

REPORT 2013 - 2014- 2015

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Working with right to participation and the need to go into the community with continued efforts to keep the Village Child Committee running effectively, monthly meetings were held with representation from the Bal Gram Sabha .

However the problem of motivation to keep the Village Child Committee running is a task by itself.

Despite continuous coordination and reminders only few of the members of the VCC attended meetings. The children however were always present.

This again highlights the need as requested earlier to the Directorate of Panchayats the necessity to have monitoring and evaluation of the Village Child Committees.

The lack of toilets in the village was a problem came up repeatedly in the meetings and that learning self defense was only a part of the solution.

At this point that Mitsuko contacted Tallulah D'Silva of Global Shapers Panjim Hub to find a solution to the problem.

A ricki of the village showed that it was not possible for water pipes to be laid due to lack of space between houses. The only Sulabh (public toilet) closes in the evening by 7 pm leaving no option for villagers but to go in the open. There are issues of choking and overflowing of the Sulabh toilet.

The nullah which flows through the village was overflowing with organic and inorganic waste while the problem of defecation in the open posed problems of security and health. Animals and children played around the nullah without understanding the implications of polluted water. Women were forced to defecate on paper and throw the waste into the nullah for lack of any facility.

After consulting the VCC and speaking with stakeholders, the need for 36 toilets was identified in the village. The question of funding the toilets was also discussed.

Syngenta a corporate which works in the area of Corlim was approached with the model of ecosan toilets for funding. However the model was not accepted as a solution.

Project proposals were given to the Department of Tourism, Govt. of Goa as well as the Governor Smt. Mridula Sinha who convened a meeting of ngos to launch and reiterate the importance of 'Swatch Bharat' campaign by the central government.

In March 2014, Mitsuko held a jumble sale through which it raised money for starting the pilot project for ecosan toilets. With the help of donations – a result of the efforts of our deceased trustee Tamara Flatau Chaudhuri who had actively lobbied to raise money, the first toilet was completed in the house of a beneficiary in Carambolim village. Continuous monitoring of the project is carried out every week to find solutions to teething problems if any.

At the same time the bal gram sabha wanted to raise awareness about the pollution in Carambolim lake which is the lifeline of the village (most of the villagers depend on agriculture and fishing for their livelihood) and the decreasing number of migratory birds as a result of it.

Mitsuko approached Arundhatti Chottopadhyaya to conduct workshops to empower children to create theater which would help build awareness. (In child participation an activity like theater can be used as a powerful medium of empowerment). ***A separate report of the theater project is attached.*** The workshops were attended by 40 students on light, sound, makeup script and other theater exercises. These workshops helped the children to write out ideas for the play. Characters were created and their roles defined. The final production was staged by 9 from the group. The project was supported by the Directorate of Art and Culture with special grant for conducting the workshops.

Though the involvement of children was complete and the Sate Commission for Protection of Child Rights gave their complete support in to the project, the officials who are the implementers were absent despite our efforts to bring them to the show.

We were unfortunate to loose Tamara Flatau Chaudhuri due to her demise in April 2015.

Mr. Jiten Shah Singh was welcomed and voted as a trustee of Mitsuko Trust.