



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

## ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT 2017-2018

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## 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 2017-18

### 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

## Activity Report

S.NO	Objectives of the program	Planned Activities according to the approved project proposal	Implemented and Achieved Activities	Reasons if any delay/ deviation or incompleteness and 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 was conducted  24 PRIs & 50 local community members participated in the training program. The training program was focused on Role & responsibilities of the PRIs, Importance of Ward Sabha & Gram sabha, Gram Kachahary. Shahina Parveen focused on the role/responsibilities/ standing committees/ women participation in panchayat meetings
		Active and positive participation of PRIs in Ward Sabha & Gram Sabha.	Capacity building shall be done of 24 elected representatives through orientation.  Through Campaign special focus was made on making the community aware about the <b>Gram and ward Sabha</b> & the benefit that the community will receive through their participation.	Capacity building of the PRIs and the community was done through Campaign mode.  It was suggested to organize a mock gram sabha & ward sabha showing the role & responsibilities of the PRIs members
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	Awareness campaigns regarding role and responsibility of PRI, standing committee and 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.	Approximately 6,500 community members were made aware of community role and responsibility of PRI.  Approximately 6500 Community members got aware About their rights.  6500 reference materials including handouts, guidelines etc. were distributed.
3		Micro planning	Awareness campaigns regarding Micro planning & camps on	Approximately <b>3,500</b> community members were made aware of



			<p>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>community role in micro planning and their responsibility with support of ward members to develop micro plan for the village.</p> <p>Approximately <b>4,000</b> Community members Supported the ward members in developing micro plan for the village.</p>
4		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>6,500</b> community members and 27 PRIs benefited by the campaign at village level.
5		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>6000</b> Community members benefited from pamphlets/handouts and posters
6		Bi-annual meeting with PRI members regarding them of the progress of the project in Chechar Panchayat		<p><b>24 members attended</b></p> <p><b>Staff members of Equity Foundation were also present</b></p>
7	Campaign Gram Sabha		<p>10th August 2017</p> <p>Distribution of pamphlets/posters on Gram Sabha &amp; Other Panchayat social security schemes among the community of 4 covered villages.</p>	<b>6500</b> Community member got aware regarding importance of Gram Sabha /ward sabha
8	Gram Sabha at panchayat level		<p>3 Gram Sabha organized with the cooperation of the Organisation staffs-</p> <p>Date: August 15 2016, January 26, 2017 and October 2, 2017</p>	<b>Number of people present: Between 300-400</b>

## E. 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 for the PRIs was conducted on <b>9th and 10<sup>th</sup> September, 2017.</b></p> <p><b>Day I-</b></p> <p>24 PRIs &amp; 50 local community members participated in the training program. The training program was focused on Role &amp; responsibilities of the PRIs, Importance of Ward Sabha &amp; Gram sabha, Gram Kachahary. Amendments in ACT 2017 with special focus on changes in roles &amp; function of PRIs member was explained by the Advisor, R.K Sinha, Panchayati Raj Department, Bihar.</p> <p><b>Day 2-</b></p> <p>24 PRIs &amp; 50 local community members participated in the training program. The training program was focused on Role &amp; responsibilities of the PRIs, Importance of Ward Sabha &amp; Gram sabha, Gram Kachahary. Shahina Parveen focused on the role/responsibilities/standing committees/ women participation in panchayat meetings</p>

	<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 development process.</p>	<p>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> <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>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>24 PRIs &amp; 18 local communities (family members of PRIs) participated in the training program.</p> <p>The training program was focused on Role &amp; responsibilities of the PRIs, Importance of Ward Sabha &amp; Gram sabha, Gram Kachahary. Amendments in ACT 2017 with special focus on changes in roles &amp; function of PRIs member was explained by the Advisor, R.K Sinha, Panchayati Raj Department, Bihar. Micro planning was done as a survey of the entire Panchayat conducted. The survey focused on the Single women, PDS/ job under MGNREGA/Social Security schemes and Pension schemes.</p> <p>Reference materials like handouts guideline in Hindi &amp; local dialect distributed among the <b>27 PRI members</b> and <b>6500</b> community members</p>
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	Active and positive participation of PRIs in Ward Sabha & Gram Sabha.	Special focus will be on making the community aware about the Gram and ward sabha & the benefit that the community will receive through their participation	Direct intervention of the PRIs members in different Gram & Ward sabha will support the community members to develop the need for the particular ward, village & Panchayat. Special focus will be made on the priorities of the community members.	It was suggested to reorganize Mock Gram Sabha/ward sabha for elected representatives especially among the ward members with special focus on organizing ward sabha at the ward level & place it in the gram sabha.
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 <b>February 22th 2018</b>	<p>Awareness regarding Role and responsibility of PRI, standing committee and community participation: 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>Wall writing on roles &amp; responsibilities of Elected women Panchayati Raj.</p>	All community members will be made aware on community role and responsibility of PRI. Community members will get aware About their rights.	<p>Approximately <b>11000</b> community members were made aware of community role and responsibility of PRI.</p> <p><b>10,000</b> reference materials including handouts, guidelines etc. were distributed.</p> <p>Wall writing was completed in February 2017 at 5 places</p>

3. Training for women on Ward Sabha/Gram Sabha	Micro Planning <b>18-Mar-18</b>	Awareness campaigns regarding Micro Planning & camps on various subjects within the village like role & responsibilities of PRIs and community participation in ward sabha & Gram Sabha	Village wise campaign organized to make Importance of gram sabha & ward sabha & how effectively micro planning will support the ward sabha	It was suggested to ward members to develop micro plan for the ward with support of the community members & project team.  <b>Approx 6000 Community members got benefitted</b>
Training for husbands and male family members of Elected Women Representatives	Training organised on 11th Feb, 2018			<b>Approx 20 male members got benefitted</b>
Training for women on Ward Sabha/Gram Sabha was again organised on March 18, 2018	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>6000</b> community members benefited by the campaign at village level. ( <b>March30th 2017</b> )  The Resource Person was R K Sinha, Adviser State Election Commission (March 18, 2018)  28 PRIs benefited by the training

	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>6500</b> Community members benefited from pamphlets/handouts and posters
Re-formation of Federation	Group of active women from Chechar Panchayat were invited to be members of Federation to assist the PRIs in discharge of their roles focused on child marriage, dowry and sanitation	The group included Asha, Aanganwadi Sevika, educated women etc.	PRIs to benefit	Federation of 20 members formed on January 15, 2018
<b>Executive Director &amp; COO Visits</b>	<b>09.09.2017 , 10.09.2017 , 10.11.2017 and 27.03.2018</b>			
4. Monthly meeting with all staffs and chief functionary  5. Project Review	Monthly meeting with all staffs and chief functionary Executive Director & COO visited the project area and reviewed the progress of the project	Monthly meeting with all staffs and chief functionary Executive Director & COO visited the project area and reviewed the progress of the project		Chairperson, Executive Director & COO reviewed the progress of the project  Monthly Meetings were held at Patna  The State Project Manager and Programme Officer visited the project area
Bi annual meeting with PRI members, and community members to review the	<b>First Bi-annual Meeting is held on 12.09.2017 and second meeting held on 22.03.2018</b>	Focus was on strengthening the Panchayat through Federation		The members vowed to strengthen the Federation

conditions and progress of the project.	15th February 2018			
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#### **RESOURCE PERSON**

- Ms. Shahina Parveen – The Hunger Project
- Mr. R. k. Sinha- Adviser, State Election Commission, Former Secretary, Panchayati Raj Department



## **DATA OF BENEFICIARIES UNDER VARIOUS SCHEMES (IMPACT OF THE PROJECT IN 2017)**

1. **Gram Sabha- 3**
  - Date: August 15 2016, January 26, 2017 and October 2, 2017
  - Number of people present: Between 300-400
2. **Ward Sabha: 26 meetings**
3. **Indira Aawaas:** Allotted to 26 beneficiaries
4. **Toilet construction-** 771 houses. 180 out of 771 people have received money
5. **Total number of pension granted-** 1040 beneficiaries (widow, old age etc.)
6. **Gas connection-** 15 beneficiaries
7. **Mitti Bharai of road-** 4 roads have been completed
8. **Gram Kutchehrey-** 3 cases (related to land dispute) - All disposed

## **DATA OF BENEFICIARIES UNDER VARIOUS SCHEMES (IMPACT OF THE PROJECT IN 2018)**

Number of Beneficiaries of Swachh Bharat Mission (Open Defecation free) based on Baseline Survey conducted by the Ward Members- **123**

**7 Members** were nominated to the newly created **Implementation and ward provision committee**

### **Construction of toilets-**

Ward 1- 35

Ward 2- 34

Ward 3- 27

Ward 4- 50

Ward 5- 87

Ward 6- 90

Ward 7- 100

Ward 8- 40

Ward 9- 50

Ward 10- 42

Ward 11- 36

Ward 12- 80

Ward 13- 111

**Altogether 782 toilets were constructed and 344 people received payment**

Installation of lights-

12 lights in Ward 1

15 lights in Ward 2

10 lights in Ward 3

11 lights in Ward 4

13 lights in Ward 5

18 lights in Ward 6

01 light in Ward 7

20 lights in Ward 8

09 lights in Ward 9

22 lights in Ward 10

18 lights in Ward 11

18 lights in Ward 12

13 lights in Ward 13

**Altogether 180 lights were installed**

**Prepared a Factsheet for Bihar and Jharkhand on PWDVA 2005, CMPA 2006 supported by OXFAM**

**State Consultation organised on Single Women supported by Actionaid-**

**THE 16 DAYS CAMPAIGN 2017: TAKE ACTION AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE: "Leave No One Behind: End Violence against Women and Girls"**

The Equity Foundation is a strong advocate of approaches that end gender discrimination. It works to inform governments, community members and young women to end child marriage and dowry in their communities. Unless women, girls, men, and boys fully enjoy their human rights and are free from violence, advancement towards progress will fall short. Recognizing the unifying nature of one of the essential principals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the UNiTE Campaign by Equity Foundation will celebrate this year's overarching theme "Leave No One Behind: Ending Violence against Women and Girls" while underscoring its commitment towards reaching the most underserved first. For this reason, from November 25 till December, the campaign will continue to highlight specific Sustainable Development Goals through its Action themes by putting a spotlight on the implications and consequences of violence against women and girls. From November 25 through December, we will encourage all to lend their voice to the outcry. Make it known that we are aware of victims of abuse and that we stand with them – we all do. The campaign will conclude with organizing a One Day State Consultation to address Problems and Concerns of Single Women titled '**Identity of Single Women**'.





4 single women narrated their stories of being alone. They were honoured under the Little Women Strong personality category.



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. Quarterly issues of MANJARI were published

