# **Annual Progress Report**

April,2016 To March,2017



# HUMAN WELFARE ASSOCIATION VARANASI

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

HWA is one of the premier organizations of the Eastern U.P which is engaged in different activities for upliftment of poor and marginalized communities for their socio economic and political environment. It involve in the implementation of various programs through community participation and organized several training programmes, on the issue of Child Rights, quality education in the schools, school sanitation hygiene education, education to sustainability, child labor and trafficking issues, IPR- GI registration of handloom products, Gender issues, Communal harmony involved in the advocacy on the child rights, basic educations, handloom, handicraft, weavers, artisans, women empowerment and future energy.

HWA has become instrumental in the field of, women empowerment through SHGs, weavers upliftment thorough promotion of handloom products. Recently the current projects which are functioning in the project area focusing the above the issues has bring the significant changes in the field area for example the community development project supported by DS group implemented at Sajoi village targeting Dalit and Muslim community of weavers has brought positive results a lot of girls have been trained under vocational training center through which 28 girls has been passed and started working at their homes. Information and computer center running under the community development project is providing the technical education and priceless information regarding the Government schemes and jobs to the students.

Involved in the implementation of various programs through community participation and implemented various projects on the issue of Child Rights, Girl child education, basic education, School Sanitation Hygiene Education, Health & Family Welfare, Diarrhea Management, Basic Education To Sustainability, Child Labor & Child Trafficking issues, Vocational Training initiatives with girls, Women Economic Empowerment. Gender issues, Communal harmony, Involved in the Advocacy on Child Rights, Handloom, Handicraft, Weavers, Artisans, Marginalized Farmers, Women literacy initiative and Future Energy issues is also focus of organization. Facilitating Going Green project at Varanasi for handloom sector with 5000 weaves and artisans. Involved in launching event of USTTAD, Ministry of Minority Affairs, and GOI and facilitated in product development through NID & NIFT in Varanasi with the artisans in USTTAD scheme.

**The Organization General Secretary** – Dr. Rajani Kant has interacted with Prof. Amartya Sen - Noble Prize winner, Hon'ble President of India – Dr.APJ Abdul Kalam, Director General, WTO, Mr. Pascal Lamy, UNCTAD Secretary General –Dr. Supachai, Ambassador of Philippines to India - Mrs. Laura Quiambao Del Rosario, President-Asian Development Bank, Director General – Asian Development Bank, Dy. Chairman-Planning Commission, India; President of FICCI; Finance Minister of Indonesia; President of Mexico and various International dignitaries, various Cabinet Ministers of Central & State Govt., including senior officials on developmental issues at policy level in various programs.

The organization is proud for the empanelment by Tata Institute of Social Science, Mumbai for the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

The organization, Human Welfare Association, General Secretary Dr.Rajani Kant has participated in International Programs in Abroad:

- > Study Tour to Indonesia, Bali and Singapore under the Technical Cooperation Training Programme "To Study Credit and Micro Enterprise Development from 20 August to 2 Sept., 2000 sponsored by The British Council and Govt. of INDIA, Ministry of HRD, in the field of Self-Help Groups.
- > "Rural tourism as micro entrepreneurship development for the livelihood of rural women" international workshops organize by Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of Israel

from 29<sup>th</sup> August to 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2005 at **HAIFA**, **Israel.** Participated as India Representative.

- ➤ Participated in International conference on Child Rights, Child participation at Katmandu, Nepal with the 2 children from community (as North India Representative) organizes by Save the Children Sweden from 6 to 9 June, 2006.
- ➤ Participated in International conference on India-Turkey-CIS Business Forum August 24-25, 2010 Istanbul, Turkey and India Pavilion in Izmir International Fair August 27-September 5, 2010 Izmir.
- ➤ Participated as a Speaker in the World Future Energy Summit 2012 (WFES) at Abu Dhabi from 16 19 January,2012
- ➤ Participated as a Speaker in the Asian Development Bank Annual Meet at India Greater Noida from 2-5 May, 2013
- ➤ Participated in World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Conference at Geneva, Switzerland from 5<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> October,2015 on the issue of GI Registered IPR product of the India Make In India event.
- ➤ Dr. Rajani Kant, GI Expert has awarded for National IP Award-2017 for best facilitation of GI and Post GI work in the country. The trophy, certificate has given by Hon'ble Minister of Commerce and Industries Ms.Nirmala Sitharaman, in a grand function on 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2017 at Hotel Lalit, New Delhi.

The Human welfare Association is working for the upliftment of the handloom weavers, artisans, since last 24 years in the Varanasi and allied districts of Eastern U.P. Human welfare association is not only indulged itself for development of marginalized community through various initiatives but also took a strong step towards saving the ancient handicraft & culture by becoming the Registered Proprietor of GI – IPR.

1.5 million artisans and weavers with all related stakeholders has get legal protection and promotion of traditional craft for livelihood with Rs.18500 crore annual turnover from all 8 GI Registered Intellectual Property Right products.

Few successful initiatives has started after getting GI Registration in this geographical area mainly in 5 surrounding districts of Varanasi.

The list of given below related to GI Registered (Geographical Indication)

- 1. Banaras Brocade and Sarees
- 2. Handmade carpet of Bhadohi,
- 3. Banaras Gulabi Meenakari,
- 4. Varanasi Wooden Lacquerware & Toys,
- 5. Mirzapur Handmade Dari
- 6. Nizamabad Black Pottery
- 7. Banaras Metal Repousee craft,
- 8. Banaras Glass Beads

## In final stage of getting GI Registration

- 9. Ghazipur hand-woven Wall hanging –
- 10. Varanasi Soft Stone undercut work
- 11. Chunar Sand Stone

Project Title: Sustainable Options for Uplifting Livelihood (SOUL II)

Project Area: Silk, Dari and Carpet Weavers in Varanasi district (10 villages in Araziline, Sewapuri & Bhadohi block).

### Description of the activities and the processes followed against each objectives

The occupational association of the Caste is the key characteristic of the India society. Handloom weaving is among such occupations practised by specific castes of people in different parts off India. The handloom sector occupies a district and unique place in the Indian economy. It is the largest generator of non-farm rural employment. The consequences of handloom crisis are worse in Varanasi and nearby districts of eastern U.P. In last six months HWA raised the issue of livelihood insecurity and challenges of weavers among politicians, social activists, media and scholars.

The yarn prices, completion from power mills, problem regarding regular order and supply of the raw materials and delays in the payment of wages forced the weaver to shift into the Masterweave system which is exploitative system. The Master Weaver decides the amount of production, type of product, time of production and the wage to the weaver.

**Awareness Meetings:** All together 15 awareness meeting conducted in six villages of Araziline and Sewapuri blocks of Varanasi and Bhadohi district. These meetings were based on awareness, mobilization, orientation and sensitization for proper utilization of existing Govt. schemes related to the weavers and artisans of project intervened villages. The important schemes through which the community benefitted were –

" Ujwala Gas connection, Lohia Awas, Mudra Loan, CCL of SHGs member from Banks, Artisans Cards, Samajwadi Pension, Handloom Mark".

**Skill Development Training:** 120 girls trained under the objective of skill development. Out of 120 girls, 20 girls have trained under trade of Zari-zardozi, 40 girls for Saree weaving and 60 girls for Tufted and Knotted Carpet weaving. Most of the trained girls are engaged with related trades and earning good money related to their livelihood.

**Design Development:** Through project objective HWA supported Master Weaver for design development for Carpet, Dari, Embroidery and Banaras hand woven products. The Master weavers developed 14 beautiful designs. The developed designs liked by the producers. Five producers ordered for the same design products.

SHG Management & Skill Development Training: 4 SHG management and skill development training were conducted during past financial year. The training was based on –

- (i) Income Generation,
- (ii) Leadership Quality Development

The SHG's are not only protecting their livelihood interests but also protecting their families and the groups are fighting against social evils like trafficking, money landing, child marriage and education.

**Weavers Collectives:** Weaver's Federations is backbone of weaver's project supported by IGSSS. This federation is comprehensives and in process of gradual development. The federation is directly involved with weavers rights, advocacy and lobbying. In recently concluded assembly election in Uttar Pradesh.

**Advocacy Policy making:** For promotion and production of handloom products, the Saree weavers including 8 G.I. products and their producers took part in MSME exhibition held in Chandpur Industrial area of Varanasi. Sharing the dais Dr. Rajani Kant, Project Director addressed the participants and said that "Marketing is the key to success" of any enterprise and it is more relevant in regard to handmade products. This sector is characterized by absence of strong brand presence in the market and also largely unorganized marketing network as large enterprises. The exhibition was held on 27 and 28<sup>th</sup> February,2017, the Chief Guest was Shri Nitish Ramesh Gokaran, Commissioner-Varanasi.

The project team of weaver's project took part in workshop on importance of IPR and G.I. This workshop was organized by Progress Harmony Development (PHD), important guests were Mr. V.K. Verma, Dy. Director MSME-DI, Varanasi and Kanpur. This workshop over viewed of all forms of Intellectual Property Rights and its importance like Patents, Copyrights, Trademarks, Geographical Indication, Designs, Trade secrets etc. The dignitaries sharing the dais were of the view that IPR, Trademarks, copyrights, G.I. and trade secrets have assumed significant importance in the face of changing environment. Dr. Rajani Kant said that GI of 8 handmade products including Banaras Saree and Bhadohi Carpet are a milestone for Varanasi. He further told that there is an emergent need for enterprises and professionals to systematically consider the shops required for protecting, managing and enforcing their Intellectual Property, So as to get the best possible commercial results from its ownership.

**Media Advocacy:** .Fourth pillar the electronic and print media visited the project area during last financial yer and highlighted the achievements of HWA. As a result to this the policy Makers and Govt. officials, Govt. departments and Banks are standing by the initiatives takes by the HWA.

**Regional Level Policy Advocacy Workshop:** On 24<sup>th</sup> of March a Regional level Policy Advocacy workshop with the state alliance representatives and key stakeholders, buyers, producers and weavers everyone unanimous about effective strategies for the benefits of Artisans and weavers. An appropriate policy framed and very soon it will be submitted to the related departments of Govt. of India and Govt. of U.P., 115 stakeholders took part in regional level policy advocacy workshop.

## **Achievements of last financial year:**

(i) Total No. of Awareness Meetings : 15

(ii) Skill development training to : 120 Girls

(iii) Design developed : 12
(iv) SHG Management & Skill Development Trng. : 04
(v) Regional Level Advocacy Workshop : 01
(vi) Weavers Federation Training : 04
(vii) Number of SHG linked with Bank : 11
(viii) Number of SHGs : 16

#### Meeting with Govt. Officials & Bankers:

One meeting was organized by HWA at Araziline block. The meeting was presided by CDO and DDM-NABARD, Bank Managers of intervened village took part in this meeting. The motive of the meeting was to aware Bank managers about Govt. schemes for weavers and poor's.

## **Project: Going Green**

## Supported by: AIACA-SWITCH ASIA, New Delhi

#### PROJECT SUMMARY:

The Project focusing the upliftment and development of marginalized weaver and artisans are running as per the parameters of the project. Majorly, two blocks, Kashi Vidyapeeth (Lohta, Kotwa, Mangalpur clusters) and Arjailine (Sajoi) is being covered through the project. a lot of activities from baseline survey to capacity building trainings are organized..

India Handloom brand has been launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on the occasion of the first National Handloom Day on August 7, 2015. The India Handloom brand is an initiative for branding of high quality handloom products with zero defects and zero effect on the environment. It would differentiate high quality handloom products and help in earning trust of customers by endorsing their quality in terms of raw materials, processing, embellishments, weaving design and other quality parameters and by ensuring social and environmental compliances in their production. The India Handloom brand initiative is intended to bring the following benefits to various stakeholders of the handloom sector:

- ✓ Handloom products with the premium India Handloom brand would be differentiated from other products in terms of quality.
- ✓ Through the brand, the customer will be assured that the product quality is high because of proper texture, use of good quality yarns and dyeing with safe dyes which are free from banned amines.
- ✓ Bulk buyers and exporters will be able to source quality branded fabrics as per their designs.
- ✓ Weavers will be able to get bulk orders and higher wages by interacting directly with the market.
- ✓ Weaver entrepreneurs and other manufacturers will take up production and marketing of quality handloom fabrics in bulk within and outside the country.
- ✓ Ministry of Textiles will actively promote the brand through media campaigns to raise awareness among manufacturers as well as consumers and create demand for products with the India Handloom brand.

Various running schemes of the central government and its implementation through state government focused on the new schemes of block development under nation handloom development program and functionality as well as services of the CFCs (Common Facility Centres).

- To develop the handloom products and market for the specific market.
- This approach is flexible as per the need and requirements of the clusters.
- Money is being transferred directly to the beneficiaries' or implementing agencies bank account

#### **Major Activities as a Glance:**

- **>** Base line survey:
- > Monthly meeting of SHG
- > Training and capacity building of SHG
- > Social Entitlements
- ➤ Village level camps
- ➤ A consultation with SME

**Skill Development of handloom weavers through National Skill Qualification Certification:-** A skill is being developed in terms of technicality and entrepreneurship to the handloom weavers. Weavers get the training in weaving, designing and dying. The youth weavers get the chance to be trained with technical and managerial prudence in their own trade under the Handloom Entrepreneurship Certification program.

To access the financial support for the weavers and artisans accessing the benefits of MUDRA of worth Rs 50000/- to 48 weavers each.

## **Report in Tabular Form:**

Number of Awareness meetings	Male	Female	Total
376	854	3858	4712

Activities	No of beneficiaries					
	Male	Female	Total			
New Bank Account Opening	259	357	616			
Electricity Subsidy Application	16	0	16			
Weaver Identity Card	432	86	518			
Weaver Credit Card	9	01	10			
Artisan card	406	309	715			
ADHAR card	216	197	413			
Ration Card (PDS)	4	228	232			
Handloom Mark	4	0	4			
Resham Dhaga Pass-book	44	3	47			
Mudra Bank Loan beneficiaries	79	23	102			
Weaver ID Insurance Renewal	29	19	48			
Ujjwala Yojana for cooking Gas beneficiary-	0	26	26			
GI Authorised User Certificate	75	0	75			
Old Age Pension	30	8	38			
Samajwadi Pension	23	16	39			
Widow pension	0	4	4			
Bahubudi Fund Lantern Yojana	12	0	12			
Grand total						

**Formation of SHGs-** Number of 60 SHGs is functional with their regular activity of saving and loaning as per their needs. With this post GI initiative was taken organizing the POST GI workshop. 07 new SHGs formed and are functional. Total 48 SHGs Bank account has been opened in the Banks.

**Monthly meeting of SHGs:-** Regular monthly meetings with various 70 SHGs was held with their scheduled monthly saving system. The process to open their bank accounts in the bank was started with basic preparation and operations. Number of 50 women from 60 SHGs has been oriented to on formation of SHGs federation.

**Refresher on Federation orientation:** - On 23<sup>th</sup> Dec 2016 refresher training cum orientation on the strengthening of Federation was held at Lohta with 90 identified women representatives of 60 SHGs

A State Level Consultation for Green-Eco-Friendly Status to Handloom & Handicraft in Uttar Pradesh on 28-12-2016 at Hotel Varanasi Palace, Varanasi: a state level consultation cum workshop under Going Green project was organized at Varanasi participating nearly 100 related Stakeholders from various 10 districts of eastern Uttar Pradesh including direct SMEs linked with the project.

**Post GI workshop:-** On 5-11-16, a Post GI workshop held with 75 SMEs/Master weavers at Hotel Clark, Varanasi in the presence of various stakeholders and chief guest, Hon'ble Rita Teaotia, Secretary Commerce, Govt of India. It has been very specific to design the strategies for making parameters of post initiatives. With this 75 authorized users got their GI certificates and a short movie of 5 minutes on GI was launched as well as a catalogue of registered GI products was released.

On 15.11.2016, one-day training on "Occupational Health and Safety" was organized in HWA for SMEs/Master weavers/dyers identified under the Going Green Project. Number of 40 participants attended the training in the mode of active participation. Dr. Ashish Mittal from Delhi was the resource person for the training. It has been very exclusive training cum orientation program for the handloom weaving cluster of the Varanasi.

**Post GI workshop:-** On 5-10-2016, a Post GI workshop held with 75 SMEs/Master weavers at Hotel Clark, Varanasi in the presence of various stakeholders and chief guest, Hon'ble Rita Teaotia, Secretary Commerce, Govt of India. It has been very specific to design the strategies for making parameters of post initiatives. With this 75 authorized users got their GI certificates and a short movie of 5 minutes on GI was launched as well as a catalogue of registered GI products was released.

**Orientation on Formation of Federation:-** With the aim to provide an orientation on formation of federation, an orientation cum capacity building training session was held on 28-09-16 with identified 50 members of 60 SHGs at HWA resource center.

**Group exercise and Flow chart presentation:** - The women were divided into 5 groups to do exercise on the need, importance and structure of the federation and after 30 minute exercise they presented it to all. This presentation made an important role to decide the structure and name of the federation.

**Identification and nomination of federation members:** Organizing an open discussion session and voting pattern, they elected their representatives in federation from each sub clusters. They decided they will do the monthly meetings of federation initially. They decided the name of federation Bunkar Mahila Sangh.

SMEs Consultation:-"Interactive Consultation with SMEs/Master weavers and government stakeholders" 25-09-2016

**Aim of the event:** Strengthening of Master weavers/SMEs and SHGs women leaders to be able to understand the parameters of the various schemes of the government.

**Session of Mr. S. Bandoupadhyay, Deputy Director, WSC:** - During the second session, he highlighted the various running schemes of the central government and its implementation through state government. He focused on the new schemes of block development under nation handloom development program and functionality as well as services of the CFCs (Common Facility Centres). The major highlights are given below......



**Handloom Cluster Development: - Block level Handloom cluster: -** Under the National Handloom Development Program and Mega Handloom Cluster scheme, a block level handloom cluster program is being initiated for the integrated and inclusive development of India Handloom.

## Skill Development of handloom weavers through National Skill Qualification Certification:-

- A skill is being developed in terms of technicality and entrepreneurship to the handloom weavers.
- Weavers get the training in weaving, designing and dying with the honorarium of Rs 210/ day.
- The youth weavers get the chance to be trained with technical and managerial prudence in their own trade under the Handloom Entrepreneurship Certification program.

**Trade Facilitation Centre and Craft Museum, Bada Lalpur, Varanasi: -** He told about the TFC which construction is going on in full speed. He focused that there is a big convention hall, craft market, mart, export office, a craft museum, food court, dining restaurant and other facilities for enhancing the handmade products of Varanasi and nearby districts.

**India Handloom Brand (IHB):-** Explaining the specific benefits of IHB he highlighted that India Handloom brand has been launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on the occasion of the first National Handloom Day on August 7, 2015. The India Handloom brand is an initiative for branding of high quality handloom products with

Session by Mr. Ranjeet Singh, LDM, UBI, Varanasi:- The next session was addressed by the

second guest which was basically focused on the financial schemes and support from the government through the banks.

**BUNKAR Mudra loan of Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana**is a Government of India undertaking designed to meet the financing needs of non-corporate small business units of the country. The idea is to provide financial support for small business which employ majority of the Indian working population. Under Mudra Loan Yojana, the government has come up with a 3-teir loan structure targeted towards different businesses depending on the size and stage of the business. The three tiers of this Yojana are:



- SHISHU Loan offering financial support of up to INR 50,000.
- KISHOR Loan offering financial support of amount ranging between INR 50,000 and INR 500,000.
- TARUN Loan offering financial support of amount ranging between INR 500,000 and INR 10,00,000.

**Highlights of ATAL PENSION YOJANA:** - Atal Pension Yojana (APY)1 in 2015-16 budget. The APY is focussed on all citizens in the unorganized sector. Under the APY, there is guaranteed minimum monthly pension for the subscribers ranging between Rs. 1000 and Rs. 5000 per month.

**Training and capacity building of SHGs:-** A training and capacity building session was organized to the identified dignitary and members of the self-help groups.

## Village level camps: -

- During this reporting period, total no. of 3 village level camps was organized in Kotwa and Lohta. On 11-05-2016, a facilitation camp was organized in Lohta for filling the application form of artisan identity card, UID and bank account.
- On 17-05-2016, a camp was organized in Lohtafor making the ADHAR card and weaver identity card of the weavers
- On 19-05-2016, a facilitation camp was organized and applications for artisanidentity, ration card, bank account etc was filled and submitted to the concerning department.
- 3 village level camps was organized in Kotwa and Lohta. On 22-04-2016, a facilitation camp was organized in Lohta for filling the application form of Ration Card and 44 weavers got this facilitation.
- On 24-04-2016, a camp for making the ADHAR card of the weavers was organized in Kotwa and 56 weavers got their enrollment of UID.
- On 26-04-2016, a facilitation camp was organized and applications for weaver identity, ration card, bank account etc was filled and submitted to the concerning department.
- Participation in District Level meeting: HWA and the project team participated in the district level meeting with new appointed DM, Varanasi and a discussion was held on Handicraft Promotion Policy in the presence of GM, DIC and HWA.A survey on artisans will be done by the team of GM, DIC with the facilitation of HWA team.
- **Government Convergence: Project** mobilized the government for doing survey of realistic artisan in the project intervening area. The project team facilitated the team of DIC to do the survey. The main aim of the survey is to identify the real data of artisans for making a proper policy. The artisan who is 60 years old will get benefit of Rs 500/ month as a pension.

## Participation in workshop of Union Minister of Minority Affairs Dr. Najma Heptullah:

• GG project is playing a very important role in Policy and Advocacy at regional as well as national level. With the aim to mainstreaming of "Upgrading the Skills and Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development (USTAAD)" scheme Dr. NajmaHeptullah,Union Minister of Minority Affairs visited Varanasi on 30th May 2016. In order to improve degrading conditions of world famous Banaras Saree weavers who belong to minority communities, a direct interaction or inter-dialect is proposed. The identified weavers and artisans as well as beneficiaries of the project participated and interacted with her.

#### **Listing the outreach efforts:**

- 1. On 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2017, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), New Delhi "Geographical Indication Act and its implementation".
- 2. On 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2017, Varanasi Interactive Session under Niryat Bandhu on "Foreign Trade
  - Policy with Exporters". Dr. Rajani Kant have Interacted with the Senior level Govt. officials including Joint DGFT, Ministry of Commerce, Govt. of India for organizing National level GI Exhibition and National Seminar on GI and Post GI interventions and in principle, they shows their interest for it. Dr. Rajani Kant has also given a presentation on Post GI issues including Green product concept initiated by Going Green project.



3. Regional Level Policy Advocacy Workshop:

On 24<sup>th</sup> of March a Regional level Policy Advocacy workshop with the MSMEs representatives and key stakeholders, buyers, producers and weavers were present in this workshop. Everyone



unanimous about effective strategies for the benefits of Artisans, MEMEs and weavers. Mr. Keshav Jalan – Proprietor of Varanasi Jalan Synthetics sharing the dais said that production, promotion and marketing of products are the need of the hour. DDM-NABARD said that at first unorganized sector should reach at one common minimum program for their benefits. Until they will divide, they cannot achieve positive result for themselves. An appropriate policy framed and very soon it will be submitted to the related departments of Govt. of India and Govt. of U.P., 45 stakeholders took part in regional level policy advocacy workshop.

Dr. Rajani Kant said that - Handloom sector is characterized by absence of strong brand presence in the market and also largely unorganized marketing network as large enterprises. Due to resource limitation availability of raw material, conservative thought migration and exploitation of middleman and producers the handmade products are passing through lean days.

- 4. Workshop on "Importance of Intellectual Property Rights" on Varanasi 30 March 2017 PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Lucknow with the presentation of Dr. Rajani Kant including participation of 25 participants related to MSME of the project area at Hotel Raddision.
- 5. Participated in a Regional level Workshop with Artisans and Smallholder farmers about how Information & Communication Technologies can help them in growing their business and income on March 31st 2017" with the facilitation of MGINNE, a startup in Agri Tech sector, which business is ICT based solutions rural entrepreneurs. for technology solutions can be broadly classified as; Digital Identity (GINNE Dex), Marketplace (Mobile Mandi & Trade GINNE), Digital Marketing (GINNE Vox) and **Business** Intelligence (GINNE Map). Our aim is to



empower micro and small entrepreneurs in rural areas with our rural-friendly technology platforms, so that they can compete at par with the large urban businesses, nationally or globally. 45 stakeholders have participated from project area and other participants have also joined from other GI Registered products.

National Vendor Development Program Cum Industrial Exhibition: The opportunity provided by NABARD to the artisans who are directly associated with GI Registered product for National Vendor Development Program Cum Industrial Exhibition Chandpur organized by MSME Ministry, Govt. of India by their Regional Office, was much meaningful for the Exposures and learning to the other Small and Medium Industries in the point of IPR and GI. A number of participants have shown their much interest to know about the GI and its importance and how the local artisans are getting legal protection and promotion through IPR.



In the inaugural session, Chief Guest Shri Nitin Ramesh Gokaran-Commissioner, Varanasi region has also highlighted the importance of Micro Scale Cottage based industries and



importance of GI for their protection and promotion with more livelihood opportunities including the skill development initiative in Eastern UP Region in this unorganized sector where nearly 1.5 million artisans and weavers are directly associated with these 8 RGIs product. He also prominently said that there is a lot of potential for the other products also in the IPR status. He also visited the GI stall and directly interacted with the artisan and weavers and to understand their concern

issues. On the stall Dr. Rajani Kant has honored the Chief Guest by a Banaras Stole.

- On the 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2016 Dr. Rajani Kant has invited with 6 GI associated Master artisans from various GI registered by Ministry of Textile for the participation in Hon'ble Prime Minister program related to first phase inauguration of Trade Facilitation center. The program was organized at DLW ground, Varanasi, in this program Dr. Rajani Kant interacted with Ms.Rashmi Verma, Secretary Textile, GOI and requested for the better support and information at the time of Note Bandi – Demonetization because weavers and artisans are facing a lot of problems due to non availability of any helpline in Varanasi, which is biggest weaving cluster in the country with 8 GIR products and Secretary Madam has accepted this suggestion in a very serious manner and given the assurance that very soon we will work on this issue, in the same place Dr. Rajani Kant has also interacted and given thanks to the D.C. Handloom Shri Alok Kumar who is also looking the charge of D.C. Handicraft regarding the Tools-kit distribution to the artisans which was demand of Human Welfare Association since last 2 years and in the month of December the department has distributed free of cost to Nearly 1200 Toolkits to the Wooden Lacquerware and Toys and Clay craft (Motor operated Potter Wheel), artisans.
- In the Prime Minister program 4 SMEs from 3 different craft who are associated with HWA has received Pahchan Card by the hand of Prime Minister of India on 22<sup>nd</sup> December and he has also given certificate to 5 weavers for subsidized Looms and related equipments scheme for handloom weavers and carpet weavers. In this scheme the weavers will give 10% amount and 90% cost of equipment and loom will be bear by Central Govt. This is a achievement of

- advocacy because when this Central Govt. has come to power then they stop the subsidy on handloom equipment through Weaver's Service Center and this was the demand of the organization and weavers regarding it.
- 10. In this hard time of demonetization-Note Bandi when the individual are fighting for their money, the organization has mobilized to the Bank to open the account of Self Help Groups and after continuous effort 13 SHG account has opened in the Union Bank of India and 3 weavers has get the Mudra Loan @ Rs.50, 000/- each by Kashi Gomti Sanyukt Gramin Bank from the Going Green project area.
- 11. Going Green concept has discussed in a wide way with the related Govt. officials including other related NGOs and stakeholders with media. The detail report has already mentioned.
- 12. The advocacy initiative is going on in the favor of handloom weavers and artisans, a high power Parliamentary Committee with 20 Parliamentarians has visited in the chairmanship of Hon'ble Bhupendra Singh, M.P. Rajya Sabha at Varanasi.
- 13. After continuous effort and lobbying with regional and national banks in the favor of weavers and artisans credit facilities, Social Security schemes, Pension plan, Regional Gramin Bank Kashi Gomti Sanyukt Gramin Bank has organized a program in Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapith Auditorium in the presence of Vice Chancelor Prof. Prithivish Nag as Chief Guest and Mr. Bhola Prasad, Chairman-KGSG bank including Dr. Rajani Kant and Vigilance Officer Mr. Sumil Kumar with 2 General Managers.
- 14. Interaction of Dr. Rajani Kant with Trade Craft representative Ms. Pragya Mazumdar has completed on various issues including SMEs empowerment, carbon credit, carbon foot print in handloom weaving sector and quality based production, transferring from Nylon weaving technique to pure silk weaving and convergence of various Govt. schemes including national level Post G.I. Consultation, awareness, publicity of GI Product Banaras Brocades and Sarees and international Byers awareness workshop on GI and its proper use with Logo for more visibility and genuine products to the customers at international level.
- 15. Interaction with the Senior Director Handicraft, New Delhi and Team of Handloom Handicraft Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, CCIC representatives on the issue of appropriate GI registered products for the craft museum at Varanasi. May be in the end of December, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India will inaugurate Craft Museum under Trade Facilitation center which is constructed in Badalalpur of Varanasi. It is noted that Trade Facilitation center is a outcome of advocacy of Human Welfare Association which has started before 3 years and ultimately has come on existence on 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2014.
- 16. Advocacy at local level is also paying good result for the project beneficiaries and others to, District Development Manager NABARD Mr. Sushil Tiwari and Lead District Manager Shri Ranjit Singh has interacted with the project beneficiary in a big interactive meeting at Lohta and orient them about various Govt. schemes, social security schemes, Mudra loan, opening of SHG bank accounts and credit facilities to the SHGs including Women Entrepreneurship. Number of women and project team has involved in the whole process and the Govt. officials can also understand the problems of beneficiaries. Total 95 person has participated from project area.
- 17. AIACA has created an example in the country in the field of Post GI initiative and registration of Authorize User for Banaras Brocades and Sarees, 75 authorize user has get the GI Certificate by the hand of Hon'ble Commerce Secretary Ms.Rita Teaotia Ji at Varanasi in a grand function and a number of other SMEs, various Chamber of Commerce office bearers has participated and the Commerce Secretary has assured for the benefits to the GI authorize users in coming future with the support of Govt. of India.
- 18. Now the recognition of Going Green project has increasing by their effective result. Advocacy is going on and with the effect of continuous advocacy and lobbying, memorandums to previous and present Textile Minister, Senior Govt. officials including orientation and media, about the

benefits and support to handicraft artisans like handloom weavers, the Govt. of India, Ministry of Textile has accepted it and on the 16th October,2016 at Varanasi in a grand event, Hon'ble Textile Minister has declared Special Handicraft Mega Cluster of Rs.31 Crores for 21 thousands handicraft artisans for Varanasi as Special Package. Nearly 200 participants from Going Green project area including reputed project related SMEs has invited for this grand event.

- 19. The advocacy initiative is going on in a effective manner with the interaction of various senior Govt. officials and policy makers including related stakeholders including Banaras Vastra Udyog Singh, Eastern U.P. Export Promotion Association, related to Post GI initiatives and handloom mark, India Handloom Brand with market linkages support.
- 20. With the O/o D.C. Handicraft the distribution artisans Identity Card was the prime focus including the training of various handicraft artisans in 5 GI Registered products with the support of special handicraft mega cluster at Varanasi and the artisans are happy to get this opportunity.
- 21. Mobilization for implementation of related handloom schemes in the project area is also going on with the regional Govt. officers and they are showing positive interest for implementation with the effective management of CFC and block level cluster schemes.
- 22. Dr. Rajani Kant has also interacted with DGFT, Ministry of Commerce and all has accepted the importance of GI and its effect to the original producers. This is a very important and relevant issue related to the livelihood of traditional producers, their quality of life and brand building at international level with the uniqueness and originality of the products to the consumers including safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage of the country.
- 23. HWA is mobilizing to the Senior Govt. officials in the Ministry of Textiles for the display of all the GI registered products in the Trade Facilitation center which will be inaugurated in first phase by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi Ji in the end of December and in this regard 3 senior officials from handloom-handicraft Export Promotion Breaue and G.M. CCIC, New Delhi has interacted with Dr. Rajani Kant at Varanasi in this regard and has given the assurance that all the GI product will must display on this TFC, Badalalpur, Varanasi.
- 24. In the first week of December OSD of Union Textile Minister has visited Varanasi and also interacted Dr. Rajani Kant regarding the development of various programs implemented by Central Govt. to the weavers and artisans and taken feedback and also discussed about GI product publicity. Dr. Rajani Kant said that Airport is a very prominent place to open a souvenir of GI registered products of Varanasi region for wider publicity and availability of the product to the tourist and other visitor and this is also important that the leaflet, pamphlet and other publicity material of GIR will be much useful on this place.
- 25. On the 16<sup>th</sup> October,2016 when Dr. Rajani Kant interacted with Union Cabinet Minister and also requested for the admission of weaver community and other poors in NIFT extension center at Varanasi for 50% admission fee rebate and the Minister has given the assurance regarding it.
- 26. Ministry of Textile is recognizing the initiative of Going Green approach of Varanasi and in this regard they invited Dr. Rajani Kant at New Delhi O/o D.C. Handicraft for the broad discussion about the implementation of special handicraft Mega cluster at Varanasi on 18<sup>th</sup> October,2016. Awareness through Dastkar Chaupal, Baseline survey for making artisans I.Card including implementation of various initiatives was the key component of the meeting.
- 27. Dr. Rajani Kant has participated in Craft Mark 10<sup>th</sup> year event at India Habitat Center, New Delhi, a much meaningful event organize by AIACA. Interaction with very senior and renowned persons has much in lighted related to future intervention. Interaction with Textile Secretary Madam was also meaningful related to the special Mega Cluster for Handicraft artisans at Varanasi and she assured that with the effective implementation and involvement of local stakeholders the local artisan community will be much benefited.

- 28. Close discussion with ADC, Handicraft, Mr.S.K. Jha, O/o D.C. Handicraft-New Delhi regarding the benefits of Going Green project beneficiaries under special handicraft Mega Cluster at Varanasi mainly in the Zari-zardozi hand Embroidery artisans in the Going Green project area. He assured that the organization HWA has already formed various Self Help Groups in the artisan's community under this project, so naturally they will be much benefited in the first phase of Govt. intervention and then the area will spread in other villages too.
- 29. Meeting with Kashi Gomti Sanyukt Gramin Bank Chairman Shri Bhola Prasad Ji on 3<sup>rd</sup> September regarding the Credit facility to the G.G. project beneficiaries mainly the SMEs under Mudra Loan scheme and he assured that after getting the list from HWA, we will take immediate support through the various branches and will benefited directly. HWA has submitted the list to the Head office of KGSG Bank.
- 30. Convergence of various Handloom related schemes and credit facility, social security facilities has also addressed in a SME workshop with Bank and Govt. related officials was also much fruitful for the project beneficiaries and Dy. Director-Weaver Service Center assured for the implementation of new schemes in the project area with the support of Going Green project team.
- 31. Interaction with the Development Commissioner, Shri Alok Kumar at Varanasi on the issue of branding, visibility and publicity of GI registered handloom and handicraft products in Varanasi region including the implementation of 9 block level clusters (7 blocks and 2 urban area has sanctioned Rs.@ 2 crores in each block for exclusive handloom development program, this is a central Govt., Ministry of Textile special support for few selected clusters in the country, Varanasi is one of them) and for the preparation of second National Handloom Day. He instructed to there local officers to take support from Human Welfare Association for National Handloom Day event.
- 32. Participation in second National Handloom Day function with 70 participants (60 was women) from HWA-Going Green project area including Sunil Kumar and Shashikant in a prominent manner and HWA project team was also involved there as effective organizer. In this event, HWA-Director Dr. Rajani Kant has directly interacted with Cabinet Minister Textile Minister Smt. Smriti Irani, State Minister Textile Shri Pradeep Tamta, Textile Secretary Ms. Rashmi Verma on the issue of promotion of handloom mark, India Handloom and GI Logo in effective manner and requested them for support to other handicraft artisans who are also under GI Registration in Varanasi region and MOT has assured that very soon you will get the news related to very special package for Varanasi handicraft artisans.
- 33. Dr. Rajani Kant has also participated on the 7<sup>th</sup> August at hotel Surya where a exclusive handloom exhibition was organized by various reputed export houses, handloom cooperatives and few fashion designers, few stall has shown GI Tag and India Handloom tag in a effective manner and they are the SMEs related to Going Green project.
- 34. Participation and interaction in a exclusives India Handloom exhibition organized by Weaver Service Center, Varanasi on 11<sup>th</sup> August,2016 and shared the issues related to weavers and impact of Going Green project as a example. A number of Master weavers has showing there interest for authorize user registration for Banaras Brocades and Sarees.
- 35. Participated in international conference on Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage at Goa from 24<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> August,2016 and interacted and shared the role of GI as a tool for Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage and the participants across the South Asian countries including India Head UNESCO and Paris has much appreciated this idea. Dr. Rajani Kant has also shared the social entitlement and convergence of various Govt. schemes for weavers under the Going Green project, and said that without appropriate social entitlement to the community, Safeguarding of ICH will be not fulfill, the participants has much appreciated this approach and in the 3 days of program they interacted several time to us. On this occasion a exhibition of few

- GI registered products has also organized in the Sanskriti Bhavan, Ministry of Culture, Govt. of Goa and HWA has also displayed exclusive GIR products.
- 36. Dr. Rajani Kant has interacted with Cabinet Minister of Culture of Goa on 25<sup>th</sup> August,2016 and Hon'ble Governor of Goa Dr. Mridula Sinha on 28<sup>th</sup> August at Raj Bhavan in Goa and shared the ICH and Green Textile, GI initiatives which is going on in Varanasi and said that this will be much applicable a state like Goa where a lot of traditional practices, craft is in the rural area, but without the effective support, the traditional things are finishing, it is much required from the Govt. site to protect and promote traditional art and crafts.
- 37. All the 75 GI Authorize User applications have granted GI registration status and certificate received. The organization will organize a event for distribution of these GI certificate to the authorize users by the hand of special guest.
- 38. Participation in workshop organize by PHD, Chamber of Commerce at Varanasi, sharing the issue of AIACA project initiative with the related stakeholders for market linkage and promotion of hand-woven products including GI branding.
- 39. Interaction with Development Commissioner, Shri Alok Kumar regarding the publicity and branding of hand-woven products and linkages with Carbon credit carbon foot-print initiative in handloom sector including the sharing of Going Green project achievements. In this meeting he gives much responsibility for National Handloom Day event and accepted the idea of HWA, for the participation of women from weaving community of the HWA project intervention area.
- 40. Interaction with the Joint Secretary, Ministry of Minority related to the USTTAD scheme implementation in the Varanasi because number of minority are involved in handloom and handicraft but unfortunately there is no proper intervention at grass-root level. He assured that very soon the Govt. will take appropriate steps towards implementation. It is noted that a lot of minorities are working in the field of handloom and handicraft but not getting benefits under USTTAD scheme which has launched on 14<sup>th</sup> May,2015 from Varanasi.
- 41. Impact of Advocacy is now reflecting in the project area including Varanasi,the Minister of Textile has supported special block level cluster for the handloom weavers. Total 7 blocks clusters and 2 urban clusters Ramnagar and Bazardiha has identified for this special scheme @ Rs.2 crore for each clusters. Interaction with the Dy. Director, Weaver Service Center at Varanasi regarding the benefits of block level cluster scheme for the handloom weavers and effective implementation in the Going Green project area. Kashi Vidyapeeth, Araziline block and Ramnagar which has under Going Green project area, are also benefited by central government special support under block level cluster schemes for handloom weavers with Rs.2 crore for each block. This scheme has started with the facilitation of WSC and AD Handloom office through local cooperative society for the handloom weavers. This scheme will create a model for the other and will be replicated in future in the other cluster.
- 42. Dr. Rajani Kant has participated and interacted with the Commissioner and Director Handloom and Textile Industry, U.P. Mr. Ranveer Prasad, IAS at WSC, Varanasi on 9<sup>th</sup> June,2016 and shared about the Going Green activities and discussed with him for state level workshop on handloom development issues. He accepted the idea of this workshop and assured in the meeting that Lucknow is the best place for state level workshop with the weavers representatives of all 31<sup>st</sup> region of U.P., the date will be finalized in the end of July for this state level workshop.
- 43. Interaction of Dr. Rajani Kant with the Hon'ble Cabinet Minister, Minister of Minority Affair, GOI Dr. Nazma Heptullah at their CGO complex, Paryavaran Bhawan, New Delhi office on 14<sup>th</sup> June,2016 regarding the effective implementation and benefits of USTTAD scheme in the Going Green project area, Varanasi. She gives the full assurance to the minority weavers and artisans including incorporation of Zari zardozi and hand Embroidery artisans under USTTAD on priority basis, which was not taken earlier. She also shared their happy experiences with the

- artisans and weavers of Going Green project related to 30<sup>th</sup> April,2016 program of Varanasi including appreciated the effort of young project staff Nusrat.
- 44. On the 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2016 Joint Secretary, Minority Affairs Mr. D.S. Bisth and Director Mr.A.K. Vajpayee has discussed with Dr. Rajani Kant on the issue of effective implementation of USTTAD scheme in Varanasi Textile and Handicraft sector and that time highlighted by the HWA regarding the Going Green initiatives, role of AIACA and benefits to the minority weavers and artisans, mainly with women and SMEs.
- 45. HWA is playing a important role for the survey of artisans in Varanasi and organized several camps in the project area including other area too. Director-Industries Ms. Neena Sharma has visited Lohta, Kashmiriganj and Lalghat area and interacted with Dr. Rajani Kant about the issues of weaves and artisans.
- 46. Two Senior representatives from VSO International has visited HWA from 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> June,2016 and provided capacity building training to the HWA core staff including Going Green project team and also discussed about the previous experiences of 3 IBM volunteers (USA, Nigeria, Sanghai) who spend complete one month in the HWA project area including G.G. project area and developed a product catalogue, short film and MIS format for SHG including trained on the use of effective social media as a tool for publicity and awareness about the handloom and handicraft products.
- 47. Participation in District Magistrate and Branch Manager meet at Commissioner Auditorium on 27<sup>th</sup> June,2016 and raised the issue by Dr.Rajanikant regarding the credit facility to the weavers and artisans, and the District Magistrate has clearly instructed to the Branch Manger regarding the opening the bank account and loaning to the SHGs, JLGs on priority basis and provide Loan under Mudra Loan scheme.
- 48. Interaction on the issue of e-Marketing at Weaver Service Centre, Govt. of India with Vineeth Ravindran, CEO of CHASING SUN (a e-Marketing company, signed a MOU with D.C. Handloom, Ministry of Textile) with the presence of 65 Master weavers from handloom sector and clearly discussed that only the products which is carrying handloom mark, India Handloom Logo or GI Tag will be displayed on their website in the name of hand-woven product of Varanasi and then the consumer will get the original product. Nearly 25 SMEs has registered himself/firms for this e-Marketing.
- 49. Dr.Rajani Kant has interacted with Dy. Director Weaver Service Centre Mr. S. Bandopadhyay and Assistant Director Mr. A.K. Verma on the issue of effective implementation of block level cluster development scheme for 7 blocks and 2 urban area including Ramnagar, which has recently sanctioned by the Textile Ministry, for Varanasi only @ Rs.2 crore for each cluster.
- 50. The impact of advocacy is now taking shape, the HWA has started advocacy for the separate handicraft department in U.P. Govt. and it is already reported that the U.P. Govt. has announced for it with the approval of Cabinet. Now the comprehensive survey for handicraft artisans has started in selected 25 handicraft dominated districts in U.P. from month of May by the order of Chief Secretary U.P., at Varanasi the Joint Commissioner-Industries has interacted with Dr. Rajani Kant and requested to support in this survey initiative and HWA is only NGO who has requested by Govt. Department due to their effective presence in the field of handicraft and on 20<sup>th</sup> May, in the chairmanship of Commissioner, Varanasi a orientation program has organized with the presence of District Magistrate, Dr.Rajani Kant as a Resource person has elaborated the survey initiatives in front of 200 participants with Going Green team and in the G.G. project area a number of govt. officials are involved in survey and taking support from project team.
- 51. **Orientation on MEDP:** To see the strength of Going Green project, NABARD-DDM Mr. Sushil Tiwari has visited project area and interacted with more than 100 representatives of SHGs members through various SHGs of Lohta and Kotwa was participated in a huge awareness camp at Lohta through which they were oriented on Micro Entrepreneur

- Development Program and assured them for credit linkage and other benefits from NABARD to them including training related to skill development in Zari-zardozi and hand Embroidery work. He was very much impressed to interact with women groups and also shared about social security schemes, producer group support to the SHG members.
- 52. Director Human Welfare Association Dr. Rajani Kant and Mr. Sunil Kumar, Cluster Coordinator, AIACA, Going Green Project, Varanasi invited by Joint Commissioner-Industries, for a comprehensive presentation about the GI registered products of Eastern UP region including the status of other handicraft products of Eastern U.P., in the presence of Principal Secretary MSME, Dr. Rajnish Dubey, Commissioner, Varanasi Shri Nitish Ramesh Gokaran including the 75 exporters, traders, state and national awardees' with related Govt. officials. The principal Secretary was happy to know that with the support of AIACA-75 Authorized Users has registered in Banaras Brocades and Saree, he ordered for the exclusive camps for the registration of authorized users process for other GIR products at District Head Quarter with the support of Human Welfare Association.
- 53. Interaction with Trade Craft representative at HWA office for the details sharing and outcome of the Going Green project on 12<sup>th</sup> April,2016 and review meeting by Trade Craft team with G.G. project team on 14<sup>th</sup> April at Varanasi weavers hub related to the outcome of project and appropriate impact including future intervention at mass level.
- 54. At the policy advocacy level consultation on 22<sup>nd</sup> April,2016 Dr. Rajani Kant interacted with D.C. Handloom Shri Alok Kumar and D.C. Handloom Tr. K. Gopal at Hotel Clark in a important workshop which was organized by D.C. Handloom regarding the implementation of Trade Facilitation center (TFC) in future, in this interaction only selected stakeholders was invited.
- 55. Participation and interaction in SHG Digitization workshop, organized by NABARD with the presence of GM-NABARD on 25<sup>th</sup> April,2016 Dr. Rajanikant highlighted the importance of digitization of SHGs and Role of Going Green project for developmental aspect through SHGs in weavers community. After launching this initiative all the SHGs will be link with digital portals and more transparency will be reflected including the benefits of Govt. schemes to the SHGs.
- 56. On the 30<sup>th</sup> April,2016 at BHU campus, Going Green project team including 165 participants from Going Green project area has participated in grand event "Design exhibition and launching national website of USTAAD" in the leadership of Hon'ble Cabinet Minister Dr.Nazma Heptullah, including international Designer Ritu Beri with Joint Secretary - Mr. B.S. Bishtt, IAS, MMA, Director-NID, Ahmadabad, Deen-NIFT, New Delhi. On this occasion the Minister has separately interacted with handloom Master weavers, SMEs and awardees' on the issue of handloom promotion and development, market linkages and support by their ministry. A maximum G.G. project beneficiary has interacted with them. On this occasion exhibition (prototypes was prepared with the support of NID and NIFT designers) was inaugurated by the Minister and a fashion show was held in the presence of all the participants. First time, the project beneficiaries has see the fashion show related to handloom products of Banaras and understand that how many type of dresses made by Banaras product. G.G. project team member Nushrat was close to Hon'ble Minister at the time of inauguration and interacted with her and understand about their role in the project and much appreciated, Ms. Nushrat has also interacted with designer Ritu Beri. In this event nearly 435 participants has attended the program and maximum was invited by Human Welfare Association because the MMA has given the responsibility to the HWA for organizing at local level.



HINDUSTAN TIMES, LUCKNOW MGNDAY, JANUARY 09, 2017

## hindustantimes

# On a mission to help weavers, get benefits of govt schemes

Sudhir Kumar

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values: A young woman from a weaver's family is on mission in PM Narendra Modi's constituency to help poor and uneducated weavers get benefits of several welfare schemes that the state and the central governments run for them. Nusarat, in her early 20's, has been doing it for the last seven years or so. She cycles her way to weaver dominated villages in the district, helds meetings with them and heips them get the benefits of the schemes meant for them.

Born and bred in a family of weavers in Kotwa village, Nusarat earned her bachelor's degree from Purvanchal University in 2011.

"In fact, I belong to a family of weavers. During graduation, I felt that governments introduce several schemes for weavers and craftsmen. But they don't get their advantage due to lack of information about them. I completed my graduation and started working for them," Nusarattold HT. She has so far organised more than 116 awareness meetings with weavers and craftsmen in weaver dominated villages, including Lohto, Mangalpur, Harpalpur, Raheempur, Dhannipur and Mahmoodpur in vicinity of her native village. Herefforts helped several artisans and weavers in getting weavers and artisans identity cards under the various schemes of the handloom and handleraft departments.

**NEST 2017** 

Nusarat motivated several female artisans to fill forms to get artisan cards. She filled application forms of 340 of them. She also helped 24 weavers in getting bank loans. With her help, 240 weavers have got identity cards. Her efforts are on "As of now, I



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Nusarat (extreme right) with the then union minister Najma Heptulla in a programme at Varanasi. HTFLE

am dedicated to the cause of weavers. I want to bring a positive change in their lives. I am making serious efforts for it. 1 organised a camp at my house and helped as many as 250 weavers in opening the accounts in Union Bank of India under the Jan Dhan scheme started by the

PM," she claimed. Nusrat has also helped 350 female weavers in forming 10 self help groups. Her efforts gave her a chance to call on the then union minister. Najma Heptulla in 2016. She appealed to her to take some concrete steps to extend benefits of various schemes to the weavers. She feels the role of middlemen

should come to an end.
She also called on noted fashion designer Ritu Beri during a
programme in Varanasi. Nusrat
is associated with the Human
Welfare Association that is
implementing the Going green
project that helps wavers.

"At present, I am helping weavers through the 'Going green project' The project is supported by All India Artisans and Crafts Wellare Association (AIACWA) Delhi, "she said, adding that Rajnikant of the HWA helped her a lot in her efforts for the cause of weavers."

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## **CHAI Project**

## Supported By - William J. Clinton Foundation

**Project Title:-** Promoting awareness and use of oral Rehydration Therapy (ORT) and Zinc as treatment of Childhood Diarrhea among Public Health Providers in Uttar Pradesh.

Interaction and Participation of DC & BC with various service providers meetings at PHC / CHC level in all the 8 blocks of Varanasi district.

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## **PROJECT OVERVIEW AND GOALS**

CHAI, through the Foundation in India, and HWA will collaborate to ensure long-term sustainability of ORS and zinc treatment by creating an integrated program with the health department of Uttar Pradesh. CHAI's Essential Medicine program in India is designed to engage with the health department and other departments such as the Department of Women and Child by building capacities of various public health/workers in the chain to dispense/prescribe ORS and zinc treatment for diarrheal episodes.

Project activities are to be carried out in Varanasi district of Uttar Pradesh, comprised of 8 blocks. Together CHAI, through the Foundation in India.

#### Specifically, HWA shall be responsible for the following:

- 1. Session-based and on-the-job training of FLWs such as ASHA, AWW, ANM, LHVs (Lady Health Visitor) etc., by District Coordinators (DCs) and Block Coordinators (BCs) through targeting sector meetings as potential platform for capacity building.
- 2. Sample monitoring of RI (Routine Immunization Day) and visits to Sub Health Centers (SHC), and Primary Health Center (PHC) to monitor and provide handholding support. PC and DCs would be responsible for monitoring above mentioned activities.
- 3. Participation and presentations in important forums such as block and district level meetings.
- 4. Strengthening MIS developed by the government so that correct data is fed and supply chain is maintained. Maintenance of data and reporting would be done by District Coordinator (DC).
- 5. Documentation of success stories / case studies, etc. by DC.



## Project Supported by :TDH/DACHSER

**Organized By: PACE, Lucknow** 

## Implementing Partner: Human Welfare Association, Varanasi

# PROJECT: "Sustainable Development through Women and Youth Organizations in the State of Uttar Pradesh"

The project "Sustainable Development through Women and Youth Organizations in the state of Uttar Pradesh" is implemented in 10 villages of Chiraigaon block in Varanasi. Through women SHGs and youth of project area youth group has been formed through which awareness program on health and hygiene, environment has been done. All the selected primary, junior high schools have been contacted and youth group has been formed at school level to make awareness program me successful and effective.

- Baseline survey has been completed in all the 10 villages of the intervention area. The general information of the villages, information regarding prevailing environment of the villages, etc. were collected and compiled
- Report has been built with different stakeholders, like Pradhans, BDC, Panchayat representatives, teachers, AASHA, ANM etc.)

On the basis of baseline survey the activities are being planned and implemented.

#### Core activities

1	Orientation and Formation of groups - Field level activities - Awareness Walks - Bio Diversity Register 10 villages Model Village -10 villages Plantation drive - 10 villages
2	Capacity building training - Orientation of selected youth network volunteers at Varanasi level on the relevance of this project and effective implementation of the initiatives at village as well as school level.
3	Theatre group at Central level: Theatre groups formation - 20youth
4	Orientation meetings in schools - Sports and Games
5	Development of IEC material - 1st yr only Quarterly news letter of youth Network
6	Local level interface or tournament (t shirt cost,prize amount*1 partners)
7	Local level dialogue with various government department for advocacy
8	State level activities - Network meetings at state level
9	Training at state level -2 training with 50 participants
10	Awareness campaign at State level and press meet 2 days with 100 participants

#### **Achievement:**

#### (1) Formation of youth group:

Youth volunteers have formed youth groups at selected 10 villages. The main focus of formation of youth group is to run awareness program me to sensitize on the different issues through rally, social interactions meetings etc with community. In 2016 youth

volunteers have selected plastic free village campaign to make environment clean and healthy.

The real achievement of the this campaign was that the community itself started cooperating and come forward to make the program me successful and participated in all basic activities of promotion.

(2) **World Environment Day:** A protection program held at VTC Amauli, Jalhupur, Hridaypur, Ukathi and Bhadiva in selected 5 villages volunteers of youth groups has organized the environmental protection program with aim on organic farming, a forestation, cleanness, plastic free environment. The 10 schools have been selected from project villages to support this campaign.



- (3) Model village: Total 10 villages have been selected for making modal village. The cleanliness program me has been going on continuous basic for sensitizing the communities.
- (4) International Women Day: 14th March,2017



(5) **World Play Day (Sports & Games):** On 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> ,March,2017 in village Hridaypur, Chiraigaon block of Varanasi district, the volunteers and youth groups organized 2 days world play day like – Kabaddi, Kho-kho, Long jump, 100, 200 Mtrs. race, etc.



(6) **Youth Exchange Visit:** A team of Germany youth volunteers has visited the villages of Chiraigaon block of Varanasi district on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> March,2017 through youth groups of HWA at VTC Amauli, Hridaypur, Ukathi and Bhadiva. The Germany team visited the village's environment, field of floriculture, displayed of Nukkad natak in the villages, village's Solar Lights, Gobar-gas plant, youth volunteer's game and play activities and also see the village's cultural programs.



## (7) Global Action Month: 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2016



## (8) **Plantation:**



## **VSO-IBM CSC India**

## Supported By – VSO, India & Vodafone Foundation

The partner will ensure that the VSO brand is appropriately represented and prominently displayed on all publications, reports, sign boards and promotional materials. The Volunteers covered under this project will be known as VSO Volunteers and the Partner will support and facilitate this identification and visibility throughout the project. On the advice of VSO, the partner will also adhere to the branding and visibility requirements stipulated by any external donor agencies that has financial or other interests in the project. IBM Corporate Service Corps (CSC) India team visited and consistence by 3 members for the following initiatives and Leverage the VSO-supplied videos, brochures, catalogs and SHG case studies to be used as part of the marketing efforts.

- Comprehensive Marketing and Branding Strategy for the artisan products
- Provide basic training, guidelines, standards and templates for their websites and social media accounts (twitter, facebook, instagram and youtube) to allow their staff to utilize these resources more effectively.
- Recommendation for changes to the financial management system for the Women's Self Help Groups.
- Research findings on market awareness of registered products in local markets.

Two Senior representatives from VSO International has visited HWA from 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> June,2016 and provided capacity building training to the HWA core staff including Going Green project team and also discussed about the previous experiences of 3 IBM volunteers (USA, Nigeria, Sanghai) who spend complete one month in the HWA project area including G.G. project area and developed a product catalogue, short film and MIS format for SHG including trained on the use of effective social media as a tool for publicity and awareness about the handloom and handicraft products

## Community Activity Day - World of Difference 2016

VSO India has partnered with the Vodafone Foundation for the implementation of the World of Difference volunteering programme 2016 to fulfill our shared mission of engaging with communities to drive social change. By leveraging Vodafone's mobile technology in the four areas of m-women, m-education, mhealth and m-agriculture, the project supports Vodafone's objective of working on critical issues of education, health, and livelihoods, gender equality and women's empowerment mainstreamed throughout the intervention.





In this initiative community activity day has organized by HWA, Varanasi on 16<sup>th</sup> Sept., 2016 at Swavalamban Vocational Training center, Amauli, Chiraigaon block, District-Varanasi in the presence of Vodafone volunteer Mr.Rajiv Jindal and Mr.Sanjay Mishra. Near 230 participants including youth(Boys & Girls) women from SHG, youth volunteers, panchayat representatives, village Pradhan, school Teacher and media has participated in whole day event of Community Activity Day.

Beginning with welcome song by the young girls and sharing their experiences about their activities. sing various songs developmental issues like protection of environment, stop female feticide., discrimination, clean & Green environment, no plastic in schools to the present audience, after that two role plays has completed by the youth group team. Four SHG leaders has shared their experiences about role of WoD program by their volunteers in a effective manner.



Mr. Rajiv Jindal has shared about role of Self Help Groups as a toll of Women Empowerment and appreciated the initiative women who are associated with Human Welfare Association since last 15 years in a systematic and transparent manner and now emerging as social entrepreneur and spreading the meaningful impact in the project area. He suggested that there is a lot of opportunities for learning in this organization and experiences women and youth can be use for spreading in the other part of country.



On this occasion, exhibition of 7 GI Registered products has also displayed at center and the delegates and community people was happy to directly by it in very genuine price. In the last Project Coordinator Amarnath Rai has given Vote of Thanks to the participants and delegates after that the program has completed with lunch.



Mr. Sajany Mishra has put their emphasis on role of social media, its impact in near future and linking with various ICT tools including Vodafone initiatives of M-Paisa. He also elaborated about the social media impact in Varanasi traditional handicraft and handloom sector and how the artisans and weavers can benefited with the effective use of social media, computer, tablets, mobiles in their day to day life including convergence of various Govt. schemes.



After the lunch the next session has started with the use of LCD project for showing related educational film and related photographs of the WoD program and other too. A number of participants has directly interacted with WoD volunteers and learnt from them.

## "Global Fund for Children" GFC-USA

Child Friendly Community Project: With the support of GFC, the Human Welfare Association has worked hard for underserved community of Varanasi and Bhadohi district under the banner of GFC. Since July,2010 with the support of GFC, HWA is achieving the goal for child labor free zone and for child friendly community in a very systematic manner with special emphasis to minimizing child labor in intervening villages and its surroundings. HWA project's core staffs are working hard with full dedication and transparency to educate the children between the age group of 4 to 18 years and mainstreaming most of the children of the project area in Govt. schools or recognized private schools with full community participation. HWA took initiative to trained 90 young women/girls in batches at Bhatpurva, Changwar and Arjunpur for Tufted and Knotted carpet weaving with the support of master trainers. 50% of trained girls and women are linked with the traders and now they have regular orders for carpet weaving and they are increasing their economic and social condition through this livelihood opportunity and utilizing the surplus savings for children education and nutrition.

HWA efforts have created a positive learning environment towards child education for 4-18 years. HWA has taken several initiatives like awareness meeting in the community, meeting with govt. officials, rallies and wall writings in the project area for spreading the messages among the community to uplift the moral of the community sdo that they can fight for their rights and they will get the benefits of various govt. schemes.

**Formation of SHG: 12 SHG(Self Help Group) formed** in the project area to strengthen the weaving community. There SHGs are not only protecting their livelihood interests but also protecting their family primarily children's interest. HWA has organized a group of 12 women who are fighting against social evils like dowry, trafficking, money landing, child marriage and child education. Now these groups are the backbone of the program.

Five Motivational Learning Centers (MLC): With community participation and good coordination among various stakeholder regarding child education, the enrollment rate has increased upto 92% in the project area and dropout ratio has decreased. Through better orientation and mobilization, the Child Friendly Community is actively involved in the basic facilities including schools management committee meetings, monitoring, mid-day-meal, attitude of Govt. teachers and behavior of their children. Now the Govt. teachers and private school teachers are visiting regularly in the community with project team and they appreciate the efforts of GFC for elementary education.

**Orientation, sensitization and awareness meeting** conducted in project intervening area for proper utilization of Govt. schemes in order to maintain quality education to the children of weavers community. The kind of world and society, we live in tomorrow will be determined greatly by the type of education and skill development training we give to our young generation today. We all know that it is the youth on whose shoulders rust the destiny of the nation..

Keeping in mind of above background HWA pioneered a massive drive among carpet weaving community of three blocks of Varanasi and Bhadohi districts, Araziline, Sewapuri and Bhadohi.

#### **Awareness Rallies:**

10 awaeness rallies conducted in the project area to create a positive learning environment and eradicate child labor, child marriage, dowary and to promote, environment, promote eco-friendly product, water conservation, child rights, right to education along with enrollment and main streaming campaign

#### **Capacity Building Training:**

4 capacity building training organized for staff and volunteers to mobilize the ommunity and children of the child friendly community project area. The resource person trained the staffs and volunteers with several games, learning sessions and different task. All activities during trainings were based on program guidelines. This training build confidence among the staffs and volunteers and they become more skilled to cope up the challenges.

### **Vocational Training for Young Girls:**

Vocational training for young girls organized at Changwar, Bhatpurva, Sajoi & Khargupur villages. Vocational training for knotted and tufted carpet weaving for 60 girls of Changwar, Bhatpurva, Sajoi and Khargupur village organized at those villages respectively. This training lasted for 2 months duration. Out of 60, the 36 girls trained for tufted and 24 girls trained for knotted carpet weaving. Carpet weaving trained 24 girls and getting orders from the carpet producers and therefore with increased family income, they are capable of getting higher education. For livelihood promotion and opportunities, HWA organized beautician, tailoring, and stitching, cutting, flower making and painting to young girls. Through these trainings the girls have additional opportunity for income generation and with surplus income they can get better education and nutrition.

#### Formation of SHG to strengthen the weaving community and create livelihood opportunity:

15 SHG (Self Help Group) formed in the project area; each SHG has 12 members to look after all issues related to human rights, child rights and right to education. All the group members are aware about various existing govt. schemes and they are raising their voices to get those benefits. Now the formed SHGs have became stronger. The group has started loaning and saving process. It is also working like community vigilance committee which is fighting against social evil like dowary, trafficking money landing and child marriage. Now these formed groups are the backbone of the GFC program and these groups are the guarantee of the programs sustainability.

Mega Event for Community Children and Volunteers organized at Varanasi. The children visitd the Banaras Hindu University campus and saw the great temple of learning at higher level. The children visited world famous Baba Vishwanath (Lord Shiva) Temple in the campus and engaged a lot. Most of the children were hopeful to get education at BHU when asked everyone replied affirmatively. It was a great exposure in view of children's future.

#### **World Play Day celebration:**

In first week of June, world play day celebrated among the child friendly community project area. Children of all communities took part in it above all caste and creed. The centre staffs of the project area celebrated World Bio Diversity Day with great gesture along with children and community the staffs awarded the community about importance of natural and human resources and they said that it is the responsibility off human being to protect and promote the natural resources.

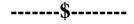
MLC (Motivation and Learning Centres): MLC are the backbone of "Child Friendly Community" program supported by GFC. The project core staffs pioneered a massive campaign in the project area and in nearby villages to create an atmosphere for child rights under the resolution passed by United Nation guaranteeing 54 child rights. Through better community mobilization and participation, the child friendly community is actively involved in the basic facilities including schools management committee meetings, monitoring, Mid-day-meal, attitude of Govt. teachers and good and disciplined behavior of their children.

Village' Block	Total No. of Children			Age Group 0-4		Age Group 5-09		Age Group 10-14		Age Group 15-18	
		В	G	В	G	В	G	В	G	В	G
Khargupur, Varanasi	113	64	49	1	3	42	30	21	16	0	0
Changwar, Varanasi	70	32	38	4	5	13	9	13	16	2	8
Sajoi, Varanasi	97	48	49	18	19	20	14	9	14	1	2
Bhatpurva, Varanasi	44	20	24	8	5	11	14	1	5	0	0
Arjunpur,	79	32	47	5	10	17	20	10	13	0	4
G. TOTAL :	403	196	207	36	42	103	87	54	64	3	14

## No. of children enrolled at 5 MLC - Total=403, Boys-196, Girl-207

No. of Children education mainstreamed in the formal school from project MLC – Total 119, Boy-43, Girl-76

69
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6
385
7
280
10
184
10
139
10
951



## Youth library and computer center Supported by: Rajeev Gandhi Foundation.

Youth library and computer center has been set up by HWA with the support from Rajeev Gandhi

Foundation, New Delhi. RGF has provide us the opportunity to facilitate one youth resource center/ library at village Shivdasa and 2 youth library for the high school in Jalhupur and Amauli villages of the Chiraigaon block of Varanasi district for the comprehensive development and providing more livelihood opportunity of youths (Boys & Gilrs) in surroundings.



The library and computer center has become boon for the remote village because the youths and



become more crucial the computer center is providing the job details and online form filling facilities through which not only targeted villages are getting benefitted but it also benefitting the students of other villages.

students have to go 15 kms in town to get any information and learning computer but due to support from RGF the students of shivdasan village are getting the benefits in their own village. 60 -70 students are coming on daily basis to learn the computer and they equally get benefit of library, the important books and information the students are getting on a single platform, today where job is



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## Sustainable Livelihood of Artisans & Weavers through GI Registration – IPR with the support of NABARD

## **And**

## Women Empowerment Initiatives through Formation of Women SHG

The Human welfare Association is working for the upliftment of the handloom weavers, artisans, since last 23 years in the Varanasi and allied districts of Eastern U.P. Human welfare association is not only indulged itself for development of marginalized community through various initiatives but also took a strong step towards saving the ancient handicraft & culture by becoming the Registered Proprietor of GI – IPR registered Banaras sarees and brocades , the organization has also facilitated for the GI registration of Handmade carpet of Bhadohi, Metal Repouse craft, Gulabi Meenakari, Wooden Lackerwear, of Varanasi, Black Pottery of Nizamabad (Azamgarh district), Mirzapuri Handmade Dari and all has granted IPR status, and due to this now Varanasi is a hub of IPR products and nearly 15 lakhs artisans and weavers are associated in various handicraft and handloom clusters in the 9 district of Eastern U.P., this initiative has supported by NABARD, Lucknow. After that the organization are also involved for the GI registration of Chunar Sand stone, Soft stone undercut of Varanasi and Jute wall hanging craft of Ghazipur and this effort will provide the livelihood opportunities to the artisans of the Handicrafts in this region with the brand and will transform this eastern UP region in one of the profitable Handicraft sector of India. On the 4<sup>th</sup> April,2016, Principal Secretary MSME Dr. Rajnish Dubey and Commissioner, Varanasi Shri Nitin Ramesh Gokaran has interacted with the artisans and related stakeholders and see a presentation, presented by the Dr. Rajani Kant, GI expert on the issue of GI and status of handicraft product of Eastern U.P. and he elaborated about the importance and role of NABARD and Central and State Govt.

**Empowering through SHGs:** A large number of women SHG has become a movement in the project area. form a SHG and they motivate to other for SHGs formation. Seeing meeting other women become mobilized and they met the SHGs member for open a new SHG. Total SHG -187, Female SHG-131, Male SHG -17

# <u>Digital India Initiative going on from Varanasi through SHGs</u> <u>Marginalized women SHGs maintaining e-Books by Tablets</u> Women Digital Empowerment is coming from Rural Varanasi

NABARD supported project in Varanasi district where 4 NGOs are working in EShakti project with Human Welfare Association, Jan Vikas Samiti, Rajiv Gandhi Mahila Vikas and Mahila Swarojgar Samiti and maintaining all the book of accounts of SHGs through tablets. Total 1500 SHGs has covered in this project and this is the best method to identify the real SHGs at grass-root level who are existing and following all the rules & regulations and are eligible for Govt. facilities including credit support. Due to this project now the Banks are confirm that this SHGs is working and maintaining their record or not and this is best way to observe the progress and follow-up the tracks after credit linkage by Banks. After this pilot project, may be the Govt. of India will replicate this model across the country for effective and proper management of SHGs and will provide the best facility to the groups for their sustainable and comprehensive development in a transparent manner.

this is a very successful initiative for Digital India Campaign and when the record of self help group can maintain, why not other Panchayat and related Govt. records and documents can maintain to the tablets on monthly basis and will be available for the public in a digital platform, due to this the corruption and manipulation will stop and everything will be transparent and will be in a time bound manner with the accountability and responsibility.

Activity Report of National Vendor Development Program Cum Industrial Exhibition

Date: 27 - 28 February, 2017

## Stall facilitated by – Human Welfare Association, Varanasi – G.I. Facilitator of 8 GI products

The opportunity provided by NABARD to the artisans who are directly associated with GI Registered product for National Vendor Development Program Cum Industrial Exhibition at Chandpur organized by MSME Ministry, Govt. of India by their Regional Office, was much meaningful for the Exposures and





learning to the other Small and Medium Industries in the point of IPR and GI. A number of participants have shown their much interest to know about the GI and its importance and how the local artisans are getting legal protection and promotion through IPR with the facilitation of NABARD.

In the inaugural session, Chief Guest Shri Nitin Ramesh Gokaran-Commissioner, Varanasi region has also highlighted the importance of Micro Scale Cottage based industries and importance of GI for their protection and promotion with more livelihood opportunities including the skill development initiative in Eastern UP Region in this

unorganized sector where nearly 1.5

million artisans and weavers are directly associated with these 8 RGIs product. He also prominently said that there is a lot of potential for the other products also in the IPR status. .

Dr. Rajani Kant has also addressed in a technical session and clearly emphasis on the role of GI-IPR and support given by NABARD and other training programs also supported by NABARD including the Self Help Group formation and management,





Mudra Loan, participation in exhibition including skill development initiative through MEDP and Union R-Setti. It was surprising that maximum industrialist and their related project staff was not very much familiar about the Geographical Indication and its importance, they know only patent, design and Trade mark under IPR, after getting the detail information about the GIs, they much appreciated the initiative of HWA.

In the two days exhibition through 2 stall which has converted in GI Pavillion has created a lot of awareness including the artisans has easily sale their craft in a good price to the participants and local visitors including the industrialist. Nearly 16000 rupees product has selling in two days by the artisans and they have also get the order for

future including the business queries has also come in a fruitful manner. Four artisans and 2 facilitators has actively participated in this 2 days National event.

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## **ACCESS Development Services**

## USTTAD launch event of Ministry of Minority Affairs,

USTTAD national launching event organized by Ministry of Minority Affairs with the facilitation of ACCESS, AIACA and HWA on 14h May, 2015 at Sanskritik Sankul, Varanasi. The impact of Human welfare Association and State Alliance - SAREL Network-UP is now recognizing and the new schemes from central Govt. are coming at ground level. The Govt. of India has started new scheme of Ministry of Minority Affairs, for the Minority WEAVERS AND ARTISANS IN THE NAME OF USTTAD. The national launching was from Varanasi on 14th May, with 2 cabinet Ministers Dr. Nazama Heptulla and Mr.Mukhtar Abbass Nakavi with Secretary, Minority Affairs-Dr.Arvind Mayaram. In this National event, the ministery has given all launching responsibility including total 1000 participants from minority, in the event(70% women) and exhibition of handicraft products, media management to HWA. On this occasion the organizers has also given welcome responsibility to Director-HWA to all 3 main guest by the Stole woven by handloom weaver with with the poetry of Kabir (a fine example of calligraphy in Banaras Handloom weaving, the stole was made by GI Authorize User – Mr. Bachche Lal Maurya of Chhahi village). Nearly 22 newspapers and 15 electronic channel has given proper coverage of this national events and the most important thing is that the weavers and artisans was very happy and a number of master craftsman and master weavers has also interacted with Hon'ble Union Ministers after completion of the event. The G.M. NABARD has also participated in this event and he assured us for the future supports in this sector.

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## The Global Literacy Project

## Supported by- THE PRAJNOPAYA FOUNDATION CHARITABLE SOCIETY and Sir Dorab Ji Tata Trust, Mumbai

**Technical Support -** The Dalai Lama Center for Ethics and Transformative Values at MIT 77 Massachusetts Avenue | Massachusetts Institute of Technology (W11-063) | Cambridge, MA 02139 | USA

**Implemented by** –Human Welfare Association(HWA), Varanasi at 2 sites- Mawaiya-Urban slum and Bhaisori village (behind Sarnath)

Project has started from October,2014 – Baseline Survey of the children completed, content of uploading completed, then started in the field from June,2015 at both site with 115 children. Both area is near to holiest Buddhist place Sarnath.

#### **Description of the Communities**

We are targeting two communities in Uttar Pradesh: (1) a rural area in Sarnath (near to Varanasi), and (2) an urban slum in Varanasi. The children participating in the program will be mixed gender (approximately 1:1 girls to boys) and will be between ages 3 and 8 years old. Each site will have approximately 50-60 students. The participants have not yet been selected, so exact numbers are not yet available.

## A. Sarnath - Rural Area - village Bhaisori

The area (site) has identified, village Bhaisori is situated in Chiraigaon block of Varanasi district, 3.5 Kms away from Sarnath is consisting with other backward community(OBC) Rajbhar-50 family and dalit community like Mushar-14 family, family, Harijan-15 family, the total population of these families is nearly 515 person including children. The community is facing a lot of crisis due to the ignorance, lack of awareness, orientation and knowledge and confidence to excess to Govt. schemes, 70% population is landless and working as wage laborers in the nearby area, the male is working as laborer in the city area.



The houses of Mushar's and Nut's are with a Mud house, few of them are using Plastic in their huts, maximum women are jobless and men are working as laborers in unskilled work. In the Rajbhar community, they are comparatively better than Mushar & Nuts, but are deprived and marginalized in comparison to the other backward community because 70% are landless and also working as wage laborers.

## Varanasi – Mawaiaya Urban Slum

In the Varanasi slums area the site has identified as Mawaiya (Urban Slum) is closed to Sarnath, nearly 2.5 Kms away from Sarnath and behind Central Tibbetan Institute. The most important thing is in this slum that the people are aware about the Buddhist culture and at the time of discourse of His Highness Honorable Sri Dalai Lama Ji, hundreds of Buddhist pilgrimage stay in this slum for 10 – 15 days and few of them more days.

The slum Mawaiya is consisting with mix population of Muslim, Rajbhar, Maurya (OBC) and Dalit,

maximum people from marginalized community are engaged as wage laborers and nearly 50% women are working as domestic worker in the nearby houses. The whole slum has spread in between 2 major roads and facing lack of facilities like sanitation, drinking water, drainage. The population of this slum is nearly 2500 without any govt. school.

Total number of children at both sites - 115 (64-Male, 51-Female)

Number of Children: Mawaiya - 31-

Male, 29-Female

Number of Children: Bhaisori - 33-Male, 22-Female

This is the first innovative project of this nature, in the country on improving educational inspiration through the tablets at international level for the marginalized community children has first time



initiative by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge USA in India in Sarnath, Varanasi. this type of technological innovation with the online uploaded content through the use of WiFi in the slums as well as in the rural area behind Sarnath is unbelievable for this community, the children are much enjoying who has never see a even good quality of cell phone. The parents are much enthusiastic with the children.

The children are very happy and much enjoying to open and operating the tablets with wonderful contents and really it is beyond the

imagination to work with this type of innovation with the marginalized community children in the slum and rural area, in spite of facing a number of difficulties on the both sides through few technical and electrical reasons, the children are really enthusiastic and within a short span of time they are learning in a much faster way.

This was the most important movement in the center, then after that they requested to teacher about the functioning of the tab, but again the teacher has refused and said that you go through it according to your own style, try and search.

