



Knowledge Voice Action

Equity Foundation is a non-governmental organisation founded in 2002, with the primary objective of empowering women and creating new pathways for overcoming the obstacles to Women / Child development through a synergy of "Knowledge", "Voice" and "Action". It was formally registered under Societies Registration Act on 26th March 2003. Equity Foundation (A Forum for women & child) was established by a group of women Activists. All of us had been earlier working either with academic institutions or with different NGOs. We realized that in India only 2% of the NGOs are run by women, most of the women's development programs are designed and implemented by women. So we felt a need for more women's organizations and initiated Equity Foundation.

We are registered under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act of Ministry of Home Affairs. We are also registered under 12-A and 80- G with the Income Tax department and exempted income tax. At present we are working in Bihar. The focus area is- Women Panchayat Representatives, Gender Budget, Children, youth, publication, documentation and training. The core areas of its focus are providing technical assistance to innovative programmes and strategies for women's human rights, political participation and economic security. As a learning and knowledge - based organization, the Foundation integrates its activities in a feedback process of pioneering, learning, information sharing and advocacy and facilitates active dissemination of information regarding women and child issues through seminars and workshops.

Since its inception, the Foundation has established itself as one of the leading civil society organizations in the state of Bihar, and has made its humble, yet positive and robust, contributions to society through a number of projects and activities that it has carried out. The following will bring to light our Foundation's endeavour towards improving women's capacity in governance in Panchayati Raj and its noble endeavour of providing holistic and comprehensive training to the Panchayat members. Equity Foundation's services include research, training, preparation of IEC materials and strategy, with activities ranging from projects related to research, documentation, training and field level implementation to a large-scale State and regional initiatives. Equity Foundation enjoys a reputation for its excellence in program and for the impact of its work. **EQUITY FOUNDATION** from its inception has been carrying out various activities on a diversity of fronts every year. The organization carried out many activities for the past nine years. *The entire gamut of activities undertaken in course of the years is presented under the following heads:*

YOUTH FOR DEVELOPMENT TRAINING PROGRAMME

Equity Foundation has been **providing training** to University students on Applied and communicative & Research Methodology, RCH, Report Writing, Documentation, Writing cases on the basis of observation etc. to students of rural development, Industrial Management and Sociology. The objective is to prepare them as future development practitioners and leaders.

RESOURCE CENTER & INTERNSHIPS

The students, journalists, NGOs, and scholars are provided with information on relevant socio, economic and political issues (HIV/AIDS, Gender, Education, Poverty, Population, Empowerment, Health, and Adolescents etc) as and when they want. Besides the likeminded NGOs are provided with assistance in the matter of accessing information on different schemes, formulation of project proposals and reports, preparation of background materials and facilitation in holding of meetings and workshops etc

RESEARCH & DOCUMENTATION

- Qualitative and Quantitative research for Documenting the Status of **‘Economic Participation of Women in Bihar’** sponsored by the **Planning Commission of India**. The study has been conducted in 4 districts of Bihar (Kishanganj, Vaishali, Madhubani, and East Champaran)
- Worked as co-partners with Constella Futures on State Resource Mapping on HIV (**supported by Catholic Bishop Conference of India**) on Global Fund Project- Round Six in 7 districts of Bihar)
- *Impact study of NREGA on beneficiaries in north and central Bihar with a special focus on women*, supported by **OXFAM**
- Baseline study on Girls Education in Bihar for **CARE India**
- Prepared a status report on *Situation of Women Dalit PRIs in Dalit headed panchayats of Gaya and Patna* supported by **Sir Dorabji Tata Trust**
- Prepared a Report on *‘Setting up common minimum standard of education in schools’* for **Save the Children**
- **Situational Study on Sexual Harassment at workplace and Vishakha Judgments in**
- **Rapid Need Assessment for EDC & MEGA SKY** on Muslim Education in Bihar (Katihar/Kishanganj/Patna/Madhubani)
- **Social Research for International Development Enterprises India (IDEI) in Bihar, UP, MP, Maharashtra**

FIELD PROJECTS

- A 2 year Advocacy project on Capacity Building of Women PRI elected representatives for violence free governance and creating vibrant democratic constituencies of civil society supported by Center for world solidarity (CWS)
- State level Partners for UNDP on Migration Information Center (established in 2 panchayats of Biddupur, Vaishali)
- Capacity Building programme for Dalit women PRIs in Gaya supported by Action aid
- Worked for **UNFPA and Jaagaran Pahal** on Adolescent Girls Project in Bhojpur and Patna district.

LOBBYING

- On Gender Sensitive Budget
- Drafted a Panchayat Women Charter for women in local self governance

NATIONAL & STATE LEVEL WORKSHOPS/SEMINARS

- National Seminar on '*Role and expectation of Women Panchayat Representatives in the Panchayati Raj System in Bihar*' - supported by the Planning Commission of India (Department of Women & Child Development)
- National workshop on "*Women in Panchayats – A Gandhian Perspective*"- Sponsored by Gandhi Smriti & Darshan Samiti- Ministry of Youth & Tourism
- National workshop on '*Gender Responsive budgeting*'- Supported by the Planning Commission of India (Department of Women & Child Development)
- National workshop for Mukhiyas in Bihar on '*Gender Budgeting- a tool for women empowerment in Bihar*' supported by DFID and PACS
- 8 days residential training programme on *Gender budgeting for Mukhiyas* in Vaishali, Patna, Gaya and Purnea – Supported by Ministry of Women & Child, government of India
- Training workshop for Staffs and partner NGOs of CARE on '*Applied and Communicative Research Methodology and Process Documentation with a special focus on SPSS method*'- (Supported by CARE Bihar)
- State level Consultation Workshop on '*Status of Implementation of Domestic Violence Act in Bihar*' (Supported by Action Aid)

PUBLICATION OF BOOKS & IEC MATERIALS

- Women: Struggle for Existence (supported by UNDP-TAHA)
- Gender & Budget
- Little Women, Strong Personalities – Profile of grass root women in Bihar
- Diary for Mukhiyas
- Calendar on Panchayati Raj
- Posters on girls' reproductive health, education, hygiene, domestic violence, right to information, Laws, Gender Budget and Panchayati Raj
- Playing cards and snake and ladder games