Our resource providers:

- Cordaid, Netherlands
- DFID through DA/Pricewaterhouse Coopers
- UNDP - GOI (Ministry of Panchayati Raj)
- SIDA/Ford Foundation through PRIA, Delhi
- Canada Fund for Local Initiative, Delhi
- Commonwealth Foundation, London
- Ministry of Rural Development, Delhi
- Catholic Relief Services, Lucknow

We express our sincere thanks and gratitude to the above institutions for the valuable support provided to our endeavour.
Annual Report 2006-2007

Director's message & appeal

Each year that passes by takes us towards our cherished goal of organizing civil society towards accountable and transparent governance for people centered development. The year 2006-07 was no exception in this regard, it rather led us to look within as also to look beyond. On the front of local urban governance, we subjected ourselves to an evaluative scrutiny with a view to address the issues with rejuvenated zeal, while by undertaking an action research study of the political behaviour of rural women during the legislative assembly elections 2007 in some blocks of Mirzapur and Ghazipur in eastern U.P, we foraged into a new terrain as hitherto we had been confining ourselves to affairs of local self governance only.

The year that has gone by, saw us in the thick of proceeding to conclude the phase II Poorest Area Civil Society Programme (PACS) as undertaken by us in collaboration with our partner organizations. Similarly the pilot project for empowering elected panchayat women representative, fondly known as POWER project, also neared its completion. Through the above program as also through our other continuing programmes like “Governance Where People Matter”, we have succeeded in letting the poor and marginalized people realize their bit of ‘people centred development.’ Emergence of a new and thriving Panchayat Mahila Pratinidhi Sangha’-a district level forum of over 450 elected women representatives in Ghazipur and consolidation of a host of over 250 citizen leaders, successfully running 165 Panchayat Information Centers, that are virtually meeting grounds of change agents with the community scattered in 12 districts of UP are no mean achievements.

All this was made possible by the unstinted support of our partners, dedicated staff team and wise counsel from our governing board. I thank each of them sincerely. I also extend my sincere thanks to our resource providers viz CORD-AID, DFID, UNDP, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India, Commonwealth Foundation (London) and Canada Fund for Local Initiatives in India without whose support we would not have made any progress.

I seize this opportunity to seek the support of all the stake-holders in the noble pursuit of people-centered development like corporates, trusts, foundations, government departments, the media and academia to contribute financially and/or in kind to enable us to spearhead our flagship activity of organizing the marginalized groups and women around the theme of claiming as well as contributing towards good governance.

SSK has registration under FCRA, and Income Tax exemption provisions; it also a member of NCROs led by PRIA, a member of UPVAN (Uttar Pradesh Voluntary Action Network, Lucknow) as also of Credibility Alliance.

With these prefatory remarks, I request you to go through our report and be part of our efforts now as also in future.

Ashok Singh
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Introduction

Sahbhagi Shikshan Kendra (SSK) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization, which functions as a support organization in the state of Uttar Pradesh. It is committed to strengthen the institutions of local self-governance by providing capacity building support to different actors of civil society. The mission of SSK is to build and strengthen capacity of civil society organizations through an approach where people are placed at the center of all development initiatives. Partnership and mutual sharing of ideas and information with the target groups are its core values.

Background
Sahbhagi Shikshan Kendra (SSK) a center for participatory learning was established in 1990 at Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh). Large number of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) were working for the upliftment of the marginalized/deprived and weaker sections of the society, but the institutional capacity for effectively managing their projects and programmes was inadequate. Lack of professional inputs, competency, and aptitude curbed the development process. SSK was thus established to provide systematic programme management support to the CSOs working at the grassroots in the Hindi speaking belt.

SSK works with grassroots level organizations on the issues of bringing good governance. For this purpose it provides capacity building support to civil society organizations by organizing training programmes, workshops and extending intensive support to them in their programmes. To harmonize and supplement our efforts and enhance the knowledge base, we also undertake studies and disseminate information on vibrant and important developmental issues.

SSK’s main thrust areas include
- Strengthening Local Self-governance, both rural and urban, in order to address the continuum.
- Providing Capacity Building to community, government officials, Elected Representatives and other development actors.
“I have been Pradhan for three times. On the first two occasions my husband used to take care of the responsibilities on my behalf. I was just a dummy Pradhan. But this time, after winning the election I was felicitated by Jan Gramin Vikas Sansthan* and encouraged to attend meetings and participate in panchayat meetings. My family objected strongly and I remained at home. Vimla Maurya, who works with JGVS came to my house and convinced my family members to let me participate in meetings. I attended various training programmes, meetings and met other women Pradhans. I started to take more responsibilities in my Panchayat and I am now confident in the role of Gram Pradhan”

- Kamala Yadav, Pradhan of Kaula Zakhania village in Ghazipur

* Jan Gramin Vikas Sanstha is a partner of Sahbhagi Sikshan Kendra

In 2005 we launched POWER - Panchayati Raj Orientation for Women Elected Representatives, to overcome obstacles in the path of women leadership in panchayats. The project, supported by United Nations Development Programme and the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of Lucknow, covers 8 blocks of Ghazipur district of eastern UP.

The objectives were

- Strengthening community mobilization so that, women are able to articulate their voice and participate in electoral process.
- To build the capacity of women elected representatives and women’s groups to influence the local governance process.
- To strengthen networks of elected women representatives at different levels.
- To ensure wide dissemination of field processes to facilitate replication.

The plan to build capacities of women elected representatives was taken up in 2 phases - Voter Awareness Campaign before panchayat elections and Panchayati Raj Jagrukta Abhiyan (PRAJA) after the election.

After successful completion of the Voters Awareness campaign, efforts were made to build confidence of the newly elected women representatives. A series of
'Samman Samaroh' (felicitation) were organized to felicitate elected women representatives, followed by one-day orientation programme. With these efforts women representatives developed an urge for learning. To facilitate the process further a 3 day residential training was organized. A feeling of togetherness and close bonding could be developed amongst women elected representatives during these residential training programmes that laid the foundation for a future network of women elected representatives. The network has women pradhans and panchayat members as its members.

During the second year, we were able to strengthen the network with repeated residential training programmes and they were able to campaign on issues. Our other activities included

- Celebration of World Rural Women’s Day on 15 October 2006,
- Formation of Panchayat Mahila Pratinidhi Sangh at district level,
- Orientation of partner organizations and campaigns on Right to Information (RTI),
- Celebration of International Women’s day on 17th March 2007 (in which a charter on difficulties faced by elected women representatives was prepared and submitted to the governor of U.P.),
- Exposure Visit to Muzzafarpur, Bihar,
- Workshop with Assistant Development Officer/ Block Development Officer on ‘Factors Affecting Women Participation in panchayats,’
- Orientation of Women Elected representatives on Domestic Violence Act 2005,
- Campaign on girl child education and Right to Information.
- Interface of Panchayat Mahila Pratinidhi Sangha members with the District Magistrate of Ghazipur,
- Creation of a Documentary in Hindi (Udaan) and English (Take-off) on our experience and learnings in the course of implementing POWER project.
We facilitated formation of 8 block level and one district level networks of Women Elected Representatives (WER), with a total membership of 450. The objective of forming these networks was to provide a platform for leadership, develop a spirit of collective action, and build this into a pressure group for effective implementation of government programmes and schemes. Once the network of WERs came into existence, a framework under which the forum would operate became essential. Meetings helped in framing of objectives of the network, initiatives to be taken up as a collective, roles and responsibilities of the network, including effective implementation of the government schemes. The forum was given formal set up by election of chairperson, vice-chairperson and treasurer so as to fix accountability of the members towards the forum.

WER’s were not only discussing routine issues in panchayat but social issues too like alcoholism, primary education, health issues and domestic violence. WERs have become more vocal and are giving voice to their thoughts; interview of 8 WERs was aired by Varanasi radio station. 2 WERs from Ghazipur Ms. Durgawati and Ms. Gita Singh were nominated as members of national level network of local governments, facilitated by Institute of Social Science, New Delhi.
Shri Ram Subhag, Pradhan of Sirsi Gaharwar, City Block, Mirzapur, led a protest march in support of the demands and entitlements of villagers under NREGS. Around 150 villagers gathered around the block. Sensing trouble at the block office the ADO panchayat ordered issuance of job cards with immediate effect. As many as 100 job cards were issued that day and they were assured of issuance of other job cards shortly.

'Governance Where People Matter' is a program supported by Swedish International Development Agency, CORDAID, Swiss Development Corporation, Ford Foundation and the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, GOI. The programme is spearheaded by PRIA, in which Sahbhagi Sikshan Kendra covers 32 Gram Panchayats from three districts of Uttar Pradesh namely Sitapur, Mirzapur and Bahraich. Major focus is to strengthen governance by keeping people at the center of all its activities. The program is being carried out by SSK along with its partners on the issue of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Right to Information, Mid Day Meal and promotion of girl child education.

Program Objectives

- To enable citizen leaders to have effective voice in governance
- To make self-governing institutions transparent and accountable

Major Achievements

- Over 70% of the total households are now registered under NREGS.
- Micro plans for asset creation were formulated in nine Gram Panchayats and seven plans were approved by the Gram Panchayats
- Enhanced participation of women in formulating micro plans A report was compiled to assess the status of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in Uttar Pradesh
- Epitomizing our efforts in implementation of NREGS, MDM and use of RTI by citizens we brought out a collection of casestudies under the title of ‘Signs of Change’
Major Activities -

**Enabling Panchayats for addressing Rural Employment under NREGS**

Constant efforts in the direction of popularizing the scheme have resulted in large-scale registration of the households in the intervened Gram Panchayats. Initiatives taken towards fulfilling the programme objectives include-

- Residential trainings for elected representatives of panchayats on NREGS.
- Gram Panchayat level asset creation with focus on water harvesting projects.
- Conducting block/ District level interface workshops
- Support to PICs (equipping them with IEC material on NREGS and other schemes)
- Organizing meetings with women beneficiaries on NREGS and other govt. schemes
- Capacity building of citizen leaders on NREGS
- Meetings with citizen collectives/ CBOs
- Advocacy, networking and liaisoning with CSOs, government developments media and academia.

**Engaging with Panchayats on Mid Day Meal**

Efforts were made to improve enrolment of girl children. In U.P. the five-member Siksha samiti comprises of the head master of the primary school, the Pradhan and parents of the brightest, weakest and mediocre student. However the overall management of the school is in the hands of the Pradhan and the teachers. The initiatives taken for promoting the role of panchayats in strengthening education particularly for girls include

- 2 day state level thematic workshop on Mid day Meal Scheme.
- Advocacy, networking and liaisoning with CSOs, government department, media, academia
- 2 days residential
training of newly elected PRI members of gram panchayat in context of Mid-day Meal
- Gram Sabha level meetings on Mid-day Meal Scheme
- Gram panchayat level plan for mobilizing committee for implementation of the scheme
- Block / District level interface workshops for experience sharing

Promoting Community's Engagement with RTI
Right to Information Act has paved the way for ordinary citizens to obtain information from the respective departments, which was hitherto concealed on grounds of confidentiality. The major initiatives taken up towards this include-
  - Campaign based initiative on RTI in collaboration with UPVAN, Lucknow
  - Developing thematic IEC material
  - Research on status of RTI
  - Transparency and accountability building- Display boards/ walls for schemes in gram panchayats.

A report was compiled on the status of self disclosure by the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan authorities. Apart from this RTI tracking was done in five functional departments namely, Public Works Department, District Rural Development Agency, Health and Education departments and the court with an aim to ascertain the status of RTI therein.

Building Citizen Leaders:
Citizen Leaders strengthening Programme in Mirzapur and Sitapur districts is funded by Canada Fund For Local Initiatives (CANADA FUND) in India. The project aims at identifying 2 Citizen Leaders from each of the 10 Gram Panchayats of Mirzapur and Sitapur Districts. And strengthening their capacities on various issues especially technical aspects of Right to Information (RTI) and National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA).
Poorest Area Civil Society (PACS) Programme

“Smt. Vandana Rawat, an illiterate woman of Haraiya GP in Kasmanda development block of Sitapur district is mother of five children. Owing to the seat becoming reserved for women, she was elected as Gram Pradhan in 2005. Lack of information and confidence impeded her functioning as Gram Pradhan and she was unable to perform her job. During discussion with her, team members of PACE saw potential in her and decided to support her. Initial support focused on motivating her to constitute SHGs in her panchayat and lead the groups. Her confidence gradually developed as PACE invited her to take part in all its community development programmes.

In the training programme organised for PRI members by PACE Smt Vandana actively participated. After the training, she took several initiatives in her GP for effective implementation of NREGS such as completing the construction of a pond, taking up a forestation construction of kharanja etc. Her active role in enhancing peoples participation in Haraiya Village, was highly appreciated by the Development Commissioner during his visit. But laurels have not made her complacent and she continues her work.”

The 1st phase of the PACS programme sponsored by UK Government’s Department for International Development (DFID) was devoted to sensitization of community and various stakeholders on the relevance of good local self-governance for uplifting living standards of the poor and marginalized sections of the community. Since a good number of schemes have been entrusted by the Central and State government to the panchayats,. we focused on enabling panchayats to effectively engage in implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Mid-day Meal Scheme etc. We also encouraged the community to seek redressal of their grievances. Our working area comprises of 50-gram panchayats in 10 blocks of 9 districts.

Activities like imparting training to citizen leaders with a focus on managing panchayat information centers and technical aspects of the NREGS, MDMS and RTI have been initiated. Panchayat information centers are being run by citizen leaders at 165 villages in UP. These places are virtually community mobilization centers where villagers seek information about various developmental scheme. A reasonably good library is also maintained in the centres.
Major objectives

- Capacity building of elected and appointed officials at Gram Panchayat level for effective and efficient discharge of their duties.
- Enabling Gram Sabha members, especially women and people belonging to weaker sections, to play an active role in decision-making.
- Promoting planned and people centred development at the panchayat level.
- Developing and strengthening linkages among related institutions, individuals and other CSOs for advocacy.
- Making trained human resources available at the local level through capacity building of partner organizations.

Major Achievements

1. The elected representatives of the Gram Panchayats are gradually coming forward and taking responsibility for implementation the village development schemes. In most of the panchayats the NREGS has been implemented under the facilitation of the GP and their members.

**SHGs come forward for effective implementation of MDMS**

After noticing that the meal served under MDMS in the primary school in Reuri village in Sitapur was stale, parents of the children complained to the Principal but there was no response. Later on, during the meeting of SHGs, the issue was brought up by staff members of PACE. The groups decided to give an application to the Block Resource Centre. Although no action was taken by the administration, the Gram Pradhan learnt about it and he held a meeting with the group members and assured of his co-operation. Within a week, the situation improved and cooking of meal started as per the menu with much improved quality.
2. Right to Information Act was made use of by the community and panchayat representatives as an important tool for the effective implementation of different schemes.

3. 159 participatory village development plans (103 with respect to NREGS & 56 with respect to MDMS) were prepared in gram panchayat.

4. In collaboration with various partnering CBOs we succeeded in building confidence among women in regard to decision making.

5. 250 Citizen Leaders have emerged as agent of change. They are playing an effective role for the proper implementation of different government schemes.
Evaluation of the Phase I

Strengthening Urban Governance is a programme we are running since the past three years on a pilot basis. It became imperative to review the programme and gauge its impact. With the support of CordAid, we did an internal evaluation. The process included looking at programmatic inputs, outcomes, difficulties, deviations, replicability and scalability, etc. The experiences have been documented in a report and the learnings were incorporated in Phase II Strengthening Urban Governance programme is being implemented in 5 Urban Local Bodies (ULB) of Uttar Pradesh, viz, Khairabad, Sidhauli, Risia, Mirzapur and Manikpur.

Our objectives:

- To enable ULBs to effectively function as units of local self-governance,
- Promotion of People centered development would be promoted,
- Creation of a forum of civil society where stakeholders would play an active role in bringing good urban governance.

Urban Pre Elections Voters Awareness Campaign (PEVAC)

Good leadership is essential for making cities more prosperous and catering to the interests of vulnerable sections. The need for good leadership is imminent in small and medium towns of Uttar Pradesh where concerted efforts are required
for bringing in resources.
The elections of civic bodies in UP were due in December 2005 but were delayed by almost 11 months. The State government reluctantly declared the Urban Local body election in September 2006. SSK's team launched a campaign to sensitise the community and other stakeholders to create an atmosphere for bringing good leadership. The Campaign was undertaken through partner organizations in 16 Urban centres of the State, viz. Banda, Bahraich, Gazipur, Khairabad, Manikpur, Mirzapur, Mohamdbad, Pratapgarh, Risiya, Sidhaul, Doharighat, Hathgaon, Kopaganj, Maharajganj, Patti and Kasiya The Campaign was undertaken through partner organizations in 16 urban centres of the State, viz. Banda, Behrai, Gazipur, Khairabad, Manikpur, Mirzapur, Mohamdbad, Pratapgarh, Risiya, Sidhaul, Doharighat, Hathgaon, Kopaganj, Maharajganj, Patti and Kasiya

Objectives of Urban PEVAC
- To build awareness among the citizens on the importance of elections and enable them to elect candidates who can be trusted to deliver good Urban governance
- To develop strategic coalition with key stakeholders (Media & Academia) for the sustainability of the issue
- To enable free and fair elections with active community participation, especially women and other marginalized sections

Our Activities
- Information dissemination and awareness building through IEC activities
- Capacity building of citizen collectives /Community Based Organizations
- Formation of Citizens Vigilance Groups at ULB level
- Networking & collaboration with media and academia) and creation of forums

The varied experiences and innovations were documented and published in our report titled “Pro-People PRAXIS”. An audio-video capturing the glimpse of UPEVAC was produced, namely, “Neev Behtar Panch Salon Ki”. SSK also prepared a format to create database profile of the newly elected representatives.
Strengthening the new leadership

After PEVAC, we proceeded to build rapport with the elected representatives. A rapid assessment of the capacity building support was undertaken in all Urban Local Bodies. Based on discussions, a document containing brief profile of elected representatives and their training needs was prepared.

Promoting urban reforms at community level

While initiating new programme we found that the external environment had also changed. Government of India launched new urban reform mission called Jawahar Lal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) for bigger cities and Urban Infrastructure Development for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) for smaller cities. Under the mission the ULBs were expected to prepare Detailed Project Report (DPR). The Nagar Panchayat of Risiya sought SSK's help in the preparation of DPR. The DPR was prepared and shared with local CBOs and their suggestions were incorporated.

We did a baseline survey of 7500 households covering access to services, resources and other governance performance indicators such as grievance redressal etc. The findings of the survey will be utilized to create pressure groups for negotiation with the government for allocation of financial resources.

Key Achievements of the Campaign

- 8704 names were included and 1999 names were deleted from the voter list
- Information and awareness building covered to 1.8 million persons
- 1461 trained persons in intensive ULBs were available to carry forward the issue
- Voting percentage increased in these local bodies with a maximum of 25%
- In 10 ULBs, out of 92 unreserved seats 26 persons belonging to reserved categories were elected.
- No incidence of violence was reported from these ULBs
This year we organized several training programmes to enhance the capacity of civil society organizations. The topics identified for the trainings were much more focused on programme delivery than on organisational management and included Training of Trainers (TOT), OD (expand), PRA, decentralized planning, personality development, etc. Totally, 176 persons (59 women and 117 men) participated in the trainings.

Training for other (non partner) CSOs

During the year, 14 training programmes were organized for other CSOs Of these 5 programmes were sponsored by Uttarakhand Livelihood Improvement Project on group promotion. One orientation training of project staff was also conducted which was sponsored by Nandadevi National Park, Joshi Math. In these programmes, of the total 213 participants, 144 were men and 69 women. For Development Alternatives, we conducted 4 programmes, viz 2 TOT on Panchayati Raj, one TOT on participatory training and one programme on financial management for PACS partners In all, 144 persons (101 men and 43 women) participated. Besides this, TOT for State Innovation in Family Planning Services Project Agency, Accounts Training for CSOs of Chhattisgarh (sponsored by PRIA) and TOT for Lok Jagriti Kendra were other programmes in which 106 persons participated.

Research and Studies

CSRC undertook a study for World Bank in collaboration with PRIA, New Delhi. The study focused on assessing decentralization of health services in selected districts of Uttar Pradesh. Dr. Tom Bossart, Director, Harvard School of Public
Health designed the study framework. The questions focused on assessing the capacities, accountability and decision space of each stakeholder. Primary data was gathered from three units of administration, elected representatives and health department from district to gram panchayat level. Secondary data was also gathered from health department in order to substantiate the information collected directly from the respondents. The compiled report has been sent to World Bank and soon the findings will be shared at the State level.

Another major study undertaken this year was assessing gender empowerment through Indira Awas Yojana in 2 districts of Uttar Pradesh viz Ghaziabad (better performing district) and Banda (low performing district). The focus was to study responses of beneficiaries on gender empowerment and sense of security. Data was collected from the govt officials form district to gram panchayat to understand the provider's perspective. The study was accomplished in collaboration with the department of management studies of Indian Institute of technology (IIT) Delhi.

Engaging with Assembly elections

Hitherto Sahbhagi Shikshan Kendra had confined its intervention to elections of panchayats and civil bodies. But this year we tried to understand the political and electoral behaviour of the women voters of Ghazipur and Mirzapur districts during the Assembly elections. We partnered with a research project of Yale University undertaken by Jennifer Green, a political Scientist of Yale University. The research study was conducted in 8 blocks of Ghazipur and 6 blocks of Mirzapur district covering 200 panchayats in all. The twin aims were (i) to familiarize voters with the use of electronic voting machines and (ii) to enhance the extent of women's participation as voters in the assembly elections in 2007, like we had earlier done in panchayat elections in 2005. This experience enabled us to set sights upon the new vistas in governance - our core area.

Development Education Cell

During the year the Cell enabled 11 students to complete the six months Sahbhagi Vikas Niyojan or SAVINI certificate programme of Indira Gandhi National Open University. The students mainly comprised of Citizen Leaders of SSK and partner organizations. Second and third camps of the January to June 06 batch of SAVINI were held at sahbhagi from 27th to 29th April and from 27th to
29th July 2006. In the third camp the students made presentation of their research topics, two of which were published in our magazine SAHVANI as detailed below:

1. Ms. Shveta Katiyar “Women’s Perspective on Family Planning (Sahvani Volume 14 Issue 3)
2. Mr. Yogendra Bechain “Status of Mid-day Meal” Programme in Urai Distt Jalaun (Sahvani Volume 14 Issue 2)

As part of its activities Development Education Cell provided opportunities of field experience and research guidance to six students of renowned institutions this year.

Students Associated with SSK During 2006-2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Institute</th>
<th>No. of Students</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Mahatma Gandhi Gramodaya Vishwavidyalaya, Chitrakoot</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Vulnerability study of slums in Manikpur</td>
<td>06 weeks</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Study of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in Mirzapur</td>
<td>06 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapeeth, Varanasi</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Study of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in Sitapur</td>
<td>06 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Study of SSK’s UNDP &amp; GOI Ministry of Panchayati Raj sponsored POWER project in Ghazipur District U.P.</td>
<td>04 weeks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ms. Abline Monika Minz a student of BHU, Varanasi who completed her summer placement with us was provided job with Vedic Society, Jharkhand an organization nurtured and supported by SSK.

The Center extended editorial and financial support to 30-partner organizations in getting their annual reports published. The Center brought out two quarterlies Sahvani (Hindi) and SSK News on issues of Civil Society, governance and SSK’s field work.

From the Commonwealth Foundation

A unique project of bringing out suitable literature drawing upon the vast literature stacked up with the Common Wealth Foundation, London in the shape of “Citizen’s Toolkit” was taken up. We brought out two compact booklets in Hindi viz Abishasan Mein Nagarikon Ki Bhumika (Role of Citizens in Governance) and Gair Sarkari Sangathan : Paridrisha Evam Adarsh (Non Government Organization: The Present Scenario & Best Practices). We distributed 500 copies of reading material to various CSOs, CBOs, academic centers engaged in strengthening of voluntary sector and governance.
Women's Day Celebration

International women’s day on 8 March provides a platform for women to voice their thoughts and protest discrimination and violence. The occasion provides space where women can show their collective strength and demand equal status in society.

Acknowledging the importance of the occasion SSK along with its partner organizations organized Mahila sammelans at block and district levels. Totally, 23 programmes were organized in which 9766 women and 907 men participated.

Objectives

- Make women realize strength of collectiveness.
- Influence various stakeholders on the issues concerning women.
- Provide platform for experience sharing.
- Develop an understanding on women leadership and its challenges.
- Highlight the importance of Women's Day in the life of a common woman.

Local level workshops were organised in which various stakeholders such as media, academia, NGOs, women and their men counterparts participated. Focus discussions were carried on role and current situation of women (& girls) pertaining to developmental schemes such as NREGS, RTI, SSA and Protection Against Domestic Violence Act. The deliberations resulted in the recognition of the need for formation of women collectives and promoting women leadership.
Our Governing Board

Dr. Rajesh Tandon
An internationally acclaimed architect of Civil Society renowned pioneer in the field of participatory research, promotion of local self governance and voluntary sector in our country, President of PRIA and VANI New Delhi.

Mr. Ashok Singh
A well known champion for the cause of institution building in the domain of Civil Society at national and regional level, engaged in providing momentum to civil society movement in Uttar Pradesh, secretary UPVAN Lucknow.

Mr. Gopal Bhai
A popular leader engaged with the unpopular causes like development of Patha Kol tribe and the marginalized of Bundel Khand Founder of Akhil Bhartiya Samaj Sewa Sansthan Chitrakoot.

Dr. Kanchan Lata Sabbarwal

Dr. Balraj Chauhan
A reputed legal expert who still considers himself as student of law, has been constantly guiding Civil Societies with his legal acumen, presently Vice Chancellor of National Law School University, Bhopal.

Mr. Arvind Kumar
A renowned social activist, committed to mobilizing tribal communities towards their own development through engagement with governance; an ardent activist during Jai Prakash Narain's movement, who took to social service in its aftermath: Founder Secretary Lok Jagriti Kendra, Madhupur, Jharkhand.

Dr. Indu Sinha
A well known practitioner of participatory techniques in rural development and women’s empowerment, a social activist who pioneered literacy movement and Kishori Panchayat a forum of adolescent girls in Bihar; Director, CENCORED Patna
Dr. Yogesh Kumar
A well known development economist and activist for making civil society watch the manners of governance partner in National Social Watch movement, Director Samarthan Bhopal

Dr. Neelam Singh
A gynecologist of repute with a deep-seated concern for eradicating female foeticide, through Vatsalya a state level resource center for women’s causes chair person of UPVAN Lucknow.

Dr. Ajay Kumar
A reputed Agriculture Scientist and popular exponent of PRA techniques for understanding the rural society and its culture through the vantage point of agriculture. Presently senior scientist in Agriculture Research Center, Patna.

Our Team
We are a team of 38 members (including 10 women members) of which 24 are engaged with designing & implementing the programmes, while 14 are engaged with the supportive role. With head quarters in Lucknow, we have 3 field offices at Sitapur, Varanasi and Mirzapur where we have our direct intervention.

We have a Core Consultancy Team, which has rich fund of knowledge and expertise in the field of evaluation, monitoring and designing development projects. Capacity building of organizations in the domains of communication, team work, leadership, financial management, participatory development techniques and knowledge management (including editing & documenting) is our forte.

To render the above function we have professional staff who have post graduate and research degrees from leading institutions of Social work and Rural Development as also a good track record of rendering above spectrum of services. The team looks forward to be engaged with consultancy work from corporates, government departments, and foundations with a view to becoming a partner in progress with other vital sectors of the society.
Statement of Income and Expenditure as on 31st March 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Particulars</th>
<th>Amount (INR)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants (Including Previous years Unutilised grants)</td>
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<td>Contribution, Membership fees, Honorariums and Consultancy</td>
<td>13.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>7.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training Fees</td>
<td>0.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Incomes</strong></td>
<td><strong>240.36</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Less : Expenditures                             |              |
| Programme & activity                           | 135.16       |
| Human resource                                 | 55.34        |
| Administration                                 | 22.84        |
| Depreciation on fixed assets                   | 4.74         |
| **Total Expenditures**                         | **218.08**   |

**Excess of Income over expenditure**          **22.28**

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Note:  
01-Extracted from Audited Statement of Accounts 2006-2007  
02-All Figures are in Rs.Lacs (00,000)
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