



Gramin Swavlamban Samiti Annual Report

2023 - 2024



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The GSS Story

- **Vision**
Establish A Justice Based Society.
- **Mission**
GSS aims to end violence against women and children and to facilitate safe migration and improve social and economic conditions for marginalized groups.
- **Background and History**

Grameen Swavlamban Samiti (GSS), Tikamgarh, is a community-based organization founded in 2002 with the primary objective of economically empowering women and other marginalized groups. The founder and Executive Director/Secretary, Mr. Rajkumar Ahirwar, is committed to facilitating access to basic rights and development for all in rural areas. His efforts began in the deprived villages of the Bundelkhand region of Madhya Pradesh.

The Bundelkhand region is historically known as a drought-prone area, infamous for migration, scarcity of drinking water, and overall economic inequality. Marginalized groups such as scheduled castes, nomadic tribes, backward communities, and religious minorities in this region face significant problems and are at the bottom of the socio-economic pyramid. These groups are disproportionately landless, unskilled, and mostly engaged in manual labor, making them highly dependent on landowning communities and money lenders for their livelihoods and daily needs. This vulnerability is a root cause of their exploitation. In response, GSS decided to focus on the upliftment and welfare of these vulnerable groups, working towards their economic empowerment and the overall development of the community.

- **Area of operation**

GSS operates across several districts in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, targeting regions with significant needs for economic empowerment and development. In Madhya Pradesh, GSS works in the districts of Tikamgarh, Niwari and Sheopur. The operations in Uttar Pradesh are primarily focused in Banda and Mahoba. The latest area of operations is in Jaipur, Rajasthan. Through its dedicated efforts in these districts, GSS aims to bring about substantial improvements in the quality of life for women and marginalized communities, fostering a more equitable and just society.

Programs and Activities

GSS conducted various programs focusing on two core groups viz, Girls/Women and Migrant workers. During the year 2023-24, GSS prioritized the empowerment and protection of women and girls through initiatives like the Kishori Balika Karykram, Maitri Network and Nirbhaya Program tackling gender-based violence and discrimination. Simultaneously, the Migrants Resilience Collaborative and Safe Migration Program focused on ensuring safe migration practices and supporting migrant families, addressing their social security and educational needs. The following section detail the objectives, initiatives, and challenges faced across these programs.



The infographic is divided into two main sections by a central circular logo. The logo features a house icon with the text 'ग्रामीण स्वावलम्बन समिति' (Gramin Swavalamban Samiti) at the top and 'जिला- टीकमगढ़ (म.प्र.)' (District - Deokanaga (M.P.)) at the bottom. The left section, titled 'Empowering women & girls against gender based violence and discrimination through', lists the 'Kishori Balika Karykram' and 'Maitri Network Nirbhaya Program'. The right section, titled 'Ensuring Dignity & Safety of Migrant workers & families through', lists the 'Migrants Resilience Collaborative' and 'Safe Migration Program'. Each section is accompanied by a photograph: the left one shows a group of children in a classroom, and the right one shows a group of women sitting on the floor in a community meeting.

Program 1: Kishori Balika Karykram (KBK)

- **Beneficiary Group**
 - Adolescent girls
- **Objectives**
 - Enhance the capacity and potential of girls for holistic empowerment.
 - Eliminate caste and gender-based discrimination against girls.
 - Eradicate all forms of violence and atrocities perpetrated against the girl child.
 - Foster awareness and life skills among girls for their safety, well-being, and resilience.
 - Ensure access to justice, support, and rehabilitation services for girl victims of violence.
 - Sensitize and mobilize the community to address and prevent violence against the girl child.



- **Initiatives & Activities**

The initiatives under KBK are categorized into four areas – Prevention, Response, Rehabilitation and Reform. Activities under each of the categories are briefly described below

 - **Prevention**

Activities under this category focus mainly on creating awareness among adolescent girls and sensitizing the community including men, women and boys. A snapshot of the activities during the year is presented in the table

Activity Name	Initiatives	Number	Participants
Garima Kendra (Dignity Centers)	Centers to create awareness among girls on issues such as child marriage, child rights, and laws, understanding of violence, safe and unsafe touch, curriculum-based education besides career guidance	3 centers	120 girls enrolled
Balika Panchayat	Monthly meetings of Balika Panchayats are held where the girls discuss various issues such as what constitutes violence and how to prevent it, education and health, gender and caste discrimination, child marriage, child protection laws and various helpline numbers. The Panchayats also work on resolving girls' issues by communicating with relevant departments and focus on reconnecting school dropouts and combating social evils like child marriage.	27 Balika Panchayats held 221 meetings	459 enrolled members
Community Meetings & Workshops	Meetings to sensitize community about violence against children and creating awareness of various laws like child violence prevention, the Protection of Children from Sexual Offenses Act 2012, the Child Marriage Act, the Domestic Violence Act 2005. The meetings also focus on issues such as gender discrimination, caste-based discrimination, child safety and protection, fundamental rights, education, and health at the village level	45 meetings 2 work-shops	Attended by 823 (men & women) Attended by 950 men & women
School Awareness Camps	Camps are conducted in schools, to create awareness about gender-based violence, rights, and legal protections. Teachers were also engaged to focus on preventing such incidents and ensuring child safety.	84 schools covered	Attended by 5126 children
Selection and Training of Social Advocates	The program identifies and trains young social advocates on legal topics and violence prevention to empower them to address social issues and support self-defense. Annual training equips them to advocate for and assist others in their communities.	Selection Drive 1 training workshop	24 young men & women selected & 47 trained
Community Organization	Community organizations are formed to raise awareness and combat issues like child crime, gender discrimination, and caste-based violence. The group is educated on legal rights and motivated to address violence and regressive practices in their communities.	21 community organizations	307 participants
Men & Boys Network	Groups for boys/men have been formed in Jhinguwan, Hanumansagar and Khargapur to address ingrained societal beliefs and discrimination against girls.	3 locations	40 men/boys

- **Response**

The second phase involves addressing incidents of rape, abduction, or harassment against women. In such cases, the following actions are taken: identifying and documenting the cases (through newspapers, police stations, beneficiaries, community, Girl's Panchayat, social media, E-court, Women's Helpline, OSC, etc.), fact-finding, providing legal advice and assistance, medical support, psychosocial support, and other emergency assistance (such as ration).

Case work	Identification	Fact-finding	Support	Decision
	157	145	63	27 (13 verdict in favor)
Legal Support	Applications	Appeals	Bail rejections	Support in getting Relief (Relief amount in Rs.)
	104	12	36	1500000

- **Rehabilitation**

Victims of rape, abduction, harassment, and cybercrime were helped to resume their education through counseling for both the girls and their parents, who initially halted their education out of fear. The organization provided various supports including stationery, school bags, uniforms, and fees for coaching and exams, enabling the girls to continue their studies, besides skill development and livelihood assistance, help in availing victim compensation, and mental health counseling.

Further Survivor forums are formed for victim families to enable sharing of experiences and navigating the justice process. Members receive annual legal training from expert lawyers and additional information from various support agencies.

Activities	Beneficiaries
Counseling	156
Career Guidance	50
Education Follow-up	179
Support (including Stationery, school bags, uniforms, exam guides, fees etc.)	48
Survivor Forum training	101

- **Reform**

Workshops are regularly held with government officials and social organizations to address rising gender-based crimes against women and girls. These meetings aim to raise awareness, highlight atrocities, and foster collaborative efforts to prevent such crimes and work towards a safer society.

Activities	Number	Participating Departments
Stakeholder meetings	342	Department of Tribal Welfare, SP Office, District Legal Services Authority, Police Department, District Court, Childline, Child Welfare Committees (CWC), Juvenile Justice Board, Education Department, Anganwadi, Women and Child Development Department etc.
Stakeholder workshop	1	A one-day workshop was organized at the District Police Control Room, focusing on the Juvenile Justice Act and the POCSO Act, provided by the Rural Self-Reliance Committee. The workshop included officials and staff from the Police Department, One Stop Center, CWCs, and GSS.

- **Key Highlights/Achievements**

- Prevented child marriage of 48 girls and motivated them to pursue education.
- Addressed 22 issues related to education, road access, and discrimination through the Girl's Panchayat.
- Freed 15 girls from caste-based work and encouraged regular school attendance.
- Reconnected 50 dropout girls with continuous education and provided career guidance to 1,421 girls.
- Facilitated educational dialogue between 169 girls and key government departments.
- Offered emergency ration support to the families of 9 girls.
- Connected 52 girls and 10 women to free sewing machine training at an SBI Skill Center.
- Enrolled 15 girls in a free basic computer course.
- Provided emergency medical care to 11 girls and emergency educational support to 21 girls.
- 3 cases involved assisting victims with FIR registration, 1 case involved helping to arrest the accused and 468 cases were followed up on (directly/indirectly).
- 462 victims and their families visited the Resource Center for case-related work, while 351 victims and their families received legal counseling.
- 14 cases were lost, with appeals filed in the High Court for 12 of these cases.
- Compensation was granted to victims in 10 SC/ST cases and was approved in 5 POCSO cases

- **Challenges**

- Law enforcement officials intimidate and coerce minor kidnapping victims into providing false statements, undermining investigations.
- Compensation payments under the Victim Compensation Scheme 2015 are often delayed causing financial hardships for affected families.
- Families of victimized girls may relocate or go into hiding after filing complaints, which can hinder investigations and access to justice.
- Victims and their families frequently receive delayed or inadequate notifications of bail proceedings, limiting their ability to object or participate.

- Investigation agencies often fail to submit charge sheets within the required 3-month period, causing delays in justice.
- Cases can be compromised by financial incentives or external pressures, undermining the rule of law and promoting impunity.
- Legal support and resources at the Tehsil court level are often inadequate or inaccessible, leaving victims and their families poorly represented.
- The status of cases involving minors in juvenile courts is often unclear or difficult to access, creating barriers to justice.



Program 2: Migrants Resilience Collaborative (MRC) Program

- **Beneficiaries**
 - Migrant workers and families
- **Objective**
 - Ensuring the safe and dignified migration of migrant families, and fortifying social security systems to provide comprehensive protection and support services for vulnerable communities.



- **Initiatives & Activities**
 - The MRC program focuses on raising awareness about safe migration and providing information on social security schemes to migrant workers and families. A snapshot of the activities is provided below

Activity Name	Initiatives	Number	Participants
Household Visit & Survey	Registration of Resident families		7423 (Total 41134 families registered on Jan Sathi app)
Selection of Social Volunteers	Social volunteers were selected to connect marginalized communities with social security and government schemes.		40
CBO formation & Meets	Community based organizations, empower marginalized communities by raising awareness and ensuring access to government schemes.	17 CBO in 2 blocks	
Community meetings	Monthly community meetings with migrant families to discuss	45	804

	migration challenges and promote safe practices. Workers were educated on their rights, including equality, non-discrimination, fair employment, union formation, livelihood, and protection against exploitation, child labor, and forced labor.		
Stakeholder Dialogue	Meetings with stakeholders at the district, block, and Gram Panchayat levels were held to inform them about the program and seek their support for its improvement	382	At district, block and village level
Social security scheme	The program identified migrant families not getting the benefits of government social security schemes, despite being eligible and organized awareness camps to connect these eligible families with these benefits.	49967 (applications)	31239
Pre-departure training camp	Pre-departure training camps were held in selected villages to inform migrant workers about safe migration practices. The training covered registration procedures, details about the workplace, social security schemes, the person responsible for migration, and how to recognize and avoid bonded or forced labor. It also provided guidance on what to do if their labor rights are violated and about the one nation one ration card policy	159	2841
Helpline	The organization's labor helpline assisted with wage-related cases through legal advice and negotiation.		251 cases

- **Achievements**

- Successful registration of 41,134 migrant families, ensuring access to essential services and social security benefits.
- Effective recovery of overdue payments totaling Rs. 20,74,313 through strategic legal action and mediation, resolving pending cases received through the worker helpline.
- Establishment of robust coordination mechanisms with district-level administration, fostering collaborative efforts to protect migrant workers' rights and interests.
- Empowerment of migrant workers through awareness campaigns, educating them on their legal entitlements and encouraging proactive engagement with the worker helpline to seek timely support and justice.

- **Challenges**

- **Technological Barriers:** Many migrant workers do not have Android phones or other mobile devices, which prevents them from registering on the Jan Saathi App and accessing important services.
- **Lack of Documentation:** Without documented proof of actions taken by migrant workers, it is difficult to start legal proceedings in relevant cases.
- **Challenges with Field Team:** The project team encounters behavioral issues, including verbal abuse and intimidation from people under the influence of alcohol in the villages, creating a difficult working environment.
- **Geographical and Logistical Issues:** Karhal block has a high tribal population (69%), but the dense forest area makes monitoring challenging with the risk of wildlife encounters and other incidents.



Program 3: Safe Migration Program

- **Beneficiaries**
 - Migrant workers and families of Dalit community
- **Objectives**
 - Promoting Safe Migration Practices: Raising awareness among migrant communities about the importance of safe migration, including the risks of human trafficking, exploitation, and abuse.
 - Ensuring Continuity of Education for Migrant Children: Facilitating access to continuous education for children of migrant families, ensuring minimal disruption to their educational journey and promoting academic stability.
 - Empowering Migrant Families through Support Groups: Establishing support groups to provide migrant families with vital information, resources, and guidance, enabling them to make informed decisions and navigate challenges effectively.
 - Facilitating Access to Government Services: Streamlining access to government departments and services for migrant families, ensuring they receive necessary support, benefits, and protection under the law.



- **Initiatives & Activities**

The Safe Migration Program (SMP) supports migrant families from the Dalit community through migration support groups in villages and establishing child councils to enhance education and development. The program also aims to bridge educational gaps and improve access to government services for these children, with staff actively promoting safe migration practices and connecting families with relevant departments. The Rural Self-Reliance Committee is running the "Safe Migration Program" as part of its education

support to children of Dalit community in 30 villages of the Tikamgarh and Baldevgarh blocks.

Activity Name	Initiatives	Number	Participants
Bal Panchayats	Formation of children's council to empower them to lead meetings, address social issues, support peers & advocate for community improvements, particularly in the absence of adult guidance.	30 Bal panchayats held 258 meetings	4630
Migration Support Groups	Migration Support Group formed in 30 villages for Dalit migrant workers, holding monthly meetings to discuss safe migration, workplace challenges, and support needs. Also create awareness on labor rights, government schemes, and children's education, and involves local representatives in resolving issues and promoting documentation and fair treatment.	30 groups (133 meetings)	534 (men & women)
Safe Migration Awareness camp	Village-level awareness camps were organized to educate migrant families on the importance of registration, workplace safety, labor rights, and the reliability of contractors, ensuring informed and secure migration.	49	2256 men & women
Pre-departure Training	Pre-departure training was conducted to educate workers on safe migration practices, including registration with the Labor Department or Gram Panchayat, understanding work conditions, awareness of social security schemes, and protection against bonded labor and exploitation.	52	1121 men & women
Stakeholder workshop	Biannual meetings with district officials to address migrant workers' issues, provide legal assistance, and promote awareness of social schemes for their families' support and education.	226 meetings (including stake holder workshop and dialogue at, district & block level)	
Public representative training	2-day district-level training held to educate local public representatives on reducing migration by improving local employment, documentation, health, and education for migrant families.		124
Ration support for accident victims	Ration support provided to migrant workers and their families facing severe issues, such as injuries, fatalities, or legal troubles, during		81

	their migration or work-related accidents. This aid addressed emergency needs and ensured sustenance for affected families and children.		
Events like Drug Addiction prevention camp	Awareness camps	30	871
Training in Stitching	Free training camps to build livelihood capabilities		

- **Achievements**

- Exceptional Academic Achievement: Children from Class 5 to 10 in BalPanchayat achieved a remarkable 100% success rate, demonstrating the effectiveness of the program in supporting their educational development.
- Empowering Children as Change Agents: Through awareness initiatives, children became informed about government schemes and proactively assisted their families in accessing these benefits, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility.
- Reducing Dropout Rates: Our initiatives successfully re-enrolled dropout children, significantly decreasing the number of children missing out on education and promoting a culture of inclusivity and equal opportunities.
- Promoting Safe Migration and Workers' Rights: Through targeted awareness campaigns, workers were empowered with knowledge about safe migration practices and their legal rights, enabling them to advocate for themselves and seek redress when necessary, promoting a safer and more dignified migration experience.

- **Challenges**

- Barriers to Timely School Enrollment: The lack of supporting documents, such as birth certificates and proof of residence, hinders the prompt enrollment of migrant children in schools, potentially disrupting their educational journey.
- Financial Constraints: Migrant families often struggle to afford the costs associated with education, including tuition fees, uniforms, and materials, creating a significant obstacle to accessing quality education.
- Childcare Challenges: In the absence of alternative caregivers, migrant workers often bring their children with them during migration, leading to difficulties in ensuring consistent access to education for these children, as they are frequently moved between locations.

Program 4: Maitri Network

- **Beneficiaries**
 - Women and children
- **Objectives**
 - To enhance the safety, dignity, and autonomy of women and children by preventing gender-based discrimination and sexual violence through empowerment initiatives and rights protection.
 - To promote the social and economic empowerment of women, thereby improving their position and influence in society



- **Initiatives & Activities**

Activity Name	Initiatives	Number	Participants
CSO formation	Civil society organizations (CSO) formed to train and empower women (including CBO's, SHG's youth groups etc.)	64	660
Sensitization programs	Sensitization for government agency members (including police, lawyers, ASHA workers etc.) to take women's cases seriously & executing them according to appropriate legal procedures		240
Legal awareness training Program	Organized with the support of the District Legal Authority. The program focused on sexual exploitation, domestic violence, and child protection for women		

	and girls.		
Legal assistance for victims	Assistance in registration of cases of sexual violence	24 cases	
Support for victims of violence	Support by CSOs through psychological, social, and legal interventions like counseling, legal support, ration kits, government schemes etc.)	30 cases (including rape, sexual harassment, abduction, domestic violence)	
Sensitization programs for boys and men	Sensitizing men/young boys about gender equality and justice		70
Community Fairs	Awareness programs		1752 participants

- **Achievements**

- Effective Violence Prevention Initiatives: The Maitri Network has successfully organized workshops and trainings on violence prevention, prompting administrative departments to implement similar programs and enhance community awareness.
- Enhanced Support for Survivors: Survivor families are now accessing legal aid and mental counselling services through referrals, empowering them to seek justice and support.
- Increased Women's Empowerment: Over the past six months, women have become more aware and proactive in addressing violence, actively seeking information, speaking out, and taking action against injustices.
- Strong Stakeholder Collaboration: We have built robust connections with stakeholders in Mahoba and Banda districts, gaining their support and collaboration from various departments such as the police, One Stop Centre, and legal services.
- Positive Shift in Gender Dynamics: Our initiatives with men and boys have fostered a better understanding of gender issues, leading them to actively support and assist women in household responsibilities.

- **Challenges**

- Seasonal migration for work affects attendance among kids, necessitating flexible programming to accommodate their schedules.
- Collaboration with local police stations is hampered by delays and inaccuracies in case information, affecting our support for victims.
- Women from marginalized castes face ongoing discrimination, highlighting the need for focused interventions to address these entrenched inequalities.
- Bribery and case settlements at the police station level obstruct victims' access to formal legal processes and foster a culture of impunity.
- The lack of dedicated office space makes it difficult to provide a safe, confidential environment for victims, especially those traveling from remote areas.

Program 5: Nirbhaya Program

- **Beneficiaries**
 - Women and girls
- **Objectives**
 - Implement strategic initiatives to prevent and address violence, discrimination, and sexual harassment against girls and women, focusing on empowering them and fostering leadership development. This includes awareness campaigns, capacity building, and advocacy to challenge gender stereotypes and promote equality.



- **Initiatives & Activities**

Activity Name	Initiatives	Number	Participants
Resource Centre	Resource center established for counseling and information sharing		72 survivors and families
Stakeholder Initiatives	Efforts aimed to inform and involve stakeholders (like meetings were organized with various departments like Education Officer, WCD, CWC, Tehsil Legal Services Committee, Police Department, Civil Hospital, OSC, Livelihood Mission) in the Nirbhaya program's initiatives against sexual crimes.	120 meetings	
Community & School Engagement	Community camps and meetings to educate people on preventing	6 community camps	2357 adults

	violence and inform children about their rights, including issues like child labor, child marriage, gender discrimination & available helplines.	95 community meetings 7 school camps	
Dignity Centers	Serve as safe havens for survivors and also organize prevention activities that empower girls.	3	163 girls enrolled
Case Identification & Documentation	Data collection followed by legal support	61 cases	
Capacity building workshops for girls	Information dissemination & empowerment		450 participants
Balika panchayat	Community meetings of girls to discuss issues pertaining to gender based rights and violence	25	496
Advocacy at State and National Levels	Talks with various institutions including Police, Women and Child Development, One stop centers, National Rural Livelihood Mission and District Education Officer		

- **Achievements**

- Advocacy and Empowerment: BalikaPanchayat members actively challenge violence and crime, fostering a culture of zero tolerance and accountability.
- Strategic Partnerships: Collaboration with the police department ensures a coordinated response to gender-based violence, creating a safer environment for girls and women.
- Stakeholder Engagement: Strong relationships with key stakeholders support a unified approach to gender equality and girls' empowerment.
- Leadership Development: Girls involved in Garima Kendra and Balika Panchayat gain confidence and skills to advocate for themselves and others.
- Support Services Access: Increased use of mental counselling services by survivors and community members reflects growing trust in the support system.

- **Challenges**

- Victim Attrition: Despite ongoing counseling, some victims maintain ties with their perpetrators, complicating support and advocacy efforts.
- Information Barriers: Limited access to case information from certain police stations impedes effective support and advocacy.
- Migration and Group Dynamics: Seasonal migration affects meeting attendance and continuity, requiring flexible support strategies.
- Political Interference: Political pressure in some cases undermines our advocacy, highlighting the need for stronger partnerships and protocols.
- Police Inaction: Instances of police failing to register complaints hinder access to justice and perpetuate impunity, stressing the need for collaborative advocacy.

New programs

This year a new project was launched in Jaipur with the aim of empowering domestic workers through education, training, legal support, and improved working conditions. Key objectives include collectivizing domestic workers, mobilizing young girls, and raising awareness about workers' rights, social security, and education. Several outreach programs were conducted reaching out to 5252 beneficiaries. Monthly meetings were conducted facilitating access to government schemes (linkage to Jan Adhar, widow Pension, opening of bank accounts etc.) besides assistance in getting withheld wages.





Stories of Change

Vandana's Courage Stops Illegal Minor Marriage

"I am Vandana, an 18-year-old student in 12th standard and the Sarpanch of BalPanchayat from Tikamgarh District. I come from a family of eight, and my parents work as laborers in Delhi. Before joining BalPanchayat, I was timid and hesitant to venture out. I believed that girls should be reserved and stay at home. However, after becoming a part of BalPanchayat, I gained knowledge about gender discrimination, violence against women, child rights, child marriage, and helpline numbers. This awareness has boosted my self-confidence, and I no longer fear speaking up against wrongdoing.

When I learned about two young girls in my neighborhood being forced into early marriage, I discussed it with my BalPanchayat colleagues, and we collectively opposed the arrangement, managing to delay it. Through BalPanchayat, I also learned about the importance of safe migration and the need for laborers to be informed about their rights to avoid exploitation. I now advise my parents about safe working conditions and non-discriminatory environments.

Thanks to GraminSwavalambanSamitiSanstha, I have access to valuable information and resources. I hope they continue to empower poor girls like me with knowledge and support. I have realized that silence only perpetuates violence and discrimination. I will no longer remain silent when I face gender-based discrimination; instead, I will courageously oppose it and encourage others to do the same."

Vandana, Village: Astoun Block: Tikamgarh



From Trauma to Triumph: Prema's Story of Resilience

I am Prema (name changed), 18 years old, and have completed my 12th standard education. My parents and brother are farmers. When I was 17, I was kidnapped and raped by someone I had spoken to over the phone, who lured me with a false promise of going for a walk. Fortunately, GSS learned about the incident and supported my father in seeking justice. The accused was caught and sentenced to life imprisonment, despite the villagers' pressure to compromise and drop the case. The organization has been a constant source of support for me since then, providing legal guidance and boosting my self-confidence to overcome fear. I am grateful for their assurance that they will help me secure a livelihood, enabling me to become self-reliant. After the incident, villagers would often taunt me, questioning how I would get married now. However, the organization has been a beacon of hope, encouraging me to focus on living with dignity and respect, and assuring me that they will stand by me every step of the way.

- Prema (District Tikamgarh)

Empowered to Empower: Vandana's Journey with BalikaPanchayat

I am Vandana Saur, a 20-year-old from the tribal community. I live with my parents and two others in my family. While pursuing my BA, I believed my focus should be solely on my family, avoiding involvement in village issues. I often stayed silent, thinking it was best for a girl to avoid speaking up. However, after joining BalikaPanchayat, my perspective changed. I realized the importance of speaking out against wrongdoing in the neighborhood. Through BalikaPanchayat, I learned about child rights, child marriage, violence against women, gender discrimination, laborer rights, and the importance of documentation. When I learned that 13-year-old Draupadi, an 8th standard student, was forced to drop out of school by her parents, I visited them and tried to change their minds. Although they initially refused due to documentation issues, I took it upon myself to complete the paperwork. Within a week, Draupadi was back in school, which brought me immense joy. Some neighbors now taunt me, calling me a 'leader' and mocking me, but I remain unfazed. I am committed to using the knowledge I gained from GraminSwavalambanSamiti to help the vulnerable and poor in my village. I will continue to stand up for what I believe is right, even if it means facing ridicule.

- Vandana Saur, Bhelsi Village, Baldevgarh

A Voice for Girls' Rights: Karishma's Empowering Story

I am Karishma Ahirwar, an 18-year-old student currently in 12th standard. I have two brothers and a sister, and our parents commute to the city from our village for work. Initially, I didn't prioritize my studies, thinking, 'What's the point of studying?' As a result, I failed my 11th standard exams. My failure became an excuse for my father to dismiss the importance of education. He said, 'It's just passing or failing, it doesn't matter. I need to reduce my burden anyway.' He then suggested that we focus on finding a suitable marriage match for me instead. However, I have since realized the value of education and am determined to continue my studies. When my mother mentioned my marriage, I felt devastated. I became frustrated with myself, thinking that if I hadn't failed, this conversation wouldn't be happening. First, I appealed to my mother to stop the marriage plans. She responded, 'Why did you fail? You don't seem interested in studying. Your father is right; we need to reduce our burden.' She believed marriage would be good for me. I was heartbroken and cried profusely, even skipping meals at times. Eventually, my father's stance softened, and he agreed to let me continue my studies, but only if I achieved good grades. I was overjoyed and focused on my studies, passing 11th standard with excellent marks. Now, I'm proudly studying in 12th standard. The Garima Kendra empowered me by teaching me to speak up, protest against discrimination, and fight for my rights. I firmly believe that people should not view girls as a burden but provide them with equal opportunities to study, enabling them to reach their full potential. Similarly, organizations like Gramin Swavalamban Samiti should continue raising awareness about girls' rights in villages, which is crucial to ending gender discrimination.

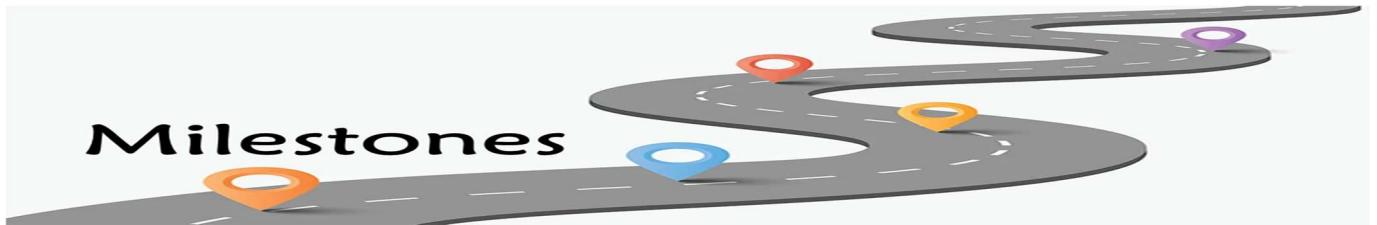
- Karishma, (Khargapur (Kila Mohalla) Village)

A Voice for the Voiceless: Beti Bai's Crusade for Women's Rights

I am Beti Bai, 45 years old. There are four people in my family. My husband passed away eight years ago. Earlier, I used to work as a laborer alongside my husband, but I don't anymore. I was very disappointed and worried about what would happen next and how my family would manage. I wasn't receiving a widow's pension because my husband's death certificate hadn't been issued. I reached out to the Gramin Swavalamban Samiti organization for help, and they assisted me. They obtained my pension by submitting my husband's death certificate, also known as a 'Terahvin card'. The organization supported me continuously for 25 days to get the pension started. Additionally, they helped me register my land, which is now in my name. Many poor women like me have benefited from joining this organization. They also helped Saroj in our village receive maternity benefits and got Phoolmati and Ramkunwar registered for Sambhal cards."

A group of 12 women has been formed in the village, and we hold meetings every month. Men also attend our meetings, which has helped foster a sense of community and inclusivity. With the support of the organization, we were able to address and solve the long-standing problems of water and drainage in the village. Additionally, through our collective efforts as Mahila Samuh, we successfully prevented the marriages of 8 underage girls in the village, protecting their rights and well-being. Ruby, a 16-year-old girl, was forced to drop out of school and was arranged to be married by her father. As soon as we found out, we visited their home and explained the situation to them. Initially, her father refused to listen, but when we mentioned involving the police, he became quiet. Ruby's grandfather, Ghassu, understood the gravity of the situation and intervened, promising that Ruby's marriage would not take place. Instead, he offered to provide her with a sewing machine to learn a skill and earn a living. He agreed that her marriage would happen only when she was older and more prepared. Through our collective efforts, we were able to stop Ruby's marriage. I firmly believe that empowering women in the village is crucial, and organizations like ours should take on the responsibility of raising awareness among them. Moreover, it is equally important to educate men in the village, as their understanding and support can bring about a positive change in their families and the community at large.

-Beti Bai, Poonaul Haar Village, Jatara



Worker Protection Case Support: Our Workers Helpline (1800-120-11211) provides crucial support for migrant laborers, ensuring their concerns are addressed promptly. In 19 cases of wage non-payment, we successfully secured ₹828,308 for 46 laborers, reaffirming our commitment to labor rights and fair compensation.

Entitlement: We facilitated the registration of 19,884 migrant families in various social security schemes, achieving 56,646 enrollments. These include housing, ration cards, labor cards, and pensions, significantly enhancing the security and well-being of vulnerable communities.

Sexual Violence Survivors: Through community outreach and awareness programs, we educated participants on violence prevention, child rights, and human rights. Our efforts supported 210 cases of violence, including rape, assault, and abuse, with ₹2,450,000 disbursed in 17 cases to provide essential relief for survivors.

Education Support: We reintegrated 230 children from migrant families into the education system and established child councils in villages, increasing awareness of education's importance and motivating parents to prioritize their children's schooling.

Community Reach: We maintain a transparent, collaborative relationship with the community, regularly conducting meetings, safe migration programs, and awareness camps. These efforts empower community members to make informed decisions and drive their development.

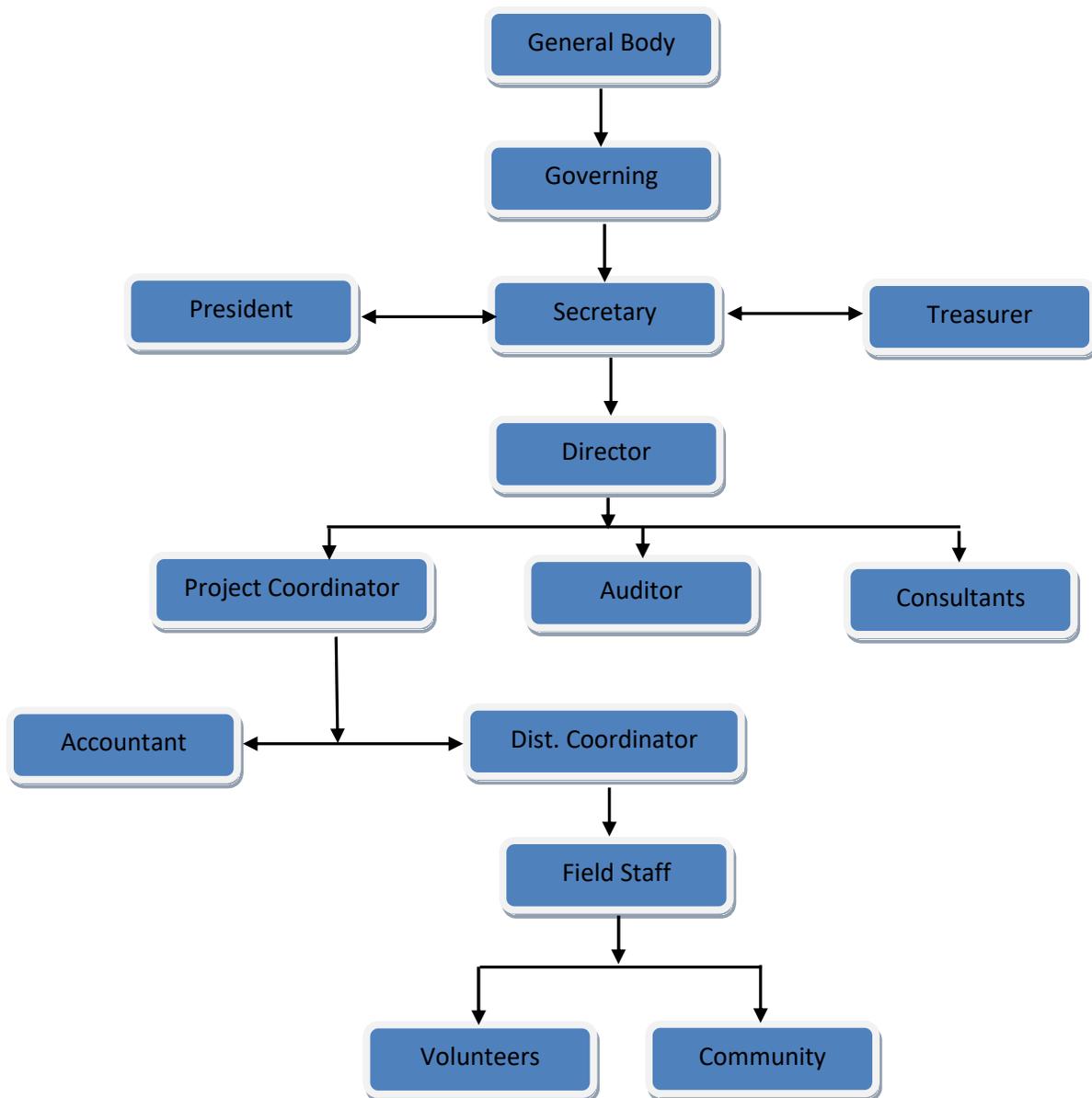
Stakeholder Reach: We fostered strategic partnerships with various government departments, ensuring coordinated program implementation and maximizing impact. Our collaborations spanned multiple agencies, enhancing the response to community needs.

Key Impact Areas:

- **Livelihood:** Supported 200 individuals
- **Food Security:** Assisted 84,613 migrant laborers
- **Education:** Enabled 230 children to continue schooling
- **Health:** Helped 16,480 individuals access medical insurance
- **Documentation:** Assisted 20,098 individuals with documentation
- **Other Schemes:** Facilitated enrollments in additional welfare programs

Governance and Management

GSS follows a project based organizational structure, wherein each project coordinator reports to the Director who in turns reports to the Board of Governors. The field staff is further supported by volunteers and community members in its activities.



○ Capacity Building Initiatives

This year, we prioritized the growth and development of our team through a series of four comprehensive workshops. These sessions were designed to deepen the team's understanding of our mission, vision, and objectives, while also enhancing their skills and knowledge. Additionally, the committee facilitated a BSW/MSW course for 23 participants in collaboration with the Madhya Pradesh Jan Abhiyan Parishad, further strengthening our team's capability to excel in their roles. The residential training program provided our team with in-depth knowledge and expertise in essential areas, including:

- Time management techniques for maximizing productivity
- Effective community engagement strategies
- Stakeholder involvement and management
- Quality assurance and control
- Clarity and precision in work processes and communication

Partnerships and Collaborations

Our achievements are made possible through the invaluable support of our partners and sponsors. Gramin Swavalamban Sangathan's work is deeply rooted in collaboration, and the breadth of our impact is a testament to the commitment of our fundraising and knowledge partners. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who have invested in our mission, enabling us to uplift and empower thousands of underprivileged families.



Challenges and Insights

GSS encountered several challenges that affected its operational effectiveness and overall impact:

- **Representation at State and District Levels:** We have struggled to effectively represent our work and highlight our achievements at the state and district levels. This limitation has reduced our visibility and influence in key areas.
- **Reporting and Proposal Writing:** We have faced difficulties in preparing comprehensive and systematic reports for projects and funds. Additionally, writing proposals and project reports that align with our organizational research and objectives has been challenging due to a lack of expertise in this area.
- **Resource Constraints:** Our efforts have been constrained by a shortage of resources, including financial, human, and technological assets. This has hindered our ability to fully execute our activities and meet our goals.
- **Impact of Code of Conduct on Operations:** The implementation of the Model Code of Conduct (CoC) during the assembly elections from October to November 2023 led to a temporary suspension of our operations. This significantly affected our community engagement and social security programs, as all related activities were put on hold. The closure of key schemes' portals and the lack of stakeholder engagement during this period further exacerbated the situation, limiting our ability to provide essential services to our beneficiaries.

These challenges have provided valuable lessons, underscoring the need to strengthen our capabilities in representation, reporting, resource mobilization, and operational resilience during external disruptions.

- **Strategies to Address Challenges**

- Develop a robust communication strategy to enhance our representation at state and district levels
- Build the capacity of our team in report writing, proposal development, and project management
- Identify and secure additional resources to support our organizational activities and goals
- Despite CoC challenging period, we remained committed to our mission and adapted our strategies to comply with the CoC regulations. We utilized this time to review our processes, enhance our internal capacities, and prepare for a seamless resumption of operations once the CoC was lifted. With the elections concluded and the CoC no longer in effect, we have resumed our community engagement and social security programs, ensuring minimal disruption to our beneficiaries and stakeholders.

Future Plans and Goals

- Strategic Objectives for the Next Year-
 - Expand the organization's scope to reach new districts and target populations, including children, single women, and laborers seeking to escape poverty and live in safe conditions.
 - Gather and analyze data to inform program development and service delivery in these new districts.
 - Establish partnerships with local stakeholders, community leaders, and organizations to support the expansion of our services.
 - Develop and implement targeted outreach and engagement strategies to reach vulnerable populations and raise awareness about our organization's mission and services.

- Long-Term Goals
 - Empower children, single women, and laborers to break the cycle of poverty and live in safe, dignified conditions.
 - Provide access to education, economic opportunities, and social support services for our target populations.
 - Foster a culture of resilience, self-sufficiency, and community engagement among our beneficiaries.
 - Advocate for policy changes and social justice to address the root causes of poverty and inequality.
 - Establish our organization as a leading authority and resource in the field of poverty alleviation and social development.
 - Develop a comprehensive needs assessment and baseline study to inform program design and monitoring.
 - Establish a robust monitoring and evaluation framework to track progress and impact.
 - Build a diverse and skilled team to support the expansion of our services.
 - Secure sustainable funding and resources to support our long-term goals.
 - Foster strategic partnerships and collaborations to amplify our impact and leverage resources.

Annexure

o Financial Statement

GRAMEEN SWAVLAMBAN SAMITI
 Reg. No. ST/3664 Dated 06-07-2002
 HARIJAN BASTI, MAMON, NARGUDA, TIKAMGARH (M.P.)
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENT ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.03.2024

Receipts	Amount (Rs)	Payment	Schedule	Amount (Rs)
To Opening Balance (01.04.2023)		Project Expenses		
Cash in hand	3,840.00	By Girls Claim dignity and Justice Project Exp (KBK)	1	27,83,667.50
MBGB A/c	6,477.00	By Navankur Project Expenses	2	1,42,500.00
PNB A/c	1,27,500.75	By Rebuild India Project Expenses	3	5,73,788.06
Bank of India	9,71,916.10	By Maitri Network Project Expenses	4	5,98,575.30
Bank of India (Staff welfare)	1,44,200.96	By Nirbhaya Project Expenses	5	23,21,599.50
Axis Bank (FC)	12,31,632.09	By MRC Project Expenses	6	89,22,212.01
SBI FC A/c	21,269.00	By PRCF Education Project Exp	7	1,60,815.00
		By Safe Migration Program Exp	8	39,07,638.83
To Grant Received :		By Organisation Expense		53,269.29
Foreign Donor		By Capital Expenses		2,42,900.00
Dignity Alliance International, UK	1,07,31,120.54			
Karuna Deutschland e.V, Essen	39,78,529.00	By Closing Balance (31-03-2024)		
Paul Hamlyn Foundation UK	51,96,184.00	Cash in Hand		-
Dasra, Houston Texas	10,17,393.00	MBGB A/c	6,655.00	
Indian Donor		PNB A/c	2,54,437.33	
Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives PVT LTD Bengaluru	33,39,000.00	Bank of India	15,72,200.60	
M.P. Jan Abhiyan Parisad Tkg	2,00,000.00	Bank of India (Staff welfare)	1,67,855.96	
Next Gen Project Pvt. Ltd, Bengaluru	1,01,489.87	Axis Bank (Sub FC)	47,80,929.47	
Bank Interest Rec.	2,15,301.00	SBI FC A/c	8,34,489.46	76,16,567.82
Individual Donation	21,000.00			
Membership Fees	15,480.00			
Other Income	1,200.00			
Total Amount	2,73,23,533.31	Total Amount		2,73,23,533.31

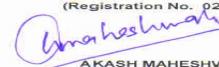
For Grameen swavlamban samiti

As per our report of even date attached

President 

For AKASH MAHESHWARI & ASSOCIATES
 Chartered Accountant
 (Registration No. 029924N)

Secretary 


 AKASH MAHESHWARI
 PROPRIETORSHIP
 Place: NEW DELHI
 Date: 11-05-2024
 UDIN : 24539802BKHKDH9988

Treasurer 

GRAMEEN SWAVLAMBAN SAMITI
Reg. No. ST/3664 Dated 06-07-2002
HARIJAN BASTI, MAMON, NARGUDA, TIKAMGARH (M.P.)

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.3.2024

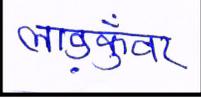
Schedule

Expenditure		Amount (Rs)	Income	Amount (Rs)
To Local Grant Expenses			By Grant Received Indian Fund	
Girls Claim dignity and Justice Project Exp (KBK)	1	27,83,667.50	Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives PVT LTD Bengaluru	33,39,000.00
Navankur Project Expenses	2	1,42,500.00	M.P Jan Abhiyan Parisad Tkg Next Gen Project Pvt. Ltd, Bengaluru	2,00,000.00 1,01,489.87
To FCRA Grant Expenses			By Grant Received FCRA Fund :	
Rebuild India Project Expenses	3	5,73,788.06	Dignity Alliance International, UK	1,07,31,120.54
Maitri Network Project Expenses	4	5,98,575.30	Karuna Deustchland e.V, Essen	39,78,529.00
Nirbhaya Project Expenses	5	23,21,599.50	Paul Hamlyn Foundation UK	51,96,184.00
MRC Project Expenses	6	89,22,212.01	Dasra, Houston Texas	10,17,393.00
PRCF Education Project Exp	7	1,60,815.00		
Safe Migration Program Exp	8	39,07,638.83	Bank Interest	2,15,301.00
To Organisation Expenses		53,269.29	Individual Donation	21,000.00
To Depreciation on Fixed Assets		1,04,978.00	Membership Fees	15,480.00
To Unspent Grant Transferred to B/S		74,23,267.40	Other Income	1,200.00
			Deficit	21,75,613.48
Total Amount		2,69,92,310.89	Total Amount	2,69,92,310.89

For Grameen swavlamban samiti

As per our report of even date attached

President



Secretary



Treasurer



For AKASH MAHESHWARI & ASSOCIATES
Chartered Accountant
(Registration No. 029924N)



AKASH MAHESHWARI
PROPREITORSHIP
Place: NEW DELHI

Date: 11-05-2024

UDIN : 24539802BKHKDH9998



Grameen Swavlamban Samiti
Tikamgarh (MP) 472001
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Contact No: 91-9893517024