

DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES BY SOCIAL ANIMATION (D I S A)

ANNUAL REPORT – 2008- 09

“Come to me, all of you who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will you give rest.”

(Matthew-11: 28)

1. Introduction

DISA, a registered Civil Society Organization, completed seven years of interventions as a catalyst and guide and has been continuing its accompaniment with the lives of the poor and the marginalized for their empowerment. These poor and the disadvantaged the ones who are carrying heavy burdens of life and tired of the perils and pains of daily stifling lives and they are in need of refreshing conditions to regenerate their spirit and enthusiasm in life. DISA has been walking with the disadvantaged in their struggles with the strategies of Social Animation and Right Based Approaches.

The Vision, Mission and Approaches of DISA are:

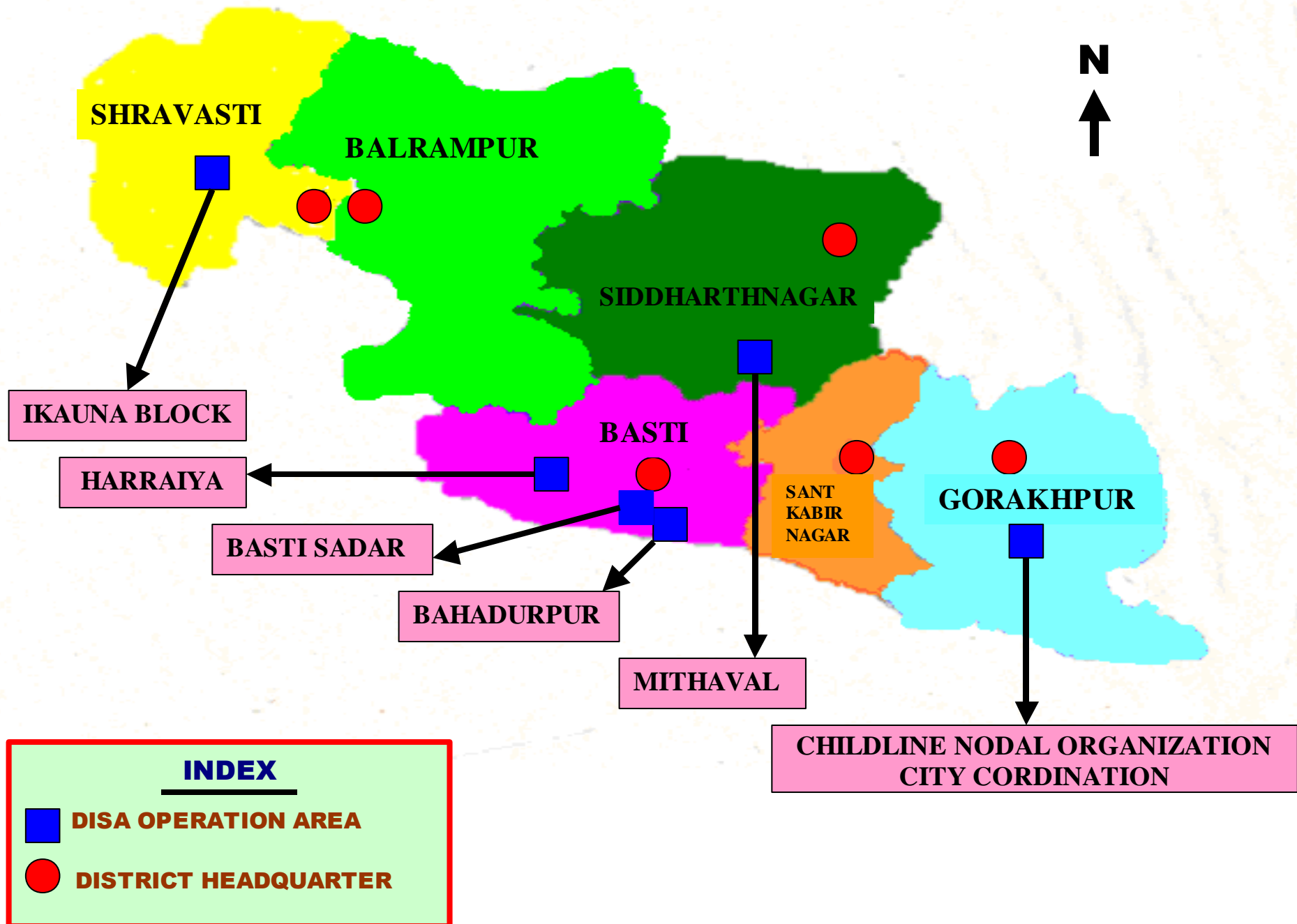
- ♣ **VISION:** Communion of human communities, nurturing the universal values.
- ♣ **MISSION:** To restore the human dignity of the poor and the marginalized and achieve their rights as citizens.
- ♣ **STRATEGY:** A process of Social Animation among the poor and the marginalized for enabling awareness, capacities and collective actions.

The following pages indicate the summary of various activities and interventions we have made during the period 2008-09.



STRUCTURE OF DISA

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA OF OPERATON UNDER DISA



2. Rural Development Activities:

2.1. Building the Social Capital

Awareness, Participation and Signs of Change have been the flow of sequence and the strategy of social animation and are the means to build Social Capital for the marginalized sections. We have used PRA, SWOT Analysis, Focus Group Discussions, one-to-one discussions, Group Meetings, village visits and mass communication media like street plays and puppetry etc as tools to create awareness in the communities. DISA Communication Team performed puppetry in villages for awareness creation. The Students of St. Basil's School and Jyoti Gurukul continued to extend their support for the reach out and awareness programmes in villages.

2. 2. Savings, Credit and Livelihood Programmes

In Sadar and Harraiya Blocks in Basti District, Ikauna Block of Shravasti District, and Mithaval Block in Siddharthnagar District, DISA has involvement for integrated community development programmes. In these villages communities were mobilized for participatory development. We facilitated to form Community Based Organizations in the form of Self Help Groups and Women' Associations. The details of the SHGs and their livelihood programmes are given below:

Particulars	Sadar Block	Harraiya Block	Mithaval Block	Ikauna Block
Total SHGs as on March 2009	53	29	104	21
No of Members	734	406	1079	256
Total Savings till March 2009	64,20,23/-	3,16,954/-	6,71,194/-	30,970/-
Total Loans availed as on March 2009	10,01,849/-	3,27,737/-	8,41,648/-	1,540/-
Total Loan Repayment as on Mar 2009	5,97,969/-	2,10,917/-	3,75,943/-	860/-
Outstanding Loan till March 2009	4,03,800/-	1,16,820/-	4,65,705/-	680/-
Total Interest and Fines received	98,545/-	45,664/-	27,783/-	--
Total CCL done till March 2009	3,04,000/-	--	3,95,500/-	--

We have financial support from NABARD to facilitate 50 Self Help Groups All the 50 Groups are formed and linked with Banks by opening their Savings Accounts. Groups initiated inter-loaning among the members and they are in the processes of CCL with Banks. The people of the villages have understood the meaning and

usefulness of these SHGs and are eager to form into groups. Regular Group meetings and collective actions are going on in these Groups.

2.3. Women's Association and Empowerment:

With the name - DISA MAHILA SANGHARSH MANDAL, we could form 21 Women's Associations in Sadar Block, 20 in Ikauna Block and 20 in Harraiya Block with 1750 Members for empowerment of Women and gender balance in the society. Besides the village level formation of the Association of Women, there are the Block Level and DISA Central Level Federation. In Mithaval Block, we have Panchayat level and Cluster level Federation. The Village level and Block level association have five office bearers each and they have started owning up greater roles and responsibilities. These Associations have become the platform for the women to come together, share their experiences, joys and sorrows, get some input and learning exercises, support each other and thus build the social capital for their empowerment and gender balance. They have undertaken many collective actions and organized common celebrations on Independence Day and Republic Day.

We had the Women's Day Celebrations jointly together with CSO Partners Network in Basti District at Basti Club on 08 March 2009, which was the spectacular gathering of women as a show of strength and demand for their rights. All these celebrations could instill greater confidence in them by associating themselves with the Groups and CSOs. Women came to the meeting places in rallies and slogans, performed cultural programmes and participated in the meetings with great interest. Many men and children also attended the programme and the celebrations created great effect in villages. The themes for this year were *Women's health as a Right, Accessibility to Govt. Schemes and Increasing the Participation of Women in Panchayats.*

2.4. Promotion of Primary Education

Promotion of primary education of the children specially the girls of the villages being a top priority for DISA, we tried our best to create awareness on the need of education and sensitize the community of enrolling their children in schools and ensure their education. *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* has been the slogan and efforts of Govt. We intervened in creating awareness in communities and motivated the parents to enroll their children in nearby Schools. Our Motto has been *all the children in school and studying well.* Our focus was to make the CBOs as Pressure Groups to monitor and ensure availability, accessibility and quality of primary education especially of girls and the facilities attached with the schools.

We collaborated with PRATHAM, Mumbai to conduct the ASER 2008 Survey (Annual Status of Education Report) in the District of Basti to assess the conditions and the quality of education in the Govt. primary schools. This survey

also intended to test the impact and utility of *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* of Govt. and the utilization funds channeled for this purpose through special education tax and other budgeted resources. The Survey Report has been published by PRATHAM at national and state level.

Facilitation of studies of very deserving students with the financial support and scholarships also has been an important activity for DISA. During the Year we could extend scholarships to 5 such students to pursue their studies.

2.5. Promotion of Good Governance:

We focused our attention to increase the awareness of the communities in the affairs of Panchayati Raj Systems. In the villages the participation of people especially the women is minimal. The Gram Sabha and Panchayat meetings are not regular. In many villages we conducted special meetings of the elected members and Pradhans. In 40 % of the villages of Bahadurpur and Harraiya Blocks, under the SURE START Programme we could rejuvenate the Gram Panchayats and make them more participatory and functional. The VHSCs (Village Health and Sanitation Committees) became very active. We motivated the Groups to be more vigilant and watchful to participate in the PRIs and act as pressure groups for their entitlements. One of the themes for the Women's Day was to focus on the increase of participation in PRIs by women and men. Our aim is to develop few model Panchayats. The capacity building programmes of Partner CSOs under the leadership of PANI Sansthan enabled DISA to have better understanding, focus and direct interventions with PRIs.

2.6. CHILDLINE Programme

Considering the involvement with children in difficult situations – the abandoned, truants, the orphans, the children on streets, laboring children, DISA has been made the Nodal Organization for the city coordination activities of CHILDLINE, Gorakhpur, which we started effective from January 2006. We joined hands with PGSS, Gorakhpur and Little Flower Society, Gorakhpur to take care of these children. We got the guidance from CHILDLINE India Foundation from Mumbai for this programme and financial support from Ministry of Women and Child Development to meet the expenses related to this noble cause.

2.7. Partnership in Programmes

DISA is Partner for the implementation of the following Programmes:

a) Revival of Agriculture for Rural Economy Development

This programme has been initiated in April 2007 for the 80 marginalized farmers in selected 10 villages of Mithaval Block and the programme intended to promote good package of practices for safe, scientific, profitable and sustainable

agriculture. It is directly benefiting the village communities who find it difficult to carry on with agriculture due to various difficulties they face and make it viable and economic. The Programme is being implemented under the guidance and network of Grameen Development Services, Lucknow and is supported by Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, Mumbai. We could develop the Package of Practices after the field testing and extend the programme to 280 farmers spread in 28 villages and facilitate the formation of 10 Farmers' Clubs and their Federation. They have developed Common Facility Centres for supporting the members of the Farmers' Clubs. We also could arrange for their exposure visits, introduction of compost manure preparation, mushroom cultivation and implementation of the Package of Practices.

b) Community Based Rehabilitation of Physically Challenged Children

DISA is involved in the rehabilitation of 30 Physically Challenged children by adopting them for integrated development for which Stichting Liliane Foundation has extended support through Jan Vikas Samiti, Varanasi. We follow the principles and practices of Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) model. Five of our children participated in the Special Olympics in Jalandhar in November 2008. The children adopted are given medical, educational, social and emotional support to cope with their disabilities and integrate themselves in the mainstream of the society.

c) TARA AKSHAR Literacy Programme

DISA is one Partner CSO for the implementation of TARA AKSHAR – Literacy Programme for Adult Women in PACS Programme area. This is a new and world acclaimed literacy programme for the illiterate women in the villages who learn with the audio-visual aids of the lap top computer and manual exercises on slates and then on note books under the guidance of the trained instructor. One instructor teaches a group of 8 women for two hours in one shift and there are total three shifts in a day. They learnt to read, write and count with in 30 working days. We have completed 06 batches and total women who studied are 308 as on 31 March 2009. Even though the financial support under PACS has been over, we have continued the programme with own resources. The support of the village Pradhans and the enthusiasm of the women compel us to go ahead with this intervention.

d) SURE START Programme

Ensuring the safe motherhood, with all the aspects of prenatal and postnatal care of Pregnant Women and New Born Children has been a new venture of DISA in Bahadurpur and Harraiya Blocks in this year. In collaboration with PATH and PANI Sansthan, the SURE START programme was initiated in May 2007 by DISA. Under Level -1, we cover the whole block, under level-2 we reach out to 40 % of the block and take up intensive interventions under level-3 in 15 % of the

block. System Strengthening in collaboration with PHC, Block, ICDS, Panchayats and the Govt. machinery has been the hallmark of this programme. We could make substantial progress in this field. The monthly meetings of the VHSC and Mother Groups are very regular and active in Both Bahadurpur and Harraiya Blocks. There are efforts for system strengthening and greater collaboration with the Govt. Various innovative programmes are introduced for the capacity building of ASHAs and awards are given for their best performances. Different visual aids are used to create awareness on Safe Motherhood issues and behavior change communications.

e) Integrated Development through Empowering Actions (IDEA)

DISA is partner with PGSS (Purvanchal Gramin Seva Samiti) Gorakhpur for the implementation of IDEA Programme at Harraiya with the financial support of Caritas India, New Delhi. Integration with the development actors at local level, collaboration with CSO partners, various Departments and Commissions, Organization Development Processes etc are the main ingredients under this programme. DISA commenced the implementation of this programme in April 2007. In the coming days we will focus on the PRIs and Good Governance.

f) Safe Drinking Water Programme:

In collaboration with Academy for Educational Development, Lucknow we have a new programme to promote the habit of drinking safe water in villages. Under this programme our team members are going to the 54 GPs of Harraiya and 53 GPs of Bahadurpur Blocks in Basti District to create awareness on the present situation of water contamination, ill-effects of the water borne diseases and the cheapest ways of water purification. Samples are collected from the point of use and demonstrations are done to showcase the water pollution. People are given the

options to buy chlorine tablets and chlorine liquids to purify the water which shall be the cheapest way for safe drinking for the poor. In collaboration with Hindustan Lever Ltd, the water purifiers are also available for the people at affordable rates. By all these we aim at behavior changes for better health in villages. The collaboration of PANI Sansthan and Sathi Forum is readily available for us to implement the programme.

2.8. Capacity Building Programmes:

During the Year 2008-09 the Staff of DISA received following trainings:

Subject	Date/Month	Resource Team / Facilitation	Participants
Training on Advocacy	10 to 12 April 2008	People's Action for National Integration (PANI)	Mr. Shiv Bhusan Mr. Ram Pravesh Mr. Ram Krihsna

		Basti	Mr. Santosh Ms. Kanchan Srivastav Mr. Surendra Nath Yadav Mr. Shri Ram Mr. Raja Ram Mr. Santosh Triphathi Ms. Rajani Srivastav
Visioning Workshop	15 to 16 April 2008	People's Action for National Integration (PANI) Basti	Mr. Shiv Bhusan Srivastav Mr. Surendra Nath Yadav
Ham Radio Operation	21 to 26 June 2008	CASA, Lucknow	Mr. Rajendra Mr. Mantram Ms. Rekha Bharti Mr. Krishna Kumar Mr. Lalu Ram Mr. Mr Romansuh Mr. Mr. Braj Bhusan Mr. Shiv Bhusan Mr. Ram Pravesh Mr. Ram Krihsna Mr. Santosh Mr. Surendra Nath Yadav Mr. Shri Ram Mr. Raja Ram
PRA & Japani Infinities	27 to 28 June 2008	PGSS, Gorakhpur	Mr. Krishna Kumar
Advocacy & Networking Workshop	01 to 04 September	UKSVK, Agra	Mr. Krishna Kumar
Training on HMIS	20 to 22 Oct 2008	People's Action for National Integration (PANI) Basti	Mr. Shiv Bhusan Mr. Ram Pravesh Mr. Ram Krihsna Mr. Santosh Ms. Kanchan Srivastav Mr. Surendra Nath Yadav Mr. Shri Ram Mr. Raja Ram Mr. Santosh Triphathi Ms. Rajani Srivastav
Integration Meeting of DISA Social Workers and Training	26 to 27 December 2008	DISA, Basti	Mr. Rajendra Mr. Mantram Ms. Rekha Bharti Mr. Krishna Kumar Mr. Lalu Ram Mr. Mr Romansuh

			Mr. Mr. Braj Bhusan Mr. Shiv Bhusan Mr. Ram Pravesh Mr. Ram Krihsna Mr. Santosh Ms. Kanchan Sirvastav Mr. Surendra Nath Yadav Mr. Shri Ram Mr. Raja Ram Mr. Santosh Triphathi Ms. Rajani Srivastav Mr. Zakir Hussan Mr. Pakaj Sah Mr. Mahesh Prasad Mr. Ajeet Kumar Singh Mr. Santosh Kumar Ms. Nirupama Mishra Ms. Ruchi Srivastav Ms. Punita Mr. Karender Prasad Mr. Pingal Prasad Mr. Dinesh Chaudhary Mr. Patiram Kumar Gaur Mr. Ram Chandra Mr. Sarbjeet Gautam
Accounts and Financial Training	09 to 10 January 2009	Grammen Development Services, Lucknow	Mr. Romanush Mr. Braj Bhusan Srivastav
HMIS Training	12 to 14 February 2009	People's Action for National Integration (PANI) Basti	Mr. Shiv Bhusan Mr. Ram Pravesh Mr. Ram Krihsna Mr. Santosh Ms. Kanchan Srivastav Mr. Surendra Nath Yadav Mr. Shri Ram Mr. Raja Ram Mr. Santosh Triphathi Ms. Rajani Srivastav Mr. Romanush
Account Management Training	20 February 2009	People's Action for National Integration (PANI) Basti	Mr. Romanush
NREGA & RTI	13 to 14 March 2009	DISA, Basti	Sr. Lissue Mr. Rajendra Mr. Mantram

			Ms. Rekha Bharti Mr. Krishna Kumar Mr. Lalu Ram Mr. Mr Romansuh Mr. Mr. Braj Bhusan Mr. Shiv Bhusan Mr. Ram Pravesh Mr. Ram Krihsna Mr. Santosh Ms. Kanchan Sirvastav Mr. Surendra Nath Yadav Mr. Shri Ram Mr. Raja Ram Mr. Santosh Triphathi Ms. Rajani Srivastav Mr. Zakir Hussan Mr. Pakaj Sah Mr. Mahesh Prasad Mr. Ajeet Kumar Singh Mr. Santosh Kumar Ms. Nirupama Mishra Ms. Ruchi Srivastav Ms. Punita Mr. Karender Prasad Mr. Pingal Prasad Mr. Dinesh Chaudhary Mr. Patiram Kumar Gaur Mr. Ram Chandra Mr. Sarbjeet Gautam
Natural Resources Management	16 to 19 March 2009	RCDSS, Rajasthan	Mr. Krishna Kumar
Orientation Workshop on Disaster Management	24 March 2009	YCK, Deoria	Mr. Rajendra Mr. Mantram Mr. Om Narayan Mr. Braj Bhusan Srivastav Mr. Santosh Kumar

We could arrange the following Trainings for the CBOs during the year 2008-09

Subject	Date/Month	Resource Team / Facilitation	Participants
Training of CBOs	04 to 06 April	DISA, Basti	SHGs Members

Leaders on Group Management	2009		
Training of CBOs Leaders on Group Management	16 to 18 December 2009	DISA, Basti	SHGs Members
Training of CBOs Leaders on Group Management	19 to 20 December 2009	DISA, Basti	SHGs Members
Training on Mushroom Cultivation	25 to 26 February 2009	DISA, Basti	SHGs Selected Members

3. Little Flower School and Community Centre, Harraiya:

The Primary School at Harraiya established with resources mobilized partly by DISA is picking up fast and growing as prestigious institution in that area. There were 320 Students and 12 Teachers in the school in the academic year 2008-09 with classes from Lower Kindergarten to Class. They have all the curricular and extra curricular activities to impart integrated education and personality development of the children as envisaged. The Rural Development Programmes got great impetus with extension of DISA activities in the entire Block and specific activities in about 100 villages under the IDEA and SURE START programmes. They have also promoted the education of the poor by facilitating 3 Balwadies with nearly 160 children in the villages as pre-schools. The School students also participate in the village reach out activities and this is a new model we have tried to develop under DISA.

4. Financial Position

In the year 2008-09 we have got financial support from different sources by way of local contributions from personal friends, well-wishers, interest on deposits and foreign contributions to the tune of Rs. 24,96,422/- from DFID/DA, New Delhi; PANI, Faizabad; PGSS, Gorakhpur; NABARD; PRATHAM; Ministry of Women and Child Development, New Delhi; Bibertal, Germany; St. Basil's School, Little Flower Society and Jan Vikas Samiti, Varanasi. Little Flower Mission, Gorakhpur has purchased a small plot of land consisting of 48 decimals in village Asnar in Mithaval Block and has entrusted to DISA for developing the Common Facility Centre for promoting various development activities in Mithaval Block. We are getting the cooperation from the Govt. Offices, Departments and village communities. Thus it has been a joint venture with many collaborators and helping hands.

5. Organizational

As a Registered Society, DISA completed seven years and promptly fulfilled the legal and community obligations. It has held one Annual General Meeting and two Governing Body Meetings as per the Time Schedule proposed in the Annual Plan. M/s Shatrughna Aggarwal and Co. Deoria has done statutory Auditing. Fr. Jose Paul and Mr. Thankachan conducted the Internal Auditing. Mr. Giri Pant and Mr. Chanchal Pandey of GDS, Lucknow and also by Mr. G.P. Singh of PANI Sansthan, Faizabad conducted Project Financial Support Supervision. SATHI Forum, Basti facilitated the Organizational Assessment. Auditors' Report has been sent to Ministry of Home Affairs under F.C-3 and Consolidated Auditors' Report has been sent to the Department of Income Tax under 10-B. Annual Plan for year 2008-09 has been made. Schedules for next Annual General Meeting and Governing Body Meetings have been fixed. DISA has been able to adopt and implement H.R Policy, Financial Manual and Gender Policy as part of organization Development Processes. We could expand the infrastructure facilities for trainings and meetings at Basil Bhavan Training Centre by adding one floor on the top of the building. Most Rev. Thomas Thuruthimattam, Bishop of Gorakhpur blessed and inaugurated the newly constructed multipurpose hall on July 5, 2008.

DETAILS ABOUT THE GOVERNING BODY OF DISA

S. No.	Designation	Name of the person	Gender	Date of joining the CSO	Educational Qualification	Experience of working in social sector
1.	President	Fr. John Olickal	Male	19/3/2001	M.A Sociology	40 years
2.	Vice President	Ms. Geeta Lakshmi	Female	09/7/2009	M. Sc Maths	12 years
3.	Secretary	Fr. Cherian Puthussery	Male	19/3/2001	B.A	40 years
4.	Joint Secretary	Mr. Anil Chaitanya	Male	09/7/2009	LLB	30 years
5.	Treasurer	Fr. Lona Kallely	Male	19/3/2001	M.A, B. Ed	22 years
6.	Member	Ms. Bindu Jayan	Female	09/7/2009	B, Sc Maths	12 years
7.	Member	Sr. Lily SRA	Female	27/9/2007	B.A	35 years

Declaration regarding Foreign Visits and Remuneration

During the year nobody from this organization has gone abroad. No Governing Body Member is receiving any remuneration from this Organization.

6. Activity Plans for the Year 2009-2010

The major interventions by DISA envisaged in the focus area in the coming year, besides continuing and intensifying with the above-mentioned activities are:

1. Strengthening the existing groups and facilitating their better management, Capacity building, Inter-loaning and Bank linkages for CCL.
2. Women Empowerment and promotion of gender balance with forming their Associations and their Federations and networking in all the Blocks adopted.
3. Promotion of Good Governance in selected Gram Panchayats, developing them as Model Panchayats and capacity building of the elected PRI members for effectiveness and greater participation and responsibilities.
4. Strengthening DISA as the Nodal Organization for the CHILDLINE programme, to coordinate all the activities related to CHILDLINE Collaborative Organization and Resource Organizations for rescue relief and rehabilitation, rapport with local administration and soliciting their support etc.
5. We will identify very poor physically challenged children and increase the activities related to Community Based Rehabilitation. We will adopt about 75 children by March 2010
6. Continue the Capacity Enhancements of the Office Bearers and members of the groups and also of the Staff on various development issues. We will facilitate exposure visits of other CSOs and Learners to DISA area and arrange exposure visits for our staff and CBOs to other Organizations.
7. We will establish one community centre and Common Facility Centre at the newly purchased land at village Asnar in Mithaval Block, Siddharthnagar.
8. We will intensify our efforts to establish our community centre in Ikauna in Shravasti for coordinating and expanding the development activities.
9. Collaborate with CARE India, Lucknow and promote Girls Education Programmes in selected villages of Bahraich and Balrampur Districts and promote primary education.
10. Continue our Partnership with PANI for SURE START, with GDS, Lucknow for Revival of Agriculture, with PGSS, Gorakhpur for IDEA Programme in Harraiya, SDTT for Women Empowerment and Good Governance and with DFID for PACS Plus and TARA AKSHAR Programmes
11. Developing a Web site for DISA and improved documentation.
12. Grooming and Developing Second Line Leadership for DISA and improving the Front Office Management and Accounting with additional staff.

7. Conclusion

The collaboration, guidance, resource support and good leadership of many enabled DISA to reach up to this level and extend our refreshing and consoling touch to *the people who are tired of heavy burdens of life*. We feel this is a sure and definite start for many more noble and useful ventures for the empowerment of the disadvantaged and the marginalized. We bend low in reverence and gratitude to all the partners, collaborators, well-wishers and co-workers of DISA. We appreciate the dedication of the Staff and the Members of DISA in promoting the core values of the Organization.