



FORUM FOR SOCIAL INITIATIVES (FSI)

Regional Training Report Community Led Development, Participatory Approaches and Community Mobilization

Dates: August 29-31, 2024

Venue: Sewa Kendra, Patna

Participants: Practitioners from 54 partner organizations

Coverage: All 38 districts of Bihar

This three-day regional training equipped participants with practical tools and frameworks for implementing community-driven development initiatives. The programme combined conceptual learning with hands-on exercises, moving from foundational CLD principles to participatory tools and community mobilization strategies.

Building the Foundation: Day 1 began with participants documenting their educational projects through structured storytelling—covering resource utilization, skill development, challenges, and capacity building. Technical sessions explored why CLD matters for sustainability, its core principles, and implementation steps. Through case studies, participants learned how community groups can drive change, illustrated by examples where village groups successfully improved school attendance and reduced dropouts.

Strengthening Participation: Day 2 focused on participatory approaches. Sessions examined the meaning of community, levels of participation (passive, active, involvement), and strategies to move communities toward genuine ownership. Field reflections allowed participants to analyze their own participation frameworks. The introduction of PRA tools—village mapping, Venn diagrams, transect walks and Johari Window—provided concrete methods for community analysis and engagement.

Mobilizing for Action: Day 3 addressed community mobilization and behavior change. Participants explored mobilization challenges, conducted SWOT analysis of platforms (SHGs, CBOs, NGOs, digital platforms), and learned the Social-Ecological Model for behavior change. The session emphasized how cultural norms influence behavior and how targeted engagement can create lasting transformation.

Pre-posttest analysis confirmed substantial learning gains across all thematic areas—CLD frameworks, participatory tools, and mobilization strategies. Armed with these practical skills, participants are now better positioned to foster community ownership, ensure program sustainability, and drive inclusive development outcomes that truly reflect grassroots aspirations.

"Empowering communities to lead their own development journey."

