

FX Bridge

FXB India Suraksha is working for the rights of vulnerable and marginalized children and their families affected by poverty and disease, especially AIDS. It began its operations in India in 1991 and has completed five years registered as an Indian non-profit under section 25 of Companies Act.

Through its sustainable FXB-Village model FXB India Suraksha has empowered families and communities and made them self-sufficient by intervening in the areas of health, nutrition, education, sanitation and income generation. At present, it is working in the most underserved and neglected areas in 9 states across India.

[Click here to know more](http://www.fxbsuraksha.in) or visit www.fxbsuraksha.in

A word from the CEO

Greetings!!

Child mortality figures released by the UN agency last month showed that around 2,000 children under five die each day from diarrhoeal diseases. Of these, the vast majority – about 1,800 children per day die due to lack of safe water, sanitation and basic hygiene. In this issue of the newsletter, I am glad to share with you our initiatives on promoting access to safe water and improve knowledge and practice of sanitation and health. The highlight of our initiatives are the children and youth who have driven this campaign successfully in our villages.

I hope you enjoy reading it.

- Mamta Borgoyary
CEO, FXB India Suraksha

in this issue >>>

States in Action

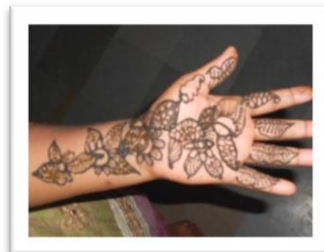
A learning experience... by Ashwin

Towards safe water....

States in Action

Jaipur: Discovering empowerment through creativity

A five day Mehndi workshop was organised for women bottle pickers in the railway station. The women were trained in Mehndi designs to acquaint them with other options of income generation and desist them from sending their kids for bottle picking at the railway station. 35 news kids have enrolled in the computer class which is running successfully.



Ranchi: Mobilisation and awareness for red ribbon express

As part of the awareness campaign organized for Red Ribbon Express in Ranchi, FXB India Suraksha initiated campaigning among Youth and Women in the villages. Focused Group Discussions were held with Women and Youth on issues of HIV/AIDS and STI between 10th and 13th of September 2012. The FGD were held in 3 Panchayat area of Namkom block in 10 villages. A total of 127 youth and 61 women participated in the FGD. Awareness cum mobilization drive was undertaken in Yogoda Satsang College at Jagannathpur-Dhurua on 11th of September 2012. Apart from this mass awareness on RRE was given to approx. 300 college students at the campus.



Imphal: A comprehensive approach in combating HIV/AIDS

Community support classes which are conducted at the premises of Youth Clubs, Anganwadi centre and space provided by community have brought many positive changes in the lives of the children affected by HIV and AIDS. The identified infected children of affected families are being provided school fee at an average rate of Rs. 150/- per month. Study materials and daily snacks are being provided to all the 74 children.

In a major achievement 36 households were linked up with the state sponsored called CHILD AFFECTED BY AIDS.

All the four IGA groups, consisting of 64 members, have fully entered the production phase. The program has already identified three potential market support organization viz. Ereima Handicrafts, Imphal; Nedan Foundation, Kokrajhar- Assam and Arz-Goa to strengthen marketing linkages.

A 5 day Meditation and Yoga program with the ART OF LIVING - Manipur Chapter was organised from 10th to 14th September 2012 which was attended by 15 women caregivers and 2 staffs members. Two awareness sessions for youths and two for women were conducted on sanitation and health.



...States in Action

Aizwal: Supporting children's wholesome growth

Basic informal education is being provided to 20 children attending the centre. After school care is being provided to 5 children who have already into formal schooling to help them with their homework and learn their lessons. Social Welfare Department, ICDS department Government of Mizoram provided Mid Day meal for the children. All the children and care givers were provided free medical support and medical check up.



Aizwal: Focus on Training and advocacy

During this quarter 116 MSM clients were referred for ICTC testing. 166 MSM clients conducted STI testing. A five day training on harm reduction for outreach workers and another four day training for counsellors on counselling High Risk Groups was organized by Mizoram SACS and STRC. State Coordinator, Christina Lalrindiki gave training on Homosexuality to Church Leaders.

Tamil Nadu: Focus on Sanitation

In the rural hamlet of Mathur Chinna Colony, where 100% open defecation was a norm, FXB India Suraksha's regular advocacy and awareness sessions have changed the attitude towards sanitation and has improved the health seeking behaviour of the villagers.

The monthly medical camps, health awareness sessions with SHGs, youth groups, school children and with general community was conducted. 61 household toilets were constructed and are in proper use.



Vishakhapatnam: Education and livelihood

30 Children from FXB-Village attended the Children's day out Carnival event at Novotel 5 star hotel and spent a full fun day. Till date FXB 60 students have been imparted computer skills through 5 batches for DTP (22 students) and 7 batches for MS Office (38) and 11 students got jobs in different institutions. Under FSE MAC Society, 12 SHGs of 103 members have been formed during this quarter.

A learning experience with FXB India Suraksha

I stayed in Villupuram for a week in July this year closely observing FXB India Suraksha's work. It was my first direct involvement with a social organisation working within a community. On the first day of my visit, Tamil Nadu State Coordinator V.S. Yuvaraj briefed me on the history of the two villages FXB India Suraksha is working with -Mathur and Chinnakalapet. He described the success and challenges they have faced with these two communities and how the two villages are different. He also described the way some people reacted to the presence of an NGO there and how others came forward to receive the support, thus improving their lives. He spoke about what all happened when the Thane Cyclone struck last year. He described the support provided to the schoolchildren. Over the next few days I was going to see many of these things first-hand but on that day, I felt I was learning something important about the different roles that a social organisation could play within a community.

I accompanied the FXB India Suraksha team to the coastal hamlet of Chinnakalapet quite a few times. The work being done there is very impressive. Interestingly, some of the ladies approached the state coordinator on their own suggesting the kind of income generating activities they wished to take up. One of the ladies wanted to start an idli-vandee (idli making stall). I met a few others working on the coir-making machine and earning a livelihood out of it.

I visited two schools nearby and spent time with the teachers and students. Being from a city and educated in a private school, I had this impression that Nothing Happens in government schools in villages. This was so far from the truth! I had the privilege of meeting some wonderful dedicated teachers, who were a lot more connected to the community they were teaching, than you would find in a city school. I was also pleasantly surprised to find that the TN government does seem to be making some efforts to provide technology to the schools. During the week I was there, new desktop computers, as well as a projector and screen arrived at the school for the use of the students and teachers. One of the biggest lessons I have come away with is that the school is a centre of a community, there is potential and hope in a school, and by strengthening schools the community is strengthened.

After installing the water purifier in Mathur primary school and now back in UK I am learning about various low-cost water purification solutions available. I thank FXB India Suraksha for giving me this opportunity. I feel a connection to the community in Mathur and I will definitely go back and visit them next time when I am in India. My future plans are to return to India within the next year or two, and hopefully to work in the developmental field full-time.

Ashwin Raghu is a 30 year old originally from Tamil Nadu now living and working in the IT field in the United Kingdom, with a growing interest in the development field back home.

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Towards safe water and improved sanitaiton practices



When India's census data was made public in the first quarter of this year, the matter of inadequate sanitation facilities made news headlines for a week, waking up the country to this pertinent issue. It said that nearly half of India's people have no toilets at home forcing them to defecate in the open. This might have come as a sudden revelation for many, but the issue has grown and persisted for an extremely long time and a lot of money and effort has been directed towards creating a better picture of India in terms of water, sanitation and hygiene.

Securing clean environment- Water and Sanitation' remains an important component of FXB India Suraksha's work in the most underserved and marginalised villages of the country. Its aim is to facilitate access to safe water and sanitation facilities in backward and poor areas through promotion of effective and low-cost water and sanitation technology and encourage hygiene related behaviour change that will help people lead a healthy and improved quality of life. Through a community based approach FXB India Suraksha works up a demand for low-cost toilets, creates awareness on basic principles of safe water and hygiene through intensive communication strategy, transfers knowledge and gives training on low-cost technology. The organisation also enables linkages with local government to facilitate implementation of the Total Sanitation Program and ropes in local youth/women groups as change agents.

FXB India Surasksha is promoting a feasible model of effective and low-cost sanitation, encouraging good practises of hygiene and improved access to clean water supplies in Ranchi in Jharkhand, Uppada in Andhra Pradesh and Mathur Chinna Colony in Tamil Nadu.

In Andhra Pradesh, FXB India Suraksha is implementing a comprehensive WASH activities in Uppada village of Vishakaptnam, since October 2010 as part of the three year comprehensive FXB-Village program. With a traditional fishing community practicing open defecation and very poor health and hygiene knowledge and practice, FXB India Suraksha had a tremendous challenge of changing behaviour and practice. In response the organisation initiated an intensive awareness campaign on water, sanitation and hygiene practices in the village through interpersonal communication, forming sanitation committee, theatre performances by the professional street theatre shows. The change agents were the children from the FXB education centre. Creating their awareness and knowledge on safe sanitation and hygiene practices helped us in creating a demand at the family level and led to the success of the program. FXB India Suraksha mobilized the panchayat to provide 10 street dustbins in addition to 20 that it had provided for garbage collection and disposal. The entire garbage collection and disposal is now owned, managed and supervised by the panchayat. The children's WASH team, BALAVIKASAM, has performed 8 street theatres and 12 role plays in the village and have helped improve the health of 750 people in the village as they took up improved hygiene and sanitation behaviour. The individual toilets built in partnership with the household and the government are being regularly used by the household successfully moving towards a 100% open defecation reduction in the area. So far we have facilitated construction of 71 household toilets in the village.

3 years back the FXB-Village program was initiated in Mathur Chinna Colony in Tamil Nadu- a exclusive Dalit community practicing 100% open defecation. It was a greater challenge for FXB India Suraksha to break the barrier of cultural practices and the myths and misconception surrounding household toilets in this community. It took a lot of time and effort to make villagers understand the importance of self-hygiene through number of awareness programmes such as community meetings and Audio-Visual shows. All these efforts are paying off in changing the situation to a great extent. Out of 85 targeted households 61 households have toilets and 3 are under construction. During the project initiation the community volunteers and WATSAN committee were the watchdogs of the activity, following-up the regular use and maintenance. This particular activity has brought out multidimensional impact on the socio-economic-cultural-health aspects. We are aiming at 'total sanitation' by end of this year.

In Namkum block of Ranchi district in Jharkhand, the organisation recently initiated a WASH program in 10 tribal villages aiming to reach out to about 2500 people. The key change agents are the youth who will be educating the community on hygiene and sanitation. A comprehensive program on improved drinking water, better sanitation practices including eradication of open defecation and solid and liquid waste disposal is planned.

Beneficiary Speak

"I'm Pavani from Uppada studying in class 8th. I'm the only daughter of my parents. Me and my friends promote the importance of WASH among elders in my community through plays and wall paintings that we learnt as part of the summer camp. I wanted a toilet at my home. I started putting pressure on my parents continuously until they agreed to build a toilet. I told them about the health benefits of preventing open defecation and told them that I want toilet facility for privacy and they would construct it if they loved me. In spite of the financial problems my parents came forward and through FXB support constructed a toilet. Adding to the FXB financial support, my mother availed loan from the Self Help Group to construct the toilet."

Pavani - daughter of Narasamma and Pydiraju lives in Dalits colony in Uppada village of Andhra Pradesh. She is attending FXB supplementary education centre since she was in 5th class. In the first year as part of FXB-Village project activities FXB Social Workers and volunteers approached Narasamma and Pydiraju to mobilize them to construct household toilet. They rejected saying that they are used to going out and they do not have money to invest on the toilet construction. Meanwhile we continued WASH awareness programs at FXB Education Centre mainly to educate children on personal hygiene, safe handling of drinking water and utensils. At FXB education centre, tutors promote the habit of hand washing and taking bath regularly before attending the centre in the evening and achieved 100% success within a very short time among the children. Parents started reporting that they learned importance of hand washing and other WASH practices from their children during the parent teacher interactions. This sparked an interesting communication strategy in the minds of FXB workers for promoting WASH among parents and developed a student linked Behaviour Change Communication campaign to motivate behaviours of the parents.



Pavani with her parents

**YOU can make a
child's future
brighter!**

**Join hands with
Us!**

Support FXB Suraksha to ensure a
brighter future for orphans and children



HEALTH AND NUTRITION : A donation of Rs. 1000 can help 25 children avail healthcare for a period of 6 months.

EDUCATION : With Rs. 1500 you can support a child's education for a year.

LIVELIHOOD : Rs. 100000 helps villagers setup a livelihood project and improve the lives of marginalized women and children.

COMBATING HIV/AIDS : A contribution of Rs. 3000 per year will provide for the medical treatment of a HIV/AIDS infected person.

All your contributions are allowed for tax exemptions
under Section 80 G of the Income Tax Act.

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