

NATIONAL ALLIANCE
OF GRASSROOTS NGOs
A Butterflies Initiative

Alliance News

March-April 2022

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Dear Friends,

We are happy to share March - April 2022 issue of the NAGN e- newsletter. This bi monthly Newsletter decided to focus on the initiatives taken by our NAGN -Alliance partners and also sharing information on relevant subjects which could help the population we are working with.

Hope you will find the articles selected for the newsletter useful and informative. We are requesting all members to send write-ups on their initiatives, innovations and social actions for publishing in the next issue of e-newsletter. NAGN members' write-ups will enhance our knowledge and facilitate collective learning.

Sincerely yours,

Mousumi Baruah
National Coordinator

Initiatives and actions of our NAGN Alliance partners

Sarathi, Patna—International Street Children Day celebrated on 12th April 2022

On 12th April 2022, Sarathi, Patna celebrated International Street Children Day. Sarathi sponsors street children since long back so they organized this day with them at their CCI at Digha, Patna where many children in need of care and protection took part in this program. Children also shared their experiences and challenges of their street life. Now they do not want to go back on street again and wish to shape up their lives as a responsible and productive citizen like other children. Since they celebrate this day every year, they had organized this program this year too. Sarathi sponsors street children so they organized this day with them at their hostel at Digha, Patna where many children in need of care and protection took part in this program.



Community Meeting on Child Rights by Sarathi - As a part of Sarathi's education project, they had organized community meeting at Bhawani Tola, Maner, Patna. All-supported children of Sarathi organization participated in this program. Parents of children were also involved. They had tried to convince all parents to think about their children who can only perform better if their rights are given. They discussed about the rights of children which is globally accepted like UN CRC and different Acts and laws in India meant for children.

They also distributed educational materials on this occasion. Community have also taken it positively now and they plan to focus on children's education and would totally oppose child Labor not only of their children but would try to stop for any child. They are now aware that children should not work below the age of 14 years, and they also know that it is a punishable act in India.



Open Learning System, Odisha, observes World Health Day

This day was celebrated with a view to raise awareness on children's health because in the rural areas, people are not much aware about their health and do not prefer healthy and nutritional food for children. As a result, we can see majority of children are malnourished and underdeveloped in comparison to their age. A session on Nutrition & Balanced diet was also conducted with children of Open Learning System, Puri, Odisha. Awareness campaign against chewing Tobacco and Gutkha by children from Balikuda Branch, of Open Learning System, Odisha



Learning Exchange

On 29th April 2022, directors and programme heads of 15 partner grassroots organizations participated in a learning exchange on Masculinity and Sexuality.



Blue Umbrella Day (BUD)

On 16th April 2022, children from organizations across India observed Blue Umbrella Day (BUD) to raise awareness of the widespread yet hidden epidemic of sexual violence against boys.



Mission: Recovering Education

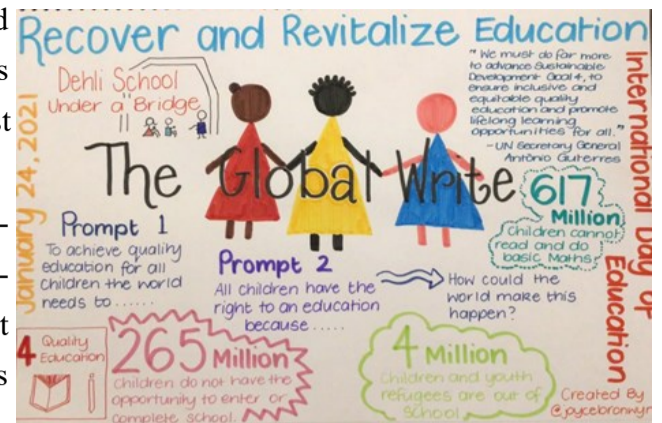
The COVID-19 pandemic has caused abrupt and profound changes around the world. This is the worst shock to education systems in decades, with the longest school closures combined with looming recession. It will set back progress made on global development goals, particularly those focused on education. The economic crises within countries and globally will likely lead to fiscal austerity, increases in poverty, and fewer resources available for investments in public services from both domestic expenditure and development aid. All of this will lead to a crisis in human development that continues long after disease transmission has ended.

Disruptions to education systems over the past year have already driven substantial losses and inequalities in learning. All the efforts to provide remote instruction are laudable, but this has been a very poor substitute for in-person learning. Even more concerning, many children, particularly girls, may not return to school even when schools reopen. Schools also play a critical

role around the world in ensuring the delivery of essential health services and nutritious meals, protection, and psycho-social support. Thus, school closures have also imperilled children's overall wellbeing and development, not just their learning.

It's not enough for schools to simply reopen their doors after COVID-19. Students will need tailored and sustained support to help them readjust and catch-up after the pandemic. We must help schools prepare to provide that support and meet the enormous challenges of the months ahead. The time to act is now; the future of an entire generation is at stake.

SOURCE: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/education/brief/mission-recovering-education-in-2021>



Beti Bachao Beti Padhao

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao is a central government scheme that helps girls throughout the nation. The primary purpose of this scheme is to save the child from social problems such as gender-based abortions and advance child education around the country. This program was initially meant for districts considered to have a low sex ratio and successfully extended to other regions of the country. This is essentially an educational programme to help change societal attitudes and does not entail the immediate transfer of funds. The key aims of this child protection scheme include:

- Preventing selective gender abortion
- Ensure infant survival and wellbeing in childhood
- Ensure the child's education and inclusion
- Challenging gender stereotypes and supporting gender equality
- Giving a safe and stable atmosphere to girls
- To endorse the right of girls to inherit property.

OBJECTIVES

The Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Yojana aims to achieve the following goals:

- Improve the child sex ratio
- Ensure gender equality and women empowerment
- Prevent gender-biased, sex selective elimination
- Ensure survival and protection of the girl child
- Encourage education and participation of the girl child

The Govt of India has formed a National Executive Committee to promote Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) across the country. The committee is organizing several programs to promote "Save Girl Child" and "to Educate Girl Child" since January 2015. Dr. Rajendra Phadke is the National Convener of BBBP Abhiyan. The Beti Bachao campaign is also supported by the Indian Medical Association

Reasons for this initiative- Sex-selective abortion or female foeticide has led to a sharp drop in the ratio of girls born in contrast to boy infants in some states in India. Ultrasound technology has made it possible for pregnant women and their families to learn the sex of a foetus early in a pregnancy. Discrimination against girl infants, for several reasons, has combined with the technology to result in a rise in abortions of fetuses identified as female during ultrasonic testing.

The trend was first noticed when results of the 1991 national census were released and were confirmed to be a worsening problem when results of the 2001 national census were released. The reduction in the female population of certain Indian states continues to worsen, as results of the 2011 national census have shown. It has been observed that the trend is most pronounced in relatively prosperous regions of India. The dowry system in India is often blamed; the expectation that a large dowry must be provided for daughters for them to marry is frequently cited as a major cause for the problem. Pressure for parents to provide large dowries for their daughters is most intense in prosperous states where high standards of living, and modern consumerism, are more prevalent in Indian society.



Rates of female foeticide in Madhya Pradesh are increasing; the rate of live births was 932 girls per 1000 boys in 2001, which dropped to 918 by 2011. It is expected that if this trend continues, by 2021 the number of girls will drop below 900 per 1000 boys.

SCHEME DETAILS

The scheme is divided into three components – (1) advocacy campaigns were launched to address the issue of declining CSR and SBR; (2) multi-sectoral interventions were planned and are being implemented in gender-critical districts across the country; and (3) a financial incentive-linked scheme—Sukanya Samridhi scheme—was launched to encourage parents to build a fund for female children.

ADVOCACY AND MEDIA CAMPAIGN

National awareness campaigns form the foundation of the BBBP scheme. It involves a multifaceted media approach to educate parents and destigmatise the birth of female children. The advocacy campaigns focus on disseminating information regarding the declining CSR and SRB ratios to ensure that girls are born, nurtured, and educated without discrimination. The goal is to develop a culture of raising empowered women in the country.

INTERVENTION IN GENDER-CRITICAL DISTRICTS

- Programmes and interventions designed to incentivise improvements in the CSR and SRB ratios are being implemented in the shortlisted gender-critical districts. The scheme outlines measurable outcomes and indicators to monitor progress in these 640 districts. The performance targets are as follows:
- Improve SRB in select gender-critical districts by 2 points per year
- Reduce gender differentials in the under-five child mortality rate metric by 1.5 points per year
- Provide functional toilets for girls in every school in select districts
- Increase first trimester antenatal care registration by 1% per year
- Improve nutritional status by reducing the number of underweight and anaemic girls (under five years of age)

SUKANYA SAMRIDDHI YOJANA SCHEME (SSY)

SSY is a small deposit-saving scheme targeted at parents of girl children. The scheme provides parents with income tax rebate benefits and an attractive interest rate of 7.6% on the deposits. It offers parents the option to open a savings account per girl child (under the age of 10 years) and allows parents to make deposits in the account for a period of 15 years. The girls can commence account operations at the age of 10 years and have the option of making withdrawals at the age of 18. The goal of this scheme is to challenge the burden mindset of parents and offer financial security to female children.

Key beneficiaries under the BBBP initiative are as follows:

- Primary Segment
- Young and newly married couples; pregnant and lactating mothers; and parents
- Secondary Segment
- Youth, adolescents (girls and boys), in-laws, medical doctors/ practitioners, private hospitals, nursing homes and diagnostic centres
- Tertiary Segment
- Officials, PRIs, frontline workers, women SHGs/collectives, religious leaders, voluntary organisations, media, medical associations, industry associations and the people at large.

SOURCE: <https://www.ibef.org/government-schemes/beti-bachao-beti-padhao>

NAGN Members

Assam- Snehalaya Centre for Child Rights	Kerala- SHREYAS Social Service Centre
Gujarat- Centre for Development	West Bengal- Hope Kolkata Foundation
Bihar- Mahila Development Centre, Sarthi, Amar Trishala Seva Ashram	Orissa- Open Learning Systems, UNNAYAN, Sadbhabana
Delhi- Butterflies, Don Bosco Ashalayam, Salaam Baalak Trust, Alamb, Udayan Care	Uttar Pradesh- Diocesan Development and Welfare Society (DDWS), J.N. Bal Nikunj Samiti, Satyakam Manav Seva Samiti
Maharashtra- People's Institute of Rural Develop- ment, Salaam Baalak Trust, Hamara Foundation	Jharkhand- Adarsh Sewa Sansthan, Pratigya
Jammu & Kashmir- Leh Nutrition Project, Koshish	Rajasthan- Jan Kala Sahitya Manch Sanstha
Karnataka- Echo Centre of Juvenile Justice	

We look forward to your feedback and suggestions, Do write to us at-

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