

Enroute to education,  
meeting health and  
nutritional needs through

## Musahar child education programme



**1270**

Musahar Children  
enrolled in  
schools



**73%**

Attendance  
in schools

## Cancer campaign

urges people to look into the  
challenges of cancer affected  
families

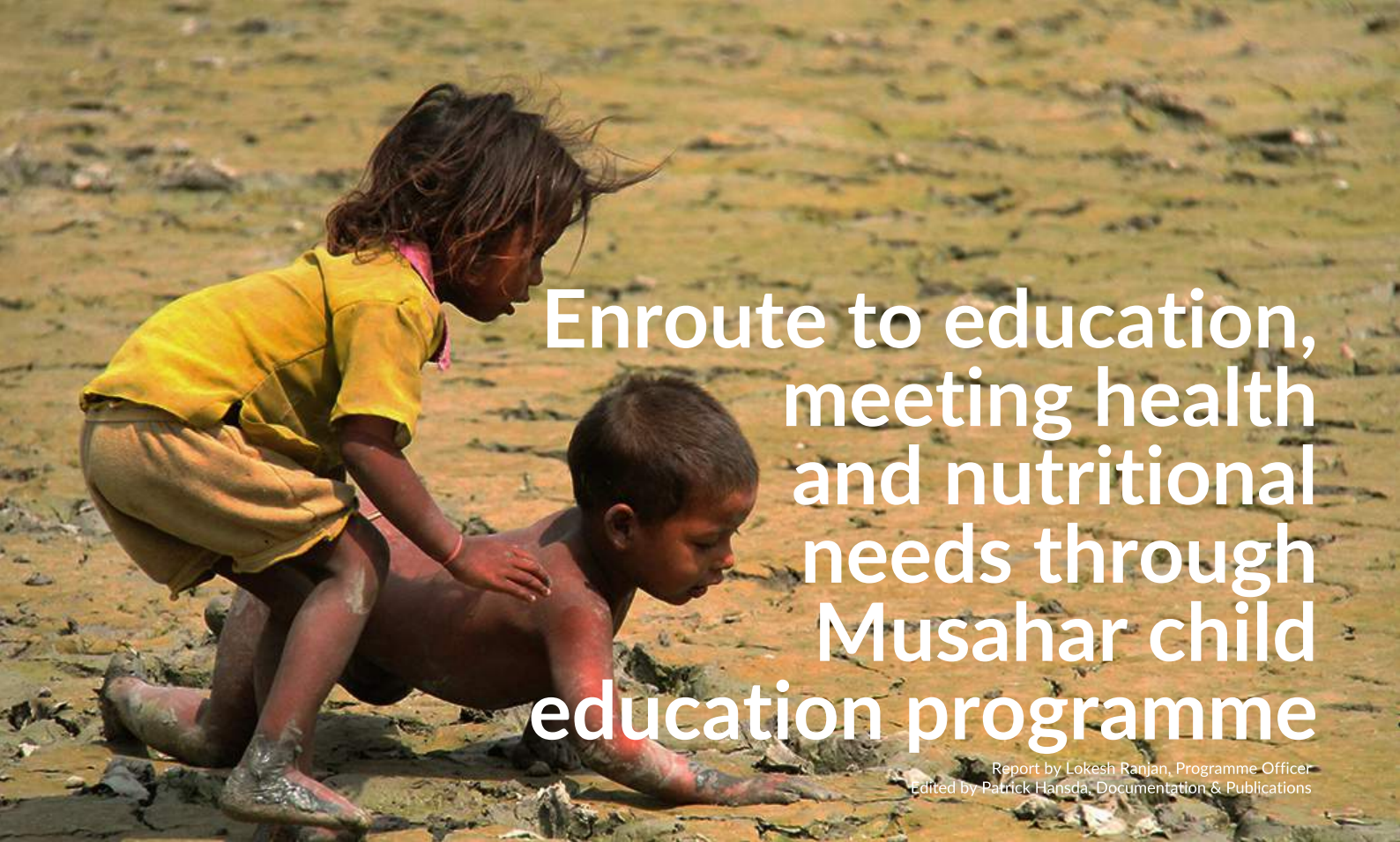
**Springs of  
happiness**

sprout among

**Korku tribe  
with SABAL  
initiatives**







# Enroute to education, meeting health and nutritional needs through Musahar child education programme

Report by Lokesh Ranjan, Programme Officer  
Edited by Patrick Hansda, Documentation & Publications

**Albert Einstein said, “The world as we have created it is a process of our thinking. It cannot be changed without changing our thinking”. This quote stands true if we need to change the situation of underprivileged, downtrodden and discriminated community of Musahars.**

**C**aritas India reached the target areas with programme 'Roshini' (meaning light) focusing early childhood education reaching the elementary level; life skill development, and vocational education of Musahar children in the state of Bihar. Covering 4 districts, 5 blocks, 42 tolas (hamlets) and 40 schools, the intervention was conceptualized to facilitate regular school going and study habits among the Musahar children falling in the age bracket of 6-14 years.

Musahars are positioned on the lowest rung of already marginalised Dalit community, and face historic exploitation resulting in extreme socio-economic and political deprivation. 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 10% at the secondary school level.

Roshni interventions improved access to quality education by enabling enrollment of 82% Musahar children in the school, and ensuring entitlements under Right to Education Act were realized to support their education. The attendance rate is also raised to 64% among the enrolled children, together with facilitating active participation of 56% parents in the school management committees. After the intervention, 69% Musahar children had availed the benefits from various government schemes. Around 65% community members have identified and raised their concern during the Gram Sabhas (of Mata Samiti).



Recently, Roshni partners were involved in the process of capacity building on nutritional aspect in the community along with project orientation. The programme covered knowledge and scientific understanding of malnutrition with information of various government schemes.

The three day programme at Prabhat Sakri, Bihar, from 21 May to 2 June, 2017, discussed the nutritional tools and methodology for the scoping study on malnutrition aiming Musahar children to be kick started this month. The concept of RTE with integrated nutritional provisions was explained along with its implementation strategy; together with multi grade learning for clear understanding and smooth implementation.



# Springs of happiness sprout among Korku tribe with SABAL initiatives

Report by Robin George, SABAL - Program Manager  
Edited by Patrick Hansda, Documentation & Publications



The temperature is rising and the thirst for water is growing among people; but quenching their thirst with water was not an option for the Korku community of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. Caritas India's integrated programme 'Sabal' for the Korku tribe is addressing the issue of chronic malnutrition and hunger, predominated in the regions of Khalwa block of Khandwa – Madhya Pradesh and Chikkaldhara block of Paratwada – Maharashtra, through its food and nutrition security initiatives. And, it has taken one more step to address the immediate issue of the community in an innovative way without changing its rooted focus.

Korku is among the most backward and poor tribes of India and earn their livelihood through cultivation, working as agricultural labour, rearing livestock, etc. April to June are

the most dreadful months in the region where people struggle to meet even their basic need for water. All the community sources of water including wells, handpumps, ponds, check-dams get dried up even before the beginning of summers. Women and adolescent girls are compelled to walk miles to fetch water from other available water sources. This persisting problem forces people to migrate to other places as they are left with no options.

Caritas India along with its three partners assessed the immediate need in-order to allay the increasing distress migration and problems of water scarcity among the community. The initiative of providing incentivized employment opportunities was introduced to the people whereby they work for themselves and for the betterment of their community.



'Food for Work' initiative helped people to work towards the repairing and deepening of the community water sources such as wells, rivers and ponds for which their efforts were commended with food grains packets. All the partners have started this initiative in the villages working on the de-siltation of 39 wells, 10 ponds, 2 rivers and 4 water harvesting structures. The initiative will not only help in fulfilling the water needs of the community for domestic and agricultural purposes, but also of the cattle and animals.

The campaign which was started in the month of May, 2017 has started showing the colors of happiness and smiles on the faces of the community people. Many of the water sources have replenished with abundant water for the community use. The people have started fetching water from the sources which were declared barren or dead. This has also given a new ray of hope and taught the people that anything can be achieved with community efforts.

While interviewing one of the women of Indrakheda where the community worked in the de-siltation of the well, which replenished and is in use by the community, she expressed – "Chaval ka lobh-lalach nahi hai, bas pani ka lobh-lalach hai" (We are not greedy for grains, we are greedy for water). She further added that Sabal has given us a new hope and confidence which we lacked since many years. Now, even if this food for work initiative stops we are willing to contribute our efforts for the betterment of the community and village.





# Cancer campaign urges people to look into the challenges of cancer affected families

Report by Abeesh Antony, PO -Ashakiranam

Edited by Patrick Hansda, Documentation & Publications



**“People should look into the pathetic situation of the cancer affected families to alleviate their misery”,** expressed Mar Remigiose Inchananiyil, Bishop of Thamarassery during the Ashakiranam, Cancer Care Campaign launch at Thamarassery on May 26, 2017. Testimonies from cancer survivors who overcame the deadly disease through systematic treatment and improved lifestyle spread cheer and motivation among the audience.

Cancer does not affect only individuals but the whole family in terms of socio-economic and psychological impacts. Releasing the action plan of Ashakiranam Campaign, Mr. George M. Thomas, MLA of Thiruvambadi shared about the deplorable situation of the cancer affected families and the role of society in supporting the cancer patients and their families.

Launched in 2014, the cancer awareness and education has spread across the state under the Cancer Care Campaign, with practical information on preventive methodologies, early detection, treatment supports and concept of good food to create behavioural change to combat the root causes of the disease. Mr. Karat Razak, MLA of the constituency shared about the role of changing life styles which is contributing towards the dispersal of cancer in the society.

Mr. U. V. Jose, the District Collector of Kozhikode asked every individual to join this fight against cancer. Mentioning it to be a cause of chaos in

the society, he invited people to join the campaign and address the problem collectively. During the launch, he inaugurated the help desk number for the cancer patients and their families to avail support in need. Orientation of newly inducted 400 volunteers preceded the inauguration of the campaign.

Explaining the concept of Ashakiranam, Fr. Paul Moonely, Deputy Director of Caritas India shared about the importance of Caritas India's Cancer Care Campaign, the urgency for it, and the concurrent developments in Kerala state. The campaign has been emboldened by the support that hailed from thousands of individuals as volunteers, he acknowledged.

Among others dignitaries at the inauguration were Rev Fr Mathew Mavely, Vicar General of the Diocese of Thamarassery, Smt. P P Vanaja-Panchayat President from Koduvally Block, Shri. Mamu Master, Vice President of the Thamarassery Panchayat, and Shri. Jacob Padalodi, President of Alphonsa Palliative Care.