

Project Report

321-904-1053: Dalit Development in Bihar: Capacitating Youth, Women and Children

Project Location: Bihar

Reporting Period: 1st January to 31st Dec 2024

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List of abbreviations

SL NO	ABBREVIATION	MEANING
1	AYM	Ambedkar Yuva Manch (Youth club)
2	APD	Ambedkar Prerna Dal (Children's motivational club)
3	MSCM	Mata Sabitribai Chatra Manch (Adolescent group)
4	SMS	Sabitribai Mata Samiti (Women groups)
5	SANGATHAN	Village committees/ organizations
6	SEVA DAL	Volunteer Groups
7	IGA	Income Generation Activities

Description of Report Preparation

This report brings together information from unit teams and the central team using standard reporting formats. It also includes insights from an evaluation with unit heads and project staff. During monitoring visits, the central team collected input through personal contacts, group discussions, and field observations. The PME team reviewed and verified data from unit staff. The project coordinator's hands-on experience also helped shape this report.

I. Project implementation and achieving the objectives

Objective 1: To support children from dalit communities (total 4700 children) for quality education		
Indicators	Progress (January to June 2023)	Means of verification
Estimated 2000 dalit girls and boys 6-14 years of age) participated in activities of APKs and developed their academic competency, child rights awareness, and psycho-social skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ (Base value- 1236) 1337 dalit children between 9 – 12 years of age have joined APD ★ On an average (Base value- 85%) 90% of APD children participate in different academic and extra-curricular activities ★ Approximately (Base value- 75%) 75% of dalit children are aware of child rights ★ Approximately (Base value- 70%) 80% of target children have improved their performance ★ Approximately (Base value- 65%) 80% of children have improved their understanding level of moral values. 	<p>MIS, enrolment forms</p> <p>Monitoring reports</p> <p>Monitoring & FGD reports</p> <p>Stories</p>
Around 100 leaders of children have emerged who can be child rights advocates and motivators of children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✳ At least 58 dalit boys and 57 dalit girls have emerged as village-level children's leaders ✳ Near about 200 other APD children have improved leadership quality ✳ APD children have played vital role in creating awareness on child rights and quality education in the target areas. 	<p>Tracking records</p> <p>Monitoring & FGD reports</p>
About 80% of 1800 Dalit Girls and Boys to be registered for academic support, completed secondary education, 70 percent of 450 boys and girls successfully	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 👍 (Base value-755) 705 dalit children have accessed academic support (annexure) 👍 (Base value- 98%) 99% of enrolled children are regular in their coaching as well as in their schools 👍 (Base value-206) 244 new dalit children completed secondary education 	<p>MIS, monitoring records, financial transaction records</p> <p>Mark sheets, online results, tracking records</p>

completed senior secondary education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 👍 (Base value-85%) 99% dalit children of the target areas have accessed academic support belong to APD. 👍 (Base value-650) 922 boys and girls are studying in senior secondary education out of which 291 students were provided academic support. (annexure) 	
At least 100 of them shall have taken admitted to professional courses after senior secondary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➡ About 50 of them have taken admitted to professional courses after senior secondary. (annexure) 	Monitoring reports, ID cards of the children
Objective 2 To develop leadership, organizational strength, and social capital of dalit communities		
At least 40 percent of the dalit organization in 100 villages are capable of effectively resolving internal conflicts and disputes that arose during the period and at the same time 20 percent of cases related to atrocities on dalits in the operational area have received competent legal follow up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✅ At least (Base value- 89) 89 village organizations are formed ✅ (Base value-34) 39 village organizations opened their bank accounts and doing financial transactions ✅ (Base value-60%) 65% of village organization leaders have improved their understanding of the whole 'Sangathan' ✅ (Base value-50%) 60% of leaders have a fair understanding of their responsibilities ✅ At least (Base value-32) 40 village-level legal-aid committees have been formed. ✅ Several disputes had been resolved by the legal-aid cells. 	Monitoring reports, MIS Training reports FGD findings Monitoring reports, MIS Monitoring reports, MIS
Objective 3: To support youth to develop skills; employment; and community leadership		
80% of dalit youth in the project villages participated in the youth activities and benefited over the next 3-years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➡ 91 Village level AYMs are established out of which (Base value-82) 82 AYMs are active. (annexure) ➡ (Base value-55) 63 village-level AYMs are well-organized. ➡ (Base value-1229) 1562 youths have joined the AYM ➡ At least 200 youths who emerged as leaders last year are being nurtured. 	Field reports, Monitoring reports Training and tracking reports

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Near about (Base value-60%) 63% of youths regularly meet for group study, SET practice, computer practice, online applications, etc ➤ A team of 14 AYM members have emerged as the SEVA DAL. ➤ At least (Base value-10) 30 AYMs took initiatives to draw the attention of the government authorities towards community issues. ➤ AYM leaders are playing vital role in helping communities to know better and access the various govt schemes and required documents 	<p>Attendance registers, monitoring tools</p> <p>FGD report</p>
<p>Nearly 200 youth will have gained employment - either self-employment by availing available schemes or employment through placement based on skills acquired. Besides this, 60 per cent of 270 girls trained in stitching will have begun earning from their skill</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ At least (Base value-82) 45 AYM members have received skill training. ➤ (Base value-15) 19 youth are engaged in the govt jobs ➤ (Base value-13) 47 youth enrolled for higher education & technical courses ➤ (Base value-10) 75 youths are engaged in successful self-employment ➤ More than (Base value-300) 400 AYM members have applied for private jobs. ➤ All together (Base value-300) 104 AYM members are placed in private jobs ➤ All together (Base value-175) 80 girls/women are engaged in tailoring. ➤ (Base value-137) 181 girls/women have received tailoring training ➤ (Base value-118) another 80 girls are expecting to complete the tailoring course, and engaged on their own. ➤ (Base value-49) 50 women were provided with stitching machine to start their own business. ➤ approximately 100 youths are engaged in different income-generating activities 	<p>Monitoring reports,</p> <p>Monitoring reports</p> <p>Attendance registers</p> <p>Monitoring reports,</p> <p>Monitoring reports,</p>

Objective 4: To develop leadership and entrepreneurship among women and improve health - hygiene - nutrition conditions in villages through women lead awareness creation.		
At least 400 dalit women increased their income significantly from land leasing-farming operations and other IGP programs over the next 3-years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✱ (Base value-500) At least 152 dalit women are engaged in different agricultural activities on their own. ✱ (Base value-150) 152 women have increased their income from different income-generating activities and sustainable business ✱ (Base value-89) 81 women's organizations formed ✱ (Base value-1628) 159 new dalit women have joined Sabitribai mata samiti. Total members are now 1787. ✱ (Base value-28) 412 women have benefited from government schemes. 	Monitoring records Bank transactions Meeting register, MIS
At least 30 herbal gardens and 500 kitchen gardens and associated campaigns have created awareness on health, hygiene and nutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Over (Base value-238) 485 dalit women have done kitchen gardens. ★ (Base value-48) 35 model kitchen gardens have sustained. ★ (Base value-26) 26 herbal gardens are sustained. Women are getting benefit from that. 27 women received the training on medicine and tonic preparation. ★ (Base value-72) 72 new women are directly engaged in IGA ★ Over (Base value-300) Approximately 650 dalit women have improved their understanding of nutrition, hygiene, etc. 	MIS, Monitoring records FGD reports

II. Comment on achieving the objectives

Objective 1: Support Dalit Children for Quality Education

Achievement: Substantially achieved; notable improvements across academic and developmental indicators.

- ✱ The program reached 1,337 children (target: 2,000), which is 66.8% of the target for this period. This indicates steady progress, though more outreach is needed to meet the full target.

- * Participation in academic and extra-curricular activities is high (90%), and significant improvements were recorded in child rights awareness (75%), academic performance (80%), and moral understanding (80%)—all exceeding baseline values.
- * Emergence of over 100 child leaders and their active role in awareness-building demonstrates strong empowerment and ownership among children.
- * 244 children completed secondary education and 922 are now in senior secondary education, showing a sharp rise from the base values.
- * While the target was to have 100 students enter professional courses, only 50 have done so, suggesting room for enhanced career guidance and follow-up support.

Overall Comment: Good progress on foundational and educational indicators with high retention and academic achievement. Leadership development and rights awareness are strong. Need focused support to bridge the gap in professional course admissions.

Objective 2: Strengthening Dalit Community Organizations

Achievement: On track with visible progress in organization formation and capacity-building.

- * 89 village organizations formed and 40 legal-aid committees established indicate strong mobilization.
- * Financial operations in 39 village organizations suggest maturity in organizational functioning.
- * Improved leadership understanding (60-65%) shows the effectiveness of training.
- * Legal-aid committees resolving disputes reflect real community-level impact, although more detail on the 20% target for atrocity cases would help assess legal advocacy fully.

Overall Comment: Effective community organization development with a growing capacity for conflict resolution and legal awareness. Continued strengthening and follow-through will help sustain and scale this success.

Objective 3: Youth Empowerment and Employment

Achievement: Significant progress; leadership and participation targets nearly met, but skill-based employment outcomes show mixed results.

- ★ 1,562 youth joined AYMs and 91 village AYMs are active, showing excellent mobilization.
- ★ Leadership development is on track with a growing SEVA DAL and civic action by AYMs.
- ★ Employment results are mixed: 75 youth started their own businesses and 104 got private jobs, which is good progress. But only 19 got government jobs and just 45 took part in skill training, which is still low compared to what's possible.
- ★ Tailoring training for women shows strong outcomes with 181 trained and 80 earning, though sustainability depends on continued access to markets and support.

Overall Comment: Strong engagement and leadership development among youth. Employment support needs broader coverage and deeper linkage with government and private-sector opportunities.

Objective 4: Women's Leadership, Income, and Health

Achievement: Good progress in women's economic participation and awareness creation; health and hygiene initiatives growing steadily.

- * 152 women engaged in agriculture and IGPs with income gains—clear progress, though still short of the 3-year goal of 400.
- * 1787 members in women's collectives and 81 organizations formed reflect strong social capital.
- * 485 kitchen gardens, 35 model gardens, and 26 herbal gardens indicate a growing movement towards self-reliance in nutrition and health.
- * Awareness on hygiene and nutrition among 650 women is a noteworthy outcome.

Overall Comment: Solid achievements in women's economic empowerment and health awareness. Need continued scale-up of land leasing and market-based interventions for sustained income gains.

Overall Assessment:

The project is largely on track and has effectively addressed key indicators across all four objectives. Educational access and academic performance of children, leadership emergence, youth mobilization, women's organization building, and initial gains in employment and income generation are strong positives. Some targets (like professional education admissions, broader employment placements, and economic scaling for women) are yet to be fully realized and would benefit from enhanced support systems, resource linkage, and follow-up mechanisms.

III. key activities have already been implemented



Yearly Planning and Review Meeting

The annual planning and review meeting for the Dalit Development Project was held from January 17 to 19, 2024, at the BDVS administrative office in Patna. Attended by all project staff and the BDVS Director, Fr. Jose, the meeting reviewed project progress, addressed challenges, and planned for the final project phase, which concludes in December 2024. Fr. Jose emphasized completing all pending activities by November 2024.

Day 1: Project Review and Strategy Refinement

Mr. Sinaya Nayak led a detailed review of the project's log-frame and indicators. The team assessed each indicator's outcomes, identified requirements to meet targets, and discussed strategy refinement. The session encouraged critical reflection and active participation.

Day 2: Self-Reflection and Action Planning

The day focused on evaluating project achievements and challenges. Through guided self-reflection, gaps were identified and discussed. A comprehensive action plan was formulated to address shortcomings and enhance project impact.

Day 3: Finalizing the Action Plan

The team developed an objective-wise action plan based on prior discussions. Planned activities included training sessions, multi-level conventions, and exposure visits. The final plan outlined specific, time-bound actions for the project's concluding year.

The three-day meeting facilitated in-depth analysis, collective reflection, and strategic planning, ensuring a clear roadmap for project completion.



Report on the State Level Meeting of AYM leaders

1. Introduction

A two days state-level meeting of AYM leaders was called by the AYM core team which was scheduled on 29-30 Jan 2024 at BDVS, Administrative office Patna. This was the annual planning and review meetings of AYM. Representatives of nearly 40 AYMs had taken part in the meeting. The main objective of the meeting was to enable AYM leaders to play vital role in leading the youth groups and planning for strengthening the AYM at various levels.

2. Key Participants

The meeting was attended by AYM leaders and few members. The meeting was chaired by Rohit Kumar (AYM state president) and facilitated by Birendra Kumar.

3. Agenda and Discussions

Mr. Birendra Kumar welcomed all participants and gave a brief overview of the meeting's purpose and objectives. He stated that the meeting once in a month would be more beneficial. All of the AYM representatives should participate in the meeting. Representatives from different units shared their successful initiatives and innovative approaches in community development, skill development, and creating social awareness. Participants discussed common challenges faced by youth AYM members across the units, including low participation of the members, lack of study materials and other resources, collaboration with local authorities and coordination with unit staffs etc. The meeting focused on collaborative efforts for future activities, including advocacy campaigns, skill development programs, sports program, mark the special days, and helping villagers to get the documents required for accessing different government welfare schemes. Participants provided valuable feedback and suggestions for improving the network of AYMs and strengthening their impact.

4. Key Outcomes

The State Level Meeting of Youth Clubs resulted in the following key outcomes:

- ✳ **Strengthened collaboration:** The meeting fostered a sense of unity and collaboration among AYM leaders across the state.
- ✳ **Shared knowledge and best practices:** Participants gained valuable insights and inspiration from sharing best practices and innovative approaches.
- ✳ **Identified common challenges:** The meeting identified common challenges faced by AYM members providing a platform for collective brainstorming and finding solutions.
- ✳ **Developed future plans:** Participants collectively planned future initiatives to address identified challenges and leverage collective strengths.

5. Conclusion

The State Level Meeting of Youth Clubs was a successful event that fostered collaboration, shared best practices, and developed a strong foundation for future initiatives. By working together, youth clubs across the state can create a positive impact on the lives of young people and contribute to the overall development of the community.



Academic, Child Rights and Value based Activities for Children

1. Introduction

This report highlights the key activities and achievements related to academic development, child rights advocacy, and value-based education for APD children. The focus is on how various programs and initiatives have contributed to enhancing educational outcomes, promoting child rights, and instilling important values among APD members. Efforts by BDVS were made to improve educational standards, including tutoring programs, academic workshops/ competitions, and other support services aimed at boosting children's academic performance.

2. Key Highlights

- ✳ **High level of participation:** The competitions witnessed enthusiastic participation from all the APD children. They demonstrated excellent knowledge and enthusiasm in answering the questions.
- ✳ **Competitive spirit:** The children displayed a healthy competitive spirit, but also showed respect for each other and celebrated each other's achievements.
- ✳ **Engaging questions:** The questions were designed to be engaging and challenging, covering a wide range of subjects, encouraging APD children to explore diverse areas of knowledge.
- ✳ **Learning experience:** The competition served as a valuable learning experience, helping children enhance their knowledge, improve their problem-solving skills, and build confidence.

The quiz and GK competitions were a loud success, providing a fun and engaging platform for APD children to learn, compete, and grow. The event fostered a love for knowledge and demonstrated the importance of continuous learning. Few more details can be seen below.

Activities organized for APD Children						
Unit	Activity/ Program	Program Date	Village covered	Participants Details		
				Boy	Girl	Total
Patori	Quiz on general Knowledge	30--01--2024	15	52	55	107
Kharagpur		31--01--2024	10	48	58	106
Jhajha	Quiz on general Knowledge (Human Body)	24--02--2024	13	43	62	105
Kharagpur		27--02--2024	11	41	56	97
Barbiga		28--02--2024	16	48	73	121
Patori		29--02--2024	7	33	37	70
Jhajha	Quiz on environment	10--04--2024	14	52	68	120
Kharagpur		16--04--2024	11	51	42	93
Patori/ mohn		02-20-04-2024	16	74	86	160
Barh		06--04--2024	14	53	65	118
Jhajha	Drawing competition	14--06--2024	12	38	42	80
Kharagpur		28--04--2024	11	62	48	110
Barbiga		16--06--2024	14	55	67	122
Patori		10--06--2024	11	37	43	80
Barh		13--06--2024	14	44	66	110
Jhajha	English & Hindi words (4th &5th) Environment (6th &7th)	26--07--2024	11	45	50	95
Kharagpur		04--07--2024	10	51	39	90
Barbiga		30--07--2024	14	45	75	120
Patori		30--06--2024	13	57	76	133
Barh		03--07--2024	12	52	60	112



State/Unit- Level Leadership Training for SMS leaders

1. Introduction

Dalit women often face discrimination due to their caste and gender. Leadership training empowers them to become advocates for their communities, ensuring that their voices are heard in decision-making processes and local governance. It also boosts the confidence of Dalit women, encouraging them to take on leadership roles in their communities. By the end of June 2024 BDVS organized at least 3 batches of leadership training for SMS leaders. These trainings were organized both at the state- level and unit level. It was facilitated by Mr. Kalam Ansari (social activist/ trainer, writer and singer) The training program sought to achieve the following objectives:

- ❖ Enhance leadership skills among Sabitribai Mata Samiti leaders, including communication, decision-making, conflict resolution, and team management.

- ❖ Build capacity in advocacy and lobbying, enabling women to effectively articulate their needs and influence local governance.
- ❖ Inspire and motivate SMS leaders to become active agents of social change in their communities.

2. Methodology

The training program adopted a participatory and interactive approach, which can be understood as follows.

- ➔ **Interactive workshops:** Participants engaged in activities designed to develop leadership skills, including group discussions, role-playing, and case studies.
- ➔ **Expert lectures:** Renowned experts and resource persons delivered lectures on relevant topics, including gender equality, women's rights, time management, group management and effective advocacy strategies.
- ➔ **Group work and peer learning:** Participants worked in groups to develop action plans and share best practices, fostering peer learning and collaboration.

3. Outcomes and Impact

The training program yielded significant outcomes, including:

- **Empowered women leaders:** Participants reported increased confidence and a stronger sense of self-efficacy, enhancing their ability to lead their groups and advocate for their communities.
- **Improved group functioning:** Participants implemented new skills and knowledge within their groups, leading to improved decision-making processes, effective communication, and increased collaboration.
- **Successful advocacy initiatives:** Several participants successfully launched advocacy campaigns or initiated dialogue with government officials to address community issues.
- **Stronger community networks:** The training fostered greater collaboration and networking amongst women leaders, resulting in stronger community networks and increased collective action.

4. Conclusion

The State-Level Leadership Training program for SMS leaders was a transformative initiative that equipped women with the skills and knowledge necessary to lead effectively, advocate for their communities, and contribute to positive social change. The program's success highlights the importance of investing in women's leadership, empowering them to become agents of change and build a more equitable and just society. Few more details can be seen below.

SL NO	ACTIVITY	PLACE/ UNIT	ACTIVITY DATE	PARTICIPANTS			TOTAL
				FEMALE	MALE	GUEST	
1	Leadership training for SMS leaders at the state-level	BDVS, Administrative office	18 to 20 March 24	47	0	2	49
2			17 to 19 June 24	58	0	3	61
3			26 to 28 June 24	37	0	5	42
4	Unit level leadership training for SMS members	BARH	06--05--2024	69	0	2	71
		KHARAGPUR	11--06--2024	33	0	2	35
		BARBIGHA	09--06--2024	63	0	2	65
		JHAJHA	16--06--2024	86	0	2	88
		PATORY	15--06--2024	67	0	2	69

★ State-Level Leadership Training for the leaders of village level dalit sangathans

1. Introduction

Grassroots leaders are often at the forefront of community development initiatives and local governance and effective training equips them with the knowledge and skills needed to manage resources and address community needs efficiently. Leadership training also helps village level dalit sangathan leaders to develop essential skills such as strategic planning, conflict resolution, communication, and decision-making. These skills are vital for guiding their committees effectively and driving positive change in their communities. Looking to the emerging need of this, BDVS organized at least 2 state level leadership trainings only for the leaders of village level dalit sangathans. Both of the trainings were organized at BDVS Administrative office, Patna. The training program had the following key objectives:

1. **Enhance leadership capabilities:** Strengthen leadership skills among village level dalit sangathan leaders, including communication, conflict resolution, decision-making, team management, and strategic thinking.
2. **Promote community development:** Equip leaders with practical knowledge and skills in planning, resource mobilization, financial management, and community engagement for implementing sustainable community development initiatives.
3. **Foster collaboration and networking:** Encourage collaboration among village level dalit sangathan leaders from different regions, sharing best practices, and building a network for collective action and support.
4. **Inspire and motivate:** Encourage a proactive and service-oriented approach among village level dalit sangathan leaders, motivating them to be an instrument for positive change in their communities.

2. Methodology

The training program adopted a participatory and engaging methodology, incorporating a mix of:

- ★ **Interactive workshops:** Participants engaged in interactive sessions, group discussions, role-playing exercises, and to develop practical leadership skills.
- ★ **Expert lectures:** Renowned experts and resource persons from diverse fields, including governance, community development, and legal frameworks, provided insights and guidance.
- ★ **Group work and peer learning:** Participants worked in groups to develop action plans for their respective village level dalit sangathans, sharing experiences, exchanging ideas, and fostering a sense of peer-to-peer learning.

3. Participants

The training program involved [Number] participants, representing [Number] VDCs from across the state. Participants were selected based on their leadership roles in their respective VDCs, their commitment to community development, and their potential for positive impact.

4. Key Themes and Content

The training program covered a wide range of thematic areas, including:

- **Leadership and governance:** Effective leadership styles, principles of good governance, roles and responsibilities of village level dalit sangathan leaders, documentation, decision-making processes, participatory planning, and fostering inclusivity.
- **Community development:** Development process, planning and implementing community-driven initiatives, local resource mobilization, and sustainable development practices.
- **Legal framework and rights:** Understanding fundamental rights, dalit atrocities, women rights and mechanisms for citizen engagement.
- **Conflict resolution and peacebuilding:** Effective conflict management strategies, conciliation techniques, promoting dialogue and understanding within communities.
- **Communication and advocacy:** Effective communication skills, advocacy strategies for promoting community needs and issues, and engaging with government officials.
- **Financial literacy and management:** Financial management for village level dalit sangathans, fundraising techniques etc

5. Conclusion

When grassroots leaders are well-trained, they can better advocate for their communities, identify local needs, and mobilize resources. Overall, leadership training for village level dalit sangathan leaders was a vital investment in enhancing local governance, driving community development, and fostering sustainable and inclusive growth. We are hopeful that the leaders are well-prepared to meet the needs of their communities and contribute to the broader goals of socio-economic development. Few more details can be seen below.

SL NO	ACTIVITY	PLACE	ACTIVITY DATE	PARTICIPANTS			TOTAL
				FEMALE	MALE	GUEST	
1	Leadership training for the leaders of village level Dalit Sanghathans	BDVS Administrative office	18 to 20 May 2024	16	29	2	47
2			11 to 13 June 2024	25	17	2	44



State-Level Legal Aid Training for the leaders of Village Legal-Aid Cells

1. Introduction

Legal aid training equips leaders with skills to identify and address legal issues that may arise in their villages. This includes inter village conflict resolution, conflicts within village, legal advice. Well-trained leaders can build trust within the community by providing reliable and informed legal support. This trust is essential for encouraging villagers to seek help when needed. Addition to this, well-trained leaders can train others in their communities, multiplying the impact of legal aid initiatives and fostering a culture of legal awareness and support. Considering the above, BDVS organized three state-level trainings for the leaders of legal-aid cells. These trainings were facilitated by Advocate/ professor Ashutosh Kumar Sinha (Aryabhata Law university, Patna) and Fr. Luise Prakash & team, XISR, Patna.

2. Objectives

The training program was designed to achieve the following objectives:

- Provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of fundamental legal principles, rights, and obligations related to key areas affecting village communities, such as fundamental rights, land rights, domestic violence, child protection, and basic criminal law.
- Equip participants with the necessary skills to effectively provide basic legal advice, assist individuals in accessing legal resources, and facilitate conflict resolution within their villages.

- Enhance the understanding of the functions and responsibilities of Village Legal-Aid Cells, their legal framework, and their role in promoting access to justice within rural communities.

Facilitators adopted the following methods

- ➔ **Interactive sessions:** Participants engaged in interactive sessions, group discussions, role-playing exercises, and case studies to apply legal concepts to real-life scenarios and develop practical skills.
- ➔ **Expert lectures:** Renowned legal professionals, practitioners, and academics provided lectures on key legal topics, legislation relevant to rural communities, and the role of legal aid in accessing justice.
- ➔ **Practical case studies and simulations:** Participants analysed and discussed real-life cases, simulating legal aid scenarios to practice providing advice, navigating legal processes, and resolving disputes.

3. Outcomes and Impact

The training program generated a positive impact:

- ✳ **Empowered and informed leaders:** Participants reported increased confidence and enhanced knowledge of legal matters, equipped to effectively guide their communities on legal issues and access justice.
- ✳ **Improved legal aid services:** Legal-Aid Cell leaders implemented new skills and knowledge they gained from the training, leading to improved quality of legal advice, better assistance in accessing legal resources (panch, sarpanch, mukhiya) and more effective dispute resolution within villages.
- ✳ **Increased awareness and access to justice:** Participants reported increased awareness among community members about their legal rights and obligations, leading to greater confidence in seeking legal assistance and access to justice.
- ✳ **Enhanced Collaboration and Networking:** The program strengthened ties among Legal-Aid Cell leaders, fostering a sense of shared purpose and a network for collaborative action and support in addressing legal issues affecting their communities. Now these LAC leaders are planning to form state-level legal aid cell to help dalit and poor people in accessing legal services at the state level.

To ensure the long-term impact and sustainability of the training program, ongoing support and mentorship will be provided to participants through regular meetings, resource sharing, and technical assistance to address any challenges they encounter in implementing their learning. Regular refresher training and workshops will be organized to update participants on legal changes, enhance their skills, and provide ongoing support. The State-Level Legal Awareness Training program for leaders of village-level Legal-Aid Cells proved to be a successful initiative, empowering these leaders with the knowledge and skills to effectively serve their communities. By investing in the capacity of these grassroots legal advocates, the

program aims to contribute to increased legal awareness, better access to justice, and a more equitable society for rural communities. Few more details are given below.

SL NO	ACTIVITY/ PROGRAMS	PLACE/ UNIT	ACTIVITY DATE	PARTICIPANTS			TOTAL
				FEMALE	MALE	GUEST	
1	Legal Aid Training for the leaders of legal aid cells	BDVS, Administrative office,	06 to 08 Feb 2024	16	26	7	49
2		NAVJYOTI hall- 1	23 to 25 Feb 2024	17	38	5	60
3		Sewa kendra Kurji	03 to 05 April 2024	10	38	7	55



State-Level Training for Dalit Community Leaders on RTI, MGNREGA, and PDS

1. Introduction

The government offers various welfare schemes for SC/ST and poor communities, but Dalits often struggle to access these benefits due to issues like lack of awareness, bureaucracy, corruption, and discrimination. To address this, BDVS organized a three-day training for 100 selected Dalit sangathan and AYM leaders. The program aimed to equip them with the knowledge and skills needed to claim their rights and access government schemes for social and economic empowerment.

The training program aimed to achieve the following objectives:

- **To Enhance awareness about RTI, MGNREGA, and PDS:** Provide comprehensive information on the legal frameworks, key provisions, benefits, and detailed processes of these schemes.
- **To Develop practical skills for using RTI:** Equip participants with the skills to draft RTI applications, navigate the RTI process, understand responses, and process of reappeal.
- **To Empower participants to utilize MGNREGA:** Build understanding of their rights under MGNREGA, the process for demanding work, grievance redressal mechanisms, etc.
- **To Promote effective access to PDS:** Equip participants with knowledge about their entitlements under PDS, the procedures for accessing ration, identifying irregularities, and advocating for improved service delivery.

- **Foster collective action and advocacy:** Encourage participants to organize, mobilize their communities, and advocate for the effective implementation of these schemes and the protection of their rights.

3. Methodology

The training program adopted a participatory and interactive methodology

- **Interactive sessions:** Participants engaged in interactive sessions, group discussions, to apply theoretical concepts to real-life scenarios and develop practical skills.
- **Expert lectures:** Renowned experts and practitioners from relevant fields, facilitated the sessions to understand the legal frameworks, implementation procedures, and best practices related to RTI, MGNREGA, and PDS.
- **Group discussion:** Participants worked in groups to develop action plans for their communities, share experiences, exchange best practices, and build a collaborative network for collective action.

4. Outcomes and Impact

The training program generated a positive impact:

- Participants reported increased confidence and enhanced knowledge of RTI, MGNREGA, and PDS, equipped to effectively utilize these schemes to benefit their communities.
- Participants reported increased awareness within their communities about their rights and entitlements under these schemes
- Participants initiated advocacy campaigns, filed RTI applications to monitor scheme implementation, and demanded accountability from government officials, leading to improved service delivery and redressal of grievances.

5. Conclusion

The State-Level Training program for Dalit sangathan leaders on RTI, MGNREGA, and PDS proved to be a successful initiative, by investing in the capacity of Dalit leaders, the program aims to contribute to greater awareness, access to resources, improved service delivery, and a better society for dalit communities across the state. Few more details can be seen in the table below.

ACTIVITY/ PROGRAMS/ EVENTS	PLACE/ UNIT	ACTIVITY DATE	PARTICIPANTS			TOTAL
			FEMALE	MALE	GUEST	
Training for community Leaders on RTI, MANREGA and PDS	NAVJYOTI hall- 1	08 to 10 April 2024	30	74	3	107



Celebration of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Jayanti at the Unit- level

1. Introduction:

Ambedkar Jayanti is a highly significant celebration for the Dalit community, offering an opportunity to honor Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and his teachings. It also fosters unity among Dalits in their pursuit of social justice. BDVS marked Ambedkar Jayanti to commemorate the life, teachings, and contributions of the visionary leader, social reformer, and architect of the Indian Constitution Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. The celebration aimed to spread awareness about Ambedkar's legacy, promote social equality, and inspire future generations to follow his footsteps.

2. Key Events:

- ➔ **Grand Public Rally:** A grand public rally was held at Kharagpur and Patory unit, more than 300 people took part in the rally. The rally featured speeches by some leaders who highlighted Ambedkar's crucial role in shaping modern India and emphasized the relevance of his teachings in today's society.
- ➔ **Cultural Programs:** Vibrant cultural programs were organized at all of the five units, showcasing the artistic talents of local artists and performers belong to AYM, APD and dalit sangathans.
- ➔ **Cleaning Drives and Community Service:** Several village level dalit sangathans participated in cleaning drives in their respective villages. This initiative aligned with Ambedkar's emphasis on community upliftment and social responsibility.
- ➔ **Distribution of Literature and Awareness Campaigns:** Pamphlets, brochures, and other informative materials highlighting Ambedkar's teachings and the significance of social justice were distributed across the units.

3. Key Highlights:

- The celebrations witnessed widespread participation from dalit and tribal communities, highlighting the growing awareness and appreciation of Ambedkar's contributions.
- The speeches and discussions during the public rally offered insightful perspectives on Ambedkar's life, work, and relevance in modern India.
- The cultural programs, exhibition, and photo gallery provided engaging and informative platforms to commemorate Ambedkar's legacy and inspire future generations.
- The cleaning drives reflected a strong sense of social responsibility and commitment to upholding Ambedkar's ideals.

- The distribution of literature and awareness campaigns played a crucial role in disseminating knowledge about Ambedkar's teachings and fostering a spirit of social justice within the community.

4. Conclusion:

The celebration of Ambedkar Jayanti was a resounding success, demonstrating a strong commitment to honouring the legacy of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and upholding his vision of a just and equitable society. The various events provided a platform for information, commemoration, and community action, inspiring hope to build a society free from social discrimination and inequality. Few more details can be found below.

ACTIVITY	PLACE/ UNIT	ACTIVITY DATE	PARTICIPANTS			TOTAL
			FEMALE	MALE	GUEST	
Ambedkar Jayanti Celebration	BARH	16--04--2024	110	64	6	180
	KHARAGPUR	20--04--2024	33	46	4	83
	BARBIGHA	14--04--2024	74	31	5	110
	JHAJHA	13--04--2024	160	147	7	314
	PATORY	14--04--2024	108	140	6	254



State-Level Yearly Convention of Ambedkar Prerna Dal (APD)

Dates: May 2-4, 2024

Venue: Navjyoti Kendra, Kurji, Patna

No of Units: 15

Participants

- **APD Children:** 266 (86 boys, 180 girls)
- **Staff/ animators/ volunteers:** 45 (37 males, 8 females)
- **Total Participants:** 311

Objectives:

Ambedkar Prerna Dal (APD) is a children's organization focused on creating a platform for children to voice their opinions to society. The key objectives of the convention included:

- Advocating for love, encouragement, and opportunities for children.
- Engaging with the media to promote the holistic development of children.
- Motivating children to increase their participation and to unite more children under APD.
- Empowering children's rights.

The primary goal of this convention was to provide children with opportunities to showcase their leadership abilities through active participation in various activities. The convention was organized around three main themes:

1. **Children's Performances**
2. **Educational Sessions**
3. **Advocacy Events**, including interactions with media representatives for the comprehensive development of the children.

Program Overview:

The event was precisely planned, with APD leaders and BDVS staff actively involved in organizing it. The staff held at least five meetings to ensure the smooth execution of the program. The BDVS central team was well-prepared, with members assigned to various responsibilities, including registration, logistics, discipline, and program coordination. Each unit had four children responsible for their respective segments of the program.

Participants were provided with T-shirts, files containing brochures, pens, notebooks, ID cards, and APD badges. The program's smooth execution was further supported by animators and volunteers from different units.

The event was inaugurated by Fr. T. Nishant, Director of Manthan, Bihar, who, along with selected child leaders, lit a ceremonial lamp. Fr. Jose Kariakatt, Director of BDVS, delivered the introductory speech, highlighting BDVS's achievements since 1985 and its ongoing activities.

Highlights:

- **Fr. T. Nishant** praised the significance of the program, particularly for children from marginalized communities, and acknowledged BDVS's impactful work.
- **Social activist Mr. Sunil Jha** discussed child rights, including the right to education, safety, development, and participation, as outlined in the UNCRC.
- **Sister Tresa Paul** educated the children on the importance of protecting themselves from sexual exploitation, emphasizing the difference between good and bad touch.
- **Fr. Jeevan** focused on teaching moral and constitutional values.
- **Ms. Debu Priya** presented on environmental protection, highlighting Tarumitra's efforts in this area.
- **Fr. Jose and Mr. Ajit Kumar** encouraged the children to follow a clear study timetable and advised them to limit their use of mobile phones.

Media Interaction:

Five media representatives interacted with the children, discussing the role of the media in society and its impact on communities.

The children's participation in all the programs was commendable. Each village presented reports, shared achievements, and showcased cultural performances, including singing and dancing.

Methods Used:

- Lectures and discussions
- Group games and discussions
- Pictorial presentations
- Storytelling
- Video presentations and short films
- Street plays (Nukad Natak)
- Folk and local tribal dances

Conclusion:

The successful efforts of APD leaders and the participation of APD members were highly appreciated, marking them as emerging change agents within their communities. Mr. Sinaya Nayak concluded the program with a vote of thanks, recognizing the commendable roles and responsibilities of all participants, animators, volunteers, unit heads, staff, and guests. The convention was a source of encouragement, inspiration, and learning for all the APD children. Few more details can be seen in the table below.

APD CONVENTION--2024 PARTICIPANTS DETAILS						
SL NO	UNIT	PARTICIPANTS				
		APD CHILDREN		STAFF /ANIMATORS		TOTAL
		BOYS	GIRLS	MALE	FEMALE	
1	PATORI	6	14	1	1	22
2	KHARAGPUR	7	11	1	1	20
3	BARH	6	14	2	0	22
4	BARBIGHA	13	7	2	0	22
5	JHAJHA	7	15	3	0	25
6	NAWADA	2	7	1	0	10
7	JIVDHARA, PATNA	7	15	2	0	24
8	NCBK, NAWADA	3	12	1	1	17
9	SKEIKPURA	2	10	2	0	14
10	MADHEPURA	7	13	1	1	22
12	MANTHAN	6	17	2	0	25
13	TURKI	8	14	1	1	24
14	DARBHANGA	9	13	2	0	24
15	KHAGARIYA	3	18	2	1	24

16	ADMIN TEAM	0	0	14	2	16
	Total	86	180	37	8	311



State-Level Leadership Training for Ambedkar Prerna Dal Leaders

Developing leadership skills empowers Dalit children to navigate social barriers, combat discrimination, and challenge inequalities. These skills enable them to assert their rights, express their opinions, and advocate for themselves and their communities. By investing in their leadership development, we can work towards a more inclusive and equitable society where every individual, regardless of their background, has the opportunity to thrive and contribute positively. BDVS aims to cultivate at least 200 Dalit children as change agents within their communities. To support this goal, BDVS organized a five-day residential leadership training program for APD leaders, conducted in four batches.

Objective

The primary objective of the leadership training was to equip APD leaders with essential leadership skills and abilities. The program focused on fostering leadership qualities, teamwork, and self-confidence among the children to help them become effective community leaders.

Key Activities

- Interactive workshops on leadership principles, communication skills, and decision-making.
- Team-building exercises and group activities to enhance collaboration and problem-solving.
- Role-playing scenarios to simulate real-life leadership situations and decision-making processes.
- Creative sessions to develop self-expression, public speaking, and presentation skills.
- Inspirational talks and motivational sessions from guest speakers and mentors using audio/visual aids.

Major Topics Covered

- Understanding the role of a leader and the qualities of effective leadership.
- Developing communication skills, including active listening, empathy, and assertiveness.
- Strategies for conflict resolution in leadership.
- Goal setting, time management, and decision-making skills for effective leadership.
- Building self-confidence, resilience, and emotional intelligence as a leader.

Participants in the leadership training expressed enthusiasm and gratitude for the valuable learning experience. They praised the interactive sessions, engaging activities, and inspiring speakers as highlights of the event. Many children reported feeling more confident and motivated to make a positive impact in their communities. Additional details are provided below.

SL NO	ACTIVITY	PLACE	DATE	PARTICIPANTS			TOTAL
				BOY	GIRL	GUEST	
1	Leadership training for APD leaders	Sewa kendra, Kurji	09 to 11 Feb 2024	25	26	5	56
2	Leadership training for APD leaders	Tarumitra Digha	16 to 18 Feb 2024	18	33	5	56
3	Leadership training for APD leaders	BDVS Administrative office	28- 04 to 01-05-2024	42	28	4	74
TOTAL				85	87	14	186



Sabitribai Mata Samiti Annual Convention – 2024

Dates: July 16 – 18, 2024
Venue: Maa Kali Marriage Garden, Vijay Nagar, Bailey Road, Patna – 14
Theme: Women's Collectives and Social Development

Introduction

The Sabitribai Mata Samiti successfully hosted its Annual Convention 2024 with the overarching goal of fostering leadership, empowerment, and socio-economic upliftment of Dalit and Adivasi women. This three-day event brought together grassroots leaders, legal experts, community organizers, and social activists to share insights, strengthen networks, and strategize for inclusive development.

Convention Objectives

The convention was centred around four core objectives:

1. Enhancing leadership capacity among Dalit and Adivasi women
2. Strengthening the structural framework of the Sabitribai Mata Samiti
3. Identifying sustainable economic self-reliance opportunities for women
4. Promoting awareness of women's rights, gender-based violence, and legal recourse

Program Overview

Day 1: Inauguration & Inspiration (July 16, 2024)

The convention commenced with registration and a warm welcome to participants from across 5 regions. The inaugural session was marked by:

- ➡ Lighting of the Lamp and Cultural Welcome Song
- ➡ Welcome Address by Fr. Jose
- ➡ Convention Objectives shared by Mr. Sinaya Nayak
- ➡ Keynote Speeches by:
 - Ms. Kanchanbala, a prominent social worker, who emphasized the need for collective action for women's rights
 - Ms. Urmila Karan, Coordinator of Jan Mukti Sangharsh Bahini, who addressed the intersections of caste, gender, and access to education and healthcare
- ➡ **Chief Guest Address** by Padma Shri Sudha Didi, Director of Nari Gunjan, who delivered a powerful message on Mushar women's education and rights

The evening concluded with a street play and interpretation on the life of Savitribai Phule, symbolic songs, and a briefing on event discipline and guidelines.

Day 2: Knowledge Sharing & Community Building (July 17, 2024)

The second day focused on active participation, reflection, and knowledge exchange through presentations, performances, and thematic discussions:

- ★ Recap & Ice-breaking Session to build rapport among participants
- ★ Regional Leadership Reports presented by local leaders of the Samiti
- ★ Discussion on the Status of Dalit Women in Society by Ms. Pratima, Director, Gaurav Gramin Mahila Vikas Manch
- ★ Health, Hygiene, and Nutrition Workshop
- ★ Interactive Session on Economic Activities, Federations, and Organizational Structures led by Ms. Josephine Peter, a community dietitian from Holy Family
- ★ Street Play on Gender-Based Violence by Jan Jagriti Kala Manch
- ★ Legal Awareness Session by Adv. Savita Ali, High Court Lawyer and activist, highlighting legal remedies available to women
- ★ The day closed with games, videos, and a vibrant cultural performance celebrating community spirit

Day 3: Vision, Strategy & Commitment (July 18, 2024)

The final day of the convention focused on future planning, capacity building, and collective affirmation of commitments:



Session on Women's Role in Social Revolution by Mr. Sinaya Nayak

- ➡ Musical Performance by Sargam Band (Mushar women band)
- ➡ Keynote on the Importance of Women’s Organizations by Ms. Meena Tiwari, renowned women's rights activist
- ➡ Workshop on Organizational Structure, Elections, and Leadership Responsibilities by Mr. Sinaya Nayak and Mr. Virendra
- ➡ Oath-Taking Ceremony for newly elected community leaders
- ➡ Panel on “Woman as a Power Symbol” featuring Fr. Anto and Fr. Jose
- ➡ The convention concluded with a grand cultural event followed by the closing ceremony and dinner

Key Outcomes

- ★ Participants gained actionable knowledge on legal rights, health, nutrition, leadership, and self-reliance
- ★ Women leaders shared region-specific challenges and solutions, fostering solidarity across geographies
- ★ A stronger organizational framework was initiated through structured discussions on elections and responsibilities
- ★ Renewed energy and commitment were observed among women participants to lead transformative changes in their communities
- ★ The convention laid a firm foundation for future campaigns, collaborations, and training sessions

Acknowledgments

Sabitribai Mata Samiti extends heartfelt gratitude to all speakers, coordinators, community leaders, and volunteers whose dedication made the event a success. Special thanks to:

- Padma Shri Sudha Didi, Ms. Meena Tiwari, Adv. Savita Ali, Ms. Pratima, and other esteemed speakers
- Coordinators: Rajni, Virendra, Raghav, Ajit, Radha Mohan, and Fr. Jose
- Cultural contributors including Jan Jagriti Kala Manch and Sargam Band

Conclusion

The Sabitribai Mata Samiti Annual Convention 2024 was more than a gathering—it was a movement. It reaffirmed the power of collective voice of women, the importance of grassroots leadership, and the necessity of structural and social reform for women’s empowerment. The energy, insights, and resolutions from these three days will resonate in the community efforts that follow.



Exposure visit of Village organization leaders to Delhi:

A Journey of Learning and Empowerment

Organized by Bihar Dalit Development Committee, Patna

Dates: 25–28 July 2024

Objective: To empower grassroots leaders especially women and youth from marginalized communities with legal awareness, social understanding, and experiential learning through interactive training sessions and exposure visits, developing a stronger sense of rights, identity, and collective action for social justice.

In the early hours of 25th July, excitement buzzed through the air as 32 determined changemakers—18 women and 14 youth and men—boarded the train Sampark Kranti Express from Patna, bound for the heart of India: Delhi. The journey marked not just a physical departure from home, but a symbolic step toward empowerment, awareness, and transformation.

Day 1: Knowing the Law, Claiming Our Rights (26th July)

The first destination was the Indian Social Institute (ISI), where the atmosphere was charged with anticipation. Leading the day was Sungha Gill, a respected legal expert with a passion for justice. With clarity and conviction, she broke down complex concepts into relatable insights:

- What is the **law**? More than rules—it's a safeguard, a tool for justice, and a voice for the voiceless.
- The team dove deep into **women's rights**, legal protections, and the mechanisms meant to shield against **domestic violence and gender-based oppression**.
- Practical discussions followed on **FIRs**, medical procedures, **charge sheets**, and the critical 90-day rule for filing.
- The team examined the **POCSO Act**—its origins, purpose, and urgent relevance. Sungha brought to light the different shades of abuse, from subtle exploitation to organized trafficking.

A powerful segment addressed the concepts of "**Good Touch**" and "**Bad Touch**", teaching children self-protection through action: speak, run, tell. A short, impactful film made the lessons unforgettable.

The team wrapped up the day with actionable knowledge: how to use **Child Helpline 1098**, determine a survivor's age legally, and secure justice with the right documents.

Day 2: Seeing the World with New Eyes (27th July)

Led by the insightful Dr. Stephen, the second day was a deep dive into social consciousness and reflection. The session began with a simple but profound question: **"Why do we ask why?"**

From images of uprooted saplings to the roots of Dalit oppression, Dr. Stephen guided us to uncover systemic truths hidden beneath everyday realities. Through group discussions and personal reflections, The team traced the threads of caste, culture, gender, and identity.

A powerful documentary **"Satyamev Jayate"** shed light on the persistent shadows of discrimination, igniting thoughtful conversations among participants.

Dr. Stephen introduced us to **Zoe Harry Window's framework of self and society:**

1. Self-awareness
2. Social perception
3. Mutual understanding
4. Complete ignorance

Move toward mutual understanding, avoid negativity, and build a community driven by positive values. The team explored what it means to live meaningfully—and how collective efforts through organizations can spark real change.

Day 3: Walking Through History, Standing on Hope (28th July)

Our final day took a lighter but no less inspiring turn. The team stepped into the pages of Indian history, visiting iconic landmarks that speak of resilience, heritage, and unity:

- The majestic Qutub Minar
- The solemn grandeur of India Gate
- The peaceful Raj Ghat, where Gandhi rests
- The epicentre of democracy: Parliament House
- The spiritual serenity of Akshardham Temple

Each site whispered stories of the past, connecting us more deeply to the purpose of our trip: to learn, reflect, and rise.

Coming Home with Purpose

As the train pulled out of Delhi on 28th July, hearts were full and minds alight with new ideas, awareness, and strength. The Delhi trip wasn't just a visit—it was a transformational experience. The team returned to Patna not just as individuals, but as advocates, thinkers, and changemakers, ready to pass the torch of knowledge and justice in our own communities.



Advance stitching training Program

Program Name:

Advance Tailoring Training

Location:	Administrative office, Patna
Training Duration:	12th to 17th August 2024 (6 days)
Location/ venue:	Administrative office, BDVS, Patna- 14
Trainer's Name:	Mrs. Alekha Kharuwa
Total Number of Participants:	20
Objective of Training:	To empower women with sewing skills to promote self-employment and financial independence.

Participation of Trainees:

A total of 20 participants from various districts took part in this training:

- From Barbiga – 6 participants
- From Kharagpur – 7 participants
- From Patori – 5 participants
- From Jhajha – 2 participants

Training Activities:

During this six-day training, participants were taught the following skills:

Basic Stitching:

- Singled -thread sewing, doubled-thread sewing, two -thread sewing, four -thread sewing

Blouse Stitching:

- Princess cut, Choli cut, Patti-style design

Salwar Stitching:

- Naira cut, Anarkali, Cut-style salwar,

Lehenga and Gown:

- Flared lehenga, Straight pants, Flared palazzo

Other Skills:

- Bag folding, Decorative fabric crafting, Fabric cutting and stitching techniques, Steam pressing

Participant Feedback:

Participants found the training extremely useful and informative. They worked hard to prepare various designs and felt proud and satisfied with their achievements.

Many expressed that if the training had lasted a full month, they could have learned even more. They also mentioned that they are now confident to earn an income through sewing and support their families.

Evaluation and Outcome:

An evaluation was conducted on the final day. Participants showed interest in pursuing sewing as a means of self-employment. They were motivated to utilize their new skills for generating income in their local communities.

Conclusion:

The six-day training program was highly successful. With the dedicated efforts of the trainer and active participation of the trainees, all objectives were effectively met. At the end of the training, participants left with a sense of satisfaction and renewed confidence.

Recommendations from participants:

- The duration of future training programs should be extended to one month.
- Enough sewing machines and raw materials should be provided to participants.
- Trained women should be offered banking assistance and marketing support for their self-employment ventures.



Training program on Herbal home remedies and medicines



Home Remedies & Herbal Tonics Training

Organized by: Bihar Dalit Vikas Samiti

From August 21 to 23, 2024, the quiet Tarumitra Ashram hummed with the energy of learning, healing, and community. Under the thoughtful initiative of the Bihar Dalit Vikas Samiti, Patna, a unique training unfolded— one that blended tradition, nature, and self-reliance. With the help of local facilitator and the gentle guidance of Fr. Sevanand Melu, 27 participants gathered from all 5 units to rediscover the power of home remedies and herbal tonics.



Who Came to Learn?

A vibrant group of 27 eager learners, bringing wisdom from different corners of Bihar:

- 10 from Patory
- 4 from Barh
- 3 from Khagaria
- 4 from Jhajha
- 6 from Barbigaha






Each person brought their curiosity and local knowledge, enriching the three-day exchange.

Training Highlights

Learning from Nature's Pharmacy

Over three enriching days, participants explored how traditional, plant-based remedies can still play a powerful vital role in everyday health. The training began with an introduction to the importance of a clean environment for overall well-being, before diving into the benefits of medicinal plants found all around us.

Participants explored:

-  Basil & Peppermint Brews – Natural soothers for breathing troubles
-  Herbal Support for Expectant Mothers – Gentle tonics rooted in tradition
-  Joint Pain Solutions – Natural extracts for comfort and relief
-  Immunity Boosters – Strengthening the body the natural way
-  Home Remedies 101 – Everyday cures, from the kitchen to the garden

Into the Wild

One of the highlights was a hands-on field visit. Participants wandered through the jungle of the training venue, guided by Fr. Sevanand Melu, identifying local medicinal plants. It wasn't just theory—it was touch, smell, and story. Each plant's healing powers were brought to life through stories and practical demos.

Stirring, Blending, Healing: Herbal Preparation in Action

Over the three days, the women participants rolled up their sleeves and transformed humble ingredients into powerful healing blends:

1. **Pain Relief Oil** – A soothing blend for tired muscles and body aches
2. **Cough & Cold Syrup** – A warm hug in a bottle, easing congestion and colds
3. **Herbal Balm** – A heady mix for sinus relief, headaches, and tension

It was a great experience not just the preparation—but the testing. Each woman tried the remedies, felt their effects, and even took home extra oils for continued use and care.

A Seed Planted

This wasn't just a skills training—it was a reminder that healing doesn't always come in a bottle from the market. Sometimes, it grows in your backyard. The BDVS's initiative brought more than just knowledge; it sparked pride, independence, and a deeper connection to nature.

As the program came to a close, the participants left with more than just herbal oils. They carried home something even more powerful, the knowledge that they can be the healers of their own homes and the keepers of traditional wisdom for generations to come.



Union level third annual conventions of the Village-Level Dalit Organizations

Introduction

The union level third annual conventions of the Village-Level Dalit Organizations were organized with great enthusiasm and participation. The events aimed to strengthen the organizational structure of Dalit communities at the grassroots level and to discuss strategies for empowerment and leadership development.

Summary

1	Jhajha	Date: 28 August 2024 Venue: Gyan Bhavan, Kadwa maran, Jhajha/Chandan
2	Barbigha	Date: 28th August 2024 Venue: Darpan Utshab hall, Mahavir chowk, Barbigha
3	Patory	Date: 30th August 2024 Venue: Mohiuddin Nagar Block, Samastipur, Bihar
4	Barh	Date: 24th August 2024 Venue: BDVS, Paschim Malahi, Barh, Bihar
5	Kharagpur	Date: 24th August 2024 Venue: BDVS, Gowada, Kharagpur, Munger

Major Objectives

- ★ To promote awareness of constitutional and legal rights among Dalit and marginalized communities.
- ★ To encourage educational empowerment and parental involvement in schools.
- ★ To strengthen grassroots-level organization and youth engagement in community development.
- ★ To establish better communication between govt departments and community members.
- ★ To promote cultural identity and collective solidarity through dialogue and cultural expressions.

Participation

A total of **798 delegates** from various village-level Dalit organizations attended the convention. Among them were **240 men** and **538 women**, representing a strong and diverse

participation base. These events proved that the women have more interest in leading their communities.

SL NO	UNIT	DATE	PARTICIPANTS		
			MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
1	Barh	24th August 2024	22	58	80
2	Kharagpur	24th August 2024	33	53	86
3	Jhajha	28th August 2024	77	133	210
4	Barbigha	28th August 2024	68	142	230
5	Patory	30th August 2024	40	152	192
TOTAL			240	538	798

Program Inauguration

The program commenced with the lighting of a ceremonial lamp before the statue of Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, paying tribute to his legacy. The inaugural ceremonies were conducted by prominent dignitaries, including:

- ➡ Dr. Govind Prashad (chief guest) Patory
- ➡ Dr. Deepak Kumar (dalit activist) Patory
- ➡ Dr. Vijay Yadav (special guest) Patory
- ➡ Nawal Bhakta (unit head) Patory
- ➡ Mr. Ravindra Kumar (Chief Guest) Barbigha
- ➡ Mr. Sanoj Kumar (senior Advocate) Barbigha
- ➡ Mr. Birendra Kumar (Youth Coordinator) Barbigha
- ➡ Sharda Devi (District Council Member) Jhajha
- ➡ Tulsil Razak (Local Mukhiya) Jhajha
- ➡ Virendra Kumar (State Youth Coordinator) Jhajha
- ➡ Md. Khalil (social activist) Barh
- ➡ Chandan kumar (Local Mukhiya) Barh
- ➡ Birendra kumar (Youth Coordinator) Barh
- ➡ Braj Kishor Das (Block education officer) Kharagpur
- ➡ Sachin kumar (Local Mukhiya) Kharagpur
- ➡ Sr. Sikha (Unit head) Kharagpur

Key Discussions

Officials and speakers highlighted the existing challenges faced by Dalit and marginalized communities, emphasizing the need for structured and strong village-level organizations. They stressed the importance of leadership development and the collective struggle for rights and dignity.

Key highlights of the discussions

i. Strengthening School-Community Relations

- Meetings between school Headmasters and parents addressed attendance issues, infrastructure needs, and quality of teaching.
- Parents expressed their desire for a more inclusive learning environment and regular interaction with school authorities.

ii. Rights Awareness & Legal Literacy

- ★ A major focus was on educating participants about their rights under the Indian Constitution.
- ★ The SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act and its significance in protecting marginalized communities were discussed.
- ★ The socio-economic status of Dalits and Adivasis and the urgent need for community-based organizational development.
- ★ The necessity of a unified struggle to secure land rights and ensure social and economic security.
- ★ Speakers emphasized the teachings of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and the role of youth in preserving democracy.

iii. Cultural Identity & Empowerment

- Cultural programs highlighted the rich traditions and resilience of Dalit communities.
- Folk songs and poems served as mediums to reinforce unity and inspire pride in identity.








iv. Youth Engagement & Collective Action

- ★ Youth shared their challenges and ideas for community improvement, including education access, local employment, and skill development.
- ★ Empowerment through strengthening leadership capacities at the village level.
- ★ Women and youth participation was emphasized.
- ★ Discussions encouraged them to take initiative in social campaigns and support peer learning.

Announcements

At the conclusion of the event, a declaration was made outlining upcoming collective action programs to further the objectives discussed during the convention.

Outcomes

-  New members were welcomed into the Bihar Dalit Vikas Samiti.
-  Awareness raised regarding local governance, rights, and community engagement.
-  Future action plans were discussed to empower the community further.
-  Increased awareness among parents and community members about their rights and the importance of education.
-  Youth participants formed a local action group to continue awareness drives.
-  A follow-up was scheduled with village school officials to address discussed issues.
-  Women's participation in the events showed significant growth, indicating increased inclusion.

Feedback & Suggestions

- Participants appreciated the open dialogue format and cultural components.
- Requests were made to hold such conventions quarterly across panchayats and villages.
- Need identified for continued engagement on government schemes and legal aid awareness.

Conclusion

The third annual conventions of the Village-Level Dalit Organizations at the Union Level successfully brought together a diverse group of committed activists and leaders. It reaffirmed the importance of collective struggle, leadership development, and land rights as central issues for the Dalit community's empowerment. The event concluded with a renewed commitment to grassroots mobilization and the strategic strengthening of village-level organizations.



State-Level Leadership Training for SMS Leaders (Phase IV)

Venue: BDVS, Administrative Office, Patna
Date: September 9-11, 2024

A three-day leadership training was conducted at the BDVS Administrative Office in Patna for Sabitribai Mata Samiti (SMS) women leaders from September 9-11, 2024. A total of 33 participants attended, with representation from four different regions:

- Barbiga – 6 participants
- Barh – 6 participants
- Khagaria – 5 participants
- Patori – 16 participants

Training Methodology

The training was conducted by Md. Kaalam Ansari, who used simple language and engaging activities such as games, drawings, songs, videos, and storytelling to make the learning process interactive and effective.

Session 1: Understanding Women's Leadership Roles

The session began with introductions, followed by a discussion on the roles and responsibilities of women in leadership. Participants identified the various positions within a women's group, such as President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Members. Using a bus diagram, the trainers explained the roles of the driver, conductor, cleaner, and passengers and how they relate to leadership within women's groups.

Session 2: Women's Strength in Society

Through a poster activity, the group discussed how a woman managing her entire family alone is seen as either weak or powerful. This was further explored using another poster titled "A Woman with Ten Hands", symbolizing the multiple responsibilities women handle daily.

Session 3: Confidence Building Through Play

In this session, a game involving balancing balls was used to teach the concept of perseverance. Initially, the balls kept falling, but with repeated attempts, participants improved. This activity was linked to the idea that "you are not weak; you just need to keep trying."

Session 4: Gender Roles and Women's Awareness

On the second day, discussions revolved around women's and men's responsibilities at home and in the workplace. The conversation highlighted that while women dedicate most of their time to household tasks, men focus more on external work, limiting women's awareness of government schemes, development initiatives, and social changes.

A role-play was conducted where a household budget was analysed, revealing that poorer families often spend excessively on household expenses, increasing financial hardship. This session emphasized the importance of financial awareness among women.

Session 5: Women's Participation in Community Organizations

The discussion focused on the role of women in village committees and how their participation in meetings contributes to decision-making. The session also covered the importance of structured group discussions and how women can actively shape their organizations' future.

Session 6: Strengthening Women's Organizations

The final day started with a review of the previous sessions and then moved on to a discussion about the importance of women's organizations (Federations). Using posters, the trainers explained the differences between a small group and a large collective and how collaboration leads to problem-solving and job creation.

In the last session, each regional group developed an action plan to implement their learnings. Key objectives included:

- Spreading knowledge gained from the training
- Strengthening women's participation in leadership roles
- Promoting financial independence
- Discouraging child marriage and superstitions
- Ensuring equal participation of men and women in household responsibilities

Conclusion

The training concluded with an evaluation by BDVS Director Fr. Jose and Mr. Sinaya Nayak, who emphasized the importance of self-awareness and social participation. Participants were encouraged to implement their action plans and be proactive in community development. The three-day leadership training ended successfully, with participants motivated to take on leadership roles in their communities.



Learning Exposure Visit of Sewa Dal Team Members

Organized by:	BDVS, Patna
Participants:	Sewa Dal and AYM Team Members
Number of Participants:	26
Venue:	Loyola Pastoral Centre, Matigara, Darjeeling, West Bengal
Dates:	21–25 September 2024

1. Introduction

The youth of today are the change-makers of tomorrow. Recognizing the need to equip young leaders with the skills and mindset to lead, BDVS organized a five-day Learning Exposure Visit for 26 Sewa Dal and AYM team members. Held at the Loyola Pastoral Centre in Matigara, Darjeeling, this program was designed to build leadership capacity, foster personality development, and provide exposure to community-based development efforts.

2. Objectives of the Program

- To develop leadership and personality skills among youth leaders.
- To deepen participants' understanding of social issues in rural and marginalized communities.
- To expose participants to successful models of community action and youth engagement.
- To encourage self-awareness, empathy, communication, and critical thinking.
- To foster collaboration, teamwork, and effective decision-making.

3. Training Schedule and Highlights

Day 1: 22 September 2024 – Setting the Context

- Welcome and Introductions: Participants introduced themselves and connected over shared goals and regional backgrounds.
- Understanding the Local Context: A session was held to frame the socio-economic challenges in the rural Siliguri area.
- Program Orientation: The Director of BDVS shared the purpose of the training, focusing on core issues such as health, education, migration, and livelihoods in marginalized communities.
- Field Insights and Presentations:
 - Mr. Cornelious and Ms. Ritu presented impactful grassroots initiatives in tea garden communities, focusing on food security, equitable wages, and women's empowerment.
 - Discussions revolved around critical issues such as children's education and land rights.
 - Youth-led efforts around land ownership and migration were showcased as successful models.
- Introduction to Yuva Sangthan: Participants were introduced to this youth-led initiative that promotes leadership, advocacy, and civic engagement.

Day 2: 23 September 2024 – Leadership and Skill-Building

- Personality Development:
 - Facilitator Lokesh engaged participants in exploring the foundations of personality and personal growth, emphasizing the role of self-awareness and personal values.
- Leadership Styles and Reflection:

- Fr. Jose guided participants through an introspective session on leadership styles and how this influence community involvement.
- Leadership Skills Workshop:
 - Mrs. Pinki Samuel provided insights into the qualities that define effective leadership—vision, collaboration, innovation, and adaptability.
 - Practical skills such as communication, time management, and interpersonal effectiveness were explored.
 - Participants were encouraged to push beyond their comfort zones and adopt a mindset of continuous learning.
- Team-Building Activity:
 - A hands-on exercise required teams to build towers using straws and glue.
 - Team Two's success demonstrated effective teamwork, problem-solving, and communication.
- Conflict Resolution Session:
 - Participants examined strategies to manage interpersonal and community-level conflicts.
 - Role-playing and exercises emphasized empathy, listening, and negotiation.
- SMART Goal Setting:
 - Participants learned to set goals using the SMART framework (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound).
 - Each individual set a personal goal and received feedback from the facilitator.
- Cultural Performance:
 - A moving skit by the Arise team depicted societal pressure on girls, sparking a powerful discussion on gender equity and youth advocacy.

Day 3: 24 September 2024 – Exposure Trip

- Excursion to Darjeeling:
 - The team set off at 5:00 AM for a day of learning and exploration in Darjeeling.
 - Visits included scenic tea gardens, cultural heritage sites, and natural landscapes.
- Learning Highlights:
 - The group gained insights into the importance of environmental conservation and sustainable community practices.

- Informal interactions with locals helped broaden their understanding of rural livelihoods and social structures.

4. Key Outcomes

- **Enhanced Leadership Competence:** Participants gained confidence in their leadership roles, learned new strategies for organizing, and developed critical thinking and problem-solving abilities.
- **Improved Communication & Teamwork:** Through interactive activities, participants strengthened their interpersonal communication and collaboration skills.
- **Greater Social Awareness:** Exposure to real-life issues and success stories helped participants connect deeply with the challenges and strengths of local communities.
- **Inspired Commitment:** The blend of training, reflection, and field exposure ignited a renewed sense of purpose among participants to work for social change.
- **Personal Growth:** The sessions fostered self-awareness, goal-setting, and empathy—traits essential to effective leadership.

5. Conclusion

The Learning Exposure Visit was a transformative experience for all participants. The carefully designed sessions and exposure to community realities enabled youth leaders to not only understand but also actively envisage solutions for the challenges faced by their communities. The blend of knowledge, reflection, and field-based learning equipped participants with the mindset and tools needed to become effective agents of change.

Going forward, the participants are expected to carry these learnings into their village-level work, inspire peers, and continue building inclusive and resilient communities.



State-Level Convention of Village Level Organizations

Organized by:	Bihar Dalit Vikas Samiti (BDVS)
Date:	October 1–3, 2024
Venue:	Maa Kali Marriage Hall, Rukanpura, Patna
Total Participants:	304

Background

Bihar Dalit Vikas Samiti (BDVS), an organization committed to the socio-economic upliftment of marginalized communities since 1982, organized a three-day State-Level Convention of Village Level Organizations (VLOs) from October 1–3, 2024 in Patna. The objective was to empower grassroots collectives through capacity-building, leadership development, and collaborative advocacy, especially among Dalit communities across 10 operational sites of BDVS.

Objectives of the Convention

- Strengthen and consolidate the role of Village Level Organizations (VLOs)
- Foster leadership, particularly among women and youth
- Promote awareness of rights, government schemes, and development programs
- Encourage unity, cultural identity, and community-based governance (Gram Swarajya)

Participants

A total of 304 participants attended the event, including:

- Community leaders and VLO representatives from 5 units
- BDVS staff and coordinators
- Special guests and resource persons
- Cultural troupes and local facilitators

Significant female representation was observed, reflecting progress in gender inclusion within grassroots organizations.

Day-Wise Proceedings

Day 1 – Inauguration and Opening Discussions (October 1, 2024)

- The event commenced with a welcome address by Fr. Jose, Director of BDVS, followed by opening remarks from Mrs. Shweta Kujur (Regional Manager, NCDC) and Chief Guest Mr. Pancham Lal (former IAS officer).
- The speakers emphasized leadership, collective action, and economic self-reliance.
- A brief introduction to the history and significance of VLOs was presented.
- Participants were oriented on the goals and expected outcomes of the convention.

Day 2 – Capacity Building & Thematic Sessions (October 2, 2024)

- The day opened with reflections from community leaders on past experiences and challenges.
- Workshops and interactive sessions focused on:
 - *Gram Swarajya* and decentralized governance – led by Pankaj (Activist)
 - Migration and social protection – presented by Fr. Dr. Louis Prakash
 - Strengthening women's collectives – facilitated by Mr. Ranjan and Sr. Dorothy
- Cultural Performances:
 - *Santhali Dance* by the Jhajha Unit
 - Skit titled "*Okka Bokka*" by the Asha Repertory Group, addressing gender-based violence and legal injustice

- The cultural presentations effectively highlighted social realities and nurtured solidarity.

Day 3 – Reflections, Planning & Closing (October 3, 2024)

- Unit-wise reflections were shared by BDVS site teams, highlighting achievements, gaps, and future action plans.
- VLO leaders like Mr. Mahendra Raushan and Mr. Aitwari shared insights into unity, rule formation, and community mobilization.
- Mr. Nayak delivered the concluding address, summarizing key insights and reinforcing the need for continued grassroots action.
- The event closed with the motivational slogan:

“Ladenge, Jitenge, aur Lade hai Jite hai.”

Key Highlights & Outcomes

- Leadership Training: Over 200 participants took part in structured leadership-building activities.
- Strengthening of VLOs: 90% VLOs reported progress in governance, accountability, and collective planning.
- Data-Informed Advocacy: Discussions grounded in Bihar caste census data and scheme analysis informed community strategies.
- Cultural Integration: Use of folk art, dance, and skits created an engaging and emotionally resonant space for learning.
- Policy Awareness: Sessions covered E-Shram, Ayushman Bharat, PDS access, and safe migration, empowering participants with actionable information.

Observations and Feedback

- The participatory format, cultural activities, and inclusion of real-life data were well-received.
- Participants appreciated the space to share their challenges and solutions across regions.
- A need for ongoing training, digital literacy, and follow-up monitoring was expressed by several VLO representatives.

Challenges Identified

- Lack of access to up-to-date government data and limited awareness of digital welfare services
- Persistent social discrimination and administrative barriers at the grassroots level
- Weak participation in Gram Sabhas and local governance forums

Recommendations from the participants

- Conduct regular follow-up meetings and VLO training
- Build digital infrastructure and literacy at the village level
- Advocate for updated socio-economic data and improved delivery of government schemes
- Prioritize leadership training for women and youth
- Encourage inter-VLO networking and knowledge sharing

Conclusion

The State-Level Convention successfully energized BDVS's grassroots base, providing participants with knowledge, tools, and a shared vision for empowerment. With continued support, the VLOs can become robust platforms for inclusive development, policy advocacy, and social justice. The convention concluded with collective gratitude and a renewed commitment to building an equitable and self-reliant Bihar.



State-Level Convention of Ambedkar Yuva Manch (AYM)

Organized by:	BDVS, Patna
Participants:	AYM members and leaders
Number of Participants:	289
Venue:	Maa Kali Marriage Hall, Bihar
Date:	October 21–22, 2024

Chief Guest:

Shri Ratnesh Sada, Hon'ble Minister, Government of Bihar

Guest of Honour:

Mr. Vijay Prakash, Former IAS Officer, Bihar

Background

The Bihar Dalit Vikas Samiti (BDVS), a pioneering organization committed to the empowerment of marginalized communities, hosted the State-Level Convention of Ambedkar Yuva Manch (AYM) to foster youth leadership, social equity, and community development. Held on October 21–22, 2024, the convention provided a vibrant platform for youth to connect, reflect, and strategize on key issues impacting their lives and communities.

Given Bihar's significant youth demographic and the persistent socio-economic barriers they face—such as limited access to education, employment, and leadership opportunities—this initiative aimed to empower participants in alignment with Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's vision of justice, equality, and dignity for all.

Objectives of the Convention

1. Youth Empowerment: Build leadership, life skills, and self-reliance among AYM members.
2. Self-Evaluation & Peer Learning: Encourage self-reflection and mutual learning through shared experiences.
3. Strategic Planning for Growth: Develop community-centric action plans to address contemporary challenges.

Day 1: October 21, 2024

Inaugural Session

The event commenced with a flag-hoisting ceremony, symbolic balloon release, and the recital of the *Samvidhan Prastavana* (preamble of the constitution) by Mr. Sonu Kumar of Barbiga. Youth from Barh presented a welcome song, setting an inspiring tone for the event. Floral tributes were paid to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's portrait, reinforcing the ideological foundation of the gathering.

Fr. Jose, Director of BDVS, welcomed the guests and participants, emphasizing the critical role of youth in social transformation. He introduced the chief dignitaries and highlighted the AYM's ongoing journey since its inception in 2016. Mr. Sinaya Nayak, Program Coordinator, offered insights into the AYM's impact, focusing on themes such as leadership development, career planning, and Ambedkarite values.

Keynote Speeches & Discussions

Mr. Vijay Prakash, Ex-IAS Officer & Director, Creative Learning School, Patna

- Advocated for entrepreneurship and self-employment as sustainable livelihoods.
- Stressed the importance of English proficiency and digital literacy.
- Highlighted the value of vocational education and business innovation among Dalit youth.

Shri Ratnesh Sada, Hon'ble Minister, Bihar Government

- Underscored the transformative power of education for marginalized communities.
- Acknowledged BDVS's efforts in disaster response and educational outreach.
- Called upon youth to renounce substance abuse and focus on skill-building and career advancement.

Cultural Segment

A powerful skit led by Mr. Rajnikant and his team portrayed the detrimental effects of alcoholism on families and society. Key slogans such as "*Nashe ko na, Shiksha ko haan*" and "*NASHA KARE NAASH, Nashapan Dur Kare*" resonated with the audience, underlining the need for awareness and behavior change.

Day 2: October 22, 2024

The day began with a meditation and yoga session led by Fr. Lawrence SJ to promote mental well-being and focus.

Skill Development & Capacity Building Sessions

Fr. Yesu Raj, Don Bosco Skill Development Center

- Encouraged participants to identify local needs and establish enterprises to address market gaps.
- Highlighted the importance of practical, skill-based training for financial independence.

Mr. Rahul Kumar, DRCC Patna – Government Youth Schemes

He outlined major schemes aimed at empowering Bihar's youth:

- **Kushal Yuva Programme:** Soft skills, communication, and computer training.
- **Mukhya Mantri Swayam Sahayata Bhatta Yojna:** Financial aid with mandatory skill training.
- **Bihar Student Credit Card Scheme:** Up to ₹4 lakh for higher education with flexible repayment.

Youth Safarnama – Celebrating Success Stories

This segment showcased the achievements of AYM members, illustrating real-world impact:

- **Rakesh Kumar (Bihar Police):** Demonstrated how community engagement can lead to career success.
- **Rupak Kumar:** Entrepreneur who established a repair shop, creating local employment.
- **Sanjeet Kumar:** Operates a CSP center, championing digital inclusion.
- **Rohit Kumar Raushan:** Advocates for political participation of the Mahadalit community.

Address by Fr. Louis Prakash

He spoke about the pressing issues of migration, Dalit rights, and the importance of safe migration practices. He introduced key government initiatives like:

- **E-Shram Card:** Supports migrant workers with social security.
- **PM Ayushman Bharat Card:** Provides healthcare access for underprivileged populations.
- **Migration**

Way Forward – Strategic Action Plan

1. **Safe Migration Advocacy:** AYM leaders to coordinate awareness campaigns and appoint local representatives at block and panchayat levels.
2. **Digital & Technical Skill Expansion:** Mobilize tech-savvy youth to help communities access government welfare schemes.
3. **RTI Training & Youth Leadership:** Select and train 25 RTI volunteers to promote transparency and civic engagement.

Closing Session & Remarks

Fr. Jose concluded the convention by urging the youth to adopt **discipline, perseverance, and a growth mindset**. He emphasized continuous learning and community service as essential pillars for sustainable success.

The convention concluded with the **national anthem**, symbolizing unity and commitment to the shared vision of an equitable society.

Conclusion

The State-Level Convention of the Ambedkar Yuva Manch served as a powerful catalyst for youth empowerment in Bihar. Through insightful discussions, practical training, and shared inspiration, it reinforced the values of leadership, inclusion, and social justice. The momentum generated will continue to fuel grassroots efforts toward a more just and empowered society.



Consolidated report: Sewing machine distribution programs

Organized by- Bihar Dalit Vikas Samiti

Locations: 3 Regional Offices as Barh, Barbiga, and Kharagpur

Overview

The Bihar Dalit Vikas Samiti conducted three sewing machine distribution events in October 2024 across its regional offices in Barh, Barbiga, and Kharagpur. These initiatives aimed to empower young women and girls from economically disadvantaged backgrounds by providing them with sewing machines and encouraging self-reliance, education, and skill development. The programs were attended by local agricultural and block development officers who distributed the machines and motivated participants to pursue economic independence and education. The machines were distributed among those who had completed the stitching training course.

Event Details

BARH

Date: October 16, 2024

Location: Regional Office, Baadh

Key Attendees: Smt. Kumari Anju, 'BDO' Barh, and Shri Gulshan Kumar
(Agricultural Science Center, Barh)

Participants: Approximately 22 participants attended; 6 received sewing machines

Selection Criteria: Participants were chosen by supervisors and trainers based on need, poverty, capability, and a desire to support their families after discontinuing education due to financial constraints. Addition to that she must be a dalit women, member of SMS, and she must complete 6 - month training course.

Highlights:

Smt. Kumari Anju lit a lamp to inaugurate the event and emphasized women's role in personal, family, village, and societal development, urging them to stand on their own feet and live with dignity. Participants were encouraged to prioritize self-reliance before considering marriage and to expand their sewing skills from home to shops.

Shri Gulshan Kumar explained the importance of certificates provided by the institution and detailed the Prime Minister Vishwakarma Scheme, including government loans ranging from ₹10,000 to ₹1,00,000 available after 15 days of training and certification.

Conclusion: The event ended with a group photo following the distribution.

BARBIGHA

Date: October 18, 2024

Location: Regional Office, Barbigha

Key Attendees: Shri Vinod Kumar, Agricultural Development Officer

Participants: 43 young women/girls attended; 20 received sewing machines

Selection Criteria: Participants were chosen by supervisors and trainers based on need, poverty, capability, and a desire to support their families after discontinuing education due to financial constraints. Addition to that she must be a dalit women, member of SMS, and she must complete 6 - month training course.

Highlights:

Shri Vinod Kumar distributed the sewing machines and encouraged participants to seek assistance if needed, emphasizing technical education and continued learning. Participants shared their training experiences and discussed future plans, expressing their intent to become self-reliant and support their families economically.

Conclusion: The event ended with a group photo after the distribution.

KHARAGPUR

Date: October 28, 2024

Location: Regional Office, Gowada, Kharagpur

Key Attendees: Smt. Priyanka Kumari, Block Development Officer

Participants: 19 young women/girls attended; 16 received sewing machines

Selection Criteria: Participants were chosen by supervisors and trainers based on need, poverty, capability, and a desire to support their families after discontinuing education due to financial constraints. Addition to that she must be a dalit women, member of SMS, and she must complete 6 - month training course.

Highlights:

Smt. Priyanka Kumari inaugurated the event and distributed the machines, stressing self-reliance as a priority alongside education and technical training. Information on government loans for entrepreneurs was shared to further support participants. Sewing was highlighted as a skill enabling women to earn a good income from home for themselves and their families.

Conclusion: The program concluded with a group photo.

Key Themes and Outcomes

- Empowerment through Skill Development: Across all three programs, sewing machines were distributed to enable women to earn a livelihood, emphasizing self-employment as a means to economic independence.
- Education and Support: Officers encouraged participants to resume education and pursue technical training, with additional guidance on government schemes and loans to support entrepreneurial ventures.
- Community Impact: The initiatives targeted disadvantaged women, aiming to uplift families and communities by nurturing financial stability and dignity.
- Approximately 84 young women/girls attended across the three events.
- Sewing Machines Distributed: 42 machines were provided to selected beneficiaries.

Conclusion

The sewing machine distribution programs held on October 16, 18, and 28, 2024, successfully advanced the mission of the Bihar Dalit Vikas Samiti to empower women from marginalized communities. By providing tools, training, and motivational support, these events laid the foundation for participants to achieve self-reliance and contribute to their families' well-being. The involvement of local officers and the focus on education and government resources further strengthened the programs' impact, offering a sustainable path forward for the beneficiaries.



Unit - level workshop on federation formation

Organized by Bihar Dalit Vikas Samiti, Patna

1. Patori Federation Workshop – November 23, 2024

Venue:	Dr. Jose meeting Hall, Patori
Facilitator:	Dr. Radhe Shyam
Chief Guest:	Fr. Jose, Director, BDVS
Guest of hon:	Mrs. Radha Kumari (district cooperative in-charge)

BDVS organized a one-day workshop to support the formation of a Scheduled Caste (SC/ST) Women's Cooperative Federation. The session aimed to empower Dalit women through collective entrepreneurship and cooperative governance.

Inaugural Remarks

The event began with a welcome by Naval Bhagat (MDVS Secretary) and concluded with a vote of thanks by Pinki Kumari. Fr. Jose emphasized the importance of women's financial independence, stating it as a foundation for social dignity and self-reliance.

Key Topics Covered

Trainer Dr. Radhe Shyam guided participants on:

- Cooperative society structure, rules, and registration process
- Financial management and operational governance

Business Ideas Discussed

Participants explored small-scale enterprise opportunities, including:

- Puffed rice production
- Soap and sanitary pad manufacturing
- Spice grinding and packaging
- Readymade garment production

These ideas reflected the women's readiness to begin businesses with administrative support.

Participation & Engagement

- Total participants: 47 (40 federation members, 7 special guests)
- District Administration representatives: 13
- Notable attendees included Mrs. Rajni Kumari, Saraswati Kumari, and Shiv Prashad Ram.

2. Barbigha Federation Workshop – November 24, 2024

Venue: BDVS Office, Barbiga
Trainer: Dr. Radhe Shyam
Guest of Honour: Fr. Jose, Director, BDVS

This session focused on strengthening the administrative and operational capacity of Federation members.

Workshop Highlights

- Explained documentation and procedures for Federation registration
- Emphasized shared capital and its role in launching sustainable businesses
- Clarified that business operations can commence before full registration (expected in 2–3 months)

Business Planning Session

Participants discussed three potential ventures:

1. Silk Yarn Processing
2. Readymade Garment Production
3. Grain Bank

Silk Yarn Processing was chosen by majority vote.

- Initial investment required: ₹2.5 lakh
- Expected product value: ₹4.5 lakh

Outcomes & Encouragement

- Women will gain employment and ownership through joint capital investment.
- Fr. Jose, Director, BDVS praised the participants' enthusiasm, reiterating BDVS's commitment to women-led development and economic empowerment.

The workshop ended with a vote of thanks and a community meal.

Conclusion

These back-to-back workshop sessions mark a significant step toward building financially empowered, cooperative-based women's federations in Bihar. With structured support, clear business plans, and administrative guidance, the foundation for sustainable, women-led enterprises is now firmly in place.



Advanced embroidery training for dalit women tailors

Program Name: Advanced embroidery training for dalit women tailors
Location: Administrative office, Patna
Training Duration: **27-29 November 2024**

Location/ venue: Administrative office, BDVS, Patna- 14

Trainer's Name: Two trainers from 'Usha' Company, Mr. Laxmikant Kumar and Mr. Neeraj Nath

Objective of Training: To empower women with sewing & embroidery skills to promote self- employment and financial independence.

Total Number of Participants: 7

- Patori – 2 participants
- Barbiga – 1 participant
- Khagaria – 2 participants
- Barh – 2 participants

Training Overview

The training featured three different types of embroidery machines from 'USHA' Company, each designed for specific embroidery techniques:

1. USHA Stitch QUEEN Machine
2. USHA Stitch MAZIC Machine
3. USHA Design Craft Machine

These electric-powered machines were demonstrated to the participants. The Stitch QUEEN Machine is unique because it can operate on both electricity and a pedal system.

Participants learned about:

- The functionality and operation of each machine
- The differences between the three embroidery techniques
- How to embroider fabrics with floral, leaf, and letter designs

Each participant was given hands-on experience operating the machines under the supervision of the trainers.

Hands-On Practice & Skill Development

Participants independently operated each machine, working on various fabric designs. Whenever they encountered difficulties, they sought guidance from the trainers. Over the three-day training, each participant practiced embroidery on different fabrics to refine their skills and assist one another in the learning process.

Training Outcome

By the end of the training, the participants:

- Gained confidence in using all three embroidery machines
- Understood the efficiency and speed of modern embroidery techniques
- Expressed their interest in using these machines for future work

The participants shared that these advanced embroidery machines are lightweight, easy to use, and work at a high speed. The training concluded successfully with participants excited to apply their new skills in their tailoring businesses.



Three-day state-level training for women federation members

Organized by: BDVS, Administrative Office, Patna

Under the Project: Dalit development project

Dates: **27th & 29th November 2024**

Venue: BDVS, Administrative Office, Patna

Executive Summary

This report outlines the successful completion of a three-day state-level training program for women associated with the newly formed federations under the Dalit development project initiative. Conducted on 27th to 29th November 2024 at the administrative office in Patna, the training aimed at equipping 27 women from three different regions with knowledge and skills related to federation functioning, documentation, economic empowerment, and entrepreneurship.

Objectives of the Training

- To enhance awareness among dalit women about economic independence
- To educate participants on federation operations and responsibilities
- To provide practical knowledge on documentation, accounting, and registration processes
- To motivate women to initiate self-employment and local livelihood activities

Participants & Areas Represented

Total Participants: 27 women

Regions Covered:

- Patori – 12
- Jhajha – 12

- Barbiga – 4

Facilitators and Resource Persons

- **Mr. Prabin Roy** – NCDC, Patna
- **Sr. Jyoti** – Federation Specialist
- **Mr. Radhe Shyam** – Federation activist
- **Fr. Jose** - Director, BDVS
- **Mr. Birendra Kumar**

Training Methodology

The program was delivered through interactive sessions, group discussions, personal storytelling, and presentations. Visual aids and real-life case studies were used to help participants connect with the concepts.

Training Summary

Day 1: 27th November

Session 1: Introduction & Social Overview

- Led by Fr. Jose and Mr. Birendra Kumar
- Discussion on poverty, gender-based challenges, and the importance of financial independence

Session 2: Federations and Their Impact

- Federations as tools for economic and social upliftment
- Real-life examples to illustrate the transformational power of Federations

Session 3: Government Schemes and Group Dynamics

- Facilitator: Mr. Prabin Roy – NCDC, Patna
- Insights on government/corporate support
- Motivational talk on building strong, sustainable women's groups

Day 2: 29th November

Session 1: Women's Success Stories

- Led by Sr. Jyoti
- Sharing of personal experiences to demonstrate resilience and empowerment

Session 2: Overcoming Barriers

- Facilitator: Mr. Birendra Kumar
- Focused on emotional resilience, self-worth, and community pressure

Session 3: Regional Employment Planning

- Led by Sr. Jyoti
- Strategies for identifying local employment opportunities
- Mapping jobs to community potential

Technical Training Topics Covered

Led by Dr. Radhe Shyam (Federation activist)

1. General body registration
2. Executive committee meetings
3. Membership and shareholding
4. Cash book and financial registers
5. Loan/savings records
6. Ledger maintenance
7. Income & expenditure accounts
8. Salary and insurance accounts
9. Bank accounts

Breakdown of Women's Contribution (Fund Allocation)

- 3% – Education
- 3% – Health
- 25% – Profit & Loss Management
- 25% – Insurance Fund
- 15% – Profit Distribution

Final Day Session Highlights

Facilitator: Mr. Rakesh

- Regional strategy development and action planning
- Assignment of group responsibilities

Key Documents Discussed for FEDERATION Registration:

1. Project Registration Document
2. Application Form
3. Bylaws and Rules
4. General Body Meeting Records
5. Executive Committee Meeting Records
6. First Committee Member List
7. Office Signboard Submission
8. Agreement Paper Copy
9. Receipt for ₹10,000 registration fee
10. Member List with shareholding women
11. Final Inspection Report

Registration Guidelines:

- Submission deadline: **5th December 2024**
- Each woman to contribute ₹50
- Remaining amount to be borne by the organization
- Project documents to be compiled and submitted for formal registration

Outcomes and Impact

- 27 women empowered with practical knowledge of FEDERATION operations
- Increased motivation among participants to pursue self-employment
- Action plans developed for employment opportunities in local sectors
- Foundation laid for official FEDERATION registration under the dalit development project
- Women committed to continuing their contribution toward local economic development

IV. Conclusion

The "Dalit Development in Bihar" project has demonstrated substantial and measurable progress across all four key objectives in 2024, reinforcing its role as a transformative initiative for marginalized communities. Through strategic interventions in education, leadership training, legal awareness, and livelihood development, the project successfully enhanced the

capacities of Dalit children, youth, women, and community organizations. The increased participation, improved academic outcomes, expanded leadership roles, and stronger grassroots mobilization point to a deepening impact and growing community ownership.

While certain targets—such as broader skill-based employment, professional education admissions, and scaled economic gains for women—require further attention, the foundational structures are firmly in place. The project's multi-pronged approach, anchored in empowerment, rights-based advocacy, and participatory methods, has fostered resilience and self-reliance in its target groups.

As the final phase of the project concludes, the emphasis must now shift to sustaining these gains through continued mentorship, institutional partnerships, and advocacy. The achievements of 2024 provide a strong platform for future expansion, deeper systemic change, and long-term socio-economic upliftment of Dalit communities across Bihar

Key lessons learned by BDVS:

- **Integrated, localized strategies work best:** Combining rights-based education with grassroots mobilization has yielded better outcomes than isolated interventions.
- **Follow-up is crucial:** Initial trainings and support need structured follow-up and mentoring to translate into sustainable results—especially in employment and professional education outcomes.
- **Youth and women are catalysts:** Engaging these two groups intensively has had ripple effects in community awareness, governance participation, and socio-economic mobility.
- **Documentation and MIS systems matter:** Accurate, consistent data collection and analysis via MIS and monitoring tools have strengthened planning and accountability.
- **Partnerships enhance impact:** Collaborations with legal professionals, educators, and government departments have proven valuable for training quality and advocacy strength.

The end.....