

REPORT ON ASHA LIBRARY PROJECT

Since 2005 efforts were being made to establish “Children’s Library” at Asha’s education centres and associated associations. For this 45 Indian publishers were contacted to send list of books and sample books. A list was prepared in which 550 books pertaining to songs, pictures, drama, quiz, science, environment, history and fun were included. In Feb. 2006 all associations and centres were sent a circular to provide information and names of chief organizers connected with the establishment of libraries’. In March 2006, 13 publishers were contacted to send books and advance payment was made to them. At Kaithi centre sets of books were made over the next 2 months for distribution to all centres. For this Vallabh along with Vishvesh, Rekha, Ajay, Narhar, Jaishanker, Keshav, Savitri, Pradeep, Ashok, Kusum, Mahesh, Hariom, Ashwani, Rakesh etc. provided lot of help. While making book sets, rules were made for the upkeep of the libraries.

On 15th & 16th July 2006 a workshop was organized during which information regarding maximum use and upkeep of books was provided. On August 12th 2006 another workshop was held for the people who could not attend earlier.

On August 15th 2006 at most of the centres “Asha Bal Pustkalay” were inaugurated. One library at a government primary school at Bahadurpur, (Varanasi) with the help of friends-for-education was inaugurated.

In last 5 months we got reports from various associations and centres. Many representatives from Asha visited different centres to check the condition of the libraries.

Brief information regarding each centre is as under:

1. BAINSA SCHOOL, REWATI, BALIA: Due to delay in making list of books and registers the library could be started in December 2006. Shri Harihar Pandey is the chief organizer of the library. Here children are learning stories and poems from the books. Until now villagers are not asking for books. With the help of the books a cultural function was organized on Republic Day (26th January). Vijay Bhai, co-organizer of Asha Balia goes to the school regularly.
2. ASHA SHIKSHAN SANSTHAN, BHANOLI, BALIA: A small library is operating since last year and children are very happy with new books. People from the society are taking books with interest. . People can take books to their homes on every Monday and Thursday. Teachers read out stories, songs etc. to young children. Shri Ashok Kumar is the chief organizer of the library. Vallabh from Asha Varanasi and Gautam Aggarwal from Asha Austin visited this centre in January.
3. ASHA, SMAJIK VIDYALAY, HARDOI: Asha Smajik Vidyalay, Hardoi is managing 6 centres but the team has decided to establish libraries at only 2 centres. From these 2 centers books will be taken to other centers for the children. A review after one year will be done to establish libraries at the other centers. At present Lalamau Mawai and

Bakinagar libraries are working. Main organizers are Shri Ram Naresh and Shri Fakire Lal. Children are given books everyday and teachers also read out stories from the books.

4. NATPURVA PROJECT, HARDOI: There are 3 educational centers under this project. Libraries at all the centers are functioning properly. Shri Niwas Gautamis the main organizer. In Natpurva girls have also shown interest in the books. A government social bhawan is being built in Natpurva where Asha library will also be established.

5. ASHA SAMAJIK VIDYALAY RAJATALAB AND NAVJYOTI SHIKSHAN SANSTHAN, VARANASI: Under this project libraries at 7 centers were started in July. From here books are given to other centers. Main organizer is Shri Suresh Rathore. Local people are also interested in books and they take books for reading. Asha Samajik Nagepur and Harsoa are giving books to local youth for reading. Books related to social issues are being read with more interest. From all the centers 50 to 75 books are distributed daily. Here books to encourage the youth are being demanded. There is also need for books on grammar and general knowledge. Paper cover books are getting torn during use by the children. From Asha Varanasi Vallabh, Anand Murti, Govind Sharma and Gaurav from Asha Austin visited this project.

6. MAHILA SAVROJGAR SAMITI, VARANASI: This is a women self employment association. All the libraries at the 6 centers under this project are functioning. Main organizers are Kailash Nath. Here children are very young and the people are illiterate so the books are being used teachers who read out stories, songs etc. to the children. Literate persons and some literate women from self help group are also taking books for reading. At Narayanpur, Collectry Farm Center difficulty is being faced due to non availability of proper space.

7. JIWAN DAAN SAMITI, GAZIPUR: Libraries at all the centers are working. Some books were already available. Teachers were conversant with the use of books so the libraries are well managed. New books have given encouragement to the children and society. Laborers go to brick kilns with their families for 6 months in a year. Children want to take the books to the kilns but to keep books safely will be a problem. This year Samiti has made arrangements so that books can be provided at the kilns. Main organizers of the libraries here are Sh. Amarjeet and Uma Shanker Yadav. Here leaflets and posters pertaining to different issues are also included in the libraries. Rakesh from Asha Varanasi inspected these libraries in November.

8. ASHA SHIKSHAN KENDRA, KALYANPUR, VARANASI: Asha education center has procured a closet with the help of Asha Kanpur in which books are safe and organized. Chief organizer is Sh. Raju Thapa. Raju has good experience to teach children from the books. He has stored books in alphabetical order and distribution of books is organized. This library is operating from a Nepali temple so it is very popular. People from the society are also using these books. Raju has subscribed to monthly magazines like Nandan (a children's monthly), Kadambini (a woman's monthly) and few others which are included in the library.

9. GYANDIP VIDYALAY, GAZIPUR: Libraries at two centers (Gyandeeep & Jiwan Jyoti) managed by Prayas Prashikshan Samiti are working properly but the kids are very young so teachers read out the books to them. Dora Center (Gyandeeep) is near a government middle school. Children from this school have become members of this library and are using the books. Ukraon center (Jiwan Jyoti) is being used by villagers also. Another good thing is that youth's attachment with the center has increased. Here a box has been kept to collect donations. People contribute willingly and the money is being used to subscribe to a news paper. Chief organizer is Pradeep Yadav, Govind and Vallabh from Asha Varanasi visited this institute in October.

10. GRAMYA SANSTHAN CHANDOLI: Gramya managed library is very well organized and their reporting is also very good. There is a membership fee for public. Money collected will be used for buying ne books. Center has given a list of popular books for the library. They are having problem in keeping books in the box. Till now center has distributed 3000 books. Chief organizer is Sh. Ram Vilas. Saurabh from Asha Chicago and Pradeep Asha Varanasi visited the center in December.

11. VARUN, CHANDOLI: 'Varun' is organizing a library with the help of Rajiv Gandhi Foundation for the last 3 years so they have good experience of managing a library. In the last 6 months 2882 books were distributed. Villagers have contributed Rs.512 by which magazines like Outlook, India Today, Gaon Grivan, Saras Salil etc are received. Jaishanker a member of Asha visited the center in January.

"Gramya" and "Varun", the two centers are in far of Naguar district where Naxalites have disturbed normal life. People like to read. The news paper comes after 36 hours so the Asha library's contribution is important.

12. ASHA SAMAJIK VIDYALAY, LUCKNOW: Asha Samajik Vidyalay was in the process of starting libraries at 4 centers. At two other centers teachers take books for distribution. In October there was a division due to internal issues and books were recalled from three centers. A children's library is being organized at a center in Kailash Kunj. By mid February organization of libraries at other centers will commence. Presently the books are lying at one place and from there teachers take books every week. After children have read those they take new books.

13. AASRA SANSTHAN, VARANASI: Here libraries at two centers are working since August. Here villagers have shown good interest in books. Teachers regularly read out books to the children. Mankaiyan center has distributed 148 books. At a time 2 books are given. Jogapur center has distributed 113 books. Chief organizer is Sh. Ajay Patel. 'Aasra' has provided books to a nearby Kansraipur government primary school. Village pardhan is helping in managing of school library.

14. ASHA SAMAJIK VIDYALAY, GAUNWARA, BIHAR: The books are arranged by subject and the children take books to read as per their interest. Many villagers are taking books. In the evening between 5 and 8, people come to read books at Sh. Manoj Kumar's house. People collect to read even under the lantern light. These people want works of

famous writers to be included. Every person has read at least 50 books. A solar light is required here. They have asked for books on social issues also. Chief organizer is Sh. Manoj Kumar Sahu.

15. ILAM ADARSH SCHOOL, MORADABAD: Ilam is operating two libraries at its centers. Books are being used properly. At these two centers along with children other people are showing interest in reading the books. 650 books have been issued from these two centers. Villagers are showing immense interest. Chief organizer is Sh. Raja Ram Painter. Brijesh Srivastva of Asha Redlands visited the center in December.

16. SAWATI MAHILA VIKAS SAMITI, BANDA: Under this project libraries at two educational centers are being operated. After school hours children are given books to read for 1 hour. In addition to this, villagers, friends for education, anganwadi women workers are taking books regularly. Books are being read out to young children. Cultural program for 26th January is being organized by using these books. Chief organizer is Sh. Bhola Parsad ji.

17. BHARTIYA JAN SEVA ASHRAM, BADLAPUR, JAUNPUR: In December operation of library at Budenpur Asha Bal Vidyalay managed by the organization started. On 19th Nov. 2006 Asha representatives Rakesh and Vallabh came to this center. They found that books are lying in office and even library committee has not been constituted because there was no safe place to keep the books. We told society organizers that we are taking the books back but organizer Sh. Daulat Bhai asked to give him one more week to do the needful. In 1 week library committee was formed. Village pradhan Sh Rajeshwar Prasad took special interest in this. Now children are given books on every Monday and Thursday. Villagers were encouraged by village pradhan to start reading the books and they followed. Gaurav Asha Austin and Vallabh visited Budenpur center on 19th January.

18. CHAMPA DEVI JAN KALYAN KENDRA, DEWARIYA: Under this project 3 libraries were to be organized but due to mismanagement not even one library could be set up. Children are given books for 1 hour at Bandoli and Narkatiya educational centers. Chief organizer is organizer is Sh. Shailender Bahadur. In November Sh. Swaminathan Maithad of Asha MHV and Govind Sharma visited this center.

19. JAN MITTER NAYAS, VARANASI: Under Jan Mitter Nayas project 2 libraries are being operated properly. At Belva and Bhagwa Nala centers books have been placed alphabetically. Local people along with children are coming to read the books at the centers. Teacher is responsible for the upkeep of books.

20. PRATIGYA PERSHIKSHAN SANSTHAN, GAZIPUR: Here one library is being operated and information regarding constitution of the library committee has been received but there is no other information. Two reminders have been sent but there has been no response. No representative from Ash has been able to visit but efforts are being made to send somebody as soon as possible to assess the progress.

21. SHARDAHA SPECIAL SCHOOL, VARANASI: Sharadha Special School manages children with mental disabilities. Library has books with color pictures which are useful for the children. On October 2, 2006 Sharadha started to make colony children members of the library. 60 children are taking books regularly. Local people are also provided books from the center. Secretary of "Shahid Bhagat Singh Youth Brigade" Sh. Biren Yadav has provided literature pertaining to Shahid Bhagat Singh. Chief organizer of the library is Aparna Rani. Asha representative from Redlands and Vallabh visited this center in January.

22. ASHA SAMAJIK VIDYALAY, DEWARIA: 4 centers attached to Asha Samaik Vidyalay started working properly in December but no library has been started. Books are safely stored in Kaithi center and will reach the centers by mid February.

23. GUDIYA PROJECT, VARANASI: It is proposed to start libraries at 2 centers of Gudiya but their team is entangled in judicial problems on account of some issues, so the library could not be started. Sh. Ajit Singh has told that library will start in two weeks.

24. ANOPCHARIK SHIKSHAN KENDRA, BALIA: 3 libraries at different centers are operating properly. Teachers read out stories from the books as the children are very young. Pipar Gaon, Rakhan and Pandey ka Chapra centers are used by villagers of these three centers. Attendance of children is also improving. Chief organizer is Sh. Parkash Pandey. VijayBhai of Asha Balia regularly visits these centers.

25. ASHA SAMAJIK VIDYALAY, SHERPUR, PUNJAB: Library of this center has been organized with the library of a Gurudwara. Sherpur is a big town and there is lot interest for the books. Elders are also reading books. There is demand for Punjabi books. Sh. Shital ji is preparing a list of Punjabi books. This center was visited by Asha's Keshav Chander and Jai Shanker in January.

26. ASHA KAITHI CENTER: Books are not distributed but during training workshops participants use the books. Self help group of girls read the books during their monthly meetings. Some members of the group take books home. One library has been started at a government primary school in Bhadarpur on August 15th, 2006. It is 7 kms away from Kaithi center and is being fully used by children and friends for education. The teacher of Dr. Shashi Bhushan Singh has given commendable support.

27. SHIKSHA NIKETAN, DHANTURITOLA, BALIA: Shiksha Niketan has classes from nursery till 12th class for the girl students. The school library already had 300 books but now all the books have been kept in the library. Membership fee of library is one rupee per month. The money collected will be spent to buy regular magazines. There are 100 members now. There is demand for books on right to information, women power, primary health etc.

28. RANI LAXMIBAI BALIKA VIDYALAY, BHRAWAN, HARDOI: This vidyalay is managed by famous freedom fighter Sh. Surya Lal Shrivastva who is known as "Gandhi of Bhrawan" or "Baba ji". Baba ji has been able to start many educational institution is

this area. This school is in class IIX. People living nearby are taking books from this library. Asha's representative from Hardoi keeps in touch with Baba ji. There is demand for books on social issues.

29. SHAHID BHAGAT SINGH PUSTAKALAY, KANPUR: In the village Nankari Adjacent to IIT, Kanpur, Jan Chetna Kala Manch members are managing the Shahid Bhagat Singh Library. In addition to books provided by Asha, books of different subjects are also kept in this library. Students from adjoining areas are being encouraged to not sell their previous class books but to donate to library so that the same can be given to the needy. A room is being rented for the library and rent will be paid from membership fee collected. Library is open to general public from 4 pm to 7 pm in the evening. 'Eklavya', team from Bhopal inaugurated this library in December and has also promised to help for books. There is demand for books of famous writers like Rahul Sankrityayan, Munshi Prem Chand, Mahadevi Verma, Tolstoy, Amrit Nagr etc. Chief organizers are William Pal and Abdul Kalam. Asha (MHV) volunteer Sh. Swaminathan Maithad visited this establishment in November.

30. EK KADAM, KANPUR: Ek Kadam has started a library in a hostel (Khushion ka Ghar) meant for migrant children and libraries for Jagriti Bal Vikas Samiti's education centers at brick kilns where children are taught stories, songs, etc. Books are also helping to organize cultural functions for children. Chief organizer is Mahesh. Sh. Jaishankar member of Asha visited the institution in January.

31. MISSION SAMITI, BALRAI, ETAWAH: Libraries are established at 2 centers operated by Mission Samiti. In a telephonic conversation with manager Sardar Narinder Singh, it was learnt that books are being used in school. Due to demise of family member report regarding establishment of library is awaited.

32. DR. B.R.AMBEDKAR BAL VIDYALAY, BALIA: This Vidyalay is operating for the last 4 years with help from local sources without any outside help. "Asha Bal Pustakalay" was started on trial basis two months ago. Children are allowed to take home books on two days of a week. Public is also using the books. Chief organizer is Sh. Bali Ram ji. Sh. Nand Lal from Asha (Raja Talab) visited this facility in December.

33. ASHA DARSHAN, ASSAM: Asha Darshan (Assam) has tried to establish two libraries at its centers but the results have not been good. Young children can not read hindi. Teachers have started experimentation. Here books in Assam's language are required.

IN BRIEF: The goal to establish Asha Bal Libraries was to create children's interest in reading new books. This goal is clearly being achieved. Interest of local public is also increasing at most of the centers. Villagers are coming to the libraries and taking interest in reading the books. At some centers daily news paper and monthly magazines are being received which are paid for from the membership fee. Some common difficulties are being faced like taking out and putting back books in the boxes. Small children are

defacing the books and books taken home are being torn. Institutions are not sending reports in time. Reports are being sent after several reminders and telephonic communications. Libraries of projects Varun, Gramya, Rajatalab, Shahid Bhagat Singh Pustakalay, Ganwara etc are operating efficiently. An assessment workshop is proposed to be held at Kathi center so that persons can learn from each others experience and future plans could be formulated.

Accounts as of 15th January 2007

A. Fund Recieved:

1. Asha For Education- Munick:	16,752.24
2. Asha For Education- DC:	132,630.00
3 Asha For Education- Carvallis:	133,320.00
4. Asha For Education- MHV:	452,825.00
5. Asha For Education- Berckley:	16,010.00
6. Mr. Sarit Sharma:	10,000.00
7. Asha For Education- Meanesota:	25,428.06

Total: Rs. 786,965.30

B. Expenditures:

1. Book Purchased:	Rs. 723,350.00
2. Bank Charges for making Drafts:	Rs 1,809.00
3. Payment for Boxes:	Rs.38,500.00
4. Transportation:	Rs. 9,346.00
5. Work Shop Expenditure:	Rs. 22,712.00
6. Stationary:	Rs.1,092.00
7. Petol/Conveyance:	Rs.1,834.00
8. Postage:	Rs.1,732.00
9. Packing etc:	Rs. 784.00

Total: Rs. 801,159.00

C. Balance: (-) Rs. 14,193.70

Future Expances (in next 6 months):

1. Workshop :	Rs.20,000/-
2. Box:	Rs. 6,000/-
3. Conveyance in Monitoring:	Rs. 7,500/-
4. Postage/ Stationary etc:	Rs. 3,500/-
5. Books in Assamees	Rs. 5,000/-
6. Books in Panjabi:	Rs.5,000/-

Total: Rs.47,000/-

-Vallabh

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