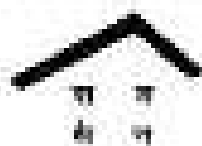
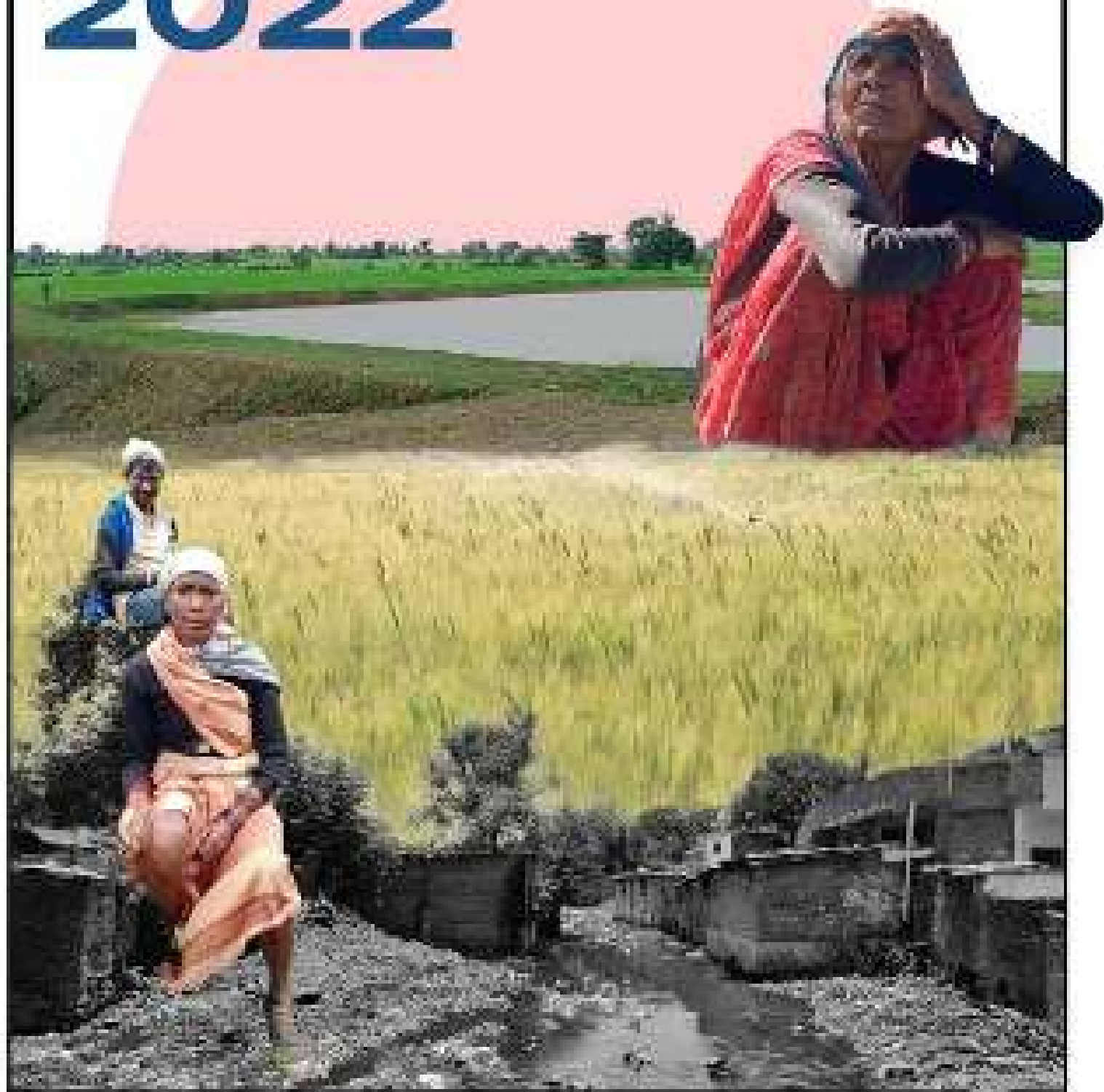


ANNUAL REPORT 2022



SAMARTHAN

Centre for Development Support

About Samarthan

Established in 1996 as a public charitable trust, Samarthan is a support organisation to address the challenges of poverty underdevelopment in the states of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. Samarthan promotes participatory development processes by challenging the conventional top down model of development through direct field action, capacity building, research and advocacy.

Our Vision

Every citizen contributes meaningfully in shaping democratic State and enjoys benefits based on the principles of equality and equity

Our Mission

Promote and support participatory governance for equity and inclusion in development processes by capacity building, generating evidences and advocating the perspective of the most marginalized or enriched democracy



A Note from the Director

The second wave of COVID19- that gripped the nation uninformed, including remote rural areas in April 2021, was devastating. Several of our colleagues got infected while serving the communities and a few lost their lives. However, the spirit of voluntarism demonstrated by the grassroots workers along with community leaders was admirable and humbling. Several Gram Panchayats came forward to set up community-level isolation centres as well as supported those in home isolation, providing medicines and regular check-ups with the help of field functionaries or youth volunteers. Samarthan developed a Panchayat-based referral system by coordinating with the district health authorities for efficient hospitalisation of critical patients. People's willingness to come forward risking life reaffirmed our faith and conviction in community power and the transformational potential of their institutions.

Samarthan supported the immunisation drive of the state Governments in MP and Chattisgarh to speed up the war against COVID. We joined hands with health delivery functionaries to reach out to more than 600,000 people living in remote locations, indigenous communities, and highly vulnerable groups who could have been otherwise left out of immunisation for several reasons. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) emerged as one of the preventive measures during the pandemic, therefore supporting the Jal Jeevan Mission of the Government of India to engage communities in accessing piped water supply in rural areas was a high priority of Samarthan's programs. Similarly, our long-term engagement in participatory watershed management articulated the need to work for sustainable agriculture. Exploring the meaningful role of the local governments in the agriculture sector which is the backbone of the rural economy was also one of the new agendas of work this year.

Due to the unconditional support of the donors, government officials, the Board of Trustees of Samarthan, and most importantly community leaders and peoples' institutions, we relentlessly worked against all odds. We are extremely thankful to everyone who extended a helping hand to support our initiatives and endeavours in difficult times.

Hoping for a brighter tomorrow and we look forward to your continued support.

Best regards,

Yogesh Kumar

Our reach: The states of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh

14
Districts

1275
Panchayats

3817
Villages

MADHYA PRADESH

17 Projects initiated with a focus on social accountability, strengthening of Gram Panchayats, children and women centric development, WASH infrastructure, water conservation and agriculture.

CHHATTISGARH

12 Projects initiated on health, education, social accountability with a focus on tribal rights and climate resilient growth.

17
Districts

897
Panchayats

1530
Villages

Our response to COVID -19

Strengthening local Governments to mitigate effects of COVID-19

Second wave of COVID-19 in the summer of 2021 was quite devastating, hugely impacting the lives and livelihoods of millions in rural India. A severely infected large population had limited access to public healthcare services, which was under-capacitated and inadequately managed in proportion to the demand for services. Samarthan supported the development of a 'community devised referral system' led by the Gram Panchayat that was put into action to deal with symptomatic and low-risk cases at the village level so that critical cases get beds and necessary treatment in hospitals.

In about 3300 villages of 25 districts, field workers of Samarthan stepped into this crisis to reach out to the rural population with preventive measures with the support of community volunteers. Gram Panchayats representatives, field functionaries like Anganwadi workers, ASHA workers and COVID Management Committees members were trained to set up COVID isolation centres along with facilities for primary check-ups for fever and oxygen saturation. Medicines for fever and COVID management were also provided to the patients in home isolation under the guidance of the ASHA and Anganwadi workers. Many youth volunteers were trained to support the management of isolation centres of the Gram Panchayats. Preventive medical kits were provided to the field functionaries and the youth volunteers after providing them with structured training on the subject.

In Chhattisgarh, Samarthan conducted a need assessment survey of the Government promoted Isolation centres to step up access and quality of services. The study revealed that the isolation centres lack basic infrastructure viz. separate toilets for females, medical equipment like intravenous injection (IV) stands, steam inhalators, air coolers, etc. Samarthan mobilised donors to provide various medical equipment and medical accessories to seven PHCs to augment capacities for treatment, check-ups and COVID case testing.

6 Equipments (Ventilators) provided to health care facilities

715

COVID-19 medical kits to frontline healthcare workers (oximeters, mask, thermometer, sanitizer)

1600

Ration kits distributed to poor and marginalised families

77500

Access to social protection scheme by entitlement holders

5460

Training of PRIs representatives on COVID Management

4250

Training of community volunteers to support in scheme access and establishing COVID Appropriate Behaviour

10,500

Ward level meetings on advantages of vaccination



3500

villages 50 Hand-washing station in of Kanker district (No of school and (Anganwadi children

40

COVID responsive GPDP planning to prevent such disasters

600,000

people vaccinated through special drives

4500

Training of frontline healthcare worker on COVID management

451,000

Reached out for awareness on CAB and COVID-19 vaccine

550

Support in vaccination to pregnant and lactating women

Vaccine for everyone through Last-mile Delivery

Kanker district of Chhattisgarh has most of the villages and remote hamlets where access is extremely difficult due to thick forests, rivulets restricting easy transportation, fear of Left-Wing Extremists in certain areas, etc. Besides, due to a shortage of health staff and functionaries in hospitals and grassroots as well as transport facilities, the district's performance is among the lowest in COVID vaccination coverage. Samarthan campaigned in collaboration with the official to reach out to the tribal and other vulnerable communities in the Durgkondal block and vaccinated 30,540 people, out of which 73 per cent were Scheduled Tribe.





Breaking hesitancy to accelerate vaccine uptake

Promoting vaccination in rural areas was imperative to prevent the severity and spread of the infection, however, vaccine hesitancy was a big barrier. Posters and audio-video materials were developed in local languages in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh to address issues of vaccine hesitancy. Wall writings, Jagrukta Rath, and Nukkad Natak were used as traditional communication methods and social media like WhatsApp groups were used to impart relevant information and share stories of local COVID heroes with the youth population. Personal interactions in communities, sharing of information with women's collective and various village-level committees as well as home visits played significant roles in promoting vaccination among the most unreachable population viz. SC and ST including PVTGs, elderly, single women, remote villages of small habitations, etc. Samarthan reached more than 3300 villages and vaccinated 6 lakh people in MP and CG in collaboration with the local administration.



Kanchan leads the way for her community

Kanchan Sengre, a transgender community level worker of Samarthan for promotion of COVID-19 vaccine in Durg city. S/he motivated 250 transgenders to get vaccinated. Initially when she called a meeting of transgender in a vaccination camp, several turned up but none of them agreed to take a shot. Kanchan decided to prepare a video stating that she took vaccine and she is healthy. In the next camp, 30 transgender people turned up and 18 got vaccinated. She is motivating many HIV high risk people and women sex workers, besides the transgender for vaccination.

Strengthening Local Governance For Multi-Dimensional Change



Jan Darpan: A peoples portal to access entitlements

COVID-19 provided an opportunity to explore possibilities of utilizing information and application of E-platforms. There are several schemes having different types of portals with multiple pages and information options. A common rural citizen finds it difficult to reach out to these portals to find appropriate websites and portals and portals to register their grievances and applications for realizing entitlements without support from the young boys and girls. Samarthan envisioned Jan Darpan, a citizen's portal to fill this gap.

Jan Darpan is a platform that acts as a citizens portal where rural citizens can register their grievances and submit applications for the realisation of their entitlements. Jan Darpan as a consolidated platform holds the power to reach a vast number of beneficiaries who are living in remote locations or for whom visiting officials with their grievances is expensive, inconvenient and intimidating.

Figure 6ii 28th September, 2022



Decentralised governance for local area development

A holistic multi-partner project is operational in eight tribal populated Mission Antyodaya blocks of Madhya Pradesh. Program funds for health, education, livelihoods, water and sanitation, etc. and the 15th Finance Commission's grant are being converged utilising the framework of the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP). Active women leaders of the Self-Help Groups (community cadre) have been trained to facilitate development planning as Badlav Didi to enhance community participation in the planning and monitoring of basic services of education, health and nutrition. Due to active facilitation by the SHG leaders, the Gram Sabhas are now being held with a prescribed quorum for attendance in 85 per cent of villages compared to 13 per cent of villages in 2017.

In 367 GPs

Trained women and youth leaders in local governance, and actively participated in the Panchayat elections

364

Village Development Plan (VDP) villages got prepared

₹ 852 Crore

leveraged in program funds

3896

Community cadres

helped

13,786

villagers realise entitlements



Participatory faecal sludge management in small town Kumhari

3500

citizens were reached out in different wards to understand FSM issues

210

sanitary workers from various Urban Local Bodies (ULB) were trained on principles of FSM, the role of stakeholders, the process of desludging, sanitation service change

In collaboration with Nagar Palika- Kumhari, community solutions regarding Faecal Sludge Management (FSM) were explored. A decentralised Wastewater Treatment System was developed along with the capacity building of sanitation workers and local animators i.e Swacchta Didis for a clean city. The faecal Sludge Treatment Plant has been constructed with the cost of Rs. 57 Lakh and is functional and treating 6 Kilo Litre per day



Building inclusive smart cities from the perspective of the poor

In order to develop Standard Operating Procedures for the smart cities to promote community participation as well as to engage the community in technology-driven decision-making systems, a pilot project was initiated in the slum settlement of Banganga in Bhopal Municipal Corporation. Various participatory decision-making tools were blended with GIS to find solutions to several community issues in a smart city development program. A policy brief and standard operating procedures were published with the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), Sussex- UK based on interactions and suggestions from different stakeholders such as urban authorities, civil society organisations and spatial experts to create a system that generates 'Second order Solutions' (SOS).



Local governance institutions addressing gender-based violence

Mitigating Gender-Based Violence (GVB) through Gram Panchayat as a local government has experimented in the highly feudal district Chhatarpur of Bundelkhand MP. Mahila Shakti Samuh (MSS) formed as a collective of the SHGs to address GBV. MSS had organised Mahila Mudda Chaupals (MMC) periodically to identify issues of GBV with women. Identified issues were discussed in the Gram Panchayat Coordination Committees (GPCC), an extended arm of the GP created to address GBV issues.

Webinars and training were conducted to strengthen the capacities of the civil society organisations, departmental officials, faculty and trainers of SIRD to train elected representatives and officials of the local governments for addressing GBV issues.

in 80 GPs
participatory safety audits were conducted

Out of 431 issues identified, half got incorporated in Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDP)

84
cases related to GBV were identified in MSS meetings which were resolved by Gram Panchayat

Responsiveness of employment guarantee scheme in COVID

A study was launched to assess the responsiveness of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) for the needs of women and children as well as shock responsiveness for the poor as a social security measure in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal. The study designed the Women Participation Index (WPI), Gender Parity Index (GPI) and Shock Responsive Index (SRI) based on certain indicators developed using information available on the dashboard of the MGNREGS. Factsheets have been developed for each state to identify the possible policy or practice-level changes in program implementation. An eminent advisory board is guiding the process of research. The final outputs will be shared with the respective state Governments and national-level policymakers.



Operationalizing labour resource centres for migrants

18,000 migrants

registered in Village Migration Register prepared in 800 Gram Panchayats

Labor Resource Centres (LRC) were established in high out-migrating 9 districts of Chhattisgarh. These were supported by 90 Shramik Mitra (social entrepreneurs), who work closely with Gram Panchayats in spreading awareness among migrant labourers and helping them access the benefits of various social protection schemes.

Operational guidelines for establishing the Labour Resource Center were developed providing guidelines for site selection, infrastructure development, human resource requirement, budgeting, etc. The guidelines were adopted by the Department of Labour & Employment further to establish 146 LRCs in various blocks of Chhattisgarh.

4.55 lakh

people were informed about various Government schemes in 1036 Gram Panchayats

55,000 migrants reached

out through a helpline number established in collaboration with the Labor Department

30,000 representatives of Gram Panchayats were oriented on the role in resolving issues of the labourers, of which 44.3% participants belonged to the Schedule Tribe (ST)

Skill mapping of 12,500 migrant labourers was undertaken to link them to skill development and livelihood schemes/institutions of the Government of India





Governance in Water Sanitation Health and Sustainable Agriculture

Establishing civil society district- level platform for sustainable agriculture

To promote the role of Panchayati Raj Institutions towards sustainable agriculture in districts of Panna, Umaria, Sehare and Raisen, district-level networks of active farmers, academicians, FPO representatives, and voluntary organisations have been formed. The network functions to identify issues related to the agriculture sector and engage with the government and administration while enhancing their understanding of policies and budgets of agriculture and allied sectors. Priority issues that emerged in different districts were:

- Non-transparent system of crop insurance and payment method of compensation
- Mutation of land title in undisputed cases of families due to rigid rules of revenue department
- Delivery of inadequate agriculture equipment under various schemes in connivance with the dealers/market players

District consultations were followed by a state-level consultation to discuss larger policy issues and ways forward to strengthen the network.

Promoting community ownership in Jal Jeevan Mission

Samarthan's experience and expertise in WASH are utilised to actively engage communities, Gram Panchayats, village water committees and other stakeholders to attain the goal of Jal Jeevan Mission of providing piped water supply in every rural house. The district-wide approach is adopted in Sehore, Indore, Khandwa and Panna districts of MP and Kanker district of Chhattisgarh for providing long-term support to the implementing agencies for institutional strengthening.

Samarthan is also a Knowledge Resource Centre (KRC) for capacity building of community-level stakeholders and Implementing Support Agencies (ISAs) under the Jal Jeevan Mission in four districts in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. As KRC, training and orientation were organised for 90 CSOs acting as the ISA in Chhattisgarh.

As a result of these initiatives, several Gram Panchayats have started managing piped water supply schemes by establishing regular operation of water supply, collection of water tariff and ensuring source sustainability.

4810

women and youth were trained on water quality testing

1473

Panchayat representatives and youth were trained to prepare Village Action Plan

1089

representatives trained on Operation and Maintenance (O&M) envisaged under Jal Jeevan Mission

819

Village Action Plans were approved by the Gram Sabhas addressing issues of social inclusion and water source sustainability

677

Village Water and Sanitation Committee were formed or reconstituted with community participation to play an active role in JJM implementation



Access and quality of water supply motivates users to pay tariff

In the Gogakhedi village of Indore district, Rs. 32.78 lakhs were utilized under the JJM scheme to cover 105 households. As the supply started, it turned out that 45 HH were not getting water with pressure. There was leakage in the newly constructed water tank. Therefore, the villagers and the team members persistently engaged with the Public Health Engineering Department. The water supply system was repaired and an additional valve was fixed in every hamlet to ensure water pressure for every household.

After the cost estimation of O&M, Rs. 70 per household/ month was finalised as a water tariff. Starting with 35 households in the first week, the number of taxpayers increased to 60 by the next week; now 100 percent of households are paying water tax. Inspired by Gogakhedi village, the neighbouring villages Dhulet and Dhaturia of the Gogakhedi Panchayat also started water tax collection and more than 90 percent of households pay water tariffs every month.

Organisational transparency and accountability

Staff and salaries

Salaries (INR/Month)	Number of people
5000-10000 (including volunteers)	50
10001-20000	64
20001-30000	26
30001- 40000	7
41000-50000	3
51000 and above	6
Total	156

Board meetings held in the year 2021-22

Date	Total members	Member’s attendance
7 August 2021	10	10
14 March 2022	10	10

Bankers and Auditors

Name of Bankers	Statutory Auditor	Internal Auditor	Management Consultant
State Bank of India ICICI Bank Ltd HDFC Bank Ltd Axis Bank Kotak Mahindra Bank YES Bank	AKB Jain & Company Chartered Accountants E – 2/316, Arera Colony, Bhopal - 462016	B R I S K A & Associate Chartered Accountants E - 7/574, Opposite 1100 Quarters Arera Colony Bhopal - 462016	CA Arun Mehrotra Chartered Accounts Bhopal MP CA Anjani Kumar Sharma Chartered Accounts New Delhi

Abridged Income and Expenditure Account for the FY 2021-2022

Particulars	Current Year 2021-2022		Previous Year 2020-2021	
	INR	%	INR	%
Income				
Grants from Indian Sources	4,11,92,265	48%	4,50,14,531	52%
Grants from Foreign Sources	3,57,53,239	42%	2,95,48,660	34%
Other Income				
Bank Interest	59,82,913	7%	62,38,560	7%
Research and Development	22,47,774	3%	61,27,138	7%
Total	8,51,76,191	100%	8,69,28,889	100%
Expenditure				
Project expenses (Indian Sources)	4,11,92,265	48%	4,52,21,404	52%
Project expenses (Foreign Sources)	3,57,53,239	42%	3,23,89,235	37%
Other Expenses	50,11,869	6%	10,98,653	2%
Total	8,19,57,37	96%	7,87,09,292	91%
Self-Generated Income	32,18,818	4%	82,19,597	9%

Major Funding Partners

Foreign Institutions

1. Ford Foundation
2. Jhpiego
3. Deutsche Welthungerhilfe (WHH)
4. Institute of Development Studies (IDS)
5. IN Covid Support (CRYPTO Relief)
6. JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc (JSI)
7. John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation (MAC Foundation)
8. Water Aid America
9. Deutsche Gesellschaft for International Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

UN Insitutions

1. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
2. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
3. UNICEF

CSR Initiatives

1. SBI Foundation (SBIF)
2. LIC Housing Finance Limited (LIC HFL)

Indian Institutions

1. Bharat Rural Livelihoods Foundation (BRLF)
2. Charities Aid Foundation India (CAF India)
3. Jal Sewa Charitable Foundation (JSCF)
4. Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability (CBGA)
5. Mobile Creches (MC)
6. Transforming Rural India Foundation (TRIF)
7. Self-Reliant Initiative Through Joint Action (SRIJAN), New Delhi

Government Institutions

1. Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board (MPTB)
2. CMHO, District Hospital, Mandla
3. Chhattisgarh State Aids Control Society (CG-SACS)
4. Jal Jeevan Mission, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Govt. Of India
5. Zila Panchayat, Sehore

Our Board of trustees

Prof. Amitabh Kundu, Chairperson

Prof. Amitabh Kundu is an eminent social scientist and former professor at Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi and a visiting faculty at several international universities. Dr Kundu recently chaired a Committee to establish the State Statistical Commission in MP. He is also chairing the Committee for overiewing the survey for Swachh Bharat Mission (Rural), set up by the Ministry of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Government of India. He chaired the post-Sachar Evaluation Committee, set up by the Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India.

Dr. Rajesh Tandon, Trustee

Dr. Rajesh Tandon is the President of PRIA and is internationally known for his contribution to participatory research. The Chairperson of many international committees, as well as, of the advisory committees of the Government of India, he is currently the Chairperson of UNESCO in community-based research and social responsibility in higher education. Dr. Tandon serves as chairperson of the Global Alliance on Community-Engaged Research (GACER) network, which facilitates the sharing of knowledge and information worldwide to further community-based research.

Mr. Ashok Singh, Treasurer

Mr. Ashok Singh is the Executive Director of SSK (Sahbhagi Shikshan Kendra), Lucknow, a state-level support organisation specialising in participatory training. He is the executive committee member of VANI, a network of NGOs and serves as a member on various committees set up by the Government of U.P.

Mr. S.K Misra, Trustee

Mr. S.K Misra served as the Chief Secretary of the Government of Chhattisgarh. Later, he worked as Chairman of the CG Electricity Board and CG State Administrative Reform Commission. Mr. Misra was also an Advisor of Chhattisgarh's Second State Finance Commission.

Dr. Abhay Kumar Pandey, Trustee

Dr. Abhay Kumar Pandey is currently a Professor at the Government Model College, Umaria. He was the Director of the MP Social Audit Society, a semi-autonomous body set up by the Government of MP. Dr. Abhay Pandey was the founder of Lok Shakti, a large-scale Non-Governmental Organisation, which served the tribal communities of Chhattisgarh.

Ms. Banashree Banerjee, Trustee

Ms. Banashree Banerjee 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.

Dr. Rajendra Kumar Gupta, Trustee

Dr. Gupta, former Professor at Management Development Institute (MDI), Gurgaon and IIM, Lucknow, is an eminent expert on Organisational Behaviour. He is a serving member on various boards of the Public Sector Companies

Dr. Madhu Verma, Trustee

Dr. Madhu Verma is a former professor of Environment and Developmental Economics at the Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal. She has done seminal work in the area of environmental cost-benefit analysis of various development programmes. She did her post-Doctoral research work at the University of California (Berkeley) and the University of Massachusetts (Amherst), USA.

Mr. A.K Surana, Trustee

Mr. Surana is a Chartered Accountant and Senior Fellow Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India. He has extensive experience in reviewing re-structuring and developing financial management systems and accounting practices, budgeting, expenditure control, procurement procedure, finance, accounting, audit, company law and taxation matters for a host of projects and organisations in corporate and non-corporate entities in Government, Public and Private Sector.

Dr. Yogesh Kumar, Trustee and Executive Director

Dr. Yogesh Kumar, a doctorate in development economics, has worked for several years to promote community participation and civil society capacity building initiatives. He specialises in participatory planning, monitoring and evaluation.

Mr. M. Kandasami, Advisor, Financial Management

Mr. M. Kandasami is a renowned financial and organisational management expert in South Asia having more than two and a half decades of expertise in the financial and organisational management of non-profit organisations.



SAMARTHAN

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www.samarthan.org

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