

MISAAL

NEWSLETTER

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Events of April, 2017



Misaal Team, Atarra, Banda. 27-04-2017

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Following is the update of work done during the month of April 2017 at various Misaal sites. We first provide a snapshot of work done under *Misaal Fellowship* around connecting communities to their entitlements; then to work under *Misaal Taleem* on education support and *Misaal Rozgaar* on livelihood capacity building, followed by updates on our research and advocacy work; concluding with new initiatives we have started.

1. MISAAL FELLOWSHIP

Our core work, creating awareness on rights and entitlements; organizing local communities; training and capacity building active members from them; and advocacy with state and non-state actors, all to improve people's access to rights and opportunities.

Bihar

Patna: In Patna district, our fellows - Shakila Bano and Anjum Khatun - working in slums of Phulwarisharif area, focused on issues related to women and children, particularly domestic violence, child immunisation, nutrition and growth etc. Along with that, during the month of April, 35 applications were made for PDS ration cards. 10 dropout children were admitted in Gyanshala and 6 dropout girls were admitted to Agha Khan Foundation Education Resource Centre. One application for the Laxmibai Pension was registered for old age pension. 8 families managed to open Jan dhan yojana bank accounts. 8 families managed to obtain residence certificates, required for many schemes. Our fellows maintained their engagement with state authorities with four meetings during the month with the District Minority Welfare Officer for discussion about the progress of applications already made and feedback on further work. After this meeting, we have been assured of faster processing of financial support schemes for abandoned and divorced women. Fellows also held meetings with Basic Education Officer for follow up on progress with dropout children's education.

Madhubani: During the month under report, our fellow here – Dilip Ram – has been able to support the community to make 8 applications for BPL families for electricity connection under PM Scheme, 14 applications under Ration Card registration, 4 applications for residence certificate followed by 4 for Widow Pension Scheme. The fellow met with Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya authorities to ensure admission of 2 girls from the community. In the coming, the fellow plans to concentrate on PDS registrations, and getting people enrolled in the voter's list.

Vaishali: In Vaishali, the fellow, Mohammad Shahim, working with marginalised shah community, helped 25 families submit completed applications for PDS registration, 6 new Jan Dhan Yojana bank accounts were opened, 4 applications were handed in to authorities under disability pension scheme. Additionally, to expand his area of work, Shahim conducted baseline household survey of 44 households at the new site of Ward no 4 in Khaje Chand Chhapra village. The fellow also mobilised the community. Our fellow also managed to mobilise families to make use of swachh bharaat yojana toilet scheme, that required him to engage with panchayat, block development office and district minority welfare office representatives.



Misaal Shamli, community meeting. Kheda Mastan. Shamli.

Uttar Pradesh

Banda: In Banda, during the month under report, our fellow, Nasir Ali made some good progress with helping girls get admission in Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya – KGBV (22 in Naraini block, and 5 in Mawa), that provides free residential education up to year 8, to poorest girl students. 10 families received Ujjawal connections (subsidised cooking gas connections) and 11 families were able to get Income Certificates made, allowing them to apply for further schemes. Rest of the month was spent on preparing applications and certificates for Right to Food programme.

Faizabad: In Faizabad, during the month, our fellow Saba Yaseen helped train and educate 31 families on ways to access social security schemes; 8 families were helped with obtain Income Certificate, Residential and Caste Certificates, to enable them to access Pension schemes. Of them, one has applied for Widow and 7 for old age pension. Other work involved making documents for helping families access *shaadi anudaan*, scheme to help with wedding expenses. During the month, Saba also reached out to government departments, to advocate for faster processing of past application cases.

Jaunpur: Faiz Khan, our fellow in Jaunpur concentrated work during the April on bidi workers' insurance scheme, where he was able to get applicants registered under the scheme, allowing them access to a large number of social security schemes. Further work was focused on providing education support to children, and preparatory work around right to food programme.

Shamli: During April, our fellow in Shamli, Salim Ansari, focused attention on Right to food scheme, getting applicants to make applications and to enter those through the online system. Support was provided to Taleem centres ensuring children also got books and reading material, and were prepared for sitting entrance exams to Vidyagan schools, providing free education support to poorest children. Midway through the month, Salim was promoted as state supervisor, and passed on his responsibilities to Khusheeda, the new fellow, who took over from 1st of May.

2. MISAAL TALEEM



Misaal Taleem Centre, Shamli, UP

Under this programme, we provide coaching and tuition support (in literacy and numeracy) to mostly out-of-school children in the communities we work. Azad Siksha Kendra, Jaunpur, and AWAJ, an NGO in Bhopal, both with expertise in working with children's education, are helping us improve outputs, bringing in new teaching methodologies that are interesting for children. In terms of numbers, there are 25 children regularly attending at our Jaunpur centre, 25 in Shamli, 27 in Banda, 45 in Patna and 37 in Bhopal. Every week tutors and fellows organise PTMs (Parents Teacher Meetings) to make parents aware of the needs and concerns of children, and build their ownership. One of the needs that emerged from these engagements has been of books and teaching material – that we hope to provide at all centres.

During the month, we also provided special training to all *Taleem* tutors together on the sidelines of the Misaal quarterly conference (Banda, 25-27 April '17). This was focused on Sarva Siskha Abhiyan guidelines, to follow playway method using innovative use of TLM (Teaching Learning Materials). Training was provided by an able resource person drawn from Azad Shiksha Kendra, Jaunpur who have many years of working with children and their education among minority children. Teachers were also provided sensitization on CSA (Child Sexual Abuse) incidence, provided by expert from AWAJ, Bhopal, working with children there. The output of the training was also preparation of quarterly workplans by teachers in consultation with respective fellows, to be used as basis for ongoing work.

3. MISAAL ROZGAAR



Misaal Rozgaar centre, Banda

Our *Rozgaar* (livelihoods) projects in Patna and Banda – both providing training and handholding in skills for improved incomes - have been quite active in the month under report. The centre in Patna (Phulwarisharif) has a batch of 30 female trainees learning silai-kadhai, with an experienced trainer (Rizwana Parveen) providing daily training. The training, organised using an established module, and to last 4 months, is structured by specific technical skills required for one to be able to undertake stitching work, to become independent garment makers. The Banda centre, run in partnership with Banda-based Al-Fiza society, and led by Nasreen Bano, trainer, has a batch of 20 trainees doing similar training. At both centres, fortnightly tests are administered to test impact.

Additionally, in Banda, we launched a micro-enterprise pilot for older women, focused on agro-business. A self help group of community women has been formed, and provided seed money to, buy agri-produce directly from farm, and process and package those for retail sale locally in Banda, and if there is a market also outside. The model is expected to create remunerative employment for the women that could be sustained by rotating the seed money multiple times. The first foray of this Misaal micro-enterprise pilot is *arhar daal*, to be followed by rice/paddy and perhaps *dalia* (porridge). Results are expected to be clear from a few months down the line.

4. MISAAL MOBILE APP: ‘HAQ KA SAATHI’

We are excited to be reporting the launch, in April 2017, of a new project to use mobile app (Misaal: Haq ka Saathi) to help the poor improve their lives. The idea is to scale up Misaal’s model of empowerment (awareness raising, handholding and collectivising) using mobile technology to make information on social security schemes and other opportunities available and accessible to those that are disadvantaged. The beta version of the app is live and we are implementing a pilot in 22 villages/sites in the Atarra block of Banda district (Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh), to test the app’s ability to deliver the desired ends. Our objective – in this year-long pilot - is to observe and document app user behaviour, impact and satisfaction levels; and based on that as well as on more direct user feedback, refine the app (scope, functionalities, ease of use/navigation..) to enable it to better meet user needs and priorities.



Launch of Misaal: Haq ka Saathi. 28 April, 2017. Sulkhani Ki Purwa, Nawgawan gram panchayat, Banda.



Misaal: Haq ka Saathi app
<http://www.misaal.ngo/misaal-haq-ka-saathi/>

5. RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY

Given the increased majoritarian mobilisation in the country, and incidence of hate crime/violence against minorities/marginalised groups, Misaal led an effort to bring concerned citizens on a platform (under the banner of Solidarity Manch) to try to identify gaps in protection and promotion interventions, where civil society efforts might lead the way. Deliberations in Delhi (on 22nd April, and later on 6th May), and in Lucknow (29th April, '17) identified the following areas of need, requiring immediate collective attention:

- hate crime documentation/reporting; and legal aid to victims of hate inspired violence
- prototyping improved school enrolment and retention at primary level
- innovative models of livelihoods promotion, through accessing public and market opportunities
- models of inter-community bridge-building and dialogue, and developing resource material
- anti-discrimination and equality (bill, 2016) awareness raising and advocacy
- models of resource generation that are unconventional (zakaat, CSR, Strategic Philanthropy) to would help CSOs make an impact

Solidarity Manch plans to build a community of support to enable interventions on each of the above needs, with Misaal providing leadership.

MISAAL ORGANISATION

There were various staff changes during April. Naseema Khatoon joined us as Misaal Fellowship Project Officer, based out of Delhi. Salim Ansari, our Shamli fellow was promoted to UP State Supervisor, and Ms Khurshida replaced him as Shamli fellow. Arshi Qureshi joined us as Bhopal fellow, signalling Misaal's foray outside UP and Bihar. In Bhopal we work in Aishbagh area, with children from most excluded groups. Our Rozgaar centre in Banda was launched with Nasreen as skills centre trainer, and Jitender Gupta as centre coordinator. Thaku Pujari joined us in Banda, as coordinator of the Misaal app pilot project, and along with her, five cluster mobilisers, as part of the app project team. Lastly, Faisal Rahman joined us as a Research Officer in our documentation centre, to help with our annual state of minority reports.

Quarterly Review & Reflection Meeting (April '17, Banda, UP)

April was also the month when we held our quarterly review and reflection meeting – 25-27 April, 2017, in Banda districts, hosted by one of our partners – Vidhya Dham Samiti. All Misaal fellows, taleem teachers rozgaar trainers/supervisors, and state supervisors participated. The 3 day event was organised as follows:

Day 1: Presentation of fellows', teachers and trainers' work, and collective reflection

Day 2: Training on focus schemes (PDS) and processes (Grievance Redressal; Misaal MIS); and on teaching and learning methodologies.

Day 3: Work planning (Fellowship, Rozgaar pilots, Taleem)

It was agreed that fellows would, in the following quarter, focus on:

- Entitlements: Besides ongoing schemes, also Right to Food schemes, including PDS, Mid Day Meal and ICDS programmes; and health and nutrition
- Taleem: Improved teaching and learning; and advocacy on school management committees
- Better documentation and learnings, through strengthening Misaal Information System (MIS) and producing and communicating case studies of successes (and failures).



UP State Supervisor, Saleem Ansari helping develop Workplan. Misaal Bhopal Fellow, Arshi Qureshi. Quarterly meeting, Banda, 27-04-17 with fellows (Shakila, Anjum, Faiz, and Nasir).