



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2024



MESSAGE FROM CEO

Dear Members, Donors, and Stakeholders,

Greetings from Indian Social Responsibility Network!

I am delighted to share the remarkable strides ISRN has made in June. Our commitment to transforming education, health, agriculture as well as sustainability continues to spread in an impactful manner, thanks to your unwavering support.

This month, through our CSR initiative, we elevated government schools in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand to Uttam Schools. Previously lacking basic amenities, these institutions now boast new toilet facilities, drinking water, libraries, and laboratories. This transformation provides students equitable education opportunities, aligning with our dedication to SDG 4.

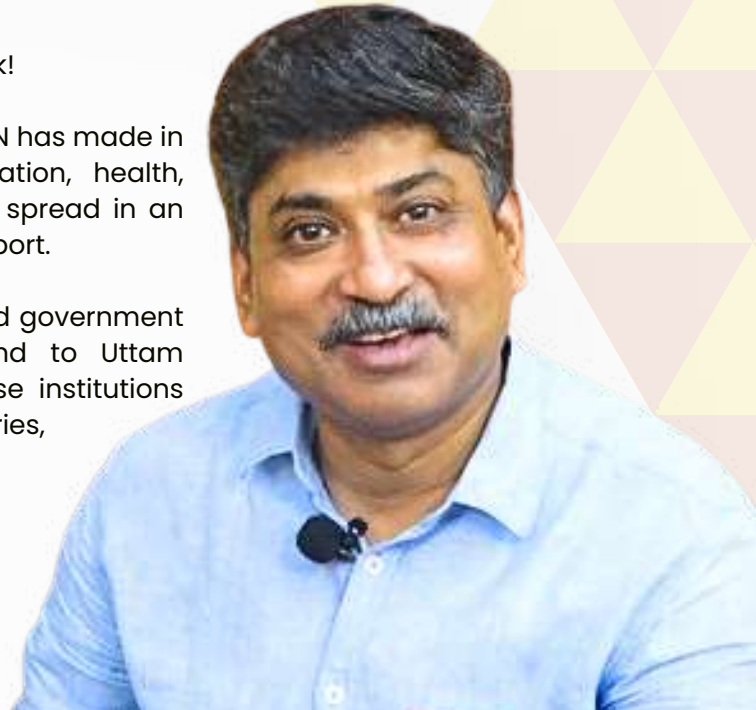
In collaboration with USAID's MOMENTUM Routine Immunization Transformation and Equity project, our team reached over 6,905 individuals across the North Eastern states, combating misconceptions and administering over 1.75 lakh doses of COVID-19 vaccines. Our efforts in June alone supported 53 immunization session sites, ensuring comprehensive coverage for children and families.

Our FPO project also saw significant progress, with field officers convening to discuss project developments and future strategies. This meeting strengthened our commitment to supporting rural farmers and enhancing agricultural productivity. Out of 35 ISRN-promoted FPOs, 14 have received equity grants, and all 35 have secured government support for FPO management costs. These funds are crucial for covering operational expenses, including salaries, rent, electricity, and essential equipment. The equity grants empower FPOs to kickstart their businesses, driving rural economic growth and sustainability.

We celebrated World Environment Day with our little eco-warriors at Government Primary School Malpur, who led a plantation drive as part of the 'Clean School, Green School' initiative. Our office followed suit, transforming into a 'Clean Office, Green Office' to symbolize our dedication to environmental sustainability. I encourage you to watch our latest NGO Clinic podcast episode featuring Mr. Vijay Rai, who provided invaluable insights into successful NGO program implementation.

As we reflect on these accomplishments, I am filled with gratitude for the unwavering support and dedication of our partners, volunteers, and community members. I humbly request all member organizations/partners to write to us at communications@isrn.in and share their accomplishments and success stories with us. Together, we continue to make a profound impact. Thank you for your continued support and partnership.

Warm regards,
Santosh Gupta,
CEO, Indian Social Responsibility Network



Santosh Gupta

CEO, Indian Social Responsibility Network

NURTURING FUTURE SCIENTISTS AND SCHOLARS: The Uttam Schools Initiative in the Himalayas

ISRN as part of its CSR initiative is dedicated to transforming Government Schools in the Himachal and Uttarakhand regions into Uttam Schools. This initiative aims to enhance educational standards by fostering relationships beyond mere financial support. Our focus is on ensuring inclusive, equitable education opportunities and promoting lifelong learning, in line with SDG 4 objectives.

The two schools situated at the extremities of the Himalayan range cater to students from underserved and rural Indian communities, with many students traveling approximately 10 kilometers daily from their villages. These schools previously lacked essential amenities, contributing significantly to student dropouts. The primary issues included deteriorated toilet facilities, a single tap for drinking water, and the absence of a library and laboratory for students.





To address these challenges, ISRN, through a CSR initiative supported by the Care TodayFund, transformed these government schools into Uttam Schools. The transformation included the provision of separate toilet facilities for students, new drinking water facilities, a library equipped with books and digital resources to support modern learning approaches, and a laboratory outfitted with equipment to facilitate practical application of theoretical knowledge.



MOMENTUM Routine Immunization Transformation & Equity Project

Indian Social Responsibility Network is working with **USAID on MOMENTUM Routine Immunization Transformation and Equity project**, to amplify the immunization coverage and government's immunization drive in Nagaland, Meghalaya, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur. Despite prevalent misconceptions and myths, the team achieved significant outreach by engaging 6,905 individuals through various community mobilization and awareness initiatives, such as Community/Group meetings, house-to-house visits, IPC, Miking, Father's meeting, to name a few. So far, the team has successfully administered over 1.75 lakh doses of the COVID-19 vaccines to eligible beneficiaries. The project also supported 53 RI session sites in the month of June'24, administering 2,452 doses and ensuring that 139 children received full immunization.

SUCCESS STORY ***MAS Meeting: Community Mobilization efforts for Routine Immunization***

On June 29, 2024, a Focus Group Discussion (FGD) meeting was held at the Lumshatsngi UPHC, bringing together 18 MAS members and ASHAs. This meeting marked a significant achievement in community health mobilization, thanks to the dedicated efforts of the project team. For a week leading up to the meeting, the team worked tirelessly to engage and mobilize the MAS members. Their efforts paid off as they achieved the turnout of 18 MAS members, that was also commended by the Medical Officer.

The discussion during the FGD centered around three main points:

- Encouraging MAS members to assist health staff on Routine Immunization (RI) day.
- Involving MAS members in house-to-house visits to enhance community health outreach.
- Introducing and briefing the participants on the newly developed information booklet.



The success of this meeting highlights the power of collaboration and the vital role that community members play in supporting health initiatives. This achievement not only strengthened our community bonds but also set a strong foundation for future health activities.



SUCCESS STORY *Overcoming vaccine challenges through Har Ghar Dastak*

Lower Paramedical Colony, despite being just 7 kilometers from the health unit, is a hard-to-reach urban area. Residents struggle to bring their children to the Health Centre for vaccinations. The team conducted door-to-door IPC and found many children in the LODOR category. After encouraging and reminding the residents, a few came to the Health Centre to vaccinate their children. However, four children remained unvaccinated. Consequently, the team conducted house-to-house vaccinations, successfully vaccinating these dropout children.



The absence of ASHA or healthcare workers in the colony to monitor the vaccination status posed a significant challenge. To address this, the team brought vaccines along with a nurse, knocking on every door to identify children less than five years of age. This house-to-house vaccination approach sometimes made beneficiaries feel forced to vaccinate their children, presenting another challenge.

After informing the District Immunization Officer (DIO) about the numerous LODOR cases, the DIO directed the concerned Medical Officer (MO) to assign manpower for outreach sessions. With the

coordination of the DIO and MO, the team conducted a door-to-door vaccination outreach session. Despite some parents not initially turning up, the team continued door-to-door efforts, educating parents about vaccine safety and disease prevention. The team successfully convinced all four dropout parents and vaccinated their children along with a pregnant woman.

Post-vaccination, the team assured the residents of their return for the next scheduled date, and the residents expressed their willingness to cooperate.



SUCCESS STORY *Community Meeting on Routine Immunization*

To raise awareness about the importance of routine immunization among parents and caregivers, the project team organized a community meeting in Harijan Colony under Nandan Nagar UPHC, Agartala, Tripura. The event aimed to encourage timely vaccination for children, and it saw a participation of 33 parents and caregivers.

Routine immunization is a critical component of healthcare, essential for preventing the spread of 12 vaccine-preventable diseases. While Tripura has made strides in improving vaccination coverage, there was a need to reach out to parents and caregivers in Nandan Nagar to educate them about the significance of vaccination.



The meeting was highly successful, with active participation and engagement from all attendees. The presentation on routine immunization was well-received, and many were surprised to learn about the risks of not vaccinating their children on time.

After the meeting, 100% of attendees reported understanding the importance of routine immunization and expressed their intent to vaccinate their children on time. They also committed to recommending routine immunization to other parents and caregivers, armed with information about vaccination schedules and benefits.

The community meeting had a significant impact on raising awareness among parents and caregivers regarding routine immunization in Nandan Nagar, Agartala, Tripura. It helped in:

- Increase awareness about the importance of routine immunization.
- Encourage parents to vaccinate their children on time.
- Dispel misconceptions and myths about vaccination.
- Build trust in the healthcare system.



The successful community meeting on routine immunization at Nandan Nagar had a positive impact on parents' and caregivers' awareness levels. The health department will continue collaborating with community leaders to ensure all parents and caregivers have access to accurate information about routine immunization.



SUCCESS STORY *Successful Measles Vaccination Drive*

On June 12, 2024, the project team conducted a counseling session for caregivers and parents of hesitant beneficiaries in the Higya Colony Dobum HWC area, under the UPHC Karsingsa. The session focused on the upcoming Measles vaccination, addressing concerns and emphasizing its numerous benefits. Parents were reassured about the mild side effects (AEFI) and educated on how to manage them post-vaccination. As a result, parents agreed to bring their children to the AWW house for vaccination. Initially, 8 children were successfully vaccinated—5 boys and 3 girls. Witnessing the smooth vaccination process, these parents then encouraged their neighbors to vaccinate their children as well. Subsequently, 3 more parents brought their children for vaccination the following day.



SUCCESS STORY *Enhancing Immunization outreach in Manipur*

The MRITE 5.0 phase in Manipur by ISRN team under the guidance of state JSI team began with great enthusiasm to amplify efforts in strengthening routine immunization (RI), community mobilization, and fostering active stakeholder partnerships.

In June 2024, the team successfully administered 35 vaccine doses to 125 beneficiaries across 9 RI sessions at 3 different sites recommended by the DFWOs. Support at these sessions was bolstered by consistent community mobilization efforts, including house-to-house surveys, meetings with MAS and ASHA workers, and proactive outreach via phone to beneficiaries nearing their due dates.





The team also prioritized follow-up of due beneficiaries and LODOR cases, alongside public announcements through clubs and community centers to widen RI program reach. The team also facilitated seamless UWIN entry and data validation processes, ensuring accurate record-keeping and program efficacy. ASHA meetings focused on optimizing personnel and resource mobilization strategies, including collaboration with MAS, AWWs, and various women's groups. Looking ahead, the team plans to introduce diverse activities such as painting competitions and camps to further highlight RI efforts and community engagement.



Formation & Promotion of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs under the Central Sector Scheme for **Formation & Promotion of 10,000 FPOs**



ISRN's FPO Field Officers convened at the ISRN head office for an important review meeting. During this session, they provided comprehensive on-site updates about the current activities and progress of the Farmer Producer Organization (FPO) project. The meeting facilitated a thorough discussion on the project's developments, challenges, and future plans, ensuring alignment and coordination among all team members involved in this vital initiative.

Capacity Building of FPO Field Officers:

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Special Day Celebrations - *International Yoga Day*



On **International Yoga Day**, the **ISRN team** came together to celebrate the transformative benefits of yoga. Every team member participated enthusiastically, embracing yoga for a healthier and happier life. This shared practice not only improved our physical well-being but also strengthened our team bonds, reaffirming our commitment to promoting wellness and harmony within the communities we serve. By advocating for yoga, social organizations focused on societal change can act as catalysts, fostering significant impacts in their communities and promoting overall well-being and unity.

Special Day Celebrations - World Environment Day

Tree sapling plantation at ISRN Head Office

In celebration of World Environment Day, the ISRN team members took the initiative to plant tree saplings at the ISRN head office. This effort transformed the office into a '**Clean Office, Green Office,**' symbolizing our commitment to environmental sustainability. The event underscored the importance of green practices and showcased our dedication to creating a healthier, more sustainable environment for future generations.



Tree sapling plantation at ISRN Head Office

The little eco-warriors of ISRN's Uttam School named Government Primary School Malpur, Baddi, Himachal Pradesh celebrated World Environment Day throughout the week where they took collective action against climate change, protecting biodiversity, and transforming their school through the Clean School, Green School initiative by organising an engaging and enthusiastic plantation drive.



PERSONAL BULLETIN BY

Jagat Kinkhabwala (Sparrowman Nature Conservation & Author)

Global Warming, Warning for House Sparrows, birds and biodiversity

It is common to know that if you do not have birds around, you are not living in a healthy environment. A bird's metabolism produces heat to keep warm, but when the air rises above 40 degrees, the bird's metabolic heat will cause it to get too warm. When it is extremely hot, the birds lose their energy and feel 'faint'. So, in order to save themselves from the energy-sapping heat House Sparrows and Birds are important living beings of the planet with a specific role to play in balancing the food chain. Insects are a major part of a birds' feed. During crop season, there is extensive growth of insect population due to favorable conditions, which in turn is essential food for birds and chicks.



Around the same time, House Sparrows lay eggs and breed their young ones. They rely on insects and their larva to feed their babies. Thus, birds keep the multiplication of pest insects under control and help the crop from pest attacks. Control pests, act as pollinators, and maintain island ecology. Birds serve as a source of food and provide fertilizer in agricultural settings. Bird diversity is important for the environment because they help spread seeds, get rid of pests, and control rodent populations. Birds are part of the food chain. They are carnivores. Small birds, in general, eat up insects and their larva. In addition, scavengers get rid of dead animals, which helps keep the environment clean.

Birds keep farmers in business, protect drinking water by preventing erosion, slow the spread of disease, and provide critical environmental data. Winter is not the breeding season for House sparrows. Studied that at various locations, House Sparrows and other societal birds', there are reports of nesting in pick of the winter season of December 2024, onwards and from various parts of India. This is a strange behavior. This raised many questions and lead to the thought provoking and scientific study.

In India, the bird-breeding season typically begins mainly in the month March when temperature starts going up and lasts until June end. Birds perform courtship rituals, construct nests, lay eggs and raise their young during this time. Since breeding ensures the continuation of their species, it is essential for the survival of the bird population.

d chicks Presently, Global warming has changed the entire ecological communities. Essential during breeding season, body detox food, protein energizing insects and body vitality food from trees etc., for delivery of chicks, nesting materials from nature that birds depend on, may no longer be there during the winter days. They are available in summer. Birds may face new prey, parasites, competitors, and predators to which they are not adapted to. This year, winter has started late with temperatures remaining higher than normal winter during the first two winter months of December and January , as harsh as mid-summer of April month. At the same time, night temperature were winter chill.



Initially, thought that reported nesting as an exception but as reported from many Sparrow lovers about the nesting at their places, it was difficult to digest and could not understand the strange behavior. The Sparrow lovers were baffled just as me as why breeding in pick of the winter!

Many birds have gone upper level in India in Dehradun and Himalaya as the temperature has gone higher than normal, which they cannot tolerate hence shifted permanently.

Temperature levels have rose in three (3) layers and the study has confirmed it as above. The first layer is mainly pollution and in second level, the temperature is higher than normal hence birds goes up in the upper third level in conducive temperature due to which the whole bird ecosystem, their function and role in nature affected and disrupted with negative impact on all fronts.

Air pollution level has gone up in first level and high temperature in second layers forcing birds and animals to go up. Inquiry at many locations, it is found that migratory species arrive earlier on their breeding grounds, and that many birds start to lay their eggs earlier in the season in response to higher temperature. Seasonal breeder birds and animal species that successfully mate only during certain times of the year. These times of year allow for the optimization of survival of young due to factors such as ambient temperature, food, insects, and tender new leaf of the shrubs, trees, and water availability. That also changes in the predation behaviors of other species.

Reproduction involves high energetic demands for healthy chicks and subsequent care of offspring. Temperature is important for reproductive success because it affects food availability and energetic demand. Thus, temperature will play a greater role in the timing of breeding and reproductive success as temperature influences influence-breeding decisions.

This way, winter of the year 2024, breeding are less fed, weigh less, smaller and unhealthy in size, resulting in poor survival rates.



As per recent Indian Agriculture Research Institute, due to various reasons, the properties of grains cultivated has gone down by alarming 45%, meaning thereby that everyone get 45% of less properties from the food hence not getting optimum inputs for health, with weak health, to deliver healthy chicks with weak body. When own survival of birds and chicks would be difficult, cannot expect healthy new generation hence gradually the numbers will deplete fast.

Typically, the breeding seasons of birds begin when the first new sprouts of green plants and flowers appear after winter. It is happening earlier and earlier as the climate warms. This way the end of the 21st century, spring is likely to arrive about 25 days earlier, with birds breeding earlier. Unfortunately, these shifts are not in line with each other. The vegetation bloom and insect peak occurs even before the young birds hatch.



In light of the increased frequency of heatwaves due to climate change. It is crucial to understand their potential effects on birds' reproduction.

Heat stress can affect all aspects of reproduction, including gamete development, fertilization success, parental care and offspring survival.

This may result in premature mating messages, which are not conducive season for breeding. New birth in the premature season will result in the delivery of weak chicks with health issues, deformation and therefore, shorter life. If they survive, their next generations will be further weaker and so on which is a dangerous outcome for the future of the bird population that will decline.

There is one major problem which has been reported for a while. Kauai Island is one of the many islands of Hawaii and there are rainforests in Kauai Island. There are more than 8-species of birds in the forests. There is not much human intervention in the rainforests.

There is a small 13-centimetre bird Akikiki in it. There was a good number of them. They were well acclimatized to the climate. However, due to global warming, the temperature of the forest rose, which was not tolerable for the Akikiki birds. Hence, they went up among the trees.

Suddenly scientists found that their numbers have remained just at 5 - 6 from the thousands. They were worried and unable to find the reason for the sudden loss of the Akikiki population. They could find one sick Akikiki



. They were found to have malaria which was strange. Malaria is possible only in humid and hot temperatures which had reached the height and malaria mosquito breeding took place. Akikiki have been living for thousands of years and in thousands of numbers. However, vanished due to malaria.

Fortunately, they found a few eggs, brought them to the laboratory, and incubated them. The process of increasing the numbers is on. Just see the effect of Global Warming in the whole Globe.

All lives like those of humans, wildlife and nature including birds, pollinators, and optimum quantity and quality of crops that are dependent on birds will suffer in the due course adversely affecting subsequent life cycles.

One of the major effects of climate change is the loss of habitats. The habitats of migratory birds depend on are in danger of changing and disappearing due to increasing temperatures, flooding or desertification.

Global warming also influences the routes of many migratory birds and their annual migration rhythm. Many migratory birds change their routes, shorten or completely cancel their journey because of changing temperatures.

This is a natural process. However, the climate change, we are experiencing today is different: human-induced global warming is happening at an accelerated speed and it is becoming increasingly difficult for many bird species to keep up with the resulting shifts.





Call for Application

**Represent Your Organization at the
UN Summit 2024, at UN Headquarters
New York, USA**

Summit of the Future

Exciting Opportunity: Summit of the Future 2024!

We're thrilled to announce that ISRN is granted a Special Accreditation for the Summit of the Future, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York!

ISRN is delighted to extend this exclusive opportunity to our valued member organizations. If you are interested in representing your organization at this prestigious event, this is your chance!

Application Deadline: 10 August 2024

Event Dates: 22-23 September 2024

Location: United Nations Headquarters, New York USA.

Note: Limited Seats are available on a first come first-serve basis. So send in your entries quickly.

(1 Participant can apply from one organisation. That participant will need to self-sponsor their trip to attend the same at the UN HQ.)

To apply, please send a one-page letter of interest (250 words) and an updated CV to **info@isrn.in**

ISRN is committed to empowering our member organizations, and enriching their capacity through both national and international exposure. Together, we build a stronger, more connected global community.

Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to be a part of a global summit for the future of SDGs shaping the future!

ISRIN believes that having a right to live in equality is something each human deserves and with support from people like you, we are transforming the lives of thousands of fellow citizens. We have held workshops and training sessions for more than 800 member organisations, fostering a symbolic growth system

We genuinely appreciate all of your help, love, and support for ISRIN.

We humbly ask that you continue to provide us with support, advice, and invaluable assistance that will enable us to ensure that each and everyone is empowered to grow and flourish in their own unique way.

Please scan the QR code to donate towards these causes, as your small contribution will help maintain smiles on million faces.



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