

DEHATI GRAMOTHAN VIKAS SAMITI



Annual Progress Report

2020

Dehati Gramothan Vikas Samiti


Secretary



FOREWORD

We at **Dehati Gramothan Vikas Samiti** have pleasure in bringing out this Annual Progress Report for the year 2019-20. The organization is well entrenched in its onward march and the commendable achievements made by it speak for itself. The organization primarily aims to improve the quality of life of the poor especially women and children of the excluded community by providing sustainable livelihood and employment as also the requisite living facilities and amenities. Being a catalyst for the social and economic development of the community, the organization can take pride in the voluntary activities initiated by it and acted upon, and these achievements have bestowed additional responsibilities on the organization to cross further milestones in its growth path.

Notwithstanding the above, the organization has been able to unleash the dormant creative energies of the community towards achieving the goal as the activities enumerated in the unfolding pages of this Annual Progress Report would reveal. These achievements would not have been possible had the well wishers and donor agencies not extended timely support, financial assistance and necessary guidance to the Organization's programmes. On behalf of the organization, I take this opportunity to offer our sincere thanks to them. My thanks are also due to the members, consultants, staff and well wishers whose active involvement and hard work have been instrumental to a large extent for the achievements of this organization. And I take this opportunity for soliciting their continued co-operations in the best possible ways, in our future efforts too.

Dehati Gramothan Vikas Samiti

Pradeep Kumar Mishra
Secretary


Secretary



INTRODUCTION

Dehati Gramothan Vikas Samiti (DGVS) is a leading Voluntary Organization established in the State Uttar Pradesh at district Hamirpur in the State of Uttar Pradesh with its headquarters at B-1/96, Vineet Khand, First floor, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. The organization has the legal entity as a society incorporated under Society Registration Act 1860 vide registration No. 998 on 13th August, 1986 granted by Registrar of Societies Firms and Chits, Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh. This registration being renewed from time to time and the current validity is up to 12th August, 2021. A group of likeminded social activists dedicated for the welfare of mankind particularly for the deprived and disadvantaged sections of the society took the initiative for the formation of the organization. The organization is also been granted necessary exemption under section 12 A & 80 G of the Income Tax Act 1961.

The organization has been providing support to the disadvantaged sections by encouraging their active participation in all level so as to develop a self-reliant society with a focus on socio-economic empowerment of the community especially women as decision makers in the development process.

DGVS has been working with the existing government system, community groups and stakeholders for than three decades on issues confronting the most disadvantaged and marginalized sections of the society. On the basis of its learning the society is in a continuous process of evolving strategy which is contextually relevant, sustainable, replicable and achievable. The organization has been succeeded in developing linkages between various projects and working in an integrated manner towards achieving the desired results. Since last 33 years the organization has implemented number of projects of various nature include:

- Women empowerment and child welfare,
- Old age welfare
- Health care and family welfare,
- Environment conservation,
- Water and sanitation,
- Ravine stabilization,
- Agriculture and Horticulture development,
- Road safety and drivers training,
- Training and employment oriented programmes for women and youths with emphasis on minorities and backward castes,
- Cottage and handicraft development,
- Programmes for sustainable agriculture, survey,
- Studies and campaigns for holistic development of rural areas and non-formal education to school dropouts and non-school going children so that they are able to join the mainstream of development.

DGVS has been intervening in the Panchayats especially focusing to Budhelkhand region, as all the developmental plans are being initiated and implemented in panchayat level. Cross cutting



strategies to improve the health and nutrition status of the poorest and marginalized communities has remain a crucial are of work for this year. The spotlight has continued to be on quality health care, nutrition, water and sanitation, improving maternal and child health, reducing maternal and child mortalities, elimination of various communicable diseases and up-gradation of health determinants have been prioritized. Our work has witnessed enhancement in the participation of rural community, especially women in public health management through village Health, Sanitation and Nutrition committees.

PRINCIPLE OF THE ORGANIZATION:

We are committed to actively work for the sustainable development of the less privileged and marginalized sections of the community through appropriate strategies in fields like primary education, community mobilization, income generation, health care including maternal and child health, hygiene and sanitation, rural micro credit and empowerment activities. We believe in supporting all such causes that help the marginalized and deprived people.

CORE VALUES OF THE ORGANIZATION

- Community focus,
- Integrity (Honest and transparency)
- Probity (maintaining accountability and fairness)
- Professionalism
- Excellence
- Collaboration (team spirit, healthy work environment)

GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS OF ACTIVITIES

The organization is actively working in more than 50 blocks in district Lalitpur, Mahoba, Chitrakoot, Mainpuri, Hamirpur, Jhansi, Banda, Kanpur, Mathura, Farrukhabad, Agra and Allahabad districts in the State Uttar Pradesh covering more than 500 villages. It has taken up various developmental programmes for ravine stabilization, maternal and child health care, water and sanitation, environment conservation, prevention and control of communicable diseases, women empowerment activities. It is a matter of credit for the organization that its activities through various programmes have reached thousands of people particularly of the weaker sections of the rural and urban areas and made commendable changes in their living

VISION AND MISSION

The Vision of the organization is to improve the standard of living of people with a focus to poor and disadvantaged sections of the society living in rural areas. The mission is shifting gender relations and attitudes towards the empowerment of women and girls, enabling inclusive governance by focusing on women and girls, promoting accountability. Strengthening systems by allowing the fulfillment of rights and entitlements in the areas of health care, education, water and sanitation, environment conservation, agriculture promotion and social protection.



conditions. This has been made possible by the community-led development programmes and networking of NGOs working in the related areas besides various other factors put in by the organization.

INFRASTRUCTURE/ MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

The organization's infrastructural setup is very strong for implementing developmental programmes successfully. It has a well-established State office in Lucknow and other camp offices possessing qualified and experienced staff and technical experts to implement developmental programmes throughout the programme locations. The affairs of the Society are being run by a board consisting of **7 members**. **The office bearers are the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and the remaining 3 are committee members.** The board meets regularly on quarterly basis. The board members, besides playing advisory role in the organization, are also involved with thematic areas of the organization. The board passes necessary resolution before submitting programmes and projects for approval to the donor departments/agencies. In matters of recruitment and appointments, procurement of equipment and materials and monitoring financial and programme matters the board exercises necessary control, supervision and direction for achieving optimum results.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

As far as financial management is concerned, the organization is guided by transparency in operations. Computerized accounting system is in place and tally software is implemented for accounting purposes. Monthly financial statement is prepared to monitor the financial status of each project. All the accounts (Cash book and ledgers) are maintained on daily basis. For different projects, separate books of accounts, records are maintained and the same are audited by an external auditor. Its annual accounts maintained in computerized environment are audited by Chartered Accountant and annual reports are also made every year. The organization has bank accounts in nationalized banks and further need based bank accounts are opened and operated by the organization. Periodical reports are generated for MIS purpose and submitted to project sanctioning authorities as per guidelines.

RAPPORT AND LIAISON OF THE ORGANIZATION

The organization maintains good rapport and liaison with various government departments at all levels who have been always helping the organization in implementing programmes. It also continues to maintain good liaison with all the funding organizations who have supported the organizations not only in the past but also under the ongoing programmes. Further at the grass root level also close coordination is maintained with PRIs, CBOs, Social activists, community leaders etc.

CURRENT ROLE AND PRIORITIES

Dehati Gramothan Vikas Samiti plays the role of a socioeconomic development organization with the primary aim to reach out to the grass root level where deprived and disadvantaged



people are identified and all possible helps are made available to make them stand on own legs and strive for better opportunities.

It envisages to enlarge its membership by enrolling likeminded persons with commitment towards selfless service to the society. At the grass root level it also takes in more and more dedicated volunteers with the objective to support those hapless persons and develop their leadership skills. In all the programmes the emphasis is to serve women, children and youths who have got a major role to play in the society. Playing an advocacy role the organization has been constantly presenting before the authorities at all levels the problems and grievances of deprived people in programme areas and pleading for approval of humanitarian schemes and programmes which can become a turning point for betterment of their lives. A major focus also given to local self-governance so that the local community can themselves manage and control their overall developmental needs. It is to the credit of the organization that this role has been producing the desired results in as much as thousands of poor people at the grass root level have been uplifted and made to join the mainstream of society in various districts of the State/Country.

Dehati Gramothan Vikas Samiti

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Secretary



ANNUAL GENERAL-BODY MEETING

Annual General body meeting of the organization Dehati Gramothan Vikas Samiti was conducted at its Head Office at Lucknow. The meeting was presided over by its Chairman, Shri Praveen Kumar. While welcoming the members to the AGM, the Chairman briefly highlighted the society's activities and its role in the society. Copies of the statement of income and expenditure were distributed among the members. The Secretary, Shri Pradeep Mishra submitted the report on the working of the Society which dealt at length about the various activities carried out during the year and also which are under progress of implementation. He also outlined to the members activities which are likely to be taken up during the forthcoming year and solicited for all-round cooperation from the members. All the queries and questions raised by the members were satisfactorily answered by the Secretary.

While appreciating the commendable work done by the project staff and the society management, the secretary expressed his special thanks to the members, donors and well-wishers for their timely support and help without which the achievements would not have been so much possible. After lengthy deliberations, the meeting concluded with a vote of thanks from the chair.

Pradeep Kumar Mishra
Secretary

Dehati Gramothan Vikas Samiti

Secretary

ACTIVITIES OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR THE FY 2019-20 OLD AGE WELFARE PROGRAMME

The aging of populations is one of the glaring consequences of demographic transition. The world's population is expected to increase to 9.4 billion by 2050 from the current 7.3 billion. During the same period, the proportion of the elderly population is expected to increase from 10.4 per cent to 21.7 per cent. Among the elderly, it is the oldest among the old whose numbers will increase most rapidly over time, or about 320 million by 2050. Old age welfare is another important initiative of the organization. In this direction DGVS has been implementing various welfare programmes for poor and deprived older persons for the last many years. Old age welfare programmes offer older people a range of activities by providing basic amenities like shelter, food, medical care and entertainment facilities, helping them to continue to live in their own home or with their family or career. These programmes provide a welcoming, comfortable atmosphere to enjoy the variety of activities, development and practice of various skills, getting health care services and refreshment. Our dedicated staff and volunteers engaged are properly taking care of them and every year more than 500 senior citizens take advantage of the various programmes run by the organization.

As part of this initiative our organization has been running three OLD AGE HOMES:

• OLD AGE HOME AT CHTRAKOOT

The organization has been running an old age home situated at district Chitrakoot in the last many years with the financial assistance of Department of Social welfare, Government of Uttar Pradesh. The home is taking care of older persons who have been discarded from their families or are wandering without food, medicine etc. The programme, this year facilities and services to A total number 100 such caters to the surrounding home district Chitrakoot. provided include food, cloth, periodical the inmates and provided organizing bhajan, keertan and Pooja and other recreational activities. Sufficient number of staff and other volunteers are also engaged for taking care of the home. This activity of the organization has been appreciated by respected people of the areas demands are pouring in for starting such old age homes in other districts also.



• **OLD AGE HOME AT ORAI (JALAUN)**

Another Old age home has been running in district Orai(Jalaun) with the support of Department of Social Welfare, Government of Uttar Pradesh. Apart from the staff, the home has been equipped with almost all the facilities that are normally required by the persons of old age. There is a panel of guru associated with physical and spiritual



This home is also who have been or are wandering food, medicine etc. programme, this year facilities and services

More than 100 such poor inmates and caters to the surrounding districts and the home district of Orai (Jalaun). The facilities provided include provision of shelter, food, cloth, periodical medical checkups of the inmates and provided facilities for organizing yoga, bhajan, internal games, gardening, exposure visits, prayer and other recreational activities. Sufficient number of staff and other volunteers are also engaged for taking care of the home. This activity of the organization has been appreciated by respected people of the areas demands are pouring in for starting such old age homes in other districts also.

doctors and a meditation the home to take care of the health of the inmates." taking care of older persons discarded from their families without any shelter, cloths, The organization, under the too provided various to the enrolled inmates.

• **OLD AGE HOME AT LALITPUR**

The third Old age home has been running by the organization is at district Lalitpur. This home is also taking care of older persons by providing facilities and services to more than 100 inmates for shelter, food, cloth, periodical medical checkups of the inmates and provided facilities for organizing yoga, bhajan, internal games, gardening, exposure visits, prayer and other recreational activities. Sufficient number of staff and other volunteers are also engaged for taking care of the home. This activity of the organization has been appreciated by respected people of the areas demands are pouring in for starting such old age homes in other districts also.



COACHING/TRAINING CENTERS

• **BRILLIANT MINDS INSTITUTE**

DGVS has been running a coaching center named Brilliant Minds Institute in the district Lucknow for providing Banking, CSE, SSC, Various other entrance Exams coaching. The center has now completed its fifth year of success and has developed the state of art study and good

will in the society with in this short span of time. Apart from the poor and deprived students of general category major focus of the centre is given to socially ignored sections which includes SCs, OBCs and Minority category of students for getting a better chance to succeed in many competitive examinations. The center is therefore imparting coaching/ pre-examination training for appearing competitive examinations or obtaining appropriate jobs in the public/private sector. The organization engaged qualified and experience faculties and resource persons to conduct the classes. The enrollment of students and jobseekers are on merit basis by conducting necessary ability and aptitude test. The center is a god gift opportunity of the hapless community in and around the district.

• **RUNNING OF COMPUTER AND IT TRAINING CENTER**

The organization for the last many year has been conducting Computer and IT training to educated and unemployed women and youths in the district Lucknow. It is generally observed that computer and IT training facilities are not available in rural areas due to which educated un-employed women and youths are found denied of opportunities to advance in their studies and careers. The plight of such women and disadvantages sections especially belongs to BPL families is further worse since they cannot afford to avail of the necessary training paying exorbitant fees charged by training centers are situated in far away towns.



The organization's various these candidates are injustice through non training facility and among them. Under the organization covered large number of needy

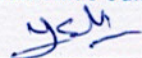
the deprived families are enrolled to this computer center during the year under review also. This center offering free computer application training with job oriented packages are appropriately designed and provided to unemployed and educated youths and women so that they can seek better job opportunities. The facilities also enable them to browse internet/websites and expand their knowledge in various phases.

studies have revealed that facing discrimination and availability of computer resentments are prevalent circumstances the more areas from where a women and youths from

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

Health care and family welfare is another focus areas since its inception. In this sector maternal and child health care is one of the major target for the last many years. In this context we have carried several programmes in rural and slum areas of urban centers. This year too it has witnessed and has involved in more such activities and holding health care programmes among large people of the lower strata of the society. Some of such activities can be briefly mentioned as under:

Dehati Gramothan Vikas Samiti



● **HEALTH CARE CAMPS:**

It is generally observed that people of rural areas are found many health problems on account of malnutrition, improper diet and chronic ailment of one or the other kind which has not been given medical attention due to ignorance, negligence or financial constraints. The organization therefore had conducted many health care camps. During these programs the agency has been observed that there is general apathy and health of mothers which medical attention is not sought until it is too late. The organization has been aware of this problem and has been relentlessly striving to educate the people but also doing whatever is possible within its resources, for the last many years.



General publicity and a sustained campaign were carried out in the localities of the targeted beneficiaries about these programmes. The effort was encouraging as it enabled a large section of beneficiaries to turn out for the programmes. The organization with the help of the medical administration, engaged doctors, ASHAs and paramedical staff for this purpose. Necessary arrangements were made at the respective venues for the convenience of the beneficiaries. The facilities offered included antenatal checkups, TT immunizations, and immunization of children in the age group of 0-5 years. General counseling and wherever required individual attention was paid for anemia control, safe and institutional deliveries, promotion of small family norms through sterilization, spacing of children through use of contraceptives, prevention and management of reproductive tract infections and STDs. The response of these programmes at all the places was encouraging.

PROMOTION OF NUTRITION AND HYGIENE- The organization is well aware of the problems of health, hygiene and nutrition of the women beneficiaries under the organization. Poverty is telling upon the health of these beneficiaries as well as members of their families. Primary motto of the beneficiaries is seen as earning for their livelihood whereas health related issues are given secondary importance or would be preferred to be ignored. The organization has been regularly counseling these beneficiaries about the need for balanced diet, nutrition, hygiene and sanitation to ward off communicable and chronic diseases.



● **DRUG DE-ADDICTION AWARENESS**

Substance and alcohol abuse is now a days a problem in rural areas also. Today, adults and young teens in rural areas are just as likely to abuse substances as those in larger metropolitan



areas. The problems may be the same, but smaller communities have limited resources to deal with the consequences of substance abuse. In order to control this, the agency has initiated drug de-addiction and alcohol control programme in many vulnerable localities of district Lucknow and nearby districts since last many years.

• **TOBACCO CONTROL AWARENESS PROGRAMME**

DGVS has been working for prevention and control the use of tobacco among students, youths and other involved in many districts since last many years. The programme basically focus to create awareness among youths with a focus to student of many schools for prevention of tobacco use and educate them about the dangers associated with using various tobacco products. The programme will also provided motivation and sensitization among the staff, teachers and parents to not use any tobacco products. Teach personal life skills, refusal skills, and media literacy in order to enable them to resist the influence of peers and tobacco marketers. It will also provide an opportunity to them who already use tobacco products to quit.

• **HIV/AIDS AND OTHER GENETIC DISEASE AWARENESS AND ITS PREVENTION**

HIV/AIDS and other genetic disease have been found spreading rapidly in slums of urban centers and rural areas also. A general study conducted by the organization has revealed that there has been lack of awareness in most of the cases and early diagnosis and treatment of the suspected cases have not been carried out. The victims turned to hospitals only when the stage became acute and survival is a question mark.

It has been found that the disease is spread among people of floating population such as migrant laborers, truckers, slum dwellers etc. The organization had conducted awareness cum motivation camps in these areas where large number of such suspected cases have been encouraged to attend. The programme also focused on the general public as to the methods of contracting these diseases, its diagnosis and the facilities of treatment that are available in nearby hospitals. The efforts have been to educate the people about the preventives steps to be taken for avoiding HIV and other infections.

• **AYUSH PROMOTION PROGRAMME**

The organization has been engaged in promotion of Ayush for last many years. During the year under review also has conducted several programmes for creating awareness for importance of Indian system of medicine and treatment for the benefit of poor people in rural areas. The activities under promotion of AYUSH were able to benefit a large number of people in rural villages to popularize the Indian System of Treatment. It has also imparted training to practitioners and farmers on cultivation medicinal plants and demonstrated the utilities and



properties of these medicinal plants. Yoga classes were also conducted among rural population and make them aware about the advantages of Naturopathy and Yoga.

YOGA TRAINING PROGRAMME: Yoga is a way of living that aims towards 'a healthy mind in a healthy body'. Man is a physical, mental and spiritual being; yoga helps promote a balanced development of all the three. Other forms of physical exercises, like aerobics, assure only physical well-being. The art of practicing yoga helps in controlling an individual's mind, body and soul. It brings together physical and mental disciplines to achieve a peaceful body and mind; it helps manage stress and anxiety and keeps you relaxing. It also helps in increasing flexibility, muscle strength and body tone. It improves respiration, energy and vitality. Practicing yoga might seem like just stretching, but it can do much more for your body from the way you feel, look and move. Yoga asanas build strength, flexibility and confidence. Regular practice of yoga can help lose weight, relieve stress, improve immunity and maintain a healthier lifestyle. The organization has been actively involved in conducting yoga and naturopathy classes and camps combined with meditation, moral teachings etc. for the restoration and cultivation of human values so that a fellow feeling is created among the participants and they are made to face the challenges outside with determination, courage, equality and brother hood to all.

WOMEN WELFARE PROGRAMME

Women empowerment and their sustainable livelihood is a focus of attention of the organization. It has through its various activities come to the conclusion that poverty and illiteracy are the basic causes affecting women empowerment. Once these basic issues are addressed, with the right training for skill/capacity building and creation of necessary awareness women empowerment will be gradually possible. The activities undertaken by the organization in this respect are as under.

• WOMEN EMPOWERMENT CAMPS:

Rural women lack awareness of many matters external to their environment but which have a bearing on their living. Despite the governments and other agencies launched many welfare schemes for women's emancipation and advancement the same are not been availed of by rural women mainly because of the lack of awareness. Aware of such state of affairs, the organization had during the year under review launched many awareness programmes in rural areas through which thousands of women of its SHGs formed at different places have been educated.





The activities included provision of details of the various government schemes for livelihood enhancement, health care initiatives, literacy promotion and leadership development. They were also educated on legal awareness on many issues.

• **LEGAL AWARENESS FOR WOMEN**

Laws and regulations for safe guarding the rights of women and promoting their empowerment is existing in our country. However, in many of the situations, women and girls are living in our society are generally not aware of the provisions of the laws or their rights nor are able to exercise these rights due to which empowerment of women is not taking place at which the government is expecting them. In rural areas it is further worse when these women are illiterate and ignorant about such rights legal protections. In this direction the organization has conducted legal Awareness Programme in districts Hamirpur, Bandha and Chitrkoot during the year under review also and in these camps more than 100 women from different areas were actively participated.

The camps has given focus on various topics under National Commission for Women to create awareness among the participants' legal awareness and protection of legal rights under various Acts leading to women's empowerment in society is the major one.

• **WOMEN LABOUR WELFARE PROGRAMME**

Dehati Gramothan Vikas Samiti has also taken up awareness and education activities during the occasion of International labour day in many locations and highlighted the role of the labour in all aspects of human development and the role of women, recognizing their problems, rights and welfare programme for such labour women, sensitization of the society so that the community can move forward with accepting their contribution in development process.

CHILD WELFARE PROGRAMME:

Important activities under child welfare initiatives of the organization have focused to their health care and education. In line with the same during the year under review also the organization has conducted many child welfare activities including welfare of labour children, children immunization, education promotion activities for school dropout and out of school children etc.

• **CHILD HEALTH CARE**

Children health care especially their immunization is not a priority as far as the rural people are concerned. They are unmindful of the consequences. The organization has been trying its level best to educate the people and provide necessary facilities in rural areas for the last many years. It has been associating with the government programmes like Pulse Polio and other immunization and vaccinations. During the year under review the organization undertook immunization and vaccination programme in several rural villages of backward blocks under many districts focusing the localities of SC, OBC and Minority concentrated areas in the State. The volunteers of the organization were deputed to rural homes and slum areas to educate people and overcome their resistance to Pulse Polio Vaccination etc. These efforts of the

organization could produce tangible results as large number of children could be covered under this initiative. As part of child welfare initiative the organization has also been engaged in education promotion and child labour welfare activities details are given under.

SKILL/VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR WOMEN AND YOUTHS

Economic empowerment and livelihood enhancement of poor and deprived sections with a focus to un-employed women and youths is our one of the cardinal objectives. Therefore the organization has set up Vocational Training centers to achieve sustainable employment for them. Adequate publicity about the objectives and the activities at the centers was given in surrounding areas so that people of poor families interested in availing of the services are given priority. Women in large numbers interested in gainfully utilizing their time approached these centers and sought admission to the training programme. However, SHGs formed through the initiative of the programmes of the organization were given preference in admission. Un-employed youths were also given enrollment.

• **RUNNING OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTERS:**

As in the previous years' it has conducted vocational training on different trades including Garments making, beautician course, making of handicraft items like Chikan embroidery garments, Zari zardosi crafts etc.

During the year under review also more than 500 women and youths in different locations under district Lucknow, Hamirpur, Bandha has been trained by the organization. Adequate numbers of trainers who are possessing sufficient experience on the above trades have engaged by the organization. After completion of the training the beneficiaries were given counseling as to the scope of opportunities for employment/self-employment, the marketing potential of their products, financial linkages etc.

• **SHG FORMATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING**

Like previous years, this year too, the organization has been worked for the unity of women by formation of their make many anywhere, the year under review women SHGs have the organization's have been able to concerning women enhancement, literacy, against women and newly formed SHGs were found lacking in capacities to manage their affairs and therefore the



SHGs. Such SHGs can achievements everywhere. During also a large number of been formed through initiative and they tackle many problems such as livelihood health care, violence self-defense. The



organization conducted capacity building training programmes at various locations in different districts. Through these programmes they were facilitated for credit, savings, backward and forward linkages, leadership development etc. They have been conducting regular meetings, taking up income generating activities, encouraging savings and thrifts, tying up with financial institutions for financing of their activities, internal loaning and sale of their products directly to buyers eliminating middlemen and money lenders. The organization has received encouraging response from the participants.

- **ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

As in the previous years' this year also, the organization has conducted several Entrepreneurship Development Programme among the women trainees in the project area. The aim of the programme was to provide supplemental support to develop/upgrade skill and business acumen of SHG members for starting entrepreneurship. The topics covered under EDP was Agriculture productivity, Handicraft embroideries, Vegetable cultivation and other cottage industry development. The programme was able to improve their capacity and skill for starting self entrepreneurship and thereby improve their livelihood in a better way.

LITERACY AND EDUCATION PROMOTION

DGVS possesses vast experience in field of educational promotion activities for the last several years. The organization has been given more importance to encourage literacy and education among the people in district Lucknow as well as many other districts under Bundhelkhand region in the State of U.P.

In order to promote literacy and education, the organization this year too has conducted several activities including rallies, cultural programmes, seminars and education promotion activities for regular education of children. It has also highlighted advantages of literacy and education among rural masses. Further, in course of implementing various developmental programmes of which the beneficiaries include illiterates also, special literacy classes are run for the illiterates so as to enable them to read and write or go in for continuing education wherever possible, for deriving maximum benefit of the developmental activities in which they are involved. Apart from the same the organization has also been continuing its effort to identify such school drop outs and bring them back in to the normal schooling. The achievements have been very encouraging.

- **ADULT LITERACY PROGRAMME FOR WOMEN IN RURAL AREAS**

Promotion of literacy among rural women of rural community has been a major concern of the organization. In order to achieve the same it has conducted special literacy classes so as to enable them to read and write or go in for continuing education wherever possible.



OTHER ACTIVITIES

- **WELFARE PROGRAMME FOR SC, ST, MINORITIES AND OTHER SOCIALLY IGNORED SECTIONS**

The organization's another important focus is on the welfare of socially excluded sections of the society including SC, ST and Minority categories of people. In this connection it has taken up several activities. The main emphasis of the programme was to generate awareness among these section about their rights and entitlements. During these programmes hundreds of persons from the Backward category and Minority community participated and they were told about various programmes being run by different government departments and other development agencies. It has also made special provision for admission of such categories in different vocational training, literacy and health care services undertaken by this organization. The programmes could properly guide and counsel for the various governmental schemes for the benefit of such category people.

- **SAFE DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION AWARENESS PROGRAMME**

For the last many year the organization has also been devoting attention to the field of safe drinking water, Sanitation and hygiene activities. It is a fact that in rural areas, people generally pay least attention to conservation of water or the pollution caused to water or water bodies. Indiscriminate running of tube well is an abuse in the rural areas. People are prone to use contaminated water for drinking purpose regardless of the harm it might cause. The organization therefore has been launching awareness programmes for the benefit of people to prevent water pollution and conservation of ground water. Emphasis is also laid for rain water harvesting and the method of recharging ground water with the help of experts in this field.

As far as sanitation in rural areas is concerned the less said the better. People have been made aware of the negative aspects of open toilet practice widely prevalent in the rural areas. The organization has deputed its volunteers to various places in the rural areas who have advised to the people to switch over to low cost latrines which could be constructed with not much expense. Emphasis was also laid for keeping the common nals and surroundings neat and clean to avoid outbreak and spread of communicable diseases.

- **PROMOTION OF INDIAN CULTURE AND HERITAGE AND AWARENESS GENERATION THROUGH CULTURAL PROGRAMME**

Organizing cultural programmes was another aspects of the organization for propagating Indian culture and heritage. Many dances, musical programmes and plays were conducted on many occasions during the year under review. Special effort was made to design these programmes. A team of artists was contracted for the purpose, several rounds of discussions were held with them for the purpose of articulating the social maladies and directing the cultural programmes so that when these programmes were finally staged, the attention of the public was easily caught. The organization took special care in fixing the venues of the cultural programmes



where the targeted audience could be easily mobilized and necessary work for mobilization was also done prior to staging of these cultural programmes. Wherever the programmes were conducted, the response from the public was very encouraging as the social maladies were central themes of the plays and the message was easily sent home.

- **ORGANIZING WORKSHOPS, SEMINAR AND DEBATES FOR AWARENESS BUILDING**

As part of its humanitarian efforts, the organization has been working for the welfare of poor and deprived sections in society. While implementing such programmes in rural areas the organization has found lack of women safety and empowerment with a focus to socially ignored sections including Minority women and cognizance about their rights and entitlements, human right violations are major constraints in the proper development of women in these areas. Poor environmental, infrastructure and developmental conditions along with improper sanitation and hygiene is affecting the rural population very badly. Lack of health care facilities and negligence of the rural population towards the meager health care facilities available in their localities vitiates the healthy atmosphere of the rural mass. In order to address these problems the organization has conducted many workshops and seminars with the active participation of rural people and the organization has always taken care to bring important personalities of the areas and subject experts and they addressed the audience sharing their views and motivating the participants to derive advantage of welfare schemes of the government and other agencies.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT/ AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE PROMOTION

- **RURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES:**

The organization has been working in various rural development initiatives in many districts since its inception. In this context the organization for last many taking keen interest in various rural infrastructural development initiatives in many places through awareness generation activities and Shramdhan programme for overcoming such poor state of affairs. As part of it has also conducted various studies which revealed that in rural areas, there are a large sections of poor and deprived people who are facing isolation on account of their poor socioeconomic circumstances. The people are somehow leading their lives and facing many hurdles in their day to day life. Among the difficulties observed, lack of safe drinking water, poor infrastructure facilities including sanitation, cleanliness, proper health care, electricity etc., are major issues. Women and girls are the major victims for these facilities. In this context it has taken up IEC activities among the rural people and conducted Shramdhan activities which including cleaning of ponds, wells and other water bodies, road maintenance etc. in the villages under many blocks under the programe districts. There were a good comment and appreciation from the general public towards the organization for conducting such humanitarian activities and desired to conduct the same in times to come.

- **AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES**



The agriculture farmers and horticulture cultivators in the rural areas have hitherto been not prone to the development taking place in these sectors nor there any efforts in making them aware of the same resulting in a situation where the productivity is low and the cost of production is high. Because of these there is a tendency among farmers to leave the agricultural/horticulture field look for other sources of income. The organization would like to intervene and arrest their flow from Agricultural field and provide sustainable agriculture to the farmers which would generate remunerative income for them. The organization therefore introduced multiple crop system, concentrate on earmarking a ratio of land for producing commercial crops vis-a-vis other routine produce, and impart training for development of bio-compost, land development, seed production and provision of quality seeds at affordable prices and help the farmers to find buyers devoid of exploitation. Likewise promotion of various horticulture products were also conducted among the cultivators and the trainers were provided with information about improving agricultural/horticulture production in various places under district Hamirpur. Needless to mention that the funding of the training session was done from own resources of the organization.



• CONSUMER WELFARE PROGRAMME

The organization along with its welfare oriented activities is also working for Consumer welfare and protection of their rights. Various activities have been implemented in the previous years and the same are being run during the year under review also. Economic development has given room for production of more and more goods and services and consequently competition. Producers and suppliers these items are making promotion of campaigns through advertisement and other publicity efforts which quite often mislead and misguide the consumers. The quality of the items or services may not always match the claims made in promotional campaigns and the labels of the pickings with the result that either the consumer may be taken for a ride or the quality suffers. The enactment of consumer protection Act and setting up of consumer protection forums and commissions have created opportunities for the buyers of goods and services to lodge complaints and claim compensation which prior to these enactments was not possible. With this introduction of this opportunity consumers are equipped with the rights for obtaining redressal of grievances. In the cities and important towns people are generally aware of the consumer protection forums and their rights. However in the rural areas awareness is still found wanting. There is therefore need for educating the people about the salient features of the act and about the forums as also building up of social activist for helping the consumers fight for their rights.

In the above background during the year under review the organization focused the rural and slum areas of many districts for creating awareness about consumer rights and the procedure



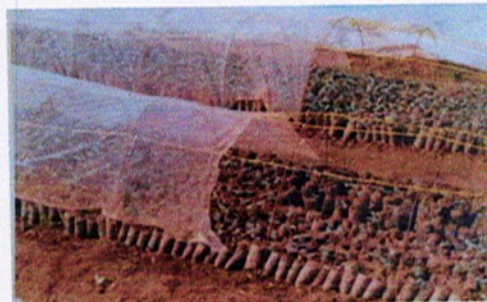
and forum for filing complaints and follow-up. The volunteers were deputed to these areas where community mobilization was conducted and IEC programmes were organized at strategic places for conveying the message to large section of people. The organization also identified social activist in these areas and guided them about proper procedure and follow-up about the complaints lodged at the consumer forums and the appeals to be filed against the orders of such forums. These efforts were well appreciated by the people in general.

• **ENVIRONMENT CONSERVATION AND TREE PLANTATION**

Environment conservation is also being focused by the organization for the last few years considering that Air and water pollution are a common feature everywhere. The organization believes that if remedial measures are not taken and the trend is not arrested, the situation may develop into serious stage when the health of human beings and animals would be severely affected. This required general awareness creation among the public. The organization has understood the necessity of playing a role in this field and has taken various steps to involve the people in the prevention of pollution and conservation of environment. It has organized mass awareness campaigns at various places in the geographical areas focused.



A lot of people enrolled for this and motivation groups with purpose. The organization campaigns and should continue momentum does not peters out with the passage of time. As part of this campaign a tree plantation drive was also carried out at several places.



from the general public were purpose, given necessary guidance and were sent to different areas in leaflets, banners etc. for campaign result was quite encouraging. The considers it necessary that such public awareness programmes in future also so that the

• **ROAD SAFETY PROGRAMME**

The organization has been conducting road safety awareness programmes for the last many years. In this context, during the year under review also has taken up number of activities including workshops, drivers training and exhibitions with the help of traffic department at many districts. Road users were specifically told about the rules of the road, safety measures and traffic symbols etc. and emphasized on them the need for adhering them to avoid accidents etc.



The road users were also explained its significance through sign boards, posters and pamphlets prepared for this purpose. Besides this the organization has helped in construction of link roads in rural areas of these districts with the active participation of community. It created awareness among the rural masses about utility of these roads and sought their cooperation in releasing the land for the road. While helping the department in construction of these link roads it took a special care for protecting the environment by doing plantation on both sides of the road so that longevity of the roads may be maintained and ecological balance preserved. It also helped the farmers in getting payment for the land acquired and redresses their grievances in this regard if any.

• **CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL FESTIVALS:**

Celebration of National festivals is a regular practice of the organization since its inception. During the reporting year also it has celebrated important National Days in the office headquarters and project offices at various districts. Besides staff and volunteers, prominent people of the areas also joined the programme along with beneficiaries, students and other general public. The audience were apprised of the supreme sacrifices made by the freedom fighters and defense forces in protecting our mother land and it was also reminded that people should be more alert towards protection the unity and integrating of the country and do not in any way lend any help to forces which are trying to create differences of opinion, violence and terrorism which can only damage the social fabric of the society. Flag hosting, playing of national anthem and song, arranging cultural programmes highlighting our struggle, the role of martyrs etc was the major attractions. Programmes like quiz competitions, poster competitions etc., were conducted and the best entries have been adjudged and prize distribution was also conducted.

• **TRAININGS AND WORKSHOPS**

As in the previous years the Organization has conducted various refresher training and orientation of its staff and consultants and volunteers. Wherever good such trainings and workshops are conducted relevant to the field of activities of the organization the personnel of the organization are sent for participation. This has enabled the organization to improve the performance of its activities and also ensured commitment of the staff. During the year under also such initiatives were taken and the following trainings and workshops have been attended the staff and consultants of the organization.

(Pradeep Kumar Mishra)
Secretary

Dehati Gramothan Vikas Samiti

Secretary