

Annual Report

April 2003 - March 2004

D_{HARA} **S**_{an}sthan

Rai colony, Near I.T. Office
Barmer – 344001

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Chief Executive's Report

Dhara has entered into its 13 years. There has been a lot of progress in these years. We have adopted ourselves according to changing developmental needs of the communities in Barmer.

Our efforts in the area of Health, Education, Natural Resource Management & HIV/AIDS has been well inspired by the communities we serve.

I am pleased to present our annual report for the year 2003-2004. Our commitment towards deprived people has always been an inspirational force for us.

I extend my gratitude to our donor agencies like National Foundation for India, ActionAid, ECHO, Unicef, Oxfam GB, Rajasthan Aids Control Society, Aravali for their constant support. This support has helped me to serve the communities in their adversity.

I am also thankful to the communities of the villages for actively participating in the work. They provided their constant support throughout the project. The members of monitoring committees supported in maintaining quality and smooth implementation of the work.

Last but not the least, I extend my gratefulness to our friends who directly and indirectly helped to complete the work in time.

Mahesh Panpaliya
CEO-DHARA

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 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 Objective

- **C**reating Awareness of Various health issues (including reproductive health, female infanticide, gender discrimination, service delivery points etc.) in the community (especially women and adolescent girls)
- **C**apacity building and sensitizing women (including *panchayat Raj* institute members and traditional birth attendants) for local leadership
- **T**o organize rural women (*mahila mandals*) and involve them in the process of development
- **T**o increase accessibility of schools especially for deprived girls
- **T**o bring the change in health seeking behavior of the community and utilization of health centers by the community
- **T**o disseminate information and experience of different projects and activities.

Introduction to the Area

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 51^o C. The average rainfall is 30 cm. Forest land accounts for less than 1% while 7% area of the district is wasteland. 14% of the total land consists of grazing grounds, open fields and rocks.

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).

Initiatives

Empowerment of girl Child and Women through Health & Education Phase – II

The programme “Empowerment of Girl Child and Women through Health and Education” is being implemented. The Programme has been running since May 2002. This programme targets girls aged 4-15 girls (and also male siblings of these girls). NFE (Non formal Education) schools are functioning in 5 villages where education is imparted to the students who could not attain formal education system institution. If some

girls who could attain school then teacher devote some time at their home to impart education. These NFE schools continue to function throughout the year except for the brake on the government holidays. The internal evaluation of the students is done twice in a year. Based on the final score they are being promoted to higher classes. The students who complete the education at these schools are enrolled in the six standard in government schools. These efforts have brought an attitudinal change in the mindset of the community about girl child. The occurrences of female feticide and infanticides have gone down. The teachers and TBAs are sensitized about this issue and they in turn act as a change agent in their villages. This integrated model of health and education is really successful in addressing the above-mentioned issue. TBAs usually has

Service Rendered

- Educated the Girl children’s through Non-formal schools
- Enhanced the Existing knowledge of TBAS
- SHG groups formation and capacity building
- Increased awareness among Adolescent girls by forming “*Kishori Manch*”
- Health education and counseling

been involved in this heinous act. After sensitization they out rightly refused to do this and also counseled parents to refrain from this.

SL.	Name of Village	Boys	Girls	Total
1.	Setrau	30	22	25
2.	Sura Charanan	25	18	43
3.	Dudwa Khurd	29	24	53
4.	Sura Jagir	10	16	26
5.	Tamaliyar	12	28	40
	Total	106	108	214

(Total children in the NFE Centers)

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. Following services are provided at Counseling center: -

- ***Pre Test Counseling***
- ***Post Test Counseling & Support***
- ***Free Condom Distribution***
- ***Education about STD, STI, RTI***
- ***Awareness Generation***
- ***Demand Generation for Condom Use***

The identities of the patients are kept confidential. The center is operating in the district hospital, Barmer. The patients coming to the hospital for treatment of any STD and skin problem, if found suspect, are referred to counseling center for pre-test counseling. After successful counseling they are sent for RAPIT/ELISA test. The post-test counseling are done based on the test result. Proper care and support to positive cases are provided and negative cases are call for follow up. . It is ensured that the patients don't face any discrimination due to his positive status in the society. There are two counselors, one male and one female to perform this task. They are professionally trained counselor.

The basic problems faced during the care of these patients are high cost of treatment and poor support from the family and society.

Total Sanitation Campaign

The main objectives of the program are to build the relation between hygiene and health, to aware the community about the hygiene practices and to maintain hygienic condition through proper waste (solid and liquid) disposal. During the project different activities were organized. Activities like quiz competition, slogan writing in walls, cultural programs, essay writing and rallies etc. The cultural program and essay competitions were organized in village school levels and 120 winners were awarded. These activities were organized in Setraw panchayat.

The house-to-house contacts were made and imparted education about the sanitation and its importance. They were told that how they can lead healthy and disease-free life adopting hygienic habits.

Drought relief works

- **Drinking Water distribution**
- **Huts constructions**
- **Tank Constructions**
- **Plantation**
- **Grain Distribution**
- **Agriculture support**
- **Support to the Destitute**
- **Funnel Distribution**
- **Fodder Distribution**

Drought Relief Programs (ECHO)

The year 2003 is the 4th consecutive year that the district has suffered badly with drought. For the relief of Drought effected

people DHARA had provided a lot of services to the drought-affected community. During the drought total of 3850 families were benefited through various support by the organization except the drinking water distribution program. DHARA had provided relief in total of 30 villages. All the beneficiaries were selected through the village level committee. Before the beginning of the drought relief works in every village one-village committees were formed. The committee members were authorized to monitor the program and select the beneficiaries. By the support of National foundation for India and Action Aid, India total 65 and 55 tanks were constructed respectively. In another activities 55 Huts were constructed, 629 plants distributed for plantation, 750 families were supported with Rs. 500/- for each family in agricultural activities, 885 quintal grains distributed to 885 families, 3818 cattels were provided fodder as a rate of 400 gm per cattle. Fodders per day were distributed. Total of 182 destitute were provided grocery items of Rs. 85/- per month for each destitute.

Many of the diseases and complications are water born. The sources of water in the district are mainly water tanks where water is stored for consumption. Villagers use this water for drinking purposes. The water contains some micros, which need to be removing before use for drinking purposes. Some other matters may get dropped into the tank water. The villagers were using the tank water after directly taking from tank and using it for drinking and food preparation. DHARA noticed this problem and found out that if water is filtered through a plastic nets. This problem can be solved to a substantial level. So, total of 2200 plastic nets were distributed among 2200 families.

The area, which was selected to provide drinking water, is the most backward and it is nearer to boarder of Pakistan. The water level of the area is very low. Hence, on the demand of villagers and cooperation of District Administrative, DHARA had run a drinking Water distribution program. During the program total of 1137 trip water tanker were provided in 8492 populations of 15 villages. The

water was poured in the 44 community tanks and it was decided to provide 15 lit. water to each person. For every trip the committee members' signature were taken on the voucher papers for proper monitoring of the program.

Celebration of Safe Motherhood

Maternal mortality rate is an indicator of human development. The state of Rajasthan is experiencing high rate of maternal mortality i.e. 677. The district of Barmer is not an exception to it. There are several reasons for maternal deaths. These deaths could have been averted if proper care is being taken at right time. The lack of awareness in the communities and second status of women in the society further aggravates the situation. To address this issue safe motherhood day is being celebrated across the globe on 11th April.

One-day awareness workshop was held in the PHC of Ramasar tehsil. In the workshop the TBAs, ANMs, MOIC and other paramedical staffs participated. In the workshop presentation about ANC, INC, PNC and immunization of pregnant women's were done. For this program CHETNA, Jaipur and UNICEF provided their support.

Malaria Control Program

The western Rajasthan happens to be the high prevalent place for Malaria. Malaria epidemic is very common in this part of the state. Whenever there is excessive rainfall and water get logged in few places in the rural and urban area. The practice of water storage tank in each household also plays a vital role in the spread of Malaria. If these water reservoirs are not properly treated then it became a place for mosquito breeding. One small reservoir has a capacity to be the breeding place for the thousands of female anopheles mosquitoes. Once the mosquitoes attain puberty it spreads malaria in the catchments area.

This year also several cases of Malaria were reported from the different parts of the district and high rate of mortality occurred. The organization initiated malaria control work in 15 badly hit villages of Barmer block. Daily mobile camps were done to identify and provide proper treatment. A portable malarial diagnostic kit was used to detect negative and positive cases with support of Sambhav then and there. This kit facilitated in providing quick medical remedy to the positive cases. This method of quick diagnosis and prompt treatment averted so many mortalities.

During this campaign pamphlets were distributed among the communities to raise awareness. These pamphlets were designed and sponsored by Oxfam, India. Malathion spray was also carried out in the villages with the support of Action Aid.

Drawing competition

Children are the instant face of Deity. They have the right to survive, eat and read in the terrain. They have the right of education, health, food, love etc. on **Children's Day** i.e. 14th Nov 03 a drawing competition was organized.

By the support of Save the Children (U.K), DHARA Sansthan has organized a Drawing competition for children of the schools and colleges. The age group for the participants were 6 - 10 years, 11 -14 years and 15 -18 years. The main themes of the competition were, MY Dream, Our Future, Me and My Village and A Pictorial Message for Sarpanch, We are citizen of Today. The competitions were organized separately in 2 schools and 1 college. On the next day the result (winners of the competitions) was handed over to the organization by the judges. There were 9 winners from which 5 were girls and 4 were Boys. On 16th Nov 03 the prize distribution program was held in which some district administrators, Principals, lecturers of Schools, colleges and parents of the participants were

invited in the program. The prizes were sponsored by Save the Children fund, Jaipur.

Tailoring center

The women are mainly involved in domestic work. They did not get any credit for doing this. In the area the communities are mostly deprived. The men do not have regular means of livelihood. So their economical status is poor. The women were willing to learn something and support the family economically. If the women will do some income generation activities their status in the society will improve.

By the support of District industrial dept. a tailoring center is running in the Setraw panchayat of Barmer block. The main objective of the program is to train women in tailoring for their economical well being. In the training center there are 30 women. Most of the trainees are belongs to the dalit community. Daily 4 hours training i.e. 1 PM To 5 PM are provided to the trainees.

Other Activities

Training Attended by Staff

No.	Days	Institution	Place	Area	Participant
1.	2	IHMR	Jaipur	HIV/AIDS	Dr. Arvind Basotia
2.	6	RSACS	Jaipur	HIV/AIDS	Dr. Arvind Basotia
3.	4	Unnati	Ahmedabad	Training of Trainer	Dr. Arvind Basotia
4.	4	Unnati	Ahmedabad	Training of Trainer	Mr. Taraprasad Panigrahi
5.	2	Rajasthan Volunteer Health Association	Jaipur	Malaria	Dr. Arvind Basotia
6.	2	RVHA	Kukan Wali (Nagur)	Communication Advocacy	Dr. Arvind Basotia
7.	1	CAPART (Unnati)	Jodhpur	<i>Dalit Sammelan</i>	Dr. Arvind Basotia
8.	8	Indian Social Institute	New Delhi	Watershed Management for Rural Development	Mr. Girraj Jangir

Presentation by Staff

No.	Place	Subject	Presenters
1.	Kolkatta	HIV/AIDS	Dr. Arvind Basotia

Future Plans

- ✓ **T**he organization has envisaged to extent support to the women who are being sufferer of atrocities like rape, biting, dowry, molestation and etc.
- ✓ **T**he adolescents group is the most neglected. Dhara has plan to initiate sexual and reproductive health & right program for them.
- ✓ **T**he organization is also looking forward to provide comprehensive eye health services to the communities.

Our Human Resources

S. No.	Name	Designation
1.	Mr. Mahesh Panpalia	Chief Executive
2.	Dr. Arvind Basotia	HIV/AIDS Counselor
3.	Mr. Taraprasad Panigrahi	Office Executive
4.	Mr. Girraj Jangir	Education Coordinator
5.	Mr. Namichand Bosiya	Health Coordinator
6.	Ms. Kusum Dave	Asst. Coordinator
7.	Mr. Jagdish	Teacher cum Frontline Development worker
8.	Mr. Khetaram	Teacher cum Worker
9.	Ms. Jethi Choudhary	Teacher
10.	Mr. Hazari ram	Teacher cum development worker
11.	Mr. Balwant Kumar	Teacher cum Development worker

The Board Members

1. Dr. Kumkum shrivastava Chairman
2. Mr. Mahesh Panpalia Secretary
3. Mr. Kallaram Panwar Treasurer
4. Dr. Rajkumari Suana Member
5. Ms. Jaymal Gupta Member
6. Mr. Rambabu Member
7. Mr. Yagadat Joshi Member