



Annual Progress Report

2021-2022

Centre for Rural Education and Development Action (CREDA)

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Move & Improve Project (Phase 2) **Community Based Care and Education of Children of** **Rural Marginalized Communities**

Supported by Swiss Academy for Development (SA4D), Switzerland

Engagement with government line departments and panchayati raj system

Local officials and service providers like Aanganwadi Workers, ANM and teachers, elected representatives like village council heads known as gram pradhans and community leaders were liaised, and their support was taken in the project to ensure better educational opportunities and health to the children. In some villages during the survey of children, Aanganwadi workers supported in identifying the target children specially dropped out children. Vaccination of children was discussed with ANM.

Community mobilization

Selection of target villages

To open the remedial teaching centres, potential villages for running the centre were identified. The criteria for final selection of villages were as follows:

- preferably the community belong to dalit/ backward/Muslims,
- enough number of children to be enrolled at the centre is available so that batches could be formed,
- community can provide space for running the centre,
- mothers are specially enthusiastic to support the establishment and functioning of the centre,
- eligible women volunteer is available within the village or in neighbouring village, who can be appointed as community facilitator.

Finally those villages were selected that met most of the criteria as mentioned above. Also, preference was given to those villages, where ECCE Centre was running earlier with the support of SA4D.

Community mobilisation to support remedial teaching

Before opening of the centres, the project staff met the community and explained the objective of the project. The community was mobilized to provide their support in opening of the centre, providing suitable place and running of the remedial teaching/coaching centres. Mobilization was also done on importance of child

education, child right, child protection and health issues with special focus on COVID-19 through village level and community level meetings.

A 2-page handbill was published and distributed among the community during mothers' group meetings and community meetings.

As the result of the mobilization activities, the community became aware on the objective and activities of the programme and also on the importance of education, benefits of remedial teaching, support they can provide in opening and running of the centres, etc. The community provided space for running the centre like private building/hut, open area, lobby or classroom in government primary schools.

Formation and engagement of mothers' groups

One mothers' group was formed in each batch of remedial teaching. Therefore 180 mothers' groups have been formed under the project. On an average of 18 members, there are 3,218 members in 180 groups. The mothers of all children enrolled at the centres are members of the groups.

At the time of the formation of mothers' group, the members were informed about the project objectives, activities to be carried out and benefits of the activities to the children and community. To build the capacity of the mothers' groups, the members of the mothers groups were regularly oriented on child education, child protection and health during issues including COVID-19. The mothers were encouraged to send their children to the centre timely and regularly.

Progress monitoring (follow-up visits at school and with parents)

The progress of the children was regularly carried out at each class. At some centres, the parents personally visited and witnessed the devotion of their child in study. They are happy that the child learns at the centre and when return to home, eagerly completes the home work. During contact with government teachers, they informed that the children who are attending the remedial teaching centre are performing well after enrolment at the centre.

Capacity building for project staffs

Training of community facilitators

For the capacity building of 30 village-based field staffs i.e. Community Facilitators, a training module was developed in the month of September. The module was divided into two parts – part 1 was for first day and part 2 was for second day.

First day training was organized at block level in the beginning of October 2021 just after the placement of community facilitators, whereas second day training was organized jointly at CREDA's Rural Resource Centre on 28th February 2022 for all 30 staffs working in three project blocks. Apart from this, some topics of the second day training were covered during the monthly block-level learning and sharing meetings in January 2022 and February 2022. This strategy was adopted to build the capacity of staffs on important topics to enhance their knowledge so that they can learn and work easily as well as to shorten the number of topics in second day training.

On first day, the topics covered were: Introduction of the project; Identification, survey and enrolment of children; Community mobilization; Child protection and child rights; Right to Education; Positive discipline; Effective communication; Role modelling with children; Inclusion and differentiation; Body language; and Important points to keep in mind when working in the villages (including precaution to prevent COVID-19)

The second day training covered the following topics: Registration of all births and deaths; Full vaccination of children and mothers; Consumption of iodized salt; Integrated Child Protection Scheme and other provisions for children; Human trafficking; Child marriage; Abolition of child labour and related laws; Environmental hygiene; Characteristics of effective training and training of adults; and Qualities and skills of a facilitator.

The trainees were provided training kit having bag, training module (in two parts) and important notes, notebook, pen, pencil, sharpener, eraser, and one folder to carry important documents.

They were also provided needed knowledge and inputs during the monthly learning and sharing meetings to build their capacity to carry out project activities successfully and smoothly.

Instructional materials to the community facilitators

Needed instructional materials have been procured and provided to the community facilitators. They have been given books for grade 1 to 5, a roller blackboard and chalks. The books help the community facilitators as a reference for syllabus, pattern of answers and answers of difficult questions.

Capacity building of project staff to effectively assess, implement and evaluate project activities

An inception meeting of core project staffs was organized on 3rd September 2021. In the meeting, proper planning was done to run the project. The capacity of the block level staffs was enhanced to monitor the progress of project activities.

Monthly learning and sharing meeting was organized regularly. Data / information were collected from the community facilitators to monitor the progress and necessary input was provided to them for improvement. The staffs also shared the experiences they gained during the month. All these were documented and later discussed in the project level monthly meeting.

Remedial teaching class for 5,000 children at primary school level

Selection and enrolment of children

- To open the remedial teaching / coaching classes, preference was given to those villages, where ECCE Centre was running by CREDA earlier with the support of SA4D. To establish the centres, selection of suitable place was finalized according to availability of required number of children. Those children who needed remedial teaching were identified and enrolled at the Centres.
- There were 30 Community Facilitators and each were conducting classes in 6 batches. Hence, the children in targeted number were being covered in 180

batches. Between 25 to 30 children were enrolled in each batch and each staff covered nearly 170 children. Therefore approximately 5,099 children got benefit under the project against the target of 5,000 children.

- Out of 5,099 children enrolled in three project blocks,
 - The number of boys and girls are as below:

Gender	Halia	Lalganj	Madihan	Total
Boys	923	768	848	2,539
Girls	946	762	852	2,560
Total:	1,869	1,530	1,700	5,099

- The enrolled children were studying in following grades:

Grade	Halia	Lalganj	Madihan	Total
Not enrolled	113	161	33	307
Dropout	0	20	0	20
LKG	1	0	6	7
UKG	0	0	2	2
Grade 1	440	373	403	1216
Grade 2	329	210	248	787
Grade 3	418	275	258	951
Grade 4	300	226	253	779
Grade 5	218	251	241	710
Grade 6	40	11	127	178
Grade 7	8	3	70	81
Grade 8	2	0	58	60
Grade 9	0	0	1	1
Total	1,869	1,530	1,700	5,099

Timing of teaching classes

In our project proposal, function of remedial teaching was planned 2 hours daily but due to large number of children enrolled at each centre and opening of school, the classes for each batch was running for one to one and half hour on every alternate day. The day when school was closed (except Sunday and major holidays), the classes run for nearly 2 hours a day.

Stationery to enrolled children

As per the target and budget plan, 5,000 children were provided needed stationery as notebooks, pencils, sharper and eraser individually.

Progress assessment

The teachers of the formal schools, where the children were studying, and the parents were contacted to discuss the progress of children, their educational needs and problems they faced. The children were so motivated that they themselves asked the community facilitators to assign them home work, complete the assignment at home and show the staff when they come next day. The progress of the children was assessed regularly to monitor the improvement in their knowledge.

Performance of children

Two special tests were also conducted to assess the improvement in children's knowledge – first in December 2021 after running the centre for nearly two months and second in February 2022 when the centres re-opened after more than one month closure due to winter and third phase of COVID-19. Total marks for these tests were 10, divided in 5 questions each of 2 marks. The performance of the children in these tests is given below:

Category: Marks Obtained	Number of children							
	December 2021				February 2022			
	Halia	Lalganj	Madihan	Total	Halia	Lalganj	Madihan	Total
Between 0 to 4	801	831	549	2,181	176	557	410	1,143
Between 5 to 6	702	479	596	1,777	401	481	647	1,529
Between 7 to 8	327	191	391	909	737	353	459	1,549
Between 9 to 10	39	29	164	232	555	139	184	878
Total:	1,869	1,530	1,700	5,099	1,869	1,530	1,700	5,099

The above table shows that the number of children who obtained higher marks in February 2022 has increased as compared to the first test conducted in December 2021.

Safety measures undertaken to contain the spread of COVID-19

Guideline laid down by the government to contain the spread of COVID-19 was being followed as far as possible during the project activities. Each block facilitator was provided with thermal scanner to measure the body temperature of the children during their visit. The children were provided face mask and their hands were sanitized at the centre using hand sanitizer. Hands of the mothers were also sanitized during mothers' group meetings. The children were also encouraged to wash their hands with soap regularly at the home. Proper physical distance was followed during the project activities.

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