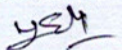


Annual Progress Report 2020-21

Dehati Gramothan Vikas
Samiti

2/25-B, Vishal Khand, Gomti
Nagar, Lucknow, UP, India.
PIN:226010

Dehati Gramothan Vikas Samiti



Secretary

FOREWORD

We at Dehati Gramothan Vikas Samiti have pleasure in bringing out this Annual Progress Report for the year 2020-2021. The organization is well entrenched in it's onwards March and the commendable achievements made by it to 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 excluded community, the organization can take pride in the voluntary activities initiated by it and acted upon, 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 organizations programmes. On behalf of the organization, I take this opportunity to offer our since 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.

INTRODUCTION

DEHATI GRAMOTHAN VIKAS SAMITI (DGVS) is leading voluntary organization established in the state of Uttar Pradesh at district Hamirpur with its headquarters at 25 -B Vishal Khand 2 , Gomti Nagar , Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh . The organization has the legal entity as a society incorporates under Society Registration Act 1860 vide registration No.998 on 13 August , 1986 granted by Registrar of Societies Firm 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 is also been granted necessary exemption under section 12 A and 80 G OF The Income Tax Act 1961.

The organization has been providing support to the disadvantage 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 the 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 natures includes:

- ❖ Women empowerment and child welfare
- ❖ Old age welfare
- ❖ Health care and family welfare
- ❖ 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 schools dropouts and non school going children so that they are able to join the mainstreams of development.

DGVS has been intervening in the panchayats especially focusing to Bundhelkhand region, as all the developmental plans are being initiated and implemented in panchayats level. Cross cutting strategies to improve the health and nutrition status of the poorest and marginalized communities has remain a crucial which are the 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 ORGANISATION

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 ORGANISATION

- ❖ **INTEGRITY:** We maintain the highest standards of professional and ethical behavior, and value transparency and honesty in our communication, relationships and actions.
- ❖ **ACCOUNTABILITY:** We hold ourselves accountable for the quality and lasting results of our work and for the commitments we make to our participants, partners, donors and each other.
- ❖ **RESPECT:** We value and celebrate the unique and diverse talents, experiences and perspectives of everyone and treat our participants, partners, donors and each other with sensitivity and respect.
- ❖ **CREATIVITY:** We go beyond conventional ideas and approaches so new possibilities and innovation can flourish to ensure real and lasting positive changes.
- ❖ **COLLABORATION:** Team spirit, healthy work environment.
- ❖ **PROBITY:** Maintain accountability and fairness.

GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS OF ACTIVITIES

The organization is actively working in more than 50 blocks in districts like Lalitpur, Mahoba, Chitrakoot, Manipur, Hamirpur, Jhansi, Banda, Kanpur, Mathura, Farrukabad, Agra and Allahabad districts in state Uttar Pradesh covering more than 500 villages. It has taken up various developmental programmes for ravine stabilization, maternal and child 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 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.

VISSION AND MISSION

- Our work aims to break the vicious cycle of poverty and social isolation and to restore hope for a better future.
- Support poor and marginalized women and girls get access to quality, education, maternal and child healthcare services, sustainable livelihood opportunities and relief, social protection and rehabilitation.
- Strengthening system by allowing the fulfillment of rights and entitlements in the areas of health care, education, water and sanitation, environment conservation, agriculture promotion.

INFRASTRUCTURE/MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

The organizations infrastructural setup is very strong for implementing developmental programmes successfully. It has well established state office in Lucknow and other camp offices possessing qualified and experienced staff and technical experts to implement development programs 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 department/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 projects. 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 form and 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 account 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 governmental departments at all level who have been always helping the organization in implementing programmes. It also continues to maintain good liaison with all 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 PRIORTIES

Dehati Gramothan Vikas Samiti plays the role of a socioeconomic development organization with 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 enlarging its membership by enrolling likeminded person with commitment towards selfless services to the society. At the grass root level it also takes in more and more dedicated volunteers with the objective to support those helpless 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 grievance 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 manages and controls 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.

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 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 fourth coming 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 staff and the society management, the secretary expressed his special thanks to the members, donors ad well wishers for their timely support and help without which the achievements would not have been so much possible. After lengthy deliberations, the meetings concluded with a vote of thanks from the chairman.

ACTIVITIES OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2020-2021

➤ OLDAGE WELFARE PROGRAMME

The aging of population is one of the glaring consequences of demographic transition. Emphasizing that ageing is irreversible and inevitable. India's has been growing at an increasing rate in recent years and the trend is likely to continue. It is estimated that by 2050, there will be more people older than 60 years than those below 15 years. The share of older person, those aged 60 years or above, in India's population is projected to nearly 20 percentages in 2050. The number of elderly person is expected to grow to 173 million by 2026. The share of population over the age 60 is projected to increase from 8 percent to nearly 20 percent in 2050. Fulfilling needs for services and social protection for senior citizens, protection of rights and enabling them to contribute in the development process are priorities for India. Population ageing is global phenomena. The elder person in the society faces a number of problems due to absence of assured and sufficient income to support themselves for their healthcare and other social securities. Loss of social role and recognition, and non availability of opportunities for creative and effective use of free time are also becoming a matter of great concern for elderly persons. The trend clearly reveals that ageing will emerge as major social change in future, and vast resources will be required towards the support, service, care and treatment of the elderly persons. Old Age Welfare Programme is an important initiative of the organization.

DGVS is one who takes the first step to implement the various welfare programmes for the poor and deprived and marginalized older persons for the last many years'. It focused on three priority areas: older person and development, advancing health and well being into old age, and ensuring enabling and supportive environments. Old age welfare programmes offer older people a range of activities by providing basic amenities like shelter, food, medical care, and entertainment facilities, so as to help them to continue to live and survive in their own home or with their family. These progrmmes are provides a welcoming, comfortable atmosphere to enjoy the variety of activities, which helps them for development and practice of various skills, getting health care services and refreshments. Our dedicated staff and volunteers engaged are properly taking care of them and every year more than 600 senior citizens are benefited and take advantage of the various

programmes run by the organization. As the part of this initiative our organization has been running three **OLD AGE HOMES**.

OLD AGE HOME AT CHITRAKOOT



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 person who have been discarded from families or are wandering without any shelter, cloths, food, medicine etc. The organization also provides facilities and services to poor inmates who are enrolled under this programme. Inmates are provided with free accommodation, medical care, food and entertainment opportunities like organizing

bhajans, keertan and pooja and other recreational activities. A total number 100 such poor inmates and caters to the surroundings districts and the home district Chitrakoot. There are number of sufficient staff and other volunteers who are engaged in the care taking of the homes and look after the old age 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)

The second old age home which has been running in district Orai (Jalaun) with the support of Department of Social Welfare, Government of Uttar Pradesh. DGVS provides as a home to old age home for the destitute homeless senior citizens who have been abandoned by their families. The home currently accommodates..... residents. The minimum age of senior citizens living in the center is 60. They are provided with free accommodation, medical care, food and other recreational activities. While most of them are too old to take on regular work, elderly care is about assistance in daily living activities like bathing, toileting, feeding, walking etc. Our organization act as companion to old age people and are compassionate about maintaining good hygiene, diet, and medications. DGVS also provide facilities for organizing yoga, bhajan, internal games, gardening, exposure visits, prayer and other recreational activities.



- ❖ DGVS goal is to provide a homely and respectable living to senior citizens. It also tries their best to take care of these elders physical, mental, emotional and spiritual well being, to provide them with comfortable living. It makes sure to serve nutritious food to take care of their health.
- ❖ DGVS with the objective of improving the quality of life of senior citizens by providing basic amenities like shelter, food, medical care, and entertainment opportunities etc, by providing support for capacity building.
- ❖ DGVS ensures the well being of the older person.
- ❖ During COVID-19 special attention has been given to older people, masks and sanitizer has been provided to each member of the organization as well as village person.
- ❖ Basic safety and precautions were taken during the COVID-19.

OLD AGE HOME AT LALITPUR

The third old age home which has been running by the organization is at district Lalitpur. This organization provide a roof over their heads to the elder citizens which is a critical need of the elder who are destitute, sick and abandoned by family and those uprooted by disaster.



- ❖ DGVS has established model homes for the senior citizens and aged.
- ❖ DGVS supports old age homes and runs Barrier homes for the aged in Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ Catering to the basic needs of older persons particularly food, shelter, and health care to the destitute elderly.
- ❖ Encouraging active and productive ageing.
- ❖ Keeping in mind the vulnerability of elders and our corona warriors on ground, in the current Covid 19 pandemic situation, DGVS is adhering to all the safety and hygiene measures for all its programmes on the field like wearing face masks, regular washing and sanitization of hands, and maintaining social distancing norms at all times , to ensure safety and protection.
- ❖ Provide preventive, curative and rehabilitative services to the elderly persons.
- ❖ Yoga and exercises are also organized for the elderly people to keep them active and fit and healthy.
- ❖ On the daily basis the workout is done to boost their immune system.

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

Health care and family welfare is another focus area since its outset/beginning. In this sector maternal and child health care is one of the major target for the last many years. Healthcare is the right of every individual but lack of quality infrastructure, dearth of qualified medical functionaries and non access to basic medicines and medical facilities thwarts its reach to 60 percentage of population in India. A majority of 700 million people lives in rural areas where the condition of medical facilities is deplorable. In this context DGVS have carried out several programmes in rural areas and slum areas of urban, to control the spread of disease and reduce the growing rates of mortality due to lack of adequate health facilities, special attention needs to be given to the health care in rural areas and slums areas. This year also DGVS has observed and notice and bring out much more activities associated with health care and family welfare programmes on the large scale. Programmes were implemented on the ground level, so that each and every individual get benefited from the programmes. DGVS covers the lower, minor, marginalized, backward, deprived, strata of the society. DGVS provide high quality of care, rich accountability, abundance of awareness and ample access to facilities. Some of the activities are briefly mentioned below:

❖ HEALTH CARE CAMPS

Health camps are organized to disseminate information about hygiene and preventive health care, create awareness about reproductive health among adolescents girls through qualified gynecologists' and raise consciousness about eye care, diabetes, antenatal care and sexually transmitted diseases through various activities.

It is usually noticed that people of rural areas are found many health problems due to malnutrition, improper diet and chronic disease is one and the other kind which has not been given medical attention due to ignorance, negligence or financial constraints. 70 percentage population living in rural areas and have low level of health facilities, mortality rates due to diseases are on a high. The organization



therefore had conducted many health camps. Health camps are put to offer services throughout the year to rural and slums people for providing a range of comprehensive health facilities including preventive, referral, promotive and curative to the people living in the selective intervention areas.



Setting up health camps in rural areas is aimed at offering support to the little health infrastructure. DGVS primary focus is bringing healthcare to the rural areas with this view the organization conducted a number of health check-ups, first aid training and health education camps in rural areas in Uttar Pradesh. The greatest need is to organize such health camps regularly along with doing a quick follow up of the medical cases at a particular intervals of time. Health camp information for people to create awareness among the masses. 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 help of the medical administration, engaged doctors, ASHAs and paramedical staff arranged the health care camps as a source of awareness to the rural and slum people. The health care camp includes facilities like: antenatal checkups, TT immunization, 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 post delivery sterilization, spacing of children through the use of contraceptives, prevention and management of reproductive tract infections and STDs. The response of these programmes at all the places was encouraging. Basically, the main motive behind taking up camp project is to work for better reproductive as well as child health and to spread awareness about the vector - borne diseases. In addition, the emphasis is on the reproductive child health and the nutritional status of children below 12 years of age and women reaching a reproductive age.



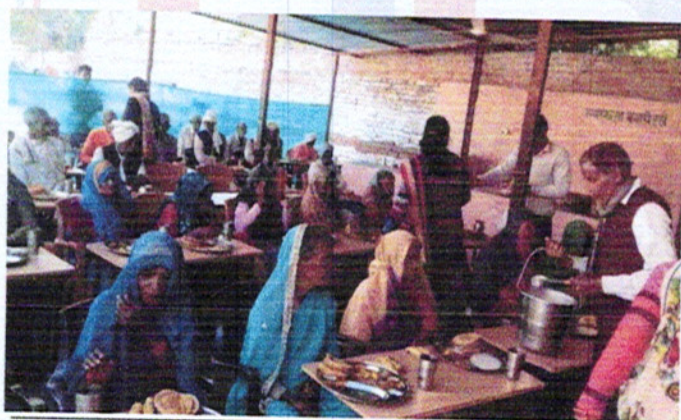
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PROMOTION OF NUTRITION AND HYGIENE

Global entry of women into economic employment, particularly focusing on agriculture, and the occupational hazards and related adverse health outcomes that they encounter in farm, women is also increased in terms of malnutrition. Women have always emerged as the pillars of the rural economy due to their involvement with agriculture and household chores. A third of women of reproductive age in India are undernourished. Anaemia in younger children, adolescent girls and women across the life cycle, is also reflected in that three out of four young children are anaemic and anaemia prevalence in young children. It is well known that an undernourished mother inevitably gives birth to an undernourished baby. 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 preferred to be ignored. The organization has been regularly counseling these beneficiaries about the need for balance diet, nutrition, hygiene and sanitation to beat back/ stop communicable and chronic diseases.



DGVS lend a helping hand in setting up awareness camps in order to urge masses to follow better sanitation and hygiene practices and to educate people about safe drinking water and water borne diseases. There are other welfare motives behind putting up health related camps that comprises capacity building and creating awareness about life threatening diseases such as AIDS and TB- like common ailments.

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TOBACCO CONTROL AWARENESS PROGRAMME

Mainly DGVS works on the health awareness programmes throughout the year, so one of the major works is on the **tobacco control awareness programme**. DGVS takes the initiative to aware the village people about the basic harmful infections and diseases. DGVS takes the first step to render the awareness among the village people and students so that they have some knowledge and idea about negative impact of tobacco on lungs, which can cause cancer to chronic respiratory diseases.

DGVS arrange campaigns which is an opportunity to raise awareness on the harmful and deadly effects of tobacco use and second hand smoke exposure, and to discourage the use of tobacco in any form. As we know that in village intake of tobacco is on high level, whether it is in the form of beedi, hukka, or direct intake of tobacco (smokeless tobacco: pan-masala, gutaka, khaini) which can be injurious to health. Tobacco affects all the organs in the body from head to toe. The programme basically focus to create awareness among youths with focus to students of many schools for prevention of tobacco use and educate them about the dangers associated with using various tobacco products. The programme will also provide motivation and sensitization among the staff, teachers and parents not to use any tobacco products. Teach them personal life skills, refusal skills, and media literacy in order to enable them to resist the influence of peers and tobacco marketers.

Tobacco smoking is the primary cause for lung cancer, responsible for over 2/3 of lung cancer death globally. Second hand smoke exposure at home or in work place also increases risk of lung cancer. Quitting smoking can reduce the risk of lung cancer, after 10 years of quitting smoking, risk of cancer falls to about half that of a smoker. Due to tobacco eating or chewing of tobacco can cause mouth cancer. Chewing tobacco use is a risk factor for the development of oral cancer and pre-cancers. The campaign also serves as a call to action, advocating for effective policies to reduce tobacco consumption and engaging stakeholders across multiple sectors in the fight for tobacco control. DGVS is associated with government hospitals so DGVS refers the tobacco users or patients for further counseling and medical treatment.

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 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 has 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

AYUSH is the acronym of the medical systems that are being practiced in India such as Ayurveda, yoga and naturopathy, unani, siddha and homeopathy. These systems are based on definite medical philosophies and represent a way of healthy living with established concepts on prevention of diseases and promotion of health. The basic approach of all these systems on health, disease and treatment are holistic. There is a great curiosity to understand the principles and practice of ayurveda, homeopathy, siddha and unani especially due to growing challenges in medicine in non communicable diseases, life style disorders, long term diseases, multi drug resistant diseases, emergence of new diseases etc. 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 fit benefit a large number of people in rural villages to popularizes 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.

- ❖ To revitalize and strengthen the AYUSH systems making them as prominent medical streams in addressing the health care of the society.
- ❖ Support cultivation of medicinal plants by adopting good agricultural practices so as to provide sustained supply of quality raw material.
- ❖ To provide cost effective and equitable AYUSH health care.

YOGA TRAINING PROGRAMME

Yoga is an art and science of healthy living. It is a spiritual discipline based on an extremely subtle science, which focuses on bringing harmony between mind and body. Yoga is well established and it brings harmony in all walks of life and thus, known for disease prevention, promotion of health and management of many lifestyle-related disorders. Today yoga is popular across the globe, not just because of its efficiency in the management of some diseases, but also of its strength in providing relief to the practitioner, from mental and emotional distress and providing a felling of

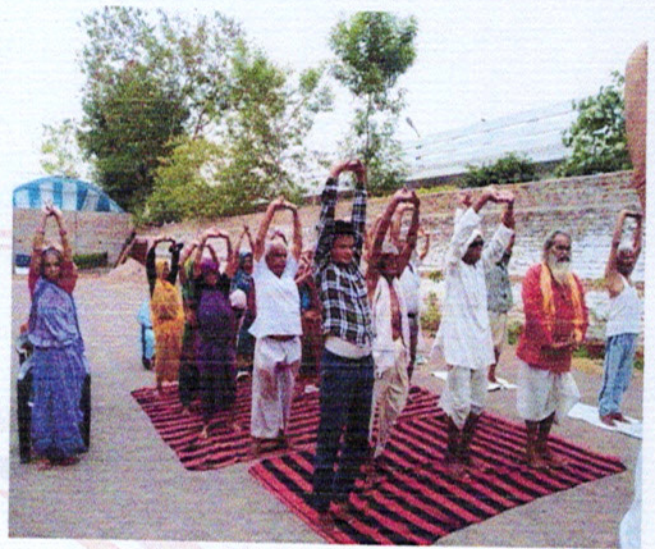


well being. Hence, now a day's yoga is being practiced as part of healthy life style. The aim of yoga is self-realization, to overcome all kinds of sufferings leading to the state of liberation. Yoga is very useful for preserving and maintaining ones physical and mental health and also spiritual evolution.

Benefits of yoga:

- ❖ It helps to manage stress and anxiety and keeps you relaxed.
- ❖ It helps in increasing flexibility, muscle strength and body tone.
- ❖ It improves respiration, energy and vitality.
- ❖ Yoga asana 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 teaching 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 challenge outside with determination, courage, equality and brotherhood to all.

WOMEN WELFARE PROGRAMME

Delivering multiple roles effortlessly every single day, women are undoubtedly the backbone of any society. Doting daughters, caring mothers, caring mothers, competent colleagues and a wider range

of many other roles are played by women around us flawlessly and with grace. However they've also been an ignored fraction of the society in many parts of the world. This in turn has caused women at large to bear the brunt of inequality, oppression, financial dependability and other social evils. For centuries now, women have been living under bondage that restricts them from achieving professional as well as personal heights. 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. To restore their rightful and dignified status, the organization has initiated women empowerment programs to provide a solid foundation to nurture the inner strength, creativity and self-esteem of women from all walks of life. With this base well established, women are now able to go out into the world, prepared to handle any challenges with skills, confidence and grace. They come to the fore front, where they become agents of peace and positive social change for themselves, their families, other women and their society. The activities undertaken by the organization in this respect are as under:

➤ WOMEN EMPOWERMENT CAMPS

Education is a potent tool to progress in life. And what better way to uplift and empower women than by educating them. The organization has empowered young girls and women alike with quality education, even in the remotest corners of the rural areas. 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 liberation and advancement at the same are not be availed by the rural women mainly because of lack of awareness. Aware of such state of affairs, the organization during the year had 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 include provision of details of various government schemes for livelihood enhancement, health care initiatives, literacy promotion and leadership development. The organization aims to enable them to develop control over their lives and ability to take up the role of decision making and meaningful participation of women in economic, social and political structure.

➤ LEGAL AWARENESS FOR WOMEN

Every culture in the world has portrayed woman as the good daughter, ideal wife and respectable mother, implying that these in itself fulfill her existence and that they don't need to pursue any profession or specialization in disciplines of art, culture or science. Through her rigorous journey the women has made a niche for herself in this patriarchal society and has fought for her existence and rights of freedom. Her endeavour's have helped her political

aspiration and have led into creation of special laws and acts which provide her equal access to her personal and professional growth and development.

Our Indian constitution is too sensitive to issues related to women and has provisions both constitutional and legal for women to balance the socio- economic fabric of the Indian society. Women in our country viewed through the patriarchal lens. They remain silent and marginalized in several households hence giving the men of the house an upper hand and voice in the decision-making process. It becomes significant for these women to speak for themselves and for achieving their rights.

It is an undisputed that women in Indian society have been victim of intolerance and social injustice in terms of basic human necessities to property inheritance matters. Even when the



Indian Constitution provides for several benefits for women, status of women in our country is clearly not as desired. The fact behind this status of women is lack of awareness of these rights is what makes the women not to stand for themselves and their rights to equal opportunities. It is a felt need to eradicate violence and decimation against women through the source of well planned legal awareness programmes which highlight and empower women with the knowledge of the constitutional provisions made exclusively for them.

DGVS has conducted legal awareness programme in districts like: **HAMIRPUR, BANDA** and **CHITRAKOOT** during the year under review also in these camps more than 100 women from different areas were actively participated.

The camps has given focus on various topic under National Commission for Women to create awareness among the participants legal awareness and protection of legal rights under various Acts leading to women empowerment in society is the major one. The objectives of the organization is to impart practical knowledge about basic legal rights and remedies provided under various women related laws, thereby making them fit to face the challenges in real life situations.



To sensitize women and girls about their Rights as provided under the various laws including the **Indian penal code, 1860; the dowry prohibition act, 1961: the prevention of domestic violence to women act, 2005** etc.

Knowledge of law gives the **power to act judiciously**. Legal awareness which would bring a qualitative change in the social order of our country and help our society aligns with the evolving changes in the technology driven area.

SHG FORMATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING

DGVS works on various projects throughout the year on the grass root level, where there are lack of basic facilities and can't sustain their lives, so the organization gave a support to them to sustain in this expensive scenario. No all people can sustain in this expensive world mostly backward, vulnerable, marginalized poor middle class people of rural areas and slums areas. DGVS launches the schemes and take initiative in up bringing the lower/backward class to sustain and live their lives happily. So to help them DGVS started the **SHG PROGRAMME** to build financially strong. Through this scheme DGVS brings out the hidden talents and capacity of the SHG members through systematic modular training.

- ❖ A self help group is a financial intermediary committee usually composed of 10 to 25 local women between 18-40 years.
- ❖ Enhances the quality of status of women as participant's decision makers and beneficiaries in the democratic, economic, social and cultural spheres of life.
- ❖ The basic principles of SHG are group approach, mutual trust, demand based lending, collateral free, women friendly loan, peer group pressure in repayment, skill training capacity building and empowerment.
- ❖ These groups are recognized as a useful tool to help the poor and an alternative mechanism to meet the urgent credit needs of poor group members through saving habit.

The organization has conducted SHG programmes at various locations in different districts. Through these programmes they were facilitated for credit, saving, backward and forward linkages, leadership development etc. They have been conducting regular meetings, taking up income generating activities, encouraging savings and thrifts, trying 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 participants.

As DGVS promote SHG in ground level it helps groups on ground level as it energizing and empowering group members by increasing their skills through innovative and productive programmes. These programmes enable women to have more exposure in social, economical, political, educational and technical aspects. It empowers rural women and reduces poverty and ensures sustainable and holistic limited credit, non loan.

➤ ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

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Entrepreneurship meant to develop entrepreneurial abilities among the people, it refers to inculcation, development and polishing of entrepreneurial skills into a person needed to establish and successfully run his/her enterprise. As in the previous year's 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 were 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.

- ✦ DGVS is the first one to take a step forward to initiate SHG training programme on rural areas so that each sections of rural areas get benefited and have training related entrepreneurship skills, managerial skills, marketing skills etc. and the present scenario paves of way for the overall upliftment of women and backward, marginalized and poor class.
- ✦ Objectives of EDP are: to develop and strengthen the entrepreneurial quality, to motivate them for achievement and to enable participants to be independent, capable, promising businessmen.
- ✦ Generation of employment opportunities.
- ✦ The widening base for small and medium scale industries.
- ✦ Development of backward regions and improving the economic status of socially disadvantaged groups.
- ✦ The organization aims at making unemployed youth self reliant byway of starting their own business.
- ✦ The organization helps the people to uplift with talent of entrepreneurial traits, identify the hidden talent and motivated to take up new industrial ventures, trained in managing the unit and guided in all aspects of starting a ventures/an enterprise.

SAFE DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION AWARENESS PROGRAMME

For last many years 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

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attention to conservation of water or the pollution caused to 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 the 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 the 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 laid for keeping the common nalas and surroundings neat and clean to avoid outbreak and spread of communicable diseases.

Sanitation is another very important aspect. Sanitation refers to public health conditions such as drinking clean water, sewage treatment, etc. All the effective tools and actions that help in keeping the environment clean come under sanitation. Sanitation is important for all, helping to maintain health and increase life-spans. There are some methods through which we can improve our hygiene:

- + Improve sanitation facilities by providing toilets and latrines that flush into a sewer or safe enclosure.
- + Promote good hygiene habits through education. Proper hand washing with soap and water can reduce diarrhea cases by up to 35%.
- + Implement rainwater harvesting system to collect and store rainwater for drinking or recharging underground aquifers. Build wells to extract groundwater from underground aquifers.
- + Provide home water treatment capability through the use of filters, solar disinfection or flocculants to make drinking water safe.
- + Promote low cost solutions such as chlorine tablets or plastic bottles that can be exposed to sunlight, to improve water quality.

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

Organizational cultural programmes were other 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 efforts were made to design these programmes. A team of artists was contracted 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.

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 a 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 socio-economic 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 villages under many blocks under the programme 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

Agriculture with its allied sectors is unquestionably the largest livelihood provider in India, more so in the vast rural areas. It also contributes a significant figure to the gross domestic product. Sustainable agriculture, in terms of food security, rural employment and environmentally sustainable technologies such a soil conservation, sustainable natural resource management and biodiversity protection are essential for holistic rural development. Horticulture development programme promotes:

- ✦ To convert land from low value agriculture to high value agriculture.
- ✦ To generate employment opportunities in rural areas.
- ✦ To control soil erosion
- ✦ To improve the socio-economic condition of the farmers.

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 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 visa versa 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 various places under districts Hamirpur. Needles to mention that the funding of the training session was done from own resources of the organization.

➤ CONSUMER WELFARE PROGRAMME

An informed consumer will also be protected from trade and business related exploitation. It's therefore important to create an increased level of awareness on consumer rights and these consumers have to be educated about rights and responsibilities through concerted and awareness campaign. 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. 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 picking with the result that either the consumer may be taken for a ride or the quality suffers. The enactment of the consumer protection act and setting up of consumer protection forums and commission 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 the rights. The organization objective is

- ✦ To promote and protect the welfare of the consumers as well as spreading consumer literacy and awareness and programme for consumer education.
- ✦ Consumer awareness programmes are being organized in rural areas so as to promote the concept of standardization, certification and quality consciousness among consumers as well as manufactures.
- ✦ Rural consumer and their empowerment is main agenda to uplift and provide all basic facilities and education in regard to consumer welfare programme.
- ✦ Consumers need to be able to obtain accurate, unbiased information about products and services they purchase. This enables them to make the best choices based on their interests and prevents



them from being mistreated or misled by businesses. Consumer protection policies, laws and regulations help increase consumer welfare by ensuring that businesses can be held accountable.

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 filling 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 filled against the orders of such forums. These efforts were well appreciated by the people in general.

➤ ENVIRONMENT CONSERVATION AND TREE PLANTATION

Conservation of environment simply indicates the sustainable use as well as management of natural resources which includes wildlife, water, air and earth deposits. Conservation is the proper management of natural resources to prevent its exploitation, destruction or degradation. 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 at the geographical areas focused.

A lot of people from the general public were enrolled for this purpose, given necessary guidance and motivation and were sent to different areas in groups with leaflets, banners etc. for campaign purpose. The result was quite encouraging. The organization considers it necessary that such campaigns and public awareness programmes should be continue in future also so that the momentum does not peters out with the passage of time. As a part of this campaign a tree plantation drive was also carried out at several places.

➤ ROAD SAFETY PROGRAMME

Road safety programme aimed at raising public awareness about traffic rules and ultimately to reduce casualties due to road accidents. Millions lose their life and millions get injured in road accidents, mainly lack of awareness about traffic rules or a behavior of ignoring them.



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 the year. 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 departments at many districts. Road users were specially 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.

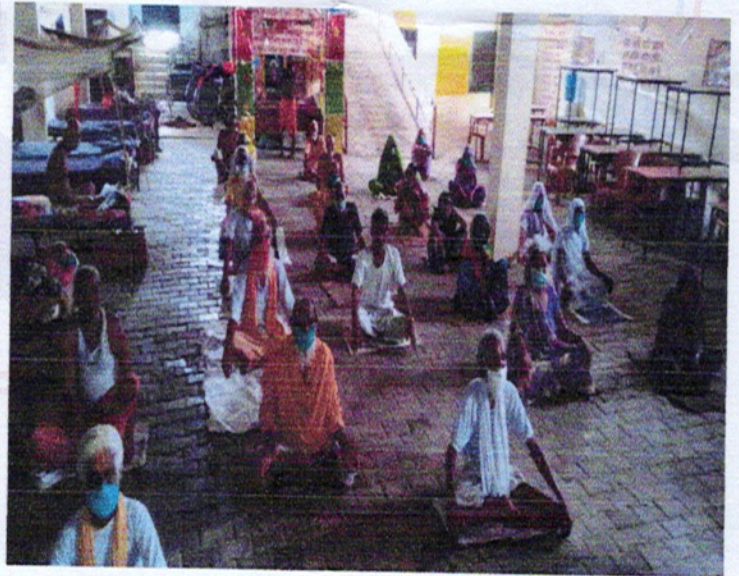
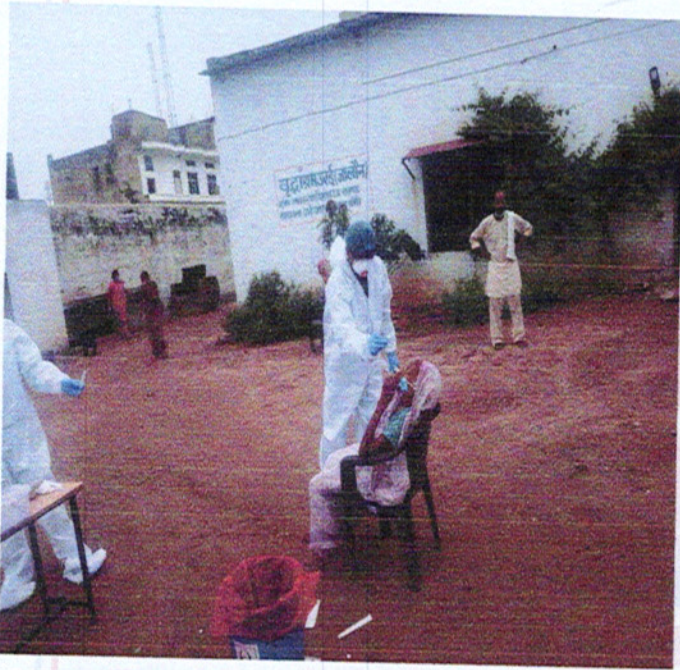
The road users were also explained its significance through sign boards, posters and pamphlets prepared for this purpose. Besides this the organization has helped in construction of link roads in rural areas of these districts with the active participation of community. It created awareness among the 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 payments for the land acquired and redresses their grievances in this regard if any.

COVID 19 (coronavirus disease)

COVID 19 is a contagious disease caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome corona virus 2. Symptoms begin one to fourteen days after exposure to the virus. During the lockdown period the organization has taken all the necessary precautions against COVID 19 in all the branches of DGVS. As we know that COVID 19 attacks the older person as they have less immunity to fit against any disease, so all the basic facilities were provided to them like: masks, sanitizers were distributed to each and everyone present there. On ground level the organization has conducted the awareness campaign so that village people may know about the corona virus disease. Preventive measures have been taken in all the old age homes and sanitizes the all the buildings. And to boost the immunity of the faculties and people over there yoga classes has been conducted on regular basis.

Major works done by the organization are:

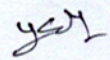
- ❖ Distribution of masks and sanitizers'
- ❖ Awareness campaign was organized as to reduce the risk of COVID-19
- ❖ Protective measures has been taken care of like:
 - ✦ Clean your hands often
 - ✦ Cough or sneeze in your bent elbow- no your hands.
 - ✦ Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
 - ✦ Limit social gatherings and time spent in crowded places
 - ✦ Avoid close contact with someone who is sick
 - ✦ Clean disinfected frequently touched objects and surfaces



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