BARMER, DISTRICT LEVEL WORKSHOP

ON

INFORMATION, ENTITLEMENT & EMPOWERMENT

Nov 17th, 2015

VENUE:
HOTEL KAILASH INTERNATIONAL,
BARMER, RAJASTHAN

Supported by

European Union

Co-organised by

DEF
DIGITAL EMPOWERMENT foundation

Organised by

ZYKKS
Zila Yuvak Kalyan Kosh Samiti

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 the issues and challenges of 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



Group discussion in process

- 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.

PARTICIPANTS

The guests who shared the space with the participants are:

1. Bhawra Ram, Sarpanch, Baitu Chimangi village, Baitu Block.
2. Rekha, Panchayat Samiti Sadasya, Kalyanpur.
3. Mahendra Yadav, Doctor, Govt. Hospital Block
4. Hanumanji, Project Officer, SURE
5. Bhuraramji, Sarpanch, Mahabar village, Barmer
6. Madan Barupal, District Information Officer, Barmer
7. Shobha Gaur, Naya Agaz Mahila Paramarsh, Barmer
8. Kanhaiyalalji, Panchayat Samiti, Charlai Village, Kalyanpur
9. Sarita Mehwal, Panchayat Samiti, Dhanau, Dhanau block
10. Daularam Chaudhary, Ex-Sarpanch, Kalyanpur.
11. Karnaram Chaudhari, Up-Pradhan, Kalyanpur.



Participants at the workshop

SUMMARY

Zila Yuvak Kosh Samiti, a local non-profit organisation and Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF) collectively organised a district level workshop on 17th November, 2015 at Hotel Kailash International in Barmer, Rajasthan. Participants varied from elected members of gram panchayat, district/block officials, social activists, local influential NGOs, CBOs, self-help group workers etc., primary health centre 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 and 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.

Sonaram Pala, member of Zila Yuvak Kosh Samiti inaugurated the event with a brief description about his organisation. He highlighted the efforts put forward by his NGO for the youth and the livelihood training provided to the underprivileged.

The event was carried forward by Shishir Purohit, District Manager of Soochna Seva. Through his presentation he briefly explained about the project's objective, focus area, feasibility, working area, way to work, current role of DEF/ Soochna Seva, people's participation and objective of the workshop.

Short movie clips about Soochna Seva Barmer, success story, etc. were shown to the participants for better understanding among them.

Syed Kazi, Deputy Director, Digital Empowerment Foundation and Program Director, Soochna Seva project presented the guests by giving a small sapling to each one of them. The purpose behind the sapling was to give a message of sharing the responsibility, building the ownership, making the environment green and spreading the knowledge just like the plant spread its branches.

He further spoke about information tool and its importance. How it can help to eradicate poverty and improve the living conditions of women, schedule castes and tribes, minorities and other marginalised groups.

For group discussion all participants were divided in six core groups, in which they discussed on following points:- (45 minutes activity)

1. To understand and review the issues and challenges in citizen and community entitlements from public welfare schemes and programmes
2. Review the existing status of Public schemes information dissemination in the district.

WORKSHOP SESSIONS

GROUP SESSION I:

Public Schemes Information Dissemination, Entitlement Status in Barmer District

Focal points for discussion:

- Status of public schemes available at district level for citizens & community benefit
- Status of Means & methods to 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 there is urgency to disseminate public schemes information to the needy communities and deliver entitlement benefits?



Participants at the workshop

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

Government side

Social Security/ Health/ Education/ Livelihood/ Employment/ Financial Inclusion

Social Security

- Scheme information among community
- Lack of information dissemination at panchayat level
- Irregularity in government departments and its work
- No acknowledgement receipt at the time of form submission
- Pension not delivered on time

Employment and Livelihood

- MGNREGA- No information process for applying.
- Corruption at large in government offices.
- No information among beneficiaries of job card.
- Essential requirement of various documents under MGNREGA
- No Receipt is provided to the beneficiaries

Education

- Lack of quality education
- Absence of community linkage with anganwadis
- Lack of school management committee's meeting
- Unavailability of infrastructure facilities.
- School drop outs and less number of students are admited at school

Health

- CHC and PHC do not open on regular basis
- Challenges in issuing disability certificate
- No availability of medicine
- Ill attitude and improper functioning of woman and child department
- No facility of health and security

Financial Inclusion

- No receipt is given to PMJDY,PMSBY and PMJJBY beneficiaries

Common challenges

- Lack of responsibilities by government officials and agencies.
- Due to scattered area, no development in roads and other transport facilities
- Change of govt. rules time to time and no prior information regarding this
- No proper knowledge about the procedure of linking a beneficiary with schemes
- Complexity in rules to benefitted with scheme
- No time limit is decided after submission of scheme forms
- No exact place for availability of scheme forms
- No information displayed in villages by govt. departments
- No dress code for govt. employees
- Middle man dominates in the society
- No rate list is displayed outside common service centre

Beneficiary side

- Deactivation of SMCs in school
- Lacking of ownership by beneficiaries themselves
- Lacking of monitoring system
- Child marriage and illiteracy issues
- Skill development

GROUP SESSION II:

Strengthening Public Schemes Information Dissemination, Entitlement Benefits in Barmer District



Group discussions in process

Focal points for discussion:

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

Participants involved in next sessions discussed on possible solutions to improve the delivery and access of information and entitlements in time. Following are the outcomes of discussion:-

Social Security

- Place social security related forms at panchayat level
- Rules for social security related forms not to be changed on time
- Wall painting to be done for social security schemes information
- Provide scheme receipt to beneficiaries
- Lessen the number of authority's approval
- Deserved BPL families should be linked in BPL category
- BPL should be written or printed outside BPL families home

Employment and Livelihood

- One woman from each BPL families should be provided skill development training and let her become financially independent.
- To add agriculture activities under MGNREGA, so that farmer can have self-help atmosphere
- To promote mill production for employment's increment
- Local western Rajasthani fruits to be linked with marketing group
- Increase minimum wages up to 250-300 Rs./day in MGNREGA
- To provide skill development training at village level
- Professional courses facilitated in schools/colleges
- Employment offices to be established on block level
- Promote the home industry
- Labour to insured timely.

Education

- Strengthen the anganwadi through community participation
- Monthly meeting should be organized between teachers and parents
- Regular interaction with community for girl-boy similarity.
- Promotion of girls in schools in more villages
- To strengthen school management committee, regular monitoring and motivating.
- Children of government officers should be allowed to study in govt. schools
- Regular community meeting with school staff and people representative
- Regular award to parents for motivation
- Promote Right to Education

Health

- ANM should be present at health centre
- Regular vaccination to be done by anganwadi centre
- Regular nutrition food to be provided to anganwadi center with regular monitoring
- Activate the village health committee and regular monitoring to be done
- Improve the quality of free medicine
- Health check-up camps to be organized time-to-time
- To provide health insurance facilities direct to beneficiaries
- JSY schemes to be promoted in private hospitals also

Financial Inclusion

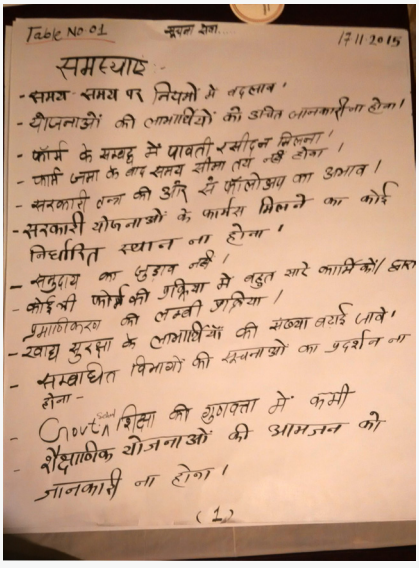
- Promote the Saving bank account
- Linkage with bank
- Link beneficiaries with KCC
- Promote co-operative societies and engagement with community
- Banking system to move more in village area

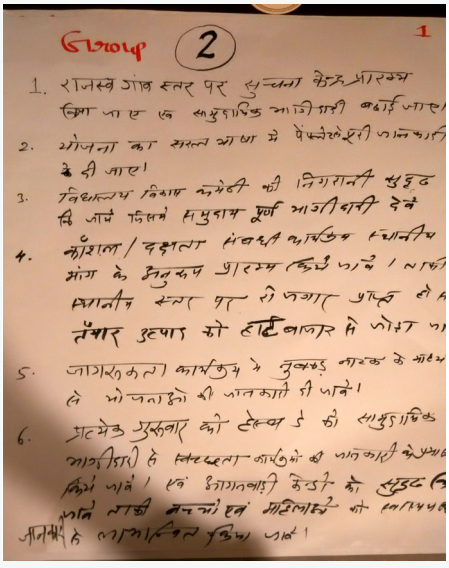
Common Possible Solutions

- Regular follow up to be taken from beneficiary side also.
- Soochna Seva Kendra to be expanded up to border side
- Promote the education on village level

Conclusion:-

- At the end, following conclusions were made by moderators:-
- Meeting with govt. departments for issues and challenges on various level
- Building ownership among community to strengthen govt. departments
- To organize camps and resolve various issues faced by beneficiaries.
- People to be live in unity for every solution
- Always link to organizations working on grass root.





Discussed points documented by participants

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Yusuf Khan (24) and Omar Farooq (42) from Mangaska, a suburb in Alwar city, of Alwar district played Bhapang, an ancient form of musical instrument. The duo is from the 4th Generation of Bhapang musical instrument.



Shishir Purohit, Soochna Seva

MEDIA RELEASE:



'सूचना तकनीक के बिना कुछ भी संभव नहीं'

भास्कर संवाददाता | बाड़मेर

सूचना तकनीक के बिना कुछ भी संभव नहीं है सूचना का विकेंद्रीकरण जरुरी है। डिजिटल सूचना आमजन को सफल बनाएगी। सूचना के माध्यम से ही ग्रामीणों को सरकारी योजनाओं की जानकारी मिलती है। योजनाओं के लाभ के लिए हमें सतर्क होना चाहिए। यह बात जिला युवक कल्याण कोष समिति द्वारा आयोजित डिजिटल इम्पॉवरमेंट फॉउंडेशन के वित्तीय सहयोग से आयोजित जिला स्तरीय सूचना से शक्तिकरण की कार्यशाला में कही।

कार्यशाला में जिला युवक कल्याण कोष समिति के समन्वयक मोनाराम पाला ने संस्था के बारे जानकारी देते हुए कहा कि संस्था द्वारा युवाओं के लिए कौशल विकास, राहत कार्य व आपदा प्रबंधन, बीपीएल सशक्तीकरण खाद्य सुरक्षा शिक्षा व पानी के मुद्दों पर कार्य किया जाता है। जनहित योजनाओं का लाभ लक्षित समुदाय तक पहुंचाने में सूचना मित्रों का सहयोग रहता है।

बाड़मेर. लूणवा से शक्तिकरण तक की कार्यशाला ने मारा लंबी छलांग

डिजिटल इम्पॉवरमेंट फॉउंडेशन के जिला मैनेजर शिशिर पुरोहित ने कार्यशाला में डिजिटल इम्पॉवरमेंट फॉउंडेशन दिल्ली से वालिद चौधरी, दीप शिखा, राजस्थान आजीविका कौशल आजीविका विकास निगम से जिला सलाहकार गौतम माथुर, जिला युवक कल्याण कोष समिति से अनिता सोनी, श्योर से हनुमान चौधरी, सूचना सेवा बाड़मेर के जवरीलाल बिश्नोई एवं सूचना मित्र जेठूसिंह रानीगांव ने भी कार्यशाला को संबोधित किया। शिशिर पुरोहित ने किया।

दोपहर बाद सामुहिक परिचर्चा में सामाजिक सुरक्षा, वित्तीय समावेश, शिक्षा, स्वास्थ्य, आजीविका व रोजगार के मुद्दों पर समस्या व समाधान पर चर्चा की गई।

कार्यशाला में लोक कल्याण बावतु, इमरेम, शुभम संस्थान धारा संस्थान से महेश पम्पालिया, सजा से धुड़ाराम गोयल, सामाजिक अन्वेसन शोध संस्थान अन्य सरकारी गैर सरकारी संस्थान सरपंच वार्ड पंच, आंगनवाड़ी कार्यकर्ता, डीईएफ से स्वाति चौधरी, इरफान, सूचना सेवा कल्याणपुर से शंकरलाल, धनाऊ से शक्तिसिंह, सिवाना से भंगलाराम, नगेन्द्र सिंह व सामाजिक कार्यकर्ताओं ने भाग लिया। कार्यशाला में भाग लेने वाले सभी सहभागियों को सूचना के रुप में एक एक पौधा भेंट किया। कार्यशाला में जिले की अलग-अलग सरकारी, गैर सरकारी संस्थाओं जनप्रतिनिधि समाजसेवी के रुप 150 लोगों ने भाग लिया। कार्यक्रम का संचालन शिशिर पुरोहित ने किया।

L. दिनेश भास्कर

18/11/2015

जिलास्तरीय

Dainik Bhaskar_Barmer workshop



दैनिक नवज्योति

जोधपुर, बुधवार, 18 नवंबर 2015

सूचना तकनीकी के बिना कुछ भी सम्भव नहीं : डॉ. काजी

नवज्योति/बाड़मेर।

सूचना तकनीकी के बिना कुछ भी संभव नहीं है। सूचना का विकेन्द्रीकरण जरुरी है, डिजिटल सूचना आमजन को सफल बनाएगी। यह बात जिला युवक कल्याण कोष समिति द्वारा आयोजित डिजिटल एम्पॉवरमेन्ट फॉउण्डेशन के वित्तीय सहयोग से आयोजित जिला स्तरीय सूचना से शक्तिकरण की कार्यशाला में कही।

सूचना से शक्तिकरण की कार्यशाला आयोजित

कार्यशाला में जिला युवक कल्याण कोष समिति के समन्वयक मोनाराम पाला ने स्वागत भाषण में संस्था के बारे विस्तार से जानकारी देते हुए कहा कि संस्था द्वारा युवाओं के लिए कौशल विकास, राहत कार्य व आपदा प्रबन्धन, बीपीएल सशक्तिकरण, खाद्य-सुरक्षा, शिक्षा व पानी के मुद्दों पर कार्य किया गया।

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Navjyoti_Barmer workshop

WORKSHOP PHOTOGRAPHS:



Syed Kazi presenting saplings



Shishir Purohit, Soochna Seva



Participants presenting their discussed points



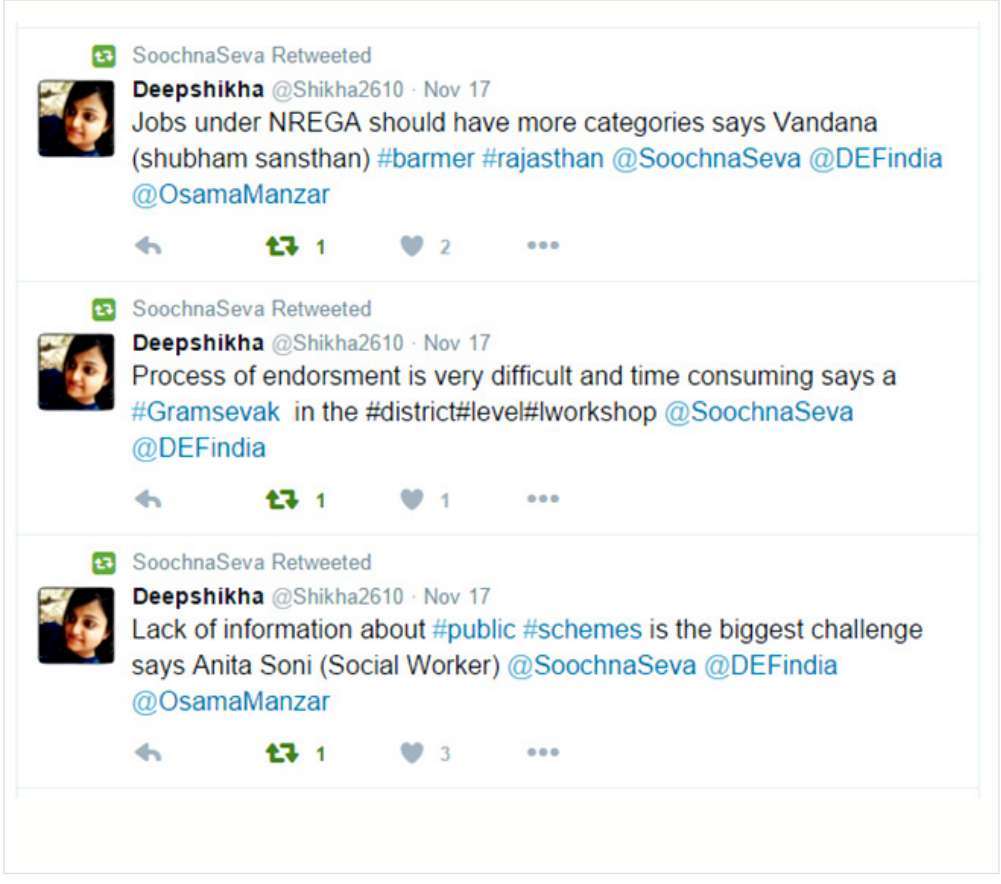
Sonaram Pala at the dias

SOCIAL MEDIA REPORTS

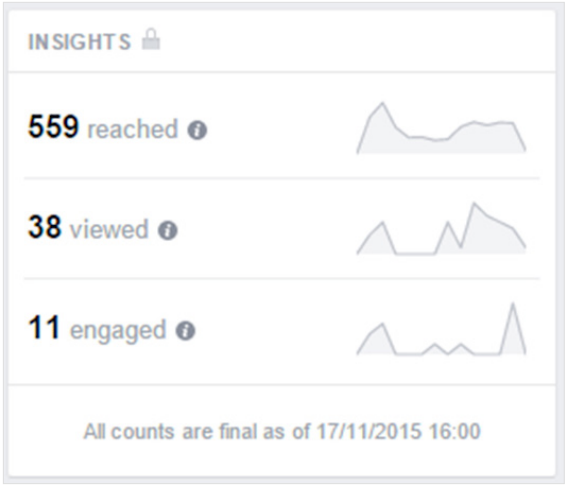
TWITTER REPORTS:

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

Popular Tweet



Facebook Report:



Popular Post





CONCLUSION:

The main aim of this report is to provide essence of the workshop that took place at Barmer 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:

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European Union

Soochna Seva

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DIGITAL EMPOWERMENT *foundation*