



संवाद
SAMVAD

Expression of Ethos & Ideology

ANNUAL REPORT

2024 -2025

At a glance Summary

In the Financial Year 2024-25, SAMVAD achieved remarkable progress in community empowerment, development, and sustainable governance, positively impacting approx. 2.25 lakh individuals through its diverse initiatives and sustained efforts. By facilitating access to government schemes and services, SAMVAD strengthened social security, enhanced livelihoods, and fostered inclusive participation in governance. Notably, women's participation in Gram Sabhas rose to 53.5%, reinforcing the effective implementation of PESA and promoting inclusive decision-making at the village level.

SAMVAD's commitment to preserving indigenous cultural heritage and advancing climate justice has been instrumental in promoting sustainable development across its intervention areas. Strengthening grassroots democracy remained a central focus, with the formation of 758 Gram Sabhas, establishment of 588 Gram Sabha Secretariats, and creation of 2,697 Gram Sabha Standing Committees. Additionally, 148 Village Development Plans (VDPs) were conducted to ensure that development initiatives were aligned with local community needs.

The organization's social welfare interventions directly benefited community members across various schemes: 635 individuals received Abua/PM Awas Yojna, 4,581 trees were planted, 924 families were provided the PM Ayushman Card, 88 ponds were developed, 670 ration cards were facilitated, 33 Aadhaar cards were made, 42 individuals benefitted by the Birsa Bagwani initiatives, 3,461 received seeds, 3,562 job cards under MGNREGA were provided, 443 beneficiaries received pensions, and 6,544 women are receiving the benefits of Mukhya Mantri Maiyya Samman Yojna (MMMSY).

Infrastructure development also contributed significantly to improving community living standards. SAMVAD facilitated the construction of 106 community wells, 88 ponds, 24 PCC link roads, 43 hand-pumps, and 31 CFR initiatives, enhancing access to water, sanitation, and mobility, thereby improving the overall quality of life in the villages.

These accomplishments underscore SAMVAD's dedication to empowering communities, fostering self-reliance, and building a more equitable and sustainable future. Through continued collaboration, community mobilization, and targeted interventions, SAMVAD remains committed to driving transformative change and strengthening the foundations of participatory governance and sustainable development in Jharkhand.

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The Secretary's Note

Dear Members, Partners, and Stakeholders,

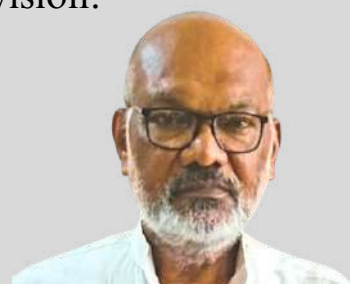
As we reflect on the journey of FY 2024–25, it fills me with immense pride to acknowledge the remarkable progress SAMVAD has made in empowering communities, especially women, Adivaasi, and other marginalized groups across Jharkhand. Our unwavering commitment to promoting Self-Governance, Self-Reliance, and Self-Esteem through awareness, empowerment, sustainable approach, and social justice has remained at the core of our work. This year, these commitments translated into tangible impact and meaningful change.

Throughout the year, our team has worked tirelessly to bridge systemic gaps by implementing programs that foster participation, inclusivity, and empowerment. We have strived to create spaces where every individual has the opportunity, resources, and confidence to thrive and lead with dignity.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated team, resilient community members, and supportive partners whose trust and collaboration have been the driving force behind our achievements. It is this collective strength that enables us to move closer to our vision of a just, inclusive, and equitable society.

As we look ahead, SAMVAD will continue to amplify voices for constitutional values, gender justice, and the rights of marginalized communities, while deepening our work in sustainable development. Together, we will carry forward our mission with renewed determination and hope.

Thank you for your continued support and belief in our vision.



Ghanshyam, Secretary
SAMVAD

About SAMVAD

SAMVAD is a dynamic initiative reflecting the socio-economic and cultural ethos of the Indigenous people of Jharkhand. Founded on the principles of *Indigenocracy* and *Indigeneity*, SAMVAD is committed to ensuring equal and active participation of women and marginalized communities across Jharkhand. At its core, SAMVAD strives to empower self-governance (*Swashasan*), self-reliance (*Swawlamban*), and uphold self-dignity (*Swabhimaan*). With a focus on enhancing livelihoods (*Aajivika*), safeguarding freedoms (*Aazadi*), and promoting a joyful (*Anand*) existence, SAMVAD also prioritizes the conservation of natural and cultural heritage.

Founded in **March 2001** by a coalition of social activists, cultural advocates, and intellectuals, SAMVAD emerged in response to the challenges faced by Jharkhand's Indigenous identity. When Jharkhand was created from Bihar on November 15, 2000, there was widespread hope among its people that their centuries-old traditions and practices would gain recognition, and they would have a voice in governance. However, these hopes were soon tempered by the reality of unmet aspirations.

SAMVAD was established to empower Indigenous communities, Dalits, women, and minorities to reclaim their identity, advocate for their rights, and participate actively in governance. Through its vision and approach, SAMVAD continues to raise awareness about legal and constitutional rights, mobilizing communities to protect their heritage and shape a dignified future.

Vision

SAMVAD envisions a society where harmony between people and nature encourages the preservation of Indigenous social values and the creation of sustainable livelihoods. This vision seeks to establish a community-centered society rooted in collective responsibility, labor, and egalitarianism, embracing diversity and respecting human differences. Such a society embodies the principles of Indigenocracy.

Mission

SAMVAD strives to build a self-reliant, dignified society rooted in women's empowerment, social justice, gender equity, a labor-centered worldview, and self-governance. It is dedicated to strengthening the communal lifestyle of Indigenous and marginalized communities. Through this commitment, SAMVAD actively works to empower Gram Sabhas and traditional governance structures within Adivasi, Dalit, minority, and impoverished communities. SAMVAD ensures equitable representation and active participation of both women and men in community decision-making and development processes.

Objective

- To promote and strengthen Self-Rule through Empowerment of women.
- To strengthen Gram Sabha and People's Organizations with 50% participation of women.
- Promotion of Women Farmers Groups in Jharkhand
- Empowerment of adolescent girls
- To empower indigenous skills and technology for promoting sustainable livelihood and resilient development
- To promote Indegenopathy 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 from de-culturisation
- To develop a training and resource center 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 policy centered Advocacy
- To promote Child Rights for joyful life of children.

Our 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.

Our Primary Focus Areas

- Self-governance and strengthening Gram Sabha
- Sustainable Livelihood Promotion and Natural Resources
- Gender Empowerment and Women Rights
- Education and Child Rights
- Climate Justice and Sustainable Energy
- Indigenous Culture
- Research, Documentation and Communication

Board of Trustees



Ms. Cordula Kujur
Chairperson

She is a well-known social and cultural worker and leading various social organizations to fight against social inequality and women's issues in Jharkhand. She has been active in various social movements in Jharkhand. She is closely associated with 'Akhra', Ranchi and Netrahat Movement.

A noted Environmentalist and Social Scientist and a prominent Social Worker engaged in spreading awareness among the rural masses, particularly Adivasis, minorities and women folk. He actively participated in J. P. movement in 1974 and was an active member of the Chhatra Yuva Sangharsh Vahini from 1975 to 1984. He was Special Correspondent of Jansatta newspaper, New Delhi 1988-93. In recognition of his social concern, and active participation in spreading the message of socialism, he was awarded the "Lok Nayak Jayaparakash Narayan National Award" by the Maniklalji Balkishan Dasji Gandhi Charitable Trust at Nagpur in 2003, presented by the late Dr. Baba Amte.



Mr. Ghanshyam,
Secretary



Mr. Shekhar,
Treasurer

A cultural activist and artist, who has given a new dimension to 'Manjusha' painting of Bhagalpur region in Bihar, He is one of the leading documentary film makers of Jharkhand and has many educational, cultural and socio economic based documentary films to his credit. His paintings have essence of Jharkhandi Culture. There are anomalies of modern development shown in his Painting. He provides space to the Indigenous art traditions of Jharkhand. Ancient rock paintings have been found in Jharkhand, the style of which has been used creatively in his painting. His painting also underlies the relation between mathematics and art. Mr. Shekhar has written a book on Manjusha Art, a folk painting in Bhagalpur area.

Jyotsana Tirkey is a tribal activist and an expert on women's health issues in the Kolhan region. She has founded several NGOs and women's organizations in the area and is actively working on advocating for tribal women's land rights. Jyotsana has also trained hundreds of young Ho women and adolescents on women's rights, personal health, and hygiene.



Ms. Jyotsna Tirkey
Trustee

Board of Trustees



**Ms. Poonam Ranjan,
Trustee**

She has got activism and social concern as a legacy from her family. She is a well-known social worker and leading various social organizations to fight against social inequality and women's issues in Patna, since 1997. She has been active in various social movements in Bihar.

A noted social scientist and trainer. A post graduate and graduate in law with Bachelor of Law degree holder had taken active part in campaign against communalism during 1989 riots in Bhagalpur, Bihar. He has written many songs and dramas during working with Massey Award winner Mr. Gaur Kishore Ghosh. He is one of the founder member of Paridhi, a society for social action at Bhagalpur, and organized Bihar Lok Adhikaar Munch to campaign for Child Rights. He is holding the post of Managing Trustee of EFRE. He has been continuously participating as member of the Executive Committee of NAFRE in their campaign for Common School System and other People's movements.



**Mr. Uday
Trustee**



**Ms. Anne Tudu
Trustee**

She is a well-known social activist who has been actively working for the rights of the Santal tribals. She serves as the President of the Gram Sabha Federation, Jharkhand and has long been engaged in addressing women's issues in Jharkhand through various social organizations and institutions.

She is a well-known social Activist and has been active against social inequality and women's issues in Jharkhand for a long time through various social organizations and institutions.

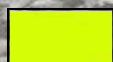
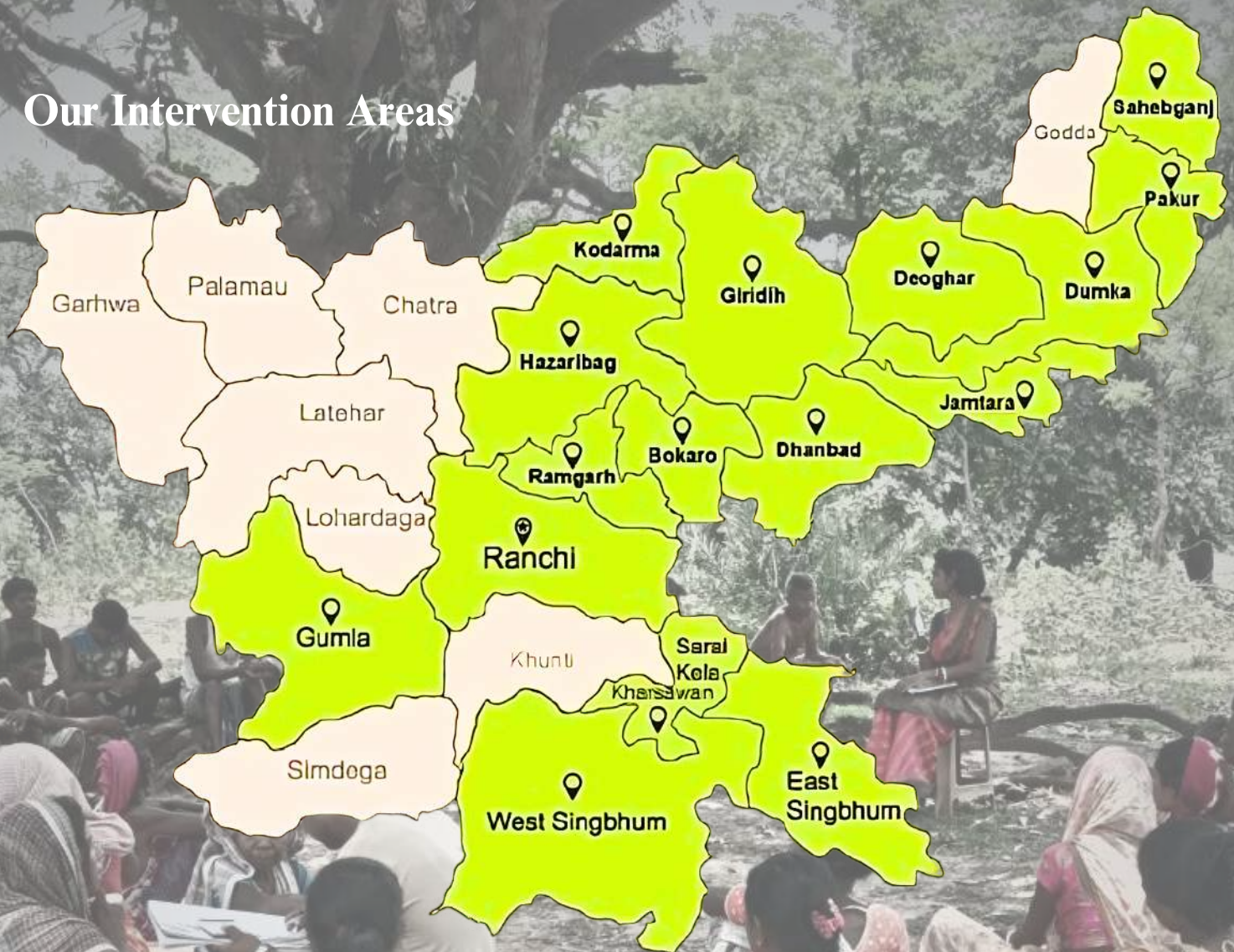


**Ms. Sabiha Naaz
Trustee**

Legal Entity

Organization Name	SAMVAD
Registration	Under Trust Registration Act' 1882 No. IV 278/2001/Ranchi Reg. Date: 21.03.2001
FCRA No.	337800125 on 24 May 2004 Renewal Date 16 March 2022
12A Registration	Registered under Income Tax Act 1961, 12A-VII-48/12A/03-04 on 18 June 2004 Renewal No. AADTS7279QE20038 Date : 24.09.2021 From : A.Y. 2022-23 To : A.Y. 26-27
80G Registration	AADTS7279Q23PT01 Date : 18-07-2023 From : 18-07-2023 To : A.Y. : 2026-27
PAN No.	AADTS7279Q Date : 21.03.2001
TAN No.	RCHS03187C Date : 24-09-2010
EPF No.	JH/RNC/32288 Date : 03/02/2011
NGO Darpan	Registered online under NGO Darpan of NITI Ayog, JH/2017/0167751
Head Office Address	Samvad, Urmila Enclave, 104/A, Peace Road, Lalpur, Ranchi-834001 Jharkhand, INDIA Phone No. : 0651-2530356
Extension Office Address	Samvad, 52 Bigha, Madhupur – 815353, Deoghar
Field Office	Samvad, Dumka Road, Near Hero Showroom opposite side, Jamtara-814166
Email	sarjomsamvad@gmail.com
Website	www.samvad.net

Our Intervention Areas



Districts, where SAMVAD Works

Our Ongoing Programs and Projects



Grant Partner: BFTW, Germany

Project Name : Deepening Indigenocracy and Promoting Sustainable Livelihood in Jharkhand

Grant Partner: OAK Foundation, London (UK)

Project Name : Promote inclusive governance and sustainable livelihood initiatives among resource - poor women and other marginalized communities.



Grant Partner: IM-Individuell Människohjälp Swedish Development Partner (Sweden)

Project Name : Deepening Indigenocracy and Indigeneity through strengthening Gram Sabha and improving livelihood in Jharkhand.

Grant Partner: Azim Premji Foundation (APF)

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.



Grant Partner: Azim Premji Foundation (APF)

Program Name : Samvidhan Saathi Fellowship Program.

Grant Partner: SBI Foundation

Project Name : SBI Gram Saksham Project for improving access to irrigation facilities through water conservation initiatives in Jamtara District of Jharkhand



Highlights

The reporting period reflects significant progress in strengthening Gram Sabhas, promoting sustainable livelihoods, reviving cultural practices, and enhancing women’s participation across 14 districts of Jharkhand.

A major focus was on empowering **Gram Sabhas** with active women’s involvement. Functional secretariats were established in villages, ensuring their ability to prepare applications, access government schemes, respond to emergencies, and resolve conflicts. Women empowerment workshops, trainings on the Right to Information Act, and intensive sessions on **PESA** helped grassroots leaders enhance their governance skills. Regional and state-level federation meetings provided platforms for collective voices, where critical issues were raised with bureaucrats and elected representatives. These efforts culminated in regional interface meetings and a state-level roundtable consultation, creating constructive engagement between communities and policymakers.

Parallely, the project strengthened **sustainable and climate-resilient livelihoods**. Green Clubs were activated in model villages, motivating farmers towards agro-ecological practices, with women making up the majority of participants. Two large farmers’ festivals (Kisan Mela) brought together hundreds of farmers to exchange knowledge and celebrate indigenous farming traditions. Forest Produce Collectives were formed in West Singhbhum, strengthening resource-based community livelihoods. Skill development and awareness trainings on the **Forest Rights Act** further equipped community members with tools for sustainable management of land and forest resources. A strong emphasis was placed on women farmers, with leadership trainings on property rights organized across seven blocks, reinforcing gender justice in agrarian systems. Six herbal gardens were enriched, keeping alive traditional health practices rooted in indigenous wisdom.

The cultural dimension of the project also advanced meaningfully. Sidho Kanho Resource Centre (SKRC) groups were strengthened, and recreational activities—such as traditional sports, street plays, and folk songs—helped youth reconnect with their heritage. Cultural gatherings among **Ho** and **Oraon** communities provided platforms for **storytelling, folklore, and community bonding**, while youth camps and workshops encouraged young people to value and preserve their traditions. A women’s workshop coinciding with **International Women’s Day** highlighted women’s cultural and social leadership.

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Highlights

At the organizational level, staff capacity was enhanced through quarterly planning and review meetings, monthly evaluations, and structured review sessions with community mobilizers. SAMVAD also ensured wide knowledge-sharing through its publications. Two editions of Adhi Duniya celebrated indigenous women as cultural preservers and change-makers, while two issues of Paryawaran Samvad spotlighted environmental leadership and indigenous farming initiatives.

Community participation remained one of the most striking outcomes. More than 18,400 people, with over half (53 %) being women, participated in Gram Sabha meetings during this period, reflecting a growing sense of ownership and inclusiveness. In total, over 6,000 people engaged in additional village-level committee meetings facilitated by community mobilizers.

Overall, the report highlights that SAMVAD has successfully deepened the structures of grassroots democracy, created pathways for climate-resilient livelihoods, and revitalized indigenous cultural identity. The active engagement of women, youth, and farmers demonstrates not only the reach of the project but also its transformative impact in making communities self-reliant, culturally rooted, and empowered to influence governance and development processes.



Highlights



“Promote inclusive governance and sustainable livelihood initiatives among resource - poor women and other marginalized communities”

In 2022, SAMVAD set out on a three-year journey with the support of Oak Foundation. The dream was bold: to strengthen Gram Sabhas, nurture inclusive governance, and create livelihoods that women and youth could proudly lead. What began as a vision slowly transformed into reality across 140 villages of Jharkhand—villages where traditions came alive again and communities stood taller than ever before.

When the journey began, women’s voices in Gram Sabhas were faint. Barely one in four participants were women, their opinions often unheard. But by 2024, that silence had turned into a chorus. Women now made up 53.5% of all participants. In three years, 957 Gram Sabha meetings brought together 36,093 villagers—including 19,329 women and 11,117 youth. Women were no longer just present; they were leading. In Sinwaripada, they proposed and built a 200-foot cement concrete road with their own hands through shramdaan. In Budhipada, it was the youth who took a stand against illegal stone mining and won.

Across the region, 697 Standing Committees with 2,806 members became the guardians of accountability—ensuring schools opened on time, vaccinations reached adolescent girls, and 2,167 farmers received drought relief of ₹3,500 each. In villages like Kumaradih, committees even raised their own funds to repair a transformer, keeping classrooms lit and learning alive.

Youth energy ran like a river that could not be stopped. 1,211 young people led Forest Committees, filing 113 Individual Forest Rights claims and 13 Community claims, many already sanctioned. The Green Clubs, with 2,326 members, planted trees, preserved seeds, and inspired 560 families to turn away from chemical fertilizers and embrace organic farming.

Culture, too, found its way home. 266 Akhra gatherings revived the festivals of Sarhul, Karma, and Baha, where 15,694 villagers came together in song and dance. In Rangraddih, the loudspeakers and DJs fell silent as Gram Sabhas revived the traditional drums. Soon, 978 young people were learning to play instruments their ancestors once carried to these festivals.

Alongside governance, women farmers stepped out of the shadows. The Women Farmers Organization (WFO) grew to 1,656 members across 140 villages. In 2024, 200 women from three regions gathered in Madhupur to share stories of struggle and resilience, demanding recognition as farmers. In fields of Kesargadia and Chandripa, women sowed vegetables, millets, and wheat together. 449 women joined collective integrated farming, while 411 sold organic produce in village markets, earning about ₹19,500 annually. The government, too, responded—3,016 farmers received seeds, and 11,279 villagers gained access to PDS, PMAY, Ayushman Bharat, pensions, and drought relief.

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Highlights

New livelihoods bloomed. 200 women began goat rearing, poultry, piggery, and bamboo crafts. 901 women learned to weave mats, make brooms, and paint, while 135 quintals of vermicompost enriched their fields. With these steps, women grew bolder—demanding joint property rights (Joint Patta) and raising their voices with confidence in Gram Sabhas.

Even SAMVAD itself was changing. Leadership workshops nurtured a new generation of women leaders, preparing them to take over from elder trustees in 2026. Yet challenges remained. Repeated droughts forced youth to migrate, and many women faced exploitation in distant cities. Still, Gram Sabha federations and WFOs did not give up. Their persistence pushed the government to declare 22 districts drought-affected and grant ₹3,500 compensation to each family.

The legacy of this journey is clear: 140 empowered Gram Sabhas, more than half led by women; a culture of Akhras revived; farmers reclaiming food sovereignty through organic farming; and communities learning to stand together.



Highlights



“Promote inclusive governance and sustainable livelihood initiatives among resource - poor women and other marginalized communities”

It captures the collective analysis of field experiences and data by the project team, who have made every effort to implement the planned activities within the stipulated period despite challenges such as delays in fund release and the state and parliamentary elections in 2024.

During the reporting period, the focus remained on strengthening the capacity of rights holders, particularly youth and women, to actively engage in green and sustainable development. Youth were mobilized through the formation of 28 Green Youth Clubs, which not only spread awareness on sustainability but also supported marginalized communities in accessing rights and entitlements. These clubs played a key role in enabling communities to submit applications for pensions, housing schemes, irrigation facilities, and agricultural support through the Gram Sabha. The clubs also became a bridge between marginalized voices and decision-making processes, ensuring that village development plans reflected community priorities. In fact, **1,192 village development plans** were submitted, of which **154 were approved** and implemented, covering interventions like water tanks, wells, plantation drives, and ICDS centers.

To strengthen governance, **140 Gram Sabha standing committees** were formed in **28 villages**, each with five subcommittees focusing on development, agriculture, education, infrastructure, and vigilance. With **53.5% women's participation**, these committees have been trained in rights, duties, and documentation, and have begun maintaining official records of Gram Sabha decisions. This has significantly improved inclusiveness in local planning and ensured that the needs of marginalized groups are represented in village-level governance.

Livelihood strengthening was another cornerstone of the project. A total of **625 individuals**, predominantly **women**, were linked with diverse green livelihood opportunities such as goat rearing, vegetable cultivation, mushroom farming, tailoring, poultry, sericulture, and leaf-plate making. Women-led initiatives like nursery raising in Jamtara and bangle-making with marble waste, supported by RSETI, have created additional income sources.

With the support of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, **97 farmers** received seeds of maize, paddy, and vegetables, while organic farming practices were promoted through demonstration plots in two Green Schools. As a result, **166 farmers** are now practicing organic farming, with many cultivating vegetables for household consumption and local markets.

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Highlights

Forest rights also emerged as a critical issue during the period. Forest Rights Committees were activated in **18 villages**, initiating the process of filing claims for individual and community forest rights under the **Forest Rights Act, 2006**. So far, **470 applications for individual** rights and **12 applications for community** rights have been submitted, with 13 households successfully receiving land titles (Vanpatta). These processes were aligned with the government's Abua Veer Dishom Abhiyaan campaign, strengthening community ownership of forest resources.

Women's land rights and recognition of women as farmers were prioritized by the Mahila Kisaan Sangathan. Discussions on these issues have begun in 56 Gram Sabhas, challenging entrenched patriarchal norms. Although resistance remains among traditional leaders, the issue has gained visibility at village, regional, and state levels. Advocacy efforts are ongoing to ensure greater participation of women in block-level committees and to press for more women Kisaan Mitra in government programs.

On the advocacy front, two key issues were taken forward: the implementation of the PESA Act in Jharkhand and the recognition of women as farmers. State-level Gram Sabha Federations and the national platform Swashasan Abhiyan India were engaged to intensify advocacy around PESA, while women's federations at regional and state levels continued pushing for women's rights over land and farming identity.

The project also strengthened collaborations with institutions such as JSLPS, KVK, and RSETI to expand training and livelihood opportunities. These partnerships enabled skill-building and resource access for women and farmers, linking them with sustainable development pathways.

Despite the challenges posed by election-related restrictions and initial delays in fund disbursement, the project successfully advanced its objectives. It empowered communities to claim their rights, built grassroots governance structures with strong women's representation, promoted green livelihood models, and brought critical advocacy issues—like PESA implementation and women's land rights—into public and political discourse.



Highlights



“Strengthening the components of local democracy to improve health outcomes for the poor and vulnerable in Fatehpur block in Jamtara District of Jharkhand”

This project has made significant strides during the reporting period, demonstrating how grassroots democratic processes can become effective vehicles for social change. Implemented by SAMVAD with support from the Azim Premji Foundation, the initiative focused on enhancing Gram Sabha functionality, deepening participatory planning, ensuring entitlements, and linking governance with improved health and livelihood outcomes.

A central achievement of the year was the Work Demand Campaign under MGNREGA, launched on Gandhi Jayanti 2024. Through motorcycle rallies, village meetings, and application camps, the campaign mobilized widespread community participation. As a result, 591 job card applications and 862 work demands were processed, leading to the issuance of 238 new job cards and employment for 402 villagers, who collectively achieved an average of 40 workdays. Alongside, physical assets such as ponds, wells, and plantations were created, reinforcing sustainable village infrastructure. This initiative not only improved access to wage employment but also strengthened accountability and transparency in MGNREGA implementation.

Equally important was the strengthening of Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDs) across all 15 panchayats. SAMVAD facilitated inclusive planning through Bal Sabhas, Mahila Sabhas, and Gram Sabhas, ensuring the needs of women, children, and marginalized communities were prioritized. Elected PRI members and Gram Panchayat facilitation teams were trained to integrate schemes such as MGNREGA, NRLM, SBM, and PMAY into actionable plans. The process emphasized transparency, timely documentation, and alignment with the e-Gram Swaraj portal, reinforcing community ownership in local development.

Forest governance was another critical focus. Through workshops, Forest Rights Committees (FRCs) from 22 villages were trained on the Forest Rights Act, 2006, covering both individual and community rights. These sessions deepened legal literacy, clarified procedures for filing claims, and emphasized the Gram Sabha's authority in forest management. Similarly, refresher trainings on PESA, JPRA, and Gram Sabha processes revitalized the knowledge of Programme Implementers, enabling them to integrate digital tools for improved governance and service delivery.

Throughout the year, SAMVAD maintained a culture of reflection and review. Monthly staff meetings, regular community consultations, and action-oriented planning helped troubleshoot challenges and adapt strategies. The team learned that trust, open dialogue, and patient follow-ups were as critical as major events in building resilient communities.

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Highlights

The project also witnessed powerful examples of community-led accountability and collective action. In Janumadih, villagers exposed corruption in the Public Distribution System, imposed penalties on the dealer, and institutionalized monitoring mechanisms for fair distribution. In Tumbabel, vigilant community action corrected irregularities in Anganwadi services, restoring children's nutrition rights. Another inspiring case was the rescue of malnourished twin sisters in Nala block, where coordinated efforts between the community, ICDS, ASHA workers, and the health department led to their recovery. Similarly, the Gram Sabha supported Mota Hembram, a destitute mother of six, in securing documentation, welfare entitlements, and ultimately a safe home, symbolizing dignity restored through collective will.

Despite these successes, the project faced challenges. The dual responsibility under the Abua Bir Dishom Abhiyan stretched resources, limiting SAMVAD's ability to scale FRA-related work beyond Fatehpur. Delays in wage payments under MGNREGA, procedural hurdles like acknowledgment slips, and Aadhaar-related bottlenecks in ration campaigns highlighted systemic gaps that hindered timely service delivery. In health, lack of departmental orders initially slowed interventions, although later coordination with officials provided some space for action.

Overall, the year underscored that local democracy, when strengthened, can drive tangible improvements in livelihoods, transparency, and health outcomes. Gram Sabhas emerged as vibrant platforms for problem-solving, youth and women took leadership roles in governance processes, and communities collectively addressed corruption, exclusion, and vulnerabilities. SAMVAD's role in building capacities, facilitating dialogue, and linking communities with government systems has created momentum for deeper self-reliance and more accountable governance in Fatehpur block.



Highlights



“Samvidhan Saathi Fellowship Program”

The Samvidhan Saathi Fellowship Program, a joint initiative of the Azim Premji Foundation and SAMVAD, was launched in February 2024 with the vision of spreading constitutional values at the grassroots level. Rooted in the principles of equity, justice, liberty, and fraternity, the program recognized the urgent need for value-based leadership in society and aimed to cultivate changemakers—known as Samvidhan Saathi—to foster harmony and inclusiveness within their communities. The fellowship formally began in May 2024, and over the past 13 months, fellows have undertaken a wide range of innovative and impactful activities designed to make constitutional values a lived reality.

Through nukkad nataks (street plays), community movie screenings, wall writings with slogans, awareness campaigns, and open discussions, fellows effectively engaged diverse groups in meaningful dialogue around constitutional values.

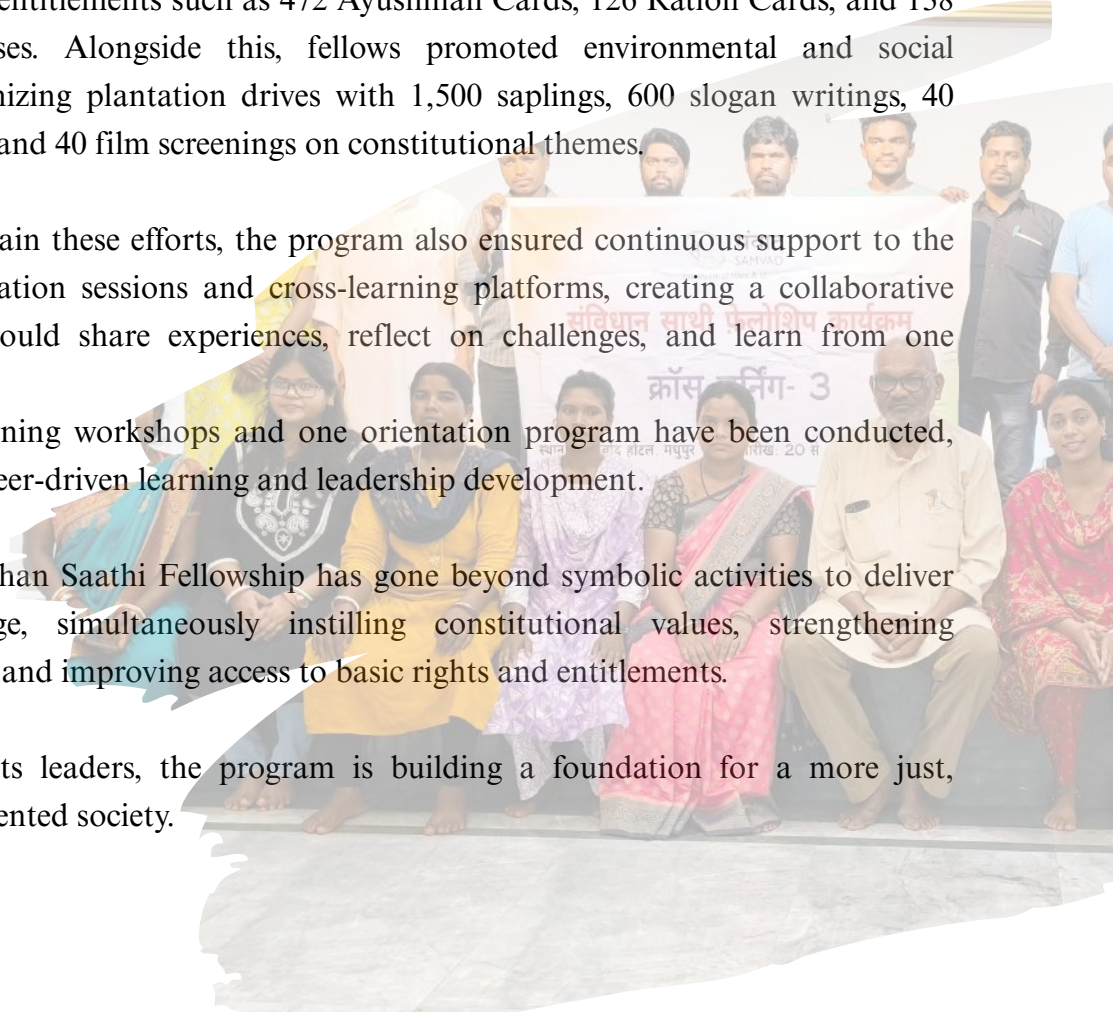
They also bridged gaps in access to government schemes for underserved families, enabling communities to secure entitlements such as 472 Ayushman Cards, 126 Ration Cards, and 138 Abua/PM Awas houses. Alongside this, fellows promoted environmental and social responsibility by organizing plantation drives with 1,500 saplings, 600 slogan writings, 40 cleanliness campaigns, and 40 film screenings on constitutional themes.

To strengthen and sustain these efforts, the program also ensured continuous support to the fellows through orientation sessions and cross-learning platforms, creating a collaborative space where fellows could share experiences, reflect on challenges, and learn from one another's practices.

So far, three cross-learning workshops and one orientation program have been conducted, fostering a culture of peer-driven learning and leadership development.

In essence, the Samvidhan Saathi Fellowship has gone beyond symbolic activities to deliver tangible social change, simultaneously instilling constitutional values, strengthening community ownership, and improving access to basic rights and entitlements.

By nurturing grassroots leaders, the program is building a foundation for a more just, inclusive, and value-oriented society.



Highlights



“SBI Gram Saksham Project for improving access to irrigation facilities through water conservation initiatives in Jamtara District of Jharkhand”

The SBI Gram Saksham Program, a joint initiative of the SBI Foundation and Samvad, has emerged as a transformative model for rural development in Banudih and Asanberiya Gram Panchayats of Jamtara District. These tribal-dominated villages, historically dependent on rain-fed agriculture and daily wage labor, faced acute challenges such as poor irrigation infrastructure, irregular rainfall, low digital connectivity, lack of women's empowerment, and inadequate exposure to modern farming techniques.

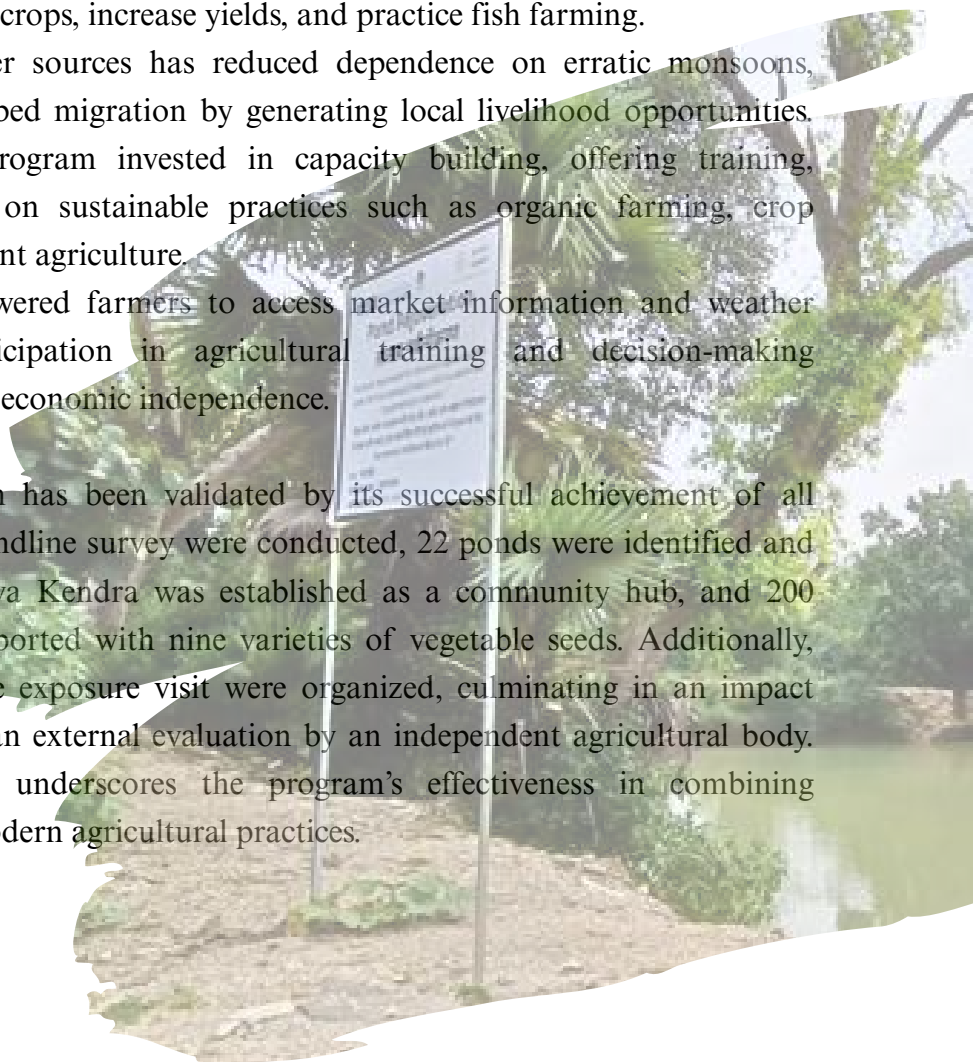
Recognizing this crisis, the program was launched to restore water bodies, promote sustainable farming, empower women, and strengthen digital literacy, thereby creating a more self-sufficient and resilient farming community.

A major highlight of the program has been the rejuvenation of 22 abandoned ponds, which were desilted and deepened to ensure year-round water availability. This intervention has significantly enhanced groundwater recharge, soil moisture retention, and biodiversity, while also enabling farmers to diversify crops, increase yields, and practice fish farming.

The availability of reliable water sources has reduced dependence on erratic monsoons, improved food security, and curbed migration by generating local livelihood opportunities. Alongside infrastructure, the program invested in capacity building, offering training, exposure visits, and awareness on sustainable practices such as organic farming, crop diversification, and climate-resilient agriculture.

Digital literacy initiatives empowered farmers to access market information and weather forecasts, while women's participation in agricultural training and decision-making strengthened gender equality and economic independence.

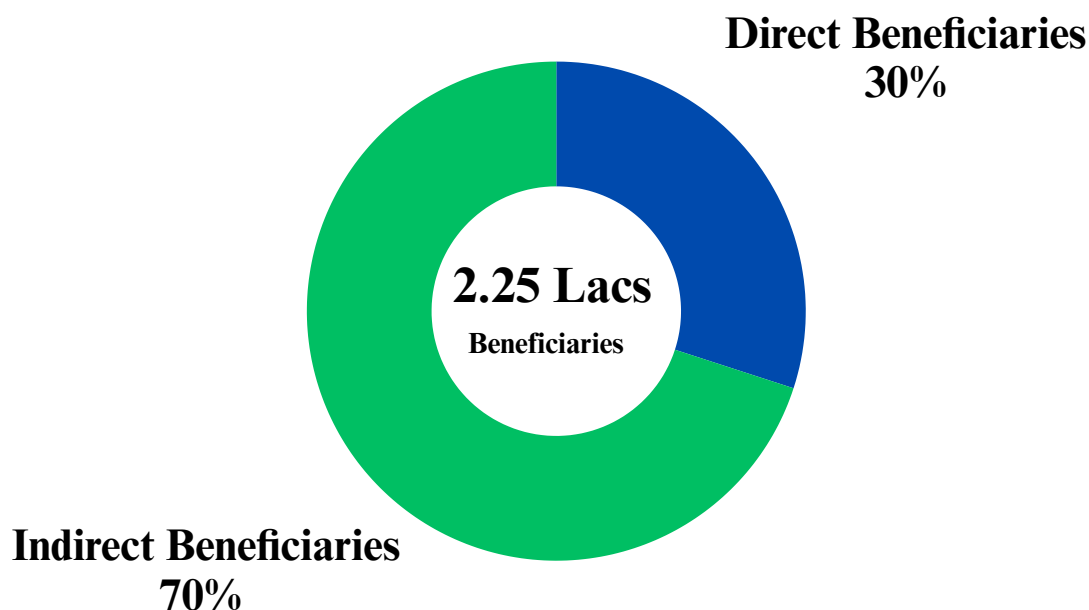
The program's holistic approach has been validated by its successful achievement of all planned targets: a baseline and endline survey were conducted, 22 ponds were identified and fully rejuvenated, one Gram Seva Kendra was established as a community hub, and 200 farmers were identified and supported with nine varieties of vegetable seeds. Additionally, three training programs and one exposure visit were organized, culminating in an impact video during the monsoon and an external evaluation by an independent agricultural body. The 100% target achievement underscores the program's effectiveness in combining community participation with modern agricultural practices.



Highlights

Overall, SBI Gram Saksham has not only restored critical natural resources but also fostered a culture of sustainability, self-reliance, and inclusivity in these rural communities. By addressing the root causes of poverty—water scarcity, lack of knowledge, and limited economic opportunities—the initiative has created a ripple effect of prosperity, resilience, and empowerment. It stands as a model of how strategic CSR interventions can transform marginalized rural regions into thriving, self-sufficient communities with a sustainable future.

Progress at a Glance



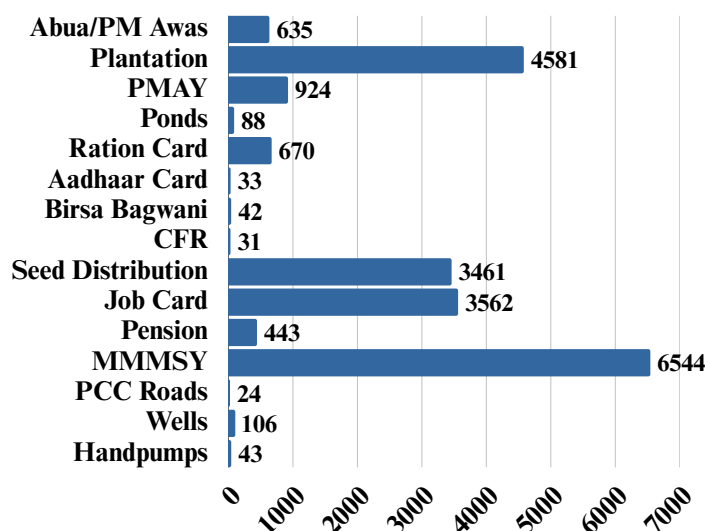
This year, SAMVAD has positively impacted over 2.25 lacs people through its diverse initiatives, community mobilization efforts, and the unwavering dedication of its volunteers and fellows. The beneficiaries of these efforts can be broadly classified into two categories: direct and indirect.

Direct beneficiaries are those who have engaged with SAMVAD firsthand, receiving tangible support in the form of flagship government schemes, social security benefits, training programs, livelihood opportunities, and agricultural assistance. Indirect beneficiaries, on the other hand, are individuals who gain from SAMVAD's work through the influence, guidance, sharing, and inspiration of its volunteers and fellows—creating a ripple effect that extends the reach of every intervention.

This layered approach has enabled SAMVAD not only to provide direct services but also to foster community-driven change that multiplies its impact across wider populations. The combined commitment of SAMVAD's team has ensured sustainable improvements in the social, economic, and developmental well-being of thousands of households, building a stronger and more resilient society.

Progress at a Glance

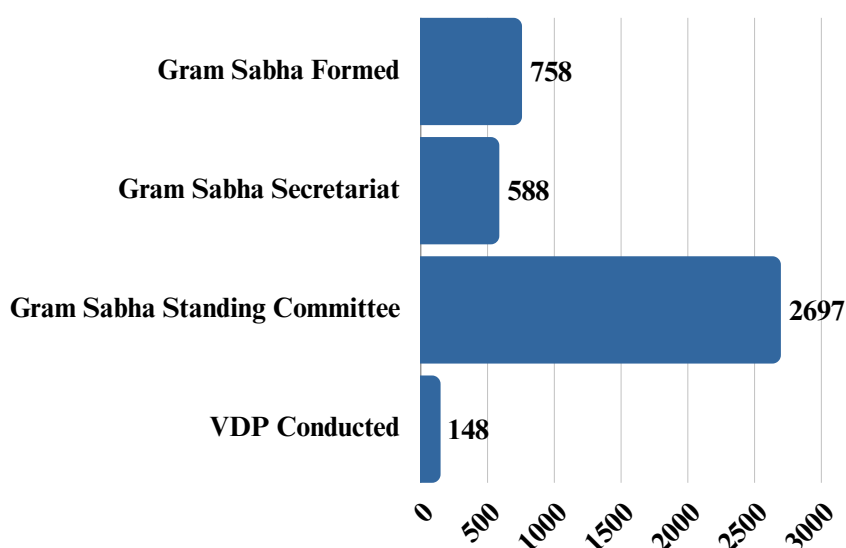
Schemes and Beneficiaries



This chart is illustrating the various community welfare initiatives facilitated by SAMVAD volunteers, benefiting communities within our intervention areas.

Traditional Governance System and Implementation

With our intervention, women's participation in Gram Sabhas has increased to 53%. Also, the indicators shown in this chart contributes to strengthening the implementation of PESA in our intervention areas.



Highlights

Revamping Culture and Climate



Our intervention promotes indigenous cultural heritage and advances climate justice by strengthening Indigenocracy through the key aspects highlighted in the chart.

Our Practices

At SAMVAD, participatory governance and reflective dialogue form the backbone of our organizational practice. To ensure transparency, accountability, and continuous progress, we have institutionalized a robust system of meetings that not only guide strategic decision-making but also strengthen grassroots impact.

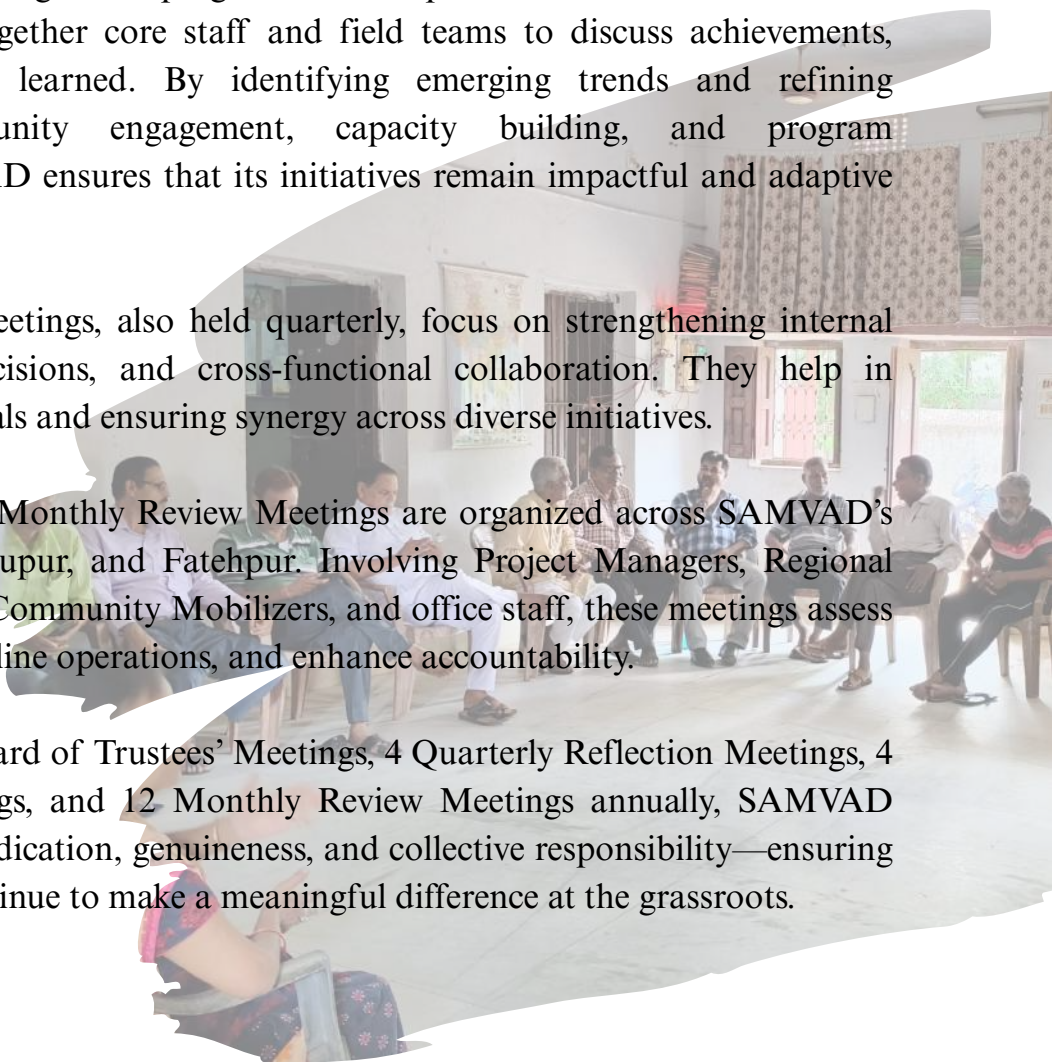
The Board of Trustees' Meetings, held four times a year, play a pivotal role in steering the organization towards its vision. These meetings are dedicated to reviewing performance, assessing ongoing projects, and shaping future strategies. With a focus on exploring opportunities for collaboration, funding, and community-driven interventions, the Board ensures that SAMVAD's work remains aligned with its mission of empowering marginalized communities. Their guidance provides a strong foundation for sustainable growth and relevance in an evolving social landscape.

Complementing this, the Quarterly Strategic Reflection Meetings serve as an essential platform to evaluate the progress of programs and set priorities for the months ahead. These meetings bring together core staff and field teams to discuss achievements, challenges, and lessons learned. By identifying emerging trends and refining approaches to community engagement, capacity building, and program implementation, SAMVAD ensures that its initiatives remain impactful and adaptive to community needs.

The Core Committee Meetings, also held quarterly, focus on strengthening internal coordination, policy decisions, and cross-functional collaboration. They help in aligning departmental goals and ensuring synergy across diverse initiatives.

At the operational level, Monthly Review Meetings are organized across SAMVAD's offices in Ranchi, Madhupur, and Fatehpur. Involving Project Managers, Regional Community Mobilizers, Community Mobilizers, and office staff, these meetings assess program progress, streamline operations, and enhance accountability.

Altogether, through 4 Board of Trustees' Meetings, 4 Quarterly Reflection Meetings, 4 Core Committee Meetings, and 12 Monthly Review Meetings annually, SAMVAD maintains a culture of dedication, genuineness, and collective responsibility—ensuring that its interventions continue to make a meaningful difference at the grassroots.



Story-1

Story of Lalchand Tudu (Farmer)

In Fatehpur village of Jabhagudi Panchayat, Madhupur Block, Deoghar district, lives a humble farmer named Lalchand Tudu. For years, Lalchand practiced traditional farming, cultivating paddy, maize, potato, onion, and other crops, mainly for self-consumption. Farming for him was just a way to sustain his family, not a source of growth or livelihood improvement.



A turning point came in February 2023, when Lalchand attended a village meeting on the environment organized by the SAMVAD team, represented by Ms. Monika Murmu and Mr. Anand Marandi. The meeting opened new perspectives for him. Discussions centered on protecting and promoting the environment alongside agriculture—using cow dung and organic manure instead of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, reducing plastic usage, and prioritizing tree plantation.

The ideas struck a chord with Lalchand. He began meeting the SAMVAD team members several times afterward, seeking suggestions, guidance, and motivation. Gradually, he made a life-changing decision: to adopt plantation as a livelihood option.

In April 2024, with determination, Lalchand dug 300 pits in his one-acre land, each spaced at 10 feet apart, and enriched them with cow dung and organic manure.



By July 2024, he purchased 300 teak saplings from a Deoghar nursery at Rs. 15 per plant and carefully planted them.

Today, the plantation is thriving. All the saplings are alive and growing well. Lalchand has ensured proper care by removing unwanted grasses, bushes, and shrubs through plowing. At the same time, he has creatively adopted intercropping, cultivating tomatoes, brinjal, green chili, cauliflower, onion, and peas between the rows of teak plants.

Story-2

Story of Kundi Village : Women Turning Waste into Livelihood



Kundi, a large village in Itki block of Ranchi district, lies about 46 km from the state capital. With 1,195 households, the community is diverse—around 750 tribal families, 150 general caste families, and 295 minority households. Agriculture is the mainstay of the village economy, supplemented by wage labor. While most villagers engage in farming during the agricultural season, the off-season brings unemployment, pushing some to migrate to Itki or Ranchi in search of casual work.

For the women of Kundi, however, opportunities were even scarcer. They worked alongside men during the farming season, but unlike men, they rarely went outside the village for employment. As a result, the off-season meant no work and no income for them. Their contribution was invisible, and their economic independence remained limited.

Things began to change in July 2021, when SAMVAD, with support from IM, initiated its work in the village. During meetings with women's groups, the SAMVAD team encouraged discussions on livelihood and women's empowerment. The women openly shared their struggles: they wanted to earn but lacked opportunities in the village. In exploring various livelihood options, one idea sparked collective excitement—bangle making from waste marble products.

Taking this interest forward, Ms. Mahjabi Praveen, SAMVAD's community mobilizer, approached the District RSETI office in Ranchi, which provides training for skill development. She explained the women's situation and their eagerness to learn. The officials, moved by the initiative, agreed to support them. Soon, a 15-day training program on bangle making was scheduled right in the village.

From 1st to 15th March 2024, 35 women gathered daily at the Panchayat Bhawan of Kundi to learn the craft. With enthusiasm and dedication, they acquired the skills to mold bangles from waste marble materials, transforming discarded scraps into something beautiful and marketable.

After the training, the women wasted no time. They pooled their resources, purchased bangle molds and raw materials, and began production at the village level. Their bangles quickly attracted buyers, and the women experienced, perhaps for the first time, the joy of earning through their own enterprise.

Today, these women are not just making bangles—they are weaving a story of empowerment. They are determined to scale up production, reach local and urban markets, and generate sustainable income. What began as a small initiative has now ignited a collective dream: turning waste into wealth and building economic independence for women in Kundi.



Story-3

Story of Lupunga Village: An Empowered Gram Sabha

Lupunga, a remote village in Itki block, lies about 60 km from Ranchi, the state capital of Jharkhand. Surrounded on two sides by nearly 100 acres of dense forest, this tribal-dominated village has 85 households, of which 63 belong to the Oraon and Munda tribes, while the remaining 22 are from other backward castes. The community's livelihood depends on agriculture, livestock, and daily wage labor, with only a few migrating during the off-season.



What makes Lupunga remarkable today is the strength of its Gram Sabha, which has grown into a powerful and collective decision-making body. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Gram Sabha played a crucial role in protecting the community. Every returnee to the village was required to undergo a 21-day quarantine, and the local primary school was converted into a quarantine center. This decision, taken collectively, ensured the safety of the entire village.

The Gram Sabha also took another important step—separating the roles of Gram Pradhan and Pahan (village priest). Earlier, one person held both posts, but as these roles involved very different responsibilities—administrative and religious—it was difficult for one person to fulfill both. The Gram Sabha resolved the issue by selecting a new Pahan, thereby strengthening village governance.

Equally transformative was the Gram Sabha's action to protect the village's forest. To curb illegal tree cutting, they imposed a fine of Rs. 500 on violators and offered the same amount as a reward to informers. This decision drastically reduced deforestation. Now, villagers use forest resources only with the Gram Sabha's permission for needs like marriages or house construction. The Forest Rights Committee has even submitted a claim for community forest land rights, with regular follow-ups underway.



Since 2021, SAMVAD, with support from IM, has been working to strengthen Gram Sabha in Lupunga. Today, meetings are held every Thursday, with active participation from women. The Gram Sabha not only resolves problems but also plans village development, takes collective action, and manages its own village fund, offering loans to members in need.

Story-4

Story of Asanchuwan Village: Nursery Raising by a Group of 30 Women



Asanchuwan, a small village in Udalbani Panchayat of Jamtara block, Jharkhand, is home to a group of determined women who have turned a new page in their livelihood journey. Traditionally engaged in household work and small-scale farming, these women had limited opportunities to generate income of their own. But things began to change after a village meeting organized by SAMVAD on 8th September 2023.

During the meeting, 30 women from two Self-Help Groups came together and decided to explore nursery raising as a livelihood option. Motivated and guided by the SAMVAD team, they connected with the Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) of the Agriculture Department and applied for support. Their request was approved, and in March 2024, they received essential resources including a nursery shed, water tank, poly bags, manures, and other materials.

With this support and their own investment of Rs. 30,000, the women started their first nursery. They chose to raise saplings of Teak wood and Sahjan (drumstick). The effort paid off—within the first year, they sold their saplings and earned a remarkable Rs. 60,000. This success boosted their confidence and proved that collective effort could bring real change to their lives.

Encouraged by the results, the women continued with nursery raising, expanding their efforts further. Today, apart from tree saplings, they have also started raising vegetable nurseries, opening more avenues for income generation. Their journey has not only improved their household earnings but also enhanced their confidence, solidarity, and recognition within the community.



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