



About the Organization



Arthik Samata is the 13th item of the Gandhian Constructive program meaning Economic Equality. Arthik Samata was a movement for Economic Equality started by Gora in 1950s and gradually culminated in establishing itself as a non-governmental organization in 1978. ASM is a Gandhian, Secular, Social change organization. Gora (1902-1975) and Saraswathi Gora (1912-2006) were close associates of Mahatma Gandhi. And they received national and international recognition for their selfless, secular, social change work. Under Mr. Veeraiah's secretaryship, ASM continues to function since its inception.

Following the footsteps of its illustrious founders, ASM is engaged in comprehensive rural development ever since 1977 cyclone and tidal wave, which devastated the coast of Andhra. ASM covers a broad spectrum of activities encompassing curative and preventive health care, mother and child care, education, vocational training, environmental protection and disaster preparedness.

Right from its inception the major focus of ASM has been on children, women, disabled, elderly, handicapped and the small and marginal farmers, fisher folk, tribal, rural artisans and the weaker sections of the community.

For the last 12 years, in its endeavors ASM has partnership with Plan, an internationally known Non-Governmental Organization, which extends valuable cooperation and guidance. The partnership with Plan India presented an opportunity for ASM to continue its work on child-centered community development approach. This synergy has been working towards a responsive development model.



Why Universal Birth Registration

Birth Registration is a fundamental right of every child and the first legal acknowledgement of a child's identity and existence. India is a signatory to the convention, the rights of the child (1989), which obligates the state to ensure that every child's right to Birth Registration is fulfilled

-(Articles 7 & 8 of the CRC)



Causes for the Low Birth Registration

- Lack of awareness and demand for Birth Certificates among the communities.
- Inadequate knowledge about the Birth Registration Act. and Registration Process among the officials at different levels.
- Low priority accrued by the system results in apathy and lack of demand from people, further slackence the system of Registration.
- Lack of coordination at different levels, leading to incomplete reporting and lack of follow-up on Registration.
- Inconsistence system of collection of information and lack of awareness on its usage.
- Shortfalls in infrastructure, affects, effective reporting and follow-up on Registration.

Aims of UBR

The common aim behind all efforts is to strengthen the Civil Registration system at National, State and District levels, resulting in a significant increase in the number of children with Birth Certificates and improved use of the data to inform decision making at all levels.



Objective

The overall objective of the programme is to increase the birth registration level to 90% and issue of Birth Certificates to 70% among the 0-1 year of children and to 60% of registration and issue of certificates among under 14 children by 2010 in selected districts of Andhra Pradesh.

Can protect Children from Age-related Abuses

- Ensures a child's access to parental property in case of death of both parents.
- Helps to protect children from exploitative labour.
- Strengthens the justice system by encouraging children to be treated appropriately by police / other law enforcement officials.
- Helps to protect a child from early marriage.

Birth Registration benefits for the Child

- An official record of a child's identity, a sign that a child 'belongs' to a Family, to a Comamunity & to a Nation.
- Useful for School Admission.
- To get govt. job
- To join into Army.
- To attain Adult Franchise
- To get LIC Policy, Passport & Driving Licence
- Eligible for Govt.schemes
- At the time of Marriage
- Protects a child from illicit changes to his / her identity.





Consequences of Low Birth Registration

- Hard to determine the population size.
- May not know how many doses of vaccine to be prepared.
- How many class rooms to build.
- Lack of planning for Child Welfare programmes.

Present Scenario

Country level, present Birth Registration level is upto 60%, whereas States like Rajasthan, Utter Pradesh, Bihar & Assam Birth Registration rate is still below 50%. In Andhra Pradesh the percentage of Registration is high at almost 80%. The problem in Andhra Pradesh is that, reporting recorded at 40% as on 2004. Govt. has identified 14 low performing districts in terms of Birth Registration. Among 14 districts, 6 districts are supported by UNICEF for promotion of UBR activities. And for the remaining districts, Plan (India) has taken the responsibility to strengthen the Birth Registration.

Universal Birth Registration Programme

Arthik Samata Mandal (ASM) as a Nodal NGO working in 9 districts in collaboration with partner NGOs from **SVDS** (Visakhapatnam), **Pallesiri** (East Godavari), **Jagriti** (Nellore), **Chaitanya** (Chittoor), **Krusha** (Karimnagar), **CEAD** (Adilabad), **Samskar** (Nizamabad), & **ASM** projects at Nalgonda and Krishna, is implementing the **UBR Programme**, supported by Plan (India), New Delhi.



The Roles of Nodal Agency

- ASM & Plan India Jointly identified lead NGOs from each district.
- Facilitate / guide the district NGO to prepare a social map of the district to identify how to reach group / villages / mandals in terms of birth reporting and registration.
- Coordinate the geographical distribution of areas among the partner NGOs in the district.
- Coordination of agreed activities with partner NGOs and monitoring of the same.



- Organize a joint meeting of NGOs and government functionaries at the district level.
- Distribution of materials to the partner NGOs.
- Financial and other technical inputs to the NGOs as per the agreed activities including receiving and disbursing funds to NGOs.

Implementation Strategy

Arthik Samata Mandal, as a Nodal Agency for nine districts, Plan (India) UBR Programme in Andhra Pradesh in association with selected Partner NGOs in each district will implement the project and its activities.

The way forward in achieving goals

- Acceleration and improvement of Birth Registration service delivery.
- Demand creation among parents, guardians, community leaders and service providers for registration and issuance of birth certificates.
- Enhanced use of data to inform planning and programming.
- Inevitable for children.



UBR TEAM

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Universal Birth Registration Campaign



Children are our greatest wealth. Every child born in the Nation should be allowed to blossom. This is the responsibility of the state. To enable us to fulfil this responsibility the first action is identification of the child soon after Birth”

*- Dr.A.P.J.Abdul Kalam,
 President of India*