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Moving Towards Collective Reflection & Action

Annual Report

Eka – The Communicators' Collective

April 2016- March 2017





Year 2016-17 saw collectivization steadily gain momentum and move towards organized action. This includes all the Collectives that we engaged with – Children, Youth, Child Protection Committees, Alliance and Media.

It has been both an excruciating and rewarding process as well! Mobilization is at the crux of the engagement which is held together by joint meetings to address issues of child rights violations in the basti, school, work-place and city levels. Depending on the space, different collectives have shaped their identity by participating in campaign plan, design and implementation processes around child rights and gender. For the organization team, it has helped further deepen our engagement with communities especially with young people as also with other rights based organizations and networks. Even as they enter advocacy processes, the community groups realize that they need more investment to be made in understanding issues, engaging with systems and learning more about laws, legislations to equip themselves further. We move together further into the next year, with this awareness, preparation and with a stronger focus on Ensuring Safe Environments for ALL children.

*“We have been working for almost three years now. But children still suffer. They continue to get hit by teachers, drop out of school, join work, get addicted to drugs, eve-teasing still happens and there is no end to the problems faced by children. We need to ask ourselves, are we actually doing any work? Are we making this basti any safer for children?”*

*Mayur, Member CRT, Rahul Nagar*

*“Before this work started, we used to live in our own worlds. No meetings or spending time with each other learning new things. Being a part of this group has changed my world from a small world to a vast one with so many interesting things and people in it! I made friends, gained confidence and even spoke in public events...I never thought I could do so much! Not just for myself, but for other children too. I feel responsible for all children in my basti...We have some work, but yes, there is a lot more to do. Together, we can!”*

*Saheba, Member CRT, Aishbagh*

## **Impact**

Two Resource Centres and 8 contact points in the poorest pockets of the two bastis engaging approximately 250 children from the poorest families. Outreach in Neighbourhood school reaching out to over 500 children directly. Indirect reach to over 3000 children in bastis and schools

30 Child Resource Team Members in both bastis, actively engaged in highlighting child protection issues in the basti, in various forums including government departments, ministers, MLAs, corporators, NGOs, police and general public.

Two Youth groups with an overall membership of 100 in both bastis .A resource centre set up by youth group in Aishbagh, with technical support from Eka.

Two Child Protection Committees with a membership of 40 women, men, youth and children, in both bastis proactive on child protection issues both at the basti and city level

Two women's groups with an overall membership of 100 women actively engaged in Community Development processes.

12 trained para-legal workers actively working on child protection issues  
Increase in the number of cases in the Counseling Unit, especially of adolescent girls. Over 15 cases of children handled in the Unit; including advocacy on three cases of girls facing CSA. Issue of boys facing sexual abuse handled by CPCs and Counseling Unit jointly.

### **Advocacy on cases related to Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation**

Engagement with 10 neighbourhood schools near Rahul nagar and Aishbagh, with students from class 7&8th reaching out to approximately 2000 children and 30 teachers

City level campaigns to highlight issues of child rights violations, including child sexual abuse through Cycle Rally; and participation in One Billion Rising Campaign to bring focus on increasing violence against girls and women in the city.

Participatory Theatre process and performances in bastis, schools, colleges, city events and campaigns with community groups, reaching out to more than 5000 children and adults in the city. More than 50 performances carried out during the year through Theatre and Song groups.

Actively engaged with over 50 school teachers, Anganwadi Workers, USHA workers, ANMs to ensure reporting and work on Child Rights violations in bastis. Continued dialogue with the CWOPs and District Child Protection mechanisms through the Coordination meetings organized by AARAMBH. 4 Corporators actively engaged on Child Protection issues.

Social Protection Camps reaching out to more than 2000 people.

Actively engaged in reviving the Alliance and providing communication support including correspondence, coordination, design of campaign plan & communication resources, engagement with media, working with sub-groups, and highlighting the Alliance work on Social Media. Direct engagement with 10 alliance partners on issues related to child protection.

Visit to the Resource Centres by SNDT University, Akanksha Foundation Mumbai, Media Reporters, college students and local organizations/groups to learn more about the child protection initiative.

Communication Resources focused on child protection – Nanhe Lekhak, Ek Mutthi Aasmaan, songs, scripts and stories.

## UNICEF MADHYA PRADESH

### OUTPUT 1: DEVELOPING INTERVENTION AREAS AND DISTRICT CHILD PROTECTION PLANS

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Mapping Process included an intensive period of data collection, data cleaning, understanding reading qualitative and quantitative data and reviewing final mapping reports shared by ACE. While the two year period of Mapping saw an intensive engagement of the project team with children and adults, the consolidated report that will aid the development of District, Ward and Basti level plans are still to emerge. Debate and PRAXIS have assisted the project team to read and analyze the data to locate vulnerabilities for further sharing..

**Highlight:** Project team attended a 4-day Mapping Data Analysis Workshop facilitated by Anindo Banerjee from PRAXIS. The workshop explored the relationship between root causes and manifestations of a particular child



protection issue. Based on this understanding, participants attempted to analyze other themes as well, develop codes and carry out a draft entry process by themselves. Child Researchers from Eka field joined in the 4<sup>th</sup> day of the workshop where all partner teams worked together with children to share findings from the data analysis. The thematic focus was Eve-teasing, Corporal Punishment, Neglect, and Domestic Violence. Children jointly presented the “way forward” for working on child protection issues as located by child researchers themselves. It was one opportunity for all partner teams to work together with each other. Over 35 children and adult facilitators attended the workshop. The project teams / facilitators worked on modules on key themes and facilitated participatory processes with the group of children. Children expressed their views through Role Play, Drawings, using VIPP cards, Posters and small group discussions. The data analysis is now ready to be taken into sharing workshops with adults and stakeholders. The workshop is proposed to be held in Q3 with support from Debate.



## OUTPUT 2: ENHANCED CAPACITY OF CHILDREN, ADOLESCENT, YOUTH AND COMMUNITIES TO DEAL WITH CP ISSUES

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### **Bal Samuh Leading the Way:**

By mid-year, the work with Youth and CPC, campaigns and working with systems had taken centre stage. Our work with children in pockets of the bastis took a back-seat since the field team was engaged in mobilization for



meetings, events, workshops, campaigns and other processes with adults. Subsequently, there was a lag in group activities with children in the third quarter. Following feedback from UNICEF, the Bal Samuh was revamped and group processes intensified in the pockets.

Regular meetings with Child Resource Teams progressed well. However, in Aishbagh, the CRT members revolted against the project staff and asked them to plan better. They pointed out gaps in the engagement with CRTs and suggested various measures to improve the work. Project team accepted their suggestions which included handing over planning processes to them. Children got to engage in various campaigns, camps, workshops, events, and meetings organized by Eka besides CP initiatives. All these events engaged children in group work, presentations, community mobilization, public speaking, writing and recording events. In the process children got to engage more deeply with other national campaigners, departments, organizations, development workers and children's groups, besides their own community. This exposure had helped the CRT to further develop their planning and communication skills.



Workshops both residential and non-residential were carried out throughout the year. Children had the opportunity to interact with a range of facilitators from Eka and outside as well. Children were introduced to the UNCRC, JJ Act, POCSO Act, Child Marriage Prohibition Act, Gender, Gender based discrimination and violence, Communication basics among others; through simulations, games and exercises. Children decided to work on the following issues in the coming months: identifying cases of substance abuse among children, child marriage and stopping the same, identifying drop outs and reporting cases of violence and abuse against children. The CRT and youth group

jointly took out a rally in Rahul Nagar on 10<sup>th</sup> April to highlight issues related to Sanitation. CRT prepared slogans and used them while passing through the basti. Community was very positive towards the efforts taken by children and participated in the discussions.

The formation of the Child Resource Team has been a rewarding process. It has also taken our engagement with children to the next level of skills building with selected representatives who are eager to 'lead', 'represent', 'act'. A lot of rigour



went into the process of (a) Putting together meetings with the bal samuhs (b) introducing the idea of a resource team after a review process of the work done with children so far (c) discussion on the qualities of a representative (d) selection of appropriate members (e) workshop with

proposed representatives (f) selection of the final resource team members. CRT from Aishbagh had raised the issue of the liquor shop adjacent to the Kanya Shala creating a nuisance for girls and leading parents to stop girls from attending school. The girls identified the arrival of Minister Vishwas Sarang in their community as an opportunity to place their demand for removal of the liquor shop.



Children worked together with Artist Pooja Sahu, an alumni of Muskaan's Education Initiative, to design the Resource Centre in Aishbagh. 50 Children from all three partners including Child Resource Team members and other Bal Samuh members participated in a day long joint meeting facilitated by Eka. Children shared their experiences of having worked on CP issues in their bastis, including process, challenges faced and achievement using drawings and role play. Facilitators shared the concept of a Federation and the need for coming together as a city-level collective of children.



The group collectively presented a play on Child Labour on June 12, which is the World Day Against Child Labour. They especially highlighted the reasons why children drop out of school and join the unorganized labour sector, thereby negatively impacting their

growth and development.

## Neighbourhood Schools

Library sessions were continued in the neighbourhood schools. Children are delighted to have access to the range of books and interaction with the facilitator through stories, games and sharing of problems that they face in the school, home and with friends. Our attempt has been to reach out to children with irregular attendance, children on the verge of dropping out from school and children facing violence in various spaces. Each session is attended by 30-35 children. Sometimes children from multiple classes attend the library session. Children participate in setting up the display, selecting books for the younger ones and reading it out together.



Registration Campaign to identify working children - A 3-day registration campaign led to the identification of approximately 300 working children in both bastis. The sample registration process helped us to clarify our estimate that there is one working child in every second house in the basti. We have now a data base. However, we need further guidance on how to take this effort further. Team has plans to hold evening meetings with this group. It remains a challenge to group working children. This needs further discussion with UNICEF Child Protection Specialist.

Meetings with all the school staff in 10 government schools were held in this quarter. This included the biggest Madarsa in Aishbagh where we have been refused permission earlier. The principal agreed to fortnightly sessions on child protection issues with their students. Most teachers responded positively to the meetings. They especially sought the support from Eka for bringing back drop-out children to school through our Resource Centres, discussing issues related to child sexual abuse with children; new information and resources related to CP, exposure and training as well.

## Determined, Vibrant yet Volatile Youth Groups: Key Actors on CP issues

The year progressed well for the Youth Collective, with a new group emerging in Aishbagh. The group was concerned about the lack of spaces for youth from





Muslim community to collectivize, learn about issues, gain skills and plan action on issues that impact their community.

Taking inspiration from the “Badhte Kadam” group in Rahul Nagar, the Aishbagh youth decided to set up “Ana Al Haq” group which has an independent centre, membership process and key areas of action that they take up as a group. Members of the youth group are Para-legal trainees as well. Organization attempts to create spaces for cross learning through meetings, workshops and participation in campaign on issues. Group has been consistent with their participation in campaigning especially. They have started taking up cases of child rights violations, have been interacting with other organizations, networks,



government agencies and other youth groups as well. With regular engagement the tendency to be violent and aggressive has reduced; which has further helped bring down incidences of conflicts within the group and in the community as well. Communication, Conflict Resolution, Negotiation, Critical Thinking, Analytical thinking, Learning to put thoughts into action, designing process-oriented road-maps, learning more about child protection laws, procedures to safeguard children in various spaces and organizing protests have been some of the key areas of inputs to the Youth Group. The process is gradual but definitely worth investing more energies to further guide and channelize the efforts of the Community based groups. Some of the key processes with the Youth groups this year included:

Planning Meetings: for events, camps, campaigns, protests. Some of the group members functioned as effective facilitators during the Social Protection Camps, Women’s Day programme, Exposure Visits and Workshops.

Para-Legal Course: was initiated on 26th July, as a partnership between UNICEF, Centre for Social Justice and the other partners – Eka, Muskaan and AARAMBH. 12 youth and CPC members from Eka attended the phased training programme. This course has been instrumental in guiding the youth and CPC





groups towards adopting a systematic and informed methodology of working on child protection issues, especially when handling child rights violation incidents in the basti. Participants have developed analytical skills as also an interest in legal rights.

2-day Workshop on Livelihood Opportunities for Urban Youth: facilitated by Jitendra Parmar from AARAMBH. Based on the interests shared by the group, a visit to the CRISP training centre was made. Following this the group prepared business plans. Most of them are interested in work related to Mechanic, Parlour, Banking, Computers, Welding, Electrician. Girls refused to move beyond Parlour and Computers. Residential Theatre processes were instrumental in strengthening the Youth Collective from both bastis.



Sachin Jain from Vikas Samvad facilitated a half

day meeting with the youth group from Eka and Muskaan on understanding “Whose Development Matters”? Sachin facilitated a thinking process, wherein the groups were encouraged to ask questions, link the questions/events with each other and locate the root of the issue. Youth talked about the anti-poor Smart City plan, questioned the BPL criteria, Police harassment, Schools that push children out

of the education stream and parents who are caught up in the fight for survival and have little time to ensure safety and development of their children. Sachin recommended developing reading material specific to this group to encourage further thought and action as a collective.



Five youth participate in the Pratiti Youth Fellowship process. This is a six month engagement around Gender Peace. Fellows are required to attend workshops,

carry out field



assignments and run sessions. 30 youth from both bastis participated in the Poster making workshop at Gandhi Bhavan. Artists Pooja Sahu and Madhu Dhurve worked with

the group to introduce the concept of Posters, need & scope of a poster campaign as also working on some draft designs of posters ideas on discrimination, drug abuse and gender. The group experimented with different mediums to present their perceptions on these topics. Most chose to talk about gender based discrimination in families, schools, place of work and in public spaces. These posters prepared by the youth were extensively used in various campaigns including the cycle rally and in the OBR city level campaign as well.

Group Meetings: Youth group members use Eka's feild office in Aishbagh for their own meetings, group work, reading & reference. In Aishbagh the youth group prefers to hold their own meetings and we receive invitations to attend the same. In Rahul Nagar, the youth group has to be mobilized.

Working with College Youth - Prashant Dubey, Consultant for Media Support

organized a one day orientation meet for college students in BSSS College. 55 students from 11 colleges attended the orientation meet which had a focus on introducing child protection issues, especially child marriage, child labour, child trafficking, child sexual abuse & exploitation,



children who are forced to beg among others. Prashant presented data to support the discussions.



### **Joint Actions**

CPC and CRT members together handled the case of two children in need of care and protection from their basti. The cases were referred to childline and a report filed in the Aishbagh police station (of neglect and abuse) after much discussion in the family and community. The children were subsequently sent to a home.

The youth group too has taken joint action over incidents of violence in their community among their peers. After having discussed this with their community elders, the youth group filed a complaint in the local thana. The youth also intervened in a case where a group of working children and youth were abused and their wages held back. This established the group's presence in the Kamla Nehru Thana and the police has subsequently been alert about cases reported from Rahul Nagar. Police Patrolling in Rahul Nagar has been regularized.

**Nasha Mukh Bharat Andolan:** Youth and Bal Samuh members jointly organized and participated in the Nasha Mukh Bharat Andolan – A anti-drug National Campaign led by the NAPM. The youth had an opportunity to meet with the leader Medha Patkar and engage with her team of campaigners. The group prepared posters, banners, placards, slogans, songs and theatre skits which they applied during a rally in Aishbagh. Youth also placed the issue of alcoholism and drug abuse among children that was creating havoc in the poorest bastis. Children and Youth have been making persistent efforts towards removing liquor and gambling dens from their bastis. The process is still on.

### **Participatory Theatre by CRT and Youth Group:**

The group in Rahul Nagar has decided to put up a play every month on issues related to community development. Following a week-long play making process, the group of 20 members performed a play on Child Marriage in both bastis (Valmiki basti and Janta Quarter) which was viewed and appreciated by an audience of about 100 people. This has boosted the morale of both group members.

Advocacy efforts with Police by Rahul Nagar CPC and Youth groups to establish a Police Chowki in Rahul Nagar: SP Anshuman reassured the campaigning group that a follow up will be done, based on the documents submitted by the community. The group had carried out an intensive campaign including rallies, theatre performances, home visits, signature campaigns and public meetings. The SP also deputed two constables for daily patrolling till the time the Police Chowki demand was processed by the department. While the constables are

regular with their patrolling, this has not led to any decrease in the incidents of violence in the community.



CPC, CRT and Youth Group met the corporators to discuss, demand support and action on key issues that they had identified in their meetings - regular cleaning of the overflowing dustbins in their bastis, functional street lighting in the basti, and access to the community

hall in both bastis. Children have since long been demanding for the allotment of a playground in their wards. They have also submitted a written application to the Zonal office of the ward. Corporators are attentive during the discussions and have also made attempts to follow up on their promises.

Celebration of 8<sup>th</sup> March as the International Women's Day at Rahul Nagar basti, co-organized by Women's group members from Rahul Nagar and attended by over 300 women from different bastis in the city. The women raised a demand for improved police action in their basti and removal of gambling/liquor dens. The event was supported by corporators from all bastis. A song troupe from Eka comprising of volunteers, adolescent girls group and staff presented Songs of Change, on child rights, gender, equity and equality.

Children organized rallies in their basti to create awareness about their demands and to seek support from the community. Subsequently, children have received permission to conduct their meetings/activities in the



Community Hall. This has been a huge win for the children's groups along with the regularization of waste collection from their bastis. Child Marriage was averted in Rahul Nagar with the initiative of CRT, CPC, Youth Group and the organization staff; supported by the Kamla Nagar police, DCPU and Parshad. CPC and youth group intervene in a case of violence in the basti.





Volunteers from the youth group carry out a survey of the flood affected areas in Aishbagh. The same is submitted to the Parshad and Ward office. Subsequently, the department supplied relief material to 50 houses surveyed.

### **Linkages with Schemes and Services:**



Social Protection Camps have been regularly held at Aishbagh and Rahul Nagar with a focus on helping the community access government schemes and services. Approximately 2000 people have attended the camps so far, apart from informal meetings in mohallas. Prime areas of work includes school admissions, scholarships, caste certificates, birth certificates, aadhar card, BPL cards and other identity documents. Working for accessing BPL related services are a challenge since the definition of BPL category is quite narrow and excludes poor families since they don't meet certain criteria. CSJ guides us in this work. As of now, Team Eka has started conducting the camps independently with support from other external resource people. Youth, CRT and CPC group support organizational initiatives around ensuring schemes and services to the most marginalized & deprived families in the basti.

### **Exposure Visits for Community Groups**

Youth group representatives to the Child Welfare Committee: Members from the youth group, staff from Eka visited the CWC at Nehru Nagar to understand their

Roles, Responsibilities and functioning. Rekha Shridhar and Seema Agrwal, Members, CWC briefed the group about the timings, decision-making process, and methodology of working with children in need of care and protection. They especially emphasized the need to take decisions in the best interest of the child. Youth group discussed cases of children from their basti.

CPC, CRT members and Youth group from both bastis visited the local police thanas and the SJPU to understand their functioning. Team asked questions related to reporting of offences by children and the mechanisms to prevent crimes against children. Thana and SJPU team shared their experiences with the visitors and encouraged them to report cases from the basti to the thana, especially those concerning children and women.

The group interacted with the Sub-Inspector R.J. Singh and CWOP Hari Singh at Aishbagh and Kamla Nagar Thana respectively on issues related to child protection. The police attempted to brief the group about the various laws around child protection. The group was keen to know how eve-teasing could be stopped in their bastis, rehabilitation of child drug addicts, procedures of handling children in conflict with law, confidentiality of the informer while reporting a case of crime against children or an incident of violence and reporting child marriage & related procedures. Police assured the group of their support if they wished to report incidents of child marriage.

At the SJPU, the group discussed about the role of SJPU, childline in protecting children in conflict with law; institutions for children in conflict with law and for children in need of care and protection and the process of re-integrating them back into society/family. Rajesh Kumar from the SJPU and Komal from Childline spent a lot of time discussing the facilities available in childcare institutions including their health, education, nutrition, recreation, protection and participation. The group also shared the status of vulnerable children in their bastis and requested the SJPU to visit their bastis and resource centres.

CPC, Youth and Bal Samuh members had opportunities to visit Observation Home for Boys, Local Police Station and CCIs run by NGOs. Last year too, there have been similar visits. But this year, the members got permission to briefly interact with children from observation homes.

**Community Processes:**

Skrimishes with the Aishbagh Police Thana: This quarter saw the community groups getting into a couple of major confrontations with the Aishbagh Police Thana. The TI has been consistently rude and violent with children and women who approach the thana for filing a complaint. Women have also reported being hit by him when they seek for clarifications in any case. Cases of girl children are also met with undignified remarks and behaviour from the entire thana staff including making statements about the character of the children. He often threatens youth (boys) that they would be picked up for inquiry. While we have been quite patient and meet the Thana personnel quite often, there were atleast three occasions when the entire project team alongwith a group of community members gheraoed the TI and demanded an apology from him. He ofcourse continues his rude behaviour. We have also complained about this particular TI in various forums. The confrontation will continue since the Thana is notorious for carrying out various illegal activities themselves including accepting bribes for deflecting cases of girls and women.

Review Meetings with Community Groups-Towards the end of December, organization team carried out a series of review meetings with the community groups. Members of CPC, Women's groups, CRT, Bal Samuh and Youth group shared the progress of the group and also the challenges faced by them. Most group members mentioned that they needed continued inputs and exposure to rights based work carried out by other community groups. All adult groups placed the need to introduce skills training linking to livelihood initiatives in the basti. The para-legals wanted more opportunity to practice their skills with the organization staff. Some of them also wanted support from the organization to help them get jobs in NGOs in sync with their area of interest and experience. Children's groups mentioned that they need to have more regular meetings and focused activites. They also gave a list of activities that they would like to take up in the coming year including sports events, picnics, joint events with children from homes, workshop with children in drug abuse, separate group process with older girls, joint meetings of Youth and Children. The overall organisation strategy for the year will include most of the suggestions from the community groups.

**OUTPUT 3: ENHANCED CAPACITIES OF KEY STAKEHOLDERS/ DUTY BEARERS TO ENSURE FUNCTIONAL SYSTEM FOR CHILD PROTECTION AND DEAL WITH CHILD PROTECTION ISSUES**

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**Amidst Conflicts, Fulfilling Role as Duty-Bearers: CPCs**



CPCs have taken themselves on a roller-coaster ride this year! With internal conflicts affecting a strong group process that had been set up in 2015; the group dispersed temporarily. However, some

members persisted and continued their work on reporting cases of child abuse & exploitation in organization meetings, events, campaigns and other public forums. They learnt a range of communication skills including counselling skills, public speaking, engaging in protest meetings and public demonstrations on a range of issues including child rights. Gradually, the group has been able to build a focus in their expressions and have now better negotiation capacities that they use when engaging with community, government and general public. The Para-Legal programme has given a sense of direction to some of the CPC members who now feel more equipped to deal with child rights violations as also adopt preventive measures. CPC in Rahul Nagar work without much distraction. The Aishbagh CPC is a dynamic group that finds much strength in working together with the youth groups. Many of the CPC members are also members of the Women's groups, so actions spill out into those groups as well. Some of the key processes of the CPC this year include:



Despite quite a few barriers, the CPCs are beginning to get into active roles on CP issues propelled by regular meetings and inputs by project teams. Since most of the CPC members are women, they spoke about the need to get into skills training activities for

employment generation that would help keep all the members together. CPC members in both bastis have been working together on cases, engaging with the



Corporators, making visits to collectorates, supporting camps for schemes, and in the follow up as well.

Case Work: Following sharing by a child, community members and Parshad in Rahul Nagar swung into action to look into the case of continued corporal punishment at Harshwardhan School. This included hitting, making children fetch water, banging their heads against a wall, and randomly beating them up. Parshad and Community Members demanded explanation and apology from the Principal who refused any such incident happening in her school. After a long discussion, parents warned the principal that no child in their school should be punished. The school maintained its hostile stand. The parents have been keeping an active watch on the school. No incident has been reported by children thereafter. The CPC had led this process with the Corporator.

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Eviction notice in Janta Quarters leading to chaos in the community, settled finally by efforts from team Eka, lawyers and corporators.

**Coordination with Stakeholders:** Working together with the Corporator - In the months of April and May about 6 meetings took place between the Children's groups, youth groups and the Corporator where a range of community development issues were raised. The Parshads have since then supported the Camps, events, rallies and campaigns in the community led by groups. They have



also supported case work both while accessing social justice and for schemes & services as well.

Anganwadi and USHA workers were oriented on Child Protection issues, especially on

identifying children facing abuse and ensuring their safety. Workers have been referring cases to the Counseling Unit at Eka.

Amitabh from Debate facilitated the workshop with Corporators and facilitated a discussion around the roles & responsibilities of Urban local bodies for ensuring community development work. Partners placed the growing instances of children in substance abuse, lack of de-addiction centres in Bhopal, accessibility of schemes and services to the poorest among others.

Coordination meetings were held by the DCPU with guidance from AARAMBH. CCIs, CWC, JJB, SJPU and NGO representatives share their experiences, progress and issues. Eka shared their dismal experiences with Aishbagh Police Thana in cases of women and minors. Crowded Balika Grah, sponsorships for children from child headed families, problems faced by organizations while handling children's cases of CWL, Child Labour - Newspaper boys promoted by Pradesh Today, initiation of Bal Sanjeevani in Aishbagh Thane, need for a one-stop Rape Crisis Centre in all hospitals, Night staff for SJPU, handling of the child in Conflict with Law arriving at SJPU/Thanas, status of hospitals to handle medical testing of child in conflict with law, lack of staff among others.

Orientation of Teachers: 20 teachers representing various government schools from Fanda block participated in an orientation meet on Child Protection issues in schools. As usual Corporal Punishment was the sticky point where teachers denied punishing their students.

### **Advocacy with MLAs**

Prashant Dubey, Consultant has been in touch with MLAs to brief them about CP issues that can be highlighted in the Monsoon session of the Assembly. He has also worked on a list of questions that could be asked in the session, specific to CP. The questions have been shared over email with the project partners and their feedback taken on the same.

### **Counseling Unit**

A number of cases of children and women facing violence arrive at the counseling centre which is taken up by the counselor in the organization. Most are cases of domestic violence but where children too have been impacted negatively. The team has been writing cases of these children and also working to rehabilitate them appropriately. However, in cases where there is no family guardian, it becomes very difficult since children do not wish to live in institutions and run away from there. Two children from Rahul Nagar have been in and out of institutions for the past 5 months and have now come back to their home after staying in an institution for a couple of months. Cases of women and children facing extreme forms of violence (burns, rape, and attempt to murder) are all taken up as key areas of advocacy initiatives, with a focus on helping the survivor access justice systems and get back to a life of normalcy

It is the Counseling Unit that helps us enter into a direct engagement with the duty-bearers especially the Police, DCPU, CWC, Lawyers and Media persons through reporting and follow up action.





#### OUTPUT 4: ADVOCATING FOR A CARING CITY FOR CHILDREN

Eka also participated in the Planning and implementation meeting of AARAMBH for their road show on child sexual abuse. Project manager from eka



helped aarambh team develop the road map for the road show and also draft letters to seek permission for the event. AARAMBH coordinator later followed it up. Youth group from eka also participated in the road show including meeting the dweo at the collectorate, street

demonstrations, distributing pamphlets, etc.

The cycle rally focused on child sexual abuse (to support the Bairagarh CSA case advocacy) was planned and led jointly by the youth group and child resource team. CPC members also played a key role in organizing the event which had street demonstrations, songs, interacting with varied audiences and making public speeches. The culmination of the programme at Vardhaman Park was the highlight of the event with basti groups from various organizations coming together and expressing solidarity for the Bairagarh case. Some partners from the Alliance also participated in the Rally. Corporators had flagged off the Rally at the starting points. Both rallies originated from Rahul Nagar and Aishbagh and covered several points for demonstration before culminating at Vardhaman Nagar.





**OUTPUT 5: ALLIANCE/ CONSORTIUM OF LIKE-MINED STAKEHOLDERS IS CREATED AND IS ADVOCATING FOR CHILD RIGHTS, PARTICULARLY CHILDREN'S PROTECTION**

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The Alliance this year had gradually progressed into taking up its true role of a collective advocating for children's rights. Beginning of the year, the Alliance took up a fact-finding process into the alleged misbehavior of the CWC Chairperson with a young woman whose sister was housed in the Shelter Home for Girls at Nehru Nagar. Eka had participated in meetings, field visits, visits to the Institutions, and prepared draft report for the process. The final report was prepared by Muskan and Sangini. Alliance meetings held at AADHAR office



highlighted five cases of child protection which were examples of the poor functioning of the CWC, JJB and Homes. All present gave their feedback to the cases which was decided to be compiled and submitted to the Collector.

Members group together as per their interests or organization priorities. In a way, this process helps form various Common Interest Groups even within the larger Alliance group. The Alliance has also done considerable work in the Ramzan case. However, follow up remains the single-most problem in all collective efforts.

Taking cognizance of the many cases of child sexual abuse in CCIs across the State, an Alliance meeting was called at UNICEF office. It was attended by a large group of organizations and representatives. A plan of short and long-term actions were prepared jointly. It has yet to be followed up. Some of the key actions included preparing a memorandum for action on the identified cases, forming a fact-finding team, engaging with State Child Protection bodies, engaging in advocacy activities, exploring option for PIL, study on status of children in CCIs with help from ex-inmates.

Follow an intimation by team Muskaan, most Child Rights Alliance members sprang into action to bring the Bairagarh CSA case into the notice of the Administration and the Press. This included community visits for interaction with parents and children, press conferences, forming a sub-group and subsequent frequent meetings, drafting press releases, updating on the social media and mainstream media; interacting with various committees formed to look into the case, organizing and doing protest meetings, mobilizing community and public attention to the issue. The Cycle rally organized by Eka too focused on Child Sexual Abuse and the Bairagarh case.

Conflicts arise at regular intervals between members or groups and hence in the next year, a review of the Alliance functioning, membership, code of conduct is proposed before moving further. Team Eka has fully participated in all Alliance meetings and has played a proactive role in pushing agendas, plans, developing communication resources, participating in fact finding, developing reports, meeting with government authorities, interacting with communities and engaging with the press.





### **Video Documentation**

The process of formation of the Child Resource Team in both bastis was documented by Team Maheen from Ektara Collective. Children also gave in individual interviews on the status of children in their community and their vision about the work of CRT.

### **Capacity Building & Exposure Visits**

UNICEF organized a 3-day workshop with Project Staff from all partners on issues related to Child Rights and Law, understanding issues related to Representation, Democracy and working with child protection systems in the basti and government.

The project team visited three organizations as part of the Learning Visit. FAT – Feminist Approach to Technology works with adolescent girls using technology as a tool. Girls are selected for an internship process wherein they are introduced to camera skills. Using these skills girls prepare small community audio-visual projects including films, posters and photographs on issues that impact the lives of girls. They also have a school science intervention through their jugaad lab. It was an exposure for the team to introduce similar learning tools for children in the CP project. PRAYAS works with children in conflict with law as well children in need of care and protection. It does so through two of its centres in Delhi. Team also visited ANKUR, an organization working through Resource

Centre and with a focus on education. The organization does this by introducing writing, theatre and creative expression as a medium of building critical thinking skills and using it for highlighting community level issues as well.



Programme Review Meetings: All team members of the CP project were re-oriented on the project matrix, objectives and specifically the work plan. Team worked on locating the areas of challenge in

implementation of the work with communities and systems. Day two focused on building the quarterly plan for the next phase of work.

A Partners' Meeting was held at Eka office to discuss Joint Planning. Key points of discussion was review of processes so far including Mapping and way forward for all Joint Activities decided. Partners plotted dates and responsible organizations for each of the activities. A matrix was developed and commonly shared with all.

Program Manager is member of the Child Resource Pool and attended a 5 day training process. The first three days were focus on Acts related to Child Protection including POCSO, RTE, JJ Act, Anti-Child Marriage Act, Human Trafficking and was facilitated by lawyer Mahrukh Adenwala. State government schemes and programmes related to the girl child were also discussed – Ladli Laxmi yojana, Laado Abhiyaan, Swagatam Laxmi, Shaurya Dal etc. The last two days had a focus on carrying out Training need Assessment, Development of Active Training Objective, planning and Designing training Program (Evolving Content and Training Method), Development of Facilitation Skills, and Evaluation of trainings and Preparation of Lesson Plan.

Snehlata Barasker facilitated a 2-day process with Team Eka and youth group to continue the learning process around Child Rights and Law. Team had the opportunity to place many of their questions around dealing with children in need of care and protection, best interest of a child, 'fit' persons and 'fit' institutions



and their own roles as child protection workers while negotiating with the Juvenile Justice System.



Project team attended a 3-day Workshop on Advocacy and Communication facilitated by NCAS, Pune. The workshop helped participants gain an understanding around the concept and practice of people-led advocacy, and a draft strategy on Children facing violence in schools emerged from the workshop.

Project staff also attended a three day workshop facilitated by ARPAN on Child Sexual Abuse. It was organized by AARAMBH.

### **Interactions with Mainstream Media**

As per the media engagement process, team was introduced to mainstream media journalists from two newspapers. Team interacted with the journalists, them them around in the basti and guided their interaction with working / children as well.



Subsequently, two stories appeared in print media about child workers in the meat trade.

Coordination meet with Prashant Dubey, Consultant for Media Engagement resulted in the Journalist's Meet as suggested by Team Eka. The Journalists' Meet was a successful effort in engaging the media. A WhatsApp group of media persons interested in child rights reporting was created and is engaged in taking up issues from the bastis. In the meeting Journalists expressed their interest in visiting field, accepting story drafts from organization teams, assisting team during key cases and advocacy – overall add value to the process of

bringing child protection issues into the focus. As a result of the Media Engagement work, quite a number of articles are being reported in the mainstream media, specific to child protection

### Design & Development

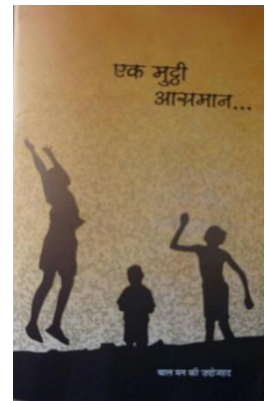


**Highlight: Nanhe Lekhak:** A collection of stories by children, about their own lives. Most stories in this series are either narrated or written by children themselves. The stories are illustrated by an artist.

**Ek Mutthi Aasmaan:** A series of 12 life stories of working children and children facing substance abuse, written by Prashant Dubey and illustrated by Monica Ghule.

**Infolets:** Prepared during various campaigns around child rights, specifically child protection. These infolets were drafted by the project team in consultation with the community groups.

**Posters (Unpublished):** Prepared by Youth group as a result of the Poster Making workshop on various issues related to Gender based discrimination and violence and Child Sexual Abuse.



**Songs: Kaahe Ko Piye Re Sharaab.. and Hitler Jaise Teacher Se Hum Ladna Chahate Hain.** Both songs were written and composed by Deepak Nema, Youth Facilitator supported by Youth groups.



**Poetry:** Youth group members have written poems centred around

**Development,  
Relationships,**

**Discrimination and Equality.**





## LEARNINGS:



Children in addiction can be seen everywhere and we are in touch with individual children. We have been hunting for appropriate counseling and de-addiction centres but have not found any. Aadhar has asked us to wait till they resume their

operations after shifting into a new office. Drugs and addictive substances are easily available in the bastis through shop-keepers and independent suppliers. Our team is not equipped to handle this part of the work. However children using drugs visit our office quite often and enjoy spending time there interacting with the staff. Team has been able to wean away some children from drugs with continued counseling. But this is definitely not enough. There is a felt need for de-addiction centres for which we need to intensify our advocacy efforts.

Child Protection Committee is geared up to meet the challenges of working on issues. They have begun by referring cases and accessing the child protection system in the government (Institutions, CWC, Police). Yet, its still a long way before they actually start action processes. USHA worker, Anganwadi worker, CWO are in the loop and refer cases. They do not take self initiated action as yet, rather depend on the support of the organization. Corporators are slowly



standing up in support of the project activities and for women & children in their bastis. Apart from providing logistic support for key events, the Corporators have also participated in such events. They are also open to provide any other support to the women's group especially to the skills training initiative, for supporting camps and campaigns organized for the poorest and for taking cases of child rights violation into priority. The corporators have slowly recognized the strength of the women's group and the youth group that very often reach their offices to place their demands.





Our interaction with government health system has been dismal. At times we seek help from Gaurvi and at times, the team fights its way as it did in the case of the rape case of a minor who was being refused admission in the leading govt hospitals. Despite

directives, it's a huge challenge to get even a simple medical done for women and girls in the hospitals. Single women and their children if any, suffer the most, especially when they are economically poor and have no family support. More than anything else, the team is battling the mindset in the basti which turns away a child or woman seeking shelter for the night. This remains a concern for all of us. Where will the individual facing violence go? Safe spaces are almost absent. A health camp at the bastis and a larger effort to create safe night spaces for children needs a city level effort.

While a large number of groups are accessing the Lok Seva Kendra for demanding services, the government's indicators for identifying "BPL" itself is a huge barrier. The poorest families continue to be excluded because this faulty method of identifying the poor. The work with systems continues to be a challenge. We will have to rework on our strategy as an organization team to review past efforts of \engaging with the system and accommodate new processes.

We also need to further align ourselves with more process-oriented, participatory and rights based methodologies of working with the most vulnerable children. As



of now children have access to the Resource Centres. But there still remain a large number of children who are out of the safety net. This includes children in the sex trade in Janta Quarters, children in substance abuse and children

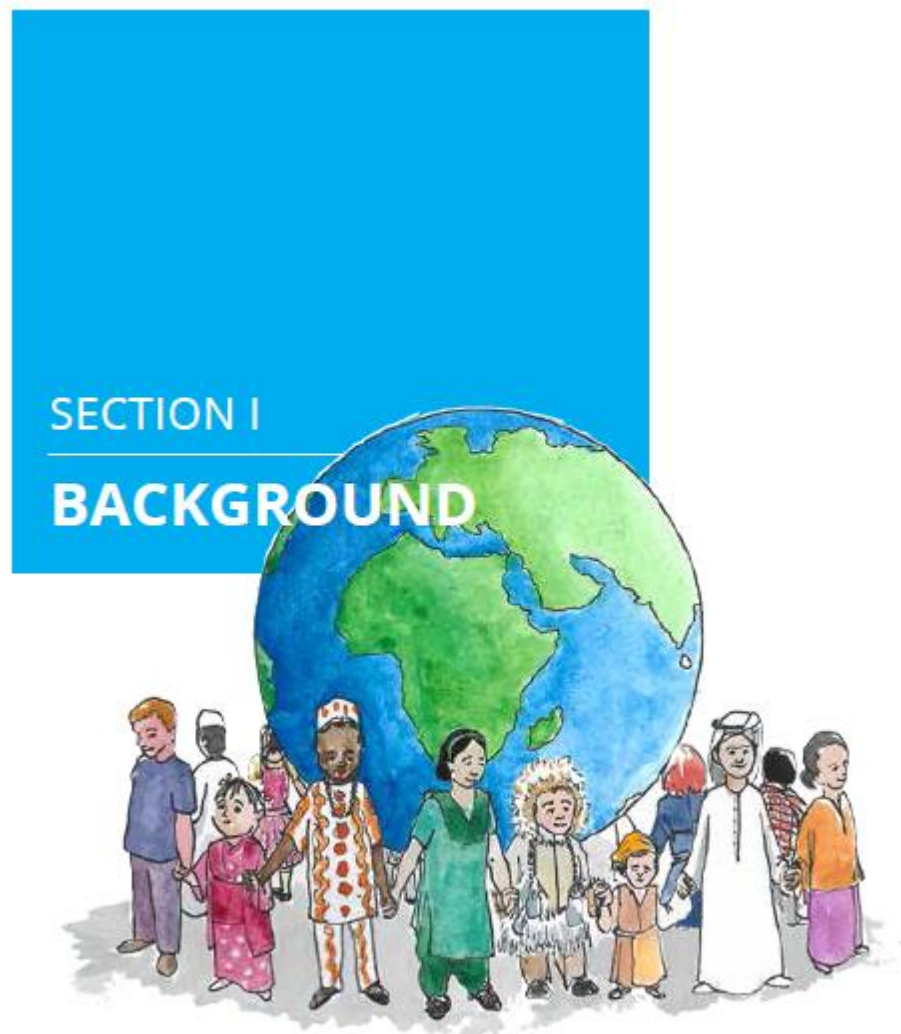
facing a range of violence. While the project is moving towards its last year, the work in communities and with groups is just about gaining ground and we need to explore voluntary groups processes to sustain the work beyond the project.

## UNICEF MAHARASHTRA

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Child Friendly Panchayats is a key concept being promoted by UNICEF Maharashtra in their three integrated districts of Nandurbar, Latur and Chandrapur. UNICEF Maharashtra in collaboration with the district administration of Chandrapur, Maharashtra extended a consultancy to design a Resource Kit on Child Friendly Panchayats. The objective is to scale up the initiative of CFPs with the support of the Resource Kit. Eka has accordingly taken up the Writing, Design and Development of books namely:

1. Primer for Adults on understanding CFP
2. Handbook for Adults for implementing the CFP
3. A Manual for Prerak/Prerika at the village level on how to work with children and adults on the CFP concept
4. A Primer cum Activity Book for children on CFP
5. Did You Know? - A Law Book for children



## LISTEN UP!

We asked some of our young friends to write down what they hear mostly from their parents and elders in the family, community, school or place of work. Here are some of the things they wrote...



### Did you Know?

When you turn 18, you are given the status of an adult citizen. So, you can get your driver's license, girls can get married (boys have to wait till 21 though!), get entry into schemes for adults and most importantly vote! But this does not mean that children will have no say in matters of the government, society, community, family till they are 18. Our Constitution guarantees all children Right to assemble, to voice their opinions, to protest and even place their charter of demands! So, whether you are 18 or not; you have the Right to Participate!





## SIDBI & HAND IN HAND

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Hand In Hand in collaboration with SIDBI and Micro-finance organizations have been working with thousands of women across the State of Madhya Pradesh on promoting Financial Literacy. Eka developed a video documentary titled, “Badlaav Ke Bayaar” for the partner organizations of SIDBI showcasing the impact of the Financial Literacy programme in the State of Madhya Pradesh. The 12 minute video documentary was well-received by the both the organizations and the women’s collectives.

