

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

## **2020-2021**



## **AYO AIDARI TRUST**

Registered Office:

Mohanpur, Hut Dumaria,  
Taljhari, Dist.- Dumka,  
Jharkhand,  
Pin-814112

From the secretary's desk.....



Dear friends,

Over two decades we have been endeavouring to bring changes in the lives of our tribal brothers and sisters in the state of Jharkhand. We do not mean saying that changing life is complete transformation of life but our efforts is to always stand with the tribal people and provide them hand holding support so that they would fight for their own rights. Lack of information accessibility has been one of the primary causes why this section of population is still remaining backward.

It gives us immense pleasure and confidence to work more when we compare today's tribal community with the one that we had started working with 25 years ago and see the changes in their lives. Their transition from ignorant community to informed community, ostracised community to involved community and exploited community to voice raising community have been more spectacular. They have become more organised in terms of raising their problems and advocating for the rights of their own people.

But this is merely the beginning of our journey and there are many milestones to reach ahead. More efforts and dedication is required for complete mainstreaming of our tribal brothers and sisters.

We can visualise that our vision of strengthening tribal community is gradually becoming a reality. We extend our thankfulness to all the people who have supported us, contributed for this cause and guiding us to work with more commitment for the development of tribal community. We also thank every single individual who have come forward to get associated with us and working voluntarily for development of these people. We encourage all the staff and volunteers and stakeholders to work contribute in this mission and help us in creating a better space of development of this neglected and deprived community.

Mrs. Munni Hembram  
Secretaty  
Ayo Aidari Trust

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## **ORGANISATION BACKGROUND**

“Ayo Aidari”, is a Santhal term, which literally means “Rights of women”. It is known facts that tribal are neglected and remaining backward in terms of their rights and entitlements. Different legislations have been enacted to protect their rights but they have least knowledge about such legislations. Unawareness, ignorance, illiteracy and poverty have undermined their welfare. In state like Jharkhand life of tribal is more pathetic and they are way far from the modern concept of development. Most of their habitations found in geographically difficult areas and basic facilities like proper road communication, safe drinking water, education infrastructures and basic health services are still beyond their reach.

When we talk about status of tribal women in this respect, they are regarded nothing more than work machines. Very often they are subject to torture and inhumane treatment by the male. Their marital status bears no special value in terms of their rights and entitlements because of accepted polygamy system in the tribal community and on the other side the tribal women do not possess any right to go against the will of their male counterparts. Unlike other community neither the tribal women are entitled to coparcenary rights of their ancestral property nor do they claim right over property of their husband which makes them more dependant and neglected as well.

During early 80s a group of 17 young tribal women were volunteering a campaign called “Aidari” which means “Right” through an organisation known as “Ajithi” in different parts of Jharkhand (Previously undivided Bihar). The campaign “Aidari” aimed at creating awareness among the tribal about their rights and entitlements. While volunteering the campaign these young women realized that the social status of tribal women is even worse than the men. In view, that unless tribal women are developed, the development of tribal community in true sense cannot be achieved. Having realized this, these young volunteers shifted their focus from mere “Aidari” (right of tribal) to “Ayo Aidari” (right of tribal women) and started working to empower the tribal women and to support them to get their rights. Hence they formed an organisation for this purpose and named it “Ayo Aidari Trust” and got it registered in the year 1998.

## **OUR MISSION, VISION AND OBJECTIVES**

### **Mission**

- To empower and enable women from the tribal community in the Jharkhand to improve their quality of life through community action and claiming their rights ensuring long terms self reliance.

### **Vision**

- A world in which tribal people are free from discrimination and exploitation.
- A world in which tribal women understand and access their rights and have a voice inside as well as outside the community.

- A world in which tribal families have enough nutritious food to eat and have access to good quality education and health service.

## OUR REACH

Since our inception we have been serving in 50 villages of 10 Grampanchayats of Ramgarh block of Dumka District targeting 4161 tribal households and covering an approximate population of 20600. Ramgarh block is located at 42 km distant from Dumka, the district head quarter. The total target population belong to Santhal tribal community and their livelihood depends on agriculture. Majority of them are small farmers and possess 2-3 bighas of agricultural land on an average.



Figure 1- Dumka CD Block map

## OUR AREAS OF INTERVENTION

### 1. Women empowerment

In adherence to our prime objective, empowerment of tribal women has been one of our important focus areas. Out of our total target population, the female population constitutes 51 percent. We have formed 110 Self Help Groups in 50 villages and provided them regular training on group governance and dynamics, accounting and book keeping, prioritization of needs and inter-lending, as a result all 110 SHGs have been benefiting from Savings and deposit schemes and their total savings have reached to Rs. 119885/-. For their outstanding performance all the SHGs have been undertaken in 2019 by Jharkhand State Livelihood Promotion Society (JSLPS) and being supported for income generating activities. Now the income generation of the families of SHG members has improved due to adaptation of different income generating activities.



### 2. Combating child marriage and promoting skill development of girls

Child marriage is prominent among santhal tribes. Because of social pressure and traditional practices in their community neither they wait for marriage at appropriate legal age nor do they encourage the same. As a consequence



maternal mortality rate, child mortality rate and acute state of malnutrition are high in this community. To address these issues AAT has been working with the Community heads and SHGs and counselling and encouraging stopping child marriage practices in the community.

In the current year with the support of **Girls First Fund (GFF)** we have been implementing a project in 20 villages of Ramgargh Community Development block to mitigate child marriage and promoting skill development of girls. Some of the key activities and achievements of the project highlighted as followings-

- We have formed 20 Kishori mandals associating 600 adolescent girls in 20 villages and counselling them on ill effect of child marriage and empowering them through regular trainings and meetings to defend child marriage practices in their community.
- We have provided life skill training to 395 adolescent girls between the age group of 14 to 18 on communication skill, creative and critical thinking, problem solving, reproductive health and child protection mechanism to enhance their potentiality and decision making capacity.
- To identify and promote sport talent foot ball matches were organized for girls.
- 26 girls are linked with Din Dayal Kaushal Vikaash Yojna and 263 girls are linked with Sukanay Samruthi Yojna.
- Community sensitization is being done through film shows to prevent child marriage.
- 214 births have been registered to ascertain age to protect children from child marriage.
- 200 adolescent girls are given vocational training on tailoring, food processing, mushroom culture, bamboo craft etc...

### 3. **Good governance and tribal rights(Strengthening PRIs/Accessing Public schemes/FRA/Advocacy)**

AAT believes that ignorance or lack of awareness is the root cause of any exploitation and deprivation. An informed and aware society is less prone to exploitation, deception and deprivation. It is not an unknown fact that such unawareness, illiteracy and lack of information accessibility are the causes of tribal backwardness. Hence information dissemination and raising awareness among the tribal have been our utmost important strategy of strengthening tribal community.



In this respect with the duo support of **Find Your Feet** and **OAK Foundation** we have been operating Project AROH JOHAR in 20 villages with following objectives-

1. Tribal organizations have developed greater knowledge and understanding on tribal rights.
2. Tribal organizations have increased their leadership capacities and are able to promote and protect their rights.



3. Tribal people access and enjoy the government services and schemes to which they are entitled.

Some of the key highlights of the project AROH JOHAR-

***a) Tribal Right Forum (TRF)***

Tribal Right Forum is an association of 15 elected members from different Community based organisations which operates at district level. (Community based organisations have been formed in every project villages to deal with tribal issues at grass root level). This TRF takes up issues of tribal and advocate for the same at different platform. We have likely developed a network of TRFs with other project implementing agencies and have formed state level TRF to advocate at state level.

***b) Public Information Centre (PIC)***

Due to remoteness of the most of f the tribal habitation, many of the services cannot be accessed by the tribal. To provided them door step information of public services and to provide them handholding support in accessing the public benefit schemes we have established Public Information Centre at our project location. Information dissemination, awareness generation and counselling are done by the PIC counsellor as well as instead of visiting government offices for applying for the public schemes people are now able apply for the same through PIC. Till now more than 5000 people have been linked with different public schemes like; Pension schemes, housing schemes, health benefit schemes, food security schemes etc...and benefited through PIC.



***c) Lobby and Advocacy***

We have developed a mechanism to raise the voice of tribal against exploitation and injustice. We have already CBOs at community levels and TRFs at district and state level to advocate tribal issues. Further we are synergising and building network with other likeminded CSOs such as; MNREGA watch, Right to food campaign, Jharkhand Van Adhikar Manch at state level. Thus we get back support from such organisations while advocating for tribal issues and can effectively put pressure on policy making systems.

***d) Forest Right Act (FRA) and Panchayat Extension to Schedule Areas Act (PESAA)***

FRA and PESA acts are most important rights of tribal which give them special status. With the duo support of FYF and OAK foundation we have been working on enabling the tribal to benefit from FRA and PESA. We have been strengthening gramsabha and Forest Right Committees (FRC) through TRFs and regularly providing trainings to make them competent to lobby with the concerned forest departments and revenue departments. As result of this 11

villages claimed under community forest right and one person claimed for individual forest right covering a total land of 18.9 acres and obtained entitlements over the said land. We are also providing training to traditional community head men (grampradhans) on PESA act to build their capacity to ensure rights of tribal in respect to gram sabha and other village development affairs. As a result the gramsabha in tribal villages are being conducted by the gram pradhans in compliance to the provisions of PESA act.

#### **4. Livelihood (micro-entrepreneurship)**

Our intervention in the realm of livelihood during this year has been limited to mere training and capacity building of tribal women on different lucrative micro enterprises.



With the support of National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) we provided training to 150 women on Kadknath poultry bird breeding under Livelihood entrepreneurship development program (LEDP) and 30 women on Jute craft under Micro-Entrepreneurship Development Program (MEDP)

#### **5. Health and Nutrition**

Health and nutrition in tribal community has been one of our important concerns. With the support of FYF we have been closely working with ICDS at grass root level from improved health facilities especially of pregnant women, lactating mother and children. We are providing trainings to the Anganwari worker and Sahiayas for improved service delivery. Trainings for women are also being conducted to improve their knowledge on nutritional health. In the project village we identified 15 undernourished mothers and supported them to improve nutrition intake. We also referred 9 severely malnourished children to Malnutrition Treatment Centre (MTC) for their better treatment.

### **SOME OF THE SUCCESS STORIES**

#### **1. Phulmuni Devi “The story of 60 years old tribal woman”**

*Phulmuni Devi, Wife of Ganesh Roy, 70, lives in Nipsi Titego village of Barmasia Panchayat with her husband and two sons. Ganesh Roy is the village headman of Nipsi Titego village. He is a literate person but his wife Phulmuni Devi is an illiterate female. However she has more interest in serving people of her village. When we came to know that Phulmuni Devi had more concern for the community development and takes care of all village affairs, we then approached her and with her support we formed CBO in the village and thus she became part of the project. Although she is illiterate nevertheless she is very active and supportive in every project activities.*

*There are 35 households in Nipsi Titego village and the total population of the village is 150. People in this village depend on agriculture and animal husbandry. They have been residing in this village from generations and everything was going smooth until enactment of Forest Right Act 2006. Since they were depended on forest land for agriculture and cattle pasture, it*





became difficult for them when they were prevented by the forest department to enter the forest area. The forest department constructed trench around the forest area and threatened the villagers to face the dare consequence in case they enter into the forest area. The villagers became hopeless as no place left for cattle pasture and for use as cremation ground. After CBO was formed in the village people were given training and information on Forest Right Act (FRA) 2006. They learnt that under the provision of FRA 2006 people who have been residing or cultivating in forest land over 75 year or for three generations they are entitled to the land right. Also villages have the authority to claim for community forest right on the forest land which come under their village territory.

After people became aware of the provisions of FRA 2006, Phulmuni Devi took initiative by her won and visited door to door and motivated people to come forward and claim for the community forest right. As her husband is the village headman, she made herself responsible and organised gramsabha and constituted Forest Right Committee (FRC) in the village. She also visited to neighbouring villages and motivated them to claim for community forest right.

As a result of her effort FRC was constituted and community forest right claim for 9.85 acres of land was made. Besides this 11 families also claimed for 4 acres of land under Individual Forest Right. The claims have been forwarded to the Sub Division Level Committee for approval. In all these process Phulmuni Devi has played a vital role, though she is an illiterate woman.

## OUR PARTNERS

1	FIND YOUR FEET, INDIA	
3	GIRLS FIRST FUND SUPPORTING COMMUNITY TO END CHILD MARRIAGE, INDIA	
4	NATIONAL BANK FOR AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT	