

The Trust supports development and sharing of learning material on early childhood education in Mundari under the District Education Initiative, Khunti



The Government's integrated child development schemes have been the primary provider of early childhood care and education (ECCE) for the children in India. But in spite of its scale and reach, early childhood education remains the most neglected. The situation is more pathetic for the children living in tribal areas of Khunti district. There is very poor access to quality early childhood education which has awful effects on primary education.

Greater access to quality education addressing the cognitive and psychological development needs of children in the age group three to six years and building the capacity of caregivers to deliver it effectively, collectively with sensitisation of the community members has been one of the primary objectives of the Trust under district level initiative. In order to address this problem under district-level initiative, Khunti, the

Trust supported Sesame Workshop India (SWI), New Delhi, to develop material on early childhood education. Since language has been a major issue in Khunti district for the poor delivery of education, the materials have been developed in Mundari. After the need assessment of the Anganwadi centres and a great deal of research work conducted, SWI developed child centred educational materials on health and hygiene, literacy and science.



It was considered very essential to share the material with senior officials involved in implementing early childhood education schemes so that it could be brought to their notice that SRTT in coordination with Sesame Workshop India and the partner organisations like Bhartiya Kisan Sangh and FEMALE are focusing on developing early childhood education materials in Mundari and have been putting their heads together on making quality pre-education accessible to the vulnerable children. To meet this purpose a meeting was conducted on March 27, 2010 at Ranchi with officials from the Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Jharkhand, partner organisations and other organisations involved in imparting early childhood education.



SWI Country Director, Sashwati Banerjee making presentation on the kit prepared with support from SRTT

The meeting started with the introduction of the participants and brief information on the work of the Trust was shared by Manoj Kitta in Khunti, Jharkhand. This was followed by presentation by Sashwati Banarjee — country director, Sesame Workshop India, on SWI, its objective, and its work globally and in India. Garima from SWI explained the whole process of the research work and the need assessments and different studies done during the development of the materials and what was the response of the Sewikas and the children when the formative research work was being carried out to test the material. The materials were also displayed before the guests and the use of the materials was shown practically. The guests themselves were involved in the activities and were very impressed with the work done.



Use of 'Story pond' being displayed during the presentation

There was also a very comprehensive discussion on the issues related to early childhood education in Jharkhand and how these materials would be useful in delivering quality education to the particular age group. In continuation to this the SRTT representatives along with the representatives of SWI and BKS went to the office of the Director of Women and Child Development Pushpa Marandi, and interacted with her. The team briefed the director about the ongoing work in Khunti with the Trust's support along with the purpose and use of the kits. A set of kits was also presented to her. The officials remarked that the work being done is noteworthy and have also requested the Trust to share a concept note on the activities being carried out in Khunti for their understanding.



Garima of SWI sharing the first kit with Pushpa Marandi, Director Women and Child Development department, GOJ

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