

CONTRIBUTION OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS IN JHARKHAND



Contribution of Civil Society Organizations in Jharkhand

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in India have played a crucial role in driving social, economic, and environmental development, often working tirelessly in the most challenging and underserved areas of the country. This compendium, ***“Contribution of Civil Society Organisations in Jharkhand,”*** highlights their dedication, resilience, and innovative efforts in addressing the diverse challenges faced by communities.

This compilation aims to document and recognize the contributions of CSOs, showcasing their impactful initiatives and the difference they have made. From fostering education, health, and sustainable livelihoods to promoting women’s empowerment, climate justice, and participatory governance, these organizations have significantly enhanced the development narrative of Jharkhand.

The purpose of this initiative is twofold. First, it seeks to address the lack of documentation of the outstanding work undertaken by CSOs, ensuring their efforts are acknowledged. Second, it aims to provide a resource for policymakers, academicians, and practitioners to draw insights and learn from the innovative approaches and best practices featured within these pages.

Through a blend of organizational profiles, thematic interventions, and success stories, this compendium showcases how CSOs have leveraged grassroots connections and community participation to drive change. It also reflects on the lessons learned and challenges faced, offering valuable perspectives for the sector’s future efforts.

This initiative is part of Voluntary Action Network India’s (VANI) broader effort to strengthen and promoting the positive narrative of and the civil society sector in India. We express our sincere gratitude to the CSOs featured in this compendium for their invaluable contributions and to our state-level partners who have supported this documentation process. We hope this compendium serves as a source of inspiration and knowledge for stakeholders across the development ecosystem.

We thank our core partner and donor organization, IM Sweden, for supporting VANI in this initiative. This document underscores the transformative impact of collective action and highlights the essential role of CSOs in fostering a more inclusive and equitable society.

Harsh Jaitli
Chief Executive Officer, VANI

INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY OF COMPILING THE DOCUMENT

Impact of LEADS Partnership and Collaboration

The methodology for this compendium was designed to systematically document the contributions of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in the state, with LEADS serving as a critical partner to ensure a localized and comprehensive approach.

Key Methodological Steps

1. Partnership with LEADS

LEADS, a trusted local organization in Jharkhand, with deep-rooted expertise, was engaged to facilitate connections with grassroots CSOs, ensuring authenticity and cultural relevance in the documentation process.

2. Thematic Data Collection

- Focus on key thematic areas such as education, health, environment, and women's empowerment.
- Information was gathered on the mission, activities, and impact of CSOs in these domains.

3. Identification of Sector Leaders

LEADS collaborated with VANI to identify and profile sector leaders and under-recognized activists whose contributions were significant yet overlooked. This included personal interviews and case studies.

4. Documentation Process

- Detailed profiles of CSOs were compiled, including their history, target population, key milestones, and thematic achievements.
- Both qualitative narratives (e.g., success stories) and quantitative data (e.g., metrics of impact) were collected.

5. Multimedia Initiatives

- Development of a podcast series "Conversations with visionaries" featuring interviews with CSO leaders to capture personal insights and experiences.

Framework for Analysis and Presentation

- CSOs were selected based on criteria such as credibility, impact, and thematic focus.
 - Structured templates were used to ensure consistency across organizational profiles and thematic articles.
 - Data and findings were organized into comprehensive sections, including organizational history, thematic engagement, milestones, and learnings.
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The methodology emphasized a participatory approach, with ongoing feedback loops between LEADS, CSOs, and VANI. This ensured the accuracy and robustness of the final documentation. The collaborative approach with LEADS enhanced the compendium's depth, making it a reliable resource for policymakers, researchers, and CSOs.

LEADS' dedication to fostering collaboration among Civil Society Organizations and amplifying grassroots voices has enriched the documentation process, making it both comprehensive and authentic. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Mr. A.K. Singh and his team, Ms. Nirjharini Rath and Ms. Rajni Ekka for their contributions, which have greatly enhanced the impact and relevance of this project.



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LIFE EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT (LEADS)

BACKGROUND OF THE ORGANIZATION

A group of dedicated rural development professionals united with the aim of establishing an organization that could strategically address the challenges faced by Jharkhand's poor and marginalized communities. This collective effort led to the establishment of Life Education and Development Support (LEADS) on December 14, 2005. LEADS is a non-profit development organization, officially registered under the Trust Act of 1882, with its registration taking place on the same date in Ranchi, Jharkhand. The organization holds all necessary legal certifications to carry out development initiatives.

LEADS operates directly in over 3,000 villages across 18 districts of Jharkhand, tackling a wide range of social and economic issues. It offers professional services to government bodies, non-governmental organizations, and donors within India. The primary focus groups of LEADS include children, women, youth, single women, Scheduled Tribes (STs), Scheduled Castes (SCs), adolescents, farmers, and persons with disabilities (Divyangjan). Currently, LEADS is actively working towards achieving several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) within the state of Jharkhand, aiming to improve the overall well-being of its target communities.

We have received or are receiving funds for various projects from the following donors:

Government Sector: Bank of India (BOI), CFT and MKSP with the support of Government of India (GoI) and Government of Jharkhand (GoJ).

Global: Andheri Hilfe Bonn, Bread for The World, Welt Hunger Hilfe, European Union, Ford Foundation, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (various countries)

CORE MEMBERS OF THE ORGANIZATION

Mr. A.K. Singh is the Founder Managing Trustee and Director of LEADS. He was honoured with the Best Award for Social Work in 1995 at XISS. Represented India in the G20 summit, 2023 from leads. With extensive expertise in a wide range of issues, including the RTE Act 2009, Participatory Strategic Planning, Organizational Development, Budget Analysis, the SDGs, Right to Information, Policy Advocacy, Government Schemes and Entitlements, Constitutional and Child Rights, and Livelihood Planning, Mr. Singh has established himself as a leading resource in these areas.

Ms. Nirjharini Rath, with 20 years of experience in the development sector, currently serves as the Programme Manager for 12 years at LEADS, where she has been overseeing HR and State-level Lobby & Advocacy since 2012.

Mr. Mahendra Kumar has been an integral part of LEADS since its inception and brings over 25 years of experience in the development sector. Throughout his career, he has gained extensive expertise from 19 years in various fields, including the implementation of the Right to Education (RTE) Act, Natural Resource Management, and rural livelihoods with a special focus on organic farming. He has also worked extensively in the areas of Clean Energy and Digital Documentation.

Mr. Bhawanand Jha has been serving as the Finance Manager at LEADS since 2013. With over 25 years of experience in finance, Mr. Jha brings extensive expertise of 11 years to the organization. In his current role, he oversees key financial functions including fund management, budgeting, financial analysis, and auditing. He ensures regular reporting to the board of trustees and provides financial insights and updates to the project implementation team, ensuring the organization's financial health and compliance.

Mr. Ranjit Bhengra has been an integral part of the LEADS organization for the past 12 years. With over 16 years of experience in the fields of education, livelihood, SHGs, and sanitation, Ranjit brings extensive expertise and leadership to his role. Currently serving as a NRM Specialist and Project Coordinator at LEADS, he focuses on promoting sustainable livelihood opportunities for SHGs. Ranjit is involved in the MGNREGA-NRLM Convergence CFT and CFP Strategy programme, aimed at integrating rural employment schemes with livelihood development initiatives.

Mrs. Nisha Tripathy has been a part of LEADS for the past 11 years, bringing over 16 years of experience in the development sector. She possesses a deep expertise in women's empowerment, child rights, financial inclusion, and entrepreneurship development for SHG women. Nisha has also been a strong advocate for gender equity throughout her career. Currently, she serves as the Network Coordinator at LEADS, where she continues to drive impactful initiatives in these areas.

Mr. Santosh Kumar brings over 7 years of extensive experience in Health, Education, Livelihood, and Development projects. He has demonstrated expertise in research, monitoring, and evaluation, effectively managing teams of professional staff to achieve project goals and objectives. Additionally, he possesses a deep understanding of government departments' working mechanisms, allowing him to navigate and collaborate efficiently within these systems.

THEMATIC ENGAGEMENTS

- **Promotion of CBOs:** Strengthening SHGs, Producer Groups, School Committees, and Children's Parliaments for community empowerment.
- **Rights, Education, and Protection:** Advocating for children's rights, ensuring quality education, and fostering child protection.
- **Livelihood Promotion:** Supporting agriculture, natural resources, and animal husbandry to enhance food security and livelihoods.
- **Sustainable Environment & Clean Energy:** Promoting eco-friendly practices and renewable energy solutions for environmental sustainability.
- **Women Empowerment & Gender Equity:** Advancing women's rights, financial inclusion, and leadership for gender equality.
- **Health & Nutrition:** Improving public health and nutrition through community-focused health initiatives.
- **SDGs Alignment:** Integrating Sustainable Development Goals into projects for holistic growth.
- **Strengthening PRIs:** Supporting Panchayati Raj Institutions in effective planning, budgeting, and governance.
- **WASH & Menstrual Health:** Promoting access to clean water, sanitation, hygiene education, and menstrual health management.
- **Budget Analysis:** Conducting gender, child, and state budget analysis for equitable resource allocation.
- **Convergence with State Schemes:** Facilitating access to government schemes and entitlements for marginalized communities.
- **MGNREGA Implementation:** Enhancing rural livelihoods through asset creation under MGNREGA.

MILESTONES

- 2005-2008: LEADS was established on 14th December 2005 in Ranchi, focusing on child issues and livelihood in Khunti, Latehar, and West Singhbhum. Registered under the Trust Act 1882 and obtained key registrations like 12A, 80G, PAN, and FCRA applications. Launched preschool centres and promoted sustainable livelihood through model farmers.
- 2009-2012: FCRA registration in 2009. Gained support from organizations like Meljol, SIDBI, Oxfam India, and others for projects in child protection, livelihood, and health. Expanded to 5 offices in Jharkhand and enhanced infrastructure.
- 2013-2016: Expanded focus to child protection, education, livelihood, health, women empowerment, and governance across 10 districts in Jharkhand. Secured government support for MKSP and CFT projects, and partnered with donors like WHH, BFDW, and EU. Skill development became a priority.

- 2017-2020: Expanded geographic reach, thematic areas, and staff to 175. Integrated SDGs and expanded partnerships with national and international agencies. Responded to Covid-19 by providing food, awareness, vaccination support, and more to over 500,000 people. Intervened in more than 3,000 villages across Jharkhand and neighbouring states.
- 2021-2023: Expanded focus on child development, organic farming, clean energy, women empowerment, and skill promotion. Grew operations to more than six states and reached over 4,000 villages, with staff strength increasing to 400. Continued to address issues such as child labor and migrant labor, despite the challenges posed by Covid-19.

ORGANIZATIONAL IMPACT

- **Promotion of CBOs:** Strengthened 1,860 SHGs through training, bank linkages, and government scheme convergence. Established 80 producer groups for rice, ragi, pulses, tamarind, and more. Supported 200 farmer clubs for mutual learning and market linkages. Strengthened 2,000 Gram Sabhas to enhance local governance and village planning.
- **Plantation, Agriculture & Livelihood Models:** Promoted 6 lakhs different varieties of tree plantation along with intercropping on 3,400 acres across Jharkhand. Developed 1,600 kitchen gardens and 1,200 “36 x 36” intercropping models. Established 80 livestock centers and 16 Farmers Field Schools to enhance farming and livestock management. Trained 5,000 farmers on organic agriculture and supported 5,000 families in tamarind production.
- **Education & Child Development:** Supported 2,000 government schools under RTE, improved infrastructure, and introduced WASH facilities in 6,000 schools, benefiting 90,000 students. Strengthened 1,200 school management committees and 1,800 Anganwadi centers. Promoted 2,000 child cabinets (Bal Sansads) and 200 children’s savings banks.
- **Women’s Empowerment:** Trained 5,000 women farmers and collectivized 3,200 women potato farmers. Provided 9,000 households with clean energy solutions (solar, LPG, smokeless stoves). Promoted 352 women as mates under MGNREGA for community leadership.
- **Clean Energy Initiatives:** Facilitated clean energy access for 34,000 households, including solar lanterns, water pumps, and chulhas. Established 262 Village Clean Energy Committees to address energy issues locally. Trained 34 master trainers and supported clean energy entrepreneurs.

SPECIALIZATION AND UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS

LEADS stands out for its holistic and strategic approach to socio-economic and environmental development through a range of specialized interventions. At the core, LEADS is deeply embedded in direct community engagement, working closely with marginalized populations to drive sustainable change. Its networking capabilities bring together like-minded organizations at the state level, focusing on key issues like education, child protection, health, nutrition, and livelihood, and leveraging collective influence for advocacy and policy reform.

The organization is a leader in issue-based research and surveys, producing insightful publications that enhance the quality of interventions across sectors, including government bodies, CSOs, and resource agencies.

LEADS excels in building strategic alliances and linkages both nationally and internationally, particularly around SDGs, CSR, education, and budget analysis.

Additionally, the organization provides promotional and consultancy services to development actors at state and national levels, reinforcing its position as a trusted partner in driving impactful, evidence-based development initiatives.

- **Skill Development & Employment:** Skilled 2,500 youths (50% female) in various trades with a 60% employment rate. Promoted 600 adolescent groups and trained 600 social leaders.
- **MGNREGA & Infrastructure:** Supported 12,000 MGNREGA workers in accessing entitlements. Constructed 1,800 dobhas (water pits) for improved water management and irrigation.

SUCCESS STORIES

Field-Related Success:

- **Mango Intercropping for Enhanced Livelihoods:** LEADS promoted mango intercropping across 938 acres, benefiting 3,008 farmers in Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh. This initiative increased seasonal incomes by ₹ 40,000 - ₹ 50,000 per acre, providing a sustainable source of livelihood for smallholder farmers.
- **Improved Educational Outcomes through School Engagement:** LEADS strengthened 2,000 government schools by integrating the RTE Act 2009. The improvements included infrastructural upgrades, the introduction of smart classrooms, and better WASH facilities, directly impacting the education of thousands of children in remote areas.
- **Smokeless Chulhas for Clean Energy:** Through its clean energy initiative, LEADS facilitated smokeless chulhas (stoves) for 9,000 households. This not only improved indoor air quality but also reduced health risks and wood fuel consumption, benefiting thousands of rural families.



Advocacy Success:

- **Policy Changes in Clean Energy:** LEADS conducted a Situational Analysis Report (SAR) on clean energy in Jharkhand. The findings led to policy changes, including the development of a mini-grid policy and pilot cold storage in 24 districts. This advocacy effort improved access to clean energy and storage solutions for rural communities.



- **Empowerment through Gram Sabhas and PRI Strengthening:** LEADS played a critical role in strengthening 2,000 Gram Sabhas, enabling them to utilize 14th and 15th Finance Commission funds and raise demands for local issues. This led to improved governance at the grassroots level and better development planning in several villages.
- **Impact on MGNREGA Implementation:** LEADS' advocacy and handholding support for over 12,000 MGNREGA workers improved access to entitlements, wage payments, and tools. Additionally, 78 Mukhiya (village heads) and 350 Ward Members were trained on GPDP and MGNREGA, enhancing transparency and efficiency in the execution of these programs.

Other Successes:

- **COVID-19 Response:** During the COVID-19 pandemic, LEADS reached more than 500,000 people across Jharkhand, distributing food kits, masks, and sanitization supplies. LEADS also supported farmers with seeds to ensure agricultural continuity, providing crucial relief during the crisis.
- **Youth Empowerment and Skill Development:** LEADS successfully trained 2,500 youth (50% women) in various trades, achieving a 60% employment rate. This initiative helped rural youth find employment in fields such as carpentry, vehicle repair, and petrol pump operations, contributing to economic upliftment in marginalized communities.
- **Women's Empowerment through SHGs:** LEADS strengthened 1,860 SHGs, providing women with the skills and resources to manage their groups effectively, access bank linkages, and benefit from government schemes. This initiative not only improved financial independence but also empowered women to take leadership roles in their communities.



These stories showcase LEADS' impact on grassroots development, effective advocacy, and its significant role in improving policies and livelihoods across its intervention areas.



NAV BHARAT JAGRITI KENDRA

BACKGROUND OF THE ORGANIZATION

Heritage: The story of Nav Bharat Jagriti Kendra or NBJK began with friendship of two school boys Girija Nanda and Satish Kumar at Ranchi, when these future founders of NBJK were students of St. John's School, Ranchi. Both seemed different from others as they used to discuss the plight of poor people under influence of their Jesuit teachers and the books about Swami Vivekanand, Mahatma Gandhi etc.

During holidays they got opportunity to visit Samanway Ashram, Bodhgaya and after appearing for Matriculation exam in 1964, they spent comparatively long time there. Samanway Ashram, a Gandhian institute was initiated by Acharya Vinoba Bhave and was a centre of Gandhian activities at that time. This was near to ancestral place of Girija and easy to access for both the friends. At Samanway Ashram, Girija and Satish have read the autobiography of Mahatma Gandhi. They became highly impressed by his life and started thinking for deprived sections of society sincerely. In 1966-67, Girija and Satish have worked as volunteers with relief work at villages in famine stricken Kalahandi district of Odisha and Gaya district of Bihar. That relief work was led by veteran Sarvodaya leader Jay Prakash Narayan (JP).

Girija and Satish were very intelligent students and they got admission in an Engineering College Bihar Institute of Technology, Sindri (Dhanbad). There also they were involved in activities of charity and started teaching of Helps & their children. They celebrated the birth centenary of Mahatma Gandhi with enthusiasm and formed a group of students those believe in Gandhian ideology. In the campus of BIT Sindri, Girija and Satish have initiated a self-serving vegetarian and economy mess for poor students. They started a lending library for them and did many new things on Gandhian line of action.

In 1969, Girija and Satish have attended Sarvodaya Sammelan at Rajgir, met JP and offered their lives for social work. JP has suggested completing study at first. They came back to campus and became engineering graduates with good marks. During engineering college days of Girija and Satish, other two students namely Prabhu Nath Sharma and Ram Padarath Raut have also joined them. In 1970, when JP was at Musahari (Muzaffarpur, Bihar), these four young men met him and stayed there for three weeks. There under the guidance of JP, the very idea of Nav Bharat Jagriti Kendra emerged and JP has helped financially as well as arranged Bhudan land at Bahera village in Chouparan block of Hazaribagh district to begin Nav Bharat Jagriti Kendra in 1971.

Initially Girija, Satish and friends lived with Bhuiyan/Musahar families treated as untouchables for centuries. These families were new settlers at Bahera village, used to work as low waged bonded labourers and couldn't possess their lands allocated to them under Bhudan. Girija and Satish have ensured ownership rights for these downtrodden people. Under banner of NBJK, these youths have worked hard over barren land, encouraged their Bhuiyan friends for farming together, arranged irrigation facility for them and started teaching their children. But these were not enough as NBJK was in need of resources.

Girija and Satish have joined as Divisional Engineers at Bokaro Steel Plant to address this financial crisis. They used to come to Behara on weekends to run the organization. In 1974, JP has started a movement in Bihar and being the disciples of JP, Girija and Satish have contributed to this new development secretly. In 1975, Emergency was slapped over India and Girija-Satish have been discharged from their jobs. They had to vacate their official residence and Satish was arrested under Defence of India rule. In 1977, when new Janta Party government came in power, both Girija and Satish were reinstated with backlog salary. They worked there for some more years and ultimately left their jobs to concentrate upon activities of NBJK.

On 30 June 1977, JP has announced about formation of Lok Samiti as a non-political organization to check and balance the power in the hands of political leaders and bureaucrats. Under the leadership of Girija and Satish, NBJK has promoted Lok Samiti and expanded it across villages of the unified Bihar of that time. Through Lok Samiti, NBJK has raised many relevant issues in favour of dalits, women, farmers, tribals, laborers, youths and other needy sections of society. In 1989, It organized a bicycle rally of youths from Patna to Delhi for "Right to Work" and submitted a memorandum to the President of India. Many prominent persons like Kuldeep Nayar, Madhu Dandwate, Surendra Mohan and others have supported this agenda. In 1992, NBJK has organized Bihar Jagran Yatra to make people aware about causes & solutions for backwardness of Bihar. Through Lok Samiti, NBJK has ensured distribution of about 500 acres of Benami land among poor peasants at Jori, Khunti-Kewal villages in Hunterganj block of Chatra district. This was a peaceful, non-violent struggle against a big landlord. It started Manav Jodo Abhiyan and promoted inter-caste, inter-religion marriages to eradicate casteism & communalism. Lok Samiti has opposed Liquor and gradually became an advocacy wing of NBJK.

NBJK has chosen an integrated approach of rural development on the line of Constructive Works emphasized by Mahatma Gandhi. There are five thematic areas like Education, Health, Livelihood, Support to Small CSOs and Advocacy, NBJK has chosen to work with. From very beginning, it has been working with people over these in an integrated manner. Mahatma Gandhi and Loknayak JP are its ideals and NBJK tries to follow their ideology since last 53 years.

Target Population: NBJK delivers its services to villages and slum areas. Most of its programs or projects are designed to serve the inhabitants of villages. Its schools, learning centers, bridge schools are located in remote rural areas where people are in need of education for their children. Out of four eye hospitals run by NBJK, two are situated in villages and all its eye hospitals have associated Vision Centers in rural areas where eye healthcare services didn't exist. NBJK's eye hospitals organize screening camps in far-flung villages and collect eye patients from there for proper treatment or Cataract surgeries. Earlier it worked with thousands of Persons with Disabilities and Persons with Mental Illness & Epilepsy and covered many districts of Jharkhand-Bihar where our target population consists from villages and urban areas both.

NBJK's one program namely "Clean Jharkhand Project" has covered urban area of Ranchi and presented as a model project for sanitation with waste collection & management with a large population. In slum pockets of Ranchi, NBJK has executed a WASH project and currently a project upon Community Based Inclusive Development and Rehabilitation of PwDs is being executed in slum areas of Patna where it works with women under Micro credit program also. The organization works with tribal farmers in Khunti district under "Lakhpati Kisan Smart Village" for a long time and most of its agriculture related livelihood promotion projects are being implemented in villages. Its Skill Development Training Centers are based in urban areas but cover youths from low income group families of both villages and towns.

Most of the CSOs supported by NBJK in terms of capacity building training, fellowship or program partnership are working in rural areas. Its Family Counseling Center works for both villages and urban areas while Lok Samiti has been expanded from villages to cities now.

NBJK aims to serve needy people through its programs and most of such section resides in villages or slums as they lack resources or their financial condition is not so sound.

Support Entities: During the long period of more than five decades, NBJK has received support from a large number of donors or funding agencies. BFW, Community Aid Abroad, CBM, Consulate of Japan, AusAid, Action Village India, Sightsavers etc are few names from other countries those supported the organization or still keep support. CAPART, Ministries of Rural Development, Human Resource Development, Health and other departments or agencies of state or central governments have also supported NBJK to run various projects. These days the organization gets CSR support from corporate houses, banks or big companies. Also many individuals from India and abroad provide their valuable support to NBJK.

CORE MEMBERS:

1. Mr. Girija Nandan "Girija Satish" – Mr. Girija Nandan "Girija Satish" is the founder member and president of NBJK. He is 74 years old and possesses a lot of experience to run any organization efficiently. He is an engineering graduate from BIT Sindri and dedicated his entire life in service of community. Mr. Girija Satish is a true follower of Mahatma Gandhi and played a crucial role to develop NBJK as a professional organization based upon Gandhian ethos. Under his leadership, NBJK has emerged

as an accountable, transparent and credible CSO in India. Because of his outstanding works, many organizations have honoured him time to time. In the year 2000, Bihar Voluntary Health Association has selected Mr. Girija Satish with Father Tong Memorial Award in the field of Community Health. In 2019, he bagged APA Lifetime Achievement Award for Philanthropic Works from Asia Philanthropy Awards Committee, Seoul (South Korea) and recently he has been selected for Jamnalal Bajaj Award for Constructive Works. Also Mr. Girija Satish is national president of Lok Samiti and always put effort to make it relevant by raising issues in larger interest. Currently Lok Samiti is deeply involved with the campaign to ban liquor in Jharkhand after a successful campaign for the same in Bihar in 2013-14. He is a simple, down to earth person, followed lifelong abstinence and always accessible for common people in need of help.

2. Mr. Satish Kumar “Satish Girija” – Mr. Satish Kumar “Satish Girija” is the founder member and Secretary of Nav Bharat Jagriti Kendra. He is 75 years old and still as active as any young man. He is an engineering graduate but decided to serve humanity by being a social worker. Mr. Satish Girija has a good communication skill and he played a vital role in fund raising for the organization. Also he has a rich experience to develop projects to address needs of the people and he possesses an affluent contact in development sector. Mr. Satish Girija has authored many books also to promote CSOs including a very popular book “Aap Chahen To Beemar Na Paden” (Don’t Get Sick If You Want) upon naturopathy. He has many innovative ideas for well-being of common people. As the Secretary of NBJK, Mr. Satish Girija represents the organization at important places and received compliments from Dr. APJ Abul Kalam, the President of India in 2006. Also on behalf of the organization, he has received many awards including Mary Glowrey-Liliane Brekelmans Disability Award 2022 and Rs. 2 Lakh prize by Catholic Health Association of India and Liliane Foundation, the Netherlands for mainstreaming of PwDs with focus on their identification, treatment, certification, organization, rehabilitation and rights advocacy. Also he ensured Bridgestone Mobility Social Impact Award 2022 (First Runner-Up) and Rs. 10 Lakh as prize money to NBJK from Bridgestone India Pvt. Ltd. for outstanding work in restoring eyesight to rural poor suffering from avoidable blindness and improving their mobility, social life, access to education and livelihood opportunities. Mr. Satish Girija is the public face of NBJK and earned a good reputation for the organization.
3. Mr. Gandharv Gaurav – Mr. Gandharv Gaurav is an important stakeholder of the second line leadership being developed for NBJK. He is a management graduate looks after many programs of the organization. He shoulders the responsibility of NBJK’s LNJP Eye Hospitals at Bahera (Chouparan, Hazaribagh), Kajha (Gaya) and about 14 associated Vision Centers at various places in Jharkhand & Bihar. Additionally he takes care of the organization run 08 schools in villages of Hazaribagh and Gaya districts. He works as a Program Director at NBJK and supports the management in administrative works closely. Mr. Gandharv Gaurav is about 38 years old and works very hard to uplift the legacy of last five decades in social work by NBJK. He has enriched the work culture of eye hospitals and schools by introducing new ideas there.

4. Mr. Anand Abhinav – Mr. Anand Abhinav is another important member of the second line leadership of NBJK. He is a graduate engineer and a postgraduate in Rural Management. He works towards resource mobilization and sustainability of ongoing projects. Also he monitors the Advance Planning section of the organization and involved with financial administration for different branches of NBJK. Mr. Anand Abhinav's designation is as Program Director and he takes care of the eye hospitals at Dumka and Deoghar. Besides this, he looks after the projects upon Agriculture Promotion in Deoghar, Jamui and Khunti districts. Mr. Anand Abhinav has played a crucial role in implementation of a project on community Based Inclusive Development of 5000 Persons with Disabilities in four blocks of Dumka district. Likewise he is closely associated with various programs like Microfinance, Skill Development Training for Youths and Watershed Management etc.

Thematic Engagement: NBJK believes in integrated approach of rural development and it works with people in five core thematic areas like Education, Health-Hygiene-Environment & Disability, Socio-Economic & Livelihood Development, Support to Small Initiatives and People's Action-Networking & Governance.

Under the domain of Education, NBJK has established 08 schools as a Primary, Middle and six High Schools. These schools are situated in villages of Hazaribagh and Gaya districts. Besides this the organization runs sponsorship program for schooling of village girls and runs Learning Centers for them. It has opened Bridge Schools in villages for children of underprivileged community. Girls' Education is a priority for NBJK and it caters orphan children also at Lord Buddha Home for Children, Silaunja (Bodhgaya). Earlier the organization has implemented projects upon Non-Formal Education, Adult Education, Literacy and Remedial Coaching Centers in villages for school girls.

In the segment of Health-Hygiene-Environment & Disability, NBJK runs four Eye Hospitals at Hazaribagh, Dumka, Gaya and Deoghar. There are 24 Vision Centres associated with these eye hospitals. In Khunti district, it runs projects on Menstrual Hygiene Management and Cancer Awareness, that provided training to girls-women and they adopted safe practices to prevent concerned diseases. In slum areas of Patna, NBJK runs Community Based Inclusive Development & Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities. Also it runs Mobile Medical Unit to provide Primary Health Service with On the Spot Check-up and Medicines at the doorstep of People in 20 villages of Gaya district. Previously NBJK has run large scaled projects upon Identification, Certification, Treatment, Supportive Devices, and Community Based Rehabilitation for the Persons with Disabilities as well as Persons with Mental Illness & Epilepsy in various districts of Jharkhand-Bihar with partner CSOs. Also it run an ambitious project upon urban sanitation namely Clean Jharkhand Project that was related with Waste Collection & Management in Ranchi Municipal Corporation. Many municipalities have replicated this project. Likewise WASH project was implemented in 32 slum pockets of Ranchi and ensured community toilets, drinking water and hygienic practices among slum dwellers.

In the field of Socio-Economic & Livelihood Development, NBJK supports farmers by organizing them, introducing Innovative Technology/High Value Agriculture, making water bodies and arranging Irrigation Facility in villages. In the tribal areas of Khunti, NBJK enabled farmers to become Lakhpati by agriculture & allied activities. It excavated

or renovated ponds, repaired wells, introduced drip irrigation, mulching, soilless saplings etc in the villages of Koderma, Deoghar, Ranchi, Khunti, Jamui districts of Jharkhand-Bihar. Similarly the organization has promoted women SHGs and Joint Liabilities Groups for Men. These group members take benefits of Microfinance and strengthen their Income Generation Activities. For youths, NBJK runs Skill Development Training Centres and these short terms training in different employability trades provides them opportunities for placement or self-employment.

Support to Small Initiatives is a unique program by NBJK which facilitates small CSOs by building their capacity. Under this program NBJK has supported around 200 CSOs of Jharkhand-Bihar through Fellowship, Program Partnership and Training. It also organized these organizations under the banner of Swaichhik Manch and provided them hand holding support to be legally strong. Under guidance of NBJK, these organizations have learnt project formulation, financial monitoring, budgeting and implementation in the field. Through this program, NBJK has made the path of alternative development more credible and popular among people.

People's Action, Networking & Governance is the field where NBJK has made advocacy towards contemporary issues and influenced policy makers in a positive way. Here Lok Samiti has played a pivotal role over the issues of social harmony, liquor prohibition, laws for Persons with Disabilities/with Mental Illness & Epilepsy, women's rights and opposed social evils through a well organized manner. Also NBJK works for reconciliation of social, familial disputes and protected child rights through concerned projects. Under networking, NBJK has organized CSOs, Divyangjans, and Caregivers etc. and provides them platforms to put their voice. Through the component of Governance, the organization supports Government to implement their schemes in a better way and raised the issues like delayed Panchayat elections in Jharkhand-Bihar.

Milestones: During its 53 years long journey in development sector, NBJK has implemented numerous projects & programs but some may be considered as Milestones.

First of all, it would like to mention about the Eye Healthcare Services. NBJK has made a significant contribution to eradicate avoidable blindness by establishment of four well-equipped eye hospitals as LNJP Eye Hospital, Bahera (Chouparan, Hazaribagh), LNJP Eye Hospital, Dumka, LNJP Eye Hospital, Kajha (Gaya) and Vimla Ramkrishna Bajaj Eye Hospital, Deoghar. There are 24 Vision Centres associated with these eye hospitals and these are located in rural areas. Besides this, each eye hospital organizes screening camps in remote villages and covers a large area in about 20 districts of Jharkhand-Bihar. In the period of last two decades, NBJK has ensured around 10 Lakh OPD and more than 2 Lakh Cataract surgeries. This restored sight to a large number of people and brought back them in the mainstream.

Likewise Mental Health is an ignored issue but NBJK has highlighted it and run a long program of about one decade from the year 2002-12. This program has covered around 20 districts of Jharkhand-Bihar and many small CSOs were involved with this initiative. This covered approximately 7000 Persons with Mental Illness & Epilepsy, ensured their proper medical treatment, eradicated superstitions around mental illness and made people aware towards community based rehabilitation of such people. Later till the pandemic of COVID, NBJK used to organize monthly outreach camps by RINPAS, Ranchi and people have got benefitted.

Third important issue NBJK worked upon is Disability. It has made a survey in five districts of Hazaribagh, Koderma, Giridih, Nawada and Gaya in Jharkhand-Bihar and identified about 32000 PwDs in villages. It initiated a campaign for certification of these people, linked them with entitlements and supported their rehabilitation. From the year 2000 to 2018, NBJK has worked on this issue actively in a campaign mode and influenced policy makers to table a new law upon the rights of PwDs in 2016.

Fourth milestone can be mentioned as “Clean Jharkhand Project” in Ranchi during the period of 2002-08. This was an innovative initiative over sanitation with waste collection and their management with community participation. This was a self-sustainable project that benefitted around 50,000 households of Ranchi city. CJP has been replicated in 12 municipalities of Jharkhand-Bihar due to its innovation in the field of urban sanitation. Under CJP, NBJK has established two recycling units at village-Chakla near Ormanjhi (Ranch) and demonstrates making of Millboard by scrap papers and Vermi Compost from cow dung. Likewise, WASH project in 32 slum pockets of Ranchi is also important which ensured community toilets, washroom, ensured safe drinking water and promoted hygienic practices among slum dwellers.

This discussion will be incomplete, if we don't mention “Lakhpati Kisan Smart Village” project in Khunti district. This has empowered tribal farmers, especially organizing them as an FPO “Murhu Nari Shakti Kisan Producer Co. Ltd.” This intervention has transformed the farmers as entrepreneurs and introduced modern techniques of agriculture in the villages of Khunti, Murhu blocks of the district. The farmers have solar driven irrigation facility, cold storage, new instruments and a wide range of allied activities to do at the same time. They have progressed in livestock rearing and Lac cultivation. About 6000 farmers became Lakhpati due to this project and they cultivate high value agriculture.

5. Specialization and Unique Characteristics: NBJK is a people oriented organization. It has been in a live contact of people in villages and shared their grief as well as happiness. New geographical areas have never posed any problem to the organization as it has earned people's trust in almost every district or block in Jharkhand-Bihar. Through experience and experiments, NBJK has made specialization in all the five thematic work areas to execute projects. Identification of people's need and making strategy to address that is the spot, it excels. But it's worth mentioning that Providing Eye Healthcare Services and Promotion of Agriculture is two prime areas where NBJK is doing better currently.

ORGANIZATIONAL IMPACT:

I. Case Study on Lok Samiti : 7 Days against Liquor

A state wise anti-liquor campaign as the Journey for Liberation from Liquor in Jharkhand was organized during 4 – 11 June 2017 under joint auspices of Jharkhand State Lok Samiti, NBJK and other allied organizations. The journey started from Hazaribag and ended at Ranchi via Koderma, Giridih, Deoghar, Dumka, Jamtada, Dhanbad, Bokaro, Jamshedpur, Saraikela, Chaibasa, Khunti, Lohardaga and Gumla districts. The advocacy campaign was titled as Sharab Mukti Yatra and led by Mr. Girija Satish (President, National Lok Samiti).



Mr. Kaushal Ganesh Azad (National Coordinator, Lok Samiti), Mr. Shivji Singh (General Secretary, Bihar State Lok Samiti) and other office bearers of Bihar & Jharkhand States Lok Samiti like Mrs. Kranti Rasosh, Mrs. Manti Verma, Mrs. Punam Bharti, Mr. Shyam Kunwar Bharti, Mr. Shankar Rana, Mr. Filman Bakhla, Mr. Sujit Mishra, Mr. Paras Mahto, Mr. Vinay Bhatta, Mr. Rajiv Singh, Mr. Saudagar, Dr. Umesh and folk artist Mr. Meghnath & team have accompanied the journey.

District units of Lok Samiti and local Voluntary Organizations have supported this Sharab Mukti Yatra and they arranged public meetings, street plays, press conference, handbill distribution and administrative arrangement at each stoppage. The Journey for Liberation from Liquor has earned enormous approbation from common people and most of the women, PRI representatives, Gandhian Tana Bhagats and youths have endorsed the demand to ban liquor in Jharkhand strongly. On 11 June 2017, the concluding day of this program, a state level convention against liquor was held at Ranchi and Mr. Girija Satish referred to Indian constitution that directs the state to ban liquor and reminds we citizens to oppose any anti-women custom prevailing in the society. The convention was presided by Padmashri Ashok Bhagat (Vikas Bharti, Bishunpur, Gumla) who supported the very idea to ban liquor in Jharkhand and insisted for strengthening of moral fabrics, unity of social forces and mass awareness to reach the objective. Mrs. Shachi (CSS, Ranchi), Mr. Sanjeev Vijaywargiya (Dy. Mayor, Ranchi MC), Mr. S. K. Singh (Regional Director, ASSOCHAM), Mr. Sachchidananda (General Secretary, Jharkhand LS), Mr. Wazeer Ahmad (Vice-President, Jharkhand LS) were other speakers on this occasion.

II. Case Study on Eye Healthcare: Eyesight Restored



Mrs. Munki Devi lives at a small village about 15 km away from Gaya where most of the people are engaged with agriculture and daily labour work. For general health issues, villagers rely upon RMP doctors those come to villages occasionally and charge some amount. There is no eye care facility in any village of this region. *For eye problem we need to go to Gaya from our village. We don't have much money for auto fare and to get treatment or spectacles*, Munki Devi says. Her house is semi-constructed with bricks and concrete. She stays with her two sons those work at brick kiln. Munki's daughter-in-law takes care of her. Munki Devi was suffering from complete blurred vision. She was having pain and burning in her eye. This problem persisted for last 2-3 years. She stopped going outside because of trouble to recognize people. Regarding eye screening camp, she came to know from another person in village. She was screened, counseled and therefore decided to go to LNJP Eye Hospital, Kajha (Gaya) for advance checkup and cataract surgery. After surgery, Munki can see clearly and recognizes kith and kin. Also she resumed rice cleaning and spots small objects even. These were not possible earlier.

"I did not know anything about this hospital. I went there, got food and all facilities. Currently I can do everything as per my wish. For my second eye checkup, I will go there again. Just inform about my next visit" Munki Devi explains her experience.

III. Case Study on Education Riya Raj: The Girl on the Top



Meet Riya Raj, the girl child from village-Pabra, block-Katkamsandi, district-Hazaribagh (Jharkhand) and a regular student of her village based Remedial Coaching Centre. This RCC is one among 17 such centres as a part of the Girls' Education Programme at villages in Katkamsandi, Katkamdag and Sadar blocks of the district by NBJK with support of Action Village India. Riya Raj is the topper among 230 girl children from all RCCs appeared for class X board exam conducted by Jharkhand Academic Council, Ranchi and scored 94% marks. "In class IX, I have joined the RCC and at that time I was quite weak in Maths, Science &

English. But by attending my classes regularly and following the teacher's instructions, I have focused upon these three subjects primarily", Riya says and shares further that how she could obtain Grade a + in all subjects during class IX with daily 2 hours' study that increased up to 5 hours per day in class X. Riya Raj wants to be an engineer. Her father Mr. Chandan Kumar runs a small grocery shop in his village and mother Mrs. Reena Kumari is a housewife. Riya's parents are very happy over her result and show determination to educate their daughter. They praise the very idea of RCC for valuable contribution to girls' education in villages. Its noteworthy that 80% girl children from these RCCs have secured first division in Class X Board Exam and five girls from RCC-Pabra could achieve 90% or above marks. Md. Farukh, the teacher gets much appreciation for this successful performance of the centre.

IV. Case Study on Socio-Economic Development : The Remarkable Transformation of Dabgana Village



Dabgana, a remote village in the heart of Khunti district, once grappled with relentless poverty, limited water resources, and seasonal paddy cultivation that barely sustained its inhabitants, who were primarily migrant workers. The village nestled near the birthplace of renowned Adivasi leader and hockey player, Mr. Jaypal Singh Munda, yearned for change.

In 2022, hope arrived in the form of the "Lakhpatri Kisan Smart Village" program. A producer group was born, leading to the linkage with Murhu Nari Shakti Kisan

Producer Co. Ltd. This initiative introduced a Solar Micro-Lift Irrigation system, prioritizing families with little to no access to irrigation. Water Use Groups were formed, ensuring proper asset maintenance, and user fees collection. High-Value Agriculture took root, with watermelon cultivation revolutionizing the villagers' fortunes. 16 farmers, on 3.2 acres of land, harvested 108 MT of watermelons, yielding a staggering return of Rs. 6,48,000. Dabgana's transformation showcases the power of participatory intervention, eradicating migration and ushering in prosperity, making it a guiding light for rural communities.

NBJK has contributed significantly in eradication of avoidable blindness from Bihar and Jharkhand treating over 10,00,000 eye patients in OPD and doing over 2,00,000 Cataract surgeries restoring vision, livelihood and dignity of poor patients free since 2005 till date through its four eye hospitals at Hazaribagh, Dumka, Gaya and Deoghar.

It has introduced door to door waste collection from over 70,000 households in Ranchi, Patna, Hazaribagh like cities in Jharkhand & Bihar. Earlier people were throwing waste on street. Now it has been adopted by most of the Municipalities.

NBJK has promoted, nurtured, built capacity and developed more 100 NGOs in Bihar & Jharkhand. It struggled for women's right, organizing Lok Samities, taking campaigns for many years against liquor organizing women due to which it got banned in Bihar, taking similar campaign against liquor in Jharkhand too.

More than 20,000 Divyangjan (Person with disability) are rehabilitated socially-economically-educationally. About 6000 person with mental disorder and mental illness got cured and most have them supported for income generation activities. NBJK's program Smart Village Lakhpati Kisan making over 6000 tribal farmers from 130 villages in Khunti Tribal District Lakhpati increasing their family annual income over Rupees One Lakh has got country level recognition and NIRD Hyderabad made a film on it available on Panchayati Raj Ministry website. The FPO of women farmers in Khunti district (more than 1400 women farmers shareholder) is very active making annual turnover of seeds-fertilizers and other agricultural inputs & marketing of over 3 Crore rupees. About 6000 tribal farmers have increased their income in the range of Rs.1,00,000.00 to Rs. 1,50,000.00 annually.

Over 30,000 women of villages & slums are successfully running their Income Generation Activities earning over Rs.60,000.00 per annum. About 10,000 Hectare land brought under irrigation and for multiple crops in drought prone districts of Jharkhand & Bihar under Holistic Rural Development Program, Focussed Rural Development Program, and Watershed etc. More than 20,000 rural children, who were out of school or dropped out children, got quality education through the 6 High Schools, 1 Middle School, 1 Primary School, 100 Remedial Coaching Centres, Girls Sponsorship program etc. 560 girls who were reaching schools daily travelling 3 to 8 kms from villages, got bicycles for attending their school comfortably, saving their time for study and better career.

Through 6 FPOs, more than 3000 farmers are getting agricultural inputs at low cost and marketing their agricultural products at competitive price.

LEARNINGS:

NBJK has completed 53 years in the field of development. It mostly worked on grass root and has been associated closely with common people like dalits, tribals, women, farmers, persons with disabilities etc. It always put effort to understand their problems deeply and to explore the ways to resolve the problems.

NBJK has tried its best to use local technology and materials utilizing community's knowledge of centuries. The villagers are more practical and knowledgeable than the Academicians and Bookish scholars because they live the problem. NBJK tried to get maximum output with minimum expenditure e.g. it constructed irrigation wells with local materials and beneficiaries' support just in half of the amount allocated in Govt. budgets. This happens if the demand comes from the beneficiaries who need such things.

NBJK's learning has been that "Development" should not be done in tight compartment & imposed by the Donor. It means to say that we should not design a generalized scheme and budget for a work for every geographical area and types of communities. Discretion must be given to the local implementing agency or person carrying the implementation to take decision at local level with respect to activity and budget. We think most of the donor agencies and the governments miss this concept. Also, "Development" and "Relief" are quite different things. Relief works can be done during natural calamities. This support may also be given to old people, differently abled persons and sick persons. Besides this, "Free" distribution of money or commodity can make the people lazy and dependent. "Development" means to make a person self-dependent and active. One should get livelihood with own efforts and with dignity. Mostly the activities should be carried out by beneficiaries themselves and they should contribute monetarily also.

On the basis of its experience, NBJK views that –

1. Support to individual schemes gives better result than community schemes.
2. Monetary contribution is must by individuals or community, for any activity.
3. Agriculture and small irrigation schemes deliver better output and are sustainable.
4. Most of the money should go for direct activities of the people.
5. Social activities like removing superstition, ban on liquor, social & religious harmony, intercaste / interreligious marriage should also be carried out simultaneously.

NBJK always worked in network of likeminded NGOs and activist. We are proud that this initiative has made over 100 NGOs in Bihar & Jharkhand to get established and doing a good development works in their localities besides having joint program of advocacy & policy changes. Generally NGOs become donor-dependent. We tried to make a balance between grant and raising local resources. At present about 60% of our annual budget comes from local resources/ like Hospitals, Schools etc. The second-line leadership is equally important for any NGO. NBJK has been lucky to get such second-line leadership. We are working since 53 years and we are fully assured that the second leadership would take this for another five decades.

SUCCESS STORIES:

Field-Related Success: Here we are going to mention about one of NBJK's successful project initiated in 2015. Initiation of Lakhpati Kisan™ Smart Village project is based upon an intensive survey that shown about the challenges like poor irrigational facility, inappropriate agro-techniques, Illiteracy, lack of alternative livelihood with distant finance facilities those made the people economically weak and led to so many evils. There were rising incidents of human trafficking, migration and violent activities of ultra left militia groups. It sets a target to raise people's average annual income up to Rs. 1,20,000 from Rs. 30,000 as revealed by the baseline study. After launching, it facilitated local farmers, especially women towards formation of village organizations and provided them inputs for high value agriculture with proper irrigation facility-lac production & value added products, pig/goat/fish/chicks farming. The project got convergence with the government schemes also, covers 6000 HHs in 140 villages and farmers started to get profit by growing cash crops like tomato,

cabbage, watermelon etc during Kharif, Rabi and zaid seasons. In the process of building women institutions like SHGs/clusters, the very idea of a farmers' producer company like Murhu Nari Shakti Kisan Producer Company Limited (MNSKPCL) got realized in the year 2018 and showing its worth magnificently. MNSKPCL, an FPC is with a capital base of Rs. 44 lakh and linked to around 4000 farmers. There are 2986 shareholders with share capital of Rs. 24,71,700 and Incremental turnover is 11.22 Cr. in 3 years. Lakhpati Kisan project has promoted horticulture under MNREGA at 21 villages and now 136 families own 12576 mango plants on 128 acres. The project has ensured increased economic returns as 4849 households benefitted from increased GROSS income from Agriculture and allied activities.

This covers Diversified livelihood activities (All HH's with layering of interventions i.e. High Value Agriculture as Primary Activities and NTFP Lac Cultivation, Animal Husbandry as Secondary Activities has been done), Increased income from agriculture, increased agri-production, increased returns from rainfed agri, Diversification to high value crop, Adoption of high value crop and Adoption of tech for productivity enhancement i.e. Soilless Saplings.

2635 (43.91% of households benefitted from improved irrigation facilities. A household benefitted from irrigation at-least 0.3 acre of land with water distribution system (solar micro-lift irrigation with pipeline distribution).

4516 (75.2%) of the households benefitted from improved animal husbandry practices, 4849 (80.81% of households benefitted from market linkage and 51% of SHGs categorized as grade 1 as per the NRLM guidelines.

Irreversibility of the impact with increased resilience of the communities is the focus of this initiative. Each Household has been provided with intensive hand holding for three years. Currently Apex community institution (FPO) will carry forwarding the development activity for the household. Local cadres created, and services like vet care, entrepreneur farmer, shops established to sustain the efforts made. A basket of activities will be undertaken by Household for reaching the desired income goal. Market & Demand Oriented Intervention, High value agriculture crops, lac and pig, goat, poultry, fish are the core intervention with the families. Entrepreneur Development is to reduce farmer dependability on uncertain monsoons and migration for income.

Incubation and promotion of different entrepreneurs for each prototype by FPCs is being supported by NBJK. These micro-entrepreneurs are integral not only for streamlining input supply but also for eliminating the intermediaries from the process to support and promote the local economy. There are 31 full-fledged entrepreneurs with Polyhouse nursery (10), Brood lac (05), Pig rearing (09), Fishery (05) & Poultry (02) incubated under the project.

Also there are Unique Interventions of the FPC-MNSKPCL as following:

- (i) Solar Cold Storage – The unit helps in increasing the longevity of the produce and provides one common space for all the farmers to store their produce
- (ii) Better Life Farming Centre (BLFC), and Johar Agro-Mart for purchase of inputs such as seeds, pesticides and Agri-medicines to streamline supply and ensure the quality of inputs for better and healthier produce.

- (iii) Lac Handicrafts Centre – for Handicrafts product-making.
- (iv) Semialata Cultivation – Creating Brood Lac Entrepreneurs for filling the gap of in Lac Cultivation as earlier this is major challenge of Brood (Lac Cultivation Seed) availability (100 Semialata entrepreneur's farmers).

Also MNSKPCL has bagged awards like *"Samunnati-The Economic Times Best FPO Award"* and *"Vijayalakshmi Das-Friends-of-Women FPO 2021 Award"* consequently. The project has helped substantially to mitigate the incidents of child trafficking, migration and violence in its operational areas. When RPD Act 2016 had been enacted, its detail was unknown to majority of the population. Not only common people but the govt. officials also have no idea about the development. NBJK has organized a number of events over dissemination and understanding of the law among stakeholders. It initiated a dialogue upon RPD Act across Jharkhand & Bihar and reached to people, especially PwDs with the law. Also it published booklets, brochures & training materials to make its provisions accessible for all.

An important state level workshop held on 26 July 2017 at Ranchi and Mr. Prasanna Kumar Pincha (Ex-Chief Disability Commissioner, Govt. of India & then Special Rapporteur with National Human Rights Commission) was invited as the resource person. He explained about the RPD Act including its background, features, classification, structure, central rules, benefits, monitoring etc. Also he suggested for state rules and discussed about Disability Assessment Guidelines to be issued by the central and state governments.

In presence of Mr. Satish Chandra (State Disability Commissioner, Jharkhand) and Mr. Chittaranjan Kumar (Additional Secretary, Dept. of WCD & SS, Govt. of Jharkhand), it was decided to frame a disability policy for Jharkhand. Our lead for Disability Department, Mr. Anand Abhinav said that the new law over rights of PwDs seeks proper understanding and rules on part of Jharkhand. This workshop will facilitate towards elements of the law and we may reach to a consensus for future course of action accordingly, he mentioned and initiated for the same with support of the Disability Commissioner, Jharkhand. Mr. Abhinav did a lot of research work, studied disability policies of other states, contacted experts, activists and contributed a lot to prepare a draft policy for Jharkhand, which has been accepted with some amendments by the state government. Though this was not a single-handed effort but we can say that NBJK has played an important role to frame such a state level policy.

Other Successes: Here are the details about NBJK's recognition:

Members of – Clinical Establishment Council of Jharkhand State, Govt. of Jharkhand, Jharkhand State Supervision Board on PC & PNDT Act (Dept. of Health, Medical Education & Family Welfare), Govt. of Jharkhand, State Advisory Committee on Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016, Govt. of Jharkhand, Managing Committee, RINPAS (Ranchi Institute of Neuro-Psychiatry & Allied Sciences), Kanke, Ranchi., Executive Committees of National Networks like – AVARD, INAFI, VANI etc.

Ex-Members of – Planning Commission, 10th Five Year Plan Steering Committee on Voluntary Sector & Planning Commission Task Force on Decentralized Funding, Expert Committee, National Commission for Women on SC Women's Condition & Problems, National Standing Committee (CAPART under MORD-GOI), Governing Board of Credibility Alliance-New Delhi, Sa-Dhan, New Delhi, National Literacy Mission Council and other important bodies.



AWARDS –

- Father Tong Memorial Award in category of Best Community Health Organization for the year 2000 by Bihar Voluntary Health Association, Patna.
- Best Enterprises Development Service Provider in East Zone for the year 2003 by SIDBI, Ranchi.
- 5th Sarda Equal Opportunities Award 2005 for Outstanding Contribution Towards the Improvement in Quality of Life among Tribal and Backward Classes by Sarda Equal Opportunity Foundation, Nashik.
- 10th Water Digest Water Award 2016, Winner under category of Best NGO for Revival of Rural Water Resources by Times Group, Delhi
- 2019 APA Lifetime Achievement Award for Philanthropic Works by Asia Philanthropy Awards Committee, Seoul (South Korea).
- Jyotirmaya Award 2019 for Dedication towards the Cause of Humanity under CSR Initiative of Prasad Group of Companies, Ahmedabad.
- Man of Change Award 2022 by Tarang Group-Hazaribagh in association with Lions Club of Hazaribagh Roaring.
- Mary Glowrey-Liliane Brekelmans Disability Award 2022 and Rs. 2 lakh prize by Catholic Health Association of India and Liliane Foundation, The Netherlands for mainstreaming PwDs with focus on their identification, treatment, certification, organization, rehabilitation and rights advocacy.
- Bridgestone Mobility Social Impact Award 2022 (first runner-up) and Rs. 10 lakh prize by Bridgestone India Pvt. Ltd. for outstanding work in restoring eyesight to rural poor suffering from avoidable blindness and improving their mobility, social life, access to education and livelihood opportunities.
- NGO Leadership Award by EIILM, Kolkata on 4th October 2023 for consistent excellence in sustainable resource mobilization, effective management, ethical operations, transparency, impactful communication, community collaboration, and environmental protection.
- Jharkhand ChangeMaker Award from NEEDS, Deoghar on 7th November 2023 for transformative “Lakhpati Kisan™ Smart Village” project in Khunti district in collaboration with CInI-Tata Trusts.



SAMVAD

BACKGROUND

SAMVAD' is a creative initiative of Socio-Economic and cultural ethos and ideology of Indigenous people of Jharkhand. SAMVAD believes in Indigenocracy and Indigeneity with equal and active participation of women and excluded communities of Jharkhand. SAMVAD is dedicated to Empower self-governance (Swashasan), promote self-reliance (Swawlamban), preserve self-dignity (Swabhimaan) with special focus on promotion of livelihood (Aajivika), protection of Freedom (Aazadi) and expansion of joyful (Anand) life to every human being with conservation and preservation of Natural and Cultural heritage. SAMVAD is established in March 2001, by a group of social and cultural activists and intellectuals who were concerned about the declining Indigenous identity due to various internal and external factors. The Jharkhand state was carved out from Bihar and came into existence on 15 November, 2000 as the people of Jharkhand region were very much hopeful that their centuries old traditions and practices would get recognition and they would also have opportunity to participate in the governance process. But very soon their aspirations were shattered. It was the time to mobilize the Indigenous communities, Dalits, Women and Minorities and spread awareness among them about their legal and constitutional rights to combat the situation. SAMVAD came at fore to reflect this process in its vision and approach. Adivasi, Dalit Community, Other Backward Caste (OBC), Minorities, Children & down trodden and marginalised people of Jharkhand etc.



Intervention Areas: 750 villages of 16 districts in Jharkhand

Support Entities:

Donor: BftW, Germany

Project Area: Total village 400, Block 23, District 14

Project Duration: October 2022 - September 2025

Donor: IM-Individuell Människohjälp Swedish Development Partner, Swiden

Project Area: Village – 70, Block – 4, District – 3 (Ranchi, Deoghar and Jamtara)

Project Duration: July, 2021 – Dec, 2023

Donor: OAK Foundation, Geneva, Switzerland

Project Area: Total village 140, Block 04, District 04

Project Duration: January 2022 – December 2024

Project Donor: Azim Premji Foundation (APF)

Project Area: Village – 149, Panchayat – 15, District – Jamtara

Project Duration: 1st August 2022 to 31st July 2025

Project Donor: Azim Premji Foundation (APF)

Project Area: District – 2, Deoghar and Jamtara

Project Duration: 1st February 2024 to 31st January 2026

Donor: SBI FOUNDATION

Project Area: Panchayat 02, Block – 1, District - 1

Project Duration: February 2024 to February

Core Members:

Dr. Rose Karketta	President
Mr. Ghanshyam	Secretary
Mr. Shekhar	Treasurer

Thematic Engagements:

- Self-governance and strengthening Gram Sabha
- Sustainable Livelihood Promotion and Natural Resources
- Gender Empowerment and Women Rights
- Education and Child Rights
- Climate Justice and Sustainable Energy
- Constitutional Values
- Indigenous Culture
- Research, Documentation and Communication

MILESTONES:

Key Projects Achievements :

Bread for the World	Out of 250 G.S. Secretariats, 199 are strengthened and provided different types of services such as conflict resolution, support during disaster and emergency situation, providing essential documents related to development etc. to 5906 HHs.
	Last year GS Federations and like-minded organizations lobbying with Governor of Jharkhand, members of Tribes advisory council (TAC) and Govt. of Jharkhand. As a result Govt. of Jharkhand has framed the draft rules on PESA and circulated in public domain for suggestions and advice.
	G.S. Federation raised the issue of severe drought in Jharkhand and motivated the Govt. machinery to declared Jharkhand drought effected area. The result is out of 24 districts, 22 are declared drought effected area.
	G.S. Federation raised the issue of severe drought in Jharkhand and motivated the Govt. machinery to declared Jharkhand drought effected area. The result is out of 24 districts, 22 are declared drought effected area.
	57 women and 22 Men, total 79 young women and men actively participated in cultural gatherings for reviving cultural team (Akhras). In this context, 5 Akhras are formed in 5 villages with the view to promote and rejuvenate traditional songs, dance and also musical instruments. As a result adolescent girls and boys are playing their traditional instruments such as Drums, Mandar, flutes, folk dance folk stories etc in Akhras and school.
	30 students including boys and girls of the school are involved in traditional skills and crafts like grass brooms, traditional leaf Rain Coats, Leaf Hats and Leaf mats etc.
	Under the climate resilient health conscious livelihood, 1422 male and female started non-pest farming method and they are also inspiring other villagers.
Bread for the World	1015 women farmers have become the members of State level Women Farmers' Organization titled "Jharkhand Mahila Kisan Sangathan."
	A total of 80 traditional health practitioners (Female-17, Male-63) identified and motivated through trainings. Out of 80, 50 will be selected to pass on their knowledge to 200 youth.
	Formation of 35 Green Clubs (girls & boys) resulted active participation in non pest farm initiatives, started libraries and group studies, sensitizing community people on the importance of climate and somewhere they also protesting the community against deforestation.
	Formation of Akhra with youth groups (female & male) in 5 villages and their activities in local festivals, rituals and other ceremonies such as welcome of some guests etc, interacted adolescent girls and boys to the traditional musical instruments especially those, who were affected with modern music and modern cultures. They are also involved in traditional handicraft skills by making leaf rain-coats, leaf-hats, leaf-mats, grass-brooms etc.

IM Project	250 Households are engaged in different livelihood options, like; Mushroom cultivation, Tailoring, Leaf Plate making, Poultry, Duckery, Animal Husbandry, Goatery, Piggery, Sericulture, Vegetable cultivation etc. It was 154 till the end of 2022. There is an increase of 96 at the end of June, 2023.
	350 farmers have been encouraged towards organic farming through annual Kisan Mela in two regions at Lalpur village of Madhupur Block, Deoghar District and village Tilaksuti of Itki Block Ranchi. They are aware about the ill effect of using chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Presently a total of 314 farmers are doing organic farming.
	70 villages have been covered in the process of awareness campaign on Climate crisis. The villagers have been encouraged towards protection of village forest and environment, plantation, prohibition of using plastics, use of organic manure and pesticides in their agriculture practices.
	In the process facilitating towards protection of environment and natural resources, Village Tilaksuti of Itki Block has got Van Patta (Community Forest Rights) for the 95 Acres of village forest they have and they are protecting and managing the village forest through Gram Sabha. A total of 8 villages started the process to get community forest rights for their village forests.
	Two regional and one state Women federations “Mahila Kisan Sangathan” have been formed last year to deal with the gender justice in the regions and state. Now these federations meet in half yearly basis where 70 women leaders are regular in meetings. They are able to articulate their basic rights and entitlements. In the last meeting, it has been decided to expand the women federation by forming women organization in all 70 villages and making members of at least 10 women from each village. Presently there are total 396 women who became members of Women Federation “Mahila Kisan Sangathan”. They are advocating for recognition of women as “Mahila Kisan” and land rights at community level.
OAK Project	Total 1646 women farmers have involved in 140 women farmer groups of Jharkhand Women Farmers Organization (WFO) in 16 Panchayats.
	In five demo centres which occupies 3.6 acres of land have cultivated different seasonal crops and vegetables with traditional seeds and organic method. 124 people have adopted traditional organic farming method.
	Green clubs for youth have established in 140 villages. The Gram Sabha Federation promoted the process of draft PESA rules and submitted the draft to the director of TRI, Ranchi (Tribal Research Institute). TRI sent this draft to the different departments of Jharkhand for suggestion and consent.
	Women’s participation has increased up to 49% in decision making process and keeping their views and points about different subjects confidently. They have built their capacity of opposing things which they think are not applicable for their village.
	51% men have sensitized for gender equality in Gram Sabha. This process has changed the structure of Gram Sabha and societal mind set.

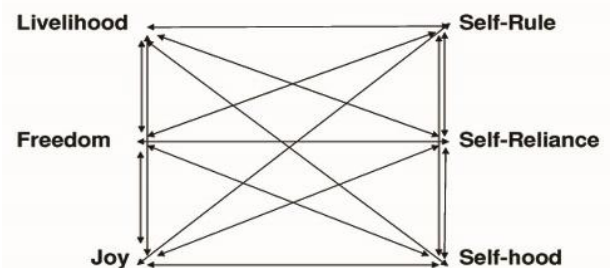
OAK Project	59% women have elected as Panchayat representatives and performing their responsibilities in their respective Panchayats.
	140 villages prepared 454 village development plans (VDP) and submitted to the related Gram Panchayats. The follow up is going on.
	Gram Sabha Secretariates have been established in 110 villages and its secretaries have nominated by mutual consent of their respective Gram Sabhas. Secretariate have its own board, registers, stamps, and box to keep the document safe.
	Traditional instruments such as Tamak (drum) and mandar were provided in 80 project villages for rejuvenation of Akhra and promotion of cultural practices.
	Established Indigenomart in which we have organized weekly Village Haat cum exhibition in four blocks of four districts. Women farmers of every Panchayat have come together and showcase their organic farming produce, forest produce, local bamboo art and crafts. This became a platform for securing and promoting traditional seeds and indigenous art which are now barely left.
	This year in five demo centres; variety of crops have cultivated such as vegetables (Potato, brinjal, tomato, beans etc), mustard and maize with organic farming method.
	374 Farmers have adopted the organic farming method and this is practiced on 152 acres of land.
	2042 villagers have availed various government welfare schemes like 515 Food security (PDS Card), 497 (PMAY), 251 Rastriya Swastha Bima Yojna, 452 Old age Pension, 257 widow pension, 70 physically challenged pension.
SBI Foundation	Rejuvenated 20 Ponds (11ponds in Banudih & 9 ponds in Asanberiya)
	Formed FARMER INTEREST GROUP Through Community Meetings
	Established 1 well equipped Gram Seva Kendra for community people to increase their knowledge and information regarding government schemes and services
	Distributed vegetable seeds 200 farmers to promote vegetable production
	5 Sewing machines were installed in GSK for skill development of young women towards self-reliance and a respectful life.
APF Bengaluru Samvidhan Saathi Fellowship Program	The Samvidhan Saathi Fellowship Program aims to cultivate action-oriented individuals who lead their lives based on constitutional values within the communities they serve. Currently, the program has 20 fellows, 4 mentors, and 1 fellowship coordinator, impacting 20 Panchayats across two districts—Deoghar (12 Panchayats) and Jamtara (8 Panchayats).
	So far, the program has helped fellows understand and distinguish between human values and constitutional values, recognizing how they are both distinct and interconnected. Based on this understanding, the fellows have started forming groups and clubs to build relationships with their communities and promote these values. To further foster the internalization of constitutional values, workshops and cross-learning programs have been organized, encouraging critical thinking and facilitating actionable activities within self, family, and community.

SPECIALIZATION AND ORGANIZATIONAL IMPACT:

Samvad has established 381 Gram Sabha Secretariats and stepping towards the process of achieving its' objectives for deepening indigenocracy. All the Gram Sabha Secretariats are actively functioning and providing necessary support to the community people. Services like conflict resolution, support to disaster and emergency situation, supporting in preparation of essential documents as per the rules of government.

- 2645 Village Standing Committees have been actively functioning their participation in village development process and assisting Gram Sabha. These committees are maintaining its' constitution with 50% women members. Now developmental works are discussing in the committees and putting forward in the Gram Sabha meeting for approval. So, committees are also imparting knowledges to the community people and due to this, people are able to raise their voices for their rights in front of the PRI members and Government officials.

WEB OF INDIGENOCRACY /ADIVASIYAT



- 4 Regional and 1 State Level Gram Sabha Federations have succeeded in drafting PESA rule to finalize by the Jharkhand Government. The other CBOs and CSOs started for liaising to pass the PESA rule by the State Assembly. Gram Sabha and its' Federation raising regularly drought issues, PESA implementation, enhance livelihood opportunities at the regional level and State Federation. The Federations are also doing advocacy with the government to develop policies for the community, so that livelihood inequalities, migration etc. can be addressed or mitigate.
- Revived 145 Akhras with young men and women actively participating in cultural initiatives. Adolescent girls and boys are interested to participating their traditional cultural activities.
- Presently the world is struggling with climate risk. In this context we are trying to develop climate mitigation strategies. Climate related hazards affected close to 20 million people in India in 2020. Climate disasters add to the stress of socio-economic factors like population density, income inequality and degrading environment. Together, they increase the risk of loss like: food insecurity and livelihoods, force vulnerable communities to migrate as a coping strategy. With the view to reduce climate risk at our end, project is trying to develop organic farming in its' intervention areas and at present about 1422 farmers (male & female) are exercising non-pest farming and earning their livelihood.
- Samvad established 3 Green Schools with the view to educate the community regarding organic and sustainable farming. 345 Green Clubs are formed in 345 villages with the view to motivate, encourage and increase the knowledge of young boys and girls towards the importance of trees, forests, sustainable agriculture etc.

- 7 Demo centers have been established in seven clusters to sensitize the community on the importance of traditional seeds, organic farming etc. 20 ponds are rejuvenated for the development about 1000 farmers and as a result now the farmers are able to cultivate around 40 acres of land where earlier it was only 20 acres.

Samvad initiated to form a 'Women Farmers' Organization' and as a result 2075 women farmers have become the members of State level women farmers' organization namely 'Jharkhand Mahila Kisan Sangathan. The project is leveraging Government schemes and services for the community people and also doing awareness programs regularly, so that people are able to claim their rights to the government. With the view to enable or increase the immune system of community people and also rejuvenate indigenopathy (Indigenous health practices), Samvad initiated 20 herbal gardens and also identified 80 Indigenous practitioners (male/female) and trained them to share their knowledge to other people.

CHALLENGES: Conservative attitude of Non-Adivasi Society, Growing fundamentalism / communalism in the society, Non cooperative attitude of administration, Globalization and corporatization of agriculture and other livelihood options. Increasing corruption in public life. Threats to laws protecting community rights i.e. Land, water, forests, minerals and traditional governance like SPT Act, CNT Act, Wilkinson's Rule and Fifth Schedule of the Constitution of INDIA. Crisis of anthropogenic Climate Change issues.

LEARNINGS: There was severe drought situation and it was really a big issue for the Organisation because youth groups and other people were migrating. This resulted less participation in Gram Sabha meetings and the development process somehow slowdown. Based on the situation, it has been found that the active Standing Committee members and Secretariats can be act as a support to Gram Sabha. Project started intensive interventions through FGDs with the Standing Committee members and Secretariats and somehow the Gram Sabha meetings started affectively. At the end, the project learnt that an active Gram Sabha and its Federation can handle crucial situation.

STRATEGIES EMPLOYED TO OVERCOME:

Building on the strengthens, Branding strengths and its optimum utilization, Developing specific documentation and MIS, Developing a pool of resource persons who can support in resource mobilization, Capacity building of the team on social media, use of digital communication skills, Developing a team of volunteers who can support in branding, Identifying the resource organizations, advance planning and communication with the donor organization for financial support, Exploring own sources of resource generation, Developing plan for resource centers.

Case Study/Success Story: 1

JALMINAAR (WATER TOWER) OF KOLE PARA REPAIRED WITH EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP OF WOMEN

This is the case from village Kole Para of Udalbani Panchayat, Jamtara Block of Jamtara District. This is the area where SAMVAD has been working with its intervention of IM supported projects since the last two years. There are a total 60 households in Kole Para village, among them 35 families are from Kole tribe (ST) and 25 families are from Mahato (OBC). There is a functional Gram Sabha. There are 5 Nos. of Self Help Groups in this village. There is one Anganwadi, one Middle school, 7 hand pumps and two Jalminaar (Water Tower).

Ms. Pooja Kumari, is the Community Mobilizer of 10 villages of Udalbani Panchayat. During her visit in the month of February, 2023, the women groups of this village told about the water crisis which they were facing since the last six months. There was a water problem because one of the Jalminaar (Water Tower) was dead and not functioning. The women groups were suggested to put this matter in the Gram Sabha meeting. A Gram Sabha meeting was called on 11th February, 2023 where this matter was discussed, and a common understanding was developed among the villagers for repairing of Jalminaar. At the Gram Sabha meeting of dated 11th March, 2023, it was decided to approach the PHD department for repairing the Jalminaar and also to approach the MLA for his support. As per the decision taken by the Gram Sabha, an application was written to the PHD Officials for repairing Jalminaar. Afterwards the women groups approached the MLA of the area, but the MLA was out of station. The MLA gave appointment to the women group on 23rd March, 2023. On 23rd March they met the MLA in his residence and got approval for repairing and the same day they submitted an application to the PHD department.

The PHD officials asked the women group who they were. Are they Jal- Sahiya or Mukhiya? The women group replied that this is not the problem of Mukhiya and Jalsahiya. This is the problem of villagers which the villagers are facing from the last six months.

After receiving the application, the PHD Officials assured that the Jalminar will be repaired within 10 days. Fifteen days have passed after the application was submitted, but no action has been taken by the PHD official in these fifteen days.

The matter was discussed again in the Gram Sabha meeting and decided to approach the MLA for his support and talked with him over phone. The MLA assured them and asked them to wait two more days. On the other side the MLA called the PHD officials and asked them to repair the Jalminaar soon. After receiving the phone call from the MLA, the PHD Officials took action and repaired the Jalminaar within the next two days. This way the problem of the water crisis has been solved with the active leadership of the women group of Kole Para.



Case Study/Success Story: 2

COMMUNITY FOREST RIGHTS OBTAINED BY GRAM SABHA, TILAKSUTI

This is the story of Gram Sabha Tilaksuti, who has got Community Forest Rights of their village forest.

Tilaksuti village is 30 KM away from Ranchi, situated in Kulli Panchayat of Itki Block of Ranchi District. Population of this village is about 712 where the people from different communities live together which are; Munda, Oraon, Lohra, Mahli, Gope etc. This is the village where tribal population is more than 80% and the major tribes are Oraon and Munda and the other tribes are Mahli and Lohra. The village has got 95 Acres of village forest cover which belonged to the tribal of this village since ancient period but the community lost the ownership over the village forest due to the various reasons. This is the story of Gram Sabha Tilaksuti who has got Community Forest Rights (Van Patta) of their own village forest after a long struggle.

Getting the Van Patta of their community forest is like winning an award for the tribal community which is one of the sources of their livelihood. They collect roots, shoots, mushrooms, green leaves, vegetables, Mahua, Kendu leaves, herbal medicines, Like; Awla, Chiraita etc. At present the dependency on forest has been reduced as the trees and forest covers have decreased. The tribal community worships the forest and trees in their tribal festivals. Although their dependency on forest, they never destroy or exploit the forests. They use the forest products as per their minimum requirement.

A series of Gram Sabha meetings has been done in the year of 2020 for Community forest rights. The meetings were presided by the Gram Pradhan, Mr. Niraj Kerketta where protection of forests and Community forest rights has been discussed. Initially the villagers did not come together, but laterally a common understanding has been developed for getting community forest rights of their community forest and an application has been prepared for van patta and submitted in Itki Block. In this process, several visits to the govt. offices of Itki and Ranchi have been made alone by the Gram Pradhan at his own expense. But it was the commitment of Gram Pradhan and the villagers that they received the van patta in the year of 2021 for their community forest after a long struggle.

After getting the van patta there was called a Gram Sabha meeting where gratitude of honor was given by the villagers to the Gram Pradhan, Mr. Niraj Kerketta and a celebration took place in the entire village.

At present Gram Sabha is managing the forest and illegal cutting of trees has been prohibited. It has been decided to put a Signboard of Gram Sabha, Tilaksuti in the forest for which a contribution of Rs 50/- has been collected from each household of the village. It has also decided to form a forest protection committee to manage the village forest.



50-79/FRA उपबंध-3 भारत सरकार, जनजातीय कार्य मंत्रालय, अनुसूचित जनजाति और अन्य परंपरागत वन निवासी (वन अधिकारों की मांगवा) नियम 2008 का नियम 8 (अ) देखें।

सामुदायिक वन अधिकारों के लिए हक

1. सामुदायिक वन अधिकारों के धारक (को) का/के नाम : ग्राम के सभी निवासी

2. ग्राम/ग्राम सभा : टिलक्सुती

3. ग्राम पंचायत : कुल्ली

4. तहसील/मंडला (अनुमण्डल) : ईटकी (सदर)

5. जिला : राँची

6. अनुसूचित जनजाति/अन्य परंपरागत वन निवासी : दोनो

7. सामुदायिक अधिकारों का स्वरूप :-

(क) अधिनियम के धारा 3(1)(ग) अन्वये पर और धारा 2(2)(अ) में परिभाषित और नियम 2012 के धारा 2(घ) में कथित वन वन उपयोग का स्वामित्व, उन्हें संरक्ष करने के लिए पट्टी, उनका उपयोग और व्यय का अधिकार।

(ख) अधिनियम के धारा 3(1)(घ) के अन्वये पर वन भूतलों के (इसे सातव, नान, मही, जलकाण्ड) उपयोग जैसे मछली, कंकड़ा इत्यादि और आजीविका के लिए और धरोखु जलधारा के लिए जल का उपयोग का अधिकार।

(ग) अधिनियम के धारा 3(1)(द) के अन्वये जैव विविधता तक पहुँच का अधिकार और जैव विविधता और सांस्कृतिक विविधता से संबंधित बौद्धिक संपदा और पारंपरिक ज्ञान का अधिकार।

8. शर्तें :-

(क) ये हक प्राप्त हुए होना लेकिन हस्तांतरणीय नहीं होंगे।

(ख) अधिनियम के धारा 3(1)(ग) और (घ) के अन्वये धूम्रपान, जखियाँ और पशुधनक समुदायों के मोसमी पट्टी और उपयोग की हक को ग्राम सभा सम्मान करेंगे। ग्राम सभा और वन समुदायों के लोग निरक्षर अधिनियम के धारा 5 के अन्वये वन क्षेत्र के सारा उपयोग के लिए नियम बनाएंगे।

(ग) परंपरागत अधिकारों में किसी प्रजाति के वन प्रणी का विकास करने या उन्हें बसाने या उनके शरीर का कोई भाग निकालने का हक सम्मिलित नहीं है। अधिनियम के धारा 5 के अन्वये सामुदायिक वन हस्तासनी का उपयोग को नियंत्रित करने और वन्य जंतुओं की सुरक्षा तथा जैव विविधता की रक्षा के लिए वन क्षेत्र के निवासी को समुदाय के सभी सदस्य जलन करेंगे।

9. निम्नलिखित के साथ सीमाओं के विवरण : अधिजन्य सीमा और/या खसरा/कनारबन्ट सहित प्रमुख सीमा निम्न :-

क्रम	खसरा संख्या	खसरा संख्या	परिचित संख्या	रकबा (एकड़)
1.	139	47	25, 378, 705, 759, 892, 769	65.37
				नक्शा के अनुसार

सामुदायिक वन अधिकार का/के धारक(को) का/के नाम : ग्राम - टिलक्सुती के सभी निवासी

हम अधिजन्यकारी प्रारम्भिक सरकार के लिए और वसी की ओर से सामुदायिक वन अधिकारों के उपरोक्त लिखित धारकों के हक में वन उपलब्ध वन अधिकार की पुष्टि करने के लिए हस्ताक्षर करते हैं।

जिला कल्याण प्रशासिकारी राँची। वन प्रबंधन अधिकारी राँची। उपायुक्त राँची।

Case Study/Success Story: 3

START UP OF SUNFLOWER CULTIVATION BY WOMEN IN SAHARBERA

This is the case of village Saharbera of Gopalpur Panchayat, Jamtara Block of Jamtara District. This is a small village of a total 43 households, all the families belonging to the Santhal tribe. Their livelihood depends on agriculture and daily wages.

SAMVAD has been working with the community of this village since the last two years with its ongoing intervention of an IM supported project. With continuation to this SAMVAD has established a good network with Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Jamtara. With the support of KVK, 9 women received 4.5 kgs of Sunflower seed @ half kg per woman on 16th November, 2022.

Cultivation of sunflowers is a new thing for them, which they have never cultivated before. They were excited but not sure about the crop, because the seed was distributed late and secondly, there were no irrigation facilities. Among those 9 women only two women got courage and were ready for sunflower cultivation and cultivated their one acre of land. They cultivated the sunflower along with Chilly crops. Although there is no irrigation facility, the crop was good and looked attractive. After harvesting the crop they collected about 4 to 5 kgs of sunflower seeds per woman and were happy with the production of this start-up.

The other women who received the seed but did not cultivate sunflowers, are now realized and ready to cultivate sunflowers in their agriculture field this year.





SHRAMAJIVI MAHILA SAMITY

BACKGROUND:

Shramajivi Mahila Samity (SMS) traces its foundation towards the cause of marginalized and vulnerable single women during mid 90s. SMS was formally registered in Jamshedpur in 1995 though it had gained its foot-hold amongst communities' way back in 1987. It is since then the pioneer organization formed by women, efficiently run a managed by women professionals and grass-root functionaries. Since its inception, the organization is on its constant endeavour and pursuit to achieve excellence in the field of development. SMS extended unconditional support to helpless and underprivileged women. It firmly believes to empower the rural and marginalized women and help them overcome all hurdles on the path of self reliance. Until recently, SMS has been sole voice to the voiceless in one of the most challenging, geographically difficult and economically backward states of India.

SMS has been unionising women workers in unorganized sectors since its inception and educating them to agitate for access to their rights. But after the Covid pandemic, it is facilitating women workers from 6 districts of Jharkhand to form a forum on their work and safety rights. Shramajivi Mahila Samity (SMS) emerged in 1995 as a grassroots civil society organization in Jharkhand, India. The organization's genesis can be traced back to the early 1990s when a group of like-minded individuals recognized the pressing need to address gender disparities and empower marginalized women in the region. SMS was formally registered under the Society Registration Act in 1995, marking the beginning of its journey as a non-governmental organization dedicated to women's development.

The organization's roots lie in East Singhbhum district of Jharkhand, where it took its first steps towards improving the status of women and bridging the gender gap. From 1987 to 1994, SMS had already been working informally to form women-based organizations and build their capacities, laying the groundwork for its future endeavors.

CORE TEAM:

Governing Board Members of the Shramajivi Mahila Samity

Ms. Anjali Bose

President

Senior and very much experienced woman social activist in Jharkhand, engaged in Women revolution work since 1970. She is the founder member of Free Legal Aid Committee and got award from many Govt and non Govt agencies.

Ms. Purabi Paul

Secretary

She is a pioneer woman who has started building leadership of single women especially ST/SC/Marginalized community.

Ms. S.M.Batsala –Ph.D.

Treasurer

She is an active member of community development through Capacity building. She has vast experience on tribal community and local governance system.

Dr Nirmala Sukla Ph.D.

Member

Mrs Marsa Kachhap

Member

Mrs. E Suman Toppo

Member

Mrs Shabana Wasim

Member

Mrs Rinki Tiwari

Member

Ms Supriti Murmu

Member

Founding Principles

SMS was established with a clear vision: **“To create a just and humane society”**.

Envisioning a gender-just and environment-friendly society where everyone (every individual including) can get equal opportunities and live with dignity. SMS define the organisation Mission- **“Ensure an inclusive, equitable and Eco Friendly Society”**

To enhance the participation of all rural and urban excluded communities in socio-economic and educational fields, enabling them to be a part of decision-making and local governance. Ensuring participation of all genders in development process and providing eco-friendly land, water, forest management and sustainable development of the region. (Through mobilizing, creating platform, organizing community, capacity building and leadership building.)

The prime aim of the organisation is to enable people from Tribal Dalit and excluded communities women to become self dependent in the socio – economic spheres and ensure participation in natural resource management and sustainable development. This

vision is complemented by its mission to ensure an inclusive, equitable, and eco-friendly society. The organization's founding principles are deeply rooted in feminist ideology and a rights-based approach to development.

Evolution and Growth

SMS supported the 21 Grassroots Women's Organization of Jharkhand to work for women at the local level by becoming a registered organisation from an unregistered women's group. Shramajivi Mahila Samiti (SMS) operates in 12 districts in Jharkhand and has supported many women-led community-based organizations around issues of gender-based discrimination and violence. "Ekal Nari Sashakti Sanghathan" (ENSS) is a state-level collective platform in which 40,000 single women have been mobilized by the SMS in 27 block-level single women federations have been promoted and strengthened. SMS highlighted the issues of single women in the State Women Policy document and prepared a chapter for women in extreme circumstances and added it to the State Women Policy. Organized 3000 single women and assisted them in obtaining collective and individual land titles. Campaigned against gender violence in the name of witch-hunting and other superstitions and strengthened Mahila Manch (Mahila Sabha) to promote women's participation in Gram Sabhas. SMS is helping migrant workers who have been denied worker identity. It advocated for the issues and rights of migrant workers. As a result of the collective support by the CSOs in the state, the Labour Department has recently issued an order for the issuance of Shramik Cards to migrant women workers. Which will help the excluded migrant families to access welfare schemes and entitlements. SMS is collaborating with the Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women in implementing a project focused on Women, Work and Migration, which addresses the issues of women's work and women's labour migration in distress. Jagori, New Delhi, and Shramajivi Mahila Samiti are empowering Mahila Gram Sabha on women's safety and security, through mobilizing the community, women's safety audit process, and training of PRI, GS & local administration. Over the years, SMS has undergone significant evolution in its approach, reach, and impact. The organization's journey can be characterized by several key phases of growth and development:

Establishment and Local Focus (1995-2000)

In its early years, SMS concentrated on organizing women in East Singhbhum district, forming self-help groups (SHGs), and addressing immediate issues of gender discrimination and poverty.

Expansion and Diversification (2000-2010)

During this period, SMS expanded its geographical reach to multiple districts in Jharkhand. The organization diversified its programs to include reproductive health, livelihood promotion, and advocacy for indigenous people's rights.

Rights-Based Approach and Policy Advocacy (2010-2020)

SMS shifted towards a more rights-based approach, focusing on issues such as land rights for women, political participation, and combating violence against women. The organization began to engage more actively in policy advocacy at the state and national levels.

Intersectional and Inclusive Approach (2020-Present)

In recent years, SMS has adopted a more intersectional approach, recognizing the complex interplay of gender, caste, class, and other social factors. The organization has expanded its focus to include the rights of single women, LGBTQ+ communities, and addressing climate change impacts on marginalized communities

SMS Reach and its Coverage areas are 16 Districts of Jharkhand (Saraikela, E.Singhbhum, W. Singhbhum, Bokaro, Dhanbad, Simdega, Gumla, Giridih Ramgarh, Palamu, Garwa, Ramgarh, Dumka, Pakur, Deoghar and Ranchi).

Gram Panchyat- 1144, Villages – 5720

Till now SMS has helped more than 3,00,000 deprived people in Jharkhand. Target Population of Shramajivi Mahila Samity (SMS)

Shramajivi Mahila Samity (SMS) focuses on serving marginalized and vulnerable populations in Jharkhand, India, with a particular emphasis on women and girls. The organization's target population is multifaceted, reflecting the complex socio-economic landscape of the region. Here's a detailed breakdown of the communities and demographics SMS aims to serve:

1. Women and Girls: At the core of SMS's work are women and girls, particularly those facing multiple layers of marginalization:
 - a) Single Women: SMS has mobilized 40,000 single women under the "Ekal Nari Sashakti Sanghathan" (ENSS). This group includes: Widows, Destitute women, Divorced women, Abandoned women, Never-married women, Single mothers
 - b) Tribal Women: Given Jharkhand's significant tribal population, SMS places a strong emphasis on serving indigenous women who often face intersectional discrimination based on gender and ethnicity.
 - c) Dalit Women: Women from Scheduled Castes, who face systemic discrimination and social exclusion, are a key focus group for SMS.
 - d) Women from Minority Communities: SMS extends its services to women from religious and ethnic minority groups who may face additional barriers to social and economic inclusion.
 - e) Adolescent Girls and Young Women: SMS implements programs specifically targeting adolescent girls and young women, focusing on their education, health, and empowerment.



2. Marginalized Communities

Beyond its focus on women, SMS works with broader marginalized communities:

- a) Scheduled Tribes (ST): Indigenous communities, who often face socio-economic exclusion and challenges in accessing their rights and entitlements.
- b) Scheduled Castes (SC): Dalit communities that continue to face discrimination and socio-economic challenges despite legal protections.
- c) Other Backward Classes (OBC): Communities that are socially and educationally disadvantaged.

3. Economically Vulnerable Groups

SMS targets populations facing economic hardship:

- a) Below Poverty Line (BPL) Families: Households living below the official poverty threshold, often lacking access to basic services and opportunities.
- b) Landless Laborers: Agricultural workers and daily wage earners who lack land ownership and face economic instability.
- c) Forest Dwellers: Communities dependent on forest resources for their livelihoods, often facing challenges related to land rights and resource access.

4. Specific Vulnerable Groups

SMS also focuses on particular vulnerable populations:

- a) Migrant and Informal sector Workers: With a specific focus on women migrant workers, addressing issues of labor rights, trafficking, and access to social security.
- b) Victims of Gender-Based Violence: Women and girls who have experienced or are at risk of various forms of gender-based violence, including domestic violence and witch-hunting.
- c) LGBTQ+ Community: SMS has expanded its focus to include gender-diverse individuals, recognizing their unique challenges and needs.
- d) Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs): SMS works with PVTGs, recognizing their extreme vulnerability and the urgent need for sensitive, culturally appropriate interventions.

5. Youth: While not the primary focus, SMS engages with youth, particularly in areas of - Digital literacy, Skill development, Leadership training



6. Geographical Focus

SMS's target population is primarily concentrated in Jharkhand, with operations in: 12 districts, 27 blocks, 1,144 Gram Panchayats, 5,720 villages

Key districts include Saraikela Kharsawan, East Singhbhum, West Singhbhum, Bokaro, Dhanbad, Simdega, Gumla, Giridih, Lohardaga, Ramgarh, Palamu, and Ranchi.

Support Entities and Partnerships of Shramajivi Mahila Samity (SMS)

Shramajivi Mahila Samity (SMS) has cultivated a diverse network of partnerships and support entities, enabling it to enhance its reach, impact, and sustainability. These collaborations span governmental, non-governmental, and international entities, reflecting SMS's strategic approach to development cooperation. The following analysis details these partnerships:

1. Governmental Partnerships: SMS has established strong ties with various government bodies, leveraging these relationships to influence policy and implement programs:

- a) State-Level Partnerships: Jharkhand State Government: SMS's inclusion in the State Women Policy document drafting process indicates a close working relationship with state-level policymakers.

State Inspection and Monitoring Committee for PC&PNDT: SMS's membership in this committee showcases its role in addressing gender-based discrimination at the policy level.

- b) District-Level Collaborations: District Advisory Committee of East Singhbhum: SMS's representation here demonstrates its engagement in local governance and development planning.

District Child Protection Committee: This partnership highlights SMS's role in child welfare and protection initiatives.

District Labour Department: SMS's involvement in the Workmen's Advisory Committee for Unorganized Sectors underscores its advocacy for labor rights.

c) Specific Government Initiatives

Textile Ministry: SMS has received support for initiatives related to artisanal work and textile-based livelihoods.

Rajiv Gandhi Urban Mission: This partnership likely focuses on urban poverty alleviation and women's empowerment in urban areas.

NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development): Collaboration with NABARD suggests SMS's involvement in rural development and agricultural livelihood programs.

2. Non-Governmental Partnerships

SMS has forged alliances with various civil society organizations and networks, both at the national and state levels:

- a) National Networks: MAKAAAM (Mahila Kisan Adhikar Manch): SMS's membership in this national forum for women farmers' rights demonstrates its commitment to rural women's empowerment. Jagori: SMS serves as an advisory member for Jagori's

- Safe City Campaign, indicating its expertise in urban women's safety issues. NAWO (National Association of Women in Operations). National Coalition for Natural Farming
- b) State-Level Collaborations: Ekal Nari Sashakti Sanghathan (ENSS): SMS has played a pivotal role in establishing this state-level platform for single women, showcasing its capacity for grassroots mobilization. Jharkhand CSO Forum
 - c) Thematic Partnerships: Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW): This partnership focuses on addressing issues related to women's migration and labor trafficking. One Stop Crisis Centre (SAKHI Kendra): SMS's involvement here highlights its work in providing support to women facing violence.
3. International Entities: SMS has garnered support from international donors and organizations, expanding its resource base and global network: Azim Premji Foundation: While primarily an Indian entity, this foundation has international reach and provides significant support to SMS. Action for Social Welfare and Development (ASW): This international NGO likely provides both financial and technical support to SMS. IM Sweden: This Swedish development organization's support indicates SMS's ability to engage with international donors. Partnering Hope into Action Foundation (PHIA). Caritas India
 4. Corporate Partnerships: SMS has also engaged with the corporate sector, tapping into Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives - Forbes Marshall, Pune: This partnership demonstrates SMS's ability to attract corporate funding for its development initiatives. TATA TRUST.
 5. Grassroots Networks: SMS has fostered extensive grassroots networks, which, while not traditional "support entities," are crucial for its work - Self-Help Groups (SHGs): The formation of 281 SHGs indicates SMS's strong community-level partnerships. Artisan Panchayats: These grassroots structures suggest collaborations with local artisan communities. Worker Women Forums.

THEMATIC ENGAGEMENTS:

1. Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality, Livelihood and Economic, Rights and Entitlements, Health and Nutrition, Education and Digital Literacy, Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability, Governance and Community Mobilization, Migration and Labor Rights, Child Rights and Protection

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Prior to its registration SMS was successful in providing land rights to 70 women at Patamda block in East S for which it was also awarded by the state government.
- SMS has been engaged in developing the training module and training materials on Panchayati Raj Institution of Jharkhand. In fact, it has been recognized by state government for its valuable contribution in developing the materials and modules.

- Around 500 dropout children were admitted in the formal schools
- Between 1997 - 98 SMS has helped the artisans in formation of artisans' panchayats in East and West Singhbhum districts.
- 2001-2002 SMS has been engaged in developing the training module and training materials on Panchayati Raj Institution of Jharkhand.
- Formation of 1100 S.H.G's working in 30, blocks aggregating to 11300 women members.
- 13 Thousand child labour has been identified from child labour survey in East & West Singhbhum
- 8000 single women accessing land through lease/ Patta.
- A circulation letter has been published by the labour department for migrant labour on making labour card, hence the excluded migrant families will get benefits from this card.
- Priority given to the single women in the selection Sahiya and Anganwadi Sevika by Dept. of Women and Child Development
- We have developed a "White Paper" on the status of single women of Jharkhand for which recommendations from May renowned personalities of different fields have come.
- 40,000 single women are the member of ENSS. This force of single women is raising their voice against discrimination done with the single women in every sphere and for their rights;
- 6,283 women achieved membership of different decision making bodies at village and panchayat level;
- 53,064 applications are submitted for the disbursement of benefits under different government schemes out of which 32,462 applications were sanctioned;
- Rs. 9 ,28,27,350 (Nine Crores Twenty-Eight Lakhs Twenty-Seven Thousands Three Hundred and Fifty Rupees) were leveraged through the linkages with different government sponsored schemes;
- Total SHG's formed have saved Rs. 53,43,746 and obtained Rs. 44,54,080 as the credit linkage from banks. Thus the total capital worth 97,97,826 accumulated;
- 7,317 single women accessed homestead land where 1289 owned land under Indira Awas Yojna, 118 women were granted government land, 1801 women procured land through settlement and 4000 women were benefit out of partition in their families.
- 8000 single women accessed land through lease/ Patta.
- SMS acts as a member in several national & state level advisory bodies.
- 1072 Young women and girls developed capacity and trained as an Internet Saathi and were reach out and imparted Digital literacy training in 7,16,292 rural women.

MILESTONES:

1. **Mobilization of Single Women: Formation of ENSS:** One of SMS's most notable achievements is the establishment of the Ekal Nari Sashakti Sanghathan (ENSS), a state-level collective of 40,000 single women. This platform has empowered widows, abandoned women, and single mothers to advocate for their rights, access land ownership, and participate in local governance. Through ENSS, SMS facilitated the creation of 27 block-level federations, providing a formal structure for these women to collectively address social and economic challenges.

Impact: ENSS has helped single women break free from social isolation and access legal and economic support, fundamentally improving their socio-economic standing. This movement has contributed to state-level policy changes, ensuring recognition of single women's needs in Jharkhand's State Women Policy.

2. **Rights-Based Approach to Land and Livelihoods:** SMS's efforts in securing land rights for marginalized women have been groundbreaking. The organization successfully facilitated collective and individual land titles for over 3,000 single women. By ensuring legal ownership of land, SMS has enabled these women to secure sustainable livelihoods, particularly in agriculture and forest-based occupations.

Impact: These land rights have empowered women economically, giving them greater autonomy and the ability to sustainably manage natural resources. The initiative also contributed to reducing poverty among women-headed households and improving food security.

3. **Digital Literacy and Livelihood Programs:** SMS has been at the forefront of closing the digital divide for marginalized women through its Internet Saathi program, launched in collaboration with Google, Tata Trust, and PHIA Foundation. Covering five districts and 36 blocks, this program has equipped thousands of women with digital literacy skills, enabling them to participate in the digital economy.

Active participants were further engaged in digital livelihood programs, contributing to community development and post-pandemic resilience.

Impact: The program has helped rural women leverage technology for income generation, enhancing their economic resilience. It has also increased women's participation in digital governance initiatives, creating new avenues for social and political engagement.

4. **Gender Justice and Combating Gender-Based Violence:** Over the years, SMS has tackled gender-based violence, witch-hunting, and domestic violence through grassroots mobilization, legal support, and community education. By strengthening Mahila Manch (Women's Forums) in rural areas and integrating women into Gram Sabhas (village councils), SMS has empowered women to raise their voices and challenge gender-based discrimination.

Impact: These efforts have led to increased participation of women in decision-making processes at the local governance level, reducing instances of violence and enhancing women's security in vulnerable areas. The organization's sustained focus on gender justice has also contributed to shifts in community norms regarding the treatment of women.

5. Addressing Climate Change and Sustainable Livelihoods: Recognizing the disproportionate impact of climate change on women, SMS has integrated gender-responsive approaches into its environmental initiatives. The organization has promoted climate-resilient agricultural practices and sustainable resource management among tribal and rural women. SMS's work in forest protection, particularly through organizing forest dwellers to engage in collective selling of produce, has not only safeguarded the environment but also ensured fair economic returns for local communities.

Impact: SMS's initiatives in sustainable livelihoods and natural resource management have enhanced the economic resilience of tribal women, while also contributing to environmental conservation. These efforts have been key in mitigating the effects of climate change on vulnerable populations in Jharkhand.

6. Advocacy for Migrant Workers and Trafficking Survivors: SMS has played a pivotal role in advocating for the rights of migrant workers, particularly women, who are often excluded from formal labor protections. In partnership with the Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW), SMS has addressed the intersectional challenges of women's labor migration. The organization successfully influenced policy changes that led to the issuance of Shramik Cards to migrant workers, allowing them to access government welfare schemes.

Impact: By securing legal recognition and entitlements for migrant women, SMS has reduced the vulnerabilities associated with labor migration and trafficking, improving their socio-economic conditions and access to social services.

7. Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building: A major milestone for SMS has been its role in transforming 21 grassroots women's organizations from unregistered groups into legally registered entities, enhancing their ability to operate and advocate at the local level. SMS has also provided extensive capacity building to women through leadership training, economic development programs, and governance participation initiatives.

Impact: These efforts have built strong community institutions, allowing women to take on leadership roles in local governance and advocacy. The formation of legally recognized women's organizations has increased women's representation and influence in policy dialogues and decision-making processes.

8. Implementation of Forest Protection Measures: Covered 32 villages across four panchayats in the Dumaria block of East Singhbhum district. This milestone demonstrates SMS's holistic approach, integrating environmental sustainability with livelihood security and community empowerment.

Impact: Enhanced community-led forest conservation. Improved sustainable livelihood opportunities for forest-dependent communities.

9. Implementation of Community Farming Models in Jharkhand: Shramajivi Mahila Samity (SMS) is set to implement community farming models across 6 blocks in Jharkhand, engaging approximately 24 farming groups. This initiative will focus on mixed vegetable cultivation and regenerative farming practices, aiming to enhance food security and promote sustainable agriculture. By fostering collective farming, SMS will empower marginalized women, improve soil health, and build climate resilience. The adoption

of these eco-friendly models is expected to increase crop diversity, reduce input costs, and strengthen local economies, providing a replicable framework for sustainable rural development.

SPECIALIZATION AND UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS:

Since its inception, SMS has established itself as a women-centric organisation, where the policymakers, workers team, and a major part of the grassroots community involved in the transformation journey will be women.

All the members of the board will be women and all diversity will be inclusive, so there will be an alliance of professional, experienced, respected members of all religions, categories, and special conditions. That is why there are 4 professionals (Psychiatrists, Lawyers, Professors, and Development Professionals) on the board of SMS, in which two members are from the tribal community. Out of 9 executive members, 3 members represent the tribal community, one from the minority (Muslim) community, two members are Ph.D. holders. President of SMS, leader of women's movement, and received award by Jharkhand State Government.

Priority is given to women as project leaders in the organisation. currently, the project coordinator of 3 projects are women

The organization will not create any asset, all new experiments/model practices (livelihood) will be with the community in their fields.

1. **Women's Empowerment and Gender Justice:** SMS's primary specialization lies in its comprehensive approach to women's empowerment, particularly focusing on marginalized groups such as single women, tribal women, and those from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The organization's unique characteristic is its ability to mobilize and organize women at the grassroots level, as evidenced by its success in empowering 21 grassroots women's organizations and mobilizing 40,000 single women under the "Ekal Nari Sashakti Sanghathan" (ENSS).
2. **Rights-Based Approach to Development:** SMS employs a rights-based approach in all its interventions, which sets it apart from traditional welfare-oriented NGOs. This approach is particularly evident in its work on land rights, where SMS has successfully facilitated access to collective and individual land titles for 3,000 single women. This rights-based focus extends to areas such as food security, health, education, and livelihood development.
3. **Intersectional Approach to Social Justice:** A unique characteristic of SMS is its intersectional approach, addressing multiple layers of marginalization. The organization works not only with women but also focuses on the specific needs of single women, tribal communities, Dalits, and sexual minorities. This intersectional lens allows SMS to tackle complex social issues more effectively.
4. **Strengthening Local Governance and Women's Political Participation:** SMS has developed expertise in strengthening local governance structures, particularly in implementing the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act (PESA) and Forest Rights Act. The organization's unique approach involves empowering Mahila Gram Sabhas and increasing women's participation in local decision-making processes.

5. **Innovative Responses to Emerging Challenges:** SMS demonstrates adaptability by addressing emerging issues such as climate change, digital literacy, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on marginalized communities. The organization's digital literacy and livelihood programs across five districts showcase its ability to bridge the digital divide in rural areas.
6. **Strong Advocacy and Networking:** A distinctive feature of SMS is its strong presence in various district, state, and national forums. This extensive networking allows the organization to influence policy at multiple levels, as evidenced by its contribution to the State Women Policy document and its role in advocating for migrant workers' rights.
7. **Holistic Approach to Community Development:** SMS's work spans a wide range of interconnected issues, including livelihood promotion, health, education, and environmental sustainability. This holistic approach allows the organization to address the root causes of poverty and discrimination more effectively.

Organizational Impact & Learnings

1. **Adaptive Approach to Changing Social Dynamics:** SMS has learned the importance of continually recalibrating its approach in response to evolving social, economic, and environmental landscapes. This adaptability has been crucial in maintaining relevance and effectiveness in their interventions.
2. **Intersectionality in Practice:** The organization has recognized that addressing gender issues in isolation is insufficient. SMS's experience has shown that an intersectional approach, considering factors like caste, tribal identity, and economic status, is essential for effective social change.
3. **Empowerment Through Collective Action:** SMS has learned that mobilizing women into collectives (like SHGs and federations) not only provides economic benefits but also creates a powerful platform for advocacy and social change.
4. **Linking Grassroots Action to Policy Advocacy:** The organization has developed strategies to bridge the gap between ground-level realities and policy-making. Their representation in various forums at district, state, and national levels reflects this learning.
5. **Holistic Approach to Women's Empowerment:** SMS has learned that women's empowerment requires interventions across multiple domains - economic, social, political, and personal. Their comprehensive programs addressing livelihoods, health, education, and governance reflect this understanding.
6. **Importance of Male Engagement:** While focusing on women, SMS has recognized the necessity of engaging men in the community to combat violence against women and promote gender equality.
7. **Leveraging Technology for Inclusion:** The organization's foray into digital literacy programs demonstrates their learning about the importance of bridging the digital divide, especially for rural and marginalized women.

8. Resilience in Crisis: SMS's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly their support for migrant women workers, highlights their learning about the need for rapid adaptation and crisis response mechanisms.
9. Sustainable Development and Climate Change: The organization has learned to integrate environmental concerns with gender issues, recognizing the disproportionate impact of climate change on women.
10. Building Local Leadership: SMS's focus on developing leadership among tribal and other excluded community women reflects their learning about the importance of local, indigenous leadership in sustainable development.

Success stories: <https://www.smsjhar.org/publications.php?pub=CaseStudy>



PRAVAH

BACKGROUND OF THE ORGANIZATION

PRAVAH is a registered not-for-profit organization, established in the year 1992, to spearhead development initiatives in Santhal Pargana Region of Jharkhand for poor and vulnerable sections of the society. PRAVAH was founded by a group of dynamic social activists under the leadership of Mr. Dilip Kumar.

Inspired by the Gandhian Philosophy of Gram Swaraj (Village Self-Rule), PRAVAH implemented programs focussing on sustainable livelihood, women empowerment, education, health and nutrition and watershed development. Over the years, with support from a wide range of donors, PravaH expanded its work in Bihar and West Bengal. PravaH's developmental programs target ultra-poor and vulnerable communities comprising scheduled tribes, scheduled caste, minorities, women and children.

The Vision: Establish an equity and just social order-based society where everyone must have a dignified and respectful life.

The Mission: Empower target communities with ensured positive deviance in all respects through transparency, cooperative and participatory approach.

We have received or are receiving funds for various projects from the following donors:

Government Sector: Government of Jharkhand, NABARD. Coal India

Non-Government Sector/International Agencies: TATA Trust, Tech Mahindra, Trickle Up, FXB HESCO, IRCON, Namami Gange, Infosys, ITC, OAK foundation, Sustain Plus, Welt Hunger Hilfe, BMZ, European Union, The Hans Foundation, CINI, CCL, JSW.

Thematic Engagement

Education, Natural resource management, Health & Nutrition, Women empowerment. Strengthening People's Institutions, Sustainable Livelihood. Climate resilient agriculture & livestock, WATSAN, Child protection & trafficking, Environment Protection. Policy Engagement.

Objective:

- Formation and strengthening of community-based organizations for active participation in creative and developmental activities and sensitization of government official for mobilization of government sponsored programme /schemes.
- Proper and effective management of natural resources through active participation of C.B.O.
- Promotion of food availability through provide input support and extension of irrigation facilities
- Promotions of agriculture practices including its all components in modern and scientific manner.
- Promotion of women empowerment to follows the principle of gender.
- Promotion of alternative schooling system.
- Promotion of alternative health system.
- Promotion of eco-friendly system through plantation.
- Advocacy on relevant and burning people issues.

SALIENT FEATURES OF PRAVAH

PRAVAH is a non-political, not profit making, secular, non-governmental voluntary organization by its nature.

PRAVAH is registered under Societies Registration Act XXI, 1860, Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976, PAN, IT12A, 80G and TAN.

PRAVAH had a General Assemble Constituted by members of the Governing board and Core Staff. This is a highly legislative body and meets ones a year. Its roll extended to approval of an audited statement of accounts, annual report, appointment of Chartered Accountant, Acceptance of resignation of existing members of the Governing Board and Selection of New members and approval of annual budget and Action Plan.

- PRAVAH is governed by a 7 members Governing Board comprising by President, Secretary & Treasurer and 4 members. Its meets
- twice in a year and given consent to proposed project proposal, preparation of annual report, audited statement of accounts etc. This is Supreme executive body.
- Secretary/Chief Functionary has around 30 years' experience of work in Socio-Economic development sector. He is responsible for
- Day-to-Day administration, Correspondence, appointment, placement and removal of Staffs, Quality implementation of Project/ Program and so others.

- Working Principle of PRAVAH is based on Democratic value and norms maintaining by transparency, accountability & responsibility.
- PRAVAH is working in Remote area of Deoghar, Dumka (Jharkhand) and Jamui dist. (Bihar).
- PRAVAH is working with socially excluded Groups for their Socio-economic transformation.
- Community based organization CBOs is the base of project design, Project execution, monitoring, evaluation, sustainability and follow up.
- PRAVAH is very sensitive towards women, children and old ages and eradication of child marriage, Dowry, Dowry death, Witch hunting superstitions, Blind faith and alcoholism.
- PRAVAH has developed standard Human Resource Policy and financial policy for healthy development of the organization.

ORGANIZATIONAL IMPACT

PRAVAH has significantly impacted through its diverse initiatives, focusing on socio-economic inclusion and protection for marginalised communities.

1. **Education:** PRAVAH started its journey in 1992 & has been working in different thematic area at very remote pocket of eastern India specially in the santhal Pargana region of Jharkhand. We started denoting the issues in education where we find lack of awareness in community and basic infrastructure for education. We started intervening with the 38.48% literacy rate in undivided Jharkhand now we have reached to the 66.41% as per the Govt. data.
2. **Health & Sanitation:** PRAVAH is engaged in doing sensitizing community on Food System, natural/organic agriculture, crop planning, proper sanitation, dietary diversity, scheduled immunization practices, use of toilets etc which improved Knowledge Attitude and practice level, decrease communicable disease, Transformed Food System and habit, Changes in hygiene practices, Promote institutional delivery, decrease IMR and MMR, malnutrition. Community rehabilitation of children showing the paths to mothers for change in grade from SAM (severe malnourished) to MAM (moderate malnourished) or Normal. 900 children were supported with Nutrimix (a complementary supplement) during lockdown and post lock down phase to meet the gap of absence of THR from Government. Providing refresher training to AWC, AWW and Jal Sahiya in collaboration with the respective Govt Dpt. is a value addition in health indicators. Food diversity is an apt solution to the menace of malnutrition afflicting the rural poor. PRAVAH collaborate with JSLPS and ATMA has resulted into setting up of community nurseries, kitchen gardens in production of nutrient- rich food. Our efforts have been a guiding force towards attaining nutritional sufficiency in our operational area. Pulses like horse gram, green gram and ghangra are now part of staple diet of the people
3. **Soil & water conservation:** PravaH worked with 5 thousand hectares of land to regenerate the fertile soil and adopt the water holding capacity of the soil. So, we are creating a different water body structure for ensuring the availability of irrigation water in every season. We promote soil conservative practices and grow less required water

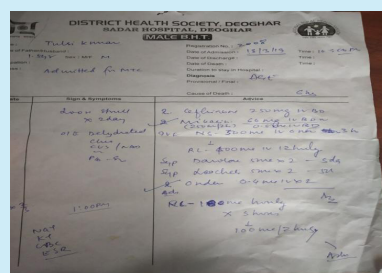
crops on fallow lands. This time Pravah achieved that the approx. 4 thousand hectare of land is converted in Agriculture land or approx two thousand land is command area (Irrigated land) generated in Jharkhand and Bihar.

4. **Environmental Sustainability:** PRAVAH is working in Natural Resources Management through access to Irrigation land, Agri water saving, renewable Solar energy, climate change adaptation & mitigation, Regenerative Biodiversity etc which improve biodiversity, Promote green energy, Soil conservation etc.
5. **Women Empowerment and Care for Senior Citizens:** Formation and integration of SHG, Training and capacity building on rights, gender education govt entitlements, promote entrepreneurship were the main tool of PRAVAH. As a result, community has experienced abolition of various taboos which was imposed on women in long days ago. Women are more vocal as well as confident. Women have started Participating in rural governance institution but a we believe long way to go to bring change in this regard.
6. **Livelihood:** Since the very beginning from our journey we are intervening in this theme through skill development, introducing new technology in Agricultural practices (DSR, SRI), developing micro enterprising, on farm and off farm activities, integrated farming which elevated the standard of live, and reduce hunger and migration.

SUCCESS STORIES:

Tulsi Kumar is a child from village Dhorwa of Sonarathadi, Deoghar. He belongs to mouli tola where maximum people are from pahariya, a tribal community of Jharkhand. Generally, mothers remain involve in basket making for their livelihood thus their attitude are more indifferent towards taking proper take of children's health. During intervention we find Tulsi at one and half years old and unable to sit and stand and severely malnourished. His mother use to work in brick klin and fed him with breast milk mostly. After counseling Tulsi's mother agreed to take him to MTC.

Tulsi has been admitted to MTC on 13th March 2019. Tulsi was found severe malnourished with little cold during admission. Dr. Ashok Kr. Anuj examined him well and started medicine immediately with required diet. Tulsi was found anaemic and found difficulties in taking food. Tulsi started to recover with initiatives taken by MTC staffs and his mother but suddenly after on 17th March 2019 afternoon he got diarrhea and by 18th of March he got very serious and admitted to Deoghar Sadar Hospital immediately. Dr. Ashok Kr. Anuj handled everything very spontaneously and assured Tulsi's survival necessary medication shifted him to ICU for next three days. Tulsi was shifted to MTC again for further recovery and on 8th April 2019, Tulsi got discharged after thorough examina.



Nutrition Garden, good initiative for better livelihood : Bhuti Pahadin W/O Mr. Jawra Pahariya, age of 40 years and living in the dense tribal area Chotta Daharlangi village of Bandu Panchayat at Littipara Block of Pakur District in Jharkhand State. Didi has a small backward area behind her house where she has built her own nutrition garden with her own interest and activeness and wanted to improve the nutrition in their meal, after the induction, in the first phase as by seeing them other can also join the drive. She has neither farming land for agriculture nor cattle for rearing. So, to increase the family income Didi start her **Sag Bhaaji selling**. This is the case of only one didi, who earned by selling her first lot, there are many Didi's like her. As the production of Amaranthus shows earliest, 30 bundles were taken to Hatiya, by selling these 30 Bundles of Amaranthus (green sag and red sag) at the rate of 10 rupees per bundle, she earned of Rupees 300 from her first Hatiya day every week whereas 15-20 bundles were given to neighbours every day and earn on an average 120/- per day after cutting all the expenses, which shows that at the end of month 4080/- monthly income she earns through nutrition garden and harvested at 3 to 4 times in a week for use at home and now the whole family have a rich source of iron and nutrition sag bhaaji in their meal by taking a small step would change the life of Bhuti Didi which can make a huge change in her surroundings and now there are so many Didi's have taken this initiative to increase their source of income along with food security and all these changes will happened with the support of PRAVAH who facilitated and motivate Didi's.



Didi Harvesting Sag for using at home and selling this at the *Hatiya/ local market*.

TRANSFORMATIVE LIFE THROUGH -AGRICULTURAL INITIATIVES IN CHOTA KHAMBI VILLAGE

Jawari Paharin -holding sapling

Mrs. Jawari Pahadin, a 35-year-old resident of Chota Khambi village, faced significant challenges due to limited arable land and hilly terrain. In my entire family, there are six members. We own a one-acre piece of land (agricultural land), comprises as follows: 65% of the land is situated in a hilly area result as barren and the remaining 35% is not subject to year-round cultivation result to our family has to go without food and face hunger. In 2017, seeking better opportunities, Mrs. Pahadin and her husband (Mugla Pahadin) migrate to Gujarat. In my entire family, there are six members. We own a one-acre piece of land (agricultural



land), comprises as follows: 65% of the land is situated in a hilly area result as barren and remaining 35% is not subject to year-round cultivation result to our family has to go without food and face hunger. After that, in the month of April 2022, when they returned in the month of June for sowing Kharif Crop. In that period, I saw Pravah NGO administer Poshan Vatika and Nursery Training in their own village. took the village Didi for a nursery educational tour of poly house in Jama (Dumka). Then, after returning from that tour, the NGO provided support in the form of seeds, instruments, and fertilizers.

Exposure Training Visit-Jama (Dumka)

she engaged as worker and sold to farmers and local community people (in local Hatia) at a nominal rate @1 Rupee for each sapling where she purchased @50 Paise from that Polyhouse where she actively engaged in that place. As a result, her income has now increased from Rs 1000/- to Rs 1500/- per month



DOES MULCHING HELPS TO SAVE WATER AS WELL REDUCE INPUT COST IN THE PROCESS OF VEGETABLE CULTIVATION

An Introduction: Arvind Kumar age-30 fathers name- Mr. Dev Narayan is a resident of village- Dorai Santhali. He is 12th pass and doing agriculture practices in his own agricultural land. He has small piece of land and before this intervention he was associated with the traditional agriculture practices. After the intervention of PRAVAH with the financial support of HDFC, Parivartan in his village he came to know about the program. He started participating in the meeting/training program conducted by the PRAVAH with the support of HDFC, Parivartan under Holistic Rural Development Program.



Background Information: Before this HRDP, Parivartan intervention, funded by the HDFC, Parivartan he used to cultivate cereals in his farm field. He is living in a joint family and economic condition of the family is not good and facing problem. Once he knows about the new techniques, he decided to go for it. He talked to our agriculture expert and shows his interest toward the vegetable cultivation. He has around 12 acres of land in total and cultivating only paddy and wheat only

An Explanation of: Mr. Arvind is a progressive farmer and willing to adopt the smart practices in the field of agriculture. He planted brinjal saplings to one and half bigha of his land. Because he is using first time mulching in his field so, he decided to adopt mulching practices in the three row only. As the plant grow in his field, he finds that there is a big difference in the progress on the plant.

Findings and Conclusion: It has been found can easily be seen that the plant size and growth is different in the mulching practices and traditional method.

Activity	Soil related work	Irrigation	Labour	Size of plant
Traditional	2 times	2 times	YES (Beeding) and Soil work	7 inches
Mulching	No	1	No	13 inches

In the Second Part: It has been observed in the different phase of the cultivation process the ideal changes. A brief study has been conducted at the field level and major changed has been observed. The study made under the irrigation and its number, pest management, fertilizer management, growth of plant as compare to traditional practices, flowering and fruiting of the plant. This observation can smoothly be understood by the below table:

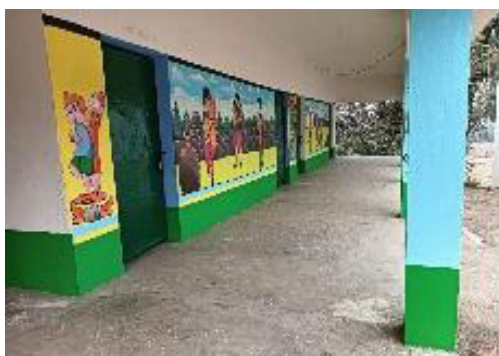


Major Observation As:

Activity	Irrigation	Pest Management	Fertilizer Management	Growth	Flowering	Fruiting
Traditional	5 times	More	More	Less	10 days after	25
Mulching	2 times	Less	No (One time)	6 inch high	10 days before	35

In this process Mr. Arvind feel very happy as the fruiting is going very well and day to day vegetable production is very good. Once I spoke to him, he said daily he pluck 100kg of brinjal and sell it to the village market or nearby market. Because he used to sell his product by his own so he earns handsome amount of money out of that. He sold his agriculture produce by his own and Rs/-15 to 20 per kg sold in the market. So, earning is very good and he is planning to cultivate/grow vegetable in the coming season. By seeing the intervention other farmers willing to adopt the same in their farm field. Other farmers who don't have financial power to purchase mulching poly bag, now installing natural mulching in their field. As he gained a knowledge that mulching will reduce the input cost in the production. And most relevant that this practice will reduce the water/irrigation numbers in the vegetable production.

Education: The classes of Utkramit Madhya Vidyalaya, village Raghunathpur, Block-Barhait, District- Sahibganj, has been transformed to an amalgamation of traditional as well as technology-based education with the concern of honourable deputy commissioner, Sahibganj. As per the need assessment the intervention has been done in repairing of school building, Installation of smart monitor, establishment of school library, smart class for student, establishment of safe drinking water, developing the concept of nutrition garden, Beautification with painting at the school campus.



Abhishek Murmu
S/O Sri Barnabas Murmu
class- 8



BADLAO FOUNDATION

Introduction - Since 1982, Badlao Foundation has been working at the grassroots in the Santhal Parganas of Jharkhand and has emerged as a respected NGO in the state. While our focus has been to ensure sustainable livelihood, food security, leading to improved health & nutrition, we also endeavour to provide quality education and access to various social security and social welfare schemes of state and central governments to the tribal, PVTGs (Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups) and other marginalized groups.

Badlao Foundation is a Non-government Organization registered in 1982 under the India Trust 1882. For the past four decades, Badlao has been working as a grass root NGO in the Santhal Parganas of Jharkhand.

Badlao means “Change” and over these years, our efforts have been to ensure sustainable development in the eastern corner of one of India’s least developed states. For decades, as south Bihar had poor budgetary outlays while generating huge incomes through its humungous mineral wealth. Unstable governance and poor communication since its creation meant the poor of Jharkhand remained more or less where they were.

With Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in mind, Badlao Foundation promotes formation and strengthening of women’s organisations, bolstering non formal and formal education, improving community health, including sanitation & nutrition, promotion of Khadi and village industries for income generation, natural resource conservation and management, generating information about and organising people to access government services. Santhal Parganas came into existence after a long struggle for recognition of cultural and ethnical sovereignty. One of the major landmarks in the history of tribals’ oppression was construction of Maithon Dam during early fifties on Barakar River near Jamtara. The dam submerged 39 villages, including houses and farmland, inhabited mainly by Paharia, Santhal and Bauri communities. The mass displacement soon led to mass poverty and widespread hunger. Some got work in the nearby coalfields and the Chittaranjan locomotive plant but a majority of the people were left marginalised forever.

There were people like Shri Bajrang Singh, a committed social worker experienced in working with bonded labours in Antyodya Ashram, who experienced the distress of displaced tribals and started working for them with generation of alternative rural livelihood support like Tasar Silk spinning, reeling, weaving etc. This endeavour ultimately led to the establishment of Badlao Foundation in 1982.

MILESTONE

FIRST PHASE –1982 to 1987: Establishment of an Informal Education Centre

Since its establishment in 1982, Badlao Foundation has embarked on a transformative journey to empower marginalized communities. The first phase, spanning from 1982 to 1987, focused on key areas such as health, education, and self-employment. During this period, significant achievements were realized, including:

1. **Establishment of an Informal Education Centre:** A dedicated space was created to provide education and learning opportunities to the community.
2. **Community Health Awareness Camps and Training for Dais:** Health awareness programs were organized, along with training sessions for traditional birth attendants (dais) to enhance their knowledge and skills.
3. **Formation of Mahila Sabha:** A women's collective, known as Mahila Sabha, was formed to empower and advocate for the rights and well-being of women in the community.
4. **Livelihood Initiatives:** Initiatives such as goat rearing, vegetable cultivation, and silk production were introduced to enhance income generation opportunities for the community.
5. **Affiliation with Khadi Gramodyog Commission:** Badlao Foundation became affiliated with the Khadi Gramodyog Commission, fostering the promotion and support of local handloom and handicraft industries.
6. **Self-employment Support:** Through the Tussar Katai-Bunai program, 50 women were trained and supported to become self-employed in the field of silk weaving.
7. **Establishment of Anganwadi Centers:** Anganwadi centers were established at Gandhi Ashram, Kewatjali, with the aim of providing education and care for young children.
8. **Collaborations and Partnerships:** Badlao Foundation collaborated with various organizations such as OXFAM America, TRADES HOME of GERMANY, and the Industrial Department of the Bihar Government to expand its reach and impact. These partnerships facilitated training programs and initiatives aimed at empowering women.
9. **Expansion to New Villages:** Starting with 10 villages, Badlao Foundation gradually extended its presence to 50 additional villages in the Jamtara Block, focusing primarily on the primitive tribes of Santhal (Pahari).
10. **Key Focus Areas:** Badlao Foundation's work revolved around health, education, environment, sustainable agriculture, and livelihood generation, addressing the pressing needs of the communities it served.
11. **Milestone:** By the end of the decade, Badlao Foundation successfully expanded its reach to 100 villages, further amplifying its impact and influence.
12. **Khadi Outlets and Cultural Development:** To promote local industries and cultural

development, two Khadi outlets were established in Mihijam and Jamtara. Additionally, cultural events and meals were organized at Kewatjali Ashram from 1995 to 1991, fostering community engagement and development.

These early initiatives laid the foundation for the subsequent growth and expansion of Badlao Foundation, propelling it towards its mission of creating positive change and empowering marginalized communities in the Santhal Pargana region.

2ND PHASE – 1988 TO 1992: THE EXPANSION PHASE

During the second phase of development (1988-1992), Badlao Foundation made strategic decisions to broaden its scope and extend its impact to new areas. Building on the extensive work carried out in Santhal Parganas over the previous five years, the foundation engaged closely with the community to identify their needs and establish extension centers inspired by the success of Kewatjali Ashram. This phase witnessed significant achievements, including:

1. **Geographic Expansion:** Starting from one district, Badlao Foundation expanded its operations to three additional districts, marking its presence and influence in a wider area.
2. **Comprehensive Approach:** A concrete plan was formulated to address various issues such as women's empowerment, informal and functional education, human resource development, community health, hygiene and nutrition, income enhancement, environmental conservation, and advocacy.
3. **Women's Training and Self-Employment:** In collaboration with Khadi Gramodyog Yoga, Badlao Foundation provided training to 210 women from villages, focusing on institutional development and self-employment opportunities. The foundation gained a strong reputation in the field of khadi production, with record levels of production and sales reaching 40 to 50 lacs during 1990.
4. **Sustainable Development Programs:** In the Madhupur and Karnapura areas, Badlao Foundation initiated programs centered around environmental conservation and sustainable development. These programs encompassed initiatives such as hair had (hairpin bend) for farmers, composite methods, and water conservation. Special emphasis was placed on tussar silk production during this period.

Through these strategic endeavours, Badlao Foundation expanded its reach and deepened its impact, working towards its mission of promoting social and economic empowerment in the Santhal Pargana region.

3RD PHASE – 1992 TO 1996: THE EXPANSION AND CONSOLIDATION PHASE

During the third phase of development (1992-1996), Badlao Foundation embarked on significant initiatives that contributed to the organization's growth and impact. The following highlights characterize this phase:

1. **Tussar Weaving and Production:** Recognizing the importance of tussar weaving and

spinning, Badlao Foundation launched extensive programs that spread throughout the state. These programs aimed to promote the traditional art of tussar silk production, creating avenues for income generation and skill development.

2. **Expert Team Formation:** To enhance the organization's expertise and capabilities, Badlao Foundation assembled a team of experts specializing in various areas, including tourism and natural resources, gender equality, community health, and education. This multidisciplinary team played a vital role in guiding the foundation's activities and ensuring their effective implementation.
3. **Action Plan Development:** A comprehensive action plan was meticulously crafted to ensure the systematic execution of programs and initiatives. This strategic approach facilitated the organization's ability to meet its objectives and achieve desired outcomes.
4. **Partnerships for Institutional Development:** Badlao Foundation forged significant partnerships with international organizations, namely ICCO from the Netherlands and SRC from Switzerland. These long-term associations provided valuable support for institutional development, enabling the foundation to expand its operations and impact on a larger scale.

Through these concerted efforts, Badlao Foundation solidified its position as a catalyst for positive change, working in tandem with expert teams and strategic partners to advance its mission of sustainable development and social empowerment.

4TH PHASE – 1997 TO 2001: THE EMPOWERMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

During the fourth phase of development (1997-2001), Badlao Foundation witnessed significant progress in empowering women through the formation of Self-Help Groups (SHGs). The following key achievements characterize this phase:

1. **Women's SHGs:** The women's groups initiated earlier transitioned into SHGs, enabling them to strategize and take ownership of their initiatives in the field. These SHGs became self-sufficient entities, empowering women to become self-employed and establish their own organizations.
2. **Education Initiatives:** Recognizing the importance of education, especially in areas with high illiteracy rates and limited access to quality education for children, Badlao Foundation established informal education centers. These centers were set up in Deoghar (Karnapura), Dumka (Machkol), and Godda (Sundarpahari), providing experimental and quality education to enhance educational opportunities in these regions.
3. **Promotion of Sustainable Agriculture and Tourism:** Through targeted awareness campaigns, Badlao Foundation actively promoted sustainable agriculture and tourism practices. Barren lands were transformed into cultivable land, fostering the growth of productive vegetables and contributing to agricultural sustainability in the communities.

During this phase, Badlao Foundation's efforts focused on empowering women through SHGs, promoting education in underserved areas, and advocating for sustainable agricultural practices. These initiatives played a pivotal role in creating self-reliant communities and fostering a sustainable and inclusive development environment.

5TH PHASE – 2002 TO 2007: COLLECTIVE LEADERSHIP AND EMPOWERMENT

During the fifth phase of development (2002-2007), Badlao Foundation focused on fostering collective leadership and community involvement in decision-making processes. The following key achievements highlight this phase:

1. **Establishment of Core Team:** A dedicated core team was formed to provide support to the secretary and president of the organization. This team played a crucial role in guiding and strengthening the foundation's operations.
2. **Community Decision-Making:** Emphasizing the importance of community participation, the organization prioritized the involvement of the community in decision-making processes. The empowerment of the community to make their own decisions was a significant milestone during this phase.
3. **Women's Empowerment:** The organization effectively implemented women's empowerment initiatives at the organizational level, yielding positive outcomes for both the women and the foundation. Collaborating with NABARD, Badlao Foundation established 400 Self-Help Groups (SHGs) comprising 6,000 women and their families, enhancing their socio-economic empowerment.
4. **Recognition and Collaborations:** The organization gained recognition as a Microfinance Non-Governmental Organization (MNGO) in the Jamtara district. Additionally, important collaborations were established with educational institutions. Notably, Greenwood Public School was established during this phase, with the organization partnering with NIOS (National Institute of Open Schooling) and IGNOU (Indira Gandhi National Open University) to provide quality education opportunities.

During this phase, Badlao Foundation's focus on collective leadership, community involvement, women's empowerment, and collaborations with key stakeholders contributed to its growth and impact. The organization's commitment to inclusive decision-making and strategic partnerships paved the way for positive change in the communities it served.

6TH PHASE –2008 TO 2011: INSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION AND VILLAGE LEVEL EMPOWERMENT

During the sixth phase of development (2008-2011), Badlao Foundation achieved recognition for three key institutes: Badlao Institute of Training and Management (BITM-Ranchi), Badlao Sikshan Sansthan (Mihijam), and Samarthan Weakling Development Foundation (Mihijam). These institutes played a vital role in advancing the foundation's objectives.

Additionally, during this phase, a significant focus was placed on working at the village level and empowering women through the formation of Mutual Benefit Trusts (MBTs). Each block in the Santhal Parganas region had its own MBT, and each MBT was assigned various tasks and responsibilities.

This phase marked the establishment of well-recognized institutions and the promotion of village-level empowerment through the formation of MBTs. By strengthening institutional capacities and engaging communities directly, Badlao Foundation continued to make meaningful strides towards its goals of social development and empowerment.

7TH PHASE – 2012 TO 2016 - EXPANSION AND ORGANIZATIONAL STRENGTHENING

During the seventh phase of development (2012-2016), Badlao Foundation embarked on 18 new projects spanning six districts within the Santhal Parganas region. To ensure effective project management and evaluation, a dedicated project manager was appointed, and the organization conducted discussions on its strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT).

An important milestone during this phase was the publication of a book titled “Badlao ka Prayas” in Hindi, written by our esteemed founder member, Bajrang Singh. This publication further highlighted the organization’s commitment to knowledge sharing and dissemination.

Recognizing the need for a robust organizational structure, various strategies and policies were developed, including those pertaining to human resources, communication, gender, and child development. To enhance the skills and capabilities of project leaders, a capacity-building workshop was organized.

In planning for the future, the board of trustees and core team members made a strategic decision to focus on climate change, water-related challenges, and organic farming for the next 5 to 10 years. At that time, Badlao Foundation was already working closely with approximately 60,000 families in the field area, demonstrating its extensive reach and impact.

This phase marked a period of significant expansion, organizational strengthening, and strategic planning, positioning Badlao Foundation to address pressing environmental issues and promote sustainable farming practices in the region.

8TH PHASE – 2017 TO 2018 – CONNECTING GLOBAL PARAMETERS (SDGS)

Badlao started its 8th phase in 2017. Based on the experience of previous phases, Badlao planned to move from project mode to programme mode. The organization evolved its thinking keeping in view the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG Goal):

- Holistic Natural Resource Management, Livelihood and Food Security
- Education, Health and Malnutrition • Governance, Panchayati Raj and Mahila Sabha.



The kind of participatory strategy the organization would adopt at the community level for the implementation of these key programs was clarified. The organization developed a strategy to use new technology to showcase its work. The organization re-developed old websites with new technology.

- Adopted many social media technologies such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.
- Central government changed many rules for the operation of the organization, accepting those changed rules, Income Tax, 12A, 80 G, FCRA renewal and CSR registration was done.
- The organization tried to know and learn new techniques for project construction and fundraising for income source and a new thought was formed to strengthen the team of change.
- In these 5 years, Badlao made its mark in the state and districts. In two consecutive phases, the work of training Panchayati Raj members of Jamtara, Damka, Pakkar district was done.
- The Institute worked with 81 villages and 27 high schools of Jamtara district for empowerment of adolescents (8906) and girls (10,203) for gender equality.
- In the Gender Equity Movement programme, programmes on gender equality were organised with 14102 adolescents of 87 villages.
- Keeping in view the needs of the community, issues of Jal Chhajan programme, Jal, Jungle, Jameen were taken forward. Efforts were made to implement the Forest Rights Act 2006. 364 families of Sandarpahari block of Godda district were given individual pattas and 37 community pattas. Also, 63 new and 19 ponds were renovated under RIDF in Misaliya block of Damka district. 4 concrete check dams were constructed. CCT and land leveling work was done on a large scale. 7342 hectares of barren land was made fertile.
- In this phase, Green Wood Public Sector Undertaking received government recognition upto 8th standard. At the same time, due to the policy decision of the Central Government, the recognition of the IGAN Special Study Center which was being run by the institute since 2005 and was known for providing the best services, was cancelled. Due to this, the institute has faced a new challenge regarding the use of the available physical infrastructure.
- In this phase, the corona pandemic also had to be faced. In this crisis too, the institute and its employees stood with the community. They tried to reach their target group through food distribution and comprehensive vaccination program.

S L No	THEMATIC AREA/ PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION.	PROJECT NAME UNDER THIS THEMATIC AREA	DONOR	STARTED IN	END YEAR	INTERVENTION DISTRICT
1	INRM, Livelihood & Food Security	Addressing Vulnerabilities among the Pahariya community through women-led market interventions in Jharkhand, India (Pahariya Samridhi Pariyojna)	Transform Traid - UK	2019	2024	Godda and Pakur
2	Education Health and Nutrition	Gender Equity Movement in Schools	International Center for Research on Women (ICRW)	2021	2024	Jamtara
3	Governance (PRIs, PESA, Mahila Sabhas, CBOs)	Reducing vulnerability of forest dependent communities by strengthening community governance over natural resources towards discrimination free climate justice approach	INKOTA-Germany	2022	2025	Godda, Gumla and Lohardaga
4	Organization Development	Grow 100- Supporting 100 organization for Organization Development	EdelGive Foundation	2022	2024	Jamtara
5	Governance (PRIs, PESA, Mahila Sabhas, CBOs)	APF-Strengthening Of Gram Sabha	Azim Premji Foundation	2022	2025	Godda and Pakur
6	Governance (PRIs, PESA, Mahila Sabhas, CBOs)	APF-Ongranting Project	Azim Premji Foundation	2023	2026	Jamtara, Dumka, Giridih
7	Livelihood	Farmers Producer Organization	NABARD	2023	2025	Jamtara
8	Education Health and Nutrition	KG- PG - Education For All	Jharkahnd State Open University and Green Wood Public School.	2005	ongoing	Santhal Pargana districts of Jharkhand
9	Governance (PRIs, PESA, Mahila Sabhas, CBOs)	Khadi And Gramudyog	Khadi and Village Industry Commission (KVIC)	1982	Yearly renewal	Jamtara
10	Governance (PRIs, PESA, Mahila Sabhas, CBOs)	Constitutional Values Fellowship Programme	Azim Premji Foundation	2024	2026	Jamtara, Godda , Pakur

GEOGRAPHICAL REACH

Badlao Foundation operates throughout the entire Santhal Pargana division in Jharkhand, demonstrating a strong commitment to community development. Our intensive efforts are concentrated in five development blocks and extend to 602 villages, directly impacting a significant number of households—57,189 to be precise. Our target group encompasses various marginalized communities, including scheduled tribes (STs), primitive tribal groups (PTGs), indigenous people, Dalits, minorities, and other backward castes. In total, our initiatives benefit a population of 1,27,260 individuals.

Through our extensive reach and focused interventions, Badlao Foundation aims to uplift these communities by addressing their specific needs, empowering them with opportunities, and creating positive social change. We remain steadfast in our dedication to fostering inclusive growth and ensuring a brighter future for all.

The organization are working following districts – **Godda, Pakur, Jamtara, Gumla, Lohardaga, Dumka, Sahebgunj, , Deoghar, Ranchi** of Jharkhand.

The outreach of the organization is up to – 9 Districts, 13 Blocks, 602 Villages, 57,189 Households, and 1,27,260 populations.

Mission

Inclusive development of deprived communities through Gram Sabhas and PRIs under PESA, traditional community organizations and women-based groups (Mahila Sabhas) to enable access basic services and promote sustainable livelihoods.

Vision

Realize aspirations and entitlements of deprived communities (tribals and forest dwellers, women and children) through appropriate social and infrastructure development for a better quality of life.

Core Values

Commitment to Equitable Social and Economic Change, Human Dignity, Ecological preservation, Participatory Planning & Inclusive Development and Social & Gender Equality.

STRATEGY

Badlao Foundation is structured uniquely to work at all levels of the development sector. In strengthening the tribal livelihoods of the poor for sustainable manner, Badlao Foundation teams a two-tier approach. At Tier I it provides technical support to civil society organizations, Government departments, corporate sector, and different funding agencies, and at Tier II it engages in national level initiatives.

- Influencing policy and plan at grass root level
- Awareness generation for the tribal poor
- Empowering communities through establishing community based Social Enterprises
- Enabling access to resources, capital, markets and entitlements
- Programmes that impact livelihoods of the tribal's

Badlao Senior Leadership Information

Sl. No.	Name	Brief Introduction
1	Shri Bajrang Singh	Our Founder Secretary, Shri. Singh, a visionary leader who laid the foundation of Badlao Foundation. With a wealth of experience in working with bonded laborers at Deoghar Antyodya Ashram, Mr. Singh brings expertise in education, community organization, rural development, and environmental conservation. As a Research Fellow, he worked tirelessly to liberate bonded laborers in Santhal Pargana region and empowered marginalized communities, particularly women from tribal, Dalit, and minority backgrounds. Over the past 40 years, his guidance and presence have been instrumental in shaping Badlao Foundation's journey. Leaving behind a legacy of dedication and service, Mr. Singh continues to actively support and address the challenges faced by communities in Jharkhand State, inspiring a new generation to follow in his footsteps.
2	Mr. Arvind	Mr. Arvind, the dedicated Secretary of Badlao Foundation, has been leading the organization with unwavering commitment for the past 30 years. His remarkable tenure has been a testament to his unrelenting passion for social service, inspiring staff to embrace responsibilities and challenges with enthusiasm. Holding a Master's degree in Gandhian Thoughts, Mr. Arvind has devoted his life to emulating the principles of Mahatma Gandhi, tirelessly working towards the betterment of communities and driving positive change through his selfless efforts.
3	Mr. Rajesh Yadav	Mr. Rajesh Yadav, Zonal Coordinator, has been an invaluable asset to our organization for 29 years. He has expertly guided and mentored new coordinators in the Santhal Pargana region, fostering tribal welfare initiatives, Community Forest Rights, climate change mitigation, and integrated natural resource management. Through his unwavering dedication and tireless efforts, Mr. Yadav has propelled our organization forward, enabling us to overcome challenges and achieve success in our mission to empower marginalized communities.
4	Mrs. Asha Rathore	Mrs. Asha Rathore, former Secretary of Badlao Foundation, remains actively engaged in leading women empowerment initiatives and helms the Mahila Sabha Organization. With a specialization in Gender Studies, she has been instrumental in driving gender-sensitive programs within the organization. Dedicated to community service for 29 years, Mrs. Rathore has been an integral part of Badlao Foundation's journey. Holding a Master's degree in Gandhian Thoughts, she continues to draw inspiration from Mahatma Gandhi's principles. As a valued member of the Core Team, her expertise and leadership have been pivotal in shaping the organization's mission.

5	Mrs. Sabita Roy	Mrs. Sabita Roy, a renowned social leader, has been an integral part of our organization for 29 years, spearheading the Human Resources department. Her expertise lies in addressing gender issues specific to the Santhal Parganas region. As an active member of Mahila Sabha, Mrs. Roy has provided unwavering dedication and support to the organization, contributing significantly to various projects. Her invaluable insights and commitment have earned her a place as a Core Team member, shaping the organization's strategic direction and community-focused initiatives.
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SI No	Core area of Intervention	Total Village Cover 2018 to 2023	Total Beneficiary 2018 to 2024	Remarks
A	Natural Resource Management			
1	Watershed Development (RIDF Nabard)	42	3474	Agriculture, TCB, CCT, Field bunding, Check Damp, Water harvesting tank, MCD, SGP,
3	Oxfam India	35	3119	Smokeless chulha, Pattal plate, IFR,
5	IWMP-Pakur	54	2918	Pond, TCB, Field bunding, Agriculture
	TOTAL	131	9511	
B	Environment & Climate Change			
3	BMZ/OXFAM GERMANY	35	4268	FRA, CFRA, Livelihood, Seed ball, Resource Centre
4	FYF- Johar extension	80	7204	Pension, MNGRA, PDS, Livelihood,
	TOTAL	115	11472	
C	Livelihood Generation			
4	JTDS -JTELP	35	4451	Agriculture, SHG, Women Empowerment, NRM, Livelihood,
5	Khadi KRDP	10	150	Training
6	Nabard FPO	40	300	Agriculture, Goatry,
	TOTAL	85	4901	
D	Health and Nutrition			

4	WHH- Barhet	50	3850	Education, Health, MNGRA, PDS
6	CINI- Ranchi	20	498	PDS
	TOTAL	70	4348	
E	Education			
6	ICRW (GEMS)	86	26064	Education
7	United Way	12	1202	Child Education (AW)
	TOTAL	98	27266	
G	Women & Child Development SHG/ Mahila Sabha			
4	ICRW UMANG	81	19886	Women empowerment, Education,
5	Child Line	337	27634	Child rights, child security
6	Traid Craft	90	5400	MBT, Women empowerment, Health, Livelihood
7	KSCF	150	16380	Child rights, child security
	TOTAL	658	69300	
H	Differently abled Welfare/ Governance			
1	EdelGive (GROW) Organizational Development		153	OD, Capacity building, Office Renovation
2	Ajim Premji Foundation	267	48129	Gram Sabha, Social Security Schemes
	TOTAL	267	48282	
	TOTAL		175080	

Empowering Communities through Sustainable Agriculture: A Case Study of the Poshan Wadi Project

The Poshan Wadi Project, supported by Mahila Sabha, has made significant strides in promoting sustainable agriculture and improving nutrition in rural communities. This initiative has not only enhanced food security but also empowered local farmers, particularly women, to take charge of their livelihoods.

In the current financial year, 300 household-level Poshan Wadi farmers were selected, and four model Poshan Wadi were established at the panchayat level in two blocks. Five panchayat-level nurseries were formed, distributing vegetable saplings to 300 households in Sundarpahari and Littipara.



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- 300 household-level Poshan Wadi were completed, benefiting 300 farmers.
- Four model Poshan Wadi were established at the panchayat level.
- Nursery installation and construction were completed in Dangapara, Dandakurya, and Barakachna villages.
- Over 12,000 saplings were prepared, including 4,189 vegetable saplings (brinjal, tomato, and chili) and 136 Moringa saplings.
- 1500 out of 3000 households regularly consume green vegetables

IMPACT ON NUTRITION AND LIVELIHOODS

The project has positively impacted the nutrition and livelihoods of beneficiary households. By promoting Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), farmers are now growing 10-15 varieties of vegetables, enhancing food diversity and security. This initiative also addresses severe malnutrition and supports families in need.

CONCLUSION

The Poshan Wadi Project demonstrates the potential of community-led sustainable agriculture initiatives in improving nutrition and livelihoods. By empowering local farmers and promoting environmentally friendly practices, this project serves as a model for future initiatives aimed at creating a healthier and more food-secure community.

Ritesh Tripathi

Badlao Foundation

Celebrating Poshan Maah: Empowering Women and Children through Nutrition and Education

In September 2022, Mahila Sabha in Littipara and Sundarpahari blocks celebrated Poshan Maah, the National Nutrition Month, with a focus on “Mahila aur Swasthya” (Women and Health) and “Bacha aur Shiksha” (Children and Education). This initiative aimed to promote holistic nutrition and good health practices among women and children.

Key Activities and Impact

1. **Mass Sensitization:** Mahila Sabha meetings raised awareness about health, nutrition, personal hygiene, and child education, engaging 3257 participants.
2. **Demonstrations:** Hands-on sessions showcased hand washing, personal hygiene, Poshan Rangoli, and Poshan Bhoj for adolescent girls, pregnant women, and lactating mothers.



3. Model Poshan Wadi Visits: Members visited model Poshan Wadi sites in their respective panchayats, promoting sustainable agriculture practices.
4. Vegetable Seed Distribution: 112 selected farmers received vegetable seeds and saplings to promote nutrition-rich farming.
5. VHND Participation: Awareness drives and participation in Village Health and Nutrition Days (VHNDs) ensured community engagement.

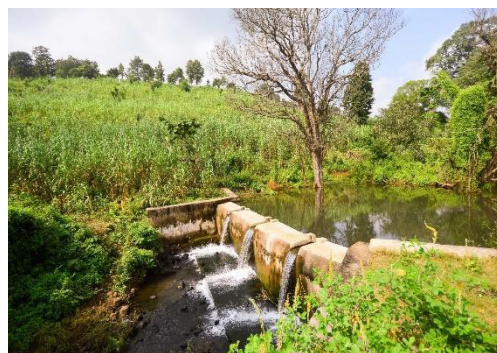
THEMATIC FOCUS AREAS

- Antenatal Care: Emphasizing the importance of prenatal care for pregnant women
- Optimal Breastfeeding: Promoting exclusive breastfeeding practices for infants
- Anaemia Prevention: Educating on iron-rich foods and supplements to combat anaemia
- Growth Monitoring: Regular check-ups for children to track growth and development
- Girls' Education: Encouraging education and empowerment for adolescent girls
- Hygiene and Sanitation: Stressing the importance of cleanliness and sanitation practices
- Food Fortification: Advocating for nutrient-rich foods and fortified staples

By leveraging community engagement and education, the Poshan Maah celebration in Mahila Sabha has contributed significantly to improving nutrition and health outcomes among women and children in Littipara and Sundarpahari blocks.

Ritesh Tripathi

Badlao Foundation





SAMAJIK PARIVARTAN SANSTHAN (SPS)

ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION:

Samajik Parivartan Sansthan (SPS) is a grassroots nonprofit development organization that works in Jharkhand for marginalized and vulnerable community. It was established in 1999 under society registration act 1860 during undivided Bihar state. A group of 7 members were engaged in micro planning activities for education under State Programme for Elementary Education Development (SPEED) program. During that time, visualizing the need of quality education among children belonging the marginalized community. And inspired by the idea of Lok Nayak Jay Prakash Narayan the who had been involved in various educational projects and social development efforts in several regions of Jharkhand and Bihar. They joined hands to engage at the grassroots level for the disadvantaged through education, advocacy, research, and social action to preserve the **Sampurna Kranti** Concept as a means of bridging about social change. The major goal is to empower the disadvantaged through quality education, healthcare, and livelihood promotion with the focus on spreading social inclusion, equity, integrity, dignity, and equality.



KEY ACTIVITIES:

Education

- Print rich classroom for effective learning
- School library establishment for children
- Community library for providing a source of learning to the community
- Establishment of Balwadi for children where school and AWC facilities are not available
- Orientation of teachers and SMC for creating joyful teaching environment and increase awareness on preparing school development plan respectively
- Run special learning classes for children having low competency level
- School enrolment drives for mainstreaming drop outs and increasing formal admission in schools
- Life skill training to adolescent boys & girls
- Online Digital classes in schools

Livelihood

- Vocational training for youths and handholding support for new start-ups
- Training to farmers for promoting advanced agriculture and livestock productivity
- Financial literacy sessions to women self-help group and youths
- Livestock camps for reducing mortality rate in livestock

Health & Nutrition

- Health camps for the community
- Awareness session on preventive measures related to health & hygiene
- Nutrition camps for children between 3-6 years
- Anganwadi modelling for ensuring 6 essential service of ICDS

Social Entitlement

- Resource centre and social entitlement camps for linkages with government schemes

Child rights & protection

- 24/7 service to children facing issue of missing, trafficking, orphaned, street life thorough 1098 tollfree number.

Local Democracy

- Regularising gram sabha meetings
- Community training on preparation of gram panchayat development plan (GPDP)
- Campaign on Kam Mango Abhiyan
- Street plays for sensitizing community on participation in Gram Sabha and GPDP.

IMPACT AND PROJECT INTERVENTION:

- From the education focused program, the community has become more aware of importance of education where we worked, they give it priority and send their wards to school. A significant increase in the no. of children going to school can be observed in the area with large participation of parents in PTA at schools.
- The urban governance-oriented program has made the people in 8 wards more aware and responsible and they also have become capacitated to screen the issues around them through microplanning, its prioritization and sharing it to the concerned department for proper solutions. The impact can be seen in the form of waste management process adopted by the municipal corporation administration under which they collect the household wastes door to door on daily basis. This idea was given by our project team under strengthening urban governance in Jharkhand project during 2007-08.

organizational achievements since its inception?

- 22000 children of age group 6-14 years are mainstreamed to the education.
- 715 children are rescued and rehabilitated to home and other designated centers under ChildLine project.
- 500 malnourished children have been treated in the different nutrition camps.
- 18000 beneficiaries have been empowered for better living condition through training & handholding support.
- 4500 people are linked with different various government schemes through camps and Jan Suvidha Kendra.
- 2000 people have been benefited from our health camps.
- 1200 adolescent boys & girls have been trained on life skills and better career counselling.
- 105 youths have been linked for livelihood generation through skill development training.
- 10 Gram Panchayat Development Plan have been prepared by adopting micro-planning process and ensuring people participation.
- 12000 children have been made aware on child rights and protection.
- 17 child marriage have been stopped.
- 3600 female including adolescents & women are using sanitary pad through our awareness program

Thematic areas:

- Quality Education:** SPS promotes quality education to educationally deprived children in marginalized communities through social awareness, teachers training, capacity building, infrastructure development. To mainstream out-of-school children into the formal schooling system, we offer remedial coaching, a Special Learning Center, library support, tracking, and backup support. As a leader in quality education, SPS has developed its resources and people as master educators over time. Moreover, Under the landmark initiative of Digital Class, we have established 17 centres in 12

government schools in the Giridih district of Jharkhand, making a significant difference in the field of elementary education.

- ii. **Governance (Urban and Rural):** SPS collaborates with key governance stakeholders in rural and urban geographies such as elected officials, administration, the media, and citizens to address inefficiencies and build capacities for better governance system and accountability through data-driven research and advocacy. By collaborating with NGOs and CBOs, SPS works with local municipal bodies to increase community participation in urban local self-government to promote development initiatives. Since 2023, SPS has been also working among the rural people for strengthening local democracy by increasing awareness for participating in Gram Sabha and preparing impactful gram panchayat development plan (GPDP) for each village with maximum participation of its residents.
 - iii. **Child Rights and Protection:** Child rights and children's concerns are incorporated into all development planning and action through knowledge creation, evidence-based advocacy and communication, and direct assistance to children in need of care and protection.
 - iv. **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene:** SPS has been actively working with slum dwellers, rural community and elected local development representatives to ensure easy access to safe drinking water, waste management, and best sanitation practices. We built a dump yard, installation of affordable R.O water filter in a urban slums and remote villages, and organized peer group training on adolescent health issues, capacity building of Urban Local Bodies (ULB), and the construction of community and individual toilets.
 - v. **Health:** SPS works on multiple dimensions of health issues including reproductive, maternal, nutrition, child, and adolescent health along with emergency health initiatives like COVID-19 initiative on health. We organize awareness camp, health camp and distribute medicine and sanitary napkins to the community. We also provide technical support and capacity building of local and block level stakeholders related to health and hygiene to promote inclusive and sustainable health among the community.
 - vi. **Livelihood:** SPS strengthens the community's capacity to access livelihood opportunities through food and income security interventions such as asset building support, agriculture and livestock trainings, kitchen garden, and the establishment of a community facility centre equipped with agriculture equipment to increase income and reduce expenditure. We also assist in connecting identified vulnerable families with existing schemes and services, as well as providing vocational skills for youth employability.
 - vii. **Upskilling and Skill Development:** Prioritizing independence is important, especially when it comes to young people with economic disabilities. With the appropriate mobilization, trade-based trainings, grooming, and confidence-building, SPS supports the youths and guides them into the workforce so they can live independent and dignified lives.
1. Thematic articles or write-up that has been written by the leaders that explore specific themes and showcase the significant contributions of CSOs towards that theme?
 2. Share personal journeys, challenges, and successes of the leaders to provide insights and inspiration?

Mr. Umesh Tiwari being a student of history was always inspired by the eminent freedom fighters and social activists such as Jay Prakash Narayan, Ram Manohar Lohiya etc. He was the main founder or the creator of the idea for the foundation of the organization. He is been awarded with various honors for his initiatives and contributions to the development of the society.

During his work in the community, he saw many differences on the basis of poverty, caste, creed and dilution of human values. This created idea in his mind to start an organization to fight for mitigating all kinds of differences in the society. His thoughts and activities with regards to the development of rural India and specifically education and life style of the rural people always motivated him to emerge in social development activities. After coming in touch with some of the grass root level organizations, the thought of constituting an organization become more stronger with the objective of contributing to development initiatives for disadvantaged communities through his knowledge, skill sets application and initiatives.

It was not easy to take the organization forward with very limited resources and lack of set of skills like; proposal writing, fund raising, etc. Besides this, the leader stood up strongly with his team together with the motivation of their idea, mission and vision for the organization. Being a grassroots organization, it has been a challenge for us to fulfill organizational compliances time to time during our journey.

As far as success of our organization is concerned, we have developed multiple modules, TLM, that have been adopted by the Government.

The human resource including fulltime and part time for achieving the goal of the organization have increased to 70 from initial stage of 7. We have different master trainers, community leaders who support in quality interventions. The organization has been associated with various networks who have been working for the betterment of the society. The area of operation of the organization has expended to multiple districts in the state. We can say that it is a journey of success from awareness of education to ensuring quality education for the community.

Major strategies implemented during organizational progress or journey towards development

- Planning of activity is done with top to bottom and vice-versa approach.
- Activity wise concept note, approval, implementation and its review.
- Weekly and monthly review & planning with team for ensuring timely completion of activity and its reporting to the donor.
- Monthly monitoring, follow-up of beneficiaries and regular feedback from communities on interventions.
- Establishment of any infra with community engagement and ownership for its sustainability.
- Convergence with other NGOs and departmental advocacy in various activities to ensure maximum benefits to the community.
- We follow a **cycle** for proper planning – responsibility distribution – implementation – monitoring – follow-up – review – support – re-planning.

Success story -1

Theme: Livelihood

Title: Success of Preety Kumari - a participants of Vocational Training

Training Venue: Palmo

Trade: Sewing (Cutting & Stitching)

Duration: March, 2023

Initial Condition:

Preety Kumari is a 21 years old lady living in Palmo village which is situated 7 kilometres away from Tisri headquarters. Her husband Mr. Rahul Kumar Yadav is a migrant labour and not well educated. This family is comprised of 8 members whose life completely depends of activities like; agriculture, livestock and daily wage works. Previously, the head of the family was working outside the state and was fulfilling needs of the family but after some time of Preety's marriage, her farther in-laws (*head of the family*) died in an accident. This compelled her husband to become a migrant labour and the entire family started suffering from financial crisis. Losing an earning member always creates huge problem for any family creating pressure in meeting essential requirements for their survival.

Our Intervention:

During this time, our organization was preparing to organizing a vocational training on sewing trade. Our representatives contacted her mother in-law for allowing her to participate in the training. Her mother in-law argued that in 7-month pregnant condition it is not possible to send her to attend the training. Later on, we directly talk to Preety for her final decision, she decided to take part in the training and told that she is very much interested and excited for that. Although, she had partial knowledge on sewing but she could not continue to practice that post marriage. It was a golden opportunity for her to learn the remaining things completely and set up her own Sewing Centre to earn her livelihood supporting her family.

After some time, we organized the 15 days training at Palmo village where she actively. In the training, she learnt various arts and techniques of cutting and stitching and practiced preparing different types of garments like; petty coat, blouse, pant, pajama, salwar-suit, designer blouse etc. She was one the active learners in the batch who used to practice at home after learning things at the training centre. The trainer Mamta Devi was quite happy with her performance. She performed well in the test conducted at last day of the training and a certificate was given to all participants including her. During our follow-up we motivated her to purchase a sewing machine to set up the



Participants with certificate provided SPS



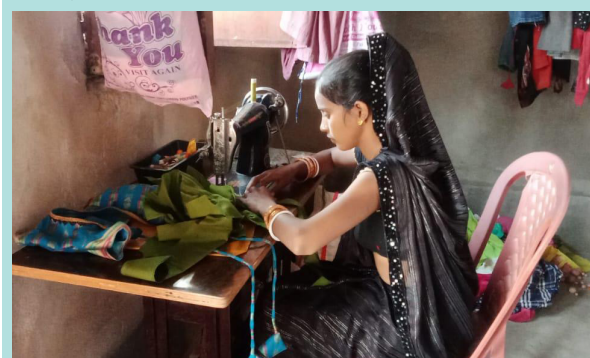
During group work at the training



Preety working with machine



Preety showing prepared garment to our volunteer



Preety working at her home

sewing centre that she had dread of before the training. It was a good idea to meet her financial requirements through which she can contribute in her family's need.

Impact/ Result:

Following our advice, she purchased the machine and started working at her home in a separate room. Now she is running her own sewing centre and earning to support her family with her great effort. She is earning an average income of INR.2000-2500 per month which really a needful support to her family.

During our recent conversation, Preety says – “training facility at my village really helped me a lot in learning many things and the trainer was also polite and helpful in teaching all the related things. The kind of opportunity I got has really helped me in learning and earning for my family. Now, I am able to stitch clothes of my family and other villagers. ***“I am so thankful to the SPS and RMI who supported me for what I have achieved and become able to do regular income”.***”

Success story -2

Theme: Education

Activity: Establishment of Balwadi Center

Duration: Jan-March 2023

Aditya Soren is a 6 years old boy who is resident of Domasar village. Domasar is an interior village of Tisri block which is situated more than 15 km from the block head-quarters due to which its connectivity is very poor. There is no School, AWC facilities available here. While talking his parents, we came to know that they are a poor mica picker who is currently working in a stone crasser mill for earning their livelihood due to ban in mica related work in the area. Parents are illiterate and due to lack of resources and money they are not able to manage expenditure on health, nutrition and education of their children. The entire family is bound to live in extreme poverty condition. The village also faces water facility problem.

The house of the family is a kuccha type who do not have stable income for living. We came to know that the child is able take help from his mates and other neighbors while going to the school which is situated nearby his village. They are not having access to health and educational facilities due to the unavailability of AWC and School in the village.

The family is engaged in a risky work place where chances of happening any physical accident is much possible which would put the family in danger because both these couple is the only part of earning members in the house. Also, carrying the small kids to these type of hazardous places like; forest and stone mills is always risky. If a crèche type place is formed in the village for keeping the children is made available then it would help many families like Aditya may take benefit of while they are at risky works.



Aditya's house condition



Aditya enjoying balwadi class with his mates



Aditya (right) going to school with his friend (left)

Initially, several community meetings were done with the VDC and later on, line listing of children for Balwadi were done. Then, an eligible teacher was identified. After taking permission from the local PRI, we procured required materials and established a the Balwadicentre in one of the unused rooms of the school building. Other necessary documentations were done and TLMS and toys were put in the centre for its smooth operation.

The organisation workers and the local volunteer including teachers and other villagers played a vital role in well operation of the centre.

A well-established Balwadi Centre is being run in a village where no School and AWC facilities are available. Initially, 25 children were enrolled out of which 14 children are made eligible to get admitted in primary class in a school of nearby village. Currently, 12 children are regularly coming to the centre and learning new things. Additionally, the parents of these children are getting freedom to work more freely.

As per the parents of the child, the centre has created a big difference in their life as it has facilitated the children with some part of education, discipline and enjoyment which are essential things for the development of any child as far as its mental and behavioral growth.

We think that the establishment of the Balwadi with the participation of villagers and linkages of children to the school with effort of teacher and our workers is our main achievement.

It was very hard to find an eligible teacher in the village and after finding one it was hard to convince her to work on such low honorarium.

Lessons learnt/key learning during implementation of thematic projects?

- Livelihood program intervention taught us that direct handholding support in the form of kind creates a mentality among beneficiaries under which they become more dependent on such kind of support which becomes a challenge for us during work. Most of the people start asking for the help.
- Monthly PTA meetings are essential for an increase in attendance, retention, and quality education through the participation of parents.

Way forward in the impact created in the successful intervention areas of the projects?

- Expansion of achievements done by keeping the vision and mission of the organization in mind for the future area of intervention.
- Contacting donor agencies having this kind of interest and sharing the impact and its need in other target areas by requesting possible support from them to take the impact forward.
- Ensuring the sustainability of the evolved model in any particular project in the community with a community-driven approach.
- New learnings and methodologies that have created an impact on our project activities will be taken forward in future actions.
- Expanding organization network and search for new opportunities to serve the needful community.



CHOTANAGPUR SANSKRITIK SANGH

BACKGROUND OF THE ORGANISATION

Chotanagpur Sanskritik Sangh (CSS) was established in Ranchi district, Bihar, on 8 May 1968, at a time when Jharkhand was part of the southern Chotanagpur region of Bihar. This was also the period when the Heavy Engineering Corporation (HEC) was being set up in the Hatia area. While HEC brought opportunities for employment and development, it also led to the displacement of numerous villages, causing significant socio-cultural and economic challenges. The displacement of people from 8,000 acres of land, which was required for the factory, had a profound impact on local communities. The local population, except for a few individuals, was largely unprepared in terms of education and technical skills, making it difficult for them to benefit from new opportunities. People from all parts of India, including a large Russian team, settled here, increasing competition for available jobs. However, most local residents could only qualify for third or fourth-grade jobs, while the demand for a larger workforce grew.

The displacement highlighted the need for effective rehabilitation, education, livelihood support, and the preservation of socio-cultural identities. In this context, CSS emerged as a grassroots organization, adopting art and literature to bring about social change. From 1968 to 1995, CSS focused on social and cultural activities, aiming to raise awareness among the region's people, including migrants, about local language, literature, rural life, and socio-economic strengthening. CSS worked to create a platform for collaboration among the government, policymakers, and local communities to address these challenges and uplift marginalized populations.

In 1968, intellectuals, writers, thinkers, poets, and artists of the region came together to form the foundation of Chotanagpur Sanskritik Sangh (CSS). It was registered under the Societies Registration Act of 1860 in 1975 with registration number 37 (now renewed to 670). From its inception, CSS focused on education, such as establishing Rahul Sanskritik Vidyalaya (now “Birsa Niketan”) in Jagannathpur, as well as running night schools in the HEC slum areas. CSS promoted education through songs, compositions, and seminars on various social issues, including dowry conservation, sterilization, drug abuse, health awareness, migration, and unemployment. CSS also published a socio-cultural journal, *Dahar*, since 1972, which promoted regional languages and highlighted the issues faced by tribal communities. The organization conducted research and published works on tribal culture and displacement, such as the Nagpuri feature film *Sona Kar Nagpur* (Maa Chinnamastika Production). CSS provided a platform for folk artists, supporting the first team from Jagannathpur to showcase Chotanagpur’s art and culture both domestically and internationally. Through *Dahar*, CSS used social, cultural, and economic issues to reach the masses. CSS worked actively to promote languages like Kudukh, Mundari, Ho, Khadiya, Kurmali, Panchpargania, Khortha, and Nagpuri. CSS played a significant role in Jharkhand’s language movement and supported in establishing Ranchi University’s *Tribal and Regional Language Department* (TRL), alongside assisting regional institutions, a core mission until 1995.

Approaching 1995, the organization shifted towards project-based work. That year, the female unit ‘Missi’ was established, which became the backbone of the organization in promoting its vision and mission. Over the years, CSS established a network of partnerships with donors, government bodies, NGOs, and advocacy groups to address a variety of pressing issues in the communities.

CSS has worked closely with the Ministry of Women and Child Development through the Childline India Foundation (CIF) on the Childline 24x7 Programme, offering emergency services for children in need. In the water and sanitation sector, the partnership with UNICEF and the Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) through the CDD-WATSAN project helped improve access to clean water and sanitation in rural areas. The Jharkhand State Social Welfare Board has been a key partner in providing family counselling and mediation services to support women’s welfare and address domestic issues.

CSS has also prioritized skill development and economic inclusion, working with organizations such as CAPART, NABARD, FVTRS, and ÇARE to empower women through skill training, promotion of self-help groups (SHGs), and livelihood support. CASA and IGSSS have further strengthened CSS’s focus on inclusive community development.

Gender equality has been a central theme in many of CSS’s partnerships. The organization has collaborated with Oxfam and CHSJ on various initiatives promoting women’s rights and empowerment. CSS’s partnership with Andheri Hilfe has focused on building the capacity of rural women, supporting their economic independence and community leadership.

For persons with disabilities, CSS has worked with CBM, Bahuuddeshya Viklang Jan Forum (BVJF), NBJK and The National Trust, India to enhance accessibility, inclusion, and socioeconomic opportunities for individuals with disabilities in the region.

In education, CSS has engaged with the Japanese Consulate, Kolkata, Bangalore University, and NIOS to improve educational opportunities for marginalized children and youth. Alongside these efforts, CSS has partnered with Sampurna Gram Vikas Kendra, Support for Sustainable Society (Saptrishi) and Goonj to strengthen community health, early childhood education, and local development.

In the field of child care, SKN Netherlands has supported CSS's work on alternative child care, ensuring that vulnerable children receive the care and attention they need.

CSS's advocacy work has been amplified through networks such as Partners for Law in Development (PLD), JATN, NAWO, Girls Not Brides, and Breakthrough, Girls First Fund (GFF) and CEQUIN which focus on gender equality, anti-trafficking, and the prevention of child marriage. Additionally, partnerships with RTE Forum Jharkhand and NEG -Fire have supported initiatives around education, child rights, and empowerment.

Finally, CSS has partnered with SAWF and Jumav Manch to enhance safe mobility for women, strengthen gender equality, and address the harmful practice of violence against women and girls and child marriage.

Through these collaborations, CSS has continually worked to create lasting and meaningful change in the communities it serves. Each partnership is an essential part of the broader goal of fostering sustainable development, inclusivity, and equality for marginalized populations.

Vision:

A Society where everyone has equal opportunity for growth and development along the line of her / his own genius.

Mission:

- Foster a sense of sisterhood and brotherhood amongst the members of the Society.
- Inculcate the habit of self-criticism and criticism to raise standard of life.
- Uplift downtrodden and underprivileged.
- Establishing educational and training institutions as per the need of the society.
- Preserve and Promote Arts and Culture of the plateau of Chotanagpur.

Objectives:

- **Community Awareness on Key Issues:** Raise awareness on gender equality, disability inclusion, health, sanitation, education, Schemes, laws, provision and livelihood through social and behaviour change communications to influence positive shifts in the society.
- **Capacity Building of Target Groups:** Strengthen the capabilities of target groups by providing training, empowering them, and increasing their participation in development programs.
- **Promote Self-Confidence Through CBOs:** Foster collective confidence by creating and empowering Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) such as Self-Help Groups (SHGs), sports, youth, farmers' organizations, organizations for persons with disabilities, and cultural and adolescent groups across intervention areas for sustainable community development.

- **Linkage with Government programmes:** Integrate rural communities with government schemes, agricultural initiatives, and natural resource management to enable sustainable livelihood opportunities and reduce economic vulnerabilities.
- **Develop scalable development models:** Design and promote replicable models in education, healthcare, community-based rehabilitation, alternative child care, production units, and agriculture that can be adapted and scaled across different rural contexts.
- **Surveys, Research, and Publications:** Conduct surveys and research in rural Jharkhand, generating reports and manuals to enhance intervention strategies.

IMPACT:

- Strengthening Community-Based Organizations:** Through the empowerment of Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), CSS has mobilized over 30,000 women across Ranchi, Gumla, and Hazaribagh districts, protecting their rights, enabling access to opportunities, enhancing decision-making roles, and fostering active participation in community initiatives, thereby promoting gender equality.
- Childcare and Protection:** 8,000 families in Ranchi and Gumla districts are now better equipped to provide quality care and parenting for their children. They actively understand and uphold children's rights, fostering holistic development and establishing effective safety nets to ensure their protection and well-being.
- Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities:** Through comprehensive support initiatives, 9,000 persons with disabilities have been successfully integrated into society, empowering them to lead independent lives and ensuring greater inclusion within their communities.
- Strengthening local bodies:** CSS has strengthened 300 local structures by empowering village and panchayat level bodies, ensuring financial inclusion, robust safety nets and protection mechanisms through increased accountability and community engagement. They include child clubs, adolescents' groups, boys' groups, sports groups, parents' group, organisations of persons with disabilities, producer groups, cooperatives.
- Improved health and living Conditions:** With enhanced access to healthcare, rehabilitation facilities, clean water, and sanitation, 10,000 families in Ranchi, Gumla, and Hazaribagh districts have significantly improved their living conditions, fostering healthier environments and promoting overall community well-being.
- Reducing Social Issues:** CSS has played a key role in reducing witch hunting and witch atrocities, trafficking, child marriage, child labor, and domestic violence, substance abuse, early unions and school drop outs while also increasing the reporting of such cases, contributing to greater social awareness and justice.

2. ACHIEVEMENTS

- Empowering Women:** Over 22,000 women across Ranchi and Gumla districts have successfully challenged gender-based discrimination and traditional gender roles. They are now more vocal and confident about their sexual and reproductive health, actively promoting their interests and opportunities. Over 950 women further went on to become frontline workers. The enhanced decision-making abilities of such women have led to increased participation in local bodies and ownership of community initiatives, enabling them to protect and claim their rights and entitlements.

b. **Rescue and Rehabilitation:** CSS has rescued and rehabilitated over 5,000 women and children from child labor, run away from home, trafficking, domestic violence, dowry harassment, sexual exploitation, children with substance addiction and witchcraft atrocities in Ranchi and Gumla districts. Through comprehensive approaches including fact-finding, early intervention, advocacy, counseling, community dialogues, and legal aid facilitation, more than 200 such persons have taken leadership roles at the village, panchayat, and block levels.

c. **Micro-Enterprise Support:** Over 3,500 vulnerable families have achieved increased income and financial independence through micro-enterprise development support. Of them, 2000 are women engaged in food processing, handicrafts, livestock, tailoring, community hotels and other small-scale businesses. These initiatives have transformed livelihoods by equipping families with the required skills and resources for sustainable economic growth, fostering increased community resilience and self-reliance.

d. **Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities:** Over 9,000 persons with disabilities across various blocks of Ranchi, Gumla, and Hazaribagh have gained access to their rights and entitlements. For poverty reduction CSS also established over 300 inclusive Self-help groups (ISHGs) and provided daily living assistance, therapy, assistive devices, home-based education, and community awareness campaigns and supporting their rehabilitation and social inclusion. An important landmark for CSS is the formation of Jharkhand “Diyang Jagruti Mahasangh” (JDJM), which is a state level network of persons with disabilities, engaged in convergence with the government for their socio-economic development. “Hastkari enterprises” and “Diyasangi Handicrafts” have provided employment to 130 women and their income level has increased.

e. **Agriculture and Water conservation:** CSS has empowered over 2,500 traditional farmers by introducing advanced farming techniques such as SRI, organic and mixed farming, drip irrigation, and crop rotation. These methods have improved soil fertility and yield. Over 5 ponds have also been developed for increasing water levels. Many water harvesting and conservation units have also been installed by CSS. Over one lakh plantations have been done at 12 plantation sites and households. Additionally, CSS pioneered backyard kitchen gardens in Bero and Itki blocks of Ranchi, ensuring healthy and affordable vegetables for families, especially vital during the COVID-19 crisis. The concept is also a part of the “Didi-Badi” scheme, further promoting local families for this.

f. **Bridging Gaps in Education:** Through initiatives like post-school programs, community schools, learning centers, night schools, and rural libraries, Through these initiatives re-admission of drop - outs and holistic education of 1200 children and youth have been improved. These initiatives have created avenues for continuous learning and personal growth, benefiting underprivileged communities.

g. **Child Protection and Support:** CSS has provided foster and kinship care, sponsorship, and ongoing support to over 600 vulnerable children and their families. Through regular guidance and financial support the organization has helped create safe family environments, fostering stability and growth while addressing the children’s emotional, social, and developmental needs. Additionally, through the Childline program, CSS has protected over 2100 children from issues such as child labor, school dropouts, trafficking, child marriage, violence, and runaway cases.

h. **COVID-19 Response:** During the COVID-19 crisis, CSS played a pivotal role in Ranchi, Gumla, and Hazaribagh districts, providing emergency assistance to over 12,000 families. This included food rations, health services, psycho-social aid, and alternate livelihood opportunities. Over 500 migrant labourers were also rescued during this time. CSS specifically managed 2 containment zones in Bero and Itki blocks while collaborating with PHCs, CHCs, PDS centers, and block offices to ensure comprehensive support and resilience-building within the community, especially during incidents of violence, childbirth, and fatalities exacerbated by the lockdown.

KEY ACTIVITIES

- **Community Awareness:** Promote normative shifts in the community by addressing harmful gender norms and social practices through strategic information, education, and communication.
- **Meetings, Trainings, and Workshops:** Organize meetings, training sessions, workshops, seminars, and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) to deepen knowledge on thematic areas, fostering engagement, capacity building, and shared learning to address key community challenges.
- **Health, Education, and Employment Camps:** Organize screening camps to identify vulnerabilities, address critical needs, and facilitate job opportunities while helping families apply for relevant government schemes.
- **Strengthening Local Governance:** Strengthen village, panchayat, and block-level structures, such as ICDS centers, gram sabhas, gram panchayats, VLCPC, and BLCPC, to ensure robust safety nets, empower local governance, and enhance accountability.
- **Collaboration with Officials and CSOs:** Work with officials (CWPOs, BDOs, CDPOs), statutory bodies (CWC, DCPU, AHTU, Mahila Thana, DLSA, JHLSA), and CSO networks to ensure the welfare and protection of vulnerable groups, advocate for policy changes, and create sustainable, community-driven solutions for long-term development.
- **School and College Events:** Conduct events to educate children, youth, parents, and School Management Committees (SMCs) on holistic education, child care, protection, and promoting gender equality, fostering awareness and responsibility across all stakeholders.
- **Microenterprise Development:** Support marginalized and vulnerable families through sustainable livelihood initiatives by creating tailored business plans, providing capital, mobilizing resources, and facilitating financial linkages for long-term economic resilience.
- **Sports and Cultural Events:** Organize sports tournaments, cultural events, and mass gatherings on occasions such as International Women's Day, Children's Day, the 16 Days of Activism, and International Day of Persons with Disabilities to promote inclusivity, gender equality, and recognition of diverse abilities.
- **Groups and Networks:** Establish and promote groups, networks, and associations of children, women, youth, and persons with disabilities, such as child clubs, adolescent peer groups, and inclusive SHGs, to enhance participation, representation, and learning.

- **IEC Materials Development:** Publish and develop Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials such as literature, periodicals, biographies, songs, documentaries, and street plays to foster social change, awareness, and community development through creative messaging.

THEMATIC AREAS

Women Empowerment: CSS recognizes that the active participation of women is essential for a developed society and is dedicated to empowering women and promoting gender equality. Since the 1980s, the organization has worked to challenge traditional gender norms, encouraging women to step out of their homes and engage more actively in public and economic life. CSS creates opportunities for women to access resources, exercise their rights, and take on leadership roles in their communities.

A core focus of CSS's work is improving women's accessibility, safety, and mobility. The organization advocates for women's rights and reducing the cases of violence in collaboration with many networks and campaigns. CSS promoted self initiatives of women groups for education, employment, and supporting women in taking on roles at different level such as school teachers, PDS Fair Price Shop Dealers, Panchayat representatives, and frontline workers. CSS focuses on women's involvement in agriculture, exemplified by the MISSI Women Farmers' Cooperative, which brings together 600 women farmers. By breaking traditional social norms, CSS encourages women and girls to engage in male-dominated fields, opening new avenues for empowerment. CSS addresses the critical social issues such as domestic violence, trafficking, dowry, and witch-hunting, helping women confront these challenges while also prioritizing their sexual and reproductive health.

b. Disability: CSS has been actively promoting the Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) model, working to strengthen the state disability policy and support inclusive development. The organization has made schools and ICDS centers more inclusive by partnering with education departments, providing assistive devices, therapy, and enrollment support to children with disabilities. These efforts focus on early identification, need assessments, rehabilitation, clinical support, and creating individual development plans (IDPs).

CSS collaborates with resource centers, including CRCs, block-level centers, and the Disability Commissioner's office, to ensure accessible and affordable rehabilitation services. Through partnerships with state and national networks like JDJM and BVJF, CSS has helped amplify the rights and representation of persons with disabilities (PWDs). The organization also promotes sports for the PWDs.

CSS engages in continuous dialogue with government authorities to advocate for improved policies and services for PWDs, ensuring their voices are heard. Its efforts focus on equality, inclusivity, and providing the necessary resources for PWDs to fully participate in society. Through its programs and partnerships, CSS continues to support livelihood initiatives, rehabilitation, education, and cultural activities for persons with disabilities.

c. Education: CSS has been committed to community-based learning, rooted in traditional practices like "dhumkuriya," ensuring every child has access to education. Through initiatives in Jamuni, Katarmali, and Pithoria, CSS has set up community schools that offer academic and holistic education. The organization believes that no child should be out of school, working to remove barriers and ensure regular schooling for all children. CSS collaborates

with School Management Committees (SMCs) to address social issues like child marriage, child labor, early unions, and cybersecurity through sessions and discussions. At the community level, CSS engages parents of out-of-school children, offering counselling and motivation for re-enrolment. Post-school support is also provided, especially for drop-out youth, offering resources for higher education and vocational training.

CSS strengthens ICDS centers to promote early childhood education and child protection. It also supports vocational and higher education for women, particularly those from underprivileged backgrounds. The organization provides materials and guidance in regional languages, making education more accessible. Working with parents, teachers, and community leaders, CSS identifies out-of-school children, facilitates their re-admission, and ensures they receive the education and support needed for a better future.

d. Livelihood and Skill Development:

CSS emphasizes creating sustainable livelihood opportunities by providing skill development training to women, youth, and marginalized groups. The organization offers training in various trades, helping individuals establish small-scale enterprises. These initiatives highlight the importance of financial independence and control over income, empowering individuals to manage their earnings and make informed financial decisions. By improving living standards and fostering economic independence, CSS enables beneficiaries to take on leadership roles in local governance. Ultimately, these efforts contribute to social inclusion, community participation, and lasting economic empowerment.

e. Child Care and Protection:

CSS is committed to ensuring the safety, well-being, and development of children in marginalized communities. The organization focuses on preventing child labor, child marriage, and all forms of exploitation while promoting access to education and essential services. CSS works closely with local authorities, education department, Block and state resource centers, schools, and families to strengthen child protection systems.

Through initiatives like the Alternative Child Care Project, post-school programs, and community learning centers, CSS ensures that children, especially those with disabilities, are given the protection, care, and education they deserve. The organization also supports the foster and kinship care systems and contributes to the implementation of government policies on child protection. CSS creates inclusive and safe environments for vulnerable children, empowering them to live free from violence and access opportunities for growth and development.

f. Art and Cultural Heritage: Since its inception, CSS has driven social change in the Chotanagpur plateau by leveraging art forms, folklores, literature, music, and dance. These cultural expressions have preserved the region's rich heritage while serving as powerful tools for transformation. The organization publishes periodicals to recognize and celebrate individuals and groups fostering positive social change, inspiring collective progress. CSS's efforts have promoted unity, cooperation, and harmony, fostering a shared sense of purpose. Additionally, CSS advocates for the inclusion of Jharkhand's socio-cultural heritage in development programs, emphasizing the recognition of regional languages and traditions in academic and policy frameworks. Through these cultural platforms, CSS strengthens the region's social fabric, encouraging inclusivity and growth while deepening connections to the Chotanagpur plateau's heritage.

STORY OF CSS MEMBER



Dr. Giridhari Ram Gounjhu (Former President, Chotanagpur Sanskritik Sangh)

Dr. Giridhari Ram Gounjhu was associated with Chotanagpur Sanskritik Sangh (CSS) as joint secretary for 07 years. After the demise of the outgoing president Dr. Biseshwar Prasad Keshari, he was elected as the president of the organization. Already famous as a lecturer, litterateur, Jharkhand agitator, researcher, critic, poet, satirist, Dr. Gounjhu worked as a lecturer in Gossner College and

Ranchi College and later was the head of the regional and tribal language department of Ranchi University. 29 major books written by him have been published which are famous as a guide and satire for researchers on mother tongue, folk tradition, life of Jharkhand and literature and culture. “Om Vishwavidyalaya Namah” is his satirical work which highlights the flaws in the education world. He supported the ideas of Padmashree Dr. Ramdayal Munda for implementing the “PESA” Act in Jharkhand and starting mother tongue education at the primary level. Promoting cooperation and closeness according to the tradition and life of Jharkhand, he suggested to many government committees as an advisor to develop models of policy decisions and development in accordance with the public life here, which include construction of community learning center on the lines of “Dhumkuria”, construction of “Akharā” as a socio-cultural place, inclusion of local language in the public administrative services and inclusion of major languages of Jharkhand in the Eighth Schedule. He also strengthened UGC and NCERT with his knowledge. By promoting higher education among rural youth, he gave many talented servants to the state. Symbol of simplicity, wearing special attire, multi-talented Dr. Gounjhu also played an important role in the establishment of the women’s unit of the organization “Missi” (sister in Mundari). He strengthened the organisation as a joint secretary and president to implement the vision and mission of the organization. After his death in the year 2021 during Covid, he was awarded the “Padma Shri” for his outstanding contribution. Apart from all this, he received dozens of high-level awards for work on youth affairs, heritage and sports at state and national level. His work and memory will always be an inspiration for us.

MAJOR STRATEGIES

a. Ensuring Gender-Sensitive Approaches:

CSS is committed to integrating gender-sensitive approaches across all aspects of its work, promoting women’s leadership within the community and organization. By addressing gender disparities and adopting a feminist approach, CSS has positioned itself as a women-led organization. A key milestone in this effort was the establishment of **MISSI**, the organization’s female wing, which has played a pivotal role in empowering women and fostering gender equality.

b. Community Engagement:

The origins and history of CSS are deeply rooted in the community. The organization’s leaders and members have an in-depth understanding of local needs. Collaborating closely with communities, CSS identifies these needs and tailors solutions accordingly.

The organization upholds the principle, “We help the people to help themselves,” which continues to guide its development work, particularly for the underprivileged.

c. Capacity Building: CSS focuses on empowering marginalized groups by providing knowledge on laws, policies, and schemes related to women, children, youth, and persons with disabilities. The organization helps them understand their rights and entitlements, enabling them to advocate for themselves and navigate systems without relying on external support. Through workshops, seminars, and skill development training, CSS strengthens local governance and grassroots organizations, building the capacity to effectively engage with officials and policymakers.

d. Collaborations & Networking: Following a bottom-up approach, CSS actively collaborates and networks with various stakeholders at different levels. It is a key member of several networks and emphasizes collaboration for community development based on equality, justice, and social harmony. Through these partnerships, the organization continually enhances its efforts and amplifies its impact.

e. Sustainability Focus: Before undertaking any initiative, CSS conducts thorough baseline assessments, needs analyses, and situation evaluations. By understanding the importance of resources and time, the organization ensures that its projects are designed with sustainability in mind. It also integrates technical expertise alongside local indigenous knowledge, ensuring a balanced approach that meets both immediate and long-term community needs.

f. Partnership Development: CSS seeks to establish strong partnerships with government agencies, the private sector, and international organizations. By doing so, the organization aims to amplify its reach, mobilize resources, and expand its impact, ensuring more effective development interventions and sustainable outcomes.

7. SUCCESS STORIES

Handicraft Enterprises

CSS has implemented project-based interventions in the rural blocks of Bero, Itki, Ratu, and Bharno in Ranchi district, recognizing that economic inclusion is essential for reducing poverty. The target communities, however, faced barriers such as a lack of skills, capital, and support from families and financial institutions, particularly for poor and differently-abled women.

As an initiative, CSS provided training to 130 economically disadvantaged women and women with disabilities in producing over thirty different handicraft items, including jute bags and home decor. These women now generate income under the legal recognition of **Hastkari Enterprises**



and “**Divyasangi Handicrafts**”. With support from SIDBI. The initiatives of Empowerment of Persons with disability department, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment’s at *Divyang Kala Mela*, they also gained a platform to showcase and sell their products.

Impact – The initiative has significantly improved the women’s social status, reduced economic dependency, and increased community recognition of the potential for poor and differently-abled women to become successful entrepreneurs.



MISSI Farmers

In the agricultural sector, women contribute more than men but are not recognized as farmers. Poor farmers, particularly women, often struggle to make a profit due to a lack of irrigation, capital, and access to markets. In 2018, the organization promoted a cooperative of 600 women, providing them with the opportunity to grow as progressive female farmers. Since Bero block is the second largest producer of agricultural products, supplying vegetables and farm produce to various parts of the country, these women now purchase fertilizers and seeds in bulk, saving money. They have freed themselves from intermediaries by engaging in both wholesale and retail sales. Additionally, they have adopted advanced farming techniques and are benefiting from government schemes. They are also producing and selling products made from tamarind, which not only provides them with income but also brings recognition and respect within their families.



STORIES OF CHANGE

• DashrathMahli

Dashrath Mahli, a resident of Village Tigra, Ratu Block, belongs to the Mahli tribal community and is a person with dwarfism. In 2018, he came into contact with the organization. At that time, his financial condition was not good, and many other differently-abled individuals in his community were facing similar challenges. The organization helped boost his confidence and encouraged him to revive the traditional bamboo-crafting profession of his ancestors. Financial support was also provided to him for this initiative. Dashrath began working with bamboo and, alongside this, also started vegetable farming by taking land on lease from others.



Over time, Dashrath brought together 45 families from his Mahli community and inspired them to take up bamboo crafting as well. Today, Dashrath earns an income of around ₹ 12,000 to ₹ 14,000 per month from bamboo products and ₹ 4,00,000 annually from farming. He has organized his community members in such a way that they provide him with bamboo products, which he sells in the markets. Dashrath is now living a prosperous life and has become a role model for his community. He is also an active member of the Jharkhand Divyang Jagriti Mahasangh (JDJM).

• Urmila Devi

Urmila Devi, a resident of Jariya Panchayat in Bero Block, has been an active worker with CSS, which inspired her to take on leadership roles. In 2010, she was elected as the *Mukhiya*. Through her work with CSS, she developed key skills in planning, implementation, and community development.



Urmila has consistently taken a strong stand against child marriage, child labor, and other harmful social practices. Her efforts focused on both the development of her panchayat and addressing these critical social issues, particularly the well-being of children, women, and the elderly. Her work was recognized by both the district and block administrations.

Re-elected in the next panchayat elections, Urmila's leadership remained focused on promoting education, gender equality, and the empowerment of women. Her advocacy against child marriage and child labor brought about significant change in her community.

Her leadership led to her panchayat being declared a *model panchayat* by the district administration. Urmila continues to actively advocate against violence toward women, inspiring her community through her dedication to social change.

LESSONS LEARNT

Over 56 years of grassroots work, CSS has gained valuable insights:

- **Addressing Cross-Cutting Issues:** It's crucial to consider issues like gender equality, disability inclusion, and social justice alongside the main objectives of each project. These elements are interconnected and vital for creating lasting change.
- **Strengthening Local Ownership:** CSS has learned that local bodies should play a central role in project implementation. The organization sees itself more as a facilitator, helping to empower communities to take charge of their own development.
- **Partnership, Not Charity:** CSS believes in fostering partnerships rather than offering charity. Beneficiaries are seen as active partners, which strengthens ownership and encourages self-reliance within the community.
- **Engaging Men in Women's Empowerment:** To truly empower women, it's important to involve men in the process. Engaging men helps in challenging patriarchal norms, creating a more supportive environment for women's progress.





CHETNA VIKAS, DEOGHAR, JHARKHAND

Background of the organization

Chetna Vikas was founded in the year 1987 by a team of young social activists who were actively engaged in the Sampurna Kranti Movement of Loknayak Jaiprakash and joined together to form this organization for the consciousness, empowerment and overall development of the disadvantaged section of the society on the values of peace, justice and equity. Chetna Vikas is founded on the basis of Gandhian ideology as it pertains to the alleviation of human sufferings and injustice and development of vulnerable people. The concept of SWARAJ and ANTODAYA are leading values for the organizational strategic plan.

Mission: “Empower the poor, disabled and disenfranchised in rural regions of Jharkhand State to achieve the Gandhian principle of ‘Sarvodaya’ (universal upliftment). It employs right based, people centered, grass root and participatory methods to eliminate socio economic inequality, promote health, nutrition and well-being. Facilitate self- reliance, enable local self-governance, ensure national resources management and promote people’s Advocacy.”

Vision: “A progressive and sustainable rural India, where in all people live peacefully and with dignity, enjoy social, political and economic equality as well as right to livelihood, freedom of expression and equal opportunity for public participation.”

OBJECTIVES:

Promote Equality: Work towards creating a progressive and sustainable rural India where all individuals can live peacefully and with dignity.

Empower the Marginalized: Empower the poor, disabled, and disenfranchised in rural regions, enabling them to achieve the Gandhian principle of 'Sarvodaya' or universal upliftment.

Community-based & Community-led Approach: Utilize Community-based, Community-led, people-cantered, grassroots, and participatory methods to eliminate socio-economic inequality, ensuring that every individual's rights are protected.

Health and Well-being: Promote health, nutrition, and overall well-being within rural communities, with a particular focus on improving the living conditions of the marginalized.

Self-Reliance: Facilitate self-reliance among the local population, enabling them to become self-sustaining and independent.

Local Self-Governance: Empower communities for local self-governance, ensuring that they have a say in the decision-making processes that affect their lives.

Resource Management: Ensure responsible and sustainable management of national resources, in a manner that benefits the local population and protects the environment.

People's Advocacy: Promote people's advocacy, encouraging individuals to actively participate in public matters and advocate for their rights and interests.

OUR VALUES

- Based on Gandhian thought and philosophy
- Work at the grassroots with the marginalized
- No discrimination based on religion, caste, gender, colour, class, ethnicity, physical and mental ability
- Respect human values and rights
- Transparency and accountability at every stage and process
- Make efforts to ensure marginalized communities get access to their constitutional rights
- Sustainable use of resources

We have received or are receiving funds for various projects from the following donors:

Government Sector : NABARD

Foreign:

Child Resilience Alliance, Dasra UK, Jiv Daya Foundation, Nihon Suido Consultants Co., OAK Foundation, Child Fund International, Kailash Satyarthi Children Foundation US, Shree Muni Charitable Foundation,

Non-Government Sector/International Agencies:

Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives Private Limited, Kailash Satyarthi Children Foundation, ChildLine India Foundation, Sightsavers, Trickle-up India Foundation, Royal Common Wealth Society for the Blind, Quest Alliance, SCHOOL, Phia Foundation, SBI Foundation, Dhwani Foundation

Core Members of the organization

S. No	Name	Age	Gender	Occupation	Position on the Board	Area of expertise
1	MANOJ KUMAR	61	M	Specialist in IT Sector & Over 15 years' experience in Social Sector	PRESIDENT	Community Knowledge, Operations
2	KUMAR RANJAN	71	M	Founder Member of Organisation	SECRETARY	Community Knowledge, Operations
3	PUNAM VARMA	54	F	Over 20 years' experience in Social & Health Sector	TREASURER	Community Knowledge, Operations
4	BABULAL KAPRI	75	M	Founder Member of Organisation	MEMBER	Community Knowledge
5	SANJEEV KUMAR DEO	67	M	Over 25 years' experience in Social Sector	MEMBER	Community Knowledge
6	GOKUL PRASAD YADAV	47	M	Agriculture Expert & Over 20 years of experience in Social Work	MEMBER	Community Knowledge, Programme Management, Impact Assessment
7	BHUWNESHWAR YADAV	74	M	Founder Member of Organisation	MEMBER	Community Knowledge
8	DIPAK KUMAR SINGH	37	M	Over 10 years' experience in Social Sector	MEMBER	Community Knowledge, Programme Management

9	DEZY HANSDA	50	F	Education Specialist & Over 20 years of experience in Social Sector	MEMBER	Community Knowledge, Programme Management
10	SADHANA KUMARI	48	F	Over 25 years' experience in Social Sector specially in child protection	MEMBER	Community Knowledge, Programme Management
11	SARWARI KHATOON	39	F	Over 10 years' experience in Social Sector	MEMBER	Community Knowledge, Programme Management

THEMATIC ENGAGEMENTS

S No.	Focus Area	Location	Funder	Impact
1	Adolescents' health & Well-being, SRHR education	Madhupur Block, Deoghar District & Saraiyahat block, Dumka District	Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiative Pvt. Ltd.	<p>375+ meetings with 105 adolescent groups, reaching 1785 girls and 119 boys.</p> <p>Launched a School Enrolment Drive and Child Marriage Campaign, re-enrolling 427+ children.</p> <p>Conducted training for 304+ VLCPC meetings with 2224+ participants.</p> <p>VLCPC members actively addressed child protection issues, identified and solved 34 cases, and reported 12 child marriages.</p> <p>28 adolescents participated in a district-level sports competition, winning prizes.</p> <p>Organized workshops for religious, tribal, and opinion leaders to promote girls' formal education.</p> <p>Shifted the perspective of two dropout siblings, Vijay and Kabita Hansda with focused counselling and the gift of a bicycle, leading to improved regular attendance.</p>
2	Nutrition, Sanitation & Pre-school Education	Deoghar Block, Deoghar District	Jiv Daya Foundation	<p>230 PVTG children are getting nutrition support (150 ml milk and Biscuits & pre-school education on daily basis.</p> <p>Poshan Mela has been organized in every quarter with children, their parents and other community.</p>

3	Health and Hygiene	Deoghar and Dhanbad Districts	Munni Charitable Trust	<p>The campaign Directly benefited 113,290+ people with a broader indirect impacted 1,44,373 people in Deoghar & Dhanbad district.</p> <p>A series of educational and awareness initiatives were conducted, reaching significant numbers across schools and villages. Educational and technical sessions were held in 65 schools, benefiting 3,420 students and 540 teachers and staff, with indirect impacts on 14,120 people. Additionally, rallies, painting competitions, and awareness programs engaged 9,399 participants directly, with indirect benefits for over 45,170 individuals.</p> <p>Public outreach efforts, including hand-washing demonstrations, street plays, and public miking across 85 villages, directly reached 22,060 people, with a further 60,000 impacted indirectly. Pamphlet distribution and wall writing campaigns in 90 locations reached 13,000 people directly, with an indirect reach of 50,000.</p>
4	Child Protection	Mohanpur, Devipur and Deoghar Block, Deoghar District	Kailash Satyarthi Children Foundation	<p>21045+ individuals' pledges (for no child marriage) in 3930 House Holds in 216 villages of Deoghar district</p> <p>Total 116+ School Sensitization workshops held with 2136 participants.</p> <p>Outreach to Approx. 76,439 people through Child Marriage Free Deoghar Campaign.</p> <p>10 awareness chariots roamed in 579 villages during Child Marriage Free Deoghar Campaign</p> <p>Training of 144 Panchayat Secretary (Child Marriage Prohibition Officer) was conducted at district level.</p> <p>Towards child protection significantly intervening 94 POCSO cases, 13 child marriage and 78 child labour cases and providing legal, mental, and physical support.</p>
5	Organizational Development	Deoghar Block, Deoghar District	Dasra, UK	<p>Successfully enhanced organization's communication and visibility through website creation, bi-annual newsletter, Annual Reports, networking programs, media advocacy and social media.</p> <p>Additionally capacitated the organization's team with different trainings like – video storytelling, Child protection acts, etc.</p>

6	Digital Literacy to VI children	Jama Block, Dumka District	Sightsavers	60 Visually Impaired students are getting computer literacy through our computer centre 'Tanya Computer Centre'.
7	Community-led Approach to child Protection	Topchanchi Block, Dhanbad District	Child Resilience Alliance	<p>Oriented 17 natural leaders on Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) and their role in child protection.</p> <p>Conducted a 4-day orientation program with 208 members from Village Organizations (VO), Self-Help Groups (SHG) and taskforce members.</p> <p>Oriented 105 PRI members, ASHA workers and other stakeholders on CLCP processes, Mission Vatsalya and creating 'Child-Friendly Panchayats.'</p> <p>Oriented 165 Anganwadi workers on CLCP and Mission Vatsalya, along with sharing information on various government schemes for children</p> <p>Launch of the unique booklet- Child Protection: Journey of a Community-led Approach.</p>
8	Livelihood Promotion	Raneshwar block, Dumka District	Trickle Up	A total of 1004 participants (women from tribal and ultra poor section) were trained on Group enterprises management and Business development plan of goat rearing, poultry farming, duck farming, bamboo product manufacturing, pig rearing.
9	Health and Sanitation	Block- Ormanjhi-Ranchi, Block- Gola-Ramgarh, Block- Borio - Sahibganj, Block- Masalia-Dumka	SBI Foundation	A mobile medical van – Clinic on wheels is being implemented with the objective - To improve and promote overall health, nutrition, and sanitation in 80 remote villages in the Blocks of Ormanjhi (Ranchi), Gola (Ramgarh), Borio (Sahibganj) and Masalia (Dumka) of Jharkhand.
10	Organizational Development	Organization level	Dhwani Foundation	Dhwani Foundation has been conducting capacity-building sessions for senior leaders, CFMs, and Board members, which have been instrumental in empowering our organization through the indicators provided.

Milestones

Award / Recognition / Certificates	Year
Jharkhand Change Maker Award	2023
Guide Star Gold Certificate – GSN-1068	2022
Appreciation Letter by DC, Deoghar for Excellent Service during COVID-19	2020
Appreciation letter by Mahavidhya, Deoghar in 18 th Book fair	2019
Certificate of Accreditation for good practices in the area of Governance, Financial Management, Internal Control System and Legal Compliances	2018-19
Excellent Service Award for Work in the Field of Disability by Sightsavers	2017
Certificate of Appreciation by Blood Bank	2017

SPECIALIZATION AND UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS

Gandhian Ideology

Guided by the principles of *Sarvodaya* (universal upliftment) and *Swaraj*, Chetna Vikas focuses on empowering marginalized communities through non-violent, grassroots solutions.

Focus on Marginalized Communities

For over 35 years, Chetna Vikas has specialized in empowering vulnerable groups such as tribal populations, marginalized women farmers, and persons with disabilities in rural Jharkhand and Bihar, fostering social inclusion and sustainable development.

Livelihood Development Expertise

Chetna Vikas excels in livelihood enhancement through organic farming, horticulture, and women's agricultural training. The organization has also successfully advocated for employment rights under MGNREGA, securing full employment and equal wages for socially excluded groups.

Holistic Rural Development

The organization adopts an integrated approach, addressing key areas like health, education, women's empowerment, and child protection. Its programs have improved nutrition, enhanced access to inclusive education, and reduced child marriages.

Strong Advocacy and Partnerships

Chetna Vikas actively collaborates with government and NGOs in networks like the Right to Food Campaign and the Alliance for Immunization and Health, advocating for community rights at local and state levels.

Proven Impact and Recognition

Chetna Vikas has earned multiple awards, including the Jharkhand Change Maker Award (2023), and its work reaches over 3.7 lakh households across 7 districts, impacting thousands of lives.

Community-led Approach

With a participatory and grassroots-driven model, Chetna Vikas ensures that development solutions are tailored to the unique needs of local communities, fostering long-term sustainability.

Organizational Impact

SALIENT ACHIEVEMENTS	
HOUSEHOLD SUPPORTED	NUTRITION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approx. 3,76,438 HH supported since last 10 years • 32, 915 HH supported in FY 2022-23 • 54,523 HH supported in FY 2023-24 • 63,862 HH are being supported in FY 2024-25 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 230 PVTG children are getting nutrition support (150 ml milk and Biscuits & pre-school education). • Distribute Rice Packets in every six months in 5 villages of Deoghar block of Deoghar district.
HEALTH, SANITATION AND HYGIENE	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Sanitation & Hygiene Awareness Campaign reached nearly 1,44,373 people in Deoghar & Dhanbad district. • Distributed 2224 food-baskets, 300 education-kits & 360 PPE-kits during COVID-19. • Trained approx. 1000 women and build them as a health care cadre – SAHIYA (ASHA worker) • Approx. 165 Health camps in remote villages of Jharkhand and Bihar • 10,000+ participants through Health, Nutrition and Sanitation Awareness community meetings • Strengthen Village Health, Sanitation and Nutrition Committee (VHSNC) in 980 Villages across 7 districts • 764 ASHA, ANM has been trained. • 20 Interface meetings with Government Officials on advocacy related to health facilities • Eye Health Check-up Camps in 150 Schools in Dumka District. • Neo natal Mortality rate has been reduced from 24 per 1000 live births to 18 per 1000 live births and institution delivery has increased to 78% which has also resulted in reducing preventable deaths of new born. 	
EDUCATION	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than 242 VI students got Digital Literacy through our Tanya Computer Centre. • More than 1453 Teachers got training on Inclusive Education • More than 2320 Children trained on Bal Sansad Process • More than 643 SMC Sensitization on Inclusive Education • Approx. 1785 adolescent girls and adolescents 119 boys got SRHR education • More than 1840 SMC members Sensitized. • Approx. 290 Resource Teacher Trained. 	

LIVELIHOOD	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 421 Farmers are trained on Organic farming. • Horticulture significantly increased the income of 307 families, enhancing food security and nutrition and has been successfully sustained by them having 19780 plants (Mango 13180 and Guava 5290). • 67% of socially excluded groups having 100 days of employment under MGNREGA with equal wages as per the provisions in the act and increased their participation in Gram Sabha and other forms of local self-Governance. Empowering Community and Creating Advocacy Linkages for realization of Right to Food Campaign in the state of Jharkhand. 	
CHILD PROTECTION	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total 21045+ individuals' pledges (for no child marriage) in 3930 House Holds in 114 villages of Deoghar district • Total 116+ School Sensitization workshops held with 2136 participants. • Outreach to Approx. 76,439 people through Child Marriage Free Deoghar Campaign. • 10 awareness chariots roamed in 579 villages during Child Marriage Free Deoghar Campaign • Training of 144 Panchayat Secretary (Child Marriage Prohibition Officer) was conducted at district level. • Towards child protection significantly intervening 160 POCSO cases, 13 child marriage and 78 child labour cases and providing legal, mental, and physical support. • Community-led child protection approach successfully run by 22 natural leaders. 	
WOMEN EMPOWERMENT	WASTE MANAGEMENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worked with Approx. 23500 Women – Formation of SHGs, Vocational Training and Financial Inclusion, Sahiya (ASHA) Training. • Reached with Approx. 2.89,000 women through digital Literacy Programs in 1729 villages of 4 districts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise a Waste Management Campaign in Deoghar District reaching approx. 1000 people during Shrawani Mela.
DISABILITY	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many PWDs got improved quality of life, personality development. We linked 900 PWDs with JSLPS for livelihood generation. • One VI students of Tanya Computer Centre Named Sumit Kumar from Purva, Dumka district got Govt. job in Railways • More than 400 VI Children received Compensatory Skill Training • More than 150 VI children received Braille Kit 	

ADOLESCENT & YOUTH	NETWORKING AND ADVOCACY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 375 meetings with 105 adolescent groups, reaching 1785 girls and 119 boys. • 28 adolescents participated in a district-level sports competition, winning prizes. • Shifted the perspective of two dropout siblings, Vijay and Kabita Hansda with focused counselling and the gift of a bicycle, leading to improved regular attendance. • 332 Adolescents groups to train girls on Menstrual Health & Hygiene 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than 346 Families linked to various Social Security Schemes. • 35+ NGOs Collaborated for Child Friendly Community and Preventing Early / Child Marriage

Organizational Impact

SUCCESS STORIES

Story: 1

Empowering the Specially-Abled: The Success of Birsa Divyang Samiti

In 2019, Chetna Vikas initiated a groundbreaking project 'Jharkhand Social Inclusion Programme (JSIP)' in the Dumka district of Jharkhand. We formed *Birsa Divyang Samiti*, a committee entirely composed of and led by persons with disabilities. This initiative was a significant step toward empowering the specially-abled community, giving them the platform to take charge of their own development. The committee members, despite their disabilities, exemplified resilience and leadership.

Even after the formal completion of the project, Chetna Vikas continued its support, staying in touch with the Samiti, reviewing their operations, and ensuring they had the resources and guidance needed to succeed. Our approach focused on long-term empowerment, ensuring that the committee would not only survive but thrive independently.

In 2023, we identified an opportunity with the *Azim Premji Foundation*, which was offering small grants to grassroots organizations. Chetna Vikas assisted *Birsa Divyang Samiti* in drafting their proposal, preparing a budget, and presenting their case to the foundation. As a result, the Samiti successfully secured the funding, enabling them to continue their vital work in advocating for and supporting people with disabilities.

This success story highlights the transformative impact of empowerment, where marginalized communities not only benefit from external support but are also equipped to lead and sustain their own progress. Today, *Birsa Divyang Samiti* stands as a powerful example of self-reliance, demonstrating the potential of grassroots leadership within the specially-abled community.

Chetna Vikas is proud to have played a role in this journey, reaffirming our commitment to sustainable, community-driven development.

Story: 2

“Achhi Aadat Campaign: A Symphony of Hygiene and Heartfelt Change”

A transformative wave swept through communities under the banner of ‘Achhi Aadat Campaign’—a movement dedicated to promote the simple yet powerful habit of handwashing. This campaign, driven by educational fervor and creative engagement, touched the lives of thousands of people’s heart in Deoghar and Dhanbad districts. The activities were as diverse as they were impactful: from educational sessions with school children to vibrant rallies, school-level painting competitions to village-level awareness programs, and even lively street plays and demonstration of hand washing. The campaign reached directly to **113,290 individuals** and indirectly influenced **1,44,373 people**.

The success of the initiative echoed in the heartfelt testimony of many grassroots stakeholders –

- “नुक्कड़ नाटक बहुत ही आकर्षक था, नाटक के कलाकार हिंदी के साथ-साथ हमारी ग्रामीण भाषा का उपयोग कर रहे थे, जो कि बहुत ही प्रभावशाली था.” - The street play was very attractive, the actors of the play were using Hindi as well as our rural language, which was very effective.” (*Sagar Mahto, PRI member (Upmukhiya), Pawapur Panchayat*)
- “हम शिक्षक स्वच्छता के जरूरी पहलुओं को जानते हैं और बच्चों को बताना भी चाहते हैं, पर समय के अभाव के कारण बता नहीं पाते. मैं चेतना विकास और उनके सहयोगियों को बहुत धन्यवाद देना चाहूंगी कि उन्होंने ऐसे कार्यक्रम का आयोजन किया, उम्मीद है आपलोग इसे यही बंद नहीं करेंगे और समय-समय पर आकर हमेशा ही बच्चों को जागरूक करेंगे.” - We teachers know the important aspects of cleanliness and also want to teach them to the students, but due to lack of time, we are unable to tell them. I would like to thank Chetna Vikas and its Associates for organizing such a program, I hope you will not stop it here and come from time to time and always make children aware. (*Mrs. Uma Kumara, head mistress, High School, Dumdumi*)
- “मैं लोगों की दाढ़ी बनाने के बाद उस्तरा तो साफ़ करता था पर नेलकटर भी साफ़ करना है ये खयाल कभी नहीं आया. मैं अच्छी आदत अभियान के सभी कार्यकर्ताओं को धन्यवाद देना चाहूंगा कि आज उन्होंने हमें ये महत्वपूर्ण जानकारी दी.” After shaving someone’s beard, I used to clean the razor, but I never considered cleaning the nail cutter. I would want to express my gratitude to all of the Achhi Aadat Campaign staff members for providing us with this crucial information today. (*Mr. Avinash Singh, shop, Khanodih, Baghmara*)
- “घुकी हमारे गाँव में संकीर्ण गलियां हैं ऐसे में रिक्सा से जागरूकता मैसेज लोगों तक पहुँचाने के ये तरीका बहुत बेहतरीन था. इस तरीके से गाँव की गली- गली में अच्छी आदत अभियान का उद्देश्य प्रेषित हो गया.” - Our community has small streets, so using a rickshaw to spread awareness to the populace was a great idea. The objective of the good habit campaign was thus communicated in every street of the village. (*Mrs Sangita Devi, PRI Member (Mukhiya), Pawapur Panchayat*)
- “पंचायत की दीवार पर अभियान के नारे का लेखन बहुत ही स्पष्ट और आकर्षक लग रहा है, निश्चय ही गाँव और समुदाय के लोग इससे प्रभावित होंगे और अच्छी आदत को अपने जीवन में अपनाएंगे.” -The writing of the slogan of the campaign on the wall of the Panchayat looks very clear and attractive, surely the people of the village and community will be influenced by it and will adopt good habits in their lives. (*Mr. Hemlal Mahto, PRI member (Uppramukh), Ramakunda Panchayat*)



LOHARDAGA GRAM SWARAJYA SANSTHAN

THE GENESIS

In the year 1985, few people from different section of the society inspired by the Gandhian philosophy and the noble idea of self-rule founded **Lohardaga Gram Swarajya Sansthan** as a Trust. The English interpretation of the name Lohardaga Gram Swarajya Sansthan is Lohardaga Village Self-rule Institution. LGSS commits to this philosophy by transferring the ownership of all its efforts to the community who are the ultimate beneficiaries. The founders were also influenced by the philosophy of Vinoba'ji and Jayprakash'ji. They had a deep concern about the contemporary condition of Lohardaga, which had a long history of negligence from all sectors of the society and witnessed abject poverty in spite of having abundance of resources. Later this organization became registered under the Indian Trust Act, 1882 and Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, 1976. With a commitment to bring in socio-economic changes among the most downtrodden people of the area, especially among the women and children of the tribal population and establish a responsive environment for their needs and to improve their quality of life LGSS has walked a long way of twenty-nine years. But people in LGSS are still striving to achieve the ultimate goal of self-rule and are ready to continue the journey.

OUR VISION

Lohardaga Gram Swarajya Sansthan has a vision to have a Rural Self-reliant Society i.e. Sampoorna Gram Swaraj.

OUR MISSION

To empower rural poor and disadvantaged community in such a way, so that they can identify, utilize their Potential and resources for their overall development in a sustainable manner.



OUR OBJECTIVES

- To improve the present condition of rural people by reducing poverty, unemployment, illiteracy and problems regarding health.
- To organize rural women for socio-economic development through income generation activities and skill development training.
- To create equal opportunity of education for the children of disadvantaged section of the society.
- To promote livelihood opportunities through proper management of natural resources and agriculture practices.
- To organize rural people and women for leadership development and development of people's pressure and vigilance committee.
- To develop appropriate rural technology and promote non-conventional energy sources.
- To collaborate with the government departments and other development agencies to make convergence of all development programmes in an integrated manner for all-out development.

OUR OPERATIONAL AREA

LGSS is presently working in seven districts of Jharkhand and based in the small town of Lohardaga. The operational area covers **Lohardaga, Gumla, Simdega, Ranchi, Khunti, Palamu, Gaarhwa, Chatra and Latehar.**

THE BENEFICIARIES

The vulnerable tribal population forms the core of LGSS's target and its major beneficiaries. In its all endeavour, special emphasis has been given on the women and children of the rural tribal population.

- Women & Child at Risk
- Adolescents
- Marginalized Farmers
- Senior Citizens
- Physically & Psychologically Challenged Persons

OUR RESOURCES

Human Resource

A very resourceful team of more than hundred dedicated workers is active in the field. Among them twelve are professionally qualified in the field of social and rural development. They are working at the project management level. In the field we have thirty-five supervisory staffs along with about hundred field staffs approximately. This team is supported by efficient office/administrative staff and the Secretary. Other than these team members, a host of doctors, engineers, social scientists, management experts and legal advisors are also most enthusiastically extending their technical support to our programmes.

What are the organizational achievements since its inceptions.

Lok Samiti was formed in village, block and district, as a result of which we got connected with all the villages of the district and various types of problems started getting solved through the organization, like small disputes in the village were settled and fewer cases started going to the police station, people started reaching the district and state level for the solution of their problems, people became aware of their rights and duties. The ability to identify local resources and possibilities increased in people.

THEMATIC AREA

a. Education – The Secretary of the institute, Mr. C. P. Yadav got the opportunity to go to Bangladesh and study the break model, as a result of which Bapu Bal Vidyalaya was established in 10 villages of Lohardaga district, in which the school rooms were constructed by the community, in which the children of the community who were deprived and marginalized from the school were connected to the mainstream of education. This model was observed by the Deputy Commissioner of Lohardaga and the World Bank official and it was appreciated by them. Education centers were run at village level for the girls of minority community. This increased awareness towards education among the girls of minority community. After this, with the help of many domestic and foreign agencies, efforts are being made to provide quality education to the children of government schools. Along with this, career guidance is being provided to children of class 9th to 12th.

b. Health – Lohardaga Gram Swarajya Sansthan was the first institution in India with which integrated nutrition and health program was run from 1997 to 2010. In 1997, the percentage of vaccination was 80% which was increased to 80% in 2010. Along with this, instead of different registers for the record of health and nutrition, AT A GLANCE register was made in Lohardaga district which was implemented in other districts by the government for this achievement, the employees of Swar Sansthan were honored by the district administration. A tool was made for pregnant women and newborns which were implemented in other districts as well. Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan

c. Livelihood - With the help of UNDP and Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India, 10 types of technologies were developed in which farm pond and vermi compost technology were accepted by the people. Farm pond was observed and appreciated by the Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission, Government of India. From 2002 to 2005, three types of models were made for wasteland development which was Staggered Trench Thirty Forty and Five Percent Model. The result of this was that one pond became perennial which is being used by farmers.

d. Women empowerment- In 1996, Mahila Mandal was formed for the empowerment of women and the habit of saving and doing transactions was inculcated in them. Later on, it came to be known as Self Help Group (WSHG) and the group received the Excellence in Performance Award in the year 2005-06 under the Self Help Group Bank Linkage Program by NABARD. D.P.O. for empowerment of disabled people. Was formed, the institute was honored by Sitesaver organization, Jharkhand Government and JSLPS for doing excellent work in the field of disability.

CORE VALUE AND PRINCIPLES

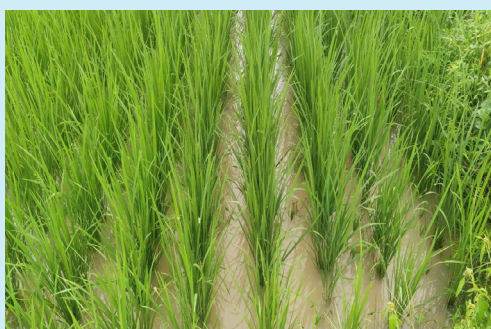
Lohardaga Gram Swarajya Sansthan (LGSS) is deeply committed to fostering a rural society grounded in self-reliance and sustainable development. Our core values include:

1. **Empowerment:** We prioritize the empowerment of rural communities, particularly women and children, enabling them to harness their potential and resources for self-sufficient development.
2. **Equity and Inclusiveness:** We strive for equitable opportunities in education, health, and livelihood, ensuring that disadvantaged and marginalized groups benefit from our initiatives.
3. **Sustainability:** Our approach emphasizes sustainable practices, from natural resource management to the promotion of non-conventional energy sources, aiming for long-term positive impacts.
4. **Collaboration:** We believe in the power of partnerships, working closely with government bodies and development agencies to integrate and enhance development programs effectively.
5. **Community Ownership:** We uphold the principle of community ownership, transferring the responsibility and benefits of our projects to the local population to ensure lasting change and self-rule.

These values guide our mission to transform the lives of the rural poor and disadvantaged through dedicated and holistic development efforts.

SUCCESS STORIES

LGSS has achieved sustainable achievement in promoting organic farming in Kairo block of Lohardaga District.



Awareness:

- 4500 family get trained on organic farming in kairo block of Lohardaga district.

Capacity Building:

- 1650 farmer trained on SRI and SWI and they started these techniques in their farming practices.
- 1055 women got training in making organic manure and pesticide for their personal and commercial use.

Support :

- 50 Vermi compost unit and 160 Compost pit has been established in the villages to promote organic farming. The initiative was the significant step towards Improving Soil Quality and encourages farmers to use organic manure.

Establishment of FPO's:

- With the help of LGSS, two Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), involving local farmers. The initiative has facilitated the farmers in transporting their produced grain and organic manure in main market.

Impact :

- Over past two years, Group of farmers in the villages of kairo block have gradually started using organic manure and are progressing towards organic farming.

4. Lesson learnt /key learning during implementation of thematic projects.

- A. Clear objectives and planning are crucial.
- B. Stakeholder engagement and participation are vital.
- C. Capacity building and training enhance sustainability evaluation ensure project effectiveness.
- D. Monitoring and evaluation ensure projects effectiveness.
- E. Flexibility and adaptability are essential.

Way forward in the impact created in the successful intervention areas of the projects.

Ensure the long-term impact of the project, it's essential to establish community-led management structures and develop sustainability plans. Ongoing capacity building and training will also be crucial, along with fostering partnerships with local organizations and stakeholders. Continuous monitoring and evaluation will help identify areas for improvement.

Scaling Up

Identifying replication sites and communities will be key to scaling up the project. Adaptation of project models to new contexts, development of scalable project designs, and securing additional funding and resources will also be necessary. Establishing strategic partnerships will facilitate expansion.

Policy Influence and Advocacy

Documenting and disseminating project learning's will inform policymakers and influencers. Engaging with these stakeholders and advocating for policy changes will support project goals. Collaboration with other organizations and development of advocacy strategies will amplify the project's impact.



GRAM JYOTI DEOGHAR, JHARKHAND

1. BACKGROUND OF THE ORGANIZATION:

Gram Jyoti was laid down in 1998 by a team of social activists who are earlier associated with Gandhian concept of rural development like SARVODAYA and ANTYODAYA upliftment. The organization had started its intervention on non-formal education sector and gradually included more thematic areas in its intervention areas as per the basic need of the target community. In 2001, it successfully executed sustainable agriculture program with provision of water conservation and irrigation development. After the evaluation of irrigation development projects, it was found that addressing Livelihood sector would not alleviate the issue of food security without inclusion of safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene as well as minor ailment treatment process. So, Gram Jyoti started its track on working strategy included on Health, Water & Sanitation projects. During this work Gram Jyoti realized to empower deprived vulnerable excluded members of the community for the sustainable development through their entitlement of rights & responsibilities. The organization is committed for the holistic development of the society working simultaneously on different thematic areas with different partner agencies. Today, the organization has successfully completed 26 years of rich experience, and working as a learner in the development sector and also open to learn from each section for the society.

Gram Jyoti have worked with Government, National and International donor agencies which are as below:

Government Agencies: Swachh Bharat Mission, Drinking Water and Sanitation Division, Integrated Tribal Development Authority, Jharkhand State Watershed Mission, Jal Jeevan Mission, Jharkhand State Social Welfare Board and Labour Department.

National Agencies: NABARD, Childline India Foundation, Azim Premji Foundation, Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation, Dhvani Foundation, The Aangan Trust, RCRC Network, Jal Seva Charitable Trust, National Stock Exchange, KIIT University, Unicef, Pratham, Global Sanitation Fund, JICA, Goonj.

International Agencies: FORRAD (GAA), DFID-PACS, WaterAid India, NEG-IGSS, BBADF, UNDP, Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation-US, Roddenberry, The Aangan Turst, Finish Society.

2. PROFILE OF CORE MEMBERS:

S.N.	Name	Gender	Position	Occupation
1	Babulal Kapri	M	President	Agriculturist
2	Pashupati Kumar	M	Secretary	Social worker
3	Ashok Kumar Singh	M	Treasurer	Social service
4	Asha Devi	F	Member	Social service
5	Rouf Ansari	M	Member	Social service
6	Chandful Murmu	F	Member	Social service
7	Upendra Panjiyara	M	Member	Social service
8	Kailash Yadav	M	Member	Farmer
9	Awdhesh Chandra Pandey	M	Member	Social service

3. THEMATIC ENGAGEMENTS:

Livelihood

Our initiatives have focused on enhancing sustainable livelihoods through skill development programs, such as the establishment of demonstration of farm and training in high-value crop cultivation. We have empowered communities to adopt diversified farming practices, enabling them to increase their income and food security. By facilitating access to markets and providing technical support, we have strengthened the resilience of local farmers, ensuring their livelihoods are sustainable in the face of economic challenges.

Health

In the health sector, we have organized health camps, COVID-19 cases management, rehabilitation, medical care and ration support provide essential care services to underserved populations. Our outreach programs aim to raise awareness about common health issues, ensuring that communities are informed and empowered to take charge of their health. Additionally, we promote preventive healthcare practices, including 0-5 year's vaccination campaigns through convergence process, vaccination for livestock, disease and parasite control contributing to overall community health and well-being.

WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene)

Our focus on WASH initiatives has led to the implementation of clean water supply systems and sanitation facilities in rural areas. By conducting awareness campaigns on hygiene practices and water conservation, we have improved the health standards of communities. Our borewell installation projects have significantly increased access to clean drinking water, reducing waterborne diseases and enhancing the quality of life for local residents.

Education

We prioritize non formal education as a fundamental right and have established learning centers to promote literacy and skill development, particularly among children and women. Our educational programs are designed to provide access to quality education, fostering an inclusive environment where every child can thrive. We advocate for the rights of children to education and ensure that barriers to learning are addressed, enabling a brighter future for the next generation.

Child & Women Rights

Our initiatives focus on promoting the rights of children and women through advocacy, awareness programs, and community engagement. We work to combat gender-based violence and child labour while promoting education and economic opportunities for women. By fostering a supportive environment, we empower women and children to assert their rights and participate actively in their communities, contributing to social and economic development.

Land and Water Management

Through sustainable land and water management practices, we have improved agricultural productivity and environmental health. Our projects promote soil conservation, rainwater harvesting, and efficient irrigation techniques, ensuring that natural resources are utilized sustainably. We collaborate with local farmers to implement these practices, enhancing their agricultural yield while preserving the ecosystem.

Environment Promotion

Our commitment to environmental promotion is evident through our initiatives aimed at conserving biodiversity and promoting sustainable practices. We engage communities in afforestation programs, waste management, and awareness campaigns about climate change. By advocating for environmental sustainability, we aim to protect natural resources for future generations while enhancing the livelihoods of local communities.

4. MILESTONES:

- we have received “SANTHAL RATNA AWARD-2024” by the daily hindi newspaper “The Prabhat Khabar” print media in 2024.
- Received appreciation from the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA, Dumka) for effective intervention in the Shrawani Mela for the prevention of child care & protection in 2022.

- District Administration awarded Gram Jyoti for marvelous performance during Nationwide “SHRAWNI MELA” at Deoghar from 2008 to 2020.
- Received endorsement letter and memento for the excellent services for Woman Empowerment and child rights in 2019 by the Tilak Sewa samiti
- Awarded best partner of Eastern Region on ‘WASH’ thematic area by the WaterAid India in 2015 & 2019
- received Jal Star award by the local electronic and Print media as a best NGOs on Water conservation measures in 2011
- Awarded by the honorable president of India “Nirmal Gram Panchayat Prushkar” for services on sanitation sector in Thariyara & Postwari Pachayats of Mohanpur Block in Deoghar District since 2008.

Apart from these, numbers of endorsement letter and prize are provided by the local district administration in the area of child, women right issue and community upbringing measures.

5. SPECIALIZATION AND UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS:

Insights and lessons learned throughout the organization’s lifespan, including challenges faced and strategies employed to overcome them

Exploring the insights and lessons learned throughout an organization’s lifespan can provide valuable guidance for future growth and resilience. Here are some key themes that often emerge:

Areas of Specialization and Unique Characteristics

1. Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Expertise

Our organization has extensive experience addressing water, sanitation, and hygiene issues. We prioritize improving access to clean water and sanitation facilities, which are fundamental to health and well-being through community based management and community led action.

2. Innovative Agricultural Technology

We introduce cutting-edge agricultural technologies in farmers’ fields, empowering local communities to enhance productivity and sustainability in their farming practices.

3. Child Rights

We ensure the rights of children, emphasizing their right to health, education, family life, play and recreation, an adequate standard of living, and protection from abuse and harm. This holistic approach ensures that children’s needs are central to our initiatives.

4. Community-Based Organization (CBO) Development

We focus on the formation and strengthening of community-based organizations (CBOs) to accelerate rural reconstruction. These organizations serve as vital platforms for community engagement and empowerment.

5. Grassroots Engagement

Our organization enjoys cordial acceptance among grassroots communities, thanks to our strong community ties and hands-on approach. This trust facilitates effective collaboration and implementation of our programs.

6. Successful Development Schemes

We have successfully grounded all development schemes within the villages we serve, ensuring that our initiatives are relevant, sustainable, and tailored to local needs.

7. Government Collaboration

We maintain regular convergence with government departments at various levels—PRI, block, district, and state—to align our efforts with broader development goals and enhance resource mobilization.

8. Promotion of Small Orchards

We promote the establishment of small orchards in wastelands as a tool for income enhancement, providing communities with sustainable livelihoods while improving local ecosystems.

9. Drinking Water Quality Testing Expertise

Our organization possesses specialized expertise in drinking water quality testing, ensuring that communities have access to safe drinking water and addressing public health concerns.

6. ORGANIZATIONAL IMPACT:

Qualitative Impact: Case Studies and Narratives

1. Food Security Initiatives

Our organization has significantly enhanced food security for 12,700 households by implementing social security and livelihood schemes, alongside increasing agricultural production. A notable case involved the distribution of 100,000 timber saplings to 5,000 families, contributing to their long-term economic resilience.

2. Water and Sanitation Improvements

The installation of 162 hand pumps and restoration of 589 others has mobilized communities for their operation and maintenance. In 52 schools across Deoghar and Pakur districts, hand washing facilities have been constructed, promoting hygiene among students. The establishment of 904 Village Water and Sanitation Committees has ensured ongoing community engagement, while 49 villages have achieved open defecation-free status, showcasing a significant cultural shift toward improved sanitation.

3. Health and Hygiene Education

We trained 52 Village Health and Nutrition Committees (VHNCs) on health issues, enhancing local knowledge and practices. Through our “Hamara Swastha: Hamari Awaz” program, we empowered 250 women to advocate for their health rights, directly improving the quality of service at four health care facilities. Additionally, we

conducted 26 health camps with UNDP, benefiting over 3,000 individuals through medical care and disease prevention efforts.

4. Land Development and Water Management

Our initiatives led to the construction of 207 irrigation wells, benefiting 1650 acres of land and directly improving agricultural yields. Water recharge tanks and rooftop rainwater preservation systems have been implemented in schools, contributing to sustainable water management for 272 tribal families.

5. Livelihood and Environmental Promotion

We supported 52 families in producing vermin compost, while 138 women's Self-Help Groups (SHGs) were formed and linked to banks for income-generating projects. Our efforts in transforming 155 acres of barren land into orchards have provided 100 farming families with sustainable income sources.

6. Child Care and Protection

Our commitment to child protection is exemplified by successfully tracing 2,260 missing children and providing follow-up support for six months. We have also prevented 62 child marriages, ensuring the safety and well-being of young girls in our communities.

7. Capacity Building

We have formed and strengthened 78 Child Clubs and 79 adolescent groups focused on child rights. Our training initiatives for 700 "Jal Sahiyas" have enhanced local capacity for water and sanitation management. Additionally, we trained 93 members of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) on various governance topics, further empowering local leadership.

8. Housing Support

Under the Birsa Munda Awas program, we constructed quality homes for 36 Primitive Tribal Groups (PTG) families, providing them with a permanent place to stay, which has transformed their living conditions.

Quantitative Impact: Statistical Data and Metrics

□ Food Security:

- 12,700 households supported; 100,000 timber saplings distributed to 5,000 families.

□ Water and Sanitation:

- 162 hand pumps installed and 589 restored.
- 17 schools equipped with hand washing facilities.
- 904 Village Water and Sanitation Committees operational.
- 49 villages achieved open defecation-free status.
- 8,855 tribal families accessing safe drinking water.

- o 8,564 low-cost toilets constructed.
- o 25 PWD-friendly toilets and 83 school sanitary blocks built.
- o 2 mini water supply schemes established.
- ▢ **Health:**
 - o 27 VHNCs trained.
 - o 250 women engaged in health rights advocacy.
 - o 26 health camps conducted; over 3,000 beneficiaries.
 - o 2,000 children benefited from health awareness campaigns.
- ▢ **Land Development and Water Management:**
 - o 52 irrigation wells benefiting 650 acres.
 - o 16 water recharge tanks constructed for 272 families.
 - o 26 rooftop rainwater preservation systems installed.
- ▢ **Livelihood and Environment:**
 - o 52 families producing vermi compost.
 - o 138 women's SHGs formed.
 - o 70 Kisan Clubs promoting cash cropping.
 - o 267 tribal families trained in fisheries.
- ▢ **Child Care:**
 - o 2,260 missing children traced.
 - o 637 children received medical support.
 - o 250 children from migrant families receiving free education and nutrition.
- ▢ **Capacity Building:**
 - o 700 Jal Sahiyas trained.
 - o 469 masons trained on SBM(G) toilet models.
- ▢ **Housing:**
 - o 36 PTG families received quality housing through the Birsa Munda Awas program.

7. LEARNINGS:

Insights and lessons learned throughout the organization's lifespan, including challenges faced and strategies employed to overcome them.

Insights and Lessons Learned

1. Community Engagement is Crucial

- o **Insight:** Building trust with local communities enhances program acceptance and participation.
- o **Challenge:** Initial resistance from communities due to skepticism or past experiences.
- o **Strategy:** Establishing strong relationships through continuous dialogue and involvement of community leaders helped in gaining trust and ensuring active participation.

2. Holistic Approaches Yield Better Outcomes

- o **Insight:** Integrating health, sanitation, and livelihood initiatives leads to more sustainable community development.
- o **Challenge:** Fragmented implementation can limit the effectiveness of programs.
- o **Strategy:** Developing interconnected programs, such as linking health education with water and sanitation efforts, maximized the overall impact on community well-being.

3. Empowerment through Capacity Building

- o **Insight:** Training and empowering local leaders and community members fosters long-term sustainability.
- o **Challenge:** Limited local expertise in certain areas (e.g., health and sanitation management).
- o **Strategy:** Implementing capacity-building initiatives, such as training “Jal Sahiyas” and forming SHGs, has equipped communities with the skills needed to manage their own development.

4. Flexibility in Program Design

- o **Insight:** Flexibility allows programs to adapt to changing community needs and external factors.
- o **Challenge:** Unexpected challenges, such as natural disasters or economic downturns.
- o **Strategy:** Regularly assessing community needs and being willing to modify programs has been essential for maintaining relevance and effectiveness.

5. Data-Driven Decision Making

- o **Insight:** Utilizing both qualitative and quantitative data informs better program design and implementation.
- o **Challenge:** Difficulty in accessing reliable data in some areas.
- o **Strategy:** Conducting comprehensive assessments and community surveys helped identify needs and measure impact, guiding future initiatives.
- o

6. Collaboration with Government and Organizations

- o **Insight:** Partnerships amplify resources and expertise, leading to more effective interventions.
- o **Challenge:** Navigating bureaucratic processes can be slow and complex.
- o **Strategy:** Establishing regular communication and collaboration with government agencies and NGOs ensured alignment with broader goals and facilitated resource sharing.

7. Cultural Sensitivity is Key

- o **Insight:** Understanding and respecting local customs and traditions enhances program acceptance.
- o **Challenge:** Misalignment of program goals with community values could lead to resistance.
- o **Strategy:** Engaging community leaders in program design and respecting local practices helped tailor initiatives to align with cultural values.

8. Focus on Long-Term Sustainability

- o **Insight:** Ensuring that initiatives are sustainable beyond project timelines is vital for lasting impact.
- o **Challenge:** Short-term funding cycles can limit long-term planning.
- o **Strategy:** Developing community-owned programs and ensuring local governance involvement facilitated sustainable practices.

9. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) is Essential

- o **Insight:** Continuous M&E allows for timely adjustments and enhances accountability.
- o **Challenge:** Limited resources for comprehensive M&E processes.
- o **Strategy:** Establishing simple yet effective M&E frameworks that involve community members provided valuable feedback and improved program delivery.

10. Addressing Gender Issues

- o **Insight:** Promoting gender equality is crucial for community development.
- o **Challenge:** Traditional gender roles may limit women's participation in programs.
- o **Strategy:** Targeted initiatives aimed at empowering women, such as forming women's SHGs, have improved their engagement and leadership in community development.

The organization's journey has highlighted the importance of community engagement, holistic approaches, and adaptive strategies. By learning from challenges and employing effective solutions, we continue to enhance our impact and foster sustainable development in the communities we serve.

8. SUCCESS STORIES:

Q. Field-Related Success: Specific examples of successful projects or initiatives in the field.

Q. Advocacy Success: Instances where the organization's advocacy efforts led to significant policy or societal changes.

Q. Other Successes: Any additional notable achievements or testimonies that highlight the organization's contributions.

Field-Related Success

Specific Examples of Successful Projects or Initiatives

1. Food Security Enhancement Project

Our initiative ensured food security for 12,700 households by implementing social security and livelihood schemes. One standout project involved the introduction of innovative agricultural practices, which led to a substantial increase in crop yields. Additionally, distributing 100,000 timber saplings to 5,000 families not only improved food security but also contributed to environmental sustainability by enhancing local ecosystems.

2. Water and Sanitation Improvement Program

The installation of 162 hand pumps and restoration of 589 pumps in local communities significantly improved access to safe drinking water. A key achievement was the formation of 904 Village Water and Sanitation Committees, which empowered communities to take ownership of their water resources. Furthermore, our efforts helped 49 villages achieve open defecation-free status, representing a significant cultural shift toward improved sanitation practices.

3. Health Awareness and Services Initiative

Conducting 26 health camps in partnership with UNDP provided vital medical services to over 3,000 individuals. This initiative not only improved access to healthcare but also raised awareness about preventive health measures, particularly regarding water and vector-borne diseases. Training 27 VHNCs on health and hygiene further strengthened community health practices.

ADVOCACY SUCCESS

Instances of Advocacy Leading to Significant Policy or Societal Changes

1. Child Right

Through our “Hamara Swastha: Hamari Awaz” program, we empowered 250 women to advocate for their health rights, resulting in improved healthcare services at four health facilities. This grassroots advocacy led to local government recognizing the need for enhanced health services for women and children, prompting policy changes to allocate more resources toward maternal and child health.

2. Preventing Child Marriage

Our sustained advocacy efforts resulted in stopping 62 child marriages in our working areas. By raising awareness in the community about the negative impacts of child marriage and collaborating with local leaders, we were able to influence societal attitudes and contribute to legislative discussions on child protection laws.

3. Policy Engagement on Water and Sanitation

Regular collaboration with government departments at various levels facilitated discussions on improving water and sanitation policies. Our data-driven advocacy highlighted the critical need for sustainable water management practices, leading to policy adjustments that support community-led initiatives and funding for infrastructure development.

OTHER SUCCESSES

Notable Achievements and Testimonies Highlighting Contributions

1. Sustainable Livelihood Development

The establishment of 138 women’s SHGs, VWSC-723 VHNC-52 Village Development -38 and the promotion of cash cropping through 70 Kisan Clubs have empowered local

men and women economically. Testimonials from beneficiaries illustrate how these initiatives have transformed lives, enabling men and women to contribute financially to their households and enhancing their social standing in the community through leveraging the program by the joint initiatives of the existing committee.

2. Child Care and Protection Success

We successfully traced 2,260 missing children, restoring them to their families. Regular follow-ups ensured their ongoing support and integration back into their communities. Feedback from parents has highlighted the life-changing impact of our work, with many expressing gratitude for the safety and well-being of their children. Expression of the guardians of losing children made them empower to consider the major point during rehabilitation of the children at household and community level.

3. Capacity Building Initiatives

Training 700 Jal Sahiyas and forming 78 Child Clubs have significantly increased local capacities in managing safe drinking water and child protection issues. The positive feedback from participants indicates that these programs not only enhanced knowledge but also fostered leadership skills among community members.

4. Housing Support through Birsa Munda Awas

The construction of quality houses for 36 Primitive Tribal Group families has provided them with secure, permanent shelter. Testimonials from beneficiaries reflect the profound change in their living conditions and overall quality of life, demonstrating the importance of stable housing in community development.

These examples illustrate the multifaceted success of our organization in the field, advocacy, and beyond. Through targeted projects, advocacy efforts, and community empowerment, we are being continued to make significant contributions to the well-being and development of the communities as we serve.



CITIZENS FOUNDATION

1. BACKGROUND OF THE ORGANIZATION:

The organization Citizens Foundation has originated with the efforts of youths that were fully involved in social and economic movements in mid 2000s. In early 20s, it was realized by them that there has been a gradual change in approaches of the voluntary organizations. The voluntary sector felt a need of expansion in efforts as well as professional support to existing structures. Initially, a couple of dedicated young men's thought of it and began to consider the needs of the socially excluded communities within the state of Jharkhand. The organization came into existence in year 2002. It got registered under the Jharkhand Societies Registration Act-1860 on 20th February 2002. Citizens Foundation is an organization with deep faith in the people, strongly believes in people, and works to bring out their inherent strength and ability to focus on solving the problems. CF works with the most marginalized, poor, exploited people both men and women in the state of Jharkhand, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Andhra Pradesh, Sikkim, Haryana, Manipur, West Bengal, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Odisha and Arunachal Pradesh. Since its inception, the aim of CF is to help the People to organize, to expand their capacities and equip themselves to overcome the various deprivations under which they live. It is a field-based resource organization, aiming to help organizations of the poor to get the research, information, knowledge, training that they require bringing about the structural changes needed in society.

Our Partners



Government



National & International



Corporates



Media



UN Agencies



Network & Associates



PSU's



Educational Institutes



2. PROFILE OF CORE MEMBERS:

Profile of Core Member:

Mr. Ganesh Reddy, CEO

1. Presently serving as Joint Secretary, United Nations Global Compact Network India.
2. Founder and Present Secretary cum CEO, Citizens Foundation
3. British Deputy High Commission has appointed as CONSULAR WARDEN for Jharkhand State, from the Date-26th August 2014 to Till Date.
4. As a Chairperson, Jharkhand State Bal Bhavan (An Autonomous Body of National Bal Bhavan, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India)
Period: 2010 – till date

5. Served as State Representative Jharkhand, National Commission for Protection Child Rights (NCPCR) (**Government of India**)
Period: 2012 – 2013
6. National Adviser with National Commission for Protection Child Rights (NCPCR) (Government of India)
Period: 2013 – 2014
7. **As a** Member, State Steering Committee **in** National Green Core, Ministry of Forest & Environment. Govt of Jharkhand
2003 – till date Ranchi, Jharkhand
8. **As** Member, Core Group in Jharkhand Alliance for Children under UNICEF, Jharkhand
September 2010- till date Ranchi, Jharkhand
9. **As** Member Core Committee, Jal Jagruta Abhiyan
2009 – 2011 Ranchi, Jharkhand
10. **As** Co-Convener in Damodar Bachao Andolon
2008 – 2010 (2 years)
11. **As** Secretary, Rastra Samarpan
March 1999 – January 2001, PTPS, Patratu

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- Mr. Ganesh Reddy recently received “Icon’s of Hindustan” award for improving society while demonstrating brilliance and leadership in development sector given by The Hindustan Times.
- Pioneer Award for Social Entrepreneur in 2011 by Christ University, Bangalore.

Name: **Hemant Sanjeev Tirkey**

Designation: Director

Summary of Profile and Expertise:

- Wide-ranging strategic and implementation level leadership with strong analytical and conceptual skills and proven ability in the development and direction of organizations, programmes and working with diverse range of partners such as MoRD, State Planning Commission, government departments, Banks, Corporate/PSUs, NGO forums and donor agencies like DFID, UNDP, UNICEF, CASA, Australian and Canadian High Commission,
- Extensive experience and proven expertise in capacity and institutional development, multi-stakeholder facilitation, strategic analysis and planning and resource mobilization.

- Sectoral Expertise: project management, women empowerment, people's rights and entitlements, RCH, trafficking and HIV/AIDS, decentralization, governance, Education, Sanitation, Watershed and agriculture development, research studies, networking, agri-business, health, capacity building and livelihoods.

Academic Credentials:

- Passed **M.A** of Arts in Social Work from **Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS)**, Mumbai in 2003.

3. THEMATIC ENGAGEMENTS:

HEALTH

Citizens Foundation (CF) prioritizes Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG 3) – ensuring excellent health and well-being for all. With a proven history of healthcare delivery in rural areas, CF implements a range of initiatives. From constructing traditional hospitals to deploying mobile medical units and offering specialized care for malnourished children, our comprehensive approach encompasses over 40 healthcare programs. Through these diverse initiatives, CF is committed to ensuring essential healthcare services reach the most vulnerable communities, leaving no one behind.

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT & LIVELIHOOD PROMOTION:

At Citizens Foundation (CF), we acknowledge the vital role of the environment and its components in supporting our society. We firmly believe that promoting sustainable coexistence depends on responsibly managing natural resources to improve human well-being. Our dedication is evident in our initiatives, like watershed management programs and creating water storage facilities, all aimed at maximizing the use of natural resources for the benefit of current and future generations. Citizens Foundation (CF) prioritizes to enhance livelihoods. Our strategy focuses on empowering individuals with the necessary resources to achieve financial independence through sustainable methods. CF's programs for livelihood advancement aim to provide access to these resources, encouraging transformation and boosting income through value-added practices. We aim to promote sustainable livelihoods and ensure comprehensive well-being for all.

INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT:

Citizens Foundation pioneers integrated rural development, addressing diverse facets crucial for community upliftment. With a holistic approach, we focus on bolstering physical infrastructure, fostering education accessibility, and promoting income generation initiatives. By synergizing these efforts, Citizens Foundation cultivates vibrant rural communities, fostering resilience and prosperity from within. Through our multifaceted interventions, we exemplify a commitment to comprehensive development, touching lives and transforming landscapes for a brighter, more equitable future.

TECHNO MANAGERIAL SUPPORT:

Citizens Foundation is committed towards sharing knowledge and collaborating technically within the development sector. Through partnerships with various organizations such as corporate entities, UN agencies, bilateral partners, and more, we leverage the skills of our team to lead initiatives that align with our mission. These strategic alliances aim to deliver innovative and impactful projects, providing services like Impact Assessment, Research Studies, Socio-Economic Surveys, Rehabilitation & Resettlement, Land Acquisition, Project Management, and Technical Surveys to advance sustainable development.

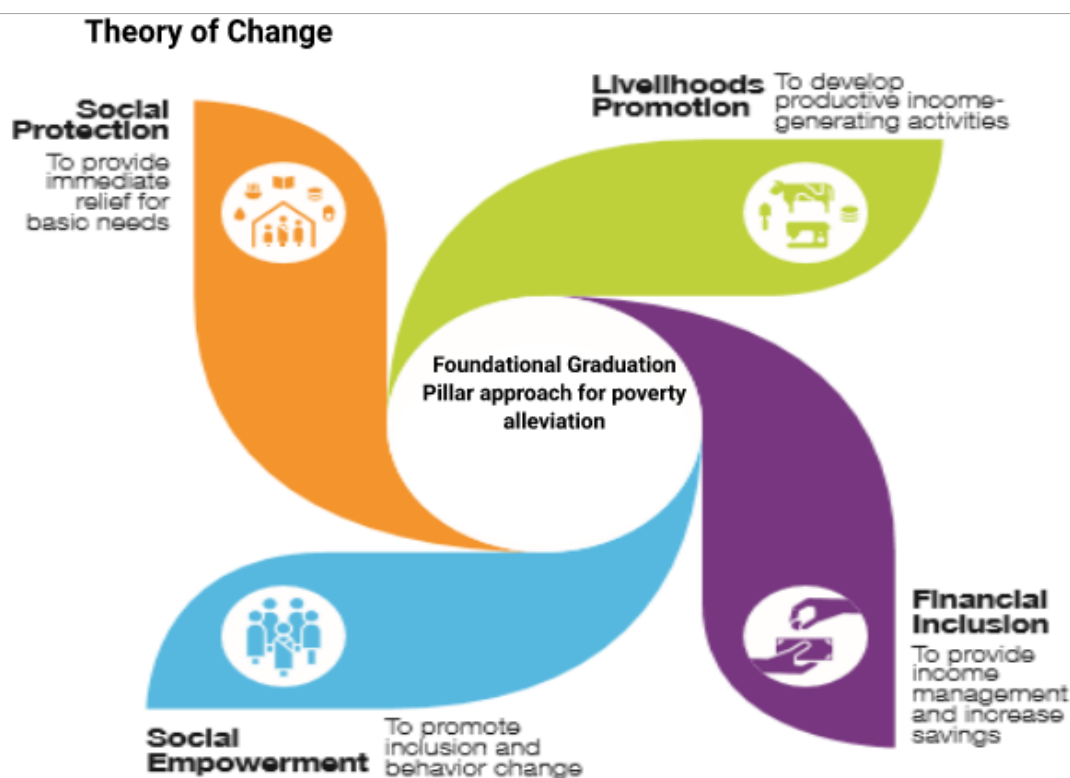
ADVOCACY AND POLICY:

Our commitment is centered on nurturing creativity to tackle the complex issues encountered by various social groups. Engaging stakeholders through seminars, discussions, workshops, and consultations, we drive our advocacy and policy endeavours with a focus on practical solutions. Our efforts encompass a wide range of areas such as Sustainability, featuring campaigns like “GO GREEN” for environmental protection and reducing single-use plastics, and “FOR YOU” to inspire, create, and support the underprivileged. Additionally, we run multiple health and sanitation campaigns, providing medical consultations remotely and aiding in the restoration of schools affected by disasters. Adapting to changing circumstances, we have introduced the ‘Line of Life’ initiative to address and overcome the challenges brought about by nationwide lockdowns.

4. MILESTONES:

1. Farmers equipped with innovative agriculture know how for enhanced productivity augmenting their income.
2. Increased awareness on maternal health and nutrition through various campaigns. Access to clean drinking water in school/Anganwadi and community center through installation of water purifier.
3. Promoted smart learning with digital learning center.
4. Life skill education, building capacity, problem solving skill and confidence in the community.
5. Promoted clean and green energy
6. Promoted supplementary source of livelihood for income generation.
7. Promoted entrepreneurship for self-reliance
8. Training and exposures for enhanced skills and practical learning with observation.
9. Disaster response in Covid-19 and flood to provide necessary support during vulnerable and distressing time.

5. SPECIALIZATION AND UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS:



6. ORGANIZATIONAL IMPACT:

1. Empowering community through 150+ projects
2. Outreach: 40, 00,000+ Healthcare Services Provided
3. Outreach: 20, 00,000+ Population Catered under Livelihood & NRM initiatives
4. 15,000+ LIVELIHOOD GENERATED
5. Natural resource Management: 6500+ Hectares Land Treated for Water conservation
6. 2 Lakhs+ PEOPLE AIDED AMID IN COVID19 PANDEMIC

7. LEARNINGS:

- Our idea of rural areas is not always in line with reality.
- The needs of the authorities are they administrative, traditional or religious, are not necessarily the needs of the people.
- We are all guilty of the approach so often taken, which is to think that they know what people need better than the people themselves and that they are leading them out of the darkness.
- Adaptation by project managers to the local context and cooperation are key to the success of a project.
- Working together is essential to the success of a social initiative.

SUCCESS STORIES:

Case Study: Rural Marketing Outlet, Mamring

Beneficiary	Heema Devi Dhakal (Household of 05 members)
State	Sikkim
District	East Sikkim
Block	Pakyong
Villages	Mamring, Amba GPU
Established in	Mamring Project Ward

OVERVIEW

In Mamring village of Amba GPU in Pakyong, Heema Devi Dhakal became a beneficiary for Rural Marketing Outlet where she was provided with a platform to sell vegetables in an outlet in order to reduce the interference of middlemen which was an additional support provided by Citizens Foundation supported by HDFC Bank Parivartan under HRDP along with Household Solar Lights.

She has established an outlet where she sells the vegetables and other commodities which she either produce or procure from the village. She states that it has helped her a lot as it removed the middlemen who used to buy the produce from her and sell in Pakyong market. She can now sell those goods in Mamring itself as a Rural marketing Outlet has been established as an activity of first year in the HRDP Sikkim Project of Citizens Foundation.

OUTCOME:

Heema Devi Dhakal (34 years old, Farmer) who is a mother of three daughters namely Bhagawati Dhakal (15 yo), Kabita Dhakal (12 yo) and Pritika Dhakal (7 yo) along with Bhisma Dhakal (Husband, 38 years old) work hard together to sustain their earnings in different livelihood options which include agriculture (paddy, maize, vegetables, etc.,), and livestock. She is very happy with the support provided by Citizens Foundation under HRDP supported by HDFC Bank Parivartan as it helped her to get involved in multiple livelihood opportunities where she runs the Rural Marketing Outlet and her husband helps in cultivating the vegetables well with selling milk.

Impact: This Rural Marketing outlet has been a benefit to the community as they get fresh vegetables and produce at cheaper rates, The beneficiary as she got a platform to sell the things before it is perished or sold to middlemen and it has removed middlemen who contributed in high prices for not so fresh vegetables.

When middlemen are removed from the supply chain, it brings more money and happiness in the lives of people selling and purchasing the goods.

CASE STUDY ON KITCHEN GARDEN

Name – Rituparna Baishya

State – Assam District – Kamrup Rural Block – Rangia Village – Baranghati Gram Panchayat – Baranghati

Rituparna Saikia lives with a family of five in Baranghati village within Rangia block of Kamrup Rural district in Assam. Her family relies mostly on farming for their diets and livelihood. The area is best for the cropping a vegetable. The farming that does go on is seasonal, and harvests barely last through the lean months.

Rituparna Baishya mentions that prior to Joining the Program her family's diet lacked diversity and consisted mostly of the crops they could grow on their farmland or what they could purchase in the market, the main reason for joining the program was also the family's diets. Rituparna further noted that relying on the market for food can be costly; thus, their family could not expand their diets through the market.

Intervention by Citizens foundation

A key intervention through the Holistic rural development program supported by HDFC Banks Parivartan, initiated by distributing seeds and helping create kitchen gardens near hand-pumps or where families are disposing of waste water or in the backyard of the Kitchens. Kitchen gardens small plots of land where families can grow a variety of seasonal vegetables. These kitchen gardens are meant to increase food diversity in the diets of the participating families and reduce reliance on the market for fruits and vegetables. Kitchen gardens are a small but significant way for families to produce enough nutritious food to combat malnutrition themselves. However, for the project to be a success, Citizens Foundation's first task was to help people to understand why they needed kitchen gardens. Initially there was resistance and a lack of understanding as people thought malnutrition was not a problem in their families.

Training and Support

Citizens Foundation with the support from HDFC banks Parivartan trained and supported the beneficiaries of Kitchen Garden in the 10 Project villages of the HRDP Project in Rangia and Hajo Block of Kamrup Rural Assam. The Field mobilisers together with the staff were also sensitized on the importance of Kitchen garden before they worked with the beneficiaries. For people to stay healthy it is very important to have a healthy diet. A healthy diet means a balanced mix of carbs, protein, pulses, vegetables, greens, fruit, etc. Vegetables play an important role in meeting the energy needs and thus protects against diseases. Vegetables are especially important for the young, and for the pregnant and nursing women. Inadequate diet during child growth and adolescence can lead to impediments in physical and mental development with lifelong consequences. Rituparna says, "Kitchen gardening is the easiest way of growing desirable fruits and vegetables on our own piece of land, it gives direct access to diverse nutritionally rich vegetables".

The staff of Citizens foundation also taught the beneficiaries when, and where to plant specific plants and seeds, watering and composting techniques, and how to protect crops from animals.

Impact and Future Plan

According to Rituparna, the kitchen garden has been impactful for her family and in her village. She began participating with the project in October of 2021. The initial batch of seeds has grown into a beautiful, diverse garden which includes cabbage, cauliflower, KnolKhol, chilly, Coriander, Beans, green leafy vegetables, Brinjal, Radish. Nirmala proudly claimed that the foods grown in the garden were being utilized in recipes within their home. Additionally, she said the quantity was more than sufficient for the foods to be distributed equally for the whole family. The intervention has also been successful in reducing reliance on the market except for some like spices, sugar, and oil.

Rituparna's Kitchen garden is in the Backyard of her Kitchen, while she cooks her dishes she can Pluck the chilies fresh from the garden and use it in her curry. For watering her Plants she uses the hand pump and also the waste water used for washing dishes directly drips in to the kitchen garden. She also proudly exclaims that all the vegetables produced from the garden are Organic as she doesn't use any kind of Pesticides rather she uses vermin- compost.

Rityparna Plans to extend her varieties of cultivation in order to increase food diversity in her household, she also plans to teach other households to learn the art of Kitchen Gardening for good nutritional vegetables which would further allow this intervention to be sustainable for the foreseeable future

"Because of my kitchen garden, we have vegetables in our own backyard and this provides me with nutrition as it is organic, also I save money which was to be spent on vegetables every week on the market".

Rituparna Baishya
Village: Baranghati

CASE STUDY: PROMOTING ECO-TOURISM AT PARAKHA, SIKKIM

Project Overview

HRDP Sikkim, in collaboration with HDFC Parivartan, initiated an eco-tourism project in Parakha ward of Thekabong Parakha GPU. The aim is to merge conservation efforts, community involvement, and sustainable development through tourism. The project is designed to be community-centric, ultimately handing over management to local residents as a sustainable source of livelihood.

Tasks and Implementation

1. Local Talent Identification:

Fluent locals with multilingual skills were identified to guide tourists effectively, making the experience welcoming and inclusive for diverse travelers.



2. Training Program:

A local teacher provided specialized training, enhancing language and hospitality skills, and educating participants about eco-tourism and local heritage.

3. Infrastructure Development:

Key tourist spots were identified, and comfortable waiting facilities were established to enhance visitor experience.

Outcomes

- Increased Engagement: There was a notable rise in the use of waiting facilities, indicating higher footfall and improved visitor satisfaction.
- Community Feedback: Positive responses from both tourists and locals underscored the community's enthusiasm for the eco-tourism initiative.

Impact

- Economic Growth: Local participants reported increased earnings linked to the growth in tourism, empowering residents financially.
- Enhanced Visitor Experience: The new facilities and trained guides enriched the tourist experience, encouraging positive word-of-mouth and repeat visits, contributing to sustainable tourism in the area.

Through this eco-tourism model, Parakha is setting an example for community-driven, sustainable development, fostering a harmonious balance between conservation and livelihood.



YUVA (YOUTH UNITY FOR VOLUNTARY ACTION)

YUVA: EMPOWERING WOMEN AND MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES IN JHARKHAND

YUVA (Youth Unity for Voluntary Action) is a women-led organization established in Jamshedpur, India, in 1997. Registered under the Indian Trust Act (Registration Number: 4480/03-11-1997), YUVA is a non-profit organization with FCRA (Registration Number: 337820044) .

A Seedling of Hope

YUVA's journey began in 1994 as a platform for young people to discuss local issues like education and career development. It fostered a space for sharing ideas, knowledge, and personal growth. This spirit of collaboration led to the formation of YUVA on National Youth Day in 1996.

Impactful Reach:

Over the past 30 years, YUVA has empowered over 20,800 individuals, including 6,000 girls (aged 10-25), 6,600 women, 12,000 children, and 700 people with disabilities. Their work primarily focuses on East Singhbhum and Saraikela districts, reaching 46 Gram Panchayats (village councils) across 3 blocks.

YUVA prioritizes working with marginalized communities, particularly the Adivasi groups. They focus on the most vulnerable tribal communities like Shabar, Santhal, Munda, and Bhumij, who have distinct historical, cultural, linguistic, and geographical backgrounds.

Apolitical Advocacy:

While remaining apolitical, YUVA champions social justice. Their mission is to:

- Stop violence
- End discrimination
- Dismantle patriarchy
- Ensure women's participation in all spheres of life
- Establish equality
- YUVA envisions a society that is safe, inclusive, and non-judgmental.

Holistic Approach:

YUVA's interventions go beyond basic education. They address health, nutrition, and other issues affecting women, children, and adolescents' overall development and empowerment. Community support and participation are crucial for their success.

Collaboration for Change:

YUVA actively collaborates with government departments and various agencies. Their peer leaders participate in EWR programs to advocate for change within communities. Similarly, EWR members from different villages and blocks collaborate with YUVA to achieve their shared goals

YUVA has received Funds from various organization.

Foreign Fund : Girls First Fund, CREA, Jiv Daya foundation, ASW, Germany, Urgent Action Fund, Women Fund Asia.

Indian Fund : Jharkhand Tribal Development society, JSLPS, JSACS, Azimji Premji Foundation, Center for world solidarity, Jharkhand Collective.

PROFILE OF A CORE MEMBER:**1. Mrs. Barnali Chakraborty**

Mrs. Barnali Chakraborty serves as the Secretary of Youth Unity for Voluntary Action (YUVA) in Jamshedpur, Jharkhand. A dedicated feminist leader with over 30 years of experience in the social sector, she has been instrumental in YUVA's success.

KEY CONTRIBUTIONS:

Fostering Young Leaders: Mrs. Chakraborty has played a crucial role in developing a strong network of young leaders within YUVA, all committed to achieving gender equality.

Empowering the Sabar Community: For three decades, she has championed the rights and well-being of the indigenous Sabar tribe.

Education: She has ensured educational continuity for numerous Sabar children, preventing dropouts and enabling them to reach higher education levels.

Women's Empowerment: Mrs. Chakraborty has empowered marginalized women within the Sabar community, providing them with support and guidance to combat familial oppression.

Livelihood Promotion: She has established over 100 self-help groups (SHGs) involving more than 1000 women, promoting their economic independence and participation in areas like agriculture.

- Skill Development & Community Initiatives:
- Established a library in Makdampur, Parsudih.
- Set up four centers specifically for Sabar children in Potka.
- Led livelihood promotion activities across 66 villages in the Saraikela Block.

EXPERTISE:

Mrs. Chakraborty's educational background (B.A. and L.L.B.) coupled with extensive experience has equipped her to specialize in:

Gender-Based Violence: She actively advocates for the prevention and response to violence against women.

Sexual and Reproductive Health & Rights (SRHR): Empowering women to make informed decisions about their reproductive health.

Domestic Violence: Providing support and legal recourse for women facing domestic abuse.

IMPACT AND RECOGNITION:

Mrs. Chakraborty's dedication to feminist leadership and unwavering commitment to gender equality have made her an invaluable asset to YUVA and the wider community. Her work has significantly impacted the lives of women and children in Jharkhand, inspiring positive change and empowering them to reach their full potential. Barnali Chakraborty was also honored with the Kolhan Gaurav Samman in the year 2023 by the leading Hindi daily newspaper Prabhat Khabar. She is former member of Juvenile Justice Board.

2. Narendra Kumar:

Narendra kumar is a treasurer of YUVA. He is actively associated with Blood donation campaign and Yoga.

3. Arbind Tiwary: Founder

Arbind Tiwary is a founder of the organisation. He is government school teacher famous for his innovation. He is associated with Library movement. He has donated blood 64 times and organised 42 blood donation Camp.

4. **Usha Sabina Deogam, President** : Usha Sabina Deogam is associated more than 30 years with social work.

YUVA'S THEMATIC ENGAGEMENTS

YUVA, a women-led organization committed to social justice, is actively involved in several key thematic areas. Their work primarily focuses on the empowerment of women, children, and marginalized communities in East Singhbhum and Saraikela districts of Jharkhand, India.

KEY THEMATIC AREAS:

Women's Empowerment:

Gender-Based Violence: YUVA actively combats gender-based violence, including domestic violence and sexual harassment. They raise awareness, provide support services, and advocate for legal action.

Education and Training: YUVA promotes education and vocational training for women to enhance their skills and opportunities for economic independence.

Health and Reproductive Rights: They focus on improving women's access to healthcare, including reproductive health services, and advocate for their sexual and reproductive rights.

Leadership Development: YUVA supports women's leadership development through training programs and mentorship initiatives.

Child Rights and Protection:

Education: YUVA ensures access to quality education for children, particularly those from marginalized communities.

Child Marriage Prevention: They actively work to prevent child marriage through awareness campaigns, community mobilization, and legal interventions.

Child Protection: YUVA provides child protection services, including counseling, support, and advocacy for children at risk.

Community Development:

Sustainable Livelihoods: YUVA promotes sustainable livelihood options for communities, focusing on agriculture, handicrafts, and small-scale enterprises.

Community Participation: YUVA encourages community participation in decision-making processes and development initiatives.

Environmental Conservation:

Forest Conservation: YUVA promotes forest conservation and afforestation efforts to protect biodiversity and address climate change.

Sustainable Resource Management: They advocate for sustainable use of natural resources and promote eco-friendly practices.

Environmental Awareness: YUVA conducts environmental awareness campaigns to educate communities about the importance of ecological conservation.

YUVA's holistic approach to these thematic areas reflects their commitment to addressing the interconnected challenges faced by marginalized communities. By empowering women, protecting children's rights, promoting community development, and safeguarding the environment,

YUVA's Milestones: A Journey of Empowerment

YUVA, a dedicated women-led organization, has achieved numerous milestones over the years. Their unwavering commitment to social justice and community development has

resulted in tangible impacts on the lives of thousands of individuals in Jharkhand, India.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

Empowering Women: YUVA has successfully empowered over 6,000 women through various initiatives, including:

Self-help groups (SHGs): Establishing over 120 SHGs, involving 1,000 women, and promoting their participation in agriculture.

Leadership development: Fostering leadership skills among women, enabling them to advocate for their rights and become agents of change.

Combating gender-based violence: Providing guidance and support to women facing domestic violence and other forms of gender-based oppression.

Protecting Children's Rights: YUVA has made significant strides in protecting children's rights, such as:

Education: Ensuring educational continuity for numerous children, preventing dropouts, and promoting access to quality education.

Child marriage prevention: Actively working to prevent child marriage and promote the rights of children.

Child protection: Supporting initiatives to prevent child abuse and exploitation.

Community Development: YUVA has contributed to the development of communities through initiatives like:

Health and nutrition: Promoting health and nutrition programs for women, children, and adolescents.

Sustainable livelihoods: Supporting sustainable livelihoods, such as agriculture, handicrafts, and small-scale enterprises.

Community infrastructure: Contributing to the development of community infrastructure, including schools, health facilities, and roads.

Advocacy and Policy Engagement: YUVA has been instrumental in advocating for policies that support women's empowerment, child rights, and community development. They have engaged with government officials and policymakers to bring about positive change.

NOTABLE PROJECTS:

Library at Makdampur, Parsudih: YUVA has established a library at Makdampur, Parsudih, providing access to educational resources for the community.

Centers for Sabar Children: They have set up four centers for Sabar children in Potka, offering educational and support services.

Livelihood Promotion Activities: YUVA has conducted livelihood promotion activities across 66 villages in the Saraikela Block, empowering community members with sustainable income-generating opportunities.



These milestones highlight YUVA's dedication to empowering women, protecting children's rights, and fostering community development. Their work has had a lasting impact on the lives of thousands of individuals in Jharkhand.

YUVA'S SPECIALIZATION AND UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS

YUVA, a women-led organization based in Jamshedpur, India, has carved a niche for itself in the field of social development and community empowerment. Their unique approach and specialization distinguish them from other organizations in the region.

UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS:

Women-Led Leadership: YUVA's leadership team is composed entirely of women, reflecting their commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment.

Grassroots Approach: Their approach is deeply rooted in the grassroots, working directly with marginalized communities to understand their needs and address their challenges.

Holistic Approach: YUVA's programs address multiple aspects of community development, ensuring a comprehensive and sustainable impact.

Community-Driven Initiatives: They prioritize community-driven initiatives, involving local communities in decision-making and implementation processes.

Advocacy and Policy Engagement: YUVA actively engages in advocacy and policy advocacy, striving to influence government policies and create a more equitable and inclusive society.

These unique characteristics set YUVA apart from other organizations in the region. Their specialization in women's empowerment, child rights, and community development, combined with their commitment to grassroots engagement and advocacy, make them a valuable asset to the social fabric of Jharkhand.

YUVA, a women-led organization, has carved a distinctive niche in the social sector through its specialized focus and unique approaches.

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION:

Women's Empowerment: YUVA has a deep-rooted commitment to empowering women and girls, addressing issues such as gender-based violence, education, health, and leadership development.

Child Rights and Protection: Their focus on child rights, including education, protection, and prevention of child marriage, sets them apart as advocates for vulnerable children.

Community Development: YUVA's holistic approach to community development, encompassing health, nutrition, livelihoods, and infrastructure, ensures sustainable and inclusive development.

Environmental Conservation: Their commitment to environmental sustainability and their initiatives in reforestation and waste management demonstrate their dedication to a greener future.

Women-Led Leadership: YUVA's leadership is predominantly composed of women, providing a unique perspective and ensuring that women's voices are at the forefront of their work.

YUVA'S IMPACT: TRANSFORMING LIVES AND COMMUNITIES

QUALITATIVE IMPACT:

YUVA's work has had a profound qualitative impact on the lives of individuals and communities in Jharkhand, India. Here are a few illustrative case studies:

Reela's Story: Reela, a young woman from a marginalized community, was forced into an early marriage. With YUVA's support, she was able to escape the marriage, continue her education, and secure a job in a local NGO. Today, Reela is an advocate for women's rights and a role model for other young girls in her community.

The Sabar Community: YUVA's initiatives have significantly improved the lives of the Sabar community, a marginalized tribal group. They have gained access to education, healthcare, and sustainable livelihood opportunities, leading to a greater sense of empowerment and inclusion.

Community-Led Development: In several villages, YUVA has facilitated community-led development initiatives, empowering local residents to identify their needs and implement solutions. This has resulted in improved infrastructure, increased access to basic services, and a stronger sense of community ownership.

QUANTITATIVE IMPACT:

YUVA's work has also had a significant quantitative impact, as evidenced by the following data:

Number of beneficiaries: Over 20,000 individuals, including women, children, and people with disabilities, have benefited from YUVA's programs.

Increased access to education: YUVA has helped thousands of children and young people continue their education, leading to higher literacy rates and improved educational outcomes.

Reduced child marriage: Their efforts to prevent child marriage have resulted in a decline in the prevalence of this harmful practice.

Improved health outcomes: YUVA's health programs have led to improved health outcomes for women, children, and adolescents, including reduced infant mortality rates and increased access to essential healthcare services.

Economic empowerment: Their initiatives to promote sustainable livelihoods have empowered individuals and communities to generate income and improve their economic well-being.

YUVA's impact is far-reaching, extending beyond individual stories to broader societal changes. Their work has contributed to the empowerment of women, the protection of children's rights, and the development of more inclusive and equitable communities.

YUVA's Impact: Transforming Lives and Communities

YUVA's unwavering commitment to social justice and community development has resulted in a significant impact on the lives of thousands of individuals in Jharkhand, India. Their work has brought about both qualitative and quantitative changes, transforming communities and empowering marginalized groups.

YUVA'S LEARNINGS: A JOURNEY OF GROWTH AND RESILIENCE

Over the years, YUVA has gained valuable insights and lessons through their experiences in working with marginalized communities in Jharkhand, India. These learnings have shaped their approach and helped them overcome challenges to achieve their goals.

KEY LEARNINGS:

Community Engagement is Key: YUVA has learned that effective community engagement is essential for sustainable impact. By involving communities in the design and implementation of their programs, they have fostered a sense of ownership and ensured that their initiatives are relevant and responsive to local needs.

Empowering Women as Leaders: YUVA has recognized the importance of empowering women as leaders. By providing opportunities for women to develop leadership skills, they have created a more inclusive and equitable environment.

Addressing Root Causes: YUVA has understood that addressing the root causes of social issues is crucial for long-term impact. They have focused on empowering individuals and communities to break free from the cycle of poverty and discrimination.

Adaptability and Flexibility: YUVA has learned the importance of adaptability and flexibility in a constantly changing environment. They have been able to adjust their strategies to respond to emerging challenges and opportunities.

Collaboration is Key: YUVA has recognized the value of collaboration with government agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders. By working together, they have been able to leverage resources and achieve greater impact.

Challenges and Overcoming Them: YUVA has faced various challenges, including limited resources, cultural barriers, and bureaucratic hurdles. However, through perseverance, innovation, and strategic planning, they have overcome these obstacles and continued to make a positive difference.

These learnings have shaped YUVA's approach and helped them become a more effective and impactful organization. By understanding the challenges and opportunities faced by marginalized communities, YUVA has been able to tailor their programs to meet their specific needs and create a lasting legacy.



YUVA's Learnings: A Journey of Growth and Resilience

Over the years, YUVA has gained valuable insights and lessons from their experiences in working with marginalized communities in Jharkhand, India. These learnings have shaped their approach and helped them overcome challenges to achieve their goals.

YUVA'S SUCCESS STORIES: A TESTAMENT TO THEIR IMPACT

YUVA's journey has been marked by numerous success stories that showcase their dedication to social justice and community development. Here are a few examples of their achievements in various fields:

FIELD-RELATED SUCCESS:

Empowering Women in Agriculture: YUVA's initiatives have empowered women to become active participants in agriculture, leading to increased food security and economic independence.

Providing Education to Marginalized Children: Their efforts have ensured that children from marginalized communities have access to quality education, breaking the cycle of poverty.

Promoting Sustainable Livelihoods: YUVA has supported the development of sustainable livelihoods, such as handicrafts and small-scale enterprises, empowering communities to improve their economic conditions.

ADVOCACY SUCCESS:

Preventing Child Marriage: YUVA's advocacy efforts have led to increased awareness about the harmful effects of child marriage, resulting in a decline in its prevalence within their target areas.

Influencing Government Policies: YUVA has successfully advocated for policy changes at the local and state levels, ensuring that the needs and rights of marginalized communities are addressed.

OTHER SUCCESSES:

Building Community Resilience: YUVA's programs have fostered a sense of community resilience, enabling communities to cope with challenges and build a better future.

Inspiring Young Leaders: Their leadership development initiatives have nurtured a new generation of young leaders who are committed to social justice and community development.

Testimonials from Beneficiaries: Numerous testimonials from beneficiaries highlight the positive impact of YUVA's work on their lives.

These are just a few examples of YUVA's success stories. Their dedication, perseverance, and innovative approach have resulted in significant positive changes in the lives of thousands of individuals in Jharkhand.

CASE STUDY

Case Study 1: Community, Organization, and CWS Collaborate to Prevent Forced Marriage

Paramila Mandal, a 15-year-old girl from Bada Bhumi village, was facing forced marriage from her family. Despite her opposition, her family had fixed her marriage. Desperate, Paramila wrote to the DC's office seeking help. YUVA intervened. Their worker, Jyoti Pinguwa, approached the panchayat representative, but she refused, citing family pressure. Undeterred, YUVA's secretary approached the community, who refused to support the marriage. YUVA workers faced hostility and threats but persisted, gathering information and eventually involving CWS (District Child Welfare Committee) to stop the marriage. This case highlights how girls are asserting their rights and, with community support, are overcoming obstacles and securing their future.

Case Study 2: Marrying the Boy of Her Choice

Anju Sardar, a teenager from Gomayasai village, was unaware of her rights and preferences before joining YUVA's program. Through the program, she developed leadership skills and learned about her rights. She began asserting her choices at home, including her desire to marry the boy she loved. Initially, her family refused, but Anju persisted. She explained her reasons to her family, and eventually, they agreed to support her decision. This case study highlights the impact of empowerment programs on adolescent girls, enabling them to make informed choices and assert their rights. Anju's story shows that with confidence and support, adolescents can overcome obstacles and achieve their goals.

Case Study 3: Prioritizing Education

Girishma Sardar from Chanpi village faced family pressure to marry but remained determined to pursue her education and career goals. She convinced her mother to support her decision and refused to succumb to the pressure to marry. Today, Girishma is staying in a hostel and continuing her studies. This story highlights the importance of education and empowerment of young girls, who are taking charge of their lives and making decisions that will shape their future.

Case Study 4: Adolescent Champions Change at Home

Alopi Sardar from Sidirsai village faced family and community pressure when a marriage proposal came. Despite pressure to accept the proposal, Alopi resisted and expressed her desire to delay her marriage. When her family didn't listen, she sought help from a worker who advised her family and helped stop the marriage. The worker also organized a village meeting to raise awareness about the importance of delaying marriage and promoting girls' education. Alopi's courage and determination saved her from early marriage, and she is now pursuing her education and dreams. This case study highlights the impact of YUVA's initiatives in preventing child marriage and promoting girls' empowerment in the region.



Case Study

Budhia Sabar of Dhengam Village

Bidhia Sabar of Dhengam village has also been interested for Vegetable cultivation. He cultivated vegetables in 6 decimal of land in which he has been produced Tomato, Bringal and Onion.

He produced 180 kgs Tomato, 40 kgs Bringal and 50 kgs Onion. After consuming at home, he sold 155 kgs Tomato, 30 Kgs Bringal and 40 kgs. Onion in the local market. His total income out of sale of those vegetables is Rs.2150/-. This increase income helps him to support the family including purchase of dress and shoe for his children for school.

Budhia is very happy for the vegetable cultivation and excess income which he never thought off. This has only been possible due to the support from YUVA and ASW. He is too much grateful for the support and actively participated in all project programs.



Budhia Sabar in his Onion Field



Kitchen Garden by Mithi Sabar



Center in action



Meeting with Sabar People

Case Study

Lutu Sabar-Dhengam



Lutu Sabar from Dhengam village has been attended NTFP/vegetable production training organized by YUVA supported by CWS/AWS. He has enthusiasms for vegetable cultivation. Finally after getting motivational support from the project he has cultivated vegetables in his 4 decimal of land nearby his house in which he has a very good production. He spent about Rs.310.00 for vegetable cultivation. He cultivated Tomato and Bringal vegetables.

The total production of Tomato was about 100 kgs, after consuming at home, he sale Tomato about 70 kgs. @ Rs.10/- per kg, which give him a total earning of Rs.700/-. This help to increase his monthly income. As far as Bringal production is concerned, he produced about 10 kgs. he get fresh vegetables like pumpkin, Jhinga, bitter gourd, Puri, kundru, beans and bottle gourd everyday from the nutrition kitchen.

Till date and consume at home from which the family members getting nutrition and save the family expenses. Now he is very much happy and told 'This has been only possible due to the support from YUVA & ASW

Case Study

Singrai Sabar (Otejhari)



Singrai Sabar of otejhari village has also been interest for Vegetable cultivation. He cultivated vegetables in 6 decimal of land in which he has been produced Tomato, Bringal and Onion.

He produced 80 kgs Tomato, 25 kgs Bringal and 30 kgs Onion. After consuming at home, he sold 55 kgs Tomato, 10 Kgs Bringal and 25 kgs. Onion in the local market. His total income out of sale of those vegetables is Rs.1150/-. This increase income helps him to support the family including purchase of dress and shoe for his children for school

Singrai is very happy for the vegetable cultivation and excess income which he never though off. This has only been possible due to the support form YUVA and CWS. He is too much grateful for the support and actively participated in all project programs.

Gurba Sabar (Lango)



Gurba sabar is very hard working men of lango village. Due to less resources he was not able to produce farm product by own. He has not enough money to buy nutrition food for his family. As a result his family members always get ill . But after getting motivation from yuva staff & getting seeds support from project now he is cultivating leafy vegetable in his farm .

He is getting fresh vegetables and nutritious food everyday for him and family. He has planed to grew vegetable in large scale in future.

मिसाल पहले लकड़ी बेचने के लिए 35 किमी दूर मुसाबनी जाती थी, लेकिन अब इनकी बकरी खरीदने के लिए लोग 60-70 किलोमीटर दूर से आते- हर माह एक लाख की आदनी

आत्मनिर्भर भारत अभियान को धार दे रही पार्वती व सुजनी

अमिता ठाकरी • उत्तरांचल

झारखंड के जंगली व अर्द्धवासी इलाकों में निवास करने वाले अदिम जनजातियों को बचाने के लिए सरकार तमाम योजनाएं चला रही है। विकास की मुख्यधारा से कटे इन विलुप्तजाति जनजातियों में कोई जगहसुक्ता और आत्मनिर्भरता की मिसाल पेश करे तो इससे सुखद बात कोई और नहीं हो सकती। जमशेदपुर से 65 किलोमीटर दूर पोटका प्रखंड के लंगो गांव में रहने वाली दो सबर महिलाएं ऐसी ही मिसाल पेश कर रही हैं। सबर जनजाति समुदाय से आने वाली पार्वती व सुजनी सबर पूर्वी सिंहभूम जिले के नक्सल प्रभावित क्षेत्र में प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी की आत्मनिर्भर भारत अभियान



बकरी के बीच सुजनी सबर। • जवाहर



अपने गांव में पार्वती के बीच पार्वती सबर।

को धार दे रही हैं। अपने फोल्डो इलाके से ये दोनों महिलाएं पूरे गांव की तस्वीर बदलने में जुटी हैं। इनके प्रयास से सबर जनजाति के लोगों में भी आत्मनिर्भर होने की ललक बढ़ी है। पार्वती व सुजनी सबर पहले लकड़ी बेचने के लिए लगभग 35 किलोमीटर दूर मुसाबनी व कोवाल जाती थीं। इन्होंने अब बकरी पालन का व्यवसाय अपनाया है। आज 60

से 70 किलोमीटर दूर से लोग इनके पास बकरी खरीदने आते हैं। पार्वती सबर के पास 76 बकरीबा है, जबकि सुजनी सबर के पास चालीस। दोनों ने एक बकरी से इस व्यवसाय की शुरुआत की थी। ये दोनों बकरीपालन से हर साल लगभग एक लाख रुपये कमा लेती हैं। इनकी आय लगातार बढ़ रही है। इससे इनके जीवन में काफी बदलाव आया है। पहले ये

घूस के मकान में रहती थीं। लेकिन अब इन्होंने टाली का अच्छा मकान बना रखा है।

इस तरह पार्वती के जीवन में अछूत कदम : सुजनी सबर बताती हैं कि दस साल पूर्व वह 300 रुपये में एक बकरी खरीद कर लाई थी, लेकिन वह बकरी मर गई। तब उन्हें बकरीपालन के नियम नहीं पता था। इस तरह, बकरी खरीद कर लाई थी तो ये मर जाती थी। इसी बीच युव युनिटी पॉर वॉलंटरी एक्शन (युवा) की सचिव वर्षाणी चक्रवर्ती उनके घर पहुंची और पूछा कि आपलोग क्या करती हो। तब पार्वती बताया कि लकड़ी बेचकर जीवन यापन करती हूं और एक बकरी खरीद कर लाई हूं लेकिन वह कितने दिन जिंदा रहेगी नहीं मांझूम। अभी तक दो बकरी मर

चिंतुप्राप्त जनजातियों के लिए सुजनी व पार्वती सबर किसी मिसाल से कम नहीं हैं। घुलुआली दिनी में इन्होंने बकरीपालन करने नहीं आता।

वा। तब मैंने इन्हें प्रशिक्षण दिया और उसके बाद बकरी की सख्खा इनके पास बढ़ती गई। आज सुजनी व पार्वती दोनों के जीवन यापन में काफी सुधार आया है।

कर्मचारी का रीति रविंद्र गुप्त।

युकी है। इसके बाद वर्षाणी चक्रवर्ती ने बकरीपालन के गुण सिखाया। उसे कब क्या खिलाना है और कैसे रखना है। वह सब विस्तार से बताया। इस

दौरान वह लगभग आठे री और अब बकरी संख्या बढ़कर 40 हो गई है। अब लोग दूर-दूर से बकरी खरीदने के लिए आते हैं।

हर साल गांव से छह घड़ी का दौड़ा पार्वती : पार्वती सबर भी लगभग दस साल से बकरीपालन कर रही हैं। कहती हैं कि शुरुआती दौर में काफी परेशानी हुई। बकरी को रखने के लिए जगह नहीं था। बांझ में बकरी भोज जाती थी और उससे उसकी तबीयत खराब हो जाती थी। इस दौरान बकरी की मौत हो जाती थी। तब ठाकुर को बुलाने से वह एक वैक्सरीन देना या जिसके लिए 20 रुपये लेता था, लेकिन अब वे खुद ही वैक्सरीन देना सिख गई हैं। यदि बकरी की तबीयत खराब होती तो वह वैक्सरीन खरीदकर लाती और दे देती हैं।



CFT project Baseline Survey



CFT Project Dissemination workshop

Village level plans developed under CFT project





YUVA LIBRARY



Objectives: To encourage youths of Makdampur and adjoining area to inculcate a habit of reading to provide them with books relating to curriculum as well as for general awareness to provide magazines, newspapers, journals etc for augmenting their knowledge, to keep the library open for 24 hours and to provide a space to those who don't have a space to study and the right ambience at their homes

Strategies: To pool the resources available in the community. To collect books and magazines from different sources, to manage resources internally and from the members as subscription and provide a rich stock of books, study materials and the ambience for pursuing studies and preparation for different competitive examinations. To encourage students to share their books and magazines with each other and thus ensure that everyone has got everything that they need. To have links with other libraries to provide better facilities to members

Main Outcomes: The library has emerged as a useful part of life for the youths of Makdampur and adjoining areas. The youths, at least over 100, visit the library regularly and some of them can be seen poring over the books even at nightly hours. Several students have succeeded in the competitive exams thanks to the materials and the ambience provide by YUVA library Regular programmes and coaching's are also organized by the library.

Evaluation Methods Employed: The number of books has increased to 5,000. And this has come mainly from the efforts for the members themselves. Most of the useful magazines, over 30, and newspapers are subscribed in the library and the number of members, most of the them youths of the area, has gone up to 130. In a backward area like Makdampur the fact that despite the cultural degradation, 130 youths regularly assemble at the library is something which should bring attention to it. The youths, full of vigour and energy can be

seen poring over books and magazines and preparing for different competitive examinations on their own, without any external motivation. The best way to evaluate the success of the library and its use is the response of the members who come from lower and lower middle class background. The number of students who have succeeded in life and the number of students who are making use of the library is the sure indicator of the success of the library. Evaluation Results: The functioning of the library is evaluated by the members on regular basis. While it has been found that the library needs more books and magazines, and for that more resources are needed, the members expressed general satisfaction at whatever resources were available in the library. The library is entirely run by the members themselves and there are no paid workers.

Case study for Library Munna Kumar joins Railways as Asst. Driver Like scores of other Yuva members, Munna Kumar too has succeeded in his efforts to build a secure and rewarding career. Thanks to the elaborate preparations he made using Yuva resources and the moral support from Yuva, Munna Kumar has cracked the railway recruitment board test and has already joined Railways as Asst. Driver. Munna was always keen on joining Indian Railways. He has been working very hard for months and has been preparing with rare single mindedness. His success in cracking the RRB exam will now inspire several other Yuva members too. Munna Kumar has always been known by Yuva members as a hard working and sincere student. He has contributed a lot to Yuva activities and has been participating in the Yuva programmes with zeal and commitment. Munna Kumar says that Yuva members are a part of his family and he would never forget them. He also acknowledges the positive influence that activities in Yuva have had on his development and success.







रूढ़िवादी चुनौतियों से लड़ना है तो चुप्पी तोड़ें : वर्णाली



संवाददाता। जमशेदपुर

सामाजिक संस्था युवा (यूथ यूनिटी फॉर वॉलंटरी एक्शन) के तत्वावधान में कार्यक्रम कांचिक रिलीफ के तहत पोटका प्रखंड के चांदपुर पंचायत में सोमवार को पंचायत प्रतिनिधियों, महिलाओं एवं किसानों के साथ अंतराष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस मनाया गया, इस दौरान महिला हिंसा के खिलाफ लड़कियों व महिलाओं द्वारा नुकद नाटक, गोष्ठी सवाल जवाब प्रतियोगिता एवं लड़कियों द्वारा नृत्य प्रस्तुत किया गया, इस अवसर पर

युवा की सचिव वर्णाली ने कहा कि लड़कियों, महिलाओं के बिना आगे जीवन की शुरुआत नहीं की जा सकती, फिर भी परिवार व समाज में कितनी लड़कियों व महिलाओं के साथ जेडर के आधार पर भेदभाव किया जाता है, दोस्ती, प्यार, पर्सन, नापसंद, शादी, गर्भसमापन, पहनावा को लेकर खुद से निर्णय नहीं ले पाती हैं, पुरुष द्वारा नियंत्रित की जाती हैं, कार्यक्रम के अंत में मानव श्रृंखला के रूप में एक-दूसरे का हाथ धाम कर महिला हिंसा को रोकने का संकल्प लिया गया,

पोटका के तैलना में अंतराष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस पर कार्यक्रम का आयोजन हिंसा के खिलाफ आवाज उठाये महिलाएं



बाल विवाह के खिलाफ युवा का स्टेकहोल्डर्स के साथ जिला स्तरीय कार्यशाला



रूढ़िवादी चुनौतियों से लड़ना है तो चुप्पी तोड़ें : वर्णाली चांदपुर में युवा के महिला दिवस समारोह में गोष्ठी, किज और नुकद नाटक का आयोजन



महिलाओं के लिए बने सुदृष्टित माहौल



विवाह पंजी का अधिकार पंचायत को मिले : युवा

कार्यशाला
पोटका, संवाददाता। सामाजिक संस्था युवा यूनिटी फॉर वॉलंटरी एक्शन (यूवा) की ओर से शुक्रवार को एक दिवसीय प्रखंड स्तरीय कार्यशाला का आयोजन गंगादीह पंचायत भवन में किया गया। कार्यशाला में बाल-विवाह और पोस्टो कानून विषय पर विस्तार से जानकारी दी गयी। कार्यशाला में विभिन्न पंचायतों के पंचायत प्रतिनिधि, स्वास्थ्य प्रदाता और आंगनवाड़ी सेविका, सहिष्णु व किसानों सहित कुल 65 प्रतिभागियों ने भाग लिया। शुरुआत में प्रतिभागियों ने अपनी अपनी अपेक्षाएं रखी। युवा पंचायतों की सचिव वर्णाली चक्रवर्ती ने कार्यशाला के उद्देश्य पर प्रकाश डाला। मौके पर प्रशिक्षक अजय कुमार ने कार्यशाला में बाल-विवाह और इसके बहुत आधारी परिणाम पर जानकारी दी। कार्यशाला में मुख्या संघ के अध्यक्ष पानो सरदार, मुख्या अधीक्षक सरदार का कहा कि शादी का रजिस्ट्रेशन कार्य पंचायत स्तर में होना चाहिए। पंचायत को यह जिम्मेदारी मिलने से बाल विवाह पर रोक लगेगा। कार्यशाला का समापन ज्योति हेंद्रम द्वारा धन्यवाद ज्ञापन कर किया गया। कार्यशाला को सफल बनाने में युवा कार्यकर्ता रिल सारदार, अर्पिता सरदार, सखी मंडल, किरण सरदार ने सक्रिय किया।



पोटका के गंगादीह पंचायत भवन में शुक्रवार को कार्यशाला में शामिल होने पहुंचे प्रतिभाग्य। कार्यशाला में मुख्या संघ के अध्यक्ष पानो सरदार, मुख्या अधीक्षक सरदार का कहा कि शादी का रजिस्ट्रेशन कार्य पंचायत स्तर में होना चाहिए। पंचायत को यह जिम्मेदारी मिलने से बाल विवाह पर रोक लगेगा। कार्यशाला का समापन ज्योति हेंद्रम द्वारा धन्यवाद ज्ञापन कर किया गया। कार्यशाला को सफल बनाने में युवा कार्यकर्ता रिल सारदार, अर्पिता सरदार, सखी मंडल, किरण सरदार ने सक्रिय किया।

नाम : शांति भूमिज (काल्पनिक नाम)

शांति भूमिज 18 साल की विकलांग लड़की है जो अपने माता पिता और भाई बहन के साथ हेसलबिल पंचायत में रहती है वह शुरू से ही IMB के कार्यक्रम से जुड़ी हुई थी और नियमित बैठकों में शामिल होती थी जिस कारण वह थोड़ी बहुत बातों को समझती थी पर सही से कुछ बोल नहीं पाती थी लेकिन जब भी पूछने पर कहती थी कि मुझे घुमने का बहुत शौक है। परिवार के लोग उसकी सहमती के बिना उसका हर बार बाल काट देते हैं यह सोच कर कि तेल, शैम्पू खर्च होगा और कौन बाल बना देगा। शांति घर में सिर्फ बाहर से पानी लाने का काम करती है क्योंकि अब यह बचपन से करते करते उसकी आदत बन गई है। शांति के पिताजी उसके बाहर आने जाने को लेकर बहुत नियंत्रित करते थे और गांव से बाहर किसी के साथ भी बाहर जाने नहीं देते हैं। जब शांति विमेन गेनिंग ग्राउंड कार्यक्रम से जुड़ी तो उसे बहुत बार अलग अलग पंचायतों, प्रखंड में आयोजित कार्यक्रमों में जाने का मौका मिला वह बहुत खुश होती है जब बाहर जाना होता है कही ना कही उसका घुमने का सपना पूरा होने लगा है उसके परिवार के लोग भी बहुत खुश हैं और उसे पूरा सहयोग करते हैं उन्हें अच्छा लगता है कि वह इस कार्यक्रम से जुड़ी कुछ सीख रही है और सुरक्षित रूप से बाहर निकल पा रही है।

प्रखंड : पोटका

पंचायत : कोवाली

रानी सरदार (काल्पनिक नाम) उम्र 30 साल पिछले साल 2022 में पंचायत के चुनाव में वार्ड सदस्य के रूप में चुनी गई थी। इस पंचायत की मुखिया अपने पद से निलंबित की गई है इस कारण रानी को मुखिया का प्रभार सौंपा गया था लेकिन समुदाय में अलग अलग जाति के लोग होने के कारण कुछ पुरुष उनकी बातों को नहीं मानते थे और उसका विरोध करते थे। शुरुआती समय में रानी बिल्कुल बोल नहीं पाती थी और ना ही अपने भूमिका की महत्व को समझती थी लेकिन जब युवा द्वारा आयोजित कार्यक्रम WGG, MPMS, Comic Relief के विभिन्न गतिविधियों में जुड़ने लगी तो उसका आत्मविश्वास बढ़ने लगा और अपने काम के दायित्व को समझने लगी और पंचायत में पहल करने लगी। रानी ने जब जेंडर आधारित भेदभाव को जाना और उसमें महिलाओं को मिलने वाले मजदूरी में वेतन के अंतर को समझी तो उसने तय किया कि अपने पंचायत के नियमित बैठक में और ग्राम सभा बैठक में इस मुद्दे पर बात करेगी क्योंकि गांव, घरों में काम के दौरान दिये जाने वाले मजदूरी को ग्राम सभा में तय किया जाता है। रानी के इस बदलावकारी कार्य में समुदाय की सभी महिलाये सहयोग कर रही हैं। साथ ही रानी हर माह स्कूल, आंगनवाड़ी में विजिट करने जाती हैं और निगरानी करती हैं कि सही शिक्षा, भोजन व स्वास्थ्य से जुड़ी सुविधा सब को मिले। कोवाली पंचायत में महिलाओं को मिलने मजदूरी के अंतर को दूर करने का पूरा प्रयास कर रही हैं और आगे भी करती रहेगी।

नाम : उर्मिला सरदार,

उम्र :- 20 साल

पंचायत :- गंगाडीह गांव :- गोमेयासाई

उर्मिला सरदार, माँ-सैनाती सरदार, पिता-गुरुचरण सरदार के साथ छोटे से घर में रहती है। उर्मिला “मेरा शरीर मेरा अधिकार” कार्यक्रम से जुड़ी 19 वर्षीय किशोरी थी, और नियमित बैठक में शामिल होने के कारण से यौन प्रजनन स्वास्थ्य से जुड़े मुद्दों को लेकर काफी जागरूक थी। जिसकारण से एकशन प्रोजेक्ट को करने के द्वारा से लीडर के रूप में एक अलग पहचान बनी थी कि वह स्वास्थ्य से जुड़ी समस्याओं को लेकर स्वास्थ्य केंद्र पर पैरवी कर रही है। लेकिन उसने कभी नहीं सोचा था कि वह पंचायत में कोई लीडर बने। उर्मिला के माता-पिता हमेशा उससे बोलते थे कि शादी कर लो इस तरह से लीडर बनकर घूमते रहेगी तो हमारे समाज का अच्छा लड़का शादी करने के लिए नहीं मिलेगा इस बात पर उर्मिला मना कर देती थी कि मुझे इतनी जल्दी शादी नहीं करनी है। पर वह सोचती थी कि आगे क्या काम करूंगी क्योंकि ज्यादा पढ़ाई भी नहीं कि हूँ फिर वह विमेन गेनिंग ग्राउंड कार्यक्रम के तहत युवा लड़की के रूप में समूह से जुड़ी जहाँ महिलाओं व विकलांग महिलाओं की राजनितिक भागीदारी पर चर्चा होती थी। उर्मिला में यह समझ बहुत ही जल्द हुई कि राजनितिक भागीदारी का क्या महत्व होता है और कैसे लड़कियों को हर क्षेत्र में पीछे रखा जाता है तो वह इस बार 2022 में होने वाले पंचायत स्तरीय चुनाव में पंचायत समिति सदस्य के रूप में खड़े होने का निर्णय ली। उर्मिला किशोरी समूह व महिला समूहों में अपनी बात रखी, समुदाय के लोगो ने पंचायत समिति के पद के लिए आगे आकर काम करने के लिए साथ देने का समर्थन किया और जिस का कारण यह रहा कि उर्मिला पंचायत समिति के पद के लिए निरविरोध चुनी गई और अब पंचायत व प्रखंड में आगे आकर पंचायत व समुदाय के लिए काम कर रही हैं और उसने यह भी निर्णय लिया है कि पंचायत में लड़कियों, महिलाओं, विकलांग व दलित महिलाओं के साथ हो रही असमानता को लेकर भेदभाव को दूर करने का प्रयास करेगी और जब भी शादी करेगी अपनी पसंद व सहमति से करेगी।



CHHOTANAGPUR CRAFT DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY (CCDS)

1. BACKGROUND OF THE ORGANIZATION:

Since its inception in the year 1995, the **Chhotanagpur Craft Development Society (CCDS)** has been committed to advancing rural development with a focus on socio-economic progress and reaching out to the marginalized population in the society.

The primary objective of CCDS is to address the challenges faced by marginalized and underserved communities, especially women and children, by enhancing existing skills and creating opportunities for income generation.

Over the past three decades, CCDS has implemented a community-based approach to address persistent issues in some of India's most disadvantaged areas. The organization works to expand livelihood options in both farm and non-farm sectors, targeting poverty alleviation in the remote tribal regions of Jharkhand.

Our initiatives include promoting sustainable agriculture through environment friendly practices and natural resource conservation, empowering community-based institutions and groups such as, Self-Help Groups (SHGs), farmers' groups, and primary producers' groups, facilitating access to microfinance and government schemes, and enhancing skills to support the growth of micro-enterprises and social enterprises. Through these comprehensive efforts, CCDS aims to foster lasting positive change and build resilient communities.

Our Vision: CCDS visualizes a socially just, educated and egalitarian society free from all forms of exploitation, deprivation and neglect, where proper and judicious utilization of human, natural and institutional resources are ensured.

Our Mission: Entrustment of an equitable society, free from all forms of deprivation, neglect, isolation and exploitation in order to ensure equitable development of all sections of the society for the balanced development of the society is ensured.

Our Approach: The focus of the program interventions of CCDS is based on the Strategies adopted to realize the Vision and Mission of the Organization viz. a Process of Social Animation and Rights Based Approach. A process of social animation among the poor and the marginalized for enabling awareness, capacities and collective actions. This will ensure the building up of Social Capital of the Community Based Organizations. In addition, the referral communities are given ample opportunity to participate in planning, implementation and monitoring process of the program. In other words participatory approach is key component in all programs whereas with convergence among the programs, value additions of implemented projects are done.

OUR PARTNERS IN DEVELOPMENT:

NABARD, Govt. of India

DC (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India

National Jute Board, Govt. of India

Mukhyamantri Laghu & Kutir Udyam Vikas Board, Govt. of Jharkhand

Jharkhand State Tribal Co-operative Development Corporation

Jharkhand State Scheduled Caste Co-operative Development Corporation

Social Welfare Department, Govt. of Jharkhand

National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), Dept. Of Agriculture, Govt. of Jharkhand

Department of Animal Husbandry, Govt of Jharkhand

HINADLCO (Aditya Birla Group)

National Horticulture Mission, Jharkhand

Jharkhand Tribal Development Society (JTDS),

MEMBERS OF GOVERNING BOARD:

S . N.	Name	Designation	Age	Occupation	Educational qualification	Since when associated with organization
1	Somir Kumar Choudhary	President	75	Social Worker	Graduate	17-09-2016
2	Beauty Kujur	Vice President	60	Self-Employee	Graduate	14-02-2006
3	Bibhu Chowdhury	Secretary	67	Self-Employee	Graduate	14-02-2006
4	Tahmin Ara	Joint Secretary	66	Self-Employee	Matric	19-11-2020
5	Sudhir Prasad	Treasurer	70	Self-Employee	Inter	14-02-2006
6	Telani Bodara	Member	57	Self-Employee	Matric	14-02-2006
7	Shabnam Samad	Member	23	Self-Employee	Graduate	19-11-2020
8	Rina Kumari Verma	Member	43	Self-Employee	Inter	10-04-2016
9	Sumant Kumar	Member	45	Self-Employee	Inter	21-06-2016

THEMATIC ENGAGEMENTS

Creating sustainable livelihoods filling critical gaps in the rural society CCDS is widening livelihood options, as one of the key adopted strategies, both farm and non-farm sectors for reducing poverty in the remote underdeveloped tribal pockets of Jharkhand and Chattisgarh. Popularization of sustainable agriculture practices, conservation of natural resources, promotion of people's organization like Self-help group (SHG), farmers group, primary producers groups and their federations, facilitation of people's access to microfinance and government schemes, enhancement of market linkages and provision of skill-building support for promotion of off and non-farm micro enterprise/ social enterprise are some of the key elements in this pursuit.

OUR INTERVENTIONS AREA

- Community Based Livelihood Development
- Training & Capacity building
- Health, Sanitation & Hygiene
- Women & Child Development
- Solar Infrastructure Development
- Marketing Support
- Farm & Allied Sector
- Non-farm sector

MILESTONES

NABARD-WDF Watershed Development Programme: Implemented integrated soil and water conservation initiatives in five villages of the Bhandra block, covering 1,340 hectares.

Support for Tribal Farmers: Focused on enhancing livelihoods through modern farming technologies and good agricultural practices, benefiting over 450 small and marginal tribal families in seven villages.

Vegetable Value Chain Project: Launched in collaboration with Jharkhand State Tribal Cooperative Development Limited, engaging 552 tribal families in improved vegetable production practices in Dhalbhumgarh, Gurubanda, and Patamda.

Jharkhand Tribal Empowerment & Livelihood Project (JTELP): CCDS has made significant strides in the Jharkhand Tribal Empowerment & Livelihood Project (JTELP) by forming 341 women self-help groups (SHGs) and 24 youth groups in the Sesai block of Gumla District. Additionally, the organization established 34 Village Development Forums (VDFs) and 43 Gram Sabha Panchayat Executive Committees (GSPECs) to enhance local governance and community participation. Training in group management and record-keeping has been provided to strengthen the sustainability of these groups, reflecting CCDS's commitment to empowering women and youth in the region.

Fruit & Timber-based Plantation and Intercropping Program: Utilized 400 hectares in Namkum block to promote sustainable agriculture through mixed farming practices and the use of drip irrigation.

Training for ICDS Workers: Organized various training programs focusing on early childhood care, nutrition, and community mobilization, enhancing health outcomes in the region.

SPECIALIZATION AND UNIQUE CHARACTERISTICS

CCDS has achieved significant milestones through its bamboo handicrafts training initiative in partnership with the Mukhya Mantri Laghu Evam Kutir Udyam Vikas Board of Jharkhand, under the Special Component Plan. The program successfully provided training to both male and female beneficiaries across eight districts: Hazaribagh, West Singhbhum, Bokaro, Ranchi, Lohardaga, Gumla, Khunti, and Kodarma. Participants developed skills to create various bamboo craft items, such as lamps, pen stands, coin boxes, and flower pots, which have garnered substantial demand in national, international, and local markets. Additionally, the products crafted during the training are being showcased and sold at exhibitions and handicraft fairs, enabling artisans to access direct markets. This initiative has not only promoted sustainable development but also empowered artisans, women, and marginalized communities, enhancing their economic opportunities and overall livelihoods.

ORGANIZATIONAL IMPACT

Improved Agricultural Productivity: CCDS facilitates the adoption of modern farming technologies and good agricultural practices, leading to higher crop yields and improved quality of produce.

Enhanced Income: Through the efforts of CCDS, increased productivity and support for farmers' collectives can significantly raise farmers' incomes, contributing to greater economic stability.

Sustainable Resource Management: CCDS enhances the effective conservation and management of natural resources, ensuring the long-term sustainability of farming practices and promoting environmental health.

Skill Development: CCDS offers continuous training programs that enhance farmers' skills, enabling them to adopt new technologies and practices, which leads to more efficient farming operations.

Rural Employment Generation: CCDS creates job opportunities within the community through various projects, helping to reduce unemployment and boost economic activities in the region.

Strengthened Community Cohesion: CCDS supports farmers' collectives, fostering a sense of community and encouraging collaboration and shared learning among farmers.

Empowerment of Tribal Families: By focusing on small and marginal farmers, CCDS empowers tribal families, promoting self-sufficiency and resilience in the face of economic challenges.

Reducing Vulnerability through DAY- Successfully trained 200 students under the DAY-NULM initiative, including 160 students as Domestic Data Entry Operators and 40 as General Duty Assistants, in alignment with Sector Skill Council courses under the National

Skill Qualifications Framework (NSQF) and also Conducted a focused training program for 120 students, with each participant completing 400 hours of training as per NSQF guidelines

SUCCESS STORY OF CCDS: EMPOWERING RURAL COMMUNITIES

NABARD-WDF Watershed Development Programme

The NABARD-WDF Watershed Development Programme, implemented by CCDS in five villages of the Bhandra block in Lohardaga district, has transformed rural livelihoods across 1,340 hectares in Jharkhand. The initiative focuses on soil and water conservation through a collaborative approach, engaging local stakeholders to identify resource issues and develop tailored watershed plans. Key achievements include the rehabilitation of underproductive lands, leading to increased agricultural productivity, and the promotion of allied activities that benefit landless individuals. This has created job opportunities in agroforestry and sustainable farming practices, fostering community cohesion and resilience.

The program's emphasis on multi-resource management has improved water conservation techniques, such as rainwater harvesting and soil erosion control, resulting in enhanced agricultural output and sustainable use of natural resources. Overall, the initiative has increased income levels for families, reduced urban migration, and demonstrated the effectiveness of integrated watershed management in driving sustainable development in Jharkhand.

TDF-WADI Interventions for Tribal Marginal Farmers

The TDF-WADI project, implemented by CCDS under NABARD, enhances the livelihoods of tribal marginal farmers in the Bhandra block of Lohardaga district, Jharkhand. Covering 450 acres and benefiting over 450 small and marginal tribal families, the initiative focuses on sustainable farm sector interventions.

Key objectives include conserving natural resources, improving farmers' credit absorption capacity, and promoting modern farming technologies. CCDS provides skill-building programs that generate rural employment and raise living standards, while supporting farmers' collectives to increase incomes.

The TDF-WADI initiative effectively transforms the lives of tribal marginal farmers, fostering sustainable development and community resilience in Jharkhand.

Transforming Rural Livelihoods through the OFFD Project in Lohardaga

CCDS is making significant strides in transforming rural livelihoods through the OFFD project in Lohardaga district. This initiative aims to mitigate the overreliance on agriculture by promoting alternative livelihood options, addressing the pressing issue of migration among small and marginal farmers and agricultural laborers seeking better opportunities in urban areas. By focusing on crafts such as jute, dari, and dokra, CCDS has established a rural mart in Lohardaga to market these products locally, ensuring fair prices for artisans through the Lavapani Crafts Off-farm Farmer Producer Organization.

Empowering Artisans through Jute Bag Production and Showroom Initiatives

Since 2010, CCDS has operated a Jute Bag Making Unit in Ranchi, providing stable employment for 35 workers through self-financing efforts. As a leader in craft development, the organization has set up three showrooms across Jharkhand—Lohardaga, Khunti, and Ranchi—showcasing products crafted by local artisans and creating economic opportunities for them.

Promoting Traditional Crafts through Collaborative Fairs

In collaboration with the Ministry of Textiles, CCDS has successfully organized Gandhi Shilpo Bazar Fairs and handicraft fairs, providing rural artisan groups a platform to display their talents and connect with potential buyers. These events have significantly promoted and sustained traditional crafts in Jharkhand.

Capacity Building and Market Integration for Artisans through FPOs

CCDS has also implemented a capacity-building program in Gumla district, focusing on bamboo and jute crafts, training over 100 artisans in various aspects of craftsmanship. This training is complemented by support in establishing marketing linkages for their products. Registered with TRIFED, CCDS facilitates participation in industry-based trade fairs and online sales through platforms like Amazon, Flipkart, and eBay. The establishment of a Common Facility Centre (CFC) will further enhance artisans' capabilities by providing a dedicated space for manufacturing, storing, and displaying products.

Through these initiatives, CCDS continues to empower rural communities, enhance livelihoods, and sustain traditional crafts, demonstrating its commitment to fostering economic growth and resilience in Jharkhand and beyond.

Other Successes: Any additional notable achievements or testimonies that highlight the organization's contributions.

Polyhouse for Vegetable Cultivation: Implemented in East Singhbhum, polyhouses provide controlled environments that enhance vegetable production. This initiative helps farmers grow high-value crops year-round, protecting them from adverse weather conditions and pests.

Technical Guidance for Plant Maintenance and Harvesting: CCDS offers ongoing technical support to farmers, focusing on best practices for plant care and harvesting techniques. This guidance aims to improve crop yields and quality, ensuring that farmers maximize their production potential.

Irrigation Facilities: Under the TCDC project, micro lift and drip irrigation systems have been established in East Singhbhum. These efficient irrigation methods conserve water and ensure that crops receive the optimal amount of moisture, significantly enhancing agricultural productivity.

Low-Cost Poultry Sheds: The development of low-cost poultry sheds supports sustainable poultry farming in rural areas. These structures provide a safe and healthy environment for birds, improving production rates and contributing to the nutritional needs of local communities.

Solar-Based Deep Boring: To address water scarcity in rural areas, solar-based deep boring facilities have been introduced. This renewable energy solution provides a sustainable source of water for irrigation and household use, reducing dependence on conventional power sources.

Greenhouse Nursery Development: CCDS has established greenhouse nurseries to nurture seedlings before they are planted in the field. This method allows for better control over growing conditions, resulting in stronger, healthier plants that are more likely to thrive once transplanted.

Intercropping Initiatives: Promoting the intercropping of vegetables between mango plantations helps maximize land use and increases farmers' overall yield. This practice not only provides additional income from vegetable sales but also enhances soil health and reduces pest infestations.

Mango Orchard Development: CCDS has initiated the development of mango orchards in Khunti and Gumla, enhancing local fruit production. This initiative not only boosts farmers' incomes but also encourages agro-tourism and value-added products such as mango pulp and juices.

Vermicompost Beds for Organic Farming: The establishment of vermicompost beds promotes organic farming practices by providing farmers with a sustainable source of high-quality compost. This improves soil fertility, enhances crop yields, and supports environmentally friendly farming methods.

Tassar Cocoon Reeling & Production: In Chhattisgarh, CCDS has initiated the reeling and production of Tassar silk cocoons, supporting local silk production. This initiative not only creates employment opportunities but also helps preserve traditional craft techniques, contributing to the cultural heritage of the region.



TECHNOLOGY RESOURCE COMMUNICATION & SERVICE CENTRE

BACKGROUND OF THE ORGANIZATION

Technology Resource Communication & Service Centre (TRCSC) was established on 27th November 2004 in Jamshedpur, East Singhbhum in Jharkhand under Indian Trust Act 1860. Subsequently it got registered under IT Act, FCRA, Niti Aayog, and other regulatory bodies of government. This organization is being governed by its Trust Board.

Vision

Creation of a just society, where the people will live in harmony, with assured facilities of basic needs through participatory holistic development towards transformation into confident and self-reliant citizenship.

Mission

To empower the women, children, adolescents, youths, small and marginal farmers, and strengthening community-based organizations through capacity building, participatory planning, implementation, monitoring and learning process, with special emphasis on food and nutrition, basic education, health, natural resource management, livelihood promotion, gender equity, entitlements and protection.

Objectives

- To reduce hunger, malnutrition, poverty through integrated farming, land and water management, skill development, information dissemination and awareness generation;
- To enhance capacity and cooperation among the community-based organizations, so that basic rights and entitlements are ensured;
- To promote functional literacy, education, training and entrepreneurship opportunities for the children, adolescents, youth, women, and farmers;
- To create employment opportunities through individual or group-based micro-enterprises; particularly in the field of processing Agri-horticulture, animal husbandry, fishery etc.;
- To generate awareness on community health, water and sanitation, climate change, disaster management, gender equity, and foster community initiatives for holistic development; and
- To organize action research, do documentation and dissemination, and service support to the community-based organizations and civil society organizations.

Geographical Coverage

At present, TRCSC is working in 3 districts, i.e. 1) Purbi Singhbhum, 2) Paschim Singhbhum, and 3) Seraikela-Kharsawan in Kolhan region of Jharkhand

Target Population

TRCSC is working among Children and Adolescents (Approx. 25,000), Youth (Approx. 1,500), Women (Approx. 15,000), People of Scheduled Castes / Dalit (Approx. 2,000), People of Scheduled Tribes / Primitive Tribal Groups (Approx. 25,000), People of Other Backward Castes (Approx. 25,000), Small and Marginal Farmers (Approx. 10,000), and Landless and Daily Wage Labourer (Approx. 4,000). Special emphasis is being given on working with the most vulnerable people belong to the tribal and backward communities in the rural areas.

Strategy

For effective implementation of its projects, efforts are being given on the following four action components – (a) Reach at the grass root level and good rapport with the communities; (b) Wherever and whenever possible, utilization of local resources, be it human or other; (c) Cent percent transparency and accountability; and (d) Close coordination with the Government stakeholders. However, in the core of its all endeavours, emphasize is being given on – a) Participatory and need based approach; and b) Replication of the positive outcomes of our experiments and pilot activities.

Working Experience of the Organization in the state of Jharkhand

Since its inception, TRCSC has been working in Jharkhand, particularly in the districts in Kolhan region of the state with the support of – a) Central and State Government departments / agencies; b) National / International development agencies; c) Corporate CSR agencies; and d) Universities / Institutes. It also collaborated with other CSOs for implementation of different projects. During its journey of two decades, TRCSC has touched many lives, which may be described as following –

- 117 Anganwadi Centers are now functioning regularly in appropriate way by providing six services as per the ICDS guideline/norms (81 AWCs in Kukru, 15 AWCs Nimdih, and 10 AWCs in Gamharia blocks of Seraikela-Kharsawan district; and 11 AWCs in Jamshedpur blocks of East Singhbhum districts). Unlike pre-intervention period, presently the pre-school education is being given priority by the 'Sevika's (AWWs) in these Anganwadi Centers;
- In 133 schools (71 in Kukru, 28 in Nimdih, 17 in Chandil, 13 in Ichagarh, 4 in Gamharia blocks of Seraikela-Kharsawan district) community participation has been increased due to strengthening SMC/SMDC and Bal Sansad. In turn, the children's school attendance has been increased from 30% to over 80% in an average;
- In 45 Middle and High schools in Kukru (4), Nimdih (14), Ichagarh (13), and Chandil (14) blocks of Seraikela-Kharsawan district, experiment-based science education and learning program is being conducted since 2017 for the students of classes from V to X. Around 12,000 children have been benefited by this program;
- In Kukru block of Seraikela-Kharsawan district, 5 Adolescent Resource Centers(ARCs) become vibrant. Different activities and Career Counselling for adolescents helped to

create a conducive environment for adolescent development. Around 1,000 adolescents belong to the age group of 10-19 years are actively taking part in the different ARC activities;

- More than 200 youths, who were previously members of ARCs till 19 years of their age, are presently pursuing higher studies or technical education and even few of them around 15 became community leaders who fought and won the PRI elections;
- Due to continuous effort, general awareness on the rights of the children and against child marriage has increased manifold;
- Since 2015, in East Singhbhum and Seraikela-Kharsawan districts, around 250 girls aged between 13 and 18 years have been rescued and saved from Child Marriage, and rehabilitated;
- In TRCSC's coverage area, a consensus against domestic violence and abuse against the women can be observed;
- Women are nowadays have become aware of their rights and entitlements and more than 100 of them have started small enterprises for better livelihood;
- More than 20,000 farmers adopt modern farming techniques of agriculture that helped them to ensure their food security;
- More than 500-hectare fallow land has been converted to orchards in Seraikela-Kharsawan district;
- New technology has been adopted and is being practiced for floriculture and medicinal plantation. Presently 120 farmers are practicing floriculture and 25 farmers are engaged in medicinal plantation in East Singhbhum and Seraikela-Kharsawan districts;
- In last five years, under different programs, 31,653 children, women, farmers and their families have been linked with different government welfare schemes, like Sukanya Samridhhi Yojna, Kishori Shakti Yojna, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojna, Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojna, Mukhya Mantri Kanya Daan Yojna, Savitri Bai Phule Yojna, MGNREGA, etc.

Recognition and Accolades

Due to its commitment and performance, over the years TRCSC have received several awards from government and other agencies. These awards may be listed as below.

- Best Performance Award for Promotion of Floriculture in Jharkhand by National Horticulture Mission (NHM), Jharkhand in 2012
- Best Performance Award for SRI Promotion in Seraikela-Kharsawan District by ATMA, Seraikela in 2012
- Plan Global Award 2013 for Most Successful Advocacy Campaign on Child Development by Plan International in 2013
- Best Social Development Organization for Agriculture Development in Jharkhand by Birsa Agriculture University, Ranchi in 2013
- Award for Livelihood Generation in Rural Areas through Promotion of Mushroom Cultivation by Birsa Agriculture University, Ranchi in 2017

- Best Innovative Integrated Farming Model by Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India in 2019 at the Science Congress in Lucknow, India
- TRCSC has also been recognized for its social development work and awarded the status of 'Centre for Excellence in CSR' by Tata Institute of Social Services (TISS), Mumbai

PROFILE OF CORE MEMBERS

a) Board of Trustees

Name	Qualification	Occupation	Designation
Dr. Suresh Prasad Sahu	M.A, PhD	Social Worker	Settler
Dr. Tapas Paik	M.Sc., B.Ed., PhD	Social Worker	President
Mr. Manas Kumar Das	B.Sc.	Social Worker	Secretary
Mr. Nabin Konar	B.Sc.	Social Worker	Treasurer
Mr. Prabir Kumar Patra	B.A, PGDRD, Ayurvedratna	Social Worker	Member
Mr. Ganesh Prosad Das	B.Sc. Geology(Hons.), MA (Political Science), DPE, B. Ed.	Teacher	Member
Mr. Bhudev Bhakat	M.A (Sociology)	Social Worker	Member
Mrs. Gita Kumari	M.Sc. (Agri.)	Deputy Project Director ATMA	Member
Mrs. Minakshi Mahato	Matric	Social Worker	Member

b) Board of Advisors

Name	Qualification	Expertise
Mr. Ardhendu Sr. Chatterjee	B.Com.	Ecological Farming and Natural Resource Management
Dr. Ashit Baran Das	M.Tech., Phd.	Food Technology
Mr. Rakesh Kumar	B.Sc. Agriculture	Agri-Horticulture
Mr. Awtar Singh	M.A.	Mass Communication

THEMATIC ENGAGEMENTS

TRCSC has been working in different thematic areas, though its primary focus is on –

- Livelihood & Food Security
- Agriculture-Horticulture Development
- Natural Resource Management
- Promotion of Primar and Basic Education
- Health and Nutrition
- Child Rights and Protection
- Adolescent Empowerment
- Women Empowerment
- Local Self Governance and
- Training and Skill-building

MILESTONES

TRCSC is on the verge of completing its journey of 20 years. These two decades have remained remarkable in respect of its achievements as well as progress towards fulfilling its development goal. Though a lot of works yet to be done, this journey may be bifurcated in four phases of around five years each, to showcase the major milestones.

Phase 1: Fulfilling all legal requirements for establishing its identity; and institutional (self) capacity building for project implementation in the chosen thematic areas as well as geographical areas and rapport building with target communities.

Phase 2: Launching of the first comprehensive Agri-horticulture project with small and marginal farmers to ensure food security; and securing first major international grant, allowing expansion into new thematic areas such as livelihood development, natural resource management, promotion of basic education, and women empowerment; and establishing Nursery-cm-Demonstration centre at Rudia, Chandil, and Mushroom Laboratory for spawn production and technical training.

Phase 3: Consolidation of rapport and partnership with government departments / agencies as well as with corporate CSR agencies; and expansion of intervention endeavours in the thematic areas of water and sanitation, nutrition, women and child development, child / adolescent rights and protection, and human resource development through training and skill building.

Phase 4: Establishing fully equipped training centre with accommodation facilities and a well-stocked library under the title of Institute of Development Studies, Research and Training (IDSRT) at Ghoraling, Chandil; and establishing agriculture resource centre for promoting modern scientific farming techniques and inputs at Dhusra, Patamda.

SPECIALIZATION AND UNIQUE CHARACTERS

While implementing various programs and projects in different thematic areas in last 20 years, TRCSC has developed its specialization in Human Resource Development through thematic and technical (Agri-horticulture) training, career guidance and counseling.

And speaking of the uniqueness of this organization, in all of its effort, TRCSC mandatorily keeps focus on people-centric approach and ensures community participation in absolute transparent manner. This unique character is not only help TRCSC to implement project effectively, but it is its organizational strength.

ORGANIZATIONAL IMPACT

Due to continuous endeavours by TRCSC, tangible changes have been occurred in the lives of rural population in three districts of Kolhan region (East Singhbhum, West Singhbhum and Seraikela-Kharsawan) of Jharkhand. Few of the major impacts of TRCSC's interventions may be mentioned as below.

- More than 1000 rural families are being engaged in backyard nutrition gardening which gives them added nutrition to the food they consumed daily.

- 300 Hectares of west/fallow-land have been successfully converted into productive asset. Around 700 families are being engaged in agri-horticultural activities in this land which has enhanced their status of food security as well as of their family income.
- In more than 250 acres of land, due to integrated water and soil conservation and harvesting, depletion of natural resources has been stopped and opportunity of income from forest produces has been increased for the local communities.
- Students' dropout rate has become nil in around 100 government middle and high schools.

LEARNING

Since its inception, TRCSC has experienced many ups and downs as well as gathered knowledge of various aspects of project planning, implementation and monitoring process, engagement with different communities, government and non-government agencies, and organizational functioning. This has remained very helpful in planning and strategizing programs, engaging with various stakeholders, and positioning in respect of internal policies. Among many such learning, the following areas are most prominent.

- Projects have to be designed with people-centric approach;
- There must be flexibility in the implementation plan and process to cope with the everchanging socioeconomical situation and use of new technologies;
- Building strong rapport with all stakeholders including support / partner agencies;
- Strong organizational policies and following to discard all sorts of bias, discrimination and injustice; and
- Proper planning and efforts for making the organization functionally and financially sustainable

CASE STORIES

Case Story

It was 2014, when CSR department of ISWP (A TATA Enterprise) has decided to work for the overall development of the economically disadvantaged girls in schools, belong to the scheduled tribes and castes (ST and SC) in Potka block of East Singhbhum district in Jharkhand. In this endeavour, ISWP partnered with TRCSC, Jamshedpur.



After thorough evaluation of several schools in Potka, this team selected Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) for this intervention. The major reasons for choosing KGBV – Potka are – 1) It is a residential school; hence students are always available in the school for any kind of training or program; 2) Proportion of girl students belong to the ST/SC communities is more than 70%; 3) The school is free from any political, social or parental interference; 4) School management and district education department are very cooperative; and 5) These girl students are either orphan, having single parent or of PTG communities. The support is really needed for overall development of these girls.

After the need assessment, and discussion with the students, school management and district education department, a plan for effective interventions was made. In this plan, Quality Education, Health and Nutrition, Life Skills, Sports, Art and Craft and skill development were the focused area. Few of the most prominent results are as mentioned below.

EDUCATION

According to the plan, extra coaching classes for science, mathematics, English and psychology were started, besides upgrading the science laboratory and training program for the teachers. As its result, where 8% students secured 1st division in 2014, in last two years 100% students secured 1st division in board examinations.

SPORTS

In sports, archery training program was initiated and the students have earned many medals in district, state, national and in international level competitions. One of the students, Lakshmi Hembram of class XI participated in the International Youth Archery Championship held at Madrid in 2019 and ranked 9th. Now the school has many national and state level medallist among its students. Besides, in last 10 years 8 archery students of this school secured jobs due to their achievements and skills.

SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Training on nutritional farming and mushroom cultivation is a regular feature. It is a one-year training program. All students of class VIII and IX undergo the training. They produce approximately 30 to 35 kg vegetable every day and around 10 to 15 kg of mushroom everyday which is consumed at school kitchen. This has improved their health and added an skill very useful for them as they can use it to develop kitchen gardens back home for producing vegetable lifelong.

FINE ART

Many students are keen in Art and Craft. Post training, they have developed their skills in traditional tribal art and craft, as well as in contemporary fine arts. In G-20 Summit in 2024, the state pavilion of Jharkhand was decorated and showcased with KGBV Potka students' art work.

SEWING and STITCHING

Every year 75 students of class XII are getting training of sewing and stitching.

SCHOLERSHIP FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION

The scholarship program for technical education has also remained a very successful intervention, where students who opted for ITI or DIPLOMA training on any technical field are being sponsored by ISWP. Till now around 60 students have completed their technical education and are on job, in and around Jamshedpur in many big industrial houses including Tata Motors, Tata Cummins etc.

REPLICATION

In 2022 this Potka model was replicated in all the 11 KGBVs and JBAVs in East Singhbhum district in Jharkhand. This model has been appreciated by Niti Aayog, central minister Dr. Jadhav Karad, and state government officials. It has been appreciated at the highest level of Tata Group and ISWP has been awarded more than five times for this activity by the Chairman of Tata Group.

Case Story

Transforming Wasteland into a Productive Asset: The Cashew Plantation Success in Pilid Village, Ichagarh Block, Seraikela-Kharsawan District, Jharkhand

Background

Pilid village, which is located in the Ichagarh block of Seraikela-Kharsawan district, faced significant challenges due to a large expanse of wasteland spanning 56 hectares. This barren land with limited agricultural potential, contributed little to the livelihoods of the local farmers, many of whom struggled with economic hardships. The community primarily depended on subsistence farming and seasonal labour, which provided meagre returns.

The Initiative

Recognizing the untapped potential of the wasteland, a collaborative effort was initiated by local authorities, agricultural experts, and community members. The goal was to transform the barren land into a productive asset through the plantation of cashew trees, a crop well-suited to the region's soil and climatic conditions. The project received technical and financial support from government schemes and non-governmental organizations focused on sustainable agriculture and rural development.



IMPLEMENTATION

1. Soil Preparation and Plantation:

The wasteland was prepared through trenching, and soil improvement measures. Cashew saplings were planted in a phased manner, with farmers receiving training on plantation techniques, maintenance, and pest management.

2. Community Involvement:

Farmers were actively involved in the planning and execution of the project. Regular meeting and field demonstrations ensured that they were equipped with the knowledge to care for the plants.

3. Sustainability Measures:

Drip borings were introduced to ensure water efficiency, and inter-cropping practices were encouraged to enhance soil health and produce quality.

Results and Benefits

1. Economic Upliftment:

- o The cashew plantation began yielding fruits within three years, providing a steady source of income to the farmers.
- o Farmers now sell raw cashew nuts to processing units, fetching competitive market prices.

2. Employment Generation:

- o The plantation created jobs for local labourers in planting, weeding, harvesting activities.

3. Environmental Impact:

- o The plantation improved soil fertility and reduced erosion.
- o The green cover enhanced biodiversity and contributed to carbon sequestration.

4. Community Development:

- o The project fostered a sense of ownership and cooperation among the villagers.
- o Income from cashew sales has been reinvested in education, healthcare, and infrastructure improvements in the village.

SUCCESS STORIES

Farmers like Sibaswar Mahato, Panchanan Patar, Mangal Mahato and other 56 farmers who were once struggling to make their family ends meet, now earn a stable income from their cashew orchards. Even, Sibaswar Mahato has expanded his plantation for additional benefits from his cashew orchard.

CONCLUSION

The transformation of 56 hectares of wasteland in Pilid village into a thriving cashew plantation sector exemplifies the potential of sustainable agricultural practices to drive economic and social development. This initiative has not only improved the livelihoods of the farmers but also set a precedent for similar projects in other area of the district. With continued support and community participation, the cashew plantation in Pilid village stands as a beacon of hope for rural prosperity in Jharkhand.



VOICES OF CHANGE: THEMATIC INSIGHTS FROM CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS IN JHARKHAND

Stories from the grassroots and communities

ABSTRACT

This publication brings together a collection of in-depth articles authored by prominent sector leaders from across the state, delving into critical themes and highlighting the impactful contributions of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in these areas. Beyond exploring thematic insights, the compilation also captures the personal journeys, challenges, and successes of these leaders, offering a unique perspective into their work. Through these narratives, the publication seeks to inspire and inform readers about the transformative role of CSOs and the individuals driving meaningful change at the grassroots level.



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RETHINKING DEVELOPMENT: A GROUND-UP APPROACH TO PROGRESS

Written by: Mr. Girija Satish, President & Founder Member, NBJK



Development means the growth of an individual. Here, development is primarily associated with economic progress. Everyone seems concerned about development. Governments, national and international organizations, as well as religious institutions, work towards development. However, there is little noticeable change in the lives of the poor. Even today, they lack access to nutritious food. They are deprived of adequate education, housing, and healthcare. Despite the expenditure of government funds and resources from various organizations, a poor person's life remains shrouded in darkness. How can their development truly occur? By providing free relief, they are often rendered even more dependent. This fosters idleness and diminishes their industriousness, which in turn, becomes an obstacle to national progress.

Governmental and non-governmental organizations design various development plans — for agriculture, irrigation, land reforms, education, healthcare, and so on. Hundreds of such plans are formulated. Governments also enact laws for development. However, these plans often fail to yield significant impact. Building roads, providing electricity, establishing schools, setting up healthcare centers, and other public amenities are indeed aspects of development and can be considered valid steps. However, most of these provided facilities lack proper maintenance. For example, public toilets are constructed in villages, drinking water facilities are set up, and drains and roads are built, but they often fail to sustain because no provision is made for their regular, monthly, or annual upkeep.

In government schools, toilets are built, and drinking water is made available, but there are no arrangements for their cleanliness. Once the toilets become dirty, they remain unusable. Some facilities are created but are never utilized and remain redundant from the start.

When discussing the development of an individual, it is essential to understand that no external entity or organization can facilitate their development unless the individual is willing to grow themselves. The true concept of development can be that we assist those who want to progress. On this basis, the approach to development will change entirely. Such a development plan will need to be tailored for each of the 1.3 billion Indians or 200 million families. It will not require multiple departments or development agencies. Instead, a single governmental department will suffice, which can be called the Rural or Urban Development Department. Representatives from this department will visit each family to assess their specific needs and create plans to assist them accordingly. For instance, if a

farmer owns two acres of land and already has a well, they might require a pumping set. Subsequently, they may need access to electricity for the pump. Providing them with a pumping set and electricity would enable them to maximize the potential of their land and increase their income. They wouldn't need additional subsidies. Similarly, if the head of a family is suffering from an illness, the family's top priority will be to treat the ailment. Once the illness is cured, they could earn and take care of their family and children.

Thus, a policy focused on individual development could benefit people the most.

Gandhiji's Vision for a Social Worker in Every Village

Gandhiji believed that every village needs a social worker. If not in every village, at least every panchayat should have one. This worker is not a headman or an elected representative but a thoughtful individual dedicated to social work. Such a person would act as a medium for development in their area. They should have the authority to assess the needs of every family based on their priorities and provide the necessary resources.

This individual would create a one-page plan based on the assessment of needs, send a copy of it to the government or donor agencies for information, and implement it under their financial authority. For example, a model scheme for housing the poor typically has a budget of ₹1 lakh to ₹2.3 lakh. If there is a homeless person in the village who needs a house and owns a piece of land or has a hut that requires repairs, they might only need ₹10,000 instead of ₹1 lakh or more. With this amount, they can make their home livable, reducing costs and contributing to the process themselves. In this way, housing can be arranged for millions of homeless people.

Education and its Challenges

Every parent today wants to send their children to good schools. Government schools provide mid-day meals, and Anganwadi centers offer nutritious food. While the government spends significant money on these initiatives, numerous problems persist. Government schools often face a lack of teachers, absenteeism, and a failure to provide quality education. Consequently, even the poorest parents prefer to send their children to private schools. The public education system has become an imposed system. Private schools offer better education, yet the government does not consider supporting them. If, instead of running government schools and offering free education, the government implemented a policy of directly supporting students, the outcomes could be much better. Parents could choose where to educate their children, and the government could cover the fees, even if partially, with families contributing the rest. This would achieve better results at a lower cost.

Simplifying Policies and Standards

The government does not need to create numerous policies. It should recognize its limitations and understand that its efficiency in any field will never surpass that of an entrepreneur or a non-governmental organization (NGO). The number of people employed in the private sector far exceeds those in the public sector.

The government pays a teacher ₹ 40,000 – ₹ 50,000, whereas an NGO achieves better results by paying a teacher ₹ 10,000. In other words, the private sector can employ five individuals for the cost of one in the public sector. The government should encourage private schools. However, the affiliation standards set by the state and central governments



are so stringent that very few schools can meet them. For instance, a high school is required to have two acres of land in a single location. Numerous rooms are needed for teaching and libraries, and strict teacher-to-student ratios are mandated.

If education is to be rapidly expanded, these standards must be made simpler and more flexible. Today, acquiring two acres of land in one place is a daunting task due to land scarcity and skyrocketing prices. An average Indian parent cannot afford to pay high monthly fees for their child's education. To provide better education at lower costs, the land and building requirements, along with the criteria for trained teachers, need to be relaxed. For instance, the standard for land requirements for a high school could be reduced to 50 decimals. It seems unlikely that even government schools meet the land requirements. Why discriminate between public and private institutions? Many government schools have a very low number of teachers, while private schools face stringent requirements regarding teacher numbers.

The government has been attempting to reform public schools for years, yet there has been little improvement, despite significant increases in teacher salaries. It should promote private schools alongside public schools and make the standards more lenient. Even today, the level of education and the number of children studying in private schools far surpass what is available in public schools.

Ayushman Bharat: Opportunities and Challenges

Ayushman Bharat is an excellent initiative that can significantly benefit the poor. However, there is a severe shortage of well-equipped hospitals with qualified doctors. Government doctors often lack interest in improving the quality of public hospitals due to their private practices. Encouraging private healthcare centers is the only way to address this issue.

At the block level, there should be 2–3 well-equipped hospitals. To achieve this, the government should promote private hospitals. Additionally, necessary pathological testing facilities should be available at the block level. If a block-level hospital needs to refer a patient to a larger facility, it should have the authority to do so.

Development Work by Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

Apart from the government, foreign organizations, foreign governments, CSR initiatives, religious institutions, and some individuals contribute to developmental work. These organizations often have specific conditions or priorities. Some focus solely on AIDS, others on eradicating tuberculosis, promoting girls' development, providing training, family planning, skill development, or advocacy for improving government health, education, and other programs.

Their goal is to achieve greater impact by utilizing their limited resources efficiently and leveraging government resources. However, this is rarely accomplished. Reports are produced, but the ground reality often tells a different story. The resources of NGOs are frequently spent on staff salaries, beneficiary training, advocacy programs, and organizing camps or seminars in expensive hotels. As a result, grassroots beneficiaries receive minimal benefits, while educated individuals, businesspeople, and hoteliers gain more.

This is a reverse flow of development. Organizations involved in developmental work should avoid having rigid priorities. They should work with an open mind, free from conditions, and focus on actual developmental needs. Much time is wasted in creating elaborate plans,

which many implementing organizations lack the capacity or knowledge to prepare, such as creating logical frameworks.

Instead, these organizations should visit villages or urban areas with an open mind to understand individual needs and priorities. This requires family-level planning. They should engage with each family, holding long discussions to gather information about their needs.

For example:

- One family might prioritize better education for their children and require financial assistance for school fees.
- Another might need additional capital to expand their work.
- A third might want a well dug for irrigation.
- Someone else might need financial support for their daughter's marriage.

Collaboration between Funding and Local Organizations

Funding organizations typically do not execute projects directly. They collaborate with local organizations to implement their work. Many such local organizations are available in the field today, but not all are reliable. Therefore, reputable organizations with strong credibility in society should be engaged to coordinate the work.

Large organizations can oversee and coordinate smaller ones. A fixed administrative expense of 20–25% of the total budget, including staff costs, should be allocated. The donor organization should maintain a strict account of how the remaining 75% of funds are spent.

Each beneficiary's details, including how much money they received, should be recorded in their passbook and a duplicate maintained by the implementing organization. Both the organization and the beneficiary should sign jointly. A one-page budget-cum-plan specifying the approved amount, its purpose, and beneficiary details (including mobile numbers) should be prepared and shared with the donor organization. This allows for verification at any time by the donor.

If organizations work in this manner, beneficiaries will receive maximum benefits. It will be clear what work was done for each person and the outcomes achieved. This process will ensure transparency and partnership between small and large organizations, foster the growth of smaller organizations, strengthen larger ones, and create employment opportunities for numerous workers.

Development Cannot Be Achieved Through Campaigns and Centralized Schemes

Central and state governments design national and state-level schemes, assigning them specific names and defining implementation procedures. Experience shows that such schemes provide minimal benefits to people. Beneficiaries often show little interest in these schemes as they generally fail to address their priorities.

Looking back, hundreds of schemes have been implemented by governments over time, covering areas like education, healthcare, rural development, agriculture, and livestock development. Government officials focus solely on meeting their targets by any means, often submitting false or exaggerated reports. These schemes are rarely evaluated by



neutral agencies. Government departments boast of their success, but the reality is often far from it.

There is a pressing need to move away from such centralized schemes. They lead to a significant waste of taxpayers' money, earned through the hard work of citizens. It can be stated that no substantial work has been done so far in the field of rural development to focus on the personal growth of individuals.

As mentioned earlier, separate plans should be made for the development of each family, and these plans should be implemented effectively.

Higher Establishment Costs, Lesser Focus on Development

If we combine the numerous ministries, departments, sub-departments, and auxiliary agencies of the government, their numbers could easily reach hundreds. Often, multiple government agencies are assigned to similar or overlapping tasks.

At the administrative level, there are too many departments. For instance, the hierarchy includes block, sub-division, district, commissionerate, state-level departments, offices, and ministries. Such an extensive chain leads to high costs for offices and staff, with separate departments for every type of program.

Young people waste their valuable time preparing for exams to secure government jobs. The number of government workers (part-time, full-time, or contractual) continues to increase. This trend must be halted, and governments need to learn how to work with fewer employees and departments. Such a shift would be revolutionary for governance.

In a democracy, public participation should increase, and the role of government officials and employees should be minimized. Currently, elected representatives, whether at the ward or panchayat level, are being turned into government servants with fixed honorariums.

From our perspective, there should be only three types of departments:

1. **Development** – This should encompass programs related to education, health, rural development, industrial growth, and more.
2. **Land Reforms** – To address issues related to land administration.
3. **Security** – For maintaining law and order.

All government programs should fall under these three departments. The argument is often made that specialized tasks require dedicated departments with experts. However, today there are independent specialized agencies in every field—agricultural agencies, dairy-related agencies, forestry experts, and so on. Their expertise can be utilized for implementing programs.

In a block office, the Block Development Officer (BDO) should be in charge of all development, education, and health-related programs within that block. This could essentially be termed as **block government**. Such a change would significantly reduce the number of workers, improve management, and enhance coordination.

Block officers should be granted extensive implementation authority. They should have the discretion to make decisions and execute tasks. The government should provide them with untied funds without imposing restrictive conditions on how the money should be spent.

IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON JHARKHAND AGRICULTURE: MITIGATION AND ADOPTION

Introduction



Image Source: The Indian Express

Agriculture in Jharkhand is mainly rainfed and is characterised by undulating terrain, shallow soil depth, low water retentive capacity, poor soil fertility and fragmented holdings with meagre irrigation potential (10-12%). Rainfall and temperature play a decisive role in suitability, adaptability and productivity of crops in a given region.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate change predicts that during the next decades, billions of people, particularly those in developing countries, will face changes in rainfall patterns that will contribute to severe water shortages or flooding, and rising temperature that will cause shift in cropping pattern and growing seasons. Impacts of changes in the rainfall (pattern and magnitude) and temperature as well as an increase in extreme events have profound effect on food availability and socio-economic conditions of a region and alternate cropping pattern may be needed to accommodate such changes. It is reported that during the past 100 years, global mean surface air temperature have risen by 0.740C and it is projected to rise by 1 to 30C during this century. Hingane et.al., (1985) reported that the Country-wide annual surface air temperature has increased by 0.4 oC /100 years in this century but the rate of increase slowed down in the recent three decades. The monsoon season rainfall was in decreasing trend over east Madhya Pradesh and adjoining areas, North-east India and parts of Gujarat and Kerala (Kumar et. al., 2002). Climate change is a global phenomena but the rate of change and its expected consequences is region specific. Hence, the use of indigenous knowledge and local coping strategies has to be taken as a base line and starting point of the adaptation planning.

The climate crisis is one of the world's biggest issues. Governments of the whole world, international organizations like United Nations and other voluntary organizations are not only worried about but also thinking for its solution. This period of contemplation has been going on for the last two decades, yet this crisis is increasing instead of decreasing. Why is such happening? Is there any fault in the conditions and direction of contemplation? Before considering the questions, it seems necessarily to be considered that, but such was not done to identify the factors responsible for the climate crisis? We have the point of view of developed countries and the so-called scientific way of seeing be considered identity or does it need to be understood more seriously.



It is generally believed that the main factors of climate change are nature and humans. Among the natural factors, the shifting of continents, eruption of volcanoes, ocean waves and changes in the axis of creation etc. are prominent. Similarly, human factors include increasing industrialization, increasing improper consumption of energy, decline in the number of forests and plants, increase in population, change in land use, nuclear science and nuclear energy competition etc. But apart from all the above factors, the most important human factors those have been ignored are the destructive concept of development and the declining life cycle and values of life. Perhaps this is done intentionally. Because whatever human factors are responsible for today's climate crisis are at the center - destructive thinking of development, destructive technology, exploitative process and indulgent lifestyle. The above factors enslaved nature and men and developed the thinking of becoming the object of consumption, which brought us here. The foundation of development laid on the indiscriminate exploitation of nature and the official exploitation of human beings and non-human beings - from which feudalism, capitalism, imperialism and neo-imperialism emerged. The tightness and stiffness of these promises did not just displace men and humanity from nature, but also from human values. As a result, among the burning problems that we are facing today is climate crisis.

Today the whole world is going through a severe food and climate crisis. On the one hand, the ruling authorities are worried about this, and on the other hand, active workers engaged in the process of redevelopment of the society are not only contemplating, but are also active in using the land. For this it is necessary that both the seriousness of the above crisis and the way to overcome it should be given moral thought. For this one has to find the root of the tradition and move forward by refining the tradition. At the same time, one has to get out of the web of dazzling modernity and so-called development. An attempt is being made here to draw attention to some cultural aspects of thought related to indigenous farming.

In this era of severe food crisis, indigenous farming is being discussed with great enthusiasm everywhere. It is also called by the name of organic farming or live farming. In today's era of globalization, the debate on the usefulness of shoddy farming is a sign that the world is going through a period of rethinking. This rethinking needs to be taken seriously.

As far as traditional farming and organic methods are concerned, there is a lot to be learned from Jharkhand's method. The development of Jharkhand's agriculture was done by the ancestors, keeping in mind the landform, geo-culture and climate here. Farming was not just a way of filling our stomachs and it was not just employment. As far as traditional farming and organic methods are concerned, there is a lot to be learned from Jharkhand's method. The development of Jharkhand's agriculture was done by the ancestors keeping in mind the landform, geo-culture and climate. The amount of rainfall and the flow of water were also taken into account in the design of the fields. How much amount of green manure coming from the forest will the fields get? Will it maintain the fertility of the fields? Will it need to use additional organic manure? They were aware of these too. In which season, what kind of farming is needed and what kind of grains or food grains people need according to the season, all these things were also kept in mind. The diversity of farming also expanded our culture.

Similarly, how much water does agriculture need? How to use the extra water that nature gives us? Care was also taken on which aquatic creatures should be prepared in this water, which are necessary for human society. Whether the amount of protein and vitamins would be balanced or not, our traditional cultivators also had the knowledge of all these.

The society also had proper knowledge of how the moisture of agriculture-land would be maintained and how its organicity would continue to grow and be strengthened. Food was not only meant to fill the stomach, but special attention was paid to how it contained juice, taste, aroma and other elements of the body's needs. What kind of vegetable in which season? what kind of fruit What kind of oilseeds and pulses do you need? This was also arranged. Cereals, vegetables or other spices and oilseeds were grown depending on the type of farm. Which cereal can be in less water? Which grain can bear the brunt of more water? Our ancestors used this information. Farming was done not only for capital and market but also to enrich and organize life and livelihood. In this way our farming was completely self-supporting, interdependent in terms of technology and labor. That's why the system of the 'Madaiet' (mutual co-operation) flourished there. All the communities were dependent on each other in terms of labor and resources. There were interdependent relations between agriculture, labor and resources. From here a sense of community flourished in the society. The feeling of fraternity, brotherhood and sisterhood developed in the society. That is, traditional farming was a living means of connecting the different religions, sects, and communities of the society. A powerful method and a cultural ethos.

Background of the CSO leader:

Ghanshyam is born in a small Adivasi village, Mahuadabur of Deoghar district in Jharkhand. He participated in JP movement for Total Revolution and also taken active initiatives in Jharkhand Andolan. He composed and published several books in which his most famous book is "Indigenocracy" and also contributed his knowledge in a book "Being Adivasi" published by 'Penguin'.

He is also honoured with 'Jai Prakash Narayan Youth Awards' presented by Baba Amte and also have received several awards and recognitions for his great social works in development fields in Jharkhand and Bihar. He is a key facilitator of World Social Forum, that was organized in Mumbai. He is a important part of SAMVAD, a nonprofit voluntary organization established in 2001 by Ghanshyam, accompanied by his JP movement friends.

As a founder and Secretary of SAMVAD, he monitored and executed many successful and innovative programs on Local Self Governance, Climate Mitigation, Ago-ecological, Sustainable agriculture, Indigenocracy, education, healthcare, livelihood, environment, communal harmony, and issue-based advocacy by his strong leadership qualities. Their benefits go to children, youths, women, farmers, families, small entrepreneurs, social workers of the marginalized, deprived community and Indigenous community for a better and happy life. He spent four decades among tribals of India and raised Adivasi issues such as protection of Adivasi ethos, Adivasi rights on natural resources and promotion of cultural and heritage of Adivasi.

Motivation that emphasized: Natural resources and its mismanagement

Nature's common e.g. water, forest and land have been axis of tribal life through the ages. Over the decades the process of development and modernization has frequently led to erosion of their traditional rights over natural resources. Moreover, lacunae in the laws, faulty implementation, and rapacious exploitation by the unscrupulous traders, money-lenders and greedy corporate companies in some of regions are making the situation complex and multilayered.



Jharkhand has witnessed heavy industrialization process and mining sector is one of prominent activities by the state. Out of total mining in the country around 40% mining of minerals is done in Jharkhand. Once known for bounty of green cover, diverse flora & fauna, now dense forest and perennial water resources are threatened due to industrial and urban growth and it has led to the phenomenon of “Development induced Displacement”. The grey economy model based on industries and mining has unleashed the challenge of climate crisis which is being witnessed in guise of recurrent drought, decline in agro activities, distress migration and bleak future of sustainable income generation. Drought has been a recurring phenomenon in the State.

CASE STUDIES AND EXAMPLES

A relevant case study or example that illustrates the impact of the sector leader's work.

“Destiny Will Change, So Will the Image”

The Beginning of a New Journey: A Case Study of Self-reliance for Women Farmers in Medhiya Village

“Destiny will change, the image will change, don't lose courage, just keep working hard, and one day, life will change.” This is the story of four women farmers from Medhiya village who have transformed their destiny and image in much the same way.

The story begins in November 2023, when a self-help organization called Samvad and formed a group of 10 women farmers in Medhiya village, located in the Musabani block of East Singhbhum. Initially, the members of the organization attempted to secure government loans for self-reliance. With the help of the Samvad workers and their efforts, they succeeded in obtaining loans of ₹ 3,300 per woman from the government, which were to be repaid without interest after a fixed period.

The group combined their funds and started organic farming. However, due to continuous drought and other challenges, these women farmers did not achieve the desired success in their farming efforts. The situation became even more discouraging when 6 out of the 10 women, frustrated and disheartened, withdrew from farming and reclaimed their money. At this point, the remaining four women farmers—Parvati Murmu, Malti Mardy, Sita Murmu and Monimala Hansda found themselves in a difficult situation. Not only did they have to think about repaying the loan, but they also needed to find a way to increase their income from farming, starting on a very small scale. Despite the challenges, they did not give up.

The four women formed a producers group and decided that they would not only grow vegetables, grains, and other crops through organic farming but would also sell them directly in local markets and haats. Meanwhile, the government provided them with a solar pump for irrigation, which proved to be a lifeline for their efforts. The group uses the solar pump for irrigation, which is powered by a diesel-operated pump machine. On their 4-bigha land, the group started growing crops such as lady's finger (bhindi), ridge gourd (nenua), bitter melon (barbati) and greens (saag). Among these, the demand for okra is so high that they are unable to meet it. This is just the beginning for the group, and while it is too early to predict the full extent of their success, their courage, determination, and efforts deserve admiration. In the face of adversity, these four women farmers have shown that with hard work and resilience, it is possible to overcome challenges and create new opportunities for growth and self-sufficiency.

Challenges & Lessons Learned

Reflections on the key lessons learned from working in the thematic area.

Some prominent challenges as mentioned below :

- Anthropogenic Climate crisis
- Narrow attitude of Non -Adivasi Society to Adivasis.
- Non co-operative attitude of administration/ bureaucracy
- corporatization of agriculture
- Increasing corruption in public life
- Displacement / Migration
- Huge diversion of Tribal Sub Plan fund (TSP) and Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP)

Lesson Learned from Thematic Area : Jharkhandi society has been a self-supporting society in terms of livelihood. Forest, farming, animal husbandry, poultry farming, small and cottage industries have been the speciality of agro-ecological livelihood. All the Jharkhandi communities have been mutually dependent, promoting the process of self-reliance. The central elements of the concept of livelihood in Jharkhandi society are food, clothing, housing, health, education, entertainment and creation.

Food security slogans are being raised in these days. In this, related laws are going to be made, which will not only make agriculture dependent but will also dislodge farmers from their land. The slogan of food security is not just an undertaking to make the farmers self-reliant but to mortgage the hunger in the hands of the rich (Corporates). When the land is in the hands of the farmers, then the farmers are not only free, but they use their creativity and discretion very well. It is this creativity and wisdom that make them responsible towards the society. Therefore, the farmers of Jharkhand used to produce food grains only so that they could feed their society and the neighboring community. Markets were not in the mind of the farmers here and neither was it a matter of capital concern. The minds of the farmers here were so clear and simple that they considered labor and creation as a factor of mutuality.

The TSP and SCSP funds are exclusively set aside for development of the communities itself. However, in previous decades it has been noticed that TSP and SCSP have been diverted in typical development projects such as national highways, flyovers, stadium and tourism etc and communities are deprived of essential help.

The changing pattern of Jharkhand climate thus, calls for reviewing the agricultural strategies and research priorities for sustainable agriculture. The most important aspect of the agricultural strategy would be to evolve heat resistant varieties of crops and to add such characters in existing varieties by the plant breeders. Other important aspects would be “the soil and water management” & “weather based crop management” to cope up with the changing climate.

Recommendations for future work and strategies for scaling successful interventions.

The recommendations for future work and strategies for scaling successful interventions will be to promote local leadership, women farmers’ Organizations, Green clubs, strengthening of Gram Sabhas and its federations. Development of volunteers, capacity building and

strengthening of Community based organizations, regional and State level, and Eastern India Alliance- “Swashashan Abhiyan India” of Self-rule etc. These groups and networks serve as an important platform for effective planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the project.

Future Directions

Insights into the future of the thematic area, including emerging trends and potential developments.

Thousands of perennial Jorias (small rivers) like Ambadah were in most of the villages of Jharkhand, in which earlier there was so much water that people could complete the irrigation system including their domestic use. Due to Jorias, there was usually water in the big rivers also throughout the year. Thousands of Jorias like Ambadah were in most of the villages of Jharkhand, in which earlier there was so much water that people could complete the irrigation system including their domestic use. Due to Jorias, there was usually water in the big rivers also throughout the year. Due to the cutting of the forest, this strong torrent of rain started flowing by eroding the fertile soil here and on the other, the deep Joria and the river started becoming shallow. The ponds also became shallow due to the filling of silt. As a result, water stores in Joria, rivers and ponds for only a few months. Most of the ponds now dry up before summer. Therefore, in order to combat drought and famine, it is necessary to renovate the old ponds and use the silt in them as fertilizer. This will have two advantages, on the one hand, where the ponds will be deep and more water will be stored, on the other hand the fertility of the fields will increase due to fertile silt. There is a need to do proper and systematic catchment treatment of Joria and rivers. Two things need to be taken into account in this. First, that their catchments should be treated and under the catchment treatment such trees and plants should be planted which hold the soil and retain the soil moisture. Under the treatment of the Joria and river, the process of removing their sand should be done expeditiously to make them deep. This sand will prove useful in the development of other types of industries and in the construction of concrete buildings. If only the government and its representatives extend their hands to bring the above works on the ground, then perhaps success will not be achieved. For this it is necessary to take the support of the community. This work can be realized only with the tripartite cooperation of government, community and institutions. Our independent India also repeated the mistake that the British did. The government of Jharkhand is still running on the same map steps as the mistake committed by the government of independent India. As a result, Jharkhand is becoming a victim of thirst and famine. That is why if the solution of both the above problems is to be found, then respecting the traditional knowledge and science, society and community will have to be kept at the center of its development. This process can prove to be more fruitful if the government and institutions act only as catalysts. The same process will shape the livelihood, freedom and happiness of Jharkhand, only then Jharkhand will become self-governing, self-reliant and self-respecting.

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EMPOWERING MARGINALIZED WOMEN

Written by: Mr. Zubin Ekka, Shramajivi Mahila Samity, Jharkhand



INTRODUCTION:

The thematic focus of this article centers on empowering marginalized women, particularly single women, worker women, and indigenous communities, by fostering social inclusion, economic security, and leadership. Shramajivi Mahila Samity (SMS), through its multi-faceted interventions, addresses entrenched gender inequities, social stigmatization, and the socio-economic vulnerabilities exacerbated by poverty, the COVID-19 pandemic, and patriarchal norms.

Core thematic areas include:

Land Rights: Enabling single and marginalized women to claim ownership and recognition under forest and communal land rights laws (e.g., FRA, PESA).

Livelihood Security: Promoting sustainable livelihood practices such as collective farming, kitchen gardening, and small enterprises to ensure financial independence.

Gender Justice and Safety: Combating gender-based violence (GBV) and organizing Mahila Sabha to amplify women's voices in local governance.

Leadership and Advocacy: Building leadership capacity among single and working women to influence decision-making at village, block, and state levels.

This thematic work is deeply rooted in feminism, gender justice, community participation, and addressing systemic challenges to marginalized women's well-being and dignity.

Key Issues and Challenges

- **Socio-Cultural Exclusion:** Single women face extreme discrimination, being labeled as witches, excluded from community decisions, and denied property rights.
- **Economic Vulnerability:** High dependency on informal labor, wage exploitation, and limited access to sustainable income opportunities have left women in poverty.

- **Post-COVID Impact:** The pandemic exacerbated unemployment, migration issues, child labor, and education dropout rates among children of single women.
- **Lack of Representation:** Women remain underrepresented in local governance structures, limiting their ability to advocate for rights and resources.
- **Lack of access to **land ownership**** for women.

Strategies Adopted:

- **Community Mobilization:** Formation of CBOs (Community-Based Organizations) and block-level federations to organize single women. Workers Women Forums and Ekal Nari Shashakti Sangathan (ENSS)
- **Capacity Building:** Training women in leadership, land rights, health access, and advocacy.
- **Advocacy and Lobbying:** Campaigns for land entitlement and ensuring .
- **Policy Influence:** Engaging with government agencies to reserve quotas for single women in education and employment schemes.
- **Awareness Drives:** Organizing village and block-level awareness programs on rights and entitlements.
- **Promoted collective farming** among women groups
- **Mobilized participation in Mahila Sabha** to ensure women's issues are incorporated into the Gram Sabha agenda.
- **Community Sensitization on Gender-Based Violence.**
- **Conducted leadership and legal rights training** for women workers and single women.

BACKGROUND OF THE CSO LEADER

A Visionary Leader Committed to Gender Justice

Purabi Paul, a distinguished development professional with over 40 years of experience, has been a driving force in empowering marginalized women, particularly single women, worker women, and indigenous communities. As the Honorary Secretary of Shramajivi Mahila Samity (SMS), her work focuses on dismantling systemic inequalities through land rights advocacy, livelihood promotion, and women's leadership development.

Purabi's leadership has led to the formation of the Association of Strong Single Women (ENSS), mobilizing over 40,000 women to secure land rights, access government schemes, and amplify their voices in governance. Her contributions extend to policy advocacy, serving on state and district-level committees addressing migration, human trafficking, health, and gender-based violence.

With expertise in capacity building and community mobilization, Purabi has empowered women to participate actively in local governance and claim their rights. Her passion for justice stems from a deep understanding of grassroots challenges, driving her vision to create a just and equitable society where women can lead lives of dignity and independence.

CASE STUDIES AND EXAMPLES

Empowering Single Women: The ENSS Initiative

Under the leadership of Purabi Paul, Shramajivi Mahila Samity (SMS) successfully established the Association of Strong Single Women (ENSS), a collective of over 40,000 single women across Jharkhand. This initiative gave marginalized single women—widows, abandoned, and separated—an organized platform to fight for their land rights, livelihood opportunities, and social inclusion.

Through capacity-building programs and sustained advocacy, ENSS enabled single women to:

- Secure land titles under Forest Rights Act (FRA).
- Access livelihood support such as collective farming, kitchen gardening, and small enterprises.
- Participate in local governance and demand entitlements like pensions and social security.

The ENSS initiative is a testament to Purabi Paul's ability to mobilize communities, influence policies, and restore dignity to women who are often excluded from mainstream development efforts.

LESSONS LEARNED

Key Reflections

Collective Action Drives Change: The formation of single women groups and worker federations has proven instrumental in building solidarity and addressing systemic challenges.

Addressing Gender Norms Requires Persistence: Changing deep-rooted patriarchal mindsets demands continuous advocacy and community sensitization.

Policy Advocacy is Critical: Legal recognition of single women's land and labor rights can significantly improve their socio-economic status.

Recommendations for Future Work

Scaling Successful Models: Expand collective farming and livelihood interventions to more villages.

Strengthen Mahila Sabha: Institutionalize Mahila Sabha as a pre-Gram Sabha mechanism for addressing women's issues.

Capacity Building: Enhance leadership skills, legal literacy, and digital literacy among single and marginalized women.

Integrate Climate Resilience: Address the impact of climate change on livelihoods through sustainable agricultural practices.



FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Emerging Trends and Developments

Emerging Trends and Potential Developments

Policy Inclusion: Continued advocacy for reserved quotas for single women in governance, employment, and education, ensuring equitable representation and access to resources.

Technology Integration: Utilizing digital platforms to amplify women's voices, streamline access to government entitlements, and facilitate grievance redressal mechanisms.

Climate-Adaptive Livelihoods: Promoting sustainable practices such as organic collective farming and community-led forest management to address climate challenges and secure livelihood resilience.

Youth and Gender Leadership: Engaging adolescent girls and young women as leaders and champions of change through education, skill-building, and governance participation.

Strengthening Worker Women's Federations: Enhancing recognition of women in the informal sector as legitimate contributors to the economy while advocating for minimum wages, labor rights, and social security.

Inclusion of LGBTQ+ Communities in Civic Spaces: A key future direction will be to actively work toward the inclusion of LGBTQ+ individuals in civil society and civic spaces. SMS will initiate programs that promote awareness, sensitization, and advocacy to address systemic exclusion and discrimination faced by LGBTQ+ communities. Through collaboration with governance structures and grassroots organizations, SMS will ensure their participation in decision-making processes, social justice initiatives, and access to labour rights, livelihoods, health, and education services. By embracing this inclusive vision, SMS aims to expand its impact, fostering a just, equitable, and diverse society that recognizes the rights and dignity of all marginalized groups.

ENDING CHILD MARRIAGE - A ROAD TO EMPOWERMENT

Introduction



Child marriage remains one of the most pressing challenges to child protection worldwide, particularly in South Asia. Despite numerous legal frameworks and international conventions that outlaw the practice, millions of girls continue to be married before the age of 18, robbing them of their childhood, education, and opportunities. This thematic article delves into the urgent need to eradicate child marriage, explores the critical roles played by development organizations and sector leaders, and highlights the strategies and actions that have been successful in driving change.

2. Thematic Engagement

Child marriage is not merely a social issue—it is a violation of children’s rights. It poses serious health risks, including early pregnancy and maternal mortality, and significantly limits the educational and economic potential of girls. In regions like Lohardaga, Gumla, and Garhwa, child marriage is often deeply embedded in cultural norms, economic pressures, and limited access to education and healthcare.

The fight against child marriage requires a multi-faceted approach:

- **Community Awareness:** Local leaders, such as gram pradhans, teachers, and religious figures, play a critical role in reshaping community norms. They help raise awareness about the legal age of marriage, the consequences of child marriage, and the importance of education.
- **Legal Interventions:** Strengthening the enforcement of laws against child marriage is essential. The implementation of strict legal penalties and monitoring mechanisms is crucial to prevent early marriages.
- **Education and Empowerment:** Ensuring that girls have access to education and vocational training is a powerful tool to delay marriage. Empowered girls are better equipped to resist early marriage and pursue their dreams.
- **Community Mobilization:** Engaging with both men and women in the community is critical. Challenging patriarchal attitudes and empowering women to be advocates for girls’ rights can create long-lasting social change.



Organizations like Lohardaga Gram Swaraj Sansthan (LGSS) have been at the forefront of this initiative, using a community-based approach to stop child marriages. Their work with local panchayats, religious leaders, and other stakeholders has helped to create a network of advocates committed to ending child marriage in their villages.

3. Background of the CSO Leader

Mr. C.P. Yadav, the Secretary of Lohardaga Gram Swaraj Sansthan (LGSS), has dedicated his career to tackling social injustices, with a particular focus on child rights since 1985. His journey into the development sector began with a deep passion for empowering marginalized communities and ensuring equal opportunities for every child, particularly girls.

Having witnessed firsthand the detrimental effects of child marriage on young girls, Mr. Yadav became a staunch advocate for policy change and community mobilization. His vision is to create a society where every girl can dream freely, access education, and live a life free from the constraints of early marriage. Through LGSS, Mr. Yadav has led numerous grassroots initiatives, working closely with local government bodies and communities to implement child marriage prevention programs.

4. Case Studies and Examples

One of the most significant achievements of LGSS under the leadership of C.P. Yadav is the **2023 initiative in the villages of Lohardaga**. When reports emerged about the increasing incidents of child marriage in the area, LGSS mobilized local resources, engaged community leaders, and worked with local law enforcement to prevent a planned child marriage. Through a series of community meetings, legal awareness campaigns, and direct intervention with the family, LGSS was able to prevent the marriage, ensuring that the young girl was able to remain in school and continue her education.

This case study exemplifies the importance of community-based action in tackling complex issues like child marriage. By involving local leaders, families, and authorities in a cooperative effort, LGSS demonstrated the power of collective action in preventing child marriage and promoting children's rights.

5. Lessons Learned

Over the years, several key lessons have emerged from working to end child marriage:

- **Community Participation is Crucial:** Engagement with local leaders and communities is essential for changing social norms. Efforts to end child marriage must be locally driven and culturally sensitive.
- **A Multi-Stakeholder Approach Works Best:** Collaboration with local government officials, NGOs, schools, and law enforcement maximizes impact. This holistic approach allows for a wider network of support and intervention.
- **Early Education is Key:** Empowering girls with education and life skills can act as a powerful tool in delaying marriage. Educated girls are more likely to resist child marriage and make informed decisions about their futures.
- **Legal Enforcement Needs Strengthening:** While awareness programs are critical, strict enforcement of laws against child marriage is necessary to create tangible change. Legal intervention must be swift and transparent.

Recommendations for Future Work:

- **Scaling Awareness Campaigns:** A wider reach of community-based awareness programs, utilizing modern media, can help in spreading the message to more remote areas.
- **Integration of Technology:** Digital tools, such as mobile apps and online resources, can facilitate better monitoring and reporting of child marriage cases.
- **Incentivizing Education for Girls:** Governments and NGOs should explore more incentive-based programs to ensure that girls remain in school, such as scholarship programs, free uniforms, and transportation.

6. Future Directions

The future of child marriage prevention lies in the integration of innovative solutions and continued community engagement. Emerging trends, such as the increasing use of technology for advocacy and awareness campaigns, show promising potential in reaching rural and underserved populations. Additionally, a stronger focus on men and boys as partners in ending child marriage can help to shift traditional gender norms.

Another important development is the growing recognition of child marriage as a serious child protection issue by governments and international bodies. This opens opportunities for stronger policy advocacy and more coordinated efforts at the national and global levels.

As we look to the future, the vision is clear: a society where every child, regardless of gender, has the opportunity to grow up free from the constraints of early marriage, with access to education and the ability to make their own choices.

To stop End marriage LGSS is following PICKET strategy :-

P- Policy

I – Investment

C – Convergence

K – Knowledge

E- Ecosystem

T:- Timeline

Reference :- Book, When children have a children. Author –Bhuman Ribhu

“PRAVAH: PIONEERING CHANGE THROUGH THEMATIC ENGAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP IN JHARKHAND”



Introduction

PRAVAH is a registered not-for-profit organization, established in the year 1992, to spearhead development initiatives in Santhal Pargana Region of Jharkhand for poor and vulnerable sections of the society. PRAVAH was founded by a group of dynamic social activists under the leadership of Mr. Dilip Kumar.

It is been 32 years, PRAVAH has been organising people against economic, social, educational and gender inequality, by awakening political, social consciousness & building value among them. PRAVAH is currently working with tribals, PVTGs, Dalits and backward communities in Jharkhand, Bihar and Bengal with the primary direction towards protecting environment through Natural Resource Management, Climate Resilient Agriculture, strengthening Local self-governance and policy Engagement. PRAVAH is currently working with about 1,65,000 poor and helpless people of these three states for their economic upliftment.

Vision- “Establish an equity and just social order-based society where everyone must have a dignified and respectful life.”

Mission – Empower target communities with ensured positive deviance in all respects through transparency, cooperative and participatory approach.

PRAVAH is currently working on eleven thematic area:

- Natural resource management
- Environment Protection
- Climate resilient agriculture & livestock
- Sustainable Livelihood
- Education



- Child protection & trafficking
- Women empowerment
- Health & Nutrition
- WATSAN
- Strengthening People's Institutions
- Policy Engagement

THEMATIC ENGAGEMENT

PRAVAH strongly believe that it is the high time to work on restoration of our environment, which will lead to the better health of our Soil, Water, Air. The penetration of Agroindustry is abolishing our agriculture, our indigenous technique, ecology of forest, community knowledge slowly which is impacting communities' health & livelihood.

Environmental Sustainability: PRAVAH is working in Natural Resources Management through access to Irrigation land, Agri water saving, renewable Solar energy, climate change adaptation & mitigation, Regenerative Biodiversity etc which improve biodiversity, Promote green energy, Soil conservation etc.

Soil & water conservation: PRAVAH worked with 5 thousand hectares of land to regenerate the fertile soil and adopt the water holding capacity of the soil. So, we are creating a different water body structure for ensuring the availability of irrigation water in every season. We promote soil conservative practices and grow less required water crops on fallow lands. This time PRAVAH achieved that the approx. 4 thousand hectare of land is converted in Agriculture land or approx. two thousand land is command area (Irrigated land) generated in Jharkhand and Bihar.

key issues & challenges: Expanding Agroindustry even if to the remotest pocket of Jharkhand, deforestation, unbalanced ecology, hazards due to climate change. The negative impact of the aggressive agroindustry is destroying the indigenous knowledge, practices of agriculture and disbalancing the agroecology. Which is considered a biggest threat on livelihood, health and overall development perspective.

BACKGROUND OF THE SECTOR LEADER

Mr. Dilip Kumar was born and raised in a family and environment that exposed him to socially and politically conscious individuals, shaping his early life and experiences. As he entered adulthood, Mr. Dilip Kumar became an active participant in the JP movement. Inspired by JP's ideology, he began mobilizing rural communities against social injustices, advocating for peaceful reform.

A group of dynamic social activists and intellectual in the leadership of Mr. Dilip Kumar led down the foundation of PRAVAH in midst of 1992 group in spread by the ideology of freedom fighter M.K. Gandhi Prominent social thinker Dr. R.M. Lohiya and Jai Prakash Narayan. All they are committed to establish the Gram Swaraj.



CASE STUDIES AND EXAMPLES

As Mr. Dilip Kumar immersed himself in grassroots work, he identified bonded labor (“Bandhua Majdoori”) as a pervasive social issue in Santhal Pargana, one that demanded zero tolerance and immediate abolition. He actively joined the Bandhua Majdoor Mukti Andolan in Deoghar and Dumka.

Uniting the marginalized communities proved daunting, and reclaiming laborers’ rights from powerful landlords posed significant political and economic risks. In 1983 this case went to Supreme court of India and honourable Justice PM Bhagwati gave justice to Bonded laborers with their due entitlements.

LESSONS LEARNED

Committed to Zero Tolerance for:

- Economic Exploitation
- Social Discrimination
- Educational Disparities
- Gender-Based Inequality

“TRANSFORMING RURAL LIVES: THEMATIC INTERVENTIONS OF BADLAO FOUNDATION”



The **Badlao Foundation** is a prominent non-governmental organization that has been working extensively in the Santhal Pargana, tribal and rural areas of Jharkhand and other regions of Jharkhand. It is committed to improving the lives of marginalized communities through comprehensive developmental initiatives. The foundation's programs are centred around key themes such as **Integrated Rural Development, Environment, Governance, Women Empowerment, Health, Education, Livelihood, and Natural Resource Management**. Each of these areas is addressed through holistic approaches, aiming to create sustainable change and long-term community development.

1. Integrated Rural Development: Badlao Foundation's **Integrated Rural Development (IRD)** model seeks to uplift rural communities by focusing on the holistic development of the entire community. This approach ensures that people are empowered economically, socially, and culturally. IRD programs include sustainable agricultural practices, livelihood training, micro-financing, and infrastructure development, which address the core challenges of rural poverty. The foundation works closely with local communities to identify their specific needs, and through community-based organizations, they implement projects that promote self-sufficiency, health, and education, all of which contribute to the overall development of the rural areas.

2. Environment: Badlao Foundation recognizes the close relationship between the environment and rural livelihoods. Through its **environmental initiatives**, the foundation promotes sustainable practices like **afforestation, soil conservation, and water harvesting**. These efforts help to combat environmental degradation, enhance natural resource availability, and improve the quality of life for rural populations. The foundation also supports the **conservation of biodiversity** by empowering local communities to become guardians of their natural environment, encouraging organic farming and water management techniques that protect natural resources for future generations.

3. Governance : In the realm of **governance**, Badlao Foundation focuses on improving local democratic structures by encouraging active participation and awareness about governance systems. The foundation promotes **transparency** and **accountability** within local governments, aiming to increase the participation of marginalized groups, especially women and tribal communities, in decision-making processes. They engage in **capacity-**



building programs for local leaders and the general population, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility in governance.

4. Women Empowerment: One of the most significant themes of the Badlao Foundation is **Women Empowerment**. Badlao works tirelessly to create a more equitable society by challenging gender norms and increasing women's access to resources, education, and economic opportunities. Through skill-building workshops, micro-credit schemes, and leadership training, the foundation enables women to gain financial independence and participate actively in community development. They also provide a platform for women to assert their rights, take up leadership roles, and contribute to the progress of their communities.

5. Health: Badlao Foundation addresses critical health issues faced by rural and tribal populations through its comprehensive **health initiatives**. The foundation works to improve access to basic healthcare services, raise awareness about sanitation, and promote health education, particularly focusing on **maternal health, nutrition, and preventive healthcare**. The foundation's mobile health units, health camps, and training of local health workers have been instrumental in improving health outcomes in remote areas, where access to healthcare services is often limited.

6. Education: The foundation's focus on **education** is crucial in its efforts to break the cycle of poverty in rural and tribal communities. Badlao Foundation works towards improving literacy levels, providing vocational training, and enhancing the quality of education. Special emphasis is placed on the **education of girls and marginalized communities**. The foundation operates **schools, adult literacy programs, and skill training centers**, providing children and adults with the knowledge and skills required for sustainable livelihoods and better social integration.

7. Livelihood: Badlao Foundation's **livelihood programs** are aimed at creating sustainable income-generating opportunities for rural populations. By introducing innovative practices like **agroforestry, animal husbandry, and handicrafts**, the foundation helps people diversify their income sources. Additionally, the foundation provides training in entrepreneurship and financial literacy, enabling communities to establish self-sustaining businesses and improve their economic stability.

8. Natural Resource Management: The foundation's work in **natural resource management** (NRM) is vital for the sustainable development of rural areas. It emphasizes the importance of managing **land, water, and forests** to support agriculture and protect biodiversity. Through participatory approaches, the foundation helps communities conserve water resources, improve soil fertility, and engage in responsible forestry practices. Community-led initiatives like watershed management and community forestry programs have successfully addressed environmental issues while ensuring that rural populations can continue to rely on their natural resources.

Contribution of Shri Bajrang Singh in Making Badlao a Reality

The visionary leadership of **Shri Bajrang Singh** has been pivotal in shaping the direction and success of the Badlao Foundation. His commitment to social justice, his deep understanding of rural challenges, and his unwavering belief in community-driven development laid the foundation for the organization's impactful work.

Shri Bajrang Singh’s contributions include:

- **Establishing the framework for community-based development:** He emphasized the importance of local ownership and grassroots involvement, ensuring that the development process was led by the community members themselves.
- **Promoting sustainable development models:** His leadership saw the integration of environment conservation with rural development, ensuring that the needs of the people were met while protecting natural resources.
- **Championing women’s rights and empowerment:** He was a strong advocate for the active participation of women in community and leadership roles, paving the way for gender equality in rural areas.
- **Building partnerships and networks:** Bajrang Singh understood the importance of collaboration. He built strong networks with local, national, and international organizations, creating opportunities for knowledge exchange and resource mobilization.
- **Pioneering innovations in rural governance:** He worked towards improving local governance structures, ensuring that rural communities had a voice in decision-making processes.

Through his tireless efforts, Shri Bajrang Singh created a foundation that has not only addressed the immediate needs of marginalized communities but has also paved the way for long-term, sustainable development across rural India.

In conclusion, the Badlao Foundation’s work is a testament to the power of integrated development, community participation, and the tireless efforts of leaders like Shri Bajrang Singh, who continue to inspire and bring about positive change in rural India. The foundation’s thematic interventions continue to transform lives and provide a roadmap for holistic rural development.

BREAKING BARRIERS: THE FIGHT FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IN JHARKHAND

By Sachi Kumari, Chotanagpur Sanskritik Sangh (CSS)

Introduction

Jharkhand has a rich history of women's participation in social movements, such as the Kol Rebellion (1831), Santhal Rebellion (1855-56), the Rohtasgarh battle ("Jani Shikar"), and the Birsa Munda movement in the early 1900s. These events underscore the vital role women played as warriors in these struggles. Despite this, patriarchy and gender discrimination remain entrenched in the social structure, with women's contributions often overlooked in historical records.

Women in Jharkhand are also at the forefront of struggles over land, water, forests, and cultural identity, often fighting for the welfare of their communities. They contribute to over three-fourths of the family's livelihood, particularly in agriculture and livestock management, while also managing household duties, raising children, and caregiving. These roles are based on gendered expectations, leaving women to bear additional responsibilities without the option to step outside what is considered "women's work."

The real issue goes beyond paid versus unpaid work. Much of the work women do, particularly in the home, is not recognized as legitimate labor. When women do participate in paid work, they often lack control over their earnings. Social norms further discourage women from pursuing work outside the home and fail to create safe, supportive environments for their professional growth. As a result, women continue to face significant challenges, with few structures in place to support their efforts and overcome these systemic barriers.

Thematic engagement

According to the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India, 90-93% of total labor contributions come from the unorganized sector, where 123.9 million women work, compared to 397 million men. Women in this sector face unequal pay and lack of job security. In the organized sector, there were 31.8 million workers in 2021-22, with women's representation increasing from 8% to 25.3%. However, working in organized sectors forces women to compromise on safety, comfort, and work-life balance, creating additional challenges.

As per National Crime Records Bureau NCRB, in 2022, 445,256 cases of crimes against women were registered in India, with husbands or their relatives being responsible for most crimes. In Jharkhand, witch-hunting cases led to the deaths of 231 people between 2015 and 2022, mostly women. Rape remains one of the most common crimes against women, with 31,677 cases reported in 2021, and the majority of rapists being acquaintances or family members. Gender-based violence, particularly witch-hunting, remains a brutal form of violence in Jharkhand. Laws like the Santhal Pargana Tenancy Act and the Chotanagpur Tenancy Act reflect gender inequality in property rights, with Hindu women not having equal rights to property despite legal amendments.

Despite constitutional provisions and several laws designed for women's empowerment, violence against women, domestic abuse, trafficking, and unsafe migration continues. Media portrayals often further victimize women, perpetuating the notion that a woman's

honor is lost in the event of rape, while the rapist's honor is seldom questioned. This mindset contributes to continued violence and discrimination.

Women are often treated as inferior in society, with religious beliefs playing a significant role in reinforcing their subordinate position. At the state, national, and international levels, gender equality advocacy continues, with some success, but progress remains slow. International treaties like the Beijing Declaration (1995) and CEDAW (1989) have helped bring attention to violence against women, but significant change is still needed.

In India, several laws have been introduced, including the Right to Education Act, POCSO Act, and the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (2005). These legal frameworks aim to protect and empower women, but the effectiveness of these laws is often hindered by societal attitudes. While the laws exist, implementation remains inconsistent, and the root causes of discrimination persist. Civil society organizations (CSOs) have been pivotal in addressing these challenges. In Jharkhand, CSOs have focused on connecting women to self-help groups since the 1990s, bringing women out of their confined spaces and into economic and social activities. Despite facing resistance, these efforts have made significant strides. In 2001, former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee recognized self-help groups, marking a positive shift in rural women's understanding of their rights.

CSS, a prominent civil society organization, has contributed to eliminating discrimination, promoting policy changes, and empowering women. CSS has provided platforms for women's socio-economic development, supported community-based research, and facilitated awareness of government schemes. It has also focused on capacity building, skill development, and promoting local resource-based self-employment, improving livelihoods and income through small business initiatives.

CSS's role in bridging the government and community has been essential. Since 1968, Chotanagpur Sanskritik Sangh has played a significant role in advocating for the development of women and marginalized communities. It has worked to foster community harmony and ensure women's active participation in socio-political activities. However, much work remains to be done, and the pace of change must accelerate. For true gender equality, it is crucial for government, judiciary, administration, civil society, and activists to collaborate. Policy decisions need to account for the social mindset and discriminatory practices that persist. Only by addressing these issues comprehensively can a truly egalitarian society be achieved, where gender equality is not just a legal provision but a societal norm. Without this, the progress toward eliminating violence and discrimination will remain slow and incomplete.

Background of the leader

Sachi Kumari's journey into social work began with her deep commitment to addressing systemic social issues. The Chotanagpur Sanskritik Sangh (CSS), established in 1968, became the platform where she started making a significant impact. Officially joining CSS after marriage at 19, Sachi's leadership and drive were evident early on. In 1995, she became the coordinator of a UNICEF-supported project, marking her entry into structured social activism and laying the groundwork for her future endeavors.



Sachi's work gained momentum as she introduced the concept of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in rural Jharkhand. These SHGs not only promoted financial independence among women but also became a means of addressing deep-rooted societal challenges such as illiteracy, unemployment, violence, and superstition. Her ability to mobilize communities and create impactful interventions established her as a role model, encouraging women to step out of their homes and actively engage in social change.

In 1995, Sachi launched CSS's women's wing, "Missi," a landmark initiative that federated over 600 SHGs within three blocks. Supported by agencies like CAPART, NABARD, and SJSY, these groups empowered women financially while also assisting marginalized communities, including persons with disabilities. This movement significantly reshaped the region, promoting women's leadership and creating a ripple effect of empowerment.

Her leadership extended beyond grassroots interventions. Trained at Xavier Institute of Social Service (XISS) and other agencies, Sachi became an influential voice in state-level women's movements. She contributed to drafting the state women's policy, advocated for the creation of a women's commission, and pushed for women's representation in governance. As the state coordinator for the WE-CAN campaign, Sachi represented grassroots realities in international forums, including delegations to Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and the Netherlands.



Sachi's tenure as Secretary of CSS, beginning in 2003, marked a transformative phase for the organization. Under her leadership, CSS expanded its focus areas to include women's rights, livelihood, child rights, and cultural preservation. Her ability to form strategic partnerships with donors and stakeholders elevated CSS's impact, establishing it as a dynamic and community-centered organization.

Despite societal resistance, Sachi's unwavering commitment broke barriers for women. Her journey inspired women to challenge norms, and her personal resilience in balancing family responsibilities and community work earned her widespread admiration. Known affectionately as "Missi Didi," she continues to combat violence against women and promote gender equality, especially in rural districts like Ranchi and Gumla.

Sachi's work is not confined to grassroots interventions. Her creative contributions—poems, slogans, and articles—have amplified women's voices and inspired advocacy. Her impactful leadership has been recognized with numerous state and national awards, as well as an honorary doctorate from JNB Harvard USA.

Case study of impact of leader's work

In 1995, Sachi Kumari founded MISSI, the women's wing of Chotanagpur Sanskritik Sangh (CSS), to combat oppression and exploitation faced by rural women in Jharkhand. Initially, 2,000 women joined the movement, with 80% being illiterate and 50% victims of violence. Lacking resources, they began teaching themselves literacy, using charcoal on mud floors. As they gained confidence, 100 women started tailoring as a business, and over time, more than 2,000 women began small livelihood activities. This economic empowerment reduced dependency and allowed them to speak out against discrimination and violence.

As their confidence grew, women took on leadership roles. In the 2010 Panchayat elections, 26 women won, marking significant political participation. 140 members became ICDS workers, 20 women groups led the Public Distribution System (PDS), and two blocks began running the MukhyamantriDaal Bhat Yojna, a government food program. Additionally, 84 women were selected as ASHA workers, integrating them into local health systems and further enhancing their community roles.

MISSI's influence expanded beyond local leadership into advocacy. The women participated in state and national movements for women's rights and justice, pushing for systemic change. They helped bridge the gap between local administration and the community by identifying people in need and assisting them in applying for government schemes. They advocated for the establishment of "Mahila Desks" in police stations and the appointment of Protection Officers under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (PWDV Act) 2005. MISSI also campaigned for the recognition of women as farmers, ensuring their inclusion in agricultural policies.



The impact was transformative: women gained economic independence, increased literacy, and took leadership roles in governance. Their collective action led to social justice, gender equality, and reshaped their community's perception of women's roles. Despite challenges, such as restrictions from the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), MISSI adapted by developing new strategies to address evolving issues.

Sachi Kumari's work with MISSI exemplifies the power of women's collective action. What began with 2,000 women fighting for basic rights has evolved into a transformative movement that continues to reshape communities and empower women in Jharkhand. Today, she continues to tirelessly combat violence against women in the districts of Ranchi and Gumla, where she is affectionately called "MISSI didi" by the community, police, and local authorities alike. Sachi Kumari's journey is not just one of personal triumph; it is a testament to the power of resilience, leadership, and unwavering commitment to social justice, leaving an indelible mark on the landscape of women's empowerment in Jharkhand.

Awards and recognitions- She got the dozens of awards by the state and national level and honorary doctorate from J&B Harvard USA.





Lessons Learnt

Working in the thematic area of women's empowerment and gender equality has highlighted several crucial lessons. One significant takeaway is the importance of comprehensive, grassroots-level engagement. Despite legal reforms and policy initiatives, real change can only happen when communities are actively involved, ensuring that these laws and policies are effectively implemented.

The role of civil society has been instrumental in bringing attention to the root causes of gender discrimination, such as lack of property rights, violence, and unequal access to education. Additionally, a holistic approach that includes economic empowerment, legal awareness, and capacity building has proven to be more effective in creating lasting change.

However, challenges remain in shifting societal mindsets, especially in deeply ingrained cultural and traditional contexts. Violence against women continues to be prevalent, and the media's portrayal of women often exacerbates the issue. A key recommendation for future work is to focus on both preventive and reactive measures. Proactively addressing the root causes of gender discrimination through awareness campaigns, education, and empowerment is crucial. Scaling successful interventions, such as self-help groups and skill development programs, can be achieved by involving local leadership, fostering community collaboration, and utilizing technology to extend outreach.

Future Directions

The future of women's empowerment and gender equality will likely witness several key developments. One emerging trend is the increasing involvement of technology in combating gender-based violence and promoting women's rights.

Digital platforms and social media are becoming powerful tools for advocacy, education, and support networks for women, especially in rural areas.

Additionally, economic empowerment initiatives, particularly those focused on women's entrepreneurship and access to finance, will continue to gain traction.

The integration of gender equality into mainstream policies, across sectors like healthcare, education, and employment, will be essential for achieving sustainable change.

Lastly, as global attention on gender equality intensifies, India's ongoing legal reforms and the need for more gender-sensitive governance will shape future initiatives.

EMPOWERING ARTISANS: THE JOURNEY OF CCDS IN PRESERVING CRAFT HERITAGE AND DRIVING SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

Introduction:



Narinnawadih, a rural village in Lohardaga, Jharkhand, is home to over 400 skilled artisans who specialize in traditional crafts, including woolen products and “darri” (carpet or mat weaving). These artisans have passed down their craft through generations, creating intricate, beautiful handcrafted items that reflect the rich cultural heritage of the region. Despite their immense skill, the artisans of Narinnawadih face significant challenges. Many are forced to leave their homes and work in distant cities such as Banaras, Mirzapur and Bhadoi, where they endure harsh conditions, low wages, and often find themselves trapped in exploitative, bonded-labor-like situations. This is compounded by their limited access to better markets, fair wages, and the support systems necessary to sustain their traditional crafts.

Moved by the struggles of the artisans, Mr. B. Chowdhury, a resident of Lohardaga, took a decisive step by founding a society dedicated to working with them in a structured and systematic manner. As the Secretary of the “Chhotanagpur Craft Development Society (CCDS)”, he became deeply committed to addressing the challenges these artisans have faced. Through his efforts, he discovered the rampant exploitation of these talented craftsmen by intermediaries and the lack of access to direct markets. With a clear vision, Mr. Chowdhury sought to create a self-sustaining collective of artisans from Narinnawadih and surrounding areas. His main objective was to forge direct connections between these artisans at both national and international markets, bypassing exploitative middlemen. This would not only guarantee fair wages and better working conditions for the artisans but also help preserve their traditional crafts for future generations.



Mr. Chowdhury soon realized that the challenges faced by artisans were not isolated to the groups in Narinnawadih, but were widespread across the region, affecting various artisan communities. In response to this, the Chhotanagpur Craft Development Society (CCDS), founded in 1995, has dedicated itself to artisan-based development, skill enhancement, and community-focused initiatives to alleviate poverty and empower local artisans.

Through its collaboration with the Government of Jharkhand (formerly Bihar), CCDS has successfully organized training programs for over 10,000 artisans, focusing on a diverse range of crafts such as bamboo, bell metal Dokra, lac work, and doll making. In recent years, the organization has placed particular emphasis on supporting women and marginalized groups, especially in remote areas. CCDS has played a pivotal role in improving access to microfinance and government schemes, establishing market linkages, and promoting local handicrafts through exhibitions like the Gandhi Shilp Bazar and Craft Bazar, which are sponsored by the Ministry of Textiles and DC Handicrafts. These efforts have not only helped artisans improve their livelihoods but have also contributed to the preservation and promotion of traditional crafts.



In 2010, CCDS expanded its scope to include jute handicrafts under the Chotanagpur Craft brand. Recognizing the growing market demand for eco-friendly products, the organization began producing jute bags, folders, file covers, and other accessories, while providing hands-on skill development training to local tribal women, including deaf and mute individuals. By combining modern designs with traditional aesthetics, the collective has been able to enhance the quality and diversity of its offerings, positioning the products as unique, sustainable, and eco-friendly. Today, nearly 25 artisans work in a 1,000 sq. ft. unit, with products marketed at various trade fairs and exhibitions organized by DC Handicrafts, TRIFED, and other bodies. These products are also supplied to a wide range of institutions, helping artisans improve their incomes.



CCDS has also established and empowered an OFPO (multi-craft organization) in Lohardaga District, Jharkhand, with support from NABARD. This initiative has played a crucial role in strengthening the craft sector by bringing together artisans from diverse craft traditions under one umbrella, fostering collaboration, skill-sharing, and a more organized approach to production and marketing. Additionally, CCDS has expanded its reach by opening two traditional craft showrooms—one in Ranchi and another in Chhattisgarh. These showrooms serve as platforms for showcasing and selling the exquisite handcrafted products created by local artisans, providing them with better market access and further enhancing their income potential.

The success of CCDS in empowering artisans is evident in its growing network of artisan groups across Jharkhand. Through partnerships with NABARD, the National Jute Board, and the District Rural Development Agency (DRDA), Industry Department of Jharkhand, Ministry of Textiles, etc. CCDS has provided crucial support for artisan development.

Today, the organization continues to extend its reach and influence, with products from these artisans showcased at National Trade Fairs and sold in craft shops across Ranchi and Chhattisgarh. This growing recognition has not only helped improve the livelihoods of local artisans but also contributed to the preservation and promotion of Jharkhand's rich craft heritage.





In the past year, CCDS has implemented several strategic marketing initiatives to strengthen its brand presence and expand its network in support of artisans. One of the major highlights was the successful organization of a special fair featuring artisans specializing in bamboo, lac, and jute products. This event not only showcased their exceptional craftsmanship but also helped raise awareness about the eco-friendly and sustainable nature of these materials.

Throughout the year, CCDS has also been associated with various fairs, prioritizing support for its artisan community. The organization offers hands-on assistance to artisans to ensure their success in selling their products, reinforcing its commitment to their growth and prosperity.

Additionally, CCDS has employed several skilled artisans as trainers for its ongoing skill development programs. This initiative not only helped preserve traditional craftsmanship but also provided an additional source of income for artisans, further supporting their livelihoods.



Through the tireless efforts of Mr. B. Chowdhury and the dedicated team of CCDS, the artisans of Narinnawadih and beyond are steadily moving towards economic independence, cultural preservation, and social empowerment. This initiative has already begun to uplift the community, with the potential to transform the entire region. By ensuring fair wages, access to better markets, and support for traditional crafts, CCDS is paving the way for a prosperous future for the artisans of Jharkhand.

The organization, which started as a network of 400 artisans in a single district, has now expanded to include over 5,000 artisans across Jharkhand, with plans to reach even more communities in the coming years. Mr. Chowdhury remains firmly convinced that this is just the beginning, and that the impact of CCDS will continue to grow, further empowering artisans and enhancing their livelihoods across the state of Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh.

“SUSTAINABILITY AT THE CORE: WATER, AGRICULTURE, AND LIVELIHOODS”



Water & Agriculture

Water is the prime natural resource. Acknowledging the vital importance of this scarce resource for human and animal life, as well as for maintaining ecological balance for economic and developmental activities of all kinds is a matter of utmost concern. In view of uneven distribution of rainfall in the State, some of the area comes under heavy water deficit. Therefore planning and management and its optimum, economical, equitable and sustainable use has become a matter of extreme urgency.

Water resources are important to the people of Jharkhand in many ways—for the health and well-being of people to sustain environmental values, rural and urban water supply, agricultural production on which the most rural income depends, rural livelihood, hydropower generation, industrial, and benefits for commerce and industry on which growth in employment, to meet the needs of a growing population, will depend. In many of the river basins and sub-basins of the State, competition for limited water supplies and conflict among these different uses of water have emerged and are growing. The growing scarcity of water and the competition for water services come at the same time when the State also needs to find new ways to overcome stagnation in agricultural production growth to increase productivity, to expand and intensify irrigation and increase income opportunities in rural areas.

Poor water management and its effect on agriculture

Sustainable access to clean fresh water resources is a major concern to support intensification and diversification of farming systems, improve incomes for farm families and provide a buffer against climate aberrations. Agriculture in different agro-ecologies of Jharkhand is heavily dependent on the monsoon as a source of water, the failure of which causes water shortage and below-average crop yields. Many of the agro-ecologies in the state are characterized with low investment, low productivity, mono-cropping, low productivities and marginal annual returns per unit of land. The available surface and



ground water resources in the state are estimated at 25.88 and 4.29 BCM, respectively. Stage of groundwater development is 15.0% implying that about 85% of the groundwater is still unutilized and there is good scope to increase the groundwater utilization in agriculture. The cultivable area is 3.8 million ha and only 12% of cropped area is under irrigation. Although, most of the cropped area is covered with rice during kharif, major portion of it remains uncropped during succeeding seasons. Despite good rainfall, the cropped area and cropping intensity are low. After withdrawal of monsoon, the residual soil moisture determines the opportunity for the succeeding crops during the succeeding seasons. Access to irrigation water being the prime reason, there are number of technological, social and policy constraints that limit multiple cropping within the state. The level of technology adaptation is also poor leading to lower productivity.

The undulating topography combined with well-developed network of streams leads to quick disposal of runoff from watersheds (Fig. 3) (GOJ, 2020). The region consists of a series of hillocks with drainage lines and low-lying areas near streams, collectively classified as lowlands, where paddy has traditionally been cultivated. In areas represented by the present study, lowlands extend about 60-150 m horizontally with a local relief of 2-3 m above the drainage line.

These areas remain waterlogged for prolonged periods after the end of the monsoon season. The soils drain and become workable in the month of January. The area midway between lowlands and relatively planer uplands is categorized as midlands, which have local topographic relief of about 2-7 m above the drainage line (Singh et al., 2019). Much of the original hill slope area (midland) has been terraced and bunded to convert it to paddy fields. The upper non terraced and non-bunded planer areas generally have shallower, light-textured soil. Local water resources are not available to support irrigation in uplands. Uplands typically lie at an elevation range >7m above drainage line. There are some village 'fringe areas' on the stream banks which are marginal uplands having high slope, rocky terrain with high runoff. These are not used for agricultural production. Groundwater recharge mainly occurs in the uplands and the midlands (bunded paddy fields) while the low lands are the major discharge areas. Storage of surface runoff is very limited and people depend on irrigation from groundwater even during dry spells within the monsoon season. Low levels of groundwater development on account of limited electrification and poor technology adoption further exaggerate the problems of irrigation in rice-fallow areas. Traditional methods of water application are still extensively used by majority of the farming community leading to over use of irrigation water and reduced water productivities. The remedy for improving water productivities and reducing future water use lies in efficient use of available water resources through adoption of improved technologies at farm scale. This also calls for revision in existing policies on irrigation infrastructure such that items provided under subsidy schemes match the needs of advanced irrigation technologies as well as farming community.

Water conservation initiative by Citizens Foundation

Citizens Foundation, a non-profit organization founded by Mr. Ganesh Reddy is committed towards uplifting marginalized and disadvantaged sections of society, particularly women and children. Over the past 27 years, under the leadership of Mr. Ganesh Reddy the organization has honed its expertise in critical areas such as Health, Sanitation, Natural

Resource Management, Livelihood Promotion, and Protection. Citizens Foundation, has undertaken impactful initiatives in water conservation and management. A watershed management program is a coordinated effort to sustainably manage and protect the natural resources within a specific watershed area. It aims to conserve water, prevent soil erosion, control floods, promote sustainable land use, engage communities, and ensure the long-term health of ecosystems and water quality.

These programs typically involve collaboration among government agencies, organizations, and local communities to achieve environmental, economic, and social goals within the watershed. The efforts include the implementation of trench cum bund, water absorption trench, and field bunding projects. These strategic interventions aim to enhance water retention, minimize runoff, and promote efficient utilization of water resources. Citizens Foundation through these endeavors, contributes significantly to sustainable agricultural practices and ensures the long-term availability of water for communities in across different villages in Jharkhand.

Objectives of Watershed Management program:

1. Soil conservation
2. Water quality improvement
3. Income Generation
4. Sustainable land use
5. Habitat preservation

The organization has undertaken the following activities for efficient water conservation:

Water Absorption Trench (WAT) - It is a type of trench used in watershed management and drainage systems to promote water infiltration into the ground, thereby reducing runoff and helping manage water quality. WAT has been constructed across 250 hectares of land ensuring the enhancement of natural capacity ground to store and drain water.

Trench cum Bund (TCB) - It is a technique used to conserve soil and water. This method involves constructing small earthen embankments (bunds) and trenches along the contour lines of a slope. The primary goals of this system are to reduce soil erosion & increase water infiltration. TCB has been developed in 661 hectares in order to trap the top fertile soil in trenches, allowing safe disposal of excess rainwater and to conserve precious soil moisture.**Field Bunding** - Field bunding in watershed management refers to the practice of constructing small embankments or bunds along the contour lines of agricultural fields. These bunds help to Reduce Soil Erosion, Enhance Water Retention, Improve Crop Yield etc. Field bunding has been ensured in 590.91 hectares, reducing run off and helping impound water longer for it to infiltrate the soil.

New Pond/Farm Pond - A farm pond in a watershed is a small water body designed to collect and store runoff water. It helps in irrigation, livestock watering, and recharging groundwater. Farm ponds also reduce soil erosion and can improve water quality by trapping sediments and nutrients. 133 ponds were constructed which has collected and stored 152931.18 cum water in the area.



Dova - It is watershed structure which ensures that the delineated drainage outlets align correctly with the topographic and hydrologic characteristics of the watershed, which is crucial for accurate watershed analysis and management. 79 dovas have been constructed for watershed management.

Lose Boulder Check Dam (LBS) - A Loose Boulder Check Dam is a structure built in watersheds to slow down the flow of water, reduce erosion, and trap sediment. It consists of loosely stacked boulders or rocks across a water channel to create small pools that help control runoff and improve water quality downstream.

Earthen Check Dam (ECD) - Earthen check dams are small, temporary barriers made from natural materials like soil & rocks to slow down water flow in streams, reducing erosion, recharging groundwater. They are an effective, low-cost solution for conserving water and supporting sustainable agriculture. 7 ECDs have been constructed conserving 78164.82 cum water in the area.

Transformation of barren land - We have spearheaded a groundbreaking transformation by converting 242.81 acres of non-agricultural land into a vibrant agricultural landscape. Through innovative approaches, we've turned once barren areas into a thriving mango plantation covering 148 acres along with backyard plantation in 5.81 acres and vegetable cultivation in 89 acres of land.

Impact of Watershed Initiatives:

Environmental Health: Improved water quality and biodiversity through river rejuvenation and floodplain preservation.

Agricultural Prosperity: Increased irrigation efficiency, bringing over 200 hectares of non-agricultural land into cultivation.

Economic Growth: Enhanced water resources raise farmer incomes by Rs 2000–2500 per month, increasing per capita income to Rs 20,000.

Artificial Recharge: Creation and maintenance of recharge structures to enhance groundwater sustainability.

Community Engagement: Increased water conservation awareness, sustainable practices, and local water management.

Replicability, Sustainability and Future Plan:

Sustainable Water Management: Our long-term goal is to manage water resources, ensuring increased water availability for agriculture, preventing soil erosion, & facilitating continual groundwater recharge.

Enhanced Community Resilience: We prioritize enhancing community resilience through initiatives that build local capacity, empowering residents to adapt and thrive amidst evolving environmental and socio-economic challenges.

Biodiversity Conservation: Biodiversity conservation through creating water bodies and implementing sustainable farming systems, aligning with our vision for a harmonious coexistence between human activities and the natural environment.

Sustainable Livelihoods: We aim to create sustainable livelihoods by implementing horticulture and agriculture-based farming systems, enhancing economic opportunities for villagers while contributing to the overall environmental health of the region.

Environmental Health and Social Well-Being: Future initiatives aim to improve environmental health and social well-being by creating water bodies and promoting sustainable farming, fostering a holistic community development model for better quality of life in the village.

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CLIMATE CHANGE AFFECTING LIFE OF POOR PEOPLE

Climate change is the long-term alteration in temperature, precipitation patterns, and weather systems, primarily caused by increased greenhouse gas emissions from human activities. Rising global temperatures lead to melting glaciers, sea-level rise, extreme weather events, and biodiversity loss. These disruptions threaten ecosystems, food security, and livelihoods across the globe, exacerbating inequalities and disproportionately affecting vulnerable populations. The communities dependent on natural resources are more susceptible since climate variability leads to depletion of the resources, reduction in agricultural yields, and forced migration. Climate change, therefore, presents a critical challenge that transcends borders, requiring coordinated global efforts to mitigate its effects.

A storehouse of natural riches, Adivasis constitute 26.2% of Jharkhand's population¹. The tribe's economic activities are often directly dependent on forests, agriculture, and aquatic bodies and thus heavily affected by climate change in the state.

According to NITI Ayog's, Multidimensional Poverty Index² with 28.81%, Jharkhand has the second highest population below the poverty line, with Adivasis being the most vulnerable group. For instance, nearly 70% of the Adivasis in Jharkhand are engaged in agriculture, and the erratic rains and extreme climatic phenomena disturb agricultural patterns, adversely affecting their livelihood. Droughts and floods spoil crops, thus generating a sense of food insecurity among them. A decrease in forest areas on account of the expanding population, industries and mining activities has hampered the Non-Timber Forest produce (NTFP), a major income for tribal families.

Climate variability enhances vector-borne diseases like malaria, mumps, etc, prevalent in the rural districts of Jharkhand. Malnutrition due to falling agricultural productivity makes communities vulnerable by weakening the immune system. It also leads to stunting and wasting, which is higher in Jharkhand than the national average.³

Development policies in India have always marginalised the tribals of Jharkhand. Land acquisition for mining and industrial setups, such as coal and mica mining, takes place at the expense of their rights, sometimes displacing communities without rehabilitation. For instance, the land provided as compensation for government acquisitions under the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act (2013) may be comparable in size, it often lacks the fertility and accessibility of the original land, rendering it practically ineffective for the affected communities.

Climate change projections indicate temperature increases and decreased groundwater. Resource conflicts, which the state already has, would increase. Severe weather will further stress agricultural livelihoods with migration and worsening of socio-economic inequalities.

The SDGs, Goal 13 (Climate Action), Goal 15 (Life on Land), and Goal 1 (No Poverty), serve as a direction for achieving these objectives. Localisation of SDGs in Jharkhand is imperative for real and tangible progress. Afforestation, sustainable agriculture, adoption of clean energy, and rejuvenation of water bodies fall under the rubric of SDG.

¹ <https://www.trijharkhand.in/en/tribe-specific-data-jharkhand>

² https://www.niti.gov.in/sites/default/files/2024-01/MPI-22_NITI-Aayog20254.pdf

³ https://mohfw.gov.in/sites/default/files/NFHS-5_Phase-II_0.pdf

The entire tribal population of Jharkhand, as reflected from ethnographic work done by noted anthropologist L.P. Vidyarthi⁴, refers to Jal, Jungle and Jameen as the pillar of their socio-cultural system and source of survival for them. These are components that run in the nucleus of their tradition, economics, and religion. As people obtain food, fuel, wood, and medicinal herbs there, they find agriculture means on Jameen. Water bodies are sacred and sources of sustenance. However, industrialisation and climate change have depleted these crucial resources, endangering their identity. Vidyarthi highlighted that the tribal way of life is ecologically balanced, and the destruction of these resources upsets their cultural balance and socio-economic security.

Under the leadership of A.K Singh, LEADS has played an important role in the cause of climate change and its impacts on Adivasis in Jharkhand through afforestation, promoting clean energy, and restorations of water bodies. Through interventions aligned with Sustainable Development Goals, specifically SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 15 (Life on Land), SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), and SDG 1 Goal 1 (No Poverty), LEADS helps restore ecosystems, reduce economic vulnerability and build community resilience by providing integrated solutions.



The plantation journey of LEADS began in 2005 with small-scale works in Ranchi. In 2012, with the support of Mahindra and Mahindra, our work expanded on Khunti. At present, we have planted over 10 lakh trees in 3250 acres promoting mini forest, community forest and agroforestry in 13 districts of Jharkhand.

Livelihood Improvement: It helps in livelihood generation with agroforestry and afforestation that reduce forced migration. Also, the revival of forests helped in reinstating indigenous flora and fauna along with carbon sequestration.



LEADS also restored and rejuvenated over 7000 water bodies in Jharkhand. Similarly, we have also installed nearly 450 solar overhead water tanks. It helped groundwater recharge, and the availability of water for drinking and agriculture increased. Additionally, it helped in preserving aquatic biodiversity and promoting climate resilience for tribal societies under

water scarcity.

To counter carbon emissions and offer clean energy solutions, LEADS initiated clean energy projects, especially through the EU-funded RACE project. The organisation has ensured the installation of 7000 smokeless chulha, one biomass-based briquette manufacturing machine and four biogas units in 04 districts of Jharkhand. Also, solar lights we made available in 13798 households, and 280 solar street lights were either installed or repaired in 6 districts of Jharkhand. The organisation has also been actively promoting solar irrigation pumps under the PM KUSUM Yojana by ensuring convergence for 1640 beneficiaries of the scheme.

⁴ <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/journal-of-asian-studies/article/abs/maler-a-study-in-naturemanspirit-complex-of-a-hill-tribe-by-l-p-vidyarthi-calcutta-bookland-private-limited-1963-xiii-261-24-plates-rupees-20/EB784D6584A7C-7997F63AC59675A30DB>



Additionally, four Solar-cum-LED assembling units and over 2500 individuals were trained in green skills to promote just transition in Jharkhand, which is home to a third of India's coal reserves, translating into 300,000 direct and approximately 1 million indirect jobs.⁵

Moreover, LEADS has promoted over 500 clean energy solution forums (CES), formed from village to

state level. We have also promoted nearly 1400 Eco clubs in School. The promotion and strengthening of the CBOs are in alignment with the vision of the organisation that aims to unfold the human potential for ensuring inclusive and integrated development.

LEADS future plan on climate change would thus strengthen the Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) and foster community leadership in conservation efforts. An important component will be equipping the Eco Clubs, Village Forest Protection Committees, PRIs, and other local community groups to take on an active role in sustainable practices and ensure biodiversity protection with a just transition to clean energy.



LEADS will take a landscape approach to biodiversity with afforestation, sustainable land management, and protection of water bodies through the landscapes. This is because holistic conservation at the local and regional scales of biodiversity is always enhanced with ecosystem connectivity. There will be promotion of the awareness of the club while VFCs will oversee the use of the forests at a local level.

To support the just transition, LEADS will promote the adoption of clean energy solutions, providing solar-powered solutions for irrigation and households along with promoting green skills and climate-resilient agriculture. The interventions will not only cut carbon footprints but will also provide sustainable livelihoods for communities that previously used conventional energy sources.

Thus, by strengthening CBOs and facilitating collaboration with PRIs, LEADS aims to create sustainable models where communities are custodians of both biodiversity and clean energy, ensuring long-term resilience to climate change.

⁵ <https://www.justtransition-jharkhand.in>

AN ANALYSIS STUDY OF CHILD MARRIAGE SITUATION AND CHETNA VIKAS'S STRATEGIES, APPROACHES & ACHIEVEMENTS

INTRODUCTION:

Child marriage (marriage of girls below the age of 18 and below the age of 21) is closely associated with poverty and is likely to increase children's vulnerabilities specially for the girls.

Child marriage in India is one of the most Serious Crimes committed against children. It ends childhood and puts children at high risk of violence, exploitation and abuse. According to NCRB (National Crime Records Bureau), Govt. of India Report (2022), 4,45,256 cases of crime against women were registered in 2022, an increase of 4% compared to 4,28,278 in 2021. As many as 1,62,449 cases of crimes against children were registered during 2022, showing an increase of 8.7% (1,49,404 cases) compared to 2021. A majority of these cases related to kidnapping and abduction (45.7%) and 39.7% were filed under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act.

BACKGROUND OF THE SECTOR LEADER

The leader of Chetna Vikas, a visionary deeply influenced by the Gandhian ideology and the principles of the JP (Jayaprakash Narayan) movement, embarked on his journey in the development sector with an unwavering commitment to social justice. Inspired by the ideals of Sarvodaya (universal upliftment), he founded Chetna Vikas nearly four decades ago with a mission to empower the most marginalized communities in the rural regions of Jharkhand.

Grounded in grassroots activism and participatory methods, the leader has dedicated his life to combating socio-economic inequalities and fostering self-reliance among the poor, disabled, and disenfranchised. His approach reflects Gandhian principles of harmony, simplicity, and sustainable development, focusing on building inclusive systems that promote health, education, nutrition, and well-being. Under his stewardship, Chetna Vikas has grown into a transformative force, combining advocacy, capacity building, and community-driven initiatives to address child marriage, gender inequality, and rural poverty. His motivation stems from a deep-seated belief in the power of collective action and his vision of a peaceful, dignified, and equitable rural India, where every individual enjoys equal opportunities and rights. With nearly four decades of unwavering dedication, the leader's passion for social change continues to inspire the organization's mission, ensuring its efforts remain rooted in the values of justice, equality, and self-governance.

CASE STUDY: RESCUING DEEPA (IMAGINARY NAME) KUMARI FROM CHILD MARRIAGE

Background

Deepa (Imaginary name) Kumari, a 14-year-old girl from Ranga More, Deoghar, was a bright student who had recently completed the 8th grade and aspired to continue her education. However, her family arranged her marriage to a man over 40 years old, who had been previously married. Financial motives compounded the situation, as Deepa (Imaginary name)'s mother accepted money from the groom. When Deepa (Imaginary name) resisted



the marriage, expressing her desire to study further, she faced physical abuse from her family and was locked up at home.

Intervention

A friend of Deepa (Imaginary name)'s alerted the team at Chetna Vikas about her plight. Acting swiftly, the organization facilitated the filing of a complaint at the local police station. Despite initial resistance, the authorities intervened, and Deepa (Imaginary name) was taken into the care of the Child Welfare Committee (CWC). Given her fear of being forced into marriage again, Deepa (Imaginary name) was placed in a shelter home.

Chetna Vikas continued to engage with her family, offering counselling and legal guidance. Two days later, Deepa (Imaginary name)'s mother appeared before the CWC and signed a bond agreeing not to marry Deepa (Imaginary name) off until she reached adulthood.

Outcome

With support from Chetna Vikas, Deepa (Imaginary name) resumed her education, enrolling in the 9th grade. She is now living safely at home and attending school regularly, empowered to pursue her dreams and aspirations.

This case exemplifies the crucial role of timely intervention and holistic support in protecting children from forced marriage and enabling them to reclaim their rights to education and safety.

Lessons learned

Key lessons from working in the field of child marriage include:

- **Community Trust:** Building trust enables timely and effective interventions.
- **Holistic Support:** Combining legal, emotional, and educational support ensures sustainable outcomes.
- **Beyond Awareness:** Awareness campaigns must include actionable solutions like re-enrolment in schools and access to welfare schemes.
- **Stronger Legal Enforcement:** Engaging local authorities ensures better implementation of child marriage laws.
- **Education's Role:** Promoting education delays marriage and empowers girls.
- **Collaboration:** Partnerships with stakeholders amplify the impact of interventions.
- **Tailored Approaches:** Context-sensitive strategies address unique community dynamics.

Recommendations for future work

1. **Strengthen Community Engagement:** Deepen trust-building efforts by involving local leaders, parents, and youth in awareness campaigns to foster a culture that rejects child marriage.
2. **Expand Education Initiatives:** Increase access to quality education for girls, including scholarships and vocational training programs, to provide alternatives to early marriage.



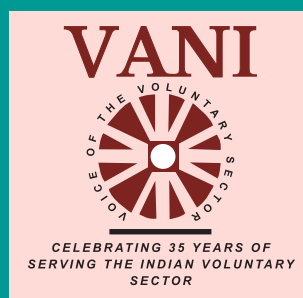
- 3. **Enhance Legal Enforcement:** Collaborate with law enforcement and judicial bodies to ensure stricter adherence to child marriage laws and swift action against violators.
- 4. **Promote Economic Support:** Address financial pressures by linking vulnerable families to government welfare schemes, livelihood programs, and economic incentives for educating girls.
- 5. **Scale Collaborative Models:** Replicate successful community-centric interventions, such as model village projects, across more regions.
- 6. **Leverage Technology:** Use social media and digital platforms to amplify awareness campaigns and reach broader audiences, especially younger demographics.
- 7. **Continuous Monitoring:** Develop robust systems for monitoring child marriage trends and evaluating the impact of interventions to inform future strategies.

Future Directions:

Chetna Vikas aims to deepen its impact by expanding successful models of community-driven child protection across more regions. Focus will be placed on strengthening education initiatives, fostering collaborations with government and NGOs, and leveraging digital platforms to amplify awareness. The organization will also work towards integrating economic empowerment programs to address the root causes of child marriage and ensure sustainable change.

Conclusion

For nearly four decades, Chetna Vikas has championed the fight against child marriage, driven by Gandhian principles of equality and empowerment. Through holistic, community-cantered strategies, the organization continues to create a safer, more equitable future for children. Its unwavering commitment to advocacy and grassroots action serves as a beacon of hope for a progressive and inclusive rural India



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