

Tour Report on Flood Rehabilitation in Bihar

Report by: Navin Prasad (India)

North Bihar experienced severe flood in the year 2004 during the monsoon. Sewa International Bharat issued an appeal to take up relief as well as rehabilitation activities in the flood-affected areas. As part of relief activities Sewa International in association with its partner organizations provided the immediate relief in the form of food, shelter, medicines, and clothes etc. to flood victims. Against the appeal, Sewa International (UK) donated for the rehabilitation of the flood affected



Newly Built House in village Marar

by building temporary shelters for the victims. Total of 100 houses have already been handed over to the beneficiaries in the two most affected districts of Muzafferpur and Khagaria by Sewa International.

I visited Bihar on the eve of handing over ceremony in the village Mohamadpur of Muzafferpur district on the 18th of February 2005. The houses were built there under the supervision of a local volunteer Sri Braj Kishore. 25 houses have been built here and the beneficiaries who were from the weaker section and were not in a position to



erect a shelter on their own. The houses built have been erected on a concrete pillar on four corners with a Tin roof on the top and covered on the four sides with locally made covering made out of bamboo. Each shelter is 15 feet by 8 feet with a door opening. Kshetra Pracharak



Inside view of New built House

Beneficiaries of village Mohamadpur

Ma. S. Ramannaji handed over the houses to the owners. The village people were very happy on receiving the much-needed help and praised the efforts of our volunteers and Sewa International.

On the 19th of Feb. I visited Khagaria district and reached Kanale Suhauli village where we had built 10 houses. The beneficiaries were already staying in the newly built houses. I met all the 10 families who were very happy and said that they were lucky that Sewa International adopted their village for rehabilitation by



House Handing over Ceremony

making strong houses for them because they showed us some houses built by other organizations like Aditi & Red Cross at the same time for the flood victims were already broken. I then moved forward to village Marar where we built 10 houses. Same was the response here too. I then visited village Pachath in the same district where we had 17 new built houses. People had organized a small welcome ceremony for us and praised Sewa International for building their houses but at the same time some more people came forward requesting us to expand other welfare activities in their village and also build 50 more new houses for the people who still don't have a roof over their head & are staying under big trees on the high river bunds. The next day I visited Koyla Tower with 8 houses and Karwa Mor with 15 houses.

Altogether, 75 houses have been built in Khagaria district with the support of Sewa International. And we will take up the second phase soon by building few more houses for the deserving victims who are still waiting to be rehabilitated.

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House built in the midst of Agri. field