



MASHAL

ANNUAL REPORT 2022 - 2023



Presented by:
MASHAL
20-C, Patliputra Colony,
Patna - 800 013, Bihar, India

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



“Respect for life and for the dignity of the human person extends to all creation, which we view as a sign of God’s presence. We are challenged to make responsible use of the earth’s resources so that all may share in God’s gifts and live in peace and dignity”. (SND Constitutions, Article 30)

Congratulations to the Sisters and animators as Mashal completes another fruitful year of translating the society’s aims and objectives into social actions with imaginative hope. Through its various activities, you continue to heal the world through activities relevant in the lives of the people, especially in the lives of the people on the periphery as it responds to the cry of the poor and the cry of the earth.

You have significantly contributed to structural changes by focusing on quality education of rural poor, health care, empowerment of women and girls, sustainable livelihood, sustainable agriculture, entitlement realization and poverty alleviation. The members involved in the health wing, have reached out to many through their preventive and curative approaches and have touched the lives of many poor people who otherwise are unable to go to a regular hospital and get expensive medical treatment. Through the Mashal Society, all of you have collectively helped thousands of vulnerable persons, families and communities on the margins to live life with greater dignity and thus have become a credible transformational development organization.

As a group, we look back at the achievements with gratitude and look forward to the new year of activities in creative fidelity, to make it yet another year of much grace and fruitfulness.

May you walk boldly on untrodden paths to bring about sustainable and integral development to the excluded, to those on the margins and above all our “Common Home”.

Trusting in our good and provident God,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alice".

Mashal

FROM THE SECRETARY



As we reflect on the journey of Mashal over the past year, it is with immense gratitude and pride that I address you as the Secretary of this incredible organization. This year's annual report encapsulates the dedication, resilience, and collaborative spirit that defines Mashal's commitment to positive change.

The strides made in healthcare interventions, women empowerment, and community development underscore our holistic approach to societal upliftment. In the realm of education, we have witnessed significant milestones, from the expansion of literacy programs to the successful implementation of technology-enhanced learning initiatives. Our focus on sustainable agriculture has empowered communities, fostering economic independence and environmental stewardship.

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the esteemed Board members whose strategic guidance and unwavering commitment have propelled Mashal toward impactful outcomes. Their visionary leadership has shaped our initiatives, ensuring that Mashal remains at the forefront of transformative change.

To our generous donors, your belief in our mission has been the bedrock of our accomplishments. Your support has not only fueled our projects but has also ignited hope in the hearts of those we serve. Your commitment to creating positive social change is the driving force behind Mashal's success.

A special acknowledgment goes to our dedicated staff, whose tireless efforts, passion, and resilience breathe life into our projects. Their commitment to the community, even in the face of challenges, exemplifies the spirit of Mashal.

As we navigate the path ahead, let us carry the torch of hope and progress together. The annual report is a testament to the collective impact we've achieved, and I invite each of you to join us in celebrating these milestones and renewing our commitment to a brighter, more equitable future.

With gratitude,

Chinnamma KC,
Secretary,
Mashal

MASHAL is a charitable social organization, registered under **Societies Registration Act, 21, 1860 (Reg. No: 708/2000-01) and FCRA, 1976 (Reg.No:031170409)**. It has 12/A and 80G Certificates. Its registered office is in 20-C Patliputra Colony, P.O. Patliputra, Patna, Bihar, India.

Vision:

An Egalitarian Society Based in the values of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation.

Mission

Committed to accompany and to enable the marginalized communities to affirm and uphold their rights and dignity.

Thrust Areas:

- ❖ End poverty in all its forms everywhere (SDG 1)
- ❖ End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition & promote sustainable agriculture (SDG 2)
- ❖ Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all (SDG 3)
- ❖ Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education (SDG 4)
- ❖ Promote gender equality and empower all women and girls (SDG 5)
- ❖ Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic Growth (SDG 8)
- ❖ Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of ecosystems(SDG 13, 15)
- ❖ Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development (SDG 16)
- ❖ Revitalize partnerships for sustainable development (SDG 17)

Priority Groups:

MASHAL primarily focuses on the following priority groups:

- ❖ Women, children, and youth from vulnerable communities: They work to empower these groups by providing support and opportunities for education, livelihoods, and overall well-being.
- ❖ Victims of natural calamities and disasters: MASHAL responds to the needs of those affected by natural disasters, offering relief and rehabilitation efforts to help them recover and rebuild their lives.
- ❖ Persons with disabilities: The organization seeks to promote inclusivity and accessibility for persons with disabilities, ensuring they have equal opportunities and rights.

Strategy:

In pursuit of its mission, MASHAL employs a diverse range of strategies that collectively contribute to our objectives. These strategies encompass:

Comprehensive Healthcare Advancement:

Empowerment through Education:

Strengthening Community-based Organizations (CBOs):

Enabling Sustainable Livelihoods:

Synergistic Collaborations and Networking:

Inclusive Community Engagement:

Sustainable Agricultural Promotion:

Units of Mashal

S.No	Name & Address of Health Centres of Mashal	District	State
1	Notre Dame Health Centre, Jamalpur, P.O- Jamalpur, Pin. 811214	Munger	Bihar
2	Sanjeevan Community Health Centre Victoria Mission, P.O- Gahiri, Pin. 845438	West Champaran	Bihar
3	Sheetal Swasthya kendra Maria Ashram, P.O- Sheikhpura, Pin. 811105	Sheikhpura	Bihar
4	Navjeevan Health Centre, New Area, P.O – Sasaram Pin -821115	Rohtas	Bihar

S.No.	Name & Address of Social Action Centres of Mashal	District	State
1	Mahila Shikshan kendra, Maria Ashram, P.O- Sheikhpura, Pin – 811105	Sheikhpura	Bihar
2	Integated Community Empowerment Centre, Jamalpur, P.O- Jamalpur, Pin – 811214	Munger	Bihar
3	Pushpa Community Dev. Centre, Piro, P.O-Piro, Pin – 802207	Bhojpur	Bihar
4	Navjeevan Development Centre, New Area, P.O. Sasaram, Pin -821115	Rohtas	Bihar
5	Jeevan Mashal Samiti, Julie Bhawan, P.O-Chenari, Pin – 821104	Rohtas	Bihar
6	Pragati Rural Development Centre, Victoria Mission, P.O. Gahiri, Pin -845438	West Champaran	Bihar
7	Cheshta, Raxual, Airport Road, P.O –Raxaul, Pin – 845035	East Champaran	Bihar
8	Women Development Centre, Hojai	Hojai	Assam
9	Mashal Head Office, 20-C, Patliputra Colony, Patna	Patna	Bihar

Report of Health care Activities

Introduction :

Healthcare activities of Mashal is committed to providing compassionate and professional healthcare services to the sick and elderly in rural communities of Bihar. The ministry focuses on curative, preventive, and promotive aspects of health care, responding to the needs of the poor, marginalized, with special focus on women, and children. This report highlights the services offered in all Health Care units of Mashal: Sasaram, Jamalpur, Gahiri, and Sheikhpura, and their impact on the rural population, aligning with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and health care initiatives of the Government of India.

Alignment with SDGs and Government Healthcare Initiatives :

1. SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being: Our healthcare services directly contribute by ensuring access to affordable, quality healthcare for the rural poor, reducing health inequalities, and promoting well-being in the communities we serve.

National Healthcare Initiatives: Our services align with various governments healthcare initiatives, such as immunization drives, disease control programs, and efforts to strengthen primary healthcare in rural areas. We collaborate with the government to complement their efforts and extend healthcare services to underserved populations.



Health Care Services Offered : a. Curative Service

- ❖ Outpatient care
- ❖ Provision of alternative systems of medicine like physiotherapy, Nuga bed, and massage.
- ❖ Care for persons with disabilities
- ❖ Minor surgical procedures, including incision and drainage.
- ❖ Laboratory investigations for various health conditions, including TB, HIV, and diabetes.
- ❖ Snake bite treatment services offered daily in Gahiri.

Preventive and Promotional Services :

- ❖ Immunization services for children under five, covering various diseases like BCG, DPT, measles, and Hepatitis B.
- ❖ Health education programs conducted for staff, patients, and community members, focusing on communicable and non-communicable diseases.
- ❖ Health camps organized for early diagnosis and treatment, especially for TB patients.
- ❖ Herbal garden cultivation to prepare traditional medicines for patients.

Impact on Rural Communities :

- ❖ Improved Access to Healthcare: The presence of healthcare facilities in rural areas has increased access to quality healthcare for marginalized communities, especially women and children.
- ❖ Reduction in Disease Burden: Timely diagnosis and treatment through medical camps and village visits have contributed to reducing the burden of communicable diseases like TB and malaria.
- ❖ Enhanced Maternal and Child Health: Immunization services and antenatal care have positively impacted maternal and child health, leading to reduced infant mortality rates.
- ❖ Health Awareness: Health education programs have raised awareness about hygiene, sanitation, and preventive measures, leading to a decline in waterborne diseases and improved overall health.
- ❖ Improved Living Standards: By catering to the poor and marginalized, the healthcare services provided by the ministry have contributed to uplifting living standards and socioeconomic well-being.



STATISTICS:

Particular / Activites	JAMALPUR	SASARAM	GAHIRI	SHEIKPURA
No. of Personnel	22	16	6	3
Patients/Yr	115735	21341	9572	4981
Immunization	2646	----	----	426
Snake bite	----	----	496	62
Day Care	----	----	----	----
Dental Clinic	----	----	----	----
Physiotherapy	----	1132	----	----
Tuberculosis patients under RNTCP	----	54	----	----

Overall, the Health Care Ministry's endeavours in Jamalpur, Sasaram, Sheikhpura, and Gahiri have proven to be effective in addressing the healthcare needs of rural populations and aligning with national healthcare initiatives. Through their commitment to promoting good health and well-being, the ministry continues to positively impact the lives of many in these underserved areas of Bihar

Report of Strategic Interventions of Mashal in Social Action Sector

1. Human Resource Development/ Empowerment Activities

Mashal is committed to catalyzing positive change through human resource development and empowerment activities through 3 projects being implemented in few of Bihar's most marginalized communities. In a state where low literacy levels have far-reaching societal impacts, our three distinct projects take center stage. These initiatives encapsulate Mashal's commitment to upholding the SDG on quality education, creating a meaningful impact on the lives of out-of-school, dropout, and irregular students, particularly from marginalized backgrounds like Musahars and tribal communities.

Sl. No.	Donor	Project Name	Target
1.	UNICEF	Empowering girls to lead the way for education in Bihar	1500 Children
2.	Kindermissionswerk, Germany	To Promote Basic Learning Among the Children of Marginalised Communities of 15 villages in Munger District, Bihar	600 Children
3.	Italian Bishop's Conference, Italy	Promotion of Basic Education of the Girl Children of the Deprived Communities in 120 hamlets of 4 districts of Bihar namely, Rohtas, Bhojpur, East Champaran, West Champaran	1200 Children

1. "Empowering Girls to Lead the Way for Education" in Sheikhpura, Bihar supported by UNICEF

Introduction :

The initiative, "Empowering Girls to Lead the Way for Education" in Sheikhpura, Bihar, supported by UNICEF, is transforming lives through education. This comprehensive project worked with marginalized communities and focused on foundational literacy and numeracy for children aged 6-8, digital literacy for girls aged 9-14, parental engagement, gender sensitization, and collaboration between parents and teachers in 30 villages of Sheikhpura Dt. Given below are the activities and achievements of the project in relation to the objectives:

Activities and Achievements:

- Established 30 Flexible Learning Centers (FLCs) across marginalized communities.
- Enrolled 1500 children aged 6-8, reintroducing them to education.
- Conducted capacity-building sessions for 35 project staff members.
- Distributed learning materials to empower students.
- Demonstrated significant literacy and numeracy improvements through FLCs.
- Established 100 transformative clubs, uniting 709 girls aged 9-14.
- Provided digital tools and conducted a 3-day program on leadership, skill-oriented courses, and career guidance.
- 800 girls engaged in regular digital literacy classes.
- Effectively adapted to digital tools for online learning and accessing social security schemes.
- 519 girls used the internet for social security and income-generating programs.

- Engaged 3837 mothers in monthly meetings, emphasizing the importance of education and raising awareness about early marriage.
- Informed mothers about social security schemes and Income Generation Programs.
- Promoted positive behaviors for valuing girl child education.
- Conducted gender sensitization training for 2050 men and boys in 30 villages.
- Men actively support higher education for girls and oppose early marriage and gender-based violence.
- Conducted interface meetings involving 1064 stakeholders in every village.
- Exceeded the target of 1000, showcasing strong commitment to strengthening SMCs.

Celebrating Together: Marking Milestones:

- World Day against Child Labour: 1422 participants across 30 villages unite against child labor.
- Independence Day: 1528 individuals commemorate the essence of independence.
- International Literacy Day: 1468 participants embrace the significance of literacy.
- World Child Rights Day: 1194 participants advocate for children's rights.
- Children's Day: A vibrant celebration involving 1245 children.
- Republic Day: 1321 children and teachers join patriotic celebrations.
- International Women's Day: A collective celebration with 1726 women and girls.



Low attendance during farming, weddings, and festivals	Animators visited families regularly to motivate parents and children, ensuring consistent attendance.
Dropout from FLCs due to work at distant brickkilns	Revisited families when children returned, provided extra learning time to compensate for missed sessions.
Older girls missing learning due to household responsibilities	Raised awareness during Mata Samiti meetings about the importance of girls' education.
Irregular attendance due to coaching classes	Educated parents on the value of quality education during Mata Samiti meetings.
Non-participation of SMC members and school teachers in interface meetings	Built rapport, maintained follow-ups, made meetings interactive, and scheduled them according to their availability.

2. To Promote Basic Learning Among the Children of Marginalized Communities of 15 villages in Munger District, Bihar supported by Kindermissionswerk

Introduction

In the wake of unprecedented challenges posed by the global pandemic, this project implemented in 15 tribal villages of Munger Dt. of Bihar, was meticulously designed as a direct response to the multifaceted issues plaguing the education sector within these communities. The primary concerns addressed by the initiative include the substantial learning loss incurred during the lockdowns imposed by the pandemic, the pervasive lack of quality learning in government schools, and alarmingly high dropout rates among children.

As of March 2023, the project has successfully reached 676 children from marginalized communities in our target villages. These children have gained essential education and life skills, while we've actively engaged with community members, emphasizing the importance of education.

A key achievement is improved school attendance. Addressing factors like poverty and parental support, we've created a nurturing environment, boosting student engagement and retention.

Beyond academics, children's confidence, articulation, and self-awareness have grown significantly, fostering their personal development.

Our team maintains close community collaboration, monitoring student progress and exploring innovative learning approaches, including extracurricular activities and vocational training.

Overall, our project in Munger District, Bihar, has effectively promoted basic learning, impacting children's lives positively.



Activities and Outcomes:

1. **Orientation and Training of Project Staff (Animators):**

- 15 Animators acquired skills in crafting learning modules for illiterate or semi-illiterate children. They were trained in diverse engaging methodologies, while also gaining awareness about the Right to Education for all children and the Nipun Bharat Scheme introduced by the Government of India.

2. **Establishment of Bridge Course Centres (BCCs) in Santhal Tribal Villages:**

After community mobilization and awareness campaigns, BCCs were set up in 15 Santhal tribal villages. Enrolling 600 children aged 7-12, these centers aim to bridge education gaps, catering to out-of-school and irregular attendees.

3. **Daily Learning Activities in the Bridge Course Centres based on Syllabus and Objectives:**

Upon enrollment in Bridge Course Centres, a baseline survey assessed students' capacities, guiding tailored teaching plans. Animators skillfully connected lessons to prior knowledge, fostering deeper comprehension. Essential concepts were effectively communicated through clear explanations, relatable examples, and interactive exercises, bolstered by engaging games and thoughtfully designed homework tasks that enhanced participation and solidified learning in the Bridge Course Centres.

- #### 4. **Parents Monthly Meetings:** During these sessions, parents were enlightened about education's significance and children's comprehensive developmental needs. This led to a decrease in child marriages, better understanding of balanced diets, and noticeable enhancements in hygiene and cleanliness standards. Moreover, these meetings fostered regular attendance among children, positively impacting their educational journey.

Celebration of Special Days:

Special Days Celebrated	Participants	Villages Covered	Total Achievement
Republic Day	Children	15	729
Children's Day	Children	15	500
Independence Day	Students/children	15	692

Achievements

- ❖ **Increased literacy:** 47% of children can read and write by recognizing all the letters and numbers, 41% of children are able to identify letters and pronounce them correctly, and 32% of children can read simple sentences.
- ❖ **Improved numeracy:** 57% of children can read and understand numbers from 1 to 100, and 32% of children can read and understand numbers from 1 to 200. 31% of children understand zero, and 32% have a place value understanding of numbers.
- ❖ **Basic math skills:** 66% of children can do simple addition, 59% can do simple subtraction, 39% can do simple multiplication, and 33% can do simple division.
- ❖ **Increased parent awareness:** 60% of parents have started understanding the right of their children to education and are ready to send their children for higher education.
- ❖ **Increased enrolment:** 55% of children who did not go to school were enrolled in school.
- ❖ **Improved leadership potential:** 26% of children developed their leadership potential.
- ❖ **Increased participation in extracurricular activities:** 11% of children participated in activities like sports, singing, dancing, painting, etc.
- ❖ **Increased regular attendance:** 81% of children have been regularized in junior schools.
- ❖ **Improved gender equity:** 58% of girls have been enrolled in schools.
- ❖ **Increased parental involvement:** 41% of parents attend Core Committee meetings to support their child's education.

Positive Changes During the Project Duration:

Attendance Enhancement:

- Previously shy children now exude confidence and willingly attend school.
- Notably, 483 children have begun attending school regularly, with support from the project.
- Principals actively seek our assistance to ensure consistent school attendance, reflecting positive outcomes.

- Children's strengthened connection with teachers has led to improved attendance and participation.

Overcoming Negative Habits:

- Remarkably, 12 students have abandoned smoking and local liquor consumption, focusing on their education.

Confidence and Leadership Development:

- Girls have experienced transformative growth, becoming more outspoken and even leading in activities like storytelling.
- During parents' meetings, girls confidently engage in action songs, showcasing their newfound confidence and leadership.
- Mothers enthusiastically encourage their children to perform first during parents' meetings, indicating heightened excitement and pride.

Sl. No.	Challenges	Mitigation
1.	Irregular Attendance:	Addressed through home visits, collaboration with parents, post-holiday motivation, and class schedule adjustments.
2.	Liaisoning with Government Schools: Difficulty finding disturbance-free, child-friendly spaces for classes.	Actively collaborating with government school authorities for suitable premises during non-school hours to ensure a conducive learning environment.
3.	Teachers' Quality: Locally, educated individuals are scarce due to migration.	Local youth with higher secondary education are appointed. They are given consistent guidance, motivation, and training to ensure effective teaching. We strive to create a supportive environment, minimize staff turnover, and uphold quality education despite these challenges..

3. Promotion of Basic Education of the Girl Children of the Deprived Communities in Bihar supported by ITALIAN BISHOPS' CONFERENCE (IBC)

Goal of the project:

Promotion of gender equality by accessing quality education

Objectives of the project:

- ❖ Enrolment and retention of 1200 out of school and dropout girls in the age group of 06 – 18 years of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, minorities and most economically backward communities.
- ❖ Sensitization of the marginalized communities in 120 villages on Right to Education for better enrolment and retention of girls in the mainstream schools.

Area of Implementation:

50 Villages in Rohtas Dt., 20 villages in Bhojpur Dt., 30 villages in West Champaran and 20 villages in East Champaran Dt.

Activities and outcome

Life Skills Training: 2022

The life skills training conducted in 2022 focused on financial literacy, covering aspects such as income and expenses, small savings, budgeting, and the distinction between needs and desires. The outcomes were significant, including improved financial decision-making, increased



savings, effective budgeting, financial discipline, long-term financial planning, empowerment, and confidence. The training also led to the promotion of financial inclusion, as some girls opened their accounts. Other positive outcomes encompassed critical thinking, problem-solving abilities, promotion of gender equality, and enhanced self-confidence. In total, 1,618 participants benefited from this training across different centers.

20 Days Intensive Learning Camp: Year 2023

The 20-day intensive learning camp in 2023 focused on Hindi, Maths, and Environmental Studies. The outcomes included improved language skills, enhanced mathematical abilities, awareness of environmental issues, understanding of social issues, appreciation for Bihar's heritage, and environmental stewardship. A total of 322 individuals participated in this learning camp.

Interface Meeting – year 2022 – 2023

The interface meetings conducted between 2022 and 2023 resulted in enhanced stakeholder engagement, improved Right to Education (RTE) implementation, empowerment of local-level functionaries, strengthened School Management Committees, addressing disparities, promotion of inclusive education, increased parental engagement, and heightened awareness and advocacy. The total number of participants across these meetings was 146.

Celebration of Special Days During the Project Period

International Girl Child Day was commemorated during the project period, with active participation from girls and women. The celebration spanned 100 villages, engaging a total of 3,019 participants. This included both male/boys and women/girls, emphasizing a collective achievement in fostering awareness and support for the rights and well-being of the girl child.

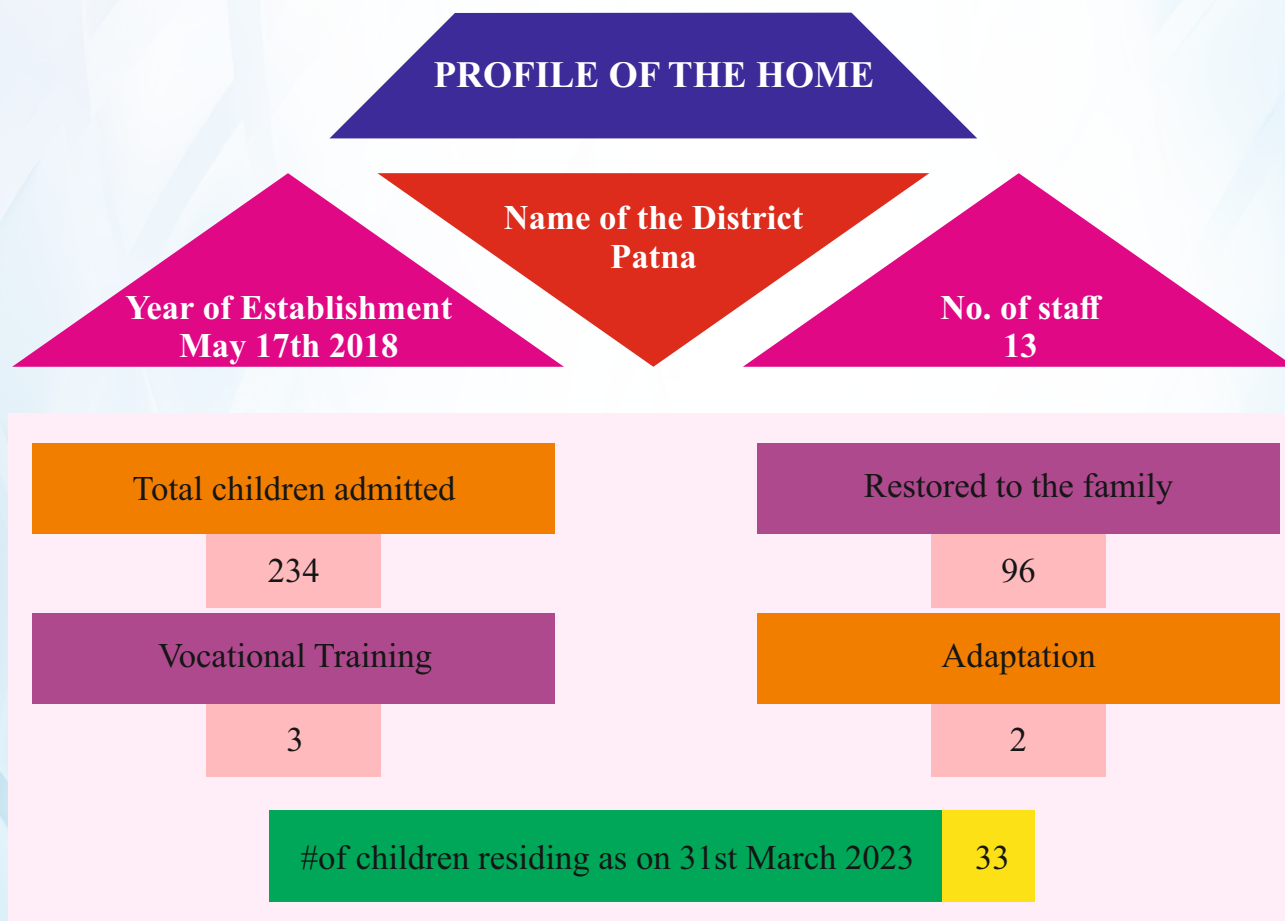


Challenges	Mitigation plans
Villager skepticism about the effectiveness of weekly classes	Collaborate with community leaders, maintain transparent communication, and engage villagers in activities to demonstrate the value of the learning center.
Difficulty in engaging and retaining children of Mahadalit communities in the Learning Centres	Parental engagement, creative learning activities, flexible timing of the Centres

4. Home for girls in need of care and protection, Asha Kiran home for girls, Patna, supported by Social welfare department, Bihar

Project 1: Focus Area- Care of girls in Need of Protection and Care

Funding Partner	Name of the project	Area of Implementation	Starting Month for reporting period	Ending Month for reporting period
Child Protection Society, Government of Bihar	Asha Kiran - Home for Girls	Patna	April - 2022	March - 2023



Key Events and Initiatives:

- ❖ Held regular staff meetings to emphasize punctuality, compassion, teamwork, and responsibility.
- ❖ Welcomed new staff members and paramedical staff to enhance care and support.
- ❖ Engaged in family identification efforts and residential school admissions for the girls' well-being.
- ❖ Hosted inspections and visits by various officers, committees, receiving positive feedback and appreciation.
- ❖ Celebrated cultural and national festivals, promoting a sense of belonging and patriotism.
- ❖ Attended seminars, training sessions, and workshops to improve care giving and relational skills.
- ❖ Celebrated special occasions like birthdays, Independence day, Republic Day, Environment Day, Human Rights Day, Rakhi festival, Children's Day and Teachers' Day to foster bonds and appreciation.
- ❖ Actively participated in events and exhibitions to showcase the girls' talents and achievements.



Impact on the Girls:

- ❖ A caring and supportive environment at Asha Kiran nurtured the emotional well-being of the girls.
- ❖ Engaging in cultural and national celebrations strengthened the girls' sense of identity and pride.
- ❖ Interaction with dignitaries and committee members instilled a feeling of importance and care.
- ❖ Participation in training sessions enhanced staff skills, leading to improved care and protection.
- ❖ Vocational training empowered girls with practical skills for self-reliance and a brighter future.

- ❖ Positive feedback from various committees reinforced the high standards of care at the home.
- ❖ Celebrating special occasions and festivals created joyful memories for the girls.
- ❖ Exposure to events and exhibitions boosted the girls' confidence and self-esteem.
- ❖ Emphasis on education, health, and family restoration provided a holistic approach to their development.



Strategic Intervention 2:

Safeguarding and Caring for the Earth our Common Home

Sl. No.	Donor	Project Name	Target
1.	NABARD	Integrated Tribal Development Programme (TDF1)	160 acre & 200 families
2.	NABARD	Integrated Tribal Development Programme (TDF2)	240 acre & 300 families
3.	German Doctors	Promoting Sustainable Scientific Agriculture Systems Among Small & Marginal Women Farmers in Bhojpur Dt. of Bihar, India	300 families from 20 villages

4.	KFB, Atria	Integrated community empowerment program / Promoting Sustainable Scientific Agriculture Systems (PSAS)	500
5.	SND Congregational Fund	Integrated Tribal Development Programme 2022	10 villages
6.	SND Congregational Fund	Promoting Sustainable Scientific Agriculture practicers among tribal farmers in 10 villages in Munger dist of Bihar, India	300
7.	SND Congregational Fund	Promotion of organic farming among 1500 marginal women farmers of Rohatas and Shekhpura dist.	1500

1. Integrated Tribal Development Program

Project Location: Haveli Kharagpur Block, Munger Dt., Bihar

Target Group: 200 Santhal tribal families of 10 villages

Key Activities and Highlights

The Integrated Tribal Development Program, in its endeavour for holistic community development, has successfully implemented a range of initiatives aimed at fostering sustainable progress. This integrated report encapsulates the key activities and their impactful outcomes.



1. Wadi Establishment:

i. **Horticulture Plantation:** With a vision to provide the local tribal communities a secured livelihood and ecologically sustainable economic perspective 'Wadi was established in 80 acres of 80 families during this year. This involved planting 40 mango saplings, 10 guava, and 10 lemon saplings per acre. The initiative seeks to not only enhance agricultural diversity but also provide a perennial source of income for the tribal community.

ii. Soil & Water Conservation:

Across the sanctioned 80 acres, a robust strategy was adopted for soil and water conservation. Through the creation of trenches, basins, and small bands, the project aims to mitigate soil erosion, enhance water retention, and foster an environment conducive to increased agricultural productivity. This initiative is a testament to the project's commitment to environmental sustainability.

iii. Water Resources Development:

Recognizing the critical role of water in agricultural activities the project undertook initiatives for water resource development across 80 acres. This involved the installation of borewells and hand pumps, ensuring reliable access to water. The project aligns with the broader goal of creating a more resilient and self-sufficient community.

2. Micro Enterprise for Landless:

In addressing economic disparities and promoting overall community well-being, the Micro Enterprise for Landless initiative in the project provided 20 families with 5 goats each. This not



only serves as an income-generating endeavor through goat rearing but also contributes to the economic upliftment of these families.

3. Health Interventions

The project's health interventions are manifested through the establishment of kitchen gardens and herbal gardens in three villages each. Kitchen gardens play a pivotal role in promoting better nutrition and food security at the household level, aligning with the broader objective of improving community health. Simultaneously, the establishment of herbal gardens reflects the project's commitment to preserving traditional healthcare practices, providing access to locally sourced medicinal plants.

4. Women Empowerment:

Women's empowerment is actively promoted through the formation of Self-Help Groups (SHGs). Members of these SHGs receive specialized training, fostering financial literacy and cooperative empowerment. This initiative is a significant step towards achieving economic independence and enhancing community resilience.

5. Training and Capacity Building

The project's commitment to training and capacity building is evident in various activities. Staff members underwent a comprehensive capacity-building training program, focusing on project management, community engagement, and the effective implementation of sustainable development initiatives. Awareness creation meetings held in project villages disseminated crucial information about project objectives, the benefits of Wadi establishment, improved agriculture practices, and health-related issues. Specialized training sessions for farmers on optimal planting techniques, orchard care, and improved agricultural practices ensure the successful implementation of the Wadi initiative. Moreover, targeted training sessions on health-related issues, kitchen gardens, and herbal medicine contribute to building a healthier and more informed community.

In summary, the TDF project's integrated approach addresses economic, environmental, and social dimensions, leading to holistic community development. The diverse initiatives not only build capacity and create awareness but also empower the community for sustained and resilient progress.

2. Integrated Tribal Development Program TDF2 _ Munger

Project Details

Sr. No.	Particulars	Details
1	No. of WADIs (Acre) sanctioned	240 Acres
2	Landless Families	60 Families
3	Date of Sanction	15-Mar-23
4	Project Period	Six Years

The implementation of the second TDF project has been strategically initiated in Haveli Kharagpur Block of Munger District, targeting the betterment of 300 families across 15 Santhal villages. A crucial preliminary step involved the execution of Participatory Rural Appraisal in these villages. This process served the dual purpose of creating awareness about the TDF project and identifying enthusiastic participants among the local farmers. Impressively, a total of 240 farmers have enthusiastically stepped forward to engage in the Wadi plantation initiative, showcasing a keen interest in the project's agricultural pursuits. Simultaneously, the project aims to address the livelihood needs of 60 landless families, carefully identified for specific livelihood activities. This comprehensive approach, rooted in community participation and needs assessment, lays a strong foundation for the sustainable and inclusive development envisioned by the TDF project in the Haveli Kharagpur Block.

3. Promoting Sustainable Scientific Agriculture Systems among Small & Marginal Women Farmers in Bhojpur District of Bihar, Supported by German Doctor

In partnership with German Doctor, the program in Bhojpur District aims at bolstering agricultural resilience and elevating the income of marginal farmers. Women producer groups (WPGs) were formed in all the 20 target villages. The multifaceted initiative spans activities ranging from training sessions to the establishment of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs).

Training for FPO Formation:

Conducting a one-day training for WPG members, the program exceeded its target, with 302 participants from 20 villages. The focus was on imparting knowledge about the formation and functioning of FPOs, empowering women with the tools for collective strength.

Cultivating Sustainable Practices:

In pursuit of sustainable agriculture, crop planning exercises, integrated nutrient management (INM) training, and organic farming training were implemented. This comprehensive approach covered 300 WPGs from 20 villages, ensuring a widespread adoption of eco-friendly farming practices.



Block-Level Initiatives:

The project initiatives got much support from the Block-level Agriculture Department of Government. Many members of the WPG were registered on Kisan portal and availed seeds at subsidized rate. The members of the WPGs participate in the field-level training on sustainable agricultural practices conducted by the Agriculture Department of the Government.

Insect and Pest Management, Market Dynamics:

Training sessions on insect and pest management, coupled with buyer-seller meets, witnessed an impressive turnout of 362 participants. This keen interest underscores the significance of understanding market dynamics for these women engaged in agriculture.

Knowledge Exposure and Winter Crop Planning:

Exposure visits to farms and Kisan Melas saw the participation of 155 women, enriching their understanding of practical farming. Training on winter crop planning and organic farming further equipped 310 women with insights into season-specific agricultural practices.

FPO Inauguration and Beyond:

The project achieved its goal of inaugurating an FPO, marking a pivotal moment for women farmers. The inaugural event showcased the diverse products these empowered farmers bring to the market, setting the stage for increased income and market exposure.

Continuous Monitoring and Learning:

Monthly monitoring meetings, totaling 12, have been instrumental in tracking progress. Additionally, staff exposure to successful FPO models (5 staff members in total) ensures continuous learning and refinement of program strategies.

In summary, the project is making substantial headway in achieving its objectives. Beyond the numbers, it reflects a narrative of women farmers embracing sustainable practices, navigating market dynamics, and collectively progressing towards economic empowerment.

4. Community Empowerment Programme (ICEP) through Promotion of Scientific Agricultural Systems (PSAS) supported by KFB

The Community Empowerment Programme strives to enhance food security and advance higher education and employability among marginalized communities. The overarching objectives include a 30% increase in agricultural productivity among small, marginal, and sharecropping farmers, a 40% improvement in women farmers' access to nutritious food, facilitation of government scheme access for 500 farmers, continuous higher education for 300 adolescent girls, and mainstreaming 200 adolescents through a Skill Development Program.

Several impactful activities mark the journey of the program:



Awareness and Formation:

Five hundred farmers, primarily women, across 30 villages attended trainings on the advantages of forming Women Producer Groups and are now cognizant of the need to form Women Producer Groups (WPGs) and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs). A commendable 576 WPG members have registered their names to become FPO members.

Training Initiatives:

A one-day training session for 180 women (6 from each of the 30 villages) witnessed the active participation of 450 WPG members at the ICEC center.

60 women from each of the 30 villages received training on improved crop varieties and nutrition-rich food crops. Post-training, 700 WPG members transitioned to scientific modern farming practices, emphasizing climate-change resilient crops.

Demonstration Plots and Crop Cultivation:

The establishment of 30 demonstration plots of wheat, pulses, and oilseeds, and an equal number of paddy plots in each village, stands as a tangible demonstration of improved crop varieties and cultivation practices.

Remarkably, even with a project extension of five months, 30 model plots of pulses were prepared by 30 WPGs across 30 villages.

Vermicompost Production:

Sixty women farmers from each village engaged in training on vermicompost production. The knowledge gained is reflected in the active participation of 60 WPG members attending the training at the ICEC center.

Organic Farming and Seed Distribution:

The initiative to train 500 farmers in organic farming and scientific agricultural practices has seen substantial success, with 311 WPG members participating in village-level training sessions.



The procurement and distribution of improved seed varieties have benefitted 400 farmers, enhancing the production of wheat, pulses, and oilseeds.

Adoption of modern scientific cultivation methods resulted in notable increases, with wheat production rising from 6780 kg to 9780 kg, paddy production increasing from 3155 kg to 4456 kg, and pulses production escalating from 202 kg to 299 kg in the project villages.

Post-harvest Management and Kitchen Gardens:

Training initiatives on post-harvest management and storage, including value-addition systems, have been embraced by 463 WPG members. Kitchen gardens have become a sustainable source

of income for 30 women across selected villages, earning Rs 2500-3000 during the seasons. Impressively, 101 WPGs established kitchen gardens, collectively earning Rs 95,790.

Herbal Gardens and Awareness Creation:

Thirty WPGs received training on herbal gardens and the preparation of herbal medicines, with 31 WPG women actively participating. The establishment of demo herbal gardens in 29 villages by WPGs has not only provided herbal remedies but also saved an estimated Rs 48,000 in medical expenses.

Awareness Creation on Climate Change:

An extensive awareness creation training session on climate change and food security at the village level has reached 541 farmers, contributing to informed communities. As the program progresses, its transformative impact continues to unfold, creating a positive change in the lives of marginalized communities.

Life Skill Training to Adolescent Girls

A total of 242 adolescent girls have benefited from life skill training, empowering them with essential skills for personal and professional development.

5. Integrated Tribal Development Project among Tribal Farmers of 10 villages of Munger Dt, Bihar, India- 2022

Introduction:

The Integrated Tribal Development Project operates in the Haveli Kharagpur Block, Jamalpur, aiming to address challenges such as malnutrition, migration, unemployment, and soil degradation prevalent in tribal communities. The project promotes eco-friendly and sustainable agricultural practices to ensure long-term community well-being.

Project Activities:

Awareness Creation on Farmer Producer Groups (FPGs):

Conducted training sessions in 10 villages, successfully forming FPGs. This initiative instilled a sense of collective responsibility among marginal farmers, fostering improved resource sharing and knowledge exchange.

Nutritious Food and Kitchen Garden Training:

Three training sessions were conducted across 10 villages, emphasizing the pivotal role of kitchen gardens in achieving food security. The focus was on promoting nutritious food and encouraging the cultivation of kitchen gardens.

Assistance in Establishing Demo Kitchen Gardens:

Provided assistance in establishing demo kitchen gardens using vermicompost in 10 villages.

These practical models inspired widespread adoption of sustainable cultivation practices.

Awareness Creation on Herbal Medicines:

Conducted training and awareness sessions on herbal medicines in 10 villages. The emphasis was on reviving the tradition of using herbal medicines for minor ailments.

Assistance in Establishing Demo Herbal Gardens:

Provided support for the establishment of demo herbal gardens using vermicompost in 10 villages. This initiative contributed to the revival of herbal medicine traditions.



Training on Preparation of Herbal Medicines:

Conducted training sessions for selected women in 10 villages on the preparation of herbal medicines, tonics, concoctions, and protein powders.

Awareness Creation Training on Climate Change:

Implemented awareness creation training on climate change in 10 villages, educating 541 farmers on the importance of climate-change resilience in agriculture.

Impact:

These activities have significantly impacted tribal communities by promoting sustainable agricultural practices, ensuring food security, and revitalizing traditional healthcare practices. The project has not only addressed immediate agricultural and healthcare needs but has also

instilled a sense of community empowerment and self-reliance.

7. Promotion of Sustainable Agricultural practices among Tribal Farmers of 10 villages of Munger Dt, Bihar, India -2023

The project aims to foster natural farming practices employing biofertilizers within the marginalized farming communities, specifically in 10 tribal villages of Munger District. It envisions strengthening Farmer Producer Groups (FPGs) to facilitate collective engagement in eco-friendly and sustainable agricultural activities. Concurrently, the initiative seeks to enhance local irrigation capabilities by installing 10 handpumps or borewells and submersible pumps, a crucial step to support the cultivation of food crops and horticulture saplings.

A core objective of the project is to ensure food security and the availability of nutritious food from locally cultivated lands. By promoting sustainable agricultural practices, the project aspires to contribute significantly to SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), and SDG 13 (Climate Action).

To date, the project has made substantial progress. Identification of beneficiary villages and farmers is underway, marking a crucial step in targeting the project's interventions. Community mobilization efforts have been initiated to build awareness and garner local support. Additionally, staff orientation has been conducted to ensure a cohesive and informed approach to project implementation.



In alignment with its overarching goals, this initiative not only addresses immediate agricultural needs but also serves as a catalyst for local development, preventing migration and trafficking by generating increased employment opportunities within the agricultural sector. Furthermore, the project envisions nurturing local leadership among tribal farmers, fostering a sense of community empowerment and self-reliance.

8. Promotion of organic farming among 1500 marginal women farmers of Rohtas and Sheikhpura districts, supported by Sisters of Notre dame (SND)

The project, aims to empower marginalized women farmers. This involves forming 10 clusters of 50 women each in Nokha Block, Sasaram (500 women), and 20 clusters of 50 women each in Sheikhpura and Ariari Blocks of Sheikhpura District (1000 women). The project focuses on creating awareness and providing training on organic and natural farming, establishing demonstration plots for vermiculture, bio compost, natural farming, and kitchen gardens. Additionally, it includes training sessions on maintaining a nutritious and balanced diet and offers guidance for linking participants with government schemes through interface meetings



with service providers.

As of March 31, 2023, in Sasaram, one staff and three resource persons have been appointed, and beneficiary identification is ongoing. In Sheikhpura, two staff members and one resource person have been appointed, beneficiary villages identified, and surveys conducted for an exposure visit and staff training on organic farming. Aligned with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including No Poverty, Good Health and Well-being, Decent Work and Economic Growth, Responsible Consumption and Production, and Climate Action, this initiative represents a crucial step toward empowering women in agriculture, promoting sustainability, and fostering economic and environmental resilience in the target districts.

3. Livelihood Promotion

1. Skill Development Training of Rural Youth

Activities

Computer centers are established in five units, providing valuable training to the youth in various computer-related skills. The curriculum encompassed a range of courses,

- ❖ Basic Course in Computer Application
- ❖ DCA(Diploma in Computer Application)
- ❖ Advanced Diploma in Computer Application (ADCA)

These initiatives aimed to equip young individuals with a diverse set of digital skills, empowering them for the technological demands of the contemporary world. Through these courses, participants gained proficiency in essential computer applications, contributing to their overall educational and professional development.

Units	No. of Persons who benefitted
Sasaram	5
Gahiri	81
Raxaul	11
Jamalpur	32
Sheikhpura	13



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We are grateful to the Governing Body members of Mashal for their visionary Leadership



Conclusion:

MASHAL's Annual Activity Report for 2022-2023 reflects its commitment to creating positive change in the lives of marginalized communities. By aligning their efforts with the SDGs and prioritizing the needs of vulnerable groups, MASHAL continues to make strides towards building an egalitarian society based on justice, peace, and integrity of creation.

Submitted by

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