

# **Sandhan**

## **Annual Report**

**April 2006 – March, 2007**



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# Annual report

**2006-2007**

Sandhan has played a substantial role as national level resource agency for education and Development initiatives for marginalized in the year 2006-2007. The year was one of expansion and increase in tempo of activities of Sandhan. While previous associations continued to exist, there have been further additions in Sandhan's existing commitments. In Rajasthan, four new blocks of Doosra Dashak ; two new community based initiatives inspired by Doosra Dashak( Ajmer adult Education Samiti, Urmul Jael, Nagaur ) are new associations. At the national level, Sandhan has also responded to requests from initiatives in Delhi- ISST and Pratham. KGBV- national scheme for residential courses of marginalized girls has surfaced as a major challenge for Sandhan.

Focus on adolescents and quality education continued, even as the canvas expanded. Life skill education is getting an increasing recognition in educational framework. This has generated demand for training. Capacity building of Ngos continue to be Sandhan's agenda; that has entailed participation in their activities. Conducting future visioning exercises for Community based initiatives is another area that has emerged in this context.

The report attempts to put together the activities Undertaken by Sandhan from April 12 2006- March 30 2007. It is organized under four broad sections –

Section I : Support to Doosra Dashak, Rajasthan

Section II :Support to ongoing Community based initiatives across the country.

Section III: Quality Education : Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

Section IV: Research, Advocacy and Process reviews, Rajasthan

# I

## **Support to Doosra Dashak (Rajasthan)**

Sandhan has provided extensive support to Doosra Dashak (DD) since its inception. So far five blocks were provided support as per the needs identified in Doosra Dashak project area. Doosra Dashak has expanded its canvas to four more blocks. Sandhan. While continuing to provide inputs in the old blocks of DD, is also assisting the new blocks in the capacity of technical resource agency. Assistance is provided but not limited to the following.

- Orientation of functionaries
- Review and planning meetings
- Life Skill Education Training of adolescents
- Special Need based Support

### **Orientation of functionaries (April, 06- March, 07)**

The orientation workshops familiarizes the functionaries to Doosra Dashak mission, approach of work; linking these with the social and political scenario, within the larger frame of Indian constitution. Three orientation programs have been organized. They are :

#### **Training programme : Tilonia (10 - 19April, 06)**

Doosra Dashak organized a workshop in Tilonia from 10th April - 19 April 2006, for an overall review and planning. Sandhan participated in the entire process and contributed appropriately in each session.

#### **Orientation training: Mount Abu (30 October -5 November , 06).**

Sandhan provided a wide spectrum of support in the training, ranging from conducting introductory sessions on participation and defreezing. The sessions were woven around the theme of Youth. Two sessions on Life skill education were conducted by Sandhan team.

### **Orientation training: Pushkar (15-19 February, 07.)**

Sandhan conducted sessions on '*parichay*' ; the theme being Youth. Sandhan gave, an exposure to basic principals of documentation, an overview of life skill focussing on multiple identity, violence, peer pressure, communal harmony. A session on gender was transacted through gender lens.

### **Review and planning meetings( April, 06 - March, 07)**

Conducting review and planning meetings, its analysis to inform and strengthen the future coarse of action are Sandhan's strengths. Sandhan has systematically facilitated review and planning meetings at Doosra Dashak Bali, Abu Road. and Pisangan For the new Blocks of Bassi, Laxmangarh and Desuri, Sandhan has begun to facilitate their monthly meetings. These meetings have been during the reporting period - April 2006- March 2007.

### **Life Skill Education Training of adolescents**

Sandhan has conducted life skill education training in Laxmangarh, Pisangan and Bali blocks of Doosra Dashak. The details are as follows:

#### **Trainings on Life Skill Education: Pisangan block: (23-27 April, 06) and (23-29 June, 06)**

Sandhan conducted two trainings on life skill education in Pisangan Block during the reporting period. The first training was conducted in the month of April, 2006. 37 adolescents from Pisangan Block had participated in the training. The training was a platform for addressing issues, related to health, problem solving, emotions, sexuality and reproductive health which adolescents faced while working in the village.

The second training was in the month of June, 2006 simultaneously for girls and boys. 73 adolescents from Pisangan Block had participated in the training. This training provided an opportunity to the adolescents for analysis and reflection. They were able to identify their strengths, weaknesses and made an effort to build on their strength. This training served as a platform for strengthening the understanding on Yuva Manch that has been constituted in Pisangan block and evolving a village level activity plan.

### **Training on Safe Motherhood for adolescents : Bali Block: (18 – 20 Sept, 06)**

Doosra Dashak organized training on Safe Motherhood in September 2006. 35 adolescents participated in the training. Apart from adolescents field workers (4), two master trainers (2), GVK Prabharies (2) actively participated in the training. Marriage – why, how and when, advantages and disadvantages of adolescent marriages, care during pregnancy, safe delivery, role of young adults in family, role of husband in the family, responsible parenthood, were some of the issues that were dealt in the training. The training was not a forum for mere information dissemination; rather, the main focus was 'motivation for safe motherhood'. Capacity Building of adolescents was another thrust area, to enable them to work as peer educators. Two faculty members from Sandhan extended support as resource persons

### **Training of adolescent boys: Laxmangarh Block (20-22 March, 07)**

Doosra Dashak Laxmangarh block had organized a three-day residential training for adolescent boys. This was the first training of adolescent boys in Laxmangarh Block. Future – aspirations, options and possibilities, in the context of adolescents, various issues of development in Laxmangarh area, gender equity were some of the issue that were focused in this training. This was also a forum for understanding the Doosra Dashak programme.

### **Special need based support**

The areas in which Sandhan extended need based support are:

- Science Fairs and Lok Adhikar Yatra
- Training of women's groups
- Counseling and preparation for examinations
- Need assessment trainings
- Support in Residential camps

### **Science Fairs ; Doosra Dashak : Bhanwargarh (25-31 December,06), Bali (19-21 January,07 ), Bap, ( 11-13 February, 07),**

Doosra Dashak organizes Science fairs to nurture and strengthen the scientific approach in the community specially among the adolescents. In the reporting year three science fairs have been organized in Bap, Bali and Kishangarh blocks. Two - three Sandhan faculty members participated in each of these fairs. They also played a supportive role in the implementation of the fair; which included the planning process like identification of issues,

detailing the schedule of the fair, sharing with adolescents and the management team. Discussion on themes of the stalls, strengthening the theoretical concept of scientific experiments, health issues, specially related to HIV/ AIDs, general science, conducting CD shows of space and technology were some of the areas where Sandhan extended technical resource support. In the Science fair of Bali block in Sewari, attempt was also made to weave in hands on experience of life skill issues of problem solving and health through the forum of the fair.

**Training and Participation, Lok Adhikar Yatra : Doosra Dashak Bali block : (18-30 May, 06)**

Sandhan participated in the Lok Adhikar Yatra organized by Doosra Dashak: Bali Block from 18 – 30 May 2006. This was at two levels – As a training resource support for understanding rights framework followed by active participation in the yatra itself.

**Training of women's groups: Bali Block ( 26-28 February,07)**

A women's group training was organized by Doosra Dashak, Bali Block. The purpose of the training was to create an understanding and awareness about their own rights and on issues like gender, health, livelihood, education and panchayati raj related to the context of their lives. The participants showed a keen interest on educational issues specially related to elementary education of their children. Moreover, they themselves were very eager to learn to read and write. Sessions were specially designed to teach them reading and writing Hindi. At the end of the training participants emphatically expressed their need for a month long educational camp

**Counseling and Preparation for examination: Need based support in Mathematics for class VI - X, DD Bali (22-24 February,06),DD Desuri (15-17 March, 07).**

Doosra Dashak; Desuri and Bali blocks had organized camps for counseling and providing need based support to the adolescent who are appearing for Board Examinations of Class VI – X. (Class VI,VII & X in Desuri, Class VIII & X in Bali). Sandhan was requested to provide need-based support in mathematics in exercise. One faculty member from Sandhan extended technical resource support. Hard spots of the subject were identified and specially addressed. Tips for understanding the question paper and approach for solving it in a manner that will facilitate positive results, were discussed and demonstrated.

**Need assessment training: Bassi (18-20 March, 07)**

Doosra Dashak Bassi Block had organized a training of adolescent girls. This was the first training in Bassi block. Hence it is seen as need assessment training. It was forum to understand the social and self perspective of the girls and explore issues and possibilities of future interaction. This was done through communication activities. Issues of health and self-identity of the girls were explored and addressed. Three faculty members from Sandhan conducted the training. 50 girls participated in the training.

**Support in Residential Camps**

**Follow Up Camp, content based quality Education :Bali Block  
(25 July-1 August, 06)**

A follow up camp was organized by Doosra Dashak in the month of August. The main objective of the camp was to strengthen the technical skills on literacy and numeracy, nurture and strengthen the practice of reading among the adolescents. Sandhan extended resource support. In this workshop, the pedagogy of multilevel teaching was adopted. Attention was paid to the learning needs of participants. The workshop was also a forum for developing learning materials – word cards, story folders, worksheets etc. Use of library was further reaffirmed in this workshop. A total of 44 adolescents participated in the workshop.

**Evaluation of Residential Camp : Bali (26-28 March, 07)**

A four-month residential camp for education was organized in Bali block. Upon completion of the camp, an evaluation exercise was done to assess the academic progress of the participant adolescents. One faculty member from Sandhan extended support in this exercise. A question paper was prepared in Sandhan and transacted for the purpose, in the camp. Assessment of academic progress was made accordingly.

## II

### **Support to Other Community based initiatives.**

Sandhan continues to extend resource support in areas of LSE, Content based quality education, gender sensitization, and health issues, issue based capacity building, Documentation and presentation. Conducting visioning exercises for community-based initiatives has emerged as an area where Sandhan can provide focused inputs. The organization to whom support was given in the year 2006-2007 and the nature of support are:

- Mahila Samakhya, Uttarakhand, U.P, Jharkhand
- Ajmer Adult Education Association, Sarvar Block Ajmer
- Pratham, India
- ISST , Delhi
- SWRC Tilonia
- Sankalp Sansthan Mamoni, Baran district.
- Action Aid
- Sopan Sansthan , Sivni M. P
- Jingle Bells Academy, Faizabad

#### **Mahila Samakhya : U.P, Uttarakhand and Jharkhand.**

##### **Life Skill education training for teachers; MS Uttar Pradesh (11-17 June, 06)**

Sandhan conducted a Life Skill Education training in the month of June, in Lucknow. Teachers and community mobilizers of Mahila Shikhan Kendras participated in this programme. Special focus was given on issues of Emotions, Stress, Gender, Reproductive Health, Identity and Communication. Also fresh techniques of transaction of these issues with adolescents was addressed. During this training, the challenges, which the teachers face in their personal lives, also came to surface. The life skill training enabled the teachers to deal with these issues at a personal level. The insights from this training were a value addition for weaving nuances in the Mahila Samakhya Curriculum.

### **Training of Literacy volunteers: MS:Uttarakhand: (10-16 September, 06)**

Sandhan conducted a seven-day training in Dehradun in the month of September. A total of 60 participants (literacy volunteers and community mobilizers) participated in the training. "To be able to sign ones own name "was the initial interpretation of literacy in the minds of literacy volunteers who attended the training. Their work in the Mahila Shaksharta kendras was so far very limited. The thrust in the training was to deconstruct the notion of education; to highlight the fact that education is not confined to the ability of signing ones name. It has significant role to negotiate space within ones lived reality and improve quality of learning. The other areas which were addressed through this training were -

Developing an increased competence of language and Maths.

Developing an understanding of learning techniques and their application

Fresh Learning materials appropriately designed were prepared.

### **Training of District and Block Level functionaries: MS Uttarakhand**

**(20-25 November,06)**

A five day training was conducted in Uttaranchal for District and Block level functionaries, in November. Mahila Samakhya being a programme for women; viewing the activities through a gender lens is essential. Weaving health issues is also important. Given this understanding, focus of the training was gender and health in the context of education. Two faculty members from Sandhan conducted the training. A total of 66 participants participated in the training.

### **Capacity Building and gender sensitization workshop:MS Jharkhand.**

**(December, 06)**

Sandhan Conducted a gender sensitization workshop for Jharkhand Mahila Samakhya Core team members. The workshop was organized in Jharkhand in December,06. 45 Participants were present in the workshop. Director Sandhan facilitated and conducted the one-day workshop.

### **Training workshop on Strengthening of Presentation Skills: Mahila Samakhya: Uttarakhand (1-4 February, 07)**

A four-day training workshop on strengthening of Presentation skills was organized by Sandhan, in Jaipur for Mahila Samakhya functionaries. While strengths of the Uttarakhand team are experience of working at the grass root, and free articulation; Analysis and codification of experience - thus distilling

information remains their weakness. This acts as a hindrance in presentation of their work to other forums. Thus the approach of the workshop was to give opportunities for strengthening of analytical skills, understanding the use of language, exercises in categorization and continuous practice of presentation. The frame of the workshop was 'Learning by Doing'. Twenty participants across 6 districts of Uttarakhand took part in the training. All the participants were in leadership roles (there were four District Project coordinators, a Deputy Director, the State Project Director and 14 resource persons). Four faculty members and , Director Sandhan extended support as resource persons.

### **Ajmer Adult Education Association, Sarvar Block Ajmer.**

#### **Life skill education Training for adolescents: Ajmer (7- 9 October,06)**

A Life skill education training for boys was conducted in Sarvar , by Ajmer Adult Education association in October,06. Sandhan extended resource support in the training. Issues of identity, peer pressure, addiction, relationships, problem solving, gender, employment were discussed through this forum.

#### **Evaluation of residential camp: Ajmer Adult Education, Sarvar Block.**

**(9 February, 07)**

A three residential camp for education for adolescents was being run in Sarvar block. Ajmer Adult Education Sarvar requested Sandhan to evaluate the residential camp. A question paper was prepared in Sandhan and transacted in the camp for the purpose. Assessment of academic progress of the adolescents was made accordingly. The observations of the camp and directions for future were shared with functionaries and trainers of the camp. The exercise was done in a workshop mode. Two faculty members from Sandhan and Director, Sandhan were involved in the exercise.

### **Pratham, India**

#### **Workshop on 'Abhivyakti' project Pratham teams of : Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan**

Sandhan was requested to conduct a workshop in Jaipur on 'Understanding and operationalizing Quality Education'. It was a training workshop for the teachers of the Pratham teams from Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. The workshop was a forum for visioning quality education, and curriculum that

could support. This was viewed within the National Curriculum Frame Work for Education -2005. The main focus of the workshop was to generate conceptual understanding of the assumptions for facilitating 'Abhivyakti'( Comprehension and Expression); These included - How Language, Mathematics and Evs can become medium of expression; how can abhivyakti be assessed; the facilitators / teachers role in facilitating expression. In this workshop hard spots of language mathematics and EVS, identified by the participants were also discussed. The workshop was an opportunity for exploring a possibility of long-term association between Pratham and Sandhan.

**Way ahead' Re visioning exercise of 'Abhivyakti ' Programme : Pratham (13 March, 07)**

Sandhan conducted a re visioning exercise for their ongoing 'Abhivyakti' programme (Comprehension and Expression in Jaipur, in the month of March 07. It was done in an interactive workshop mode. 5 Representatives from Pratham, Delhi , Madyya Pradesh , Bihar, participated. All faculty members of Sandhan and Director were present. The workshop was facilitated by the director. Faculty members added their insights, wherever it was felt necessary. The workshop was a forum for sharing the enriching experience, which the team has gained during the past seven months of running the 'Abhivyakti' programme. Hurdles and hard spots, which the team faced, were discussed. Dilemmas and concerns for the future were shared. Through these discussions, tangible future possibilities of the programme and long-term role of Sandhan as support group emerged. Sandhan's approach of skeletal framework of curriculum was further strengthened and reaffirmed in the workshop.

**ISST, Delhi**

**Training on Life Skill education: ISST Delhi, (30-31 March ,07 and 1 April, 07)**

ISST Delhi had requested Sandhan to conduct life skill training ; for the adolescent group associated with their field project. In response to this need, Sandhan organized a three day LSE training for the adolescent group in Jaipur. Prior to the training two faculty members of Sandhan made a preparatory visit to Delhi. This was done to understand the texture and needs of the group. The training was designed around issues of their lived reality. Issues of violence, peer pressure, relationships health, understanding responsibility - as an individual, parent, husband and as a citizen were specially focused in the forum. Health issues were dealt interlinking with issues of relationships and responsibility. This aspect added a special dimension to the training.

## **SWRC Tilonia , Ajmer**

### **Training of Teachers of Night Schools : SWRC Tilonia.(20 June- 4 July 06)**

Sandhan conducted a 15-day teachers training workshop for the teachers of the Night School Programme in Tilonia. 32 teachers of night schools had participated in the workshop. Faculty members from Sandhan extended support as resource persons. The focus was to strengthen the conceptual and technical understanding of content and pedagogy of literacy and numeracy of the elementary level.

### **Evaluation of Academic achievement of Night schools: SWRC Tilonia**

**(January- March, 07)**

A participatory evaluation exercise of Night schools of Tilonia was carried out. There were series of preparatory meetings between SWRC team and Sandhan faculty on this issue. Question papers of academic levels of Class I and II were prepared in Sandhan. There was an evaluation of reading, writing numeracy skills across 125 Night schools of 13 vistar kendras. 3351 children participated in the evaluation exercise. The approach of the evaluation was to understand which type of questions could be answered by the children. Which type of questions posed difficulty for them? Analysis of this would give an idea of the content areas that need to be strengthened in Night Schools

## **Sankalp Sansthan Mamoni, Baran**

Sankalp Sanstha, Mamoni (Baran) is implementing a project – Social Mobilisation around Natural Resource Management for Poverty Alleviation – supported by UNDP (2004-08). Sandhan is continuing to provide support for on-going research and documentation activities in the project.

## **Action Aid**

### **Report writing workshop (3 - 5 September, 06) for Community Based initiatives: Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan**

Action Aid Madhya Pradesh is extending resource support to CIDs Shivpuri, Manav Adhikar Forum - Sheopur (MP), BGVs, Sankalp and SAJAG( Raj) - all of whom are working with Sahariyas. The group recognized the need of strengthening their report writing and documentation skills. To address this need Action Aid, Madhya Pradesh had organized a report-writing workshop in September 2006, in Sankalp resource centre, in Mamoni. Sandhan team was

invited to coordinate the workshop and extend technical resource support. Three faculty members extended support as resource persons. 40 participants participated in the workshop. The methodology and the technique of report writing, indicators of good report were discussed at a conceptual level. Various forms of reporting viz- Minutes, process documentation, and field reports were also discussed at length. Apart from theoretical and conceptual discussions, practice sessions of actually writing reports were woven in. The reports were analyzed and insights were drawn for further improvement. A follow up training is already planned.

### **Sopan Sansthan , Sivni M. P**

#### **Visioning exercise: Sopan Sansthan: Sivni, Madhya Pradesh (23 - 25 September, 06)**

Sopan is a community based initiative working with marginalized tribal groups in Sivni district In Madhya Pradesh. In aegis of Sopan a collective forum of tribals - Adivasi Sushashan Sangh, has been constituted. The forum plans to work in 60 villages of the area. Sandhan was invited by Sopan to conduct a visioning exercise in participatory mode in the month of September, in Sivni. Three faculty members from sandhan extended support as resource persons. A vision statement was evolved within the framework of Justice and Equality, through a series of exercises and intensive discussion and brainstorming methods. Values and 'non negotiables' for the forum were reaffirmed. The strategy and activities for achieving the articulated vision were planned in detail.

### **Jingle Bells Academy, Faizabad**

#### **Life Skill Education of teachers: Faizabad (2- 6April, 06)**

Sandhan conducted a workshop on life skill education with the teachers of three public schools under the aegis of Jingle Bell Academy, in Faizabad in April 2006. A total of 80 teachers from primary section up to class XII had participated in this workshop. The training provided an opportunity to reflect and discuss the essential elements of quality education. The workshop enabled the teachers to recognize their own potential, which had a positive impact on their motivation.

### III

## Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

### **Quality Education in Elementary schools**

Sandhan is continuing its engagement with improving quality of education in 50 primary schools -25 each in Tonk and Dholpur Districts. On the basis of regular review and planning follow up activities are ongoing; they are also being revised as per contextual needs. The project is ongoing with resource support from Unicef. A six member schools support team, supported by Sandhan faculty is providing onsite support to the schools in their specific context. This fresh approach was required to address the needs of teachers within the state managed system delivery system. There is space for continuous reflection analysis and revision in this process. The positive shifts, which have been perceived so far, are:

Demonstration Impact has started percolating among teachers in few schools. Teachers have started coming to school on time. There is a positive shift in attitude of teachers towards children. In some schools teachers have started using multilevel teaching techniques, while working with one or more than one class. The teachers have demonstrated the use of low cost need based appropriate learning material prepared by them.

A change in over all environment of school is visible- especially in prayer sessions, hygiene and sanitation aspects of the school as well as children.

During discussions with the community friends of the school have been identified, who can positively contribute for better management of school.

However these changes do not cut across all the schools. Lack of concern and interest in learning of children, lack of motivation of teachers to interact with children, is still a big challenge.

The other activities, which were done in support of Quality Education during the reporting year, are:

### **4 Days Teacher Orientation Module: Sandhan (April 06)**

Every year series of trainings are organized for teachers by the government. Motivational aspects in these trainings are often found to be missing. To address this challenge, Sandhan has evolved a 4 day training module. Apart from dealing with concept of quality education, pedagogy of multilevel teaching, project method, use of library in creative way; the module also focuses on issues related

to children - their learning processes, what children enjoy doing, through methods of experience sharing, stories, discussions, theatre and brainstorming. The module has been evolved to have space for sharing of personal experience, reflection and analysis. All these contribute to strengthen the understanding of teachers on these issues. It is envisaged that the insights derived from this module will enable the teachers to derive excitement from the teaching learning processes and value their work as a significant part of the national agenda of UEE

**Preparation and Finalization of Training Modules:RCEE (August - November 2006)**

Adequate Training of teachers is essential for achieving UEE and strengthening quality of education. The Rajasthan Council of Elementary Education (RCEE) has scheduled a series of teacher training workshops in the year 2006-2007. For this purpose RCEE recognized the need of teacher training module that would be contextual and address the requirements of teachers. Sandhan was requested to extend technical resource support for the purpose and prepare the modules.

**Preparatory Workshop on Teaching Methods and Use of Teaching Learning materials, for preparation of training modules (23-25 August, 06)**

Rajasthan council of Elementary Education had organized a workshop on 'Teaching Learning Methods and Materials' in Jaipur. This workshop was a preparatory workshop in response to the need of preparing a module for the 3 day trainings for teachers scheduled by the RCEE.

Four faculty members from Sandhan extended technical support. Multilevel teaching technique, Use of library in teaching, and project as a method of teaching were discussed both at conceptual and technical level. The workshop was a forum for developing the framework of the module. It was decided that module should be framed such that, there is space for practical demonstration of the module during its transaction in the training. The workshop was attended by representatives of RCEE, district level resource persons and representatives of UNICEF and Sandhan. Sandhan's experience of directly working with children and teachers in 50 government schools became the base for preparation of the module; the insights from the workshop were also woven in the process. A draft module was prepared incorporating multilevel Teaching Techniques, Use of Library and project method. The module was actually transacted in workshop forum as a field test.

### **Module testing workshop : Dholpur ( 3-7 September, 06)**

A three-day module-testing workshop was arranged in Dholpur district headquarter in the month of September, 2006. Teachers of 25 schools participated in the workshop. Those teachers were involved who had not been exposed to any of the earlier workshops regarding multilevel teaching. Apart from conceptual discussions on multilevel teaching, project method and library, the teachers actually tried out the techniques along with resource persons in two government middle schools of Dholpur. There was intensive discussion on every aspect module. The insights from workshop were woven in the final version of the module.

**Two teacher training modules were prepared in the month of September and October,06 .** One version had components of direct interaction with children and in the other version , Master trainers were kept in focus.

The modules were finalized in the month of November 2006,after incorporating suggestion from representatives of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Unicef, teachers and resource persons etc. The final version of the module was shared with the director and other senior representatives of SSA.

Concept of multilevel teaching, and its techniques, use of library and project method as pedagogy, the aspect of practical demonstration in schools during trainings, analysis of experiences and discussions to affirm the first two aspects - all these have been incorporated in the training modules. These have been recognized by SSA..

The modules were transacted across Rajasthan through RCEE targeting 80,000 primary school teachers.

### **Support in preparation of 10 day teacher training module: SSA (March 07)**

A ten day teachers training module is being prepared under the aegis of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. The module will focus on Pedagogic techniques, school environment, demonstration in schools for practical learning as well as hard spots of the contents. Sandhan has been requested to extend technical support in the process.

A four day preparatory workshop for module writing was organized in Jaipur from 19-22 March,07. Sandhan extended support in this preparatory workshop. It was decided in the workshop that Sandhan would contribute the section on Pedagogic techniques. The process is currently on.

## **Trainings and Workshops**

A series of trainings and workshops were conducted during the reporting period. A brief description of the trainings are as follows :

### **Training Workshop for School Support Team Members (19-27 May, 06)**

Sandhan conducted a workshop in Jaipur, for strengthening the conceptual and technical understanding on the Environmental Studies. The school support team members participated in the workshop. The contents of the EVS textbooks of class III, IV and V was used as base for the purpose. 'Project' as a method of teaching was demonstrated and practiced in the workshop. The participants also identified basic learning materials that can be prepared for transaction with the children.

### **Training of Trainers: Niwai (1- 3 June, 06)**

Sandhan conducted a three-day training in the month of June 2006, in Niwai block of Tonk district. 16 teachers of 25 model schools of Niwai participated in the meeting. The main objective of the training was to enable the teachers evolve as master trainers. The training was forum for strengthening the understanding on concept as well as pedagogy of the multilevel teaching. Special focus was given on "Project" as a method of teaching and usage of multilevel teaching learning material. Two faculty members conducted the training with support from school support team members.

### **Training of Teachers : Niwai (13-15 June 06 & 16-18 June 06)**

The second training was organized in two phases from 13<sup>th</sup> –15<sup>th</sup> June and 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> June. 198 primary school teachers from 175 government schools participated in the training. Three faculty members from Sandhan and the members of school support team conducted the training. The experiences and work of the model schools were shared with the teachers. The 4 day module for training of teachers that has been prepared by Sandhan was transacted in this training. The training was designed keeping in mind the motivating factors of teachers.

### **Training of Model School Teachers : Dholpur (21- 24 June, 06)**

A training for the teachers of 25 model schools of Dholpur was organized in June by DPEP / SSA. 45 school teachers participated in the training. Sandhan

extended support as a resource agency. The training was a platform for the collective sharing of experiences. This training was the first experience sharing forum since the quality education support was initiated in Dholpur. A review of the experiences was done and key issues were distilled out. These formed the base of the training. Context specific, school specific future plan of action was also evolved, by the participants. Four faculty extended support as resource persons

**Training of Resource Persons: Rajasthan Council Of Elementary Education/ SSA  
(27 November-18 December, 06)**

Rajasthan council of elementary education organized a series of teacher training workshops for strengthening the quality of education. Sandhan has been requested to extend technical resource support for the purpose. Three trainings were organized from 27th November - 18th December in Jaipur. The trainings were of two kinds –

5 day training of resource persons who will directly train the teachers of schools. (27th November-1st December).( 36 resource persons participated in the trainings.)

4 day training of key resource persons who will train other resource persons. They in turn will train teachers of government schools across Rajasthan. ( The training was organized in two batches; first batch of 34 participants were trained from 4th December-7th December 2006. The second batch of 43 participants from 15th December – 18th December, 2006.)

A total of 113 resource persons across all districts of Rajasthan participated in these trainings.

Developing and strengthening the conceptual understanding of quality Education, the necessity of multi level teaching, use of library and project method as teaching techniques, teaching learning materials and their use: these were areas of focus in the trainings. Apart from strengthening theoretical understanding, on these issues, there were practical demonstrations in three government schools in Jaipur. The participants actually got an opportunity to translate the learnings into action. This aspect of practical demonstration in schools added a different dimension to the trainings. Faculty members of Sandhan involved in the quality education project and members of school support team extended support as resource persons.

### **Participation in the Educational Fair: Niwai (February 07).**

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan organized a block level educational fair in Niwai in February 07. The school support team participated in the planning process and also extended resource support.

### **School Level Workshops for preparation of basic learning material: Niwai (18-21 and 22-24 February, 07), Dholpur (27-28 February, 07 and 1 March, 07),**

Teachers of Government schools- Upper primary school (UPS) Chaurakhera, Pitam Pura, Rajpur in Dholpur, UPS Sirohi and Srirampura in Niwai (where Sandhan extends support), expressed their need for preparation of basic learning materials. In response to this need five workshops- two in Niwai and three in Dholpur were organized in the month of February and early March, 07. Teachers stayed in the schools and prepared the materials for class I and II. The approach of this workshop was learning by doing. There were discussions as to how one could use the basic materials and improvise as per the need of the class. Three faculty members from Sandhan extended technical support

### **Onsite teachers training workshop on multilevel teaching techniques: Dholpur (12-14 March 07)**

Teachers of upper primary school, Odi, expressed their need for training in multilevel teaching techniques. They were not exposed to any training related to Multilevel teaching. In response to this need, a training was organized in the school itself in the month of March. The school support team members demonstrated multilevel teaching techniques; which included identification of academic levels of children, group formation, and working in groups with children. Necessary learning materials required for this pedagogic process were also made.

### **Appreciative Inquiry Process**

To strengthen the efforts of ensuring Quality education for every child, Sandhan has initiated the process of Appreciative Inquiry methods. It has been Sandhan's understanding that multiple contextually appropriate interventions should converge and be built in the similar framework within the state managed system. Sandhan has thus linked the Appreciative Inquiry with the Quality Education Programme. Through this process attempt is being made to build on the positive aspects of teachers, children and community. Unicef has provided technical resource person for this tool.

### **Selection of schools for implementation of AI (July, 06)**

Three faculty members of Sandhan made a three-day visit to the model schools of Niwai from 17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> July, 2006. The purpose of the visit was to identify schools for implementation of AI methods. During the visit there was dialogue and meetings with teachers. Issues of teacher student ratio, Status of learning of children, availability of physical infrastructure were specially discussed in the meetings. The concept of AI was shared with them. 6 schools have been selected. The selection has been done on the basis of the following points, which were decided in earlier meetings. They are – Adequate number of children in schools, one Balika Vidyalaya among the selected schools, availability of infrastructure in schools.

### **Development of A.I. process tools – interview schedules (August, 06)**

Interview schedules have been developed in participatory mode, with Sandhan faculty members, representatives of Unicef and consultant for AI process. The schedules were field tested in schools other than the 6 schools that have been selected for implementation of AI. The insights from the field were taken into cognizance and necessary changes have been incorporated in the schedules.

### **Orientation workshops on AI process :**

#### **State level Orientation workshop: Department of Education : GOR(September, 06)**

A state level orientation workshop was organized in Jaipur, to orient the Department of Education about the Appreciative Inquiry process that is being implemented. The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary GoR senior representatives of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, District Education officer, Block Education officer, BRCF, CRCF, head masters of the selected 6 schools representatives of UNICEF. Four Sandhan faculty members participated in the meeting. A future plan of action for implementation of process was evolved in the forum which included school level meetings and block level workshops.

#### **District and Block level Orientation Workshop: Department of Education : GOR (18 October, 06)**

A block level orientation workshop was organised on 18th October. 2006. The district and block level Education Officers of GoR including DEEO Tonk, BRCF, BEEO, SDI Newai, headmasters of 6 schools of Newai, Dr. Pritam Pal, Consultant - Unicef, participated in this workshop. Four faculty members of Sandhan and members of School Support Team represented Sandhan. The AI Approach was shared in detail. Interview schedules, which have been developed

earlier, were also discussed. It was decided in the meeting that Sandhan faculty and headmasters of the schools would together share and discuss about this process with the teachers of the school.

#### **Meeting with Teachers of Schools in Newai ( November, 06)**

Two faculty members from Sandhan visited the 6 selected schools in Niwai in November. 2006. Along with the headmaster of the school, they had a sharing meeting with the teachers of the school. The faculty members gave a presentation on AI Approach. The strategy of weaving the AI approach along with the educational process was discussed at length. A consensus was drawn on the fact that members of the community and students of the school would be identified, who would also be partners in this process.

#### **Support to Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya: Rajasthan**

##### **Life Skill Education Training of teachers of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalays, Rajasthan (26 –28 December, 06)**

Given the mandate of universalization of elementary education, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBV) have been set up in Rajasthan. These KGBVs are under the aegis of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. The KGBVs are trying to reach out to girls, who could not access education due to some mismatch between their lived reality and services available. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan organized life skill education training in Jaipur in December 2006, for the teachers of KGBVs of Rajasthan. Sandhan was requested to extend technical resource support for the training programme. A total of 79 teachers of 39 KGBVs across 32 districts of Rajasthan participated in the training.

Education is a basic right for all, which has been derived from the right to life. Thus education should make difference in the quality of life. It is important to ensure that education finally empowers every girl to make informed choices in life. This understanding was focused in the training. It was woven at two levels; at the level of teachers as individuals and women as collective. Issues of emotions, gender, identity, problem solving, violence, health - its linkages with social and mental health were highlighted. Simultaneously ways and means of transaction of these issues with the young girls of KGBVs were addressed. The teachers, who seemed hesitant and distant initially, became a vibrant participative group, as the training proceeded. Needs of follow up trainings and content based trainings were articulated in the programme

## IV

### **Research, Process Reviews, Advocacy**

Sandhan is engaged in several research and process reviews related activities. These also include state and national level consultations. The research study, process reviews and consultations undertaken in the reporting period are:

#### **Khedla case study : 'Breaking Barriers' ( October,06)**

Khedla<sup>1</sup> case presents an exciting story of collective action in which there were diverse kinds of inputs. The key actors were tribal women, facilitated by committed voluntary groups (Sankalp and Doosra Dashak). Also, the initiative was strengthened by ongoing research and training by Sandhan. The district administration was sensitive to the issue and the Collector supported the initiative all along. UNDP provided adequate resource support during the entire process by facilitating many other ground level NRM activities around this, which provided the necessary scaffolding for this focussed struggle. The specific process took two years to show results – but the foundation for this process was prepared by a committed group of voluntary workers over a long time. The process has been studied in detail by Sandhan. How can age-old, internalised subordination and exploitation be countered? What kind of strengths does it need? Does it rest on a unique, personalised leadership? Or, can we discern a 'pattern', which can inform initiatives for tribals across the country-- are some of the questions, which Sandhan seeks to explore through this study.

#### **Process Documentation of Khilti Kaliyan Project : Alarippu, Rajasthan ( October,06)**

Six month residential camps are being organized for education of girls from families involved in night soil work. The project known as Khilti Kaliyan Shiksha

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<sup>1</sup> *Khedla village in Kishanganj block of Kota district (Rajasthan) is an extremely deprived area. Majority of the people in the region face exploitation and oppression. A total of 75 families live in Khedla village, out of which 73 are Sahariyas. These tribals are heavily exploited by the powerful 'upper-caste' people from neighbouring villages*

Abhiyan is on in collaboration with Action Aid and Alarippu. Alarippu requested Sandhan to document the processes of the camp that was organized from 20th April 2006 to 18th October,2006. The entire process has been systematically documented. Apart from the process the report captures the spirit of hope. The concluding remarks in the report highlight this very aptly '*Jeevan adhik Rochak Banta hai, Jab aap naye ko apnane ka sahas rakhte hain*'.

### **Children, Work, Education in the context of Migration : Rajasthan Mission On livelihoods (August - December 06)**

Sandhan conducted a study 'Children, Work, Education in the context of Migration' for Rajasthan Mission on livelihoods (RMOL). The objective of the study was to arrive at qualitative information base for working children to inform policy in a 'Rights Framework'. The study focussed on poor tribal children who migrate for work from southern Rajasthan, to the neighbouring state of Gujarat. For ground level observation of children at work, destination points of Surat, Eidar, Khedbrahma, Himmatnagar, Ahmedabad were visited. This covered all four engagements viz B .T<sup>2</sup> cotton and tobacco farming, Textile industry, Dhabas and share cropping.

Attempt was made to understand: The casual linkages in the phenomenon of children's migration and their rural habitat, examined the nature of work that they are doing and assessed its impact on their mental, physical and social health, assessed educational opportunities for these children in their present situation. Based on these, the study envisioned alternatives for a positive future.

The Study was undertaken over a period of five months, from August 2006 - December 2006. A core team of two faculty members from Sandhan, and one extended faculty conducted the study . They were assisted by six researchers.

### **Process Documentation for Eye Bank Society of Rajasthan :Jaipur, Rajasthan (December,06)**

Sandhan documented the processes of Eye bank society of Rajasthan (EBSR)<sup>3</sup>. For Sandhan the exercise was not mere collation of data and information; it was

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<sup>2</sup> *Bacillus Thuringiensis*

<sup>3</sup> *EBSR is the first Civil society Initiative in Rajasthan to undertake The sensitive and humanitarian responsibility of eye bank in a dedicated manner .*

an interactive and collaborative effort. Sandhan actually relived the process of cornea collection, storage and distribution of corneas through visits to the hospitals, discussions with individuals associated with eye banks in various roles, interviews with recipients etc. The brief report traces the roots of the organization, highlights its strategy, process of undertaking the role of the eye bank, the challenges of the organization and the impact it has made on the scenario of eye donation in Rajasthan. The final report was prepared in the month of December, 2006.

### **Bee Keeping – An Experience( March ,07)**

Sankalp Sansthan works with a multipronged approach for the Sahariya group. This includes education and health in rights framework. They have been experimenting with a number of possibilities for livelihood options. This report focuses on their initiative in trying out Beekeeping as a livelihood option, in tune with the scheme suggested by the Horticulture Department. The group involved in the project worked hard for two months and did its best in trying to make the initiative a success . Sincerity and hard work was not missing either on the part of Sankalp( NGO) or the Sahari taking up the scheme. In spite of their best efforts, the experiment failed miserably. The report attempts to analyze the experience.

### **Finalization of 'Understanding Equality'**

#### **Curriculum Framework: Life Skill Education ( August,06)**

Mahila samakhya through its MSKs and KGBVs have initiated fresh challenges for a holistic response to educational needs of girls. For the past half year Sandhan has tried to understand the needs of girl education within the larger framework of Quality Education for democracy and specific context of adolescence. The five year experience of Doosra Dashak, insights that have surfaced from MSK initiatives, became the base for evolving and finalization of 'Understanding Equality' Curriculum Framework: life Skill Education. The Framework entails fuller understanding on the following dimensions of education: Intent, Content, Pedagogy and Evaluation. The curriculum framework has been submitted to the Office of Secretary, Ministry of Human resource Development, Department of Elementary Education and Literacy (MS Cell) : Government of India .

## **Consultations in 11<sup>th</sup> Plan**

Director Sandhan participated in two consultative meetings for ensuring Gender Perspective in the plan –

A western zone consultation held in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, with participation of five states.

A State level workshop organized by Department of women and child development and Planning, in Jaipur, Rajasthan.

### **National Consultation on Declining Sex ratio- Concerns and strategies, Department of women studies; NCERT (28 February- 2 March.07)**

A three day National consultation on Declining Sex ratio was organized in NCERT, New Delhi. The consultation was woven around the themes of Laws and regulation regarding female foeticide, Medical ethics, Role of media, Female Foeticide and religious institutions, Political Commitment, efforts and interventions of government and Civil society and ground situation in the sex selective abortions. The purpose of the consultation was to assess the problem from all the above angles, identify possible modes of operational strategies to stop sex selective abortion practices and educate people about the consequences of adverse female child sex ratio. Director Sandhan participated in the consultation process.