

ANNUAL ORGANISATION REPORT

2016



ARPAN camp office
Jakhni
PO Bin
Dist . Pithoragrh

Uttarakhand

ARPAN Field Office
Village Helpiya
PO Askot
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 8th , 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 12th 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 25th November , International anti women violence day to 10th 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)



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- 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 .