

ANNUAL ORGANISATION REPORT

2017



ARPAN camp office

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Uttarakhand

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THEMATIC AREAS & MAJOR PROGRAMS

ARPAN's major work during the year was focused on promoting Social and economical Empowerment of rural hill women and working with children on the issue of child protection . 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

CHILD CARE & PROTECTION :

During the year the focus was on raising awareness with different stakeholders on child related issues . In District Pithoragarh , 07 Blocks , 345 villages and 71 schools were covered

309 cases were registered at the Child Help Line , a 24 x 7 toll free number 1098 for children in need of help . Amongst them 05 cases were of child marriage and 39 cases of child abuse , discrimination and violence .



With children in their village



Program with students and children



Campaign on child protection

Child help line with the support of District Child Welfare Committee , rehabilitated 05 girls to a child care institute at district Almora .

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT :

During the year focus was on addressing climate resilient, sustainable agricultural practices including production and marketing of agriculture produce. 750 dalit smallholder women farmers in 15 villages of Pithoragarh district in Uttarakhand were able to secure some form of livelihood . The group of women farmer's formed seed banks in 9 villages where local variety of seeds of grain and vegetables were collected and made available. Through this process women got aware about the concept of seed bank, which has begun reducing their dependency on market . The women also have developed kitchen garden and utilized small piece of their land. 200 women got aware about the integrated pest management, chemical free inputs for cultivation and were linked with different government schemes.

In addition, 60 women got sustainable livelihood support through goat bank . The women's collectives at the village level are able to address issues related to violence against women, child trafficking and child marriage.

Case study :

Women engaged in un paid farming activities in their small patches of land got together to form farmers collective in 15 villages falling under 3 blocks of dist. Pithoragrh under the project supported by Action Aid and orcale . During a span of one year , the women have been able to assert their rights to a dignified life and livelihood . One amongst them is Geeta (32 years) from village Deval . Geeta comes from a below poverty line family, husband is a daily wage labour . They have 4 kids ranging between 7 years to 15 years (all going to school) . She herself has studied till 8th class . The family owns 1 acre land, they grows rice and wheat , which is just sufficient for 3 to 4 months . They have a cow and 4 goats . Cow milk is for home consumption .

Geeta joined the dalit women farmers collective some 10 months back . There are 20 women in the collective and she has been appointed as treasurer of the group . The support extended through the project has changed her outlook towards life and increased her social and economic status within her home and in the village as a whole .



Geeta opted for vegetable cultivation and received seeds of coriander (250 gm) , spinach (100 gm) , radish (100 gm) , mustard (50 gm) and onion (100 gm) in her plot of land . The total support cost of the seeds was Rs. 194 /- and Geeta earned (direct income) Rs.1600 .00 from the harvest she sold . She says “ this is my direct income , indirect is more . We (family) ate fresh vegetables from our kitchen garden “

2 women from the village collective – Anita and Janki are landless . Geeta gave them some land to grow vegetables and they too earned Rs.830.00 and Rs.800.00 respectively . In total the 3 farmers grew vegetables of average Rs. 2000 to 2500 in a season .



Capacity building programs conducted for women farmer groups during the year :

Training of women farmers in sustainable agriculture :

Promotion of low cost agriculture models :

- Training cum demonstration in preparing local manure through vermin – compost , tools like spray machine , modified sickle helped women farmers in increasing the yield from their agriculture related activities .
- Orientation on animal husbandry : 15 women were trained as local animal vets , called as *pashu sakhi* . They are able to give first aid and suggest local remedies for animals in their villages .

- Training on government schemes and entitlements related to livelihood and social security schemes for women , enabled women to apply for the same .
- Women farmers participated in Kisan Mela and visited places where exemplary work is being carried out by farmers . This motivated women to being work in their areas too .

Recognizing, Reducing and Redistributing women’s unpaid work

Major issues covered under the campaign were -:

- Work under NREGS and work facility like drinking water , crèche and shed .
- Equal and adequate wages in agriculture work .
- Rights of single women
- Work load of un paid work and its recognition with dignity .



Awareness meetings with women farmers and single women

WOMEN IN LOCAL SELF GOVERNANCE :

Elected Women Representatives (240) from 03 Blocks of the district, covering 77 Gram Sabhas raised issues related to work under NREGS , demanding budget for work in disaster hit villages and raised their voice on violence against women and girls .

WIDER PLATFORMS :

ARPAN is a member of different networks at the state and National level . Such alliance have contributed in raising the issues of women and children in wider platforms . State Single women alliance , MAKAM – Mahila Kisan Adhikar Manch and Sajha Manch have advocated on women rights issues at the policy level .

CAPACITY BUILDING OF STAFF :

The organisation conducted in- house training for staff on gender , social analysis and planning . During the year staff attended external trainings , meetings and seminars on Panchayati Raj , Empowerment of Single Women , Child Rights and Status of women Farmers in Uttarakhand .

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
- Sajha Manch / Alliance of NGO's and individuals on HR issues
- Ekal Nari Sangathan State / National level

The support and solidarity of the women groups – Women farmer groups and women rights 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 is highly appreciated .