



## Annual Report 2015-16

During the current year 'Ganga' has raised awareness of Environment Conservation among the general public and has motivated people from all walks of life, including school students, teachers and community members towards environmental conservation. To further its objectives in Ganges River Dolphin Conservation, Ganga has joined forces with IIT Delhi to develop the equipment for Dolphin Counting at Narora, Bulandshahar district.

The Ganga Team has also assisted a large number of girls who have dropped out of school through establishing Intensive Courses and providing academic training up to Junior High School level. They were then readmitted to the school in Sitapur.

Ganga has implemented Tuberculosis Care and Control initiatives and retrieved patients from hard to reach areas and put them in treatment at Lucknow.

The organization has raised the issue of female feticide, accessibility to safe water, sanitation and hygiene, and providing healthy life to marginalized and vulnerable population of the slums and villages of the project area.

Among the research initiatives, Ganga has conducted assessment of schemes such as PMEGP.

Along with implementing these programmes, Ganga followed up previous year activities and organized other events by its own efforts and in partnership. Staff capacity building under various schemes has been of chief importance, and also establishment of networks and links to various organization with similar mandates.

# **Annual Report Ganga 2015-16**

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**1- Environment Conservation**

We all know that our environment is facing a serious threat from increasing pollution and that protecting and conserving our environment is vital for the future of life on earth. Environment conservation, however, needs wide approach; a positive environmental action with a better understanding of the indivisible nature of the environment, its resources, and the complex inter-connections and relationships. Hence, the importance of conservation, protection, and regeneration.

### **1.1- Microsoft Create to Inspire School Programme:**

Program Coverage: 150 schools, 159 Teachers, 447 school students, 26 Eco system partners and 3200 community members from Barabanki & Faizabad District from June 2015 to March 2016.

Microsoft 'Create to Inspire' School Programme is an initiative where the sustainable living concept is being oriented through school teachers and children to each and every household of the community. The programme builds the capacity of teachers and provides them a framework to engage with students on the themes of Energy, E-waste, Transportation, Water and Bio-diversity.



The framework helped to bring a change in the understanding of the environment. Students who enrolled in these campaigns inspired their peers, parents, relatives, and communities to evaluate and consider the environmental impact of their existing lifestyles and to take steps toward sustainable living.

The programme, incorporating three phases, began with orientation of teachers through induction workshops where they developed the understanding to implement the program in the schools. During the second phase, students reflected teacher's initiatives taken with them and the activities that children had undertaken during the project period. Children implemented the environmental conservation based activities in their schools, homes and their surroundings related to the environmental themes.

By involving teachers first, and then students, the Microsoft Create to Inspire Programme empowered school teachers to transfer their new learning to the students easily. The teachers have been oriented towards environment conservation themes and, they are passing on the learning to the students.

The programme remains sustainable with the teachers passing on the knowledge to future students also. The programme is playing a major role among teachers and children in the community in encouraging them towards environment conservation.

### **1.2- Ganges River Dolphin Conservation Education Programme**

Program Coverage: 50 schools, 41 Teachers, 116 school students, Faizabad District from June 2015 to March 2016.

The Ganges river dolphin (*Platanista gangetica gangetica*) has been chosen as the national aquatic animal of India. It is popularly known as *Sousor Susu* in Hindi. Ganges river dolphins are distributed along the Ganges and Brahmaputra river systems. This elusive aquatic animal represents the health of the river systems.

These creatures were at one time abundant, but now their number has declined considerably. It is estimated that the current population within India is approximately 1200-2000.

In order to conserve this species, it is important to build an understanding about them, their life cycles, habit and habitats. Unless people understand and appreciate why Ganges river dolphins must be protected, it will be an uphill battle to protect them. Education and awareness programmes can help in developing a sensitive and informed population. School education along with involving related stakeholders to protect Ganges river dolphins is a key part of public awareness and education.

With the support from National Mission for Clean Ganga, The Centre for Environment Education has initiated a three year awareness and education programme for conservation of the Ganges river dolphins and the aquatic ecosystem of which it is a vital part. The selected project implementation areas are the major riverside areas where Ganges river dolphins are found in Ganga Basin river system of northern India.

In Faizabad district, in 2014-15, fifty schools along the riverside were identified and selected, and clusters were formed. In each cluster, school teachers were oriented to conduct the programme, with support, at school level. The cluster event was held again in 2015-16, on 15<sup>th</sup> September.

For the present year, the teachers have undergone training in a teacher's orientation workshop on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at MLML Inter College, Faizabad. These teachers have then formed River Dolphin Clubs among their students. Classroom based activities have been conducted by clubs and its effect has also reached to the local community, especially fishermen residing close the river bank.

The MLML Inter College has also been developed as Dolphin Resource Centre where students and teachers gather to learn about the dolphins. The programme will be followed up by school visits and also a cluster level event during 16-17.



### 1.3- Ganges River Dolphin Conservation through Integrated Visual and Acoustic Survey Program (Narora, Bulandshahar)

The programme involved deployment of an Integrated Visual and Acoustic Survey (IVAS) system for monitoring Ganga dolphins. High-definition cameras were mounted on or above a survey boat which also carried a hydrophone for recording dolphin bio-sonar emissions. This unique technology performs data fusion on visual and acoustic data for dolphin counting.

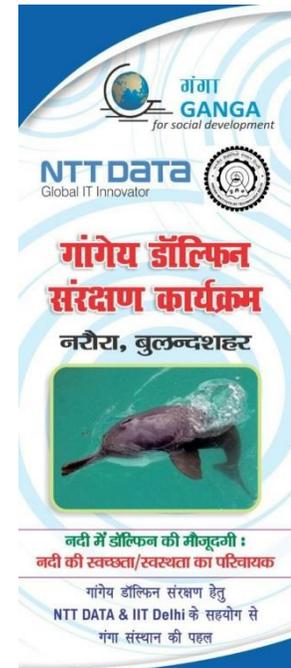
The aim of the project is to develop technology to automatically monitor dolphins and count them. Developing an integrated approach using underwater acoustic monitoring and visual monitoring together, could be used to help conservationists better understand the dolphin habitat.

Dolphins hunt for fish using bio-sonar clicks. These clicks are detected by hydrophones, and the direction of the dolphin is determined. A dolphin typically stays underwater for 3-5 minutes before surfacing to take a breath. The moment it surfaces, it stops producing the clicks and the video cameras are triggered to capture an image of the creature.

Acoustic monitoring can assist the visual monitoring algorithms to concentrate in the region where the dolphins are detected so that the cameras can capture their images when they surface. Likewise, visual detection would assist acoustic algorithms to concentrate in the regions where the dolphins are present.

Interested institutions can access real-time and archived audio-visual data on the dolphins, and also access reports that are generated by the developers and collaborators.

Villages and schools around the survey area were engaged, including an event with local rituals to establish a connection between the people and the IVAS programme. The locals have been very enthusiastic and are awaiting the final outcome of the project due in 2016-17.



### 1.4- National Environment Awareness Campaign 2014-15

The National Environment Awareness Campaign (NEAC) was launched by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India in 1986. The object of the campaign is to create awareness on environmental issues among a wide group of stakeholders.

Several nongovernmental organizations, educational and training institutions, professional associations, scientific bodies, community organizations, and a range of other agencies participate in the campaign. The theme for 2014-15 has been “Combating Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought”.



The soil is a vital resource for producing food, preserving biodiversity, facilitating the natural management of water systems and acting as a carbon store. Degradation of land due to soil erosion and other processes is a severe problem in many regions in India. A staggering 228.3 million hectares (69.6%) of India are dry lands.

As per the assessment carried out by Space Application Centre (2007), the total area undergoing the process of land degradation in India is estimated at 105.48 million hectares, which is 32.07% of India's total land area. The areas undergoing desertification total 81.45 million hectares, which is 24.78%.

Land degradation reduces the productivity of land particularly in drylands and can leave the soil exposed and vulnerable to climatic hazards such as drought. Degradation of land resources ultimately results in desertification. The theme "Combating Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought" is intended to increase the awareness of the masses about this problem and to educate them on measures to combat it.

In accordance with the National Environment Awareness Campaign, a programme was organized at Jai Hind Inter College, Barabanki from 20<sup>th</sup> July 2015 to 28<sup>th</sup> July 2015. A total of 397 people, comprising 212 elders and 185 children were involved in the campaign.

The campaign started with orientation of school teachers and students, introducing them to the programme theme. In the following days, quizzes and drawing competitions were held in the various classes; plantation drives were also organized. A motivational atmosphere was cultivated through the activities and through the designation of an environment building.

Sh Ambrish Verma, principal of the college thanked the Ministry of Environment & Forests, GoI and also the Ganga team for selecting their college and holding such enthusiastic events.



## 2- Health Conservation

Uttar Pradesh is the most populous of India's 28 states with an estimated population of over 190 million people. The combined, detrimental effects of high population density, high levels of urban and rural poverty, unaccountable scheme implementation and poor service delivery are evident in the average national health and socio-economic indicators.

The RNTCP Scheme for Tuberculosis control has been implemented for more than twenty years, but the services provided under the scheme are insufficient to mitigate what has been called *the deadliest of infectious diseases*. Furthermore, it is predicted that services will continue to be insufficient for another fifty years.

To curb the Tuberculosis menace, as well as other illnesses, Ganga has taken the initiative of implementing the Axshaya Programme and other programs addressing health issues through Village Health, Sanitation and Nutrition Committee trainings.

### **Axshaya Project (Lucknow& Sitapur)**

Ganga Organization implemented Axshaya Project in Lucknow & Sitapur district during 2015-16. According to the programme strategy, Ganga Team organized 45 awareness meetings in vulnerable and marginalized slum pockets and hard to reach village areas. After organizing these meetings, 185 suspects were referred to the concerned DMCs (Designated Microscopy Centres) for diagnosis. Those suspects who were unable to reach at DMCs were given the Sputum Collection and Transportation Service (SCT). The SCT service was provided to 221 suspects from both districts during this year. Out of this service, 13 patients were identified and started taking treatment.



Along with the grassroots community work, 'Ganga' representatives also shared the needs for TB care at the *TB Advocates Training and Northern Regional Partners Meeting at Partnership for TB Care & Control in India* at New Delhi.

### **Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Committee**

Ganga Team, along with the health department, has conducted 200 Village Health Sanitation & Nutrition Committee (VHSNC) Training sessions, in all the 15 blocks of Barabanki district. The object of the programme is to provide the training to Pradhan, ANMs and ASHA workers along with the members of VHSNC. Though the committees that are formed by Health Department, they are also given untied fund of Rs. 10,000/- for



works such as helping elderly, isolated, or otherwise helpless members of the community;

meeting any immediate requirement of village panchayat; and providing loans to needy families. The organizations enlisted 15 block coordinators and 30 trainers to motivate and assemble all the seven VHSNC members from each panchayat. They provided them one day training towards formation and execution of VHSNC and its fund utilization. This was done in batches of 5 panchayats consisting 35 participants. Ganga team trained 10112 members from constituted committees such as, village education committee and village economy and planning committee. As per the expected results of the training, the expenditure of the VHSNC has increased from 5% to 35% throughout the district. The training programme also included research and awareness activities such as cultural events in the village and also murals displaying roles, functions and duties of VHSNCs.

### **3- Women Empowerment**

Although it may be said that today's society is advanced, there are a number of areas of backwardness still evident, one of these is discriminations against women.

#### **Swabhimaan Programme for Educating School Dropout Girls & Women**

The philosophy of Swabhimaan came from the belief that educating a girl is educating a family. Educated women are better able to manage their families and take a more meaningful part in their community.

During the year of 2014-15, Ganga has provided 50 School dropout girls at Khetaura village, Mahmoodabad Block of Sitapur District with holistic guidance in development. The team worked with drop-out girls not only to educate them but also to build leadership, critical thinking, right questioning and problem solving skills so that they could be the leaders with the potential to transform their communities.

Providing quality education is only one aspect of Swabhimaan, the girls also received vocational training in computer literacy and tailoring, and also life skills training. Sports and education awareness visits were also significant parts of the programme.

#### **Research: PMEGP Physical Verification Jammu & Kashmir**

Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), a credit-linked subsidy programme which is the result of a merger between two schemes: the Prime Minister's Rojgar Yojana (PMRY) and Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP.) The objective of the program is to generate employment opportunities through establishing micro enterprises in rural, as well as urban areas.

PMEGP is a central sector scheme being administered by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME). The Scheme is being implemented by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), a statutory organization under Ministry of MSME as the single nodal agency at the National level.

At the State level, the Scheme is being implemented through State KVIC Directorates, State Khadi and Village Industries Boards (KVIBs) and District Industries Centres (DICs) and banks. The Government subsidy under the Scheme is being routed by KVIC through the identified Banks for eventual distribution to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries / entrepreneurs.

Ganga team assessed 1258 units established under PMEGP scheme for the year 2012-13 in the state of Jammu and Kashmir. Out of the total units assessed, 959 units were working whereas rest of the units were not functional. 717 units were found to be in the Production Sector and 541 units were in the Manufacturing sector. The 90% (917) units were established by Minority Community whereas 53 units were run by General communities. OBC entrepreneurs were running 44 units, and 21 units were run by SC category incumbents. Out of the total entrepreneurs 208 were women and rest units were being run by men.

#### **4- Other Highlights of the year**

- As a member of the government constituted forum of State Mental Health Authority committee, the Ganga Organization continued to assert the rights of those who have been mentally/psychologically ill, especially women and children.
- As Honorary Animal Welfare Organization, recognized by AWBI, Chennai, the Ganga Organization continued to address the need of animals.
- The Ganga Organization continued to serve as a teaching and learning platform for the students of the Social Work Department, University of Lucknow. Mr. Manoj and Mr Vimlesh from first year as well as Ms Pooja, Ms Ranjana and Ms Vijaylaxmi from second year of the course have learned much from their volunteering in Ganga fieldwork.
- The Ganga Organization continued to remain active in the Partnership of TB Care and Control, India; STOP TB Partnership USA; and Global Coalition of TB Activists
- The Ganga Organization received credentials from UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) as a potential partner and was also assessed by Prof. Rajesh Kushwaha, Social Work Department, University of AGRA as a credible NGO.