

Promotion of Income Generation Opportunities to ensure Sustainable Livelihood Options for Participant Families in Family Strengthening Programmes of SOS Children's Villages of India

The responsibility of conducting this exploratory study was entrusted to Four X 4 by SOS Children's Villages of India after its well-done work of evaluation of Family Strengthening Programme (FSP) at two locations. Since livelihood is basically aimed at strengthening families sustainably, Four X 4 was asked to look into various livelihood generations options that are available to families under difficult circumstance who are usually the target group of the FSP.

Four X 4 designed a participatory study framework and scientifically made location selection. Four programme locations, i.e. Jammu, Guwahati, Bhopal and Nagapattinam which represented four different regions of the country. The study looked at many issues including selection of target communities and families; occupational profile of adult beneficiaries; markets at the selected locations and their characteristics; selection of FSP activities towards facilitating employment generation; partnerships and linkages; and financing livelihood options.

The study looked at these issues very scientifically while recommending time bound as well as eminently actionable steps towards tightening FSP management and organizational aspects; improving capacity of programme staff to productive generate linkages for facilitating livelihood generation; facilitating financial assistance from the available resources of the programme and from outside; and leveraging various income generating opportunities available at the study locations and bringing in diversity in income generation focus in order to reduce vulnerability and seasonal variations in income generation capacity of families.