



ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20

SAMARTHAN
Centre for Development Support

Our Vision

“Every Citizen contributes meaningfully in shaping democratic State and enjoy benefit based on the principles of equality and equity”



Our Mission

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



Ensuring Safe Drinking Water for Every Household

'Women and Water Alliance' Program is being implemented by Samarthan in three districts of Madhya Pradesh namely Sehore, Indore and Khandwa supported by WaterAid under aegis of USAID-GAP Inc. The geographical coverage of the project includes 16 blocks of these respective districts focusing on more than

800 villages. Phase-I of the project commenced from June 2019 and it covered 401 villages from the above mentioned districts. Under the program women and youth were identified as primary stakeholders/change agents to manage and control water resources. It aimed at capacitating on developing understanding and build on skills of women and youth on their entitlements on accessing safe drinking water. Further the women and youth leaders were organized and WUC was formed. Strengthening the existing VWSC and WUC was also important aspect of the project. These committees were made accountable for ensuring access to safe drinking water.

Close working relationship and rapport building was done with PHED department for jointly achieving the shared objective of accelerating improved household access to water supply schemes for availing safe drinking water. Program implementors i.e. Wateraid and Samarthan were also engaged with the allied departments including PHED from time to time for the needful support and coordination. As it is evident that for any development initiatives at village level, Panchayats play a vital role. Hence WWA focused on sensitization of PRI members along with community on water conservation through water budgeting and water security planning. WWA program emphasized on augmenting the existing water resources and their sustainable utilization to sustain the needs of community.

Community entitlements on accessing safe drinking water by awareness creation on water quality testing through usage of FTK: Community especially youth, women, WUC/VWSC members, village volunteers and select PRI members were trained and informed about different types of contaminants and hazards it has on human life. Cadre of volunteers and community mobilizers was trained on usage of FTK. Samarthan also facilitated in accessing FTK from PHED to panchayats.

Community Score Cards were exercised and Social audits of PWSS were conducted in select villages to measure, understand and ultimately improve the status of scheme services focusing on indicators of adequate and timely water supply and reliability on source sustainability.

Rapid Assessment to assess the status of FHTC (Functional Household Tap Connection) through PWSS scheme was done in the initial phase to gauge the ground reality of PWSS. These reports were also shared with PHED to work on repair and maintenance of damaged and defunct pipelines village wise.

Awareness Rallies, Ratri and Jal-Choupals were carried out aiming at sensitization of community on the following:

- **Water Conservation through water budgeting and developing/ implementing water security plans:** Samarthan facilitated bringing community, WUC and PRI representatives to work together on a same platform and develop WSPs in 22 Gram Panchayats. Further it will be monitored that these WSPs are adopted in GPDP.

Issues which came out as result of exercising these tools

- Even villages which reflect 100% PWSS coverage few households/mohallas are left out. Majorly the reason was that either these households were located at a higher terrain or have been late entrants in the village.
- Adequate and timely supply to households was also seen as a reason of dissatisfaction among the tariff payers. Pressure Valves were suggested to be fixed to improve the services.
- Efficient and motivated staff to maintain timely supply of water was seen as a challenge as the tariff collected was not sufficient to pay the staff adequately.
- Efficient Operational maintenance of PWSS was a challenge due to non-availability of sufficient funds from tax payers.

Strong intentions of women ensured water availability in Mahukala village

Mahukala is village, situated in Budhni block of Sehore. The village consist 03 families from general category, 95 from OBC, 25 from SC and 05 from ST category. Though the village was having status of a big village, still it was bereft from Mardanpur Nal Jal Yojna for water. linking the village with Mardanpur scheme and starting its implementation became a big challenge for the villagers.

Communities somehow managed to get Mardanpur Nal Jal scheme started in the village, but after some time it get stopped for some reasons. Women of the villages initiated the process of starting the work again in the village. They submitted application in block office, MLA candidates during elections and Jal Nigam as well to restart the work. After immense efforts and submitting a lot of applications through Panchayats and Gram Sabha they finally managed to restart the implementation of work under Mardanpur Nal Jal scheme.

People from Samarthan participated in their community meeting and provided information about constituting drinking water subcommittee for proper management of Mardanpur Nal Jal scheme. But men of the village were least interested in forming committee, due to which constituting subcommittee became a big challenge. Then Samarthan opted for a unique solution and conducted a meeting with women of the village, in which they discussed about the rules and regulations related to committee in details. Women of the village was not very confident about forming a group led by women. They raised some obvious questions like, how will we manage to do all this, who will listen to us and how will we talk to government officials.

Radha Meena didi, who was already heading a self-help group in the village came forward and told, if we can manage to run a SHG why can't we run a committee. This statement filled new energy in each woman of the village and finally all women came forward and constituted a drinking water subcommittee in the village. Later on, they got their committee registered through Gram Panchayat and opened its bank account. The women again proved they are equally capable as men. The drinking water subcommittee of Mahukala consist ten women and two men, who were included in the committee to look after the work of ball man and other work of the committee. The committee finally got registered and been given responsibility of managing whole Nal Jal Yojna. The committee also decided that it will monitor the pipe line work of Mardanpur Nal Jal scheme in regular intervals, report officials with shortfalls in implementation of the scheme and will make it correct.

After completing pipe line work, the major task in front of the committee was fixing amount of water tax and security deposit. The committee again organized its meeting and decided, they will collect five hundred rupees from families who are APL and hundred rupees from BPL families. They kept the water tax as hundred rupees for each connection.

After completion of work of pipeline, turn came for providing tap connection, but as most of the households were already having their own source of water, generating demand for new tap connection was really tough.

Committee's president Mrs. Radha Meena and members took their responsibility as challenge and ensured tap connection of 143 households, in which 72 were from BPL from whom ₹ 7200 (₹100 from each households) was collected and 8 were from APL from whom ₹4000 (₹500 from each household) was collected as security deposit. The work is still in progress and the committee have set a target to collect all the money in next one month. Apart from that, the committee also convinced 20 families, who were already having their own source of water, to get tap connection. Committee explained that every household need to pay just ₹3 to ₹4 per day for appropriate amount of water, which will save electricity and maintenance cost of households.

After providing connections, committee also checked the water pressure of each tap by filling water in the tank. They found 6 taps in which the water pressure was low. Committee took this problem seriously and reported the same to Jal Nigam. After that contractors solved the problem of water pressure in all the six identified taps.

Finally, committee got started the Mardanpur Nal Jal Scheme in Mahukal after solving all the problems. Some works are still pending, but the scheme will start functioning properly soon.











Transforming Aspirational Districts - Agriculture & Allied Services

The motive behind this projects is to encourage efficient and sustainable agricultural practices among the farmers of Three Aspirational Districts in Madhya Pradesh – Khandhwa, Barwani & Singrauli . The project is driven by NITI Aayog at the central level with ITC Ltd. serving as the main funders and Samarthan (SIPA) as the implementation body. The aim of this project is to provide technical support via capacity building and regular monitoring of its implementation in close coordination with Block and Gram Panchayat level agriculture functionaries, to improve productivity of agriculture and allied sector in these three districts of Madhya Pradesh.

Major Activities

- Capacity Building of block level agriculture officials as Master Trainers.
- Handhold support to agriculture and allied departments in numerous activities to enhance the rank of district in Champion of Change Dashboard.
- Capacity Building of farmers on sustainable agricultural practices with an overall objective of reducing their cost of cultivation & increasing productivity.
- Enrollment of farmers in different government schemes related to agriculture.
- Running Farmer Field schools for capacity building of farmers and demonstrate sustainable agricultural practices.

 1500 + Training	 350 + Demo Plots	 41000 + Farmers Trained
 300 Farmer Field School	 3750 FFS Member	 21500 + Acre Area under Practise

Reduction in Cost of Cultivation & Increase in Productivity per Acre

Soybean - Rs. 1175	Soybean - 1.3 Qt.
Maize - Rs. 1048	Maize - 2 Qt.
Wheat - Rs. 1720	Wheat - 3.4 Qt.
Paddy - Rs. 1200	Paddy - 2.5 Qt.
Cotton - Rs. 425	Cotton - 0.86 Qt.

PMKSY - 421 Farmers
e - NAM - 3680 Farmers
Soil Health Card - 2619 Farmers
PMFBY - 14639 Farmers
MGNREGA - 183 Farmers
Animal Vaccination - 34466 Animals
Artificial Insemination - 293 Animals
Quality Seed Distribution - 6692 Farmers



Mitigating Climate Risk through Climate Smart Agriculture

Weather - Smart Agriculture

To promote weather - smart agriculture, farmers were trained on new techniques of cultivation which helps to mitigate the risk of adverse climatic conditions. Farmers were also made aware of quality and verity of seeds, suitable for the micro climate of the region. In addition, field demonstrations are done for the new techniques and sowing of climate - smart seeds in the program area. The quantitative impact is as follows:

- **Adoption of new cultivation techniques:** In order to mitigate the risk of adverse climatic conditions, improve soil ecosystem and increase productivity, farmers were trained on new cultivation techniques suitable for the micro climate of the region. These new cultivation techniques; Broad Bed Furrow, Zero Tillage & Minimum Tillage, covering 3437 acres in 67 villages, aims to teach the 1623 beneficiary farmers how to prepare land, plant and maintain seeds during periods of excess, little and intermittent rain. Using these methods, farmers have been able to mitigate the climate risk to a great extent resulting them an additional income of Rs. 2000-4000 per acre.
- **Improvement in Seed Quality:** Seed is the base of good productivity. Farmers in Sehore district were using farm saved seeds for production of crop which caused decrease in the income of the farmers. Samarthan, as part of its CSV initiative, sensitized farmers on importance of quality seeds and helped them to get certified soybean seeds at affordable cost which produce can be used for several years as quality seed. This not only increased the production for the farmers but also ensured the quality of the crops.
- **Seed Treatment & Seed Germination Test:** Promotion of seed treatment & seed germination test has ensured that now almost every farmer in the program areas treat & test the seeds before planting. This helps in improved growth of the crops and better immunity to possible infestation.
- **Crop Replacement:** This deals with enabling farmers to substitute one crop for another, in circumstances of the crop going bad or the weather not supporting. Under this program, farmers were trained on cultivating different crops suitable for the region. Soybean is the major crop of kharif season in Sehore district, but its production was decreasing continuously from past 2-3 years due to irregular rain in the area. To decrease overdependence of farmers in single crop, they were trained to go for other crops like maize due to which farmers saw around 40% increase in profit even in adverse weather conditions.

Agriculture is one of the most vulnerable sectors, which get affected the most from climate change. In order to mitigate the climate associated risk in agriculture sector CEWASH centre of Samarthan – Centre for Development Support has started the initiative of Climate Smart Agriculture in 67 villages of Sehore district. The intervention aims to mitigate the impact of climate change in agriculture sector by developing villages as Climate Smart Village. For the purpose, farmers are being trained on five elements of Climate Smart Agriculture; Weather Smart, Water Smart, IT Smart, Nutrient & Carbon Smart and Institution Smart through Farmers Field Schools formed in these villages. In the reported period more than 7500 farmers of 67 villages were trained on Climate Smart Agriculture.

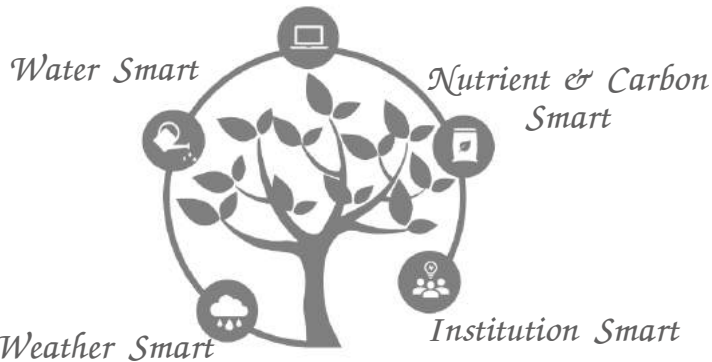
Water - Smart Agriculture

- **Micro Irrigation:** Before intervention most of the farmers were using flood irrigation technique to irrigate their land, which not only increase the cost of cultivation but also causes water wastage to a great extent. From only 18 sprinklers set to 1-2% of the farmers in the program area, around 80% of the farmers now practice micro irrigation in an area of more than 22000 acres land. Micro irrigation saves 40 – 60 % of water as compared to flood irrigation.
- **Irrigation from Surface Water:** Many of the farmers have constructed farm pond in their land which helps them to irrigate their crop 1 – 2 more times. Irrigation from water of farm pond also decreases the dependence of farmers on ground water for agricultural practices which ultimately reduces ground water depletion.

IT - Smart Agriculture

This is aimed at promoting the use of technology – mobiles (WhatsApp), Radio and TV to keep updated with the various schemes and methods through apps like Prime Minister’s Skill Development Programme (PMKVY). Under this program 59 village level WhatsApp groups has been formed consisting 3953 farmer members to disseminate important information related to agriculture easily.

IT Smart



Nutrient & Carbon - Smart Agriculture

The objective of nutrient and carbon smart agriculture is to ensure that the soil utilizes all the nutrients it receives. Any soil with 0.5-1% carbon is considered good soil, with 50% having good soil. Hence to understand the soil that drives their livelihood, farmers are encouraged to test their soil and then to augment it with only the nutrients lacking. To this effect, Nutrient Health Card were made for 408 farmers, after testing, with a list of only those nutrients lacking, so as to not disturb the soil with more than the required nutrients. The impact of Nutrient & Carbon Smart Agriculture was:

- **Nutrient Health Card:** Farmers are given a Nutrient Health card, after soil testing, so that only the nutrients lacking in the soil can be added.
- **Ph & Soil Master Meter:** This is used to determine the Ph of the soil and consequently, the soil type- whether it is sour, how much water do the plants need, etc.
- **Leaf Colour Chart:** These are used to estimate the amount of water plants need, based on just the colour of the leaves, making water conservation and crop maintenance easier.

Institution - Smart Agriculture

This is aimed at strengthening the power of groups and committees at the village/panchayat level-SHG, Farmer Associations etc. They are made aware of the various schemes and methodologies, how to avail them, in order to spur on their interest and help the spread of knowledge.

67 Farmer Field Schools were started in 67 villages wherein 1407 farmers were enrolled. stage to stage knowledge of the entire farming process, discussed in their monthly meetings.



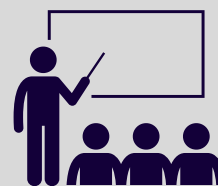
67

Farmer Field Schools



1407

FFS Members



402+

Trainings



7500+

Farmers Trained



Conserving Surface Water in Sehore

The Program aims to conserve water in 42 program villages by constructing various structures like Stop Dam, Check Dam, Gabions etc., which benefit the entire catchment area. The water saved not only helps irrigate land, the structures also prevent surface and soil run-off.

Individual structures like Farm Ponds and Tank Renovations have also been undertaken, as well as well recharge, which ensures that, the water is available for an additional 20-25 days per year. These structures have not only helped increase the crop yield of traditional crops like wheat by 50% per cropping season, but has also enabled growing of intensive water-use plants like onion and garlic. This has increased farmer income in some areas by 10%. The beneficiaries include not just farmers, but also animals who have benefited massively from well-recharge.

Major Objectives

- Soil & Moisture Conservation.
- Increase vegetative cover.
- Protection, Promotion & expansion of natural resources as well as their optimum utilisation and proper accessibility.
- Promotion of regular labour livelihood along with other sources of livelihood generation including self-generated livelihood.

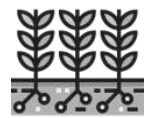
Stages of the Project

Stage 1: Inclusion of villagers in the programme through various committees, linkages with local authorities like PRI, strengthening their participation through detailed program report.

Watershed Expansion Stage: The core of the project, this involves implementing the project according to the approved project report and with the participation of the farmers.

Final Stage: This stage involves establishing steady links between the beneficiaries and the augmented/created resources, so as to provide villagers with augmented, self-sufficient income source.

Progress Till Date



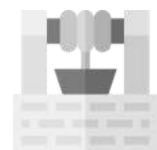
11575 Ha.
Total Land Treated



1240597 Cum.
Water Storage Capacity Created



353 Ha.
Wasteland Covered



0.02 m
Average Water Level Increased
in Wells



Soil & Moisture Conservation, in a Natural Way

The core focus of this project is to restore the ecological balance by harnessing, conserving and developing degraded natural resources such as soil, vegetative cover and water with expected outcomes; prevention of soil run-off, regeneration of natural vegetation, rain water harvesting and enhancing the ground water table.

Samarthan has adopted participatory approach for developing biodiversity and conserving environment

In order to ensure community participation, Samarthan has constituted several village level committees and build their capacities through regular training, meeting and exposure visits. The committee ensure social fencing of the biodiversity plots, makes rules & regulations and looks after other matters related to biodiversity development and protection.

Major Objectives

- To conserve rain water in a natural way, so as to augment ground water level.
- To decrease dependency of ground water and promote use of surface water for agricultural practices by promoting low cost watershed structures.
- To promote ecological & biodiversity conservation.
- To promote soil & moisture conservation by planting different trees and grass.
- Revival of wastelands and development of common pasture land.
- Environment conservation by active participation of local communities.

Execution Methodology

- Formation of different village level committees to ensure participation of local community. (Self Help Groups, Water User Groups, etc.)
- Conducting regular meetings with formed committees for capacity building of the members.
- Identification of population who need support and those who can emerge as the champion of the cause.
- Listing out of activities necessary for achieving the the objective of the project (as per village need).
- Implementation of selected activities.
- The issues plaguing the villages were also ranked in order of urgency and the work is carried out in accordance with the same.

Samarthan has developed three biodiversity plots in three villages of Sehere; Badnagar, Dhaboti & Bilkisganj in 44 Ha. of land, planted trees on around 209 Ha. of land and developed grass land in 56 Ha. land.

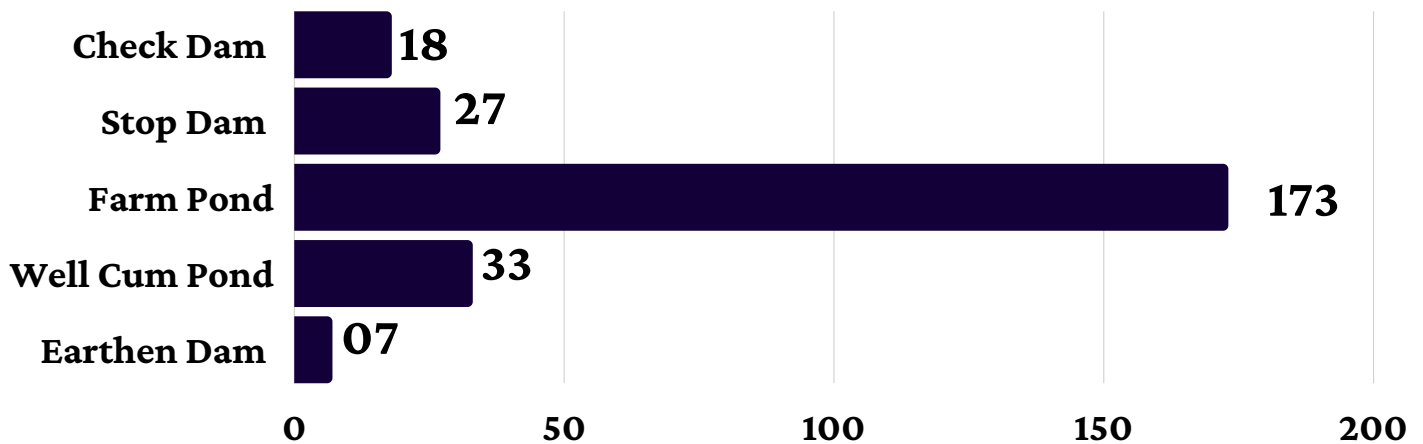


Plantation

- 1,800 Plants across 5 Ha. of wasteland.
- 1,000 Plants around drainage area.
- 13,000 plants around fields.
- 3 Ha. of Napier grass, 36 Ha. of Vetiver grass & 5 Ha. of Styalo Amata grass.

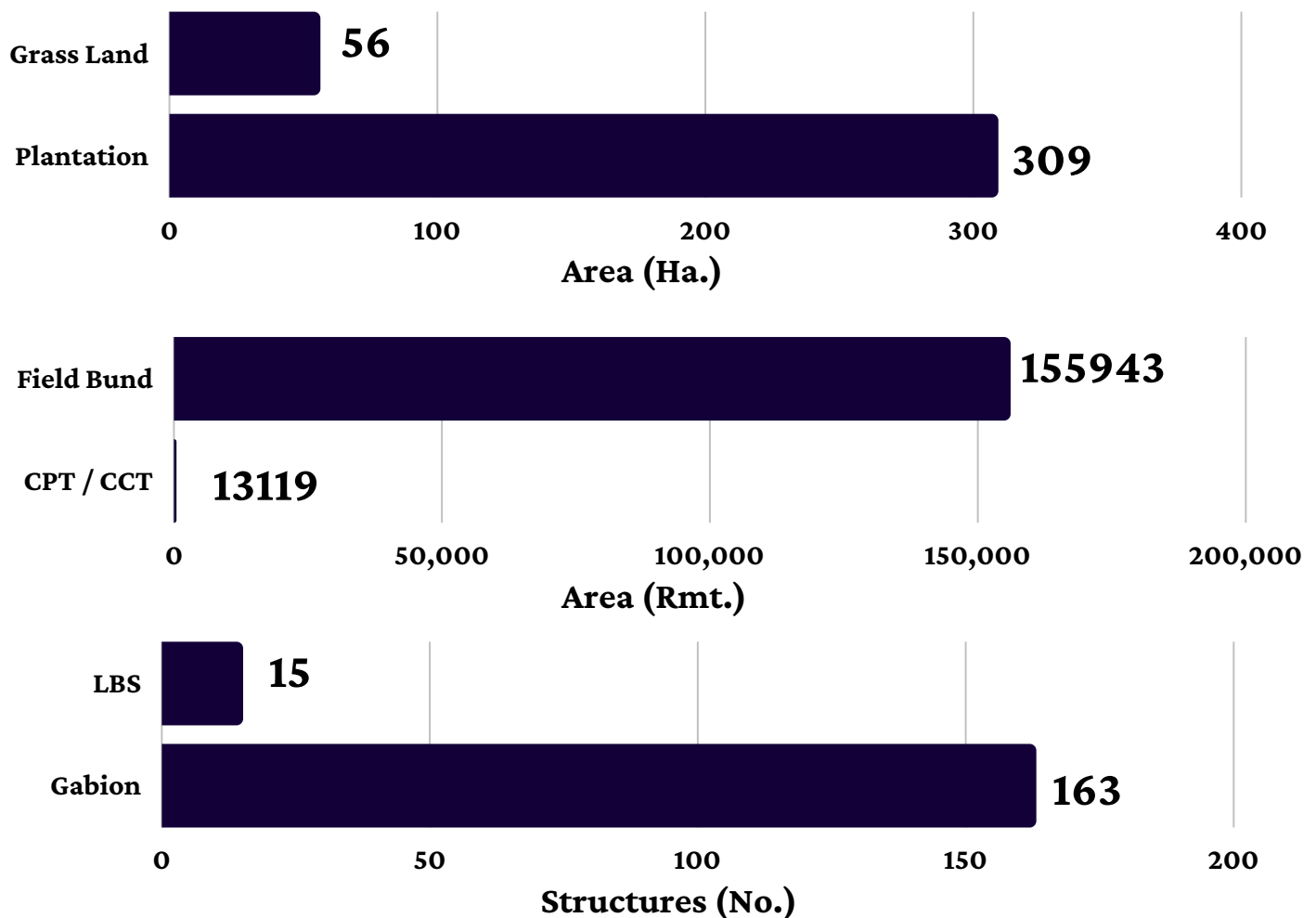
Water Conservation

Water Harvesting Structures



Till now a total of 258 different water harvesting structures has been constructed by Samarthan - Centre for Development Support under different projects, having total water storage capacity of 12,40,579 cum. which can irrigate 1224 Ha. of land.

Soil & Moisture Conservation



From above activities, till now a total of 56,030 cum. soil has been conserved from run off.

Enhancing Livelihood Opportunities for Woman

Livelihood creation is an integral activity of Samarthan. To create alternative source of livelihood for farmers and enhance livelihood opportunities for woman, CEWASH Centre of Samartha in association with ITC Ltd. has started this initiative of strengthening goat based livelihoods through Pashu Sakhi. Under the initiative SIPA formed a team of rural health workers known as Pashu Sakhis, in 40 villages of Sehore, Madhya Pradesh. These women specialize in the rearing and treatment of goat population which dominate the rural households of Madhya Pradesh.

Recent census shown that the population of goats in the state stood at around 81.4 lakhs, with only 30 % of the respondents having knowledge of balanced feed, 28.33 % knew about how to make silage, around 11.66 % had knowledge of disposal of animal waste and just 20% had knowledge about the vaccination of livestock.

To tackle this issue, Samarthan provides training to rural women, elected from their villages. These women are skilled in the 16 best practices enlisted by The Goat Trust with focus on four major areas of Primary Healthcare, Herbal treatment, Vaccination and Profit Making by selling grains. Each of the current 29 Pashu Sakhis cater to around 320 goats, providing them an additional monthly income of around INR 3071/-.

Apart from that Samarthan have formed 113 SHG, comprising 1156 members and one federation named "Samarth Mahila Mahasangh" through which it provide trainings and technical support to start business to SHG members.



Self Help Groups

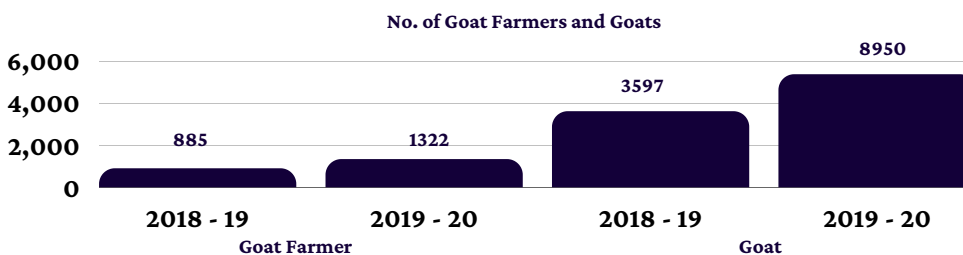
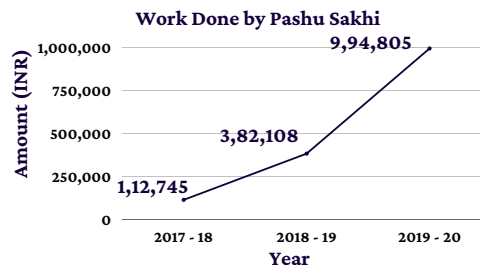
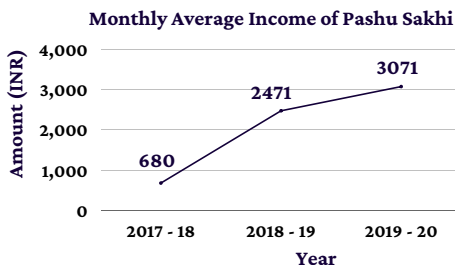
Total SHG - 113

Total Members - 1156

Total Saving (till date) - Rs. 33,28,050

Total Internal Loan (till date) - Rs. 15,75,000

Total Loan / Fund Received by SHG (till date) - Rs. 44,70,000



90 % reduction in goat mortality rate



Additional monthly income of INR 3071/ month to Pashu Sakhi's



Welfare of 9000+ goats

Gayatri Rajput - A leader & Fighter

Meet Gayatri Rajput. Aged 27, mother of two kids, widowed and a heart patient. Also, President of the Federation of 250 SHGs across 25 villages, one of the pioneers of girl child insurance in her village (Sukanya scheme) and serial entrepreneur.

The Federation called the "Samarth Mahila Mahasangh", formed by CEWASH Centre of Samarthan as a part of their core function of governance, comprises 250 SHGs over 25 villages and has been functioning for the past two years. 35 representatives from the SHGs attend the meeting, which happens once every three months. The meetings involve discussions of the various ways incomes of the SHGs can be augmented, the different sources of income like making bangles etc which are being practiced by any one SHG, which is then replicated by the others. Thus the Federation works as an essential check and link for the SHGs. The annual convention of the Federation this year was organized and funded by the women themselves, collecting Rs.100 from each of the members. They also managed the logistics for the event, making it a huge success.

Gayatri has not only embraced her role as the President of the Federation but is also always thinking of ways to improve lives of the women she meets every day. From making bangles and pots to assisting in construction work, any work that any woman is doing in any of the 25 villages, is discussed in the Federation meetings and is replicated in other parts. The income thus generated is over and above the income they earn as day-time labourers in the field. This has not only ensured that her SHG has saved up to Rs 40,000 in the past 14 months, but has also facilitated her family buying more cattle to augment their earnings. From sending her kids to school, to offering jobs to the husbands of SHG workers, Gayatri is a champion of improvement of quality of life. She is now enthused about Rural Sanitary Marts, an entrepreneurial venture for sanitation and health, built with women at the core, and is ready to broach the idea in the next Federation meeting, once again coming up with new ways to touch the lives of women around her.



Mrs. Gayatri Rajput

Developing Children - Centric Governance Structure through GPDP



Samarthan initiated a program to develop children centric governance structure by strengthening capacities of stakeholders in development planning through GPDP ensuring greater convergence between social safety, security programs and social services to reduce child deprivations. The project aimed at strengthening participatory planning processes leading to need based actionable participatory GPDP, including action to prevent child marriages in 10 GP's per block in six tribal dominated districts of Madhya Pradesh; Jhabua, Alirajpur, Barwani, Mandla, Dindori and Dhar.

Project operation covered 60 Gram Panchayats selecting 10 each from all the above mentioned 06 tribal districts. Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDP) is introduced to promote participation, inclusiveness and convergence of schemes and resources. The key focuses of GPDP like- change in the financial allocation; shifting the focus of GPs from mere creation of physical infrastructure to work on social infrastructure also; and enlarging the practice of people's participation and social accountability. These focus areas were underlined while the implementation of the project was strategized. Accordingly, GPDP guidelines and training manual was developed in consultation with the concerned stake holders. The manual covered the due significance on child rights, child participation in the governance and gender issues. Development and Capacity building of the grass root level functionaries like Master Trainers and Micro Planners was another strategy to reach out to the maximum areas. Children were directly interacted and meetings were conducted to disseminate the core message of their participation in Panchayat functioning and ensuring the due importance in governance. Major issues of children like child marriage and child labor were given attention during the project intervention by sensitizing the stakeholders. Panchayat representatives were integral part of every interventions. Based on the learnings and success stories, initiatives shall be taken to bring changes in the policy and strategies at district and State level.

Major Achievements

- Child Centric plan is developed in 60 Gram Panchayats of 06 districts with the participation of children, PRs and community.
- More than 100 children got admitted in hostels and schools. Most of the children were dropouts belonging to poor families.
- Gram Sabhas passed the resolution banning child marriage and child labor in the respective GPs.

Way Forward

- Aggregating the Panchayat/district wise plans and developing a sustainable mechanism for implementation and monitoring.
- Increasing the responsiveness of the district level stakeholders and building ownership. This could be substantiated with a proper ToR for the Master trainers and Micro planners to act. Additionally, the learnings and best practices need to be shared at various level. Forum for Master trainers and Micro planners is to be created for interaction and increase understanding their role widely accepted.
- Functional system of monitoring of GPDPs with sustainable implication could be explored. Advanced Technical applications could be used for monitoring with necessary indicators.
- Gender issues, DRR and child friendly Panchayats are to be focused with practical and sustainable approach.
- Adding value to Child Centric governance structure through official portals of Government of MP. Digitizing the information accessible for all to ensure participation and role clarity and accountability.
- Establishing and operationalizing Resource center at State level with all purposes envisaged.

Outcomes from Development of Children - Centric Governance Structure through GPDP

OUTPUT AREAS	OUTCOMES
The SIRD to have updated child responsive GPDP manual	<p>Built capacities of the key stakeholders at the state, district and Panchayat level to operationalize child responsive convergent GPDP, integrating gender and DRR. This has strengthened the stakeholders' capacities in GPDP through greater convergence between social safety, security programs and social services to reduce Child issues. By developing 20 Master Trainers at the state level, 30 Micro-planners at the districts, the project added value to the resource team of MP State. Training manuals and Guidelines will administer the role and responsibilities. The Response Plan shows a path way and indication for addressing the issues pertaining to the children.</p> <p>Developed child friendly model GPs through need based actionable participatory GPDP involving children and adolescents in the selected GPs of all the 6 districts integrating gender and DRR. This resulted strengthening participatory planning process leading to need based actionable participatory GPDP involving children and adolescents in 60 GPs/6 tribal districts of M P.</p> <p>Established knowledge networks and partnerships with State institutions and Civil Society Organizations towards building a child centric and friendly Panchayats and governance System. Final processes for establishing a Resource center for local self-governance in MP is in progress.</p>
SIRD-DoPR to have a pool of 20 Master Trainers	
Create a pool of 30 Micro-Planners to support GPDP development as demonstration sites.	
Mechanism for district response plan to address the gaps identified by GPDP in 3 districts namely Jhabua, Barwani and Alirajpur	
Scoping for DRR and gender based components completed for integration of SIRD training modules	
Composite performance monitoring index for GPs developed in the context of SDGs and shared widely	
Performance monitoring index rolled out in 30 GPs in selected 3-4 districts	
Platform for child & adolescent participations developed in 5 GPs each in 6 districts. This is to address the issues like child marriage, child labor and other gender issues.	
An operational framework for converge GPDP to foster linkages between social safety/security programs and social services specially for children (0-19 years) and women in poor household implemented in 30 GPs/6districts	
M&E framework for monitoring implementation of GPDP, aligned to SDG targets is developed and piloted in 5 GPs	
Knowledge platform developed under the leadership of DoPR-SIRD and AIGPPA to promote good practices child centric governance in GPs	
"Resource Centre" for local self-governance in AIGGPA conceptualized and process initiated.	

Enhancing Access of Social Development Benefits to the Poor in Rural Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh

The project intend to empower rural poor, especially women and youth belonging to minority communities and economically disadvantaged backgrounds, with knowledge on digital portals and online information system to access benefits of various social development schemes through the cadre of local citizen leaders trained in each Gram Panchayat. Project interventions intended to build the capacities of Dalits and Tribal in 65 panchayats of five districts in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh by providing supportive platform and capacity enhancement of youth volunteers, community and elected representatives of the local government.



Major Activities

- 1. Capacity Building of PRI and Youth volunteers:** The capacity building activities in the panchayats successfully trained 1617 PRI members & youth volunteers about online services & government schemes through 57 trainings on monthly basis in 5 districts.
- 2. Awareness camp and Kisan pathshala / Farmer School:** This project year has successfully trained 3190 farmers through 93 Kisan Pathshalas conducted during this period in collaboration with the Agriculture Extension officer and Kisan Mitra to keep farmers updated about agricultural technique, profitable and organic farming, and soil health check and agriculture department schemes.
- 3. Planning/Review orientation cum capacity building of Kiosk manager and Suchna Mitra:** This project has successfully trained 253 Kiosk Manager & Suchna Mitras during this period through 20 Quarterly Planning/Review cum capacity building program. This has trained them on online services & government schemes, amendments in govt. schemes and services, launching of new schemes etc.
- 4. Ratri Choupal (night camp), Digital Literacy and Cyber Awareness Camp:** Rapid expansion of digital world and internet connectivity among the age group of 15- 45 is on its peak. To promote safe use of the internet we are working with students, adolescents, working members and other potential community members through our awareness campaign. Our campaign includes Ratri Choupal, Digital Literacy and Cyber Awareness Camps etc. In Barwani 1120 people were provided information about online services and portals through LCD projectors during Ratri Choupal and through Social security awareness camp and door-to-door survey 1021 beneficiaries got benefitted. In Panna 180 grievances redressed and 80 online complaints lodged on CM Helpline for redressal and voter awareness camp resulted 73% voting in the targeted 10 panchayats and in Rajnandgaon - Ration cards were provided to 410 families through the Camps.
- 5. SHGs and youth groups Capacity building training:** The SHGs and village youth members have now widespread roles in village livelihood and advocacy for access to schemes and services. Hence, their trainings were conducted to enhance information regarding various schemes relating to social security, agriculture, education, labor card and health etc. in the targeted panchayats. The project team formed 49 youth groups and conducted 263 trainings with SHGs during this period as the village youth and SHG member supports in identifying eligible beneficiary, thereafter Suchna Mitra facilitates the online linking of them to various schemes and services. This lockdown period has created physical disconnect with the govt. at various level but these trained youth and SHG members played major role in bridging the gap in access to schemes and services, connecting with financial services and covid19 awareness.
- 6. Establishment and Capacity building of the CSCs facilitated by the government:** The period has laid the foundation of 45 govt. facilitated CSCs (Common Service Centre) and our dist. coordinators have trained all the 45 centre managers to capacitate them on online portals and govt. schemes. The CSCs are benefitting 186 nearby villages.
- 7. Establishment of Bank KIOSKS:** Apart from these 11 new banking Kiosks have been opened through the facilitation by the project team and these KIOSKS has eased the challenges of cash, checking of scheme benefits and financial transaction during the lockdown period. The community of 54 villages benefits from these centres at present. Total transaction of Rs. 97442313.00 has been made by 41708 beneficiaries.
- 8. Capacity building of the Government officials:** We have successfully conducted trainings of 65 govt. officials on Panchayat Enterprise Suite (PES) services/portals and govt. schemes including GRS and Panchayat Secretary of 65 panchayats during this period. Our Suchna Mitra regular follow-up support. PES services.
- 9. BPL family survey and necessary document preparation:** The survey conducted with BPL category households (HHs) in the project area found that more than 37 % of the total BPL families do not have the necessary documents to get the benefits of various schemes such as - Aadhaar Card, Composite ID, Aadhar Card, Voter Identity Card, Bank Account etc. Due to which they are deprived of the benefits of various schemes. A campaign went on to prepare their documents, under which documents of 82% remaining HHs were completed who lacked the documents. The 18 % HHs who are not found either due to the migration of the head of the household or due to non-cooperation of the family. Suchna mitras shared the information and facilitated about the schemes like Social Security Pension, Kisan Samman Nidhi, Sambal Yojana etc. Also facilitated to those who were left out of the benefits of the scheme despite eligibility and fresh applications were also made for them.
- 10. Necessary documents of 3521 BPL families were completed in Panna and Sebare districts**

"My Story" by Asmin (a chance to study further)



My name is Asmin, my father's name is Sameed Khan. I live in village Jhinkdi Mewati and am studying in class 8 in a government school in the same village. By the way food, dress and books are available from the government in the government school. But I also need more things for education such as copies & shoes etc. My father does not have enough money for these, my father works hard to sustain the family by working hard. We are 3 sisters and 1 brother. Due to poor financial condition of the family, I felt that I will be unable to study further. But with the support of the Samarthan, I was told about the minority scholarship and the staff member of the organization supported and guided me to apply online for the scholarship. And finally, due to which I am today getting Rs 1000 /- scholarship. Now it's helping me some extent to meet the other financial needs of my education with this financial support.

"Suchna mitras alertness benefitted the whole village"

Jhinkari Mewati Panchayat, located at a distance of 23 km from Ashta development block of Sehore district. This story is about how the villagers were saved by the suchna mitra with his alertness and awareness. On 08th of Dec 2019 at around 10:30 am, some people came to the village and told about a letter approved by the Janpad Panchayat and said that that we have to put the numbers in each house and a fee of Rs 40 will be charged per house. After putting number plates in 100 houses (the amount was taken and at the same time) Suchna mitra Mr. Maqbool Khan got the information and asked them to show the approval letter. The people who were putting the number plates shown the copy of approval, which had the signature and seal of the sarpanch. The suchna mitra called sarpanch ji and took the information that sarpanch ji said 'that I did not understand, so sealed it'. After this, he called and talked to the Panchayat Secretary, he also told that we do not have any order nor any news about this, therefore after this the suchna mitra informed villager through the phone call & whatsapp group and gathered the people of the village and caught them faking village people. After this, the suchna mitra told them to return the money of all the families of the village from where they have taken the money, otherwise they will be handed over to the police. Fearing this, they immediately refunded the money to all 100 families. Thus, the people of Jhinkari village were saved from fraud by the knowledge of the information friend.

"Extension of CSC (KIOSKS) services and increased coverage through replication"

Under the Oracle program, the services of CSC center have inspired youth of neighbouring Panchayat to take initiative of opening CSC center at their respective Panchayats. These youth have collected information and process of establishing CSC center by contacting Suchna Mitra & Kiosk Manager. They helped and facilitated the online application process for necessary approval. They also provided technical support. In difficulties these youths are getting regular guidance and support from our project team. In Sehore district 45 new CSC center have been opened. These were opened at targeted Panchayats and its nearby Panchayats covering 186 villages during this period. Apart from this 29 FINO Bank Kiosk has been established for the cash transaction in Rajnandgaon, C.G. and Sehore, M.P. Total transaction of Rs. 97442313.00 has been made by 41708 beneficiaries.

KIOSK facilitating Aadhaar based payment- financial transaction is new normal



The CAF-Oracle assisted public assistance and information center is being run under the guidance of the Samarthan in the PESA villages under the development block Ambagarh Chowki. These centers were operated in Gram Panchayat Chilhati and Gram Panchayat Bandhabazar. Both centers providing banking facilities, Aadhaar based payments, depositing of funds, transferring amount from one to three lakh rupees on daily basis at both centers.

A year ago, the villagers were unaware of the services of Digital transaction or cashless banking services. They were not able to avail these services. But in a short period of one year, Digital or Cashless transaction has been promoted through CSCs and Suchna Mitra. At present, the Kiosk centers of Chhattisgarh State Gramin Bank and State Bank of India operates in Chilhati. Similarly, the branches of Chhattisgarh State Gramin Bank and Dena Bank are operated in the CSC center of Bandabazar. Where rural banking facilities are poor and for banking transaction, poor, old, disabled, middle- and upper-class people has to wait in a long que at government bank and at times they have to wait for hours for single transaction. Especially poor banking knowledge, illiterate and old people have lots of inconvenience in filling the amount withdrawal slip.

Continuous work was done by the Center Manager to provide better services at KIOSK Center, under which HDFC Micro ATM was established in both KIOSK centers in July 2018. In the initial phase, these centers got only ten to twenty thousand rupees transactions per day. In a period of ten months, transactions multiplied up to Rs 1 lakh per day at Chilhati Center and up to Rs 3 lakh per day at Bandabazar Center through Aadhaar and ATM. In lieu of these services, a nominal fee is being charged by the centers. In both the centers, the services of withdrawing funds from any bank by Aadhaar and ATMs, depositing funds from Aadhaar and ATMs to any bank account and transferring funds are being provided. Apart from this, now new savings accounts were opened through both centers in the name of IDFC Bank Raipur Branch. Beyond this 10 Panchayats affiliated to the KIOSK centers, rural people residing at a distance of 30 km are also availing these services. To make the services transparent, the balance of savings account and slip of payment amount is being given to the customers. Due to which the credibility of common people towards these services is increasing day by day. In both centers, 20 to 25 social security pensioners and MNRGA laborers reaching the center daily for payments. As a result, the involvement and trust of common people towards digital services is increasing.

Both the centers have done transactions of Rs. 3,28,66,648.00 (Rupees three crores twenty-eight lakh sixty-six thousand six hundred forty-eight) between April to February 2020. Both centers, covering a total of 16,161 persons from the surrounding villages and the project area getting benefited directly.



Strengthening accountability and transparency mechanisms at the community level

The project is focused on working with Panchayats, and strengthening the situation of fiscal and functional decentralization in local Governance. Strengthening networks of Panchayats and facilitating Participatory

development and participatory governance for deepening and for upscaling social accountability and transparency tools to secure rights and entitlements for the women, dalits, adivasi and other marginalized sections of the society.

Participatory Monitoring of on-line portals to improve delivery of the critical flagship program.

The motivation to undertake this intervention stems from numerous experiences such as social audits and other accountability exercises that Samarthan was a part of. The experience of Samarthan revealed that there is a significant gap in information reported on the portal and the ground reality. As a result, the well-intentioned initiatives of the Governments neither ensure accountability nor provide useful transparency. It is with this objective that Samarthan decided to undertake 'Dekh- Parakh Report' on three flagship schemes of the government- PMAY, SBM & NREGS. The report is supposed to engage community in looking at, reading, understanding, and consequently monitoring the data published on 'on-line' portals of the government. The idea is to encourage community in looking at the data, so that they may be able to use the data for monitoring the delivery of the program in their Panchayat.

Dekh Parakh for Making Entitlements Streamlined and Accessible

Under Dekh Parakh Samarthan tried to test a new methodology that wrested on the question 'Can available e-governance systems of the state be used to bridge the divide and carve a pathway for digital to social inclusion?' The idea was simple- train the community to access, interpret and use digital information available on government portals and websites to track and wrest entitlements and further use it for ensuring transparency and accountability. Within these identified schemes, attempt was made to narrow down to specific issues that people confronted the most -delayed or no labour payments, manipulations in status of works under MGNREGA or changes in PMAY beneficiary priority lists- to understand problems related to them better, so that people could, in turn, be helped to find a resolution.

Major Findings

PM Awas Yojna

- Waitlist / beneficiary list not displayed on portal-promoting bribery for sanctioning of the house.
- Most beneficiaries were not paid/ paid partially/ paid to someone else- the labour wages, paid through NREGS.
- Frequent loans from market/ money lenders at very high rate adds to substantial burden/indebtedness.
- The progress of structures not uploaded on the portal in time.
- Deliberate delay is made to charge beneficiary the speed money.
- Many complete houses- as uploaded on the portal are actually not complete.

MGNREGS

- Dates on portal and actual dates have large mismatch.
- A household/Panchayat blocks Rs. 55000 (average) from their pocket in construction-withdrawal of poor, large indebtedness.
- Large percentage of works are suspended, mostly in individual benefits.
- Delayed in payments is key reason for most suspended work, use of machine leads to fake muster rolls.
- Only 4 % of the observed works had issued a muster rolls.
- 12 % works found was absolutely useless.
- 15% works categorized as of very poor quality.

Swaccha Bharat Mission (SBM)

- 60 % of Panchayats have completely excluded 20 households.
- 4 to 5 households have conflicting status on Swaccha M.P portal.
- 42% of ineligible households owing to 'having toilet status' did not have a functional toilet.
- More than 50 % toilets were found in use (completely, partially).
- 40% of the new constructed toilet, with complete funds disbursement are incomplete (roof, seat, pit, door etc.)

Strengthening local governance for multi-dimensional change

Village Planning and preparation of GDPD engaging communities at village level

Repeated planning process with disengagement of the community and disconnect from implementation has resulted into plans failing to address the aspiration of community, plans only meeting the state agenda, poor implementation and even poor monitoring if any implementation takes place. Also plans seldom reflect any issues that community may take up without any financial support like tackling alcoholism etc. The process of VDP preparation in the entire Rajpur block was therefore undertaken with a mandate of active engagement of the community in the planning process. A streamlined 2 day process included hamlet level meetings by CVs, inputs from the PRIs and engagement of the VOs, youth etc.

Major concerns raised by the community during VDP preparation were-

- scarcity of drinking water.
- Social protection Pension not being received by the entitlement holder.
- Unavailability of health services such as vaccination facilities in AWCs.
- Poor accessibility of ambulance (Janani Suraksha Yojana).
- Access to Social security schemes for elderly and differently disabled people.
- Attendance and availability of teachers in schools, water & sanitation facilities in schools, quality and hygiene of mid-day meals.
- Social issues such as child marriages, alcoholism etc.
- Connectivity to hamlets and major village level institutions such as school etc.

Outcomes of VDP process

1. Scarcity of drinking water was the first issue raised in the planning process in Indrapur Panchayat and a Nirmal near (drinking water well) was mobilised By the the Panchayat through NREGS, however depleting water levels led to the 'well without water'. However community did not gave up; they went to meet their Member of Parliament for organising pump and pipeline to draw water from the nearby waterbody. However this also did not provide permanent solution. In the meanwhile few rains in the last month recharged their well a bit. They then needed a pump to draw the water. The community and Panchayat together approached PHED successfully for the same. Samarthan team was supporting them in the background and facilitated in writing applications etc. However the lead was taken by community and PRIs.

2. Similarly youth in Bajad Panchayat, who had participated in planning and were aware of the plan, noticed that a CC road, which was to connect a hamlet to a main road, was deviated to pass the road near Sarpanch's agricultural field. The youth confronted the Sarpanch, and then pressurised him to build the road at it was originally planned.

3. Ekalbara Panchayat got a piped water supply sanctioned for Rs. 91 Lakh after putting the same in their VDP. What was however impressive is that they constituted an active maintenance committee where CVs are the members and president, and are actively participating in its maintenance.

55 VDPs of 39 Gram Panchayats have been prepared. 39 GDPDs were uploaded on plan plus portal, this is Madhya Pradesh's first block which includes budgeted as well as non-budgeted activities. It was significant for Rajpur that 30 Panchayats showed several non-budgeted activities on the plan plus portal. Of the remaining 17 Panchayats, 22 VDPs are also developed and will be approved in forthcoming Gram Sabha.

Capacity building on Panchayat budget

Training was organised for PRIs, Panchayat Secretary and GRS at cluster level, covering the following subjects:

- How the budget of panchayat is prepared and sources of funding to GP.
- Different schemes and their portal.
- An understanding has been made on the guidelines of panch pameshwar/ 14th finance commission and NREGA scheme.
- What is the process of accessing of MLA & MP fund, Janpad and Zila Panchayat members' fund?
- How Panchayat can generate own source of revenue.

Stories from the field

"Women efforts helped in getting access to PDS shop in Bhami"

Village Bhami is spread across five hamlets- Bhami, Katiyakhedi, Pokliyakhedi, Sajwani and Gayrabedi. The nearest Fair Price Shop(FPS) was in another Panchayat- Bhagsur which was 4 km far with the shortest route. The route was in very bad condition and it was difficult for people to travel that far every month to get their ration. The route was not the only problem but the FPS operator used to delay in giving them the ration and it would take three days to complete the process and get the monthly ration. This issue was raised by the SACET CVs in the VO meeting. Then this issue was discussed in 15th Aug. 2018 Gram Sabha. The issue was further discussed in NRLM CLF meeting. The proposal was given to Department of Food and Public Distribution. The FPS got approved in Jan. 2019 and the responsibility is given to one of the SHG of Bhami village.

"Sachet Didi facilitate in providing benefits of social security scheme"

In village Nangalwadi, people were not getting the benefits of the Social Security scheme due to poor level of awareness. Lalitadidi started collecting forms along with required documents and reached out to the Sachiv and Sarpanch and got those applications approved, she helped around 23 people. This established her identity as a fearless woman who is a leader and people reach out to her in case of any difficulty.

"Access to pension with the help of SACHET Mitra"

Sundari Bai's husband died and she became widow in the year 2017. Her pension application was passed by the Panchayat and she started receiving pension in her account. But due to lack of awareness she never withdrew her widow pension. She didn't know whether her account was active or not. On 9th June 2019, Gayatri Gore- Suchna Mitra went to her for initial round of survey. Through the help of Samagra pension portal Gayatri checked Sundari bai's Samagra ID and found that she's receiving her Kalyani pension monthly in her account. They took all the relevant documents and went to the Kiosk centre of Narmada Jhabua Bank, Rajpur along with former Sarpanch Shri Pratap Bamnaka. The Kiosk centre operator checked her account and he told them that the balance in the account is Rs. 6,000. "I come from a very poor family and I'm the only bread earner in the family and the amount of Rs 6,000 is very big for me. I'm very thankful to Samarthan organisation and Gayatri Gore who helped me in getting my pension" as told by Sundari Bai.

"Solving problems by giving solution through community."

People of Ekalbara were facing huge water crisis, they used to travel for 3 km to get water for drinking and other needs. The problem was such, that women from Panchayat stated that they take bath after 10-15 days. With the implementation of Nal-Jal Yojna, a water tank was finalised by the PHE department but the villagers were not in favour of the site. They went to the concerned department and asked to shift the site of water tank. After many such efforts by the people of Ekalbara, the site was finally shifted and it got constructed in the year 2019. Now the people are getting water on daily basis for 45 mins once a day. The quality of life has definitely improved from the availability of quality drinking water.

"Gram Sabha chaired by women for the first time"

Total of six GS were held in Rajpur block within Jan-June 2019. The major highlight of these GS were the women of the community. Women were given training upon the democracy, PESA act and their right through various training modules. They started participating in the Gram sabha and started keeping their issue. In the 8th March GS which was organised on the occasion of International women's day, for the first time in the GS, women chaired the GS. The participation of women was more than 50% in many Panchayat.



Demonstrating Convergence Approach for Improving Access to Information and Services for Young People

The Project supports the strengthening of Government running programs like Rashtriya Kishore Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK), Life Skills Education (LSE), Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP), and Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) services in the district and helps to improve the indicators for health and education, focusing on convergence as the approach.

Facilitating training of nodal teachers on new modules for Higher and senior secondary classes.

Department of Education and RMSA organized a 3 days training program of nodal teachers of Ishanagar Block to introduce the module (Umang) for each standard from 9th till 12th. Currently, the basic module Umang is used for all students in the first year. Training was organized as per the scheduled agenda and as pre-designed methodology, all participants were found attentive during the period. During the training, facilitators conducted some group activities and exercises as per the module. This was followed by the group discussion.

The fresh LSE training was conducted in Ishanagar block on 16th to 18th September and 19th to 21st September. Through this initiative 36 nodal teachers were trained for class 10th LSE program were as 24 nodal teachers of class 11th were trained in the respective LSE modules. In the process Samarthan's BC's and CC's provided active support insuring quality of training does not get compromised.

In October, 2 nodal teachers each in 176 higher secondary schools of 7 blocks were identified and provided 3-day training at block level. Total 328 nodal teachers were trained under Samarthan's observation and facilitation.

Strong advocacy with district administration and support in finalizing the strategies and activities for the program

Samarthan - Center for Development Support in collaboration with UNFPA, Department of Women, and Child Development to strengthen implementation of BBBP program to combat falling child sex ratio and increasing gender-based violence (GBV) under Integrated District Project operated in Chhatarpur district being done. In this component a number of activities were organized.

Strengthening community-based PE approach under RKSK

The Block coordinators have facilitated review meetings with the Sathiya mentors on a monthly basis. Block Coordinators have supported the AH Counselor and Block Community mobiliser in these meetings at CHC. The meetings has been also a platform to firm up the plan of action for capacity building of the following month.

During the year, 91 (Out of 96) 95 % such block level (CHC) meetings were attended. Supportive capacity building inputs were provided to Sathiya mentors based on their needs identified during these review meetings and need expressed by them.

Strengthen availability, quality, and youth-friendliness of SRH services

Chhatarpur being MPV district, availability and quality of SRH services need to be strengthened. NHM with technical assistance from UNFPA has developed a micro plan focusing on quality and right based service delivery for strengthening of FP services in the district the project team has been ensuring to improve the availability and quality of sexual and reproductive services at the facility in the district.

Established district and block level convergence mechanism

A District Adolescent and Youth Welfare committee was formed under the Chairpersonship District Collector, Chhatarpur wherein all the departments working for the welfare of adolescents and youth were brought on one platform so that there is minimum duplication and there is maximum sharing of information and resources between departments. Representatives from Health, WCD, NGOs, and Gram Panchayat are part of it.