TEHRI DISTRICT LEVEL WORKSHOP

ON

INFORMATION, ENTITLEMENT & EMPOWERMENT

Nov 19th, 2015

VENUE:
HOTEL SATKAR,
MAIN CHOWK CHAMBA,
UTTRAKHAND

Supported by

European Union

Co-organised by

DEF
DIGITAL EMPOWERMENT foundation

Organised by

ABOUT THE SEMINAR

Information is a tool that can help to eradicate the poverty and backwardness and improve the living conditions of women, schedule castes and tribes, minorities and other marginalised groups. Absence of appropriate mechanisms and limited resources at government level to disseminate important citizen related information has proved hurdle to access the information and derive benefits from public schemes in time. However, this situation can be improved through creating a systematic approach to deliver public schemes information to citizens and communities using both traditional and new methods supported by Information Communication Technology (ICT) tools and platforms. Further, this can be improved through capacity building of the stakeholders in a systematic manner over a period of time. These capacity building initiatives will also play a key role in promoting accountable and responsive panchayats and other government bodies to provision timely and relevant service delivery.

All relevant stakeholders including the local administration, the government agencies and departments, the NGOs and civil society organisations and other partners should step ahead and come forward to work in close coordination for improving accessibility of information about public schemes and successfully delivering their benefits to those who are most deserving. The bigger advantage of timely delivery and access of information services helps to stabilise our societies and communities and helps to address their various social, economic and educational needs. In the longer run, this promotes and strengthens our democracy through active citizen and communication participation and engagement.

WHY THE SEMINAR

The main goal of seminar is to build deep conceptual understanding of the public schemes, programme and process to avail the information or benefit. Stakeholder would get to know how the benefit can be reached to the last mile beneficiaries who are lagging behind in availing their rights which are actually meant for them. It would create opportunities to explore areas which are relevant for information dissemination and citizen entitlements, also share ideas in a way that will advance the thinking and actions of stakeholders in order to strengthen and develop capacities of local agencies to deliver services better.

OBJECTIVE

- To take stock, review the existing status of public schemes information dissemination in the district
- To understand and review the issues and challenges in citizen and community entitlements from public welfare schemes and programmes
- To understand and take stock of methods, ways and means to deliver public schemes information and provide final entitlements to citizens and communities.
- To explore new methods, ways and means to deliver public schemes information and provide entitlements through example sharing and exchange.
- To understand the status and scope for working together between the local administration, government agencies, NGOs and civil societies to improve the information dissemination environment.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- To have a better understanding of the public schemes information dissemination environment in the district
- To have a better understanding of the limitations of information dissemination and lack of citizen entitlements
- To map the existing methods and means to deliver information and entitlements
- To explore new ways and means to improve the delivery and access of information and entitlements in time
- To explore models of partnership and collaboration between the local administration, departments and agencies and the NGO and civil society organisation and other partners
- To work towards a better information democracy in the district and make the district a foremost district in best information dissemination and citizen entitlements in India



Guests of Honour

PARTICIPANTS

The guests who shared the space with the participants are:

1. Avdhesh Kaushal, Padmashree, Founder & Patron, Rural Litigation & Entitlement Kendra, Uttarakhand
2. Raghubhai Jardhari, Social Worker, Tehri Garhwal, Uttarakhand
3. Sushil Bahuguna, Rural Development Society(an NGO), Dehradoon
4. Baby Aswal, Block head, Jakhanidhar Block, Tehri Garhwal, Uttarakhand
5. Budhi Singh Pundir ji, a social worker, Chamba, Tehri Garhwal, Uttarakhand
6. D. P. Chamoli, Assistant Block Development officer, Chamba, Tehri Garhwal, Uttarakhand
7. Avinash Bhadauria, District Social Welfare Officer, Tehri Garhwal, Uttarakhand

SUMMARY

Henvalvani (a local community radio station) and Digital Empowerment Foundation collectively organised a district level workshop on November 19, 2015 at Satkar Hotel, Chamba, Tehri Garhwal, Uttarakhand. Participants varied from elected members of gram panchayat, district/block officials, social activists, local influential NGOs, CBOs, self-help group workers etc., primary health canter officials, bank officials and beneficiaries.

The main goal of the workshop was to build deep conceptual understanding of the public schemes, programme and process to avail the information/benefit. Stakeholder would get to know how the benefit can be reached to the last mile beneficiaries and who are lagging behind from their rights that are actually meant for them. Also, the workshop would create opportunities to explore areas relevant for information dissemination and citizen entitlements in more depth.

The event began with the inaugural speech of Rajinder Negi, station manager of community radio 'Henvalvani' (a local community radio station that broadcasts problems faced by local people in Chamba and also informs the mass about other affairs).

He invited the guests to the podium in order to light the inaugural lamp so as to carry the event further.

Brijesh Dharma, District Manager, Soochna Seva Tehri Garhwal, presented a brief description about Soochna Seva project and the work that is being done in the district.

The chief guests expressed their opinion and suggestions for the development of people in the Tehri district. Raghubhai Jardhari praised the work of DEF and Soochna seva. Sushil Bahuguna, Rural Development Society (an NGO) emphasised that information is like a bridge that fills the gap of ignorance and poverty. Baby Aswal, Block Head of Jakhanidhar, Tehri Garhwal encouraged the participants to provide relevant information to the needy and fight for women empowerment and female foeticides.

The DEF team and Henvalvani team presented Gardhwali caps and shawl to the guests.

WORKSHOP SESSIONS

GROUP SESSION I:

Public Schemes Information Dissemination, Entitlement Status in Tehri Garhwal District

Focal points for discussion:

- Status of public schemes available at district level for citizens & community benefit
- Status of means & methods for information dissemination and delivery of entitlements
- Community engagement for information access and entitlement benefits including public grievance system
- Challenges in information dissemination & delivery of actual entitlements to the needy population
- Why is it required to disseminate information regarding public schemes to the needy communities and ensure delivery of entitled benefits?



Group discussion in process

The outputs of discussion among participants were divided under two categories as follows:-

Discussion Highlights of this Session:

- Teachers are not punctual and hardly pay attention to the children. Also, Computer and English teachers are not available.
- Deficit of medical facilities and modern instruments hinders proper treatment of the people.

- Lack of jobs force youngsters to migrate to other states for better livelihood and lucrative opportunities.
- Wild animals create menaces and it creates difficulty for the people to commute at night.
- LPG is not supplied on time at Anganwadi Kendras and it delays in preparation of food for children.
- Especially abled children below 12 years cannot avail disability pension.
- There is no provision from government's end to hear women's appeal.
- Government representatives do not reach out to people to give them information correctly.



Group discussion in process

GROUP SESSION II:

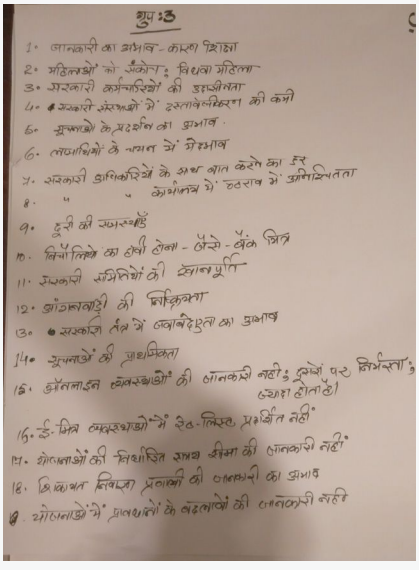
Strengthening Public Schemes Information Dissemination, Entitlement Benefits in Tehri Garhwal District

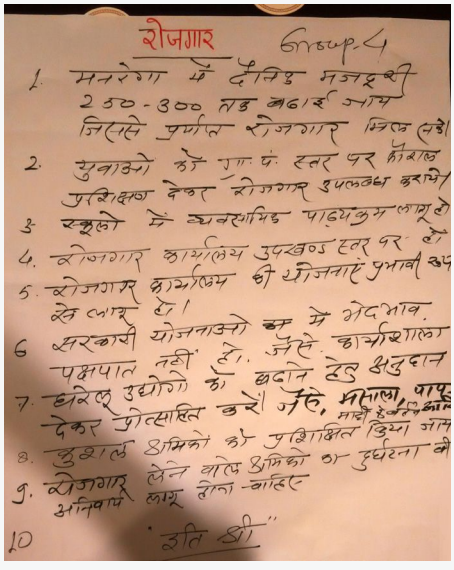
Focal points for discussion:

- Innovative ways and means to improve last mile delivery and access of public schemes information and entitled benefits for citizens
- Role of Information Communication Technology (ICT) or digital applications to improve delivery mechanism and access of public schemes information
- Whether and how Soochna Seva programme can improve delivery and access of public schemes information and citizen entitlements in Barmer District?

Discussion Highlights of this Session:

- Self-employment is one of the good options to avoid migration and it can be achieved by providing vocational training to youth.
- Proper physical infrastructure and facilities such as library, computer lab and play-grounds should be provided at schools.
- To counter the scarcity of water supply more number of hand pumps should be installed by government within a km distance.
- Technical facilities and awareness about alternative farming should be provided to increase agricultural productivity
- Proper information centre should be established to create awareness on government schemes in order to cater the need of applicants v





Discussed points documented by participants

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Ved Kishore Rayal, a retired officer sang a beautiful Gadwali song named as "chitthi".This song was about a lady who complains her husband about the troubles faced by people who reside in hilly region.



Ved Kishore Rayal presenting his song

MEDIA RELEASE:



4 | दैनिक जागरण देहरादून, 20 नवंबर 2015

एक नजर

22 नवंबर से शुरूहोगा कालीदास जन्म समारोह

सुवाखोली: महाकवि कालीदास जन्म भू स्मारक समिति तथा संस्कृति विभाग के संयुक्त तत्वावधान में कालिदास में तीन दिवसीय कालीदास जन्म समारोह शुभारम्भ से संपन्न जाएगा। समारोह 22 नवंबर से शुरू होगा। महाकवि कालीदास जन्म भू स्मारक समिति के संयोजक सुरेशानंद नौटि ने बताया कि कालीदास घाटी के कालिदास में प्रतिवर्ष महाकवि कालीदास के जन्म दिवस पर तीन दिवसीय समारोह का आयोजन किया जाता है। यह स्मारक कालीदास के जन्म से जुड़ा है। समारोह की तैयारियां शुरू हो गई हैं। उन्होंने बताया कि तीन दिवसीय समारोह में संस्कृत भाषा में विभिन्न कार्यक्रमों का आयोजन किया जाएगा। जहां दिन प्रतिदिन कवियों, राष्ट्रभाषा व विकास व्यवस्था सांस्कृतिक विषयों पर व्याख्यान कार्यक्रम आयोजित किए जाएंगे। 23 को विभिन्न सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रमों का आयोजन और 24 को सांय समापन व सम्मानित पुरस्कार सम्मान वितरण किया जाएगा।

नई तकनीकी का करें इस्तेमाल

रुमा: डिजीटल इकनोमेट फाउंडेशन दिल्ली की ओर से गुरुवार को सामुदायिक रेडियो केंद्रकाण्डी के सहयोग से सेमिनार का आयोजन किया गया। संचालन अधिकारियों को सरकारी योजनाओं को अंत-अंत तक पहुंचाने की अहिल की गई। चर्चाओं आयोजकों ने कहा कि नई तकनीकी का प्रयोग कर सरकारी योजनाओं को अंत-अंत तक पहुंचाने के लिए प्रयास होना चाहिए। इस अवसर पर मंचाध प्रमुख आनंदी नेगी, संगठन के जिला प्रबंधक कृष्ण धर्म, बीडीओ एनएस भंडारी, सहायक विकास अधिकारी टीपी धमोली, कृषि अधिकारी टीपी सेमवाल, प्रधान सहायक सिंह नेगी आदि मौजूद थे।

6 | सहारा

देहरादून। शुक्रवार • 20 नवम्बर • 2015

योजनाओं को जनता तक पहुंचाने की जानकारी दी

नई दिल्ली (एजेंसी/भाषा)। डिजीटल इकनोमेट फाउंडेशन दिल्ली द्वारा सेमिनार का आयोजन किया गया। जिसमें विभिन्न अधिकारियों व कर्मचारियों को सरकारी योजनाओं की जानकारी एवं सुचनाएं जन-जन तक पहुंचाने के बारे में जानकारी दी गई। सेमिनार में इस बात पर जोर दिया गया कि किस तरह आमजन को सरकारी योजनाओं का लाभ मिल सके।

गुरुवार को चम्पा स्थित एक होटल में आयोजित जिला स्तरीय सेमिनार में डिजीटल इकनोमेट फाउंडेशन द्वारा सामुदायिक रेडियो केंद्रकाण्डी के सहयोग से सुचना एवं जानकारी पर सेमिनार आयोजित किया गया। जिसमें मौजूद विभिन्न विभागों के अधिकारी एवं कर्मचारियों से सरकारी योजनाओं की जानकारी एवं सुचना जन-जन तक पहुंचाने और उसका लाभ लेने की बात कही गई।

इस मौके पर संगठन के जिला प्रबंधक कृष्ण धर्म ने बताया कि फाउंडेशन जनता के पास भलाई से प्रोजेक्टों को सुचना एवं जानकारी देने का कार्य कर रहा है। उन्होंने बताया कि जो लुप्त रेडियो केंद्रों को पुनः चालू किया गया है। उनका उद्देश्य जिलों के ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में जनसामान्य के

सेमिनार का आयोजन किया

News clippings of Tehri Garhwal

WORKSHOP PHOTOS:



Inaugral lamp lit by guest



Group Discussion



Soochna Seva workshop



Group Discussion



Participants at the workshop



Group Discussion



The traditional cap is presented to the guest of honour



Workshop in progress

SOCIAL MEDIA REPORTS

TWITTER REPORT:

Tweets	Tweet impressions	Profile visits	Mentions	New followers
21	2,890	287	52	24

Popular Tweet



SoochnaSeva Retweeted



rahul @rahuliam1 · Nov 19

@SoochnaSeva @ group discussion on issues related to govt related schemes



1 1

SoochnaSeva Retweeted



rahul @rahuliam1 · Nov 19

@SoochnaSeva # discussion about govt schemes on various pensions issues hot topic # govt representative get ready for the hot questions

1

SoochnaSeva Retweeted



Deepshikha @Shikha2610 · Nov 19

Kids at #aaganwadi centers are being used to collect firewood for cooking food. #challenges#soochnaseva @SoochnaSeva @DEFindia @OsamaManzar

FACEBOOK REPORT:

Popular Post

Soochna Seva
Published by Hootsuite [?] · 19 November at 14:06 ·

Group discussion continues with lots of enthusiasm and interest. Participants varied from elected members of Gram Panchayat, District/Block Officials, Social Activists, Local influential NGOs, CBOs, Self Help Group workers etc., Primary health center officials, bank officials and beneficiaries.



110 people reached **Boost Post**

12 Likes

Soochna Seva
Published by Pages Manager for Windows [?] · 19 November at 13:07 ·

"We must work hard to provide relevant information to the most needy people. also, we should fight for women empowerment and female foeticide."

Says Baby Aswal, Block head, Jakhanidhar. #tehrigarhwal,#uttrakhand.



50 people reached **Boost Post**

CONCLUSION

The main aim of this report is to provide essence of the workshop that took place at Tehri district. It was organised to give space for exploring the areas which are relevant for information dissemination and citizen entitlements; also, share ideas that would develop the capacities of local agencies, in order to deliver citizen services better. A different approach was utilised in order to build a conceptual understanding about public schemes, programmes and process to avail information or benefit. The workshop gave platform for various stakeholders to interact, engage and debate under one roof about the challenges faced by citizens and communities, methods to deliver information about pubic schemes and working status of local bodies such as government agencies, NGOs and civil societies, towards improvement of the information dissemination environment.

The efforts were fruitful as the participants unravelled the grave issues that were hidden under the rubble of ignorance and suppression. Limitations of information dissemination and lack of citizen entitlement were broadly discussed. There were recommendations about redefining the delivery and access of relevant information so that it could effectively reach the last mile beneficiary.

Shortcomings of the government delivery framework were identified and recommendations were made to improve partnership and collaborations between government agencies, NGOs and civil societies so that they acknowledge information dissemination as their collective responsibility.



For Further Details:

Digital Empowerment Foundation
House No. 44, 2nd & 3rd Floor
Kalu Sarai, , New Delhi – 110016
Tel: 91-11-26532786 / Fax: 91-11-26532787
Email: def@defindia.net | URL: www.defindia.org

European Union

Soochna Seva

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