

# ANNUAL ORGANISATION REPORT

2016



**ARPAN camp office**  
**Jakhni**  
**PO Bin**  
**Dist . Pithoragrh**  
  
**Uttarakhand**

**ARPAN Field Office**  
**Village Helpiya**  
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**Dist. Pithoragarh**  
  
**Uttarakhand**

## THEMATIC AREAS & MAJOR PROGRAMS

ARPAN's major work during the year was focused on combating violence against women and children by promoting Social Empowerment. The main aim was to address violence against women, girls and children, in a holistic way, involving wide section of people, institutions, CBOs, CSOs and Government agencies. The main strategy was –

- Facilitating Group formation of women, girls, youths and children at the village level.
- Strengthening the existing groups through capacity building programs.
- Creating models of sustainable livelihoods.
- Alliance building and advocacy with the government.

The organization strengthened the community based groups to address their rights to self-dignity, life and livelihood. Community leaders and staff, continued to work for entitlement realization along with focus on the structural causes of poverty and injustice that the women and SC/ST community as a whole have to face. Issues based on discrimination - caste and gender were addressed by empowering the right based groups formed at the village level. The meetings, workshops and trainings focused on perspective building and deeper understanding on socio-economic, socio-cultural and socio-political structure of the society which is based on patriarchy. Information and awareness on government schemes, entitlements, laws and the different structures enabled the women leaders to bargain with the society at large. The power of information was a realization of the groups.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

**Women Farmer Groups** were initiated in 15 villages falling under 3 Blocks of District Pithoragrh. The current status of socially and economically poor women farmers in the region was analysed. They perform all farming activities but no recognition, dignity and status of a farmer. Land is not in the name of women thus kisan vahi / farmer card not made for women, thus they cannot avail any benefit directly. The farming land is terraced, sandy, rocky and rainfed, with no irrigation facilities, which results in more labour and less returns. The single women are more fragile. The major issues that were identified and addressed by the groups were –



Recognising themselves as farmers and asserting their rights. 750 dalit women farmers organised themselves in 15 villages and raised their capacities. They went through different farming and livelihood enhancing trainings and exposure visit. 200 women were linked to different government schemes and entitlements.

**Trainings on government schemes & entitlements related to livelihood and social security of women:** Trainings were organized at cluster level for easy reach of women farmers. A total of 55 women farmers participated in these meeting along with participation of Agriculture and horticulture department. They gave information on the government schemes and process of filing application for the same. Information was shared on – National Food security scheme, Disaster related scheme, National agriculture and cropping scheme, Horticulture technology mission and other related to agriculture policy.

There are many challenges being faced by the women both inside and outside their homes, but collective effort has strengthening them to move forward with determination.

## Case study

Bindu Devi , a 39 years dalit woman lives with her husband and 5 children , ranging from 9 years to 20 years . Her husband is a daily wage labor and she herself also works as a labor and also has a cow . Bindu was married off at the age of 16 years and since then she has been struggling a lot . Her husband was a habitual alcoholic and she had to struggle to make the two ends meet . Bindu has studied till class 8<sup>th</sup> , but she understands the importance of education . All her children go to school . During the initial struggling period when she did not have enough money to pay fee for her eldest daughter , she had to drop her studies after completing her 12<sup>th</sup> std. Now she helps her mother in the house hold chores .

Bindu was selected as president of parents association in the primary school of their village . Her interest , positive attitude also impressed the teachers and they encouraged her to move forward . She got a small work of repairing the roof of the school building and had to get a signature of the pradhan of the village on the form . The pradhan refused to sign and stated that her husband should get the work done . As she was the president of parents association thus she talked to the school teachers and Junior engineer who had to inspect the work and they supported her , thus she began the work on her own and completed the task with great dedication and sincerely . Bindu motivates other women in the village to join and strengthen the farmer group . The struggle for livelihood and a decent life for children has turned Bindu into a strong woman with determination . Now she is motivated to strengthen the collective voice of women farmers in the village .

## WOMEN IN LOCAL SELF GOVERNANCE :

ARPAN works with elected women representatives in enhancing their capacities to function effectively as Political leaders of their Gram Sabhas . During the year 240 EWR's from 77 Gram Panchayats under 3 Blocks were covered . The EWR's have federated themselves at the block and district level to advocate on the issues of their concern under the banner of *Veerangana elected women representatives* . The major outcome of their efforts lead to braking the social barriers and emerging as empowered political leaders in their gram panchayats . Addressing social issues of discrimination and violence against women & girls , child marriage , trafficking of girls in the name of marriage , illegal brewing of liquor and trouble created after consumption . The EWR's were able to get budget sanctioned under the TSP / SCSP scheme and solve issues of PDS , LPG supply and construction of roads , bridges and walls during flash floods .



## CAMPAIGNS

ARPAN organises campaigns with an objective to generate awareness and reach out to larger number of people . The 16 days activism to compact violence against women and raise awareness on Human Rights of women was carried out from 25<sup>th</sup> November , International anti women violence day to 10<sup>th</sup> December , Human Rights Day . The campaigns reached out to about 10,000 women , men , youths and school

children, in the whole district , through mobile van , dissemination of leaf lets , street plays , rally and seminars.



#### **Child Focused Interventions:**

ARPAN is working for the rights of children in District Pithoragarh through Child Help Line , which is a 24x7 service and by organising children in groups to enhance their overall capacities . Meetings were organised with School Management Committees to sensitize and strengthen them to raise and solve issues related to attendance of teachers , quality education , mid day meal and enrolment of girl child in schools . During the year the main in- puts , out- puts and impact have been as follows -:

The organisation reached out to 5000 children through their out reach ( 280 ) and open house ( 20 ) activities . Total of 301 cases of violence , discrimination and abuse of children registered and addressed . Cases were registered under POCSO Act . Issues of child trafficking , child labour and child marriages were intervened .

Linkages with government – Special Juvenile Police Unit ( SJPU ) , Child welfare committee ( CWC ) and JJ committee under JJ ( care and Protection of children ) Act 2015 , Judiciary and Education department resulted in reaching out to children in need of care , protection and entitlements ( education , health )



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ARPAN works with support and solidarity of like minded individuals , institutions and networks . During the year the major support , both financial and programmatic have been from our valued partners in social change –

- Action Aid
- The Hunger Project
- Child India Foundation & Ministry of women and child

We would like to acknowledge Oak Foundation for helping us bridge the gap by supporting the State Alliance – Sajha Manch on VAW .

No words to mention the support and solidarity of the women groups , who are both change makers and a change in themselves , the staff of ARPAN – a committed team and finally the Members of General Body and Governing Board .