledge and information will be initiated from the next quarter. However, the thinking on the issue is already on.

#### **2.7 Building a strong network with Police, NGOS, Legal aid and other relevant institutions:**

With regard to the building network with different government and non-government institutions, only preliminary meetings with Panchayet and Block authorities have been initiated. It is expected that by the end of next quarter formal discussion would be launched with Social Welfare Authorities, etc.

#### **2.8 Vocational Training for rehabilitation**

We are identifying vulnerable families through home visits in addition to baseline data. So far already we have identified nine vulnerable adolescent girls. On further identification of eleven more girls, we shall start a vocational training programme.



## 6. Case Studies

### **Case Study 1:**

Toompa Khatoon, 14 years old was a student of Class VI in 2010. She was a resident of Mirzapur village in Nainan GP. Her father is Morsilin Sardar and her mother is Kalima Bibi. Her father is a hawker and sells brooms in Kolkata and her mother is a house wife. She was a mediocre student in Hansuri High School and interested in studies. Her school is nearly 1.5 km from her house. She used to go to school and come back with a few of her friends. During their journey to and from school she came across a lady with whom she had slowly developed a good relation. That lady was not originally from that place and stayed in a rented house there. Toompa is quite pretty looking. Naturally she was targeted by the lady. Their relation became quite closer and they even started sharing their tiffin etc. Days were passing by. One day, on Toompa's way to school, the lady offered a banana to her which she accepted and ate it. After a little while, she felt senseless. Toompa was then trafficked by that lady.

A young man from the native village of Toompa, had only recently got a job in Police and was undergoing training in Bangalore. One day after the training is over, he was having a walk with his friends in the road of Bangalore. He suddenly saw a young girl on the road which appeared to him to be quite known. After a while he could realize that perhaps this girl is none other than Toompa. He made a telephonic call to his village and asked his relative to enquire whether Toompa is at home. His relative immediately responded and informed him that she is absconding / traceless for nearly last two months. He immediately caught hold of Toompa and rescued her and personally escorted her to her parents at the native village. Then on obtaining information from Toompa a few more girls were rescued from the same colony at Bangalore. These girls were from the neighboring villages of Mirzapur of Magrahat II Block.

The girls together then identified the lady who was involved in the trafficking. Later the lady was sent to jail and till now she is behind the bar. Toompa was not accepted by their society. As a result her mother had shifted her to a rescue government home where she is undergoing vocational training and studying in Class VII.

### **Case Study 2:**

Hamida Khatoon is an ill fated girl of 16 years age. She lives in Nainan Village and besides her parents she has four sisters and two brothers. Hamida is the second child of her families. One day during the winter of 2010, she was walking down from her neighbor's place to her own house. It was around 7 O'Clock in the evening. Suddenly she noticed that a well dressed young lady is walking towards her. On coming closer, the lady approached Hamida and started talking to her. The lady told her that she is coming from a good and a reputed company that prepares bags and other goods. If Hamida wants then she can also go with her and join the company. In the process she will be able to earn a good amount of money and help her parents. Hamida went on refusing whereas the lady went on pursuing her. Suddenly the lady brought out a handkerchief and held it firmly to her nose. Hamida slowly lost her consciousness. She does not remember anything after that. A couple of days later Hamida though gained her consciousness and could see and understand everything but could not speak any word. She found herself in a train. There were RPF in the train who noticed abnormality in Hamida. The traffickers noticed the matter and fled away. The police then rescued Hamida and took and sheltered her in a Home. After proper



treatment when she was able to speak and explain the whole story. The Maharashtra Police contacted the West Bengal Police and her parents went to Pune to bring her back. The Home authorities refused to hand over Hamida to her parents as they were of the opinion that often the parents too sells out their girl child. They asked her parents to get a certificate from the Local Government or Panchayet indicating and assuring there in Hamida's future security. On collecting and later submitting the certificate from Panchayet along with proof of their identity of being Hamida's father and mother, the Home authorities handed over her to them. Now she is at her home and staying with her parents and siblings. On discussion with her and her parents Nishtha's social workers proposed her to go to school in which she was found to be reluctant. The Social workers are now thinking and trying to find out a way to help her by providing some kind of vocational training so that she can earn.

---