

**Dr Yu Sasaki, JICA India visit to Chamoli and Dehradun**  
**Interaction with Govt.officials ,Village leaders & community members**

Dr Yu Sasaki, JICA India office and Ms Machiko Buckley, TPAK, Japan along with Mr. J.M. Singh, Chief Functionary, Mamta and Ms Beena Walia, Chief Coordinator, Mamta have been to various villages and offices in District Chamoli and District Dehradun from 16.6.07 to 20.6.07.

The purpose of visit to Chamoli was to evaluate the work of Health Education Project, Ghat by field visit to some project villages and getting the impression about the project from the direct beneficiaries, community leaders and concerned government officials.

**17.6.07 :Field Visit**

Visited 4 project villages i.e. Kurud, Phali, Sainti and Saintoli and had interaction with school children, women and adolescent girls and discussed about their views on health education project held at 40 villages of Block Ghat, Chamoli. Dr Sasaki got very positive views about the project from the direct beneficiaries of the project. She also had crossed visit to many house holds and passed through streets of villages to directly observe the environment and sanitation status at villages and houses. She found garbage pits in front of almost all the houses. Children were looking clean and well informed about the project activities. She also visited health information centres in these villages and talked to the volunteers of the H.I.C. Her attitude and approach with community members were excellent. Due to her politeness and nice behavior, women, girls and children were finding them very comfortable with her. She gave very good suggestions to volunteers for the sustainability of the project.

**18.6.07: Visit to District officials at Gopeshwar, Chamoli**

(1)- Dr Sasaki and team visited District Education Officer, Chamoli, Mr Amba Ram Arya at his office with two objectives in mind. First of all to thank his department and colleagues for providing support to the project in 40 schools of Ghat. Secondly, to share with him the outcomes of the project and expectation we had from the department to continue the project activities. Mr J.M. Singh and Ms Machiko Buckley shared the brief report about the outcomes of the project and requested him to ask Block level officials to keep project activities continue in project 40 villages with the help of teachers and PTA members. It was also told that the material support will be given by Mamta/TPAK to all the schools along with quarterly newsletter. Dr Sasaki shared reports and newsletter of JICA with him and asked his views on HEP. Mr Arya told Dr Sasaki that I heard about the programme from my colleagues and your representatives kept me informed about the field activities and training programmes. He further said that Ghat is one of the very difficult block of our district and we are happy that JICA had chosen this block for undertaking a project with school children. This was very significant and useful programme for children's health and hygiene. I will take report from my block officials about the outcomes of the project and ask them to keep it continue not only in 40 schools but spread it further to adjoining villages and schools.

(2) Visited District Primary Education Officer, Chamoli, Mr Madhwanand Purohit to know his views about the project and seek his support for future interventions. He spoke very high about the project. He said that I have seen 15-16 project schools and found lots of change in the behavior of school children in terms of their knowledge and practice about good health and hygiene. Dr Sasaki asked him what difference has he noticed in project villages in comparison to non project villages/schools? He said that I have seen children and school campus more clean in comparison to other schools. Further, Dr Sasaki asked him how you can help us to sustain project activities in the project schools? He said that I will write letter to block officials right now that these activities should be continued in all the schools. Ms Machiko and Mr.J.M.Singh told him that we will provide all material support to these schools in future as well.

(3)- Visited District Project Manager, Water and Sanitation Deptt. (Swajal Project) to know his views about the project. He informed Dr Sasaki and others that Mamta has constructed toilets for 80 poor families in 10 project villages with the financial and technical support of Swajal Project. Mr J.M.Singh informed Dr Sasaki that this was an additional activity to support project activities.

(4)- Visited office of the Chief Medical Officer, Chamoli to share with him the report of health camps and give him list of volunteers of health information centres with a request to provide necessary help and support to these volunteers directly through their Primary Health Centre, Ghat in future. In his absence we met Mr Umesh Singh, Distt. Program Manager, SCOVA and shared above information with him and requested him to share the same with the CMO. Mr Umesh Singh told Dr Sasaki and team members that we will link your programme with our ongoing school health programme and provide necessary support to your project schools. Mr Singh gave him list of all the village volunteers and schools for future reference. Dr Sasaki played a very significant role to motivate all district officials to seek their support for future interventions in all 40 project villages.

#### **19.6.07: Interactions with State level Officials in Dehradun**

Dr. Yu Sasaki, JICA India, Ms Machiko Buckley, Mr J.M.Singh and Ms Beena, Mamta Sanstha visited concerned State level officials to get their inputs and support for the new project likely to be undertaken in 20 villages of Vikasnagar Block, Distt Dehradun. Again, Dr Sasaki played the lead role to provoke them for discussion and get their views and inputs on new project for adolescent girls of weaker section of the society.

(1)- Visited Additional Director, Medical, Health & Family Welfare, Uttarakhand, Dr Anil Sharma to know about govt Policy and programmes for the health care of adolescent girls in Uttarakhand. Two more officers from his deptt joined the discussion namely: Ms Bharti, State NGO Coordinator and Mr Ashutosh Kandwal, SCOVA Program Manager. We came to know through them that there is no specific programme for adolescent girls rather it is part of or integral part of RCH programme. They said that they are running few sensitization trainings for school teachers and community leaders.

So that in turn they may conduct sensitization programmes for adolescent girls .Beside this, they said few NGOs are running programmes for adolescent girls.

(2)- Visited Mr Rajiv Chandra, IAS, Additional Secretary, Health to seek his views and support for the programme .He said that I am looking after three important health projects in Uttarakhand govt i.e. National health rural Mission, SCOVA and Uttarakhand health system development project. He said that some how we have to integrate adolescent girls programme with RCH and other programmes like water and sanitation. We may provide them health services and knowledge about RCH- HIV/AIDS and life cycle approach through NHRM. We should also think of reducing their daily burden like the time they spent for fetching water, collecting fodder and fire woods. We should think of some alternative strategies to reduce their burden like solar cookers,rain water harvesting etc. We must also teach them about their personal hygiene and how to control anemia? He assured Dr Sasaki and team members that he will provide all necessary support for the project from his deptt.

(3)- Visited Mrs.Radha Raturi, IAS, Principal Secretary, Finance and women and child development,Govt of Uttarakhand. She was very positive in her approach and willing to provide all kind of support. She shared schemes being undertaken by the deptt for adolescent girls. Kishori shakti yojna is being implemented in all the districts of Uttarakhand through local Aganwadi centres.Deptt is providing nutritional supplement to three girls through each local aganwadi and some skill training with kishori kit to 20 girls in one block. She said we need to expand this program. Then she shared about National Program for adolescent girls which is being conducted as pilot project in just one district i.e.Haridwar .Under this project we are providing food grains to low birth weight girls of ST/SC community .Dr Sasaki shared with her JICA's newsletter and report and concept of new project on adolescent girls. Mrs.Radha Raturi liked the concept and assured all necessary support for the programme. She also asked her staff to provide all available material on adolescent girls to us.

(4)-Visited Mr P.K.Mohanty, IAS, Secretary, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj,Govt of UK to seek his views and inputs on the project and get support from his deptt. He said that you share with me the outcomes of previous project and strategy for the new project in details. Then, I will give you my inputs. He said that since you are targeting only 20 villages then you should try to do some qualitative work which should be replicated in other villages or blocks in later stage. He also assured all possible support for the project from his deptt. Dr Sasaki shared with him JICA's activities being conducted all over India including training programmes being conducted for govt and NGOs representatives.

#### **20.6.07: Visit to Vikasnagar Block**

(5)- Visited Mrs Premwati Arora, Block Development Officer, Block Vikasnagar to share with her main components of new project and get her views on the same. She said that she can provide help to women and adolescent girls to form their self help groups. After being formed in a group, she may help providing them training on sericulture. This training will be conducted for 15 days and after the training they will get

support from the deptt for their income generation .Mr.J.M.Singh asked her about the deptt's support for construction of women centre in few project villages .She was quite positive about the idea of having women centre in villages and she assured that she may put this matter in front of Block development committee and try to get support for one or two centres .She also supported us in providing list of BPL families for our proposed project villages. She was looking quite enthusiastic to support our programme.

(6)- Visited Dr.A.S.Rai, Medical officer Incharge, Community Health Centre, Vikasnagar to inform him about the project and seek his suggestions and inputs for the project .He was quite busy with patients but in spite of that he said that he will provide all necessary support from his CHC to the adolescent girls.

(7)-Visited Boksa Tribe leader for Uttarakhand, Mr Darshan Lal at his village Shishambada to know his views about govt schemes being conducted for adolescent girls of Boksa community and what does he suggest that should be done for girls .He told us that there are one lakh Boksa in the State of Uttarakhand, residing in 9 blocks of 5 districts. There are 95% families of ST,SC and OBC in your proposed project villages of Vikasnagar and Boksas are most deprived class among the all tribes. Govt has several schemes for us but these schemes are not reaching to us. We have only one school from class 1-5<sup>th</sup> for girls and 6-8<sup>th</sup> for boys in district Haridwar. There is one residential high school at Vikasnagar for tribal girls i.e.for Jaunsari, Raji and Boksa tribes.But mostly Jaunsari girls are studying there and our girls are threatened by the Jaunsari girls and forced to leave the school. We have started our own school for class 9-10<sup>th</sup> but we are not getting support from the State govt. We have few girls who have completed high school, Intermediate or graduation but they are not getting job in govt projects like we have 3 aganwadi centres in our area but all aganwadi workers are from general category.

When he was asked that what does he think about the adolescent girls, what should be done for them? He said that first priority should be given to their education. Then we should go for their vocational trainings. We should also inform them about various govt schemes for them and show them ways to get benefit from these schemes. We should also form their adolescent groups and self help groups and conduct some income generation activities through these groups. They also must get exposure to some good project being run by govt or other organizations within the State or outside the State. Male members and leaders of the villages and govt officials should also be sensitized for the issues of adolescent girls.

Beside this, Dr Yu Sasaki, Ms Machiko and Mamta team visited 4 proposed villages of the project in Vikasnagar Block i.e. Kunja Grant, Sabhawala, Sherpur and Shishambada. Where we had interactions with two lady village Pradhans(Leaders) namely: Mrs Raqeeba at Kunja Grant and Mrs Nimmo Devi at Tiparpur, Aganwadi workers, Panchayat members and more than 80 women and adolescent girls in these villages to understand their needs and know their views about the adolescent girls project. The presence and involvement of Dr Sasaki and Ms Machiko Buckley has been very useful and encouraging to involve many women, girls and leaders in the process of discussion.

**Briefing Meeting with Dr Sasaki:**

On completion of 5 day visit to Chamoli and Dehradun, Ms Machiko Buckley, TPAK, Japan, Mr J.M.Singh and Ms Beena Walia, Mamta Sanstha had a briefing meeting with Dr Yu Sasaki to summarize the visit and have common understanding about the issues emerged after field visit and meeting different officials at the State, District and Block level. Dr Sasaki shared her observations and views with TPAK and Mamta. She said that good relationship with people in the villages and collaboration with govt officials at various levels is strength of Mamta. Use this strength for the new project. I find no reason to reject the new project. She suggested that we need to work more on indicators of the project as they look little weak. Background of the project is perfect. We must keep in mind the suggestions given by the Principal Secretary and other officials. Make list of all govt schemes which we may link with our project. She also suggested while writing outcomes of the HEP project, we should include comments of various government officials and voice of people about the project. She appreciated the work of Ms Beena and Mr J.M.Singh. She told that you both have strength at different levels which will be useful for the new project. Finally, briefing meeting was adjourned with a vote of thanks by Mr J.M.Singh to Dr Sasaki and Ms Machiko Buckley for their valuable time and contribution for making a visit grand success.

J.M.Singh  
Mamta Samajik Sanstha