A REPORT ON BEST PRACTICES ON INCLUSION OF OUT OF SCHOOL CHILDREN

Introduction:- Number of children between age group 6-14 in Bihar are 2,13,25,767 in which 2,0973436 are enrolled & **2.16 lakh are out of school**. Many of these children are child laborer, rag picker, railway platform children, slum children, sex worker's children, migrant children & children from socially excluded family, marginal family, and first generation family etc. These children have missed an opportunity to learn

because of certain circumstances. These children have been categorized into two categories:-

- Never enrolled children
- Out of school children

Alternative & Innovative Education cell from B.E.P.C, SSA is taking some initiatives to mainstream both categories of children with the help of the community, teachers, and government through different intervention. Students from the above two categories are first facilitated to get age appropriate admission in their nearby school as per RTE norms and after that, they are taught class appropriate learning in the special training center.4 rooms have been allotted to run the center at first floor of the school. Rainbow Foundation India is implementing agency for this particular center.

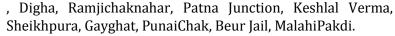


SHARING OF EXPERIENCE BY CHILDREN

I. Residential Special Training Hostel, M.S.Kumhrar, Patna

Student category: - Rag picker, orphan children ,beggar children , addicted children, children from the single parent, children living with relatives, children from diseased parents. Age of student are 6-14 & Class-1-8.

Identification process:- Children are identified from different location of Patna while doing a survey. Those are



Verification: - Child admission and exist committee consisted of 5 members verifies survey detail and ensures consent from parents/civil society to move forward for the enrollment process. This committee is also known as child protection committee. CPC works as a torch bearer regarding child protection issue. Sunanda, a teacher is selected as child protection officer to ensure child protection meeting. There is a letter box in which children drop a letter to share any difficulties without mentioning their name. Meeting of CPC organized once in a 4 month. Members of CPS are as follows-

- 1. Ward member
- 2. Head teacher
- 3. Dr. Firoz-Community member

- 4. Sanjay Singh-Community member
- 5. Ram Pari-Community member

School readiness: - After enrollment, children are counseled to get familiarize with hostel and environment. They are not taught in the first month; instead, they are facilitated to get involve in game, music, dance, art & craft etc. These activities help further to start learning at school and remedial classes.

Children's protection & participation:- All children are divided into 3 *brother groups*. The elder brother, Middle brother, Younger brother to take care of each other. Elder brother is responsible for middle brother & middle brother is for the younger brother. These groups are working as a support system to provide protection as well as emotional support. During study time at night, brother groups help to each other.



BROTHER GROUP STANDING TOGETHER

Bal Sabha: - Bal sabha meeting is organized by children thrice in a week to discuss the overall functional issue of the hostel, even food menu is prepared by children itself. It keeps changing in every four months according to the season.

There are 8 committees formed among children to interact weekly. That are-

- 1. Education Committee
- 2. Health Committee
- 3. Purchasing Committee
- 4. Welcome Committee
- 5. Sports Committee
- 6. Hygiene Committee
- 7. Food Committee
- 8. Discipline Committee

Socio-psychological support:- Rainbow staffs are provided refresher training time to time on counseling skills so that they could be able to guide socio-psychological support to the children in need.



MEETING OF CHILDREN COMMITTEE

Cope up mechanism:- 3-6 months regular counseling is done with parents and students so that they could cope up with new environment & surrounding.

Services at hostel: -

1. **Bridge course: -** To develop class appropriate learning, time span of this course is between 9 to 18 months. These children are not supposed to attend school, only their name is enrolled in



LETTERBOX IS A PLATFORM TO SHARE OPINION FOR IMPROVEMENT

school as per age appropriate class. Total 15 students are currently enrolled in bridge course that is 5 students each in 'PRAYAS' 1,2 & 3. This is to mention that 'PRAYAS' 1,2,3 books are used in bridge course.

Time schedule of bridge course is as follows-

Days	10-11 AM	11-12 PM	2-3 PM	3-4 PM
MON	HINDI	ENGLISH	MATH	HINDI
TUE	ENGLISH	MATH	HINDI	HINDI
WED	MATH	HINDI	ENGLISH	MATH
THU	ENGLISH	MATH	HINDI	HINDI
FRI	HINDI	ENGLISH	MATH	HINDI
SAT	MATH	ENGLISH	HINDI	HINDI

How far is the academic schedule being adhered to?

PRAYAS 1	PRAYAS 2	PRAYAS 3
HINDI-7/20 CHAPTER	HINDI-5/17 CHAPTER	HINDI- Books were ripped so
		other books are in use.
MATH-6/18 CHAPTER	MATH-6/18 CHAPTER	MATH-6/16 CHAPTER
ENGLISH-2/15 CHAPTER	ENGLISH-Books were ripped so	ENGLISH-3/26 CHAPTER
	other books are in use.	

2. **Remedial class:** - To support children in their subject based learning improvement. A total of 80 students attend remedial class after returning (first half) from school. These students have been mainstreamed with school according to class appropriate learning after successful completion of bridge course.

Time schedule of remedial class is as follows-

Days	2-3 PM	3-4 PM	4-5 PM	5-6 PM	
MON	Class 1-7 by	Class 1-7 by	Class 1-7 by	Class 1-7 by	
	Umesh,Sunanda &	Umesh,Sunanda &	Umesh,Sunanda &	Umesh,Nandita &	
	Arvind	Arvind	Priya	Priya	
TUE	Class 1-7 by	Class 1-7 by	Class 1-7 by	Class 1-7 by	
	Umesh,Sunanda &	Umesh,Sunanda &	Umesh,Sunanda &	Umesh,Nandita &	
	Arvind	Arvind	Priya	Priya	
WED	Class 1-7 by	Class 1-7 by	Class 1-7 by	Class 1-7 by	
	Umesh,Sunanda &	Umesh,Sunanda &	Umesh,Sunanda &	Umesh,Nandita &	
	Arvind	Arvind	Priya	Priya	
THU	Class 1-7 by	Class 1-7 by	Class 1-7 by	Class 1-7 by	
	Umesh,Sunanda &	Umesh,Sunanda &	Umesh,Sunanda &	Umesh,Nandita &	
	Arvind	Arvind	Priya	Priya	
FRI	Class 1-7 by	Class 1-7 by	Class 1-7 by	Class 1-7 by	
	Umesh,Sunanda &	Umesh,Sunanda &	Umesh,Sunanda &	Umesh,Nandita &	
	Arvind	Arvind	Priya	Priya	
SAT	Class 1-7 by	Class 1-7 by	Class 1-7 by	Class 1-7 by	
	Umesh,Sunanda &	Umesh,Sunanda &	Umesh,Sunanda &	Umesh,Nandita &	
	Arvind	Arvind	Priya	Priya	

- 3. Use of TLM & teaching learning process: -Sunanda, a teacher shared that picture, chart & TLMs are used to teach children reading & writing skill. All teachers use rhythmic songs as an activity that children like very much. Monthly assessment is done to map the progress of the student and future lesson plan designed accordingly.
- 4. **Health check-up & vaccination: -** As we know that most of the routine vaccination takes place before the age of 5, but rest of the applicable vaccination is given to children like Hepatitis. Test for blood group, HIV, TB etc take place. Deworming tablets are given to children. Weight & height checked in every 3 months. Eye/ear/Teeth checkup done periodically.
- 5. **Exposure visit:** Every month an exposure visit is CLASSROOM organized to children in which they visit public places such as post office, police station, park, & historical places. Exposure visit has been observed an exciting learning experience for children



TEACHING LEARNING MATERIAL FOR

BAL SABHA MEETING BY CHILDREN

TO IMPLEMENT ABOVE SERVICES, RAINBOW FOUNDATION INDIA HAS STRONG LIAISONING WITH KILKARI, SAMARPAN, LIONS CLUB, RED CROSS SOCIETY, ROTARY CLUB ETC. DESPITE THE ABOVE, ALL CHILDREN HAVE BEEN SUPPORTED BY RFI TO MAKE THEIR AADHAR NUMBER & OPEN BANK ACCOUNT.

Visible changes over a period of time: -

- Change in children's behavior is visible and they are becoming responsible.
- Change in food habit is visible such as they always wash their hand before eating; they are leaving the habits of eating junk food/fast food.
- Language improvement is visible as they are learning Hindi & English.
- Getting mainstreamed in elementary education.
- Friendly behavior is visible, means no discrimination found at all.
- Getting de-addicted: It was found that initially children were used to chewing 'Gutkha' & smoking 'Cigarette' but in the guidance of home manager, nowadays they are leaving those earlier habits.

Challenges ahead: -

- Retention of the student is a challenge as whenever they go to their community, it becomes a very tough task to track & bring them back.
- The awareness level of parents is also a challenge as they belong from the marginal community.
- Health issue of children is a challenge as per their socio-economic family background.
- The process of de-addiction is not an easy task as children are used to of those materials from a longer period of time.

- Lack of cooperation & a sense of distinguishing from the side of school teachers. The behavior of teachers of M.S.Kumhrar towards day scholar & hostler is entirely different. Acceptance & inclusion of hostlers in comparison to day-scholar is still an issue that is prevailing among teachers.
- H.M of M.S.Kumhrar enforces RFI staff to send bridge course students in school to attend class.
- Retention of Rainbow team is also an unavoidable challenge.

Major challenges: -

- There are only two toilets available/ allotted for 96 hostler students. Therefore it is easily understandable that how difficult it is for children to manage hygiene practices.
- No bathroom available for hostler students. Therefore, it can be imagined that how difficult it is to take bath. It can adversely affect personal hygiene of the children which leads to skin diseases.

Suggestions to RFI by Consultant-UNICEF:-

- Formation of CPC in those communities from where children belong.
- The orientation of M.S.Kumhrar on RTE & its provisions.
- A letter should be issued to inform HM-M.S.Kumhrar that students of bridge course should not be forced to attend school.
- Monthly assessment of bridge course should be based on the guideline of AIE-BEPC.
- Student data of remedial class and bridge course should be maintained separately so is to monitor progress.
- TLM bank should be enriched. Currently, it is very limited. There is ample scope to paste/hang TLM on Classroom wall.

Suggestion to BEPC by Rainbow Foundation India team: -

- Efforts are needed to ensure basic infrastructure to maintain health & hygiene. This kind of hostel must fulfill an adequate number of toilet & bathroom.
- A frequent visit from BEPC would enable us to learn from an external point of view and the same can be incorporated for better functioning.

Plan for academic mainstreaming of children post bridge course:-

- These students will be mainstreamed with school according to class appropriate learning after successful completion of bridge course.
- Post-institutional care & support will be given by RFI till the age of 18 years to facilitate livelihood and entrepreneurship.

Message from Jacky: He is jacky, an orphan child studying in class 5. He wants to become a teacher and to teach children from the socio-economic poor family.



JACKY, CLASS 5

Residential Special Training Hostel: RFI Team

Warden-Pinki Singh, Home manager cum teacher-3+1,Part-time teacher-2,Home mother-3,Guard-1,Social mobiliser-1(Rainbow supported),Accountant-1,Documentor-1(Rainbow supported)

Student Capacity-100, Student enrollment-95, Student present-80

II. Residential Special Training Centre(Girls), U.M.S.Bela, Khaira, jamui

An overview of residential special training hostel, UMS Bela, Khaira:

There is a management committee consisting of 7 members to look after the overall management of the RSTC.

1. Gram Panchayat Mukhiya-Chairman, 2. Center-in-charge (teacher)-Secretary, 3. Ward member-member, 4. PHC in-charge-member, 5. Police inspector-member, 6. Parent-member, 7. Parent-member, 8. Retired teacher.

Roles & responsibility of the management committee:

- 1. Recruitment of the education volunteer (teacher).
- 2. Facilitate community cooperation.
- 3. Selection of children for RSTC.
- 4. Extending learning duration for RSTC students.
- 5. Overall management of the RSTC.

Student category:

Orphan children, beggar children, children from far forest areas where a school is not available, children from the single parent.

Identification & verification process:

Identification: Bal Panji is used to identify drop out & never enrolled children from different location of the Khaira block.

Verification: RSTC management committee organizes meeting of all Gram Panchayat Mukhiya in which children are verified for the further process of enrollment.

Children's protection & participation: There are 8 committees formed among children to interact weekly. Committees discuss their agenda according to the nature of their committee and take decision for better functioning and management of the hostel. These committees are-

- 1) Education Committee
- 2) Health Committee
- 3) Purchasing Committee
- 4) Welcome Committee





STUDENT'S COMMITTEE MEETING



- 5) Sports Committee
- 6) Hygiene Committee
- 7) Food Committee
- 8) Discipline Committee

Socio-psychological support: Two female education volunteer are residential members of RSTC. They are always available for girls in terms of socio-psychological support needed.

Cope up mechanism: 3 months regular counseling is done with parents & students during the home visit and parent-teacher meeting so that they could cope up with new environment & surrounding.

Services at the hostel:

Bridge course: To develop class appropriate learning, time span of this course is between 12 to 22 months. These children are not supposed to attend school, only their name is enrolled in school as per age appropriate class. Those schools are situated in their catchment are from where children belong. **Total 57 girls, students are currently enrolled in bridge course & their details are as follows:**

'PRAYAS' 1- 10, PRAYAS 2-23 & PRAYS 3-24. This is to mention that 'PRAYAS' 1,2,3 books are used in bridge course.

How far is the academic schedule being adhered to?

PRAYAS 1	PRAYAS 2	PRAYAS 3							
HINDI-6/9 CHAPTER	HINDI-9/17 CHAPTER	HINDI- 12/21							
MATH-9/15 CHAPTER	MATH-10/16 CHAPTER	MATH-11/19 CHAPTER							
ENGLISH-6/13 CHAPTER	ENGLISH-9/20 CHAPTER	ENGLISH-10/26 CHAPTER							

Time schedule of bridge course is as follows-

Days	9-10	10-11	10-11 11-12		3-4 PM
	AM	AM	PM	PM	
MON	MATH	HINDI	ENG	HINDI	MATH
TUE	HINDI	ENG	MATH	MATH	HINDI
WED	ENG	MATH	HINDI	HINDI	ENG
THU	HINDI	MATH	ENG	HINDI	MATH
FRI	MATH	ENG	MATH	HINDI	MATH
SAT	HINDI	ENG	HINDI	MATH	HINDI

Use of TLM & teaching learning process: - Sunita Kumari & Reeta Murmu, education volunteer (teacher) explained that picture, chart & TLMs are used to teach children reading & writing skills in the language. We use number game to teach counting, addition & subtraction along with rhythmic songs sometimes as an activity for the engagement of children.

TLM PREPARATION UNDER TEACHER'S GUIDELINE



Weekly/monthly assessment is done to map the progress of the student and further teaching & learning strategy designed accordingly.

HEALTH CHECK-UP CAMP



Exposure visit: Twice in a year exposure visit is organized to children that are, 1st Jan & Dushehara. Exposure visit has been observed an exciting learning experience for children

Health, hygiene & vaccination: Primary health center Khaira provides health card to all girls. Routine checkup including weight & height checked in every 3 months. Iron tablets are provided to the adolescent girls. Sanitary napkins & De-worming tablets are given to children by center teacher.

PICNIC DURING EXPOSURE VISIT



Visible changes over a period of time:

- Change in parent's perception is visible during parent meeting as they have started believing us as a part of agent for social transformation.
- Change in food habit is beneficial for the growth of children as they have started recognizing & eating bread, pulse, vegetable etc. Prior to that, they were habitual of eating various kinds of greens, boil leaves, cooked rice water & rice with salt.
- From open defecation to use a toilet, wash basin & washroom are also an example of behavior change that is taking place.
- Language improvement from 'Santhali' tribal language to learning a national/international language as Hindi/English.
- Getting mainstreamed in elementary education.







Practices for academic mainstreaming post bridge course

After successful completion of 'PRAYAS' 3, these students are getting mainstreamed in Kastoorba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (K.G.B.V). Priority is given to those whose socio-economic condition is poor.

Sr. no.	Year	Name of School	No. of girls
1	2016	K.G.B.V	16
2	2015	K.G.B.V	32
3	2014	K.G.B.V+J.N.V	26+1
4	2013	K.G.B.V	31
5	2012	K.G.B.V	37

- One of the alumni of this center is now working as a 'Panchayat Mitra' and she became a role model to their junior sisters.
- Message from girls: Kavita Tudy wants to become a teacher, Shanti Tudy wants to become a police & Meena Baske wants to become a doctor.



KAVITA TUDU-PRAYAS 1





MEENA BASKE-PRAYAS 3

Challenges ahead: -

- To gain faith & participation of local community as well as representatives is still a challenge as everyone expects financial benefit instead of their support.
- Community visit to track children is always full of fear/risk as it is a Naxal prone area.
- Whenever SRG team visits the center they only believe on present attendance and as a result, they recommend budget approval for the same present number. It is not possible that 100% children will present at any point of time. SRG member must refer attendance register to confirm the number of the students.
- A bathroom must be a basic feature to run any residential hostel. Currently, it is not in fashion.

 Therefore, it can be imagined that how difficult it is to center-in-charge/HM/management committee to leverage fund and construct bathroom for girls.
- Deduction in budget increasing the challenge and it is getting difficult day by day for center-in-charge to manage.

The following table is a small glimpse of current budget for RSTC-

Sr. no.	Item	Cost (in rupees)
1	Medicine	12.50/month per child
2	Stationary	21/month per child
3	Cosmetic	25/month per child
4	Food	36/day per child
5	Hygiene	15/month per child

	मासिक / सत्रवार मूल्यांकन प्रपत्र नवम्बर 2016										
क्रम सं0	बालिका का नाम	हिन्दी ग्रेड	गणित ग्रेड	अंग्रेजी ग्रेड	क्रम सं0	बालिका का नाम	हिन्दी ग्रेड	गणित ग्रेड	अंग्रेजी ग्रेड		
1	पार्वती किस्कु	В	В	С	1	रानी टुडू	В	В	С		
2	शांति टुडू	В	В	С	2	पिहू कुमारी	В	В	С		
3	मालती टुडू	В	В	С	3	पूनम कुमारी	A	\boldsymbol{A}	В		
4	अणु हेम्ब्रम	В	В	С	4	ललिता सोरेन	В	В	C		
5	पानो हेम्ब्रम	В	В	С	5	सीमा कुमारी	A	A	В		
6	संजू मुर्मू	В	В	С	6	सुमी सोरेन	В	В	C		
7	सुदीना हेम्ब्रम	В	В	С	7	रीता कुमारी	В	В	C		
8	सुनीता सोरेन	В	В	С	8	रीतू कुमारी	В	В	C		
9	सबिता मुर्मू	В	В	C	9	पिंकी कुमारी	В	В	C		
10	पिंकी मराण्डी	В	В	C	10	सोनाली मुर्मू	\boldsymbol{A}	\boldsymbol{A}	В		
11	अनिता मुर्मू	В	В	C	11	काजल कुमारी	\boldsymbol{A}	\boldsymbol{A}	В		
12	बीना कुमारी	A	A	В	12	रंजीना हेम्ब्रम	В	В	С		
13	रेखा कुमारी	В	В	C	13	संज्योति हॉस्दा	В	В	C		
14	कमला हेम्ब्रम	В	В	С	14	पानो सोरेन	В	В	С		
15	बबीता हॅासदा	В	В	С	15	सुगीया सोरेन	В	В	С		

16	अंशू सोरेन	В	В	C	16	सोनम हेम्ब्रम	В	В	C
17	झुमरी हेम्ब्रम	В	В	С	17	सरिता हॉस्दा	В	В	С
18	सोनी कुमारी	В	В	С	18	मुन्नी मुर्मू	В	В	C
19	कविता टुडू	В	В	С	19	सरिता हेम्ब्रम	В	В	C
20	मुन्नी सोरेन	В	В	С	20	मीना बास्के	В	В	C
21	अनिता सोरेन	В	В	C	21	तालो बास्के	В	В	С
22	सरिता टुडू	В	В	С	22	मोनिका मुर्मू	В	В	С
23	पार्वती मुर्मू	В	В	С	23	उर्मिला मुर्मू	В	В	C
24	आतरी कुमारी	A	A	В	24	सरोज हेम्ब्रम	В	В	C
25	मुन्नी मराण्डी	A	A	В	25	सोनिया टुडू	В	В	C
26	नैना मराण्डी	В	В	С	26	सोनिया हेम्ब्रम	В	В	C
27	हन्ती टुडू	С	С	С	27	सलगी सोरेन	В	В	C
28	गंगा कुमारी	В	В	С	28	निशा कुमारी	В	В	С
29	सोनिया मराण्डी	В	В	C	29				

Suggestion to BEPC by RSTC in-charge: -

- The budget should be reviewed so as to maintain a minimum level of quality.
- Approval of budget should be based on attendance register.
- There should be food budget provision for 5 numbers of residential staff.
- Refresher training should be imparted to education volunteer(teacher)

Suggestions to RSTC by Consultant-UNICEF:-

- There is ample scope on classroom wall to be used as hanging & pasting TLM.
- TLM bank should be enriched. Currently, it is very limited. There is ample scope to paste/hang TLM on Classroom wall.
- All children can be divided into 3 sister groups. The elder sister, Middle sister, Younger sister to take care of each other. Elder sister can be made responsible for middle sister & middle sister is for the younger sister. These groups can further work as a support system to provide protection as well as emotional support. During study time at night, sister groups will be helpful to each other.

Residential Special Training Hostel Team

Education volunteers cum teacher-2, Centre in-charge cum teacher-1, Cook-1, Cook cum night guard-

Student Capacity-100, Student enrollment-57, Student present-49