

Annual Progress Report

2016-17

SAMVAD SAMAJIK SANSTHAN

Head office

Gram Rampur Gadauli,

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

From the Desk of the President

The year that has gone by is the year of intensive intervention in the fields of child rights and people's entitlements. In 20 Gram Panchayats of PratapGarhdistrict 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' 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

Samvad Samajik Sansthan which has been dedicating itself to the service of the disadvantaged sections of society in Pratapgarh and other districts in Uttar Pradesh the year 2016-2017 has been a year of intensive exploration in the following fields.

1. Governance
2. Gender Equality and Women Empowerment
3. Child Rights and Education
4. Livelihood and
5. Health

1. Governance

For Samvad governance is how the government deals with the people and elicits their practice patron in their own development apart from maintaining the minimal function of maintaining law and order in the society. Governance is not a one sided affair. With a view to have people's active participation government encourages people's efforts to seek accountability of the various actions undertaken and programmes implemented by it. Now, with a view to holding the government accountable the Community Based Organizations must have a thorough understanding of planning and budgeting. Accordingly, the following programmes was implemented.

Two Days Training Programme of CBO members on ELBAG and Gender Response Budgeting was organized on 25th and 26th May, 2016 at Samvad Project Office Nindura Block, Barabanki in which 4 participants (Female 26, Male -28) took active part.

The main aim of the training was to strengthen the CBOs as dynamic and vibrant organizations. The training provided to the CBO members was well received by them.

The CBO seemed to be quite confident and were quite enthusiastic in taking the issues forward for the benefit of the poor sections of the community.

A one-day sensitization workshop with the government officials and the PRI representatives was organized with the government officials and PRI representatives with the objective to ensure the role of Pradhans and Block Officials in implementing the various government schemes that are meant for the upliftment of the poor and the vulnerable people.

As an outcome of this training the PRI members and the government officials were sensitized and they had planned to do something concrete for people's development. GramPradhans are now expecting a better co-ordination with the block level officials in the form of an open dialogue to discuss the progress of the villages and hindrances in the process of development.

Training on Participatory Planning RTI and ELBAG

This training was imparted to the PRI members and government officials. The main aim was to enable them to better facilitate the community with increased knowledge and greater degree of confidence.

Impact

Earlier on the Panchayati Raj governance was quite inactive but now due to frequent and regular capacity building workshops, they are much more active and are keen to participate in the village level meetings and have started raising the issues for the development of the villages.

Developing Micro-level Plans (VDP) for all 37 Panchayats.

This activity took almost four months. Each village Development Plan included basic data of the Panchayat concerned, mentioning its geographical area, social structure, relevant statistical details, village map, information on status of education, health, migration cycle, agriculture, crop cycle, natural resources, rivers and canals, ponds, animals, economic status and livelihood, Panchayats Samiti and their members.

The Village Development Plan was the result of the 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 the villagers identifying their development needs in the domains of health, education, livelihood, sanitation, infrastructure etc. After enlisting the community's needs in general the same were prioritized in terms of the urgency felt by the community. This exercise was done with the support of a PRA professional. The process followed by Samvad enthused an element of belongingness in 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.

Social Audit and Public Hearing

With a view to keep the government officials and Panchayati Raj functionaries responsible towards their functions and to hold them accountable, we held social audit of 10 Gram Panchayats. These social audits were conducted between 13th November 2016 to 8th December 2016. These were organized with an active participation of the Block level officials, Gram Pradhans and 119 members of public (M-5779-F-540).

We took special note of the following points.

1. What is the level of women especially of Dalit Women.
2. Muster roll was observed to ascertain whether any cutting or blanks are inadvertently kept.
3. Verification whether job cards were issued and that the same were in the custody of workers.
4. We verified the payments made to workers.
5. We examined the various norms of the MNREGS such as no involvement 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.

Very few Gram Panchayats maintained the 33% women's Participation as also Dalit Community and Minority Community participation in the total output was satisfactory. Our

findings make it clear that both in the Pratapgarh and Barabanki 37 Gram Panchayats women and the disabled person's participation was up to the mark.

Impact

The impact of the social audit and public hearing had put such an impact that earlier the Gram Pradhans and the Block Level Officials were least bothered about their accountability but now they fear exposure and are conscious about their roles.

Analysis of Panchayat Budgets.

During the financial year 2016-2017 the analysis of Panchayat Budgets was done in two parts.

A complementing corollary to our major activity of preparing social audit, we conducted MNREGS Budget.

1. Number of registered job card holders- category wise.
2. Year wise status of job cards for past 10 years from 2017 to 2016.
3. Status of active job card holders category wise.
4. Number of Days Persons worked in the year 2015-2016.

From the analysis the found out.

- a) Percentage of employed women and men.
- b) Percentage of Dalit women and men employed.
- c) How many days work in year was assigned and how many day's persons worked in the year 2015-2016

8. IEC materials

We prepared a booklet on the schemes for construction workers, on manual on Village Development Plans were brought out.

Management of Information Resource Centres

Samvad Samajik Sansthan had established the Information Resource Centres 37 in all- one each in 20 Panchayats of Pratapgarh and 17 Panchayats of Barabanki District.

The purpose of establishing IRC, was to reduce the gap between the government and the community by working as a link by providing to the community updated information on various welfare schemes, services, government Acts. The IRCs are well-managed by the volunteers from the community itself.

2. Gender Equality & Women Empowerment

Women appear to be much more empowered. They now take greater part in MNREGA. Women Panchayat leaders take keen interest in taking part in Panchayati Raj meetings. Women Pradhans have also started taking up the issues of ICDS for the improvement of the health of women and children in the villages. The women are collectively having meeting with the frontline workers such as ASHA, Anganwadi and ANM's.

Women labourers under MNREGA have started collectively raising their voice together against the corruption prevailing in MNREGA.

They ask the Gram Pradhan to provide 100 days work to job cards holders. The women labourers have started registering better attendance and participation in their CBOs both at Pratapgarh and Barabanki. They discuss the matter in the CBO meetings, and the CBO office bearers then take up the matter with the Gram Pradhan or the Block level officials. Both **GrameenMazdoorSangh** in Pratapgarh and **BadlaoSangathan** good number of women members.

On the 8th March 2017, Samvad celebrated International Women's Day in a different manner. Both in Pratapgarh and Barabanki districts street plays were staged to emphasize the issue of realizing women's rights. Looking at the patriarchal structure of our society, it is no wonder that a male child gets the first priority in accessing the quality education while the girl child is usually deprived from getting better education.

Women are also encouraged by Samvad to attend CBO meetings and if they are PRI members then meetings of PanchayatiRaj . An example of empowered Gram Pradhan is Anita Devi of Itaunja Village, Barabanki District. She herself checks all Anganwadi centres and the working of the frontline workers and also the government schools.

Working on Single Women

This year many single women benefitted from widow Pension Scheme in both Pratapgarh and Barabanki districts. Our representatives regularly visit these women personally at home and explaining to them benefits of many centre and state sponsored schemes. Thus by contributing to rural people's welfare many women have emerged as leaders.

3. Child Rights & Education

Samvad Samajik Sansthan is engaged in the Child Fund India Program with a view to providing the opportunities for educational growth of children creating enabling environment for the delivery of qualitative services to children are ensured and they get relevant and supportive sources and opportunities. Presently part of Samvad's efforts in promotion of child rights are aimed at enabling the children identified in 24 villages (Sadar Block and Sandwa Chandrika Block) of Pratapgarh district. The project is aimed at enabling these identified children to lead a dignified life and achieve their potential. The identified children are classified in the following 3 categories.

1. Healthy and secure children (0-5 years)
2. Educated and confident children (6-14 years)
3. Skilled and Involved Youth (15-24 years)

After conducting a baseline survey in 24 villages, 24 Child Protection Committees have been formed to strengthen Child Rights. SAMVAD SAMAJIK SANSTHAN formed and strengthened Child Clubs. A campaign on girl child education was organized in the year 2016 in July along with the School ChaloAbhiyan.

Our education intervention has been community driven. As a part of this strategy children, children's family and village community was involved ensuring their participation to the maximum level. At the family level Samvad initiated mother adult literacy sessions and engaging the parents in learning with the children. Samvad made sincere efforts in activating School Management Committees which helped improve the school environment. Focus on adult literacy especially mother and parenting learning has made both parents aware about the need and importance of their children's education.

Case Study: Shiv Prakash

During the survey of School Management Committee the team of Samvad met with some of the families of that village and came to know that many such families are there who have stopped sending their girl children to the school. Now, these girls are the school drop outs and are sitting at home and engaged in doing some domestic work. The parents don't send their daughters to the school.

Here is the story of Shiv Prakash, who has stopped sending his daughter to the school. Now, her daughter helps his father to work in the field as agricultural labourer. She also helps in doing the domestic work to support her mother. Shiv Prakash daughter is 14 years old. He has 7 children in his family, 4 boys and 3 girls. While doing the survey of School Management Committee, the delegates of SamvadSamajikSansthan explained to Shiv Prakash the importance of Right to Education Act that government is promoting every child's right to access free education (6-14 years). Moreover, it is also the right of every child to get education and go to the school. Finally, Shiv Prakash decided to send his daughter to the school regularly and also realized the importance of education to be given to his daughter in order to make her self-dependent. Now, his daughter regularly goes to the school. This way Shiv Prakash has set an example in the village by sending his daughter to the school thus promoting girls' education.

Behavioural Change in the Community

The community seems to have internalized the necessity to co-operate with one another. They have also understood the significance of a strong CBO in their village. Through the CBO they can raise their voice together making it more powerful. There are less child marriages and less dowry cases. The school going children wash their hands before having the meals in schools.

4.Livelihood

One of the major achievements regarding the efforts being made by MNREGA labourers to bring the amount of daily wages from Rs 175 to Rs 200. The women's have started doing advocacy for their minimum wages per day to Rs 300/-

- 48 school drop outs belonging to the most marginalized were encouraged to join the school. Similarly, 17 school drop outs were admitted to the government primary school.

Case Study - Raj Rani- A successful Woman Labour Icon



Rajrani, aged 45 years, is the widow of Rajaram. She belongs to a Schedule Caste Community and resides in Itonja Gram Panchayat. She is a daily wages labourer. She has hardly been managing bread of two times for her family since her husband passed away. Her husband's death worsened the circumstances forever. Earlier, she was receiving pension of Rs 300/- per month. Which was a relieving factor in leading a little bit satisfactory life of bringing out her family. But after receiving it for continuous six months, it discontinued adding to the worsened circumstances.

One day, she came into contact with a Samvad Worker and shared her pitiable conditions. Samvad Worker disseminated information of a series of welfare schemes run by Govt. Since she was widow and needed work for livelihood, she was motivated to do as MNREGA labourer. She was informed that MNREGA act gives guarantee of 100 days work in the Gram Panchayat itself. It also pays equal wages to both men & women.

She was guided to apply for a Job Card which was necessary to do work under MNREGA. She did so and got job card from the Gram Panchayat within 10 days. Next step she wants to take is to demand work from the Village Pradhan/ Secretary. Now she is glad with the assurance of getting work in the Gram Panchayat itself and she will not have to migrate to remote villages as daily wages labourer. There are many such women who, following Rajrani as a MNREGA woman labourer icon are working with self- respect and dignity to feed their families.

5. Health

For the project implementation in a proper pay Samvad established networking and good relationship with the government's Health Frontline Workers such as ASHA's, ANM's and Anganwadi workers.

The ANM's regularly visit the villages on routine immunization and check-ups of matters and infants and pregnant women.

Pregnant women are moving to the hospital for institutional centres for safe delivery. Earlier corruption took its heavy toll. Women had to pay in cash a specific amount to the Accounts Department to get the payment transferred to her account. But the efforts of the CBO has stopped the prevalence of the corrupt practice.

6. Other intitlement of People

Status of Beneficiaries of various Government Schemes

S No.	Entitlements	SC	OBC	Muslim	Total Beneficiaries
1	MNREGA job application	278	62	39	379
2	MNREGA job received	43	14	42	99
3	MNREGA Work Demand	1806	139	150	2095
4	MNREGA work received	960	94	113	1167
4	Old age pension	0	0	04	04
5	Widow Pension	02	0	0	02
6	Disabled pension	0	0	01	01
7	Janani Suraksha Yojna	02	0	0	02
8	Enrolment in schools	12	0	05	17
9	ICDS-pregnant women Receiving food supplement.	1349	03	0	1352
10	Lactating mothers receiving food supplement.	1300	61	0	1361
11	Malnutrition children referred for cure	2	2	1	5
12	RashtriyaPariwarLabhYojna	7	0	0	7
13	MNREGA workers benefitted under bicycle assistance scheme	100	70	0	170
14	RTI applications	5	0	0	5
Grand Total					6666