

2023

Annual Report

www.samarthan.org



Samarthan
Centre for Development Support

About Samarthan

Established in 1996 as a public charitable trust, Samarthan is a support organisation to address the challenges of poverty underdevelopment in the states of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. Samarthan promotes participatory development processes by challenging the conventional top down model of development through direct field action, capacity building, research and advocacy.



Vision

Every citizen contributes meaningfully in shaping democratic State and enjoys benefits based on the principles of equality and equity



Mission

Promote and support participatory governance for equity and inclusion in development processes by capacity building, generating evidences and advocating the perspective of the most marginalized or enriched democracy

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

A Year of Optimism and Progress

As we reflect on the past year, we find ourselves in a moment filled with hope and progress. The shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic, which had gripped us with fear, gradually receded, ushering in new opportunities for both migrants seeking work at source or destination and local entrepreneurs eager to recover from the setbacks in their businesses. This changing landscape extended its reach into remote rural areas, touching upon various aspects of life, including agriculture, education, and healthcare.



In rural communities, we observed a growing inclination among small-scale farmers to explore alternative, sustainable farming practices, embracing methods that reduce the reliance on chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Additionally, Gram Panchayats, for the first time, recognized the significance of elevating agriculture to the top of the Gram Sabha's agenda. This shift allowed for discussions on critical issues such as the over-extraction of water and the need to regulate the indiscriminate use of chemical inputs.

The expansion of piped water supply systems in rural areas brought new challenges and opportunities. Communities were compelled to engage actively in developing participatory plans, monitoring construction quality, and establishing operational and maintenance systems through water tariffs. However, it's important to acknowledge that some communities, particularly those in remote areas, faced exclusion, and issues related to equitable access to water persisted within villages. Despite these challenges, a significant number of women stepped up, taking on roles as members of Village Water and Sanitation Committees (VWSC) or pump operators.

Our endeavours in promoting participatory planning to enhance Primary Health Centers, guided by the perspectives of users, yielded promising outcomes. Samarthan has been making strides in demonstrating integrated development by providing multi-sectoral support in select villages. We are committed to documenting the impacts and returns on investments to create a replicable model for rural transformation.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our steadfast supporters, including the Board of Trustees, government officials, donors, community leaders, and the many friends and ambassadors of Samarthan. Your unwavering support fuels our mission, and we eagerly anticipate your valuable suggestions and feedback to enhance our interventions and ensure their continued relevance for a wider impact.

Yogesh Kumar

Executive Director

Our Outreach

Total (MP & CG)

2064

Gram Panchayats

3607

Villages

25

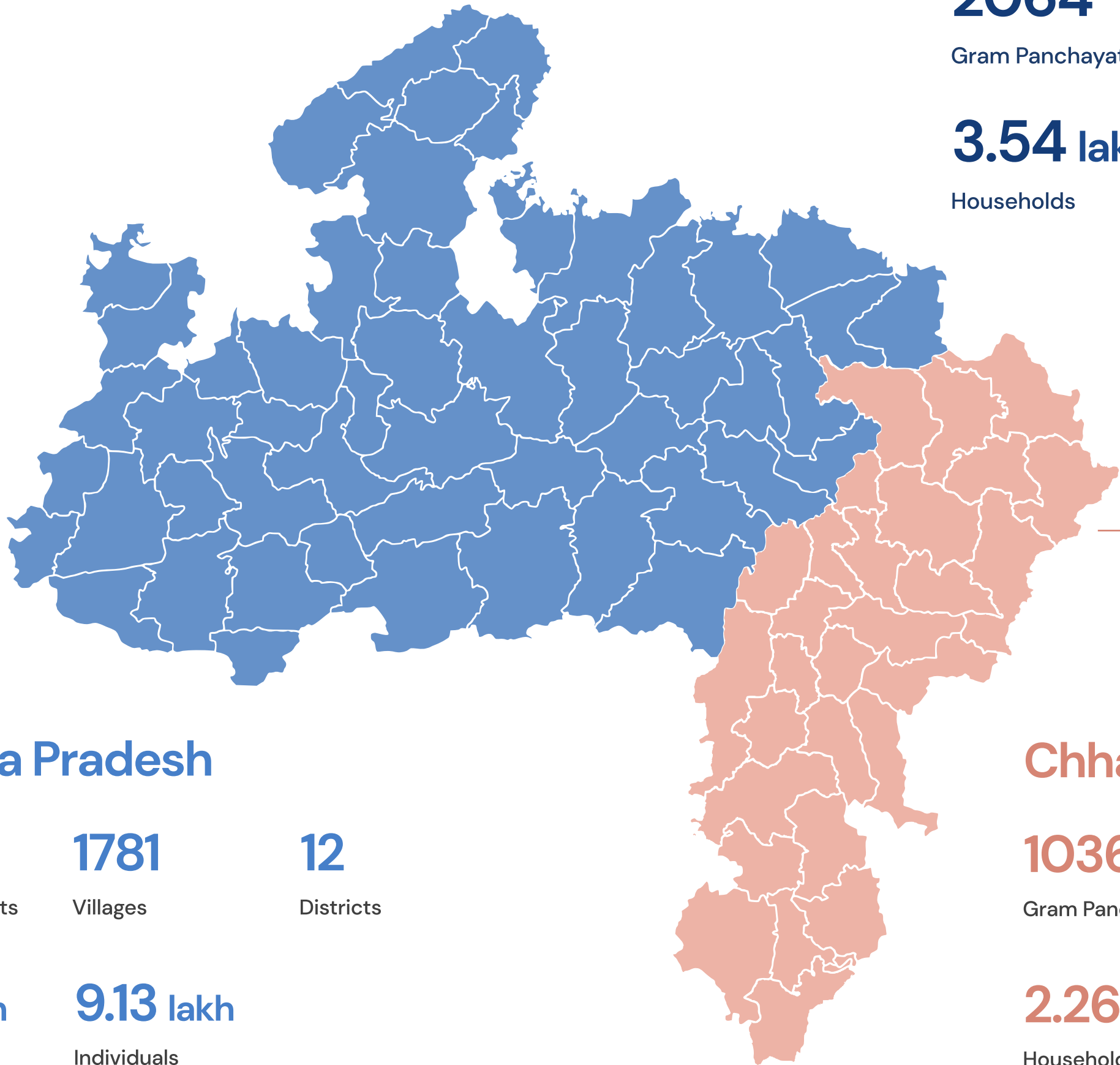
Districts

3.54 lakh

Households

18.67 lakh

Individuals



Madhya Pradesh

1028

Gram Panchayats

1781

Villages

12

Districts

1.28 lakh

Households

9.13 lakh

Individuals

Chhattisgarh

1036

Gram Panchayats

1826

Villages

13

Districts

2.26 lakh

Households

9.54 lakh

Individuals



Water, Sanitation & Health

Sustainable access to drinking water through Jal Jeevan Mission

Supporting the objectives of the Jal Jeevan Mission for the delivery of safe drinking water through piped water supply to every rural household in India. Samarthan actively engages in strengthening Gram Panchayats and community institutions to ensure community participation and ownership in this initiative.

To foster effective access to safe water and its sustainability, Samarthan conducts training programs and provides handholding support on the ground to the members of Village Water & Sanitation Committees (VWSC), elected representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI), and key officials at the block and district levels. These trainings empower the members to understand their roles and responsibilities in the operation and management of water facilities.

A local cadre of pump operators and Jal Mitras has been developed to support the efficient implementation and maintenance of distribution systems.

Water tariff collection is a crucial component of the mission to encourage community ownership and sustain service delivery. In order to promote accountability and transparency, water Tax Receipt for every household has been developed by Samarthan which is used by VWSC members. This helps in keeping track of tariff collection.

Samarthan facilitated the formulation of Village Action Plans (VAPs) to establish piped water supply systems and water source sustainability utilizing funds from the 15th Finance Commission, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). In villages where the scheme is already in place, VAPs are assessed to identify gaps and address issues related to inclusion, equity, water quality and quantity, grey water management, and ensuring source sustainability.

419

Village Action Plans

691

block and district level officials trained

12.6

Crores leveraged

120

Water techocrats

3076

VWSC members trained

896

PRI members trained

5.95cr

water tariff collected from 381 villages

Samarthan is also a Knowledge Resource Centre (KRC) for capacity building of community-level stakeholders and Implementing Support Agencies (ISAs) under the Jal Jeevan Mission in four districts in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. As a KRC, training and orientation were organised for 210 members of ISA, along with 220 VWSC member, PRI & SHG members and also 573 community cadre in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.



Community-Led Water Quality Monitoring for Safe Drinking Water



Radha, now a pump operator

“With the implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission, my daily routine has transformed. Instead of waking up at 4 a.m. to fetch water with my daughter, I now rise to fill the water tank, ensuring that the water supply begins at 5 am in Panjhariya village of Indore.

As a pump operator, I ensure there is no water wastage and every household receives an adequate water supply. Additionally, as a VWSC member, I collect water tariffs each month. I'm proud to say that in my village, 90 per cent of households are paying water tariffs, and the collective decision of the Gram Sabha provided a concession to 37 economically disadvantaged households. **Together, we are making a difference in ensuring access to clean water for all.**”

In Kanker district of Chhattisgarh, out of a total of 2871 water sources tested in 286 villages this year, 209 were found to be contaminated. These samples underwent confirmative testing and a sanitary survey to identify the type and source of contamination. Upon discovering the contaminated water sources, the community took action in 39 villages by constructing platforms and cleaning the surrounding areas, particularly around hand pumps, to prevent water contamination.

In two districts of Chhattisgarh, women community leaders underwent training to conduct water quality tests using the Field Testing Kit provided in the village. In another 10 districts of Chhattisgarh, Jal Bahini (women cadre) and VWSC members were trained on Water Quality Monitoring System (WQMS), who actively tested water sources in their village and took proactive measures to control water contamination.

As part of the comprehensive approach, Samarthan and UNICEF developed a Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance (WQMS) framework, which was subsequently adopted and implemented by the state as Jal Gunwatta Abhiyan (Water Quality Campaign). This framework focused on monitoring bacteriological contamination and remedial action in an ongoing manner. The goal was to establish monitoring and management protocols to address water quality concerns and safeguard the health of the communities.

To further strengthen the campaign, technical support has been provided to districts for preparing District Water Quality Monitoring Plans; a state-level workshop was organized for the District Water and Sanitation Mission (DWSM) Coordinators and chemists of 28 districts of Chhattisgarh.



A Fluoride Filter improved the health of Ramita Yadav

Ramita Yadav from Shamatra Gram Panchayat in Kanker district works as a labourer and practices farming. She had been experiencing severe pain in her hands and feet for years, despite undergoing treatment at a health centre. It was later discovered during village-level testing that she had a high level of fluoride in her urine.

To address this issue, Ramita was provided with a Fluoride Filter, allowing her to access fluoride-free water and food. As a result, her pain gradually reduced. Impacted by this positive change, she also joined the village-level Fluoride Filter Management Committee to contribute to the management and maintenance of the filter, further benefiting her community.

Integrated community-led fluoride mitigation in Kanker District

In Chhattisgarh, Kanker faces high fluoride content in groundwater, causing a condition called fluorosis due to excessive fluoride. To combat this, a collaborative approach engages the Panchayati Raj Institution, the Health Department, PHED, and the community. Actions encompass enhanced water quality monitoring, groundwater conservation, nutrition, household-level fluoride filters, and behaviour change.

Low-cost fluoride mitigation techniques like Chemo-Defluorination, Terracotta, and limestone processes are applied. These measures enhance safe drinking water access by countering fluoride contamination. Presently, close monitoring of 80 households in 2 villages reflects declining health issues, evident through urine tests.

₹12.6 Cr

leveraged by effective formulation of VAPs

419

Village Action Plans





Transforming Lives Through Sanitation and Hygiene Initiatives

Samarthan actively works with local communities to tackle persistent challenges related to sanitation and hygiene. Recognizing the need for action to promote comprehensive WASH, Samarthan has taken initiatives in rural areas of Kanker and Durg in Chhattisgarh, as well as Indore, Khandwa, Sehore, and Panna districts in Madhya Pradesh. The primary goal of these interventions is to improve public health, reduce waterborne diseases, and enhance the overall well-being of individuals and communities.

The efforts include the establishment of handwashing facilities in schools, anganwadis, hospitals, and the facilitation of low-cost hand-washing units at the household level. To demonstrate effective greywater management, the wastewater from these hand-washing units is recycled and used in kitchen gardens. Additionally, households that were not utilizing their toilets were provided with financial and technical support to repair and enhance their toilet facilities (introducing techniques of evapotranspiration, and bio-toilets) resulting in increased toilet usage.

IMPROVED WASH FACILITIES

2390

toilets repaired

1530

low-cost hand washing stations

1500+

Households practising Gray water management

330

Hand pumps and Tube Wells were cleaned and repaired

₹167_{Cr}

worth of village plans approved by Gram Sabha

₹75_{Lk}

of ₹3.38 Crore rupees leveraged through community contributions for construction & repair

197,050

individuals sensitized on Healthy Hygiene Behaviours

Improving Menstrual Health and Hygiene in Rural Areas

In the Rural areas of Durg, menstrual hygiene is a major concern for adolescent girls and women due to the use of unsanitary cloth and improper waste disposal. The interventions focused on adolescent girls by raising awareness of menstrual health and hygiene practices and providing training on effective waste disposal methods. This resulted in the construction of low-cost deep-burial pits for the safe disposal of menstrual waste, the adoption of sanitary pads, and improved physical and menstrual health.

Cloth pads are being promoted as a more sustainable and affordable alternative to disposable pads. Women are being trained in how to sew their own cloth pads, and the adoption rate is growing. This is because cloth pads are reusable, making them friendly for the environment and for women's wallets.

226

low-cost deep burial pits at household/village level

862

women trained on cloth pad stitching

12,930

cloth pads produced which are being used by women made



Adolescent girls breaking social barriers of menstrual hygiene

Shalini Kanwar, a student of 7th class of Government School, Parsahi village along with her classmates performed Nukkad Natak in the weekly haat of the village. We enjoyed doing the act and felt a sense of pride to openly talk about the menstrual cycle as a biological process in reproduction and the rights of women.

Such initiatives destigmatize menstruation, enabling them to have open conversations about such matters with their family, friends, and teachers.

The background features a stylized line-art illustration of two hands holding a globe. The hands are rendered with simple, thick lines, and the globe is depicted with a grid of latitude and longitude lines. The entire illustration is in a light blue color, matching the background. The text "Promoting Participatory Governance" is centered over the image.

Promoting Participatory Governance

Empowering Local institutions and community leaders

Samarthan is dedicated to strengthening local governance institutions by empowering Gram Panchayat representatives to perform their functions as well as capacitating the youth groups and self-help group members for demanding accountability and transparency as Gram Sabha members.

The intervention involved comprehensive training, meetings and handholding support on the ground to enhance the capacities of local institutions in Gram Panchayat in planning and monitoring basic services. Over the years, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Rural Development has promoted a planning framework for the Gram Sabha and Gram Panchayats to identify their priority needs, plan actions and utilise funds to achieve these through convergence of resources. Samarthan's grassroots workers engaged with communities and local governance institutions to develop quality Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDP) and such plans were uploaded to the e-Gram Swaraj platform for legitimate flow of funds.

Training and handholding support to the women leaders, who are known as Badlaw Didi, have resulted in integrated planning, including non-budgetary concerns such as scheme linkages, monitoring facilities for schools, anganwadis, and initiatives like an alcohol ban. The tracking and review of plans have been incorporated into the agenda of Village Organization (VO) meetings, ensuring the delivery of quality services as Badlaw Didi are the active leaders of SHGs or VOs. Long years of engagement of Samarthan in getting GPDP on the ground resulted in various requests from the district administration of many districts to train the block-level functionaries and GP representatives on the GPDP process

2381

Gram Panchayat representatives trained

811

GPDP prepared with 1903 budget, 3196 non-budgeted activities

1100

Women trained on local governance

32

Youth volunteers elected as sarpanch

56,558

Entitlement holders received benefits of schemes

Transforming Water Crisis as newly elected Sarpanch

MOYADA VILLAGE

Jaipal Solanki, concerned about drinking water shortages in Moyada village, took action. After being ignored by the Gram Panchayat on action on the water crisis, he decided to run for Sarpanch in the upcoming Panchayat elections. With strong community support, he won the election. As Sarpanch, Jaipal assessed water storage facilities, repaired 6 stop dams and 2 ponds.

He also identified suitable locations for new water storage structures and, with contributions from the community and his own funds, installed motors in the borewells. His efforts resolved the water shortage problem, and now he aims to improve cleanliness standards in the Gram Panchayat.

Study on responsiveness of MGNREGS during the Pandemic

A study was launched to assess the shock responsiveness of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and West Bengal during the COVID-19 pandemic. The study introduced the Women Participation Index (WPI), Gender Parity Index (GPI), and Shock Responsive Index (SRI) using the MGNREGS dashboard data to assess district-wise performance.

These indices helped classify the performance of various districts on the indices values. The findings provide useful analysis and directions to improve the implementation of the scheme for enhancing responsiveness towards women, children and the poor. About 900 women with children aged 6 or less were interviewed to capture barriers restricting their participation in the scheme



Bridging Information Gap through e-governance: Jan Darpan

Jan Darpan portal was launched in October 2020 with the aim to empower every rural citizen to input information, documenting reasons for denial or delay in accessing benefits from a range of the Union and the state Government's schemes. The portal's effectiveness lies in its ability to pool schemes of various departments onto a single platform. Citizens are empowered to register applications aimed at securing overdue or denied entitlements, which may have been hindered by factors such as the absence of crucial eligibility documents like Aadhar or caste certificates, inaccurate information including incorrect bank account details, age, or gender, as well as delays in realising entitlements.

Youth engagement has played a crucial role in the uptake of this portal by the rural communities of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. The local youth were provided with training on different portals to facilitate the coverage of villages for social entitlement benefits.

REGISTRATIONS FOR DIFFERENT SCHEMES

8692

Agriculture schemes

639

Land Entitlements

10037

Social security schemes

5952

Health-related schemes

384

Other schemes

4828

Registrations for labour cards

30530

Total registrations



Empowering local leaders in claiming forest rights

Samarthan undertook an initiative to empower local institutions and raise awareness about community forest resource rights in PESA (Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas) in Chhattisgarh. The intervention's aim is to design, develop, conduct and monitor capacity-building programs for resource persons and village-level functionaries on the claim and management process of community forest resource rights through a system developed for capacity building at scale.

Through training sessions for trainers and the establishment of a state-level helpline, the project aimed to improve understanding and knowledge among Forest Rights Committee (FRC) members. The helpline facilitated effective communication and served as a platform for backend support. This joint effort empowered local institutions, enhanced forest rights awareness, and strengthened the capacity of communities in PESA areas for sustainable forest resource management.

30

learning products developed and uploaded in the PDA portal

6784

FRC's members/SHG Women/etc. provided with knowledge support

2260

individuals supported through helpline for tasks such as tasks such as claiming benefits, seeking recognition



Reaching the unreached for COVID vaccination

Samarthan in its efforts to reach the unreached populations in Chhattisgarh, has implemented several innovative and tailor-made approaches to ensure comprehensive COVID-19 vaccination coverage. In a total of 2,032 villages of 12 districts, COVID-19 vaccine doses were administered resulting in increased vaccination coverage in the community.

A wide range of populations that were left out such as migrants, informal workers, industrial workers, tribals & PVTGs (Baiga, Kamar, Bhuijya, Amujhadiya), transgender, school dropout children, etc, also got covered.

440,000

Covid-19 vaccine doses administered

1,475,000

individuals informed about COVID Appropriate Behaviour and vaccination

6,718

Community Resource persons trained and engaged for community mobilization

2,032

Villages covered in 12 districts



A stylized graphic in a light blue color on a dark blue background. It depicts two hands, one on the left and one on the right, cupping a small plant. The plant has a central stem with two leaves at the top and a root system with several vertical lines extending downwards. The text 'Water and agriculture governance' is overlaid in white, centered horizontally and partially overlapping the plant's stem.

Water and agriculture governance

Boosting Agriculture with Climate-Resilient Structures

Enhancing water resources through planned watershed interventions is vital for improving water levels, controlling surface runoff, and enhancing soil quality, ultimately supporting sustainable agriculture. Recognizing this importance, a comprehensive intervention was implemented in 16 villages in Astha Block which encompassed the construction of a check dam, gabion and farm ponds in a watershed area. In addition to the focus on water structures, equal attention was devoted to community structures, fostering user groups that ensured sustainable and optimal utilization of the resources while ensuring accessibility for all.

An impact study showed substantial changes through these collective efforts- increased water storage capacity to 665000 cubic meters which directly benefited 2900 households through the construction of water augmentation structures. In lower elevation areas, well water levels rose by 40-50 cm, and the availability of bore well water extended by 30-40 days, supporting irrigation until January. All structures were registered in Gram Sabha records and handed over to panchayat user groups, promoting community ownership and sustainable resource management. Consequently, farmers were able to embrace horticultural crops, and fisheries and achieve greater crop yields, marking a significant positive impact on their agricultural endeavours.

The district administration of Sehore, Madhya Pradesh, has commended this intervention, conducting field visits to learn from and be inspired by its success.

2900

Households benefitted through the construction of water augmentation structures

665,000m³

improved water storage capacity

40-50cm

Rise in well water levels

30-40day

extended availability of well water



Check-Dam Expansion Spurs Increased Income

In 2018, a check dam was constructed in Kundiya Dhaga village of Astha block in Sehore, with a water storage capacity of 12,000 cubic meters. This significantly improved irrigation for the Rabi crop, prompting nearby farmers to switch from Gram to Wheat and utilize the check dam for irrigation twice. Looking at the potential of the structure, additional construction was done which led to an increased water storage capacity of 30,000 cubic meters.

As a result, farmers are now able to take 4-5 waterings for irrigation and have begun cultivating garlic and onion as horticultural crops. The additional construction has led to an increase in irrigated area by 12 hectares through a single check dam.

Preparing Panchayats to support agriculture and farm based livelihoods

Panchayats have not focussed on Agriculture as a priority despite it being the primary source of livelihood for village population. Samarthan's governance initiatives focused on promoting sustainable livelihoods and improved agriculture incomes by handholding Panchayats for improved Water, soil, moisture, and other natural Resource management. Encouraging Natural farming by farmers and NRM focussed Panchayat plans demonstrated improved agriculture incomes in Sehore, and Panna, a drought-prone district. Training programs have empowered women and youth as Change Agents who are proficient in preparing organic pesticides, pest repellents, organic manure, and vermicomposting. These bio- resources are provided to farmers at a low cost.

Additionally, it has been observed that land division within rural households is hindered by lengthy procedures and associated costs. This, in turn, renders many farmers ineligible for Government schemes and benefits. Therefore, such farmers were supported to file applications for mutation of land titles providing legal guidance and dealing with queries raised by the revenue department.

Samarthan also empowered newly elected Gram Panchayat members in resolving land entitlement cases, or include water structures, in their annual plan.

450

farmers adopted natural farming

699

land entitlements received

639

farmers linked to various schemes

300

PRI members engaged in agricultural governance

A consultation was organized by Samarthan and Parmarth, wherein 54 participants from 12 districts participated including farmers, members of farmers organizations, FPOs and SHG, along with representatives from NGOs and experts. The discussion revolved around the issues faced by the farmers due to climate change, government policies and community practices.



Govind Mandal leverages natural farming techniques

UDKI VILLAGE, PANNA

Govind Mandal, a farmer from Udki village in Panna, Madhya Pradesh, shared his transformational journey by adopting natural farming methods. Previously working as a rickshaw puller, Govind leased 5 acres of land and now earns around Rs 4 lakh annually through natural farming practices and integrated animal husbandry.

In 2016-17, with guidance from Samarthan's Panna team, he leveraged MGNREGS and constructed a farm pond (approx. 5,000 sq/ft). He was further linked with the Krishi Vigyan Kendra and district Fisheries department for knowledge and financial assistance. The family planted fruit trees and received training on bio-fertilizers and vermicompost. Their hard work led to high demand for their produce, reduced input costs, and impressive yields of organic crops and income from fishery. Govind aims to promote natural farming and tree plantation. He says that "to achieve this, there is a need to promote natural farming among small and marginal farmers, encourage mass production of natural fertilizers and pest repellents from locally available resources, and establish effective market linkages for selling chemical-free produce at higher prices."

Creating Social Return on Investment through Improved Healthcare

The COVID-19 pandemic brought to light the existing gaps in India's rural health system, including poor coordination between the community, Gram Panchayats and health institutions. In response to these challenges, our initiatives were designed to empower community institutions and strengthen the public health system.

Taking a participatory approach, the field team facilitated collaboration between community members and healthcare providers to enhance the quality and management of healthcare services. This approach ensures that the healthcare system is responsive to the specific needs and priorities of the community, ultimately leading to improved health outcomes and overall well-being. In 75 project villages, Samarthan's trained professionals provided capacity-building training to community members, including Gram Panchayat Representatives, members of the Village Health & Nutrition Committee, and members of Jeevan Deep Samiti. This training focused on efficient planning, implementation, and monitoring of healthcare services.

As a result, participatory health action plans were developed and implemented in 16 Primary Health Centers (PHCs). This led to the timely availability of medicines, the construction of toilets, handwashing facilities, and other essential infrastructure, such as ventilators and delivery rooms. The improvements made in these PHCs instilled confidence among the community regarding the use of government facilities, thereby reducing travel, logistics, and other associated costs.

198

trained Jeevan Deep Samiti members facilitated planning and improving facilities in 16

16

PHCs prepared health plans worth Rs 42 Lakhs

5500

trained Gram Panchayat committee members incorporated activities of health and WASH facilities worth Rs 3.57 Crores

5498

individuals from marginalized communities linked to health benefits schemes

21.5%

patients showed increased preference for government healthcare facilities

Responding to agricultural issues through district-level forums

To address the diverse agricultural challenges across regions, district-level Civil Society Organization (CSO) forums were established in five districts each in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. These forums have been sensitized on analysis of the union and state budgets with the technical support of the Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability (CBGA). Additionally, field-based studies have been conducted on state flagship schemes such as e-Uparjan in Madhya Pradesh and Godhan Nyay Yojana in Chhattisgarh.

A total of eight district-level consultations were held in Panna, Sehore, Raisen, and Umaria in Madhya Pradesh and Kanker, Surguja, Rajnandgaon, and Durg in Chhattisgarh. Furthermore, state-level consultations took place in both states. These consultations served as platforms for discussing the aforementioned issues, involving a total of 374 participants, including leaders of Farmer Organizations, farmers, area experts, representatives from non-governmental organizations (NGOs), self-help group (SHG) members, and department functionaries.

The functional CSO platform at the district level has played a significant role in bringing about positive changes. Here are some examples:

- Farmers in the Sehore district faced challenges related to delayed payment for their wheat produce and unjust deductions from their accounts as loan repayments. The CSO forum took action by submitting a memorandum to the district administration, highlighting these issues. The CSO's efforts yielded positive results, as within just three days, 80 farmers received a total of 1.25 crores as payment for their wheat sales.
- In the aftermath of heavy rainfall causing crop failures during the Kharif season of 2022, the CSO platform of Raisen district took up the issue with the District Administration. This led to a widespread movement and subsequent surveys of farmlands in October 2022. As a result, a total of 11,221 farmers across 248 villages received compensation amounting to 17.94 Crores for their crop losses.

These instances highlight the impactful contributions made by the CSO platform in addressing local issues and bringing positive change at the district level.

CSR Initiatives for integrated development

Rural Development through a multi-sectoral focus

SBI FOUNDATION

Samarthan is actively involved in implementing integrated rural development initiatives that prioritize community participation for holistic development. In the Kanker district, the focus is on empowering the rural communities by addressing their diverse needs and development challenges. This comprehensive approach includes education, healthcare, livelihood, basic facilities, and the environment, contributing to the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat and sustainable growth.

Improving WASH services

With the project interventions 80 excluded households were linked to piped water supply. Additionally, 46 toilets were repaired which led to 900 out of 1047 households (85%) using toilets in 5 villages. About 500 households received technical support for grey-water management and seeds were distributed to set up nutrition gardens.

Establishing Gram Sewa Kendra

In the village of Khamdodgi, Deepika Vati earns her livelihood by working as a labourer, and her husband is also dependent on both farming and labour work. Through the Gram Sewa Kendra, Deepika Vati's labour registration was done. During this time, Deepika was pregnant, based on which the Labor Department provided her twenty thousand rupees under the Unorganized Worker Maternity Assistance Scheme. In this way, a total of 80 pregnant women have been identified in 05 villages in one year, for availing benefits of maternity schemes

Through a comparative study between the village with remedial classes and another village, significant improvements have been achieved. In the intervening villages, students scored an average of 71.11% in Hindi, 71.67% in Mathematics, 47.78% in English, and 78.33% in Environment. In comparison, students from the other village scored an average of 43.00% in Hindi, 60.00% in Mathematics, 31.67% in English, and 46.67% in Environment.

Improving Quality of Education

Smart classrooms, a science lab, and remedial classes improve learning methods. 15 SBI Ojas Scholarships were awarded to support rural talent, enabling athletes like Ravi Kumar Kavde, who utilized the scholarship and went to play in National Level Kabbaddi events.



Increase in Vegetable Production through MACHAN VIDHI

Traditional methods were used for vegetable production, and to increase yields, the MACHAN VIDHI technique was employed by 80 farmers. Each household planted vegetables in an area of 300 square feet i.e. a total of 24,000 square feet. Consequently, a total income of Rs. 760,000 was generated for these families.

Improving health services access

Healthcare accessibility is improved through a medical van that is well-equipped and has several experts to organise health camps in different villages. Over 900 individuals received treatment through mobile medical vans, 1500 through health camps and 2 Health & Wellness Centers saving community costs in private health services.

Increase in Family Income through Fish Farming

Fish farming was implemented in 39 farm ponds. Farmers were provided with training and seed support. As a result, a total production of 4,125 kilograms of fish has been achieved by 39 farmers. This has led to an almost doubling of income from Rs. 420,000 in the last year to Rs. 825,000 in the current year.

In HWC Makhadikhuna, before the upgrade of facilities and services, institutional deliveries were not taking place and 232 patients were attended per month. As a result of support, attendance increased to 470 per month from April 2022 to March 2023. Moreover, almost three institutional deliveries are supported each month.

Participatory Irrigation Management

Since 2015, an integrated irrigation system from the Khamdhodgi dam has been operational which was discontinued in 2021 due to failure of the water pumping motor and ineffective management system. A new motor was supplied from the project funds, accompanied by farmer training to establish a community-based management system. Each farmer contributed 700 rupees per acre annually, totalling 28,000 in the management fund. This year, the irrigation system could irrigate 40 acres of land that contributed to the production of 450 quintals of rice, valued at INR 810,000. About 200 farmers were trained to adopt the System of Rice Intensification, resulting in increased income and decreased input costs.

Establishing custard apple processing unit

In Khamdhodgi village, a women's Sitaphal (custard apple) processing unit initially faced resource and technical challenges in procuring, storing, and managing fruit pulp. The Self-Help Group was given a processing unit and a freezer for Sitaphal pulp storage. Over 9 quintals of pulp were processed and stored, compared to 5 quintals last year, which led to an increase in net income by Rs 88,000 by the SHG.



Improving WASH facilities for better health

LIC FOUNDATION

Sector specific approach was adopted to improve health of the community by improving health facilities. The initiative is being implemented in 5 villages of Patan Block, Durg covering 1600 families.

100 %

of families now use toilets through retrofitting under the SBM scheme

₹1.54Lk

contributed by the community.

1000

families contributed Rs 1.50 lakh to establish a kitchen garden using wastewater

5282

individuals are linked with the Ayushman Card

4795

individuals supported with Labor registration for health care benefits

250

women were trained in plumbing, electrician, and masonry, gaining skills to support WASH initiatives for improved livelihoods

₹300-350

per day earned as compared to ₹150 as manual labour.

900

women and adolescents were trained in Cloth Pad Sewing

13,000

cloth pads produced and being used in this year



Organisational transparency and accountability

BANKERS AND AUDITORS DETAILS

Name of Banks	Statutory Auditor	Internal Auditor	Management Consultant
State Bank of India ICICI Bank Ltd HDFC Bank Ltd Axis Bank Kotak Mahindra Bank YES Bank	M/s AKB Jain & Co. Chartered Accountants E - 2/316, Arera Colony Bhopal - 462016	B R I S K A & Associates Chartered Accountants E-7/574, Opposite 1100 Quarters, Arera Colony Bhopal - 462016	CA Arun Mehrotra Chartered Accounts Bhopal

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS OF FINANCIAL YEAR 2022-2023

Particulars	Financial Year 2022-2023		Financial Year 2021-2022	
	INR	%	INR	%
Income				
Indian Sources	5,74,87,641	49%	43,265,008	51%
Foreign Sources	5,45,44,880	46%	35,928,270	42%
Bank Interest	58,76,254	5%	5,982,913	7%
Total	11,79,08,775	100%	8,51,76,191	100%
Expenditure				
Indian Sources	59,121,414	53%	45,786,209	56%
Foreign Sources	53,297,473	47%	36,171,164	44%
Excess income over expenditure	54,89,888	5%	32,18,818	4%
Total	11,79,08,775	100%	8,51,76,191	100%

STAFF PROFILE

Remuneration slabs (INR/Month)	Numbers
15001-20000	18
20001-30000	23
30001- 40000	15
40001-50000	07
50001 and above	08
Village level Volunteers	82
Total	153

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

5th February, 2023	Members Present - 8
26th September, 2022	Members Present - 6

MAJOR FUNDING PARTNERS

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Deutsche Welthungerhilfe (WHH)

Deutsche Gesellschaft for International Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

Johns Hopkins University Affiliate (Jhpiego)

John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc. (JSI)

Water aid America, United States of America

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Chhattisgarh State Aids Control Society (CG-SACS)

Jal Jeevan Mission (KRC)

Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board (MPTB)

INDIAN ORGANISATIONS

Jal Seva Charitable Foundation, New Delhi

Transforming Rural India Foundation, New Delhi (TRIF)

UN INSTITUTIONS

International Labour Organisation (ILO)

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

CSR AGENCIES

ENKING International

LIC housing Finance Limited (LIC HFL)

SBI Foundation

Board of Trustees

PROF. AMITABH KUNDU, CHAIRPERSON

Prof. Amitabh Kundu is an eminent social scientist and former professor at Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi and a visiting faculty at several international universities. Dr Kundu recently chaired a Committee to establish the State Statistical Commission in MP. He is also chairing the Committee for overseeing the survey for Swachh Bharat Mission (Rural), set up by the Ministry of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Government of India. He chaired the post-Sachar Evaluation Committee, set up by the Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India.

DR. RAJESH TANDON, TRUSTEE

Dr. Rajesh Tandon is the President of PRIA and is internationally known for his contribution to participatory research. The Chairperson of many international committees, as well as, of the advisory committees of the Government of India, he is currently the Chairperson of UNESCO in community-based research and social responsibility in higher education. Dr. Tandon serves as chairperson of the Global Alliance on Community-Engaged Research (GACER) network, which facilitates the sharing of knowledge and information worldwide to further community-based research.

MR. ASHOK SINGH, TREASURER

Mr. Ashok Singh is the Executive Director of SSK (Sahbhagi Shikshan Kendra), Lucknow, a state-level support organisation specialising in participatory training. He is the executive committee member of VANI, a network of NGOs and serves as a member on various committees set up by the Government of U.P.

MR. S.K MISRA, TRUSTEE

Mr. S.K Misra served as the Chief Secretary of the Government of Chhattisgarh. Later, he worked as Chairman of the CG Electricity Board and CG State Administrative Reform Commission. Mr. Misra was also an Advisor of Chhattisgarh's Second State Finance Commission.

DR. ABHAY KUMAR PANDEY, TRUSTEE

Dr. Abhay Kumar Pandey is currently a Professor at the Government Model College, Umaria. He was the Director of the MP Social Audit Society, a semi-autonomous body set up by the Government of MP. Dr. Abhay Pandey was the founder of Lok Shakti, a large-scale Non-Governmental Organisation, which served the tribal communities of Chhattisgarh.

MS. BANASHREE BANERJEE, TRUSTEE

Ms. Banashree Banerjee is an Urban Planner. She has been a consultant on urban poverty reduction projects in India, Egypt and Bangladesh. The focus of her work has been inclusive and participatory approaches to urban planning and management.

MR. A.K SURANA, TRUSTEE

Mr. Surana is a Chartered Accountant and Senior Fellow Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India. He has extensive experience in reviewing re-structuring and developing financial management systems and accounting practices, budgeting, expenditure control, procurement procedure, finance, accounting, audit, company law and taxation matters for a host of projects and organisations in corporate and non-corporate entities in Government, Public and Private Sector.

DR. RAJENDRA KUMAR GUPTA, TRUSTEE

Dr. Gupta, former Professor at Management Development Institute (MDI), Gurgaon and IIM, Lucknow, is an eminent expert on Organisational Behaviour. He is a serving member on various boards of the Public Sector Companies.

DR. MADHU VERMA, TRUSTEE

Dr. Madhu Verma is a former professor of Environment and Developmental Economics at the Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal. She has done seminal work in the area of environmental cost-benefit analysis of various development programmes. She did her post-Doctoral research work at the University of California (Berkeley) and the University of Massachusetts (Amherst), USA.

DR. YOGESH KUMAR, TRUSTEE AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr. Yogesh Kumar, a doctorate in development economics, has worked for several years to promote community participation and civil society capacity building initiatives. He specialises in participatory planning, monitoring and evaluation.



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Centre for Development Support



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