

## Swaraj Peeth Report



### **3-day Hind Swaraj and Nonviolence Residential Camp: Youth Mobilization for Nonviolence**

**Place : Suiya Bazar, Chandan Block, Dist. Banka, Bihar.**

**Duration: 3 days 11, 12, 13 Dec.**

**Planned Participation: 30; Actual Participation: 72**

There was unease and tension in the air due to a violent attack in October in a tribal village in the area and in November in Suiya Bazar, blasting a mobile tower. Therefore we decided to conduct Hind Swaraj Camp for 3 days in the same village-bazaar of Chandan Block in Banka Dist of Bihar. This was the reason Gandhi Shanti Mitra of the area, mainly Bhola Prasad Yadav and his team brought a larger number of youth in order to give a push to the nonviolence campaign in the region and build understanding among the youth about Gandhian nonviolence and build their confidence. Dainik Jagran, a prominent Hindi national daily wrote “Gandhi’s Nonviolence in the Fortress of Red Army.” A silent march by the participants on the last day through this village-bazaar conveyed the message throughout the area as people from many villages shop here. Nearby our camp was an armed police camp.



A plan for five-block campaign that the group worked during the Camp, with their own initiative, spoke for urgent need to expand Hind Swaraj and nonviolence campaign and its success in the District of Banka.



**Rajiv (right) with the youth in Nonviolence Camp**



It was suggested by the team in Banka Dist of Bihar during Rajiv’s July 2014 visit that instead of one or two day camps they would prefer a three day camp.. The camp attracted more than twice the number of participants for which we had made the provision. Shri Bhola Prasad Yadav took the initiative for the camp

helped by Bhuvaneshwar Turi, Sudam Besra and other Shanti Mitra in the region. Deliberations went till past midnight. Such was the interest and intensity.

**Hind Swaraj:** A copy of Gandhi's Hind Swaraj was given to all. After a brief explanation of how and why Hind Swaraj helps understand all forms of violence and find a way of liberation from them, the discussion revolves around the issues of exploitation, loss of identity, violence and self empowerment were deliberated over three days. The discussion among them would continue during late hours at night. They find their self-image, their idea of a moral order in Gandhiji's vision. The directly question raised with them was: Does taking to the gun and disappearing in the jungle, and mostly perishing, help the community for which they wish to fight or by providing a vibrant, moral above the ground leadership to the community?



It was out of the late night deliberations conducted by Bhola Prasad that they decided to undertake a campaign for the spread of Gandhiji's message of nonviolence and Hind Swaraj. It was presented on the last day in detail.

### Planing Hind Swaraj & Nonviolence Campaign: -February 2015.

1. Campaign will be conducted in 5 violence affected Blocks of Banka; namely, Belhar, Chandan, Fulhara, Katoriya and Bausi.
- 2 3 volunteers will be selected from every Block
- 3 two-day meetings will be held in each of the Blocks by 25<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2015
- 4 First meeting will be held in Jamdaha Mod in Bausi block  
(It was held on 5<sup>th</sup> Jan; and on 12<sup>th</sup> in Tonapathar, Block Chandan by the time this is being written)
- 5 The first center of Swaraj Peeth in the village Tonapather (Gandhi Shanti Mitra Bhola Prasad Yadav) will be inaugurated on 30<sup>th</sup> January.
- 6 One week Campaign will conclude in District HQ Banka, with a gathering of Gandhi Shanti Mitra, supporters and volunteers.
- 7 Campaign will include wall-writing, leaflets distribution, posters, *Prabhateris* and meetings.
- 8 Each member of the committee will contribute Rs 501 to start with and will work out a budget by 15<sup>th</sup> January to be submitted to the Director of Swaraj Peeth Trust.
- 9 A committee of 17 members was constituted.



Figure 1 A Poster of a Different Type, Bhola Prasad in the doorway