

# ANNUAL REPORT

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## Amar Trishala Sewa Ashram

Advancing Community Development



# **Amar Trishala Seva Ashram (ATSA)**

## **Advancing Community Development**

### **About the Organization:**

Amar Trishala Sewa Aashram (ATSA) is a community development implementing agency which strived to improve everyday life for the marginalized section of society since its inception in Bihar state. ATSA has founded in 2005 by a group of professional development practitioners with the primary objective of empowering rural people of Bihar and creating new pathways for overcoming the obstacles and development through a synergy of "Knowledge", "Voice" and "Action", and registered under the Societies Registration Act-21, 1860 in 2007-08. ATSA adopted diverse approaches to persistently take forward its vision in real spirit implementing several projects at grassroot level for community level process and pioneer in capacity development of communities.

The organization envisions to establish democratic and just society wherein every member of the society lives with dignity, equality with realization of equity. The organization strategically focus on set of operating principle: capacity building of community, strengthening institutions and ensuring development through support and leveraging resources. It has mission to enabling eco system for better education, better health, and well-being of deprived and marginalized section of society. Our long-term objective is to develop a project model which are sustainable, and replicated by government institutions and agencies. ATSA created landmark initiative taken on improve quality of life. It has implemented flagship intervention of empowering youth and educating women on immunization, sexual & reproductive health and right, emotional resilience and ensured Youth-Centered development model in villages. The organization has the privilege of getting support by International, UN and National agencies including government projects. It is also a member of several NGO networks at regional and state level.

### **Vision and Mission:**

**Vision:** ATSA envisions a democratic and just society where every individual lives with dignity, equality, and equity.

**Mission:** The organization is committed to creating an ecosystem that fosters better education, health, and well-being for deprived and marginalized communities.

### **Area of Operation:**

ATSA operates primarily in Muzaffarpur and Sitamarhi districts of Bihar, focusing on a range of thematic areas including youth development, livelihood promotion, child rights, quality education, sexual and reproductive health, water sanitation, local governance, and disaster preparedness.

**Thematic Areas:**

1. Youth development
2. Livelihood promotion and protection
3. Child rights and protection
4. Quality education
5. Adolescent & women sexual rights
6. Water, sanitation, health, and hygiene
7. Local governance
8. Disaster preparedness, relief, and restoration

**Core Competencies:**

1. Capacity building of the community through coordination, collaboration, and training.
2. Strengthening agencies/institutions and empowering platforms at the community level.
3. Engaging government officials to bridge systemic gaps.
4. Establishing community resources/federations for effective service delivery.

**Future Strategy:**

ATSA aims to expand its services and leverage resources to address infrastructural gaps over the next five years. Revisiting thematic focus areas and evaluating potential new areas of intervention are key strategies for expansion and extension of operations.

**Progression and Operations:**

- ATSA has successfully implemented 13 projects at the community level with support from over 10 funding agencies, including international, national, government, and UN agencies.
- The organization has demonstrated credibility in managing projects across diverse thematic areas with time-bound quality results.
- Notably, ATSA has a long-standing partnership with the National Youth Program of the Government of India since 2004, focusing on youth empowerment.
- ATSA's collaboration with UNICEF and Student World Wide Partnership resulted in the successful implementation of the Youth Change Maker project in Muzaffarpur district, Bihar, showcasing the organization's capacity in youth, adolescent, and women's empowerment.
- Projects on educational rights, health, livelihood promotion, community leadership development, and skill development are executed with full accountability and efficiency to achieve desired outcomes.
- Amar Trishala Seva Ashram (ATSA) stands as a beacon of hope for marginalized communities in Bihar, tirelessly working towards creating a more equitable and just society. With its robust vision, mission, and core competencies, ATSA continues to make significant strides in community development and empowerment.

## **Our Partners/supporting agency:**

Some of the key supporting agency/partners to this organization is as under:

- CBCI CARD, New Delhi
- Nehru Yuva Kendra, Muzaffarpur
- Water for people India trust
- Oxfam India
- Catholic Health association of India (CHAI)
- Mesurier Germany (through GPSVS Madhubani)
- NABARD
- Mission DRR (through IDF Patna)
- IRAF networks and other local CBOs& PRIs.
- Indo Global Social Service Society, New Delhi (IGSSS)
- Offer New Delhi
- World Vision India
- Butterfly New Delhi
- Educate Girls US
- Bihar Voluntary Health Association, Patna

## **Honour/Award received:**

- Received Best mentoring to youth clubs award from Nehru Yuva Kendra (NYK), Muzaffarpur
- Received outstanding youth club award from Nehru Yuva Kendra (NYK), Muzaffarpur.
- SMART CHART Trainer award in 2010 from PFI Membership/Networking

## **This organization has the members of the following Networking/alliance:**

- Member, National Alliance of Grass root NGO's for Protection of Child Right (NAGN, Bihar Chapter).
- Partner, NABARD, Mushahri, Muzaffarpur
- Member of the Information Resource & Advocacy Forum (IRAF- NB)
- Partner, IDF, (Capacitating Community on DRR, Climate Change Adaptation for Sustainable Development in Muzaffarpur) Patna.
- Partner, BalShakha (Protection of Child Right in Muzaffarpur), Patna.
- Member, Ekta Parishad, Bhopal
- Partner, Stop TB project, HIV/AIDS, Mamta, New Delhi. Funded by GF MoU of ACSM project for District Begusarai, Bihar.

# Project: Maitri - Empowering Girls through Education

## Introduction:

Amar Trishala Seva Ashram is committed to addressing educational disparities faced by girls in Muzaffarpur District, Bihar, through the Maitri project. This initiative focuses on enrolling and retaining girls who were previously never enrolled or had dropped out of school, promoting quality education for them.

## Project Activities:

**Recruitment and Orientation of Project Personnel:** A team comprising a Programme Coordinator, Block Coordinators, MIS Coordinator, Data Entry Operator, Accountant, and Field Coordinators was recruited and oriented.

**Awareness Campaign:** Efforts were made to sensitize enrolled girls and frontline workers, PRIs, VSS, and the community on the importance of girls' education.

**Training of Trainers:** Training of Trainers sessions were conducted on door-to-door surveys, enrolment processes, and other project-related activities.

**Orientation Meetings:** Meetings were organized at Panchayat and block levels to educate stakeholders and service providers on the importance of girl education.



**Conducted Door-to-Door Survey:** Surveys were conducted to identify out-of-school girls in targeted areas.

**Strengthening School Management Committee (SMC):** Capacity-building programs were organized for SMC members to improve retention and engagement of girl children in schools.

**Strengthening of Children Groups:** Baal Sansad and Meena Manch children were educated on retention policies.

**National Girl Child Day and Children's Day Celebrations:** Events such as Quiz and Speech Competition and Baal Khel Mahotsav were organized to promote participation and empowerment among girl children.

**Gratitude Ceremony of Teachers:** Teachers were appreciated and celebrated on Teachers' Day for their contribution to girl child education.

**International Women's Day Orientation:** Orientations were conducted on 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' to educate women and girls on the importance of education.

**Output Achieved:**

- Successful enrolment of approximately 851 girls in targeted blocks.
- Awareness campaigns reached 851 enrolled girls, encouraging them to continue their education.
- Efforts made to improve retention of girls engaged in livestock and agricultural activities.
- Improved retention of children in 187 schools.
- Regularization of 78 irregularly attending girls and 47 girls engaged in agricultural activities.
- Strengthening of frontline workers and community engagement resulted in 688 final quality enrolments.

**Mitigation Plan:**

- Grassroots interventions, meetings with education authorities, and comprehensive surveys were undertaken to address enrolment challenges.
- Continuous efforts in motivating irregular and non-attending girls were made through parental engagement and collaboration with relevant departments.

**Intervention Strategies:**

- Continued motivation efforts, collaboration with stakeholders, and addressing socio-cultural barriers to enrolment and retention were key intervention strategies.

**Challenges & Learnings:**

- Challenges included poor documentation and infrastructure issues, while learnings emphasized the importance of stakeholder engagement and motivational tools.

**Conclusion:**

The Maitri project has made commendable progress in addressing educational challenges faced by girls in Muzaffarpur District. Ongoing efforts focus on ensuring inclusive education and empowering girls for brighter futures.

**Next Steps:**

- Continued enrolment efforts, stakeholder engagement, and targeted interventions will be prioritized.
- Strategies will be regularly assessed and adapted based on project outcomes and feedback.



This report reflects our dedication to promoting girls' education and ensuring their empowerment for sustained socio-economic development.

### **Baal Khel Mahotsav on Children's Day**

On Children's Day, the Amar Trishala Seva Ashram (ATSA) organized the 'Baal Khel Mahotsav' as part of the Maitri Project, held on November 9th, 2023, in Musahari and Minapur blocks. This event brought together school children from different schools, engaging 97 participants at Uch Madhymik Vishyay, Dumri Panchayat in Musahari, and 120 participants at Utkramit Madhya Vidhyala, Methnapur in Minapur. Collaborating with school teachers, Vidhayaly Shiksha Samiti (VSS) members, and Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), the program aimed to promote physical activities crucial for children's health. Activities such as speeches, painting, and various competitions not only encouraged participation but also nurtured qualities like responsibility and self-discipline. Winners received awards and certificates, reinforcing their achievements. Led by community leaders and educators, the event underscored the importance of holistic development through sports and education, fostering a supportive environment for children's growth.



### **Quiz and Speech Competition on National Girl Child Day**

On National Girl Child Day, Amar Trishala Seva Ashram (ATSA) organized a 'Quiz and Speech Competition' centered on "Girl's Empowerment" in Musahari block under the Maitri Project. Held at Upgraded Middle School Budhangara, Dumri Panchayat on January 24th, 2024, the event saw enthusiastic participation from 42 girl students in classes 5 to 8. Collaborating closely with school authorities, the program aimed to enhance awareness and empowerment among girl children. Activities included Quiz competitions grouped under names of prominent female leaders, covering diverse subjects, and Speech competitions where participants eloquently addressed topics like "Female Feticide" and "Girls Empowerment." These initiatives not only showcased their talents but also encouraged leadership and societal engagement. Awards and certificates were distributed to acknowledge their achievements, including educational materials and tokens of appreciation. The event,

chaired by the school headmaster, underscored the significance of girls' education and the transformative impact of such competitions on their development. It concluded with heartfelt gratitude to all participants and organizers, highlighting its role in fostering a supportive educational environment for girls.



## Awareness Generation: Handicraft Promotional Program

### Introduction:

The Handicraft Promotional Program initiated by our organization aims to raise awareness about the cultural and economic significance of handicrafts while empowering artisans and promoting their creations both locally and internationally.

Our Handicraft Promotional Program aims to promote cultural and economic significance while empowering artisans globally. Key objectives include empowering artisans through skill enhancement and income generation, expanding market reach domestically and internationally, and preserving cultural heritage. Activities include artisan training workshops, online marketing campaigns, and product development aligned with traditional techniques. Results include increased income for artisans, cultural preservation, and enhanced community engagement. Moving forward, the program plans to sustain growth and support in the handicraft sector, benefiting artisans and communities worldwide.

### Outcomes:

- 1. Increased Income for Artisans:** Many artisans experienced a significant income boost and accessed new markets through the program.
- 2. Cultural Preservation:** The program contributed to the preservation of cultural heritage by supporting traditional craftsmanship and encouraging its continuation.
- 3. Community Engagement:** The program fostered a sense of community among artisans and stakeholders, leading to increased collaboration and mutual support.



**Conclusion:**

The Handicraft Promotional Program has successfully raised awareness about the importance of handicrafts while empowering artisans, expanding market presence, and preserving cultural heritage. By continuing to implement activities and incorporating recommended strategies, the program can further support the growth and sustainability of the handicraft sector, benefiting artisans and communities worldwide.

**Awareness Generation on Sustainable Farming Practices**

Our organization's initiative in Muzaffarpur district, Bihar, focuses on promoting sustainable farming practices to ensure food security, conserve natural resources, and protect the environment. Through community meetings and intensive awareness campaigns, we've engaged farmers and stakeholders, emphasizing the benefits of sustainable agriculture. These efforts have successfully increased awareness and spurred adoption of eco-friendly farming methods like organic practices and reduced chemical inputs. The outcomes include improved environmental conditions such as enhanced soil health and reduced water pollution. Moving forward, we aim to sustain these efforts through ongoing community engagement, capacity building initiatives, and continuous education to empower local farmers and ensure the long-term sustainability of agriculture in Muzaffarpur district.

**Road Safety Awareness Program**

The Road Safety Awareness Program in Mushari Block, Muzaffarpur district, Bihar, was designed to tackle road safety issues through community engagement and extensive awareness campaigns. Conducted through regular community meetings and widespread awareness efforts via posters, pamphlets, and public announcements, the program successfully increased knowledge of road safety rules among residents. This led to noticeable behavioral changes, with many adopting safer commuting practices and adhering more strictly to traffic regulations. The program also fostered active community engagement, laying a strong foundation for sustained road safety initiatives. Moving forward, continued collaboration and efforts are essential to further reduce road accidents and ensure safer environments for all in Mushari Block.

**Prohibition of Early Child Marriage Awareness Campaign**

The Prohibition of Early Child Marriage Awareness Campaign, funded by the Kailash Satyarthi Foundation, aimed to raise awareness about the harmful effects of early child marriage and advocate for policies and interventions to prevent this practice in Muzaffarpur. Through a series of targeted initiatives and community engagement activities, the campaign sought to empower individuals and communities to take-action against early child marriage.

**Key Activities:**

**1. School Programs:** Working with government elementary school and Baal Sansad as well as Meena Manch groups, we implemented programs to raise awareness among students about the importance of education, gender equality, and the rights of children. These programs aimed to empower children to resist societal pressures and make informed decisions about their futures.

**2. Community Mobilization:** Volunteers and community organizers mobilized grassroots support for the campaign, engaging with local communities through door-to-door outreach, community meetings, and cultural events. This grassroots approach aimed to foster a sense of collective responsibility and solidarity in the fight against early child marriage.



## Results:

- 5067 number of community members participated in awareness workshops, gaining knowledge about the harmful effects of early child marriage.
- 2806 number of students engaged in school programs, learning about their rights and the importance of education in preventing early child marriage.
- 162 number of communities were mobilized through grassroots efforts, resulting in increased awareness and support for efforts to prevent early child marriage.

The Prohibition of Early Child Marriage Awareness Campaign, funded by the Kailash Satyarthi Foundation, made significant strides in raising awareness and mobilizing communities to prevent early child marriage in Muzaffarpur district of Bihar. By continuing to educate, advocate, and support those at risk, we can work towards creating a world where every child can fulfill their potential and live free from the harmful effects of early marriage.

## Vocational Training and Skill Development Awareness Program

The Vocational Training and Skill Development Awareness Program in selected blocks of Muzaffarpur district, Bihar, aimed to educate adolescents about the benefits of vocational training for personal and professional growth. Through regular meetings, awareness campaigns, and tailored career counselling sessions, the program successfully increased

awareness among adolescents regarding the importance of vocational skills in enhancing employability and socioeconomic prospects. This initiative not only saw a notable increase in interest among adolescents to pursue vocational courses aligned with their career aspirations but also empowered them with the motivation and confidence to seek economic independence.

The outcomes of the program include heightened awareness among participants, evidenced by positive feedback and increased understanding of vocational opportunities. Moreover, the initiative garnered strong community support from parents, local leaders, and stakeholders, affirming the role of vocational training in advancing socioeconomic conditions in the region. Moving forward, sustained efforts and collaborative partnerships will be crucial in furthering these achievements and continuing to empower adolescents through vocational training initiatives in Muzaffarpur district.

## **Immunization Camp in Remote Villages of Muzaffarpur**

Action Aid Association, in collaboration with local health authorities and volunteers, orchestrated an impactful immunization camp across remote villages in Muzaffarpur District, Bihar. This initiative aimed to bridge healthcare gaps by providing essential vaccines to children and adults who face challenges accessing regular healthcare services due to geographical and socio-economic constraints. The camp's objectives included raising awareness about vaccination's crucial role in preventing communicable diseases and promoting community involvement in healthcare initiatives.

Extensive pre-camp preparations involved strategic planning to identify target villages, mobilize resources, and engage local volunteers. Community outreach efforts included door-to-door visits, posters, and announcements in community centers and schools, ensuring widespread participation. During the camp, trained healthcare professionals administered vaccines per the government's schedule, addressing diseases like measles, polio, tetanus, and hepatitis. Concurrent health education sessions dispelled misconceptions about vaccines, emphasized their efficacy, and encouraged completing immunization schedules.



The outcomes were notable: increased immunization coverage among children and adults, heightened awareness about vaccination's benefits, and enhanced community engagement. Despite challenges such as logistical constraints, language barriers, and vaccine hesitancy, the camp succeeded in empowering communities and fostering sustainable healthcare practices. This initiative underscores the importance of targeted interventions in ensuring equitable



healthcare access and improving health outcomes in marginalized areas of Muzaffarpur District, Bihar.

## **Cancer Awareness Program cum Free Health Check-up Camp week at Muzaffarpur**

Amar Trishala Seva Asharam (ATSA) organized a Cancer Awareness Program cum Free Health Check-up Camp across seven villages in targeted blocks of Muzaffarpur district from February 4th to 10th, 2024. The camp commenced with a formal inauguration at Anganwadi Kendra-158, Narauli Sen village, where Mr. Ramesh, Programme Coordinator, outlined the objectives of the initiative, emphasizing the importance of community involvement and volunteer dedication. Dr. Binod Kumar Ray inaugurated the camp, highlighting the rising trends in communicable and non-communicable diseases and encouraging preventive healthcare practices among villagers.

The objectives of the camp included educating participants about lifestyle diseases, promoting healthy habits such as exercise and balanced diet, and providing screenings for common health issues like diabetes and hypertension. Strategic activities involved community mobilization, collaboration with the health department for medical support, and setting up registration desks. Over the course of the week, 607 patients, primarily women, were registered and provided with medical services including medication distribution and health assessments.



Key outcomes revealed that while many participants had normal BMI and temperature readings, a notable portion displayed elevated blood sugar levels and hypertension, underscoring the need for ongoing health education and support in these communities. Despite challenges, such as logistical constraints, the camp successfully delivered essential health services and raised awareness about cancer prevention and healthy living practices, contributing positively to the well-being of residents in Muzaffarpur district.

## **Reproductive and Child Health Program**

The Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Program in Muzaffarpur district, Bihar, is dedicated to enhancing maternal and child health through a range of essential healthcare services and educational initiatives. Activities include regular immunization drives to protect infants and children from preventable diseases, comprehensive family planning services to empower couples in making informed reproductive choices, and targeted health education sessions for adolescents on reproductive health and hygiene. Achievements include improved immunization coverage rates, increased adoption of family planning methods, and heightened awareness among adolescents about reproductive health issues.

However, the program faces challenges such as limited healthcare access in remote areas, inadequate infrastructure, and cultural barriers affecting the acceptance of modern family planning practices. Despite these obstacles, the program has significantly contributed to improving maternal and child health indicators in the district. Moving forward, addressing these challenges and implementing targeted interventions will be crucial in further strengthening the program's impact and ensuring continued progress towards better health outcomes for women and children across Muzaffarpur.

### **Conclusion:**

Overall, the initiatives undertaken in Muzaffarpur district, Bihar, including educational empowerment, health awareness, and community engagement programs, have made commendable strides in addressing various socio-economic challenges. From promoting girls' education and empowering artisans to raising awareness about road safety and healthcare, these efforts reflect a concerted commitment towards fostering inclusive development and improving the well-being of communities. Moving forward, sustaining these initiatives, addressing persistent challenges, and fostering collaboration among stakeholders will be crucial for ensuring continued progress and holistic empowerment in the region.

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