

# ANNUAL ORGANISATION REPORT

**2018**



ARPAN – Association for Rural Planning & Action

Camp office

Jakhni  
PO . Bind  
Dist. Pithoragrh  
Uttarakhand  
India

Field office

Village . Helpiya  
PO . Askot  
Dist. Pithoragrh  
Uttarakhand  
India

[arpanaskote@hotmail.com](mailto:arpanaskote@hotmail.com)

### *A step forward .....*

The year 2018 has been of strengthening the efforts of the previous year and moving a step forward with innovative approaches to community mobilization , empowerment and development. As we truly believe -:

New foundations were laid and new partnerships evolved which further strengthened the process of people centered development. The organization reach spread to whole of district Pithoragrh ( 8 Blocks ) and intensive work in 03 blocks ( Dharchula , Didihat and Kannalichhina ) . Awareness and direct support on issues and concerns of people reached out to more than twelve thousand people in the rural areas and 5000 in the urban regions of Pithoragrh .

## ***Accomplishments of the year***

### **Women Empowerment :**

During the year all women working in the informal sector , as farmers , on construction sites and engaged in all the un paid and un recognized work came together to understand their status in their homes and society at large . 800 Women farmers formed their farmer collectives in 15 villages . These women farmers from marganalised sections of the society , with small land holdings , pooled in their time , labour , resources and knowledge to support each other both socially and economically . The use of bio composting in 15 villages , increased the production of organic vegetables . The seed banks formed in 10 villages proved to be of immense support to families who could not purchase seeds from outside and the use of local / traditional seeds also gave better results . The action oriented study conducted on women's unpaid labour last year , sensitized and motivated people in general and women in particular , on the issue of dignity of labour and mutual support .

### **Case Study**

#### **“women farmers” make the barren land fertile for agriculture**

Arpan formed a group of women farmers in Hudaki village with the support of ActionAid. There are 15 women in this group. Women work a lot in the agriculture but did not recognize as farmer. They have very small land holdings those are less than 1 acres. They did our work in agriculture with the traditional way and had limited opportunity to learn about the new agriculture technique and knowledge in their village. In these small landholdings they get production just for few months for their food only.

After the group formation, regular monthly meetings organise in village, in which women discuss about their rights on the natural resource (forest, water, land etc) , they talked about the methods of organic farming and low cost agriculture models. They also talked about the community farming with the animator of ARPAN. In that discussion it came that a piece of land of gram sabha available in the village but it was not fertile. The ARPAN suggested that our women farmer group could work on this land if we talk to the gram Pradhan.

Women leader called a meeting and met with the gram pradhan with their proposal. He agreed and all 15 women started work on that land, digging the land, ploughing it and prepare it for farming. they also made a boundary wall to protect the field with the animals. The ARPAN opened a seed bank in their village and provide them seeds of maize, paddy, pumpkin and bottle guard. This is happened first time when all the women got-together and did the collective farming. Now the plants are come in the field. The women look after field collectively. They got sufficient production for their consumption. Now their work has recognised with the community. they learn many things in this duration. they feel very confident now.

Nanda Devi (one of the farmer in the group) said that My name is Nanda Devi. I am 42 years old. I belong to a Dalit family. I live in village Hudkai of block Dharchula of district Pithoragarh. I have two children. Agriculture is our main livelihood source and most of the families in my village depend upon it. I and other members in my group would like to thanks ARPAN and Actionaid for their support for our capacity building and make us economically empowered.

**Women Rights Groups** and adolescent girls groups were strengthen in 33 villages . A total of 584 women and girls participated in different events to assert their rights to gender equality and equity . They came forward collectively on several issues of violence and discrimination against women and girls . A total of 50 cases of violence against women , girls and children were intervned and supported by the organisation . Mass awareness programs were widely supported by the community . Campaigns on Gender equality , school enrolment , women farmer's day were carried out during the year .

Organisation is working on the issue of dignified live and livelihood of single women . The single women group in the region is a part of the wider network at the State level

Elected women representatives at the gram Panchayat have been strengthened on regular basis and they have federated themselves under " Veerangana " . The organisation works with 240 EWR's in 03 Blocks , 77 GP's . Inputs given throughout the year were as follows –

Need Based Workshop at cluster level	( 2 )
Federation Meeting at Cluster level	( 24 )
Federation Meeting at Block level	( 12 )
Federation Convention at District level	( 1 )
Jagruk Manch Meetings at GP level	( 120 )
Interface Meeting with Media	( 1 )
Interface Meetings at block level	( 5 )
Gram Sabha Mobilisation	( 2 )

The impact was visible by their action at the gram sabha level . Besides infrastructural development like drinking water , retention walls after disaster , entitlements for the poor , women raised social issues of violence and illegal liquor in the region .

## **Child Rights**

Child line services for children in need of any kind of support is delivered through Child Help Line 1098 . During the year the help line received more than 500 calls . 457 cases of children were registered at the centre , Pithoragrh . Awareness programs were carried out in schools , during local fairs and in the rural / urban areas . The focus was on **zero tolerance** to violence and discrimination of children . Children were motivated / trained to respond / protest to all types of violence , sexual assault and discrimination .

## **COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION WITH DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION**

ARPAN has been appointed as a member of the following committees at the District level -:

- PCPNDT committees
- PWDVA committee
- Secretary of ARPAN has been appointed as chairperson of District Child Welfare Committee , formed under the JJ Act 2015

## **CBO's and Organisation are member of wider networks –**

**MAKKAM – Mahila Kisan Adhikar Manch**

**Ekal Nari Manch**

**The organization was supported by the following -:**

- The Hunger Project : For empowerment of women in local governance
- Action Aid : Women Empowerment
- Child India Foundation / WCD : Child Rights