

# **Annual Progress Report**

## **2013-14**

**SAMVAD SAMAJIK SANSTHAN**

**Head office**

**Gram Rampur Gadauli,**

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

## From the President's Desk

We are happy to share with you the results of our one year's performance in development. The basic purpose of development is to enlarge people's choices and for this freedom is a must. The mantra of this year's developmental activities carried out by Samvad Samajik Sansthan is the caption adopted by us- "Towards Freedom as Development and Woman and Child at the Centre of Existence". It means creating an enabling environment for them to exercise choices. Any development strategy, therefore, must aim at human development by focusing on -facilitating greater access to knowledge; better nutrition and health services; more secure livelihoods and a sense of participation in community activities.

Similarly 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.

The year that has gone by has seen us in the midst of yet new areas- 3 blocks of Hardoi district and five Slums of Lucknow city. We look forward to engage ourselves with yet larger area and many more people. We sincerely thank our donors Action Aid, Plan India, European Union and World Vision, well-wishers and staff team who have made this venture in development possible.

**Ram Badan Shukla**  
*President*

## Reasons for the Existence of Samvad

*( Samvad means Dialogue for Creating Self-reliant & Self-respecting Society)*

Samvad Samajik Sansthan stands for a meaningful dialogue beyond debating points-counter points, establishing vital dialogue and communication with the community, administration and the forces dedicated to the well being of the Dalits and the deprived is an important tool of our methodology of work. Dedication to the community, transparency and accountability are the guiding stars of our work process. While, working with the community we honor the knowledge and experience and beliefs of the community and crave for their respectful participation in our activities. For us democracy is not just a word, but a deep value which can be put to practice and felt in the atmosphere created by our work at the grass root level.

Commitment by a strong urge to make various welfare schemes available to those for whom they are meant. As a result of this Samvad was established in 1998. We work towards creating a society based on the foundation of democracy, secularism and equality.

Samvad is actively engaged with the Dalits, Muslims and the deprived people especially women and children in the rural areas of Pratapgarh district as also with the urban areas of Lucknow district. Along with livelihood, gender equality, education, health and social discrimination are our main social concerns. Our developmental activities are related to primary education, primary health and nutrition and our focus is on making primary school, primary health centre, Anganwadi and public distribution system (PDS) responsive to the needs of the target community.

**Vision-** To create an empowered society where no one faces injustice and discrimination and all lead a life of peace and dignity.

**Mission** - The vision is a society where the marginalized are able to get their rights, entitlements and a dignified life through sustainable livelihood.

**Policy-** Mobilizing and organizing the deprived and weaker sections of the society for accessing the government's policies, Acts and schemes, so that they attain a higher standard of living.

**Target Community** - Dalit, deprived, vulnerable and Muslims, especially women and children of the communities.

**Approach:** Organizing community to empower them to realize their rights and enable them to participate in various developmental processes. Participatory method of development and Rights Approach to development is our ways of engagement with community.

## **1. EDUCATION**

Samvad initiated a series of open meetings in 5 Gram panchayat in which all the school management committee members were apprised of the importance of SMC in the changed context consequently to the implementation of the Right to Education Act. On 6<sup>th</sup> September 2013, open meetings in all the primary schools of the Madhwapur, Cchacchamou, Janwanmau, Pariyanwan and Murassapur were held. A total of 283 persons took part in these meetings.

This year went through a series of capacity building programs for the children in the age group 6 to 14 years and the adolescent girls.

Samvad has organized children into Bal Samvad Tolis. A two days training workshop was held at Rampur Garauli on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2013 in which 30 children participants learnt about their four basic rights.

- Right To survival
- Right To development
- Right to Protection
- Right to Participation

During the course of the training the children wondered if they had any rights as they always felt helpless and weak. Having known by the end of the program they were convinced that through their organization they will be able to raise their voice and realize their rights. A boy said in his feedback that we cannot change our past but future is in our own hands and we will ensure that our future generation doesn't go through the pains which we have gone through.

### **Public Hearing on Education and Mid Day Meal:**

A public hearing was held at Samvad office premises in Rampur Garauli on 30th Sept 2013, in all villagers took part in the Public hearing. The following matters were raised in the public hearing. The junior school of Pariyawan does not have adequate number of teachers, except the Head Master; there is just one teacher to take care of 95 children. The school should be provided with adequate number of teachers if the school may be expected to do justice to the future to the future of children. Problems in regard to mid day meal scheme, job cards and Anganwadis were raised. The authorities concerned assured the community to look after the demands.

### **Awareness Campaign on The right to Education and Birth Registration**

As many as 10 street plays followed by small group meetings were held in 3 gram Panchayats namely Samaspur, Sailwara and Pithanpur. The street Plays narrated the

story of a girl whose uncle used to drink a lot and lost his sense of what is good or bad .Once when he put a thumb impression on some legal paper, the girl stopped him from putting his thumb impression as the document was about transfer of land which he did not want to transfer. The alacrity of the girl saved him from an unwanted calamity. He was so happy at the role of his daughter that he vowed to continue her study till she desired to continue.

### **Capacity Building of SMC members for preparing Quality School Development Plan**

It was a unique experience to have organized a need based training program for school management committees of a few schools in 3 Gram Panchayats of Pratapgarh district during 21<sup>st</sup> October 2013 to 13th November 2013. In all, 103 committee members of different schools took part and found themselves better prepared to make school development plans.

### **Orientation of the new elected School Management Committee Members**

Immediately after an SMC is formed the first genuine need is to provide orientation to the members on their role and responsibility. With this in view on 12th December 2013 a one day training program was held at Pratapgarh Office of Samvad Samajik Sansthan. The guest speakers made them aware on their pivotal role to make the school a well managed and vibrant seat of learning for the children.

### **Celebration of Child Rights Week**

With a view to promoting child , a conference on child rights theme was held on 28th December 2013 which was attended by members of Toli, SMC members and members of the community in all 305 (162 males and 143 females) took part in this celebration.

### **Inter Face Consultation meeting**

For both of its operational areas rural and urban Samvad Samajik Sansthan organized a meeting of stake holders ( Teachers, Union Leaders , Supervisors , ANMs, ASHAs, and the media.

On 14th December 2013 the meeting held at Samvad's Pratapgarh office covered the concerns of three gram Panchayat of Kalakankar (Bhaddiv , Pithanpur, and Sailwara) The agenda of the interface cum consultation meeting was to deliberate on the status, facilities and management of Aganwadi centers and School . On 30th December 2013 the meeting was held at Parijat guest house Lucknow, A Total 111 persons 45at Pratapgarh and 66 at Lucknow took active part in this meeting.

**A study on Adolescent Girls of Muslim Community** The term adolescence meaning “to emerge”, or achieve identity” is a relatively new concept, especially in development thinking. Adolescent girls aged between 10-19 years account for more than one-fifth of

the world's population. Adolescent girls in India are a large invisible population, amounting to 113 million, or 20% of the world's adolescent girls, and are trapped in a society with socio-cultural practices and contrasting stages of development that leaves them powerless to make essential life-choices. Research indicates that adolescent girls are particularly vulnerable in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar & Rajasthan, where over half of all adolescent girls are married before the age of 18, up to 95% of drop out of schools and over 50% face domestic violence.

## 2. HEALTH

Earlier at many Anganwadi centers parents of 3-6 years children feel insecure in sending their children for various reasons. Anganwadis don't display growth charts of malnourished or semi nourished children.

Many Anganwadis don't serve hot cooked as per menu and don't offer their services to adolescent girls. Based on this learning Samvad made it a point to form two types of CBOs for this purpose of holding Anganwadis accountable and making the beneficiaries more participatory .i.e. Kishori Balika Samuhas and Matri Samuhas, the former an association of adolescent girls while the latter being an association of pregnant women and lactating mothers.

But this year with the support and active advocacy of our community based organizations at Pratapgarh the issues of opening the Anganwadi Centers properly and also distributing the hot cooked meals were raised and monitored. As a consequence of the active advocacy of the CBO a massive change took place in the quality of the food served in the Mid day Meal. Now the children were served with hot cooked food. Even the Anganwadi Centers started distributing **Poshahaar** to the pregnant and lactating mothers belonging to the economically deprived and the socially marginalized section of the society.

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### **Case Study**

Chandan Ka Purva - a hamlet of Pariyawan, has predominance of scheduled caste residents. During a meeting of Samvad workers with the community it was discussed that two Aganwadi workers never took the children of the socially excluded communities to the Aganwadi center. Similarly they would not inform pregnant and lactating women also children in the age group 3 to 6 years. It was decided that on the next saturday all three beneficiaries and guardians would reach the Aganwadi center, as this was the day allocated for distribution of food supplement.

With the help of community level workers of Samvad, the food supplement was distributed according to the quantity fixed for the pregnant and lactating women. Besides this, Samvad workers impressed upon Aganwadi workers to visit the homes of Dalit families and escort their young children to Aganwadi centers for giving them hot cooked meal and pre schooling learning session as also nutrients and tablets to pregnant women and lactating mothers.

Dalit families were also motivated to take children to Aganwadi, so that the benefits of the government scheme are derived to the fullest extent. If the Aganwadi workers did not come for any reason, they should not wait for them, but on their own reach the center at the appointed time to derive the benefits. It is no use complaining that Aganwadi workers indulge in malpractices arising out of non distribution of food supplement to legitimate claimants.

### **Village level Jansunwai**

We organized village Panchayat level Jansunwai from 11th November 2013 to 15th November 2013 as given below.

<b>S.N.</b>	<b>Date of Jansunwai</b>	<b>Village Panchayat</b>
1	11th November 2013	Chachamau
2	12th November 2013	Madhwapur
3	13th November 2013	Janwamau
4	14th November 2013	Pariyawan
5	15th November 2013	Murassapur

The public hearing panel included the respective Gram Pradhan, Aganwadi, warden, ASHA and president of Grameen Majdoor Sangh in each of the above five Gram Panchayats. In all 523 community members participated in these separate village specific public hearing events.

Matters raised ranged from hurdles in having possession of the lease land or pattas granted to socially excluded families to stoppage of widow pension without assigning any reason, forcible acquisition of land, lack of drainage, inadequate arrangement for drinking water etc.

### **Training on Adolescent Girls on Self Protection Awareness and Personal Hygiene**

A series of training programs for 70 Adolescent girls on self protection Self awareness and personal hygiene was organized for both rural areas of Pratapgarh and Lucknow urban locality of Daliganj. This two-day training was provided as under.

<b>SN</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Venue</b>
<b>1</b>	19th & 20th November 2013	Samvad Office Pratapgarh
<b>2</b>	24th & 25th December 2013	Samvad office Pratapgarh
<b>3</b>	28 <sup>th</sup> and 29 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2013	Paarijat Guest House, Lucknow

### **3. LIVELIHOOD**

Regarding the issue of livelihood with the help and support of some sensitive Gram Pradhans and also due to the active initiative in advocacy of the community based organization the number of applicants to work as MNREGA labourers has increased.

In a span of four years the number of job cards holders has increased from 500 to 1858. Participation of women and Dalits amongst this bears good comparison to their presence in the total number of beneficiaries.

The impact study brought out in sharp relief the emergence of Gramin Majdoor Sangh as a strong community based organization, capable of giving voice to the community and holding both social audit and public hearing on various government sponsored services. Their range of engagement with the community has attained such milestones as holding a conference of labourers on the Labour Day (1st May 2013 ) to holding block and Panchayat level Jansunwai programs and by holding the authorities accountable and in the process succeeding in solving the outstanding problems of the community.

The impact study highlighted that on account of the training of Panchayat representatives and regular interface programs with government officials and the community in all the five Gram Panchayat there is a very good level of awareness about the various government provided welfare schemes.



A public hearing whereby the below mentioned issues were taken up.:

- MNREGA Work received
- ICDS Pregnant women facilities for food supplements
- Janani Suraksha Yojana
- Mahamaya Kanya Ashirvad Yojna
- Balika Samridhi Yojana
- Widow Pension
- PWD pension
- Old Age Pension
- Mukhya Mantri Arthik Madad Yojana
- Public Distribution System
- Enrolment in school

### **Emerging Trends Of Our Grass roots Engagement**

The Year 2013 - 2014 opened new vistas for our work. Continuous efforts of rapport building and organizing a series of Jan Sunwai were our thrust area, as a result of which the B.D.O. of Kala Kakar Block announced to adopt every Thursday as community day when in his office premise, he organizes block staff meeting, during which he listens to the grievances and attempts to solve community problems with the support of the block staff present in the staff meeting. During the first quarter of the year Samvad held a series of focused group meetings with our CBOs, through which, we came to underline the following leanings.

- Many vulnerable and really poor households are unable to get the benefits of government entitlements just because they do not hold BPL Ration cards.
- Many school management committee members find the meeting as sheer waste of time and money. They feel that it is held in a very routine manner and the school authorities don't disclose all the information in a transparent manner which defeats the very purpose of formation of school management committees.
- Samvad has learnt that the selection of representatives from school children parents should be a well planned and transparent manner and only active and willing person be selected.
- Selection of SMC members to represent parents should be from the well organized parents associations existing in a village. It is these parents associations that may be helpful in organizing social audit and Jan Sunwai on the issues of the school on a yearly basis.

- At many Anganwadi centers parents of 3-6 years children feel insecure in sending their children for various reasons. Anganwadis don't display growth charts of malnourished or semi nourished children.

Grameen Majdoor Sangh celebrated the Labour Day on the 1st May 2013 by holding a conference at Samvad's office at Rampur Garauli, Block Kalakankar, district Pratapgarh. The participants comprised of labourers of MNREGA both male and female as also other labour. A puppet show by professionals was put up to spread awareness by various government schemes for the poor, socially excluded and Muslims. Officers representing Kalakankar block took active part and replied to several questions raised by the community members and laborers.

### **Impact Of Our work**

In mid October 2013 an impact study of our work in five villages of Kalakanker Block was undertaken. The work aimed at improving the access of the community to various government services. The impact brought out that 5985 beneficiaries were able to have access.

### **Purpose of the Study:**

The purpose of this study was two phases. On one hand this study looks at the social, economical and educational condition of adolescent Muslim girls in two sample districts & distinct groups (rural & urban context) and on the other hand to inform the strategy for future intervention by understanding the local factors responsible for the deprivation of these girls in the region and the identification of the causes of deprivation and marginalization. This study also strives to identify and specify the methods of intervention which should be culturally appropriate while working with local Muslim community.

### **Methodology and Research Design of the Study**

The sampling frame comprised young girls between 10-19 years from marginalized communities. Total number of 300 girls sampled from urban and rural community preferably engaged in income generating activities. Following table summarizes sample areas.

Sample Districts	Block/Ward/Locality	Context	Occupational Group	Number of Samples
Pratapgarh	Kalakankar block Village: Murassapur, Pariyawan, Qazipur	Rural	Beedi Rolling	150
Lucknow	Maithlisharangupt ward Slum: Kailashkunj, Gandhigram New Haidarganj ward Asiyamau	Urban	Zari Zardozi, Chickankari (embroidery)	150
<b>Total</b>				<b>300</b>

### Major Research Questions

- How do adolescent Muslim girls living in these two districts differ in terms of various social, economical and educational indicators?
- What are the local factors responsible for these differences?
- What culturally sensitive method of interventions would be possible for future interventions?

This study has used both qualitative and quantitative methods of data gathering and therefore utilized several techniques. These techniques are as follows:

### Methodology and Research Design of the Study

A cross sectional comparative study was conducted to meet the objectives of this research. This experimental study helped the investigator/researcher to assess the situation of adolescent girls from marginalized families in rural as well as urban areas of UP (Pratapgarh & Lucknow). The sampling frame comprised young girls between 10-19 years from marginalized communities. Total number of 300 girls sampled from urban and rural community preferably engaged in income generating activities. Following table summarizes sample areas.

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Pratapgarh	Kalakankar block Village:Murassapur, Pariyawan, Qazipur	Rural	Beedi Rolling	150
Lucknow	Maithlisharangupt ward Slum:Kailashkunj,Ga ndhigram New Haidarganj ward Asiyamau	Urban	Zari Zardozi, Chickankari (embroidery)	150
<b>Total</b>				<b>300</b>

### Field Study:

Immediate after orientation, team members conducted survey in Lucknow and Pratapgarh districts from 18<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> December 2013. Team updated the consultant on regular basis and also got assistance in administering the tools in field. The quantitative and qualitative data was analyzed and report has been finalized for sharing.

### Major Findings of the Study

A total of 300 adolescents girls representing 2 districts of Uttar Pradesh were sampled in this study. The results are presented in some of the major sections such as socio economic status, educational Status, Health seeking behavior, Aspirations, Decision Making, and Media exposure.

### Socio Economic Status

Inference about socio economic status of interviewed families was drawn on the basis of various facilities provided by the government to the families like Antyodaya card, APL and BPL card, MNREGA etc. Among 300 girls interviewed only 21 families had Antyodaya cards while 4 families reported to have received the benefit under Rasthriya Swasthya Bima Yojna (RSBY) that entitles a registered BPL family to avail free health services.

In Pratapgarh rural sample villages, none of the respondents' family had received the employment benefit under MNREGA that ensures 100 days of employment of an individual throughout the year. 96% of respondents reported that at least one member in their family had Voter ID.

### Expansion of our Work in Hardoi District and Urban Slums of Lucknow

With a view to exploring further avenues of our commitment this year we added to our existing operational area comprising Pratapgarh and Daliganj in Lucknow city, we added

Hardoi district and a few other slum areas of Lucknow city. This new intervention is in the domain of reproductive and maternal and newborn health including family planning. As we envisaged strengthening capacity of ANMs in our area of operation by means of providing them training, we carried out a training need analysis and gradation of the knowledge status of ANMs as of now.

Although they receive training from the department, but their job demands progressive updating of knowledge and skills related to the job they are required to perform. The operational area comprised of four Blocks of Hardoi district, namely, Sandila, Behender, Kothwan and Kachhauna where their training needs were assessed.

### ***Designing of the Questionnaire-***

Accordingly, their response was classified into four categories and marked on the scale of A, B, C and D which is given as under -

Marks obtained from 21 to 25 is graded as       A

Marks obtained from 16 to 20 is graded as       B

Marks obtained from 11 to 15 is graded as       C

Marks obtained up to 10 graded as                 D

### **Analysis of Data**

This has been revealed that out of 2500 responses only 1019 responses were right and the rest 1481 responses were wrong. This also shows a huge gap in their knowledge. This small analysis based study will help in judging the level of ANMs which will help in providing them the relevant knowledge which they require during their services. Due to lack of awareness about their professional knowledge, they will be facing difficulty inefficient discharge of their service.

We give below our findings as regards marks scored by ANMs -

Scale	Grading	Marks Obtained
Marks obtained bet. 21 to 25	<b>A</b>	<b>1%</b>
Marks obtained bet. 16 to 20	<b>B</b>	<b>20%</b>
Marks obtained bet. 11 to 15	<b>C</b>	<b>37%</b>
Marks obtained bet. 01 to 10	<b>D</b>	<b>42%</b>

According to the report, grading of ANMs was done to examine their knowledge. Out of these 100 ASHAs on 1% has obtained marks between 21 to 25 and is classified as (A). 20 % ASHAs.

## **Conclusion**

From the foregoing it is clear that a majority of ANMs lack basic knowledge on technical aspects of their job. The highest scorer is just 1. For discharging their job efficiently all the remaining ANMs should be brought to the level of A in gradation. We feel that they be trained on all the aspects of their job. We also note that qualification, caste, job experience in years is no true indicator of level of knowledge (revealed by the marks obtained by them).

Training need analysis of ANMs done, we then engaged ourselves with the intensive awareness building of the community both rural and urban.

We staged 42 Nukkad Nataks, organized 3 puppet shows, 5 quizzes, 3 poster/ Rangoli competitions school children's debates and one orientation meeting with the group which did not use any contraceptives.

## **WOMEN RIGHTS**

We had also worked with HUMSAFAR organization by involving Youth and community workers in affirmative action to address the issue of declining girl sex ratio in Uttar Pradesh.

Every unethical act has some lame age old reasoning behind it which its staunch supporters use as justification. The cause of female feticide lies within the cultural norms as well as the socio-economic policies of the country where the practice prevails.

Rationale: Surprisingly, the reasons for killing female feticide aren't quite as diverse as one may expect. Male children are a better investment. The main reason is the idea that the male off spring will better support the family. Since sons are seen as the main source of income, even though today women have many career options the common misconception still remains that it is the male who will help run the house and look after his parents while women are viewed as being like cargo, something to be shipped off to another household.

Female children are a gamble in India- the age -old dowry system puts a damper on the spirits of those who are blessed with a girl child. When a girl is born, the parents begin to calculate the expense of her future marriage the lump sum that will be paid to the future groom's family. They worry that the currency may depreciate and inflation may skyrocket. Because of this, the birth of a girl is seen as a tragedy waiting to happen. Women don't have status in society as a result of the institutional and cultural sexism female children and adults have less power, status, rights and money. Even as adults it's harder for females to take care of or make decisions for them. Centuries of repression have made inferiority second nature to most women who have been taught the role of the meek submission, wife, who works relentlessly to cater to the whims of his husband.

Foul Medical ethics with the legalization of abortion in India, illegal sex determination and termination of pregnancies have become every day realities. Female feoticide is openly discussed in the medical profession and many pin boards outside.