

# SAMVAD ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019

SAMVAD was established in March 2001, by a group of social and cultural activists and intellectuals who were concerned about the declining Indigenous identity due to various internal and external factors. The Jharkhand state was carved out from Bihar and came into existence on 15 November 2000 as the people of Jharkhand region were very much hopeful that their centuries old traditions and practices would get recognition and they would also have opportunity to participate in the governance process. But very soon their aspirations were shattered. It was the time to mobilize the Indigenous communities, Dalits, Women and Minorities and spread awareness among them about their legal and constitutional rights to combat the situation. SAMVAD came at fore to reflect this process in its vision and approach.

SAMVAD believes that development is a sustainable process. It addresses not just the direct manifestation of the problems but also their structural causes, which are quite distinct and unique from other Voluntary Organizations.

## Vision

SAMVAD envisions a society where relations between human beings and nature is balanced for preservation of the indigenous social values and creation of sustainable livelihood for people towards establishment of a society on a communitarian lifestyle, labor-oriented and egalitarianism which accepts the diversity and differences among human beings. This is the society of “**Indigenocracy**”.

## Mission

SAMVAD strives for self-reliant and self-respectful society based on equality, gender-equity, labor-oriented universe, and self-governance by strengthening the communitarian lifestyle of the indigenous and downtrodden people. Efforts are on to empower Gram Sabhas and traditional governance systems in the villages of Adivasis, Dalits, Minorities, and the poor as a whole. It ensures equal representation and participation of women and men in community level decision making and development processes.

## Legal Status

- Registered under Trust Registration Act- 1882, No. IV 278/2001/Ranchi, on 21.03.2001
- Registered under FCRA, 1976, Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India, No. 337800125, Dated 24 May 2004. Renewal No. 337800125 date 9-8-2016
- Registered under Income Tax Act 1961, 12A-VIII-48/12A/03-04 on 18 June 2004.
- PAN (Permanent Account Number): AADTS7279Q
- TAN (Tax Deduction at Source Account Number): RCHS03187C
- Registered under EPF Provisions Act, 1952 No. JH/RNC/32288 Date: 03/02/2011
- Registered online under NGO Darpan of NITI Ayog, JH/2017/0167751

## Objective

- To promote and strengthen Self-Rule through Empowerment of Gram Sabha and People's Organizations
- To adopt and facilitate the methods and praxis of inclusive and sustainable development
- To empower indigenous skills and technology for promoting sustainable agriculture and climate resilient livelihood options
- To capacitate youth for Gender Sensitivity, Social Justice and Communal harmony
- To preserve & rejuvenate Indigenous Art & Culture from de-culturization process
- To develop a training and resource center for documenting and promoting regional Art Crafts and Culture
- To develop Audio-Visual materials for awareness and issue sensitization
- To promote Networks with like-minded groups and individual for policy centered Advocacy
- To adopt right based approach for excluded sections of society including women and children

## Strategy

- Alliance building with like-minded groups and promote network for social transformation
- Public advocacy, policy analysis, discourse and information dissemination through community engagement
- Training and Capacity building through participatory approach
- Archiving, Resource material collection, compilation and publications
- Promotion and strengthening of CBOs, women and youth groups
- Adoption of development models to encourage sustainable livelihood

## Our Reach

SAMVAD is working in 16 districts of Jharkhand. Apart from this we are part of Eastern India Dialogue Forum "Swashashan Abhiyan India" which is a network to promote and strengthen governance and indigenocracy.

Samvad is associated with several organizations and networks such as Child Rights Alliance (CRA), Swashashan Abhiyan India (SAI), Mahila Garima Abhiyan, National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights (NCDHR), National Advocacy Council for Development of Indigenous People (NACDIP), Climate Action Network in South Asia (CANSA), National Adivasi Alliance (NAA) and Gram Swashasan Abhiyan (GSA)

## Areas in Jharkhand




Sl. No.	District	Blocks
1.	Ranchi	Itki, Bero
2.	Deoghar	Madhupur, Palojori, Karon, Margomunda, Devipur & Deoghar
3.	Jamtara	Fatehpur, Jamtara
4.	Dumka	Dumka Sadar, Shikaripara, Jama, Jarmundi
5.	Pakur	Maheshpur
6.	Sahbeganj	Borio
7.	Giridih	Giridih Sadar, Gandey
8.	Dhanbad	Baghmara
9.	Bokaro	Gomia
10.	Kodarma	Domchanch

11.	Hazaribagh	Katkamda
12.	E. Singhbhum	Potka, Musabani
13.	W. Singhbhum	Chaibasa Sadar, Tantt Nagar
14.	Gumla	Sisai
15.	Ramgarh	Chitarpur
16.	Saraikela Kharsawan	Raj Nagar

### Our Projects:

 	<p><b>Project Name:</b> Deepening indigenocracy and promoting sustainable livelihood in Jharkhand,cont.</p> <p><b>Donor:</b> BftW, Germany and Christian Aid</p> <p><b>Project Area:</b> Total village 350, Block 23, District 14</p> <p><b>Project Duration:</b> October 2016 - September 2019</p>
	<p><b>Project Name:</b> LRP - Strengthening indigenocracy through socio-economic development of marginalised communities in Jharkhand.</p> <p><b>Donor:</b> Action Aid Association, Delhi</p> <p><b>Project Area:</b> Village – 40, Panchayat – 6, Block – 4, District – 2 (Deoghar and East Singhbhum)</p> <p><b>Project Duration:</b> Continue (From January 2018- Dec 2018- Dec.19 continuing)</p>
	<p><b>Project Name:</b> Strengthening local self-governance in 90 villages of 8 Panchayats in Fatehpur block in Jamtara district of Jharkhand</p> <p><b>Donor:</b> Partnering Hope into Action Foundation (PHIA)</p> <p><b>Project Area:</b> Village – 89, Panchayat – 08, District – 1 (Jamtara)</p> <p><b>Project Duration:</b> 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2020</p>
	<p><b>Project Name:</b> Strengthen grassroots democracy among the poor and marginalized communities in Jharkhand.</p> <p><b>Donor:</b> OAK Foundation, London, U.K</p> <p><b>Project Area:</b> Village 140, Panchayat 16, Block – 4, District - 4</p> <p><b>Project Duration:</b> 01.10.2018 – 30.09.2021</p>

	<p><b>Project Name:</b> Study on impact of mining on community and environment in Netarhat area in Jharkhand.</p> <p><b>Donor:</b> Global Greengrants Fund,USA</p> <p><b>Project Area:</b> Netarhat under Latehar District in Jharkhand</p> <p><b>Project Duration:</b> 22.09.2016 – 30.04.2018</p>
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## Deepening Indigenocracy and Promoting Sustainable Livelihood in Jharkhand

This project has started in the year 2016 with a goal for strengthening the Indigenocracy and thereby promoting sustainable livelihood in Jharkhand through the process of gram sabha strengthening; rejuvenate traditional agricultural practices, increasing women participation in decision making processes, and so on. It also aims at strengthening at least 350 gram sabhas and upgrading the status of at least 100 gram sabhas to model gram sabhas. There are 8 selected criteria for considering a gram sabha as model gram sabha, which are as follows:

1. Regular meetings of Gram Sabha
2. Attendance of G.S. members
3. Active participation of women
4. Village Development Planning and Submission to proper authority.
5. Village Fund (Gram Kosh) - The village fund mean Households would contribute as decided in the Gram Sabha. It may be cash or kind (grains).
6. Cultural centre (Akhra)- A place in the village where villagers come together to meet, dance and discuss relevant issues.
7. Safe drinking water- Every HHs should have access to safe drinking water sources.
8. 100% enrolment of children in school and ICDS.

## Outcome

- 350 Gram Sabhas Strengthened
- villages attained its development as per their needs
- Govt. schools and ICDS centres properly functioned
- Women empowered and they achieved their rights to be benefited in village development work.
- Sense of health & hygiene developed in village people.
- 100% enrolment of children in schools & ICDS centres
- **Gram Kosh:** During this reporting period out of 350 targeted model villages,160 villages exercised their village fund for betterment of the community. Having Regular Meetings, loan process continues etc. Crisis management in some village proved helpful.



- **Akhra:** During the reporting period out of 350 villages, 322 villages have rejuvenated their own Akhra (Cultural Centre) for having their cultural activities and social events and Gram Sabha meetings. Adivasiat preserved and strengthened through Akhra.
- **Women Participation:** women participation in model gram sabhas has increased upto 6%. It was 42% previously and now it is 48%. Proposed and opposed by women in Gram Sabha meetings has increased up to 3%. It was 31% previously and now it is 34%. This is a significant change in decision making process within Model Gram Sabhas during this reporting period.

### State level Akhra celebration

Two days State level Annual Akhra (cultural team) celebration held on 28-29 September, 2018 at Paryawaran Chetna Kendra, Bada Sigdi, Potka, Tatanagar. Among 250 participants there were 137 female and 113 males. The main objectives behind this are to safeguard the local and traditional culture of people and to promote their culture.



### State level consultation for quality education

One State level consultation meeting of 2 days duration for activation of School Management Committee / Village Education Committee for quality education and 100% enrolment was held on 30 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018 at SDC, Ranchi. The total participants who got aware on quality education were 68 (male-45, female-23).



## Annual State level women convention

Two days annual state level women convention held in HRDC, Ranchi from 8<sup>th</sup> March 2019 to 9<sup>th</sup> March 2019. Total participants were 203 (Female-167, Male-36). Two representatives from BftW Dr. MS. Gerlind Schenider and Teena expressed their views on women reservation in Electoral Policies in Germany. The theme of the convention was 50% reservation of women in Indian Electoral Systems.



## Regional Gram Sabha federation Committee meeting

Six Nos. of half yearly Regional Gram Sabha Federation committee meeting of one day duration was organized in all three different Zones i.e. Kolhan, Santhal Pargana and Hazaribagh.

The total people who participated in the program were 120, among them 64 were female and 56 were male. This meeting focussed on the importance of gram sabha, their problems and finding strategies to solve or to mitigate the effects of those problems.

## State Level Gram Sabha Federation Committee Meeting

Two half yearly State level Gram Sabha meeting of State committee (one day of each meeting) was organized at Ranchi on 25 March, 2019 along with participants-34 (F-14, M-20) and Sahibganj on 29 June, 2018 along with participants- 17 (F-7, M-10).

## Annual regional Gram Sabha federation

- Three numbers of Annual Regional Gram Sabha Federation committee meeting were organized in all three different Zones i.e. Kolhan, Santhal Pargana and Uttari Chottanagpur:
  - One Day Annual Convention of gram Sabha Federation of Santal Pargana Region held on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 2018 at Johar, Dumka. Total Participants-144 (F-68, M-76)
  - One Day Annual Convention of Gram Sabha Federation of North Chotanagpur Region held on 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2018 at Mansarowar Hotel, Giridih. Total Participants-74 (F-42, M-32)

- One Day Annual Convention of Gram Sabha Federation of Kolhan Region held on 8 Sep, 2018 at Vikas Bharti, Patel Bagan, Tatanagar. Total Participants-68 (F-23, M-45)
- Two days Annual Convention of State Level Gram Sabha Federation meeting held in Jahergarh Hall, Karandih, Tatanagar on 11-12 September 2018 in which total participant were 150 (F-65, M-85).

## Swashashan Abhiyan India

Eastern India Dialogue forum focus on Self-Governance and community rights over natural resources and also a common platform which have five state members (Chattisgarh, Orisha, Jharkhand, Bengal and Bihar) try to spread and strengthen the Gram Sabha under PESA rule. There are 4 meetings held during this year: -



- 1st meeting was held on 30th June, 2018 at Sahibganj. Total participants 7 (F-2, M-5).
- 2nd two days meeting was held from 27<sup>th</sup> Sept. to 28th Sept. 2018 at Vikas Bharti, Tata Jamshedpur. Total participants 11 (F-2, M-9).
- 3rd two days meeting held on 15th-18th December, 2018 at GPF, New Delhi. Total participants were 13 (F-2, M-11).
- 4th two days meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27th March, 2019 at Sewak Complex, Rangia Munda, Sundergarh, Odisha. The total participants were 16 (F-7, M-9).

### **Outcome:**

Gram Sabhas spread and strengthened to some extent under PESA Rules

## National consultation on PESA & FRA

National consultation on PESA & FRA was organized from 28th Feb.2019 to 1st March, 2019, at GPF, New Delhi in which the representatives from Jharkhand, Orissa, Bengal, Bihar, U.P, Delhi, Chittasgarh, Tamilnaudu, Karnataka, M.P and Rajesthan were participated the programme. total participants were 56 (F-7, M-49)

## Kisan Mela

Two numbers of Kishan Mela organized on respective issues, one in Lalpur village (total participants-391, F-128, M-263) of Deoghar District dated 14 to 15 Feb, 2019 and second in Media village of East Singhbhum District (total participants-222, F-130, M-92) on 19 Feb 2019. Above both kisan Mela (Farmer's Fair) farmers exhibited their non-pest products like



food grains, vegetables, fruits and miniatures of agricultural tools/traditional seeds. In these Kisan Mela farmers also share their agricultural experiences to each other.

**Outcome:**

These initiatives have promoted organic farming methods, which not only minimize the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, but also reduce the anaemia and malnutrition that affects women and children specifically.

**Exposure Visit**

Core Members of our Cooperative Society made an Exposure visit with 13 participants (Female-10, Male-3) to Model Cooperatives society at Timbaktoo Collective (Andhara Pradesh) from 14th to 16th February 2019. The members of exposure team enriched their knowledge and technical aspects of a cooperative society.

**Outcome:**

Business sprit emerged among exposure group. Experiences, knowledge, skills and technical aspects of a cooperative society enriched the group.

**Climate Resilient Agriculture Practices**

This initiative has promoted organic farming method, which not only minimize the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, but also reduce anaemia and malnutrition that affects women and children specifically.

**Outcome:**

2500 Households from 300 villages adopted Climate Resilient Agriculture Practices. The traditional agriculture practices can enhance the food security and wipe out starvation. In this context in our working area farmers using organic manure, traditional seeds, traditional agricultural equipments and organic Pest repellent. 1626 farmers from 248 villages are adopting climate resilient agriculture practices.

**Formation of Co-operatives societies**

Five numbers of Co-operatives have been formed during this period, which are as follows: –

- Jeevan Jioti Sahkarita Samiti Pvt.Ltd. in Lalpur. Total Members-101 (F-57, M-44)
- Chasa Hod Chigalpahri Mahadevraidih in Dumka. Total Members- 51 (F-20, M-31)
- Chando Tand Tarash Kisan Sahkarita samiti Ltd. in Media, Musabani, East Sinbhdhum, Total Members-51 (F-42, M-9)
- Kolhan Kisan Sahkarita Samiti Ltd. Tantnagar, West Singhbhum, Total Members-105 (F-36, M-69),
- Roushani Mahila Vikas Swablambi Sahkari Samiti Ltd. in Pahrol, Madhupur, Dist-Deoghar Total members-101 (F-101, M-0).

**Outcome:**

- 101 women solved their monetary problems through Puffed rice business.
- Their confident level busted up.
- Marketing concept developed among them.
- Life status of those women increased up to some extent.

**Water Harvesting Meeting**

**Outcome** 114 Water Harvesting Planning Meeting with 114 Model Gram Sabhas held during this reporting period from April 2018 to March 2019. Total participants were 5221 (F-3058, M-2163). The issue of water crisis discussed in these meetings and resolutions made to overcome.

Water crisis in 63 villages resolved to some extent through effort of the villagers.

**Water Harvesting Structures**

Through MNREGS infrastructures of 176 water harvesting Structures (Dobha-56, Well-77, Ponds-39 and Check Dam-4) in 82 villages rejuvenated and constructed for Sustainable Climate Resilient Integrated Agricultural Process.

**Outcome**

- Employment facilities increased through the process of MNREGS in our target area
- Migration reduced
- Water crisis minimized
- Proved helpful for better cultivation

**Photo-Exhibition on Mining, Environment and Community**

SAMVAD has organized a Photo-Exhibition on Mining, Environment, and Community in Ranchi on April 28th and 29th, 2018 at Audrey House art gallery. There were 30 photographs (Size 2'X2.5') of 7 photographers exhibited. Out of 7 contributors of photographs one was Geologist and Environmentalist, 3 Social activists and 2 Journalists. The exhibition was visited by intellectuals, art lovers, and young students from department of Mass Communication.



It was decided by the participating photographers and social activists that there should be 20 more photographs added in the exhibition, making the total number of photographs to 50. This would cover the left-out mining areas of Jharkhand and the exhibition should be organized at all the district headquarters of Jharkhand and some important places also. This

would generate awareness among the viewers on need of controlled and prudent mining to save environment and community.

## **Strengthening Indigenocracy through Socio Economic Development of Marginalized Communities of Jharkhand**

This project was started in the month of November, 2017. This is mainly a child sponsorship project, but it is believed that no development of the children is possible unless we focus on their family. Therefore, this project focuses on strengthening indigenocracy through socio economic development of marginalized section of the society. This project is supported by Action aid and we believe that children are the mirror of society and the actual situation of any society can be best reflected through the condition of the children. Before selecting the operational area, several meetings were organised with the villagers and with the children too in many villages. The villages were prioritised based on their utmost need. 30 villages in Deoghar district and later 10 other villages from East Singhbhum were selected as LRP area. Then it was time for selection sponsored children. There were few criteria for selecting sponsored children. In order to bring maximum families under sponsorship programme not more than one child was selected from one family. Details information of those children was collected in order to maintain their child profile. This project also focuses on strengthening and rejuvenating the traditional livelihood practices. Women entrepreneurship is another important component of this project. SAMVAD is working on three synergic areas (land, water and women property) and the programme areas are the following-

- Land, water and forest rights
- Labour and livelihood rights
- Child rights
- Women rights

### **Kaam Mango Abhiyan**

The campaign was on making the people aware about their rights and employment opportunities. This campaign emphasizes on making JOB card for common people and bringing them under the umbrella of MGNREGA. So that everybody can get employment opportunity and at the same time these people will be involved in building their own community assets. We on behalf of Jharkhand Gram Sabha Federation will work for awareness building among common people





regarding MGNREGA and the process of getting job under this scheme. We have conducted meetings in all 40 villages of our LRP area and disseminated information related to MGNREGA.

The population of the LRP area is dependent on agriculture, livestock and forests, and it is the only source of livelihood for over 70% of the total population. Despite of its wealth in natural resources, half of its population lives below poverty

level and it continues to remain a marginalised and neglected. So, with the view for poverty alleviation, MGNREGA was one of the most appropriate schemes introduced by the Government. But due to the presence of middle-men, litigation in labour payment, less interest of govt. Officials and changes in work plan submitted by the Gram Sabha slow down the best scheme of livelihood empowerment. Sometimes people are even not aware about the process of getting job. Therefore, campaign in all 40 LRP villages were conducted in two phases and disseminated information regarding this act, the process of getting work and about the nodal agencies where people can demand their right to work.

SAMVAD started a campaign with a slogan “Kaam Mango AbhiyaanYatra” in all 40 villages of its LRP area with the objective to strengthen and empower the community to raise their voices for their working rights in MNREGA. As a result, 283 workers have been registered as new job card holders in which only 125 job cards have been received.

### **Leaf Plate & Mahua Laddoo Making Training**

The training of ‘Leaf plate making’ was conducted in two phases i.e. in the last week of October (29th to 31th) and in December. It was held in hamlet of Chenchali village under Pathaljore Panchayat of Madhupur Block. The purpose of the training was to develop the skill of the members of 27 members of two Self-help groups i.e. Gulab Baha (Lakarmara tola) and Marshall (Naiyadih tola) of Chenchali



village. The SHG members are provided with two leaf plate making machine. Mr. Sudarshan conducted the training programme as a resource person where he trained the members about function of different parts of the training and the process of making leaf plate. They are also trained in maintaining stock register and cash book.

The objective of the training was to ensure economic empowerment of women so that they could start their own enterprise and lead economic independent life and thereby improving their social status in the society.





The situation of women is miserable and no exception to patriarchy rule is there in the community. The women take part in economic activity but they are not economically independent. Most of the women support their family in agricultural activity but the total profit from agricultural activities goes in the hands of male members of their family. Even their contributions never have taken into consideration. They also help their family by doing daily wage works

but still they have to put their wages on the hands of their husbands in the evening. Due to prevailing gender-based power structure in the society, women are facing discrimination in their houses, within community and working places as well. As a result, the women wage earners face ill-treatment and inequality of wages.

At present 27 members of 2 SHGs are preparing leaf plates in the machines given by the project. They make 1000 leaf plates a day and sell in the market at the rate of Rupees 70/ per 100 pieces. The community has reformed the Forest Protection Committee and now acting as a safeguard of the forest minor produces and resources.

100 women have been imparted training on Mahua Laddu Processing in Deoghar and East Singhbhum District in four phases. Women in East Singhbhum have started marketing of their special products i.e. Mahua Laddoo' and getting very good results in livelihood improvement.

## **Social Audit & Public Hearing**

To involve the people in process of social audit, focus groups discussion was conducted in Potka and Musabani block in order to carry a Social Audit of various social security schemes. In these focus group discussions, the common people were facilitated to place their opinion regarding social security schemes that are running in their area and to what extent they are getting benefitted by these schemes, the necessary changes that need to bring.



The community never participate in the planning and decision-making process in the political level and due to this the elected representatives and somehow government officials are doing



their own. So, the needs of the villages are being assessed by some people without taking consent or informing them. As a result, the facilities that come to the villages are not based on their needs and also not beneficial.

As a result, two villages of Musabani in East Singhbhum i.e. Tamajori and Patkittah initiated Social audit and raising their voices against their rights in preparing the village development planning.

## **FRA Training**

This act was passed in 2006 in order to recognise and vest the forest rights and occupation in forest land, in forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers, who have been residing in such places for generations but whose rights could not be recorded. This act aims at providing for a framework for recording the forest rights so vested and the nature of evince required for such recognition and vesting in respect of forest land. Though Government of India has number of articles in our constitution in order to protect the rights of tribal people but still their rights are being threatened. The lands of these tribal people, where they are residing for years, are being snatched from them in the name of Development. Though the act came into existence in the year 2006 but still in many places people are not aware about this act. Therefore, a campaign was carried out in 26<sup>th</sup> May 2018 among 70 community people of pathaljore and sikatiya panchayat where the main discussion centred out various provisions of the act, community patta and individual patta. The villagers were divided into four groups and were asked to decide whether they want to apply for community patta or individual patta. After the group discussion the campaign ended with the decision of all four groups to apply for community patta.

Over the decades the process of development has frequently led to a progressive erosion of their traditional rights over their land resources including the forests. This can be aptly ascribed to the lacunae in the laws, faulty implementation, and rapacious exploitation by the unscrupulous traders, money- lenders etc.

After an intensive meeting with traditional leaders and villagers on FRA in Pathaljore and Siktia panchayat, and Patkittah village of Musabani block, they are now sensitized up to maximum extent about their entitlement on Forest and as a result they are raising their voices to avail their traditional rights and applied one community and 426 Individual patta.



## Women Property Rights

The project strengthened the process of Gram Sabha in 20 villages of the LRP area with promotion of equal participation of women, gender equality, women rights, basic rights and entitlements etc. The women in this area are not politically empowered nor are they economically independent. Because of patriarchal power structure the women are facing discrimination in their houses, within community and working places.



Because of that gradually gender discrimination is increasing in adivasi community and this has been done due to the effect of patriarchal practices and customs of non-advansi (Diku) community. As a result, atrocities and excesses like domestic violence, women trafficking, pressure to earn money or work as a daily wage labour has increased manifold. Due to the patriarchal structure of the society women are facing ill-treatment in their houses, within community and at work places as well. Practice of witch branding, early marriage of girl child and illiteracy of women are the major challenges of the area.

190 members of 23 women groups started raising their voices against the patriarchal structure of the society and domestic violence. They are coming out from their houses and started demanding their rights over property and respect in their houses.

## Training on Unorganised Labour Right, Wage Act and Social Security

Two days training on unorganised labour right, wage act and social security was organised by SAMVAD with financial support from ACTION AID, in Ranchi Social Development Centre on 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> of January, 2019. The main objective of the training was to discuss the problems of unorganised sector labour, the rights of unorganised labour and formulating new strategies for ensuring the rights of unorganised sector labour to which they are entitled.



The training programme started with an opening song sung by the Pahar raja of Rania block. The stage was shared by 8 prominent resource persons namely Mr. Jenalal Karaiba, Mr.

Kishor, Mr. Umang Munda, Mr. Lakhan Urau, Mr. Barka Marandi, Mrs. Anne Tudu, Mrs Salge Mardi and Mr. Harish Bhumich.

Mr. Kumar Chand Mardi gave a welcome speech to the guests and also emphasized on the fact that they unorganised labour must be united together to raise voice so loudly that it echoed in all parts of India for demanding for their rights and a fair wage.

Mr Ghanshyam then emphasized on the fact that right to work should be a fundamental right. Right to life which is a fundamental right has no meaning without right to work. Even at the time of drafting Indian constitution many activists claim right to work as a fundamental right but it is not approved yet. During 80 a campaign was started in Bihar Uttarpradesh and most importantly in Maharashtra that results in Rojgar Hami Yojna.

## **Two Days Training on CNT & SPT Act and Wilkinson Rules**

Two days training on CNT and SPT Act and Wilkinson rules was organised from 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2018 to 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2018 in Social Development Centre, Ranchi. The meeting was started with an opening song by Mrs Salge Mardi. Almost 30 participants from 10 different indigenous groups attained the training program. Greeting the participants Mr Ghanshyam ji discussed about the importance of CNT



and SPT Act and Wilkinson rules. He also lighted on the background of Wilkinson rules. The Wilkinson rule was named after Thomas Wilkinson who was the then governor of Chhotonagpur. Thomas Wilkinson enacted the Wilkinson rules in 1833 after the Kol revolt in the year 1831 in which the Britishers encountered with mass protest. This was followed by Mr. Rashmi Katyan who discussed the history of tribal culture, mul Raiyat, Adivasi Raiyat and also pointed out that how the so-called modern civilisation has imposed threat on Adivasi tradition and culture. The Adivasis are injected with the thought that they belong to Hindu religion and when it comes to the turn of legal provision it is clearly stated in article 4 of Hindu Marriage Act that this law is not applicable to schedule tribe. He also stated that according to SPT Act, the transfer of property should follow matrilineal pattern. It also has provision regarding the right of widows on their husband's property. Land is not transferable according to this act but according to CNT Act land is only transferable within tribal and none but the tribal owner of the land can sell the land. It is also stated that government in these areas can't snatch land of tribal people in the name of development. In these areas people who have control over land also control the area. Mr Rashmi Katyan also pointed out few important provisions in Wilkinson rules as-

1.) Local dispute should be resolved at local level.

2.) The area should be governed by traditional munda-manki system.

3.) Though mundas are the head of the entire community but the land holder has the right over their land.

Mr. Ramlal another lawyer of Jharkhand state high court also conducted a both way interaction session on CNT & SPT Act and Land Acquisition Act 2013. He pointed out the fact that though the CNT act emphasizes on transfer of land within tribal community and according to SPT Act the land is not transferable but now the government is planning to pass acts that would allow the government to acquire land in the name of development.

Mr. Dhananjay, Debendra Champiya and Faisal Anurag were three main resource persons on 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2018. Mr. Dhananjay spoke on CNT Act. He made the fact clear that land is the main reason behind the existence of people especially santal people and as per the CNT Act land is not transferable and not even eligible for patta or lease. Debendra Champiya elaborated the background of these acts and various sections of these acts in light of other laws and legislations. The programme came to an end in the afternoon. It was a great sharing among people about their indigenous rights and laws.

## **Strengthening local self- governance in 90 villages of 8 panchayats in Fathehpur block in Jamtara**

This project was started in the month of 11th December, 2017. Main focus of this project is to strengthen the Gram Sabha to maintaining a balance between the modern Panchayati Raj System. Our work has been focussed on strengthen the Gram Sabha, to create awareness among the community about the strength, power and rights of the Gram Sabha.

Even though the start has been a bit slow, there has been considerable progress in the awareness among the community. The community has started to come together for meeting. Earlier the Gram Sabhas that were conducted in the villages, but villagers know it as Yojna Sabha, as the meeting was called only when certain schemes needed to be implemented. Nowadays these practices were checked.

There has been a considerable progress in the field regarding the attendance of the community especially the participation of the women and vulnerable groups. They have also started taking up the issues related to livelihood like MGNREGA and the various government flagship schemes. The youth of the village also have started participating in the gram sabha. They raise issues pertaining to employment as most of them are unemployed.

After the project started in the eight panchayats of Fatehpur Block in the district of Jamtara, the regular visits and the facilitation of the panchayat facilitators along with the support and guidance of the coordinators there has been considerable progress in the field. The project started rapport building with the community members and various CBO's in the particular village and hamlet. Last three months we have been able create awareness about the standing committees of the Gram Sabha. Importance of the gram sabha meeting register has also been



shared with the community members. They have been made aware that the gram sabha has the right to plan and prioritise the government schemes as per their needs and documented in the meeting register.

In order to help the deepening of local self-governance identification of Community Leaders have been done at the hamlet level in each revenue village of each panchayat. The Community Leaders would be the future leaders alongside the Gram Pradhan in leading the community.

After returning from the exposure visit from Mendha Lekha, the community has become aware of their rights and the power of the Gram Sabha. Some Ward members had tried to create problem by not supporting, but when they saw the community taking interest and participating in the Gram Sabha process, they had to provide their support.

The traditional village heads, the Manjhi Hadam are slowly getting to know and recognize their powers and responsibilities. The fact that the people are agreeing to sit together and discuss about the topics that would affect the welfare of their village is very encouraging and gives confidence to take the work to the next level.

### **Activities Conducted**

- Staffs Capacity Building program of Project staffs on their role and responsibilities,
- Collection of Tola wise Gram Sabha information and merge the gram sabha as per meeting in village level
- Refresher Training of MIS Data Operator for village level collection
- Training organised for Standing Committee members,
- Meet with BDO Fatehpur and sharing GSA project goal & Objective,
- Discussion on PRI system, PESA and self-governance in Community meeting and gram sabha meeting.
- Organize monthly meetings of all community members in tolas for discussion on PRI, systems, PESA and self-governance
- Organize monthly meetings of all CBOs in villages for discussion on PRI, systems, PESA and self-governance.
- Organise monthly Gram Sabha meetings ensuring quorum in villages
- Organize GS meetings focussed on social audit process and community's active participation.
- Organise quarterly review and planning meeting and reflection at the staff level in addition to capturing project progress and change stories.
- Community meeting for establishment of Gram Sabha Secretariat
- Data entry in android base application through COLLECT APP.
- Are the activities conducted according to the plan? Yes, the project has started from December, 2017 and during three month of intervention SAMVAD acted as per plan.



## **Progress made & challenges encounter**

All the activities were completed as per the plan. The training backlog has been completed and the establishment of the Gram Sabha Secretariat is going on.

**New Office Set up** - Initially the project was started with setting up of a project office at Chapuriya, now shifted to Fathepur Market in rent, the agreement papers were signed by both the parties. The panchayat facilitators were already recruited for the operational panchayats.

**Organize monthly meetings of all Community Members**– The monthly meetings are being organised by the Panchayat Facilitators and they are also following the interest and sincerity of Community members on the basis of their attendance in the meeting and the issues being raised by them in the Gram Sabha meetings. The discussions are going on with them regarding PESA, JPRA and proceedings of Gram Sabha meetings.

**Gram Sabha Profile Data Being Collected** – We are also gathering the data related to Tola based Gram sabha in Qualitative and Quantitative terms so that every Gram Sabha will have their narrative and quantitative data. This will also help us in Village Development Plan in the upcoming years as per the programme activities.

**Abua Raj Mela & Jan Samvaad** – We celebrated annual event Abua Raj Mela and Jan samvaad to aware our community to take ownership of Gram Sabha and exercise their power to access their rights & entitlements.

**Campaign lead by Gram Sabha** – We collected the basic information with data and presented to Gram Sabha to initiate campaign mode activities like Work Demand under MGNREGA, Social Security Schemes, Alcoholism, FRA.

## **Outcomes**

- 390 Community leaders identified at the gram sabha level in all gram sabha ensuring adequate representation.
- Organized 10 numbers of three days trainings of community leaders (Munda, Manki) on roles and responsibilities in context of PESA and JPRA - at partner level. Total participants were 230 leaders.
- Organized 17 numbers of Capacity building workshop of CBOs (Women collectives, youth and adolescents' group) on governance structure at local level.
- Organized 203 numbers of monthly meetings of all community members in 90 villages for discussion on PRI, systems, PESA and self-governance.
- To ensure the participation of vulnerable and socially excluded groups adequately represented in Gram sabha prepared attendance sheet in the 73 Gram Sabha resister of all eligible gram sabha members to observe the composition of member (SC/ST, women) in Gram Sabha meetings.

- Organized 127 numbers of Gram Sabha meetings focussed on social audit process and community's active participation for transparent sharing of Gram sabha proceedings and decisions.
- Organized 63 numbers of training of standing committee members (3 members from each standing committee) at Gram panchayat level to aware about their roles and responsibilities and work as sub committees of gram sabha and are accountable and transparent in implementing Gram sabha decisions, promote fair beneficiary selection and prioritization processes towards better realization of rights and entitlements.

## **Reducing poverty and strengthening grass root democracy among the poor and marginalized communities for establishment of Indigenocracy in Jharkhand**

SAMVAD started this project in the year 2018 in four Blocks namely–Palajori, Jamtara, Rajnagar and Itki, in four districts of Jharkhand such as Deoghar, Jamtara, Saraikela and Ranchi respectively. We have done regularly field visited in the villages and talked with Gram Sabha members, PRI members and other communities regarding the awareness of Government Schemes, Sustainable agriculture, Women rights, organic farming, Kitchen



gardening, construction of vermin compost pit, group formation, women self-employment training etc. We have contentiously empowering the Gram Sabha and conduct meeting to increasing awareness in village about government's schemes. As we observed that the rate of female participation is low and our focusing area is to empower women members' active participation so that we have conducted Village level meeting in every week in all our concern villages based on the different topic related to the project. We have strengthen community to maintain resisters properly initially it help by our Community Mobilizer and gradually we will transfer ownership to the Gram Sabha members to maintain it .We have strengthening grass root democracy among the poor and marginalized communities, mostly Adivasis (Scheduled Tribes) for establishing "Indigenocracy" (indigenous value based method of governance Strengthen system) and self- rule. The project aims to address the



underlying causes of poverty and injustice among the poor and the marginalized people. Strengthen grass root democracy among the poor and marginalized communities, mostly Adivasis (Scheduled Tribes) for establishing "Indigenocracy" (indigenous value-based method of governance system) and self- rule. The project aims to address the underlying causes of poverty

and injustice among the poor and the marginalized people. People will be motivated to streamline the village economy as per the Gram Sabha rulings that take care of community ownership over the natural and man-made resources. Consequently, these steps will ensure the efficient participation, overcoming barriers and being forth the model of grass root governance 'emanating from below' with mutual consent. These activities will attempt to infuse the confidence and camaraderie that they are the custodian of their lives and they are capable enough to take formidable step. This will lead to more informed and well aware people towards their right and motivate them to further safeguard and promote the indigenous value system and governance structure, protect community claims and ensure sustainable livelihood options at their own effort.

### **Intervention /Initiative**



**Initial Motivation Camp:** -We have planned to organize 140 motivation camps in the said 140 villages. At first, we went to the projected village and meet with the villagers and interacted with them. We told the villagers and others who were present in that meeting SAMVAD wants to build a self-sufficient society, where no different (Caste problem) will be present among the villagers. In such way SAMVAD wants to make good relation

with the different class of people. We also stated them that SAMVAD also work mainly upon the SC, ST (poor and Dalit women). In that meeting Gram Pradhan, Mukhiya and villagers were present we told about the work processes SAMVAD. Then also told donor organization that is OAK Foundation. During that meeting we discussed the villagers about the work of SAMVAD (i) VDP (Village Development Plan), (ii) How to decreased poverty, (iii) Social Security, (iv) Basic amenities (Water, Housing, Road etc), (v) Important of Gram Sabha.

At the end of the programme Mukhiya, Manjhi haram, and Panchayat Pradhan they all agree to work with SAMVAD. In that way we completed all motivation camp in 140 villages and total participate were- 3548 (Male-1802, Female-1743)

**Achievements:** - They told us if we work with you then what they will get from "Sanstha". Ultimately, we can able to work with them without any cost.

**Outcome:** -Village people motivated for village development plan.

### **Quarterly Review and planning meeting at Panchayat level**

Carry on the programme we arranged quarterly Review and planning meeting programme 16 panchayat in 4 blocks. In that meeting the participant were panchayat member, Mukhiya and other villagers approx 80% area inhabited was present. The main objective of this meeting was to develop the Grass root democracy among the women, Dalits and poor people of this



area. Achievement of the female candidate in every meeting was necessary and discusses about in this meeting. We also discuss in that meeting about the organic farming /cultivation, kitchen garden, vermin-compost pit etc. To smoothly carry on the programme, we proposed to community leader one will be female and other will be male, and the members shall be selected by the gram Sabha and also, we told them on baseline survey. All the members of panchayat, Mukhiya and other staff also help us to do our work. In every three-month duration meeting will be again arranged by SAMVAD to discuss about the progress of our work. Total participants were- 808 (Male-421, Female-397).

**Achievement:** - We have achieved the 80% meeting with villagers and the villages take us gladly. They also inspired on organic farming, Kitchen gardening, importance of Gram sabha from the meeting.

**Outcome:** - Effectiveness and Skills enhanced to the PRI members and Villagers.

**Baseline survey:** -During base line survey we personally meet with every villager therefore peace full bonding built with them. They help us baseline survey in every situation. We face much question arising from villagers and also, we reply that answer of the questions. However, we could do it peacefully and systematically. After compilation of baseline survey, it is found that more of the people do not aware about the gram Sabha meeting they never feel a participant of gram Sabha meeting.

**Achievement:** -It is also found that women had no right to speak or participating any discussion in the meeting. Few women candidate was showing their interest on organic farming, kitchen gardening etc. during baseline survey.



## Publication

### Adhi Duniya Magazine

April – June, 2018 (Womens movement and campaign Issue)

July - August, 2018 (Movements of equity and Women)

September, 2018 (Shishir Tudu Memorial issue)

Oct 2018 – Mar 2019 (focused on identity of women for development and changement for their community and country).



"Adhi Duniya" (April- June 2018) based on "Womens movement and Campaign Issue".

"Adhi Duniya" (July- August 2018) based on "Movements of equity & women Issue".

## Case Study

### Formation of the village fund for preserving cultural heritage

Kandegutu is a hamlet that falls under Tantanagar block in West Singhbhoom district. Adjacent to Dabra forest, this village hosts its own Deshauili (village forest) as node of reverence for the indigenous communities. Due to torrential rain and cyclonic pressure that occurred during the pre-monsoon of April, 2018, most of plants and trees were uprooted, which were of no use even for firewood since Deshauili is seen as source of respect and reverence for the communitarian life.

On 18th April, 2018, Seteng Self Help Group organized a meeting to discuss further on this. In this meeting it is decided that all the remaining trees can be collected and sold and the money can be used as village fund. All women gathered at the meeting requested their Munda (traditional village head) Jenaram Karova to initiate the process. In next meeting on 02 May, 2018 the Gram Sabha decided to sell the remaining trees of Deshauili. During the meeting of Gram Sabha few members also proposed for individual sharing of gross profits rather than



establishing a Gram Kosh (Village Fund), however the Munda and women members of SHG opposed this move and criticized the petty gain of those few members.

From selling of remaining of trees Gram Sabha earned Rs. 12000/-, which has been formed as seed money for Gram Kosh for benefit of community folks and village. This village fund is now functional and three drums and other essential items for social purpose have been purchased. These drums are now rented out at the rate of Rs. 20/- rupees per day, and its earning are deposited at the Fund. The Munda (traditional village chief) of Kendugutu emphasizes that- *“collective effort and village fund can solve some of needs and services of community easily.”*

### **Initiative of Gram Sabha Federation for preserving social harmony**

The indigenous communities of Maheshpur block of Pakur district are united to maintain social fabric in crisis time. Not so long ago, some sections of community have witnessed a political ploy staged by a religious group for fulfilling its' vested interests. This group had tried to host a convention based on some tenets of caste, religion and *Sanskara* (ritual). The indigenous community people were in apprehension that this convention would divide Adivasi society on sectarian line and pose challenges to the social fabric of indigenous communities living peacefully through the ages.

Sensing some unrest, members of Gram Sabhas began to mobilize people and after fierce opposition from villagers and also not permitted by district administration, this program was rescheduled and relocated at Kalidah village of Pathariya Panchayat. However, this program was not successful there as well. Furthermore, some members of Santhal Pargana Regional Federation, Emmanuel Kisku, Asunta Hembrom, and Baha Hembrom relayed such disturbing trend to other Majhi Hadams (traditional village heads) of the region. They collectively devised some strategies and decided not to allow such programs and activities that tear apart the unity of indigenous communities and social harmony. They also agreed that if such attempts are floated by any group or organization in future, then they will incessantly boycott staging of such meetings or rallies.

When Santal Paragana Regional Federation was intervening in this matter the communal forces threatened some of its members but despite such threats the Federation remained united and adamant to defeating them and finally succeeded in pushing them out. Thus, the threat of inter-clash of communities was kept at bay with the solidarity of indigenous community. One Manjhi Hadam, who was at helm of this collective effort, aptly remarked that *“the community must be united and alert to keep themselves safe from anti communal forces with nefarious design.”*

### **Anti-Liquor Campaign led by Women's Group**

The women folks of Pathalgarhwa village (Chitarpur block in Ramgarh district) have taken charge themselves to save villagers from intoxication and liquor consumption. They have launched a campaign under the aegis of 'Women Farmer Group' and 'Bhagyashali Group' to eradicate a social evil. This non-descript village had witnessed those days when males often abused their ward, misused earned money on consuming liquor and country wine and made life hell which also led to domestic violence and friction in the family bonding.

Taking account of deaths of young members of society and anti-liquor campaign related lesson from other region, the women were in unison that male are actually main culprit while the entire family is victimized for their addiction. The women-folks unanimously decided that there must be total ban on consuming liquor and women will take charge themselves for preventing this ill practice. They fixed the date of 20th May, 2018 as the beginning of total ban on sell, storage and consumption of liquor in the periphery of the village. Both of these groups organized several meetings and outreach activities to strategize the eradication of evil of intoxication and making their village liquor free. The women groups embarked upon door to door campaign and regular interactions with rural folks to deepen the campaign in communities.

One of turning point arrived when some likeminded male groups came forward with these women to support them in their initiative. However, some sections of male were not inclined instead they were engaged in selling of country wine, often opposed the women initiative and even tried to suppress women's voices by threatening of their lives. The silver-lining was also seen as the campaign effort has begun to materialize when male counterparts participated and instead of falling prey to addiction they are now engaged in livelihood and other meaningful daily chores.

Munia Devi, whose husband was a severe addicted of country liquor, said *"now, I and my children are very happy and leading our life peacefully, because my husband has left addiction and engaged in his daily chores."*

### **Empowered Gram Sabha can change the fate of grieving family**

Pramila Devi was living with her husband Karu Mandal and four children in Chuglo village of Gadiya Panchayat (Gadiya block of Deoghar district). Karu was a daily labourer and used to fetch drinking water for rural households as a mean of earning. Unfortunately, on the day of 30<sup>th</sup> April while working in a marriage function, he was electrocuted and lost his life. The day of someone's marriage witnessed burning the pyre of a poor man. Pramila and her children thus suddenly lost the bread winner of their family.

Mournful Pramila in dire need put this matter before Gram Sabha of village and urged for helping her. The Gram Sabha decided to pledge the help of around Rs. 25000/- for grieving

family in the village meeting that was held on 6th May, 2018. It was agreed that the said amount will be adequately contributed from the villagers. Since the support of villagers in cash and kind of Rs.25000/- was not sufficient to fulfil the contingency and regular needs of the distressed family. So, taking cognizance of this situation Gram Sabha further decided to approach the local MLA and the Labour Minister for providing more relief to the family.

Meanwhile, during the process of approaching the local MLA, some brokers came to Pramila Devi and tried to put pressure and misguided her that only they have capability and network to influence these people and they must be favoured by her in getting compensation. Pramila put all these concern before the floor of Gram Sabha, sensing the unforgiving mood of villagers, brokers lately refrained to coerce the grieving family.

After pressure and sheer efforts of the Gram Sabha the fate of Pramila has now changed, because the local MLA and the Labour Minister took the matter seriously and granted the sum of four lakhs rupees to Pramila Devi. Thus, the Gram Sabha has been successful in providing needful support to the grieving family. Pramila humbly said, *“I am very thankful for the support of Gram Sabha that stood with me and fulfilled its promise in dire needs.”*

### **Gram Sabha solved water crisis of the village**

Every year recurrent water crisis has been witnessed in Gomia, a village which comes under Siary panchayat of Bokaro district. But this year from the onset of summer, four tolas of this village faced acute water crisis. All the water recourses in this village proved to be of no use. The villagers and the cattle had to go river that is 2.5 kms away to fulfil their water needs. But it has been very troublesome and labour practices.

The project staff visited PRI members regularly with the objective to sensitize them regarding the impacts of water crisis. On April 16<sup>th</sup> there held a Mukhiya (village headman) called a meeting of villagers, ward members along with other PRI members with the purpose to resolve this water crisis. The issue was seriously discussed in the meeting and it was decided to submit a memorandum to the IEL (Indian Explosive Limited) in which there was a request to resolve the issue of water crisis problem. IEL realized the situation and decided to provide two water tankers daily.

But this proved not sufficient and again the Mukhiya came forward and arranged two more tankers from the panchayat, and given to the IEL. Now four water tankers are supplying water daily. Thus, the issue of water woes has been immediately solved by the effort of Gram Sabha.

**Quote** – The gram Sabha of the village said “every problem can be solved by the joint effort of community.”

## Organic Farming by Women

The story belongs to the village Lawkeshra under Media panchayt of Musabani block in East Singhbhum district.

In today's scenario women plays a very important role in every sector and actively participate to learn new things which will help them to raise their knowledge and current situation. One of the sectors is Agriculture where, from the beginning they are contributing 100% to it but had been considered as 30% contributor in agriculture sector. As if now their work and efforts has been recognized and they are flourishing in this sector also.

One of the best examples is of "Shagun Mahila Mandal" from Luwkeshra village of Musabani block, East singbhum district. This SHG was formed in the year of 2016 and consists of 15 women members. This village has been selected as Model village in SAMVAD. The women of this SHG conduct their meetings and also actively participate in Gram sabha meetings. On December 6th, 2018 a meeting was organized with cooperative members and farmers, in this meeting the members of Shagun Mahila Mandal also participated and proposed a request to do Collective farming. The decision was taken that there is a land of 1acre near to irrigation area will be provided to SHG to do collective farming. The land belonged to Matu mardi & Manik mardi and from their two women are also the members of SHG, Shagun Mahila Mandal. They willingly offered to give the land for farming and took no money for it. SHG decided that they will yearly give Rs.1000 to Matu & Manik Mardi and besides, if the profit will be more, they will increase the amount.

Then the SHG members started the farming with different vegetables. All the members performed collectively and the outcome of the hard work came out with good results in which brinjal, tomato, mustard, ladyfinger, bitter gourd & bottle gourd were cultivated. It was done with organic farming with the thought of SHG members to keep away & free from chemical veggies. From organic farming they are fulfilling some needs of the family and SHG earned the savings of Rs.15000/--20000/-. By setting an example in the village, other SHGs are also inspired to do the organic farming.

After seeing their dedication & success, SAMVAD & BIDU-Chandan library organized a "Farmer's Fair" on February 19th, 2019 in which they decided to give award to 'Shagun Mahila Mandal' by giving memento and shawl to motivate & encourage them for their hard work.

*"We can enhance our economic status and gain respect in our houses through this effort of collective farming. We are very happy by getting honour as women farmer."*