



# Samvad Annual Report

2022-23



## Executive Summary

*This is annual report of SAMVAD for the period from April 2022 to March 2023.*

*The purpose of this report is to assess the progress of one year and to change the strategy accordingly. This report is based on the monthly reports, quarterly reports, half yearly reports, annual report and the reports presented by the project team members of all the ongoing projects of Samvad during quarterly and half yearly strategy and reflection meetings. All the data and reports from field has been commonly reviewed and analyzed during quarterly and half yearly strategy and reflection meetings by Samvad team and the same has been translated on this report.*

*The year 2022 - 23 was challenging year for the common person. It was threatening and health consciousness to every one after pandemic of Covid 19. But this year not much destruction of human lives occurred as it was in the year 2020 and 2021.*

*There was Panchayat election in May, 2022 which has changed the rural political scenario. Youth leaders in a huge numbers have emerged as PRI representatives in different posts. It is a good sign that youth participation increased in rural politics.*

*In the year 2022, there was failure of monsoon and draught in all over Jharkhand. 12 districts were declared as draught prone districts. There was launched a draught relief schemes by Jharkhand Govt. and the farmers received Rs.3000/-, but it was not sufficient for the farmers as they lost total crop. It has resulted a massive migration of youth group to the big cities from the rural areas of draught prone districts.*

*The year 2022-23 was also challenging for SAMVAD, but the team members of Samvad has given their best effort to achieve the set objectives and implemented all the planned activities in the stipulated time period.*

*In this year the main focus has been given on deepening Indigenocracy through strengthening Gram Sabha by increased participation of women and youth in Gram Sabha decision making and planning process, organizing Gram Sabha Standing Committees and establishment of Gram Sabha Sachiwalaya. Promotion of sustainable livelihood by promoting non-pest organic farming practices, linking the rights- holders with different on farm and off farm livelihood options and linking with different social security schemes. Environment and climate change was also the focus area for this year, where the effort has been given on protection of environment and natural resources. Green schools, Green youth clubs, Organic demonstration Centre are the part addressing this issue. Gender equality and gender justice was also addressed by Samvad as usual, but this year the issue of recognition of women as women farmers has been advocated strongly and formed "Mahila Kisan Sangathan" at regional and state level to deal with the gender justice in the regions and state.*

## **SAMVAD : A brief Introduction**

SAMVAD is a value-based Organization, dedicated to Indigenocracy and Constitutional values. We are committed to strengthen Indigenocracy & sustainable livelihood to promote self-governance, self-reliant and joyful society. SAMVAD has been providing a collective platform for rejuvenating identity, art & culture of Indigenous people. Our praxis is collectivity, gender equality, community rights on natural resources and establishment of a people's democracy through collective action. We believe in Climate and Social justice.

## **Vision**

SAMVAD envisions a society where relations between human beings and nature is balanced for preservation of the indigenous social values and creation of sustainable livelihood for people towards establishment of a society on a communitarian lifestyle, labour-oriented and egalitarianism which accepts the diversity and differences among human beings. This is the society of **Indigenocracy**.

## **Mission**

SAMVAD strives for self-reliant and self-respectful society based on equality, gender-equity, labour-oriented universe and self-governance by strengthening the communitarian lifestyle of the indigenous and downtrodden people. Efforts are on to empower Gram Sabhas and traditional governance systems in the villages of Adivasis, Dalits, Minorities and the poor as a whole. It ensures equal representation and participation of women and men in community level decision-making and development processes.

## **Objectives**

- To promote and strengthen Self-Rule through Empowerment of Gram Sabha and People's Organisations
- To empower indigenous skills and technology for promoting sustainable livelihood and resilient development
- To promote Indi-genopathy and provide basic health facilities.
- To sensitize & capacitate youth and Community leaders for disaster management.
- To capacitate youth for Gender Sensitivity, Social Justice and Communal harmony
- To preserve & rejuvenate Indigenous Art & Culture.
- To develop a training and resource centre for documenting and promoting regional Art, Culture and Crafts
- To develop Audio-Visual materials for awareness of the people

- To promote Networks with like-minded groups and individual for People's centred Advocacy
- To promote Child Rights for joyful life of children.

## Strategies

- Alliance building with like-minded groups and promote network for social transformation
- Public policy analysis, discourse and dissemination
- Resource material collection, compilation and dissemination for awareness generation
- Promotion and strengthening of CBOs and youth groups
- Empowering women through collectivization
- Developing potential human resource base
- Capacity building for sustainable livelihood
- Promote development models to encourage sustainable livelihood.
- To build Women Farmer Organization, Farmers Organizations & Migrant labors Organization for promoting micro entrepreneurship & inclusive development.

## Thematic Area

- Agriculture and Sustainable Livelihood
- Campaign for Climate Justice
- Child Rights
- Documentation, Films and Publications
- Empowering Gram Sabha
- Entrepreneurship Development
- Gender Empowerment & Women Rights
- Capacitating on gender sensitivity at community
- Land, Water & Forest Rights
- Linkage with Govt. Flagship Programmes
- Preservation of Traditional Art and Culture
- Emergency Response

## Coverage Area



Project	Total Village	Total Block	Total Districts
BftW	400	28	16
IM	70		
APF	149		
OAK	140		
ASAR	40		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>799</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>16</b>

## Ongoing Projects



**Project Name:** Intensifying Indigenocracy for strengthening grass root democracy, promoting agro-ecology along with gender equality and preventive health initiatives in Jharkhand

**Donor:** BftW, Germany

**Project Area:** Total village 400, Block 23, District 14

**Project Duration:** October 2022 - September 2025



**Project Name:** Deepening Indiginocracy and Indigeneity through strengthening Gram sabha and improving livelihood in Jharkhand.

**Donor:** IM-Individuell Människohjälp Swedish Development Partner, Swiden

**Project Area:** Village – 70, Block – 4, District – 3 (Ranchi, Deoghar and Jamtara)

**Project Duration:** July, 2021 – Dec, 2023



**Project Name:** Strengthening the components of local democracy to improve health outcomes for the poor and vulnerable in Fatehpur block in Jamtara District of Jharkhand.

**Project Donor:** Azim Premji Foundation (APF)

**Project Area:** Village – 149, Panchayat – 15, District – Jamtara

**Project Duration:** 1st August 2022 to 31st July 2025



**Project Name :** Deepening grass root democracy and combating poverty among the poor and marginalized communities for establishment of Indiginocracy in Jharkhand state, India.

**Donor:** OAK Foundation, London, U.K

**Project Area:** Village 140, Panchayat 16, Block – 4, District - 4

**Project Duration:** 01.01.2022 – 31.12.2024



**Project Name:** Strengthening Mothers' initiative for combating Air Pollution in Bokaro and Dhanbad Districts of Jharkhand

**Donor:** Asar Social Impact Advisors Private Limited, Bengaluru

**Project Area:** Panchayat 10, Block – 2, District - 2

**Project Duration:** 1st March 2022 - 28th February 2023



**Project Name:** USAID-CABH\_Develop and carry out the various engagement and public awareness activities on air pollution in Jamshedpur and Ranchi

**Donor:** Asar Social Impact Advisors Private Limited, Bengaluru

**Project Area:** Ranchi and Jamshedpur

**Project Duration:** 1st March 2022 - 28th February 2023

## **Programs and Achievements**

### **Self-rule-Strengthening of Grams Sabha**

SAMVAD believes that self-rule is our birth rights and also 'Abua Ature Abua Raaj' (Our rules in our village). This is a process of deepening Democracy. Based on this belief, SAMVAD is regularly rendering its' immense effort in strengthening and empowering Gram Sabha and promoting Federation of Gram Sabhas. In this process SAMVAD is promoting Gram Sabha Standing committees, Gram Sabha Secretariat with increased participation of women and youth in decision making and village development planning process. Community and individual plans has been developed in 359 villages and submitted to Gram Panchayat for proper implementation of village development plans.

### **Promotion of Non – pest Organic farming practices**

Samvad is promoting organic farming practices in its operational area since the beginning. But from the year 2022, Samvad is doing an experiment on non-pest organic farming with 4000 farmers. The purpose of this exercise is to reduce the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides and increase the use of compost, organic manures and organic pesticides. There is a positive response from the farmers that they have realized the ill effect of using Chemical fertilizers and pesticides. They have learnt the techniques of preparing compost, vermin-compost and organic pesticides and have started organic farming in their agricultural fields.

### **Rights and Entitlements**

With the support of administration, SAMVAD has started plantation and other MGNREGA schemes at high speed to generate maximum wages. The work demand campaign were organised to facilitate the work demand and Job cards for the villagers.

Rights & entitlement campaign has been conducted in 610 villages for the awareness generation among community regarding govt. flagship and welfare schemes.

A total of 3418 persons from different villages have linked with different social security schemes like MGNREGA, PDS, Pension, PM Awas, Ayushman health card and draught relief schemes.

60 representatives from different districts got aware about the provisions of right to information through workshop on RTI.

## **Gender Equality**

One of the objectives is to increase women participation in Gram Sabha decision making and planning process. To achieve this objective, several activities have been conducted during this period which is as follows:

- Gender sensitization among members of Gram Sabha and SHG Members.
- Leadership training for emerging women leaders of Gram Sabhas.
- Formation of 2 regional level women federations in 2 regions
- Formation of one State level women federations
- Half Yearly review and planning meeting of regional women federation
- Half Yearly review and planning meeting of state women federation
- Women convention.
- Orientation Training for income generating activities like; Food Processing Pickle and Jam Making, Goat Rearing and Sericulture.

*As the result of this the changes observed in the project area are as follows:*

- A Consciousness has been developed among communities through gender sensitization towards women participation in decision making and village development planning process.
- A consciousness has developed among women leaders for their leadership and development.
- Through women leadership training, women have got aware about their status in society and their rights.
- Two regional and one state Women federations (Mahila Kisan Sangathan) have been formed to deal with the gender justice in regions and state. These federations meet in half yearly basis.
- Mahila kisan Sangathan at village level has been formed in 52 villages.
- Leadership has developed among women and their political participation has been increased. A total of 242 PRI leaders elected in recently Panchayat election from 799 villages among them 59% women leaders had been emerged.



- Women participation has increased about 49% in Gram Sabha meetings and planning process.
- Women leaders have started thinking about their economic empowerment through different income generating initiatives.
- 80 women leaders have been linked with Govt. program got training on mushroom cultivation and have started production in Jamtara district; 30 from Jhagragora village, 25 from Amlachatar and 25 from Asanchuan village.
- A tailoring centre "Pihu Silaai Centre" has been started at Amlachatar, Jamtara, where 30 women are getting training, making dresses and selling it.
- A total of 154 women have started different livelihood options like, Leaf plate making, preparing and marketing Dal, Sattu, Besan and Ragee Flour, vegetable cultivation, animal husbandry, mushroom cultivation and earning income.

These achievements have contributed to this cross cutting issue; gender equality and gender justice. These are also will be helpful to empower women and to establish gender equality in future in the project areas.

## **Environment and Climate**

One of the objectives is to protect and promote environment, where Samvad is promoting organic farming practices in the project area. For this some activities has been organised during this one year of time period, which are as follows:

- Training of the farmers on organic farming.
- Annual Kisan Mela in 4 regions.
- Gram Sabha/ PRI information & resource centre (in 2 region)
- Establishment of Green School ( one in Santhalparganas at Lalpur and another one in South Chhotanagpur Zone at Itki)
- Promotion of 5 Demonstration Centre.
- Formation of Green Youth Clubs in 175 villages.
- Combating Air Pollution at Bokaro and Dhanbad.
- Selecting and capacitating Women activists as Warrior Moms at panchayat level which in turn prepare Community volunteers at grass root level.
- Warrior Moms at panchayat level to impart awareness at community level for their sensitisation and consolidation for collective actions for demand generation, betterment of health infrastructure, channelize key service providers with the needy communities, build rapport with peoples' representatives to advocate the community demands, and

- Facilitate and hand hold community initiatives to counter the pollution and its effects best suitable and aligned with the local situations.

Through the training the farmers were learnt about how to make organic manures and pesticides. They have learnt the techniques of organic farming. In Annual Kisan Mela the farmers were displayed their organic products and the farmers were encouraged towards practicing organic farming. Youth have come forward towards protection of environment in 175 villages through Green youth clubs.

In Bokaro and Dhanbad, Samvad has started campaign against Air Pollution with a team of 10 Warrior Moms. Through this campaign the warrior moms have reached the community; individuals and groups, school children, Health institutions, service providers, SHGs, VOs, and Gram Sabha and aware towards Air pollution. Tree planting and Bio Pit management also has been done in the process of this campaign.

Through its initiatives Samvad is regularly facilitating towards protection of environment and natural resources. In this process Village Tilaksuti of Itki Block has got Vanpatta (Community Forest Rights) for the village forest they have and they are protecting and managing the village forest through Gram Sabha.

On the other side Samvad has taken initiatives to promote environment through prohibiting the use of plastics and thermo Cole in its regular activities. Following to this the use of plastics and thermo Cole plates has been prohibited in all the programs during this one year of time period.

### **Community Health and Preparedness**

Looking into the past experience of Covid pandemic, SAMVAD has incorporated the thematic area of health issue in its intervention. In this process SAMVAD is capacitating Gram Sabha to focus health preparedness in their village development plans and GPDP. Village health committees have been formed in 149 villages.

On the other hand SAMVAD is promoting herbal gardens and indigenous medicine (Indigenopathy). There are 20 numbers of Herbal Garden developed and 163 Village Representatives have got training on Herbal medicine from 3 zones; Chhotanagpur Zone, Santhalpargana Zone and Kolhan Zone.

### **Cultural Activities – Akhra**

SAMVAD rejuvenated Akhra (a platform of cultural gathering and discourse) in 340 villages of different districts of Jharkhand. Akhra is a process of empowering village, equity among women and men, cultural activities, rituals, judicial systems, common discussion for needs and development and entertainment. In this process traditional musical instruments; Tamak and Mandar has been supported in 140 villages.

## **Adivasi Education**

SAMVAD is dedicated to promote and expand the Adivasi education with their language and dialects. In this respect SAMVAD established a School for Adivasi children / Adolescents in Choura village of Madhupur block. This initiative is a resourceful to the community and education fraternity of Adivasi dominated areas. The initiative is rendering quality of education in the schools, inclusive of Adivasi culture, heritage & ethos that promote preservation, restoration and augmentation of Adivasi lifestyle, values and culture. Samvad is empowering the community through their cultural practice. By working as a team, Samvad is making various strategies to address the challenges of the Adivasi Community in terms of education and look into different modalities of working with the community.

## **People's Organization – Gram Sabha Federation**

SAMVAD is strengthening the Gram Sabha Federation in four regions of Jharkhand – North Chotanagpur, South Chotanagpur, Kolhan and Santal Pargana. 799 gram sabhas are members in these federations. These regional federations formed a State level Federation for leveraging govt. flagship programs and welfare schemes, and drought along with policy advocacy for formation of PESA rules in Jharkhand.

## **Network & Advocacy – PESA & Recognition of Women as "Mahila Kisan"**

There are two advocacy issues which Samvad is dealing with at the state level along with its network partners.

One is for proper implementation of PESA Act, 1996. To advocate this issue at the state and national level two networks federations has been formed in the process. One is Gram Sabha Federation at the state level and other one is Swashasan Abhiyan India (SAI) at the national level.

In the month of last December, 2021 a memorandum has been submitted jointly by the State Gram Sabha Federation, partner POs and CSOs to the Governor of Jharkhand for proper implementation PESA (Panchayat Raj Extension to the Scheduled Areas) in Jharkhand. As the result of it Jharkhand Govt. has taken initiatives towards making a PESA rule for Jharkhand. The task of developing a PESA rule was given to a working committee who has prepared the rule and on June, 2022 there was a CSOs meeting was called by Jharkhand Govt. where Samvad is also participated along with the other partner organizations. A public opinion with recommendation was invited from the common people on it as to finalize the PESA Rule for Jharkhand.

Samvad took it as an opportunity and had a consultation meeting on draft PESA Rules with the drafting members of TRI- Tribal research Institute, POs partners and CSOs at Ranchi on 6-7<sup>th</sup> August, 2022 and planned to have this workshop in different Zones of Jharkhand. As per plan, a series of workshop has been organized at the regional level; 20- 21 August, 2022 at Khunti for South Chotanagpur Region, 7-8 September, 2022 at Chaibasa for Kolhan region, 12- 13 September, 2022 at Dumka for Santhal Pargana Region, 18 September at Latehar for Palamu

Region and collected opinions and recommendations from different Regions. Afterwards a State level workshop has been organized at Ranchi on 19- 20 September, 2022 and finalized the public opinion and recommendations on Draft PESA Rules which was finally submitted to Tribal Research Institute by a team of State Gram Sabha Federation. It has been expected that Jharkhand Govt. will finalize the PESA Rules as per the recommendations given to them and very soon implement the PESA Act in the state for the benefit of tribal people of Jharkhand.

Second issue is recognition of women as “Mahila Kisan”. To advocate this issue two regional women federations at the regional level and one state women Federation at the state level has been formed. In this process four regional level and two state level meetings has been organized during one year of time period. In these meeting it has been decided to increase the membership by organizing 4 regional women federation "Mahila Kisan Sangathan" and strengthen the women federation.

On the other side SAMVAD continued to establish a good relation with the resource institutions, like; Block offices, JSLPS, Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Health departments and RSETI etc. during this one year of time period. The representatives from these institutions have participated in mass programs, like; Kisan Mela and given their inputs and guidance to the community.

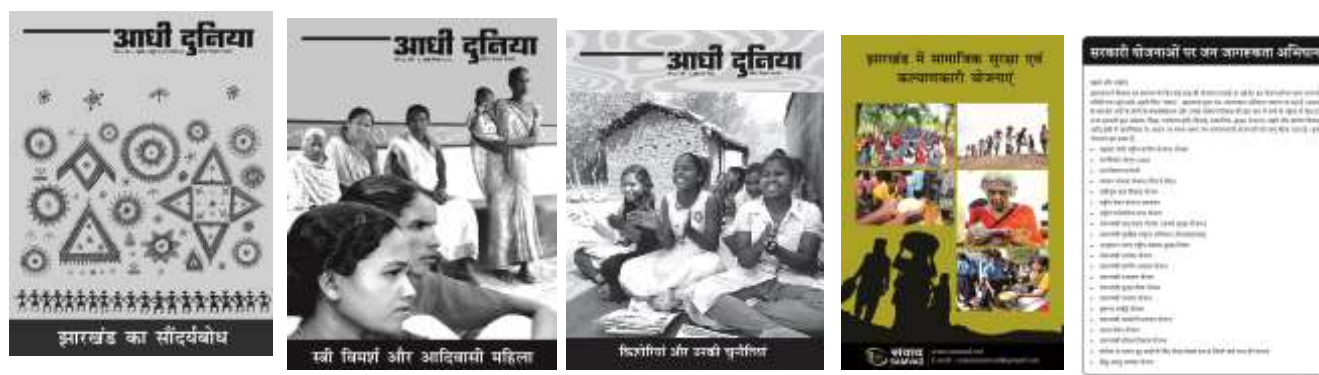
With the support of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) farmers have received sunflower seeds and cultivated in their agriculture fields.

### **Organization development – Core Group & Trustee Board Meetings**

SAMVAD is a voluntary organization, who believes democratic decision making process and distributive leadership within the organization. In practice, SAMVAD has formed a ‘Core Group’ for review and planning of the organization’s intervention and the members of Core group meets in every quarter and take necessary decisions for SAMVAD.

## Communication & Publications: Books and Magazine

Communication and publications of books, booklets, magazines and posters on different issues is a regular practice of SAMVAD. During this one year of period SAMVAD has printed and published 3 subscriptions of Aadhi Duniya, the book "Jharkhand men Samajik Suraksha ewam Kalyankari Yojnayanen" and posters on Social Security schemes.



## CASE STUDY –I

### Economic empowerment of women through mushroom cultivation

This is the story of 30 women of village Jhagragora of Udalbani Panchayat of Jamtara district who have started mushroom cultivation as their livelihood options.

Village Jhagragora is situated about 6 KM from Jamtara district headquarter. Total households in this village are 138. All the villagers belonged to the tribal community namely the Santhal tribe. Main occupation of the villagers is agriculture. The other source of income is through wage laborers. During agricultural season the villagers get engaged in agriculture but most of them don't get job in the off season. Some of them use to go Jamtara in search of employment as casual labor.





The women of this village also engage in agricultural work during agriculture season. But their condition is worse in comparison to the men as they do not go out from the village and they do not have job opportunities in the village in off season.

Samvad have started its initiatives in this village since July, 2021 with the support of IM. During interaction with women groups of this village on livelihood and women empowerment, they told that they are interested to earn income, but there are no options in the village for them. During the discussion on various options of livelihood, they expressed their interest on mushroom cultivation.

As per the decision Community mobilizer of Samvad, Ms. Pooja Kumari contacted to the district RSETI office, which give training support to the women groups. She talked with the official about the condition of women group of village Jhagragora and about their interest on mushroom cultivation. The officials of district RSETI office got agreed to give training support the women group in Jamtara. As the women were unable to go daily to Jamtara, the officials also got agreed to arrange the training in village itself. After fulfilling all the formalities like; submission of application forms with all necessary supporting, a 10 days training on mushroom cultivation was organized for 30 women in the village Jhagragora from 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 to 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2022. With the training these women were also provided mushroom cultivation beds and seeds. After training these women have started cultivating mushroom at their houses. They took 3 to 4 crops and sell their produces @ Rs.200/- to 250/- per KG in the village and the market of Mihijam, Jamtara and earned income.



They have been linked to State Bank of India, Jamtara and applied for loan to produce in a large scale as to increase their income through mushroom cultivation.

## Case Study – II

### Pihu Silaai Centre

This is the story of women of village Amlachatar, Asanchuan and Kole Para of Udalbani Panchayat, Block Jamtara and district Jamtara, Jharkhand. This is the area which have been declared drought in this year, 2022 because there was very less monsoon and the farmers could not cultivate paddy in their agricultural fields. Youth of these villages migrated to other places in search of job and some people have started going Jamtara to work as daily laborers. But the women of these villages have no work to do due to failure of monsoon and agriculture. These women told their problems to the field worker of Samvad, Ms. Pooja Kumari during her visit. During their interaction the women groups got agreed to learn tailoring. This was discussed with the villagers and the staff of Samvad and agreed by all. Ms. Sunita Murmu of Samvad, who knows tailoring also got agreed to give training to these women groups.



On 1.7.2022, there started a tailoring Centre, in Amlachatar, Community Centre with the help of one sewing machine. The Centre is named as "Pihu Silai Centre". At the beginning 30 women got admission but presently 20 women regularly come to this Centre and learn tailoring. Ms. Sunita Murmu and Ms. Pooja Kumari give training to these women for two hours daily from 12.00 noon to 2.00 PM. Looking into the interest of these women groups, one sewing machine also provided to this "Pihu Silaai Centre" by Krishi Vigyan Kenra (KVK), Jamtara. Now it is nine months passed this Centre has started, these women groups are learning tailoring, making dresses and selling the products.

## Challenges & Learning

### Challenges

- In the inception, initiatives to question the power equation in a village, affects the power structure and pose a threat.
- Middlemen try to disrupt unity of the community and misguide the community.
- Gram Panchayat were unwilling to share their power to Gram Sabha, and there is neutral stance of block administration on this.
- Community near coal field area are engaged as coal pushers and looking for immediate benefits.
- Acceptance of women participation in Gram Sabha and involvement in decision making.
- In mixed population villages, untouchability within the community is visible.
- Youth are engaged in cyber-crime in a few villages.
- Political influence harm the communal harmony.

### Learning

- Collective initiatives give better results in the context of improving and strengthening the process of deepening democracy.
- In the present context we realize that the active Gram Sabha are able to make the service providers accountable towards them.
- Faith of the community on the traditional system of governance can be used as an effective medium for betterment of the community and conservation of village resources (forest & land)
- Legal provisions/legislative, opportunities and space for women can accelerate social transformation.
- Inclusive processes result in contributing to community harmony, equality and justice in the society
- Empowered Gram Sabhas can tackle/ address village conflicts and other micro issues



## Organizational Structure

