

SPANDAN SAMAJ SEVA SAMITI

LET'S MAKE WORLD A BETTER PLACE...



ANNUAL REPORT

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From Director's Desk

Spandan Samaj Seva Samiti persisted with its mission to *empower the marginalized communities in a manner that they are able to secure their human & constitutional rights and lead a life of dignity*. It outreached scores of U5 Korku tribe children and women in their reproductive age across more than 100 villages in two neighboring blocks of Khandwa and Burhanpur in Madhya Pradesh.

The programmatic focus has been on addressing malnutrition, household hunger, and women's empowerment to alleviate these sufferings. We also tried to address the causal factors like lack of employment and diet diversity and address lack of micronutrient deficiencies.

The sequential training of all the Anganwadi workers across the district carried on in its third year. The project tried to create a pool of master trainers to sustain the initiated process. The year also witnessed significant efforts in livelihood and women's entrepreneurship, and a paradigm was facilitated to link local tribal communities with loans to procure goats and trained nearly 50 barefoot veterinary workers, and named them Pashu Sakhis.

The staff capacity-building programs were organized to help them have perspective and skills at performing their implied roles.

The other tangent efforts included facilitating farmers to revive millets in their fields and plates. Corresponding awareness campaigns were run to help families diversify diets.

Another intervention is the promotion of smokeless chullhas. It corresponds to local needs and culture and consumes less fuel and reduces smoke significantly. Lots of scientific inputs have gone in to establish its utility.

The future plans are to consolidate the ongoing efforts and undergo a reassessment of the mission and goals of the organization.

Regards,

Seema Prakash

Founder Director



Programs

The Child Health Project (Konku - Puchiku Project): This has been a sheet-anchor program of Spandan that began with our concern over a large number of U5 Korku tribe children succumbing to malnutrition and death. What started as a community-centric intervention to address the widespread cases of severely and moderately acute malnourished children has gone far into the areas of bridging the gaps of micronutrient deficiencies through highly successful Backyard Nutrition Gardens and awareness on diet diversification. Each year we are supporting more than 1000 families growing BNGs. Nearly 50% of beneficiary families have diversified diets. The effects of the intervention – a genuine community-based malnutrition management program are evidenced by the government statistics showing sizeable decline in malnutrition rates may it be underweight or wasting; the stunting of course has not shown encouraging decline. The anemia too has remained a matter of concern for women in their reproductive age.



PAVAK Stoves Program : The target Korku community living in the Fifth scheduled area and amidst the forests still depend largely on wood as firewood and traditional ways of cooking on mud stoves. The indoor pollution and tangent health problems led us to think and innovate and collaborate with technical agencies to come out with a culturally relevant and community-accepted smokeless stove called PAVAK with a distinct advantage of less firewood and less smoke. Nearly 1000 such stoves have been locally cast and distributed. It's like a movement that will cover hundreds of families.



SENU Project : This project too focused on the malnutrition and in cognizance of its widespread effects on women and children chose the training and behavior change of the stakeholders. Anganwadi workers were considered a channel of change and an intensive and sequential training was planned with a variety of modules and teaching materials and resource persons. The district wide program could train 1600 Anganwadi workers. They have been equipped to run community level follow ups and thus sustain the process. A band of Master Trainers too have been equipped to train future workers and also refresh the learnings of the old ones. A distinct focus on diet diversification promoted through a range of BCC techniques and tools has been effective and could facilitate husbands and other family members in food decisions in the family.



Chhalang : It was a school-based intervention to promote sports in rural government schools. The premise of this program was that sports and recreation can improve academic performance. 50 rural schools were selected across two blocks and baseline was done for 2341 children to assess the physical duress that was again tested in endline. Sports Mela were organized that had 4397 student participants. 1152 summer camps were held with 96 volunteers.



Rebuild India Program : This untied fund support has contributed significantly to helping the organizational development and undertaking programs that could otherwise not have been possible. With the fund we could build staff capacity, develop training facilities, facilitate goat farming, and hire consultants to facilitate the OD process. It has in a true sense accelerated the ongoing process. We also undertook soil and water conservation activities in remote and needy villages.



The Goat Project : This is an earnest attempt to promote goat rearing in our Korku-tribe-dominated geography. It was begun with the technical assistance of the Goat Trust. The interested families were linked to a loan from Rang De to enhance their business. A set of young women were trained as Barefoot Veterinary Workers and called Pashu Sakhis. They visit the families with goats and provide treatment and vaccinations. This gives them a small livelihood support but also the dignity of a useful service in the community.



Stree Shakti Pariyojana : This program, through the support of Azim Premji Foundation, began this year to reinforce local self-governance in the Korku tribe dominated Khalwa Block of Khandwa district in MP. It covers 15 tribal panchayats and their 24 constituent villages. It aims at reinforcing the role of women in Panchayats and Gram Sabha. It also strives to facilitate the outreach of Food, health, and employment schemes to the most eligible women. Training, capacity building, events, and educational tours are some of the key programs.



M.P. Housing Project : we were new in Sagar, but now we are able to make a solid presence of our work there. The best events is the collaborations with the government agencies, previously

the communities and its leaders were unaware about the linkages with the government but now they are conducting the camps with the local government agencies for the basic amenities, community development & infrastructure issues. Able to break the narratives that the government agencies don't work. We proved that if the best strategies are planned or create a bridge between administration and people, the positive results can come.



Achievements :

- Reached nearly 5000 U5 children with follow-up care, and nearly 1000 children recovered to normalcy.
- We assisted 1000 + families with seeds and technical support to grow Backyard Nutrition Gardens.
- We trained 1600 Anganwadi workers and nearly 100 master trainers to carry on the nutrition education for the W&CD department.
- Our 50 barefoot veterinary workers are effectively functioning as Pashu Sakhi.
- We have formed the women/s collectives and identified community volunteers across 24 villages.
- We conducted the social media training program with 18 youths from marginalized communities.

Financial Overview

A summary of our income and expenses for the fiscal year [2024-25].

Income Source: Corporate and Foreign Funding	Amount (INR) 1,67,45,620
Grants	1,63,12,48
Donations	96,593
Other Income	00.0
Total Income	1,67,45,620