

Paul Hamlyn Foundation

Development initiative with the
Baiga tribal community: Mid-Term Review



Name of the implementing organization: Baihar Nari Utthan Sewa Mahila Mandal

Name of donor organization: THE PAUL HAMLYN FOUNDATION

Final report- Anita Deshmukh, Development Consultatn, Pune

Background

THE PAUL HAMLYN FOUNDATION, based in UK has been supporting the implementing organization for last 3 years to work with the baiga tribals, especially the women and children in improving their health, education and livelihood conditions through programs that support education, training and capacity building of local baiga leaders, health camps, advocacy and lobbying with government to improve service delivery and make the baiga's aware of their rights.

The implementing organization is working with the baiga's mainly because the status of Baiga Community is very pathetic. Illiteracy along with staying away from mainstream societies has excluded them from exposure and growth leading to their oppression and exploitation. There is a lack of awareness in general regarding the legal and political rights bestowed to them by the constitution of India. All forms of centrally sponsored and state aided welfare programs are planned and executed for the Baiga community. But the recipients are unaware of these programs and are fearful of officers. In addition corruption and beuruecratic apathy to reach such places is high. Thus they continue to struggle for their sustenance.

Looking at the baiga's conditions and having a right based approach where Nari Uthan understands that the approach for the upliftment of Baiga should be tribe specific the Bihar Nari Uthan Sewa Manadal, Baihar, Balaghat is implementing the project "**Development Initiative with the Baiga Tribal Community**" since the year 2007 in 62 villages of Baihar Tehsil of Balaghat District of Madhya Pradesh **with the support of Paul Hamlyn Foundation, London** which aims to help the baiga's to realize their potential and enjoy a better quality of life.

The 2 year project Objectives were-

- Motivate and work towards improved participation of Baiga children to access the government education facilities from 1st to 4th standard class.
- To increase the participation of Baiga children from 5th to 8th standard class in formal education system
- Advocacy lobby to improve attendance of teachers and overall working of formal schools of the government through local parent-teacher committees and PRI related education committees.
- Eradication of scabies which is rampant in all 62 villages where intervention is ongoing

- Formulating and Capacity building of the village level committees to work and intervene effectively on village level issues like NREGA, PDS, health facility, infrastructure development etc
- Training and capacity building of PRI representatives to become vocal, knowledgeable and strong to put up their communities issues in the governance meetings at all levels.
- Developing understanding of the team on the issues of education system, quality education, and human rights(right to work, food, Gender). Capacity building on monitoring and documentation of project related activities.

As a part of monitoring and evaluation process a mid –term review of the Project was conducted from July 2nd- July 4th 2010, by Dr. J. R. Jha Assistant Professor, XIDAS, Jabalpur. He submitted a draft report of his observations and the final report was compiled by Anita Deshmukh, Consultant. The output from the review is expected to assist in framing the next phase project activities and take corrective efforts where ever weaknesses are observed in implementation of the program.

The following activities were conducted for evaluation:

- 1 Visit to Chukka Tola Village
2. Meeting with Project Coordinator
3. Meeting with Project Staff.
4. Review of Project Documents- Project Proposal, Activity Report, Annual Report

D. Purpose of the review:

1. To assess the outreach of the project area.
2. To assess the achievements of the project.
3. To assess the problems in the implementation of the project.
4. To make future action plans for the project.

1. Outreach of the Project Area

The planned area of operation was average 15-18 villages each from the 3 development blocks namely Baihar, Birsa and Paraswada. In all we now cover 62 villages with **1729** families, 1631 Baiga being the focused target group. So we can say that the project has fulfilled in reaching the targeted population of the baiga's.

The following table gives the details of Geographical expanse and number of families covered – **Table 1-Details of Area and Families covered Under the Project**

S. No.	Name of Block	Name of Cluster	No. of Panchayat	No. of Village	No. of Families Baiga	No. of Families Other	Total No. of Families
1	Baihar	Bhanderi	5	6	170	49	219
	Baihar	Jagla	2	6	202	2	204
2	Birsa	Machurda	1	5	250	5	255
	Birsa	Nakatola	3	5	152	-	152
	Birsa	Bhutna	2	4	90	29	119
	Birsa	Nayatola	2	7	161	13	174
3	Garhi	Ratanpur	2	4	120	-	120
	Garhi	Samariya	3	4	168	-	168
4	Paraswada	Kumadehi	4	7	144	-	144
	Paraswada	Korja	2	3	19	-	19
	Paraswada	Basi	2	5	84	-	84
	Paraswada	Lagma	2	6	71	-	71
Total			30	62	1631	98	1729

2. To assess the achievements of the project.

To understand rapport and acceptance by the baiga community many questions were asked to the villagers and the responses by the participants are put in percentages underneath in the table:

I. Rapport building with the villagers	Yes	NO	Percentage in 100
1. Good rapport of field staff and Nari Uthan representatives at all level and villagers exists	*		100%
2. Nari Uthan representatives visit villages regularly	*		80%
3. Baiga men and Women participate in meetings, trainings and decision making	*		70%
4. Villagers have confidence, faith and trust on NU personnel.	*		70%
5. Baiga Community as a whole has come together and is taking interest in ownership and accountability of the village development work at Village level.	*		60%
6. As regards to some of their tradition and especially alcoholism the baigas still have less response -to NU s appeals.	*		40%

II. building the Baiga Jati Maha Panchayat and its functions			
1. The BJMS is formed and functional in all 62 villages	*		100%
2. The BJMS meetings are held regularly, capacity building and other inputs are given by NU as planned in the program.	*		80%
3. the Baiga Jati Maha Panchayat is Giving space to women to participate in decision making and other activities	*		60%
4.capacity building and independent functions at local level of BJMS	*		50%
5.understanding about rights, willingness to fight against govt. without NU presence	*		50%
III. Parent Teachers Association			100%
1.Parent Teachers Association (PTA) formed in each and every villages of the project area.	*		100%
2.Parent Teachers Association (PTA) is functional and Meetings held properly.		*	40%
3. Understanding about the concept of PTA in Parent of Baiga Children.		*	40%
4. The attendance of parents in the PTA meeting of the Schools.	*		70%
5. The interaction between Parents of Baiga Children and the teachers of the school.	*		25%
6. Good relation has been established by the Project teachers with parents of Baiga Children.	*		75%
7. Education department at Block , Tehsil and District level is involved in the efforts to make baiga children's parents more responsive.	*		80%
8. Jansunwai as tools to address education related issues and participation of govt. functionaries	*		90%

IV. Bal Sainik and Bal sena functions			
1. Bal Sena is formed in each primary school of the project area.	*		70%
2. Effectiveness of balsena to reach to other children's and influence parents		*	30%
3. Bal Sainik becomes messenger of education in schools and villages.		*	30%
4 the concept of Balsena and its functions understood by the children, NU staff, teachers etc		*	30%
5. the activities planned in the program were implemented	*		60%
06. Bal Sainik minimized the drop outs rate in primary school.	*		50%
V. Impact and follow up of the training program.			100%
01. There is good impact of the training program	*	*	50-60%
02. There is negative impact of the training			100%
03. There is a follow up of the training program	*		60-70%
04. There is need of training programs.	*		100%
Support education class and scholastic achievements			
1. Support education classes were conducted and well attended by students	*		80%
2. The monthly performance was tested regularly	*		50%
3. Other programs like sports, drawing, elocutions competitions were held	*		40%
4. Overall improvement in the school attendance and performance	*		80%
5 More children go to school	*		80%
6. More girls have begun to go to school	*		80%
scabies eradication campaign and health awareness			

1. Medicine for scabies eradication applied and distributed to in all 62 villages of project area	*		100%
2 This year Baiga Community was not much affected with scabies.	*		90%
3 Baiga's are now aware about the treatment of scabies and immediately seek medicine			100%
4. Baiga Mukhiyas got training on application of medicine.	*		100%
5 the incidence of scabies is reduced	*		80%
6. Baiga Community started to go to medical health centre for their treatment	*		60%
Overall Assessment of project activities			
1. all planned activities were completed well in time	*		100%
2. .the target population participated in all programs and responded well	*		80%
3. There is improvement in awareness about education, health and taking benefits of govt. schemes	*		70%
4. the trainings, meetings, jansunwai etc were organized timely and properly.	*		100%

B. A SWOT was conducted with the staff and project director to assess the overall achievements and problems in the implementation of the program

Strength	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the target population is enthusiastic, cooperative and has sense of ownership about the project. 2. The govt. machinery is positively responding to the advocacy efforts of the BJMS and NU in various programs. 3. Capacity of the staff and of the baiga mukhiyas is enhanced due to trainings and exposures. 4. All administrative and finance systems are well in place for smooth functioning of the programs 5. The monitoring and evaluation systems along with reports etc are managed professionally.
Weakness	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lack of regularity in field visits for program monitoring and inadequate supervision in time management of project at the management level of Project.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Lack of synergy and inertia for micro management of the project activities among the project staff. 3. Difficulty in keeping up the motivation and morale high of Baiga Community. 4. Inadequate infrastructure and transportation facilities to reach the remote villages. 5. Finally, the staff implements the activities but cannot assess and link the output -impact with aims and objectives of the program. 6. Unavailability of properly trained and educated persons especially for the education program.
Opportunities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The staff is devoted and the community is very responsive for any programs implemented by the organization. 2. The leadership and staff has excellent rapport with govt. functionaries at all levels and hence can mobilize the govt. machinery for proper implementation of welfare schemes. 3. Time to time support of external consultants and of the PHF coordinators. 4. Adequate office infrastructure and manpower to handle the programs.
Threats	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ignorance and apathy of the Baigas towards life in general. 2. Corruption and indifference of the Government towards the poor and baiga's in particular. 3. Delays in getting financial support from the donor agency and transfers from banks 4. Lack of subject experts and process monitoring to keep the program on track and interlink activities and aims with the desired impact.

Conclusion: The Baihar Nari Utthan Sewa Mahila Mandal, has conducted and completed all the project program with utmost sincerity and has gained a momentum required to succeed in its further interventions.

Considering the objectives of education and health it has achieved 100% success in reducing the drop outs, increasing enrollment in schools from 1-8th std. the performance of the baiga students show success as all who appeared for exams have passed. The commendable achievement is of admitting around 20 baiga girls in ashram schools for education of 9th-10th std. the parents are becoming responsive towards children's education and also participate in Parent Teacher meetings to discuss problems.

On the basis of the review it is suggested that the education committee of the Panchayat and the members of SHGs should be capacitated to improve and strengthen the education system in villages. Similarly, the Health Committee of the Panchayat and the members of SHGs should take efforts to improve sanitation and hygiene systems in the villages.

As for the PRI and baiga and women's participation, the organization at least succeeded in getting around 15 baiga's elected in recent Panchayat elections. The baigas are becoming aware about importance of participation in gramsabhas. However to keep consistency in any of their habits is a herculean task. The extent of alcoholism and other superstitions are also a major hindrance in their development.

As for the scabies eradication around 80% patients show complete cure. The 20% recurrence will be addressed in coming year. The campaign emphasized on cleanliness and approaching PHCs for any illness. The organization has succeeded in this a well since many baiga's now go to PHC for treatment and attempt to keep the village, house and especially the children clean.

The BJMS -the baigas organization has also gained recognition and momentum amongst the members. In the membership drive about 967 have become members by paying annual fee of Rs. 25/year. The mukhiyas take up issues of NREGA, PDS, and immunization, getting bore wells and Indira awwas schemes to proper authorities for sanction. They also hold regular meetings to find solutions for larger issues like forest rights etc.

The efforts of giving information through meetings, wall writing, posters etc are well received. The trend of communicating with govt. officers and participating in jansunwai is growing. The project staff as well as organization staff require in depth institutional and organization management training. There is growing need to include the baiga local leaders in paid staff so that they become better advocates of the changes aimed in the project.

In spite of all these difficulties the project has succeeded in more than satisfactory implementation of all activities and one can confidently say that the organization will definitely make considerable positive impact on the life of the baiga's.

Field visits and draft report- Dr. J. R. Jha
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