



ANNUAL REPORT

GRAMIN EVAM NAGAR VIKAS PARISHAD

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**2023
2024**

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FROM THE DESK OF GENERAL SECRETARY



I am pleased to present the Annual Progress Report of Garmin Evam Nagar Vikas Parishad (GENVP) for the year 2023-2024. This comprehensive and transparent report outlines our actions, activities, utilities, and future strategies, especially targeting those involved in social development and civil society efforts. Our focus remains on promoting community development in alignment with the Millennium Development Goals of our country and state.

Throughout this year, GENVP has experienced significant growth and made substantial strides in various sectors of humanitarian aid and philanthropy. With the support of like-minded individuals, we have conducted numerous experiments, gained valuable field insights, and executed our plans effectively. These efforts have helped us carve out a respected position within the community. We have also embraced our mistakes, responded positively to criticism, and welcomed suggestions and recommendations for continuous improvement. Our commitment to creating a special and valued place among other esteemed civil society organizations has sharpened our initiatives and refined our efforts.

This annual report highlights our achievements, missed opportunities, and lessons learned. Noteworthy actions over the year include initiatives to empower women, support livelihoods, and strengthen community institutions for local self-governance. We have institutionalized the concept of philanthropy, launched livelihood programs, and conducted campaigns on safe abortion, social inclusion of beggar children, and addressing domestic violence against women. These efforts were achieved through active collaboration with media organizations, voluntary groups, and intellectuals. We urge these partners to continue fostering social change through strong partnerships.

Publishing this annual report is a momentous occasion for both me and the organization. Our efforts with marginalized sections have not only built rapport, love, and affection but also strengthened the sustainability of GENVP through value-added execution from the grassroots level to the top.

We deeply admire and greatly appreciate all the remarkable and often unseen civil society movements, supporting agencies, networks, communities, and citizens who have enabled our organization to thrive. Your support has been invaluable, and we look forward to continuing our journey towards a better future.

Ram Kishor Prasad Singh
General Secretary

ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

Gramin Evam Nagar Vikas Parishad (GENVP) was established on November 14, 1984 with the vision to provide a platform for discussion and action on developmental issues concerning the poor/ultra-poor community section. GENVP was founded by a group of like-minded intellectual associates to involve the rural and urban poor in various developmental activities. The organization has imbibed the thoughts expressed by the father of our nation, Mahatma Gandhi, and another visionary, Loknayak Jaiprakash Narayan, that development can only take place when the people, especially the rural people are mobilized to participate in their own development. Accordingly, GENVP is committed to concentrating on the empowerment of people, especially women, children & Dalits in the villages, realizing that women, Children & Dalits are the strongest agents of social change and through them the other sections can also be reached.

VISION

Achieving a self-reliant rural society with self-governance, peace, equity and justice

MISSION

1. Community organization for initiating social action.
2. Facilitating the establishment of sustainable health care system.
3. Empowerment of women and bringing gender equity in rural society.
4. Ensuring economic development and creating sustainable opportunity to

CORE VALUE:

- Value to traditional knowledge and Wisdom
- Compassion with Poor and people who denial to human rights
- Gender Equity and Equality

TARGET GROUP:

- ✓ Women
- ✓ Dalit
- ✓ Children
- ✓ Adolescent
- ✓ Young people
- ✓ Persons with disabilities

OBJECTIVE OF THE ORGANIZATION

- To promote and develop Community health through establishment of health centres, which implement family planning program and disseminate health related education
- To arrange library and reading room facilities etc. for education to masses
- To promote, undertake and set up centers for research, evaluation, educational activities and furtherance of the aims and objectives of the organization.
- To implement employment-oriented program for neglected and weaker sections of the society including the rehabilitation of orphans, widows and destitute women by encouraging handicraft and villages industries
- To undertake other such works which are essential for social, economic and cultural development of the society
- To promote and develop appropriate rural technology
- To promote and develop non-conventional energy sources
- To work for environment protection and a pollution free atmosphere
- To promote village agro-industries, irrigation, safe drinking water, social forestry, agriculture, horticulture and animal husbandry
- To promote integrated area development

KEY THEMATIC AREAS



Geographical Expansion

GENVP has worked directly in Patna and Nalanda Districts of Bihar and throughout Bihar State through the network and indirect interventions.

STATE WIDE NETWORKING

Widening the spread of the impact as well as increasing the scope of operation with respect to community health/ reproductive health/ reproductive rights/ declining child sex ratio have been a vital organization priority for a long time. The best method to overcome these limitations



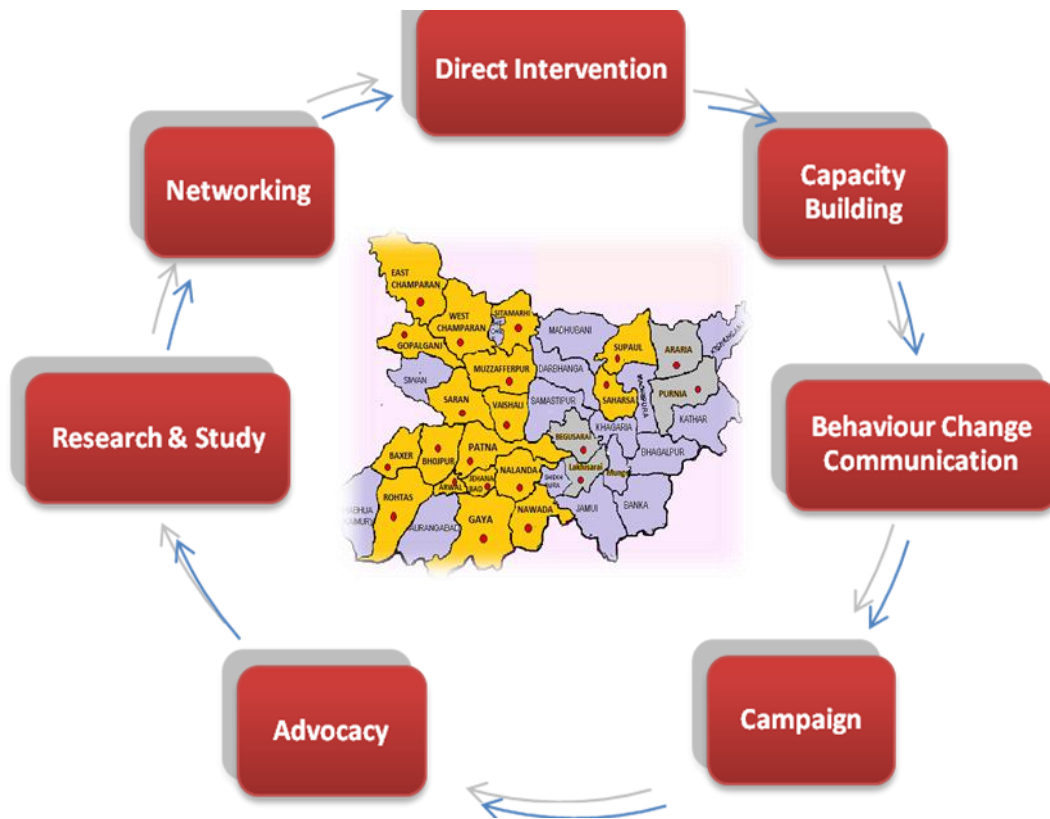
and thereby achieve the state-wide spread as well as wide spread impact, is through networking of similar organizations. Of course, the organization also values connecting with people committed to the cause; but institutional networking is preferred because it has higher programmatic impact. This effort has yielded fruit in bringing together a many civil society organizations spread all over Bihar. Repeated rounds of network meetings among them have finally brought about an understanding of common principles a commonly agreed minimum action plan. As of today, this network of civil society organizations is spread all over the state and has strong presence in all the districts of Bihar. There is a thematic forum of civil society organizations with at least 10 organizational partners/members in each of the district. This network meets together at district as well as state level platform. The meetings are mostly organized district wise for specific campaigns. The state level meetings have also proven their vitality to explore the possibility of a thematic understanding and for the effective advocacy.



MEMBERSHIP & ASSOCIATION

1. Core team member of Drafting Committee of Bihar population policy, Health Dept., Govt. of Bihar
2. Member of Bihar Innovation Forum, Govt. of Bihar
3. Member of Bihar State Child Welfare Council. Chaired by Hon'ble Governor, Govt. of Bihar
4. Member of Vigilance Committee of Ministry of rural Development, Govt. of India
5. State Coordinating Organization of Women Power Connect (WPC)
6. Lead CSO of Family Planning Alliance in Bihar
7. Member of national Network CMNSA (Common Health)
8. Core team Member of National Alliance SAJHI Takat
9. Member of SRIJAN
10. Member of National Alliance NACG
11. State level Core group member of ARC
12. State Coordinating Organization of NARMADA
13. Governing Board Member of ATSEC
14. Member of AiH
15. Member of Credibility Alliance.
16. Member of SAATTHII
17. Member of Propoor
18. Member of Wesnet
19. Member of Gender Alliance

KEY STRATEGY ACROSS BIHAR





PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

1. HEALTH:

Public health is a core and essential thematic issue for our organization. Since its inception, GENVP has upheld the belief that health is a matter of social justice and equality. Providing just and equitable service deliveries to the downtrodden and weaker sections of the community are paramount. We view health not only as a concern for public health service providers or professional services but as a fundamental right that should be accessible to all, free of discrimination.

Over time, GENVP has consistently and steadily addressed the health concerns of targeted communities, aiming to reduce their sufferings through successful initiatives. Our focus areas include reproductive and sexual health, HIV/AIDS, mental health, advanced family planning, immunization, and safe abortion. These priorities are set with a keen awareness of the poor health indicators in Bihar related to these issues. Our ongoing commitment is to ensure that quality health care services are available to all, reflecting our dedication to social justice and equality in health.

1.1. SAFE ABORTION CAMPAIGN:

Unsafe abortion remains a significant yet preventable cause of maternal deaths. Despite the legalization of Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) in India since 1971, accessing these services continues to be a challenge, particularly in the rural and remote regions of Bihar State. Although there is a strong preference for small families among married couples, this has not led to widespread contraception use. Moreover, no contraceptive method is entirely effective, making safe abortion services an essential component of reproductive healthcare. Ensuring Comprehensive Abortion Care (CAC) services is now a key element of the Government of India's efforts to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity. However, access to safe abortion services remains poor, especially in rural areas such as the Nalanda District of Bihar.

The stigma and shame associated with abortion, often deeply rooted in religious beliefs, cultural values, and economic status, create significant barriers to accessing safe abortion services. This stigma is particularly acute among rural women, who face not only societal judgment and ostracism but also significant financial challenges in affording abortion-related medicines. The compounded effect of these factors makes it extremely difficult for rural women to seek and obtain safe abortion care, leading to increased health risks and further perpetuating the cycle of stigma and misinformation.

To combat these challenges, GENVP has been actively working to raise awareness among rural women, dispelling myths and reducing self-stigmatization. The organization focuses on sensitizing various stakeholders to ensure the provision of safe abortion services, especially during uncertain times. Through these efforts, GENVP aims to improve access to essential reproductive health services and enhance the overall health and well-being of women in these communities.

In the current reporting year, Gramin Evam Nagar Vikas Parishad (GENVP) has successfully executed a comprehensive Safe Abortion campaign in the Nalanda District of Bihar with robust support from CREA. This initiative focused on raising awareness and providing essential education about safe abortion practices, aiming to bridge the gap between women and the critical health services they require. One of the campaign's significant highlights was the observance of International Safe Abortion Day, an event that gathered health personnel, Anganwadi workers, ASHA



workers, and community women leaders from various organizations. This event served as a unifying platform for diverse stakeholders, fostering collaboration and collective action

towards promoting safe abortion services and upholding women's reproductive health rights.

A core component of the campaign involved organizing a series of orientation and training programs designed to educate and empower various community members. These sessions specifically targeted community women leaders, ASHA workers, Anganwadi workers,



members of the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI), Jeevika Didi and staff and nurses from health institutes. The primary focus of these training programs was to provide comprehensive education on accessing safe abortion services for girls and women, especially during uncertain times. By equipping these key community figures with the necessary knowledge and skills, the campaign aimed to ensure that they could effectively advocate for and support safe abortion practices within their respective communities.



The training sessions were structured with clear objectives, including raising awareness about the rights associated with accessing safe abortion services and the legal framework governing these rights in India, particularly under the Medical

Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act of 2021. An essential part of these sessions was addressing and dispelling the self-stigma often associated with abortion. Participants were educated on the importance of understanding and utilizing comprehensive safe abortion services, emphasizing that these services are crucial for safeguarding women's health and rights. By fostering a supportive environment and promoting accurate information, the campaign worked to reduce the stigma surrounding abortion and encourage a more open dialogue on reproductive health.

The outcomes of the campaign were significant and far-reaching. Through the training and orientation sessions, GENVP successfully raised awareness about the legal rights and safe practices associated with abortion among a broad audience. Participants gained a better understanding of the MTP Act of 2021 and the critical role of safe abortion services. The campaign empowered community leaders, health workers, and women by providing them with the knowledge and tools needed to advocate for and access safe abortion services. This empowerment is expected to have a lasting impact, enabling these trained individuals to continue promoting safe abortion practices and supporting women's health rights in their communities.

2. LIVELIHOOD:

Livelihood programs are essential for enhancing food security, reducing dependency, minimizing vulnerability, and promoting self-reliance. These programs develop specific skills during displacement and focus on priorities and goals defined by the community itself. They build on people's strengths and help them become more resilient to disasters. Gramin Evam Nagar Vikas Parishad (GENVP) has been implementing various livelihood programs to uplift the socio-economic status of the needy.

2.1 'LIGHTING LIVES' CANDLE PRODUCTION AND MARKETING PROJECT FOR SUSTAINING THE REHABILITATION OF BEGGARS/ULTRA POOR:

The 'Lighting Lives' project aims to provide employment and income to at least 150 individuals from marginalized and impoverished communities. As the project scales, it is expected to benefit 150 direct beneficiaries and 500 indirect beneficiaries, who are dependents

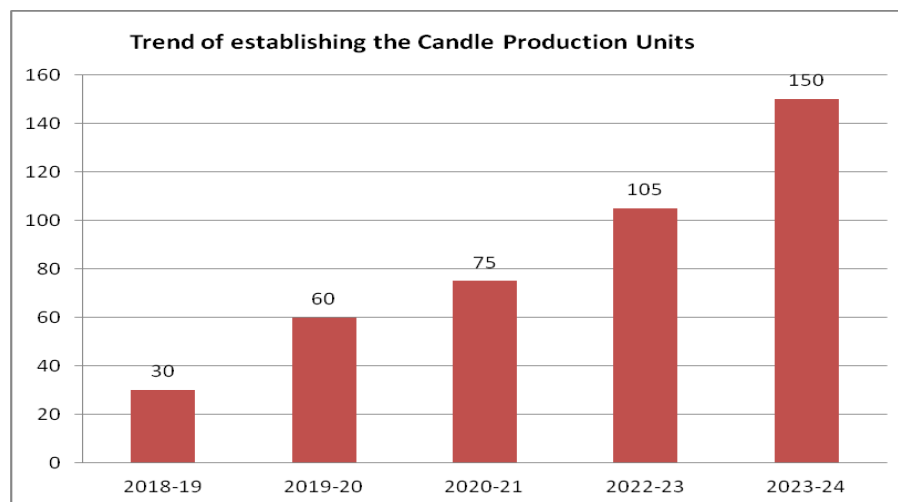


of the direct participants. The project's ultimate goal is to generate socio-economic benefits through livelihood opportunities. This initiative has been operational since 2017 in the Nalanda District of Bihar, supported by the Lemonaid+ Charitea Foundation.

In India, particularly during the festival of lights, 'Deepawali', inauguration of Ram Mandir Day, Christmas the demand for candles is high. This demand is especially significant in low-income states like Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. The Lighting Lives project meets this demand by producing candles year-round, with peak production during the Deepawali season and Christmas.

Achievements:

The project plans to establish 150 candle production units led by women, providing direct employment to 150 ultra-poor individuals and indirect employment to at least 500 dependents. The project's broader aim is to improve the quality of life for the ultra-poor in terms of health, education, and socio-economic benefits. In this reporting year, the project has reached its target of establishing 150 candle production units, covering 14 villages across 8 Gram Panchayats in the Nalanda district of Bihar. The project currently has 150 functioning production units.



The trend of establishment of candle production units under the Lighting Lives Project from 2018-19 to 2023-24 shows a consistent and significant increase. This upward trajectory indicates a successful expansion of the project's production capacity, reflecting its growing impact and potential to enhance lighting solutions for more people each year.

Project Implementation:

During the reporting period, the Lighting Lives project successfully established 150 candle production units in 14 villages across two blocks in the Nalanda district, achieving 100% of its target. Each unit operates in the beneficiaries' villages with 3-4 supporting members, producing average 200-250 candle packets per day. Beneficiaries' incomes are directly tied to their production levels.



The project team conducted various Community-Based Organization (CBO) meetings at the village level, formed by the production units, to enhance their capacity and skill sets. The Lighting Lives Project team has been actively organized a series of regular meetings with the members of the Lighting Lives groups. These meetings were providing a platform for members to discuss a wide array of social issues and developmental areas. Key topics include children's schooling, basic health and hygiene, and access to government social entitlement schemes. The team emphasizes the importance of education, addressing challenges such as school enrollment, attendance, and academic performance, and providing guidance on how parents can support their children's education. They also focus on promoting good health practices and hygiene by providing information on preventive healthcare, nutrition, and sanitation to improve the overall health standards of the community. Furthermore, the team educates members about various government schemes designed to support low-income families, assisting them in understanding eligibility criteria, application processes, and benefits. These meetings served as a forum for group members to share personal experiences, voice concerns, and seek advice on resolving social issues, fostering a sense of community,



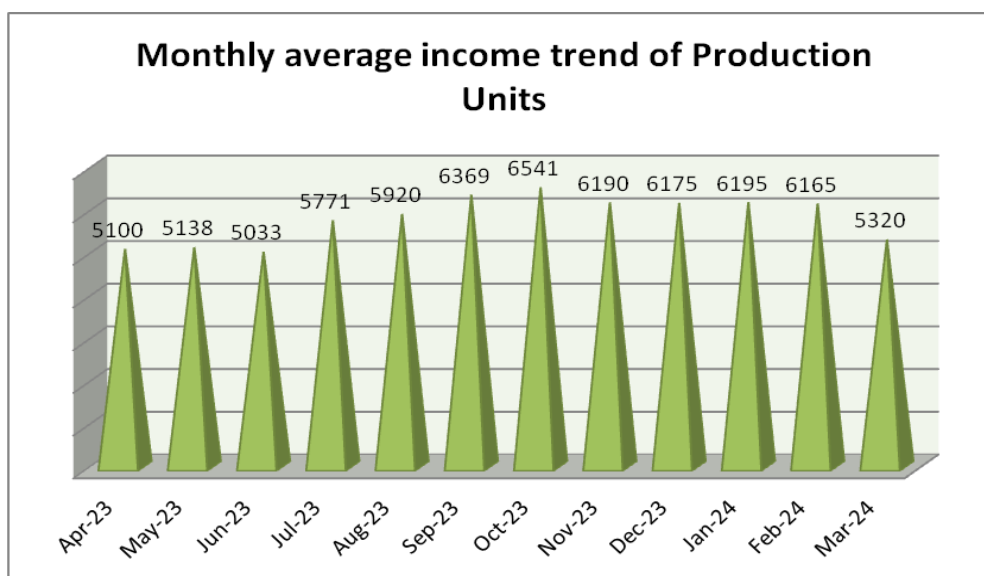
empowering individuals with knowledge, and promoting collective action towards social and economic development.

Economic Impact:

A key goal of the project is to provide sustainable income to its beneficiaries. By the end of the reporting period, the project had provided full-time employment to 150 women leaders and 570 indirect beneficiaries working in candle production units. Previously



dependent on seasonal agriculture and daily labor, these beneficiaries now have a steady income from candle making, improving their well-being and reducing vulnerability. The average monthly income per unit ranges from Rs. 5000/- to Rs. 6000/-, enhancing access to economic resources, opportunities, and skills development.

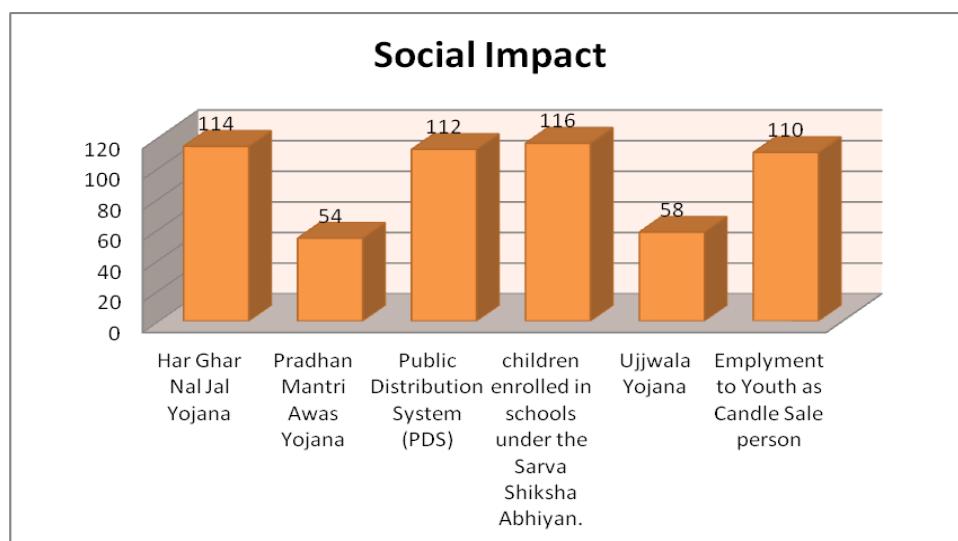


The "Lighting Lives Project" has exhibited a steady increase in monthly income for its production units over the past year. Despite some minor fluctuations, the overall trend has been positive, with significant growth observed particularly in the latter half of 2023. The project's income levels have remained robust, indicating sustained financial health

and impact. This upward trend underscores the project's success and its positive economic influence on the communities involved.

Social Impact:

The Lighting Lives project has positively impacted beneficiaries by enabling them to access government services. During the project period, 114 beneficiaries received treated drinking water under the Har Ghar Nal Jal Yojana, 54 beneficiaries received housing under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, 112 beneficiaries benefited from the Public Distribution System (PDS), and 116 children of beneficiaries enrolled in government schools under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. Additionally, 58 beneficiaries received gas cylinders under the Ujjwala Yojana, and 129 beneficiaries opened bank accounts under the Jan Dhan Yojana. Furthermore, the project has provided jobs to 110 unemployed youth from the villages, who work as salespersons and hawkers of the candle products. Their income increases significantly during the Deepawali season, further benefiting the local youth in Nalanda District.



The "Lighting Lives Project" has significantly impacted various government schemes and programs. It improved access to clean water through the Har Ghar Nal Jal Yojana and provided housing support via the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. The project enhanced access to essential goods through the Public Distribution System (PDS) and enrolled

children in schools under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. Additionally, it supplied clean cooking fuel through the Ujjwala Yojana and created employment for youths as candle salespersons, boosting their economic prospects.

The 'Lighting Lives' Candle Production and Marketing Project has significantly transformed the lives of marginalized communities in Bihar, particularly in the Nalanda District. By providing sustainable livelihood opportunities, the project has empowered 150 direct beneficiaries and 570 indirect beneficiaries, offering them a reliable income source and enhancing their socio-economic status. The project's impact extends beyond individual beneficiaries, fostering community development, reducing vulnerability, and promoting self-reliance. The integration of beneficiaries into various government schemes further underscores the project's success in driving holistic development. As the project continues to scale and meet its goals, it stands as a testament to the power of community-driven initiatives in fostering economic empowerment and social cohesion. The 'Lighting Lives' project not only illuminates homes with candles but also brightens the futures of the ultra-poor, paving the way for a more equitable and prosperous society.

Success Stories of Lighting Lives Project:

We are happy to share with you a few remarkable success stories of the beneficiaries of our "Lighting Lives" project in this reporting year. These stories exemplify the profound impact our project has had on the lives of individuals and communities, enabling them to overcome challenges and build a brighter future. From improved access to education for children to enhanced productivity for small businesses, the project has brought about tangible improvements in quality of life. We have seen households transition from darkness to light, allowing families to extend their productive hours and participate more actively in their communities. These stories, among many others, reflect the transformative power of our "Lighting Lives" project. We are committed to continuing our efforts to bring light and hope to even more communities in the coming years, striving to create sustainable, long-lasting change that empowers people and fosters resilience.

Success Story 01: Archana Devi's Journey from Despair to Hope



My name is Archana Devi, and I reside in Nabinagar village of Bihar Sharif Block, Nalanda District. My family, consisting of my husband, Ganesh Mistri, and our three children—Rohan Kumar, 18 years old; Khushboo Kumari, 15 years old; and Anish Kumar, 1 year old—used to live in a small, one-room house. Our home, with its thatched roof and walls made of raw mud, would flood during the rainy season, making life extremely challenging.

My husband worked as a daily laborer, but his work was inconsistent, leading to financial instability. We faced daily struggles to make ends meet. Every festival, I would console my children, explaining that we couldn't afford to celebrate properly this year but promising better celebrations the next time. Unfortunately, this promise seemed to repeat annually, becoming a constant reminder of our hardships. We were also unable to save the money for Khushboo's future wedding because Ganesh's earnings barely covered our basic needs, let alone allowed us to save. At times, the stress and despair made me feel hopeless, even contemplating extreme measures. However, Ganesh remained a pillar of strength, assuring me that our situation would improve someday.

In the midst of our struggles, representatives from Lighting Lives visited our village for a survey. Curious, I inquired about their work, and they explained the mission of Lighting Lives. After sharing my story with them, they evaluated our living conditions and invited me to join the Lighting Lives group. This was a significant opportunity for us, and I accepted their offer without hesitation.

Lighting Lives provided me with 10 days of candle-making training. Post-training, they supplied me with all the necessary materials to start making candles from my home. This marked the beginning of a transformative period in our lives. The candles we produced brought in a steady income, allowing us to earn enough to support our household. I now produce 350-400 packets of candles daily, which has substantially improved our financial situation.

With the income from candle making, we were able to upgrade to a two-room house, providing us with more space and better living conditions. Festivals have become joyous occasions as we can now celebrate them with our children without financial stress. The support from Lighting Lives has not only improved our economic situation but also brought immense happiness and hope into our lives.

Lighting Lives has been a beacon of hope for us, illuminating our path to a better future. Their intervention has enabled us to overcome our struggles and live a life filled with optimism and joy.

Success Story 02: Empowering Papali Devi: A Journey from Struggle to Stability



Papali Devi, a resilient woman from Ajaypur village, faced immense hardship after the untimely death of her husband, Sandeep Kumar. With two young children, Chunnu and Munnu, aged 6 and 3, she struggled to make ends meet. Unable to leave her children alone to work long hours, she found herself begging from relatives to feed her family.

During a community survey of Lighting Lives Project, Papali Devi encountered the dedicated staffs from Lighting Lives. She shared her plight with them, and they introduced her to the opportunities available through their organization. Motivated by hope, Papali Devi expressed her desire to join Lighting Lives and secure a livelihood.

With the support of Lighting Lives, Papali Devi underwent a 10-day training program to learn candle making. This skill became her beacon of hope. Within three months of starting her candle-making business, she began to see a positive transformation in her life.

Papali Devi proudly recounts how her association with Lighting Lives has drastically improved her financial situation. She can now provide ample food for her children and no longer needs to rely on the charity of relatives. Her children are started attending in school, and she can afford new clothes for them during festivals. Grateful for the life-

changing support, Papali Devi extends her heartfelt thanks to the Lighting Lives team for helping her achieve financial independence and stability.

Papali Devi is deeply grateful to the Lighting Lives team for their support. The opportunity they provided not only helped her achieve financial stability but also restored her dignity and hope for a better future.

Success Story 03: Reena Devi: A New Light in My Life



In the small village of Kharzama, I, Reena Devi, lived with my family. My husband, Shashidhar, and I were disabled and unable to hard work. We have three children: our eldest son, Situ, who is 10 years old, our daughter, Munni Kumari, who is 7, and our youngest daughter, who is 5. Because of our physical disabilities, we faced severe financial difficulties. We struggled to provide our children with proper food, clothing, and education. Our family survived by asking for help from relatives, but it was always a challenge.

One day, a group from an organization called Lighting Lives visited our village. They came to our house and introduced us to their candle-making employment program. Given my desperate need for a source of income, I readily agreed to join. The organization provided me with ten days of training on how to make candles. After the training, I began making candles at home with the support of the Lighting Lives team.

Initially, I earned very little as I could only produce a small number of candles. It was disheartening, but I did not give up. After a few months of practice and hard work, my skills improved, and I began producing 200 to 300 packs of candles in a day. Consequently, my income increased significantly.

With my newfound earnings, I could finally provide my children with nutritious meals and new clothes during festivals. Most importantly, I could now afford to send them to school.

It was a joy to see them walk to school in their uniforms, knowing they had a chance at a better future.

The employment opportunity provided by Lighting Lives transformed my life. I no longer had to beg for help from others, and I could live with dignity and self-respect. I felt a sense of pride and accomplishment as I watched my children grow healthier and happier. They no longer had to go to bed hungry, and they had the chance to learn and play like other children.

Our home, once filled with despair and struggle, is now a place of hope and happiness. I am grateful to the people from Lighting Lives who believed in me and gave me the opportunity to support my family. My husband and I, despite our physical limitations, found a way to overcome our challenges and provide for our children.

Success Story 04: Sonmati Devi Journey: From Hopelessness to Hope



I am Sonmati Devi from Daruara village. My husband, Ravi Shankar Prasad, suffers from mental illness and is unable to care for our family. This left me with the responsibility of looking after both our children and my husband. Due to his condition, our financial situation was dire, and I struggled to provide even two proper meals a day for my children.

One day, staffs from Lighting Lives visited our village for a survey. They came to my house and explained the candle-making program offered by Lighting Lives. Without hesitation, I expressed my desire to join the program. The teams understood my difficult situation and provide me in a 10-day candle-making training course. After the training, they provided me with all the necessary materials to start making candles at home.

With the support from Lighting Lives, I began making candles with my family. Gradually, I started earning an income. Now, I produce 200 to 250 candles per day and earn between 5,000 to 6,500 rupees per month. Working from home allows me to balance my candle-making business with household chores and care for my family.

Since joining the Lighting Lives candle-making program, our situation has significantly improved. My children are now able to attend school and enjoy nutritious meals. During festivals, my children wear new clothes and celebrate with our relatives' children.

I find it hard to express my gratitude towards the team of Lighting Lives project, who have transformed my life. I am now living a dignified life, thanks to their support. The candle-making business has not only provided me with financial stability but has also restored my confidence and hope for the future.

Today, my life is a testament to the transformative power of support and opportunity. I am now a beacon of hope for other women in my village, showing that with determination and the right opportunities, one can overcome even the most challenging circumstances. My heartfelt gratitude towards the Lighting Lives team is a reminder of the importance of community and the profound impact that acts of kindness and support can have on individuals and their families.

I continue to thrive, making candles and supporting my family with dignity. My children are receiving education, and I can afford to buy them new clothes during festivals, bringing joy to their lives.

2.3. INNOVATIVE LIVELIHOOD PROMOTION PROJECT:

The phenomenon of begging stems from a myriad of factors, including poverty (both genuine and fraudulent), religion, physical disabilities, cultural influences, national disasters, addictions (to drugs, alcohol, and gambling), family heritage, uncontrolled rural-to-urban migration, and psychiatric disabilities and disorders. In the absence of viable means of livelihood, many individuals are driven to begging, some temporarily and others permanently. The most frequent cause of beggary is the growing population of displaced workers who are unable to find employment or subsistence. Additionally, physically handicapped individuals, the blind, the deaf-mutes, those affected by leprosy, and members of the transgender community often resort to begging. Beggary is a complex issue with deep socio-economic ramifications, manifesting as a degrading form of human

existence. It is not merely an offshoot of poverty and neglect but is intricately interwoven with various socio-cultural factors.

In partnership with the State Society for Ultra Poor and Social Welfare (SSUPSW), SAKSHAM, Social Welfare Department of the Government of Bihar, GENVP is implementing the Innovative Livelihood Promotion under the National Campaign for Comprehensive Rehabilitation of People Currently Engaged in Begging in the Bihar. The project aims to create an enabling environment to ensure equal opportunities, equity, social justice, and the empowerment of beggars. It also seeks to generate public awareness to discourage begging. The ultimate goal of the campaign is to eradicate begging by providing alternative livelihood options and rehabilitating those engaged in begging.

Under this programme, Gramin Evam Nagar Vikas Parishad (GENVP) empowers marginalized communities (who are engaging in the act of begging) through self-employment initiatives, transforming lives and promoting dignity. This initiative is particularly crucial in addressing the pervasive issues of poverty and unemployment, which is significant, factors driving individuals to engage in begging.



Self-Employment Initiatives:

One of the key components of this campaign is the promotion of self-employment as a sustainable solution to poverty. By leveraging government schemes and support systems, GENVP has facilitated the transition of 216 beggars to self-employed individuals during this reporting period. These newly self-employed individuals have primarily ventured into selling daily items such as fast food, tea, and vegetables as street vendors. This transformation is not just about



providing an income source; it's about restoring dignity and integrating these individuals into mainstream society.

Impact on Beneficiaries:

The impact on these 216 individuals has been profound. No longer reliant on begging, they have found a sense of purpose and self-worth through their new ventures. As street vendors, they engage in meaningful work that supports their daily needs and contributes to the local economy. This shift has significantly enhanced their social status, providing them with a newfound respect within their communities.

The move from begging to self-employment has also brought about psychological benefits. The sense of self-reliance and independence has boosted their self-esteem and overall well-being. This empowerment has ripple effects, inspiring others in similar situations to seek out opportunities for self-employment, thereby fostering a culture of self-sufficiency and resilience within the community.

Support Mechanisms:

The success of this initiative can be attributed to the comprehensive support mechanisms put in place by GENVP. These include:

1. **Training and Skill Development:** Beneficiaries receive training in various trades and skills, enabling them to start and manage their businesses effectively. This training covers practical aspects of running a small business, including inventory management, customer service, and basic accounting.
2. **Access to Resources:** Through government schemes, beneficiaries are provided with the necessary resources to start their businesses. This includes financial assistance, equipment, and materials required for their specific trade.
3. **Ongoing Support and Mentorship:** GENVP ensures continuous support and mentorship for these individuals. Regular follow-ups, guidance, and problem-solving assistance are provided to help them navigate the challenges of self-employment.

4. Community Integration: Efforts are made to integrate these individuals into the local market ecosystem. This includes establishing connections with suppliers, facilitating market access, and creating awareness among the community about their businesses.

The self-employment initiatives under GENVP's campaign are transforming the lives of marginalized individuals by providing them with sustainable income opportunities and restoring their dignity. By addressing the root causes of poverty and unemployment, GENVP is not only helping individuals break free from the cycle of begging but also contributing to the broader goal of community development and social inclusion. This campaign exemplifies the power of targeted interventions and the positive impact they can have on individuals and communities.

2.4. VEHICLE SUPPORT PROJECT, ENHANCING 'LIGHTING LIVES' INITIATIVE:

In the heart of Bihar, the 'Lighting Lives' project by Gramin Evam Nagar Vikas Parishad (GENVP) has emerged as a beacon of hope for the ultra-poor, marginalized, and destitute communities. This initiative, dedicated to the production and distribution of candles, received a transformative boost with the acquisition of a Tata Motors Vehicle, supported by UTI Infrastructure Technology & Services Ltd.

During this period, GENVP marked a significant milestone by acquiring a Tata Motors Vehicle Model LMT 712 HD. The primary objective of this Vehicle Support Project is to streamline the transportation of raw materials and finished candle products to various locations, including storage facilities and market destinations of



the 'Lighting Lives' project. The new vehicle has significantly improved transportation efficiency, reducing the time and effort required for logistics. This enhancement ensures timely delivery and better supply chain management, thereby optimizing the overall production and distribution processes of the 'Lighting Lives' project.

The preface of this vehicle has also expanded production and distribution capacities. A steady supply of raw materials has minimized production delays, allowing for increased candle output. This improvement enables the project to meet market demands more effectively and broaden its consumer reach. Financially, the project has benefited from considerable cost savings. Previously, transportation relied on outsourced services or smaller, less efficient vehicles, resulting in higher expenses and logistical challenges. The new vehicle has consolidated these activities, leading to significant cost reductions and streamlined operations.

3. Rehabilitation of children engaged in Begging

GENVP has been working to rehabilitate children involved in begging by creating a safe environment for their welfare. This includes providing training to statutory bodies that work for the protection of children and offering livelihood opportunities to help these children and their families to break the cycle of poverty.

3.1. Training Program on Special Services for Children Engaged in the Act of Begging in Bihar

Bihar: The importance of training in special services for children engaged in the act of begging in Bihar is paramount. This training equips professionals with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively address the unique and complex needs of these vulnerable children. By understanding the socio-economic factors that lead to child begging, participants can develop more targeted and compassionate interventions. Training enhances the ability of stakeholders to implement practical solutions, ensuring a holistic approach to the rehabilitation and reintegration of these children into society. It also fosters collaboration among various agencies, ensuring a coordinated effort to protect and support the children. Ultimately, such training is crucial for creating a safer, more nurturing environment that promotes the well-being and future prospects of these at-risk children.

During the reporting period, Gramin Evam Nagar Vikas Parishad (GENVP), in collaboration with the National Institute of Social Defence (NISD), organized a "Three Days Training Program on Special Services for Children Engaged in the Act of Begging in Bihar." This program aimed to address the pressing issue of child begging, focusing on their rehabilitation and welfare.



The primary objectives of the training were to raise awareness about the plight of children involved in begging, equip participants with the necessary knowledge and skills for effective intervention and rehabilitation, and foster collaboration among stakeholders to ensure the holistic development and protection of these children. The program attracted a diverse group of participants, including representatives from NGOs, CSOs, government agencies, legal experts, and community organizations.

Throughout the training, a variety of activities were conducted, including informative sessions, interactive workshops, and engaging discussions. These activities aimed to provide participants with a thorough understanding of the root causes of child



begging and its social, economic, and cultural dimensions. Emphasis was placed on relevant legal frameworks and best practices for the rehabilitation and reintegration of affected children. Approaches grounded in empathy and empowerment was highlighted, promoting community support for the rehabilitation process.

The program began with an inaugural session where Mr. Ramkishor Prasad Singh, Secretary of GENVP, welcomed participants and underscored the importance of addressing child begging as a critical social issue. Dr. Chandan Kumar Singh from the Child Rights Centre discussed the causes, risk factors, and challenges faced by children engaged in begging. Dr. Sangita Kumari from the Juvenile Justice Board, along with other experts,

elaborated on the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders, including Child Welfare Committees (CWCs), Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs), and Child Helplines, in protecting and rehabilitating these children. Mr. Y.K. Gautam, Convenor of AATSEC, spoke about the rights of children involved in begging and the concept of rehabilitation.

Key outcomes of the training included the recognition of the necessity for multi-stakeholder collaboration involving CWCs, JJBs, NGOs, government agencies, and the

community for effective intervention. Participants were encouraged to utilize legal measures and promote social initiatives to protect and rehabilitate children. Furthermore, the need for continuous efforts to raise awareness about the issues faced by child beggars and to change societal attitudes towards them was emphasized.

The training program successfully laid the groundwork for future initiatives aimed at addressing child begging in Bihar. GENVP, in partnership with NISD, reaffirmed its commitment to the welfare and protection of children, striving to create a safer and more inclusive environment for all. The program's success underscored the importance of collaborative efforts, bringing together local communities, authorities, and organizations to address this pressing issue. It also highlighted the critical role of empathy and empowerment in the rehabilitation process, ensuring that children feel supported and understood as they transition to a better life. Moving forward, GENVP and its partners will continue to work towards the holistic development and protection of children, ensuring that they receive the support and care they need to lead healthy and fulfilling lives, free from exploitation and neglect.



4. DALIT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION:

The Dalit Community Foundation is a groundbreaking initiative in Bihar introduced by Gramin Evam Nagar Vikas Parishad (GENVP) with support from the Global Fund for Community Foundations (GFCF). This project aims to establish a community foundation among the Dalit communities in Bihar to foster mutual growth and development. Inspired by Baba Saheb's ideology of "Giving back to society," the foundation emphasizes the formation and strengthening of community bonds, promoting social cohesion among different Dalit sub-castes, and involving influential community members.

4.1 Establishment of Institutionalized Systems for Development of Community Philanthropy amongst the Dalit Communities in Bihar:

The initiative "Establishment of Institutionalized Systems for Development of Community Philanthropy amongst the Dalit Communities in Bihar" aims to foster a structured approach to community philanthropy that empowers Dalit communities by leveraging their collective resources for sustainable development. By institutionalizing philanthropic systems, the program seeks to address long-standing socio-economic disparities and enhance community self-reliance. This initiative focuses on mobilizing community assets, building local capacity, and fostering a culture of giving and mutual support. By creating a sustainable framework for community-driven philanthropy, the program aspires to achieve social justice, economic empowerment, and improved quality of life for the Dalit communities in Bihar.

Background and Objectives:

Historically, philanthropy in Bihar has been familial and village-based. The concept of a formally established Community Foundation is novel. Various community organizations in the state focus on empowerment, but the Dalit Community Foundation, facilitated by GENVP, will be a pioneering entity offering mutual support within Dalit communities. The foundation aims to foster holistic development for its members, supported by GFCF.

The primary objectives of the Dalit Community Foundation include:

- Establishing and strengthening the foundation.
- Linking local Dalit community efforts with state and national institutional practices and policies.
- Promoting social cohesion among different Dalit sub-castes.
- Involving socially influential community members in its activities.

Vision and Mission:

- Vision: All members of the Dalit community live with self-respect and dignity by bridging their differences and promoting community philanthropy in wider society.
- Mission: Promote Baba Saheb Ambedkar's ideology and community philanthropy for sustainable development

Approach:

The approach of the Dalit Community Foundation includes:

- Working with Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) capable of practicing community philanthropy.
- Conducting capacity building and promotion of community philanthropy.

Activities and Progress:

In the reporting year, GENVP orchestrated a series of consultations at multiple levels aimed at engaging socially influential and economically prosperous members within the Dalit community to bolster philanthropic endeavors. These consultations spanned grassroots, village, block, and state levels, strategically targeting



individuals poised to contribute meaningfully to community upliftment and development initiatives. The gatherings facilitated dialogues on enhancing philanthropic support and fostering sustainable socio-economic progress within Dalit communities.

- Grassroots Level: Empowering local leaders and amplifying community voices in decision-making processes.
- Village and Block Levels: Providing platforms for discussing tailored philanthropic strategies addressing specific challenges faced by Dalit populations.
- State Level: Bringing together key stakeholders to strategize on broader initiatives and policy advocacy aimed at advancing the socio-economic rights of Dalits across regions.

Through these concerted efforts, GENVP demonstrated its commitment to fostering inclusive development and empowering Dalit communities by leveraging the support and influence of socially prominent members. These consultations not only strengthened the philanthropic network but also laid a foundation for collaborative action towards achieving sustainable and equitable societal outcomes.

Global Engagement:

Shri Ramkishor Prasad Singh, Founder member of the Dalit Community Foundation and General Secretary of GENVP, participated in the "Shift the Power" summit organized by the Global Fund for Community Foundations in Bagota, Colombia. The summit convened over 700 participants from 80 countries, including foundations, peace builders, activists, and feminist movements. It served as a platform for inclusive dialogue on reshaping power dynamics towards more equitable community-led initiatives.



Mr. Singh's involvement highlighted the pivotal role of grassroots organizations in driving social change and advocating for marginalized communities. Throughout the summit, discussions centered on empowering local leadership, amplifying marginalized voices, and redefining philanthropic practices to foster inclusive development. Mr. Singh contributed significantly to these conversations, drawing from his experiences with the Dalit

Community Foundation and GENVP. His participation underscored the importance of grassroots movements in promoting sustainable and inclusive approaches to global development challenges. The summit concluded with commitments to ongoing collaboration and action towards empowering communities and advancing social justice globally.

The Dalit Community Foundation, with the support of GFCF, represents a significant step forward in promoting sustainable development and social cohesion among Dalit communities in Bihar. Through continuous efforts and inclusive strategies, the foundation aims to transform philanthropic practices and empower marginalized communities, ensuring a dignified and self-respecting future for all its members.

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