



Together, building healthier communities

# NEWSLETTER

*"Ekjut" means together for a cause/Not for profit/Partnering with rural communities on themes of **Survive Thrive Transform***

JUNE

ISSUE 2022/01

## Throwback 2016

In the year 2016, 4th January, Participatory Learning and Action approach was recommended as a method in Community Action by Government of India for implementation in 10 states (Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh). Earlier to that PLA as a method has demonstrated positive outcomes for a range of community related interventions particularly on reducing morbidity and mortality from conditions related to maternal, new-born, child health and nutrition.



## Survive:

Following an MoU with the National Health Mission, Uttarakhand, Participatory Learning and Action (PLA) scale-up started with the first round of training of seven batches of ASHA Facilitators for five districts (Haridwar, Udham Singh Nagar, Uttarkashi, Bageshwar and Tehri). NHM, Uttarakhand with Ekjut work together for quality rollout of monthly PLA meetings that aims to help in improvement of Health and Nutrition indicators of mothers and children.



## Thrive:

### Community led Prevention of Acute Malnutrition (CPAM)

Under Community led Prevention of Acute Malnutrition (CPAM) program in 6 blocks of 6 districts of Jharkhand, residential training of Sahiyas (ASHAs) was organized with technical support from Ekjut.



The focus was to improve skills of Sahiyas on home visits and introduction to the newly designed "integrated CPAM home visit module". The training focussed on how the use of appropriate picture cards could make home visits more interesting, interactive and easier to understand for mothers and other family members. District Civil Surgeons, District Program Coordinators (DPC), District Program Managers (DPM) of respective districts along with Block Training Teams(BTT) from NHM Jharkhand participated in the training.



**A Ray of Hope and Happiness**

Rebati, Premsingh and Prasanta met Budhni and her 3 month old son Etwa at MTC Chaibasa, one week after he was first admitted at MTC Chakradharpur followed by referral to SNCU at Chaibasa and after he was stabilised to the Malnutrition Treatment centre for further care. Both Mother & Baby looked well !

Etwa was detected with respiratory distress in her mothers lap by Rani Rajni and Premsingh Munda during a meeting on nutrition at Lanji a hilltop village of Hoyohatu Panchayat of West Singhbhum district.

The team overcame several hurdles like reluctance of family members to go to a hospital leaving behind the siblings at home and the father had to cancel his ticket to Mumbai where he planned to go seeking work, finding a suitable place with mobile connection, arranging an ambulance in absence of an MCP (maternal and child protection card for the child, and difficulty of coming down the hill with the sick child for the ambulance. Finally a responsive public health system brought relief with support from community and dedicated staff of the MTC.



**Transform:**

Four libraries set up in the community in villages of Khuntpani block, West Singhbhum district, Jharkhand under the Adolescent Health Initiative in COVID days.

There is a wide range of books covering both the Hindi and English languages. Prior to the purchase of books, consultation with the school teachers, book trusts, and people in local running local libraries was done. There are story and poem books, autobiographies of freedom fighters and social reformers of both Jharkhand and the Nation. Several books are there on literature, grammar, history, geography, general knowledge, competitive exams, science, environment and encyclopedias, mapsetc. There is a special section on Ho Adivasi dialect culture and literature too. The books are enlisted in the libraries keeping in mind the user specific age groups.





**Dispelling Vaccine Hesitancy:**

The Yuva Saathis (Friends of Youths) of Khuntpani block, West Singhbhum district, Jharkhand led the way in dispelling vaccine hesitancy among people living in the remote areas of the district. These efforts took a concrete shape and Ekjut supported the District Administration in 4 blocks of Jharkhand (Khuntpani and Chakradharpur blocks of West Singhbhum district) and Odisha (Joda Block of Keonjhar and Koida block of Sundargarh districts) towards 100% vaccination. A team of 170 Community Mobilisers/Tika Saathis in these 4 blocks supported the respective block medical team in reaching out to all the villages, focusing in difficult pockets.



**Urban Initiatives:**

Considering the COVID situation, kits were distributed in shelter homes of Ranchi and Dhanbad. Team oriented shelter care takers and shelter managers on the use of kit. These were allocated to shelters understanding COVID situations and importance of shelters for homeless persons. The distribution of COVID kit is with the objective to provide safety measures at times of need.



Evidence based engagements are the strength of the program and to understand the situation of children in street situations, urban team had conducted rapid assessment survey in October 2021 in 13 identified hotspots of Ranchi city.



The study with 109 children on streets highlighted adverse impact of covid on children and their struggles for survival. Consultation workshop was organized and findings were disseminated with the civil Societies working on issues of children in Ranchi city. Post meeting, CSOs in collaboration with Ekjut shared with duty bearers at district and state level highlighting the grim reality of the children in street situations.

## Conferences/Workshops/Acknowledgements/Mentions

**Community at the centre**

Sh. Ravi Jain (I.A.S.), Asst. District Collector, West Singhbhum attended a PLA meeting in Sarjomhatu village of Chakradharpur Block. He appreciated Sahiya (ASHA worker) and team for their efforts in mobilising the community towards the fight against malnutrition.





**Appreciation for support in COVID Vaccination drive on the occasion of Republic Day**

On the Occasion of Republic day, teammates from Ekjut were honoured with certificates for their active participation and continuous support in the COVID 19 Vaccination Program.

The Block Development Officer of Khuntpani block, West Singhbhum district, was also rewarded from the district on Republic Day for the successful vaccination drive.



**International Women’s day**

On the Occasion of International Women’s day, among different women, Dr. Nirmala Nair, Cofounder Ekjut, was acknowledged for her contribution and achievement for the work to improve maternal and new born health and many others through PLA approach.



**Mention of Sumitra Gagrai by Start-Up India on the National Youth Day**



On the occasion of National Youth Day, Startup organization mention Sumitra Gagrai on their social media page and said “Today, we are celebrating young women leaders of India who live and work in the hotbeds of poverty and patriarchy. They have run through an obstacle course of challenges to emerge as leaders, transforming their own lives and their communities.

**Awards:**

Ekjut finished as one of the three finalists in the Health Category of HCL Grant, 2022

