

Annual Report

April 2001 – March 2002

An overview

DHARA Sansthan

Rai Colony, Near I. T. Office
Barmer

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Foreword

I have great pleasure in presenting the Annual Report of the Dhara for the year 2001-02. Dhara is 13 year's old. Looking back, one is filled with satisfaction that during the past decade. Dhara has made impressive progress in the pursuit of its aims, objective and mission as an independent, professionally managed, non-profit organization. In the early years of its existence, Dhara choose to address issues of health, public affairs and social imbalance with special reference to the western region of Rajasthan. Education, another programs area, was added later. As in the past, during the year under report also, Dhara continued to devote its attention to the core areas development support mentioned above. Dhara has instrumental in taking up the voices of deprived communities in the society. The ardent issues like female feticide and infanticide are well addressed by the organization.

I extend thank to all our friends who provided support in meeting the objectives of the organization. I am also grateful my board members who time to time provided me proper guidelines to further take the task of development.

Dhara has done a lot, but there is still a lot more to be done. We need more resources to accomplish our ideas and goals.

Mahesh Panpalia

Chief Executive

1. DHARA: An Introduction

DHARA, an acronym for Society for Development of Health Hygiene and Rural Action, is a non-government organization. It was registered under the Act on 30 March 1989 with a vision ***to create exploitation free society on the principle of social justice and gender equality***. It has been working on women and child health issues for the last 10 years. Dhara's scope of work is spread over the whole Barmer district of Rajasthan. Barmer district was formed in 1949 as a result of merger of small states of Pachpadadara, Malani, Barmer, Shiv, and Siwana, which were under the erstwhile state of Jodhpur.

The Area and The People

Barmer, one of the largest and most Backward districts of the exotic State Of Rajasthan is largely arid. Apart from a small offshoot of Aravalli hills in the east, the region has vast sand

covered tracts, which stretch for miles and miles and form a part of the Thar Desert that is known for its dryness extreme temperatures and erratic rainfall. The total area of Barmer is about 28,387 sq. km., which is 8.29 percent of the total area of Rajasthan. Barmer has extremes of temperature, sandstorms and paucity of rainfall. In some years the temperature soars up to 51⁰ C. The average rainfall is 30 cm.

The Mission

To improve the living condition of women by strengthening their livelihood, health and education; enabling them to build accessibility and control over issues affecting their lives.

The population of the district is 19,63,758 which consists of 9,27,945 females and 10,35,813 males (census 2001). Total literacy rate of the district is 59.65, with male literacy rate of 73.64 and female literacy rate 43.91. The sex ratio is 896:1000. The population density of the district is 69 persons per sq. km. Schedule Casts (SCs), Schedule Tribes (STs) and refugees of Indo-Pak wars constitute most of the population of the district. Almost 80% population in the district is engaged in agriculture while the other main occupations are animal husbandry and handicrafts. Barmer has its district headquarters in Barmer town. The district has three subdivisions namely Barmer, Balotra & Gudamalani and 8 tehsils. The district is also divided into 8 Development Blocks (i.e. have 8 Panchayats Samities).

The Thrust Areas

- *Health*
- *Education*
- *Women empowerment*
- *Water management*
- *Relief Work*
- *HIV/AIDS*
- *Adolescent Sexual & Reproductive Rights*
- *Epidemic Management*

The Philosophy and The Strategy

DHARA believes that **health** is a legal right of the people and its provision is a fundamental duty of the state. The organization takes a human right approach on the issue. The organizational strategy is to organize and promote women institutions around development services and basic right issues. Health is an integral part of the Organization's strategy of total development.

2. Our Initiatives

A. Health

I. Reproductive and Child Health Program

The International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo recommended an unified programs for Reproductive and child Health. The process of integration of related programs initiated with the implementation of CSSM. In 1994, it was elevated a step ahead when Reproductive and child Health Programs was launched as a holistic and integrated approach of contraception issues and maternal health issues.



With funding support from Urmul Trust, a Mother NGO RCH program was initiated in 11 villages of Barmer block. A survey was conducted to determine the existing health status of the community in the project area. The project catered to the 7828 (2000) population of rural community. The major components of the project were

Pregnancy Care, Child Health, promotion of safe delivery through trained TBAs, prevention of malnutrition in children, family planning services, adolescents health and referral services.

The capacity building of TBAs and other project staff were carried out time to time. They were sent to various institutions like Chetna, Vihan, IIMR and Mamta for training.

The intervention of project was primary focused on women and child. With time span of 2 years the health status of the community and health seeking behavior were improved.

The maternal and child mortality & morbidity gone down substantially. The adolescent girls became aware about their reproductive and sexual health & rights. The couple protection rate improved.

II. HIV/AIDS Counseling Center

HIV/AIDS is growing health problem in India. It has spreaded from high-risk people to the common men. As per estimation 4 million people in India is affected from HIV virus. The situation is worse owing to the unavailability of the treatment for the disease. The symptoms are manifested in so many ways. Barmer being the desert district there is lot of migration of men folk. During this period so many cases of HIV/AIDS are being reported. In order to provide support to such patients the organization is running a Counseling center from the year 2000 in the Dist. Hospital of Barmer. In the time span of two-year total of 682 patients were counseled from which 37 patients were found HIV positive.

Services are provided at Counseling center

- **Pre Test Counseling**
- **Post Test Counseling & Support**
- **Free Condom Distribution**
- **Education about STDs**
- **Awareness Generation**
- **Demand Generation for Condom Use**

The patients with some sexual health and skin problem visiting the hospital are found to be suspect. Such patients are referred to counseling center for pretest counseling. Once the patients understood about the impact of test result they are sent for ELISA test. The posttest counseling is done based on the test result.

The center is being supported by Rajasthan State AIDS Control Society.

III. Mobile Health Camp

Under Indian Population Project (I.I.P-IX) funded by World Bank mobile health were conducted in 4-gram panchayat namely Jaisindir station, Bagawas, Karmawas and

Kundal respectively. Total 24 camps were held in which 12 were main camps and 12 were follow-up camps.

In main camps 1978 patients were treated and in follow-up camps 1762 patients were seen. Among total patients 1027 women and 948 men in main camps. In follow-up camps 864 female and 998 men patients were treated.



B. Education

Balika Development School

The educational status of girl child is poor in the western Rajasthan. The inverse sex ratio is also a growing menace. The practice of female feticide and infanticide is quite predominant in Barmer district. The girl development school was started to uplift the educational status of girl. The parents were counseled about the importance of Child education. The intervention brought a substantial change in practice of female feticide and infanticide. It went down to a minimum level and not a single such case came to notice. Total 104 girls were enrolled in these schools.



National Foundation for India supported the Balika Development Schools.

C. Drought

I. Drinking Water Distribution Program

This project was supported by Action Aid, India in 5 villages of Setrau gram panchayat. This project was implemented during drought situation. In this project area the water level is very low and there was too much scarcity of water in the area. The main objective of the program was to provide drinking water to the drought-affected communities.

The program was run only for 1½ month. During the program total of 5342 populations were benefited. Most of the beneficiaries were belong to Dalit community. To provide drinking water there were 31 community tanks. Total 259 trips of water tank each having the capacity of 5000 lit were supplied.

II. Construction of Water Tanks

During the drought there were two main problems in the area was employment and drinking water. To aiming this problem Aravalli, Jaipur has supported this program. The main aim of the program is to generate employment through the creation of fixed assets and to address the drinking water problems in the drought affected area. All the beneficiaries were identified through organizing *ward sabhas*. Through this program Tanks, ponds and repair of wells were done. There were total of 40 tanks, 1 pond prepared.

All the works were done by the community participation.

D. Entrepreneurship Development Program

By the support of Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India a one-month entrepreneur development programs was conducted. The main aim of the project is to aware 25 unemployed youth on various technical income generation programs. In the training various technical persons from different technical institutes were invited to impart their knowledge on technical issues.

E. Women Empowerment

Self-Help Groups is very innovative approach of empowering women in the rural setting. It provides a platform where women can initiate income generation activities in their villages itself. The project envisaged empowering women so; total 5 such women groups were formed throughout the project period in the area. Out 5, 3 groups have been linked with Bank and their accounts are now operational. Every month women deposit Rs20/- to Rs 50/- in their account.

The monthly meetings of each group are held on regular basis. The minutes of the meeting are maintained in a register.

Every group selects a President, Secretary and a Treasurer among them.

F. Other Activities

PAVA- Professional Assistance to voluntary Agencies

A professional was deputed at DHARA under PAVA scheme. He provided professional support for overall development of the organization. The Aravali, a supporting agency of government, was giving the salary.

3. The Governing Board

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|----|-----------------------|-------------|
| 1. | Dr. Kumkum Shrivastav | (Chairman) |
| 2. | Mr. Kalaram Panwar | (Treasurer) |
| 3. | Mr. Mahesh Panpalia | (Secretary) |
| 4. | Mr. Rambabu | (Member) |
| 5. | Ms. Rajkumari Surana | (Member) |
| 6. | Mr. Yagadat Joshi | (Member) |
| 7. | Ms. Jaymala Gupta | (Member) |