



**EQUITY FOUNDATION**  
A Forum for Women and Child

## ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT 2016-2017

123- A, Pataliputra Colony, Patna- 13, Bihar, Phone: 0612-2270171, Email: [equityasia@gmail.com](mailto:equityasia@gmail.com)  
Web URL: [www.equityasia.net](http://www.equityasia.net), [www.emanjari.com](http://www.emanjari.com)

## THE GENESIS

Equity Foundation (EF) is a Non-Governmental Organisation, with the primary objective of empowering women and educating children through creating new pathways for overcoming the obstacles to Women / Child development through a synergy of "Knowledge", "Voice" and "Action". EF was founded in March 2002 by a group of women activists with 7 Members Executive Committee, and officially registered under Societies Registration Act on 26th March 2003. It is also registered under the FCRA, Niti Aayog, 12-A and 80- G. Women, the half of the population, are deprived and exploited. This group raise their voice and connects them to other struggling people. It's not an anti-male group, but it strives for a world without any discrimination.

## CORE VALUES

- ❑ To promote gender equality and empower women and girls, and to removing any barriers that prevent full participation of women and girls in the public and political life
- ❑ Believe in full and inclusive participation by all and that every person, man, women or community has the right and responsibility to contribute their talents, skills and resources to the work we do, for and with them
- ❑ To promote full and equal access to social services, education, legal and health-care services, economic opportunities and decent work, for all, specially marginalized women and children, they need our support to recognize their rights, achieve their basic needs; and ensure their participation in the elaboration and implementation of policies that effect their development, with full respect for their cultures, traditions and social norms
- ❑ We believe that community participation is an essential part of the process of good local governance, and community development. Therefore we consider participatory approaches as a critical instrument of our Association
- ❑ Work with marginalized communities, improve their lives, alleviate their suffering and develop a vision for change that will make a meaningful difference in their lives

## VISION & MISSION

Since its inception, EF has left no efforts in its quest to serve the community in general and women and children in particular, answering the urgent nation calls and advocating in fierce- at various hard conditions-for the elevation of women to take and maintain its position within our community. The core areas of its focus are providing technical assistance to innovative programmes and strategies for women's human rights, political participation and economic security. As a learning and knowledge - based organization, the Foundation integrates its activities in a feedback process of pioneering, learning, information sharing and advocacy and facilitates active dissemination of information regarding women and child issues through seminars and workshops. We focus our efforts on promoting the social, educational, economical, and political development of women and girl's, including advocating for women's rights, eliminating discrimination against women including GBV, advancing women's capacities and leadership skills, promoting their participation in the decisions that affect their lives, and amplifying their voices for peace and security at the national and global levels.

## OUR WORK

- ❶ Strengthening Democratic Governance
- ❷ Women's Rights and Safeguarding women from all forms of violence
- ❸ Claiming education for every child
- ❹ Gender Budget & Livelihoods Promotion
- ❺ Health/nutrition, hygiene and sanitation
- ❻ Education/Research, IEC, Publication, Documentation and Training

## Aiming for wider structural changes in people's life

The Foundation works to address root causes of gender inequality. It aims to strengthen the functioning of Panchayat and enhance the capacities of elected women representatives in Panchayat and gram Sabha; and enable democratic decision making in Panchayat. The Organisation also aims to work on health, nutrition, sanitation and development in order to facilitate equitable access to basic services by strengthening capacities of communities to demand and access services, and of institutions to deliver quality, timely and stigma free services. The Equity Foundation is a leading non-profit non-governmental Women's rights- organization that is mainly involved in empowering women and girls, aiming for gender equality and the eradication of all forms of discrimination against women and girls'. Through empowering and mobilizing women's participation in the struggle against the patriarchy, the contribution to the development processes, the promotion of woman's political, economic and civic rights and the expansion of women's access to justice through improving psychological well-being among women and girls, and combating gender-based violence.

## INTERNSHIP

The Organisation is providing Summer & Winter internship opportunity to the students. This internship is purely for academic purpose wherein students earn academic credit.

## Research/Advocacy / Workshops/Seminars

The Organisation is focused on Social & Policy Research, Gender Scan & Audit, Gender Budgeting & Mainstreaming, Policy support, Advocacy, Networking. The Organisation believes in public action, at the core of which is self change. The members raise their voices against violence against women and gender inequality through agitations, campaigns, media reactions, public debates, discussions, workshops and seminars.

## IEC/ Publications: E- Magazine: MANJARI- STREE KE MANN KI

Our journey is full of learning, informed by practical experience at various levels. It organises Seminars and workshops on various issues related to gender and development. The output of the workshops is used extensively during the advocacy period to generate awareness and interest. Equity Foundation's services also include research, training, documentation and preparation of IEC materials. **MANJARI—Stree ke Mann Ki**, a quarterly Hindi web magazine of Equity Foundation was formally released on July 12, 2014. It was started in the hope that it will help in raising the issue of women and society. **'MANJARI's'** intervention aims at influencing and changing the perception and approach of numerous activists, organisations and scholars on many relevant socio economic political & legal issues. Padmashree Ela Bhatt, Kamla Bhasin, Dr. Mohini Giri, Nobel Laureate Kailash Satyarthi, Professor Rajlakshmi Sriram, Dr. Vibhuti Patel, Flavia Agnes, Tushar Arun Gandhi and Professor Dianne Peron have contributed their articles as Guest Editors.

## RESOURCE CENTRE

The library has a collection of more than 10,000 books and periodicals. The Organisation also aims to work on health, sanitation and development in order to facilitate equitable access to basic services by strengthening capacities of communities to demand and access services, and of institutions to deliver quality, timely and stigma free services.

## Donors & PARTNERS

Planning Commission of India/UNDP-TAHA/UNDP-TISS/Ministry of Women & Child Development, GoI/Centre for World Solidarity (CWS)/Association for World Solidarity (ASW)/Sir Dorabji Tata and Allied Trusts/Save the Children/Sulabh International/Action Aid/CARE/Catholic Bishop Conference of India (CBCI)/Ministry of Youth & Culture, GoI/Canara Bank/SAGE Publications/Taxila Educational Trust/TARU/PLAN/OXFAM/Education Development Centre (EDC)/Gram Niyojan Kendra (GNK)/Rajiv Gandhi Foundation (RGF)/Women Development Corporation, GoB/International Development Enterprises of India (IDEI)/Kanka Gajendra Foundation, United Kingdom (KGF) /Constella Futures/SUDHA (COMFED), GoB/DFID-PACS/Power Grid Corporation/Corstone India Foundation/ Gyan Ganga/International School.

## Field Projects from 2016-17

### A. Promoting women's' political leadership and governance in Bihar- Supported by Centre for World Solidarity

The programme was implemented in Chechar Panchayat in Biddupur block of Vaishali district with the elected representatives having a special focus on women.

#### Number of beneficiaries covered during the project period:

Villages	No. of HH
Chechar	1040
Bagsaid Khan	230
Gokhulpur	583
Panapur Kyam	306
<b>Total</b>	<b>2160</b>

Population details cast wise-male, female, children.										
	General			OBC			SC			Total
Villages	Male	Female	Child	Male	Female	Child	Male	Female	Child	
Chechar	340	322	840	472	448	1256	640	612	2353	7283
Bagsaid Khan	88	82	206	92	88	315	136	138	466	1611
Gokhulpur	240	246	565	272	270	692	340	335	1124	4084
Panapur Kyam	65	62	156	122	117	366	221	236	798	2143
<b>Total</b>	<b>733</b>	<b>712</b>	<b>1767</b>	<b>958</b>	<b>923</b>	<b>2629</b>	<b>1337</b>	<b>1321</b>	<b>4741</b>	<b>15121</b>

	Direct Beneficiaries (Participants of the project)				Indirect Beneficiaries (please highlight whether you refer to the overall population or the target group)				Grand Total
	Men	Women	Children	Total	Men	Women	Children	Total	
PRIs members	11	18	0	20	6	4	0	10	30
Community members	1337	1321	4741	7399	1691	1635	4396	7722 (Gen, OBC)	15121
									15151

S.NO	Objectives of the program	Planned Activities according to the approved project proposal	Implemented and Achieved Activities	Follow-up action plan
1	To strengthen the composition and the awareness level of the EWPRIs and enable them to exercise their rights for & responsibilities for the benefits of Panchayat.	Creating an understanding of rights and duties of New elected representatives as a political leader and understanding their role in local self-governance.	Two days training programme at Panchayat level for the PRIs members, local stake holders & community members to develop skills of GP and other PRI bodies to effectively execute functions assigned to them as also to increase the capacity to obtain people's participation in both governance and the development process.	The training programme for the PRIs could not be conducted as the newly elected PRIs could not take charge of their respective position. Flood was also one the reason for the delay in training. Now the training programme is estimated to be held on <b><i>October 25 and 26.</i></b>
		Capacity building programme to achieve two objectives- It will develop skills of GP and other PRI bodies to effectively execute functions assigned to them as also to increase the capacity to obtain people's participation in both governance and the development process.	Awareness campaigns regarding active political participation of women in governance:  -Public meetings will be organized in form of awareness camps on various subjects of governance within the Panchayat.  -Reference materials like handouts and guideline in Hindi & local dialect will be distributed to the PRI members and community.	All the 29 newly elected PRIs participate in the process.  Village development plans was developed with a special focus towards active participation of women. <b>(20th June)</b>



		Active and positive participation of PRIs in Ward Sabha & Gram Sabha.	<p>Capacity building shall be done of 30 elected representatives through orientation.</p> <p>Through Mock Gram Sabha special focus will be made on making the community aware about the <b>Gram and ward Sabha</b> &amp; the benefit that the community will receive through their participation.</p>	<p>Capacity building of the PRIs and the community was done through orientation programme.</p> <p>Community members and PRIs participated in the <b>Mock Gram Sabha (5th to 10th August)</b></p>
2.	To create an understanding of rights and duties of elected representatives as a political leader and understanding their role in local self governance.	Post-Election campaign	<p>Awareness campaigns regarding role and responsibility of PRI, standing committee and community participation:</p> <p>Public meetings will be organized in awareness camps on various subjects within the village.</p> <p>Reference materials like handouts guideline in Hindi &amp; local dialect will be supplied to the PRI members and community.</p>	<p>Approximately <b>13,000</b> community members were made aware of community role and responsibility of PRI.</p> <p>Approximately <b>13,000</b> Community members got aware about their rights and duties.</p>
		Micro planning	<p>Awareness campaigns regarding Micro planning &amp; camps on various subjects within the village like role and responsibility of PRIs and community participation in ward sabha &amp; Gram Sabha.</p> <p>Importance of Gram Sabha &amp; Ward Sabha &amp; how effectively micro planning will support the ward sabha.</p>	<p>Approximately <b>13,000</b> community members were made aware of community role in micro planning and their responsibility with support of ward members to develop micro plan for the village.</p> <p>Approximately <b>5,000</b> Community members Supported the ward members in developing micro</p>

				plan for the village.
		Organizing de-addiction, child norm ordinance , Gender campaign on village level ,School & AWC level, total sanitation campaign & other social security Schemes	Village wise campaign will be organized to make our Panchayat free from alcohol addiction	<b>12,500</b> community members benefited by the campaign at village level. ( <b>March 30<sup>th</sup> 2017</b> )
		Printing & Distribution 11000 Pamphlets on Post-Election voter election campaign & Other Panchayat schemes	Distribution of pamphlets/posters on Post EVAC & Other Panchayat schemes among the community of 4 covered villages.	<b>13000</b> Community members benefited from pamphlets/handouts and posters ( <b>May 1<sup>st</sup> 2016 onwards</b> )
		Training of PRIs for 2 days		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All <b>29</b> PRIs attended the training at Buniyadi Vidyalaya</li> <li>• <b>20</b> community members participated including ANMs/AASHA /Aanganwadi Sevika and other community leaders also participated</li> <li>• <b>Training held on 15 and 16 January, 2017</b></li> </ul>
		Bi-annual meeting with PRI members regarding them of the progress of the project in Chechar Panchayat		<b>25 members attended on September 30<sup>th</sup> 2016</b>  <b>Staff members of Equity Foundation were also present</b>
	Mock Gram Sabha		25 <sup>th</sup> September 2016	<b>25 PRIs members attended on</b>

			Distribution of pamphlets/posters on Gram Sabha & Other Panchayat social security schemes among the community of 4 covered villages.	September 25 <sup>th</sup> 2016  185 Community member participated in Mock Gram Sabha
	Gram Sabha at panchayat level		2nd October 2016 26th January 2017	70 participants on 2nd October 2016  200 participants on 26th January 2017





## Major Achievements:

Objectives	Activities	Outputs	Outcomes	Indicators
1. To strengthen the composition and the awareness level of the EWPRIs and enable them to exercise their rights for & responsibilities for the benefits of Panchayat.	Creating an understanding of rights and duties of New elected representatives as a political leader and understanding their role in local self-governance.	Two days training programme at Panchayat level for the PRIs members, local stake holders & community members to develop skills of GP and other PRI bodies to effectively execute functions assigned to them as also to increase the capacity to obtain people's participation in both governance and the development process.	The training programme for the PRIs was conducted for the newly elected PRIs	<p>The training programme was held on 15 and 16 November 2016.</p> <p>100 percent participation of the PRIs.</p> <p>They became aware of their rights and duties.</p>
	Capacity building programme to achieve two objectives- It will develop skills of GP and other PRI bodies to effectively execute functions assigned to them as also to increase the capacity to obtain people's participation in both governance and the	Awareness regarding active political participation of women in governance: Public meetings will be organized in form of awareness camps on various subjects of governance within the Panchayat.	<p>Developing village development plans and special focus towards women active participation in such Plan.</p> <p>All the newly elected PRIs participate in decision making process at different levels.</p>	<p>All the <b>29</b> newly elected PRIs participate in the process.</p> <p>Village development plans was developed with a special focus towards active participation of women.</p> <p>Micro planning was done as a survey of the entire Panchayat conducted. The survey focused on the Single women, PDS/ job</p>

	development process.	<p>Gender training &amp; Capacity building shall be done of 20 elected representatives and their male family members.</p> <p>Reference materials like handouts guideline in Hindi &amp; local dialect will be supplied to the PRI members and community.</p>		<p>under MGNREGA/Social Security schemes and Pension schemes.</p> <p>Reference materials like handouts guideline in Hindi &amp; local dialect distributed among the <b>29 PRI members</b> and <b>13000</b> community members</p>
	Active and positive participation of PRIs in Ward Sabha & Gram Sabha.	<p>Capacity building through Mock Gram Sabha shall be done of 20 elected representatives.</p> <p>Special focus will be on making the community aware about the Gram and ward sabha &amp; the benefit that the community will receive through their participation</p>	<p>Direct intervention of the PRIs members in different Gram &amp; Ward sabha will support the community members to develop the need for the particular ward, village &amp; Panchayat.</p> <p>Special focus will be made on the priorities of the community members.</p>	<p>Mock Gram Sabha conducted</p> <p>More than <b>50%</b> community members &amp; all the <b>29 PRIs</b> directly benefitted.</p>
2. To create an understanding of rights and duties of elected representatives as a political leader	Post-Election campaign	Awareness regarding Role and responsibility of PRI, standing committee and	All community members will be made aware on community role and	Approximately <b>13,000</b> community members were made aware of community role and

and understanding their role in local self governance.		community participation: Public meetings will be organized in awareness camps on various subjects within the village.  Reference materials like handouts guideline in Hindi & local dialect will be supplied to the PRI members and community.	responsibility of PRI.  Community members will get aware About their rights.	responsibility of PRI.  Approximately <b>13,000</b> Community members got aware About their rights.  <b>11000</b> reference materials including handouts, guidelines etc. were distributed.
	Organizing de-addiction and Sanitation campaign	Village wise campaign will be organized to make our Panchayat free from alcohol addiction	Village wise campaign organized to make Panchayat free from alcohol addiction  Community members were oriented through the campaign at village level.	<b>13,000</b> community members benefited by the campaign at village level. ( <b>September 30th 2016</b> )
	Printing & Distribution Pamphlets on Post-Election voter election campaign & Other Panchayat schemes	Distribution of pamphlets/posters on Post EVAC & Other Panchayat schemes among the community of all the 4 covered villages.	Community members to benefit from pamphlets/handouts and posters	<b>13000</b> Community members benefited from pamphlets/handouts and posters
3. Monthly meeting with all staffs and chief functionary	Monthly meeting with all			Chairperson, Executive Director & COO reviewed the progress of

4. Project Review	<p>staffs and chief functionary</p> <p>Executive Director &amp; COO visited the project area and reviewed the progress of the project</p>			<p>the project</p> <p>Monthly Meetings were held at Patna</p>
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## Research and JAN SAMVAAD: 'Violence against women in Bihar and access to justice'- Supported by Action aid

Every year Equity Foundation has been organising a state level consultation workshop on the occasion of **16 days of activism on Ending Violence against women campaign**. This year Equity Foundation with support of **Action Aid** organised a '**JAN SAMVAAD**' based on the key findings of our recently conducted research study in 9 districts on '**Violence against women in Bihar and access to justice**'. The Equity Foundation has a history of taking up issues against violence on women since 2010, including rape on minors and women. This '**JAN SAMVAAD**' examined and reviewed the increasing incidence of premeditated violence and atrocities on women, which ranged from dowry deaths, murders, child marriage, trafficking, witchcraft, rape, to destitution, in the Districts of Patna, Bhagalpur, Katihar, Madhepura, Munger, Samastipur, Nawada, Siwan and Purnea. The event was attended by victims from the all the 9 districts. Victims, members of the family of victims presented their testimonial before a panel of eminent stakeholders. We shared the findings of the study with the stakeholders and tried to find out ways to take action for empowerment of women. We also invited a few victims who will present their testimonial before the participants. The testimonials of the survivors of violence was incorporated in a booklet titled DASTAAN.



## Moving from Reservation to Empowered Participation – A training programme conducted for PRIs in 3 Panchayats of Biddupur block on legal issues supported by OXFAM

A campaign-based approach was adopted to influence peoples' perspectives on Panchayats and local governance and to encourage them to participate in gram sabha meetings. Campaign was devised to motivate people to participate constructively in changing the social norms. These campaigns focused on the importance of people's participation in governance, the features of the 73rd Constitution Amendment Act and the role of women in governance and changing social norms. Posters, pamphlets, handbills, inspirational songs, nukkad nataks (street plays) and mashaal jaloos (torch light processions) were organized. Initiatives are being taken to combat issues of alcoholism, dowry, child marriage, women's health and related issues including violence against women. Campaigns adopted innovative approaches to ensure that the message reaches the people, irrespective of literacy levels. Approaches were designed in a manner that was sensitive to the local ethos, work culture and differences in literacy levels.

FOR THIS, FEW INNOVATIVE APPROACHES WERE APPLIED, SUCH AS:

- Learning by sharing:
- Learning by role playing
- Through street plays

Which would help the members to visualise the rules and procedures in application and thus gain a better and more empowering grasp of these knowledge, which often remain on paper and fade after training sessions end

## COVERAGE

3 GPs covered (all women PRIs included)

District- Vaishali

Block – Biddupur

Panchayats- Chaksikandar, Chechar and Mile

Target group- Women PRIs, ASHA,

Community, Aanganwadi Sevika,

Religious leaders, Lawyers, Community members (intellectuals, youths etc.) etc

The training project activities supported by OXFAM were implemented through Equity Foundation (Civil Society Organization (CSO)) to harness their expertise in mobilizing women and creating awareness of issues at the grassroots level. For both the 3 Panchayats, one CSO was identified based on the demonstrated work experience on local governance issues in that area. The capacity-building project focused on EWRs and panchayat functionaries as well as ASHA, Aanganwaadi Sevika etc.

The training programme was conducted on violence against women by Ms. Meeta Mohini, Advocate Patna High court and Women Rights Activist. She emphasised on women groups in Panchayats to act as pressure groups and enabled women to raise their issues at various forums. She said that initiatives should be taken through the networks to combat issues of alcoholism, dowry, child marriage, female feticide, women's health and related issues including violence against women. The women groups were trained in legal issues, dispute redressal mechanism, trained in the laws relevant to crimes against women, given exposure about the existing legal position regarding property, maintenance, marriage, custody, etc. They were also made aware about FIR writing, pursuing with police station, how to proceed for legal recourse.

In the training programme women were really concerned but were unable to move ahead on the issue of violence. The Panchayat members said that more training programme was required so that Mahila Panchayats start taking cases and resolve them at the community level. These cases affect to maintenance, domestic violence, alcoholism and other issues.



**Qualitative and Quantitative research study on Nirmal Bandhu and Jal Bandhu** was conducted in 11 blocks of 10 Districts. The study was conducted in partnership with TARU-Leading Edge focused on the field work in Bihar as part of the World Bank project "Rapid Assessment of Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin (SBM-G) rural clean India mission implementation and identify, validate and document good practices". It was on toilet construction (quality, financing and supply chain).

#### Sample size

#### Household surveys:

State	Sample Size	Number of Blocks	Number of Villages
Bihar	850	11	57

#### AW/School surveys:

1 survey per village- Bihar total 57

#### Sanitary supplier surveys:

1 survey per village- Bihar total maximum 57 (only in villages where supplier is available)

#### More details

1. It was a tablet based survey with ODK coding and tablets. Household survey- approx. 100 questions (including skips), School/AW-(for big villages having more than 150 households- 150 households to be listed in 1 village segment; for small villages having less than 150 households- all households to be listed)
2. 15 days is the total timeframe for fieldwork.



#### **Translation of Training Manual for Adolescent Health and Facilitators for classes 6, 7 & 8- It was supported by CORSTONE Foundation-**

We did the following work-

1. Final Hindi translation (with Proof reading) for Adolescent health English curriculum for Std. 6th, 7th and 8th
2. Developed final Hindi Layout design for Hindi AH curriculum for Std. 6th, 7th and 8th based on English curriculum layout for Teachers Manual & Student's Handbook

## MANJARI—Stree ke Mann Ki

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