



## OUR MISSION, VISION & HISTORY

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 8 Members Executive Committee, and officially registered under Societies Registration Act on 26th March 2003. *Our vision is* empowering women and girls, aiming for gender equality and the eradication of all forms of discrimination against them.

## APPROACH

Equity Foundation builds the capacities of rural and urban women to advance democratic values and processes. It strongly believes in ensuring basic rights and services to all of them, and thus works on addressing key women rights issues such as health, survival, protection, development, and participation. In order to reform the landscape of women empowerment in India, we engage with policy and opinion leaders through field projects, advocacy, campaigns research and publication.

## AREA OF WORK

<b>Empowerment Through Participation &amp; Education</b>  EF works to empower women, children, their families, schools, community stakeholders and duty bearers in-	<b>Protection From Violence</b> EF works to protect women and children from-	<b>Learning</b>  EF works to promote learning through Learning Resource Centre
Leadership Skills Women's Rights Child Rights <b>FOCUS AREA:</b> -Strengthening Democratic Governance Women's Rights and Safeguarding women from all forms of violence -Claiming education for every child -Gender Budget , -Health/nutrition, hygiene and sanitation - Education/Research, IEC, Publication, Documentation -Training, Internships -Workshops and advocacy campaigns	Domestic Violence & all other forms of violence Abuse Exploitation Child Labour Child Marriage <b>FOCUS AREA:</b> Women Helpline Centre in Panchayats Strengthening of laws (PWDVA 2005, PCMA 2006, POCSO, PCPNDT, Sexual Harassment Act 2013, The Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act of 1986, RTE, Panchayati Raj Act 2006 etc.) through awareness generation Campaigns and workshops Training Distribution of IEC Materials	Benefiting students by supplementing the learning process through training. Centre provides access to learning materials and serve as a peer learning centre <b>FOCUS AREA:</b> Reading activities: aim to sow reading habits Information search: search on internet and using references Centre offers a group of services to meet student needs, and these services can be developed according to their needs. These services are: guiding readers, references services, borrow out, copying and scanning and bibliographical services.

## PUBLICATIONS

Since 2014 Equity Foundation has also been publishing a quarterly Hindi Journal titled 'Manjari-stree ke mann ki' ([www.emanjari.com](http://www.emanjari.com)). It was conceptualised for raising issues related to women and society. It is registered under Department of Registration, GoI. The web URL is [www.emanjari.com](http://www.emanjari.com).

- \* Aahaar Bihar - Food Atlas of Bihar
- \* Mukhiya ki Diary
- \* Encyclopaedia of Gender Terminologies
- \* Women Struggle for Existence
- \* Gender & Budget
- \* Cartoons, Posters & Illustrations on various social issues

## PROJECT PARTNERS & DONORS

### FCRA:

UNDP-TAHA, Centre for World Solidarity (CWS), Association for World Solidarity (ASW), Save the Children, Action Aid, Catholic Bishop Conference of India (CBCI), CARE, TARU-Leading Edge, PLAN, OXFAM, Education Development Centre (EDC), DFID-PACS, Corstone Foundation.

### GOVERNMENT:

Planning Commission of India, TISS, Ministry of Women & Child Development (GoI), Women Development Corporation (GoB), Power Grid Corporation (GoB), Ministry of Youth & Culture, Bihar Rajya Pul Nirmaan Nigam (GoB), Sudha COMFED, Department of Art & Culture (GoB), Department of Tourism (GoB), Jeevika.

### CSR:

Sir Dorabji Tata and Allied Trusts, Sulabh International, International Development Enterprises of India (IDEI), Constella Futures, Power Transmission Company (GoB), Rajiv Gandhi Foundation (RGF).

## REGISTRATION

1. The Foundation is registered under Society Registration Act, 1860
2. 80 G
3. 12 A
4. PAN
5. Darpan ID (Niti Ayog)
6. Apple Benetivity Fund
7. FCRA
8. CSR1
9. RNI Registration for Hindi Magazine 'Manjari'

## ACTIVITIES

### 1. 'Capacity Building of Elected Women Panchayati Raj Representatives through advocacy for creating vibrant democratic constituencies of civil society'- Supported by Center for world solidarity

		OUTPUT INDICATORS	OUTCOME INDICATORS
<b>OBJECTIVE 1:</b>	<b>ACHIEVING KNOWLEDGE BUILDING</b>		
<b>ACTIVITY 1</b>	<b>Women Leadership Training</b>	a) Development of 50 page Training Module b) Training workshops and training imparted through a rich range of knowledgeable resource persons from the relevant fields c) All 34 ERs trained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Mukhiya has started attending the Panchayat meetings and attends office now.</li> <li>- Due to the improved understanding of the roles and responsibilities of elected women representatives <b>6 Ward members</b> are moving in their Wards and are hearing the problems of the community members.</li> <li>- Based on their knowledge of Panchayats and governance procedures a few of them are trying their best to channelize and direct issues raised related to Panchayats to the relevant line departments</li> </ul>
<b>ACTIVITY 2</b>	<b>Gender and Panchayat Resource Centres (GPRCs):</b>	a) 80 Handouts, pamphlets and <i>FAQs</i> and <i>How to Do</i> resource materials developed for the GPRC b) 50 IEC developed c) 1 Interactive Session organized with the help of expert and resource persons d) For the first time campaigns were organised on <b>Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security</b> through songs and posters—to understand their role on issues related to gender and climate change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Posters, pamphlets, booklets on various themes like women's leadership, health, Gram Sabha/Ward Sabha, NREGA, RTI and on information related to old Age and widow pensions, Anganwadi services displayed at Panchayat office, Sarpanch office, boundary walls of schools, nukkads, temples and Aanganwaadi centres etc</li> <li>- Since doubts of ERs (<b>8 GP and 10 GK women members</b>) were clarified in the Interactive Sessions to answer questions, they have started working actively in their Panchayat</li> <li>- Women leaders realised for the first time ever that something called 'climate change' was the cause of their sufferings in recent times and are now trying to advocate the relevance of the issue in their respective Wards</li> <li>- EWRs (<b>8 GP and 10 GK women members</b>) are trying to convince the community members to adopt the usage of cooking gas and weaning women away from firewood.</li> <li>- The Ward Members are trying to make cooking gas available in the villages</li> <li>- The Ward Members are trying to make the community realise the importance of storing food grains</li> </ul>

<b>OBJECTIVE 2:</b>	<b>CONFIDENCE BUILDING FOR ACTIVE ENGAGEMENT</b>		
<b>ACTIVITY 1</b>	<b>Helping to engage with justice issues:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 34 ERs (<b>especially 8 GP and 10 GK women members</b>) and community members are interacting with Gram Kutcherey Sarpanch</li> <li>- The Sarpanch and the Ward Panch are engaging with the victims and perpetrators in the GK.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Women are raising Issues related to social justice and gender justice in GK (<b>especially 10 GK women members</b>)</li> <li>- Nyaya Mitra (a law graduate) provided by the Government is giving advise on legal aspects to Sarpanch and panchs;</li> <li>- Police officers of local Thana are involved with supervision of Gram Kutchehrie</li> <li>- The Gram Kuchehrey is interacting with resident involved in dispute cases;</li> <li>- Necessary action in terms of referral to the concerned authorities is being taken in certain cases by the Sarpanch</li> </ul>
<b>OBJECTIVE 3:</b>	<b>EMPOWERMENT THROUGH ACTION: DEVELOPING LEADERSHIP</b>		
<b>ACTIVITY 1</b>	<b>SWEEP (is an extensive-pre election campaign)</b>	<p>SWEEP was rolled out 6 months prior to the next elections in a campaign mode:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Environment building measures for awareness generation was al taken up by organizing 20 Padyatras</li> <li>2. 100 posters, handbills distributed</li> <li>3. 12 nukkad naataks organized</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Women candidates became aware about election rules and procedures</li> <li>- Women actively participated in the election process</li> </ul>
<b>ACTIVITY 2</b>	<b>Supporting EWRs for activating and strengthening Standing Committees</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) 1 standing committee on Child, Women &amp; Social Justice activated</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 34 ERs (<b>especially 8 GP and 10 GK women members</b>) activated and strengthened the moribund Standing Committees on child women and social justice</li> <li>- EWRs (<b>8 GP and 10 GK women members</b>) take are playing lead roles as elected members in fulfilling the mandates of local governance</li> </ul>
<b>ACTIVITY 3</b>	<b>Supporting EWRs in ensuring that Gram Sabhas are held</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Gram Sabahs organized as per the act and rule</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gram Sabha is held periodically on the said date as per the act and rule</li> <li>- All 34 GP members participated in Gram Sabha and articulated their concerns and views</li> <li>- Regular follow-ups of the meeting of Gram Sabha being done by the PRIs</li> </ul>
<b>ACTIVITY 4</b>	<b>Supporting EWRs to monitor and improve delivery of government programmes</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) EWRs take active role in GP and Standing Committee bodies: through roles provided therein for monitoring the government programmes</li> <li>b) 34 ERs and especially the EWRs (<b>8 GP and 10 GK women members</b>)</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Knowledge gaps on government schemes (social security, food security, budgets &amp; accounts, livelihoods) addressed</li> <li>- 34 ERs take active part in GP and GK meetings and monitor the government programmes</li> </ul>

		participate in official review meetings and also conduct Panchayat level reviews of the programmes	
<b>OBJECTIVE 4:</b>	<b>TO HELP EWR S IN UNDERSTANDING THEIR GENDER ROLES AND PREVENTING GENDER BASED VIOLENCE</b>		
<b>ACTIVITY 1</b>	<b>Interactive gender sensitization sessions with male ERs and family members of EWRS</b>	<p>a) 2 Interactive meetings held</p> <p>b) Husbands of all EWRs participate</p> <p>c) <i>30 Awareness Generation Campaigns organized on :</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Social Audit</b></li> <li>- <b>PREVAC</b></li> <li>- <b>Gender and Climate Change</b></li> <li>- <b>Gram Sabha</b></li> <li>- <b>Sanitation</b></li> <li>- <b>Health</b></li> <li>- <b>Dowry</b></li> <li>- <b>Child Marriage</b></li> <li>- <b>Prohibition</b></li> <li>- <b>Social Security Schemes</b></li> <li>- <b>female feticide</b></li> <li>- <b>Domestic and other forms of violence</b></li> </ul> <p><i>Distribution of 80 IEC –</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ <b>Handouts</b></li> <li>→ <b>Padyatra</b></li> <li>→ <b>Posters</b></li> <li>→ <b>12 nukkad naataks organized</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gender Sensitisation Session for elected and other male members of the Panchayat help to desist Women from being proxy and the elected women members play their roles effectively</li> <li>- This project, will bring this often neglected dimension by getting special sensitisation sessions for men</li> <li>- An effective practical knowledge base among the ERs (<b>especially 8 GP and 10 GK women members</b>) on a continually evolving basis is developed</li> <li>- Increase in the electoral participation of women as ‘aware’ voters and as active candidates</li> </ul> <p>Women are challenging the government -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>≡ Using songs in activism</li> <li>≡ 1000 of women from the community are participating in climate change related activities</li> <li>≡ Women are demanding for supply of cooking gas</li> </ul>

### Activities and Results

**Project Outreach – No of villages & families covered (men, women and children caste wise):**

**No’s of villages: -3, Total Population: -11811**

**Note:** If necessary for the project, please extend the upper chart in order to include religious beliefs.

#### DETAILS OF PANCHAYAT –BAJITPUR SAIDAT

**Total Number of PRIs and community members to be covered by the Project in this Panchayat**

**(a) GP and GK Members**

<b>*Gram Panchayat Members</b>	<b>*Gram Kuchehrey Members</b>
<b>18 out of which 8 are women</b>	<b>16 out of which 10 are women</b>

**\*TOTAL- 34 which includes 1 Mukhiya, 1 Up Mukhiya, 2 Panchayat Samiti Members and 14 Ward Members of the Panchayat and 1 Sarpanch, 1 Up Sarpanch and 14 Panch of Gram Kuchehrey**

**(b) Covered Population and Households under Bajitpur Saidat Panchayat**

Summary Details Bajitpur Saidat of Panchayat					
Name Of District		Detailed data of Population in Panchayats/Villages			
VAISHALI					
S.NO.	Name of the Block / Panchayats	2011 Census Population			Total number of houses
		Female	Male	Total Population	
	Bidupur Block				
	Bajitpur Saidad (Panchayat)				
	<i>Villages (Village wise details can be seen on tables on next page)</i>				
1	Hasanchak	672	729	1401	287
2	Gobindpur	1485	1753	3238	570
3	Bajitpur Saidad	3309	3863	7172	1203
	<b>Grand Total of population</b>	<b>11811</b>			

**Impact of the equity foundation program for 2019-20**

Women from all section of the society have been mobilized and sensitized on the issue of good governance through strengthening women’s political participation in political process. Collectivization of cases and advocacy efforts is yet to be made ensured the involvement of wider community on the issues. We are aiming at collectivization of cases and advocacy to ensure the involvement of wider community on the issues.

- Equity Foundation has successfully established a direct relationship with the elected Panchayat members which has brought the issue of local self-governance to the forefront
- Prepared a small but strong cadre of women from the community who act as facilitators to spread the concept of local self-governance through free and fair election for creating vibrant democratic constituencies of civil society
- Raised the issue of women participation in a violence free zone through training and information dissemination regarding free and fair election
- For many first timers, who belonged to disadvantaged social backgrounds, sudden exposure to government programmes was quite intimidating.
- The community will have a clear understanding on the importance of electing the most deserving candidate

**2. PUBLICATION OF MAGAZINE**

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