

**Evaluation Report
of
Enabling Implementation of the Right to
Education Act through involvement of
Gram Panchayats, School Management
Forums and Local Communities in 10
Panchayat of Bihar**

Project No: 7416587

Implemented by:

M.V.Foundation

Reviewed By : IGSSS

Reviewed for: SKN

Executive Summary

The report is based on the field study, focus group discussions with staff, parents, PRI members, youth and community leaders. It provides information about the change and impact of the project among the children and other stakeholders and also gives suggestions for the improvement in the quality of the project. The evaluation has been conducted by Indo – Global Social Service Society (IGSSS) of the project title 'Enabling Implementation of the Right to Education Act through involvement of Gram Panchayats, School Management Forums and Local Communities'.

The organisation has started its intervention in 20th November 2007 by initiating residential bridge course centres under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan programme of Government of India. The organisation is still running four centres. Children in the age group of 11-14 are admitted who have never gone to schools and the course duration is for nine months in which children are taught syllabus till 5th standard. After that the children are admitted in 6th standard. SKN support has been started in June 1st 2010, for the education of school going children under Right to Education Act for three years.

Main objective of the project is to improve the child literacy in 16 Panchayat by implementing RTE through participation of panchayat members, parents and other stake holders.

The evaluator has observed the achievement of the project and also awareness among the parents, children and Panchayat members regarding the importance of education, rights of the children and awareness regarding their rights and entitlements.

1. About the Evaluation

The evaluation was conducted on the request of SKN on implementation of three years project. Main emphasis of evaluation was on the outcome and impact of the project and strategies adopted to achieve the desired results and objectives.

1.1. Objective of the Study

The objectives of the evaluation were

- To assess the achievements and impact made through the project.
- Understanding the capacity of the staff implementing the project.
- To assess the financial management system.
- Suggest areas for improvement if required.

1.2. Methodologies

Followings methodologies were adopted

- i. Interaction with the project staff
- ii. Meeting with parents, Panchayat members, youth group, SMC, NFCR and other community members.
- iii. Checking of project documents, record books and reports.

1.3. Evaluation Team Members

The evaluation team comprises

- i. Mr Zafar Khan, Executive, Partnership Management
- ii. Ritupon Gogoi, Manager, PQ

1.4. Person Contacted

Following persons were contacted with whom discussion on the project took place.

SL No	Name	Designation
1	Mr. T. Yadaiah	State coordinator
2	Mr. Shiv Ram	Programme Coordinator
3.	Volunteers	
4	Members of Child rights protection forum, School Management Forum, Panchayat Members local leaders.	

1.5. Dates of Field Visit

Following are the dates of field visit

Date	Work Schedule
11.06.2013	Anwar pur Panchayat meeting with CRPF, staff meeting
12.06.2013	Gurmmiya Panchayat, meeting with Youth Group. Meeting with children on the world Day against child labour, Meeting with community and parents at karonia Panchayat
13.06.2013	Bhatauli Panchayat, Meeting with the School Management Forum.

1.6. Expected Results of the Evaluation

The evaluation tried to explore the following points to understand the impact of the project.

Results Achievement: The evaluation aimed at the achievement of the results of the project at impact, outcome and output level stated in the project.

Methodology of the project: The evaluation assessed the effectiveness of the methodologies or strategies, activities, processes in implementing the project.

Sustainability: The evaluation analysed the sustainability of the project at community level and organization level.

1.7. Limitations of the Evaluation

There are two limitations.

- i. Not able to meet government school teachers which could have added value to the report.
- ii. Not able to see financial management of the organisation, as they are in their head office at Hyderabad.

2. About the Project

2.1. Project Title: Enabling Implementation of the Right to Education Act through involvement of Gram Panchayats, School Management Forums and Local Communities in 10 Panchayat of Bihar

2.2. Project Number: 7416587

2.3. Description of the Project:

Aim of the project is to improve the literacy among the children through implementing RTE action by involving Panchayat members and their capacity building. To achieve the aims CRPF (child rights protection forum which is the forum of local people of the villages), and SMC (school management Forum) were formed who monitor the regularity of children & teachers in the schools and quality of the education.

2.3.1. Goal

To create a social atmosphere in favour of children's right to education and strengthen the education system to deliver its commitments in accordance with the RTE Act by building capacities of Gram Panchayats and School Management Forums to implement the Act.

2.3.2. Objectives

The objectives of the project are

- Enhance the capacities of 10 Gram Panchayats in Bihar to protect child rights.
- Strengthen the public education system through the involvement of the Gram Panchayats to enforce the RTE Act.

2.3.3. Project Area:

The project has been implemented in 16 Panchayat of Lalganj block of Vaishali district. There are 21 Panchayat in Lalganj. Vaishali district came into existence in 1972. Earlier it was a part of Muzaffarpur district. The Vaishali district is a part of Tirhut division and the district headquarters are at Hajipur town. Literacy rate is 49.4% among them female is 38%, male is 63%.

M.V. Foundation (MVF) began as an institution and research on issues relating to social change and transformation in 1981. But in 1991 it began focusing on abolition of child labour and making education available to all children. It has, to its credit, the achievement of having helped over 600,000 children move away from labour and go to school. Today, it is the largest NGO in India with presence in 125 districts across the country.

Initially the project implemented 10 Panchayats of Lalganj Block of Vaishali Dist. In 6 Panchayats the project has been running form only six months which needs lots of work. Total 21 Panchayat are in Lalganj Block and organisation is working in 16 Panchayats. The area is fertile and aagriculture is the main activity and banana, paddy, wheat, maize and lentils are the major crops. Production of Banana and Leachy is also good. But land is in the hands of high cast people. Low cast people are having very pieces of land or do not have land; they work on the others lands. The average annual income is hardly Rs. 40,000/- and children are 2-4 in the family. School going children were less before starting of the project, those who were going, they were going only for the Mid –Day meal. They were not having books and pencil etc. Ratio of teachers in the schools is 50-1. Quality of education is low.

3. Analysis of the Findings

Evaluation is based on three main components of the project. This was identified after studying the project proposal and documents available with the evaluators...

3.1. School Management Committee

School Management Committee (SMC) is the main component of the project which is also under RTE Act. M.V. Foundation has initiated the activity by involving the panchayat members. Forum is consisting of 7 members - Head Master, ward member (Panchayat member) and 5 parents. The objective of the Forum is to do social auditing, construction and maintenance of school building and monitoring of fund utilisation. It also looks after teachers/children attendance and quality of education given to the students . The school bank account has also been maintained by this Forum. Secretary of the Forum is from the parents. Head Master and secretary is the signatory of the bank account. And 50% of the Forum members are women.

SMC monitors the functioning of the schools. Organization has formed 50 SMCs. It has contributed in creating awareness on the importance of the education of children. Parents, expressed that leaning skills of the children have been improved. Attendance of teachers and children are regular. Some places school buildings have also been constructed. Out of 3110 children 2174 children are enrolled in the schools. The drop out cases has been reduced. If any drop out case comes then the SMC take action and meet parents and pressurise them to send the child to school. The parents said that they are satisfied with the performance of their children. The hygienic condition of the school and children has been improved.

Critical Observations:

It has been observed that lack of livelihood or weak economic conditions prevents the parents to send their children to schools. This aspect has not been given much importance. Neither sufficient resources have been allocated nor strategies developed to address livelihood issues.

3.2. Child Rights Protection Forum

M.V. Foundation has made Child Rights Protection Forum in each panchayat in which youth, ward members, parents and community leaders are the members. Around 20-25 members are in the forum. The forum's main objectives are to engage with the school, create awareness on cleanliness and gender. It emphasises on sending girls to the school. The CRPF involved with enrolment campaign also. It meets on every month but if necessary meet for more than once.

All child protection forums have conducted 117 meeting in which 2030 members have participated. The organisation has organised trainings for the CRPF's on importance of education.

Critical Observations:

- The Forum members have less knowledge on the other rights of the children. Children are malnourished and members are not aware of the same. They are not much aware of other issues of concern for their villages which are directly having impact of their child health and growth & development.
- CRPF are also not aware of rights and entitlement and duties of Panchayat towards their villages.

3.3. Youth Groups

A youth group has been formed in each of the Panchayat. There are 20-30 members in each youth group. Total 146 meetings have been organised in which 2551 youth participated. The group members are mostly studying in various colleges. They are intelligent and energetic. Youth are working for the child rights, protecting child from the child labour, try to prevent drop out cases. They visit schools to see the attendance of the children and teachers as well as quality of education.

Critical Observations

- The groups are not aware of all the rights of children. They are working only on the educational rights not aware of all child rights.
- They are not thinking of their own development and also not aware of rights/entitlements and schemes which are available for their development. Members are not clear about their role and duties.

3.4. Financial Management

The organisation keeps all its accounts at Hyderabad. On monthly basis financial documents are sent to Head Office. The coordinator sends request of funds every month to Hyderabad and head office transfer the money at the local bank. In the local bank State project coordinator and programme coordinator are the signatories. As per the request from the staff they give advances to the staff which they clear within the month. The organisation has written HR, Finance and child policy. Cheque payment is must for more than ₹ 5,000/- payment but it is also depending on the situation.

The organisation is not maintaining fixed stock register. Active youth group members are recruited as staff in the organisation. No appointment letter has been issued to them. So they do not have proper job description. Only state coordinator and programme coordinator have appointment letters. Salary is paid on cash.

3.5. Human Resource

There are 18 staff in the project. Out of which 16 are community volunteers. Mr. T. Yadaiah (state coordinator) is MSW and has more than 15 years experience in development sector especially education of children. Other Mr. Shiv Ram is a graduate and has experience of 10 years in the development sector. The volunteers are selected from the youth group which have been formed in every panchayat. They are energetic, young and dynamic. They have understanding of child education and their rights. Seven trainings have been conducted for the staff they are on the RTE, community mobilisation, child labour, self development and quality of education. The staff understands objective of the project. But they have limited understandings on various other needs and rights of children. They need specific training so that they will be able to work on the overall development of the child and for the family.

State coordinator and programme coordinator have good understanding of education and strategy to work on the issues related to child education. List of the present staff is also provided.

S.No	Name	Qualification	Designation	Working in the Gram Panchayat Name
1	Rakesh Kumar	B.A	Volunteer	Bhatauli Bhagwan
2	Randhir Kumar	B.Com	Volunteer	Kastakan Bujurge
3	Manju Kumari	B.A	Volunteer	Anwar Pur
4	Putul Kumari	B.A	Volunteer	Ghataro "D"
5	Manoj Kumar	I.A	Volunteer	Pausa Madan Singh
6	Amar nath Choudhary	M.A.I	Volunteer	Basanta Jahanabad
7	Anjna Kumar	B.A	Volunteer	Shital Bhakuhahar
8	Pankaj Kumar	B.Sc	Volunteer	Etwarpur Eisaula
9	Rajendra Choudhary	I.Sc	Volunteer	Ghataro "M"
10	Laljeet Kumar	B.A II	Volunteer	Gurmlyan
11	Rafat Khanam	B.A.I	Volunteer	Laxmi Narayanpur
12	Chandra Bhushan Kr.	B.Com	Volunteer	Rikhar
13	Satish Kumar	B.A	Volunteer	Purkhauli
14	Sanjeet Paswan	I.A	Volunteer	Shahdullahpur
15	Vijay Kr. Ram	B.A	Volunteer	Sirasa Biran
16	Umesh Kumar	I.A	Volunteer	Kharauna

4. Project Monitoring

The organization has developed its own monitoring system.

- On monthly basis action plan and budget prepare by coordinator and field staff.
- Fortnightly meeting at the field office has also been conducted in which project achievement and outcome are shared and discussed.
- Each staff prepares monthly reports which are complied by the Coordinators.

5. Achievements of the Project

The achievement of the project is evaluated against the stated goal, objectives and corresponding outcome level results. The stress is on progress made towards the project goal and achievement of the project objectives and its results.

5.1. Project Goal

To create a social atmosphere in favour of children's right to education and strengthen the education system to deliver its commitments in accordance with the RTE Act by building capacities of Gram Panchayats and School Management Forums to implement the Act.

The project has generated a positive environment for the education of the school going children. Before the intervention of the project parents were not concern of the education. Now, behaviour of whole village community has been changed; they are keenly interested to send their children schools. Panchayat members are working with parents to improve the quality of education.

5.2. Project Objectives

Each objective has been analysed as per the outcome.

Objective No. 1:-

Various trainings have been conducted to enhance the capacity of the gram Panchayat to project the child rights. 98 meetings have also been organised to review the condition of education system and corrective measures have been taken during the meetings. Now, the ward members are also in School management Committee of 16 Panchayats. They are aware of their responsibilities and involve in monitoring of the education systems of their schools.

Objective No.2:-

Strengthen the public education system through the involvement of the Gram Panchayats to enforce the RTE Act.

Improvement in the Public education system has been significantly observed after the involvement of Panchayat, as the school buildings are constructed; toilets facilities have been provided in the schools. Panchayat are aware of shortage of teachers in the schools. Panchayat members are keen in improvement of the quality of education, as some the parents have views that quality of education still not up to the mark. Schools are having games material and important events like Independence Day, children day are celebrating in the schools.

6. Recommendations:

Following recommendations has been given to the organisation to improve the quality of the project.

- It has been observed that livelihood system of the people is weak and due to this parents are sending their children to work. It is important for the organization to work on integrated approach for the improvement of overall situation of the villages by sensitising about their rights and entitlement.
- The staff of the organisation is not having sufficient knowledge and understanding about the other issues of children like health & nutrition, psychological needs, growth & development etc. They need training on these issues.
- The staff and the youth group both do not have knowledge of government schemes and entitlements. They need training on the same.

- Staff, youth and CRPF do not have full knowledge on the Panchayat Raj. The Panchayats are getting crores of rupees in the name of social, economic, health & hygiene issues of the villages but these formed groups do not have idea about those schemes. It is necessary to give them trainings so that they are able to know their Panchayat duties and demand for their right which directly impact on the life of their children.
- Schools teachers are not qualified. They are not having teachers trainings certificates/degrees because of that quality of education is the main issue. It's been suggested to organise a training programme in association with PRATHAM organisation. So that teachers will use teaching methods and quality of education will improve.
- It has been suggested to strengthen youth groups who may take the responsibility to run the project activities. Leadership training and some other training should be provided to youth groups. Sub-Forums will be made of these groups who will take different type of responsibility like one may take school monitoring, other may take health issue Forum, fund raising Forum (Initially will take Rs, 2/- contribution from each family to run the project activities). The groups should also be registered and the organisation will give slowly responsibilities to these youth groups.
- Quality of Mid-Day meal in the school is also a major concern of the parents as well as SMC. Sometimes meal is not hygienic which resulted in illness of the children. It has been suggested whenever such food is provided, it should be returned. Strict monitoring is required for this. SMC and youth groups should be vigilant on this aspect.