

# BHOOMIKA VIHAR

## ANNUAL REPORT

MARCH 2011 TO APRIL 2012

### Target Group:

**Marginalized and deprived girls/children/women who are victims or vulnerable of trafficking, child marriage or other forms of violence**

### Project Intervention Area

**Katihar, Araria, Kishanganj, Vaishali, Purnia, Muzaffarpur, Munger, Patna**

में चिंगारी हूँ बदलाव की.....

मुझे दया नहीं अधिकार दो,

जीवन और सम्मान दो

नहीं कतरो मेरे सपनों के पंख को, मेरी सोच को एक उड़ान दो

हों, मैं भी हूँ, आँखों में समेटे इंद्रधनुषी खवाब को

आखिर रचते हो क्यू ?

झूठी शान की इमारत, मेरी सपनों को आसमान को

हों, मैं भी हूँ, मन में लपेटे विकसित आवाज को

मेरे मन को एक उफान दो

मुझे दया नहीं अधिकार दो,

जीवन और सम्मान दो



## ***New circumstances of the efforts***

Ceaseless effort of Bhoomika team have not only contributed to increase the marriage age of the girls but also to the census report 2011 pertaining to the literacy ratio in Kishanganj district. A number of girls who were locked in four walls have completed the distance from house to Schools. Such girls do not hesitate to speak out with their parents on their expectation and rights. Interaction with local body members and other systems of village have started to develop confidence among them. They attend the school; learn technical skills and trying to develop themselves as “RIGHTS PROTECTIVE LEADERS.” There is need to strengthen the confidence and potential that the marginalized and depresses section girls have just started to feel. Through giving more information, exposure, orientation, training, opportunity and better livelihood option, we are trying to build up strong internal force and will power for taking self protective measure for rights and dignity. Actions has also been taking by

Government of Bihar and central Government to develop several action plan, systems and mechanism to protect the rights of the children such as ASTITVA, Anti child labor action plan, Bihar state child right protection commission, Juvenile police in police stations, Juvenile Justice Board in districts, District Child Protection Unit, child welfare committee. The action plans and systems are not being implemented accurately due to lacking of coordination among them. Even actual beneficiary do not have proper information on such protective measures. In this concern, we are trying to interact and involve local community based organizations, local system and local body members for implementation of such rights protective measures. As community is on the way of development getting different welfare programs, social ills have started to grasp their roots. While the fast journey of development, issues related to social security and social responsibility are not given priority. Changing thinking towards only development has resulted into new dimensions of exploitation of the girls/children/women. New threats and challenges are coming in light that girls/children have to face and survive.

It is really a pleasant feeling to know that the girls who were protected by our effort are now have become **RIGHTS PROTECTING LEADERS** to save the lives of other vulnerable girls. An exceptional ceremony where the girls had to become parent of an orphan girl to organize her marriage to protect her from local touts

It is a very common gender biased tradition that the male members are used to read the newspaper.

But the girls of Education centres of BV have started to break the tradition. They do not only read the newspaper but share it with the villagers, too.

If we analyze the different static, we find there has been a trend to exploit the rights and dignity of marginalized and Indigenous community people especially girls/women/children are worst sufferers. Numbers of children of such community are residing in the villages, in the Railway stations that either is orphan or living under foster care or are forced to live a life in red light areas to arrange foods. Witch branding, trafficking, child labor, gender discrimination – there are some of the circumstances in which the children/girls/woman are bounded to get victimized. Bhoomika is working with higher level policy makers to draw their attention to disadvantage children/girls/women.

## Objectives:

- Marginalized section deprived adolescent/girls are protected, strengthened and developed as "RIGHTS PROTECTING LEADERS" to the extent that they would be enabling to advocate for their rights and for others girls too.
- Self employment opportunities are ensured among marginalized section girls/women to upgrade the socio economic condition of girls/women and their families through developing marketable value added skills.
- Create awareness and Strengthen community based support structures against gender violence, early marriage, female foeticide and trafficking and promote gender balance in the society
- Across the district to state level Advocacy and liaison with media, officials, networks, NGOs, CBOs, academicians and policy makers on child/girl's rights and protection.
- To create a civil society network for the implementation of Child Marriage Prevention Act 2006, Immoral Trafficking Prevention Act 1956, Right to Education Act 2006 and Pre Conception & Pre Natal Diagnostic Act 1994.

## List of the projects

- AAWAJ
- Social safety nets for girls in North Bihar".
- Let Girls Be Born
- Rights to Education and Child Rights
- UDHAN

- Developing Preventive Strategies towards Combating Trafficking in Women and Children In Bihar
- BHOR- *Step towards New morning filled with rights, freedom Equality and Justice.*

### **Milestones achieved in developing protective environment for girl child**

- 10 children of red light area of Muzaffarpur district who were involved in vulgar theaters are attending coaching centres to complete their primary education. The children interacted with the Chairperson of Bihar state Child Right Protection Commission and requested for their free education. On request of the Honorable Chairperson of Bihar state Child Right Protection Commission, the children have submitted an application for concerning support.
- Two cases under immoral trafficking Prevention Act has been lodged by local police against the traffickers.
- 39 girls/children are getting support in the form of private tuition to continue their on going studies. These beneficiaries either are children of victims or children of widow or belong to economically poor families.
- Girls Team of Kishanganj district had arranged a marriage ceremony of a handicapped and orphan girl who was about to be trafficked by the local touts.
- 204 marginalized and deprived section children {girls and boys} are enrolled with local schools for free education and compulsory education under Right to Education Act 2009.
- 125 school drops out girls are re-involved with schools for regular education.
- 27 victims of trafficking and different forms of violence are involved with livelihood opportunities. Out of 26, 21 of them are doing local based income generating activities such as goat rearing, hawking and vending of domestic goods, clothes, seasonal vegetables, and cosmetic items and tailoring. 3 of them are getting medical treatment. 3 of them are mentally and physically retarded, they are unable to do anything even they can't speak or understand properly. So they are getting financial support for food, clothes and local shelter.
- 28 children of victims are under care and protection through education, counseling, financial support and local watch systems.

- 57 girls/children are identified as at high risk. The children either are orphan, children of deserted and single women or are foster care children. These children are under regular watch and care of our counselors and volunteers.
- 36 marginalized section vulnerable girls are getting vocational training related to hand made products such as- fan, pillow cover, lady outfits, local matrix, jute made and thread made products and sewing and cutting of clothes.
- 2 Books on Child Rights, protective measures and laws and rights related to girls/women have been developed in simple language with local vocabulary.
- Looking to the Advocacy skill and good coordination, Bhoomika team got the responsibility to take initiative for the implementation of ASTITVA {Anti trafficking action plan} under the collaboration of the Child and Women Empowerment Committee of Bihar Legislative Council and UNICEF, Bihar.
- *Beti Bachao Aandolan of Bhoomika Vihar has become the member of Sectoral Innovative Council on Child sex ration, set up by Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India. Sectoral Innovation council is chaired by Ms. Anita Agnihotri, Member Secretary, National Commission for Women, India.*
- State level consultation on preventive measures of trafficking was organized under the joint collaboration of the Committee of women and Child Empowerment of Bihar Legislative council and UNICEF, Bihar. As follow up Committee has decided to organize regional programs with Bhoomika Vihar in different part of Bihar State. Expected participants will be- Public Representatives: MP, MLA, MLC, ZP President , Block Pramukh, Administrative Officials: Commission, District Magistrate/ ADM (all districts),  
Police Officials: IG-Police (DBG), DIG-Police, DSP (Headquarter) , District Prosecution Officer , JWOs, Other Officials: District Welfare Officer, Assistant Director-Social Security , Project Manager-Women Helpline , District Programme Manager (Women development cooperation, Judicial Officials: Secretary DLSA , President District Bar Association , Public Prosecutor, Health Officials: Dy Director Health Services, Local bodies/ committee: Chairperson – Child welfare committee, Member – Juvenile Justice Board.
- 180 marginalized section girls/ children are educationally mainstreamed to continue their education by running 4 Maikkee centres in remote areas.
- 128 vulnerable children were enrolled with local government schools for regular education.

- 10 trafficking victims received financial support to start income generating activities such as hawking of cosmetic items & dry breakfast items, business of seasonal vegetables and for running small shop of breakfast and department shop.
- 3 girls were rescued from being the victim of trafficking.
- 10 children were rescued as child labor and later on they were enrolled to school.
- 5 girls /children were saved from victimization of domestic violence.
- 10 most vulnerable women received financial support to start income generating activities such as hawking of cosmetic items, selling of seasonal vegetables and for running small shop of breakfast.
- Marketable value added skill developed among 55 marginalized section girls/women through getting training on Mobile repairing, computer, tailoring and beautician.
- 10 vulnerable girls who had to stop their education due to gender discrimination and economical crisis are continuing their education through getting stipend.
- 12 groups of girls in the form of Kishori Samuh involving 194 girls have been formed against trafficking and gender violence.
- 10 community safety nets involving 278 local villagers from different caste, culture and background have been formed for protection and promotion of girls/child rights.
- 3 Beti Bachao youth core committee has been formed having 30 members involving youth students, teachers, principals and professors of the reputed colleges at State level with a aim to develop positive environment towards girl child and to bring awareness on the drawbacks of female foeticide.
- Magadh Mahille College has involved Bhoomika vihar with their counseling team to make discussion on threat of female foeticide and aspects of gender equality.
- *Beti Bachao Aandolan*{ protect the daughter movement} of Bhoomika Vihar from State Bihar has become the member of SECTORAL INNOVATIVE COUNCIL on Child

sex ratio, set up by Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India.

- *Effort taken by Beti Bachao Aandolan for the implementation of PC & PNDT act has been recognized in the report card namely "MUHIM SWASTH BIHAR KEE" released by Bihar State Health Society. Workshop organized on 5<sup>th</sup> of July 2011 at Maurya Hotel Patna with State Appropriate Authority has also been mentioned as major activity in the concern report .*
- IEC materials on the issue of girl child importance and PC & PNDT act have been developed jointly by Bhoomika vihar and state health society Bihar. PCPNDT Cell of Bihar State Health Society has given permission to print the IEC under the banner of Bihar state health society. Major finding of the concern effort is that the slogans and design had been recommended by Mrs. Kiran Ghai Sinha, Chairperson, Women and child empowerment committee, Bihar legislative council and had also been shared with Principal Health Secretary, Bihar.
- Interventions either it is at State level or district level are taking place under the collaboration of Bihar State Health Society.
- Bihar State Health Society as joint follow up with Let Girls Be Born Campaign and Beti Bachao Aandolan has decided to organize workshops with DAC members to strengthen the District Advisory Committees. ED has promised to issue official letter to ensure the participation of DAC members.
- After liaison with media using data of CSR and FSR of last 100 years that have started to made coverage on the importance of girl child and threat of the misbalance of population.
- ED, Bihar State Health Society appreciated our work, affords and assured us to approve the booklet related to PCPNDT Act designed by us.
- Different commissions and committees working of child rights such as Bihar State Child rights protection commission, child labor commission and Women and Child Empowerment committee od Bihar legislative council and INGOs such as UNICEF, OXFAM, Save the Children, Aid At Action, AGA KHAN FOUNDATION have also been involved in raising the importance of the girl child in their respective platforms.
- Members of Vaishali district bar council and JJB and representatives of ICDS programs were also been involved to protest illegal abortion after sex selection.
- In Bihar customs of folk singing is at the cusp in its paradigm, generally people think that through folk singing, mindset of people can be changed. From the experience

of earlier done program by us with people and community, it has shown that folk singing in regional languages really works especially to change the mindset of people. So, we have tried to promote the folk songs in regional languages on the concern issue by famous folk singers in our workshops. In this quarter when we organized the workshop, we invited some of the famous folk singers from various districts, a lady representative of ASHA sang a devotional song related to girl child which has become a very famous among people, some words of that song, here it is-

*“Savere Raura Jagu He Shiv Bhola,*

*Beti Ke Mare Se Bachala,*

*Savere Raura.....”*

{ it means O god! Please wake up and protect the girl child to be killed}

- Hon'ble Health Minister, Mr. Ashwini Kr. Chaubey; Mr. Abdul Bari Siddiqui, Leader of Opposition; Mr. Kedar Nath Pandey, Member of Bihar Legislative Council had raised the issue of female foeticide, during the 170s session in Bihar Legislative Assembly
- Declaration Board(Signature Campaign) against female foeticide was inaugurated by Honorable Health Minister; Speaker, Bihar Legislative Assembly; Leader of Opposition; Chairman, Child Right Protection Commission; MLAs; MLCs, Academia etc. These boards have been distributed in colleges as well.
- In Annual Report of NRHM, the tremendous work of Beti Bachao Aandolan of Bhoomika Vihar for the implementation of PC & PNDT Act has been included as well.
- Due to rapid action of Honorable Health Minister of Bihar, cases were filled on Ford Clinic and Maurya Clinic of Patna and on Mangalam Clinic of Vaishali. Action has been taken on Civil Surgeon of Patna for reopening the clinics of Patna illegally.
- Due to dedicated work for the protection and promotion of girls child, as a result of it Beti Bachao Aandolan {protect the daughter movement} of Bhoomika Vihar has become a Member of Sectoral innovation council on child sex ratio set up by Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India. The PRIME MINISTER has set up the National Innovative Council{ NInc} under the Chairmanship of Shri Sm Pitroda Advisor to the Prime Minister on Public Information infrastructure and innovations to create a roadmap for innovations in the country for 2012- 20. AS part of its efforts to boost innovative performance in the country India, NInC has recommended Central/Union Government Ministries to set up Sectoral Innovation Councils. Sectoral Innovation council is chaired by Ms. Anita Agnihotri, Member Secretary, and National Commission for Women, and Government of India.



## Activities implemented to get the objectives:

### 1} Developing girls as Rights Protecting Leaders-

Objectives	Issues focused	Activities as input	Out put results
Develop leadership and self-defense qualities so that the girls/adolescent would be able to demand and enjoy their rights.	Different forms of trafficking under the pretext of fake marriage, love affair and job opportunity	Formation of girls rights groups comprising vulnerable and victims of gender violence and trafficking	20 girl rights groups have been formed involving 312 vulnerable girls.
		Village level Orientation of the girls on rights protecting measures	137 time's orientation with girls were held to orient them on rights protective measures.
Provide the girls a platform to talk and discuss freely about their lives and rights.	Identification of traffickers	BAHU- BETI Meet {young daughter-in-law and village daughter meeting}	44 times interaction was held with BAHU –BETI {daughter and young daughter-in-law}
	Identifying gender biased violence	Recreation through cultural activities and organizing painting completion and sports to break their hesitation	Children/girls are becoming vocal after getting cultural orientation and involving with sports and painting classes
Provide opportunity to the girls to get exposure with surroundings	Threat of early marriage	Outdoor interaction of girls as exposure with surrounding environments and systems	Girls/children are becoming vocal to interact with outsider world.
	Identifying Children under foster care	Joint interaction meeting among the girl's right groups and village girls	6 Joint interaction meeting was organized with the Girls rights groups
	Self care		
	Primary health care		

## 2} Support to victims and vulnerable -

### 2. A} Social and Economical Mainstreaming for better livelihood

Objectives	Activities as input	Output results
<p>To economically strengthen the victims so that they would be able to save them and their children, if any, from victimization and vulnerability</p> <p>Work for developing social acceptance and involvement of the victims and the children</p> <p>Rescue and protect the girls from victimization</p> <p>Provide Care and protection to the victims/vulnerable/their children, if any.</p>	Provide financial support to the victims to strengthen their income generating activities and to maintain their livelihood	27 victims received financial support to maintain their livelihood and to strengthen income generating activities.
	Provide support to the children of the victims for social and educational mainstreaming	28 children of victims are under care and support for social and educational mainstreaming
	Provide support to the children of red light areas who were involved in	10 children of red light area are getting economical support to attend coaching to continue their study.
	Vocational training and production centre of local hand made products such as- fan, pillow cover, lady outfits, local matrix, jute made products, and thread made products.	3 vocational training centres are running.
	Private tuition centres for such girls who want to complete their matriculation examination	2 private centres are running in remote areas where extra cases facilities are not available 39 girls/children are getting support in the form of private tuition to continue their on going studies. These beneficiaries either are children of victims or children of widow or belong to economically poor families.
	Rescue the vulnerable girls/children from	6 vulnerable girls were saved from being victim of trafficking.

	victimization under the pretext of trafficking, gender violence or poverty	4 girl children relieved from victimization from her own family members. 1 child marriage was stopped A 14 years old child labor was rescued
	Interaction meeting with the Victims and vulnerable for care, protection and for follow up of livelihood support	29 times interaction has been held with the victims and vulnerable  The beneficiaries are getting knowledge on Self protection mechanism, Self identify, Information on Girls rights group and community safety nets, Strategy of selling and purchasing of goods, Market analyses, Customers relation

## 2. B] Training to the girls to develop marketable value added skills

Type of Training	Number of beneficiaries
Computer Course	3
Beautician Course	11
Screen Printing	1
Tailoring	15
Designing of hand made products	36
Vermi compost{ organic farming}	45

## 3} *Maikee* Centres --- A place for learning by doing

(For Educational mainstreaming of marginalized and deprived community children/girls)

Objectives	Activities as Input	Out put result
Provide the girls/children a place where they can feel &	Set up Maikee Centres in vulnerable areas	340 marginalized section girls/children mainstreamed through running 9 Maikee centres in katihar, Kishanganj, Araria &

<p>enjoy childhood without any hesitation and suppression</p>		<p>Muzaffarpur district</p>
<p>Create an environment where the girls/children can attend regular schools, where the girls/children can get enjoy their basic rights and where the girls/children can make self effort for their own development.</p> <p>Involve different section girls/children to break cultural barrier of discrimination</p>	<p>Orient the children on rights protective measures</p> <p>Make the children vocal, active and responsible through sports, painting , role play and exposure</p>	<p>170 children acquired information on Basic literacy, importance of education, Information on surrounding environment, Identification of traffickers, Child marriage, Child labor, Self protective measures, Daily hygiene, Domestic violence and Gender equality</p> <p>170 Children instead of working as child labor involved with Indoor and outdoor playing games such a ludo, skipping, flying dish, football, plastic ball, volley ball, etc, painting classes and with cultural activities.</p> <p>170 Girls/children jointly organized awareness move on Independence Day{ 26<sup>th</sup> jan} and Republic Day { 15<sup>th</sup> August} with the slogans concerning to free education and basic rights to children/girls</p> <p>For general awareness, the children of centres and local government schools organized awareness move on Right To Education 2009.</p> <p>On occasion of 14<sup>th</sup> Nov {bal divas} sport competition organized to rejuvenate the children.</p>
	<p>Formation of vigilance committees involving the parents of the centre children and local communities to promote education among the children</p>	<p>4 vigilance committees formed</p> <p>34 times interaction held with the vigilance committees to develop Community based support structures to monitor the activities of the centres, for Receiving feed back from the villagers on centres performance, Convincing parents who do not send their children to school and to Minimize drop outs and for</p>

		enrollment of children in government school
	Enrollment drive under Right to Education Act 2009	204 children belonging to the centre's village enrolled to government schools for free education under RTE Act.
	Door to door Parents meet	Parents of project area counseled on importance of education

#### 4] Leadership Development Training-

Objectives	Activities as input	Output
<p>To orient the girls on basic rights and way to protect the rights</p> <p>To develop leadership qualities to demand the rights</p> <p>Develop sense of dignity and self defense among adolescent girls</p>	<p>Organize orientations with the girls</p> <p>Role play to sketch the situation related to gender violence</p> <p>Presentation by the girls to identify the root elements of discrimination</p> <p>Discussion on basic rights and need to demand the rights</p> <p>Group discussion and group activities</p>	<p>Organized 3 orientations with the girls</p> <p>130 girls aware to the root elements of exploitation on the name of gender</p> <p>130 girls oriented on how to tackle the issue related to gender violence and discrimination</p> <p>130 developed preventive measure skills</p>

#### 5} Promotion of Community Policing -

Strengthening Community safety nets as support structures for promotion and protection of the rights of girls/adolescent/children

Objectives	Activities as input	Output Result

To support social rehabilitation program	Formation of community safety nets involving people from different caste/culture/religion and job	12 community safety nets were formed involving 153 members
To develop protective environment for victims and vulnerable	Orientation of the CSN members	56 times orientation was held with the CSN members to accelerate them to protect the rights of the girls/children
Keep close vigil to the movements of the traffickers	Across the village joint interaction meeting of the CSN members	4 across the village joint interaction meet was held among 191 members of CSN

### 5} Listing of high risk girls/children residing in project area-

Objectives	Activities as input	Output result
Prepare a list of high risk girls/children residing in the villages are vulnerable to victimization or re-victimization  Provide protection to them through involving local community	Random survey in the vulnerable villages	A list of high risk girls/children are prepared by the local volunteers
	Regular follow the identified high risk groups	57 girls/children are protected.

### 6} Information dissemination-

#### (Awareness generating through Counseling and informative materials)-

Objectives	Activities as input	Output result
Generate Mass level awareness among village people on changing pattern of traffickers and	Mobile counseling in the bus stands, village markets, outside of Railway stations and door to door level	541 people are aware on threat of trafficking and its preventive measures.
	Message painting on Rickshaw and	43 message painting are

threat of child marriage and importance of girls/child rights	walls	done on Rickshaw and wall
	Preparation of folders on girls/child rights protective measures and mechanism	40000 folder and 1000 book let have been developed

### 7} Capacity building training of volunteers

Objectives	Activities as input	Output result
To train the local volunteers on girl/child rights, preventive measures, changing dimension and threat of trafficking, local level violence, counseling, cases follow up with rights based approach	Conduct capacity building training of the grass root level volunteers	45 grass root level volunteers are trained on rights protective measures

### 8} Advocacy and Liaison-

Objectives	Activities as Input	Output Result
CACT Bihar and BETI BACHAO AANDOLAN {protect the daughter movement} will jointly do advocacy on the issue of girl's rights protection especially on implementation of ASTITVA and Child labor action plan.  Interaction with INGOs and Policy	Involvement and orientation cum coordination meeting with the representatives of local community based organizations on girl's rights protection issues.	9 Coordination meetings was organized 104 people hailing from community based organization, youth clubs, women groups, etc.
	Coordination meetings with grass root volunteers involved in promotion and protection of girls/child rights.	Monthly basis coordination meetings has been organized with grass root volunteers on the Introduction on AAWAJ project and its implementation strategy planning Sharing of report, joint analyses of work pattern, review of activities and future planning

<p>maker on girls/child rights protection issues</p>	<p>Discussion with INGOs and Policy maker on girls/child rights protection issues</p>	<p>Participated and shared strategies during the brainstorming meetings organized by UNICEF, Bihar and Save the Children, Bihar.</p>
	<p>State level workshop with the collaboration of Child and Women Empowerment committee of Bihar Legislative council and Unicef Bihar.</p>	<p>State level workshop was organized with collaboration of Child and Women Empowerment committee of Bihar Legislative council and Unicef Bihar for Developing and Strengthening Prevention Strategies on Issues Related to Trafficking of Women and Children. 230 people had taken part in. Involvement of the critical stakeholders and policy makers were- Legislative Council, Social Welfare department, Women Development Corporation, Child Welfare Committee, Juvenile Justice Board, NGOs, community based organization working on girls/child rights and preventive measures of trafficking, INGOs working on girls/child rights issues, Networks working against human trafficking, Child Labor Commission, Bihar Police { C.I.D}, Bihar State Child Rights Protection Commission, Different Political Parties, Academic sector, Department of Planning and Development, Human Rights Commission, Panchayati Raj Institution, Labor Department, Government Railway Police, Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical Science, Women Helpline</p>
	<p>Workshop with State Child Labour Commission Bihar in the source area of child labour</p>	<p>One Day workshop was organized at District Katihar on “ Challenges of Restraint and Resettlement of Child Labour and Trafficking of Boys and Girls – our responsibility” at District Katihar. Chairperson, Mr. Ramdeo Prasad, State Child Labor Commission</p>



		<p>had shared the Action plan to eliminate the root causes of child labor</p> <p>About 100 participants were from local concerning department, Local NGOS, Local public leaders, PRI members , Group leaders from Adolescents groups, Local Community leaders &amp; Media peoples.</p>
	<p>Workshop on girls Trafficking, changing dimension &amp; preventive measures</p>	<p>District level workshop involving the local partner of C.A.C.T and <i>Beti Bachao Aandolan</i> was organized. 95 participants were actively discussed and get orientation on the preventive measures. As Resource Person – Ms Chetna Desai, Consitent( Anti Trafficking)</p> <p>Unicef, Patna, Bihar, had appreciated the involvement of girls as Anti trafficking volunteers. Local organizations, social workers, PRI members, Girls /women from different part , public leaders. media, local officials were the participants.</p>

=====