



SHRAMAJIVI MAHILA SAMITY
ANNUAL REPORT- 2021-2022



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MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK



Dear Friends,

It is a matter of pride for me to present Shramajivi Mahila Samity's Annual Report 2021 – 22. It is gratifying to note our move from one milestone to another in advancing the agenda, especially the empowerment of marginalized women.

Our strategy during the year 2021-22 was beyond awareness. The Covid19 pandemic has pushed millions of people into extreme poverty. Efforts are being made to re-enable the affected poor, deprived, migrant, disabled, and single women families, especially from the rural communities.

Capacity-building of various community level groups, and volunteers on availing the facilities of available schemes, policies and services while using their legal rights as a powerful tool to empower the community with knowledge. We also worked on meaningful participation of women and their access to the use of shared resources. Bringing the community out from further risk of Covid19 pandemic, Awareness Camps followed by Vaccination Camps were important. During the period, the Government of Jharkhand requested and invited the Civil Society Organizations to come forward and provide necessary support in ensuring awareness on Covid19 appropriate behavior in the community. Considering the responsibility towards combating Covid19, Shramajivi Mahila Samity extended necessary support in ensuring mass awareness on Covid19 appropriate behavior, vaccine-related myths & misconception and providing right information and also supported in ensuring vaccination of 90% of people from 4 remote blocks of 03 districts in Jharkhand.

While working for implementation of MGNREGA, we not only worked towards increased work days but also stressed on timely payment. Apart from this, we also emphasized on use of working days in the land of Dalits and Tribal people.

Moreover, SMS believes and works towards addressing the ongoing labour reforms, which is drafted to ensure "ease of doing business" at the expense of workers' rights, living and working conditions, while the government forces people into precarious urban jobs. SMS focuses on the population of rural areas and it puts more emphasis on creating employment opportunities within the village, so that unnecessary and unsafe migration can be avoided. We are also working towards empowering Mahila Sabha, which further strengthens Gram Sabha. This is an important initiative and Shramajivi Mahila Samity is working in association with Panchayats in many districts. We have faced challenges this year in renewing the FCRA Bill Amendment and Renewal, 12A, 80G which the organization has done smoothly.

In this challenging time, with the support of all the board members, staff, donors and other organizations, Shramajivi Mahila Samity has been able to sail smoothly and we are really thankful to everyone from the bottom of our hearts.

Sincerely,

Purabi Paul (Secretary)
Shramajivi Mahila Samity

Our Vision, Mission & Objectives)

VISION – TO CREATE A JUST AND HUMANE SOCIETY

Envisioning a gender-just and environment-friendly society where everyone (every individual including) can get equal opportunities and live with dignity.

MISSION- ENSURE A COGNITIVE, EQUITABLE, AND ECO-FRIENDLY JUST SOCIETY.

To enhance the participation of all rural and urban excluded communities in socio-economic and educational fields, enabling them to be a part of decision-making and local governance. Ensuring participation of all genders in development process and providing eco-friendly land, water, forest management and sustainable development of the region. (Through mobilizing, creating platform, organizing community, capacity building and leadership building.

OUR OBJECTIVES

SMS envisages some of the main objectives and strives to concentrate its effort towards the issues mentioned below:

- Provide a friendly and congenial platform for the women folk, especially the downtrodden, underprivileged, oppressed, grassroots level & the lowest strata of the society.
- Ensure acceptance, recognition and human dignity to the aforesaid women class.
- To build awareness, confidence and motivate the women to improve their socioeconomic condition.
- To make women self- reliant and self-dependent, so that all sound up-liftment and their development can take place.
- To enable them to participate and get involved in the process of governance and decision making.
- To empower the women, so as to safeguard their rights, liberty and freedom of expression, and thoughts.

Our Interventions

1. Towards Realizing Women's Rights in the Context of Labour and Migration

The project "Towards understanding women's rights in the context of labour and migration" was conducted in 3 panchayats and 9 villages of Sonua and Dumariya blocks of East and West Singhbhum. When the second wave of covid 19 destroyed the rural economy and migrant workers returned to their villages for the second time from their place of work, the project raised awareness among working women about the right to work and related issues and the formation of workers. To form a union and create awareness among women workers

The objective of this project is:

- a. To take concrete steps to recognise, reduce and redistribute women's unpaid care work that has increased multi-fold with the onset of the pandemic.
- b. To take proactive steps to increase livelihood options at local level and link women to existing govt. schemes, including to income generation schemes
- c. To build or strengthen the capacity and leadership of women in advocating for their own rights.
- d. To systematically collect information at local and state level about the labour migration situation, and about the steps taken by the state to promote labour migration and address abuse.

The second wave of Corona Virus (Covid19) again negatively affected the household income of already back-footed migrant workers. The women migrant workers, who had returned to work last year after the epidemic subsided and again started returning home. A list of 110 women migrant workers from 9 villages, who returned this year, was prepared in consultation with the Gram Sabha, with active support from the village heads (Munda) and Mukhiyas.

The migrant workers, who were enlisted in the final list and own a small land and do not have seeds to cultivate, were provided paddy, maize and arhar seeds, along with vegetable seeds. They were also oriented on sowing techniques. Capacity building was carried out after mobilization of women migrant workers who have small portion of land for a collective approach.

The intervention was done in coordination with various stakeholders such as Panchayati Raj Institution Representatives (PRIs), village-level traditional organizations (Gram Sabha), state and national-level CSO network, issue-based forum, state governments and international institutions, etc. The purpose of the project is to expand the idea of ensuring Women's Rights and necessary steps to ensure the same. It is thought that the ideas will be useful for the local CBOs and the Community Leaders. Shramajivi Mahila Samity works with NAWO, JAGORI, Jharkhand development forum and Jharkhand Wan Adhikar Samity, etc. We work with the

organizations and associations, whose purpose are aligned with the vision of Shramjivi Mahila Samity.



Key activities accomplished:

- i. Orientation and training of staff, community and volunteers for facilitation of Community Leadership Development Program planning and management:**
Team Orientation was done for developing understanding on “Planning and Implementation and Management of Community Leadership Development Program” at the beginning of the project. The event was organized and follow-up orientation was done in the month of July 2021. A total of 40 volunteers and community leaders, and women of both the districts were given training for conceptual understanding.
- ii. Strengthening community institutions (e.g., GS, SMC, VHNC, FRA at village) and sensitizing PRI members and leaders on their role and responsibilities:**



Orientation training on the role and responsibility of the members of village level committee, school management committee, forest rights committee, village health, sanitation and nutrition committee and village level child protection committee as well as 11 members of gram panchayat and strengthening of Gram Sabha.

iii. Panchayat Level Legal Camp on Labour Law, Minimum Wage, Domestic Violence Act and Social Audit:

Legal camp was organized in both the district at the Panchayat level. This legal camps were conducted by the advocates of District Legal Service Authority and District Court of both the districts. 114 people were made aware of various legal information.

2. Arogya Jharkhand Civil Society Network (AJCSN) in the selected districts of Jharkhand

Project Objective:

To complete the target of getting 100% vaccine to all people above 18 years to end the covid-19 epidemic so that all the people in the community remain healthy and get immunity to fight the covid-19 epidemic.

To accomplish this objective, the following strategies were adopted:

- i. Identification and listing of all people (men & women) between the age group 18-44 years
- ii. Ensure that all men and women above 60 years, reach the Covid19 vaccination site
- iii. Orientation about 100% vaccine through various community meetings by the teachers, Anganwadi-Sevika, Sahiya (ASHA), ANM and SHG Groups of the area.



Enabling environment for completion of 100% vaccination through meeting with the village heads and teachers and motivating all community members about Covid19 vaccination

3. Effective implementation of community forest Rights Acts 2006 in Simdega district of Jharkhand.

Blocks Covered	No. of Villages
Simdega	34
Pakartarn	22
Kurdeg	26
Kesrai	15
Bolba	23
Thethaitanagar	43

What were the outcomes?

The project staffs were able to collect all the village level data and were able to complete 56 panchayat level baseline survey with the help of Rojgar Sevak, AWWs, Panchayat Sewak and village people. During the survey the team briefed about the project and also received assurance by the people that they will be a part of all the stages of the CFR Claims. 28 formation and reformation of FRC was carried out with 42 claims were on the preparatory stages.

4. Skill Training for Youth ENGINEERS

To save human life from coronavirus entire nation come on lockdown. The period of lockdown affected lives and society very adversely, at the same time May 2021, Engineering and Degree/ diploma-passed technical students have very less opportunities to get employment or acquire related skills. In this tough time, The Forbes Marshall in association with Sharmajivi Mahila Samity initiated a unique initiative named "Skilling Training for Youth Engineers" in Jharkhand. During the corona pandemic, more than two dozen of students from different villages and cities of Jharkhand got an opportunity of online, offline, and on job training during the period of May 2021 – September 2021.

All the 19 students who successfully completed all the phases of training were applauded and awarded completion certificates by the guests. Out of these 19 students, 15 students are currently working in different companies. Forbes Marshall LTD provided job to about 10 students in their company.

“Creating Safe Public Spaces for Women and Girls in Jharkhand” -

Covid pandemic has not only denied the livelihood and skills of women, but also made women labour invisible. COVID-19 is an unprecedented health and development crisis, its impacts everybody. But the pandemic has increased poverty to the rural marginalized sections especially women. The implications on the poor and marginalized sections such as the daily wage laborers, workers in informal sector, tribal communities and other vulnerable population with inadequate economic and social safety nets is severe and will have long term consequences on their lives and livelihoods. This has turned this health emergency into a humanitarian crisis.

In order to provide immediate livelihood support to women from marginal communities during the second wave of Covid-19, 155 women farmers from 7 villages and 4 panchayats of Sonua block Lakshmipose, Narangsai, Bhalurungi, Shashikala, Taira, Golmuda and Nischintapur have been provided Jagori, New Seeds were distributed in collaboration with Delhi. At the same time YAAS cyclonic storm has damaged many families, those women have also been included in this help.

Due to the lock down, the traffic of women had stopped in a way and their economic condition had become weak, so it was decided that the condition of women should improve a bit. After this, on September 2021, dry ration was made among 200 very poor women.

For women safety audit in Sonua, 11 women and 2 men were given training on women safety audit for 3 days in Ranchi. 14 volunteers conducted safety audit in 16 villages of 6 panchayats. Whose report was shared with all government officials.

In view of women's safety, special places have been identified where women feel insecure. It was decided to organize a women's meeting for its proper arrangement.



5. Engaging the local self-government on women's safety and security under Gram Sabha and Mahila Sabha, in collaboration with Jagori (New Delhi)

Coverage:

Villages	Panchayats
Sonua	Sonua
Golmunda	Golmunda
Bhalurungi	Bhalurungi
Sonua	Sonua
Kasruwna	Bari
Taira	Bhalurungi
Jharganw	Baljuri
Baljuri	Baljuri
Kharimati	Bari
Beguna	Beguna
Sonua	Sonua
Sonua	Sonua

What were the outcomes?

The meeting of Gram Sabha has been held in 6 villages. The meeting was convened by Manki and Munda, the traditional leader and president of the Gram Sabha and the meeting was concluded in the presence of village leaders, group leaders and rural volunteers. In the meeting, women talked about the need to organize Mahila Sabha, the number of women present in the Gram Sabha is less and they are not able to put their problem in front of everyone. To solve those problems, it is necessary to organize Mahila Sabha before the Gram Sabha and discuss the problems and pass a resolution.

6. Towards Equality - Gender Equality in the World of Work

Coverage:

According to National Sample Survey (NSS) data, in 2008, women made up 80% of the 327.7 million (32.77 crore) migrant population of the country (IDRC-CRDI, 2013). There is no further data available on this large number women population migrating for employment, about migration routes, pull and push factors, etc. Despite there being such an overwhelming number of female migrants, they have never been considered as a relevant category for which data should be collected in order to cater the development of gender balanced policy for women migrant labourers.

Patriarchal norms and values force women to work in the informal sectors and migrant women are not exceptions. It is roughly estimated that around 93 percent women working in the informal sector are thus invisible in national accounting, which leads to lack dignity of labour, social security and fails to ensure decent and timely payment of wage. The situation of domestic help and women doing certain home based work are even in worst condition.

Shramjivi Mahila Samity, along with NAWO is running this project in 02 blocks of Jharkhand, viz. Dumaria and Sonua. Under this project, working women have been oriented and sensitized, so that they can demand for their rights and entitlements.



Other noteworthy activities:

- i. Simplification and translation of E-Shram registration process to local language, for better understanding. (This includes translation, material development, and distribution of the material in the local language for three states) -**
 - The E-Shram portal was developed and introduced by the Ministry of Labour and Employment for ensuring a national database of unorganized workers, which is seeded with an individual's Aadhaar Card.
 - Translation of E-Shram portal was important for easy understanding of labourers and making it simple to register by the workers in the e-shram portal. The translation has explained about registration in the e-shram portal along with necessary trouble shootings and do's & don'ts. The main objective of this was People should be properly understand the usage of the portal and every migrant family should register under e-Shram. To make it easy to understand and making the ready reference available, Shramjivi Mahila Samity has printed 1000 copies of 3-fold folders in Hindi language. It was distributed to 800 families in both blocks.
- ii. Poster development on the portal to be used as information sharing tool among women workers:**

A poster has been printed on how to register workers in the E-Shram portal and its usefulness. This has become quite useful in raising awareness among the community people. This has resulted in increased number of registration by women workers.
- iii. Formation and strengthening of women workers union and their registration:** Four meeting and a camp was organized for this purpose

What were the outcomes?

Both men and women can migrate if they wish. However, the government should ensure safe migration as well as safety of workers in the workplace. There are laws for ensuring safety of women but there is a lack of effective enforcement of law. Education related to their rights and existing laws should be ensured to the workers through the Ministry of Labor, Govt. of India. Women workers in particular should be aware of certain laws, such as Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, pre-departure orientation should be made mandatory before migration through the Panchayat, so that women workers can get right information and also get necessary assistance when required. Shramjivi Mahila Samity is helping to mobilize all the working women and form a federation. The initiative for formation of Federation is being done by the unorganized women in Sonua and Dumaria blocks

Project title- 'Sustainable Livelihood Enhancement of Single & marginalized women in Remote Villages of Dumaria block, East Singhbhum District in Jharkhand.'

Location- Nine villages of Dumaria block of East Singhbhum district, Jharkhand.

In Palasbani Panchayat, single women families are poor, landless, away from government aid, illiteracy, and lack of skills, they run their livelihood with a nominal daily income of Rs 50/- to 60/-. Forces them to spend their income on forest products. However, due to the government's strict restrictions on the exploitation of forests, their life has become more difficult. Most of the houses of single women are thatched with mud and straw and other forest leaves. They get work only for 4 to 5 months in a year, the rest of the months do not get work, due to which they have to go out of the state in search of work.

The target group of the project was 200 single and disabled women as well as underprivileged and landless women. The project's purpose is to empower these 200 women through various livelihood enhancements.

The project aims to reduce vulnerability and increase the visibility of single women by bringing sustainability to their livelihoods (linked with local resources).

1. Increased participation & mobilization of women have reached an effective level of absorbing entitlements in offer – the collective effort by women for the area, lease of land and forest produces, etc.
2. Increased exclusively represented by target communities; however, adhering statute of the acts (PESA/FRA/lease the land) under reference have adequate to the process to sustain livelihoods gains.
3. Targeted family's access and realized maximum days of employment, having proportionate leverage upon assets creation and accessing leases on land & forest properties.

OUTCOME OF THE PROJECT

- Single women from 9 villages were organized, and their visibility in the community has increased.
- Leadership and solidarity have increased among women.
- Women's groups of excluded communities are effectively doing collective farming. They are growing a variety of vegetables and selling those products in the local markets as well as consuming the vegetables.
- Till now 10 clusters have sold 32 quintals of Tomato, 12 quintal Brinjal, 62 quintal Cauliflower, 2 quintal Beans, etc.
- Single women who were assisted to open grocery stores and food stalls are running the shops smoothly. They are selling goods and also bringing essential items on a daily or weekly basis.
- They are keeping the profit amount separately so far. Each shopkeeper has earned around Rs.4000.
- Duck farming women are very happy as ducks have started laying eggs within 15 days of distribution, they are selling eggs at the rate of Rs.10/piece. Till now each farmer has earned around 3000 to 5000 rupees by selling eggs.
- All rights holders agree to provide similar assistance to other single women in the next year (October 2022).
- Women have been linked various Govt Schemes - Widow pension- 12, E-shram card- 54, Ration card- 22, Ujjwala- 32 and Job card- 15



Future direction of the organization

In the days to come, Shramajivi Mahila Samity will establish itself as dynamic organization, overcoming all financial hindrances of women & marginalized group such that the last fellow will also be equipped with all social, political, economic and legal facilities to come up as a dignified citizen. SMS plans to work with the issues like Gender, Trafficking, livelihood, governance, Food security, reproductive health & rights, human rights and advocacy extensively.

Shramajivi Mahila Samity will strive to deliver quality program and activities with right planning and innovative thinking which shall enable poorest of the poor, women and marginalized groups to become successful and responsible citizen of the Nation. The working areas where we wish to focus are East and West Singhbhum, Seraikela Kharsawan. Apart from this, we will also intervene in other 22 districts of Jharkhand based on identification and seriousness of issues.

Our working partners are women headed NGOs, community based organization, registered grass root level groups amongst the target group. SMS strives to deliver the objectives by approaching the right based work taking into social, political, economic, legal and psychological considerations for development of target groups, i.e. poorest women and marginalized groups. This orientation of right based work catalyzed with value added work will form dynamic organization and resource organization. Our strategy is to work with planning and innovative thinking with right inspiration and our core objective is to enable this poorest

of the poor women and marginalized group to become the successful and responsible citizens of the society and propagate this thinking/mindset on a global level.



Young engineers celebrating skill training success



SHRAMAJIVI MAHILA SAMITY

Jamshedpur – 831012, India

Contact No: 9431304140

Email: smsjsr2014@gmail.com; shramajivi@yahoo.co.in

Website: www.smsjhar.org