

Assumption Province, Patna, India- 2025

**Empowering Adolescents in Bihar: A Holistic Approach to Flexible Learning, Gender Sensitization, Life Skills Education, and Digital Literacy in Marginalized Communities.**

Bihar Literacy is below National Literacy Rate with lower literacy for Female to Male Literacy. Sisters of Notre Dame Patna work tirelessly to raise awareness on girls' education and conduct formal and non - formal education platforms in several locations. The project covers 50 villages, in Chenari, Sasaram, and 20 villages, in Piro, Bhojpur District. The work is phenomenal and challenging to sustain the motivation and availability of the adolescents especially when the children are in lucrative, exploitative labour environments.



### **Flexible Learning Centres.**

The Project has successfully established 26 Flexible Learning Centres (FLCs) in marginalized and backward 'Mushaar' communities. The main objective of the FLCs, is to support and improve dropout and irregular students, as well as those who lack age-appropriate learning capacities to access learning. This facilitated re-enrolment of several children in Government schools. During the reporting period total 929 children (358 of them are boys and 571 are girls) have been served by these centres and have demonstrated prominent progress in their functional literacy and numeracy abilities. The Project organized community meetings with parents to emphasize the importance of education in order to ensure that they understand the benefits of designed programs.

The staff, who have received extensive training, uses Teaching and Learning Materials (TLM) to make classes interesting and fun for the children. Action songs, rhymes, and storytelling are all incorporated into the primarily play-based teaching methodology. The children's confidence and excitement for learning are increased by these initiatives, which also provide a vibrant and encouraging learning environment.

### **Gender Sensitization Programs**

Project has successfully organized an extensive staff training on gender sensitization to raise awareness and dispel long standing gender preconceptions and gender biases. The trainings' main objectives were to help children understand gender roles, promote equality, and cultivate inclusivity and respect. Total 15 staff (Male 5 and Female 10) were trained through group discussions, interactive games, and a study of real-life scenarios the training equipped staff to promote a respectful and safe environment for the children in their units.



The project intends to improve individual understanding as well as trigger broader cultural change towards gender equality by giving children the information and resources they need to confront misconceptions. The positive feedback from participants show that these programs are having a significant effect on changing attitudes and actions around gender roles in the community.

### **Life Skill and Leadership Training**

The trained staff conducted Life Skill and Leadership Training including communication, decision-making, problem-solving, and emotional resilience, empowering staff to handle the variety of difficulties children encounter on a daily basis. Role-playing, games, case studies, songs, and interactive workshops made ensured that participants gained a useful grasp of life skills and how to apply them. In order to encourage a sense of community, awareness, and involvement among children and their parents, the project actively celebrated and marked a number of special days during the reporting period.