

# ANNUAL REPORT

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**SARTHAK JAN VIKAS SANSTHAN**

KEDARPUR, MAHARAJA GALI | SURGUJA - 497001 | CHHATTISGARH,

EMAIL: [sarthakindia@sjvs.in](mailto:sarthakindia@sjvs.in); WEBSITE: [www.sjvs.in](http://www.sjvs.in)

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

*Sarthak Jan Vikas Sansthan* is a voluntary organisation started in Ambikapur, Surguja, Chhattisgarh which works for the up-liftment of poor section of the society, especially the tribals, and economically and socially poor communities.

It evolved through a voluntary work of a group of friends who wanted to contribute concretely to the poor communities during their studies. It follows Gandhian work and ideology to reach out to people

It came into existence on Gandhi Jayanti on October 2, 2004. It was legally registered on March 27, 2006 (Reg. No. 1329) under the Chhattisgarh *Societies Registration Act 1973*.

A group of friends from Ambikapur, while they were still in high Schools, had a special interest on people's development. They decided to do something concretely for people. They did not have much resource at their disposal as they were just students from various high schools. They organised general knowledge competition in various schools. They were delighted with the positive response they received from students, teacher and parents. They were motivated to do more for people's development. The second thing they did was the collection of old books of passed out students of various classes. They gave those collected books to the poor and needy students in the following year so that they have necessary books for their studies. This

noble work got good response from the poor students and parents.

The group also received some old books authored by Mahatma Gandhi for general reading, like *India of My Dreams*, *Gramswarajya* etc. Each member read these books and gave others students to read and draw inspiration from the rich resources for life. We were inspired from Gandhian work and ideology and wanted to do more for people based on Gandhian ideology. There was serious discussion in the group on state of people's life and the applicability of Gandhian ideology and work for people's development especially in rural and tribal areas. They also discussed with community elders about their aspirations for development work. They started yet another activity in a few villages of bringing awareness on infant health and hygiene. They conducted some kind of competition on infant health care and hygiene. They came to know during the village immersion that many infants were malnourished and sick. They started linking lactating mothers and small children with various government schemes so that they receive nutrition food supplement.

The boys received a lot of appreciation for their work in the villages. The villagers started inquiring who they were and how long would they work in the villages. They did not have any concrete answer to their queries because they did not have any legal identity nor did they have any concrete plan. They were engaging

themselves in such benevolent work in their free time and on holidays as they all were still students on high schools. Looking at the noble initiatives they were taking, some elders suggested that they visited Shree Gandhi Seva Ashram, Ambikapur. They visited the Ashram to know its work for people and discussed various issues with people in the Ashram. The Ashram was working for the poor people to make them self-reliant. They volunteered to work with Shree Gandhi Seva Ashram for poor people. After a few months, when the group member came together for some discussion and action plan, they reached to a consensus that they establish an institute of their own to work for the people on Gandhian ideology.

Finally, on the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on October 2, 2004, Sarthak Jan Vikas Sansthan came to existence to further the Gandhian work and ideology. The group members continued their work for people under this newly found institute. Now they had a name and an identity of their own to tell the world that they were Gandhian band for development work. After one and a half of year, Sarthak Jan Vikas Sansthan was legally registered on March 27, 2006 under the Chhattisgarh Societies Registration Act 1973.

Sarthak did not have financial resources to undertake any developmental work in

the villages. However, group members went to villages to listen to people's issues and problems, and they tried to resolve them through concerned government officials. For example, a few eligible senior people were not getting old age pension, and they received pension after their intervention. Looking at selfless services, many more young people joined the band and work volume increased. Yet they enjoyed their work for the people. People used to come to the organisation for their work and somebody from the organisation took the issue to the concerned officials and followed it up till work was done. However, it was realised that people were becoming dependent on them for their work. People would ask them to resolve every issue with government officials. People, instead of becoming self-reliant, and directly approaching to the officials, were coming to the organisation. At this juncture, with series of serious discussion among the group members, it was realised that it was time to empower people through quality education as well as good health, though it does undertake related projects. Once people are educated and healthy, they can do their work for their own development. And with this, they as an organisation decided to work for children's education and health care.

## 2.0 ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

Sarthak Jan Vikas Sansthan is a non-government, non-profit and grassroots voluntary organization established on October 2, 2004 adopting the Gandhian philosophy of village and rural development for its interventions. It was formally registered under Chhattisgarh Societies Registration Act 1973 on March 27, 2006 having registered No. 1329. Sarthak is working in the tribal majority area of Surguja district and established

with a mission to work towards strengthening people's capacities and institutions to get their due shares in every aspect of human existence. Hence it is a long-term strategy for emancipating the whole community, through interventions at three levels i.e. - the child, the family and the community with extra emphasis on child specially girl child, rural dropout child and disabled child.

### **Vision**

A Society based on legitimate rights, gender equality, democratic governance, justice, honesty, social sensitivity, access to resources and a culture of service in which all are self-reliant.

### **Mission**

Sarthak Commits itself to work for marginalized communities and groups-tribal, dalits, children, landless, subsistence farmers, and within this the most vulnerable like children, women, elderly, and People with Disabilities helping them to build their capacities-skills and knowledge, to fulfill their dreams and aspirations.

### **Objectives**

1. To work for socially marginalized, including child and women, landless and forest dependent communities, small and marginalized farmers, particularly those who are denied their rights to ownership of the natural resource base.
2. To promote quality primary education for children in rural areas through the available resource's community has and it receives from the government towards this end.
3. To facilitate development processes with and for economically and socially deprived and physically and mentally challenged children to help them better educated, skilled and aware.
4. To strengthen and foster capacities of people and village level institutions to get their share in the development process.
5. To ensure livelihood opportunities for the poor, especially tribal communities, whose livelihood security is threatened, and whose basic rights and entitlements are being ignored and unmet.

### 3.0 THEMATIC AREAS & COMMUNITIES

Sarthak started its development intervention with community mobilization so as to empower the community to become self-reliant community. Systematically, Sarthak worked first for child health care issues. While working on child health care, it realised that children's health is closely related to issues like livelihood, access to government schemes and education. Sarthak, thus, adopted a development intervention which is more holistic and integrated to address these issues of the people.

- **Children:** proper functioning of Anganwadi Centres and ANMs, child nutrition, health, and development, primary education, issues of teachers in primary schools.
- **Women:** formation and facilitation of women self-help groups for economic sustainability and to develop a critical group to monitor the "last mile delivery of services" i.e. nutrition, health, PDS etc. Skilling of women for entrepreneurship development
- **Farmers:** organic cultivation and indigenous seed conservation and propagation
- **Community:** Local governance- Gram Sabha and Panchayats, sustainable development of the community as a whole.

Sarthak works for and with four tribal communities namely **Pahari Korwa**, one of the most backward and marginalised communities in India, and classified as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) by the Government. **Manjhi** and **Majhwar** are two major scheduled tribe communities in Mainpat plateau of Surguja district. These tribes are very backward though not classified as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups. **Kanwar**, a tribe highly dependent on non-timber forest produce (NTFP) and agriculture in the programme area. Sarthak is skilling them for effective agriculture practices. **Gonds** are one of the agrarian tribal communities in Chhattisgarh. They practice traditional agriculture. Sarthak accompanies these tribal communities for better primary education, better child and women health

care, income generating activities, and better agriculture practices.

Sarthak has a well experienced team for implementing projects and programme of primary education and drop out children, women and child health care, livelihood, children's groups, community-based people's organization, Gram Sabha and Panchayati Raj, health awareness, issues of mal-nutrition etc. Sarthak has been involved in mobilizing the community towards social transformation especially through education, women & health, MGNREGA, setting up village level institutions and community-based organizations etc.

#### **Education and child rights**

This is to ensure that children of school-going age are admitted in schools and create awareness among parents to send

their children to school. Sarthak also runs remedial classes for children to support them in their studies to reduce dropout rate and improve retention of children in school. Creating awareness on RTE and ensuring the proper functioning of SMCs are also taken seriously by the organisation to ensure quality education and check dropout rates. It also works on child rights to ensure no child is victim of harassment of any kind. Teachers of primary schools and parents are motivated constantly for best results.

### **Child and women health**

Sarthak has been working to ensure that children grow with normal pace. They do not suffer from mal-nutrition as it affects badly the growth of children. Therefore, it collaborates with Anganwadi centres and ANMs to ensure that supplementary food reaches to children, pregnant and lactating women. The badly malnourished children are sent to government treatment centres. The adolescent girls are given special attention, especially during the menstruation period. Systematically both parents and others in the family as well as the community is given awareness on this natural process of life in adolescent girls. Women groups are formed and trained for common health issues, monitoring government health and education services, income generating activities. Sarthak also organising training of village health volunteers and organizes health camps for early detection and treatment of the diseases and referral services.

### **Implementation of MNREGA**

The government has guaranteed work for food through Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. Sarthak brings awareness among people about its provisions so that they take benefit of it. They train community members and village institutes on various provisions of the Act, ensure its implementation with true spirit. Youth are trained to monitor the implementation of the work. This is precisely done because the earning improves the health of children and women directly.

## 4.0 APPROACH

Sarthak works for and with the tribal poor and backward communities. These tribal communities had isolated themselves for centuries and lived a life away from others, both tribals and non-tribals. They are exposed to the outside realities today and they cannot isolate themselves any more due to present circumstances as well as the need. They are going through a process of change more rapidly since few decades. They need a helping hand to accompany them into the process of change so that they are not lost but they get positive results in the process. Sarthak has taken various approaches to development which acceptable and appealing to them. Its approaches can be summarized in the following:

- Participatory Approach
- Empowering approach especially the women and children
- Building upon the socio-cultural and economic resources they have
- Respecting their cultural heritage and economic system
- Constant accompaniment before, during and after the programme

## 5.0 MAJOR INTERVENTIONS

### A. NAYI KIRAN - MENSTRUAL HEALTH & HYGIENE, BALCO



Korba district of Chhattisgarh state is marred by social taboos and restrictions when it comes to managing menstruation and menstrual phases amongst women and girls. The socio-cultural norms and traditions prohibit women from discussions pertaining to puberty and menstruation thus leading to poor and unhygienic practices. Women members specifically enjoy an average social status in the community. Further traditional patriarchy systems provide minimal prospects for girls and women to take care of their health and other requirements. There stands a huge communication gap between the parents and their girls and thus leads to lower affordability of choices adoptability in case of menstrual hygiene management. These further inculcate a sense of inferiority and lower the confidence level in attending day to day work.

Sarthak Jan Vikas Sansthan in association with Bharat Aluminium Limited (BALCO) through Nayi Kiran- MHH project provided multiple options of low cost safe and hygienic sanitary napkins in the cluster of Korba for the poor and marginalized community's women and girls. The major objectives of the project was as follows.

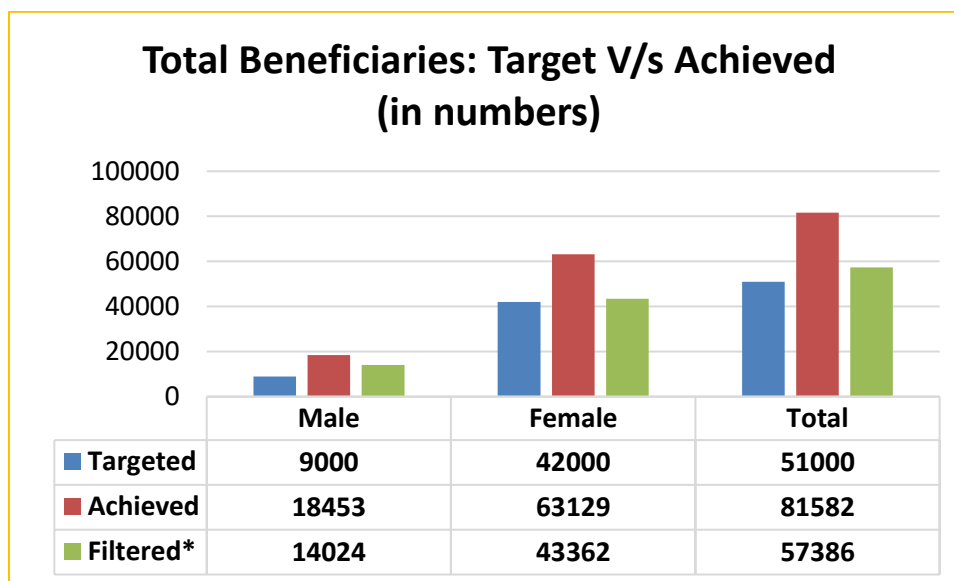
- To create awareness among adolescent girls and women on Menstrual Hygiene Management through Sustainable Health and Hygiene program
- To improve the economic and social conditions of women by making them healthy in terms of Menstrual Health & Hygiene
- To make 30 villages totally free from unhygienic practices pertaining to MHH
- To bring about a behavioral change and encourage girls & women to use sanitary pads by initially providing them on a free sample basis to bring in the behavioral change
- To establish sanitary pad making Unit so that women can avail sanitary pads on subsidized rates
- To initiate installation of Incinerators for safe and efficient disposal of used Sanitary pads

#### Major Activities Accomplished under Nayi Kiran

S. No.	Expected Deliverables for FY 2023-2024	Progress Till March 31, 2024
1	Sensitization on MHM covering 42000 women & Adolescent Girls.	43362
2	Sensitization on MHM covering 9000 men & other stakeholders	14024
3	Developing MHM Friendly environment at 50 schools	60
4	Capacity Building of 75 School teachers	71 Direct; and 60 during school sessions
5	Stitch my own pad campaign with 1800 Adolescent Girls/boys and women	3107
6	100 Trained AWW further developing 100 New AW MHM leaders; sensitizing 1000 new Adolescent Girls and	677 leaders further sensitized 3642 girls,

	women	women and other AW Workers
7b	Community awareness- 90 Nukkad Natak	92
7b	Community awareness – Cleanliness Drive (in villages)	45 (6576 beneficiaries)
8	Conducting 4 Special needs workshops for specially abled Adolescents	4

The graph below represents the details of total beneficiaries in the reporting year.



*\*Note: These numbers have been filtered. We believe that most of the overlapped data has been removed from these numbers, following MIS standards to the best of our ability.*

### Glimpses of Nayi Kiran - MHH Program





## B. PROJECT JIVODAYA



Under the banner of Jivodaya Foundation, Texas, United States, SJVS team provided daily milk to 240 children between the age of 6 months to 5 years in the villages of Junapara, Bardandpara, Barimakhas, Ropakhar, Paiga and Supalga villages in Mainpath area, Chhattisgarh.

In addition, 240 children were also provided the clothing and shoes.

### Glimpses of Jivodaya



## C. PEOPLE LED DEVELOPMENT (PLD) PROJECT - MISEREOR

The district of Surguja is a Scheduled district in the 5<sup>th</sup> Scheduled Area identified by the Constitution of India. Surguja district is on the northern part of Chhattisgarh State. The total population of the district is 1,972,094. Nearly 90% of the population of Surguja is depended on agriculture and engaged in the cultivation of cereals, oil seeds, pulses, and fruits or vegetables. The district mainly produces rice. The main tribes Nagesiya, Oraon, Baiga, Kanwar, Panika, and DandKorwa are depended on agriculture. On the hilly areas, grains like maize, barley, *kodo*, *madua*, *kutki*, bajra, and *gondali* are grown. The tribal people are dependent on the various forest products like fruits, roots of various plants, lac and honey for their survival. They even collect *tendupatta*, *char*, *amla*, *hawai*, and *sal* leaves and sell it directly to various government and non-government organizations as well as in the open market.

Tribals are poor, because their agriculture is hampered by irregular rain and pollution. Moreover, they are also exploited systematically by the rich. They are losing their rich culture and tradition. Many young boys and girls are migrating to metros like Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata in search of livelihood. The migrants of Surguja district are now at home. Seeing the pandemic, the migrants who have come back to their native places are willing to stay in their village and engage themselves in different activities and earn their livelihood. At present, they are unemployed and living in utter poverty. The ratio of migrants shows that the good numbers of migrants are youths coming from poor and marginal families. So, they need some awareness, training and support to start their new life in their native places.

The COVID has caused serious damage to their livelihood and economy. Even though farmers could not sell their agricultural produce during the lockdown. Vegetables got rotten in the farm fields. Daily wage laborers did not get work during lockdown phases. The work is not much available even after the unlock phase. Target households could not collect and sell forest produce like Mahua, Kendu leaves, Char, Sal seeds etc. and lost major household income. Adding to that, fruits like Jackfruit, tamarind that are generally available in the villages in big volume could not be sold. So the economic condition of the households is very bad. The returnee migrants have worsened the situation. The migrants have returned from their workplace due to the pandemic.

Upholding the principle of People Led, this programme will build on the knowledge and awareness gained by the communities in order to secure their nutrition and livelihoods and foster collective actions for promotion of socio-economic, environmental and self-governance development with the adoption of the key strategic perspectives. The project was formulated for empowering community action leading to revival and strengthening of traditional socio- economic, governance and health systems for achieving greater self-reliance of communities, which is being implemented in the 20 villages of Surguja district in the state of Chhattisgarh.

**Objective 1:** Documentation and demonstration of traditional farming practices which are more sustainable and more efficient to meet the food and nutrition security needs of tribal and *dalit* communities.

**Objective 2:** Empower communities to take up collective action for promotion of socio-economic and self-governance development.

**Objective 3:** Reviving traditional preventive and curative health care practices which are based on medicinal plants and are acceptable to all.

S. No.	Name of Village	Name of Panchayat	Name of Block	Total Population	Family No.
1	Paigakhas	Paiga	Mainpat	479	90

S. No.	Name of Village	Name of Panchayat	Name of Block	Total Population	Family No.
2	Bakripara	Paiga	Mainpat	420	62
3	Supalga	Supalga	Mainpat	460	70
4	Barima	Barima	Mainpat	204	34
5	Uroga	Barima	Mainpat	422	61
6	Junapara	Barima	Mainpat	190	32
7	Bardandpara	Barima	Mainpat	140	28
8	Kudaridih	Kudaridih	Mainpat	216	35
9	Karmha	Karmha	Mainpat	1115	322
10	Bisarpanikhas	Bisarpani	Mainpat	805	145
11	Mahadevpara	Palgadi	Lakhanpur	128	47
12	Khekhara para	Palgadi	Lakhanpur	98	100
13	Amdala	Amdala	Lakhanpur	134	110
14	Awradand	Turna	Lakhanpur	71	47
15	Tikrapra	Kevri	Lakhanpur	499	56
16	Sundarpur	Beldagi	Lakhanpur	432	53
17	Kosgakhas	Kosga	Lakhanpur	519	164
18	Cainpur	Amdala	Lakhanpur	373	66
19	Dongakarcha	Singidana	Lakhanpur	430	104
20	Balgapara	Amdala	Lakhanpur	290	72
<b>Total</b>	<b>20 Villages</b>	<b>12 Panchayats</b>	<b>2 Blocks</b>	<b>7425</b>	<b>1698</b>

## Glimpses of PLD Project

