



[www.strishakti.org.in](http://www.strishakti.org.in)

# Annual Report 2015-16



# STRI SHAKTI

Hazaribag, Jharkhand (India)

## *From the Secretary's Desk...*

**A**nother year of our active functioning and work completed successfully and we are back again with our Progress Report. We find it extremely important to share our ideas, work and achievements with our donors and supporters who stand together with us in our journey towards the betterment of life of rural girls and women in particular.



Stri Shakti's foundation was laid with the very idea and vision to empower rural girls and women and make them aware and independent. Today after 16 long years of active work we feel happy and satisfied to progress in our own small way and contribute towards the society. The reporting year witnessed 550 rural women who are financially independent now and are leading a life of dignity and self-respect. They are aware and confident women who are running their own small enterprises and are making profit and running their families and providing a better future to their children.

150 girls attended school regularly who were earlier school drop-outs and are the first literate generation of their family. Their parents want them to study now and not get trapped in the vicious cycle of ignorance and poverty. The girls are aware of hygiene and sanitation practices and also educate their neighbours and villagers about it. They are happy girls who make us proud and satisfied.

In 2015-16, we also promoted agriculture practices among rural farmers and distributed high quality seeds amongst 42 farmers. The practice was immensely successful and the farmers are content and reaping benefits.

Also, one of our major intervention area is Health, Hygiene and Sanitation practices- Mental illness is a prime concern and our interventions has led to mass awareness amongst the target area. People no more consider it as superstition and come forward to the mental health camps and regularly take medication. Besides, rural girls are aware of hygiene practices during menstruation and also use sanitary napkins to remain fit and healthy.

Holistic development of women is our approach to empower women and domestic violence issues and problems unless addressed cannot fulfil our objective. We dealt successfully with all the domestic cases rising in the area during the reporting period and help them solve through support from Family Counselling Centre managed by a fellow organisation. Domestic cases were solved and SHGs were empowered to tackle day to day issues.

We aim to work actively in future as well and without the support of donors and supporters like you, it will not be possible. We hope to reach many more girls, women and people in need and make them lead a dignified life which will be possible only with your continuous support and well-wishes.

***Sheela Kumari***  
Secretary

### *Contents*

<b>Who we are</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Programs</b>	
<b>A. Socio-Economic</b>	
(i) Livelihood Generation	1-2
(ii) Agriculture Promotion and Food Security	2
<b>B. Girls Education</b>	<b>2-3</b>
<b>C. Mental Health &amp; Development</b>	<b>3-4</b>
<b>D. Advocacy, Networking &amp; Linkage</b>	<b>4</b>
(i) Fighting Domestic Violence	
(ii) Networking & Linkage	

## Who We Are

### About Us

Stri Shakti is a grassroots level voluntary organization, located in Hazaribagh district of Jharkhand. It is actively functional since 1999 with the vision to empower rural girls and women and give them their rightful place in the society. Stri Shakti, is a women's organisation and strives towards equal status, growth and opportunities for women, girls and children in the society.

The institution's vision is Protection of rights & entitlements of women and girls and for their holistic development. Stri Shakti wants women and girls to be treated equal to men and have access to required resources to reach there and fulfill their dreams. Stri Shakti has an integrated approach towards women empowerment and besides educating women on their rights and advocating them, it is also working actively towards making them financially independent by providing them Financial literacy trainings and Micro-credit facilities. To fill the gap the rural women are also provided with skill training based on their needs and will. Stri Shakti also works on health- hygiene-sanitation, girls' education and advocacy on women's and girls' issues. It is committed to fight against atrocities, gender discrimination, witch-craft and domestic violence on women & girls.

### Vision

To establish a society free from exploitation by promoting gender equality, self-respect, women's autonomy, community spirit, and a just society.

### Mission

To empower women by increasing their self-esteem, making them aware of their inherent qualities and enhancing their skills. To improve livelihoods of women by increasing access to education, health, and economic resources while promoting equal social rights for them.

### Operational Area

Stri Shakti is presently working in four blocks of Hazaribag district i.e. Sadar, Katkamsandi, Churchu and Barkagaon. Number of panchayat and villages covered in these four blocks are as follows:

Block	Panchayat	Villages
Sadar	11	42
Katkamsandi	1	5
Churchu	3	20
Barkagaon	5	25

### Legal Status

- Registered as a charitable society under the Society Registration Act of XXI, 1860, with registration number 747 dated 10/01/2000 in Bihar, and registration number 393 dated 22/03/2006 in Jharkhand.
- Registered under FCRA 1976 Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, with Reg. no. 337750085 dated 25/03/03.
- Registered under section 12A of Income Tax Act 1961, dated 13/07/2000, with PAN no. AACTS3063P.
- Registration under IT Act, section 80G with Memo no. 80G02/200910/40709, dated 27/10/2009.

### PROGRAMS



#### A. Socio-Economic Program:

##### I. Livelihood Generation:

Stri Shakti aims to make rural women financially independent which is the most important prerequisite towards self-belief and standing for one's rights. If a woman is financially stable, she can raise her voice and concerns and also gets her needs fulfilled. She even takes better care of her family. It is possible if the women are organised and seek each other help and suggestions in time of need. Stri Shakti promotes Self Help Groups (SHG) and organises regular meeting with the beneficiaries so that they know their rights, discuss their problems, conduct internal lending and saving activities.

Also, understanding the need Stri Shakti supports rural women who cannot get credit support from any other source together with hand holding support for starting their own small enterprises. The program is very successful and is supported by Nirnaya, Tzedek and 1 % Club. Till date more than 550 women are running their enterprises and are earning profits out of it. The program details are:

SHGs active	195
Number of SHG members	2330
Number of SHGs with Bank Accounts	116
Number of Loanee members	305

Total amount of saving in SHGs	19,90,000.00
Total loans disbursed by stri shakti	20,30,000.00
Loan repayment rate	99%

## Living an Idea



**M**rs. Sumitra Devi (48 years), Husband-Mr. Bahadur Ram, Village-Babugaon, Post-Korra, Hazaribag was a housewife. Her husband was a daily wage labourer. The couple has 4 sons and a daughter. When it became difficult to run the family due to meagre income of her husband, Sumitra has decided to work as a domestic helper for some rich families and joined the SHG promoted by Stri Shakti in her neighbourhood. In her group, co-members were inclined towards regular saving and engaged themselves with income generating activities. They used to get small and easy credit support for the purpose. This motivated Sumitra to contribute for group saving and mutual consultation for a business plan. Soon she became eligible to get a credit support worth Rs. 5000 and Sumitra Devi has started a small food stall near her home. She prepares breakfast items like Samosa, Jalebi, Nimki, Kachaudi and Tea etc. in morning and evening time. Many college students who live in that area have preferred to visit the stall regularly due to her dishes and dealing. Sumitra has left the job of domestic helper to establish own initiative. When she needed extra hand to manage it, her husband became ready to do so and now both of them run the food stall efficiently. Now Sumitra earns around Rs. 250-300 daily.

## II. Agriculture Promotion and Food Security:

**J**harkhand is primarily an agriculture based state and majority of the population is still dependent on rain-fed agriculture practices. Due to ignorance, poverty and lack of support the farmers use traditional practices of cultivation and poor quality seeds which provides very less yield. The farmers are trapped in the vicious cycle of poverty. Even the yield is very less resulting in food insecurity round the year. With the support from Bread for the World (Germany), Stri Shakti has provided technical and financial support for small tillers to grow cash crops of green vegetables like Lady Finger, Bitter gourd, Egg Plant, Tomato, Green Chillies, Pumpkin, Potato, and Cucumber etc. Total 42 farmers have been supported with Rs.3500 for each besides such initiative. This made them happy with

the output.

With the required technical support and needed guidance; the farmers can now see the result through their better yield and they are finding it even profitable. Even the food security round the year has improved and farmers are extremely positive about it. They want to continue farming utilising the new practices and high quality seeds for better results with lesser inputs.

## Food for a Family



**M**rs. Bindwa Devi, commonly known as Bindwa Masomat in her village Balee (Churchu block, Hazaribag), is an illiterate widow and mother of 3 children. Late Kanhai Mahto was her husband who left for heavenly abode years ago. Due to lack of other resources for the family, Bindwa Masomat is very much dependent upon agriculture to feed herself and children. During field survey, her name was proposed to get financial and technical aid

for agriculture under the program of food security with support of NBJK-BFW, Germany. Bindwa Masomat has been supported with required technical know-how and monetary aid of Rs. 3,500 to grow wheat, tomato, chilli, onion and potato etc. at her small farms with high yield seeds. This timely intervention has been proved like a hand holding support for this family of four to survive with dignity and ensured food security for the lady with small children.

## B. Girls Education Program:

**W**e have come to the 21st century but still Education for Girl children is not a common practice. It is majorly due to illiteracy of the parents themselves, their ignorance of importance of education and majorly contributed by their poor financial condition and the cultural mind-set. Government is taking major steps for universalising primary education and is also progressing slowly in its efforts but lot needs to be done.

With our own efforts and rapport with the community we have been able to transform mind-sets of rural villagers in our intervention area up to a major extent where the parents want their daughters to be educated and want them to attend school. But financial crisis is a major hurdle. To solve the problem; Under the support of Action Village India (AVI), Stri Shakti has been able to transform the lives of hundreds of girl children by providing them the opportunity to study and attend school by sponsoring their education and providing them with text books, school fees and uniforms.

Many girls who earlier wanted to continue education but were disheartened and helpless due to their poor economic background now can attend school and live their dreams. 50 girls are currently supported under AVI program and around 15 of them have successfully passed matriculation. All the supported girls are being facilitated for their education from Class VI-X so that they can benefit from their education. AVI has enabled total 49 girls to pass 10th class board examination successfully till the year.

Further, with Stri Shakti's innovative idea many more girls are getting the opportunity to attending school. The Girls education program is linked with Women's livelihood generation where women are provided loans for income generating activity at the rate of 17% interest rate. 50% of the interest received is invested on Girls education. At present there are 137 girls who are attending school with the kind support of Tzedek, 1% Club and Nirnaya through this innovative program. These girls are sponsored from Class VI- X and will be supported until they pass matriculation. The girls and their families are very happy with the support which has led to reduction in Child Marriages and their future repercussions.

### She wants to be a Teacher



**B**indu Kumari (15 years) is one among 6 daughters of Mrs. Jugli Devi and Mr. Ambika Rana of village-Banha, near Hazaribag town. Jugli Devi looks after the home and children while Ambika Rana is a carpenter with limited income. Very often this eight members' family faces financial paucity and education is not a priority for them. Bindu and her sisters were not encouraged for schooling in fact and became irregular or dropouts in their classes. Her two sisters were enrolled in a school at their maternal grandparents' place while Bindu was a student of Saraswati Baal Uchch Vidyalay, a high school at her own village. She is different and thoughtful to study despite hurdles. This facilitated Bindu to be a sponsored girl from AVI (UK) to complete her schooling up to class 10th. In the academic session of 2015-16, she has passed class 10th under Jharkhand state board examination with first division and got admission in Inter Arts at K. B. Women's College at Hazaribag. She aims to be a graduate from there and wants to be a school teacher in future.

### C. Mental Health & Development Program:

**M**ental health is still a neglected area to be addressed sincerely by the government or non-government organizations. The growing number of mentally ill people vis-a-vis insufficient redressal mechanism is a major concern for Stri shakti. It has been working upon mental wellbeing of rural people since the year 2002 under guidance of Nav Bharat Jagriti Kendra (Hazaribag), a pioneer organization in the field. This benefitted a large number of people to get medical treatment by psychiatrists of RINPAS (Ranchi) at Mental Health Camp every month in the very premises of the organization at Hazaribag. Grassroots' contact of Stri Shakti ensures identification of People with Mental Illness & Epilepsy (PWMIE), counselling for their ignorant carers, proper treatment and community based rehabilitation of such patients. This has reduced stigma, myths or misconception around mental illness and sensitized people towards discrimination and human rights violation experienced by PWMIE in villages.

In the reporting year, Stri Shakti has intervened upon vital issue of mental health in 40 villages of Sadar and Churchu blocks of Hazaribag district. This could serve 440 PWMIE with treatment and supported them to be rehabilitated amid their own community.

PWMIE under the Program	Female	Male	Total
PWMIE Treated	198	242	440
PWMIE Stabilized or with Reduced Symptoms	165	195	360
PWMIE with CBR Support	07	48	55

### Tileshwar after Treatment



**M**r. Tileshwar Thakur (60 years) belongs to village-Gurhet, block-Sadar, Hazaribag. He is a small tiller and hard working labourer. His wife Mrs. Kaushalya Devi and a son support him to lead a happy family life. But around 5 years ago, he was suffered from mental imbalance and a sudden shift in his behaviour was visible. Tileshwar became quarrelsome, abusive with loss of appetite and

sleep. Earlier his family members and neighbours were suspicious about any black magic or evil spirits for the trouble but finally convinced for medical treatment by Stri Shakti field staff. Experienced Psychiatrists from RINPAS, Ranchi have examined him at mental health camp organized under Mental Health & Development program. Tileshwar takes medicines regularly and this helped him to be a normal personality. He still works in field and leads usual life.

## D. Advocacy, Networking & Linkage:

### I. Fighting Domestic Violence

**D**omestic violence is one among the basic issues, Stri Shakti has tried to address right from its inception. The organization believes firmly that women are very base of a structured social composition and their dignity must be protected in the wider interest of people. Women empowerment begins at home and a family should be the safest place for them. Due to continuous effort in this direction, Stri Shakti became a destination for village women suffering from domestic violence. Whenever any case of such torturing due to marital/familial problem comes here, the victim gets full support and safeguards possible. Most of the Women SHGs promoted by Stri Shakti are well trained to tackle such problems. Also it gets help from Family Counselling Centre (FCC) run by a fellow organization Nav Bharat Jagriti Kendra or NBJK with support of Central Social Welfare Board, New Delhi. FCC provides specialized service in such situation and provides social, administrative or legal support if needed. Also the Secretary of Stri Shakti is a member of Mahila Koshang (Women Cell), a body constituted by district administration of Hazaribag to look after the cases of women atrocity. This helps the organization to raise voice of women before authorities. There were 13 cases of domestic violence have been solved through 2015-16. Women SHGs have dealt with 9 cases and 4 were solved under ambit of FCC. Also Stri Shakti has contributed to Women Convention against Liquor in Jharkhand as an important program to celebrate Women's Day and SHG women have demanded to ban liquor in Jharkhand as the state government of Bihar has decided already. Most of the participants have called liquor as extremely anti-women and a major cause behind domestic violence against them.

### Not Alone Now

**M**rs. Neetu Devi (Daughter of Mr. Munnilal Rana, Village-Jagdishpur, Block-Sadar, District-Hazaribag) was married to Mr. Lalan Rana (Son of Late Ramu Mistry, At-Nutan Nagar, Block-Sadar, Hazaribag). Lalan is a carpenter. Under influence of bad company, Lalan became boozy and liquor friendly. This caused a disturbance in family life of the couple. When Neetu tried to convince her husband to shun liquor, she was beaten by him. This became a routine activity for Neetu to tolerate insult and violent behaviour of her drunkard husband. She was much worried about her children and their schooling



as liquor has disturbed the family much adversely. Their finance, social status, relationships and many more got affected. Neetu Devi has contacted Stri Shakti office for support in this situation. SHG women have visited her home and conveyed a strong message to the husband. They supported Neetu who stood against liquor and any violent behaviour by her husband. They put up the case before Family Counselling Centre. This intervention has ensured effective counselling for the couple and counsellors have monitored the case regularly. As per the recent developments, Neetu has started a sewing centre in her home, her husband is less inclined to liquor and their children have been enrolled in an English medium private school. Their marital life is far better now.

### II. Networking & Linkage

**S**tri Shakti is a grass root voluntary organization working around women in villages by promoting opportunity for their livelihood, education, health, safety and inclusive empowerment. The organization works with people and gets support from likeminded organizations to achieve its goal. This is a member organization of the VOs forum called Jharkhand Pradesh Swaichhik Manch and believes in the ideology of legendary Sarvodayee leader JP. Stri Shakti is accredited by Credibility Alliance, follows standard practices and complies with government norms issued for VOs time to time.

Stri Shakti has participated in Tzedek's 6th Annual Partners Meet at Digambarpur Angikar (South 24 Parganas, W. Bengal) on 11-15 Oct. 2015 where women groups are being promoted for Flood Tolerant Paddy cultivation. This was an opportunity to know about various activities to facilitate women empowerment.



## *Executive Committee Members*

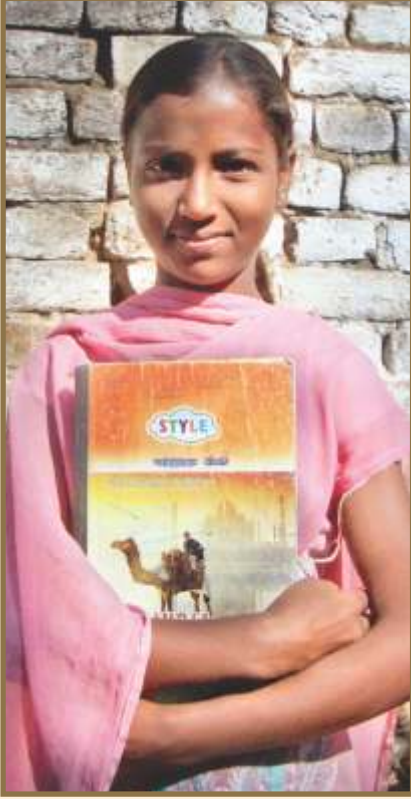
NAME	AGE	GENDER	DESIGNATION	ADDRESS
Smt. Madhulika singh	39	F	President	New Colony, Korra, Hazaribag, Jharkhand
Smt. Sheela kumari	51	F	Secretary	Gandhi Nagar, Post: College Mod, Hazaribag
Smt. Meera Gupta	61	F	Treasurer	Old Bus Stand, Ravindra Path, Hazaribag
Smt. Sharda Devi	46	F	Member	Nutan Nagar, Hazaribag, Jharkhand
Smt. Shakuntala Devi	48	F	Member	Gandhi Nagar, Post: College Mod, Hazaribag
Smt. Ramawati Devi	49	F	Member	Pakuria, Pakur, Jharkhand
Smt. Akhtari Begam	44	F	Member	Kadam Kuan, Patna, Bihar



## *Our Donors*

Name of the Donor	Purpose/Program supported
Action Village India, UK	Girls Education
Bread for the World, Germany (Through NBJK)	Integrated Development of Dalit Women & Tribal Population
Nirnaya, Hyderabad	Enhancing Socio Economic status of Rural Women through Livelihood opportunities and Girls via Secondary Education.
Tzedek, UK	Women's Empowerment Through Income Generation Activity, Leadership Development and Girls' High School Education
1% Club, The Netherlands	Women's Livelihood and Girls' Education

## An Appeal



Please Support a Poor Girl Child with Rs. 2,223 only for a year or more accordingly to carry on her Schooling (Class VII onwards). This can save her from child marriage, early motherhood, diseases, and remains uneducated or dependent. Your valuable contribution will give her a new lease of life.

Your donation for the cause is heartily appreciated by Stri Shakti and all proceeds will be liable to rebate in Income Tax under IT Section 80G.

If you are interested to Support, please send your donation by Account Payee Cheque/DD in the name of **STRI SHAKTI** payable at Hazaribag, to the following address : **Stri Shakti, Gandhi Nagar (South-East), Post - College More, Hazaribag 825301, Jharkhand, India.**

**For Online Transfer, Please contact us at  
: +91 9431140357**

**OR**

**Write to us at :  
strishakti.hzb@gmail.com**



**Head Office :** Gandhi Nagar (South-East), Post-College More  
Hazaribag Sadar, District - Hazaribag, Pin Code - 825301  
Jharkhand (India) | Mobile : +91 9431140657

**Co-ordination Office :** At Village - Amtrit Nagar, Post - Korrah  
District - Hazaribag, Pin Code - 825301, Jharkhand (India)

**Email :** strishakti.hzb@gmail.com  
**Website :** www.strishakti.org.in