

Tri-annual Report

April 2006 - March 2009



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A. Introduction

1. Sampark: beginning of the mission with a vision and the beliefs

SAMPARK is working with rural communities of Jhabua district in the Madhya Pradesh for last twenty one years. Jhabua falls under the Malva region of the west-central northern India occupying a plateau of the volcanic origin, known as **Malwa Plateau**. The average elevation of the Malva plateau is about 500 meters with the landscape slopes towards the north. Most of the Malva region is drained by the Chambal River and its tributaries, however, the western part of this region which includes Jhabua district, is drained by the upper reaches of Mahi River. Jhabua is a predominantly *Adivasi* (meaning *original people*, also known as tribals) district, and suffers from high rates of illiteracy and poverty. Almost half of the population lives below the poverty line.

Petlawad Block and Bhils: The Petlawad development block is situated in the north-eastern corner of Jhabua district with the total geographical area spread over 957 sq km and a total population of 11702, according to the census report. Petlawad is one of the important city of Jhabua district surrounded by the rural areas. This area is the home of Bhil adivasi or indigenous tribe which constitutes about 86.8% of the total population of the block, including the Petlawad city, and is divided in various sub-categories like *Bhil*, *Bhilala*, and *Patelia*. Topography and history of this area clearly suggest towards the fact that this area was under dense forest cover until the middle of the pervious century. Forest cover gradually disappeared with the increased interventions of the outsiders, especially, traders, government employees and contractors. This uncovering process has exposed the soil against the phenomenon of soil erosion on one side and made the lives of Bhils vulnerable on the other side.

ESTABLISHMENT

Mr. Nilesh Desai, head of Sampark, worked for two years with Social Work and Research Center (SWRC), *Tilonia*, after completing his masters in social work from Indore School of Social Work. His experiences of working with SWRC at *Tilonia* played a crucial role in shaping his visions and paradigm about the poor, most disadvantaged and vulnerable sections of the society. He decided to work at grassroots level with a mission to empower the community and to enable them for addressing their developmental issues by themselves. He established a branch of SWRC in 1987, at Raipuria, in Block Petlawad. After assessing the ground realities of this area he decided to work with Drinking Water Mission and contributed his level best to effectively link the local community with this program. With the course of interaction with local community he realized the need of a sustainable ongoing intervention at grassroots level with a locally developed strategies and understandings. Establishment of Sampark was the first step in this direction. Sampark was registered in 1990 under society registration act 1860. Subsequently, the office of the Sampark was shifted to Sampark gram from Raipuria. Sampark gram is located at the mid-point between Petlawad and Raipuria. The 3.2 acre area of the Sampark gram is the hub of the participatory activities and the forces which are focused towards the empowerment of the local tribal population of Petlawad block as well as other areas of the Jhabua district.

VISION AND BELIEF

People associated with Sampark have gone through extensive experiences of working at community level. The vision they are working with has been evolved through the experiences they have faced during the entire extent of the time frame since they started working at community level. They have developed a holistic vision about the organization, about the people and also about the need to bring changes in the lives of the people. However, their vision has been guided by the realities associated with tribal population, existed in the local areas. It would be useful to understand their belief, prior to pointing to their specific vision, regarding important issues associated with the social structure, social processes, and empowerment as expressed by Mr. Nilesh Desai; *“We believe that the existing social structure is in most cases exploitative, unjust and inequitable. And that this social structure has broken the fabric of the tribal community and destroyed their social esteems and thus has made them vulnerable and powerless. We also firmly believe that disadvantaged people are capable of bringing changes in their lives by their own actions and initiatives.”* These beliefs have been condensed in an integrated manner to form a dynamic and actionable vision which is

“Enabling the disadvantaged people to become self reliant on their own resources so that they can be empowered to play a meaningful role in establishing a just, equitable, sustainable and decentralized social order, free from all forms of exploitation and discrimination.”

MISSION STATEMENT

SAMPARK sees itself as an ongoing process as well as an endeavor with a mission; *“to initiate and also to facilitate the process to empower of the disadvantaged and powerless people so that they would organize themselves in order to form a just and sustainable social order for bringing culturally accepted qualitative changes in their lives, making them more resourceful and also for enabling them to restore their self esteem under a participatory environment through the tools and mechanism of non-violence.”* However, as it has been already mentioned that the vision and mission of the Sampark have been evolved out of the realities and experiences of working with local communities for two decades.

2. Realizing the vision: Twenty years of mutual learning, empowerment and advocacy for rights

Historically, tribal community was not being able to deal with the complexities of the modern city bred life as well as the functioning of the government machinery. Reaching to tribal communities and linking them with the developmental schemes had been a challenge before development agencies and governments. In Petlawad too, government officials and professionals could not be able to involve the local community in to various schemes and programs. For example modern education system developed at state level could not be directly extended to the tribal communities due to cognitive differences between the two cultures. Sampark has been playing a crucial role in bridging this gap in Petlawad tehsil of Jhabua district for over two decades. This process of mutual learning has brought a valuable understanding about important facets of the Bhil's life. It has witnessed the entire process of empowerment which took place at both ends, i.e. the rural community and the development agencies. Now it's over twenty years of both ways learning process which has empowered Sampark and developed its capacities to effectively interact

with the Bhil community. This mutual learning has paved the way of effective implementation of various developmental programs focused on drinking water, education, panchayati raj, health and livelihood.

Sampark has adapted according to grassroots situation and transformed the initiatives, accordingly, to address the needs of the Bhils community, effectively, in the context of education, health, livelihood and other developmental issues. Sampark has been able to develop successful examples of collective actions across the Petlawad block; however, these examples are being replicated at other places too, in the form of effective advocacy and influence on state level policy formulation. Sampark's vision of creating a just and equitable society through empowerment of disadvantaged community is being realized by various actors at various levels.

Sampark has catalyzed the local community and empowered them to adopt a rights based approach in the context of health, education, livelihood and agriculture along with various other important issues. The learning and insights, the organization has been able to get through these experiences, have proved to be valuable in formulating strategies, at various levels of governance, for mainstreaming tribal community. Sampark has shared these learning with policy formulators at state and national level through effective networking and advocacy influencing governments to come up with pro poor policies. Sampark has supported various campaigns and local movements initiated as an outcome of catalyzing the community for rights.

3. Evolution of the organization: Sampark Today

Today, Sampark is one of most streamlined agencies involved in the empowerment of the rural communities through mutual learning, participatory action, and advocacy.

Key expertise

Sampark has developed key insights regarding a range of issues associated with the lives of rural communities. These insights have enabled the organization and state government agencies to develop effective strategies for addressing the challenges associated with tribal development. Sampark has developed various successful models of community participation which have been appreciated by experts and professionals across the country. Sampark has developed key expertise regarding various areas of rural development which includes;

- Watershed management
- Rainwater harvesting
- Livelihood and income generation for rural communities, especially though promoting non forming activities and SHG formation
- Promoting low input agriculture
- Promoting health at grassroots level
- Extending education system into tribal villages
- Integrating the mainstream basic education system with the skill based education
- Empowering community, panchayat and vulnerable communities, especially women.

Networks and linkages

Sampark has played a crucial role in creating enabling environment regarding empowerment of tribal community. Rights based approach has been at the core of the Sampark's initiatives. Sampark has been a key member of the national, state and district level network formed for rights based advocacy. These

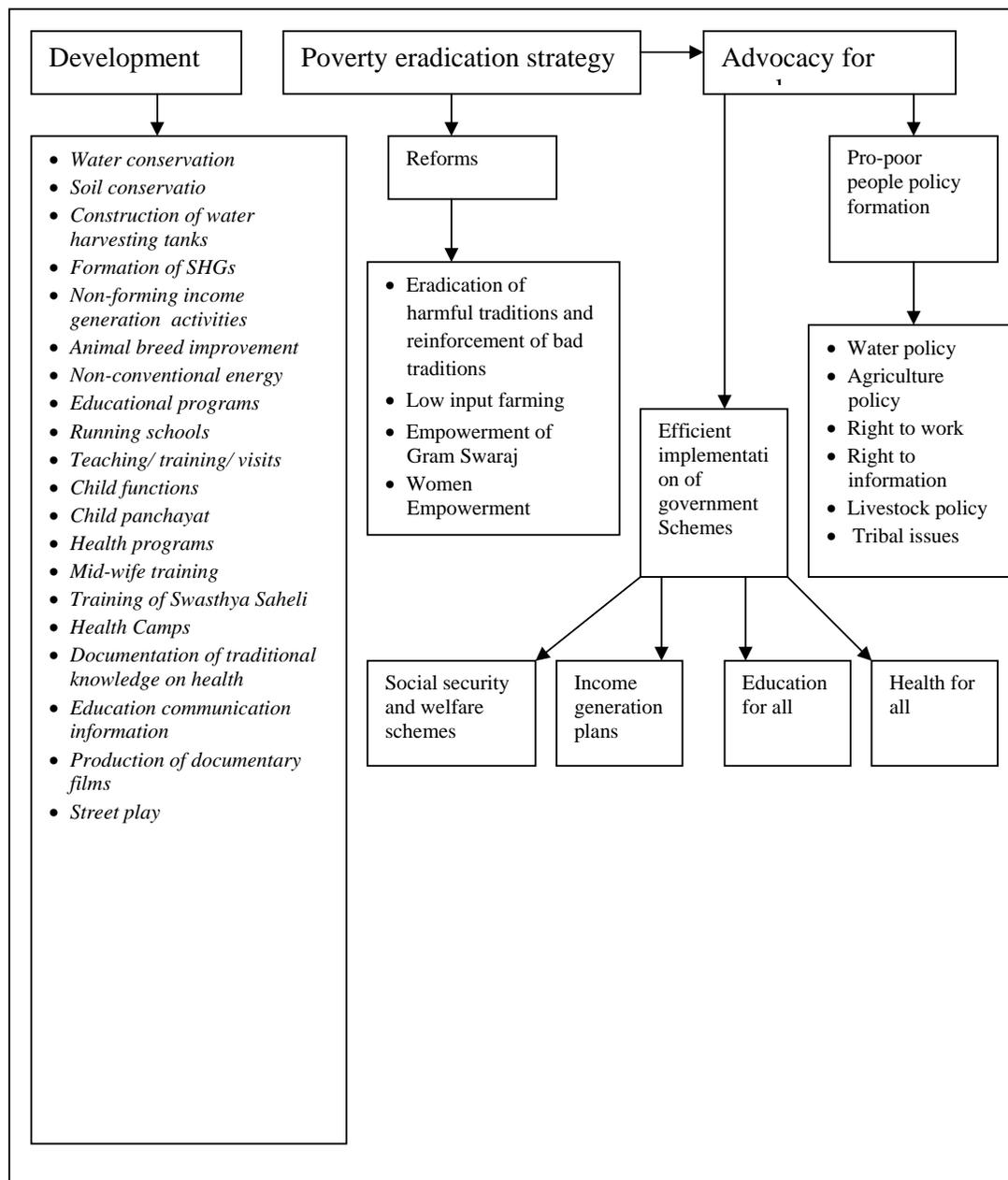
networks have played important roles in influencing national and state level government for formulating pro-people-pro-poor policies.

Table-A1: List of various networks

National level network	State level network	District level Network
Sampada, New Delhi	M.P. Jal Biradari	Jhabua Vikas Munch
Global rainwater harvesting	Beej Swaraj Campaign	Lok Jagriti Munch
Rashtriya Jal Biradari	Madhyanchal forum	Kastkaar Sangh
Right to food campaign	Right to food campaign	Udvahan Sichaayi Pidhit Hitgrahi Sangh
Lead Advocacy Network		Palak Shikshak Sangh Forum
		Moti Bachat Samiti

Holistic approach

Sampark has developed a holistic approach for the bringing changes at grassroots level which includes various activities at different levels. Following flow charts presents the outline of this approach;

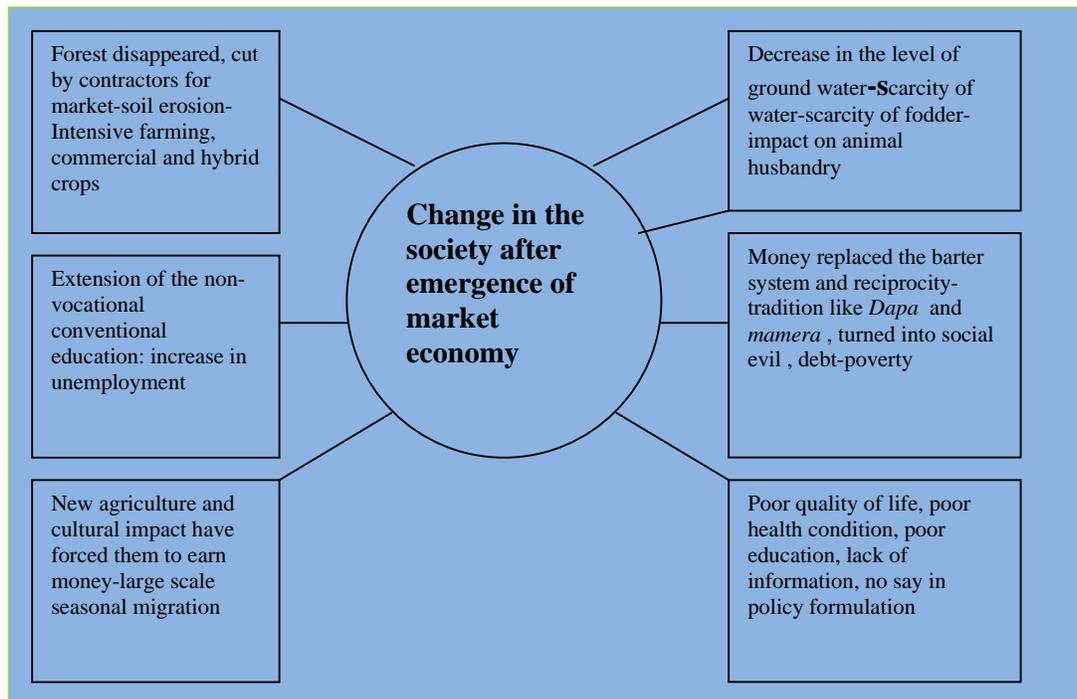
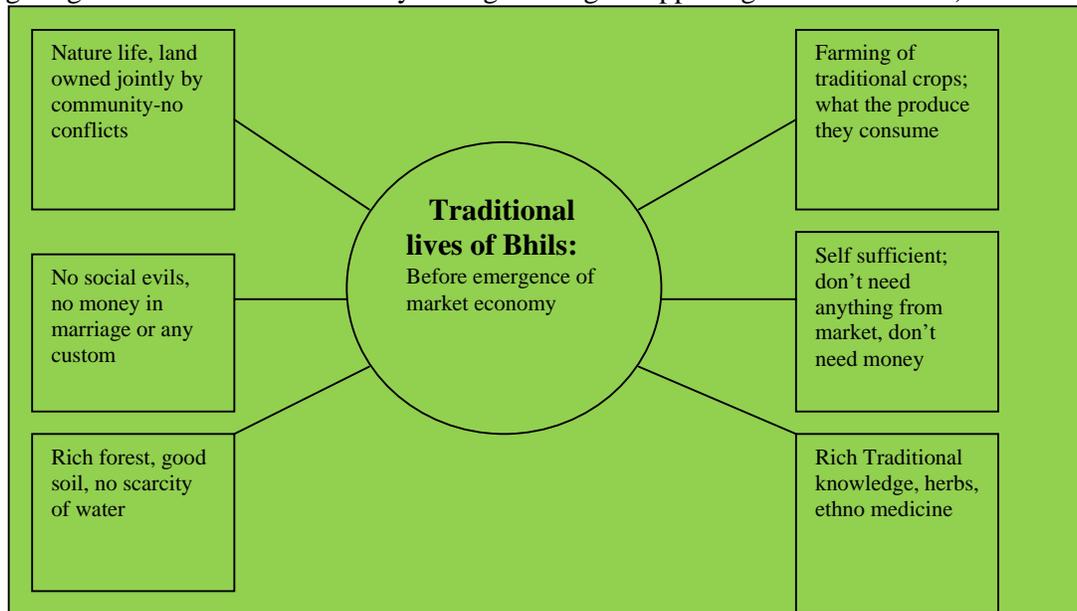


B. Empowerment and mainstreaming

1. Addressing the social challenges

Society of Bhils of Jhabua has been egalitarian and simple in nature. Socio-cultural life of Bhils indicates towards the simplicity of a subsistence economy depended largely on forest products, animal husbandry and limited nature of farming. Their lives had been in a complete coherence with pre dominantly forest environment till recent past. However, rapid changes took place in and around their immediate environment. Cities like Petlawad and Jhabua has emerged with all the necessary characteristics of market economies. Slowly and slowly the forest cover which was the hub of their lives disappeared with the course of time. Emerging markets and inroads made by non-advasi people from outside had played major roles in the process of deforestation. Such changes have placed the tribal people of the area under the vulnerable conditions against the forces emanated from the markets. Money made inroads in a society where transactions were based on 'reciprocity' and 'barter system' and where the concept of property and possessions were traditionally absent. These external impacts have transformed the simple traditional

practices into social evils like *Dapa* (bride price), death feasts, and *mamera* (brother's responsibility of giving cloths to his sister's family during marriages happening at sister's house).



These practices have now become the major reasons of putting the Bhil community under the traps of debt and consequently under the poverty. Entry of money economy transformed the use of alcohol into a social evil. Personal disputes and difference bring them under the realm of modern judicial system. We can understand the impact of market economy on the lives of Bhils through following diagram;

People associated with Sampark have closely witnessed these vulnerabilities of Bhils against the external forces. However, Sampark firmly believes that disadvantaged communities are capable of bringing changes in their lives by their own actions and initiatives. Sampark is involved in developing awareness among community members about these social evils. These social evils are directly associated with poverty, poor health, illiteracy, poor quality of living standard, poor nutrition, lack of drinking water, and many other such characteristics which are visible at the surface of the lives of Bhil community in Petlawad block. Practices regarding gender based discrimination and control, marriage,

dowry, child labor, traditional approach towards health; education, sanitation and livelihood are also among the areas which need to be focused, in order to bring changes in the society. Sampark is involved in catalyzing the community for bringing changes at various levels to make the society a better place to live. Such catalyzing activities include;

- Enhancing the level of information about certain issues, motivating community to initiate actions against social and economic challenges.
- Empowering the community for the rights based approach to livelihood, education, health and other prerequisites of a healthy standard of living.
- Empowering the community by providing technological and other support technical essential for bringing changes in desired direction.
- Linking the community to the development projects and programs of government.

This process of change has been perceived by Sampark as an ongoing internal process which manifests in a higher level of awareness, sensitization, change in attitude and behavior in context of various issues as well as skill up gradation to handle the problems and challenges at grassroots level.

2. Women empowerment

Sampark believes in “*establishing a just, equitable, sustainable and decentralized social order, free from all forms of exploitation and discrimination,*” as mentioned in its vision statement. This statement clearly points towards the need of addressing the issues associated with gender based discrimination and



vulnerability associated with girls and women. Sampark holds that the differences which are existed across two genders are created by the society through a process of socialization. However, such socialization is generally discriminatory in its nature which pushes, especially, women at the verge of vulnerability against, poverty, poor health, illiteracy, and chances of getting various types of infections as well as against gender based violence, on the one hand, and allow men to extend their control on the households, on the other hand. Women are generally deprived of decision-making at family level as well as at community level. Sampark

stresses on empowering the disadvantaged communities and marginalized sections of the society, i.e. girls and women, as one of the essential requirements to form an equitable society. Therefore, women empowerment has been at the core of the actions initiated, so far, by the Sampark.

Sampark’s actions have been focused on three major dimension of the women empowerment. Firstly, Sampark is involved in empowering girls and women through developing skills at personal level, through literacy initiatives, adult education, girl’s education, women health, and livelihood programs. Various livelihood programs initiated by Sampark have been focused on improving the economic status of women and improving their decision making capacities, especially regarding economic issues, as it is at the core of women empowerment. Secondly,



Sampark has developed an effective communication strategy for challenging the traditional stereotyped practices which reinforces the gender based roles of women. Many families in the community after being sensitized through these initiatives are now sending their girls to outside the village for education and also for work. Parents are now promoting and supporting the education as well as the career of their daughters. There are examples of girls being selected for government services. Such examples have influenced the community and have brought major changes in the attitude of its members. However, girls and women still face discriminations, especially regarding opportunities to work and freedom to take decisions regarding career and choosing life partners. Sampark is involved in addressing these challenges in the Petlawad block.

Thirdly, Sampark views the Panchayati raj system as an effective wheel of change, especially in the context of empowering girls and women. Sampark has contributed in this process through providing specific trainings to women representative of panchayat as an ongoing process of empowerment. However, Sampark is currently carrying out a grassroots level initiative with the support of *Hunger Project*, with the specific objectives of strengthening the local self governments, empowering and educating elected women representatives of panchayats, increasing the participation of women in Gram Sabhas and formation of PRI federation. This empowering initiative is being carried out, intensively, in twenty six village of Petlawad block. Training workshops are being effectively used to empower elected women representatives. Village level meetings and interpersonal channels of communication are being used to sensitize women to take part in Gram Sabhas. This initiative has significantly increased the participation of the women in the Gram Sabhas in the intervention villages. Gram sabhas have transformed into the effective institutions of decentralized planning and women empowerment. Elected women representatives are playing effective role in the functioning of panchayat bodies in these villages. Women are now coming out of their households and taking active part in the decision making at village level, which has been seen, up to now, as a men's prerogative. Empowerment of elected women PRI representative is being focused under a CASA supported project. This project is being implemented in seventy villages of Petlawad block.

3. Decentralization and Panchayati Raj

Seventy third amendment of constitution had brought a revolutionary change in the governance of rural areas. Many organizations, social workers, researcher and activists had played great roles in creating an enabling environment for this amendment. Sampark was also associated with this movement, from very beginning, which ultimately came up with the establishment of Panchayati Raj institutions. Sampark views the decentralization of the decision making under the Panchayati raj as a process of the empowering the rural communities. However, Panchyati institutions also need to be empowered for functioning in an efficient and effective manner. Sampark played a key role in creating pressure group at state level which ultimately resulted in the delegations of important powers from state departments to Panchayati raj institutions. Although, sufficient power has been delegated to panchayats at various level, however, panchayats functionaries need to be empowered, especially in the context of these delegated powers and their rights. Sampark has carried out various trainings at block level as well as at village panchayat level inside the two blocks to educate the panchayat functionaries about their rights and powers delegated under Panchayati raj system.

Apart from empowering the panchayat functionaries Sampark is also involved in educating people about their rights under Panchayati raj system. Sampark has been aware of the challenges and obstacles which came through the course of establishment and empowerment of the Panchayati raj system in the state. Many elements associated with the former arrangements are still active to sideline the Panchyati raj system. Panchayats and their functionaries have been criticized for the corruption, especially about the lack of transparency in the functioning of panchayats at village level. Sampark believes that active participation of village community in the process of Panchayati raj would address these challenges. Active participation of the village community would transform the gramsabhas of village panchayats into

functional democratic institutions. Sampark is actively involved in empowering the Gramsabhas in Petlawad and Rama block of the Jhabua district. Many village panchayats in these two blocks have witnessed the effective role of Gramsabhas in the social auditing of the panchayat's work. Finally, it can be said that Sampark has developed a multi pronged approach in the context of Panchyati raj which covers;

- Empowerment of Gramsabhas by directly sensitizing and educating the community members to participate in the proceedings.
- Empowerment of panchayat functionaries at various levels through training workshops on different issues of governance and delegated powers.
- Creating a pressure group at state level through effective advocacy and sensitization of policy makers to formulate favorable legislations as well as to issue directives and orders for further empowerment of PRIs.

These initiatives have been very successful in transforming the Gram Sabhas into a tool of development at grassroots level. Participation of people has been increased in the functioning of Panchayati raj system. PRI functionaries, especially women, have been empowered to function at a greater level of efficiently.

4. Supporting the marginalized communities

Agriculture and animal husbandry form the core of the economic life of the local community. However, villagers have to face various structural, seasonal, topographical and financial problems associated with the agricultural activities. Major portion of the land has very thin layer of soil cover on it. Small land holdings and difficult landscape form the barriers for the mechanization of the farming activities. Productivity of the agriculture has also been limited due to lack of irrigation and scarcity of rain water. Again, the rain fed land allows the cultivation of a single crop during entire year putting the community in an extremely difficult situation, especially during summers. Migration to the neighboring district for wage earning is the only option remained available for many households in order to survive during such an extreme situation. Many of them migrate with their entire families and animal stocks. Although, new crops like soybean, cotton and tomato are now cultivated as the cash crops, however, these crops are vulnerable to various risks. These crops require higher level of inputs, as compared to the traditional crops, and in case of any infection or any harm the losses are generally very high.

Bhils, Forest and Migration: Bhils have, traditionally, been depended on forest which formed the hub of their social, economic and cultural life. Forest produce, animal husbandry and limited level of agriculture formed the economic life of Bhils in this area. They have not developed skills or techniques which are required for large scale agricultural production. Bhil society has not been depended on any kind of surplus production which is required for the social formations like class or cast division. Forest provided them with invaluable forest produce which played essential role in their survival, especially in the absence of any surplus production. Complete disappearance of the forest has put the Bhils in a considerably vulnerable situation. However, Bhils have adapted to this new situation with a adopting a comparatively new practice of migration. They supplement their economies with what they earn through migration. They migrate to neighboring districts like Dhar, Indore, Ujjain, and other districts of Malva on seasonal basis to work as agricultural laborer, especially during sawing and harvesting of the crops like soybean. They earn daily wages in cash as well as in kind which include grain and fodder for their animal stocks. Thus, migration forms the third angle of their economic life along with farming and animal husbandry as other two angles.

Sampark understands the vulnerability of the local community and provides technical supports to develop alternative livelihood options at grassroots level. Sampark has provided technical support through various training workshops on low input organic farming practices to local communities. Many marginalized farmers across various villages have successfully adopted the low input organic farming techniques. Sampark is also involved in addressing the issues of financial input in the

agriculture through formation of SHGs and micro-credit initiatives. Promotion of various forms of livelihood options and developing effective linkages between community and government programs were also been adopted as the important strategies to support vulnerable communities.

SGHs formation: Sampark has motivated the villagers to form self help groups in many villages across Petlawad block. These SHGs were initially called '*sangathans*' and were federated with regional network, i.e., '*Dalit Mukti Sangathan*'. Women have also formed separate SHGs, called *mahila mandals*. SHGs have played important roles in the lives of villagers by providing easy capital and financial assistance to members keeping them out of the clutches of greedy money lenders. Sampark has linked these *sangathans* with various micro-credit schemes. These SHGs provide financial assistance to villagers during agricultural activities and for purchases of livestock as well as for health, education and other purposes, on manageable rates of interests. These SHGs has empowered the Bhil community to address the challenges of market economy and provide them safety coverage against the exploitation.

C. Advocating for empowerment and justice

Advocacy has been one of the key elements of the Sampark's approach towards addressing the issues associated with local communities, especially the farmers. This had been an effective tool of bringing changes, used by the organization at various levels for achieving different aims, though, with an overall objective of empowering the communities for their rights. We can divide the entire advocacy initiatives carried out by Sampark according to various levels of operations;

1. Advocacy at community level
2. Advocacy at local level
3. Advocacy at policy level

1. Advocacy at community level

Sampark had carried out effective advocacy with community members, influencers, parents of the children and PRI members with following aims;

- Addressing the issues regarding Dapa system, Mamera, burden of bride price and similar other negative traditions
- Extending education system
- Voter awareness campaign
- Strengthening the gramsabhas and PRI
- Adopting a sustainable watershed development model
- Adopting sustainable agricultural practices
- Adopting sustainable livelihood practices

Advocacy at community level has been mostly carried out under the framework of grassroots interventions. However, this stage had set the platform for the next level of advocacy where community was catalyzed to take the lead in various forms.

2. Advocacy at local level

Ripples created at community level have been reflected in various forms at block and district level advocacy campaigns. Many of these campaigns were formalized in the alliances, federations and CBOs. Key elements of this phase of advocacy campaign included;

- Adoption of the rights based approach which included effective campaigning on right to food, right to health, right to livelihood/employment, right to information and right to education.
- Emergence of local networks, federations, alliances and CBOs

Right to Health

Sampark has been involved in creating enabling environment for achieving health rights. Grassroots experiences coupled with available information reinforce the fact that the issues related to health services are directly associated with empowerment of community, its members. These issues are also associated with the social structure and the changes it goes through. Hence, it can be said that health related issues are at the core of the democratic process of any country. If community or its members face severe health implications or die due to lack of access to health services, then it raises questions, not only on health services but also on entire democratic process and the system. Therefore, unless the weaker sections of the society and women do not understand the importance as well as the implications of these wider contexts and initiate a struggle for seeking their rights, they would remain dependent, weaker and denied of natural rights. Such a situation would only deteriorate the health system and would weaken its responsibility towards people and community. Therefore, it is essential to review the health related issues in wider social context for taking right steps towards right direction. Sampark is involved in empowering community to effectively access the available health services at one hand

Sampark has motivated the local CBOs, alliances and forums to initiate campaigns aiming to empower the communities and individuals to enable them for getting their natural and legitimate rights. Emergence of the Lok Jagriti Munch, a local community based organization is an example of the collectivization process initiated by the Sampark. Lok Jagriti Munch has initiated and led the effective and successful debt exemption campaign during 2007-08. Similarly block level federation (Mahasangh) of men and women has been playing key role in carrying out and monitoring the right to food campaign.

A Community Development Programme supported by Actionaid is being implemented in the Petlawad block with the focus on rights based approach. This project is extensively implemented in seventy villages; however, forty villages are covered under intensive activities. Village level meetings, gram utsav and interpersonal communication have been used to sensitize the community for their rights. A block level federation (Mahasangh) of men and women has been formed under this project. Mahasangh discusses and debates on various issues which are relevant to the community. Implementation of right to food campaign is closely monitored by Mahasangh. This federation raises local issues before government authorities and pressurizes them to work in a transparent manner. Apart from carrying out right based advocacy, this project is effectively addressing the challenges associated with social customs and evils. Collective actions for productive purposes are also being promoted under this initiative. However, major focus of this initiative has been on pressurizing the government system for a transparent implementation of developmental and welfare programs.

3. Advocacy at policy level

Finally, various advocacy initiatives, stimulated by Sampark, have been focused on bringing changes in the policies at state or national levels, regarding various key issues associated with farmers and local communities. Following advocacy campaigns were carried out in this regard;

- Campaign for exemption from debt
- Campaign against GM seeds
- Agriculture policy
- Animal husbandry policy
- Campaign against BT cotton
- Campaign on right to food
- Opposition to privatization of water

SAMPARK has created enabling environment through effective networking, lobbying, and media management for these community led advocacy campaigns, apart from providing evidence based support, through research and analysis. Campaign for the exemption from debt and campaign against GM seed were carried out during the 2006-07 to 2008-09.

Campaign for exemption from debt

MP government had implemented an ambitious 'community lift irrigation scheme' to boost the agricultural production in the state, during late 1980s and early 1990s. However, these community lift irrigation schemes were planned and implemented without sufficient information on various essential issues including their long term impact on environmental as well as their sustainability. Loans were provided to the tribal community for establishing lift irrigation systems. Most of these ill designed irrigation schemes were implemented inappropriately due high level of corruption due to the corrupt nexus among government staff, bank officials, contractors and the middlemen. This scheme was a huge failure and most of the lift irrigation systems remained defunct since the beginning. However, banks started pressurizing the tribal people to return the debts taken on loan for the schemes which never operated. Farmers started gathering under the leadership of 'Lok Jagriti Munch' and decided to run a massive protest campaign against the debts, with the support of SAMPARK. Thousands of the tribal farmers form Jhabua district organized 'dharna' and protest rallies in Bhopal during the February 2006, under the banner of their mass organization 'Lok Jagriti Munch.' They demanded to stop the unjust recovery the loan advanced to them for the scheme which had failed without their fault. SAMPARK had played crucial role in the campaign through providing evidences in the support of protesters. This protest continued for ten days until the government of MP yielded to their demands. A detailed investigation was ordered in context



of the issues raised by the protestors and loan recovery process was stayed. These unjust debts were finally exempted in 2007, after a year of continuous mass campaigning, led by Lok Jagriti Munch. SAMPARK had supported the campaign through effective advocacy and lobbying as well as through conducting researches and information gathering to make the entire initiative an 'evidence based advocacy campaign'. This campaign was the first example in the history of independent India where the tribal people were exempted from the developmental loans, as a result of rights based campaign

carried out by the tribal community themselves.

GM Campaign

Sampark has been associated with 'Beej Swaraj Abhiyan' for many years which stressed up on the rights of farmers to have the ownership on the seeds. Sampark believes that promotion of genetically modified seeds will affect the interests of small and marginalized farmers through shifting the actual control of agriculture production from the farmers to the hands of multinational companies, apart from causing health related problems in the consumers. Experiences across the world have also indicated towards the fact that GM seeds have the potential to permanently destroy the quality of land for growing natural seeds. However, multinational companies and research laboratories have been able to influence the governments at center and state for the promotion of GM seeds.

Campaign against BT Cotton

Nearly 4,000 farmers in Petlawad block used BT Cotton seed for cultivating cotton during 2004. Assessment carried out by SAMPARK indicted towards the fact that land fertility was declined sharply and insect's attacks on the crop increased significantly. Moreover, insect's resistance to insecticides had also increased. Increased use of insecticides had intoxicated the land and groundwater sources causing a great worry to the health of human beings and animals. Monsanto, the company producing and marketing BT Cotton seeds claimed for the higher output however, farmers had suffered losses due to poor quality of the crop. The company claimed that insects did not attack BT Cotton crops. Next year's results were also similar. Company decreased the price of seeds from Rs 2,200 per packet to Rs 750 per packet. Sampark monitored trials of BT-II to check the company's claims. This trial failed to meet claims of the company. Sampark carried out a study with BT Cotton cultivators to expose the claims of the company. Its report was presented before the Madhya Pradesh Government, Government of India and Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC). Sampark has launched a campaign against encouragement given to BT cotton cultivation by MP government, after assessing its negative aspects on the soil, environment and the economic condition of the farmers. The entire matter was exposed through local and national media so that tall claims of the company could be blown away before the people. Since cotton is cultivated all over Western Madhya Pradesh, cultivators from the neighboring districts of the Jhabua which included; Dhar, Ratlam, Badwani, Khargau, Burhanpur and Khandwa were also joined the campaign. A *jan karwan* (people's travel with a specific purpose) was taken out for making the common man aware of the harmful effects of BT Cotton. It traversed through Petlawad, Meghnagar, Dahod, Bhabhara, Badwani, Lonsara, Burhanpur, Khargon, Dhamnod, Dhambod Mandi, Bheelgaon, Chhaigaon Mahkan, Khandwa, Simraul and Indore of Malwa-Nimad area. The *karwan* ended in the state capital Bhopal, with the formulation of a resolution which was submitted to the state government. This campaign gave birth to a new network by the name of 'Beej Swaraj Abhiyan', with the collaborative support of various NGOs and CBOs across the country. Beej Swaraj Abhiyan has motivated many gramsabhas across the state to adopt the resolution against Monsanto and its product, BT cotton seed. A massive demonstration was held at Jhabua against the company on May 7, 2005, in which cultivators burnt cartoons of BT cotton seeds and insecticides. Madhya Pradesh Government was apprised of the misdeeds of the company and pain of the farmers. Andhra Pradesh Government had banned this company in the year 2003; however, the Madhya Pradesh Government is still promoting the company. This campaign is still on under the auspices of Beej Swaraj Abhiyan and SAMPARK.



Sampark has launched an effective advocacy campaign on 2nd March 2008 with the screening of the documentary film on the same topic, produced by the noted film maker Mr. Mahesh Bhatt. Campaign was launched with the demand of making MP a GM free state. This campaign was aiming to stop the

development of such seeds in the laboratory as well as to stop their promotions through various channels of distributions. Personalities like Mr. Mahesh Bhatt, Dr. Pushpa Bhargav and Dr. Devendra Shirma, apart from other intellectuals have supported the view point of Sampark and with participating in the campaign. A massive rally of farmers was organized on 4th march 2008 under the auspices of 'Beej Swaraj Abhiyan', in Bhopal, to protest against the GM seeds. Seven hundred farmers coming from of the various parts of the state took part in the rally.



Another protest was staged on 28 September 2008, at Jabalpur when a memorandum was submitted to the vice chancellor of the Jabalpur University. Research and development of GM seeds was being carried out in a laboratory of the same university. Thousands of petitions, addressing the chief minister, prime minister and national health minister were signed by the protesters with the demand to immediately stop research and development on GM seeds. This campaign is still on.

D. Grassroots level interventions and capacity building initiatives

SAMPARK has initiated various community led advocacy campaigns to pressurize governments to come up with pro poor policies. However, organization believes that merely raising the protest against the existing policies and programs is not sufficient to address the basic objective. Developing alternative models of sustainable development, therefore, has been at the core of the Sampark's strategy. Organization



has developed a deeper level of understanding about various aspects of the life of local community and has formulated an integrated and holistic strategy to initiate participatory actions against the challenges existed at grassroots. This approach for holistic development includes; mitigation of the climatic impact of disappearance of forest, addressing the issues of water, empowerment of local community through awareness generation, skill enhancement, technical and capital support. Grassroots level participatory actions have been specifically focused on various issues like health,

education, livelihood, decentralization, soil conservation, rain water harvesting and environment. During last two decades, Sampark has been able to develop various successful models of collective actions on various issues. Apart from this, organization has been able to demonstrate effective implementation of various developmental schemes and programs.

1. Rain Water Harvesting

Sampark is working in a rain deficient area with around 75 cm of average annual rainfall. Moreover, ground water level remains uncharged due to basaltic and non-porous layer of land causing rainwater to flow out of the area due to sloppy nature of the terrain. In addition to that increasing dependency on tube well for the irrigation has been causing decrease in the level of groundwater resulting in the scarcity of drinking water for at least five months a year. Sampark has focused on rain water harvesting to address this issues and developed many successful model of this technique. First step in this direction was taken in 1999 with the construction of a round-shaped water tank of 3.5 lakh liters at the cost of Rs 1.25 lakh. Rain water from the roofs of office and residential blocks of Sampark Gram is collected in this tank. Water collected through this rain water harvesting model is sufficient for four months, at a daily consumption rate of 3,000 liters. This model motivated the people of local area and later on twenty five tanks of the capacity of 50, 000 liters were constructed at 25 schools in 22 villages, with the support of Sampark and water resources ministry of government of India.

Collective action for watershed management: Sampark had initiated the action by catalyzing the rural community, since early nineteen nineties, for taking collective actions to address the issues of soil erosions and scarcity of water in an eco-friendly and sustainable manner. Sampark arranged exposure visits of villagers across Petlawad block to places like *Ralegon Siddhi*, Maharashtra, and motivated them to replicate similar actions in their own villages. A comprehensive participatory action plan was developed, with the facilitation of people associated with Sampark, in many villages across the Petlawad block. Sampark had initiated the process at block level; however, six to eight villages were able to come up with some sort of visible actions. These villages had identified the plot for project implementation, formed project implementation committees and developed an action plan. These villages included; Junakheda, Lalarundi, Rupapada, Bhilkotda, Gadwada, and Kasyakhaali. The project implementation committees were formed in each village which took care of the management of the entire process. Villagers volunteered and made contributions in the construction of check dams, trenches, ponds, pits and other structures essential for watershed management. However, Sampark had facilitated the process by providing technical support to community as well as linking few components of these actions with funding mechanism of various agencies. Many villages, especially, Rupapada, Junakheda and Lalarundi have been appreciated as successful models of collective response by experts, researchers, government officials and agencies. These lands which were barren and unproductive, initially, are now producing big amount of fodder, an essential requirement of the animal rearing community like Bhils. Ground water levels have drastically been improved in the areas around the project land. Village committees have got the sources of continuous revenue in the form of the taxes on fodder/grass, and their bank accounts are swelling, gradually. They found themselves capable enough to provide easy capital/financial support to farmers, for the agricultural purposes. Villagers can now receive financial assistance, from the committee, during the time of emergency without even mortgaging their lands or any other important assets.

2. Sustainable agriculture

Rural communities in Petlawad block are depended on agriculture either directly or indirectly. After realizing the grass roots realities existed in Petlawad block of the Jhabua district Sampark had decided, from very beginning, to initiate a support program for landless agricultural laborer, small and marginalized farmers as well as the women across the region. Sampark has identified two broad objectives for its initiatives in the context of empowerment of rural communities;



- First broad objective was to provide support to marginalized farmers, women, agricultural laborer, and other vulnerable communities in rural areas.
- The second broad objective of the organization was to promote eco-friendly and sustainable agricultural practices to overcome the severe damage done due to chemical based farming.

Sustainability and Agriculture: Agriculture has been gradually developed in a slow and sustainable manner as the socio-economic hub of human life, in last ten thousand years, in India and across the world. Social and political structures as well as cultural patterns of human life have been largely the manifestations of different stages of agricultural. There has been a close, friendly, mutually reinforcing, and sustainable relationship with human being and nature, especially through the channel of agriculture, until the advent of modernized agriculture based

on mechanization and chemical fertilizers, pesticides and insecticides. Overused soil and toxic effects of the chemical inputs have raised serious questions on the sustainability of modern agricultural practices, across the world. With the emergence of industrialization and modern international trade, agriculture has been replaced from the basic economic hub of human life, however, in countries like India over sixty percent population is still, directly or indirectly, depended for their livelihood on agriculture.



Sampark is involved in the carrying out massive protest campaigns against genetically modified seeds. This has necessitated the development of alternative models of sustainable agriculture. Sampark had taken a decision to promote low cost sustainable farming practices which are largely based on various types of composting techniques.

Swiss Aid project: An intensive project is being implanted from May 2008 in ten villages of Petlawad block with the support of Swiss Aid with the objective of promoting low cost sustainable organic agricultural practices and developing effective advocacy campaign against

promotion of genetically modified crops. Farmers have been trained through various workshops and on spot demonstration to produce compost by using various methods which include; Nadep, vermin-compost, along with other methods. Techniques of producing effective organic insecticides and pesticides have also being taught to the local farmers.



Composting: Composting is an ancient agricultural practice for the reuse of organic wastes and generation of nutrients for crop production. Farmers traditionally put organic waste including agricultural and some animal waste on their fields in order to enhance the fertility of soil adding an element of sustainability to traditional agriculture system. Composting is still practiced in some rural areas, especially in countries like India. People put their organic waste in the composting pits or heap and leave the waste for a certain period before using it in to their fields. However, in the course of ongoing rapid urbanization, which causes an increasing migration of rural folk to urban areas, organic waste lost its link to the traditional reuse practices in rural agriculture. With the adoption of modern capital-intensive agricultural practices, chemical fertilizers and pesticides have taken the place of compost, making agricultural practices hazardous to environment and community health by adding toxic substances into ground water and soil, apart from eating out the fertility of the soil and polluting the air. Experts across the world are now pointing towards organic farming, using compost and non-chemical techniques, as the only option to reclaim soil fertility and checking impact of the pollution caused to soil, air and ground water.

3. Livelihood and addressing the issues of poverty

Sampark is involved in supporting the community through various interventions focused on providing livelihood opportunities to local community. Following project are being implemented by the organization with an objective to enhance the livelihood related opportunities and skills among the local community.

S.No.	Project title	Coverage area	Funding partner	Duration
1.	MPRLP	22 villages in Rama Block	Govt. of MP	2005-
2.	Lead India Project	Entire MP	WOTR	2007-
3.	Leep Project	17 villages of Petlawad	CCF	2006
4.	Sustainable agriculture	10 villages of Petlawad	Swiss Aid	2008

3.1. MPRLP: Organization is involved in implementing MPRLP project in the twenty two villages of Rama Block of Jhabua district. The broad objectives of this project include;

- Effective livestock management
- Promotion of income generation activities at grassroots level
- To ensure sustainable livelihood through improvement in socio-economic life of local community
- Empowerment of Gram sabhas to ensure transparent implementation of government programs



Effective livestock management is the key strategy to bring effective changes in the economic life of the members of community. As animal husbandry plays a central role in the lives of Bhil tribe; however, most of the animals die in the absence of scientific management of livestock. This project is focusing on imparting technical skills to the villagers, apart from providing services and support to them for effective livestock management. Use of concrete vessel (Naad), water tank, FMD vaccination and cultivation of green fodder (Barseem) are being promoted in the context of goat farming and cattle rearing, under this project. Efforts are being made to bring sustainable improvement in the status of agriculture through initiating collective



action to replicate the watershed management project and linking the NREGA to such initiatives. Gram sabhas are being empowered to plan, initiate and monitor these actions at Panchayat level. PRI representatives are being trained to facilities the process at various levels of Panchayati raj system. This project has significantly increased the area under irrigation and improved the status of animal husbandry through better livestock management, in the intervention villages. Community has been empowered through effective and visible role being played by Grams sabhas. Following

table shows the activities done by Sampark team under the MPRLP in Rama Block.

3.2. Lead India Project: Sampark has been involved in the advocacy for pro-poor policies and mainstreaming the livestock management into livelihood for many years. This initiative has been supported by WOTR, in the form of a state level initiative named 'Lead India Project'. A state level network has been formed for raising livestock related issues. Various training and sensitization workshops were organized with the representatives of NGOs, herdsman, researchers and media persons. This state level network demanded for bringing a uniform policy on livestock issues. A draft policy on livestock had been formulated and submitted to state government which stressed on developing effective convergence between the districts/ block level veterinary departments with village level practitioners. This initiative had created an enabling environment for bringing livestock management at the center of livelihood promotion initiatives at policy level.

Apart from these initiatives, Sampark is involved in empowering the rural communities, in Petlawad and Rama blocks, through ongoing awareness campaign to utilize NREGA as an option of employment and livelihood. Plantation of orchard tree has also been promoted by the organization under various projects, as a livelihood option for rural community. Sampark has developed an integrated approach towards health, education and livelihood. Night school project also focuses on vocational training of the students.

Effective communication campaign has broken the deadlock in the NREGA

Panchayat Panchpepla is situated in the Petlawad block. Livelihood of the villagers is based on agriculture and daily wage earnings. However, there are various government schemes, including NREGA, is being implemented in the village. Village Panchayat has 307 households and 338 job cards. Sarpanch was facing problems related to the implementation of the NREGA due the reason that majority of the people of the village did not have proper information about the scheme. Sarpanch and secretary were responsible for the disbursement of the 100 day's payment on the time. Ultimately, Sampark has conducted an awareness campaign and focused the issue of application process for job, payments, and other issues associated with NREGA. SHGs were formed and people were communicated through street plays and other local folk media, with special focus on youth. Application process was started during the campaign demand for work is going on continuously, with the help of SHGs. 321 families (95%) of the village panchayat have completed the 100 days of work under the NREGA during the 2008-09.

4. Health

Tribal population, across the world has always been vulnerable against the health related issues, especially against the infections. However, Bhil community in Jhabua district is forced to live in even more vulnerable conditions due to poor health infrastructure and lack of services in remote tribal villages. Major health related issues include; High rates of IMR and MMR, high rate of diarrheal death, stomach related problems, malaria, filarial, skin infections and STIs. Sampark is working, especially in remote villages, to raise the level of awareness among community members regarding health issues. Following health initiative have been implemented by Sampark during last three years.

S.No.	Project title	components	Coverage area	Funding partner	Duration
1.	Child development project	RCH	17 villages	CCF	November 2005 onwards
2.		Malaria eradication			
3.		Nutrition			
4.		Sanitation			
5.		ECCD			
6.	Swasthya Saheli	Provide primary treatment	40 Village	Sampark	Jan 2003
7.	RCH	RCH	26	MPVHA	Jan 2007 to 2008

			Village		
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CCF Project

Reproductive Child Health:

Pregnant women are not given sufficient care as well as nutritious food due to the belief that it will cause the fetus to get stuck in the womb. Traditional birth attendant, generally, applies pressure on the abdomen of the pregnant women and tries to push out the baby, when delivery takes time. Lack of preparedness before delivery often added to the difficulties. Sampark is involved in a sensitizing the community regarding the issues related to high rates of IMR and MMR. Sampark has developed a strategy to take actions under a holistic understanding regarding the issues of health. Major activities carried out by the Sampark team under the CCF project can be classified under the following heads;

- Awareness cum sensitizing programs
- Linkage with the government depart
- Improving the skills of the service providers

RTI/STI tracked during the counseling sessions

- Samsu Dala Parmar, a resident of village Kachrotia of Kalighati panchayat, was suffering from the heavy bleeding from genitals for last twelve months. He participated in the RTI/STI counseling being done by counselor, associated with Sampark. He was referred to Jyoti Hospital, Meghhnagar for the checkup. He was identified with sever STI. He started treatment immediately. Now he has recovered from the infection.
- A woman, from Village Badasalonia was not being conceived for last five years. She was identified with STI/RTI infection during the counseling sessions conducted by the health worker associated with sampark. She was aslo referred to the same Jyoti Hospital, Meghhnagar, where she was treated and cured. She gave birth to a healthy child weighing 3.5 kg.

Following table shows the activities taken by the Sampark team under CCF project to bring a change at grassroots level regarding RCH.

<u>Table No. H -1: Showing the details of RCH intervention</u>							
S. No.	Activities	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	
		events	participa nts	events	participa nts	events	participa nts
	Counseling of Pregnant Women and caregivers	-	-	29	822	35	1062
	Meeting on Safe motherhood	-	-	17	956	17	1232
	ANC/NC/PNC Check up	-	-	-	-	13	122
	Linkage with government	-	-	7	29	6	56
	Breast feeding day & HIV/AIDS day celebration	-	-	-	-	1	600
	Adolescent workshop	-	-	4	135	6	175
	Training cum capacity building of health worker on RCH	-	-	2	23	4	35

	Referral services	-	-	1	1	3	3
	Capacity building (Workshop, Training, Meeting cum Orientation)	-	-	8	363	12	550

Malaria eradication:

Malaria is still among the most deadly disease across the world. It spreads during rainy season due to poor drainage system, lack of awareness among community and lack of institutional facilities to check the spread. Sampark is involved in raising the level among the community members regarding preventive measures for checking the spread of malaria, under the CCF project. This holistic initiative focuses on avoiding malaria, especially among the pregnant women, through collecting blood samples to avoid the complexity during the pregnancy and deliveries. Various awareness camps and blood sample collections camps were organized under this initiative to reduce the chances of the spread through raising the level of awareness and ensuring effective preventive measures. Following table shows the activities undertaken to check the spread of malaria under the CCF supported initiatives.

Table No. H2: Showing the details of Malaria intervention

S. No.	Activities	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	
		events	participants	events	participants	events	participants
	Blood Sampling & Collection Camp for hemoglobin and malaria	-	-	4	577	6	478
	Counseling of pregnant women, adolescent group & family members on the precautions & preventive measure to avoid Malaria	--	-	5	597	7	650
	Distribution of Bed net	-	-	-	-	17 Villages	350 Medicated Bed net distributed



Nutrition:

It has been reported through various researches and experts that poor practices regarding nutrition, especially during pregnancy, put the women under vulnerable situation at the time of delivery and causes the high rate of MMR and IMR. Experiences of people associated with Sampark has pointed towards the fact that low level of information among community members, regarding balance diet has been responsible for the poor health status of women during pregnancy. Low iron and calcium component in the diet has been one of the major reasons for the most of the

complications develop during the pregnancy. Sampark has been focusing on improving the level of awareness among community members regarding balance diet especially regarding pregnant women; under the CCF project with an overall objective of reducing the rate of IMR and MMR.

Rishabh recovered from grade II

Rishabh, a three year old child from village Lalarundi was below the normal weight. His weight was 7.5 kg., and he was in II grade according to GMC. He was given appropriate medicines and nutritive during PD health sessions. He recovered his weight in very short time. His weight was increased about 2.5 kg., and he become normal according to the GMC.

Table No. H 3: Showing the details of Nutrition intervention

S. No.	Activities	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	
		events	participants	events	participants	events	participants
	Nutrition counseling of mal nourished children & Pregnant women	-	-	12	343	16	540
	Distribution of Nutritional powder to identified mal nourished Pregnant women & adolescent girls	-	-	2	479	3	500
	Identification & demonstration of locally available nutritional solution	-	-	1	Total 11 local nutritive vegetables identified	-	-
	Linkage with ICDS department	-	-	3	45	1	38
	P. D. Hearth session	-	-	14	374	11	558
	Capacity building on different aspect of nutrition	-	-	2	32	3	420
	Caregiver Counselling Session	-	-	-	-	17	2507
		-	-				

Sanitation programs

Safe drinking water and sanitation is also being focused by health workers during village meetings as well as during other health communication activities, to avoid the diarrheal deaths of infants. Health workers are involved in linking the government programs and services to the local community. Sampark is implementing a program on safe drinking water with the support of government of India. This program is focusing on developing skills and infrastructure in context of rain water harvesting with an objective to provide safe drinking water in schools. Twenty five government schools of Petlawad block have been identified for the intensive implementation of this project.

Awareness cum sensitization programs: Sampark focuses on bringing the changes at grassroots level under the CCF project. Poor education level, lack of information and awareness regarding health issues, misconceptions and existence of traditional practices like sorcery form the major barriers in improving the health situation at grassroots level.



Linkages with Government department: Sampark feels that effective linkages among various stakeholders are one of the most important areas which require immediate attention in order to bring a change in the health situation at grass roots level. Sampark is involved in the developing a better level of convergence and linkages among various stakeholders.

Capacity building: Sampark is involved in improving the skills of the various service providers including traditional birth attendant. Capacity building workshops have been conducted to improve the skills of project staff, community workers and service providers.

Swasthya Saheli Initiative:



Various educational cum diagnostic camps have been organized in remote villages in this regard. Sampark has developed a special team of women health worker, known as *Swasthya Saheli*, to address the challenges of health related issues at grass roots level. *Swasthya Sahelis* carry special health kits with them to provide instant primary health care to community, especially women, in case of any emergency. These women health workers motivate local community to take essential precautions in context of malaria, infections, STIs, child and reproductive health. Sampark has organized various training of traditional birth attendants (TBAs), at block level, to address the issue of high

MMR and IMR. Issues associated with the health of the children and their families are being addressed under the child development project supported by CCF and being implemented in seventeen villages of Petlawad block.

5. Education and child development

Learning processes and education system play very important roles in the continuation of socio-cultural system across the timeline. However, learning process and education also play important role in transforming cultural patterns according to the needs of newer environment and also in bringing changes at various levels in the society. Bhils, like other tribes, have their own distinct culture with a *Bhilli* dialect and internal processes and curriculums of learning. Their worldview differs from the worldview of urban citizens. The education system developed in cities for urban student can not address, effectively the needs of Bhil community. However, a major thrust to Sampark’s educational initiatives has been achieved when Actionaid had supported the universalization of education program in Petlawad block, from 2005 onwards. Currently, following interventions are being carried out by Sampark;

S.No.	Project title	Coverage area	Funding partner	Duration
1.	Night Schools	9 villages	UBS	
2.	Sampark Buniyadi Shala	established in Sampark Campus	Community supported	ONGOING
3.	Basic Education (RIP centers)	12 villages	CCF	2006
4.	Basic education (SQIP)	3 villages	CCF	2006
5.	Universalization of School education	40 villages	Actionaid	November 2005-December-2007

Night Schools

Sampark has developed an insight about the nature and form of the educational needs of the local community and initiated the education program in 1994 with an objective to bring the tribal population, especially children, into the course of mainstream development. However, this initiative has gone through various phases of mutual learning processes and ultimately come up with a specific strategy for the universalization of basic education in the Petlawad block of the Jhabua district. Sampark realized while working in more than ninety villages across the block for many years that Bhil community in most of the villages was not ready to adapt to school education system as children of school going age played important role in economic activities like taking care of animal stocks as well as in other household responsibilities. Consequently an informal education initiative with more focus on developing vocation skills was launched with establishments of non-formal education centers in remote villages. About nineteen such centers were functioning during 1997-98. These centers are commonly known as night schools or '*Ratrishala*'. Currently, this initiative has been transformed in to the '*night school project*', which is being carried out, intensively, in nine villages of Petlawad block with the support of UBS and with the objectives of;

- Training the students on skill oriented programs
- Developing effective linkages with Government school education system
- Strengthening of PTA
- Running the Non-formal schools for non school going children

Status of enrolment in nine night schools from June 2007-March-2009

S. No.	Year	Number of villages	Number of schools	Boys	Girls	Total
1.	2006-07	10	10	177	151	328
2.	2007-08	08	08	173	139	312
3.	2008-09	05	05	79	81	160

Major activities in '*night school project*' include; providing vocational training to students, organizing the campaign "School Chalo Abhiyan", training of PTA members, interactive meetings with government teachers, organizing Bal Panchayat meetings, child workshops and child exposure visits to local government institutions. This project has been very effective in developing the vocational skills, conversational and language related skills along with developing self confidence in the students.

<u>Details of the activities under night school program</u>							
1-Child development activities							
S.No.	Child development activities	2006.07		2007.08		2008.09	
		events	participants	events	participants	events	participants
	Skill development workshops	.	.	4	104	3	134
	Village level girls workshops	.	.	2	65	6	306

	Bal Mela	1	950
	Competative Games at School Level	4	200	6	367	8	550
	Capaciy building of child club member	.	.	5	231	2	93
	Child Protection Campaign	.	.	1	1942	1	243
2-Teachers skill development activities							
	Teachers monthly meetings	.	.	12	255	12	144
3-Public skill development activities							
	Meting of Village Development Committe	12	945	12	1267	12	1560

Sampark Buniyadi Shala



Ten years of Night schools program had significantly raised the level of awareness in the Bhil community, regarding the importance of education. This program had brought a paradigm shift in the parents who were earlier of the opinion that education would uproot their children from their traditional knowledge and lifestyle. Few villagers went on an exposure visit, organized by Sampark, to the Basic Residential School, at village Saankar, district Badwani on 7-8 December 2003. They were impressed by the student's lifestyle and the way education was imparted to the students. Ultimately, it was decided that a similar school would be established in the Sampark campus. Villagers from Rupapada, Richhkhotda, Hiraninamapada,

kalighati and Kuwarjhar took part in this meeting which was held on 16th February 2004 at Sampark. It was decided during another meeting held on 25th February 2004, that thirty five kg grain, ten kg pulse and Rs. 2000 cash would be the fee for the entire years for one student. Finally the school was started on 4th July 2004 with seventeen students and fourteen boys from six villages to study in the classes 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th. A hostel for the student was also established with the initiation of the school. A Buniyadi School Committee was formed to look after the affairs of school, admission and fee. Sampark Buniyadi Shala focuses on;

- Character building of the students,
- Incorporation of local dialect in the curriculum
- Self study and independence
- Social life in the hostel
- Nationalism and pluralism
- Mental and Physical fitness



This residential school has set a standard of quality education and personality development of the students, in the area. Boys and girls from the villages of Petlawad block as well as from other areas of Jhabua district study here in big number. Quality of the education at Sampark Buniyadi Shala has been acknowledged by experts, government officials and development agencies.

Universalization of basic education

Universalization of education program was started in November 2005 with the support of Actionaid in 40 villages of the Petlawad. This program was initiated with the goal of bringing back the dropt outs in the realm of education system through a specially designed bridge course. However, bringing qualitative improvement in the schools and sensitizing the community to send their children to the schools were/are also the objectives of this initiative. Following table shows the details of the number of schools, village and panchayats;

Total village	Total Village Panchayats	Number of schools	Number of teachers	Aanganwadi Centers (AWCs)	Number of AWWs
40	11	58	84	43	43



PTA forum and Lok Jagriti Munch had conducted a meeting in kalighati village on 11 August 2007 in which about 200 people had participated. The issue of lack teachers in schools and lack of girl's hostel was debated, apart from other issues. It was decided during the meeting that these issues must be addressed. Sarpanch of Kalighati panchayat took responsibility of getting the proposals sanctioned from district education officer. It was also decided that if the demands would not be met within the ten days of their submission of the request then a protest campaign of locking the schools would be launched on 30th August 2007, for three days. A proposal for the appointment of seven teachers and construction of a girl's hostel in the Panchayat was adopted by the gramsabha held on the 15th August. Copy of the proposal was sent to block education officer. The event was captured by the local news papers. Administration did not give a heed to this proposal and the entire event. Ultimately, following the memorandum of the meeting of PTA and Lok Jagriti Munch, villagers forcefully locked all the primary schools, EGS, and middle schools to bring the attention of the administration on the issue. Young people of the village held the classes on the trees near Mata Mandir. About seven hundred women and men took part in this entire event. Administration tried to manipulate the situation and pressurized the villages to sign on the document saying that the entire event was happened due to provocation done by outsiders. However, villagers did not sign the document and took all the responsibilities of what had happened. Ultimately, administration had to surrender before the collective will of villagers. Five teachers were appointed, consequently.

Various channels and platforms of communications were used to sensitize the community about the issues of education. Regular training of PTA members and organization of public hearing camps to raise local issues and grievances in front of government officials have been the major characteristics of this initiative.

A PTA forum has been formed at block level. Motivation camps for boys and girl have also been organized as the tool to promote the school education system.

Construction of School building after efforts of PTA and pressure groups
 School building in village Mahudipada was not sufficient for the number of students enrolled. Members of PTA and pressure groups conducted a meeting on this issue and then raised a proposal during the gramsabha in July 2007. Gramsabha discussed on the proposal and ultimately voted for it. Proposal was sent to district education officer and other relevant officials. District education officer promised to village panchayat to consider the proposal seriously. However, no action was taken till October 2007. Once again the same proposal was introduced in the gramsabha and gramsabha passed it once again. copy of the proposal was then sent to CEO of district panchayat and district collector. the pressure build by the members of PTA and pressure groups ultimately, yielded the result and Rs. 184000.00 was sanctioned for the construction of the building, within a month. Building is not constructed.

Following table shows the details of the major activities conducted during last three years under this program.

S.No.	Activities	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	
		events	participants	events	participants	events	participants
A	Creating Enabling Environment						
1	Street Play	40 vil.	2191	-	5935	-	-
2	Jan jagriti Rath	1	305	-	-	40 vil.	2120
3	Wall writing	40 vil.	300	40 vil.	450	40 vil.	550
4	Enrolment Campaign	40 vil.	346	40 vil.	330	40 vil.	136
B	Community Mobilization						
1	Child right security committees meetings	129	7391	145	1715	316	13181
2	PTA Meeting	-	-	29 met.	329	116	928
3	World education awareness day	6	1797	7	2538	7	895
4	Refresher training to pressure group	3	295	7	297	2	231
5	PTA training	38	689	1	241	5	299
6	PRI training	50 vil.	124	3	115	2	113
7	Gram sabhas	4	2883	5	1641	4	5167
C.	Efforts made for bridge course and holding the students in the school						
1.	Girl motivation camps	1	57	1	136	1	120
2.	Bal Mela	1	345	1	685	1	507

Universalization of basic education program has played a crucial role in brining the drop out and non-school going children in to education system. Sampark's strong rapport with the local community and linkages helped in the achieving the objectives of the program.

Kisna joined the school once again

Kisna Sukhram, a student of class fifth in village kalighati, had left the school after being scolded by the teacher. He was not going to school even after his parents continuously tried to persuade him. He was wasting his time in roaming inside the village and spending his entire day time in playing and other useless activities. He did not tell anything to Shikshamitra, Jyotsna Garwar, about why he had left the school. However, when Jyotsna told him that she was going to ask his teacher then he shared the reason of leaving the school with her. He shared that he felt very bad when his teacher scolded him badly while he was playing outside the school. Jyotsna had taken this issue very seriously and visited the school with the boy. She counsel the teacher about the how to behave with the students. Kisna joined the school once again. Thanks to the sincerity and sensitivity of the Shiksha Mitra, associated with the UBE program.

Quality education: RIP and SQIP centers

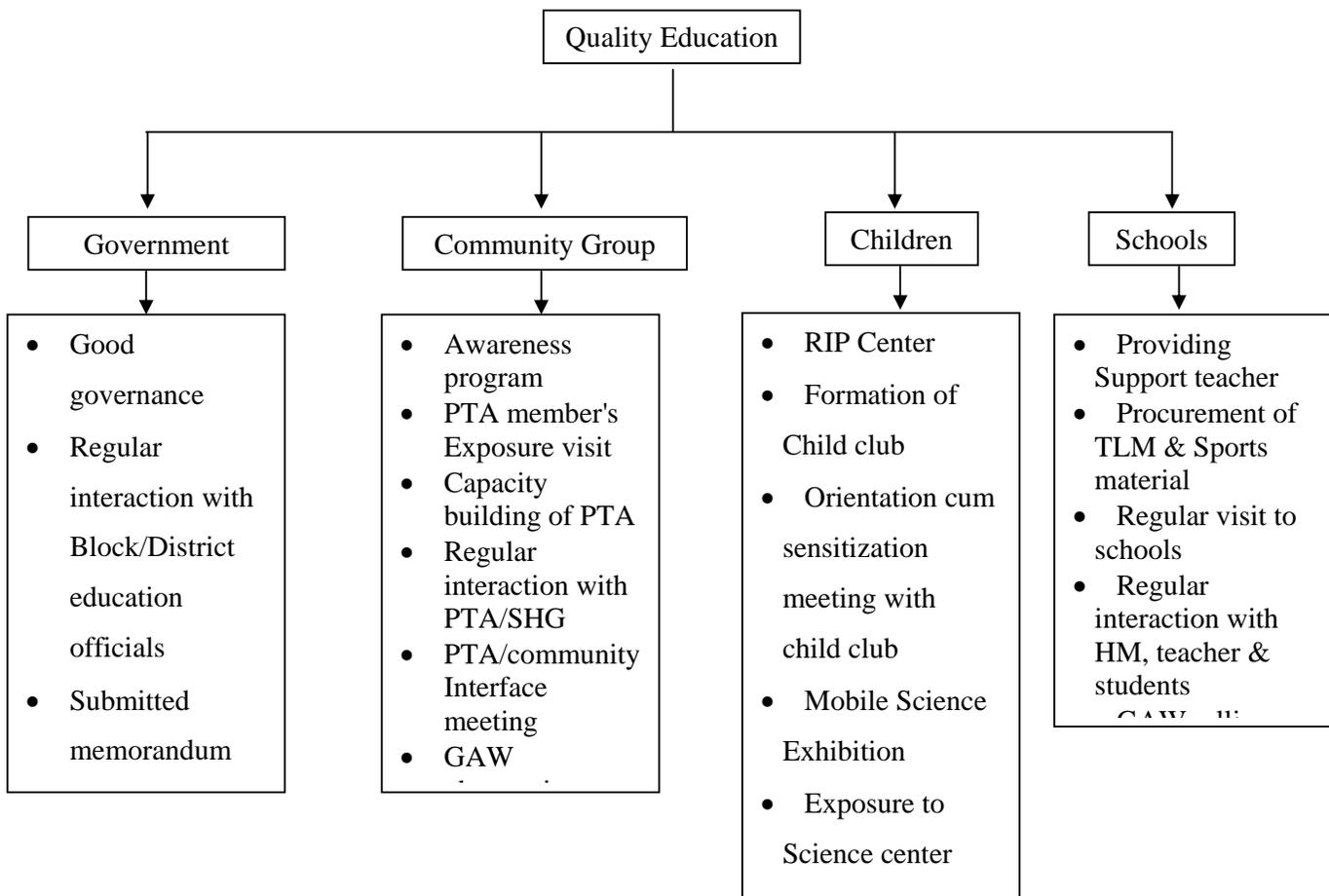
However, the status of education in the development area is still extremely poor, which is reflected in the total composite literacy of the Area. Composite literacy of the Petlawad development area is only 28.48% with the male literacy being 18.73% and the female literacy being and abysmal 9.75%. Although most of the children have been enrolled, however, due to high migration rate, they are unable to attend the school properly. On an average, 30-35 children generally attend these schools. Again the enrolment of girls is extremely low. Almost 61% of the population migrates for the period ranging between five to six months. During the migration, elder children accompany their parents while younger children stay back to their home remain involved in the primary household activities like grazing the cattle, taking care of younger sibling as well as in doing the odd jobs in the farms. These activities restrict them to go to the school and gradually they drop out of the school.

However, a major success in this regard was achieved when Sampark and CCF came together to develop a strategic partnership for addressing the challenges of universalization of education in Petlawad block. A very ambitious, holistic and integrated project has been formulated which is termed as “*Early Childhood Care Development*” and is being implemented in seventeen villages of Petlawad block. The specific objectives of this project include;

- To facilitate the equitable access to education and to ensure the quality of education
- To promote sustainable, quality ECCD programs that are holistic, culturally relevant, and empowering for children, families and communities
- To create enabling environment conducive towards better health and promotion of easy accessibility of health facilities to children & families.
- To promote sustainable options of livelihood

In this education program, Sampark has adopted certain strategy to improve the prevalent situation regarding education in the rural areas. This strategy includes; i.e. implementing the education program at the four different levels namely community group, government, children and schools levels. The major motive behind this strategy includes the sensitization of different stakeholder on the importance of education in one's life and also on the importance of improving the education status of school going children.

Savitri Naran was the third child of Mr. Bhuria Naran and Mrs. Leela Bhuria. Her elder brothers were studying in class 6th. Savitri also wanted to go to school and study like her elder brothers, however, her parents did not give a heed to her education. She was entrusted with the household work most of the times. She also had to work in the agricultural field. She always accompanied her parents whenever they migrated for livelihood. However, she had joined the night school, at first, along with fulfilling her household's responsibilities. When she did well she decided to continue with Prathmik School at Chhota Salunia village. However, she could not able to read or write properly. Her speed was very slow. She came to know about the CCF's RIP (Reading improvement program) being carried out in her own village. She joined the RIP center. She had significantly improved her reading skills through the program. Her teacher motivated her to develop skills of reading poems as well as singing. She obtained 95 % marks in the examination after joining the RIP center. Now she is very happy with the progress she had made after going through the RIP course.



In the CCF project interventional area, the total numbers of school is 19 including 9 Education Guarantee School (EGS), 6 primary schools and 4 middle schools. In the schools, PTR is extremely low due to which Sampark is providing additional teachers to the schools to carry out the classroom study process smoothly with the motive of enhancing the quality of class room education. Apart from this, Sampark is also providing the Teaching Learning Material (TLM) and other necessary Sport Materials to the schools, so that teachers can also get benefits. In addition, Sampark is also involved in sensitizing the PTA group to increase the frequency of their school visit in order to ensure timely education. Sampark is focused on maintaining the transparency regarding school budget and other important issues towards the community. A mobile science exhibition is also arranged from 17th to 28th February 2008 at 17 schools .of 19 villages.

Table No. 4: Showing the details of Quality Education intervention

S. No.	Activities	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	
		events	participants	events	participants	events	participants
	Global Action Week on Education	-	-	01	680	1	771
	Reading Skill Improvement Program	-	-	25	610	12	277
	Procurement of Teaching Learning Material						
	Procurement of Sport Material	-	-	5	100	12	560
	Liaison with Government Education Department			2	101	2	105
	Video Documentary particularly on RIP center						
	Exposure Visit of PTA Members	-	-	1	20	1	34
	PTA and SHG capacity building	-	-	-	-	2	197
	Exposure Visit of children to Science center	-	-	3	370	-	-
	Mobile science exhibition	-	-	19	2045	-	-
	Cluster level PTA Training	-	-	1	65	3	161
	Capacity building of child and youth	-	-	3	231	2	93
	child Exposure	-	-	1	103	1	88
	Child Parliament	-	-	1	539	-	-
	School Quality Improvement	-	-	-	-	3 Govt.School	481 children

	Program					Basic Infrastructure established and support teacher for ensuring Quality education	
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6. Panchayati Raj: Hunger Project

Sampark has been involved in the process of decentralization and empowerment of the Panchayati Raj institutions since seventy third amendment of the constitution. Most of the initiatives carried out by Sampark have focused on the strengthening the Local communities and Panchayati Raj institutions. Hunger Project has been one of the most important initiatives being carried out by the organization for empowering the Panchayati Raj institutions and its members, especially the women representatives. This project is being carried out in twenty six villages of fifteen village Panchayats in Petlawad block since 2003 with the key objectives of empowering women representatives and strengthening the gramsabhas through ensuring the active participation of women.



6500 families were included in the BPL list after Gramsabha voted for the approval

Seventy third amendment of the constitution has given a constitutional right to the Gramsabhas to adopt plans and proposals for the well beings of the common villagers. Such adopted proposals can not be turned down by collector or even the chief minister. Keeping this fact in mind, villagers of Petlawad block continuously approved the proposals to include 6500 families of various in to BPL list, during four gramsabhas in a year. However, these families were not included into BPL list even after one year of adopting the proposals. Their faith on the relevance of the gramsabhas was lost. They tried to neglect the process of gramsabhas after this incident. However, they had to rethink about the relevance of the gramsabhas when a new BPL list was published on 26 January 2008 with the inclusion of the same 6500 families, recommended by the gramsabhas. Their faith in the power of gram sabhas has returned with this incident.

Hunger project is also focusing on the right to food campaign, NREGA and PDS system through activating gramsabhas. Enabling environment for the development of women leadership is being created through alliance building and effective advocacy at various levels. Following table shows the major activities and achievements of the project during last three years.

Hunger Project: Strengthening Women's Leadership										
S.N o.	Activities	2006-07			2007-08			2008-09		
		Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total
1.	Women leadership workshop	133	13		78	---		44	05	
2.	Gram sabhas awareness campaign	2118	2103		78	---		44	05	
3.	Women leaders meet	---	---		---	---		---	---	

4.	State level meet of women leaders	9	1		20	---		25	03	
5.	orientation of the Panchayat Secretaries	---	---		--	02		---	---	
6.	Training workshop on gender and Panchayat	---	---		02	02		---	---	
7.	Exposure	18	03		---	02		---	---	
Hunger Project: Advocacy / alliance building/influencing policy opinion										
8.	Meetings on NREGA	9	39		---	24		---	---	
9.	Nukkad Natak: Application under NREGA	6288	7712		393	462		1255	1495	
10.	Meeting on PDS	---	---		---	---		02	47	
11.	Participation	119	459		1097	1559		827	1152	
12.	seminar	352	32		350	150		---	---	

7. Other Initiatives

Awareness campaigns are being carried out with focus on health & sanitation, nutrition, livelihood apart from education. Various training workshops are being conducted on the issues of livestock management, orchard management, and NREGA to empower the community, especially the families of the students regarding livelihood options. Block level interactive platforms and mechanism like Bal Sansad, have been formed to improve the quality of education apart from various training workshops to develop an effective linkage with government education department and also to improve the quality of education under this project. This project has been quite successful in improving the level of awareness among community members about health, sanitation, nutrition and livelihood. This awareness are being successfully transformed into changes in attitude and behavior as well as in practices regarding livelihood options, sending children to schools, health & sanitation and nutrition. This change in behavior and practices can be seen in the increase in the number of applications under NREGA and the plantation of Orchard tree in the intervention villages.

D. Major challenges, barriers and future strategies

Sampark believes in the dynamism of the socio-economic process. Twenty years of participatory action has brought about visible changes at various levels in various forms. Massive advocacy campaigns and protest rallies were organized on various issues related to local communities to bring policy level changes. However, Sampark believes that merely protesting against the faulty policies and programs is not sufficient. It put the responsibilities of developing alternative models. Sampark has successfully developed and demonstrated various models of development based on participatory actions. However, ripples created through informed actions must be reinforced in order to bring the elements of sustainability. Models of participatory actions at various villages have been appreciated by scholars and experts across the country. However, the sense of satisfaction intensifies the sense of responsibility, especially in the field of social development. This sense of responsibility always focuses the attention towards the areas which still require attention and interventions. Pressing issues, in this regard include; high rates of IMR and MMR, diarrheal deaths, issues associated with drop outs and non-school going children and addressing the issues associated with rural livelihood and employment. Sampark is determined to stand on the side of the most disadvantaged and most vulnerable people as what it has been doing for last twenty years, through effective advocacy and grassroots level interventions. We firmly believe with all the optimism that we, the representatives of the humanity would be able to create a better world based on justice and equality.

E. Financial Report-2006-07 to 2008-09

2006-07

Sr. No.	Name of Project	Funding Sources	Un-utilised grant	Receivable balance	budget	Bank interest	Expecce	Balance	Receable	Remark
1	Universalisation of education	ACTIONAID	1225563	0	0	17958	1192533	50988	0	
2	Community Development Programme	ACTIONAID	0	359984.55	331532	0	0	0	28452.55	
3	Advocacy & Linkages with Local Self Governance	CASA	0	11129.22	379302	571	329747	38996.78	0	
4	RCH	M.P. Govt.						0	0	
5	Lead India Project	WOTR	33638	0	339661	0	338558	34741	0	
6	Women Empowerment	HUNGER	2288	0	677712	5000	460882	224118	0	
7	Fresh Water Program	Ministry of Water Resources, GOI	0	208859	345000	0	343007	0	206866	
8	Night School Project	UBS	137242	0	263000	10000	327885	82357	0	
9	Child Development Project	CCF	0	87494	2275706	3730	1717935.14	474006.86	0	
10	Rural Livelihood project	MPRLP	0	47996	550968	32	545848	0	42844	
11	Socio-economic upliftment	Garam Vikas Fund (challenge Fund)	0	78650	78650	0	0	0	0	
	Total		1398731	794112.8	5241531	37291	5256395	905208	278163	

2007-08

Sr. No.	Name of Project	Funding Sources	Un-utilised grant	Receivable balance	budget	Bank interest	Expecce	Balance	Receable	Remark
1	Universalisation of education	ACTIONAID	50988	0	1494533	1188	968254	578455	0	
2	Community Development Programme	ACTIONAID	0	28452.55	0	0	0	0	28452.55	
3	Advocacy & Linkages with Local Self Governance	CASA	38996.78	0	197798	291	301551	0	64465.22	
4	RCH	M.P. Govt	0	0	300000	1940	229220	72720		
5	Lead India Project	WOTR	34741	0	319012	1022	354775	0	0	
6	Women Empowerment	HUNGER	224118	0	519295	4640	748053	0	0	
7	Fresh Water Program	Ministry of Water Resources, GOI	0	206866	0	0	116993	0	323859	
8	Night School Project	UBS	82357	0	212000	601	298874	0	3916	
9	Child Development Project	CCF	474006.86	0	4358825	18888	4300449.8	551270.06	0	
10	Rural Livelihood project	MPRLP	0	42844	511099	0	424738	43517	0	
	Total		905207.64	278162.55	7912562	28570	7742907.8	1245962.06	420692.77	0

2008-09

Sr. No.	Name of Project	Funding Sources	Un-utilised grant	Receivable balance	budget	Bank interest	Expecce	Balance	Receable	Remark
1	Universalisation of education	ACTIONAID	578455	0	0	10143	583007	5591	0	
2	Community Development Programme	ACTIONAID	0	28452.55	28452.55	0	0	0	0	
3	Advocacy & Linkages with Local Self Governance	CASA	0	64465.22	267254	94	202882	0	0	
4	RCH	M.P. Govt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
5	Lead India Project	WOTR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
6	Women Empowerment	HUNGER	0	0	750000	5167	724612	30555	0	
7	Fresh Water Program	Ministry of Water Resources, GOI	0	323859	0	0	0	0	323859	
8	Night School Project	UBS	0	3916	320204	622	256017	60893	0	
9	Child Development Project	CCF	551270.06	0	7411274	13130	8021938.6	0	46264.54	
10	Rural Livelihood project	MPRLP	43517	0	705008	924.24	766186	0	16736.76	
11	M.P Council of science & Technology	MPCST	0	0	371200	1820	69948	303072	0	
12	Campaign Against GMO	Swiss Aid	0	0	1470000	21	1496463	0	26442	
	Total		1173242	420692.8	11323393	31921	12121054	400111	413302	0

Appendix: list of key professional associated with Sampark.

List of Consultants, and Professionals associated with Sampark

Sr. No.	Name of Consultant	Educational Qualification	Area of support
1.	Mr. Rajendra Jaiswal	M. Tech. (SWC)	Natural Resource Management
2.	Mr. Devid Gandhi	M. Sc. (Agriculture)	Natural Resource Management
3.	Mr. Sanjeev Jain	M.Tech	Natural Resource Management
4.	Mrs. Tiny Sahni	IRMA	Organizational Development
5.	Mr. Rahul	M. Tech.	Research & Documentation
6.	Dr. Suresh Mishra	P. HD.	Research & Documentation
7.	Mr. Sachin Jain	Mass Communication	Research & Documentation
8.	Dr. Suresh Joshi	MBBS	Health
9.	Mrs. N. Radha	MSW	Micro Credit
10.	Dr. J K Jain	BAMS	Health
11.	Devilal Vyas	MA	Self Help Group & Micro credit
12.	Mr. Satyaprakash	M.J.M.C..	Organizational Development , Training & Documentation
13.	Mr. Ravi Pratap Singh	M. Tech. (Irrigation & Drainage Engg.)	Program Evaluation
14.	Mr. Vikas Singh	PG Diploma- forest management	Research & Documentation

List of Staff members, their Educational Qualification and Working Experience:

Sr. No.	Name	Age	Educational Qualification	Responsibilities	Total Working Experiences
1.	Nilesh Desai	46	M.A.Social Work	Org. Management	22years
2.	Gendalal Upadhyay	34	M.A.Social Work	Project Manager	10 years
3.	Harish Panwar	40	B.A.	Group Organization & Film production	18 years
4.	Laxman Munia	42	9 th	Group organization & Village Autonomy	19 years
5.	Nathulal Muniya	29	12 th	Shiksha Doot	3 years
6.	Ramesh Maida	46	Literate	Smokeless Chullha	10 years
7.	Hariram Maida	38	9 th	Health	16 years
8.	Humlibai	40	Literate	Women empowerment	11 years

9.	Kailash Maida	33	8 th	Group organisation	10 years
10.	Jagdish Patidar	34	8 th	Vehicle driver	8 years
11.	Bapu Amliyar	33	Literate	Office Work	6 years
12.	Devchand Katara	34	6 th	Community Organizer	8 years
13.	Bhanvar Munia	33	10th	SHG Management	6 years
14.	Ganesh Bhuria	34	10 th	Group organisation & Village Autonomy	6 years
15.	Hindu Singh Garwal	32	8 th	Group organisation	6 years
16.	Mohan Khadia	40	8 th	Group organisation	6 years
17.	Mannusingh	28	10 th	Solar Energy	6 years
18.	Punamchand Bhabhar	28	8 th	Education	6 years
19.	Jagdish Bhuria	26	8 th	Group Organization & Solar energy	5 years
20.	Dharmendra Sisodiya	40	9 th	Vehicle Driver	6 years
21.	Kalusingh Dindor	29	8 th	Group Organisation	5 years
22.	Ratan Munia	27	10 th	Accounts	5 years
23.	Jyotsna Garwal	32	8 th	Group Organisation	6 years
24.	Ramchandra Gamad	27	8 th	Group Organisation	6 years
25.	R. C. Choudhry	40	B. Com.	Accountant	17 years
26.	Dinesh Bhabar	25	10 th	Group Organizer	3 months
27.	Rajesh Deshmukha	27	MSW	Project Coordinator	3 years
28.	Mrs. Kamla Pargi	31	8 th	Group Organizer	6 years
29.	Mrs. Marry Thomas	34	MSW	Sponsorship Relation	2 years
30.	Surendra Malviya	26	BA	Field Coordinator	3 years
31.	Vinod Nagar	28	MSW	PFT Member	2 months
32.	Varsingh Ninama	35	8 th	Community Organizer	5 years
33.	Sohan Moria	24	12 th	Computer Operator	1 month
34.	Akhilesh Rodekar	26	12 th	Computer Operator	1 year
35.	Ms. Urmila Sisoriya	26	B. Com	Accounts	6 month

36.	Mrs. Prakshali Desai	40	MSc., B,Ed	Education team Management	10 years
37.	Ms. Seema Prasad	28	M.B.A	Health Supervisor	2 months
38.	Mishrilal	22	10th	Village Level Worker	1 year
39.	Dhannalal	22	10th	Village Level Worker	1 year
40.	Kamlesh	20	10th	Village Level Worker	1 year
41.	Mrs. Shradha Jadhav	24	B.Com	Village Level Worker	3 months
42.	Sanjay Bhayal	21	B.Sc	Village Level Worker	1month
43.	Ku.Anju Rana	27	M.A	Project Coordinator	1 month
44.	Govind Dangi	24	B.A	Storekeeper	1 year
45.	Mrs. Rekha Dangi	23	10th	Village Level Worker	1 month
46.	Kanje Katija	35	10th	Village Level Worker	1 year
47.	Ms Preetibala Rathore	21	8th	Village Level Worker	1 year
48.	Bahadur Singh Damar	30	8th	Village Level Worker	6 months
49.	Mrs.Nirmala Muniya	29	8th	Mess worker	1 year
50.	Pankaj Kumar Rathore	23	MSW	Program Coordinator	1 Year
51.	Himashu Dubey	30	MSW	Project Co-ordinator	4 Year
52.	Vinod Nagar	30	12th	Agriculture Expert	6 Year
53.	Rajaram Patidar	27	MSW	Vetanery Expert	5 Year
54.	Abhishek Shakle	26	MSW	Gerder Expert	1 Year
55.	Mahendra Yadav	26	MSW	Watershed Development Expert	1 Year
56.	Ritesh Patidar	25	MSW	MED Expert	1 Year

