ARA Akshar+ is an ICT based programme which imparts functional literacy in Hindi and basic arithmetic in just 56 days. Gyan Chaupali is then established as a post-literacy programme for 6 months, which strengthens and builds upon the learnings, and provides effective information.

One of the milestones of the TARA Akshar+ programme is the conduction of refresher training for the entire field team after each fourth teaching cycle in a project location. The purpose of this activity is to ensure quality in delivery and effectiveness of the programme implemented on ground. A three-day refresher training on Gyan Chaupali, and six-day training on TARA Akshar+ programme was held at the CSO’s office in Lalitpur. The training was conducted by Project Coordinators Aquil Ahmad and Rajeev Pandey and Block Coordinator Pushpendra Yadav from Development Alternatives. The Gyan Chaupali training was attended by TARA Sahelis and the supervisory staff; whereas the TARA Akshar+ training was attended by TARA Akshar+ instructors and the supervisory staff.
Over the course of the training, the participants were given a refresher on all the important aspects of the programme. This was more interactive in nature, where the participants themselves were asked to conduct many of the training sessions. This encouraged confidence building within the team. Training was conducted on community mobilization, center and batch formation, running of TARA Akshar+ software, assimilation exercises, exam conduction, running of Gyan Chaupalis – reading, writing and arithmetic practice, conducting games, organising guest speaker sessions, video sessions, etc. In all 60 Sahelis were provided the Gyan Chaupali training and 50 instructors underwent the TARA Akshar+ training.