

HAQDARI HAWA KI

A JOURNEY OF CLEAN AIR CAMPAIGNS IN BIHAR

YEARS OF EFFORT AND STARTING OF A NEW CAMPAIGN

Years and months of consistent campaigning help us make some changes in the air pollution situation of Bihar. This document will explain the events/activities that play a major role in advancements of clean air and the formulation of Clean Air Action Plan for Patna, Gaya and Muzaffarpur.

CEED'S CLEAN AIR CAMPAIGN (2015-2020) : BREAKING THE SILENCE AND SETTING THE AGENDA

It has been more than a year since the Clean Air Action Plan of Patna, Gaya and Muzaffarpur has been prepared and it has been one year since CEED achieved the interim milestones of Clean Air Campaign. It took more than four years of relentless campaign to reach this milestone.

The year 2014 saw the beginning of the debate on air pollution when the World Health Organization (WHO) released its 'Global Ambient Air Quality Database'; and in 2015 the debate gained momentum. However, the WHO study ranked Patna as the second most polluted city in the world, but it was surprising that there was not much buzz around it. Much of the discussion was at the national level, not in Bihar. Given the seriousness of the situation, CEED began its campaign on clean air in Bihar by releasing its report in 2015 on the widespread use of diesel generator sets and their's contribution to air pollution. The report was well taken, and to further maintain momentum CEED immediately released the first bulletin of its series of air quality bulletins. And that was the start of journey of CEED's campaign "Clean Air".

Air is universal for all and CEED believes that to get the fundamental human right - the right to clean air, it is important to involve every stakeholder. And it is also necessary for the general public to understand the seriousness of the situation. Hence the campaign involved various stakeholders: policy makers, government agencies, children, NGOs, media houses, housewives and educational institutions as well as cycle rickshaw drivers.

THE ROAD TO SUCCESS OF CLEAN AIR CAMPAIGN

Through various means the campaign reached millions of people and the major announcement by the honourable Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar Mr. Sushil Kumar Modi at the National Conference of CEED, five more air-monitoring stations in Patna and formulation of Patna's clean air action plan, was the first success of the Clean Air Campaign.

Clean Air Campaign was also successful in bringing Patna, Gaya and Muzaffarpur under the purview of NCAP. In January 2019, when NCAP announced the cities of Bihar are not part of it and through continued advocacy and public support, all three cities of Bihar were added to the list and are benefiting through the program.

CEED ran a number of programs and outreach activities that directly or indirectly added to the demand for a Clean Air Action Plan. The programs attempted to cover all the important sources of air pollution in Bihar.



A STATEWIDE CAMPAIGN THAT MOBILISED LAKHS OF PEOPLE AND THEIR HOPES

35

Lakh people across Bihar reached out through the campaign for supporting clean air

10

Lakh petitions collected from bicycle / rickshaw drivers for cleaner environment; petitions from 25000 households collected for the solution of clean cooking

150+

Outreach Activities for creating awareness on clean air and adding more than 100 educational institutions and CSOs

50+

consultation, conferences and regional workshop convened for establishing a strong narrative in support of Clean air program

50+

Doctors came together to form a Doctors Group favouring breathable air and placing demand for health becoming a node of all policy making effort

30+

Air quality bulletins for empowering community and citizens through data and science

10+

Research reports to bring spotlight on sectoral pollutions and advocating sustainable solution in state

5

Low cost Monitoring station were established to bring data transparency, and forging accountability on enforcement agencies

BUT IT IS NOT ENOUGH!

HAQDARI HAWA KI!...

Under the National Clean Air Program, a city-specific action plan has been developed for all 3 non-attainment cities of Bihar. And the Action Plan has now come into force and a clear responsibility and timeline has been given to carry out the measures set by the plan. But it's not sufficient, what is important is the transparency, accountability and ensuring the implementation. Also, many previous experiences and non-effective programs such as 42 Action Points and Comprehensive Clean Air Action plans for Delhi and NCR didn't add much value and remained as paper tiger.

"Centre for Environment and Energy Development (CEED) calls upon a campaign 'Haqdari Hawa Ki' for implementation and improvement of clean air action plan in Bihar. It will ensure public participation and inclusion of community voices to implement several measures of clean air action plan.

The campaign will work towards 'Right to Breathe' in Bihar through more strong debate and discussion on air pollution.

The campaign has been built to bring together diverse groups around common interests in order to achieve these objectives as mentioned below:

- 1. ACCELERATE IMPLEMENTATION:** Build demand for ensuring timely implementation of Clean Air Action Plan
- 2. EMPOWER INDIVIDUALS:** Provide a platform to monitor progress in the clean air action plan and highlight air pollution situation of other cities of Bihar
- 3. INCREASE MONITORING:** Work with authorities to expand monitoring efforts that can keep citizens informed and ensure clean air
- 4. CAPACITY BUILDING:** Empowering and Capacity building of various departments and other important stakeholders for action plan implementation

FOR MORE INFORMATION:



www.ceedindia.org



info@ceedindia.org



<https://www.facebook.com/CEEDIndia.org>



https://twitter.com/CEED_India

Head Office:

CoWrks, Worldmark 1, Asset Area 11, Aerocity, Hospitality District, IGI Airport, NH-8, New Delhi-110 037

Project Office:

Patna, Ranchi, Lucknow

ABOUT CEED

Centre for Environment and Energy Development (CEED), an environment and energy expert group is involved in creating sustainable solution to maintain a healthy, rich and diverse environment. CEED primarily works towards clean energy, clean air, clean water and zero waste solutions by creating an enabling environment and policy framework to scale up investments in low carbon development, climate mitigation and adaptation. CEED engages with government, industries, leaders, think tanks, stakeholders and public to create environmentally responsible and socially just solutions.

