



Annual Report

2009 - 2010

FORWARD

Samarthan entered the last year of the first decade of the new millennium, with myriad organizational aspirations to address the issues of development and marginalization as planned in its strategic planning document of 2005-10. Next year, Samarthan will review progress, achievements and learnings of the last five years' strategic plan. There is a significant shift in the development environment as the decentralized governance approach for development is being challenged on account of its relevance and efficiency in many quarters. In spite of all odds, there are many examples of Panchayat leadership demonstrating ways of delivering development and social justice. Establishing Panchayats as institutions of local governance is still a distant dream. In our small endeavours of influencing governance from the invisible citizen's perspective, there are successes and roadblocks which are being shared with you.

As ever, we are extremely thankful to the civil society, the community leaders, Board of Trustees and our numerous well wishers who always inspire us to do better next time.

With best regards,

Yogesh Kumar
Executive Director



Democratising right to employment at the grassroots

Panchayat is constitutionally mandated as an important implementing agency for MNREGS. We believed that MNREGS is a vehicle to promote the mandated role of economic development and social justice using the available resources of the scheme and favorable provisions of the Act. Following are the key interventions undertaken by Samarthan in this regard

Experimenting with the comprehensive social audit process in 5 Panchayats each in Sehore and Panna districts

Demonstrating the potential of MNREGS resources and dividends for sustainable livelihood beyond the stipulated demand for 100 days of guaranteed employment

Generating evidence from the ground and sharing these with the district administration for improved practices and reaching out to the deserving job card holders



Key outcomes

1500 applications were filed to demand work under MNREGS and it resulted in revision of annual plans of the intervened Panchayats leading to opening up of new avenues of employment

10 tribal families of Bagauna Panchayat of Panna who earlier migrated to Delhi for employment found job under MNREGS in their native village due to effective labour budgeting

80 families in the intervened Panchayats of Panna and Rajnandgaon got 100 days of work compared to 7 families last year as a result of effective annual planning

In the 3 Panchayats of Sehore, the 228 families earned an additional Rs.1,92,000/- as a result of MNREGS awareness programmes carried out by Samarthan

In Panna district of MP, Self Help Groups including two women Krishak Clubs were formed and registered with the Agriculture Department. The groups accessed loans worth Rs. 50,000/- from the department for procuring seeds, fertilisers etc. Women's Krishak group sold vermi- compost worth Rs.11,000/- this year.

Easing the process of demanding employment under MNREGS

At Samarthan's initiative, a total of Rs. 12 Lakhs were released by the CEO, Zilla Panchayat (ZP) to Deoli, Kapori and Chhaprikala Panchayats of Sehore for payment to the workers.



In the third phase of MNREGS in Sehore, the general perception was that there is insufficient demand for employment. In the selected Panchayats, we oriented the group of workers, youth, petty shop owners, and staff of other institutions viz traders, health workers, NGO field staff etc on various provisions of MNREGS. We encouraged the literate youth of the village to help workers submit written applications demanding employment.

The Zilla Panchayat realized that Samarthan's twin approach of raising awareness on MNREGS coupled with an easy process of demanding employment was working wonders for MNREGS implementation. Using Samarthan's example, the ZP developed an application format for workers to put their demand in writing and posted it to each BPL family in Sehore ZP, along with Kapildhara Well-Construction Scheme application format, and a pamphlet on key provisions of MNREGS. This saw demand for employment soar across the district from 7,48,488 person days in 2008-09 to 13,08,624 person days in 2009-10 a whopping 75% rise!

The increase in demand forced Panchayats to explore newer avenues to provide employment. When the Panchayats didn't receive payments from ZP, even after two weeks of starting work, Samarthan discussed with CEO, ZP who appreciated Samarthan's initiative and ensured immediate release of payments.

In Panna, 10 farmers volunteered to use bio-fertilizer for Kharif crop this year. Two farmers have started mango groves in 1 and 1 ½ acre farms along with soya bean crop; two applications for sprinklers were approved by agriculture department.

107 women member of the 12 MNREGS reflect groups of Panna district joined literacy classes to learn basics of MNREGS provisions, read bank passbooks, job cards and write their names.

In the intensively covered 5 Panchayats in Panna districts, effective planning led to benefitting 96 small and marginal landholding MNREGS card holders with well-construction and land-leveling. 225 families got household toilets with enhanced subsidy under the Nirmal Vatika Programme.

Based on Samarthan's findings on MNREGS in Jabalpur, the CEO Zilla Panchayat, Jabalpur issued orders to ensure timely payment of wages; the Collector asked the banks to ensure daily withdrawal facility for the workers; and Panchayats were asked to issue proper receipts for demand for work application

Strengthening right to water, sanitation and health

Samarthan believes that enormous resources allocated for improved health have not delivered the desired results. This is primarily due to poor demand for services by the citizens as well as limited capacities of the service delivery system to reach out to the deserving clients. The strategy of Samarthan to work on right to health issues is multi-pronged. We are working in 205 Panchayats of 3 blocks of Sehore districts by engaging with adolescent boys and girls for enhanced capacities on Primary Reproductive Health (RH) to enhance support to the deserving women.

Covering 50 panchayats of Sehore blocks to generate demand for household toilets under Total Sanitation Campaign

Developing models of efficient management of piped safe water supply systems by Panchayats as a 'cost and responsibility' sharing model

Building capacities of 23 voluntary organizations working on HIV/AIDs issues as partners of the State Aids Control Society in Chattistgarh

Preparing micro-plans on water and sanitation in 25 Panchayats

Sensitizing Panchayats, stakeholders in local schools and children on to advance children's right to receive adequate services on water and sanitation and to flourish in a hygienic environment (WASH rights) as a pilot project in 16 Gram Panchayats of Sehore

Conducting a study on the institutional audit of public health services in 12 districts of MP and sharing the findings with the concerned district administration

Key outcomes

In the intervened 50 Panchayats of Sehore, 1521 families demanded toilets in their houses. Construction of 900 toilets was completed and rest was under construction in the given period.

762 sources of safe water were built or restored in 101 villages of Sehore block



Little Premlata says...

She is not afraid of snakes while going for toilet, not even of mosquito bites. Her mother does not cut a sorry face anymore. It is all because of the presence of toilet in her house.

She had a desire to have a toilet in her house and she repeatedly asked her parents for it. Parents, daily wage earners, could not oblige because of the huge costs involved. One day when she heard a discussion going on in the Gram Sabha she was pleasantly surprised to learn that one could construct a toilet at a very nominal price and this touched her. She called her parents to the discussion. When her father was convinced, he decided to construct the toilet in his house. Samarthan also supported her family with Rs. 1500/- of token money to build it as a demonstration model.

Now Premlata is happy. She loves to narrate her tale to the visitors.

24 Village Health and Sanitation Committees (VHSCs) opened bank accounts. The CHMO lifted the constraint of allocating only Rs.2000 per installment which is too small for undertaking any substantive work.

Adolescent girls in Saranga Khedi persuaded their teacher to send a proposal to the block for construction of a separate toilet in the schools.

In Mohali, a group of children started monitoring household cleanliness on a 10 point rating scale of WASH parameters.

In Sehore, 14 Special Gram Sabhas were held focusing on WASH rights-Jan Samwad or Public Dialogue was organized in 10 out of 16 Gram Panchayats, as an interface, for the community members and the service providers to discuss their mutual problems and solutions.

Engaging with local governance in urban areas

Samarthan has been monitoring basic services and entitlements for the poor in the cities of Bhopal, Sehore, Jabalpur, Panna, Satna, Rewa, Gwalior, Datia, Bhind, Jhabua, Badwani, Dhar, Seoni and Damoh to enhance effectiveness of the realization of benefits.

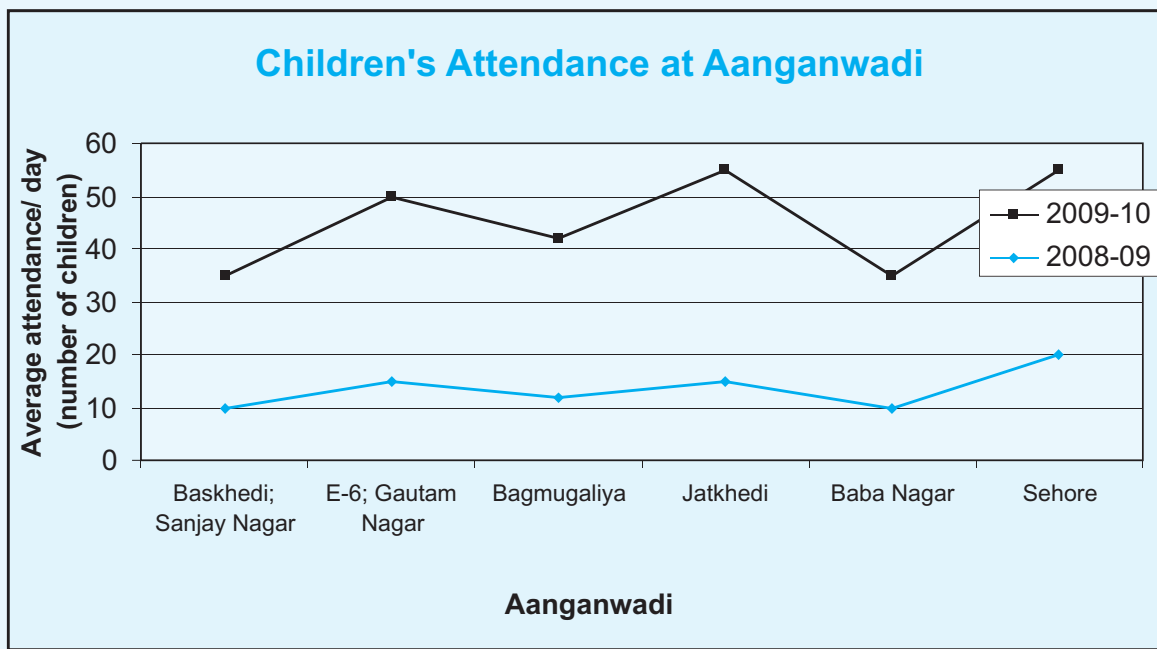
The governmental agencies of service delivery and functions of local governance overlap and citizens are indifferent towards improving institutional performance of wards, zonal committees or municipalities. We moved towards addressing the barriers that poor face in accessing their entitlement.

Key outcomes

Earlier, applications for social security pensions were untraceable after being filed. After our efforts, the Municipal Commissioner issued orders to Zonal offices to ensure that the cases are forwarded to the Municipal Corporations by the 15th of each month and the list of applications transferred to Municipal Corporation are displayed on the notice board.

Samarthan initiated monitoring of three services education (schools), mother-child care (Anganwadis) and cheaper ration (PDS shops) by the recipient communities. This resulted in improved attendance (of children as well as teachers), better test scores and regular PTA meetings in schools. Monitoring of





Aanganwadis led to 100% registration of children in 3 Aanganwadi centres in Bhopal and improved participation of mother and child in all the intervened Aanganwadis. The communities also managed to relocate PDS shops as per their requirements while ensuring better functioning with regular opening hours.

Samarthan groomed 'information friends' by equipping them with information and formats of Social Security Pensions and other schemes for the poor. They facilitated access to these schemes by the residents in their respective slums. With their efforts, 100% birth registration was recorded in 3 of our intervened slums as compared to approximately 30% in the previous year.

Positive interference by SHG workers!

Anganwadi center no. 49 is located in ward no. 23, Sanjay Nagar colony of the Mandi area, Sehore. It has 62 children registered. Also, the Anganwadi center has an active 'Matrutva Sahyogni Samiti' which holds regular meetings. On February 10, 2010, a social audit was conducted in the Anganwadi wherein the Anganwadi representative was asked for an expenditure-income analysis on the nutritional aspect for the children.

Though the required questions were answered that day, later the Anganwadi worker, Jyothi and the residents had a heated discussion on issues related to Social Audit. Jyothi was alleged have used foul language. When she was confronted, she complained to the CDPO (Child Development Project Officer) of the Anganwadi and claimed she had been hit by the women SHG members.

70 women from 7 SHG's of the surrounding area filed a complaint against the concerned Anganwadi in the Collector's office. They managed to get a hearing from the Deputy Collector. He spoke to the CDPO, and apprised himself of the situation. A meeting was called by the Deputy Collector and all the concerned persons. Anganwadi worker was found guilty of use of foul language and was subsequently transferred.

Ward elections were used as an instrument to influence the political space. A charter of demands was prepared based on the needs that emerged in the ward plan developed by the citizens. Meetings were organized between the candidates and the citizen. Later on, dialogues between the citizen's and their representatives were facilitated to improve citizen's participation in Governance

Working with poor migrants

The state of Madhya Pradesh is characterized by inter-district migration of the labour force, specially from the poorest strata of the population. Their inherently mobile nature makes it difficult to link them to development scheme at their place of employment.



Two Migrant Resource Centres were setup in Betul and Chhindwara in collaboration with local organizations to sensitize the Panchayats on the issue and to equip the poor migrating workers with identity cards and awareness on schemes for them before they migrate

We also engaged with the migrant workers at destination point at 5 bigger construction sites in Bhopal and facilitated 1000 majdoor cards (issued by Bhavan evam Anya Sannirmaan Karmkaar Kalyan Mandal) by organizing registration camps

The articulate and literate construction workers were equipped with all the relevant Information and formats and regular orientations of construction workers were held on their benefits and entitlements on the basis of majdoor card

Influencing local governance on a large scale

Demonstrating Participatory District Planning in 5 districts of MP

A comprehensive manual on Decentralised Integrated District Planning was developed on behalf of State Planning Commission in MP. The manual was used for preparing bottom-up plans in 5 pilot districts of Mandla, Chhattarpur, Satna, Rajgarh and Khandwa. The manual has specific formats for collection of data and the process for integrating these into a village level plan.



A one day district level workshop in all the 5 convergence districts rolled out the planning process.

Samarthan facilitated developing a computer package to integrate the plans at the Panchayat, block, Urban Local Bodies and the District level.

Samarthan conducted ToTs for District trainers identified from various government departments in the 5 districts for urban as well as rural planning, we continued with the handholding support throughout the planning process to help develop districts based on village Panchyat plan

The support provided to the State Planning Board in preparing the bottom-up district plans was appreciated and learnings are being used to upscale the planning to all districts of MP.

Promoting social accountability in livelihood programmes of Gram Sabha in 9 districts of MP

The Madhya Pradesh Rural Livelihood Programme (MPRLP), implemented in nine tribal dominated districts of the state, supported by DFID focuses on strengthening Gram Sabha to ensure sustainability of the livelihood interventions being undertaken in the project. Samarthan's intervention included

Review of village micro-plans in 45 villages across nine districts. Completion rate of planned activities was 25.9% for activities planned under MPRLP and 21.6 % for other departments. Samarthan had supported the micro planning of the planned activities earlier.

Training of Trainers (ToTs) for Project Facilitation Teams (PFT) on Village Institution Strengthening the 9 districts on conducting effective Social Audits.

Exposure visit for MPRLP team to Ralegaon Siddhi and Hiware Bazaar Panchayats of Ahmednagar districts of Maharashtra to understand, and later implement, processes of Gram Sabha Strengthening and Social Audit. The team also visited KILA (in Kerala) to understand The People's Plan Campaign (PPC).

Board of Trustees

Salary Range (Rs./month)	No. of Staff
<5000 (Volunteers)	49
5000-10000	5
10001-15000	16
15001-20000	8
20001-30000	10
30001-50000	5
50000 75000	1
Total	94

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Internal Auditor :
L.K. Maheshwari & Co.
 6, New Market, T.T. Nagar,
 Bhopal - 462 003

Dr. Rajesh Tandon (Chairperson) is the President of PRIA and is internationally known for his contribution to participatory research. He is the Chairperson of many international committees as well as advisory committees of the Government of India.

Dr. B.K. Joshi (Member) is a political scientist who has served various academic institutions as a faculty member. Formerly, he was the Director of Giri Institute of Development Studies, Lucknow, and Vice Chancellor of Kumaon University.

Mr. Ashok Singh (Treasurer) is the Executive Director of SSK (Sahbhagi Shikshan Kendra), Lucknow, which is a state level support organization specializing in participatory training and organisational development.

Ms. Devinder Kaur Uppal (Member) is a former faculty member on development communication in Makhanlal Chaturvedi University of Journalism, Bhopal. She has remained active in voluntary action over a long period of time in Madhya Pradesh.

Prof. Amitabh Kundu (Member) is an eminent social scientist and professor at Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi. He is also a visiting faculty at University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Prof. Kundu heads many committees of the Government of India on urban development.

Ms. Rekha Gujare (Member) is the Director of voluntary organization 'Pradeepan' which works with tribals in Betul district. She is committed to mainstreaming of tribal women, making them aware of their rights and organizing them for participation in development and governance.

Dr. Indira Mishra (Member) is a retired Additional Chief Secretary from the Government of Chhattisgarh. Dr. Mishra was the Director of Rashtriya Mahila Kosh, Delhi and served as the Principal Secretary in various departments in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

Ms. Banashree Banjerjee (Member) is an Urban Planner. She has been a consultant on urban poverty reduction projects in India, Egypt and Bangladesh. The focus of her work has been inclusive and participatory

approaches to urban planning and management in many states including Madhya Pradesh

Dr. Yogesh Kumar (Member Secretary) has a doctorate in development economics and is committed to promoting participatory development and governance in India. He specializes in participatory planning, M & E and institutional development.

Mr. T.N. Srivastava (Advisor Governance) is a retired civil servant and former Chief Information Commissioner, State Information Commission, Madhya Pradesh, is supporting Samarth as Governance Advisor.

Mr. M. Kandasami (Advisor, Financial Management) is a renowned financial and organisational management expert in South Asia with more than two and a half decades of expertise in financial & organisational management of non-profit organizations.

Our Partners

Direct partners

- » Chhattisgarh Irrigation Development Project, Water Resources Department, Govt. of Chhattisgarh
- » Coffey International Development, U.K
- » Cordaid, The Netherlands
- » Ford Foundation, New Delhi
- » International Budget Partnership, Washington
- » Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, Mumbai
- » National AIDS Control Organisation Chhattisgarh State AIDS Control Society, Delhi
- » Society for Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA), Delhi
- » United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- » United Nations Family Planning Association (UNFPA)

- ▶▶ United Nations Millennium Campaign (UNMC)
- ▶▶ Water Aid India
- ▶▶ Youth for Voluntary Action (YUVA)

Collaborators on specific issues

- ▶▶ Chhattisgarh District Poverty Reduction Programme, Raipur
- ▶▶ Oxfam India Trust, Delhi
- ▶▶ Caritas India
- ▶▶ United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)
- ▶▶ Education Development Center, Bangalore
- ▶▶ GHK Consulting Ltd, London
- ▶▶ High Commission of Canada
- ▶▶ State Planning Commission, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh
- ▶▶ Public Affairs Center
- ▶▶ Center for Budget and Governance Accountability

Abridged Balance Sheet as on 31st March 2010

Particulars	INR	%
Assets		
Fixed Assets	7,898,883.00	20%
Investments	16,274,971.00	41%
Deposits and Advances	4,694,315.00	12%
Current Assets	10,988,058.00	28%
Total	39,856,227.00	100%
Liabilities		
Corpus Funds	2,502,000.00	6%
Earmarked Funds	8,635,128.00	22%
Current Liabilities and Provisions	11,070,470.00	28%
Income and Expenditure A/c Balance	17,648,629.00	44%
Total	39,856,227.00	100%

Abridged Income and Expenditure for the year ended on 31st March 2010

Particulars	INR	%
Income		
Indian Sources (Project Grants)	14,354,035.00	40%
International Sources (Project Grants)	15,850,240.00	44%
Others (Self Generated Income - Assignments & Training Center)	5,613,631.00	16%
Total	35,817,906.00	100%
Expenditure		
Indian Sources (Project Expenses)	13,694,752.00	38%
International Sources (Project Expenses)	15,078,289.00	42%
Others (Admin, Assignments & Training Center)	1,341,865.00	4%
Total	30,114,906.00	84%
Self Generated Income	5,703,000.00	16%





For details contact :

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