

NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2023

Orientation on Safeguarding Policy: On 2nd October, Mr. Abhishek Sameer Xalxo and Mr. Manish Toppo conducted a half-a-day orientation program on Safeguarding Policy in the School. There were 72 participants (Centre-in-Charges and Key staff of Sponsorship Centres) from Ranchi, Khunti, Gumla and Simdega.



Participants learnt the meaning of Safeguarding, difference between Child Protection and Child and Vulnerable Safeguarding, importance of Safeguarding Policy for their respective institution. They also learnt that it is the concern of our Universal Church that our Institution be serious in creating

safe environment for the children as well as vulnerable adults. Resource Persons said that Pope Francis very much concerned about Safeguarding Policy to be in our

institution, because, in the past, there was so much abuse in our institution and unless we seriously take steps to stop all these abuse our Institutions will not be a safe place to work. They also discussed 'Who are Sub-recipients, Service Providers and Suppliers'. Resource persons went on discussing about the Key prohibited behaviours under safeguarding policy. Then they went on discussing about different abuses like Physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, exploitation, neglect, prohibited conduct towards children, and workplace harassment and asked them to give at least two examples of all these abuses. Finally, team discussed about the format of an agreement/oath to be taken by each staff. With this orientation program came to an end.



Relevance of KSP in our program: On 4th October, Fr. Bipin Pani and Mr. Walter Z

Kerketta conducted a half-a-day session on Relevance of KSP in our program for the Bihar Forum. 26 participants were there for this workshop. Fr. Bipin started the session asking them the question;

So far what has been our approach in the name of Development/Social Work? Was it Charity / Welfare approach, Development approach or Empowerment approach that of forming SHGs or taking Rights based approach? In doing so what have we achieved? Now what do we find in the community; NGO led? Helpless? Unorganized? Dependent on NGO? Selfish?



Further he said that situation demands that our program should be Community Driven. Programme should be based on local existing assets. It should promote unity / togetherness. We should work through and with existing structures and leaders and there should be co-investment.

Then talking about Bihar Regional Perspective Planning, he asked the participants following questions; What do they understand by Safe Migration? How do they want to do it? What do they understand

by Elimination of Trafficking? What do they understand by Environmental Protection? What do they understand by Communal Harmony? What do they understand by Capacity Building of whom and on what? Then he went to show how all these thrust areas could be approached through Key Strategic Pillars of Caritas



India namely **'Empowering Animation', 'Dialogue', 'Volunteerism'** and **'Sharing community'**. He started with 'Dialogue' saying Is Dialogue necessary? Whom should we dialogue? And What should be the Objective of our Dialogue? He said Dialogue is "By the People", "For the People", "With the People" and "Of the People". He then gave an example for Dialogue with the poor, dialogue with Duty Bearer and Dialogue with Nature. Then he went on to explain 'Empowering Animation', where he said 'Empowering Animation' is in fact the approach

of Community led development, where people take the lead role. All the key decisions are made by the community. NGOs play the role of facilitator to create an environment and build the capacity of the community to critically think, make decision as well as invest for their development. Then he spoke about 'Sharing Community'. He said the without sharing community we can think of an actual development of any community. He cited various examples by which a community can pool resources for their development. Finally, quoting Mahatma Gandhi, he said 'Be the Change you wish to see in the world'. He said that is volunteerism. He gave a few examples of Volunteerism.

Training for members of SHGs, Gram Sabha and PRI leaders: On 12th and



13th October a

training on Mother and Child Care was conducted at Barhet and Amrapara. There were altogether 95 participants. The purpose of training was to deepen the understanding of field staff on health care for pregnant women, lactating mother and the child 0 – 2 years age group. At the same time, it was to link program-beneficiaries with the Government supported health program meant for them. During the training participants were told about the factors that caused dropouts and left outs, factors responsible for affecting Institutional delivery and Ante-Natal Check-ups, Importance of timely Vaccination and Ante-Natal Check-ups, importance of Institutional Deliveries, Colostrum feeding, the role of beneficiaries, the role of the community leaders and the role of SHG members. The SHG leaders, Gram Sabha Members and PRI leaders were suggested to do the followings in their respective village:

- i. To ensure that in the agenda of SHGs meeting the issues of Mother and Child Health care is included.
- ii. To ensure that every mother in-law accompany brides for registration in VHSND centres for ANC
- iii. To facilitate pregnant women and her in-laws to plan and prepare them for Institutional Delivery.
- iv. To accompany SAHIYA in visiting at home minimum of 5 times to the 'New Mothers' within the span of 15 days from the day after the Institutional delivery. And if Delivery is 'Home Delivery', 'New Mothers' must be visited minimum of 5 times from the day of delivery itself.
- v. To make Mother in-law and the 'new mothers' understand the importance of Colostrum feeding and make sure that colostrum is fed to new born child.
- vi. To make sure that Mother of a very small child should avoid travelling outside
- vii. To make sure that every lactating mother carries MCP Card (Mother and Child Protection Card) so that vaccination could be done even if child is out of her/his birth place.
- viii. Motivate adolescents and their mother to access 'Savitri Bai Fule Yojana'

Campaign Against Child Marriage: On 16th October, the partners of SIGN, joined Kailash Satyarthi Foundation in the campaign against Child Marriage.



On this occasion 21 partner schools of SIGN in Ranchi, Khunti, Gumla and Simdega made a pledge during their respective School Assembly saying “I pledge to take every step against child marriage, and any child marriage or any abuse including child labour and child sexual abuse in my community in my neighbourhood and community is reported, I will raise my voice against all these and voice for children’s education.