



COMMEMORATING THE INCREDIBLE JOURNEY OF

MANAV JEEVAN VIKAS SAMITI



A group of Indian women and children, with a woman in the foreground carrying a child on her back. The image has a warm, yellowish tint.

"

**If we want Swaraj to be
built on Nonviolence,
we will have to give the
villages their proper
place.**

MAHATMA GANDHI

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FOREWORD



At Ekta Parishad, we always believe that it is the people who make journeys successful and the work of institutionalised set ups should flow according to the team of people who create it. It all began when Nirbhay took up the work at Majhgawan centre and it got strengthened when Aneesh joined him in this journey. The main idea behind Manav Jeevan Vikas Samiti was to build up a training centre where we could train people on using land and water resources. Otherwise people get their share of land but do not know how to use it. Ekta Parishad has its various training centres based on different areas of work. We thought we would have one centre for agriculture and chose the Majhgawan centre for it. So these are the Chaar Dhaam (Four Centres) of Ekta Parishad- Jaura, Katni, Tilda and Madurai. The Majhgawan centre was our dream of building a training centre on agriculture and when Nirbhay took up the work, we could transform this dream into reality. After Aneesh joined, the Youth and Land aspect was added, Many youth camps and yatras were organised which gave the centre great visibility. With MJVS, our idea was to also start intensive work in the Bundelkhand and Baghelkhand region which are economically and socially deprived.

MJVS has also been helping in building capacities of many organisations in the Ekta Parishad network, whether it is around administration work, financial management, etc. Whenever there is a national campaign or program, MJVS becomes the one that manages all the logistics arrangements. So, MJVS plays an important role in all our larger social movements. The International Youth Camp, which was also the beginning of our preparation for Jai Jagat, was organised at the Majhgawan Centre. Followed by that, an International Theatre Workshop was also organised. So Majhgawan centre plays a big role locally, at the state level and also at the National level in terms of providing support to all Ekta Parishad activities. Besides all this, MJVS has a huge magnitude of its own programs going on at the grassroot level with Baiga and Gond tribal communities.

Nirbhay and the MJVS team, with their limited capacities, could also take up the enormous Rural Tourism Project with Tamadi, after which many international groups visited various villages in Rajasthan, Kerala, Himachal as part of the Gareema India program on rural tourism. Nirbhay also created a wonderful and dedicated team of people like Abhay, Dayashankar, Tamma and many more. So, it is beautiful how one dedicated and efficient person like him decides to take up something and creates a whole world around it - from a local to a global level. Jill and I are very happy that MJVS is celebrating the completion of 20 years of its journey. In the past 20 years, they have achieved a lot. Organisations like MJVS are actually the backbone of Ekta Parishad. When all these organisations come together, put their energies and commitment to it, Ekta Parishad becomes vibrant. So we are very happy and congratulate the entire team at MJVS for making it to 20 years. I now wish that the knowledge and experience gained will also be passed on to the new generations and they will take the baton forward.

RAJAGOPAL P.V.

Founder, Ekta Parishad



OVERVIEW

By Nirbhay Singh

This book that you are reading contains the details of work done by Manav Jeevan Vikas Samiti in the last 20 years. We are pleased to know this brief document summarising its beautiful journey of 20 years could reach you. We are deeply grateful for all your support.

It seems peculiar to me how an organisation that got established in a small, modest village - Bijouri (Majhgavan) in Madhya Pradesh - has now built an identity known around the world. It all started in the year 1992 when Rural Development Foundation bought this land to build new standards of Khadi and agriculture in the area. In my early years, when I was learning under the leadership of Rajagopal Ji (Raja Ji), in 1998 I was invited to visit the land, or possibly I was indirectly summoned by him to visit there. I do not know the actual truth myself, but keeping that aside - I arrived here in October 1998. There were already some houses built, but I wasn't offered accommodation. For two or three months, I settled on a small cot outside, where I would cook, sleep, and dream. Dream about the desire to make this centre beautiful.

Despite having no one to talk to or anyone to lend a supporting hand, I continued to move forward, for I had a strong desire to work in the village. But I learned that to work in this area, some banner or institution would be needed. With this desideratum, in August 2000, an application was prepared, and on 28 November 2000, this organisation was officially registered at the Registrar Office, Jabalpur. As per the rule, any institution or organisation has to run from its own resources in the first three years. So, the organisation got registered under 12A, got its PAN card, registered for TDS, and after three years, FCRA was registered in the year 2005. Later, it got registered for 80G as well.

As we finished all these legal formalities, we got our first financial support from Laser Foundation, Canada, and CESCO Support Association, Switzerland, in which MJVS took its first step towards working in tribal areas and providing scholarship support to people across the country. Our work started around this, and then it was in the year 2010, that with Tamadi, France, the work of rural tourism started.

With all these areas of work, and while keeping in mind its establishing objective, the organisation started working with farmers to promote organic farming and simultaneously carried out various activities in areas such as scholarship, youth camps, advocacy around access to government schemes, Forest Rights Act, women empowerment, livelihood generation, building awareness around laws and schemes, cultural exchange, networking and advocacy, and alternative education (Leo Elition). Apart from these mentioned areas of works, even with limited resources, the organisation has done a lot of work. You will see a detailed account of it in this book.

As I sit to recollect this journey of 20 years, I find it that after numerous ups and downs, the objectives for which this organisation was formed have been successfully achieved to a

great extent. It is a possibility that we may have forgotten to achieve some. Yet our efforts would always be that the organisation be instrumental in helping every last person get a livelihood.

Since its inception, the organisation has been supported by many activists, well-wishers, journalists, politicians, thinkers, writers, and many kind individuals. I know the names of every one of these individuals. I can go on to write their names, but I will have to restrain myself as the list is long. However, I cannot finish without writing the name of Rajagopal P. V., our Raja Ji, who has given his invaluable guidance, direction, and support since the start. And I express my heartfelt gratitude to him for that.

In these 20 years, while working with the villages, the organisation has left no stone unturned to prepare and plenish its own training centre with biodiversity. Today, from the augmentation of a collection of thousands of trees and hundreds of species of herbs, to being able to make living arrangements for around 100-150 people at the centre, the credit goes to all the individuals, colleagues, and members of the organisation who have supported us in this journey.

"Our efforts would always be that the organisation be instrumental in helping every last person get a livelihood..."



LETTERS & WISHES



// शुभकामना संदेश //

यह जानकारी प्रसन्नता हुई कि मानव जीवन विकास समिति जिले की, गठनी करती हूँ कि मानव जीवन विकास समिति जिले में किये गये 20 वर्षीय विभिन्न कार्यों की प्रगति की रिपोर्ट संकलित कर विशेषकर पुस्तक के रूप में प्रकाशित किया जा रहा है। यह पुस्तक विशेषकर के रूप में प्रकाशित करने के लिए प्रार्थना की जाती है।

पुस्तक के विशेषकर के प्रकाशन में मेरी शुभकामनाएँ।

(एस.बी.सिंह)
प्रमुख
Govt. T.117 P.G. College
Katra (M.P.)

A GLIMPSE INTO



OUR JOURNEY



THE IMPACT MADE

FOREST & LAND RIGHTS

2250

Farmers have been entitled to

5000

Acres of land

WOMEN

233054

Women across rural districts in M.P. were empowered

COMMUNITY ENTITLEMENT

78

Villages communities received

3621.96

Acres of land

ORGANIC FARMING

12732

Families have adopted organic farming

EDUCATION

65

Schools were established in which 500 children were enrolled

HEALTH

1000

People received health benefits

ENVIRONMENT

52676

Plants of 350 varieties were planted

LIVELIHOOD

1793

Families got livelihood opportunities

GOVT SCHEMES

29675

Families have benefitted from government schemes

HERBAL GARDEN

32785

Herbal plants of 52 varieties have been planted



SUMMARY OF CHAPTERS

The following chapters depict the enormous work of Manav Jeevan Vikas Samiti done in the past 20 years. The first chapter "About MJVS" gives an introduction of the organisation describing its vision, mission, objectives, the demography of MJVS's work area, etc. After setting the context here, the subsequent chapters are categorised on the basis of each work domain of MJVS, namely:

1. Youth Development
2. Natural Resource Management
3. Women Leadership
4. Forest and Land Rights
5. Livelihood and Income Generation
6. Rural Tourism
7. Relief Work
8. Other Welfare Activities- Education, Health and Eradicating Alcoholism.

Each chapter gives an initial introduction of the domain followed by describing the major highlights of work done in the respective domain. The highlights include the major projects, events, camps, campaigns, etc conducted in each domain. Each chapter also includes the quantitative impact of work in the respective domain. Special effort has been made to bring out stories and testimonials of people involved in these programs and projects under each domain.

The later chapters cover other details of the organisation like Awards and recognitions, Media reflections, The Board, partners and collaborators and the financial summary.

The book ends with a beautiful story by the secretary, Nirbhay Singh, describing the impact of the organisation's work and the way forward. We hope you have an enjoyable and insightful read.

ABOUT MJVS

Manav Jeevan Vikas Samiti is a social non-governmental organisation, formed in the year 2000. The organisation has been effectively working for the past 20 years, being conscious of its objectives and tirelessly working for the underprivileged in rural areas.

By organising capacity building training programs for its office staff, field workers, the underprivileged rural communities and promoting organic farming and generating sustainable livelihood for them, the institution has made sustained effort to mainstream the common man.



The organisation's major work domains include livelihood, education, health, environment conservation, women leadership, advocacy, and more.

MJVS is based in a beautiful 30-acre campus in Bijauri village in Majhagawan, Katni. It has 2 training halls, a guest house and a library. 8 acres of the campus is used for organic farming. The beauty of the campus is also enhanced by plants of 550 varieties planted there.

OUR VISION

To build a socially inclusive society by increasing the capacity of the community to manage the available natural resources & live a dignified life.

OUR MISSION

To promote a non-violent economy as an alternate model using organic farming & to bring poverty alleviation & community self-sufficiency for optimal management of natural resources.



- Strive to protect the livelihood, prosperity, rights and honor of the forest dwellers.
- Promote efforts to make a healthy and pollution free environment.
- To make farming profitable, adopt organic methods and promote plantation.
- To develop science, education, literature and fine arts.
- Strive for the creation of the environment according to the all-round development of children.
- To pave the way for peace and non-violence
- To provide just and fair rights to the displaced.
- To promote education, knowledge and science to promote respect and rights of women.
- To work for social welfare by doing constructive work and awakening public consciousness against injustice and exploitation.

OUR OBJECTIVES



OUR 10 PILLARS

NON-VIOLENT SOCIETY

PEOPLE'S GOVERNANCE

**LIVELIHOOD BASED
EDUCATION**

SOCIAL EQUITY & UNITY

LOCAL ART & CULTURE

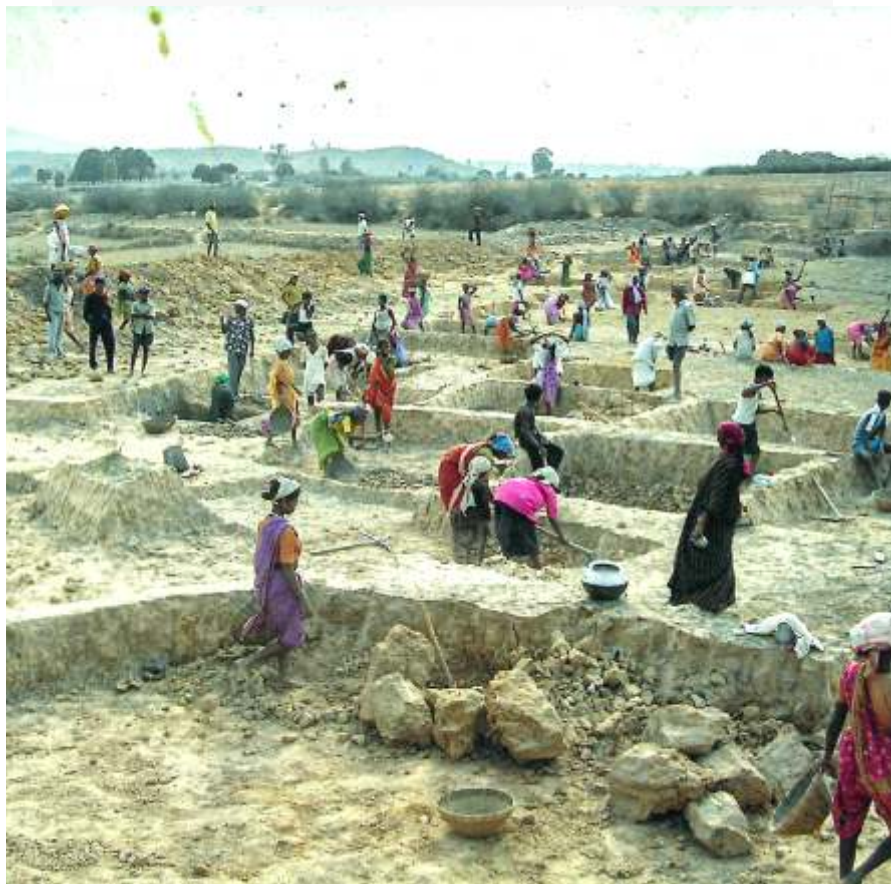
SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

NON-EXPLOITATIVE SOCIETY

**SAFE & SECURE
ENVIRONMENT**

MUTUAL COOPERATION

WELFARE OF ALL



REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE OF MJVS

5/10/24

XXX-Part.—21

रूप क्रमांक 2
(देखिये नियम 7)
मध्यप्रदेश शासन




समिति का पंजीयन प्रमाणपत्र

क्रमांक जे. के. - 5050

यह प्रमाणित किया जाता है कि मानव जीवन विकास समिति
समिति जो मु. बिजौरी पो. मण्ठागांव
(बरही रोड), तहसील बड़गांव,
जिला ऊटनी में स्थित है, मध्यप्रदेश
सोसाइटी रजिस्ट्रीकरण अधिनियम, 1973 (सन् 1973 का क्रमांक 44)
के अधीन 28/11/2000 को पंजीयित की गई है।

दिनांक अक्टूबर माह नवंबर सन् 1999-2000




(बी. एच. सोलंकी)
रजिस्ट्रार, सोसाइटी रजिस्ट्रार
कर्म भवन संस्थापक, जबलपुर
met

GRPRJ—FS/89—10/97—40,000.

WORK AREA DEMOGRAPHY



The Communities that we work with:

- BAIGA in the Mahakaushal Region- Mandla, Dindori and Balaghat.
- GOND in Katni, Umaria and Damoh
- KOL in Satna and Katni
- BHIL, BHILALA in Sehore
- SAHARIYA in Morena

What do they do? How do they live?

The Baiga are called the primitive tribe. They are forest dwellers and live out of forest produce based livelihood. They have remained far away from Government schemes and FRA entitlement for very long. Men and women share equal rights in this community. But the scenario of institutionalised education is poor. 80% of the population in Dindori is Baiga.

The Gond practice agriculture and sell their produce in the nearby markets to earn livelihood. Malnourishment among children is prevalent and purdah system in women strongly exists as a practice.

The Kol also practice agriculture, but most of them are landless and are occupied as agricultural labourers. The Bhil, Bhilala are forest dwellers.

Our Work is spread across various districts in Madhya Pradesh:

District	Block	No. of Villages
1. Katni	1	121
2. Dindori	5	600
3. Mandla	6	720
4. Balaghat	1	60
5. Damoh	2	80
6. Satna	1	01
7. Umaria	1	05
8. Raisen	1	03
9. Panna	1	20
10. Sehore	1	10
11. Morena	1	03



Madhya Pradesh



YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

MJVS serves as the ground of planning and action for various means of Youth Development, addressing to not only the Rural Youth but for the Urban Youth as well. It has always been a constant effort of the team at MJVS to make this space even more dynamic and well equipped with information and the plan of action for all sorts of developmental trainings.

This includes a number of Camps, Workshops, Field visits as well as personal guidance for the youth. These are designed to be accessible in order to reach out to the maximum people and have proven to be very much effective in terms of bringing better opportunities and ideas of development.

HIGHLIGHTS

2014

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CAMP

A 7-day International Youth Camp was organised in the MJVS campus in September 2014. 60 participants from 7 countries had participated. The camp aimed to gather these young social activists and human rights defenders and offer training sessions on non-violence, network with and each other and share experiences of social struggles in their regions. It aimed to help the participants explore and understand the idea of a non violent border-free world and the role of youth in creating that. The participants visited villages like Madaritola and interacted with the communities to understand their issues. The camp activities also included shramdaan, foot marches and much more.



YUVA SHIVIR

The youth camps play a major role in helping the young members to understand the village communities and the struggles they face in their daily life. It is very important to build a communication between the motivated youth and the long established families in these villages in order to get the best possible ways of development. These youth camps bring together the experiences of the people of the village where they dealt with their issues with some of the most innovative yet organic solutions and help the youth to understand and appreciate their potential.



INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON THEATRE AND NON VIOLENCE

2016

A Theatre Workshop was conducted in 2016 with 10 Indian participants and 10 international participants. An interesting opportunity as it sounds, this workshop was facilitated by Ms. Gauri Shinde who is a renowned theatre artist herself and the objective of this workshop was to understand and promote the practices of non violence among the people. All the participants in the workshop came up with a storyline of the play on the subject of Non Violence and performed at various public spots in Katni. This collective effort was much appreciated by the locals as well as the distant audience on various platforms.

CESCI SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

With the support of CESCI Foundation from Switzerland, MJVS decided to provide fellowships to individuals and organisations working on Gandhian actions. The organisation decided to select such individuals and take care of their financial needs for daily life. Women and men from various states across the nation working constructively on rights of the deprived and promoting peace and non violence are selected for the scholarship every year.

Until 2020, people from 14 Indian states have been selected for the scholarship including individuals and organisations from Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Uttarakhand, Odisha, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, etc.

GO RURBAN

Bridging gap between Rural and Urban

The concept of Go Rurban took shape in 2017 during a yatra with Rajagopal PV in the Chambal region heavily populated by the Sehriya Tribe of Sheopur and Shivpuri in Madhya Pradesh. During the yatra, while witnessing the huge divide between the rural and urban worlds, the urban youth participants of the yatra came up with the idea to explore the highlights and shortcomings of both the Rural and Urban lifestyles, creating the combination - RURBAN.

With experiential learning, while organising camps and other participatory activities in rural areas to dynamically explore and experience the true rural life and develop a better understanding of the realities at the grass-roots level the idea of Go Rurban developed. Majorly, the idea incubated in MJVS and is being jointly implemented by Ekta Parishad, MJVS and ANSH Happiness Society, a youth organisation in Bhopal.

Since the inception of the idea in 2017, in the rural areas of Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat 7 such camps have been organised:

- In Madhya Pradesh, 6 camps were organised - in Bhimkothi, Basant Guwan, Mra, Bijouri, Ranjra and Katni - living and learning with the Gond, Baiga, and Sahariya tribes there.
- The camp organised in Gujarat travelled around Ahmedabad, Junagarh, Porbandar and Mehsana to understand the nomadic Maldhari community dominant in those areas.



EXPERIENCES OF OUR YOUTH PARTICIPANTS



Rosella, Italy (Participant, International Youth Camp)

It truly was an empowering and life changing experience. We interacted with local activists during field visits and heard a pervasive strength in the empowered voices of women who saved their own village from violence. We really felt the incredible power people have when they come together! At the end of the camp, I deeply felt that the dream of “one big human family” was really achievable: it’s a long journey, but even a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.

Umang, India (Participant, International Youth Camp)



It was MJVS where I got the idea of I starting Khadigi. It is a place with a lot of scope and motivation.

It was a great milestone. I got to learn the global perspective of people from more than 20 countries. I got an exposure to Gandhian Ideas at MJVS. It has been always great to be at MJVS Campus. I loved the discipline, participation in shramdaan and cooking. It is a place where one can see Gandian values alive.

Sourabh Gujar, India (Participant, Go Rurban)



Experiencing rural life in its bare form introduced me to a way of living which is based more on essentials and one with focus on inter-dependence on nature.

It made me sensitive to the huge role that tribals and marginal society play in our lives and how their traditional knowledge systems have solutions to global problems.

Seema Adivasi, India (Participant, Go Rurban)



I got to know about MJVS as my parents are related to the organisation. So, I had an early exposure. In 2017, at

at the camp, my learning renewed and strengthened when I got to meet so many diverse people. It made me believe no person is weak, no matter what age or gender. I witnessed a change within after the camp. I started thinking about the future and deliberately work towards village development.

Anurag Rai, India (Participant, International Theatre Workshop)



The workshop not only helped me to gain insight into the concept of peace and inter-group relations,

but it also built my interpersonal competency. Living with international and tribal youth at one place firmed my belief that diversity and cross-cultural interaction are highly important to build a better society. My awareness and appreciation of multiculturalism has grown continually since then.

Joy, Switzerland (Participant, International Theatre Workshop)



My experience with the MJVS and the International Theatre Workshop has shaped my path to the future.

This workshop and the skits helped me think about the problems of my own country and those of India. It helped me to understand the issues of International Relations, Human rights, peace and international solidarity. I got an opportunity to meet new people and think globally.

Gabi Monteiro, Brazil (Participant, International Youth Camp)



Participating in the Youth Camp in 2014 was one of the most important and transforming experiences of my life.

It was a time when I met very special people, who marked my history forever. These people I carry with me, with the certainty that I have family even on the other side of the world, and remembering the importance to collectively build paths of social transformation even with our different identities and trajectories.

REACH & IMPACT

4000+

Rural Youth trained and empowered in

30

Youth Camps organised in various districts of M.P.

200+

Youngsters participated in Go Rurban Camps

7

Go Rurban Camps organised

164

People working on Gandhian action in

14

Indian states have benefited from the CESC Scholarship program



NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The economy of people in rural areas is intimately connected to the local natural resources – its land, forests, and water resources. With agriculture, predominantly rain-fed, being one of the major occupations in Madhya Pradesh, developing an understanding around sustainable land and natural resource management, and adopting practices that conserve, preserve, and improve the environment seems more vital.

For the last 20 years, MJVS is tirelessly working towards building the capacity of the community to manage the local resources in a non-violent manner – one which protects land, water, forests, and animals. Thus, advocating and promoting organic farming, composting, sustainable ways to enrich cultivable lands, plantation and cleanliness drives, water and waste management, solar energy providing training to farmers, creating awareness programs, and more, the organisation is trying to develop a consciousness among the community and mainstream ways that benefit the people and protects the environment.

HIGHLIGHTS

SOIL AND WATER MANAGEMENT



Soil and water are the foundation of farming systems. But land levelling and availability of cultivable land has been a concern here. Several methods and experiments have been successfully done to build, reform and increase soil's inherent fertility, like, medbandhi, NADEP and Geo-NADEP composting, vermi-culture, etc along with organic farming. Non-pesticidal Management (NPM) trainings have also been organised. Hundreds of farmers have been assisted with land development by land levelling and field bundling.



Both excess and unavailability of water affects the soil. MJVS has been constantly working towards water management among farmers there. Hundreds of motor pumps, ponds, wells, check-dams, effective irrigation systems, etc have been built to handle the problem of water and develop a system to manage water at a community level. Various training and awareness campaigns have been organised to develop an understanding among the people around the same.

ORGANIC FARMING - TRAINING & AWARENESS

MJVS has been working to promote and support organic farming in the villages using different mediums. Over the years, it has organised several programs around organic agriculture development. Exposure visits have also been organised. Numerous workshops, practical training on organic agriculture, organic fertilisers, bio gas, composting, plantation, nursery training, etc have been organised every year at the centre.

People have also been encouraged to practice community-farming. Organic farming with multi-crop farming has emerged as a great method as it provides double benefit – self-reliance, and farming with harmony with the environment. Several low-cost farming techniques have also been taught in training. The centre has played a key role in making efforts to explain people the various government schemes and policies to help get them due benefits as part of advocacy.



PLANTATION DRIVES

At MJVS, it is believed that naturally sown and grown plants are the strongest and the most durable one. Thus, sincere efforts have been put in the direction of conservation and promotion of naturally prepared plants. Hundreds and thousands of plantation drives have been organised over the course of 20 years. This has also helped promote local seeds.

SEED BANKS

Numerous community and village level seed banks have been established with the help of MJVS to promote and sustain the cultivation of diverse crops sustainably. Locally available seeds have also helped emphasise on self-production than seeking market support for buying seeds and to increase efficiency and self-reliance of the local farmers.

CLEANLINESS AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

Cleanliness drives have been an essential part at MJVS since the start. It organises week-long drives every year in October in its villages and imparts cleanliness training.. As waste management is a major issue, during cleanliness drives, process of composting is explained using NADEP compost pits. More than 150 such compost pits have been collectively made till now to collect and manage waste.

HERBAL GARDEN

The best remedies are indeed the ones in sync with nature. The centre has a dedicated 1 acre space with more than 350 types of organically grown herbal and medicinal plants in it. Various exhibitions of these medicinal plants have been put up over the years to spread awareness of its health benefits.



REACH & IMPACT

12633

Households engaged in plantation drives

1117

Farmers' trainings organised

5263

Farmers helped with land levelling and field bundling

1957

Compost pits built

675

Community Ponds made

80

Villages assisted with making seed banks

158

Check dams built

123

Wells built

12732

Farmers engaged in Organic Farming



WOMEN LEADERSHIP

Villages are often considered to be confining in terms of women leadership and ownership but this belief is constantly being challenged by the unwavering efforts by MJVS and their team of women leaders. Organizing workshops, expert sessions and trainings are a part of this great empowerment which further helps to build a strong foundation for all valorous women in the communities of the village and beyond.

This initiative has some challenges of its own which are appreciably tackled by the dedicated team of trainers and volunteers from the organization and encourages others to be a part of the same. Women are encouraged to form their own self help groups and are guided by experts to establish their own line of work.

HIGHLIGHTS

SELF HELP GROUPS (SHG)

Women in the many of these deprived communities are not economically independent and lack an ownership in the decision making of the family. MJVS has made remarkable efforts to empower women to become financially stronger to be able to sustain their families.

MJVS organised and mobilised women in various villages to form Self Help Groups and take up economic activities. Many women have been engaged in dairy farm, stitching, organic farming, bee keeping, grocery store keeping, etc. They are given loans or they pool money for their social security and for procuring resources for their businesses. The money management is done by the women collectively.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN CONFERENCE

2016



An International Women Conference was organized in Jalgaon in 2016, as a preparation for Jai Jagat Yatra. More than 100 women from 16 countries participated. After the conference, these women visited MJVS field and learned about the livelihood and women empowerment programs run by the organization.



INTERNET SAATHI

2019

Internet Saathi is a collaborative project of Ekta Foundation Trust and PHIA Foundation that was also implemented in 6 blocks of Mandala. 330 Internet Sathis were trained to in turn trained 231,000 women in their villages. Access to Digital Literacy has been uplifting for the women groups to develop their initiatives in various ways.

The program included training about basic smartphone operations and features, turning internet on and off and how to use the mobile camera. These simple but helpful trainings have made a huge difference in their businesses as now they know how to reach out to more people using smartphones as an effective tool. This program has paved a way for progress in their lives as well as in their initiatives.

THE HUNGER PROJECT (2010 - 2018)

Women Leadership Enhancement Program

M.P. was the first state to introduce the Panchayati Raj in the year 2000. Fifty percent of the seats in the Panchayat Election were reserved for women. But the long prevailing patriarchy and conservative attitude in the society overshadowed their representation in the Panchayat and was a major problem for the elected women representatives. Women had to face domestic violence, injustice and discrimination even after having their representation in the Panchayat.

MJVS launched the Sweep Campaign in the year 2010. Through the campaign, the organisation aimed to organise elected women representatives together and empower them to become better leaders. This was done through various community meetings, rallies and demonstrations.

This campaign worked in 116 villages under 50 panchayats. The Sweep Campaign aimed to support and promote strong participation of women in Election Process. Its major objectives were:

- To establish democratic governance for development of poor, tribal, Dalit and marginalised communities.
- To strengthen women by educating them about electoral processes.
- To ensure fearless and just elections and participation of Dalits, Marginalised and communities and most importantly, participation of women.

**THIS PROGRAM TRAINED AND EMPOWERED
313 WOMEN ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES,
600 SAJHA MANCH WOMEN AND 22795
OTHER WOMEN.**



REACH & IMPACT

423

Women Elected
Representatives trained
and empowered in

34

Women conferences
organized

313

Women Self Help Groups
developed

550

Women Sajha Manch
formed

330

Internet Saathis were
Trained

2,31,000

Village women were
empowered by these
Internet Saathis



FOREST AND LAND RIGHTS

Many indigenous communities and denotified tribal communities have been deprived of their rights to possess land and resources for many decades now. The Forest Department have exploited such communities by acquiring their lands by force and destroying their food crops. The inhabitants of the forest, the indigenous communities who have lived out of the forests for centuries became deprived and were forced to find livelihood and survival opportunities outside. Forest Rights Act was introduced in 2006 - an act that ensures entitlement of cultivable land patches and forest resources to tribal communities. But there was lack of awareness among such communities on the Forest Rights Act.

MJVS has been fighting for the struggles of such landless communities for many years through non-violent approaches, padyatras, awareness campaigns and advocacy. Ekta Parishad has had a history of working on land rights struggles through non-violent approaches and MJVS plays a key role in leading these struggles for deprived tribal communities in the Bundelkhand region.

HIGHLIGHTS

2007

JANADESH 2007

Janadesh was a National Campaign launched in 2005, which culminated in 2007. Janadesh means "The Verdict of the People". The campaign aimed to bring many local campaigns together to create pressure on the Indian Government to undertake specific land reforms aimed at securing land rights for the poorest groups in India. Thousands of adivasis and landless farmers joined a 350 km foot march from Gwalior to Delhi. This padyatra traversed by 25,000 padyatris led to the formation of Land Reform Committee. The Forest Rights Act was also introduced in the year 2006. The law concerns the rights of forest-dwelling communities to land and other resources, denied to them over decades as a result of the continuance of colonial forest laws in India. The Janadesh Padyatra led by Ekta Parishad was an act of mass non-violent civil disobedience, launched on 2nd October 2007



2012

JANSATYAGRAH 2012

After Janadesh, Ekta Parishad organised another footmarch Jan Satyagrah from Gwalior to Delhi in 2012. 50,000 landless and small farmers gathered in Gwalior. The padyatra ended in Agra with an agreement with the government on the establishment of a draft national land reforms policy adoption of a legal provision to provide agriculture land to landless people and homestead land to homeless people.



2014

ADIVASI ADHIKAAR PADYATRA

A 21 day foot march, Adivasi Adhikaar Padyatra, was organised from 20th November to 10th December in 2014. It began from MP's Dindori district and the yatris marched a distance of 262 kms to reach Kabirdhaam district in Chhattisgarh. The yatra largely aimed for justice and peace of deprived tribal communities. The major objectives of the yatra were to understand the grassroot level implementation of govt policies like FRA, PESA, Food security Act, etc and also to organise the tribal communities to create pressure on the government for effective implementation of policies.

VILLAGE LEVEL ADVOCACY

Being an organisation closely associated with Ekta Parishad Movement, MJVS has constantly strived to ensuring forest and land rights to the landless tribal communities. MJVS conducts surveys in the villages to understand the problems of the community because of forceful land grabbing by the administration. Training programs are conducted with the panchayat samitis and other community members wherein they are made aware of the laws. The organisation also facilitates the formalities of demanding land entitlements for the community members.



A SUCCESS STORY

**How they
got back the
mortgaged
land.**

This is the story of Chirhuli Village in Badwara Vikas Khand, 35 km away from Katni District. It has a population of 560 families, 250 among which are adivasis.

An severe drought hit this village in the year 1964-65. The poor tribal families had nothing to eat and were helpless. Grabbing the opportunity, a rich man acquired 200 acres of that land in exchange of some relief material given to the families hit by the drought. With time, the adivasis became labourers on their own land that was snatched away from them. After the death of the man, the land was allocated for the construction of a temple premise. Time flew and generations of adivasi families remained labourers on their own land.

This issue was brought into the notice of MJVS team in the year 2006, when a survey was conducted there. The MJVS team then formed a local unit of community members and conducted a 2-day Sarpanch Training Program in which 112 sarpanch from 40 villages gathered. This was the first time when all local village chiefs had gathered for a collective discussion. The 200 acre land grabbing issue was brought up and the members unanimously decided to have a dialogue with the temple pujaari regarding this. After some dialogue, the pujaari agreed to give 22 acres of land to 18 adivasi families to construct their houses. The collective of local people working on this issue remained in constant touch with the pujaari and carried on further dialogue with him. In July 2006, the pujaari agreed to provide all the 200 acre land to the adivasi families for farming. The community got back their land. In May 2007, 18 adivasi families also began constructing their houses on the separately allocated 22 acres. Dialogue, determination, awareness and collective action brought victory in a non-violent way.



LIVELIHOOD AND INCOME GENERATION

Since its inception, Manav Jeevan Vikas Samiti has strived to work towards the economic empowerment of the village communities. Exploitation by the Government in the form of land grabbing and destruction of food crops left the village communities into deep poverty. Even after obtaining their share of land, lack of knowledge on effective land use does not give them enough yield to earn enough to be able to sustain their families. Resultantly, they migrate to other villages and cities and most of them work as labourers.

Manav Jeevan Vikas Samiti aims to help such deprived communities to earn enough livelihood to keep their families healthy and happy. MJVS believes that such a change can be brought about by making the communities self sufficient and help them generate abundant resources for themselves. MJVS has worked at several levels with farmers, women and youth by empowering and training them on various productive skills and innovative technologies.

HIGHLIGHTS

ORGANIC FARMING, EFFECTIVE LAND USE & OTHER LIVELIHOOD SOURCES



Manav Jeevan Vikas Samiti has worked toward uplifting the economic conditions of the village communities through various ways. One of the key approaches is by promoting organic farming techniques among farmers and training them on making compost, vermi compost, organic pesticides, building ponds and dams and effective irrigation techniques, etc. The farmers are trained on these techniques so that they can make optimum use of possessed land and get higher yields. Apart from that, trainings are also conducted for other livelihood sources like goat farming, fish farming, etc. In the years 2014-15, MJVS also trained some communities on weaving and cloth making and connected them to industries and markets.

SELF HELP GROUPS AND VILLAGE UNITS

MJVS believes that change can be brought about by making the members of the villages work in solidarity with each other and make their own communities self sufficient. MJVS works towards setting up village units and self help groups in the tribal villages. These units are then made aware of Government schemes and banking facilities that they can avail. MJVS also helps these SHGs in opening up bank accounts and pool money for their economic and social security.



VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMS

2012-2017

MJVS undertook a project with National Council of Vocational Training in 2012. The project aimed at making village youth acquire employable skills. Numerous training programs were conducted for them on computer skills, stitching, basic electronics, tea stall vendor, fashion designing, driving, etc.

BHARAT RURAL LIVELIHOOD FOUNDATION

2018

Bharat Rural Livelihoods Foundation (BRLF) was set up by the Government of India as an independent society under the Ministry of Rural Development, to scale up civil society action in partnership with the central and state governments. The principal objective of BRLF is to empower rural India, ameliorating the lives of its impoverished populace, especially the indigenous tribes and strengthening their confidence in the government and Indian democracy, in coordination with CSOs, Government of India and governments of various states.

Working in tandem with civil society organisations that have a local presence, BRLF ensures that the desired results are produced through right strategies as well as efforts. BRLF supports a variety of projects across the breadth of the country, particularly in the states of Odisha, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Telangana and Gujarat that form Central India.

MJVS was appointed as the lead organisation in undertaking a project of BRLF. Along with two more organisation, a consortium was formed which was named as Bundelkhand Development Alliance. The project was implemented in 2 districts of Madhya Pradesh- Damoh and Panna. The work area under MJVS was Tendukheda block in Damoh.

The goal was to extend a model of sustainable livelihoods targeting 10000 households in 100 villages) in tribal dominated regions of the two districts in 3 years' period by – ensuring the and rights to marginalized tribal population under FRA, promoting watershed development and land development activities for the families who have gained land rights and lastly, by promotion of sustainable on-farm and off-farm livelihood activities to improve food, nutrition and livelihood security in socially-just manner.



REACH & IMPACT



385

Farmers' Training Sessions Conducted

A Total of Rupees

10,92,110

amount has been collected and deposited in bank accounts of

1300+

SHG Training Sessions Conducted

1060

SHGs formed in

78

Public Hearings conducted

365

Villages

900+

Awareness Campaigns Conducted

260

Trainees have been part of NCVT sessions



Alli dada learned the smart way of farming and his income took a leap.

Alli Dada from Lakhakhhera Village in Badwara Block attended an Agricultural Training Program conducted by MJVS in 2005. This 3-day training program was part of the "Gareebi Unmoolan Yojna". After this Alli dada tried to implement all the learnings gained from the training on his 3 acre agricultural land. It was located near a water stream and was a rough patch. He first levelled the land and planted many fruit tree saplings. In the subsequent years, he started earning Rs 3000 only from the guava trees. He did several other things on the land- making a check dam to stop the water flow and soil erosion, using the biomass (fallen leaves and twigs) to cover the cultivating area and he stopped using any chemical inputs on his land. With all these alternative approaches of farming, his annual income increased from Rs 8000 to Rs 20,000 within a few years. His land was selected under the Kapildhara Yojna of National Livelihood Guarantee and One Lakh Rupees was granted to build a well near it. Alli dada, who was 60 years old back then worked with the other labourers to dig the well. Intelligent planning and tireless labour is what paid off.

How a Self Help Group of women took small steps to create a big change

Along with the support of Mahatma Gandhi Seva Ashram, the MJVS team formed an SHG of women in Runnipur and Shankara village in 2018. The SHG was given an initial fund after analysing their needs. Initially they took their share of money individually and spent on their needs. As a result, the funds did not increase. Then they decided to manage this money in a collective manner. They borrowed some money as loan and pooled in some money themselves and decided the interest rate themselves. It helped many women take up various economic activities like Bee keeping, dairy farm, grocery shop, stitching, etc. They were trained MGSA and MJVS team wherever required. They have been running their economic activities successfully and are earning enough to sustain their families as well as pay off the loan of the SHG collectively. The group loaned an amount of INR 150000 to 16 women. All the women are paying INR 1100 to INR 550 per month to the group along with the interest. They are becoming economically empowered with greater self-esteem and participation in decision making in the family.



LISTENING FROM THE TEAM



Chandrapal
(Team Member,
BRLF project)

I joined MJVS in January 2020 and took up the livelihood project of MJVS in collaboration with BRLF. In the past 10 months, I understood the organisation's work and realised that it's primary area of work with the tribal communities is set up a sustainable livelihood model, make them aware of FRA and other govt schemes, train them on watershed management and natural resource management and to make effective use of land acquired through the FRA. We also cater to the food and nutrition security of the communities through these programs. We create village level units which can then carry on village development in a self sustainable manner. The organisation also works towards liasoning with various govt departments and make govt schemes accessible to the people.



STORY OF CHANGE

By Nirbhay Singh

Who says success cannot be found?

With one foot in front of the other, slowly moving forward on the principle of struggle, dialogue, and constructive action, foremost, I struggled. My journey to struggle started in 2007 with Janadesh, whence I walked the path towards Janandolan in 2018. I marched with one-meal a day, spent nights sleeping on a mat on national highways, even took baths at an interval of 2-3 days only after water was made available on request. But the struggle did not break the spirit. We continued walking, and from Panchayats to Block to District to Capitals: Bhopal and Delhi, we continued to engage in dialogue successfully at every level and moved forward on our journey towards constructive action.

For the better part of the last nine or ten years, I have been roaming around in the villages of Damoh, Katni, Dindori, Mandla, Balaghat, and Umaria. I have shared many success stories with you before, ones which I have experienced closely. Hundreds of villages collectively have got the right to land of about 5000 acres under the Forest Rights Act. The crops which are now being cultivated on these lands by irrigation through rivers, wells, ponds, etc. are giving us astounding returns. Once on these lands, to keep their possession and have an assurance of having grains till the end of the rainy season, these tribal villagers engaged in monocropping then migrated for the rest of the days to earn their livelihoods. Now, the time has come that these tribal families have space to store food grains and build their own houses. It is heartwarming to see the fields of Nandlal Singh in Bamnoda village being irrigated using sprinkler systems to sow wheat and gram. It is even more heartwarming when I see sprinkler systems being used to irrigate his home-garden of green vegetables, the planted fruit trees, and the cultivated flower-fields there.

On discussing with the farmers of his village, Maan Singh Yadav was told these villagers sow indigenous

only paddy, mainly gajakali and kaalidhan, without using any chemical fertilizer in their fields. They use manure made from cow dung available in their homes itself. This story was reiterated while Maan Singh showed us his purely homemade ghee to us. There are many more such examples coming out, and with more and more farmers adopting newer ways to restart things, we believe that we will witness many more such examples in the future. One time when we were just about to begin our village-meeting in Dhangaur and Bhaisa, Baisakhu Aadivasi said, "We cannot ever forget the resilience and strength that we have got through the organization because before 10 or 12 years from today, we would migrate for 8 to 10 months every year to work where neither our children were able to study, nor could we keep our houses properly. However, the improvement in our financial condition under the Forest Rights Act has been truly praiseworthy. Now we live in our own houses, teach our children, and work in our fields to earn our livelihoods."

From the courtyard of Khilan Singh's house in Pateria Mal, he showed us the 65 tribal families who have got possession of 280 acres of land. If we consider the value of the entire 5 thousand acres of obtained land as 3 lac rupees per acre, then billions of rupees have been obtained through ownership of the land. After receiving the ownership and integrating an irrigation system on these lands, total production in mono-cropping, which was 4 quintals in every acre in one season, turned to a total production of 7 to 8 quintals with two-crop farming in every acre in one season. Consequently, 14 to 15 quintals of grain are produced in two seasons on every acre of land. If the price of one year is 1500 rupees per quintal, and with 7500 quintal grains produced, the total figure comes around several crore rupees. This is a yield figure of one year! If the last 5 years are taken into account, then this yield figure goes into many billion rupees. Moreover, this figure is only of the land for which ownership is obtained. Thousands and more acres have been received from the Habitat Rights with which several families are developing their villages and maintaining their sustenance with forestry collection.

The change in the living standards of these tribal families, the level of education of their children, and the way the women of these families are working and growing their own food is making them financially more empowered and self-sufficient. This is a pure instance of social change. When I witness these stories; their journeys, I see a fine example of non-violent struggle and dialoguing that has lead to constructive action – a slow revolution – where economic, social, and political changes are coming from within.





RURAL TOURISM

India's rich culture and heritage along with its diversity is unparalleled. The rural India exhibits this cultural diversity and heritage in its true sense which has been looked at by the entire world. Tourism in such rural areas is a way to create employment without compromising with the environment and ecology there. Thus, rural tourism contributes to rural development. It allows the creation of an alternative source of income for the villagers in these rural areas.

MJVS aims to provide such sustainable and non-violent livelihood alternatives to the underprivileged. Releasing how tourism can play an important role in diversifying the rural economy and how its expanding in rural areas can contribute to the sustainability of the population and the socio-economic conditions of these areas, MJVS has been working since 2012 with Tamadi and Gareema India around rural tourism to provide basis for achieving sustainable development in their villages and working towards self-reliance.

GAREEMA INDIA

Gareema India is a partnership project between TAMADI, a french non-profit association, and MJVS. Since the inception of this project in 2012, MJVS and TAMADI have been jointly working to empower and develop sustainable livelihoods of rural communities through the cultural exchange and economic support facilitated by alternative, rural solidarity tourism. The project focuses on achieving this through immersion of visitors in everyday life.

ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL BENEFITS

Sustaining daily livelihood from agriculture alone has been difficult. With the tours organised, a part of the earnings of the exchange activity directly supplements the daily income of the host villages and serves as an investment for village development.

It has also helped enhance the process of mobilising and organising among the villagers to take full ownership and manage the project and gain recognition from government and some have been chosen as model villages as well.

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL BENEFITS

The project has enhanced the inherent relationship between tourism, people and their cultural assets. It has made villagers adept of hosting visitors. The two-way learning and sharing of culture helped in building understanding about the outside world and it has improved the villagers' style of living as well.

HEALTH AND SANITATION BENEFITS

Overall sanitation of the villages has significantly improved. Mud houses and toilets have been made in villages as a community initiative





REACH & IMPACT

342

Visitors

4

Indian States,
since 2012

60

Groups have
visited several
villages

- **Madhya Pradesh**
- **Kerala**

- **Rajasthan**
- **Uttarakhand**

STORY OF MARAIKALA

Maraikala is a small, modest village of Umaria district in Madhya Pradesh. Nestled in the hills of Bandhavgarh National forest, it is the first village for rural tourism in India of Tamadi.

Ever since a coincidental visit in 2010, this Gond tribal village has been attracting diverse visitors and as a result - empowering the villagers in multiple ways. Maraikala's women groups solely manage these flocking visitors. With the financial aid they receive, the villagers there have been engaging in several village development programs.

By taking up organic turmeric farming, Maraikala has been able to economically engage and empower itself. The cultural exchange has remarkably improved the health and sanitation here. The children in the village ask to be taught English to help them communicate with the visitors. The village even witnessed its first Anganwadi Center and concrete road after the start of the project as Government noticed the increased influx of tourists there.

This initiative has gradually yet significantly improved the social, economic and political conditions of Maraikala and make it self-sufficient.



Like Maraikala, Gobrataal, Dhoophata, Bangalipur are more such villages in Madhya Pradesh which are being empowered because of rural tourism under this project.

RELIEF WORK

Providing emergency relief is one of the key areas of work of MJVS. The remote villages in which MJVS works are prone too environmental and natural disasters and relief for people in such areas reaches very late. It all started in the year 2004 when Bundelkhand and Bagelkhand regions were hit with severe floods that had shattered human life in that region. With the help of Delhi-based organisation, Goonj, MJVS provided relief kits including clothes and ration to 20,000 families in the flood-hit regions. After this, MJVS took up the work of cloth distribution and relief work on a regular basis and started many initiatives like- "Kaam ke badle Kapda" (Clothes as remuneration for work), "School to School Program", emergency releif work as well as distribution of sanitary napkins to women.

During the recent COVID-19 pandemic, the team at MJVS made relentless efforts to provide relief kits and livelihood sources to the thousands of migrants who returned back to their villages.



REACH & IMPACT

51762

people have benefitted from the Cloth Distribution Initiative of MJVS with Goonj.

14305 **16400** **16220** **4837**
Men Women Children Schools

1050

Families have been provided emergency relief ration kits during the COVID-19 pandemic by the BRLF project of MJVS.



OTHER WELFARE ACTIVITIES



EDUCATION

Many communities that MJVS works with, are based in remote villages that are far from facilities like schools and hospitals. The children of the such families, which are tirelessly work to make ends meet each day, are neglected. When MJVS started noticing such issues in some villages, they began to establish schools, appointed local teachers and enrolled the village children in those schools. 5 primary schools have been set up in different districts, in which 475 children are seeking education.

MJVS also conducts training programs on alternative education in which the participants explore various innovative pedagogies to impart fundamental knowledge in the social, political, historical. ecological to children and make them critical thinkers and productive citizens.



HEALTH

MJVS also sends doctors to the villages to check on the health status of the people and provide medical care. The organisation's work on cultivating herbs has also brought many health benefits to the people. MJVS also caters to animal health in these areas. The village people are trained on animal treatment.

ENTITLEMENTS TO OTHER GOVT SCHEMES

MJVS conducts awareness workshops to help the village communities get benefits of many government schemes for farming, horticulture, food security, livelihood, etc. They also work with Anganwadis and School Management Committees and create awareness on child rights. The various govt schemes that have been ensured for the people include Ujjwala Beema Yojna, Kisaan Credit Card, Old Age pension, PM Jan Kalyan Yojna, Rojgaar Guarantee Act, PDS cards, etc.



ERADICATING ALCOHOLISM

MJVS believes that there is no place for intoxicating products in a village of Gandhi's dream. Many awareness campaigns have been organised in which people have been made aware of deaddiction. Such issues are brought up in the gram sabha and an open dialogue with women, government officials, etc are facilitated. Since 2004, MJVS has been organising awareness campaigns on deaddiction every year in the first week of October. Its efforts have eradicated alcoholism completely from one of the villages, Jamuniya, in Badwara block.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS



Bardoli Ratna

Environment



Honhaar Award

Social Welfare



**Swami Vivekanand and
Sister Margaret Award**

Social Welfare



Sammaan Patra

Jal, Jungle, Zameen



**Tilka Maajhi
National Award**

Social Welfare

MEDIA REFLECTIONS



Participants at inaugural function of 4-day Youth Peace camp

■ Staff Reporter

A FOUR-DAY youth Peace Camp for 'Building Bridges across Rural and Urban Youth' started at Manipal Jeevan Vikas Samiti campus at Karni. This camp is organised by Ekta Parishad in collaboration with Standing Together to Enable Peace (STEP) and Gandhi Sanriti Darshan and Darshan Samiti. The camp will conclude on July 7. In this camp 25 urban youths are participating from Delhi, Manipal, Sweden and Colombia. Also 15 rural youths from Bhopal, Umaria and Karni. Youth learned lessons of nonviolence through the success

story of Ekta Parishad land rights struggles. They also learned the importance of Non violence through Games and socio-cultural activities. This camp was co-ordinated by the Aneesh Thilakery, National Convener of Ekta Parishad, Nirbhay Singh, Secretary MPNS, and Samual from STEP. It is an initiative dedicated to building of a just and peaceful society that is free non-violent and sustainable. Main objectives of the organisation is sustainability, non-violence and compassion, universal and differentiated responsibility, reflective action, freedom with responsibility. STEP is a community of

people with itch in their conscience to take personal steps to transform themselves and the world that they live in. To share ideas, draw inspiration from other people's personal journeys and foster community by sharing resources for creating a world based on non-violence, universal responsibility, sustainability and peace such youth camp plays a vital role.

Ekta Prashad is being organising such rural youth peace camp in Madhya Pradesh which witness participation from national and international students all over the world who wants to experience rural culture of the State.

वन अधिकार यात्रा से मिली जानकारी

छोटा नरेंद्रसिंह गुप्त

[illegible]

(१) प्रत्येक वर्ष में एक बार केवल एक ही बार। * संशुद्धि

Tamadi News Coverage in a French Newspaper



बम्हौरी पांजी में आज
होगी ब्लॉक स्तरीय
जनसुनवाई

तैरूखड़ा मानव जीवन विकास समिति कठनीं दमोह समुदाय के उत्थान के लिए प्रयासरत है। वर्तमान में भारत सरल लाइवलीहूड फाउंडेशन के सहयोग से ब्लॉक तैरूखड़ा 60 ग्राम में आजीविका कार्यक्रम का संचालन किया जा रहा है। संस्था द्वारा सोमवार को सुबह 11 बजे से 3 बजे तक ग्राम पंचायत बमरोरी पांजी में जनसुनवाई कार्यक्रम का आयोजन किया जाएगा। जिसमें कलेक्टर, जिला पंचायत सीईओ, आदिम जाति कल्याण विभाग, कृषि, उद्यमिकी, कृषि विज्ञान केंद्र, वेटनरी, आत्मा परियोजना, राज्य ग्रामीण आजीविका मिशन दमोह एवं अनुविभागीय अधिकारी राजसूय, अनुविभागीय अधिकारी पुलिस, सीईओ सहित ग्राम पंचायत सरपंच, सचिव मौजूद रहेंगे। कार्यक्रम में शासन प्रशासन को योजनाओं की जानकारी ग्रामीणों को दी जाएगी एवं ग्राम पंचायत से समस्या आधारित आवेदनों पर जनसुनवाई विभागों द्वारा की जाएगी। यह जानकारी ब्लॉक कार्डिनेटर चन्परमा प्रसाद दाई दी।

BOARD OF MJVS



**Shri Badri Narayan
Naradiya
PRESIDENT**



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**Shri Tamma Gadari
MEMBER**

EXPERIENCES OF OUR TEAM MEMBERS

Tarunesh Karpoor



I started working in the organisation from February 2013. Initially I worked in the NCVT program till 2015 and was involved in training youth on computer applications.

After that I worked with The Hunger Project in which we worked with 15 panchayats and empowered women elected representatives. Then I started doing most of the documentation work here. I understood a lot about organic farming while working here. I have seen the organisation grow gradually and take up a lot of creative programs. Many students of the vocational training project have got jobs and many women trained in THP have taken up various economic activities.

Ghanshyam Prasad Raikwar



I got introduced to Ekta Parishad during the long footmarch Janadesh in 2006. I got to understand the issues of land rights and livelihoods of indigenous people during this and I was really inspired by Rajaji's ideas.

In 2007, I joined Navrachna Sansthan. I worked with the tribal communities, understood their issues and helped them in taking up economic activities for their livelihood. Then I joined MJVS in 2018 and joined the BRLF project. We are helping people to get possession of their lands under the Forest Rights Act and also training them on various effective farming techniques to increase their livelihood by Rs 15,000. All that I learnt through working in these two organisations is now all that I aspire to work for- to work to enhance the livelihood of people in the villages.

Shobha Tiwari



Even before the official registration, I became a part of MJVS when I got associated with the centre in 1999 when I had attended a training there around the teachings of Gandhi's New Talim. Later, when the organisation got registered I joined as a worker there as well. For the last 20 years, I have been working around the issues of water, forest, and land, and empowering women participating in Panchayati Raj with MJVS. I have been especially been working around financially strengthening the Baiga tribe of the villages and how they can earn their living by weaving their unique Baiga fabric.

There are many organisations working at the grassroots, but MJVS has reached into the deepest parts of the villages in Madhya Pradesh. It has been 20 years and MJVS still keeps teaching me something new, something different.

Dayashankar Yadav



I have been part of MJVS since 2000. Initially I had developed a nursery and was looking after the plantation activity here in the campus for 3-4 years. We planted a lot of trees like Sagon, Bamboo, Amla and other fruit trees. Initially saplings were bought from the

market. But after I joined, we developed our own nursery and also generated income by selling saplings. I also conducted some training programs. Now I look after all the accommodation arrangements for people who come here. I have seen MJVS grow for the past many years now. I don't feel like an employee here- It is like my home and all of that I do here is my passion. I am also very particular about hygiene and cleanliness! So I take care of all the cleanliness work here in the morning. We also have a herbal garden here and I treat patients for a variety of treatments through herbal processes.

Naresh Khateek



I joined MJVS in April 2019. I met Nirbhay Ji through the previous organisation that I worked with. I had worked in agriculture and horticulture, but the FRA domain was new to me. So, I learnt after I joined the organisation.

I think this is a very important and effective area to work on, if we wish to uplift the landless and deprived communities. Through the "Van Mitr" program, we helped many families get possession on their land. Through the process, we also understood the challenges that they face during this process. The farmers have also been trained on vermicompost and NADEP techniques which was new for them. I have had a great experience working in the organisation.

EXPERIENCES OF OUR TEAM MEMBERS

Foolchandra Kewat



I have been working here for the past 4 years. It feels great and I am very happy. I take care of the entire cooking part. Lot of people come and stay here on campus.

They really like the food that I serve to them and appreciate a lot! It feels good. I am also partly associated with the other works of the organisation and I strongly believe in its ideals and objectives.

Ram Kishor Choudhary



I have been working with MJVS since 2010 and for the past 10 years, I have been part of its various projects. I got to learn a lot by participating in the various activities of the organisation and I really want

to thank Nirbhay Ji for making me an integral part of the various activities. I used to majorly look at the documentation and report writing work. While writing many project reports, I realised the depth and importance of our work even more. I was closely involved with The Hunger Project from 2014 to 2018 and with The Internet Saathi Project since 2019. Our organisation has a huge campus with abundant resources and always welcomes everyone who comes here. MJVS has also been extending support to many other organisations in terms of training and capacity building. The variety of work that the organisation is involved in, enhances our experience too and we always aim to work for it dedicatedly.

Tamma Gadari



It has been almost 22 years since I have been here, in and around the campus. I was working in a dairy earlier. When Nirbhay Bhai came, I joined him in his work and started looking after the agriculture part.

Now I take care of the entire agriculture part in the campus. Since the organisation has started working, it has only grown and moved forward and I wish that we reach greater heights in future. My own family lives in Bijouri and I have witnessed the amount of impact that our work has had on the village communities.

Abhay Patel



I come from a farmer family in Bhadaura village, 5 km from our centre. After working in a secondary school for 4 years, I came to MJVS in August 2008 and took up the responsibility of financial management.

Apart from this, I worked with various activities under the Rural Tourism Project of Tamadi. In my 12 years of experience in MJVS, I have learnt a lot and have also seen the organisation grow year by year. It would be difficult for me to put together my overwhelming journey of 12 years in the organisation but I feel that this one of the finest places for those who wish to do something impactful for the society, to come, work and learn. I am thankful to the entire MJVS family. All my best wishes to the team for completing 20 years. Jai Jagat.

Surksha Lal Bhone



I have been associated with MJVS since 2002. We have been working for the economic, social and political upliftment of the villages communities. Along with organising the people of these villages in small groups and providing them training and awareness on various schemes, we have also associated with the government department officials and facilitated the implementation of schemes in these villages. Many people have benefitted through this. I have majorly worked in Mandla and Balaghat regions where we gave trainings on land development, so that people can make effective use of their lands and earn enough income so that they have to migrate. I have also been involved in working with many naxal regions. Through constant conversations with such people in such regions, we have tried to instill the idea of Non-Violence. It has been a challenging and enriching journey.

Our Supporters Across 20 Years

**CESCI Support
Association**
Tamadi France
The Hunger Project
Grameen Vikas Pratisthan
**Bharat Rural
Livelihood Foundation**

*"We extend heartfelt gratitude to all
our supporters. We could not have
traversed this journey through the
years without you all."*

- Team MJVS



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Ramesh Bhai & Sarita Ji

Lata Bai Patankar Ji

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Pravina Piyush Kothari Ji

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Naitik Shah Ji

Hemant Shah Ji

Sandeep Mitiprakash Sharma Ji



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

NOTE FROM OUR WELL-WISHER



Yatish Bhogilal Mehta
(Director, Diatrends)

I am delighted to know that Manav Jeevan Vikas Samiti is celebrating its 20th anniversary. I have been associated with the organisation for a very long time and have seen it grow and expand its work enormously. Every organisation that does a work of such magnitude needs support in terms of a lot of resources. Many of my friends, people in the network and I are providing financial support to MJVS for a very long time now. I am very happy that MJVS has been very effective in terms of utilisation of funds for its various projects. The organisation is doing incredible work in the remote villages across many districts with many deprived, indigenous communities. I congratulate the immensely dedicated team of MJVS for completing 20 years of its relentless work and I will continue to extend support for many years to come. I am glad to be associated with you all and do my part for the larger social good. Congratulations and best wishes to the entire family of MJVS. I am very much thankful to Shree. Rajagopal P V (Rajaji) and all members of Ekta Parishad for introducing me to MJVS.

All the Annual Financial Reports are uploaded on our website. You can view them by scanning the following QR code.



OUR WAY FORWARD



TO SPREAD OUR WORK NATIONWIDE

TO ENHANCE LIVELIHOOD OF
20,000 FARMERS

CREATING NON-VIOLENT ECONOMY
MODELS IN 2 BLOCKS

EXPAND RURAL TOURISM IN MORE
VILLAGES

TO DEVELOP BIODIVERSITY TRAINING
CENTRE MODELS

INTENSIVE DEVELOPMENT OF 150
VILLAGES ON GANDHIAN IDEALS

TO ESTABLISH STRONGER NETWORK
OF BOTH RURAL AND URBAN YOUTH

MORE EMPHASIS ON WOMEN
EMPOWERMENT, CHILD RIGHTS,
EDUCATION AND HEALTH

TO STRENGTHEN SYSTEMS OF ORGANIC
FARMING, GRAIN BANKS, SEED BANKS,
ENSURING PEOPLE'S ACCESS TO FOOD
AND GOVT SCHEMES IN THE VILLAGES.

The 20th Anniversary of Manav Jeevan Vikas Samiti

28th November 2020

With immense joy and gratitude, we write to you today to commemorate the occasion of Manav Jeevan Vikas Samiti (MJVS), Katni, Madhya Pradesh; completing 20 years on 28th Nov 2020.

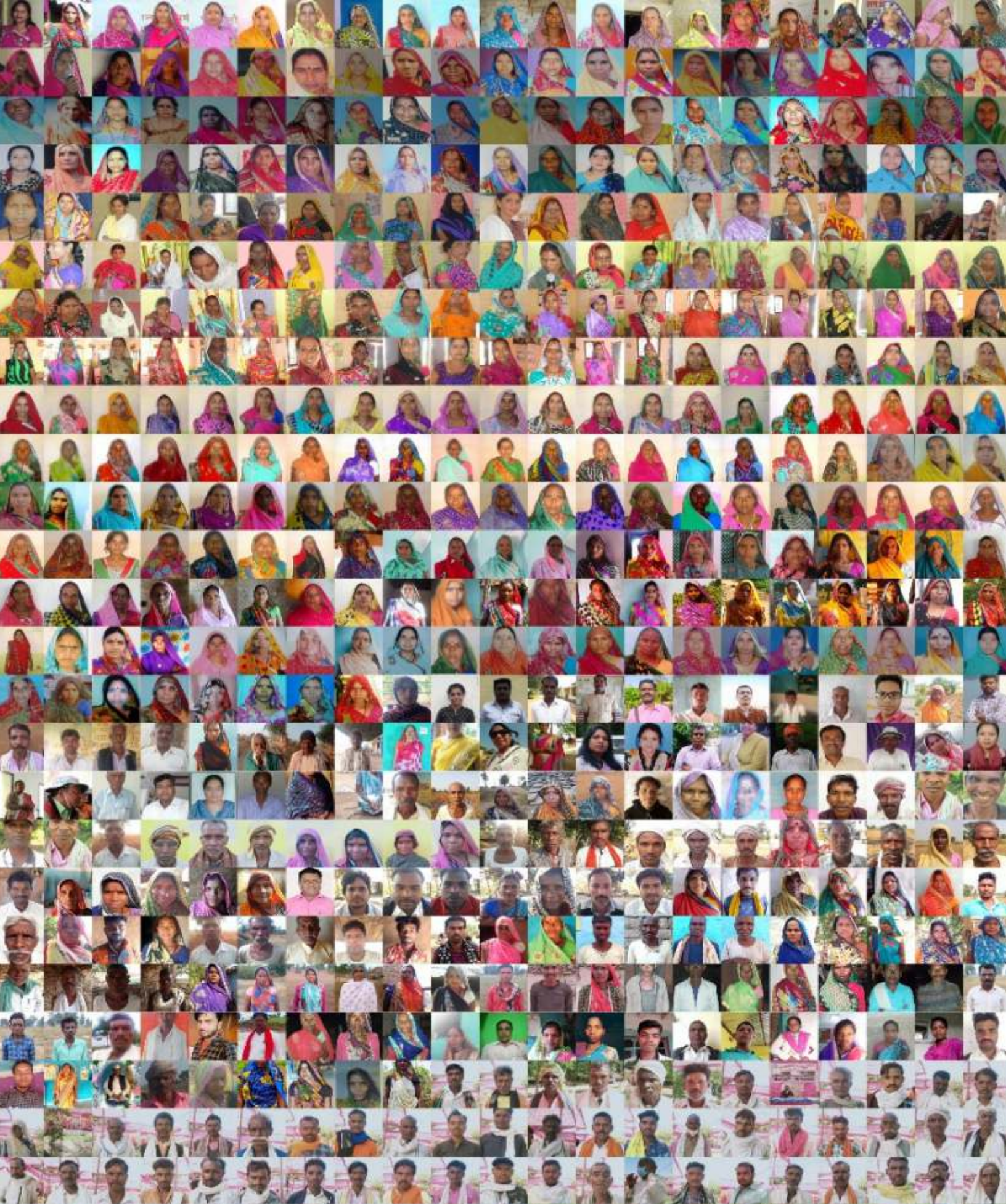
Upon reflecting over these years, we can today say that MJVS has collectively over the years been able to influence and impact thousands of people not just locally but also at the national and international levels. MJVS's strong foothold in the multiple spaces can be credited to its numerous programs on youth development, women empowerment, forest and land rights, rural development projects based on sustainable livelihood models through organic agriculture and watershed development.

This year, with the COVID-19 pandemic changing the course of the world, has been exceptional for MJVS too. In response to the recent exodus of migrant labours, various relief works were carried out, from which emerged long term agricultural and non agricultural projects such as seed banks, poultry farming and animal husbandry. Despite the various difficulties that we are facing, the year has enforced our vision of facilitating self-sufficiency. These emerging projects are hugely contributing to our mission of creating alternative models of development and paving ways for a nonviolent economy while being in balance with the environment. In other words, moving towards realising various experiments for Swarajya.

Completing the two decades wouldn't have been possible without support and collaboration from our mentors, friends, community members and our well-wishers from across the world. This occasion of MJVS's 20th anniversary gives us the opportunity to offer gratitude, reminisce and further engage ourselves in enforcing our collective global mission of reducing poverty and creating sustainable social development models.

We invite each one of you to co-travel with us in this journey of reflections, immersions, dialogues and fellowship; thus commemorating our 20th anniversary.





A woman wearing a striped and floral sari is working in a large red bowl. She is positioned in front of a wall made of rough-hewn, light-colored stones. A wooden pole is visible above her, and a small, dark, rectangular opening is in the wall behind her. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting daylight.

REPORT COMPILED BY:
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