

Mosamat Budhiya Shiksha Nirman Sangathan (MBSNS)

Annual Report 2020-21

Introduction	1
The Jeevanshala	2
Workshop On Elections And electoral Landscape	3
COVID Relief	4
Gearing Up To Improve The State Of Health In Bihar In 2021	4
CONSTITUTION WORKSHOP – Upholding constitutional values	5
Leveraging the power of social media	6

Introduction

The Mosamat Budhiya Shiksha Nirman Sangathan (MBSNS) started work with economically and socially marginalised rural populations, of North Bihar, a few years before its formal registration in 2017. Over the years, we have become more focused on education and health. In the MBSNS education is not limited to the formal education accessed in educational institutions alone and so we work across age groups, with children and people, in and outside the ambit of formal education. While working on health issues, we do not stress service delivery, but focus on preventive work and access to good quality health services, for marginalised populations.

This year started on a very difficult note, the first wave of COVID. The lockdown was very difficult for everyone, we were all restricted to our homes, many were infected with the virus and we also lost some precious lives.

It is therefore we decided that even when lockdown was removed and life limped back to normalcy, we would err on the side of caution. Therefore 2020-21 was dedicated to catering to the needs of the few children who were to give their board exams in March 2021 and small workshops, with limited participants and use of masks and physical distancing, where possible, after unlocking.

The Jeevanshala

Since 2017, the MBSNS has focused on helping children from underprivileged backgrounds access education. Like these last few years, this year too the MBSNS jeevanshala (JS) provided a safe space, for selected children (preference given to children, whose parents were social workers and who were doing voluntary work for their own marginalised communities). In March 2020, when the lock down was announced, most of our younger children left for their homes, but older children especially those in ninth standard and above were encouraged to stay back at the JS. The reasons were very simple, one that given the sudden lockdown, the scarcity of work and resources meant that at home, children would not have access to even basic needs like nutritious food. Also that their education would be restricted.

So six students enrolled in the ninth to twelfth standards stayed back, at the JS. Like last year, these students did self study, but unlike last year till almost November their coaching institutes and schools were closed.



Clockwise: The monsoon showers, at the JS; Outdoors in covid times; The mother Hen, they never left us :); Biswajit leads shramdaan, making their food;

Towards end March, we started identifying students in the age groups of 10 to 12, as we realised that as children reached middle school, their basic reading, writing and maths skills, had become too weak to

move forward. We decided to help younger children, live at the centre and access government schools. We have enrolled almost 12 students in different Government schools and they will be living at the centre from 4th April, 2021.



At the centre



Registering at the local Government school

Workshop On Elections And electoral Landscape

In November, 2020 the MBSNS hosted, teenagers in the ages 15 to 19, helping them understand how democracy works in the country, outside their school textbooks. So with the coming MLA elections, we helped them understand the multi party electoral system and also ethics of voting. This was done because these youngsters were seeing elections happen in their legislative constituencies, but had many questions and were finding it difficult to connect the dots. This workshop helped them connect the dots.



Over 30 participants at the youth workshop, engaged seriously with the issue of electoral choices.

Parties and their symbols



COVID Relief

Though the MBSNS, was not able to collect funds and get together relief materials. We offered our space and volunteers to groups, which were doing covid relief. CHARM (Centre for Health and Resource Management) a Patna based health group was one of the first to provide dry rations in Araria district to almost one thousand families.



Gearing Up To Improve The State Of Health In Bihar In 2021

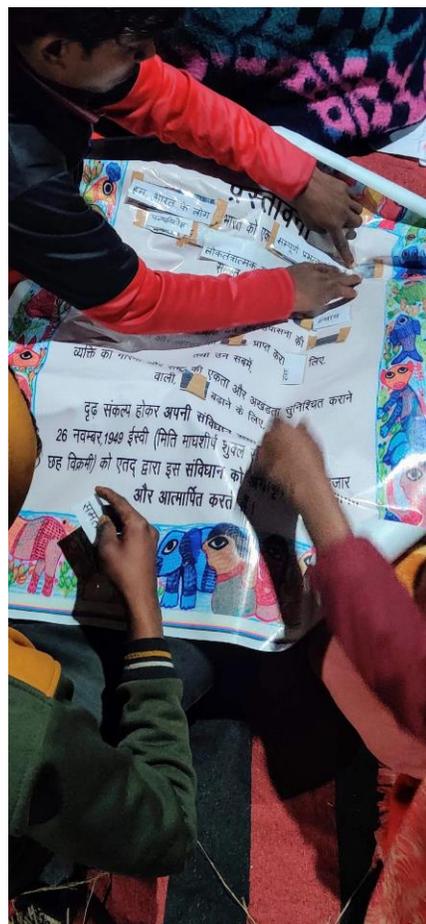
MBSNS, along with CHARM, organised a health workshop at the centre. The resource persons included Dr Abhijit, associated with Support for Advocacy and Training to Health Initiatives (SATHI), a Pune based health NGO, Kanika, a public health scholar and the CHARM team. Over 30 health activists, working in different geographical areas Araria, came together for the first time since COVID-19 hit our lives. Braving extreme cold and COVID-19, the participants spent two days understanding home based management of fever, health related superstitions and discussing rational ways of handling the same.

Throughout the workshop, sessions involved a mix of audio-visual context, workbooks and charts, movies and documentaries and games.



L-R : Online interaction with Dr Abhijit and Kanika; Outdoors in the winter sun

CONSTITUTION WORKSHOP – Upholding constitutional values



In the build up to the Republic day, we hosted a workshop on upholding constitutional values. Through activities, small games, relevant reading material from Hum Bharat Ke Log and excerpts from movies on events in the lives of Dr. Ambedkar, Shaheed Bhagat Singh and Mahatma Gandhi we helped the youth learn about the constitution and its making. We spent time discussing and internalising the preamble which gives the basic constitutional values, as also discussing fundamental rights and duties.



Leveraging the power of social media

Two workshops were held for the youth on handling social media. The first workshop, talked about the ethics of social media, rules of privacy, hate speech, spreading rumours etc. In this workshop youth learnt how to create relevant social media content and some of them created beautiful and engaging content, like the one created on the death anniversary of Savitri Bai Phule.



R-L: The idea of a story board being introduced; Distributing and discussing themes for videos, like Health, Unemployment, Floods, Rations, Communalism, Inter-religious and Intercaste love relationships, Same-sex relationships, and Superstitions, among others.

In February, 2021 a follow up workshop was organised where the focus was on improvement of video making skills such as: making sure endings are not abrupt, introducing both visual and sound effects, choosing better quality images, how to look out for, how to extract sound from videos, how to make videos using a voiceover, how to set photographs in keeping with the rhythm of the song. For this, Sabyasachi prepared a presentation, where he actually demonstrated the steps to each of these actions.

In continuation to these content creation workshops, the MBSNS team of trainers, visited Bengal and trained youth there to work with social media and create content.

A report prepared by Abhimanyu, Tanmay and kamayani, for the MBSNS, mbsns.bihar@gmail.com