

## **Report from India 2022, by Manish Prasad, Save the Children office**

**Training of frontline workers from department of women and child development (SATHINs) on parenting:** Scaling up of the Cash Plus programme through government is an important agenda of the project. SC trained the frontline workers (called Sathin) of the WCD department of 26 Panchayats (Jothri-13, Kherwara-13) on parenting skills in line with the International Child development Programme (ICDP) module. The training was imparted in 4 phases out of which 2 were conducted in 2021, and the remaining were completed done in 2022. Mock sessions were conducted on parenting in the training. As part of the training programme, the Sathin formed groups of caregivers in the respective Panchayat. After the training, the Sathin conducted parenting sessions with the Palanhar caregivers. The trained facilitators provided handholding support to the Sathin during the sessions with the Palanhar caregivers.



*Participatory exercise with frontline workers during the training session on parenting*

### **Parenting sessions by Sathin**

After being trained, the Sathins were independently conducting parenting sessions with the caregivers of the Palanhar scheme. 27 Sathin of 27 Panchayats of the project area imparted training to 166 Palanhar caregivers. These 166 caregivers have 246 (B-134, G-112) children in the age group of 10-15 years.

**Post-intervention assessment of Palanhar plus:** Parenting sessions were conducted with 128 Palanhar caregivers and life skills sessions with 177 children in the month of February 2022. After these sessions, the post-intervention assessment was conducted with the caregivers and the children through the globally validated tools on the social emotional learning in children and the behaviour of the caregivers towards their children. A final report has been prepared on the analysis and the findings of the assessment is ready for sharing with the key stakeholders at the state level.

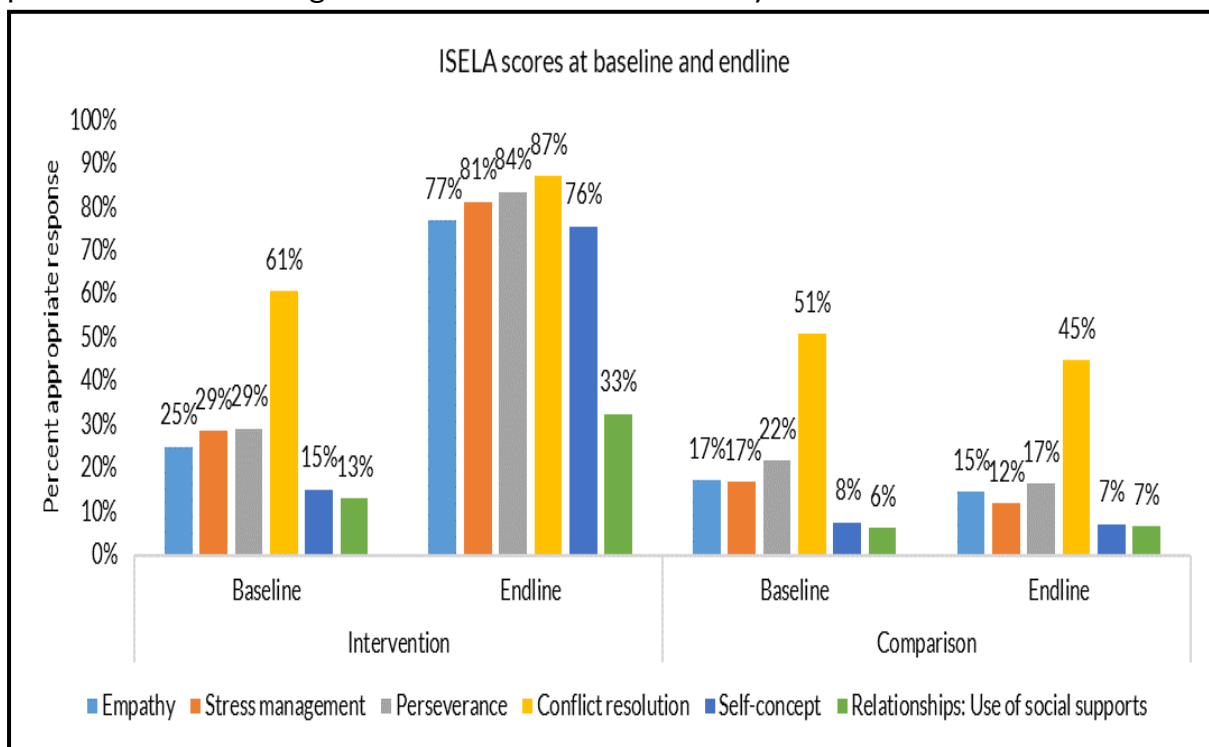


*Interview with a child during post intervention assessment of Palanhar Plus Programme*

The evaluation study consisting of pre and post intervention assessment exercises was carried out for treatment and control groups in 2022, over a period of 13 months, to observe the impact of the parenting and life skills sessions on the caregivers and children. The study revealed that the children's social-emotional learning (SEL) skills (measured on empathy, relationships, stress management, perseverance, and self-concept domains) improved for the treatment group. Caregivers' interactions with their

children also became more empathic and encouraging, with a decrease in maltreatment practices and increase in positive engagement in the treatment group. On the other hand, the children in the control group did not show as much improvement in SEL skills. The average caregiver engagement score reported by the children shows a significant increase from 1.71 to 3.04 in a scale of 1 to 5 points which is a clear predictor of change in the behaviour of caregivers towards their children. In the study, the various forms of maltreatment were grouped in four sub-domains: non-violent discipline, psychological aggression, physical violence, and neglect. It was observed that psychological aggression (shouting, threatening, giving insulting remarks) which was used by the caregivers to control their child's behaviour was reduced during the post-intervention assessment. The average psychological aggression reported by the children in the pre-intervention assessment (baseline) to post-intervention assessment (endline) shows a clear decrease, which went down from 1.75 to 0.6. The physical violence measures (such as hitting, spanking, slapping) used by the caregivers also showed significant decrease, which declined from 1.21 to 0.15.

To measure the children's social-emotional learning skills, the International Social Emotional Learning Assessment (ISELA) tool was used that covered five social-emotional learning competencies: relationships: use of social supports, self-concept, stress management, perseverance, empathy and conflict resolution. The graph below presents the change in the children's ability towards their SEL skills.



### **Support of divisional commissioner to scale up Palanhar plus programme**

After the successful implementation of the piloting phase of Palanhar Plus model, SC is making efforts to scale up the Palanhar plus programme in collaboration with the government department in other districts of Rajasthan. In this context, the project shared the experiences and the outcomes of the model with the divisional commissioner of southern Rajasthan, who is the head of administration and development of six districts that come under his jurisdiction. The commissioner appreciated the Palanhar plus model, and wrote a letter to the district collectors of all the districts to extend support to SC for the implementation in their respective districts. This has helped the project to scale up the Palanhar plus model in four districts.