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2016**

**Sampark**

## **ACTUALISING TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM**

Programme Implementation Report of SAMPARK 2013 – 16

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Samparkgram Parisar, Raipuria, Tehsil Petlawad, District Jhabua, Madhya Pradesh, India - 457774

## **ACTUALISING TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM**

### **Programme Implementation Report of SAMPARK 2013 – 16**

#### **1. Introduction**

SAMPARK was started in 1987 by a few social workers in Petlawad tehsil of Jhabua district and was formally registered in 1990 as a society under the Madhya Pradesh Society Registration Act 1973. The area was chosen because of the nature and intensity of exploitation of the Bhil adivasis, negligible developmental intervention and the limited presence of voluntary groups. Work was started by addressing the survival needs and developmental aspirations of the people. SAMPARK has since gradually evolved into a many faceted organisation tackling the varied problems of the area and has successfully completed a silver jubilee of formal developmental intervention.

The people of the area have also built up a community based organisation to tackle the local and policy level issues called the “Lok Jagriti Manch” (LJM). The Manch has developed into a flourishing community organisation running self-help groups, village watershed development committees, sustainable agriculture groups, poultry farming groups, village health and education committees, forest management committees and conflict resolution groups. A "Saajha Manch" (SM) has been set up to separately address the issues faced by women arising out of the patriarchal nature of Bhil society. The issue of sustainable agriculture and the campaign against genetically modified seeds, which has now assumed tremendous significance, has been addressed by a separate state wide network named Beej Swaraj Abhiyan (BSA). This network undertakes policy advocacy to secure the future of agriculture and food availability locally and globally.

The Millennium Development Goals (MDG) were adopted by the United Nations in the Millennium summit in September 2000 in an effort to make a substantial improvement in reducing poverty, hunger and disease in the developing countries. Targets were set that were to be achieved by 2015. The national development agenda too became oriented around the achievement of these goals as it became clear many of these goals would not be met. So in the last three years leading upto 2015 and the subsequent finalisation of the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 (SDG), the focus of work in SAMPARK has been to work for the achievement of these goals locally. Consequently this report is structured around the work done in achieving the MDGs.

The operational framework and overall goal of SAMPARK, LJM, SM and BSA are shown in the schematic diagram in Fig. 1 below. The overall goal is the empowerment of the Gram Sabha so that it can fulfill its potential as a tribal self government institution as envisaged in the Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas Act. Since the Bhil Adivasis cannot fund the whole of the development required to achieve this goal from their own resources due to their poverty, these have to be supplemented with external support. SAMPARK facilitates this external support. All developmental activities are undertaken by the staff of SAMPARK. The socio-political action is undertaken by the LJM, SM and BSA which are people's organisations whose operational expenses are met by the people themselves. Presently SAMPARK is operating in Petlawad and Rama Janpad Panchayats and has its main campus in village Raipuria. There is a residential school for 200 children in this campus. It is equipped with solar energy and biogas units and the storm and waste water is treated and reused for drinking, washing and in agriculture to produce vegetables that are consumed in the mess.

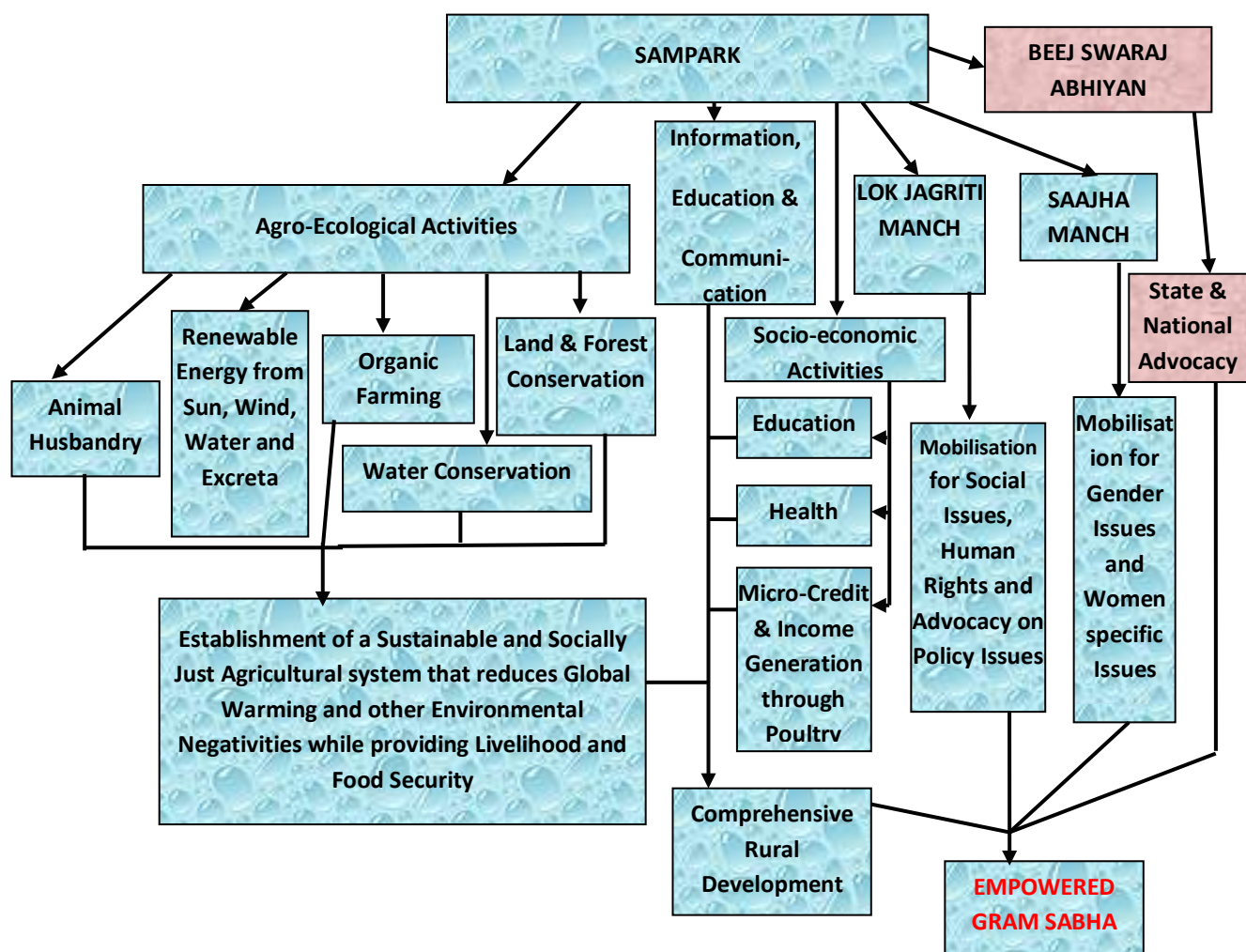


Fig. 1 Operational Framework of SAMPARK

## 2. Situational Analysis

Jhabua district is situated in the Western Tribal zone which has a large concentration of Bhil Adivasis. The other districts in this zone apart from Jhabua are Dhar, Khargone, Barwani, Khandwa, Burhanpur and Alirajpur situated in the lower Narmada valley. Some of the important statistics relevant for understanding the socio-economic situation are given in Tables 1 -3 below followed by a description of the prevailing socio-economic characteristics. Jhabua district statistics are marked in green.

**Table 1: Geographical & Demographic Characteristics 2011 of Western Tribal Zone**

District	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Forest (%)	Rainfall(mm)	Population	Density	Rural (N)	Rural (%)	SC (%)	ST (%)
Dhar	8152	9.0	880	2185793	268	1772572	81.1	6.2	64.4
Khargone	8035	16.2	1090	1873046	233	1574190	84	11.3	44.5
Barwani	5431	18.3	600	1385881	255	1181812	85.3	5.4	78.3
Jhabua	3593	13.8	1300	1025048	285	933065	91	1.2	92.3
Alirajpur	3180		1100	728999	229	671925	92.2	3.5	93.4
Khandwa	7356	31.7	1000	1310061	178	1050625	80.2	11.7	42.0
Burhanpur	3425		1050	757847	221	497560	65.7	8.4	44.6
<b>Total/Avg.</b>	<b>39172</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>1003</b>	<b>9266675</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>7681749</b>	<b>82.9</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>64.0</b>

Source: Census 2011, Forest Survey of India 2011

Jhabua district has a low forest cover of only 13.8 per cent, the second lowest in the zone while the population density is the highest which means that the per capita natural resource availability is the lowest. The proportion of irrigated area to new sown area is also the lowest at 18.9 per cent as are the proportion of households living in good quality houses, having access to electricity and owning computers. The proportion of households with access to banking is low at 40.5 per cent. Matters have been compounded by the fact that average landholding is only about 0.5 ha per household and so 90 per cent of the tribal households have to migrate to do agricultural or construction labour in Gujarat. The income from migratory labour now exceeds that from agriculture and this has negative consequences in terms of the Bhils, especially children, not being able to access the government social services like education and health. Consequently, the annual per capita income in 2011 was a very low Rs 20542. Thus, the district is at the bottom of the development pile in the western tribal zone which is itself, as a whole, a very deprived zone.

**Table 2: Economic Characteristics 2011 of Western Tribal Zone**

District	Annual Per Cap. Inc. (Rs)	Irrigation (%)	Living in Good Quality Houses (%)	Access to Electricity (%)	Access to Banking (%)	Owning Computers (%)
Dhar	28385	55.9	38.8	80.4	39.2	3.6
Khargone	24298	46.9	36.8	80.9	33.4	2.6
Barwani	20536	37.1	34.7	71.4	35.6	2.5
<b>Jhabua</b>	<b>20542</b>	<b>18.9</b>	<b>32.3</b>	<b>57.3</b>	<b>40.1</b>	<b>1.8</b>
Alirajpur	20542	18.9	33.9	58.6	33.7	3.4
Khandwa	26199	40.6	39.6	72.4	47.5	2.2
Burhanpur	26199	35.2	45.2	69.8	40.5	1.8
<b>Average</b>	<b>24413</b>	<b>37.6</b>	<b>37.1</b>	<b>72.6</b>	<b>38.4</b>	<b>2.7</b>

Source: Census 2011, Department of Economics and Statistics Govt. of M.P.

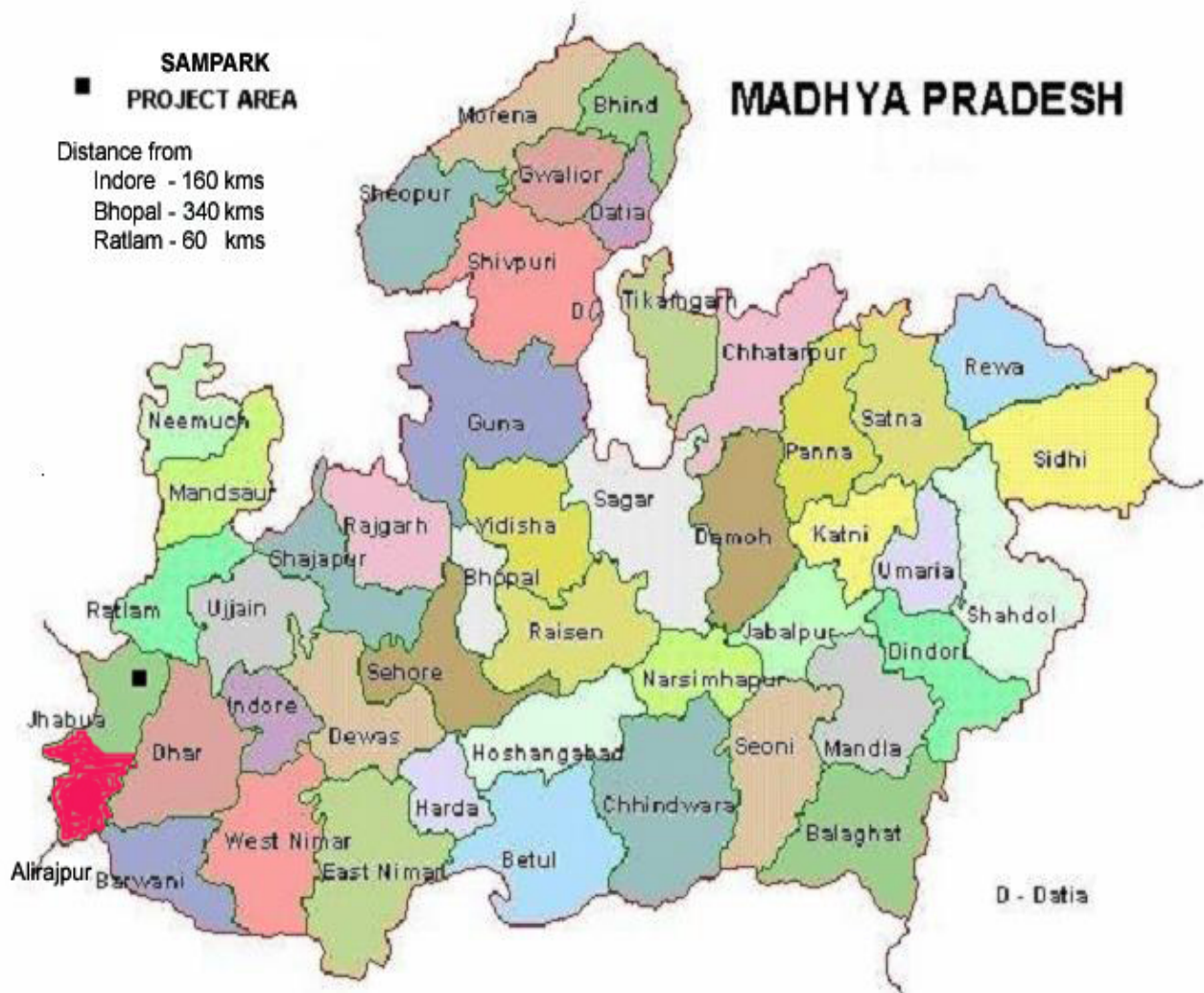
The gender situation is bad in the district too. While the sex ratio is satisfactory, the female literacy is very second lowest at 23.2 per cent. Female work participation is the highest in the zone but is of a low value at 44.6 per cent. The proportion of households with distant water sources is the highest in Jhabua at 45.7 per cent while those taking recourse to open defecation is second highest at 93.9 per cent. The use of good cooking fuel is also low at 2.9 per cent. The preponderance of households with distant water sources, open defecation and low use of good cooking fuels like liquid petroleum gas put an excessive health burden on the women who mostly have to take care of domestic work.

**Table 3: Gender Characteristics 2011 of Western Tribal Zone**

District	Sex Ratio	Fem. Lit. (%)	Fem. Workers (%)	Distant Water Source (%)	Open Def. (%)	Good Cooking Fuel (%)
Dhar	980	36.3	39.5	42.5	80.2	8.0
Khargone	969	40.7	41	27.4	86.6	7.1
Barwani	987	29.8	41.2	30.5	89.1	4.2
<b>Jhabua</b>	<b>996</b>	<b>23.2</b>	<b>44.6</b>	<b>45.7</b>	<b>93.9</b>	<b>2.9</b>
Alirajpur	1014	21.1	44	31.7	94.6	2.0
Khandwa	941	41.6	37.6	31.8	82.4	5.6
Burhanpur	951	38.6	37.2	25.1	80.5	11.7
<b>Average</b>	<b>977</b>	<b>34.2</b>	<b>40.7</b>	<b>34.5</b>	<b>86.1</b>	<b>6.0</b>

Source: Census 2011

The situation analysis shows that Bhil Adivasis of Jhabua district and especially the women are deprived of the benefits of modern development and their living standards are poor. SAMPARK in its small way is trying to improve matters through its development programmes. The connectivity by road too is poor. Even though the main Delhi to Mumbai rail line grazes the northern part of the district there has not been any significant economic development along it. Consequently, almost all rural Adivasi households have to rely on migration to Gujarat as construction labourers or sharecroppers and as mentioned earlier migratory labour contributes more to household income than agriculture. This affects the children the most as their studies in school are hampered. Women too face hardships with regard to privacy and safety in temporary work locations and lack of access to government health services. The location of the area of work of SAMPARK in the northern part of Jhabua district is shown in the map of Madhya Pradesh given in Fig 2 below. It is quite evident that geographically the area is remote from the centres of administration and political power in the state and this has been a major factor in its neglect leading to its low development performance in comparison to the western tribal zone as a whole.



**Fig. 2 : Map of Madhya Pradesh showing location of SAMPARK.**



### 3. Operational Paradigm

The operational paradigm of the organisation was amended and aligned to the achievement of the MDGs earlier and is now aligned to the SDGs. The various programmes that have been implemented in accordance with the MDG framework by SAMPARK and the broad impacts over the past twentyfive years till 2012 are summarised in Table 4 below. This is followed in the report by detailed description of the work done through these programmes towards the achievement of the MDGs in the past three years.

**Table 4: MDG oriented Operational framework of SAMPARK**

Goal	Programmes	Impact
<b>1. Eradication of extreme poverty and hunger.</b> Programmes conducted under this goal have benefited 13131 households across 25 villages	Watershed Development	Community work in constructing Boulder Bunds, Contour Trenches, Drainage line Treatment, Plantation and Forest Protection and individual well digging and deepening, motorpumps and pipes supply were done resulting in improved agricultural earnings of the beneficiaries. Construction of 292 dugouts, 13 check dams, 1449 gully plugs, 6315 meters of contour trenches, field bunding in 1785 hectares, recharging of 552 wells, deepening of 148 Wells and 10 tanks, sinking of 10 tubewells, construction of 25 water harvesting tanks of 50,000 litre capacity in residential schools and water quality testing in 65 villages are the main achievements of this programme.
	Sustainable Agriculture	Nadep organic manure, indigenous seeds, organic pesticides and research and marketing support for 500 households. Campaign against Genetically Modified Seeds improving the sustainability of agriculture. Silt from tanks transported and deposited to make 5000 hectares of farmlands fertile. 12 varieties of traditional seeds that give good yields with less water and also provide nutrition have been conserved and promoted.
	Animal Husbandry and Poultry Farming	Improved breeds of cattle, buffaloes, goats and chicken provided to beneficiaries resulting in more income. Barefoot Veterinarians have been trained and their knowledge of local medications has been enhanced. Backyard poultry farming of the local Kadaknath breed of chicken has been popularised and provided with scientific support to increase its productivity. 22000 livestock have been vaccinated and treated in over 1000 health camps. 500 households have been provided with goats, poultry and bullocks.
	Village Enterprises	Auto parts and repair shop, Provision store, restaurant, tailoring shop, Flour Mill, Cycle repair shop, Brick making, Roof tile selling and Vegetable vending are some of the village level enterprises that have been initiated for households resulting in an increase in income of about Rs 500 to 5000 per month for the beneficiaries.
	Campaign for Nutrition	The organisation has ensured that the Integrated Child Development Services, Nutrition Rehabilitation Centre and other Government programmes for prevention of malnutrition run properly and thus improved nutritional levels of the population in 22 villages.
	Livelihood Enhancement through Reduction in Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The traditional labour pooling custom of the Adivasis, "Adji Padji" has been revived wherein ten to fifteen families get together and do agricultural work on each others fields thus saving on paying wages leading to cumulative savings of Rs 2.57 crores</li> </ul>

Goal	Programmes	Impact
	expenditures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The revival of the village choupal system of dispute resolution has led to avoidance of costly litigation resulting in a saving of Rs 70 Lakhs.</li> <li>Reduction in the costs of marriage and brideprice, rites of passage and Rakshabandhan has led to savings of heavy ritualistic expenses of Rs 2 crores cumulatively</li> <li>These substantial savings have led to the indebtedness of the Adivasis being greatly reduced.</li> </ul>
	Campaign against Indebtedness	A long drawn campaign was conducted against the unjust debt burden foisted on the Adivasis by the administration through the faulty community lift irrigation scheme. Farmers were foisted with dysfunctional pump and pipeline systems. SAMPARK organised the affected farmers on this issue on the basis of the provision that in Scheduled Tribe Areas, Adivasis cannot be held liable for schemes that have failed due to the fault of the administration and cheating by unscrupulous traders and bank officials. This campaign resulted in 1200 tribal households being freed of the burden of loans cumulatively amounting to Rs 60 crores.
<b>2. Education and Skill Development</b> . Programmes conducted under this goal have benefited 25000 households across 50 villages in Petlawad Tehsil	Reform of Primary Education	Quality Education is provided to over 12000 children studying in 150 Government Primary Schools and their educational levels have increased as a result.
	Residential Bridge Course	240 Dropout children in 40 villages were brought back to mainstream school education through the provision of training in the residential schools.
	Sampark Buniyadi Shaala	2500 Children from remote villages in Petlawad Tehsil have been provided quality residential education in the school in the Sampark Campus at Raipuria based on Gandhiji's concept of "Nai Talim".
	Sampark Ratri Shaala	Children who cannot study during the day due to various reasons have been taught in these night schools in ten villages and have been brought into the mainstream school education system.
	Bal Panchayat Meetings	The children of 30 villages are involved in the Bal Panchayats where they discuss their rights and also get to know about the way in which society and its institutions work.
	Parents Association Meetings	The parents of school going children in 50 villages have come together to form associations which monitor the performance of the Government schools and ensure that the Right to Education Act is being implemented properly.
	Education Workshops, Festivals and Fairs	Special educational workshops are conducted to teach the children difficult concepts in subjects like Mathematics and Science and this has considerably increased the enthusiasm to learn on the part of the children and their understanding.
	Mobile Library	A mobile library visits by turns 60 villages and provides the children with books to read which has led to an increase in reading and analytical skills in the children
	Science Centre	15000 Children have benefited from this centre by being able to see and operate models on various aspects of science. Teachers of Government schools have also benefited by having their science teaching skills upgraded.
	Skill Development	Various cottage industries such as candle making, tooth powder making, tailoring etc have been taught to over 10000 children helping

Goal	Programmes	Impact
	Courses	them to develop earning capabilities early.
	Teachers' Training	Adivasi youth have been given a detailed training in pedagogic techniques which has improved the quality of teaching in schools in the Tehsil.
	Campaign for Right to Education	This is a standing campaign that tries to identify children who are not going to school and then motivate their parents to send them to school to avail of the benefits provided under the Right to Education. As a result of this campaign 1300 children who were not studying have been brought into the mainstream school system.
<b>3. Promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women.</b> Programmes under this goal have benefited women in 30 panchayats across 150 villages in Petlawad Tehsil	Education of Girls Campaign	This is a standing campaign to ensure that girls attend school. There is followup to see that girls stay enrolled. An awareness campaign is conducted in the villages on the importance of girls' education.
	Training of Elected Women Representatives (EWR) in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI) for Women's Empowerment.	The participation of women in the Gram Sabha meetings has increased and as a consequence severely malnourished children have been treated in the Nutritional Rehabilitation Centres and the EWRs have submitted applications for pensions, construction of school buildings, Anganwaris and Kapil Dhara dugwells which have mostly been sanctioned.  Women have got employment in the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme resulting in added income and the construction of assets such as tanks, roads and school buildings. Adolescent girls have been given health training and women have been given health checkups. Toilets and sub health centres have been constructed.
	Self Help Groups	200 SHGs have provided women with economic self reliance and freedom from debt bondage to usurious moneylenders and a corpus of Rs 65 lakhs has been built up.
	Organisation of EWRs of PRIs and their training	1000 Elected Women Representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions from 150 villages have been organised into an association of their own which enables them to ward off the negative pressures of the male representatives and the bureaucrats and pursue their own agenda for gender equity and development.
<b>4. Improving Child Health</b> Programmes have benefited 25000 households across 50 villages	Village Level Awareness Meetings	The people of these villages are made aware of the need for immunisation and provision of proper nutrition to children and are assisted in accessing the Government health system for this.
	Gram Sabha Swastha Tadarth Samiti Trainings	The people of these villages have gained considerable awareness with regard to the importance of child nutrition and the ways in which this can be ensured through access to Government Services and Programmes.
	Wall Writing	The Janani Express Numbers and the messages of health programmes and immunisation have been written on the walls and so popularised leading to better availing of these services by the people.
<b>5. Improving General Health.</b> Programmes implemented in Petlawad Tehsil.	Swastha Saheli Training	118 Women were trained to be birth attendants or dais and 50 to be Swastha Sahelis. They get basic training in reproductive and gynaecological health and provide immediate relief and care to village women.
	Sanitary Napkin Making Training	300 Adolescent girls in Government schools have been trained to make sanitary napkins which are then used to maintain menstrual hygiene and this has benefited 1200 girls in all.
	Sanitation in	Toilets have been constructed for both boys and girls in 25 schools.



Goal	Programmes	Impact
	Schools	This has especially benefited the girls who otherwise have no privacy and there is a tendency for them to dropout of school as a result after reaching adolescence.
	Malaria Eradication	Awareness campaigns in the villages and in the schools, free distribution of mosquito nets to children in schools and regular checkups and followups have resulted in prevention and quick cure of malaria and benefited a population of 20,000 people.
<b>6. Ensuring environmental sustainability.</b> Programmes implemented in Petlawad Tehsil and Madhya Pradesh.	Roof water Harvesting in Schools	Underground water tanks have been constructed from which 1000 children benefit every year.
	Water Conservation in SAMPARK	Roof water harvesting of 48,00,000 litres annually is done in the campus. In addition 50,00,000 litres of waste water per year is also recharged into the ground after treatment.
	Provision of Potable Drinking Water	Deepening of dugwells, deepening of percolation tanks, installation of tubewells and the testing of water are the services provided that have improved availability of potable drinking water for a population of 40,000 in Petlawad Tehsil
	Water and Soil Conservation	Construction of checkdams, dugouts, Gully plugs, contour trenches, field bunds and the recharge of dugwells resulting greater irrigation. Fertile Silt from percolation tanks has been dugout and spread on 5000 hectares of land making it more productive.
	Smokeless Stoves	1600 Households in 125 villages have been provided with smokeless wood stoves considerably reducing the problems of women arising from inhaling too much smoke. The consumption of firewood has also been reduced by 50 percent as these stoves are more fuel efficient which reduces the load on the environment and the women have to gather less wood.
	Solar Energy	200 Households have been provided with solar lighting resulting in cumulative savings of 20000 litres in the use of kerosene and greater lighting in homes.
	Sustainable Agriculture	Households have been trained in sustainable agricultural practices like organic manure preparation, indigenous seed conservation and propagation and herbal pesticide preparation. Work is in progress to make 10 villages completely organic and free from chemical inputs.
	Campaign against Genetically Modified Seeds and Pesticides	A concerted campaign has been conducted to prevent the introduction of genetically modified seeds and it has been successful in the case of BT Brinjal. Sampark, Lok Jagriti Manch and Beej Swaraj Abhiyan have participated in this national campaign and conducted Yatras and rallies and created posters, booklets and videos for the purpose.
	Campaign for Water Conservation	Campaigns are conducted to increase awareness about water conservation and Yatras are taken out from time to time to spread the message.
	Conservation of Bio-diversity	Training workshops, seminars, yatras, sitins and demonstrations have been held continuously to impress upon the people and the Government the need to conserve bio-diversity and as a result there is more action to save bio-diversity in the state now.

Sampark has a strong communication team and over the years the organisation has published hundreds of posters, 21 booklets and 22 films and conducted street plays on development issues.

## 4. Eradication of Poverty and Hunger

There are several programmes for the eradication of poverty and hunger as follows -

### A. POULTRY FARMING

The major livelihood intervention by Sampark in the reporting period was that of domestic poultry farming in 10 villages of Rama development block. The project work was done in the villages of Bhawarpipliya, Bhesakrai, Navapada, Khedli, Kokavad, Chhapri, Hatyadeli, Wagnera, Saad, Keljhar. In addition to this the villages of Rooparail, Semalkhedli, and Duglapaani were studied as controls, so as to compare impact after completion of the project. There were 1720 families in the project area.

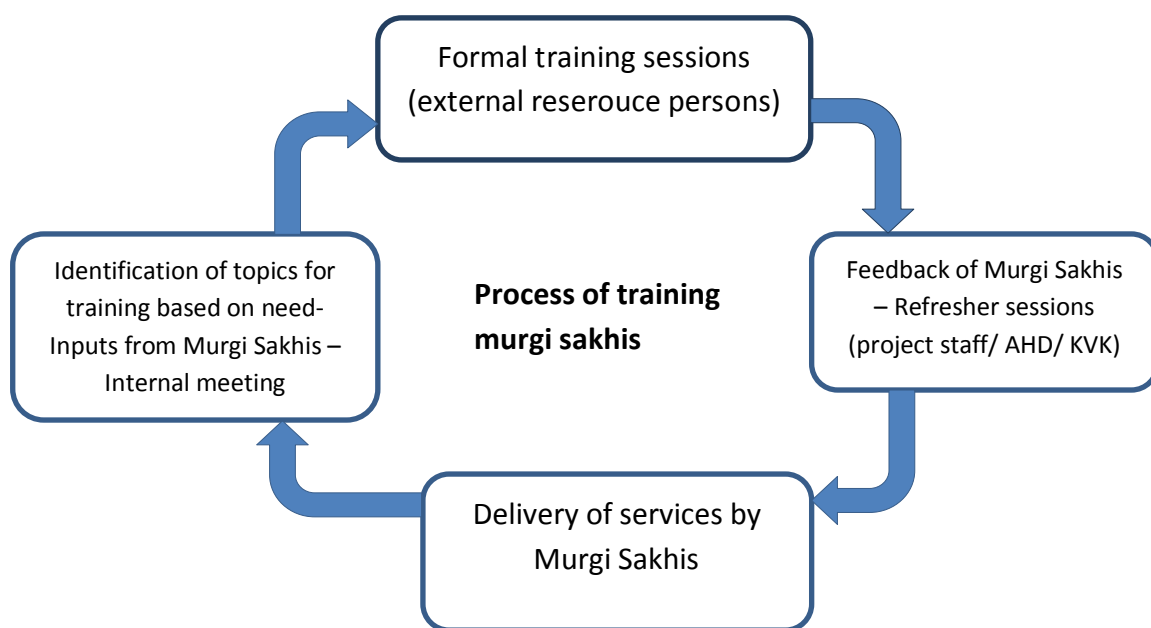
Most of the families involved in poultry farming, have been doing it from the time of their ancestors. It used to be difficult in the past to earn much money from poultry farming. Villagers adopted traditional methods in which there was no systematic feeding and vaccination and so mortality rates were high. This method needed to be changed, most importantly to prevent disease outbreak in chicken. The increased outbreak of disease made it difficult for back yard poultry farmers to control the mortality rate. Especially due to the Ranikhet disease, every poultry farmer had to suffer lot of loss. There was lack of appropriate technical information to prevent the disease, and vaccines not being made available, the poultry farmers could not take this up as a reliable source of their livelihood. That is why a program was conducted by Sampark for changing the method of poultry farming and controlling disease. Farmers were provided with proper technical information and vaccine support related to poultry farming for running it on a commercial basis. The objectives of this programme are -

1. To improve the knowledge and methods of poultry farming to develop it as an activity for livelihood.
2. To decrease the annual mortality rate in the Poultry from 76% to 40%.
3. To increase the availability of healthy birds through chicken production unit.

Street Plays were conducted in 10 villages of the project area to increase the awareness towards technically sound poultry farming. In these plays, the present condition of poultry farming was highlighted, in which the method of farming, the method of feeding, the way drinking water was provided, and the outcome in the form of diseases like Ranikhet disease and dysentery were detailed. The symptoms of Ranikhet disease like excessive salivation, swelling of mouth and feet, feet sticking and drowsiness were shown. The plays ended by exhorting people to improve things by adopting technically sound methods with the help of trained poultry workers at the village level. They were told that by proper vaccination the mortality rate of chicken could be decreased and the earnings from poultry farming would increase. The main activities of the project were as follows -

1. **Training of Female Poultry Workers:** Three day training contact programmes were conducted for the village level female poultry workers who were named as "Murgi Sakhis". These women workers had been selected from the project area. The women were given practical and technical training. The Murgi Sakhis learned the reasons for mortality of poultry in different seasons and weather conditions. They then learnt how to reduce the high mortality rate and so reduce the risk in poultry farming. They learnt about the qualities of various breeds, and how to vaccinate against and treat diseases in poultry like Ranikhet, Mata, Bird Flu and dysentery after identification of these diseases by their symptoms. They

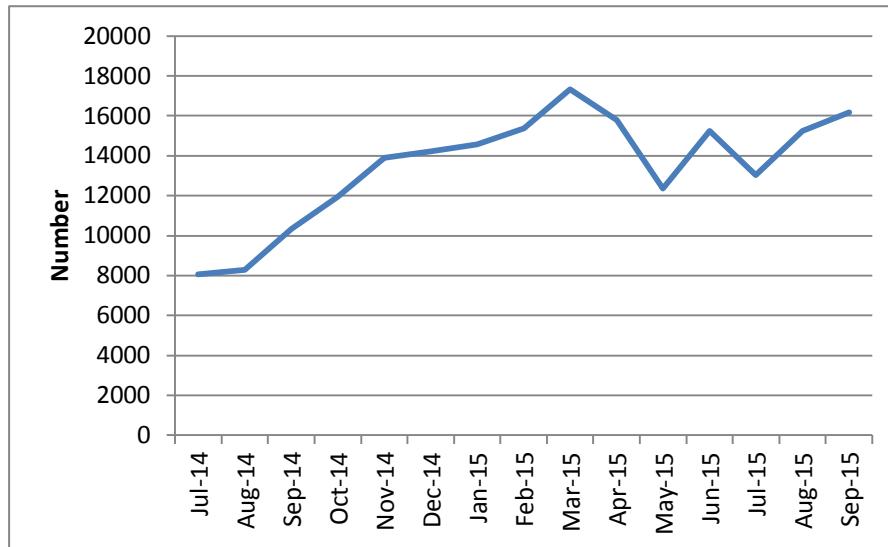
learnt and practiced the vaccination on live broiler chicken. They also learnt that it was necessary to de-worm the chicken before vaccination. The Murgi Sakhis learnt to make chicken feed supplements with the help of local ingredients. They were taught to prepare quality food. They were informed of the advantages of feeding chicken this kind of food, ways of feeding grains, ways to make them drink water and ways of maintenance of the poultry sheds. They, thus learnt the problems of poultry farming and their solutions also. The process has been pictorially depicted in Fig. 3 below.



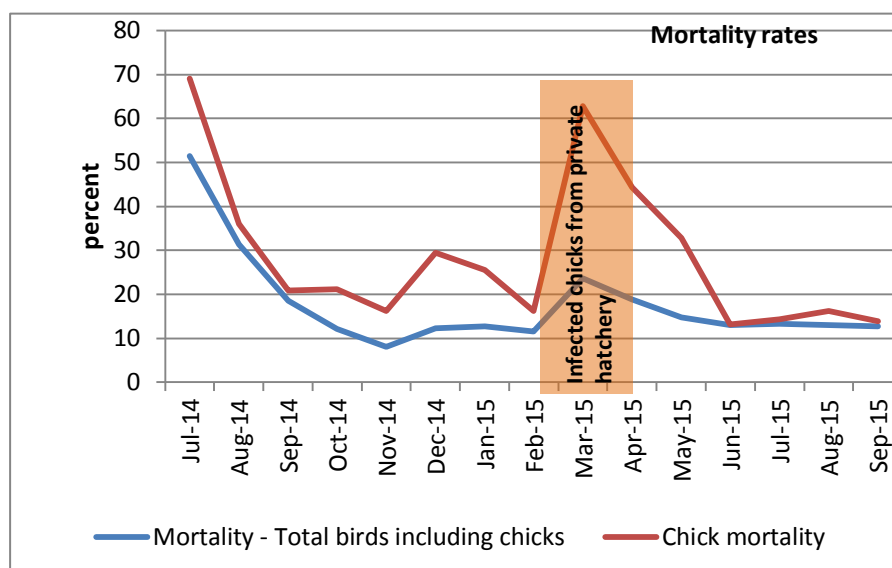
**Fig. 3: Training Process of Village Level Poultry Workers**

2. **Creation of group for Extension of Poultry Farming :** Extension groups for spreading technically sound poultry farming were created in the villages of the project area. The main aim of creating these groups was to give proper information regarding poultry farming and to help villagers to adopt these new methods easily. Extension Groups for Poultry Farming were created in each village coming under the area of the project.
3. **Achievements of the project:** The major achievements of the project are as follows -

**3.1 Reduced mortality rates:** The total number of birds within the community has doubled over the period of the project. The number of birds increased from 8000 birds in July 2014 to 16000 birds in September 2015 as shown in Fig. 4 below. This increase can be attributed to decreased mortality rate as well as purchase of new chicks and birds.



**Figure 4: Number of birds owned by households in the project area**



**Figure 5: Mortality rates**

As can be seen in Fig. 5 above, the mortality rate has been decreasing since the administration of vaccines and dewormers. The mortality rate spiked during the month of March 2015. This was the time when large numbers of infected chicks were inadvertently supplied from a government nominated private hatchery as part of state government BPL scheme. This also resulted in rapid spread of the disease among existing birds during the period. The situation was slowly brought under control by June 2015.

**3.2 Promotion of the native Kadaknath breed:** Kadaknath is a native breed of poultry inhabiting Jhabua and Dhar districts in western parts of Madhya Pradesh. Kadaknath birds do not fatten and retain lean body formation. The dark colored meat is considered a delicacy. Kadaknath birds command a higher price in the market as compared to other

breeds. They are priced between Rs.800-1000 as compared to desi birds with a price range of Rs.350-400. Even though they were known to be reared by tribes people for a long time in the past, they slowly vanished from the homesteads in the area.

There is a Kadaknath breeding unit at the Krishi Vignan Kendra at Jhabua that supplies 28 day old chicks at a unit rate of Rs. 60 per chick. As part of the project initiative, support was given to selected households that were interested in rearing Kadaknath birds. The purpose was to promote native breed among the rearers and also to avail the advantage of a higher income for the farmer. The support included the cost of purchasing 50 chicks and a shelter for the birds. A total of 57 units of Kadaknath chicks were initiated.

There were certain criteria for selecting the households for taking up Kadaknath breeding unit. In general those villages with the best performing murgi sakhis and active participation of members in the poultry extension group meetings were given preference. The specific criteria were the selection of those rearers who, reared at least 15 or more birds, did not go out for migration, undertook timely vaccinations and deworming of birds, had sufficient space in the homestead for constructing a shed and finally were members of a poultry extension group. The status of Kadaknath units is shown in Table 5 below -

**Table 5: Status of Kadaknath Units**

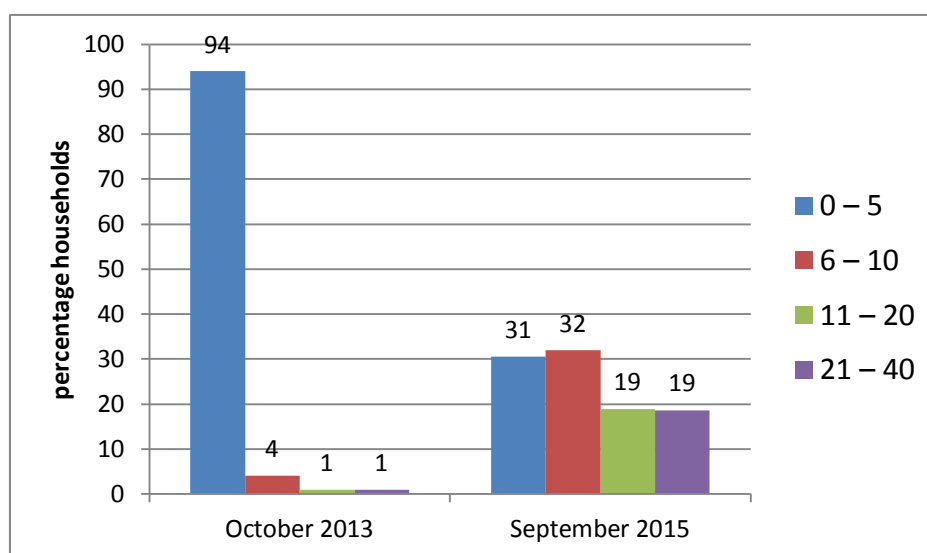
	Number	%
Number of Kadaknath units initiated	57	
Total no. of chicks distributed	2850	100
Total Died	1536	
- Died due to diseases	488	17
- Died due to predators	1049	37
Sold as adult birds	481	17
Consumed	203	7
Remaining	629	22

\* There are also chicks that hatched in addition to those bought resulting in more number of birds that were sold or raised

It is important to note that 37% of the total died due to predation, which has implications on the housing as well as the way they are reared as more risks are involved under scavenging system). Those that are sold fetched much better price than the *desi* variety. But marketing is still an issue as the tribes people do not have access to a systematic marketing organisation.

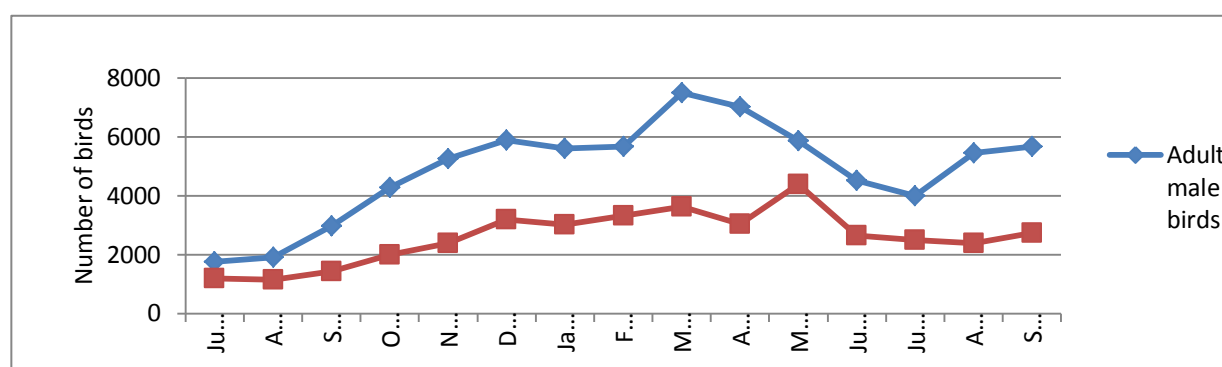
**3.3 Awareness Built in Community on Poultry Health:** There was initial resistance from the poultry rearers to vaccinations but later they understood the benefits after seeing the results of systematic poultry farming by many of the members of the poultry extension groups. The fact that the community members are now paying for the services of the murgi sakhis is an indication of increased awareness among the poultry rearers about health management in poultry. For example in the month of September 2015, across all the sakhis, the total number of vaccinations given on payment basis was 2749 amounting to a value of Rs. 5498. Similarly total of Rs.2164 was collected for deworming and Rs.3170 for primary health care. The average service charges paid to a murgi sakhi by the poultry rearers was Rs.833 in the month of September 2015. The maximum charges received were Rs.1713 by each of the murgi sakhis in *Sad* village.

**3.4 Development of Poultry as a significant income generating option:** There has been a perceptible increase in the flock sizes owned by the households. The baseline assessment conducted in October 2013 in 10 villages indicated majority of the households (94% respondents) owned about 1-5 birds. Whereas in September 2015, there were substantial number of households who owned flock sizes of 6-10 birds (32% of project households), 11-20 birds (19% of households) and even up to 21-40 birds (19% of households) as shown in Fig. 6 below:



**Figure 6: Changes in flock size holdings by households**

The increased number of birds has also resulted in increased sales and consumption at home. In terms of monetary value, the value of birds sold or consumed (assuming a price of Rs. 400 per broiler breed bird) was Rs.10,95,600 in Sept 2015 as compared to Rs.4,76,400 in July 2014 (an increase of 130%). The sales and consumption spiked in the month of May as birds are sacrificed/ offered to Gods before starting the agricultural activities for the new year in the field (such as ploughing of land) as per local custom or tradition as shown below in Fig 7. This summer time also coincides with the marriage season and this too causes a spike in demand for poultry. The net average monthly income per household from poultry rearing was Rs 600, which is a significant contribution and doubly so if combined with the increase in nutrition levels due to higher home consumption of chicken.



**Figure 7: Birds sold or consumed**



**3.5 Nutritional status of households:** Backyard poultry farming remains important for rural households, as it ensures a steady flow of high quality food and thereby mitigates malnutrition. Also the additional cash income, reduces vulnerability. There has been an increase in the consumption of eggs and as well as birds. There were more number of households with bigger flock sizes and the number of birds consumed has also increased. The number of hens increased from 1338 in July 2014 to 2513 in September 2015. Correspondingly there would be an increase in number of eggs produced. Assuming a single desi hen lays about 45 eggs per year (@ 15 eggs per clutch, 3 times a year), the total estimated eggs available for sale or consumption increased from 60210 in July 2014 to about 113085 in September 2015. Other practices, such as candling technique for identifying fertile eggs, are helping them to identify eggs that may go waste and they are using them for household consumption. All these indicate increased access to nutrition.

**3.6 Empowerment of women through poultry:** Women are closely associated with poultry. It was also reflected in the process of engagement in the project which was based on women self help group members organized into poultry extension groups and women murgi sakhis as service providers. In all the villages, it is the women who took the initiative to rear Kadaknath birds. They were solely responsible for the feeding and management of the birds with minimal or sometimes no support from other household members. During the interactions, it was indicated by the women, that the money generated from sale of birds gave them power and freedom of decision making to spend on books and fees for children's education. It also brought leadership qualities of women to the fore.

The murgi sakhis are also evolving into a cohesive group. For example, there were issues arising in the payment for services rendered. Some of the poultry rearers did not make immediate payment for the services and the murgi sakhis ended up providing services on credit. The murgi sakhis then planned to make arrangements for advance payments through the Poultry Extension Groups in order to purchase and provide vaccination and deworming and also ensure that the murgi sakhis were paid in time.

The modality of implementing the strategy was discussed in the murgi sakhi meeting. It was decided to try the method in three villages of *Navapada*, *Kedli* and *Sad* in June-July 2015. The murgi sakhis discussed the plan of advance payments within their respective poultry extension groups. The PEG members agreed to the new system. The murgi sakhis were expected to provide vaccination and deworming. There is currently a combination of advance and post service payment.

**3.7 Providing an Impetus to replication and scaling up:** This pilot project provided a platform to link up with other similar programmes related to poultry health and poultry based livelihoods. It also generated a critical mass of knowledge that helped the community and the project staff to plan and execute tasks much more efficiently. Experiences gained from the pilot project helped in reducing the timeline in community mobilization and preparing murgi sakhis and also as an exposure site to other communities.

The Below Poverty Line (BPL) backyard poultry scheme under the State animal husbandry department was launched mainly to promote poultry as a livelihood option among the BPL families. There was convergence of the current project activities in the field with the

government scheme. As many as 148 BPL families from the project villages availed the subsidy under this scheme. Each family received a unit of 45 chicks (28 DOC) of coloured birds for rearing along with an amount of Rs. 1200 for construction of poultry shelters. The scheme comprised of 80% as subsidy with 20% contribution from the rearer. In order to operationalize the scheme, technical support was sought from personnel of the KVK, Ranikhet prevention programme and Galvmed to assist the murgi sakhis and poultry extension group members from time to time in the field. The project staff, murgi sakhis and members of poultry extension group members received training at the KVK.

### **A WOMAN OF GREAT IMPORTANCE!!**

Surti Bai Puniya Parmar of Saad Village has 2 hectares of land in which her family of five produces cotton, soyabean, moong, maize and vegetables. She owns a buffalo, two bullocks and three goats. When the project started she had five hens. In October 2013 she came into contact with Sampark. She took part in every activity of the project as follows –

1. She participated in training workshops and learnt vaccination, deworming, first aid and maintenance of records in the meetings of the group for extension of poultry farming. She followed each and every guideline, due to which chickens didn't get infected through this disease and their growth rate increased so that now she has 80 – 100 desi hen.
2. She learnt how to make chicken feed supplements with the help of local ingredients and fed them to the chicken. As a result the hens which used to produce eggs three times per year on an average, now produce 4-5 times per year on an average.
3. Surati Bai had decided to start a poultry farm with the local breed of Kadaknath chicken. She constructed her own 7 m x 10m shed with Bamboo and wood, purchased 400 chicks of Kadaknath from Krishi Vigyan Kendra and started the poultry farm in August 2014. These chicken were maintained and provided with proper vaccine, de-wormed and given first aid from time to time with the help of Murgi Sakhis with minimum expenditure as only food supplements made of local ingredients was provided. Out of 400 chicken, 20 died during transportation and after 4 months 380 chicken had grown up to be hens of 1 - 1.5 kg. Each of these were sold for Rs 600.
4. This tremendous success has inspired her to increase the size of her shed so as to rear 1000 chicken. Other poultry farmers of the village and nearby areas have also been enthused by her example to take up systematic poultry farming.



#### **4. Learnings from the project:** The major learnings of the project are as follows -

**4.1 Cultural context:** The Pateliya tribe's main focus is on agriculture and in general, they were not very keen on poultry rearing due to issues related to poultry litter and cleanliness of the house. It took more time to convey the importance of systematic poultry and its income potential to the men. However, the women from the community were interested in taking up poultry with minimum support from and sometimes even if there was discouragement from, other family members.

**4.2 Opportunities and risks while linking with other agencies:** There are both opportunities as well as risks while linking up with other agencies. The opportunities include timely support and convergence of resources for the benefit of rural households. This was seen in the supportive role of the animal husbandry department during disease epidemics. The emergence of fowl pox in the area was unanticipated. This required Sampark to mobilize resources and organize vaccines. The organization sought the support of the animal husbandry department to procure and administer vaccines.

There are also elements of risk while collaborating with other agencies since accountability rests with the implementing agency, Sampark. The experience of procuring 28 day old chicks (colored birds) from a government nominated private Hatchery (Alishan) in Dahod in Gujarat (procurement as part of the BPL project) resulted in distribution of infected chicks, which led to spread of infection among other birds resulting in high mortality rates. This resulted in loss of confidence among the community members, which in turn resulted in expenditure of time and effort by Sampark to regain the trust.

**4.3 Flexibility in the project to accommodate unexpected events:** Unanticipated events, such as fowl pox, hamper planned activities of the project. It requires revised planning (both financial and operational) to include the new elements into the project activities. This also has implications on the timeline of the project period. For example, now, fowl pox vaccination is also included in the planned activities of murgi sakhis.

**4.4 Potential increase in workload of murgi sakhis:** Most women perform multiple tasks and roles in their day-to-day household activities. Additional activities undertaken as a murgi sakhi or in rearing larger number of birds create time allocation problems among the women, which in some cases impede their performance. As seen in some cases in the project area, rearing of poultry was mainly a woman's initiative with not much participation from other members of the household. This put the onus on the women to put in extra work in addition to what they already do. Therefore, in the project planning, it would be better to train 2-3 murgi sakhis per village as backup in case some are unable to continue with the activities.

**4.5 Challenges for murgi sakhis to work within existing legal framework:** The current legal framework (Veterinary Council of India Act) does not provide for recognition of the services of murgi sakhis by the government veterinary system. This puts the murgi sakhis in a very vulnerable situation and at risk. While the murgi sakhis are appreciated for their services both by the community as well as the veterinary personnel, when something goes wrong

(as in the case of birds affected after vaccinations), however, the sakhis end up taking the blame and do not get support from any quarter as they do not have any formal training.

- 5. Extension of Project in 2016:** The programme for tackling of Ranikhet or Newcastle disease was massively extended in 2015-16 to 330 villages in which 135 people were trained as field level vaccinators and dewormers and this benefited 30,000 households who are engaged in backyard poultry as diseases and mortality of the birds were drastically reduced. The success of the programme in increasing the incomes of the households was also reflected in their willingness to pay for the services of the vaccinators and dewormers and so they too were able to earn enhanced incomes. However, as a result of this improvement in poultry health on such a vast scale the supply of birds to the local markets increased tremendously depressing the prices. To prevent this decline and the consequent reluctance of households to continue with backyard poultry the organisation has developed specialised poultry markets with the help of the NGO Udyogini.

#### **FROM MIGRANT LABOURER TO PROUD ENTREPRENEUR**



Munsingh Sehlot lives along with his wife and three children and his parents in village Padalghati. He has about a hectare of farm land from which he gets an annual income of about Rs 40000 and he also runs a small grocery shop. He took training as a vaccinator and dewormer under the Newcastle disease eradication programme of Sampark and began his own backyard poultry with Kadaknath and other indigenous breeds. With proper feeding, vaccination and deworming he was able to rear and sell 80 Kadaknath hens for Rs 48000 and 35 indigenous hens for Rs 17500 in just six months. His costs were only Rs 15000 and so he earned an income of Rs 50,500 which amounts Rs 8500 per month. Earlier he had to migrate to Gujarat to supplement his meagre farm income but now he does not have to. Consequently his children are also now attending school regularly.

**6. Strategies for the Future:** The future strategies of the project are as follows -

**6.1 Strategy to increase supply of Kadaknath chicks:** There is a gap in the supply and demand of Kadaknath chicks, which is proving to be a bottleneck for upscaling the kadaknath production units. The hatchery at Krishi Vignan Kendra is inadequate to meet the increasing demand as indicated by the waiting list of poultry rearers. Since Kadaknath has poor brooding ability, selected murgi sakhis will be helped to install incubators for eggs (automated - for turning the eggs). But this is conditional upon availability of continuous power supply and so may need additional funds for solar backup. Poultry rearers can bring their eggs and use the incubator for a nominal fee and take back their chicks once hatched.

**6.2 Marketing strategies:** Even though market potential exists for kadaknath birds, there is no proper strategy for marketing the birds. At present, the buyers randomly come to the farmgate and purchase 3-4 birds as per need. The kadaknath units will be developed further and a more systematic approach to marketing will be adopted. Bulk buyers will be identified and important market centres will be targeted. The nearby market centres are Kalyanpura (17 km away, on Wednesdays), Jhabua (12 km away, on Sundays), Rajgad (35 km away, on Sundays) and Ranapur (15 kms away on Saturdays). An effort will be made to tap the bigger urban markets like Indore, Ujjain, Ratlam and Ahmedabad where the kadaknath variety of chicken is currently not available. A collective approach of the interested rearers and murgi sakhis towards marketing and common selling points with a common brand image for the birds and the area will be initiated.

**6.3 Access to credit for scaling up production:** Timely availability of credit is another important area that will be addressed for increasing the production. Linkages with banks or intra-loaning through SHGs will be tried out. Capacity building of poultry rearers and SHGs members will be done on specific topics such as preparation of business plans, procedures to be followed to avail loans, maintain records and repay interest and principle.

**6.4 Sustainability of service delivery through murgi sakhis:** A certain amount of social capital has been generated in the form of the good will of the community for murgi sakhis as well as the building up of a network of murgi sakhis, during the course of the project. An effort will be made to formalise the status of the murgi sakhis through some certificate course or standardized basic training by the animal husbandry department. Such recognition will ensure the sustainability of the services of the murgi sakhi. In the extension period men also have been enrolled as murgi mitras so as to broaden the project quickly over a large area.

**6.5 The Self Help Group (SHG) of the murgi sakhis will be formalised:** The marketing of Kadaknath birds and the provision of veterinary services has been the focus area for the the SHG group and this will be formalised. The delivery of services and marketing will be improved by collective planning for procurement of vaccines and dewormers by the murgi sakhis and brand building of the chicken selling unit. Scaling up of service delivery, production and marketing will reduce costs and improve returns considerably. A formalised SHG will also improve access to credit through intra-loaning or link with banks and run the incubator services which are so essential for the sustainability of the project.



## B. OTHER LIVELIHOOD RELATED WORKS

The other livelihood related works are as follows -

- 1. Soil and Water Conservation:** Gram Panchayat Kalighati falls in the drought prone area of Petlawad Tehsil. The land is not leveled properly and the canal of Mahi Irrigation Project does not pass through this area, so that most of the people used to quarrel with each other because of the water problem. There is a tank built earlier with the cooperation of Sampark where rain water collects. However, due to siltation, the water holding capacity had gone down and the pond dried up soon after the rainy season. Sampark decided to deepen the pond. For this, they fixed a meeting with the villagers to decide the farmers who wanted the soil to be extracted for deepening of the pond. The wages for loading the tractors were given by Sampark while the conveyance used to transport the soil was arranged by the farmer himself. 20 hectares of land of 60 farmers were made fertile and 60 families got employment for 60 days. The availability of water increased substantially.

Similarly in village Sad in Rama Block of Jhabua Tehsil a twenty year old tank which had silted up was desilted and the silt was spread on the farms of 85 farmers. 40 hectares of land were thus made fertile. Only 20 per cent of the cost was paid by Sampark in the form of tractors



for transportation of the silt as the farmers were motivated to contribute their labour. The increased fertility of the soil has led to better yields at a lower cost as the requirement of costly chemical fertilisers has gone down drastically. The greater water holding capacity of the tank has led to more irrigation and so overall increased agricultural production and reduced migration from the village.

- 2. Vocational training:** Several vocation trainings were carried out as follows -

**2.1 Tailoring Training:** This was organised for women in villages. Fifteen girls and women took training for stitching in two batches. One batch consisted of school going girls while another batch comprised rural women. Some of them had never used a sewing machine.

**2.2 Computer Training:** This was organized for school going children. A two month training was held in which 62 children were trained and regularly tested and evaluated. Children who achieved less marks were





encouraged to perform better. Basic knowledge of computer was provided in this Training like computer operating system, keyboard, mouse and printer.

- 3. Organisation for Economic Benefit:** Workshops were conducted for the members of community based organisations and self help groups were set up in the area. The people of the community discussed and resolved the local disputes in the village itself thus saving considerably in legal costs. It was also discussed that Govt schemes should be implemented properly and there should be transparency in the implementation. The self help groups were trained on the importance of return of loans with regular savings.

#### **A HELPING HAND TO THE SPECIALLY ABLED**

Rama Dawar is a Bhil resident of Kachrakhadan village who is specially abled as he has disfunctional legs. He is dependent on the family of his brother Ambaram Damar as he does not have a family of his own. He is 55 years old and because of his disfunctional legs and old age he cannot work for labour. Sampark gave him a quilt which he found very useful in winters. Rama is one of many specially abled beneficiaries.



## **5. Education and Skill Development**

The objectives of the programmes under this service area is to mainstream the children and youth of poor, weaker and backward families with society by providing them with quality education and vocational skills. The various programmes are as follows.

### **1. Supplementary education programme**

A survey of the villages under the project area was done before the starting of the Sampark supplementary education programme. The education levels of children were found to be very low because they did not attend school regularly as their parents were not so interested in educating them. Ten villages were selected. The children in these villages had very little knowledge of reading, writing and arithmetic. The villages Bada Salunia, Badlipada, Kalighati, Kachrotia, Chhota Salunia, Kajabi, Lalarundi, Bhuri ghati, Kacharakhadan and Panchpipla, were selected and fourteen supplementary education centres were set up. A total of 295 children joined the education programme initially in 2013 but as the impact became visible more children have joined and presently 1512 are enrolled. The objectives of the programme are -

1. To provide information to children according to their knowledge level and strengthen their skills in language and mathematics.
2. To teach them mathematics through games and poetry.
3. To create a better learning environment in the school.
4. To encourage children for their personal qualities development through Bal Panchayat.
5. To arrange regular meetings of parents and inspire them to provide good education to the children.
6. To hold workshops for adolescents for giving them a proper understanding of the changes taking place in their body and psyche.

### 1.1. Educational development

The impressive impact on learning outcomes under the supplementary education programme on the basis of a predetermined scale are shown in Table 6 below. In addition to routine teaching other activities are also conducted in the school so that children can be attracted and inspired. A positive environment is created through leadership development, organisation of bal panchayats and workshops, Bal mela and field visits for entertainment and mental development of children. The parents are kept informed of and involved in all these activities.

**Table 6: Comparative Learning Outcomes at the Beginning and the End of the Programme**

Period	Enrolled Students			Hindi Language Grades					Maths Grades				
	Boys	Girls	Total	A+	A	B	C	D	A+	A	B	C	D
August 2013	172	123	295	0	1	22	123	169	0	1	20	105	169
March 2016	864	648	1512	159	396	480	309	168	156	396	492	309	159

### 1.2 Bal Panchayat

This is an association of children of 8-14 years of age in the village In which children try to solve their personal and community related problems and also learn personal skills and education through creative work. Bal panchayats are organized at every supplementary education centre, through which children are taught leadership development, group work, scientific view and how to run activities of the organization. Three workshops were conducted at the Sanstha level and regular monthly meetings were conducted at the Bal Panchayats at the village level. Through this children themselves run a library of the centre. They also learn personal hygiene, collection of the history of the village, organisation of sports sessions, formation of gram panchayats through election and their functions and procedures. In 17 villages there are 14 Bal Panchayats.

### 1.3 Teachers Meetings and Training

The supplementary education centers, for their proper functioning require teacher's meetings which were organized one to two times in a month. In these meetings, the works of the previous month, problems faced by teachers and project planning for the future are discussed. Teachers training is also conducted regularly because the teachers were new and not aware about child pedagogy. In the beginning teachers training were conducted for two days. After that problem solving training of four days was organized.

### 1.4 Parent's association meeting

Participation of the community is necessarily required for any education programme. Parents are the most effective agents in the development of their children. Parents meetings were conducted every month and regular contact maintained to inform them of the educational development of their children and to solve the problems of children and also of the school.

### 1.5 Creative letter writing

The children of were given training in letter writing and drawing by the community itself so that the children could develop a positive environment towards education through new and creative work. Regular workshops were held to increase their skills in letter writing.

## 1.6 Sports competition

There are some children who are average in their education as they are more interested in sports and other activities. Sports is necessary for the over all development of children keeping this in view a competition was organised for sports and quiz. Physical and mental development along with cleanliness were explained through sports and quiz competitions for the complete development of children. Sports help to develop team spirit, leadership skills and healthy competition spirit in children. 5 sports events were organized in which a total 415 boys and 207 girls took part.

## 1.7 Science, Mathematics, Language workshop

One day science, Mathematics, and language workshops were conducted in 18 schools. In these workshops children were introduced to the intricacies of these subjects with special teaching and learning materials like letter cards, para charts and singular - plural charts. After the language sessions, environment sessions were held in which the concept of day and night was explained with the help of a globe. The water cycle was also explained. Sports session was held in the end in which different games were taught.



## 2. Adolescent group meetings

Adolescent groups were created in the project area. Regular meetings were conducted with them in which guidance for education and health was provided to them. In these meetings they were informed about the specificities of their transition age between childhood and youth. During this period there are so many important physical, psychological and social changes in their life. In these meetings all these were discussed in detail, matters related with life skills were also discussed. Guidance for education development was also provided to adolescent girls because most of the girls drop their study after reaching class eight because their parents insist on marrying them off. The various activities conducted in this programme are shown below.

**Table 7: Activity and Participation in Adolescent Programme**

Sl. No.	Activity	13-14			14-15			15-16		
		Participants								
		Male	Fem	Tot	Male	Fem	Tot	Male	Fem	Tot
1	Youth Communicatiuon	63	17	80	63	17	80	63	17	80
2	Vocational Training	27	12	39	24	14	38	26	23	49
3	CBO Workshop	125	5	130	107	84	191	116	74	190
4	Youth Convention	68	43	111	75	27	102	91	63	154
5	Personal Communication	46	18	64	47	16	63	53	24	77
6	Youth Workshop	23	18	41	32	24	56	43	31	74
7	Cluster Meetings	17	12	29	21	12	33	31	26	57
8	<b>Total</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>494</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>563</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>681</b>

### 3. Bal Panchayat visits

The children of the Bal Panchayats were taken on exposure visits as follows.

1. Vigyan Bhawan: During the visit to Bhopal Vigyan Bhawan the children observed many informative models based on - Law of Gravitation, Land protection, Galaxies, Planets of Solar System, Solar eclipse, lunar eclipse and life story of great scientists. They also asked many questions related to these. After the visit they came to know the scientific explanation of many things which they had earlier been afraid of because of superstition. The visit was discussed in the evening and children shared many interesting experiences.
2. Human Museum: The visit to the Human Museum provided information of the origin of humans and their evolution to modern life. Children observed how humans lived in ancient times. They learnt new things as they had never before been given a chance for this kind of observation. They also saw models of various tribes found in India.
3. Gandhi Bhawan: This is where the children stayed and they visited the exhibition of Gandhiji where his life sketches and particulars are displayed in detail. Children got know about Gandhiji in detail – his habits and daily routine were also discussed. This three day visit to Bhopal also included trips to the big lake, fish home and Vidhan Sabha Bhawan for recreation, information and entertainment.

### 4. Bal Mela

Many efforts are being made to integrate rural children into the main stream of society and along with their school education, a Bal Mela is also conducted. This is full of entertainment, physical and mental development with activities designed as per the level of the children. Various kinds of stalls are put in the Mela so that children can learn more – Hindi language, Miracles of Science, Origami, India and Madhya Pradesh, Health information by digital systems and cultural programmes. In cultural programmes, children prepare and perform plays on various subjects like prevention of child marriage, prevention of child labour and *school chale Hum* etc. A quiz was also conducted at the concluding time of the Mela in which questions related with all the activities were asked and the children encouraged to think and answer. The achievements of the programme are as follows :

1. Approximately 50% children can read, write and understand the Hindi Language and all the children can express themselves in Hindi.
2. Approximately 50% children can do basic calculation in mathematics and understand the practical oral calculations in their day to day life.
3. Four Bal Panchayats are working actively and regularly with the children adept at working in groups and aware of the functions and management of Gram Panchayats. They have learnt how to manage the Library and the skills for group work, discipline and leadership are well developed in the children.
4. Approximately 80 irregular children regularly come to the centres for studies so that the attendance in Government schools has also increased.
5. Total of 5 dropout and 7 irregular children were brought back to mainstream schooling.
6. After the Bhopal visit most of the children found it easy to understand all science work that was taught from the books in their school.

## 5. Buniyadi Shala

There is a residential school upto the 10th class in the Sampark Campus providing quality education to tribal children. The Right to Education assuring eight years of schooling to all children is there on paper but the reality is quite different. The poor people, who find it difficult to make ends meet as it is, are rarely able to spare the money for the education of their children. Therefore, it devolves on the Government to provide free schooling to the poor children. Unfortunately in remote Adivasi areas like Jhabua district, in which Sampark operates, the Government does not provide for the education of children adequately. What it does is appoint some guest teachers on an ad hoc basis. Each year at the start of the academic session in June advertisements are given asking for applications from prospective teachers. By the time the whole process of selection is over it is about October. So a single teacher per school is appointed in November and she is retained till March when the examinations are conducted and then the teacher is laid off resulting in only five months of teaching in an year. The teacher is paid only Rs 2400 per month for teaching children of various ages in multiple grades in one school housed in the hut of one of the villagers. It is easy to imagine what effect on teaching quality such working conditions will have. In most cases these teachers do not teach at all. Since all children are passed automatically in Madhya Pradesh till they reach class ten, all the teachers have to do is maintain false records of attendance and then submit false evaluation reports. Thus, in government records there is hundred percent enrolment and passing of children in all the classes. Consequently, given this sorry state of affairs, Sampark runs the Buniyadi Shala where in addition to the prescribed Madhya Pradesh State Board syllabus the children learn about their own local livelihoods and culture and get skill training. The children, thus, receive a localised education that makes them sensitive to the situation prevailing in their area and the ways in which local problems can be solved.

The performance of these children is given below. Clearly there is an improvement of performance as the number of students getting C and D grades has gone down considerably over the three years. It is noteworthy that more than 50 per cent of the students have secured A grades in all the years and in the latest year this proportion is as high as 75 per cent. As the students from the lower classes reach the higher classes the strength in classes eight, nine and ten will increase further.

**Table 8: Performance of Students of Buniyadi Shala**

Class ↓	Year →	2013-14					2014-15					2015-16				
		Grades														
		A	B	C	D	Tot	A	B	C	D	Tot	A	B	C	D	Tot
One	22	10	1		33	17	3			20	19	10	1		30	
Two	14	15	4		33	20	13			33	17	3			20	
Three	18	11	3	1	33	24	5			29	20	10			30	
Four	8	5	2		15	17	14			31	17	4			21	
Five	13	8	6		27	6	4	8		18	24	4			28	
Six	6	5	5		16	7	7	2		16	7	5			12	
Seven	1				1	9	8			17	9	1			10	
Eight	3	3			6	1				1	13	7			20	
Nine						6				6	1	2			3	
Ten						6	4			10	13				13	
Total	85	57	21	1	164	113	58	10	0	181	140	46	1	0	187	

### **MIGRANT DROPOUT RETURNS TO SCHOOL**

Sunil Solanki of Kasyakhali village studies in class six. The economic condition of his family is weak. They have two acres of unirrigated land and the family is dependent on labour work for which they have to migrate. So Sunil used to be irregular in attending school. Sampark ensured that from 2014 onwards he received regular financial help that improved his family condition and so migration got reduced. Sunil and his sister started receiving education and going to school regularly. Sunil is studying in middle school which is away from the village so a bicycle was purchased for him. Now Sunil goes to school on his bicycle and he does not lack any education material.



## **6. Promotion of Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women**

Sampark works with the elected women representatives (EWR) in Panchayati Raj to improve their performance as community leaders in bringing about greater gender equity and sustainable development. The EWRs, after receiving training and support from Sampark, have overcome many of their fears and inhibitions and are taking actions to reduce patriarchy in their society and also work effectively in the Panchayat to bring about development and proper delivery of government services. The various activities conducted are as follows.

### **1. Discussions on atrocities against women**

Discussing the issue of women atrocities, the Sarpanch of Gram Panchayat Devli, Shanti Bahan, says she tells women about the toll free helpline number 1090. If there is a problem then all women can use this number for getting help. Shanti Gamad, Sarpanch, said that atrocities against women are happening regularly but the incidents do not come out in the open. Sampark staff members urged that the movement to stop gender based violence must be taken forward with more meetings in the villages to free women from their fear. They said that the Anganwaris are now charged with mobilising women against gender based violence and the EWRs should use these centres for holding meetings on the issue with women.



### **2. Monitoring of Anganwaris**

The EWR of Gram Panchayat Dhevli, Dhaapu, said there should be proper running of Anganwadis and during rainy season, they should maintain cleanliness, as in this season children generally fall sick. A staff member of Sampark said that parents of malnourished children should send their children to the rehabilitation centre. Later on, the EWR of Gram Panchayat Dhevli, Kakudi, informed that they, along with their Anganwadi workers, celebrated Breast-Feeding Day in their Panchayat.



There, they conducted meetings at 3 places with 14 women which included breast feeders and pregnant women. The EWR of Gram Panchayat Hanumantiya, Miththoobai, informed that they surveyed the anganwadis but found that there were several which were not receiving benefits of government schemes, which they should receive. The EWR of gram Panchayat Ghughari, Jhagudi behan said that the Health centre and sub Health Centre are both in one village. Due to this other villages are not able to receive the benefit of health services. They submitted an application the nurse and the block program manager of the National Rural Health Mission through the Gram Sabha Swastha Gram Tadartha Samiti. The EWR of Gram Panchayat of Runji, Madi Ramchandra, said that from their village one child was sent to the nutrition rehabilitation centre and for this she and her two friends used to visit the child's home and they made the parents understand why it was necessary to send their child to the rehabilitation centre.

Anganwadi Supervisor Shrimati Draupadi Patel informed the women about the various schemes of the government like the Ladli Lakshmi Yojana, Nutrition Day, Mangal Divas, Vaccination, Sabala Yojana and rehabilitation centre. Three special meetings were organised for Anganwadi workers in which 90 of them participated.



### **3. Discussion of Panchayat Work**

The EWR of Gram Panchayat of Maandan, Kaisa Ramchandra, said that the Sarpanch and secretary do not provide them with information of government schemes. They perform all functions of the Panchayat at their home. They do not open the Panchayat office at most of the time. EWRs and members of the Saajha Manch, Miththoobai and Jhagudi Bai said that although we work in the same office, we are not given attention. We have to repeat ourselves. Males are given more attention. Then a staff of the Sampark told them that this usually happens and if they want their proposals to be paid attention to, then they should also impress its importance on others. Then their proposals would be easily accepted. The EWR of Gram Panchayat Tarkheri, Shivabai, said they were informing people about Panchayat elections and had distributed the posters and books provided for the purpose. The posters "Laalach Me Na Aayen" and 'Shasan and Kushasan" had been most effective. the EWR of Gram Panchayat Dabdi, Bijlibai, said a request for a new polling booth in their village was submitted to the Janpad office and it had been sanctioned. The Subdivisional Officer, Shri Rajawat, said that If any body faces any problem related with Panchayats then he should be informed and he would definitely come forward to help.

### **4. Discussion on Food Security Act and Lok Sewa Guarantee Act**

A Sampark staff memembr spoke about a Food Security Camp which would be held to discuss the new Law of Food Security 2013 related to the public distribution system, pensions and health. Information would be provided to genuine beneficiaries.

The EWRs were also informed about Lok Sewa Guarantee Act. EWR of Kalighati, Miththoobai said that if we go to the Panchayat or Janpad regarding some work, the clerks and secretary there do not

pay attention to us. For any kind of work they ask us to visit again after a few days. If they are given some money, they agree to finish the work immediately. The Sampark staff said that it actually happens because we do not know enough about the law and the time allotted for each service.

There is an act in Madhya Pradesh named as Madhya Pradesh Lok Seva Guarantee Act 2010, where the government guarantees to the beneficiaries that a particular work will be provided within a specified time period, failing which the staff responsible for delay will be punished. Then the EWRs asked about the formal process to get their work done on time. The Sampark staff said that to ensure the functioning of our state system to run perfectly, government has set deadline for each work to be done to facilitate the general public.

#### **4. Discussion on Gender Equity**

There should be active participation of women in panchayat elections to enhance gender equity and women centred governance and development at the grassroots level. A Community meeting was held to discuss and understand the problems during the election process of Panchayats and their solutions. EWR of Gram Panchayat, Bedada, Sunita Bai, said that this movement started for the first time in their village and now the men are scared of the women of the village who with the help of Sampark will put them into legal trouble.



#### **5. Community Action**

Village Suthwadia of Gram Panchayat Runji is situated 26 kms away from Petlawad Town. Its population is about 500. There is no facility to irrigate their fields. Most of the farmers can produce only one crop in a year. Nearby in Ghughri Panchayat a canal of the Mahi dam is passing through. It also could be run through Runji village but due to carelessness of government agencies it has not been done. EWR of village Suthwadia, Seeta Shambhu, wanted to bring the canal to her village. She came to know that a “Jan Sanvaad” was to be held in Petlawad. She discussed the idea with other people of the village and got an appeal prepared for submission in “Jan Sanvaad”. Seetha Sambhu along with other women Rekha



Kailash and Magudi Damor put the problem of unavailability of canal water in their village before the Officers and demanded that it be provided. Then, she, accompanied by other colleagues went to meet the officers of the Mahi Project. The officers listened to their problem and acknowledged the receipt of the written memorandum submitted to them. On August 30, 2013, workers from the

irrigation department reached the village for the survey to bring the canal to the village. Later the construction work began and the canal and water came to the village considerably improving their agricultural income.

### **NARBADI GETS HER RIGHTS**

Gram Panchayat Kalighati is 30 kms away from Petlawad town. Here Bhil women are assumed by their men to be very weak. They are like puppets in the hands of men and they will do as directed by men. Smt. Narbadi bai was married to Gokul of village Panchpipla in 2012 at the age of 19 years. After three months of their marriage Gokul had a doubt that Narbadi was having extra marital relations with somebody else. He did not allow her to go to her parents. When Narbadibai opposed this kind of behaviour then Gokul sent her to her parents and left her there. In between her father in law and brother in law came and took her back to Panchpipla. Her husband Gokul continued to behave as earlier by teasing her. His father and brother tried to advise him to behave with her properly and maintain good relationship but he did not listen and again sent her back to her parents. Narbadibai decided not go back to his home and to teach him a lesson.



Narbadibai shared this incident with Lachudibai, the EWR and pleaded for help because she had heard that she works for the rights of women and also against atrocities on women. Lacchudibai told her not to worry, as if Gokul did not behave properly he would be taught a lesson. She said that she would take this matter up in the Gram Sabha, and later if required they would go to the police station. She organised a Gram Sabha of Gram Panchayat Kalighati on 02-8-13 accompanying some other women and she invited the Sarpanch and other eminent persons of Panch Pipla along with Gokul and his family. Women of Kalighati also attended the Gram Sabha. Lachhudibai asked Gokul about any fault committed by Narbadi. Gokul could not reply. Then Lachhudibai and other women told him if he continued to tease Narbadibai like this, he would be arraigned under a complaint of committing atrocities against women. He would suffer in jail and only he would be responsible for all this. The Sarpanch and two other persons from Panchpipla took the responsibility that he would not tease his wife and would maintain her properly. Gokul also felt and said sorry for all that had happened and promised not to do as earlier. A document on a stamp paper of Rs 100 was prepared that if he would do such things again, he would be punished with penalty of Rs. 50,000 and also have to face legal action. Gokul agreed to this and took Narbadi bai back to his home.

## 7. Improving Child Health

Special efforts have been made by Sampark to improve child health and increase child protection in the project area. These initiatives are as follows.

### 1. Local Nutritive Powder

Amrit Churn is a mixed powder prepared with the help of local cereals and oilseeds. Groups of adolescents girls are given training to prepare this powder themselves at their home and use it for themselves and younger brothers and sisters as nutritious food supplements during adolescence when physical changes take place. Sesame, soy bean and gram are the ingredients of this powder which prevent children from weakness and pregnant women from anaemia. It is useful as a supplement for a balanced diet.



### 2. Deworming Camp

The condition of Bhil children is very poor because caring for them is not a priority and so children do not get proper nutrition at the proper time. Due to insufficient breast feeding, lack of timely vaccination and not using the anti worm medicine, children become weak and malnourished. There is also the tradition of child marriage. Girls are not matured in early adolescence and yet after marriage they have to immediately bear and deliver children. Both mother and child are weak as a result. The child can be prevented and saved from this condition by providing nutritious food and anti worm medicine. There are many problems related to children – stomach ache, soil eating, lack of appetite, spots on face, weakness, and loss of hair. Sampark organised village level camps to give anti worm medicine to the children of age from 6 months to 5 years.

### 3. Village level Health Camp

In three villages of the project area health camps were organised in which Dr. Jain and colleagues of the Government hospital in Petlawad rendered their services for distribution of medicine for worm, women related diseases, stomach ache and chronic diseases of old age. Some patients who were suffering from severe problems for a long time were given medicine. In the camp the villagers were given advice for cleanliness, to send children regularly to Anganwadi to prevent malnutrition and to get check ups of their weight regularly.

### 4. Workshop for Child Care

A workshop was conducted for better care of children by providing sufficient nutritious food and hygienic atmosphere and preventing weakness. Women were advised that the children must be provided with breast feeding up to the age of 6 months and till then the mother should take sufficient balanced diet. Children should be kept clean and they should be provided with such toys which would not be harmful. The women were told that taking these careful steps would help the children get well developed physically and mentally. The women were told not to rely on the local quacks and shamans and instead consult with qualified doctors when emergencies arose. Physical,



Mental and intellectual development of mothers and adolescents is interrupted due to the lack of nutritious food. Malnutrition is the main reason behind it. This can be prevented through the Anganwadis which are run under Department of Women and Child Welfare. The Anganwari workers provide nutritious food, keep watch on the weight of children, provide timely vaccination of children of 0-5 years of age. For the health of 0-5 year children, it was also discussed that the project and the women and child department should work together. Conducting meetings, door to door visits, regular check ups and vaccination of children were to be done by the project worker by reaching the pregnant and breast feeding mothers and ensuring the attendance of children in anganwadis.

## 5. Cleanliness Campaign

Cleanliness is not given much importance in villages especially in the project area. To spread out the message of cleanliness, children were assembled and a program on hand washing was conducted. Firstly, their parents were advised and told about the importance of cleanliness in their life. Cleanliness is necessary for the body, the home, the surroundings, the schools and the courtyards. Cleanliness is mandatory, both internally or externally. Later on, hand washing program was conducted, in which they were told to wash their hands properly with soap. Their hair was oiled and combed and nails were cleaned and pared. A meeting was held with the parents and they were told the current status of the cleanliness of their children.



## 6. Malnutrition Awareness Rally

The most important element for improving health is nutritious food. Due to lack of a balanced and nutritious diet adve health is adversely affected resulting in malnutrition which can be seen as –

- Children loosing their energy
- They often fall sick as the immune system fails.
- Their capacity of learning gets reduced
- They get tired soon.
- Malnutrition can take away their eyesight.
- Malnutrition may take their lives also.



26 rallies were organised in the project area to raise awareness about this problem and the solution.

## 7. Making the Gram Sabha Swasth Gram Tadarth Samiti (GSSGTS) Functional

These committees are formed as per the guidelines of the government. The main objective of these committees is to strengthen the health services and to cooperate for running them uninterruptedly. All the members were informed about these committees and their work and were also introduced to the documents which are used for keeping records of these committees. The following staff are to be monitored regularly by the committee -

- Asha Karyakarta – the work of the Asha karyakarta has to be monitored regularly and she should be present in all meetings of the GSSGTS. The committee has to ensure that the Asha Karyakarta is providing all the services to the pregnant women related to vaccination, pre-natal tests and institutional delivery.
- Auxiliary Nurse Medic (ANM) - The A.N.M. should be present on the occasion of the Gram Swasthya and Poshan day. She must complete the health survey of families. The sub health centre should open timely and provide health services and provide medicine during illness. Vaccination should be done and pregnant women provided with regular health checkups.
- Anganwadi Worker - Non-formal ducation should be provided to 3-6years children along with nutritious food. Nutritious food packets are to be given to pregnant and breast feeding women on one Tuesday in a month. The attendance of children in Anganwadi should be satisfactory.

## 8. Workshop for Keeping Gap in Children

A workshop was organised in which married couples were invited to participate. They were motivated for keeping gap in children. It was explained why it is necessary to keep gap in children for the health of mother and child. In rural areas people generally commit the mistake of child marriage which is harmful for the health of children. For keeping gap, following means are to be used –



1. Permanent – Male and female sterilisation
2. Temporary – Mala-D, Mala DN, Copper T, Saheli, Khushi, Condom, Injection etc.

They were informed about the correct age of marriage of a girl, that it should be 18 years and just after marriage they should not become pregnant because it is a new atmosphere for them in husband /in laws home so that the gap should be maintained. After one child a gap of 3 years should be maintained for the next child. Participants agreed to this concept and the use of temporary means for spacing.

## 9. Anganwadi Karyakarta Training Programme

A training programme was organised for Anganwadi workers and they were informed about the rights of children to ensure that their physical and mental development would be proper. Main rights of children are as follows -

1. Right to live
2. Right for development
3. Right for security
4. Right for participation

Only parents or the family should not bear the responsibility of the development of children but local public representatives and officers should also work for the development of children and to



protect them from malnutrition and violence. Factors influencing the growth and development of children were spelt out to the workers - nourishing the children, providing a healthy atmosphere, playing games, reading poetry and stories.

The development of children from 0 to 3 years of age involves their nervous system as they learn to use the movements of hands and legs. Talking skills develop and they learn to engage with each other socially.

The development of children from 3 to 6 years of age involves a balanced and nutritious diet, enhanced mental development and ethical development about right and wrong. Children of the age 3-6 years should be sent to the Anganwadi, where their physical, intellectual and ethical development can be done and they can also get non formal education. Development of children through games and activities plays an important role due to which a child gets completely developed. It is also necessary to teach children how to use the all parts of the body. The Anganwadi karyakarta and the care taker of children in the family play very important roles for this work. Children in this age group should know about good and bad habits so that they follow the right direction. The basics of children should be strong and they should be given good manners and habits. The physical health of children should be monitored as they mostly get sick of pneumonia, dysentery etc due to the lack of cleanliness. It is very harmful to keep children dirty or the surroundings uncleaned. Timely vaccination should get done and in case of sickness proper medication should be done.

## 10. Child Rights and Protection

Violence against children both in the home, in school and outside is a rampant phenomenon and a serious violation of their rights. The objectives of the child rights and protection programme are as follows -

1. Provide shelter to child victims of violence and for this a centre has been set up in the Sampark campus in Raipuria with a 24x7 helpline with number 1098. Special care is taken to prevent and take action against sexual offences against children.
2. Recover children who have gone missing or have been trafficked. Since most families migrate with their children there is an ever present danger of their going missing or being abducted.
3. Care provision for destitute and orphan children
4. Eliminate Child Labour



A programme of regular village meetings has been implemented to sensitise the people about child rights and protection and the facilities being provided by Sampark. Sports programmes are held in the villages to engage the children and make them aware of their rights. Action has been taken against some adults who have committed violence against children and so now there is a higher level of awareness regarding child rights and protection in the project area. The specific activities and the number of participants in them are given in Table 9 below.

**Table 9: Child Protection Activities**

Sl. No.	Activities	Participants		
		Male	Fem.	Total
1	Eradication of Malnutrition	230	124	354
2	Bal Panchayat Meetings	170	235	405
3	Outreach Campaigns	376	348	724
4	Village Meetings	1571	1543	3111
5	Medical Treatment of Children	89	102	191
6	Recovery of Missing children	21	23	44

**11. Achievements of Child Health Programme**

- 40 children affected with Malnutrition were provided with *Amrit Churn* Nectar Powder, in which 17 were of medium grade and 3 of general grade.
- Regular preparation of *Amrit Churn* Nectar Powder getting done by 22 adolescents girls.
- 409 children were provided with anti worm medicine out of them parents of 18 children reported positively that there has been improvement in eating food, and relief in dysentery in children. This is good medicine and it should be provided regularly.
- In village level health camp 38 old aged persons, who were sick since a long time, financially poor and no body in the family to look after them, were treated without any charge.
- Due to Regular care taker workshop and meetings, properly caring of children by women is improved by 35%, it is assessed by the number of only breast feeding cases to new born children since their birth.
- In the project area out of 35 karyakarta 12 use to go for house meeting properly.
- 10 karyakarta can do proper grading, also they are trying better to joining children to Anganwadi.
- 600 children got advantages of cleanliness campaign in which 150 children started to hand wash properly.
- Approximately 25% use to come school regularly with cleanliness.
- As the members of the Gram Sabha swasth gram Tadarth Samiti came to know that there is such a committee and they are themselves are members of the committee, also they were provided with the working of the committee. 5 members participated in this workshop.



### OVERCOMING INHIBITIONS IN CHILDREN ABOUT HEALTH

Arpana Gamad, daughter of Devram Gamad and Durgabai, lives along with her two younger brothers and sisters in Kalighati village. She stays in a hostel in other village to study in school. For the last many days she was suffering from pain in the abdomen but because of hesitation and feeling shame she did not tell about her problem to anybody, even the hostel warden. For her vacations she came home to her village Kalighati and she met a Sampark Karyakarta and told her about her problem. The karyakarta took her for check up and medication in a health camp organised by Sampark. After checkup Arpana was prescribed medicines for fifteen days. When she was checked up again her condition was found to be better. Again she was given medicine and she was completely cured. Arpana was suffering for a long time and with cooperation of Sampark, she got treated overcoming her inhibitions about health problems.

## 8. Improving General Health

Sampark has made far reaching interventions in the area of health as follows.

### 1. Health Camp for Reproductive Tract and Sexually Transferred Infections (RTI/STI)

In tribal areas there are so many problems women have to face. Due to *ghunghat* (veil on their face) and hesitation they can not discuss with or explain their problems to any body in their family and due to this women suffer much more. Because of shame and hesitation they don't disclose about their illness which becomes chronic and severe. Sampark organises meetings of rural women where these type of problems are discussed and then women start sharing their problems with each other. After these meetings data was collected and compiled and it turned out that 45 % of women



were suffering from RTIs and anaemia. That was the reason for poor health of rural women. A camp was organised for RTI/STI consulting on the basis of the problems shared by the women and they were diagnosed and provided treatment by a gynaecologist. In the camp - men, Women, boys and girls were given treatment.

### 2. Outreach Activities

Outreach activities under the community project of National Rural Health Mission were conducted which consisted of the following -

1. Providing information about schemes
2. Conducting health camps in coordination with Government departments.
3. Village level meetings were organised in view of the panchayat election process in coordination with the Government Departments.

Health camps were organised in village Kundal and village Runji in coordination with Aayush Department in which detailed information about the schemes of the health department was provided to villagers by Dr J. K. Jain and Dr Sanjay Patidar. Patients were given treatment and consultation also. Village level meetings were organised in Jambupada, Semalpada, Sarangi, Takapada, Runji, Japtipada, Kotada, Hanumantya, Ghughari and Mor in which information about following govt schemes of Mahila and Bal Vikas Department were provided -



Supplementary nutritious food, health check ups, referral services, vaccination, nutrition and health education, Mangal Divas, pre school non formal education, Rajiv Gandhi kishori balika sashaktikaran yojana "Sabala", National Kishori Shakti yojana, Ladali Lakshmi Yojana, integrated Bal Sanrakshan Yojana, Usha Kiran Yojana, Deendayal Antyodaya Upchaar Yojana, Madhya Pradesh Bimari Sahayata Nidhi, Chief Mnisters Bal Hruday Upchaar Yojana, Bal Shakti Yojana, Janani Suraksha Yojana, Janani shishu suraksha programme, Janani express yojana and the public health system.

**3. Jan Sanvaad** Three Jan Sanvad programmes were conducted by Sampark Samaj Sevi Sanstha for awareness of people to ensure the immediate benefits of the public welfare schemes of the Government for deprived rural people. In these programmes, direct dialogue between rural people and Government officers was arranged and problems were solved. The participants asked questions about Deendayal Antyodaya Upchaar Yojana, which were answered by the officers of the health department.



The head of the community based organisation of gram Panchayat Gangakhedi, Suresh Ninama, informed the officers that the bank officials ask to deposit Rs.500 to open a bank account of pregnant women. He was told that an account of a pregnant women may be opened with zero balance and the Asha karyakarta and A.N.M. will assist in this. Participants also informed about the problem of the amount of Janani Suraksha Yojana not being given timely. Shri Dipak Baser, the Block Programme Officer assured that the problem would be resolved and said that whenever the amount of Janani Suraksha Yojana gets late or in case of non payment he should be informed for prompt clearance. Mahila Panch Sarpanch Sangh president Smt. Jaswanti Katara informed that whether it is the community health centre of Petlawad or primary health centres of Sarangi or Karwad, officers and workers of these centres take Rs 700-800 from the families who reach there for delivery, even though under the Janani Suraksha Yojana the delivery should be free of charge. Shri Dipak Baser said that in government hospitals the delivery is free of charge and if anybody demands money, a complaint in this regard can be lodged with him or the B.M.O. Petlawad.



### SOCIAL AUDIT REVEALS NEGLIGENCE OF GOVERNMENT HEALTH WORKERS

Savitribai wife of Prakash Maida of Village Chhayan had a delivery on 03-5-2014 and the infant began bleeding from the nose on 26-6-2014 and it passed away. A social audit of the death of the infant was done by a social audit team on 16-9-2014. It came out that Prakash is 2<sup>nd</sup> class passed and his wife is illiterate. In the summer season they migrate to Gujarat for labour work in Surat city and the rest of the time they do agriculture in their field and labour work in the village. His wife Savitri got herself registered as pregnant on 18-02-2014 at the anganwadi centre. That same day her first A.N.C. test was done, her BP was recorded as 117/74. Vaccination of tetanus booster was done. Her weight was recorded as 50 kg. She was given 30 iron and folic acid tablets. The ANM & Asha karyakarta did not tell about other pre natal check ups and did not inform her about where to get the delivery done. The woman got her baby delivered at home by a Dai. The child was premature and delivered after 7 months only. The weight and vaccination of the child details were not recorded in the mother child card. Only the first A.N.C. which Savitri had got done was incompletely recorded in the card. Nothing was recorded about height, haemoglobin, sugar and urine test. Enquiries with the ANM and the Block level officers revealed that there were no records of Savitribai with them. Thus, the social audit revealed the gross negligence of the Government Health Department with regard to ensuring the safety of mother and child.

## 9. Ensuring Environmental Sustainability

Agriculture being the mainstay of the livelihoods of the Bhils, Sampark runs a broadbased programme to make it sustainable and in the process make the larger environment also sustainable. The details of the various activities conducted for this are as follows -

### 1. State Level Seed Fair

A two day fair of traditional Seeds was organised in Bhopal in which 103 farmers took part. Traditional seeds are gradually disappearing. The objectives of the fair were to increase awareness about traditional seeds and to encourage their conservation and use and to learn about their Identification and their food value. Farmers from different areas brought different kinds of traditional seeds –Kodara, Kagni, Til, Chavli, Bhadali etc. and these were displayed and their specialities were also explained. Farmers were informed that it was not expensive to use and produce these traditional seeds and additionally their use would increase the fertility of their land.

### 2. M.P. Desi Beej Samagam

Madhya Pradesh *Desi Beej Samagam* was organised on 31<sup>st</sup> march 2015 at Bhopal. The Samagam focused on countering the market forces pushing hybrid seeds due to which seed sovereignty was being jeopardised. There are so many varieties of traditional seeds of different cereals, pulses, oilseeds and vegetable which are being grown for so many years in the state. Presently there is increasing danger on these



seeds disappearing. The conference discussed the prevalence of different kinds of seeds in different areas, the condition of seeds and policies required to save the indigenous seeds. 156 farmers, journalists, agriculture scientists, agriculture specialist, agriculture researchers, subject matter specialists and the MLA Sushri Archana Chitnis participated.

### **3. Preparation of Farmer's Manifesto through *Kisan Sangathan* Farmers' Associations**

Keeping in view the forth coming state assembly elections of 2013, a one day meeting of the Farmers' Associations was organised in Bhopal in which a manifesto was prepared. This outlined the measures necessary for the agriculture sector to overcome its problems and become a better means of livelihood for farmers. With detailed discussions and common consent of farmers the manifesto was prepared so as to ensure that a lot of employment would be generated so that the farmer may not migrate and may not leave agriculture. A law was proposed to ensure security of income of farmers and farm labourers. Local breeds of cattle, Bio gas Plants, Organic composting combined with Goshalas would be encouraged. The expensive certification processes of organic production would be simplified and localised for their registration. Incentives for production of traditional crops would be provided, an organic agriculture university would be established, 50 % of the grant funds of all the research institutions would be spent on organic farming, indigenous seed banks would be encouraged and hybrid seeds would be discarded and agricultural land would be prevented from being converted into non agriculture use.

### **4. Meeting of Organic club**

In 20 villages of the project area, 290 Meetings were conducted from April 1<sup>st</sup> 2013 to March 2016. In these meetings, 4698 farmers, who were members of the village organic clubs participated. These farmers, in the meeting, discussed with other farmers about organic farming, preparing farms, choosing seeds, sowing crops, pest control systems, methods to prepare organic fertilizers and organic pesticides, and seed production. They tried to spread awareness among other farmers.

### **5. Formation of Seed Production Committee**

Farmers of gram Temariya, Dabdi and Petlawad formed a cooperative society for organic seed production. They created a 21 member committee for finding the solution and reducing the problems of organic seed production. It consisted of 14 males and 7 females. Through this committee, farmers were provided soya bean, wheat, etc. of high quality at the local level after producing them in a centralised location.

A campaign for seed treatment was run during Kharif and Rabi seasons. Farmers were informed about the organic methods of treating seeds. Farmers were made aware by giving them pamphlets and performing the treatment to seeds. According to the Organic seed treatment process, cow dung, cow urine, jaggery, gram flour and soil from ponds are mixed to form a liquid solution. The seeds, which need to be treated, are then mixed into the solution until a thin layer of the solution covers the seeds. The farmers treated the seeds of soya bean and maize a few hours before sowing





them, due to which the growth of fungus and pests reduced, speeding and enhancing the germination process. The farmers were benefitted because of the larger production with a lower investment. The detailed activities were as below.

- i. Soya Bean seed production: - A committee was formed with the cooperation of farmers for under taking a programme of upgraded soybean seed production from V.S.-3 foundation seeds. 8 members of the committee had sown 10 quintals of Soya Bean. They planted it 3 metre away from the other crops in order to maintain the purity of the seeds as well as the production. The job of grading, processing and packing of Soya Bean was done by the committee members. Farmers got the upgraded seeds through the committee easily and locally. The seeds were sold to the farmers by the committee itself so that the farmers received good quality seed at a lower cost. In village Temaria, farmers from surrounding villages visited and saw the crops at the seed production plot developed by the seed production cooperative. They observed a comparison of this crop of soybean with other crops of soybean. The height of V.S.-3 crop was 1ft to 1.5 ft and each bean had 3-4 seeds. They agreed to sow this V.S.-3 breed soybean in the next season because they found it to be a better crop which would ripen in 86 days. 74 farmers visited the plot.
- ii. Cotton seed production: - Bhurji, a member of organic club from village Saatrundi, is producing 8 kinds of indigenous cotton seeds through the organic system in his village. Organic fertilizers and pesticides are used and ploughing and weeding is done. Before flowering of the cotton plants, male and female ones are to be identified and crossed, so that the cotton seeds produced can be on a good scale and farmers can easily gain cotton seeds on their local level.
- iii. Turmeric seed production: – 5 quintals of turmeric seed were distributed to farmers of the project area. Farmers produced the seed with organic process by providing organic fertiliser, nitrogen and organic pesticide from time to time. 40 quintals of turmeric were produced from 5 quintals of seed. The produced seed was made available to other farmers in next season so that the area of organic farming could increase and farmers could know it better.
- iv. Production of Wheat seed: - Production of wheat seed was done by the members of Bhumiputra Beej Utpadak Sahkari Samiti, a village level asociation. 15 quintal seed of Purna, Pusa and Navin Chandausi were produced by 20 members of the samiti. For this they produced organic nitrogen and organic D.A.P. and provided them to thhe crop of wheat seed. The farmers of village Temriya and Dabdi used rouging of crop for wheat seed so that there would be uniformity in seeds. For this rouging they identify the particular plant of seed to be kept in the field and the rest of the plants of different varieties were thrown away. Rouging was done for 15 quintals of wheat seed crop. The wheat seed was produced through the samiti of farmers of the project area. It was graded for getting good value of the seed. After the grading it was packed in 40 kg bags and kept in safe storage which would be sold in the next season to the members of the organic club. Farmers would get the seed at low cost and the area of organic farming would increase. Thus, farmers would get more surplus at a lower cost amd it would lead them to self sufficiency in agriculture. 25 quintal of wheat was stored for this purpose.
- v. 22. Local Maize seed production – Seed of *Doodh Mogar*, a local variety, was distributed to 25 farmers of 5 villages of Petlawad block in the area of project. Farmers would conserve the traditional upgraded seed of indigenous maize and become self sufficient regarding seed,

instead of being dependent on hybrid maize from multinational companies. With this purpose, a programme of production and promotion of indigenous maize seed was undertaken. In near future the seed of Saat Paani and Saathi Makka will also be preserved.

## 6. Inter - block educational tour

The positive outcome of organic farming was demonstrated to the farmers of Rama Block by conducting two educational tours for them on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2014 and later on 22-23<sup>rd</sup> September 2014. In the first phase 44 farmers of village Saad, Sadava and Saktala and in the second phase, 20 farmers of village Bhimkund and Dungalpani were taken for the tour to village Dabadi and Bachhikheda of Petlawad Block where they were shown the agriculture done without use of any chemicals. Only organic agriculture had been followed by local farmers for the last 4 years. Farmers had a close watch and asked about their curiosity, questions and solutions also. They also got information about the process to produce liquid Nitrogen and vermi-compost.

## 7. Turmeric Production and Marketing

Organic turmeric was produced by local farmers. This organic turmeric was purchased to encourage farmers for increasing the area of production. It was also decided to establish a market for organic turmeric powder and for this purpose 1274 kilograms of turmeric was purchased from these farmers. In the villages of project area, for making turmeric powder, 10 quintal organic turmeric was boiled at a certain temperature so that they could be easily peeled and the colour would become dark. To link up the turmeric produced in the project area with the market, three types of products were prepared. 110 kilograms of turmeric was packed for food purposes, then another set was made for use in local marriages as turmeric paste prepared with a mixture of 13 kinds of herbal medicines. For 1 kg turmeric, 100 grams of herbs were mixed. 60 kilograms was packed in 1 kg packets and sold out for local marriages. The best turmeric paste was prepared with a composition of 250 gms of herbs and 250gms of barley. The best turmeric paste, *Uttam Haldi Peethi*, was sold to beauty parlours in Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Ratlam city in Madhya Pradesh. This paste is used to apply on the face, after which it looks smooth, beautiful and glowing. There has been a very positive response to *Uttam Haldi Peethi* and it is further getting developed.

## 8. Production of Organic Pesticides

Efforts were made to raise the awareness of the people of the villages in the project area about organic pesticides. During the campaign, organic pesticide was produced and spread over crops by farmers. For the production of organic pesticide, the items required are – 1 kg tobacco to put into 10 litres of cow urine for 3 days. Juice of tobacco, leaf of Lantana, leaf of *ankada* and leaf of *neem* are also to put in to it. A little *neem* oil, washing powder and lime are finally mixed. Now the pesticide is ready. 500 ml of this solution is mixed in 15 litres of water and sprayed over crops of soybean, cotton, chilli, tomato and maize to control the insects. Other methods of insect control adopted to minimise pest attack at minimum cost are as follows-



- i. Installation of eight Pheromone traps in one acre of land with the help of a stick by farmers at a height about half and one feet above the height of crop in which a capsule is attached. Pheromones from the capsule attract flies and insects which get into the trap. 20 to 35 flies are trapped in each trap. After 15 days the capsules are changed. 25 acres of farm land was covered by 45 farmers by adopting this economic and easy process for controlling insects.
- ii. Farmers also controlled insects by using yellow plates. Yellow plates are installed in the field keeping their height half or one feet above the height of the crop. Paper pasted on one side of the plate is then separated from the plate. This side of the plate becomes sticky so that the flies and insects which come around get stuck on the plate. After 15 days paper on the other side is also separated and flies come and get stuck on this side of the plate. 1 plate was used for one month and 6 plates covered 1 acre of land. 10 farmers used these on 10 acres of their land.

## 9. Production of Vermi-compost

Compost pit was constructed in the Sampark campus to produce vermi-compost at a large scale in which 90 bags of 50 kg would be produced every 3 months and then marketed. This would be provided to those farmers who would be producing vegetables or flowers. By using this compost farmers would produce more and soil would be more fertile. Presently lot of chemical fertilisers are being used by farmers for production of vegetables like tomatoes and chillies, so that the fertility of the soil is being reduced. This fertility can be regenerated only by using vermi compost.

## 10. Kisan Sammelan

Kisan Sammelans was conducted in Sampark village Raipuria and in Navapada of Rama Block, in which 506 farmers participated. Farmers arrived from Malwa –Nimad area like Mohanlal Pirodia of Ratlam, Nan Lal Dhakad of Mandsaur, Rajendra Singh Rathore of Amba, who are producing bumper crops with use of organic system. They explained to other farmers that due to use of chemical fertiliser in agriculture, the cost of production has increased and traditional seeds are disappearing. Only the Compost made of urine and dung of cow can help the farmers overcome this crisis of agriculture. Due to poisonous chemical pesticides, the fertility of soil has been spoiled. The presence of these pesticides are found in milk, grains, vegetable, and fruits also resulting in bad effects on human health and environment. They informed about some other processes for organic pesticides by which pests can be controlled and organic fertilisers like Matka Khad, seed treatment, vermi compost, organic D.A.P. Nitrogen, Harikhad etc that can be produced by the farmer at his home. They also said that farmers cannot make their agriculture profitable unless they become independent for their own compost, pesticides and seed. They should perform seed treatment so that the crop would be having more resistant power. Farmers asked many questions which were also answered in the *Sammelan*.



## 11. Educational Tours

A two day tour programme for 14 farmers of Petlawad area was organised to visit Kheti Virasat Mission Sanstha in Gangsur Jaitu in Punjab with the purpose of acquainting the farmers with the

problems and solutions of adopting organic farming. In the visit they learnt organic processes to get compost, nitrogen and pesticides for good production in less time. They learnt that crops require humidity and moisture in soil and not water for higher productivity. Chemical fertilisers reduce and spoil the fertility of soil and so the land requires more fertilisers increasing the cost of agriculture with time. Gurpreet of Punjab explained simply the draw back of chemical fertiliser – as we put a little urea on our palm and add a little water on it, our palm gets cold and senseless and similarly the use of excess chemical fertilisers makes the land senseless and its fertility gets reduced. An easy process of making nitrogen is to mix 1 kg dung in 5 litres of water for 4-5-days till the water gets red coloured. After that the mixture should be filtered and used by adding 12 litres of water to 3 litres of the mixture and applied to the root zones of the crops.

Given the importance of developing an understanding of the whole system of increasing market promotion of hybrid seeds, chemical fertilisers and pesticides by multinational companies, 11 farmers of the project area participated in the Rashtriya beej Sanrakshak Sammelan organised in New Delhi from 6 March 2014 to 9 March 2014. They interacted with 125 farmers who came from other parts of the country and came to know how efforts are being made to save traditional seeds all over the country by various organisations, associations and institutions of Uttarakhand, Punjab, West Bengal, Tamilnadu, Karnataka and Bihar states. They also came into contact with other farmers and joined the campaign for saving traditional seeds. The farmers also attended the Rashtriya Beej Mela in the campus of Shri Aurobindo Society, where they observed different kinds of seeds of rice, maize, sorghum, wheat, green gram and cotton. They learnt their properties and how to preserve them. Farmer representatives had a meeting with former central cabinet minister Shri Murli Manohar Joshi at his residence and requested that the welfare of farmers be included in the manifesto of Bhartiya Janata Party.

A Kisan Maha Panchayat was organised in Bal Bhawan campus New Delhi from August 1<sup>st</sup> to August 3<sup>rd</sup> 2014. Four staff of Sampark participated in it. National level discussions were held by specialists on the Subjects of agriculture crisis, valuation of agriculture products, acquisition of agriculture land, and law of seeds. An exhibition of traditional seeds was also visited by them.

The Malwa Dungar Beej Bachao Yatra was conducted from 6<sup>th</sup> January to 25<sup>th</sup> January 2015 during which visits were made to farmers clubs and schools and messages were given to save traditional seeds through publicity material, pamphlets, handbills, posters and hoardings. Meetings and dialogues with farmers and students were also conducted for this purpose by staff of Sampark at seven places of Petlawad and Meghnagar blocks of Jhabua district. Farmers shared their problems. The fact came out that a major part of the agricultural expenses is on chemical fertilisers and poisonous pesticides and this leads to a costlier agriculture.

Rashtriya Jaiv Krishi Sammelan (National organic agriculture conference) was organised in Chandigarh and 11 farmers from Sampark participated and learnt about the changes and revolutions taking place in organic agriculture sector. In the programme 2500 farmers from 25 states took part. Local farmers had interaction with all the farmers who came from across the nation and shared their experiences, problems, technical solutions for three days and discussed about integrated insect management, organic fertilisers and saving traditional seeds.

## **12. Seed Mapping**

A study was conducted on the availability of traditional seeds and their use pattern in villages Temariya and Dungalpani of Rama and Petlawad block in the project area. Krishna Prasad from Andhra Pradesh and Saumitra from Odisha, who are associated with the National Biodiversity campaign, had a wide ranging discussion with farmers in villages about availability and use pattern of traditional seeds. They also observed the samples. In the meetings it came out that seeds of Kodara, Kangani, Sama, Gujar, Rala, Bhadali and other coarse grains are safe but Bawata is near extinction. The Satpani, Doodh Mogar, Sathi Makka, deshi Chana, Kali Mochh Dhaan were being preserved by some of the farmers. The seed mapping revealed that the seeds of soybean, wheat, maize, cotton, chilli and tomato are excessively supplied by seed companies through their marketing chain to farmers. The availability of seeds in the area required to be expanded.

In 9 villages of the project area seed mapping was conducted with villagers in which information was collected about indigenous seeds being used for sowing in the area in both the seasons and samples were collected. In this process many facts appeared. Farmers in the area use Kodara, Rala, Kulthi and Bhadali in Kharif season. The seeds of Gujar, Samli, Saatpaani, Rathi, Makka, Red and white Dhaan, Black and white Urad, Moong, Balam Kakadi, Kachara are also in use. Likewise seeds of indigenous gram were used for sowing in the Rabi season.

In above mentioned two phases seed collection was done through S.H.G.s, Schools, and Sampark Staff and a work plan was outlined to save and increase indigenous seeds. The traditional seeds found in the project area are – Rala, Bhadali, Kulthi, Samli, Gujar, Kodara, Batiya, Tola, Dhaan which are near to extinct. For saving and expansion of these traditional seeds a lot of work was done through seed mapping, door to door visit to farmers, establishment of organic clubs and conduct of meetings, discussion and messages about importance of these seeds to farmers and due to these, many farmers got inspired and procured some traditional seeds from some body nearby and used them for sowing so that they can be prevented from extinction.

## **13. Farmer Field School**

Ten villages of the project area conducted farmer field schools in which 124 farmers got training on cultivation of organic crops of the Kharif season. This included ploughing, soil treatment, seed treatment, insect management, plantation of calendula (Genda), Arhar, Bhindi, Chawale, installation of pheromonetrap, night bulb, use of organic fertiliser, organic DAP, Urea, organic pesticides, and preparation of Nitrogen. By visiting organic farms of other farmers the trainees cleared their concepts and got solutions for present problems. In Kharif season they adopted organic system and got good production at less cost.

They also learnt about a land treatment campaign that was carried out in the villages of the project area. In the farm of 127 farmers deep ploughing was used and instead of burning the wheat straw, it was added to compost pits. Land levelling and field bunding of sloping land and sowing the line of crop across the slope were explained and performed by farmers.

## **14. Production of Organic Fertilisers**

In villages of the project area, organic nitrogen was prepared to compensate for the use of urea in the crop of wheat in Rabi season. Mixture cum solution of cow urine, jaggery and gram flour was

kept for 3 days and stirred daily. After 3 days it was applied to the root zones of crops at the time of irrigation and the yellowness of the crop vanished. This organic nitrogen helped for improvement and good production of the crop.

To provide a substitute for chemical fertilisers to farmers organic compost was produced. Dung ashes, chicken droppings, goat turd, slurry of biogas, dry leaves of various trees, bio compost, vermi compost, solution of jaggery, cow urine, butter milk, Cotton seed crush and cake of neem and karanj were used to prepare this compost. 390 bags of compost was produced after mixing all these items in a certain ratio. This compost is very helpful for increasing the fertility of land.

In the villages Dabadi, Manasya, Junakheda, of the project area, 25 quintals of organic D.A.P. fertiliser was produced by 15 farmers. 100 kg pf dung, 2 kg of ashes, 2kg of black jaggery, 2 kg soil from the farm and 20 kg of cow urine was well mixed and duly covered and kept for 12 days. This organic DAP was used by farmers in their farm to get more production of crop in the Rabi season. This was used as substitute of chemical fertiliser so that farmers would not depend on the market and so make agriculture profitable.

In the villages of project area farmers sprayed dung water for getting better crop of wheat and to get more production. 6 months old 10 dung cakes were put in 30 litres of water for 4-6 days and the water became red coloured. It was filtered and 2.5 litres of this water and 2.5 litres of butter milk were mixed in 10 litres of water. In this way 955 litres of tonic for crops were prepared by farmers.

## 16. National Biodiversity Campaign

Sampark is the coordinating agency for the conduct of this campaign in Madhya Pradesh and has implemented it in the three districts of Jhabua, Satna and Dindori as shown in the map below.



**Fig. 7: Map of Working Area of Biodiversity Campaign**

Madhya Pradesh has a rich agricultural diversity and there are thousands of varieties of seeds suited to local conditions. However, due to the neglect of the Government and the push by multinational corporations for mono-cultures of hybrid and genetically modified seeds, the traditional varieties are disappearing very fast. Therefore, a combination strategy of actual cultivation of these seeds by farmers and an advocacy campaign to popularise them widely and put pressure on the Government to support them in their work was adopted. The campaign seeks to conserve and promote the traditional varieties and the following activities have been conducted with participation of farmers.



**Table 10: Activities of National Biodiversity Campaign in Madhya Pradesh**

Sl. No.	Activity	Participants			
		Total	Jhabua	Satna	Dindori
1	Aid to Personal Seed Conservationist farmers	23	8	9	6
2	Formation of Women's Seed Conservation Groups	3	1 (14 women)	1 (8 women)	1 (12 women)
3	Establishment of Biodiversity Conservation Areas	6	3 Wheat	1 Wheat, 1Vegetables, 1 Paddy	-----
4	Seed Mapping and Seed Collection	3	1	1	1
5	Network Meeting	Held in Bhopal with 56 participants			
6	Meeting of personal seed conservationists and Women's Groups	5	3 with 73 participants	1 with 21 participants	1 with 18 participants

The farmers and women's groups have been trained and motivated to carry out the seed conservation work and the results have been exemplary as shown in the photos below.



Competitions were conducted in schools for the mapping and collection of indigenous seeds and this proved to be immensely popular and successful with the identification and collection of 92 varieties of seeds by hundreds of students working in groups, which were then packed for use in the coming agricultural season as shown below.



A network meeting was organised in Bhopal on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2015 in which national and state level leaders of the campaign participated along with farmers to take stock of the progress made in the state in indigenous seed conservation. Later a press conference was also held.



Meetings were also held at the village level between the women's conservation groups and the personal farmer conservators to review the whole process of seed conservation and plan for broadbasing it further and so strengthening the bio-diversity campaign. Overall the campaign has been very impactful as over hundred varieties of indigenous seeds have been conserved and their promotion in future has been guaranteed.



## 15. Challenges

Due to Advertisements and promotional means of multinational companies it is difficult to make people aware of the bad effects of pesticides and chemical fertilisers. It is a big technical challenge to stop their advertisements. Today organic farming has become very laborious and farmers do not want to do more work. The farmer can not take any decision about crops on his own, instead he has to depend completely on the market. His priority is cash crops. He is not independent but depends on the market for seeds, ploughing, medicines and pesticides and for this he has to borrow money from money lenders and landlords and repay the amount with 50 % interest. Farmers want to earn more money in minimum time. Most of the farmers have less of land and from it they want to earn more profit and this forces them to adopt chemical agriculture. Unfortunately the Government only pays lip service to organic agriculture and biodiversity conservation and does not make substantial outlays to subsidise the switch over from chemical agriculture.



## 10. Research and Advocacy

Development action on the ground has to be complemented by research and advocacy work to be sustainable in the long run. Sampark has a long tradition of doing both. In the period of reporting too research and advocacy work has been done.

### 1. Research on Digital Divide

Information and Communication are two important components of development practice as without effective communication to transfer information to the deprived sections it will not be possible for them to take advantage of various government programmes and also compete in the market. Sampark conducted a research in Jhabua district as part of a larger survey spread across five districts of Madhya Pradesh to estimate the extent of access of deprived sections to mobile telephony, internet and electronic media.



The aim was to see the level of the digital divide between urban and rural areas, between the rich and the poor, between the general castes and the tribes and between men and women.

The research was conducted in the four villages of Hanumantia, Kalighati, Matapada and Roopgarh selected on the basis of their distance from the town of Petlawad so as to estimate the influence of geographical remoteness on digital access. The objectives of the research were as follows -

1. An estimation of the reach of various digital services in the area and the level of access that the people have to these.
2. An estimation of the influence of and change in the use of various digital media.
3. An estimation of the rates of various digital services and their quality and the satisfaction of the users.
4. On the basis of the results of the survey to conduct meetings in the villages to convey the importance of digital media as conveyors of information and means of grievance redressal and the need for eliminating the digital divide.
5. Correlate the digital divide estimates with the human development indices to see if there is a relationship between the two.

The study firmly established that there exists a significant digital divide which is negatively impacting on the rights of the deprived sections to equitable and sustainable development. Table 11 below shows the differences in access to the different media along caste lines. While the General Castes have 100 per cent access to mobile telephony, the Other Backward Classes (OBC) have 95 per cent, Scheduled Castes (SC) have 67 per cent and the Scheduled Tribes (ST) have the least at 60 per cent. In the case of access to television the difference is even more stark with the General Castes having 100 per cent, Other Backward Classes 89 per cent, Scheduled Castes 33 per cent and Scheduled

Tribes 17 per cent. The biggest divide as is to be expected was found in access to internet with once again the General Castes having 100 per cent, the Other Backward Classes 37 per cent, Scheduled Castes 1 per cent and Scheduled Tribes 6 per cent.

**Table 11: Access to Digital Media in Jhabua District by Caste Category (%)**

Sl. No.	Type of Media	SC	ST	OBC	General
1	Mobile Telephony	67	60	95	100
2	Television	33	17	89	100
3	Internet	1	6	37	100

The survey showed that the access levels varied inversely with the distance from Petlawad and with income levels as shown in the chart below. There is also gender inequality in access to digital media with only 34 per cent women having mobile phones, 2 per cent having control over the television remote and 12 per cent having access to the internet. With regard to mobile services the main obstacles to access were the high cost and lack of language proficiency. With regard to the internet the main obstacles to access were the lack of infrastructure and language proficiency. Meetings were conducted in the villages to discuss the adverse impact of this huge digital divide that exists in the project area. Given that mobile telephony and the internet are increasingly going to become the media for conveying information and registering grievances, the importance of removing the digital divide with respect to these two media was driven home in the discussions.

## 2. Advocacy of Lok Jagriti Manch

The Lok Jagriti Manch has led the mobilisation of the people for various rights based actions to secure their entitlements from the Government as follows.

1. The people of Rasodi and Morjhia villages contested the decision of the District Level Forest Rights Committee of rejecting 132 claims for individual forest rights. They conducted a Gram Sabha and reaffirmed the claims of these people and passed a resolution to this effect which has been forwarded to the district administration for action. These people are still de facto in possession of the land.
2. The people of 214 villages passed resolutions in the Gram Sabhas for the creation of the Health Committees of the Panchayat and forwarded these to the Subdivisional Magistrate as a result of which these committees have been formally constituted in 71 villages to monitor the implementation of the National Rural Health Mission.
3. A strong movement is underway to free the area of the menace of tobacco, drug and alcohol addiction. 1700 people are part of this campaign which involves taking out anti-addiction rallies and petitioning the administration to take action against illegal suppliers of tobacco, drugs and alcohol. 150 people have been freed of addiction to various inebriating substances.



## 12. Publication and Communication

Sampark has a very strong publication and communication team spanning print and electronic media and street plays. Numerous posters and booklets have been published in Hindi and Bhili languages on the various development issues on which the organisation is working. Films and songs have also been produced to strengthen the audiovisual messaging. However, the most powerful medium for conveying development messages in the area are street plays given the high level of non-literacy and the song and dance based culture of the Bhils. Sampark has a very good street play repertoire.



## 13. Quantification of Impact

The quantification of impact is always a difficult exercise due to the paucity of data and the huge effort involved in collecting reliable data. Thus, instead of undertaking the extensive work of quantifying total impact what has been attempted here is to compare the mobilisation efforts of the whole project with the grant expenditure on overheads and salaries incurred for the three years from 2013-16. The principle on which these comparisons are based is that the people give up a day's work in their fields or other occupations to attend the various meetings, workshops and demonstrations. The value of this contribution of time by the people is worked out by multiplying the total number of persondays thus expended by the people with the statutory minimum wage of Rs 240 per day. This is compared to the total budget of the organisation on overheads and salaries to see the efficiency ratio. These results are given in Table 12 below.

**Table 12: Comparison of People's Contribution with Programme Budget**

Year	Organisation	No of Person days contributed by participants in attending various programmes	Rs 240 x No of Person days = Amount of people's contribution (Rs Lakhs)	Total People's Contribution (Rs Lakhs)	Overall Salary + Overhead Budget (Rs Lakhs)	Ratio of People's Contribution to Salary + Overhead Budget (%)
13-14	SM	7662	18.38	44.69	13.85	323
	Sampark	9361	22.47			
	LJM	1600	3.84			
14-15	SM	11871	28.49	55.22	18.83	293
	Sampark	9681	23.23			
	LJM	1460	3.50			
15-16	SM	5544	13.31	60.66	23.93	253
	Sampark	18005	43.21			
	LJM	1725	4.14			
<b>Overall</b>		<b>66909</b>	<b>256.11</b>	<b>160.57</b>	<b>56.61</b>	<b>284</b>

Clearly the participation of people in the various programmes has been immense and the monetary value of this far exceeds the expenditure on salary and overheads of the organisation. Even though the ratio of people's participation contribution to overheads and salary has declined over the three years this is because of higher programme delivery costs due to inflation and not due to a decline in people's participation which has registered a continuous increase. Thus, the organisation has been very efficient in its operations. The overall impact in terms of benefits received by the people is much more impressive.