



संवाद
SAMVAD

Expression of Ethos & Ideology

SAMVAD

ANNUAL REPORT

2023-24



The Secretary's Note

Dear Members, Partners and Stakeholders !

As we reflect on another remarkable year at SAMVAD, it fills me with immense pride to acknowledge the significant strides we have made in empowering our communities, particularly women, Adivaasi and other marginalized groups of Jharkhand. Our commitment to promote Self Governance, Self Reliance and Self Esteem through people's education, sustainable livelihoods, and social justice remains steadfast, and this year, we have witnessed tangible progress in various initiatives.

Throughout the year, our team has worked diligently to bridge gaps within the community by implementing programs designed to increase participation among underserved communities. Our efforts have been focused on promoting an environment of inclusivity and empowerment, where every individual can access the resources they need to thrive.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated team, community members and partners for their unwavering support and collaboration. Your commitment to our shared mission is invaluable, and it is this collective effort that propels us forward.

Looking ahead, we remain focused on our goal of creating a just and equitable society. Together, we will continue our efforts and raise our voice for the constitutional values and rights of the marginalized, empower women, and work towards sustainable development.

Thanks for your continuous support and belief in our vision.



Ghanshyam, Secretary
SAMVAD

At a glance Summary

SAMVAD has achieved significant milestones in community empowerment and development, reaching 188,692 individuals and out of these 26734 are direct beneficiaries. Through sustained efforts, SAMVAD facilitated access to government schemes and services, with notable achievements, the women's participation in Gram Sabhas, now at 53%, has strengthened the implementation of PESA, fostering inclusive governance. Additionally, its initiatives to preserve indigenous cultural heritage and promote climate justice have been instrumental in promoting sustainable development.

SAMVAD also strengthened grassroots democracy by forming 758 Gram Sabhas, establishing 518 Gram Sabha Secretariats, and creating 2,495 Gram Sabha Standing Committees. Furthermore, 297 Village Development Plans (VDPs) were conducted, ensuring the alignment of development initiatives with community needs.

SAMVAD's work in the Financial Year 2023-24 supporting the community as direct beneficiaries (26734) has resulted- 55.6% of the population benefiting from MGNREGA, 20.3% receiving Ayushman Cards, and 6.4% availing housing benefits under PM Awas/Abua Awas Yojna. Additional support extended to drought relief (7.8%), pensions for the elderly, widows, and differently-abled individuals (6.3%), and ration cards (2.6%).

Not only social securities but infrastructure development efforts have improved community living standards with the construction of 54 community wells, 6 Dobhas, 11 Jalminars, 34 ponds, 16 link roads, 33 hand-pumps, and 49 toilets. These initiatives enhanced access to water, sanitation, and mobility, contributing to better quality of life.

These accomplishments reflect SAMVAD's commitment to empowering communities, upholding self-reliance, and building a more equitable and sustainable future. Through collaboration and community mobilization, SAMVAD continues to drive transformative change in its intervention areas.

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About SAMVAD

SAMVAD is a dynamic initiative reflecting the socio-economic and cultural ethos of the Indigenous people of Jharkhand. Founded on the principles of *Indigenocracy* and *Indigeneity*, SAMVAD is committed to ensuring equal and active participation of women and marginalized communities across Jharkhand. At its core, SAMVAD strives to empower self-governance (*Swashasan*), self-reliance (*Swawlamban*), and uphold self-dignity (*Swabhimaan*). With a focus on enhancing livelihoods (*Aajivika*), safeguarding freedoms (*Aazadi*), and promoting a joyful (*Anand*) existence, SAMVAD also prioritizes the conservation of natural and cultural heritage.

Founded in *March 2001* by a coalition of social activists, cultural advocates, and intellectuals, SAMVAD emerged in response to the challenges faced by Jharkhand's Indigenous identity. When Jharkhand was created from Bihar on November 15, 2000, there was widespread hope among its people that their centuries-old traditions and practices would gain recognition, and they would have a voice in governance. However, these hopes were soon tempered by the reality of unmet aspirations.

SAMVAD was established to empower Indigenous communities, Dalits, women, and minorities to reclaim their identity, advocate for their rights, and participate actively in governance. Through its vision and approach, SAMVAD continues to raise awareness about legal and constitutional rights, mobilizing communities to protect their heritage and shape a dignified future.

Vision

SAMVAD envisions a society where harmony between people and nature encourages the preservation of Indigenous social values and the creation of sustainable livelihoods. This vision seeks to establish a community-centered society rooted in collective responsibility, labor, and egalitarianism, embracing diversity and respecting human differences. Such a society embodies the principles of Indigenocracy.

Mission

SAMVAD strives to build a self-reliant, dignified society rooted in women's empowerment, social justice, gender equity, a labor-centered worldview, and self-governance. It is dedicated to strengthening the communal lifestyle of Indigenous and marginalized communities. Through this commitment, SAMVAD actively works to empower Gram Sabhas and traditional governance structures within Adivasi, Dalit, minority, and impoverished communities. SAMVAD ensures equitable representation and active participation of both women and men in community decision-making and development processes.

Objective

- To promote and strengthen Self-Rule through Empowerment of women.
- To strengthen Gram Sabha and People's Organizations with 50% participation of women.
- Promotion of Women Farmers Groups in Jharkhand
- Empowerment of adolescent girls
- To empower indigenous skills and technology for promoting sustainable livelihood and resilient development
- To promote Indegenopathy and provide basic health facilities.
- To sensitize & capacitate youth and Community leaders for disaster management.
- To capacitate youth for Gender Sensitivity, Social Justice and Communal harmony
- To preserve & rejuvenate Indigenous Art & Culture from de-culturisation
- To develop a training and resource center for documenting and promoting regional Art, Culture and Crafts
- To develop Audio-Visual materials for awareness of the people
- To promote Networks with like-minded groups and individual for policy centered Advocacy
- To promote Child Rights for joyful life of children.

Our Strategies

- Alliance building with like-minded groups and promote network for social transformation.
- Public policy analysis, discourse and dissemination.
- Resource material collection, compilation and dissemination for awareness generation.
- Promotion and strengthening of CBOs and youth groups
- Empowering women through collectivization.
- Developing potential human resource base.
- Capacity building for sustainable livelihood.
- Promote development models to encourage sustainable livelihood.
- To build Women Farmer Organization, Farmers Organizations & Migrant labors Organization for promoting micro entrepreneurship & inclusive development.

Our Primary Focus Areas

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

Board of Trustees



**Chairperson,
Dr. Rose Kerketta**

A former Professor of Ranchi University and noted social activist on Women's Development issues. A Ph.D. in Hindi has been teacher by profession and has written several articles on women's issue. Dr. Kerkatta has been awarded Maharani Durgawati award by the Government of Madhya Pradesh in 2008 for her active participation in conservation and promotion of Adivasi literature. She is active in organizing and educating women groups on the tribal issues. Presently she is Coordinator of National Alliance of Women Organizations (NAWO) of the Jharkhand chapter.

A noted Environmentalist and Social Scientist and a prominent Social Worker engaged in spreading awareness among the rural masses, particularly Adivasis, minorities and women folk. He actively participated in J. P. movement in 1974 and was an active member of the Chhatra Yuva Sangharsh Vahini from 1975 to 1984. He was Special Correspondent of Jansatta newspaper, New Delhi 1988-93. In recognition of his social concern, and active participation in spreading the message of socialism, he was awarded the "Lok Nayak Jayaparakash Narayan National Award" by the Maniklalji Balkishan Dasji Gandhi Charitable Trust at Nagpur in 2003, presented by the late Dr. Baba Amte.



**Mr. Ghanshyam,
Secretary**



**Mr. Shekhar,
Treasurer**

A cultural activist and artist, who has given a new dimension to 'Manjusha' painting of Bhagalpur region in Bihar, He is one of the leading documentary film makers of Jharkhand and has many educational, cultural and socio economic based documentary films to his credit. His paintings have essence of Jharkhandi Culture. There are anomalies of modern development shown in his Painting. He provides space to the Indigenous art traditions of Jharkhand. Ancient rock paintings have been found in Jharkhand, the style of which has been used creatively in his painting. His painting also underlies the relation between mathematics and art. Mr. Shekhar has written a book on Manjusha Art, a folk painting in Bhagalpur area.

Board of Trustees



**Ms. Poonam Ranjan,
Trustee**

She has got activism and social concern as a legacy from her family. She is a well-known social worker and leading various social organizations to fight against social inequality and women's issues in Patna, since 1997. She has been active in various social movements in Bihar.

A noted social scientist and trainer. A post graduate and graduate in law with Bachelor of Law degree holder had taken active part in campaign against communalism during 1989 riots in Bhagalpur, Bihar. He has written many songs and dramas during working with Massey Award winner Mr. Gaur Kishore Ghosh. He is one of the founder member of Paridhi, a society for social action at Bhagalpur, and organized Bihar Lok Adhikaar Munch to campaign for Child Rights. He is holding the post of Managing Trustee of EFRE. He has been continuously participating as member of the Executive Committee of NAFRE in their campaign for Common School System and other People's movements.



**Mr. Uday
Trustee**



**Ms. Cordula Kujur
Trustee**

She is a well-known social and cultural worker and leading various social organizations to fight against social inequality and women's issues in Jharkhand. She has been active in various social movements in Jharkhand. She is closely associated with 'Akhra', Ranchi and Netrahat Movement.

She is a well-known social Activist and has been active against social inequality and women's issues in Jharkhand for a long time through various social organizations and institutions.

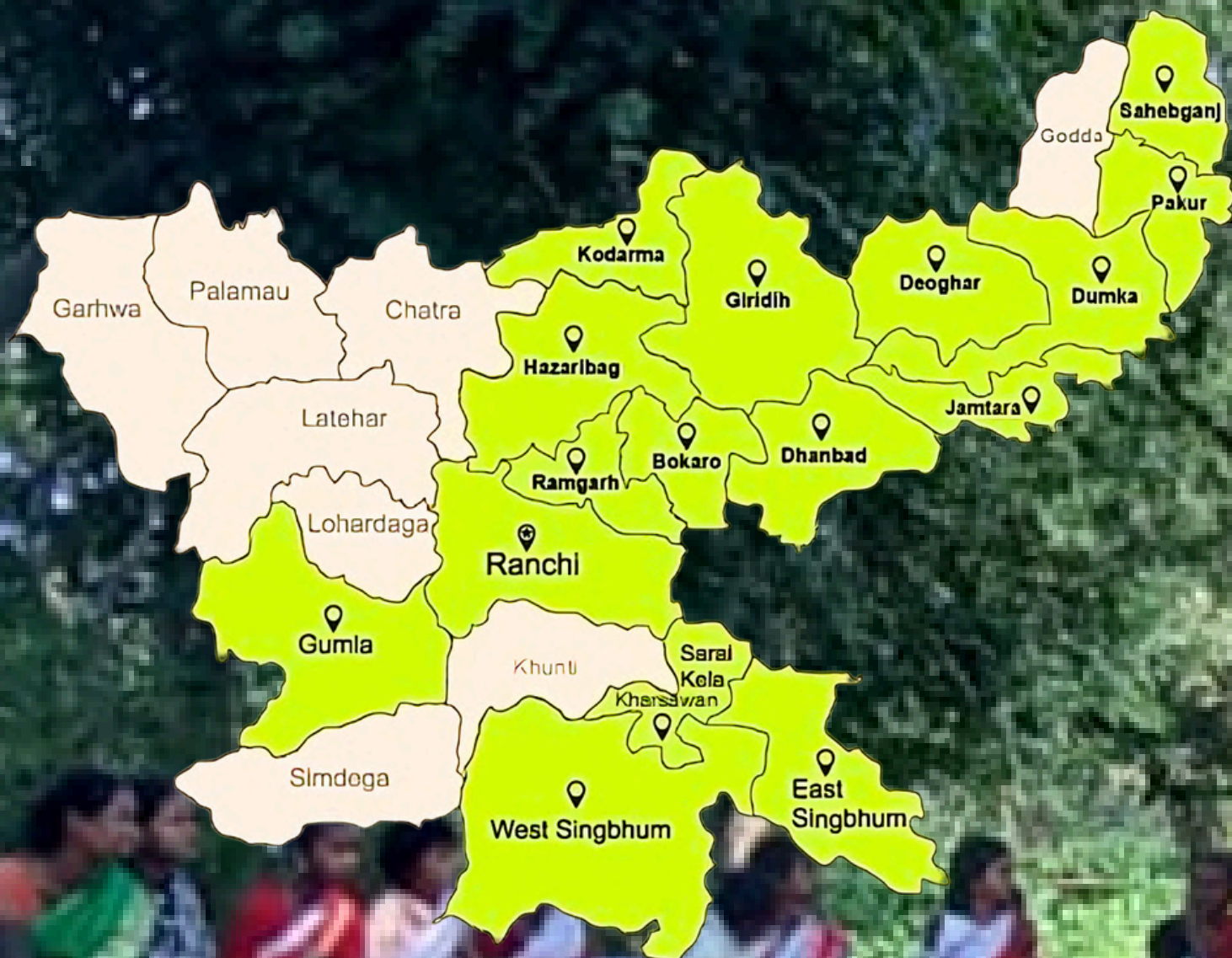


**Ms. Sabiha Naaz
Trustee**

Legal Entity

Organization Name	SAMVAD
Registration	Under Trust Registration Act' 1882 No. IV 278/2001/Ranchi Reg. Date: 21.03.2001
FCRA No.	337800125 on 24 May 2004 Renewal Date 16 March 2022
12A Registration	Registered under Income Tax Act 1961, 12A-VII-48/12A/03-04 on 18 June 2004 Renewal No. AADTS7279QE20038 Date : 24.09.2021 From : A.Y. 2022-23 To : A.Y. 26-27
80G Registration	AADTS7279Q23PT01 Date : 18-07-2023 From : 18-07-2023 To : A.Y. : 2026-27
PAN No.	AADTS7279Q Date : 21.03.2001
TAN No.	RCHS03187C Date : 24-09-2010
EPF No.	JH/RNC/32288 Date : 03/02/2011
NGO Darpan	Registered online under NGO Darpan of NITI Ayog, JH/2017/0167751
Head Office Address	Samvad, Urmila Enclave, 301/A Peace Road, Lalpur, Ranchi-834001 Jharkhand, INDIA Phone No. : 0651-2530356
Extension Office Address	Samvad, 52 Bigha, Madhupur – 815353, Deoghar
APF Project Office	Samvad, Dumka Road, Near Hero Showroom opposite side, Jamtara-814166
Email	sarjomsamvad@gmail.com
Website	www.samvad.net

Our Intervention Areas



 Districts, where SAMVAD Works

Our Ongoing Programs and Projects



Grant Partner: BFTW, Germany

Project Name : Intensifying Indigenocracy for strengthening grass root democracy, promoting agro-ecology along with gender equality and preventive health initiatives in Jharkhand

Grant Partner: OAK Foundation, London (UK)

Project Name : Deepening grass root democracy and combating poverty among the poor and marginalized communities for establishment of Indigenocracy in Jharkhand state, India.



Grant Partner: IM-Individuell Människohjälp Swedish Development Partner (Sweden)

Project Name : Deepening Indiginocracy and Indigeneity through strengthening Gram Sabha and improving livelihood in Jharkhand.

Grant Partner: Azim Premji Foundation (APF)

Project Name : Strengthening the components of local democracy to improve health outcomes for the poor and vulnerable in Fatehpur block in Jamtara District of Jharkhand.



Our Newly Launched Programs and Projects



Grant Partner: Azim Premji Foundation (APF)

Program Name : Samvidhan Saathi Fellowship Program,

Supporting 20 fellows to build perspective on constitutional values, while working on local issues like land, forest rights, local governance and gender for building a value-based society and culture in Deoghar and Jamtara district, Jharkhand

Grant Partner: SBI Foundation

Project Name : SBI Gram Saksham Project for improving access to irrigation facilities through water conservation initiatives in Jamtara District of Jharkhand



Gram Sabha: An Approach for Deepening Democracy

The Gram Sabha, or village assembly, is composed of all adult members (18 years and above) of a village. Under the Panchayati Raj Act, particularly in states like Jharkhand, which fall under the Fifth Schedule, the Gram Sabha is vested with significant powers and responsibilities to the people. These powers enable it to oversee and monitor the activities of the Panchayat, ensuring effective governance that aligns with community interests.



Gram Sabha meetings serve as an important platform for rural residents, including the poor, women, and marginalized groups, to actively engage in decision-making processes on issues directly affecting their lives. The decisions made within the Gram Sabha are binding, and no other authority can overturn them. The power to modify or annul a decision rests solely with the Gram Sabha, granting it autonomy and strengthening local governance. This empowerment allows villagers to take an active role in shaping their community's future.

SAMVAD has made significant strides in operationalizing Gram Sabha principles. A total of 518 Gram Sabha Secretariats have been established, with 477 actively functioning, and 2495 standing committees formed across villages. These committees are working diligently, with women making up 53% of their membership, ensuring gender balance in governance. Their efforts have led to numerous positive outcomes, such as:

- Timely immunizations, improving health outcomes and reducing emerging health issues.
- Consistent teacher attendance, enhancing the quality of education.
- Drought relief support, with the Agriculture Committee securing financial aid to the farmers.
- Resolution of a local issue, where the Education Committee addressed a teacher's tardiness and dishonesty towards their accountability.

Through these initiatives, Gram Sabha Secretariats and standing committees continue to strengthen village governance, promote accountability, and address community needs effectively.

Gram Sabha Federation: An Initiative to Strengthening the Grassroots Democracy

The Jharkhand Gram Sabha Federation (J.G.S.F.), established in 2016 and active across the state since 19th August 2016, envisions a society that is community-oriented and self-reliant, founded on principles of equality, justice, gender equity, democracy, fraternity, and ecological balance. Its mission is to empower Gram Sabhas (traditional village councils) by promoting communication, dialogue, and coordination, alongside fostering environmental sustainability and community development.

The Federation's goal is to unify Gram Sabhas across Jharkhand and to sensitize their representatives about their rights and responsibilities.

Through activities such as meetings, training programs, and conferences at block, regional, and state levels, J.G.S.F. facilitates public dialogue and strengthens the capacities of Gram Sabhas. Its operations are organized through a comprehensive five-tier structure, encompassing Panchayat, Block, District, Regional, and State levels, ensuring robust grassroots participation and governance. Till date, eight regional-level meetings have been conducted by the Regional Gram Sabha Federations with two key objectives:

1. Highlighting the Critical Issues

These meetings have addressed pressing concerns, resulting in the submission of memorandums to the State Chief Minister. The memorandums highlight the following demands:

- Increasing MGNREGA provisions to 200 working days per year, raising daily wages to ₹400, and ensuring weekly wage payments.
- Allocating 10 kg of grain per person under the Public Distribution System (PDS).
- Waiving farmers' loans, including accrued interest.
- Accelerating implementation of the Chief Minister Livestock Scheme and the Birsa Bagvani Scheme.
- Providing irrigation and drinking water wells and arranging fodder for drought-affected villages.
- Establishing safe and regulated migration practices.

2. Strengthening the Implementation of PESA

The meetings emphasized the urgent need for proper implementation of the Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act (PESA), as per the Jharkhand Panchayat Raj Act (JPRA). Regional Gram Sabha Federations reviewed and proposed corrections to the draft PESA rules. The State-Level Federation subsequently submitted these recommendations to the government and uploaded suggestions on government platforms.

Also, the Government of Jharkhand released the revised PESA rules for public review. However, the final approval of these rules by the Jharkhand State Assembly remains pending, delaying their full implementation.



SAMVAD's Impact in Strengthening Health Conscious Livelihood Practices Across Jharkhand



SAMVAD has made significant strides in strengthening climate-resilient, health-conscious livelihoods across 250 villages in Jharkhand, with a focus on sustainable farming practices. By the end of FY 2023-24, over 4,000 farmers had adopted agroecological farming methods, with 50% of participants being women. This achievement underscores the growing participation of women in climate-resilient agriculture, helping to foster gender-inclusive development.

In August 2023, SAMVAD organized training camps on agroecology and climate-resilient livelihoods, involving 175 Green Club. The camps attracted a total of 1,311 participants, including 836 women and 475 men. These training sessions not only equipped individuals with knowledge on sustainable agricultural practices but also empowered them to adapt changing climate conditions.

To further promote health-conscious livelihoods, SAMVAD has printed and disseminated IEC (Information, Education, and Communication) materials on agroecology, climate resilience, and emerging issues, ensuring that vital knowledge reaches a broader audience.

Another key milestone was the organization of the Annual Farmers Meet on August 28-29, 2023, at Naiyadih village in Madhupur block, Deoghar district. The event saw 152 participants (50 women and 102 men), serving as an important platform for showcasing agroecological practices and engaging the community in climate-conscious agricultural development.

Through these initiatives, SAMVAD is playing a pivotal role in promoting climate-resilient livelihoods, empowering farmers with the tools and knowledge needed to sustain their health, well-being, and the environment for generations to come.

Highlights

Women Farmers Organization: An Initiative to Empower Women through Sustainable Agricultural Practices.

SAMVAD has taken a significant step towards promoting sustainable livelihoods and the inclusion of women in agriculture by establishing the Women Farmers Organization (WFO) across 16 Panchayats. This initiative has successfully brought together 1,646 women farmers from 140 villages, creating a platform where women can raise their voices and advocate for the recognition of their role as farmers. The WFO has become a powerful space for empowerment, liaising, and collective action.



Through the efforts of the WFO, women farmers have made notable progress in adopting traditional organic farming methods, engaging in collective farming, and participating in cattle rearing. Awareness sessions and meetings have enhanced their understanding of women's rights and entitlements, empowering them to advocate for joint property rights (Joint Patta) within their families.

SAMVAD has also supported women in diversifying their income sources by promoting both on-farm and off-farm activities. These include producing and selling dona-pattal (leaf plates), honey, and forest products, as well as running small enterprises such as grocery shops and tea stalls.

The initiative has further strengthened its impact by establishing demonstration centers and promoting integrated and organic farming practices. As a result, an increasing number of women have started adopting traditional farming techniques on their own lands. Exposure visits to successful model farms and agricultural hubs like KVK have provided valuable knowledge and skills, enriching the women's farming practices.

This initiative highlights SAMVAD's continued commitment to gender equality, economic empowerment, and sustainable agricultural practices, benefiting not only the women farmers involved but their entire communities as well.

Mahila Kisan Sangathan

“**Jharkhand**” a state with a rich tapestry of tribal communities and a long history of agricultural traditions, women play a crucial role in farming and resource management. However, their contributions often go unrecognized, as they are seldom acknowledged as "farmers" in official capacities.



Addressing this, a new initiative called the Mahila Kisan Sangathan was launched last year by SAMVAD, forming a federation of tribal and rural women farmers at both the regional and state levels. This federation, which now has 1646 members (Women Farmers) from our project implementation areas and others, serves as a collective voice advocating for the formal recognition of women as farmers—a vital identity that entitles them to government benefits, support, and training programs specifically designed for agricultural workers. The Mahila Kisan Sangathan not only uplifts women within Jharkhand's tribal and rural areas but also strengthens their socio-economic position by giving them the tools and representation needed to manage and sustain their lands effectively.

Since its inception, the federation has initiated efforts to engage with various stakeholders, including local authorities, agricultural bodies, and policymakers, to secure the identity and rights of women as legitimate farmers. This liaison is crucial, as it will not only elevate the status of women within the agricultural community but also ensure access to resources, schemes, and opportunities that have long been unavailable to them. The federation's mission reflects a growing movement to empower women in agriculture, making strides toward gender equity and sustainable development in rural areas.

SAMVAD's Initiatives in Environmental Conservation and Sustainable Practices

SAMVAD has made the environment and climate crisis a focal point of its work, addressing these challenges through a variety of impactful initiatives and awareness efforts. At the heart of this mission is the annual Kisan Mela, an event organized to promote climate-resilient agricultural practices among youth and farmers. This event not only emphasizes organic farming but also advocates for practices that enhance climate adaptation.



To reach a wider audience, SAMVAD continuously raises awareness about the climate crisis and sustainable livelihood practices rooted in traditional knowledge. Initiatives like the Green School aim to equip youth with practical skills in organic farming and sustainable agricultural techniques, helping them become resilient in the face of climate challenges. SAMVAD also engages through written works, including articles and books like Paryavaran Samvad, which highlights environmental issues and solutions.

Furthermore, SAMVAD works closely with Gram Sabhas, empowering these local bodies to take active roles in protecting and managing village forests. This approach not only enriches environmental stewardship at the grassroots level but also reinforces community-led natural resource management.

In its commitment to environmental sustainability, SAMVAD has also taken concrete steps to minimize plastic waste, banning the use of plastic and thermocol plates at all its events. Through these actions, SAMVAD actively promotes environmental consciousness, advocating for the preservation of natural resources and encouraging a community ethos geared toward sustainability and climate resilience.

Kisan Mela: An Initiative Toward Sustainable Farming



The "**Kisan Mela**," an annual initiative by SAMVAD, has been held for the past 15 years in Lalpur Village of Madhupur block, Deoghar district and Mediah Village of Musabani Block, in East Singhbhum District of Jharkhand with the aim of inspiring farmers toward organic farming practices. This event serves not only as an agricultural fair but also as a celebration of indigenous and tribal culture, offering a platform to display traditional agricultural products and sustainable farming techniques. Also, Students of our implementing area showcase their innovative ideas through science exhibition.

Each year, the fair showcases a variety of organic produce grown by local farmers, reflecting the richness of their agricultural practices. Items on display include pumpkins, cauliflowers, brinjals, jackfruits, wheat, bottle gourds, broccoli, and many others that emphasize the quality and authenticity of organic farming. Through this display, the event encourages the community to recognize the benefits of organic methods, highlighting how these practices contribute to health and environmental sustainability.

This year, the fair drew around 350 villagers, providing them with insights into organic farming and a greater appreciation for local produce. The Kisan Mela remains a cornerstone of SAMVAD's efforts to promote sustainable agriculture and preserve cultural heritage in the region.

Green School: A Space to Learn, Practice, and Explore Organic Agriculture



The "Green School" initiative by SAMVAD is dedicated to fostering organic and sustainable agricultural practices among youth, offering them a viable alternative to migration for urban jobs. The concept emerged from the need to address the rural-to-urban migration of young people in search of employment, by providing them with skills to pursue sustainable agriculture in their own communities.

Centered on self-sustainability, the Green School equips youth with the expertise to manage agriculture based on local soil conditions, climate, and specific needs of the area.

SAMVAD has established two Green Schools—one in Lalpur village, Madhupur block, Deoghar district, within Santhal Parganas, and the other in Tilaksuti village, Itki block, Ranchi district, in the South Chhotanagpur Zone. These schools have attracted youth back to their communities by offering a space to learn, practice, and experiment with organic farming techniques, including vermicomposting and the creation of organic pesticides and fertilizers. These initiatives not only enhance soil health and support climate resilience but also enable young people to lead sustainable practices that contribute to environmental conservation. Green School has become a platform where youth actively engage in preserving the environment and promoting sustainable agriculture.

Green Clubs: Empowering Youth for Environmental Change

SAMVAD's Green Clubs are actively engaging youth as catalysts for environmental change in 175 villages, cultivating a deep sense of ecological responsibility and natural resource conservation. These clubs provide a platform for meaningful green discourse, where young people lead discussions on key environmental challenges, sustainable practices, and the promotion of resilient ecosystems within their communities.

The clubs organize regular activities such as reforestation campaigns, clean-up drives, and educational initiatives to raise awareness about the urgent need for environmental protection. Through these hands-on efforts, SAMVAD helps youth develop a deeper understanding of local ecosystems and the impact of human actions on the environment. By empowering youth to take leadership roles, these initiatives create a ripple effect, spreading sustainable practices across communities.

Through these youth-led efforts, SAMVAD is laying the groundwork for lasting environmental stewardship, equipping the next generation with the knowledge and leadership skills needed to protect natural resources and sustain healthy ecosystems for future generations.



Highlights

Strengthening Women's Leadership and Gender Equality



SAMVAD is deeply committed to equity and equality, prioritizing women's leadership across all its impact areas. Recognizing that increased participation of women fortifies community development, SAMVAD consistently advocates for a minimum of 50% women's involvement in Gram Sabha decision-making and planning. This emphasis on inclusion enables women leaders to articulate their rights and entitlements confidently, inculcating a culture of vocal, empowered women in governance.

To support this vision, SAMVAD has conducted several initiatives, including half-yearly reflection and strategy meetings with the regional women federations in Chotanagpur and Santhal Pargana, along with state-level gatherings of the Mahila Kisan Sangathan. These meetings, along with specialized training sessions and an annual state-level women's convention, have cultivated a supportive network for women leaders and enhanced their strategic skills.

The impact of these efforts is visible in the increased participation of women in governance. Women's involvement in Gram Sabha meetings has risen to 53%, and Gram Sabha leaders have actively encouraged equal participation in decision-making and village development planning. The formation of two regional and one state-level Mahila Kisan Sangathan federations has further solidified this progress. These federations, comprised of 77 women leaders, now convene regularly to reflect, strategize, and promote gender justice. Through these actions, SAMVAD is fostering a more equitable and inclusive society, empowering women to lead change within their communities.

Akhra: Promotion of Adivasi Traditions Among Youth

SAMVAD, in collaboration with the Gram Sabha, has initiated a remarkable effort to rejuvenate the traditional Akhra and promote Adivasi culture among the youth of tribal communities. In 59 villages, evening and weekly gatherings have been organized for youth and adolescents, where elders with deep knowledge of tribal system, customs, rituals, and festivals serve as facilitators. These elders play a key role in imparting wisdom about the significance of cultural practices such as Karam Ginti (kirtan), folk songs, and other cultural events.



The impact of this initiative has been profound, with 482 youths (332 females and 150 males) learning to play traditional musical instruments and sing folk songs, preserving important elements of the tribal cultural heritage. Over the year, 330 cultural gatherings took place in village Akhras, during which traditional festivals like Baha, Karam, Sarhul, and Sohray were celebrated with enthusiasm. The events, enriched by the beauty of traditional apparel and musical instruments with a deeper connection to tribal culture.

This year, a total of 13,809 people (8,666 females and 5,143 males) participated in Akhra activities, with 2,287 of them being youth (1,537 females and 750 males). To further promote these traditions, SAMVAD organized a state-level Akhra-Jatra program, a 3-5 day event that not only celebrated the richness of tribal culture within Jharkhand but also showcase it beyond state boundaries. This initiative aims to highlight how traditional tribal practices provide solutions for leading joyful, progressive lives while reinforcing cultural pride and unity.

Highlights

Parivartanshala: A Leadership School for Youth from Marginalized and Excluded Communities



Parivartanshala is a transformative platform that brings together youths and emerging voices from marginalized and excluded communities, cultivates cross-learning and growth through participatory methodologies. This initiative connects Youth leaders and potential leaders from various social groups and organizations, promoting mutual learning and collective empowerment.

Parivartanshala focuses on-

Leadership Development: Equipping youth leaders and potential leaders of community-based organizations to strengthen communities through organizational skills, promote solidarity, and enable meaningful dialogue.

Community Activism: Empowering community activists to raise awareness about social challenges and inspire collective action for transformative change.

Facilitating Development: Supporting community development facilitators to mobilize, organize, and accompany people towards shared goals.

Project Coordination: Training coordinators of community development projects to cultivate participation and build a sense of common purpose among community groups.

Parivartanshala also emphasizes the personal growth of its participants, integrating role-playing, public speaking, documentation, and social media skills to enhance leadership capacities across communities.

Community Mobilization



SAMVAD's community mobilization efforts focus on empowering marginalized groups, their active participation, and promoting sustainable social change at the grassroots level. Through initiatives like FGD, Campaigns and small meetings with villagers and traditional/community leaders, SAMVAD creates spaces for Youth leaders and emerging voices to come together, share experiences, and learn from one another, strengthening their ability to drive local transformation.

Community mobilization under SAMVAD includes targeted training and capacity-building workshops for leaders of community-based organizations, activists, and development facilitators. These sessions aim to equip them with practical skills in communication, documentation, and social media to amplify their outreach and effectiveness. SAMVAD uses participatory methodologies, enabling community members to voice their challenges, collaborate on solutions, and share a sense of purpose.

By engaging diverse community groups, including women, youth, and indigenous populations, SAMVAD fosters inclusivity and collective action. Special focus is given to initiatives like organic farming, sustainable livelihoods, and cultural revitalization, encouraging communities to embrace traditional knowledge while adapting to present challenges. SAMVAD's community mobilization not only strengthens local governance structures like Gram Sabhas but also builds resilient, self-reliant communities poised to tackle social, economic, and environmental challenges collaboratively. Through this sustained mobilization, SAMVAD promotes a culture of shared responsibility and proactive change.

Sarkar Apke Dwar: A Unique Partnership



The Jharkhand Government's "Sarkar Apke Dwar" program aims to bring government services, benefits, and entitlements directly to eligible community members through Gram Panchayat (GP)-level camps. In a notable collaboration, SAMVAD was officially engaged by the block administration in Fatehpur to manage a dedicated helpdesk counter. This partnership enabled SAMVAD to assist in all phases of the program, from large-scale pre-camp visits and community mobilization to conducting community meetings and documentation efforts.

Over 15 sessions, SAMVAD's helpdesk supported the block administration in providing efficient assistance to community members across 15 GPs in Fatehpur. During the event, which ran from November 24 to December 27, 2023, SAMVAD processed 13,282 applications. Most applications were for the Abua Awas Yojna, comprising over half of all submissions, with other popular applications for ration cards, pensions, UID/Voter cards, MGNREGA job cards, ICDS benefits, and scholarships.

This collaboration was highly appreciated by the block administration, community members, and traditional leaders alike. SAMVAD's involvement ensured broader outreach and helped streamline the event, simplifying access to essential services for community members and facilitating the administration's goal of effective service delivery.

Forest Rights Act – Abua Bir Dishom Abhiyan and SAMVAD's Role



In November 2023, the Jharkhand State Government launched the ambitious "Abua Bir Dishom Abhiyan" campaign to enhance the coverage and success of the Forest Rights Act (FRA). This special drive introduced new strategies for improved execution and made Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) partners in all districts. SAMVAD was named the CSO partner in Jamtara district, although initial months saw limited activity at both the state and district levels. SAMVAD successfully generated 15 Community Forest Rights (CFR) claims in Fatehpur block. Although only 8 CFR claims were ultimately granted, with a modest area of forest land, this marked a significant first step for SAMVAD in the FRA process.

Within just one month of involvement, SAMVAD gained valuable experience in facilitating Forest Rights Committees (FRCs) to file claims and supported the government administration in processing and settling those claims. This initial phase has equipped SAMVAD with the knowledge to continue its work and contribute meaningfully to the success of the FRA in the future.

Voter Awareness: Step towards a informed decision

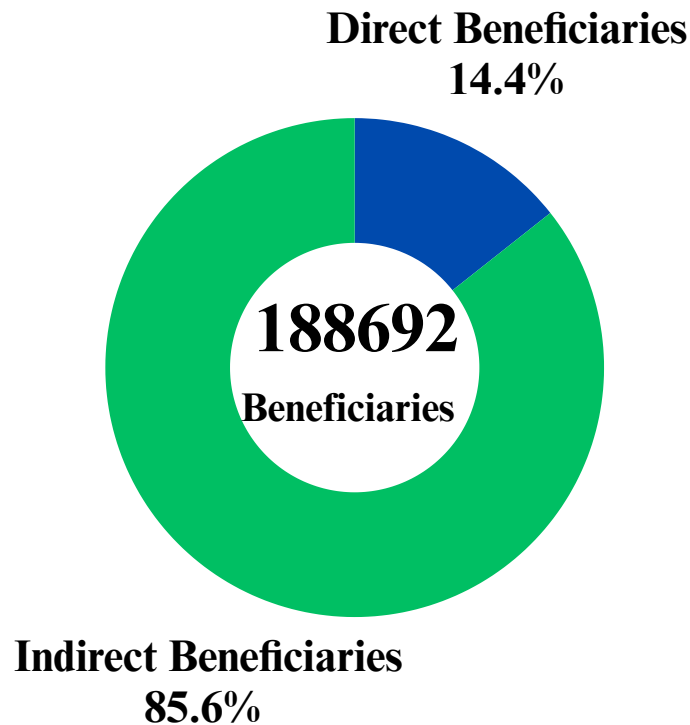


SAMVAD actively engaged in the voter awareness initiative at the Gram Panchayat and village levels, partnering with the local administration to mobilize and educate the community. The administration sought SAMVAD's ground support for effective outreach, allowing the organization to continue its efforts even during the model code of conduct period.

While the majority of awareness events were held at the Gram Panchayat level, SAMVAD expanded its reach to villages and tolas, ensuring that the message of democracy and the importance of voting was communicated to a broader audience. A key focus was to educate the community on voting with rationale and making informed, independent decisions without being influenced by outside forces.

SAMVAD's efforts also highlighted the role of voting in social progress and development. The awareness sessions covered critical topics such as evaluating political candidates and party manifestos, understanding how they align with community needs, and assessing the track record of candidates or parties. The sessions aimed to empower voters by equipping them with the knowledge needed to make choices that would promote the growth and well-being of their communities. SAMVAD's involvement in this initiative has contributed significantly to promoting informed democratic participation at the grassroots level.

Progress at a Glance



This year, SAMVAD has impacted a total of 188,692 people through its initiatives, activities, and community mobilization, and through dedication of our volunteers and fellows.

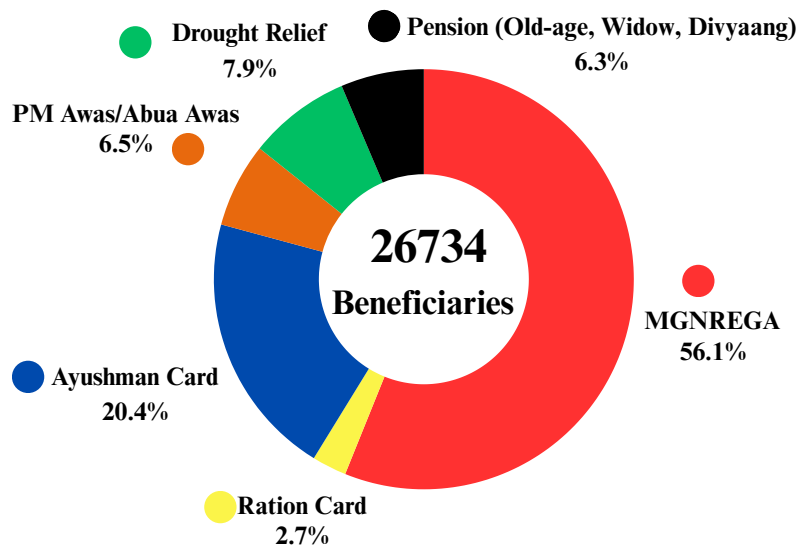
As abovementioned, the beneficiaries are classified into two categories i.e., direct and indirect.

The direct beneficiaries are individuals who are in direct contact with SAMVAD, gaining access to a range of benefits including flagship schemes, social security, training programs, livelihood and agricultural support, among others.

Indirect beneficiaries, on the other hand, are those who access these benefits indirectly through the influence, sharing, support, and inspiration of SAMVAD's volunteers. This layered approach allows SAMVAD to extend its reach beyond direct engagement, spreading positive impact across wider communities. The combined efforts of SAMVAD's committed team have made it possible to serve and uplift such a large number of people, ensuring sustainable improvements in social and economic well-being.

Progress at a Glance

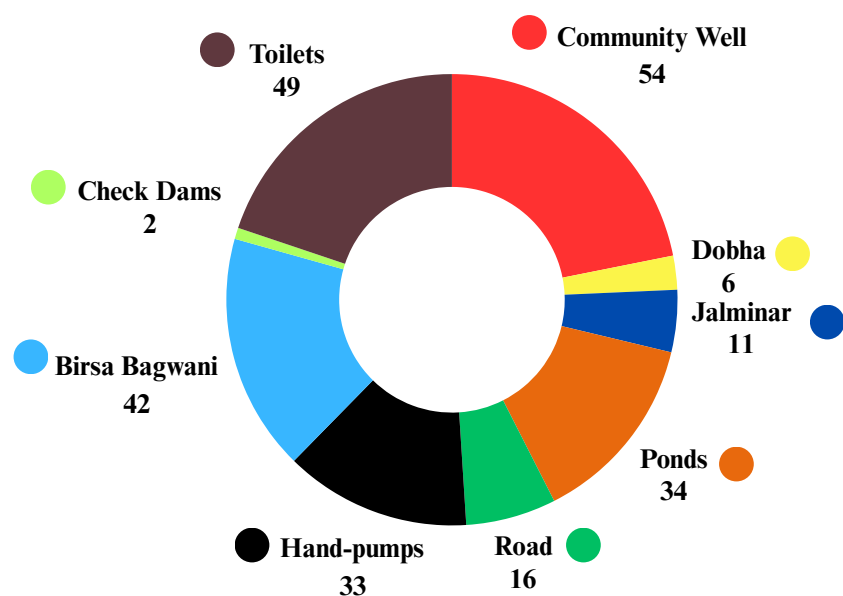
Beneficiaries and the benefits



This chart is illustrating the various government schemes and programs accessed by individuals in our intervention areas, facilitated by the support of SAMVAD volunteers.

Community Welfare

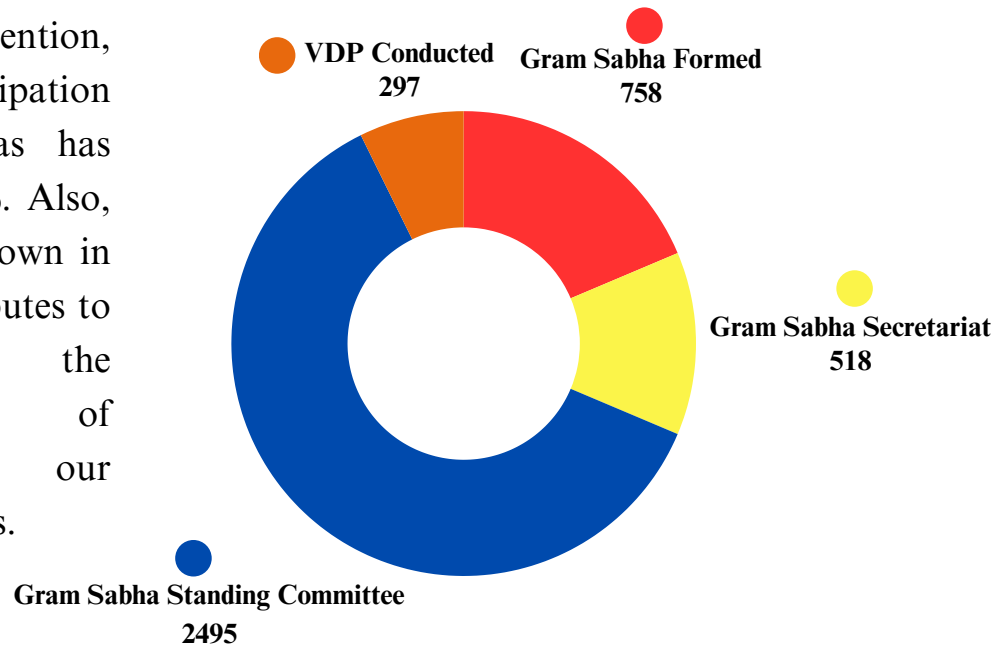
This chart is illustrating the various community welfare initiatives facilitated by SAMVAD volunteers, benefiting communities within our intervention areas.



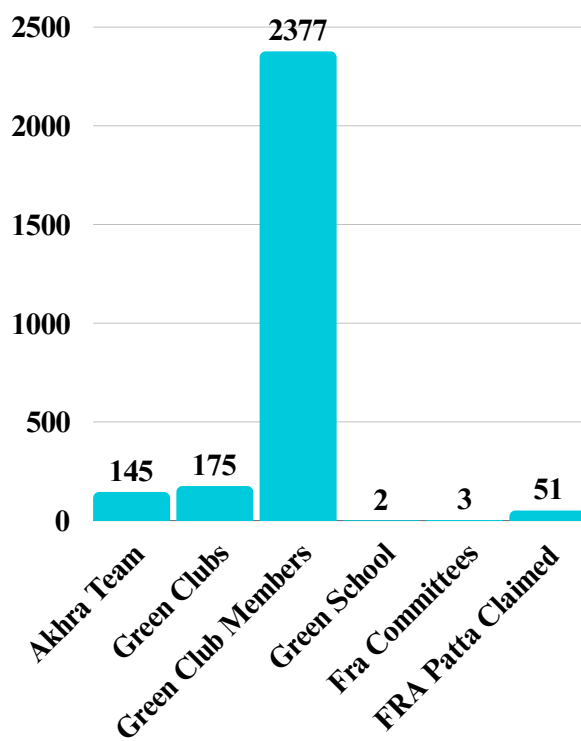
Progress at a Glance

Implementation of PESA/JPRA

With our intervention, women's participation in Gram Sabhas has increased to 53%. Also, the indicators shown in this chart contributes to strengthening the implementation of PESA in our intervention areas.



Revamping Culture and Climate



To promote indigenous cultural heritage and climate justice, our intervention strengthens Indigenocracy through the aspects outlined in the chart.

Staff Capacity building and PME



Staff capacity building and Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation (PME) are crucial components in ensuring the success and effectiveness of SAMVAD's programs. One of the key monitoring mechanisms is the Quarterly Planning and Review Meetings for Core Staff, which take place every three months. These meetings provide an opportunity to assess the progress of ongoing programs, identify challenges, and align strategies to achieve program goals. During this reporting period, SAMVAD conducted four such meetings, ensuring regular reviews of the core staff's work and objectives.

In addition to these core staff meetings, SAMVAD also organizes Quarterly Planning and Review Meetings for Community Mobilizers and Regional Supervisors. These meetings focus on the ground-level operations and are essential for understanding the challenges faced by field staff. They allow program leads to provide the necessary support and ensure that the objectives are being effectively implemented in communities.

Furthermore, SAMVAD conducts skill enhancement training sessions on Management Information Systems (MIS) to improve data analysis and reporting. These training sessions empower staff to better utilize data for decision-making, monitoring program performance, and meeting project goals. This investment in staff capacity building enhances the overall monitoring and evaluation process, ensuring that SAMVAD remains efficient, accountable, and impactful in its community-driven initiatives.

Monthly Review Meeting



SAMVAD conducts regular monthly review meetings to assess the progress of its initiatives and ensure effective coordination among team members. These meetings involve key stakeholders, including Project Managers, Regional Community Mobilizers, Community Mobilizers, and office staff, and are held at SAMVAD's offices in Ranchi, Madhupur and Fatehpur. The primary aim of these meetings is to evaluate ongoing activities, address challenges, and discuss strategies for improving our efforts within the community.

Team members also review the status of various projects and activities, related to local governance, health, education, and empowerment of marginalized communities. Team analyze the performance of different programs, track achievements against set targets, and identify any gaps or areas that require additional focus. The meetings also provide a platform for team members to share insights and best practices, fostering a collaborative approach to problem-solving.

The monthly review meetings ensure that SAMVAD's objectives are being met efficiently and that staff remain aligned with the organization's mission. It helps in maintaining accountability, streamline operations, and improve communication within the team. Such meetings are also an opportunity to discuss any new opportunities or challenges that may arise, ensuring that SAMVAD remains adaptable and responsive to the needs of the community.

Board of Trustees Meeting

The Board of Trustees' meetings at SAMVAD play a pivotal role in steering the organization towards its goals and ensuring its sustainable growth. These meetings are designed to review the organization's performance, discuss ongoing projects, and plan for the future and takes place quarterly.



Trustees, who are key decision-makers, engage in strategic discussions that shape the direction of the organization and its impact on the communities it serves.

During these meetings, the Board assesses the effectiveness of existing programs, particularly those operating at the grassroots level. They consider feedback from the field teams, community members, and other stakeholders, which provides valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities at the community level. Based on this input, the Board makes critical decisions about the future of the programs, allocating resources, refining strategies, and identifying areas that need improvement or innovation.

A key focus of the Board's discussions is the development of new strategies that align with SAMVAD's mission to empower marginalized communities. This includes exploring new opportunities for collaboration, funding, and community-based interventions. They also discuss the professional development of the staff and volunteers, recognizing that building the capacity of those leading grassroots efforts is crucial for the success of SAMVAD's programs.

Furthermore, the Board ensures that SAMVAD remains adaptable to the changing needs of its communities.

By continually revisiting and refining strategies, they ensure that the organization stays relevant, responsive, and impactful in its work. These meetings are instrumental in setting the foundation for future growth and success.

Quarterly reflection and strategy meeting of staff



The Quarterly Strategic Meeting is an essential component of SAMVAD's planning and evaluation process, aimed at reviewing the progress of ongoing programs, aligning strategies, and setting priorities for the second half of the year. This meeting involves key personnel from both the core staff and the field teams, providing an opportunity to discuss the achievements, challenges, and areas of improvement for the organization's projects. It also serves as a platform to ensure that SAMVAD's activities are in sync with its long-term goals and vision.

The strategic discussions during these meetings allow SAMVAD to identify emerging trends, assess the impact of its interventions, and refine the approaches to community engagement, capacity building, and program implementation. The Quarterly Strategic Meeting also emphasizes cross-functional coordination, with each department and team sharing insights and feedback to enhance organizational performance.

In addition, the meeting includes a review of the Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) systems to ensure that all projects are effectively monitored, and their outcomes are measured against the set indicators. By reflecting on both successes and challenges, SAMVAD can adjust its strategies and ensure continuous improvement in its work. This process strengthens SAMVAD's adaptability, ensuring that the organization remains responsive to the needs of the communities it serves.

Genda Hembrom's Journey to Sericulture and Empowerment



Genda Hembrom, a resident of Jitpur village in Madhupur block, Deoghar district of Jharkhand, exemplifies how innovative livelihood solutions can transform the lives of rural communities. Jitpur is a small, tribal-dominated village, with only 33 households. Agriculture is the primary livelihood, but the available agricultural land is limited, and people rely on forest produce and daily labor to sustain themselves.

Genda's family comprises five members. His two daughters are married, and he lives with his wife and one son, who is still studying. Despite the challenges posed by limited agricultural resources, Genda saw an opportunity to improve his family's financial situation. In 2020, he attended a sericulture training program organized by SAMVAD, which linked him to the Forest Department for further support.

Through the training, Genda learned the techniques of sericulture using Arjuna trees found in the nearby forest. The Forest Department provided him with silkworms at Rs. 650 per kilogram, which he used to cultivate silkworms. After nurturing the worms and harvesting the cocoons, Genda sold them back to the Forest Department for Rs. 4.50 to Rs. 5.00 per cocoon.

In a typical year, Genda grows two packets of silkworms in two seasons. During the last season, he harvested 12,500 cocoons, earning a total of Rs. 56,250. With two harvests annually, he is now able to generate more than Rs. 1 lakh per year from sericulture alone, significantly boosting his household income.

His success has not only benefited his family but also inspired the entire community. Genda has become a role model in Jitpur. Motivated by his example, other families in the village have adopted sericulture as a livelihood strategy. Today, all the households in Jitpur are involved in sericulture, cultivating silkworms on Arjuna trees in the forest, and are now earning a steady income.

Through his dedication and the support of SAMVAD and the Forest Department, Genda Hembrom has not only improved his family's quality of life but has also contributed to the economic empowerment of his entire village. This case highlights the potential of sericulture as a sustainable livelihood option in rural areas, particularly in forest-adjacent communities.



Monolal Hansda - A Progressive Farmer

Monolal Hansda, a 35-year-old farmer from a small village in Jharkhand, embodies the power of hard work, perseverance, and resource mobilization to overcome adversity and transform one's life. He lives with his wife and three children—two sons and a daughter. Due to financial constraints, Monolal's father could not afford to send him to school, and he learned only to write his name.



From a young age, Monolal worked as a daily laborer alongside his father to support the family. His early life was marked by hardships, including early marriage and separation from his parents after the birth of his first daughter.

After the separation, Monolal faced immense challenges in providing for his family. Determined to improve his situation, Monolal and his wife focused on working their inherited land. To supplement their income, Monolal continued to work as a daily laborer. His wife, recognizing the importance of financial independence, joined a Self-Help Group (SHG) in the village, where they saved a portion of their earnings. These savings allowed them to invest in agricultural tools and an irrigation pump set.

In addition, Monolal mobilized resources through government schemes such as the Reliance irrigation well and a pond under the MGNREGA program. Through the Birsa Harit Gram Scheme, he planted 112 mango trees, 5 lemon plants, and 2 apple plants on his 1-acre plot, which will start yielding fruit in the coming years. With the help of the newly acquired irrigation equipment, Monolal and his wife began cultivating vegetables on a large scale, which they sold in the local market.

Throughout this journey, they received crucial guidance and support from Ms. Monika Murmu, a SAMVAD team member, who encouraged them to attend training programs organized by SAMVAD under its ongoing Integrated Livelihood (IM) project.

Today, Monolal is able to grow three crops of vegetables annually, making him one of the most progressive farmers in his village. His hard work has paid off, as he now earns enough to support his family's livelihood, including sending his children to an English-medium school. Monolal proudly says, "We were illiterate due to poverty, but we will ensure that our children receive a good education."



Monolal's story is an inspiring example of how perseverance, the right support, and access to government resources can empower individuals to break free from the cycle of poverty and build a prosperous future.

Tilaksuti, a village situated 30 kilometers from Ranchi in the Itki Block of Ranchi District, is home to a population of 712, primarily from the Munda, Oraon, Lohra, Mahli, and Gope tribes. With more than 80% of its population belonging to tribal communities, the village has a deep-rooted connection with its forest resources. The community historically relied on the 95-acre forest that surrounded the village for their livelihood, collecting roots, shoots, mushrooms, green leaves, vegetables, Mahua, Kendu leaves, and herbal medicines such as Awla and Chiraita. However, over the years, the community lost ownership over these vital forest lands due to various challenges.

A series of Gram Sabha meetings were held in 2020, presided over by Gram Pradhan Mr. Niral Kerketta, to discuss the forest's protection and the process of applying for Van Patta. Initially, the villagers were hesitant, but through persistent dialogue, they built a collective understanding of the importance of securing their rights to the forest. With Mr. Kerketta's dedication, including personal visits to government offices in Itki and Ranchi at his own expense, the application for Community Forest Rights was submitted and, after much effort, granted in 2021.

Today, the Gram Sabha of Tilaksuti is actively managing the forest, ensuring its protection and sustainable use for future generations. This achievement not only restores the community's rightful access to their ancestral forest but also strengthens their resolve to safeguard their environment and heritage.

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Kole Para Repairs the Jalminar with Effective Leadership of Women

Kole Para, a village with 60 households, comprises 35 families from the Kole tribe (ST) and 25 families from the Mahato community (OBC). The village has a functional Gram Sabha, five Self-Help Groups (SHGs), an Anganwadi, a middle school, seven hand pumps, and two Jalminar (water towers). Despite these resources, the community faced a significant water crisis due to a non-functional Jalminar, which had been out of order for the past six months.



In February 2023, during a visit by Ms. Pooja Kumari, the Community Mobilizer for 10 villages in Udalbani Panchayat, the women's groups from Kole Para highlighted the issue of the water shortage. Following her suggestion, the matter was raised in the next Gram Sabha meeting on February 11, 2023. The villagers, through a shared understanding, agreed that the Jalminar should be repaired and decided to approach the Public Health Department (PHD) and the local MLA for support.

On March 11, the Gram Sabha meeting resolved to write a formal application to the PHD for the repairs and seek the MLA's assistance. The women's groups met the MLA on March 23, 2023, and after a productive discussion, secured his approval to proceed with the repairs. They then submitted the application to the PHD department.

However, despite the MLA's support, no action was taken by the PHD within the promised 10 days. The women, not discouraged, brought the issue back to the Gram Sabha, where it was decided to once again approach the MLA. After a phone conversation with the MLA, the PHD officials were instructed to act swiftly. Within two days, the Jalminar was repaired, solving the water crisis in Kole Para.



This case demonstrates the power of women's leadership in community mobilization and problem-solving. Through persistence, strategic collaboration with local authorities, and effective communication, the women of Kole Para successfully addressed a long-standing issue, ensuring access to clean water for their community.

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