OUT OF BONDAGES
Children constitute a significant part of the Indian Population. According to the Report of the Working Group Report on Child Rights constituted by the Ministry of Women and Child Development 2012, children in the age group of 0-18 years constitute 43 percent of the population in India. Out of this 27% comprise of children in the age group of 6-18 years. This implies that a vast percentage of our population remains invisible, their issues and concerns have not been prioritized.

A key feature of children’s rights is the way in which they confirm children as active and legitimate holders of rights which they can exercise in accordance with their maturity and experience. This includes the right to express their views on decisions that affect them. But children’s rights are also about supporting families and others to do their very best for the children in their care and guide their development as they grow from baby to adolescent, eg, improved women’s access to healthcare also has a positive impact on the health of infants and the newborn child.

Caritas India recognizes the importance of supporting and connecting with children to enable them to become agents and advocates of change and of their rights along with the members of their community. Most of Caritas’ Interventions are related to protection of child rights in terms of empowering the local partners, community development program with child rights focus, ragpickers program, networking and advocating for Child rights, joining hands with other alliances for policy advocacy.

This publication collects good examples of how children’s basic right to life and dignity have been restored through advocacy. Key success factors were drawn to capitalise on the experience from these children to maximise advocacy outcomes and its impact.

FR. FREDERICK D’SOUZA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CARITAS INDIA
CONTENTS

3 Preface
4 Foreword
6 Background
7 Caritas India’s Commitment Towards Children
8 Community Based Child Care, Odisha
9 Mainstreaming Children into Education
13 Access to Health and Nutritional Services Through Community Action
16 Drop out Adolescents Linked with Skills and Livelihood Initiatives
17 Child Rights, Darjeeling
18 Raids & Rescue of Child Labourers
28 Roshni - Education and Empowerment of Musahar Girls in Bihar
30 Humari Patshala, Bihar

Children have been at the forefront of child rights monitoring and reporting efforts, and are considered key partners in all phases of child programming. However, their participation has to be well planned, respectful of child safeguarding and child participation policies and principles, and facilitated through child-friendly materials and tools in order to be meaningful and effective. In recent years as a society, we have become very aware of the problem of child abuse. Caritas has its interventions in the area of Care and Protection and Development of children through promoting active participation. Besides a cross cutting focus of child rights in the programmes and interventions, Caritas India supports child-oriented programmes in different states namely Delhi and Uttar Pradesh with street children programmes, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur and Assam with Peace building among the young people, Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal with Tribal and Dalit (Musahar girls) children addressing Child labour and early marriage with education as solution. Caritas India is closely working with the ICDS centres to improve the early education and health status of children in Odisha. Few Caritas local Partners are nodal organizations for Childline centers in many states to help children in distress.

In response to the ground realities in one of our assessment reports on education, Caritas India initiated two educational empowerment programmes for Musahar (Maha Dalit community) girls called ‘Roshini’ and ‘Humari Patshala’, which are in force since 2013, and cover 46 villages of 4 districts in Bihar leading to the enrolment of 482 children in government schools with hundred percentage retention. These interventions have prevented child marriage among girl children. In West Bengal, in Darjeeling District, 11 villages have been declared ‘Child Labour Free Zones’ in Kalimpong municipality and ‘Child Friendly Police Station’ is established.

Children being the most potential peace makers have a greater stake and role in peace building. Caritas initiated Peace building initiatives in J & K, Assam and Manipur and covered 11 colleges, 21 schools and 106 villages forming peace clubs of children, youth, women and developing peace education module. Through peace committees, the programme has identified a good number of potential issues that could have given rise to communal tension and conflict in these areas.

Caritas India has been constantly striving towards improving their policies, procedures and practices to safeguard children and young people. By taking stock of the experience capitalized over these last few years, this compilation aims to provide valuable testimony of our intervention at the ground.

FR. PAUL MOONJELY
ASST. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CARITAS INDIA
India is home to 440 million children, the largest child labour force in the world. Tragically, it also has the largest child labour problems.

India is one of the seven states in the country with more than one million children involved in labour (as per 2001 census) and one that shows an increasing trend in numbers of child labourers. Legislature like and subsequent notification (2003) which has employment of children across various industries/brands are often found. Children continue to work in small roadside eating places, sweet shops, bigger hostels and in the domestic sector.

Caritas has been working in West Bengal for many years. It is a popular tourist destination, the existence of which is contributing to the social and economic development of the area. These children are often flouted. Children continue to work in small roadside eating places, sweet shops, bigger hostels and in the domestic sector. The children's rights are being violated.

In India, children are the future pillars of society. The rich and poor divide is visible in such occupations is high. These children are not allowed to continue their studies because of poverty and greed. By doing so, they can make a valuable contribution to the success of society and the nation as a whole. However, they are and have always been one of the most vulnerable groups in society because they are underaged and dependent for their survival and development.

Caritas India's child policy is binding for all the programmes and projects, and its implementation is guided by the guidelines of the National Policy on Children. The strategy is to protect children's rights and that the organisation aims at working for children's protection policy. Caritas has been supporting and networking for Child rights, joining hands with other alliance for policy advocacy.

Creating and maintaining an environment which is conducive to promotion of the basic rights of children. Liberalisation and privatization on the other hand, have played a role in the growth of child labour.

India is home to 440 million children, the largest child population in the world. Tragically, it also has the largest child labour force i.e. 12.6 million, accounting for about 6% of children in the 5-14 years age group.

Children are the future pillars of society and need a loving and secure atmosphere where to develop and reach their full potential and thus grow into responsible adults. By denying them, they can make a valuable contribution to the success of society and the nation as a whole. However, they are and have always been one of the most vulnerable groups in society because they are underaged and dependent for their survival and development.

In India, children are the future pillars of society. The rich and poor divide is visible in such occupations is high. These children are not allowed to continue their studies because of poverty and greed. By doing so, they can make a valuable contribution to the success of society and the nation as a whole. However, they are and have always been one of the most vulnerable groups in society because they are underaged and dependent for their survival and development.
The proposed intervention “Community based Child Care” aims to mobilize and facilitate communities to take an active role in the planning, implementation and monitoring of child health and education programs implemented by the government. As a consequence, communities would be empowered to ensure equal access of health and education services to all the children in the intervention area.

Education, protection, and health are the three focus areas which essentially constitute the core of children’s well-being. Education is essential for stimulating and developing the physical and cognitive capacities of children. The intervention works towards ensuring that all the children in the intervention area are enrolled, retained, and participate in schooling from pre-school up to the age of 18 years.

This initiative addresses the cases of child labor and creates child labor free villages in the project area. The project works towards ensuring accessibility and availability of health and nutrition services for both mothers and children including antenatal, delivery and postnatal care for mothers, neonatal, infants and immunization up to 5 years of age.

In 2014, with the help of Rourkela Social Service Society, parents were educated and sensitized towards the importance of education and other development issues of the village. Roslin’s mother participated in one of those awareness camps and realized the importance of education, which can help her children lead better lives in the future. She also sensitized Roslin’s father towards the importance of education and how migrating is affecting the education of their children. Finally, the family decided not to migrate with children. Hanman decided to migrate alone for a certain period and would frequently visit the village and family. Children would stay in the village with their mother and continue their education.

Realizing the importance of education for her children, Sunita provides adequate care and support to her daughter Roslin and her son-in-law Hanman. She motivates and guides them at home to accomplish their tasks. Sunita is also a leading member of the village committee that mobilizes other tribal parents and children on education and health. Hanman is now regular at school and is performing well. He is doing well in academics and extracurricular activities like drawing, singing, debate and craft work. He has also participated in cluster level camps organized by school departments and performed very well.

Roslin’s – Twinkling Star of a Migrant Family

Roslin Lakda, a 10-year-old girl, is the eldest daughter of Hanman and Sunita Lakda of remote tribal village Kudabira under Solai Grampanchayat in Gurundia block of Sundargarh district. Hanman is a poor migrant laborer, having only 3 acres of agricultural land which is hilly and less productive. To manage the family needs, Hanman migrates to other districts of Odisha to work as a mason for a period of 8 months in a year. Roslin has to migrate with her family frequently to different parts of Odisha which affects her education.

I. COMMUNITY ACTION INVIGORATED HOPE WITHIN DROPOUT GIRL CHILD

Kalpana Kisan is a fifteen-year-old daughter of Suru and Fulmani Kisan. The poor tribal family lives in Brahmani Basa village under Gurundia block in Sundargarh district of Odisha. They possess only one acre of agricultural land and are mostly dependent on wage work round the year. Seeing his family’s situation, Kalpana’s elder brother Rajendra moved to Bangalore to look for work. Now, he is employed in a bread factory and is a daily wage earner.

In 2014, with the help of Rourkela Social Service Society, parents were educated and sensitized towards the importance of education and other development issue of the village. Roslin’s mother participated in one of those awareness camps and realized the importance of education, which can help her children lead better lives in the future. She also sensitized Roslin’s father towards the importance of education and how migrating is affecting the education of their children. Finally, the family decided not to migrate with children. Hanman decided to migrate alone for a certain period and would frequently visit the village and family. Children would stay in the village with their mother and continue their education.

Realizing the importance of education for her children, Sunita provides adequate care and support to her daughter Roslin and her son-in-law Hanman. She motivates and guides them at home to accomplish their tasks. Sunita is also a leading member of the village committee that mobilizes other tribal parents and children on education and health. Hanman is now regular at school and is performing well. He is doing well in academics and extracurricular activities like drawing, singing, debate and craft work. He has also participated in cluster level camps organized by school departments and performed very well.

Roslin’s – Twinkling Star of a Migrant Family

Roslin Lakda, a 10-year-old girl, is the eldest daughter of Hanman and Sunita Lakda of remote tribal village Kudabira under Solai Grampanchayat in Gurundia block of Sundargarh district. Hanman is a poor migrant laborer, having only 3 acres of agricultural land which is hilly and less productive. To manage the family needs, Hanman migrates to other districts of Odisha to work as a mason for a period of 8 months in a year. Roslin has to migrate with her family frequently to different parts of Odisha which affects her education.

In 2014, with the help of Rourkela Social Service Society, parents were educated and sensitized towards the importance of education and other development issue of the village. Roslin’s mother participated in one of those awareness camps and realized the importance of education, which can help her children lead better lives in the future. She also sensitized Roslin’s father towards the importance of education and how migrating is affecting the education of their children. Finally, the family decided not to migrate with children. Hanman decided to migrate alone for a certain period and would frequently visit the village and family. Children would stay in the village with their mother and continue their education.

Realizing the importance of education for her children, Sunita provides adequate care and support to her daughter Roslin and her son-in-law Hanman. She motivates and guides them at home to accomplish their tasks. Sunita is also a leading member of the village committee that mobilizes other tribal parents and children on education and health. Hanman is now regular at school and is performing well. He is doing well in academics and extracurricular activities like drawing, singing, debate and craft work. He has also participated in cluster level camps organized by school departments and performed very well.

Roslin’s – Twinkling Star of a Migrant Family

Roslin Lakda, a 10-year-old girl, is the eldest daughter of Hanman and Sunita Lakda of remote tribal village Kudabira under Solai Grampanchayat in Gurundia block of Sundargarh district. Hanman is a poor migrant laborer, having only 3 acres of agricultural land which is hilly and less productive. To manage the family needs, Hanman migrates to other districts of Odisha to work as a mason for a period of 8 months in a year. Roslin has to migrate with her family frequently to different parts of Odisha which affects her education.

In 2014, with the help of Rourkela Social Service Society, parents were educated and sensitized towards the importance of education and other development issue of the village. Roslin’s mother participated in one of those awareness camps and realized the importance of education, which can help her children lead better lives in the future. She also sensitized Roslin’s father towards the importance of education and how migrating is affecting the education of their children. Finally, the family decided not to migrate with children. Hanman decided to migrate alone for a certain period and would frequently visit the village and family. Children would stay in the village with their mother and continue their education.

Realizing the importance of education for her children, Sunita provides adequate care and support to her daughter Roslin and her son-in-law Hanman. She motivates and guides them at home to accomplish their tasks. Sunita is also a leading member of the village committee that mobilizes other tribal parents and children on education and health. Hanman is now regular at school and is performing well. He is doing well in academics and extracurricular activities like drawing, singing, debate and craft work. He has also participated in cluster level camps organized by school departments and performed very well.

Roslin’s – Twinkling Star of a Migrant Family

Roslin Lakda, a 10-year-old girl, is the eldest daughter of Hanman and Sunita Lakda of remote tribal village Kudabira under Solai Grampanchayat in Gurundia block of Sundargarh district. Hanman is a poor migrant laborer, having only 3 acres of agricultural land which is hilly and less productive. To manage the family needs, Hanman migrates to other districts of Odisha to work as a mason for a period of 8 months in a year. Roslin has to migrate with her family frequently to different parts of Odisha which affects her education.

In 2014, with the help of Rourkela Social Service Society, parents were educated and sensitized towards the importance of education and other development issue of the village. Roslin’s mother participated in one of those awareness camps and realized the importance of education, which can help her children lead better lives in the future. She also sensitized Roslin’s father towards the importance of education and how migrating is affecting the education of their children. Finally, the family decided not to migrate with children. Hanman decided to migrate alone for a certain period and would frequently visit the village and family. Children would stay in the village with their mother and continue their education.

Realizing the importance of education for her children, Sunita provides adequate care and support to her daughter Roslin and her son-in-law Hanman. She motivates and guides them at home to accomplish their tasks. Sunita is also a leading member of the village committee that mobilizes other tribal parents and children on education and health. Hanman is now regular at school and is performing well. He is doing well in academics and extracurricular activities like drawing, singing, debate and craft work. He has also participated in cluster level camps organized by school departments and performed very well.
WITH SUPPORT FROM ALL FAMILY MEMBERS AND CBCC, KALPANA IS PURSUING HER STUDIES SERIOUSLY. SHE WANTS TO BE A NURSE IN THE FUTURE TO SERVE PATIENTS OF POOR FAMILIES.

Kalpana, after completing her primary education in her own village in 2013, took admission in class 6th in Upper Primary school of her home and she was the only girl from her village to walk to school daily. Her brother supports all her educational expenses and is now planning to buy her a bi-cycle for her travel.

It was almost after two years when CBCC team found Kalpana as a dropout school during a survey. She was motivated to send Kalpana back to school. Meanwhile, another girl from the neighboring village started going to the same school crossing Kalpana’s village. CBCC team members made arrangements for both girls to go together. Kalpana passed back school in class 7th in 2014 and is now going to school regularly. Her brother supports all her educational expenses and is now planning to buy her a bi-cycle for her travel.

With support from all family members and CBCC, Kalpana is pursuing her studies seriously. She wants to be a nurse in the future to serve patients of poor families.

III. A SEMI ORPHAN DROPOUT GIRL MAINSTREAMED WITH FORMAL EDUCATION

Aphita Bhengra, a girl of 14 years from village Brahmanbasa in Sundargarh district, was a dropout school child who was out of school for a year. The effort put in rebuilding a life of a tribal child was seriously taken care of. His parents also did not see any improvement in him. Also, due to lack of awareness on importance of education, they involved Janesh in domestic activities. It was only after a year, when a member of the children’s club and a CBCC staff visited his village and motivated Janesh to return to school. He was taken to a new building and introduced to creative activities of learnings that motivated Janesh to join school again. He also received uniform, textbooks and midday meals from the school that made him regular at school. Now he is in class 5th but struggling to develop his competencies. His teachers and CBCC volunteers are helping him improve his marks in academics.

IV. CREATIVE ACTIVITIES AND QUALITY EDUCATION LEAD TO RETENTION OF CHILDREN

There are total 37 students in Gobargoti New Primary school in Gobargoti village under Kumbhangam Gram Panchayat in Daringbadi Block of Ranchi district. All children are from tribal community, who spend most of the time in forest. Only 30 to 32 % children come to school regularly. After intervention by the CBCC program by Catholic Charities, community awareness programs were conducted and a children club was formed in the village to generate interest and poor pressure on children for their regularity at school.

Facilitator of CBCC took her to school and enrolled her in class 3th. She now goes to school regularly along with a cousin who is performing well in her class. Facilitator of CBCC, Kalpana is pursuing her studies seriously.

As a result all children that were enrolled in class 7th in Upper Primary school, Jhaliadihi, Block of Kandhamal district. All children are from tribal community, who spend most of the time in forest. Only 10 to 12 % children come to school regularly. After intervention by the CBCC program, Manoj participated in the meetings and got himself involved in the skill development programs. This interested and motivated him to participate in similar activities at the school. Now he goes to school regularly and is performing well in drawing, painting and other creative activities. His level of competencies have increased and he dreams to be a teacher someday.

V. JANESH BACK TO SCHOOL AFTER ONE YEAR

Janesh Sabar, son of Saula and Marry Sabar, is a 12 year old boy of village Lamba Kian in Daringbadi Block of Ranchi district. He lost interest to go to school after class 4th due to lack of motivation and proper infrastructure. His parents also did not see any improvement in him. Also, due to lack of awareness on importance of education, they involved Janesh in domestic activities. It was only after a year, when a member of the children’s club and a CBCC staff visited his village and motivated Janesh to return to school. He was taken to a new building and introduced to creative activities of learnings that motivated Janesh to join school again. He also received uniform, textbooks and midday meals from the school that made him regular at school. Now he is in class 5th but struggling to develop his competencies. His teachers and CBCC volunteers are helping him improve his marks in academics. The effort put in rebuilding a life of a tribal child who was out of school for a year.

He would only go to school after being pres- sured by his parents, but on the way he would disappear and roam around the forest. Later, return home in the evening pretending to have resumed from school. After the formation of the children’s club in the village by the CBCC program, Manoj participated in the meetings and got himself involved in the skill development programs. This interested and motivated him to participate in similar activities at the school. Now he goes to school regularly and is performing well in drawing, painting and other creative activities. His level of competencies have increased and he dreams to be a teacher someday.
During a survey, carried out by SWAD under CBCC program, it was found that 4 children from upper primary and high school have dropped out. Some of them have joined their family members to earn daily income. CBCC team conducted meetings with parents and counseled the children personally on importance of education. These children were also included in the children’s club of the village and were motivated by their peers. Further CBCC team coordinated with the concerned school authority of Damadua High School and CBCC program, it was found that 4 children from upper primary and high school have dropped out. Some of them have joined their family members to earn daily income. CBCC team conducted meetings with parents and counseled the children personally on importance of education. These children were also included in the children’s club of the village and were motivated by their peers. Further CBCC team coordinated with the concerned school authority of Damadua High School and CBCC team members of village SMC and community. Finally his father gave up alcohol and began working in Damadua mission high school. Jalendra is now in class 6th at mission high school and is performing well in class.

APART FROM ENROLLING THE DROPOUTS, THE PROJECT TEAM ALSO PROVIDED TUTORIAL SUPPORT TO THESE CHILDREN TO INCREASE THEIR LEVEL OF COMPETENCIES, SO THEY CAN PERFORM WELL IN CLASS.

vi. CBCC BUILT NEW HOPES AMONG CHILD LABOUR

Followings are the details of the children followed up their mainstream education.

i. Birendra Adhikari, 15 year old son of Arjun and Marina Adhikari of Tal Damadua village, left school after class 6th due to poor family conditions. He moved to Delhi with other village people and worked in a textile factory as a labourer. He returned to the village in 2016 but did not attend to go to school after detachment from education for 2 years CBCC team members of village SMC motivated him to pursue education. He has now been mainstreamed at Fikir Mohan High School, Damadua in class 8th.

ii. Samiya Adhikari, 11 year old son of Iswar Chandra and Kanti Adhikari of Tal Damadua village left school after class 6th and moved to Delhi to work as a wage earner. Two years he returned to the village in 2016 and was motivated by the CBCC program. He is now studying in class 6th in Fikir Mohan High School, Damadua.

iii. Kanha Patra, 15 year old son of Kalubah and Prabhu Patra left school after class 5th due to poor family conditions and worked in a hotel at Paralakhemundi district head quarter. CBCC team met him with his relatives and counseled him to return to school. He returned home and is now continuing his education in class 6th at Mission high school Damadua. He is re-answering his life by pursuing his education with support from CBCC.

iv. Jalandra Parichha, 15 year old son of Momenta and Runu of Tal Damadua village dropped his studies at class 6th at Mission high school and is performing well in class 6th at Mission high school, Damadua.

access to health and nutritional services through community action

i. REALIZING THE BENEFIT OF IMMUNIZATION

Mira Mallick is a 42 year old wife of Nildi Mallick, of village Ralidipanka under Damadua Grampanchayat in Mohana block of Gajapati district. The family has 6 children between the age group of 4 months to 12 years. The parents were completely unaware about immunization and nutritional needs of children and pregnant women. Hence, no immunization has been administered to previous 5 children. But after the intervention by CBCC program, sensitization programs in the village by SWAD and through awareness programs, the family realized the importance of immunization. Also, with the help of CBCC program in the village since 2014, immunization and nutrition programs have been implemented. Mira got the benefits of immunization and nutrition during her last pregnancy and after the birth of her last child, who is four months old now.

ii. COMMUNITY ACTION TO REGULARIZE ICDS SERVICE

Patra left school after class 6th and moved to Delhi to work as a daily wage earner. After intervention by the CBCC project, his father and his brother were counseled by the project team and community. Finally his father gave up alcohol and began working in Damadua mission high school. Jalendra is now in class 6th at mission high school and is performing well in class. Apart from enrolling the dropouts, the project team also provided tutorial support to these children to increase their level of competencies, so they can perform well in class.

Followings are the details of the children mainstreamed:

i. Birendra Adhikari, 15 year old son of Arjun and Marina Adhikari of Tal Damadua village, left school after class 6th due to poor family conditions. He moved to Delhi with other village people and worked in a textile factory as a labourer. He returned to the village in 2016 but did not attend to go to school after detachment from education for 2 years CBCC team members of village SMC motivated him to pursue education. He has now been mainstreamed at Fikir Mohan High School, Damadua in class 8th.

ii. Samiya Adhikari, 11 year old son of Iswar Chandra and Kanti Adhikari of Tal Damadua village left school after class 6th and moved to Delhi to work as a wage earner. Two years he returned to the village in 2016 and was motivated by the CBCC program. He is now studying in class 6th in Fikir Mohan High School, Damadua.

iii. Kanha Patra, 15 year old son of Kalubah and Prabhu Patra left school after class 5th due to poor family conditions and worked in a hotel at Paralakhemundi district head quarter. CBCC team met him with his relatives and counseled him to return to school. He returned home and is now continuing his education in class 6th at Mission high school Damadua. He is re-answering his life by pursuing his education with support from CBCC.

iv. Jalandra Parichha, 15 year old son of Momenta and Runu of Tal Damadua village dropped his studies at class 6th at Mission high school and is performing well in class 6th at Mission high school, Damadua.
NATION FOR A HEALTHY CHILD

III. REALIZED THE NEED OF IMMUNIZATION AND THE NUTRITIONAL NEEDS OF CHILDREN

Dulari was in the sixth month of her pregnancy when the CBCC team found out that her child was not receiving proper immunization or nutrition during their birth. The parents now have a healthy baby of 10 months. The parents are taking proper care of immunization and nutrition during the post-natal period. The immunization center is near and Dulari always has food and transportation to reach the center. They are happy with their child.

The baby also receives proper nutrition and after birth, which led to the death of their two elder children. But Kanchmi did not bother about immunization during the post-natal period. The immunization center is near and Kanchmi introduced her to the nutritional center and introduced her to the nutritional services available under ICDS program. They also cautioned her to stay away from their own tribal beliefs and practices.

The family is grateful to the CBCC team, for guiding them and helping them understand the importance of immunization and the nutritional needs of children.

Sixteen years old Akshya Nag, is the only son of Bijaya and Pratima Nag of village Laxmi Grampanchayat of Kandhamal district. Akshya's father is a daily wage earner and takes care of Akshya's education. He has a lot of hope for his son's future. Unfortunately, during his maternal health examination in 2014, Akshya faced a severe road accident. His right leg suffered fracture at two years and six months – who received proper immunization and nutrition during their birth, is quite healthy these days.

The family is grateful to the CBCC team, for guiding them and helping them understand the importance of immunization and the nutritional needs of children.

IV. IMMUNIZATION SAVED LIFE OF OUR KID

The parents are taking proper care of immunization and nutrition during their birth. The baby also receives proper nutrition and after birth, which led to the death of their two elder children.

After intervention, the CBCC team found that Dulari was in the sixth month of her pregnancy. They counseled the parents on pre-natal care and immunization. Dulari was in the sixth month of her pregnancy during her last pregnancy. The baby now has two months old and is healthy. Parents are now aware of the difference in development of their two elder children who did not receive proper immunization or nutrition during their birth. The daughter is two years old and the son is six years old – both are facing health issues – anemia and malnutrition. The baby now of two months - who received proper immunization and nutrition during birth, is quite healthy these days.

The CBCC team is supporting the parents for a complete medical checkup of the two elder children.

services available under ICDS program. They also cautioned her to stay away from their own tribal beliefs and practices.

The family is grateful to the CBCC team, for guiding them and helping them understand the importance of immunization and the nutritional needs of children.

Sixteen years old Akshya Nag, is the only son of Bijaya and Pratima Nag of village Laxmi Grampanchayat of Kandhamal district. Akshya's father is a daily wage earner and takes care of Akshya's education. He has a lot of hope for his son's future. Unfortunately, during his maternal health examination in 2014, Akshya faced a severe road accident. His right leg suffered fracture at two years and six months – who received proper immunization and nutrition during their birth, is quite healthy these days.

The family is grateful to the CBCC team, for guiding them and helping them understand the importance of immunization and the nutritional needs of children.

IV. IMMUNIZATION SAVED LIFE OF OUR KID

The parents are taking proper care of immunization and nutrition during their birth. The baby also receives proper nutrition and after birth, which led to the death of their two elder children.

After intervention, the CBCC team found that Dulari was in the sixth month of her pregnancy. They counseled the parents on pre-natal care and immunization. Dulari was in the sixth month of her pregnancy during her last pregnancy. The baby now has two months old and is healthy. Parents are now aware of the difference in development of their two elder children who did not receive proper immunization or nutrition during their birth. The daughter is two years old and the son is six years old – both are facing health issues – anemia and malnutrition. The baby now of two months - who received proper immunization and nutrition during birth, is quite healthy these days.

The family is grateful to the CBCC team, for guiding them and helping them understand the importance of immunization and the nutritional needs of children.

Sixteen years old Akshya Nag, is the only son of Bijaya and Pratima Nag of village Laxmi Grampanchayat of Kandhamal district. Akshya's father is a daily wage earner and takes care of Akshya's education. He has a lot of hope for his son's future. Unfortunately, during his maternal health examination in 2014, Akshya faced a severe road accident. His right leg suffered fracture at two years and six months – who received proper immunization and nutrition during their birth, is quite healthy these days.

The family is grateful to the CBCC team, for guiding them and helping them understand the importance of immunization and the nutritional needs of children.

IV. IMMUNIZATION SAVED LIFE OF OUR KID

The parents are taking proper care of immunization and nutrition during their birth. The baby also receives proper nutrition and after birth, which led to the death of their two elder children.

After intervention, the CBCC team found that Dulari was in the sixth month of her pregnancy. They counseled the parents on pre-natal care and immunization. Dulari was in the sixth month of her pregnancy during her last pregnancy. The baby now has two months old and is healthy. Parents are now aware of the difference in development of their two elder children who did not receive proper immunization or nutrition during their birth. The daughter is two years old and the son is six years old – both are facing health issues – anemia and malnutrition. The baby now of two months - who received proper immunization and nutrition during birth, is quite healthy these days.

The family is grateful to the CBCC team, for guiding them and helping them understand the importance of immunization and the nutritional needs of children.
Banita Mandal is an adolescent girl of 17 years from Turenpani village under Paniganda Grampanchayat. Her father Philip and mother Rayal Mandal are daily wage earners. Banita could not continue her education after class 7th due to poor family conditions. In 2010, she began to support her family by earning daily wages. CBCC project team identified Banita and took her to participate in the Atma Nijukti Mela employment camp run by the government. She was selected for training in tailoring. She completed her training in Chennai with a monthly stipend support of Rs. 5000/- along with food and stay by the government. She now plans to start her own tailoring unit in the village to generate income and employment opportunities for other women.

Another five adolescent girls from the same village are working in a textile company in Chennai after completing their training and earning upto Rs. 12000/- per month. Banita is grateful to the CBCC project team for giving her a new life.

Acting district, which comes under North Bengal is famous for three “Ts”- Tea, Tourism and Timber. Amidst these three very progressive social milieu there also exist social evils like Human Trafficking, child labour, exploitation of tea garden community etc.

Kalimpong is one of the largest sub-divisions of the Darjeeling District. The sub-division consists of Kalimpong I, Kalimpong II & Gorubathan development Blocks with its headquarters at Kalimpong Town. These three blocks contain 42 Gram Panchayats.

Caritas India has been implementing Child Rights programme with special focus to anti-child labour in collaboration with two local partners namely Amulya (DSOS) and Bal Saraswati Akshaya (BSA) since 2013. The project areas where the organizations are working are located in three different blocks i.e. Kalimpong I & II & Ghoom Panchayats and a few Gram Panchayats like Pompak, Sukma and Balbhum Panchayats which is under Kalimpong Block II. The partners (Amulya, Gorubathan, Nim and Salam Gram Panchayats under Ghoomathan Block) Child Labour is rampant in the areas and Caritas India and local organizations wanted to address this issue through holistic convergence approach/Model in collaboration with the above two organizations.

The project “Moving towards Child Labour Free Society” was formally initiated from the year 2013 with the objective to engage with Government administrations and advocate for child labour free society. This project began working with schools, gram panchayats and other state institutions by creating linkages with community based child safety mechanisms and network with NGOs and key stakeholders mobilizing their support for addressing the issue in a concerted manner. Technical support of PRATHAM Mumbai was also provided for enhancing quality impact of the programme.

District level network have been formed with 21 organisations which are known as “Darjeeling District Child Rights NGO Network (DISCRN)” in seven meeting District Child Protection Officer (DCPO) and Child Welfare Committee (CWC), the key advisory members are playing an active role.

One child friendly space in Police station is established in Kalimpong Town police station. In total 10 villages and 3 wards have been declared Child labour free areas in the programme operational areas in Darjeeling districts of West Bengal.
Based on the reports from a secret survey that was carried out on 27th December 2012, Child Release Officer and Secret Survey Volunteers conducted a rescue operation on 29th December 2012 on 16th and 17th Mile near Algarah, Kalimpong. The team found two children working as domestic help at 16th Mile. Village people also informed that the employer physically assaulted them.

On 29th December 2012, with assistance from Asst. Sub Inspector and two policemen, the team rescued Sunita Kachhu, a 12 year old girl from 16th mile and Rajesh Uraw, a 10 year old boy from Upper Payong Bisty, Kalimpong. Rajesh also informed that his younger brother - Jiwan Uraw was employed at 17th Mile. On the same day, his younger brother was also rescued from 17th Mile.

After the rescue, children were taken to the local police station to complete legal formalities. Since the Inspector-In-Charge was on VIP duty and the employer's pleaded BSA to pardon them, a GDE was lodged. The employers also submitted a written apology letter stating that they would not employ minors again. Since this was the first time BSA rescued minors from the domestic sector, they had to negotiate some terms. Children were then safely handed over to BSA for providing temporary shelter after procuring shelter order from Child Welfare Committee (CWC), Darjeeling. Once the children were brought to BSA, Sunita Kacchu and Rajesh Uraw decided to stay and study at BSA while Jiwan too has now returned to BSA to study.

On 17th July 2013, Darjeeling CHILDLINE Sub-Centre in Kalimpong received information about a 12 year old girl child named Nimkit Lepcha. She was employed as domestic help with Mrs. Sona Doma Lama (Poonam), a government teacher and a resident of B.L. Dixit Road, Kalimpong. CHILDLINE team visited the school where the child was studying and met her. According to the child's statement, she was brought home by Mrs. Sona Doma Lama when she was 5 years old. She belongs to Pemling, a remote village under Kalimpong Sub-division. Her employer had promised her that they would enroll her in school. Nimkit had to attend school as well as work in the house. The employer abused her verbally as well as physically. CHILDLINE team saw visible marks all over her face and hands. As per the school's record, the child's attendance was very low and her performance was very poor, as compared to other children.

On 17th July 2013 at 4:15 P.M, Child Release Officer of BSA along with Sub-Inspectors Bablu Roy, Romah Rai and Tirtha Gurung and Kumar Thapa from CHILDLINE Kalimpong visited the employer's house and rescued the child.
After the child was brought to Kalimpong Police Station, the Inspector in-charge ordered for a complete medical examination of the child, since there were visible scars on her face and other parts of the body. The medical report is still pending. However, the doctors confirmed that the bruises were caused by physical abuse and it has been noted.

A FIR was immediately lodged against the employer for violating The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act 1986 and Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act 2000. Child Welfare Committee (CWC) Darjeeling ordered the employer to allow the child to go to school. At present, the case is still under investigation. The child has handed over to her parents. She is attending a Government school in her village.

RESCUE FROM KALIMPONG TOWN
On 1st November 2013, Childline Kalimpong, received a call on the evening around 8:30, from CHILDLINE Collab. Siliguri. The caller informed that three minor children working in different restaurants in Kalimpong. Immediately, the team led by CRPO BSA prepared a plan to rescue these children.

On 2nd November 2013, rescue team along with the local Kalimpong police conducted a red flag search and rescued two minor labourers (12 year old girl and 10 year old boy) from a restaurant at 6 Mile Kalimpong, while the third child (7 year old boy) was rescued from a restaurant at Motor Stand in Kalimpong. Initial statements of the rescued children were recorded at the Kalimpong Police Station. After the medical checkup, CWC Darjeeling along with Child Release Officer and Child Protection Unit from World Vision Kalimpong, along with Child Release Officer and Child Welfare Committee (CWC) Darjeeling prepared a plan to rescue these children.

On 5th November 2013, Childline Kalimpong and Kullu District police along with Child Release Officer and Child Protection Unit from World Vision Kalimpong, rescued two minor girls – Namita Singh (11 years) and Priyanka Ram (10 years), who were trafficked by Maheshwar Singh to have developed a close bond with Bina Ram. The case is being handled by World Vision India, Kalimpong and later forwarded to BSA, seeking help to find the missing children.

MINOR TRAFFICKED VICTIMS
Child Release Officer from BSA along with Kalimpong Police, rescued two minor girls – Namita Singh (11 year) and Priyanka Ram (10 year) from Dharampur village of Kalimpong. They were being trafficked by Maheshwar Singh alias Master (23) to Anni village in Kullu District, Himachal Pradesh. The case was first being handled by World Vision India, Kalimpong but later forwarded to BSA, seeking help to find the missing children. Two minor children were missing from home since 21st October 2013. According to the information received, the girls were seen with Maheshwar Singh, who hails from Kullu. On 26th October 2013, local informer BSA informed that Maheshwar Singh tried to commit suicide because his employer for violating The Child Labour Act has ordered BSA to provide temporary shelter to the rescued children. After his recovery, the girls informed that they were taken to work as domestic workers. When they found out and tried to escape, their employer threatened to kill them. The police has filed a case against the accused for abduction with false promises of marriage under IPC Section 363 and 366. Since, no FIR was lodged in this Kalimpong Police Station, the accused was arrested and brought in the remand by a medical report of the girls at Kalimpong Sub Divisional Hospital. On 20th December 2013, Mr. C.N. Sherpa - SI of Kullu District Police was forwarded to the Kalimpong Police & BSA to make an investigation. In this case, both the girls have been safely handed over to their respective families and have gone back to their school.

CASE FROM PEDONG CHILD RIGHTS PROTECTION DESK
Two cases of child labour (1F & 7M) were reported at the Pedong Child Rights Protection Desk on 2nd December 2013. The complaint stated that these two children were kept as child labourers at one of the lapiz shop in Kattarey, Pedong. As soon as the case
was registered, block coordinator and child protection worker verified and confirmed the information. The team also met the children’s grandmother. She told them that the children’s parents were divorced. The father had moved to Gangtok to earn a living and the mother had left her children with the neighbours since she was unable to pay for the lodgings. The neighbour (shop owner) employed the children as child labourers.

On 24th December 2014, Child Release Officer along with the CPW, approached the employer with intentions to rescue the children in a polite manner and explained to him about the consequences of employing minor children. Children were rescued and sent to their grandmother. Later, the mother took custody of her children and moved to Gangtok, where she worked. She later visited Pedong on 1st February 2014 with the children. This case was presented before CWC Darjeeling, who then gave orders to BSA to provide temporary shelter to the children. Later, the children were moved to Little Angel’s Children’s Home which is located at Pedong G.P.

In their next follow up, CPW found out that the children were taken home by their mother for a holiday and have not returned home. After a week, CPW again visited their home at Kattarey Lower Dalep and found the boy to be staying with his grandmother’s while Tshering Doma, the daughter, was with her mother in Gangtok and was looking after her younger sister. CPW tried to trace the house in Gangtok but could not find it.

After a few days, CPW came to know, that the mother was unwell and was admitted at the Sub Divisional Hospital Kalimpong. On 2nd December 2014, a Social Worker from Kalimpong brought the children to BSA (Shelter Home). She encountered the children and their mother at Sub Divisional Hospital Kalimpong. She informed, the mother’s health was not good and she was unable to care for the children. As present, the children are staying at BSA and have been enrolled in good schools.

TWO CHILD LABOURERS RESCUED FROM DOMESTIC SECTOR KALIMPONG
On 31st January 2014, an unknown caller informed CRO about two minor girls, who were employed as child labourers at Ringkingpong Road, Kalimpong. With the help of Kalimpong Police, CRO along with CHILDLINE, conducted a raid and rescued Rani, 7 year old girl and Kavita, 12 year old girl.

After the rescue, Children informed that they were kept as domestic help. Their statements were noted and a FIR was lodged against the employer under the Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection) Act 2000 and the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act 1986. Child Welfare Committee Darjeeling was also informed and a shelter order was given to BSA. The children reside now at BSA.
MISSING GIRLS TRACED
On November 2014, a case of two missing girls (one minor) was referred to BSA. According to the information, the girls named Sita Kumari*, 16 years old and Aruna Moktan*, 19 years old, were missing from Kalimpong since 27th October 2014. Tej Kumar Thapa, Child Release Officer of BSA, immediately took action by collecting information from Kalimpong Police Station, Gossai Gaon (Kokrajhar) Police Station and meeting the girls parents. The information was shared with IMPULSE, a renowned NGO based out of Assam, which works on human trafficking. After days of search, a well-informed BSA informed the police that the girls were staying at a rented house in Salugara, Siliguri. Upon further investigation, the girls were rescued. The lady was arrested and taken to Kalimpong Police Station. After explaining all formalities, the elder girl was handed over to her parents while the minor girl was referred to BSA ChildLabour Rehabilitation Centre for temporary shelter, following the orders from Child Welfare Committee (CWC) Darjeeling.

On 20th November 2014, BSA conducted a mass raid and rescued three minor children, working as child labourers in hotels of Kirney, under Melli Check Post along NH 31. Acting on the same information received on the helpline, BSA workers conducted the operation, with the help of Police from Melli Out Post, Melli. The rescued children fall under the age group of 9-14 and are mostly from Duars and other outside areas. These children were promised good education, in return for the domestic help they provide. However, the children informed that they were fooled and were made to work for 11 hours a day. A FIR has been lodged against the owners of the Hotel, under Juvenile Justice Act 2000 and Amend ment 2006, Child Labour (Prohibition & regula tion) Act 1986.

After the rescue, the cases were reported to Child Welfare Committee (CWC), Darjeeling and BSA Child Rehabilitation Centre in Kalimpong. The children were taken to Kalimpong Police Station, where they were rescued. The lady was arrested and taken to Kalimpong Police Station. After explaining all formalities, the elder girl was handed over to her parents while the minor girl was referred to BSA Child Labour Rehabilitation Centre for temporary shelter, following the orders from Child Welfare Committee (CWC) Darjeeling.

LET THEM FREE, LET THEM FLY
On 20th November 2014, an unknown caller informed about two minor boys, Santosh Khenga, 12 years and Ajay Induwar, 9 years. They were found in a distressed situation at a Motor Stand, Kalimpong. At once, the Child Release Officer and a member from CHILD LINE Kalimpong Sub-center, reached the spot and rescued the children. They were taken to Kalimpong Police Station. Children informed that police and BSA staff that they were brought to Kalimpong by their uncle Santosh Gupta from Samuktala, Alipurduar, Jalpaiguri, and were promised good education, in return for the domestic help they provide. However, the children informed that they were fooled and were made to work for 12 hours a day. A FIR has been lodged against the owners of the Hotel, under Juvenile Justice Act 2000 and Amendment 2006, Child Labour (Prohibition & regulation) Act 1986.

After the rescue, the cases were reported to Child Welfare Committee (CWC), Darjeeling and BSA Child Rehabilitation Centre was ordered to provide temporary shelter to the children. The children have now been mainstreamed into formal schools.

MISSING GIRLS TRACED
On 12th March 2014, an unknown caller informed about two minor girls, one minor was referred to BSA. According to the information, the girls named Sita Kumari*, 16 years old and Aruna Moktan*, 19 years old, were missing from Kalimpong since 27th October 2014. Tej Kumar Thapa, Child Release Officer of BSA, immediately took action by collecting information from Kalimpong Police Station, Gossai Gaon (Kokrajhar) Police Station and meeting the girls parents. The information was shared with IMPULSE, a renowned NGO based out of Assam, which works on human trafficking. After days of search, a well-informed BSA informed the police that the girls were staying at a rented house in Salugara, Siliguri. Upon any further delay, Tej Kumar along with the local police and Aruna’s parents, reached the location and rescued the girls from the rented house. Later, the missing girls informed that a 30 year old woman named Kabita Mundu* from Gaon Gaan Rakshakpur District of Assam, had approached them with promises of providing them good jobs in Delhi. They also informed that on 28th November 2014, they were to leave for their destination, but the same night they were rescued. The lady was arrested and taken to Kalimpong Police Station. After explaining all formalities, the elder girl was handed over to her parents while the minor girl was referred to BSA ChildLabour Rehabilitation Centre for temporary shelter, following the orders from Child Welfare Committee (CWC) Darjeeling.

On 27th November 2014, on CWC’s, Darjeeling order, Sita Kumari was safely handed over to her parents.

RESCUE AT PEDONG
On 8th December 2014, BSA, with the help of Pedong Police, rescued two child labourers from Pedong Bazaar. Members of the Vigi lance Committee of Pedong also participated as volunteers during the rescue operation. Children informed BSA, that one of the boys was working on a domestic help while the other was working in a shop. Their employer had also enrolled them in a nearby Primary School but their attendance was irregular. As soon as the case was registered at Pedong

MINOR CHILDREN RESCUED FROM KIRNEY, MELLI
On 20th December 2014, BSA conducted a mass raid and rescued three minor children, working as child labourers in hotels of Kirney, under Melli Check Post along NH 31. Acting on the same information received on the helpline, BSA workers conducted the operation, with the help of Police from Melli Out Post, Melli. The rescued children fell under the age group of 9-14 and are mostly from Duars and other outside areas. These children were promised good education, in return for the domestic help they provide. However, the children informed that they were fooled and were made to work for 12 hours a day. A FIR has been lodged against the owners of the Hotel, under Juvenile Justice Act 2000 and Amendment 2006, Child Labour (Prohibition & regulation) Act 1986.

After the rescue, the cases were reported to Child Welfare Committee (CWC), Darjeeling and BSA Child Rehabilitation Centre was ordered to provide temporary shelter to the children. The children have now been mainstreamed into formal schools.
OUT OF BONDAGES

In January 2015, a 13-year-old girl was found running away from her home because her drunken father had beaten her up. The case was also informed to CWC Darjeeling who gave an assurance to take immediate action in rescuing the children. A statement 30/24, given by the children, was noted at the police station and a medical checkup was done at the Kalimpong Sub-divisional Hospital.

A FIR was lodged against the two employers under the Child Labour (Promotion and Protection) Act 1986 and the Juvenile Justice Care and Protection Act 2000. Following orders from CWC, children were brought to BSA Child Labour Rehabilitation Centre for temporary shelter. Children were now at BSA Child Labour Rehabilitation Centre.

Two of the Child Protection Worker from Pedong reached the spot and took the girl to the nearest Police Check Post. At the Check Post, GDE was lodged. While interrogating with her at the station, she informed that she had been working as domestic work. While interacting with her, GDE found her very suspicious. Immediately, they brought the child to BSA. Initially, the child did not talk about the organization that she was from Bihar and was looking for a job. Since her story was not clear, later she informed that she had been working as domestic work. She was not given proper food and water. She was forced to not go to the nearest school.

The child was informed that the child’s school was in Kalimpong. She informed that her parents are from Ranchi and her parents are dead. The mother of the child told that she was brought up by her father. Even her father living in the same house did not know about her. She was not given any milk, food or medicine. The child informed that her father had beaten her up. The next day, along with the employer’s son and the employer, she was taken to the nearest Police Station. After properly explaining the seriousness of the offense in a friendly manner. In spite of this, employer ignored the information and it was confirmed that the employer did not give any food, water or medicine to the child.

raIn and rescue at AhAlAy 6, 27

AABUSE CASE

Two local people from St. Augustine’s School at Kalimpong informed Police that a 6-year-old girl was looking for a job. While interacting with her, GDE found it very suspicious. Immediately, she brought the child to BSA. The child informed that she was working as a domestic worker in that house since a year. The owners had promised to send her to school but did not do anything as they had no bank account and deposit the money. They had assured her that she will not have to work for two years but only need to accompany the employer and do some less work. The girl informed that she did not want to work and wanted to go back to school. At present, the child is staying now at BSA for temporary shelter.

ABUSE CASE

During the month of February & March 2014, GDE was informed that the child was very helpless and needed proper care. Immediately, she brought the child to BSA. The child informed that she was working as domestic work by a woman at Sombarey Market and rescued the 12-year-old girl child. During the interrogation, the mother of the child informed that the child was brought up by her parents and she is from Ranchi. She informed that the child had been missing and she is from the State of Sikkim. The case was transferred from CWC Darjeeling to Sikkim CWC. Then the child was taken by the CWC to produce before the Sikkim CWC. At present, the child is under the care of Sikkim CWC and is staying at the helper home at Sikkim.

Two of the Child Protection Worker from Pedong reached the spot and took the girl to the nearest Police Check Post. At the Check Post, GDE was lodged. While interrogating with her at the station, she informed that she was from Ranchi and she was working as a domestic worker in that house since a year. The employers had promised to send her to the nearest school but they did not do anything as they had no bank account and deposit the money. They had assured her that she will not have to work for two years but only need to accompany the employer and do some less work. The girl informed that she did not want to work and wanted to go back to school. At present, the child is staying now at BSA for temporary shelter.

Two of the Child Protection Worker from Pedong reached the spot and took the girl to the nearest Police Check Post. At the Check Post, GDE was lodged. While interrogating with her at the station, she informed that she was from Ranchi and she was working as a domestic worker in that house since a year. The employers had promised to send her to the nearest school but they did not do anything as they had no bank account and deposit the money. They had assured her that she will not have to work for two years but only need to accompany the employer and do some less work. The girl informed that she did not want to work and wanted to go back to school. At present, the child is staying now at BSA for temporary shelter.
In Bihar state the Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) are 29th and 31st respectively, constituting 17.1% of the total population of (2011 census of the State. The Musahar tribal community forms one of the least in terms of SC population. According to Census 2010 and 2011, literacy rates in Bihar remains amongst the lowest in the country, whereas the Musahar community has shown the lowest literacy level at 30% for female literacy. Without substantial improvements in educational attainment, especially amongst women, their socio-economic development and improvements are unattainable to be achieved in the Musahar communities.

Responding to this grim situation, project ‘Roshni’ meaning the light, aims to dispel darkness and give way to hope for development amongst the Musahar communities.

Complementary Education Centres (CEC) are established to support the students with disabilities in their studies. Regular monitoring is maintained by the teachers by way of conducting monthly tests. Around 30 CECs are functional in the respective villages. Peer group of students having studies in schools is formed, called ‘Roshni Tu’ to set as examples for other students. Samitis or groups are formed after the mothers and fathers, called ‘Mata Samiti’ and ‘Pita Samiti’ to share their experiences in their transformation and realizing the importance of female education.

The rapport building of the project staff with the local schools has enabled them to keep a check on the attendance and other changes in their life. These children in the community are reviewing the benefits as enablers under the RTE Act and to report those cases where they are not secured.

Formation of School Management Committees (SMCs) and Village Education Committees – This objective intends to give the project staff a platform to work in the community. Parents being part of SMC and VEC, are provided a platform to interact and share their views with the teachers by way of conducting monthly meetings. Parents of the children are also encouraged and motivated to monitor the education status of their children and attend Parents’ Teacher’s Meetings. Developing capacity of existing teachers in schools and to newly recruited Para-teachers in the villages in order to improve mainstream education and provide effective catch-up training to communities.

Intermediate Results

Through a change in Behavioural COMMU- nization, female animator from the same community who employed as teachers conducted public meetings. Nukkad Natak, one-on-one interaction, and sachivalay meetings to encourage the parents and community at large to send girls to schools, and avail of the benefits under the RTE Act. Teachers are also appointed from same community or villages benefits under the RTE Act. Teachers are also encouraged to send girls to schools, and avail of the benefits under the RTE Act.

Roshni Tu helps girls and boys to continue their studies. Around 30 CECs are functional in the respective villages.

Rupa is one among seven daughters in her family. She hails from a village named Harincolin in Purnea district in Bihar. With no stable family income and many mouths to feed, education was of secondary importance to her family. With her dedication, Rupa could complete her education up to grade eight. However, the poor socio-economic circumstances of the family forced her to marry at the age of 12. Rupa had to face the harsh reality of being a child bride. In the year 2013-14, when the vacancy for the post of a teacher arose in the Govt. Child Education School through Central India, Rupa applied and qualified for the same.

Rupa along with the programme has motivated her to continue her studies. Rupas’ story, despite the opposition from her family and relatives, and besides bearing a child, she made attempts to get enrolled in Grade IX. She put up valiantly with several systemic hurdles and dismantled the obstacles of the officials due to her dedication. When she wrote a written permission from the DDO (District Education Officer) for her admission as the date of admission had lapsed. Finally, she received the written permission and is continuing with her studies, whilst also serving as a teacher under the Education Department.

XI. When asked about her hardwork and dedication towards highlighting the issue, she says, “I couldn’t conceal the pride and happiness they felt and exclaimed that their daughters, parents of both girls have become the role models in their respective villages. Peer group of students having studies in schools is formed, called ‘Roshni Tu’ to set as examples for other students.”

Role Model

Rupas story is an inspiration to all the girls in the same socio-economic situation. Rupas story has motivated every girl to fight for their right to education, but also right to live a dignified life.

Story of Rupa

Rupa is one among seven daughters in her family. She hails from a village named Harincolin in Purnea district in Bihar. With no stable family income and many mouths to feed, education was of secondary importance to her family. With her dedication, Rupa could complete her education up to grade eight. However, the poor socio-economic circumstances of the family forced her to marry at the age of 12. Rupa had to face the harsh reality of being a child bride. In the year 2013-14, when the vacancy for the post of a teacher arose in the Govt. Child Education School through Central India, Rupa applied and qualified for the same.

Rupa along with the programme has motivated her to continue her studies. Rupas’ story, despite the opposition from her family and relatives, and besides bearing a child, she made attempts to get enrolled in Grade IX. She put up valiantly with several systemic hurdles and dismantled the obstacles of the officials due to her dedication. When she wrote a written permission from the DDO (District Education Officer) for her admission as the date of admission had lapsed. Finally, she received the written permission and is continuing with her studies, whilst also serving as a teacher under the Education Department.

Savitri Devi are the success of the Mata Samiti

The success of the Mata Samiti

Through the intervention of Roshni, CI is promoting mainstream education among the Musahar communities in order to improve mainstream education among Musahar girls.

The rapport building of the project staff with the local schools has enabled them to keep a check on the attendance and other changes in their life. These children in the community are reviewing the benefits as enablers under the RTE Act and to report those cases where they are not secured.

Formation of School Management Committees (SMCs) and Village Education Committees – This objective intends to give the project staff a platform to work in the community. Parents being part of SMC and VEC, are provided a platform to interact and share their views with the teachers by way of conducting monthly meetings. Parents of the children are also encouraged and motivated to monitor the education status of their children and attend Parents’ Teacher’s Meetings. Developing capacity of existing teachers in schools and to newly recruited Para-teachers in the villages in order to improve mainstream education and provide effective catch-up training to communities.

Rupa is enrolled among seven daughters in her family. She hails from a village named Harincolin in Purnea district in Bihar. With no stable family income and many mouths to feed, education was of secondary importance to her family. With her dedication, Rupa could complete her education up to grade eight. However, the poor socio-economic circumstances of the family forced her to marry at the age of 12. Rupa had to face the harsh reality of being a child bride. In the year 2013-14, when the vacancy for the post of a teacher arose in the Govt. Child Education School through Central India, Rupa applied and qualified for the same.

Rupa along with the programme has motivated her to continue her studies. Rupas’ story, despite the opposition from her family and relatives, and besides bearing a child, she made attempts to get enrolled in Grade IX. She put up valiantly with several systemic hurdles and dismantled the obstacles of the officials due to her dedication. When she wrote a written permission from the DDO (District Education Officer) for her admission as the date of admission had lapsed. Finally, she received the written permission and is continuing with her studies, whilst also serving as a teacher under the Education Department.

Savitri Devi are the success of the Mata Samiti

The success of the Mata Samiti

Throughout a change in Behavioural COMMU- nization, female animator from the same community who employed as teachers conducted public meetings. Nukkad Natak, one-on-one interaction, and sachivalay meetings to encourage the parents and community at large to send girls to schools, and avail of the benefits under the RTE Act. Teachers are also appointed from same community or villages benefits under the RTE Act. Teachers are also encouraged to send girls to schools, and avail of the benefits under the RTE Act. Teachers are also appointed from same community or villages benefits under the RTE Act. Teachers are also appointed from same community or villages benefits under the RTE Act.

The rapport building of the project staff with the local schools has enabled them to keep a check on the attendance and other changes in their life. These children in the community are reviewing the benefits as enablers under the RTE Act and to report those cases where they are not secured.

Formation of School Management Committees (SMCs) and Village Education Committees – This objective intends to give the project staff a platform to work in the community. Parents being part of SMC and VEC, are provided a platform to interact and share their views with the teachers by way of conducting monthly meetings. Parents of the children are also encouraged and motivated to monitor the education status of their children and attend Parents’ Teacher’s Meetings. Developing capacity of existing teachers in schools and to newly recruited Para-teachers in the villages in order to improve mainstream education and provide effective catch-up training to communities.

Rupa is enrolled among seven daughters in her family. She hails from a village named Harincolin in Purnea district in Bihar. With no stable family income and many mouths to feed, education was of secondary importance to her family. With her dedication, Rupa could complete her education up to grade eight. However, the poor socio-economic circumstances of the family forced her to marry at the age of 12. Rupa had to face the harsh reality of being a child bride. In the year 2013-14, when the vacancy for the post of a teacher arose in the Govt. Child Education School through Central India, Rupa applied and qualified for the same.

Rupa along with the programme has motivated her to continue her studies. Rupas’ story, despite the opposition from her family and relatives, and besides bearing a child, she made attempts to get enrolled in Grade IX. She put up valiantly with several systemic hurdles and dismantled the obstacles of the officials due to her dedication. When she wrote a written permission from the DDO (District Education Officer) for her admission as the date of admission had lapsed. Finally, she received the written permission and is continuing with her studies, whilst also serving as a teacher under the Education Department.

Savitri Devi are the success of the Mata Samiti

The success of the Mata Samiti

Throughout a change in Behavioural COMMU- nization, female animator from the same community who employed as teachers conducted public meetings. Nukkad Natak, one-on-one interaction, and sachivalay meetings to encourage the parents and community at large to send girls to schools, and avail of the benefits under the RTE Act. Teachers are also appointed from same community or villages benefits under the RTE Act.
The Musahar community is a highly discriminated and excluded community within Dalits. This has forced them to live away from the main village centres, away from the general population. They have the lowest literacy rate among the Dalits at 6.88 per cent, followed by the lowest for women at 1.43 per cent (Census 2011). Attendance rate falls to 20% at the secondary school level. The project baseline study revealed caste and gender based discrimination as the roots for alienation of the Musahar girls and poor education status among them. Caritas India reached the target areas with programmes focusing early childhood education reaching the elementary level, life skill development, and vocational education. The programme was launched by the Speaker in the Bihar Lok Sabha and Minister of State.

With the objective of creating an enabling environment for Musahar community girls to access education and learning opportunities, the intervention drew upon the Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) under the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS). The programme ensured that the girls aged 3 to 6 years attended the Anganwadi centres and weekly informal teaching sessions were conducted with them at the ICDS centres. Steps were also taken to ensure their age appropriate enrolment in schools in accordance with the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2009. For out of school girls aged 7-18 years, needs based support classes were conducted within the vicinity of their homes to enable regular attendance at learning sessions.

Key strategies included awareness drives in schools to highlight and combat the practice of caste discrimination by children of the dominant communities and school authorities; mainstreaming of girls enrolled in Hamari Paathshala with the Bihar Board of Open Schooling; participation of programme team in School Management Committees and Parents Teachers Meetings as advisors; engaging with members of the Panchayati Raj Institution to create a positive and supportive environment; and periodic engagements with the local administration to secure better school infrastructure and quality education.