

Annual Progress Report

2015-16

SAMVAD SAMAJIK SANSTHAN

Head office

Gram Rampur Gadauli,

Post :Saidasipur (Kalakanker),District: Pratapgarh (U.P)

From the Desk of the President

The year 2015-2016 is the year of intensive intervention in the fields of child rights and people's entitlements. In 24 villages of Pratapgarh district we have launched a new programme, where children have been identified under 3 categories and have been adopted for a long term development. Similarly in 20 Gram Panchayats of PratapGarh district as also in 17 Gram Panchayats of Barabanki district we worked for enabling the village community to have better access to governments social welfare schemes as people's entitlements.

Our spectrum of activities focused on governance, gender equality, child rights and education, livelihood and health. We worked for people's development in and through enabling them to realize their rights and entitlements. We enable people to realize their rights by organizing them into community based organizations.

If certain basic rights of the individuals, such as right to elementary education, right to basic health care, right to work etc., are secured an individual will have higher degree of choice. In other words, development must move beyond economic growth. Social groups, participatory development, i.e. development process must involve primary stakeholders in decision making at all levels. In other words, it must treat the primary stakeholders as agents of development and not merely as beneficiaries or objects of development.

This approach has been amply manifested by our activities that were designed to hold the government accountable i.e., Social Audit and Public Hearing events conducted by the CBOs organized by us, capacity building programs of Bal Panchayat members, School Management Committee Members and Anganwadi Workers.

We thank all the stakeholders, Gram Pradhans, children, their teachers, head masters, School Management Committee Members, parents, Anganwadi Workers, ASHAs, Community Based Organizations, Panchayat Committee Members for giving full cooperation to us in our endeavour to realize people's rights and entitlements. We thank our donors- European Union, Action Aid and Child Fund India for their financial support and guidance and our staff team without whose sincere efforts we could not have been able to serve the people.

Ram Badan Shukla

President

Introduction of SAMVAD:

We propose to present the entire canvas of our development activities in the year 2015-2016 under the following 5 themes.

1. Governance
2. Gender Equity Women Empowerment
3. Child Rights and Education
4. Livelihood
5. Health
6. Awareness Building – Street Plays

For Samvad governance has been a constant theme of engagement with the community. Governance emanates from the government the Central, State and Local self- government or Panchayati Raj. Governance consists in the way in which the various forms or levels of government deal with the people. Governance reflects the two basic characteristics i.e. transparency and accountability towards people. Therefore governance is also a relationship between the government and the people. In an important sense, therefore, government is people-centric and sincerely desires people's participation. It readily discloses what programmes or schemes it runs for the people and makes sincere attempts to enable people to have easy access to the schemes of social welfare formulated by it.

With a view to registering significant and qualitative improvement in governance in the context of rural development we need a better informed and motivated cadre of elected Panchayati raj representatives as also well-trained Community Based Organizations that are capable of appraising the enactment of government programs by going to the extent of conducting social audit and hold Public Hearing programs.

It is common knowledge these days that there is a paradigm shift in the methodology of plan-making. In the system of Decentralized Governance we have decentralized planning in every Village Development Plan making it is a participatory exercise between the Panchayati Raj and the Village Community. Village Development Plan is the basic grass root plan which is made in a participatory manner.

To let the above ideology percolate down to the ground level we must have

1. Competent and responsive government team.
2. Making of village Development Plans
3. Budget Analysis
4. Social Audit MNREGS
5. ELBAG

1. Governance

1.1 Competent and Responsive Government Team

All through the year a series of capacity building programs were conducted for PRI functionaries as also Block level government officials on Right to Information, ELBAG (Economic Literary and Budget Accountability for Governance) and Gender Responsive Budgeting and various social welfare schemes of the government.

The objective behind conducting the ELBAG training was to educate the participants about the Panchayat Budgets. This is also relevant for making the community aware on economic literacy.

Economic Literacy and Budget Accountability, for Governance is a process and methodological framework that combines organizing people, developing grass roots monitoring mechanisms, democratizing and using participatory tools and methods for building public accountability and transparency. It creates space where people can discuss how much and why the government spends for all inclusive and just governance aimed at “**SabkaSathSabkaVikas**”.

1.2. A Capacity Building PRIs and Community Based Organizations Program conducted in the block auditorium Kalakanker Block in which in all 70 participants took part 53 Gram Panchayat Representatives took part in this program. Similarly a Capacity Building workshop on Right To Information for Panchayati Raj Representatives and block level officers were organized both at Pratapgarh and Barabanki covering 20 village Panchayats of Pratapgarh district and 17 village Panchayats of Barabanki district.

1.3. Capacity Building on Right to Information-

In the month of December separate workshops on Right to Information were organized for both Pratapgarh and Barabanki districts. The workshops aimed at sensitizing the Panchayati Raj Institution members and Block level officials on their roles and responsibilities in village development inclusive of the most marginalized community by successful implementation of the various government schemes and services meant for the rural people.

1.4. Establishment of Information Resource Centres

Samvad has established 37 Information Resource centres- 20 centres in district Pratapgarh and 17 in Barabanki district. During the year 37 Village Development Plans were made by Samvad team with the assistance of the community in a participatory manner. Each Village Development Plan includes basic data of the Panchayat concerned, mentioning its geographical area, social structure, relevant statistical details, village map, information on the status of education, health, migration cycle agriculture, crop cycle natural resources, rivers and canals, ponds, animals, economic status and livelihood, Panchayat Samitis and their members. The Village Development Plan was a result of collaborative effort between the community and the Panchayati Raj and block level development functionaries. Prior to making it a Participatory Rural Appraisal Exercise was conducted with transect walk inside the village and villagers identifying their development needs in the fields of health, education, livelihood, sanitation, infrastructure etc. After enlisting the needs in general, the same were prioritized in terms of urgency felt by the community. This exercise was done with the support of a PRA expert. The process followed by Samvad enthused an element of belonging amidst the community members and a degree of participation between the government authorities and members of the community. Special efforts were made by the team conducting the PRA that members of Dalit community minority community, physically disabled persons and above all women in good number participate in the process of Village Development Plan making. One realistic need that emerged during the PRA was that women and adolescent girls vehemently put the necessity of construction of private toilets in their houses immediately.

1.5. Exposure visit to MajdoorKisan Shakti Sangathan.

Samvad believes in experimental learning as an effective tool of training for both field workers and community members. Along with other NGO partners- four members from Samvad- coordinator, field

staff, and volunteer and community member visited “**MajdoorKisan Shakti Sangathan**” led by the renowned social activist Aruna Roy. It was a rare opportunity to meet very distinguished leaders from the voluntary sector Dr. Aruna Roy and Shailesh Gandhi-ex-chief Information Commissioner. The former was a pioneer in establishing the Right To Information Act 2005 while she was a member of National Development Council Government of India and the latter was the chief Information Commissioner, government of India a luminary from the field of voluntary sector. The six days exposure visit from 2nd November 2015 to 6th November 2015 was a very motivating and educative experience for the Samvad team.

1.6. Training on Central and State Government sponsored social welfare schemes. A series of training programs were conducted for the community members belonging to both Pratapgarh and Barabanki Districts. These Community members were mainly members of CBO, MazdoorSangathan in Pratapgarh district and BadlaoSangathan in Barabanki districts. These programs were conducted during July-August 2015.

1. The programs aimed at increasing the awareness about all schemes run by the central as well as State government.
2. Raising public awareness on the purpose of the scheme as also the eligibility criteria, departments concerned and essential qualifying documents.
3. Assessing the Capacity of CBO members who were trained on the schemes last year with a view to strengthening their capacity.
4. Identifying the needs of the target groups and increasing their awareness about development and other allied issues.
5. Enhancing target groups understanding feelings and assessing about the people's grievances.

The themes covered during the training were health, education, MNREGA, Pension schemes for the old age, widows and disabled persons and Samajwadi Pension.

Several salutary outcomes and good impact of the program firstly, CBO members were pointedly familiar with the various central and government schemes meant for the poor and the marginalized.

Earlier the villagers thought that it was the prerogative of only those who were close to the Gram Pradhan that were lucky beneficiaries. But after the training this misgiving was dispelled. Anyone who fulfilled the eligibility criteria could be benefitted if he applies and it is the duty of Pradhans to recommend without any obligation from either side.

1.7. CBO Training on PM's 15 Point Program for Minority Community.

A two day CBO members training program on Prime Minister's 15 Point Programs for the Minorities was organized. The participants were told about the importance of minority community's participation was important from the stand point of their development being mainstreamed into the national development.

Important findings of Justice Sachar Committee were dwelt at length. In our country there are about 90 districts where Muslim population is about 15 % to 35%. In 2007 during the 11th Five Year Plan, the then Prime Minister Shri man Mohan Singh launched a special 15 point program for the minorities, especially Muslims. Barabanki is one of the 90 Muslim-intensively populated districts. Various social welfare schemes meant for all were discussed along with the following 15 points.

1. Equitable availability of ICDS service.
2. Improving Access to School Education

3. Greater Resources for Teaching Urdu
4. Modernizing madras Education
5. Scholarships for meritorious students from minority communities.
6. Improving educational infra structure through the Maulana Azad Education Foundation.
7. Self-employment and wage employment for the poor.
 - a. The SwarnajayantiswarojgarYojna (SGSY)
 - b. The SwarnajayantiShahariRozgarYojna (SSJ)
 - c. The SampurnaGrameenRozgarYojna (SGRY)
8. Up gradation of skills through technical training.
9. Enhanced Credit Support for Economic Activities.
10. Recruitment to State and Central Service
11. Equitable share in Rural Housing Schemes
12. Improvement in Status of colonies of Minorities.
13. Prevention of Communal Incidents.
14. Prosecution for Communal offences
15. Rehabilitation of victims of Communal Rights.

1.8. Analysis of Panchayat Budgets in all 37 Gram Panchayats.

A Complementing corollary to our major activity of preparing social audit, we conducted MNREGA Budget analysis of 20 Gram Panchayats of Pratapgarh and 17 Gram Panchayats of Barabanki district. We highlighted the following points

1. Number of registered job card holders- category wise
2. Year wise status of Job cards for 10 past years from 2016 to 2015.
3. Status of active job card holders, category wise
4. Number of Days persons worked in the year 2014-2015.

From the analysis our findings are as under:

- a) Percentage of employed women and men
- b) Percentage of Dalit women and men employed
- c) How many days work in a year was assigned and how many days labour was unutilized.

Primary education has been the central focus of our engagement with children in the age group of 6 to 12 years. Samvad has worked for all round development of children and towards this has conducted various program like School ChaloAbhiyan, strengthening of School Management Committees by holding Capacity Building workshops for School Management Committee members.

Samvad has made association of parents of children to monitor the academic activities and the situation of the Mid- Day Meal Scheme as also free distribution of books/stationary and uniforms.

Samvad has always stressed on ensuring punishment free and joyful learning in the schools with emphasis on inclusion of differently enabled children in the school.

Samvad's major concern in the field of Child Rights is removing gender discrimination and promoting girl Child education. Towards this Samvad has made several innovative interventions. One noteworthy effort was to identify such families in Pratapgarh district whose girl children had become school drop outs. Having identified families Shiksha Mata Samuha or SHG were formed in 40 villages of Pratapgarh to improve the economic conditions of the

families so that they no longer depend on their daughter's income by way of any earning like maid servant or farm labour and they are sent regularly to school.

Presently, Samvad is actually engaged in implementing Child Fund India's project in 24 villages (Sadar Block and Sandwa Chandrika Block) of Pratapgarh District. The project is aimed at enabling identified children to lead a dignified life and achieve their potential. The identified children are classified in the following 3 categories.

1. Health and Secure Infants (0-5 years)
2. Educated & Confident children (6-14 years)
3. Skilled and Involved Youth (15-24 years)

- We conducted a baseline survey in 24 project villages
- 24 Child Protection Committees were formed.
- We organized Health Camp in all 24 villages in which 2 doctors checked the health of children.
- We formed and strengthened Child clubs.
- Campaign on girl child education was organized.

2. Gender Equality and Women Empowerment

2.1. Training of CBO members on Gender Budgeting

A program of training on gender budgeting was organized on the theme of Gender Budgeting with the following objectives :

1. To make the participants aware the many ways of gender discrimination and
2. To impress upon the participants the importance of women's equal rights.

During the discussion it became crystal –clear to the participants that women appear before them in the shape of married women, daughters, mothers, mother-in-law, grandmother, widow deserted and divorced women.

3. Child Rights and Education

3.1 Primary education

Free and Compulsory Primary Education has been the central focus of our engagement with children in the age group of 6 to 12 years. Samvad has worked for all round development of children and towards this has conducted various program like School Chalo Abhiyan, strengthening of School Management Committees by holding Capacity Building workshops for School Management Committee members.

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3.2 Removal of Gender Discrimination in Education

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4.Livelihood

Conducting Social Audits

Peoples participation demands answerability and accountability of the authorities that implement government programs. MNREGA is a flagship and regular scheme on which both the Central and State government spend substantial amounts. Social audit of MNREGA is a special activity Samvad has been regularly carrying out.

This year we prepared a manual on social audit of MNREGA. And we conducted social audits of 10 Gram Panchayats (out of 20 in all). We have also conducted social audit of 8 Gram Panchayats of Barabanki district (out of 17 in all)

The names of the Panchayats are as under

SNo.	Pratapgarh	Barabanki
1	Bhaddir	Chilgawan
2	Kandai	Itaunja
3	Chachhamau	Hasuapara
4	Madhwapur	Hridayatpur
5	Antamau	KaturiKhurd
6	Parsai	Katuri Kala
7	Rewali	Lilauli
8	Pithampur	Maulabad
9	Jhonkwara	
10	Natohi	

Prior to conducting the social audit, as a preparatory work, we approached the Block and Gram Panchayat authorities and took their support in providing necessary co-operation and making books, documents vouchers available for audit purpose.

We took special note of the following points.

1. What is the level of women, especially Dalit women.
2. We observed and verified the muster roll to ascertain whether any cutting or blank spaces are there.
3. We verified whether job cards were issued and the same were with the workers.
4. We verified the payments made to the workers.
5. We examined the various norms of the MNREGS such as non use of contractors and the use of machines.
6. We examined the quantum as well as the quality of the work.

7. We presented our findings in the shape of the social audit to the Block and district authorities and the Gram Panchayat.

We observed that at very few Gram Panchayats the norm of 33 % of women's participation as also Dalits participation in the total output was satisfactory. Our findings reveal that both in Pratapgarh and Barabanki 37 Gram Panchayats women's and Dalits minorities and disabled Person's participation was upto the mark.

5.Health

Our constant focus on health, nutrition and sanitation issues has resulted in building a cadre of women Pradhans who have started taking up the issues of ICDS for the improvement of women and children in the villages. The women are collectively having meeting with the frontline workers such as ASHAs, Anganwadi workers, and ANMs to strengthen the Anganwadi Centres. From these Centres women can get the Poshhar for themselves as well as for the family.

6.Awareness Building -Street Plays

Samvad has an expert team of street play performers. In both districts a series of NukkadNataks were played to mobilize the community on awareness about government schemes. In Pratapgarh the street plays were enacted from 22-12-2015 to 28-12-2013 which were viewed by 3354 persons (91869 men 1485 women)

In Barabanki NukkadNataks were enacted from 1-09-2015 to 03-09-2015 in 17 villages and were viewed by 4247 persons (2384 men and 1863 women). Again a second round took place from 16-12-2015 to 21-12-2015. The message imparted was for the people to get organized to realize their rights as well as importance of literacy and education.