

## **Annual Report 2017-18**

### **Prayatna Samiti**

Prayatna Samiti is a non-government organisation working since 1989, committed to the socioeconomic development of poor and vulnerable rural communities of Udaipur district located in Southern region of Rajasthan state of India subcontinent. The cornerstone of Prayatna Samiti's work is its faith in the capacity of rural communities to work for their own welfare. It believes in the collective strength of communities to achieve a just society, free of exploitative forces.

#### **Vision:**

The vision of Prayatna Samiti is to promote self-empowerment and leadership abilities amongst deprived sections of rural communities for their sustainable livelihood.

#### **Mission:**

Promote self-empowerment and leadership abilities among deprived sections of rural communities. We believe that all people have ability and the right to provide for themselves and contribute to a healthy, sustainable economy. Our efforts are concentrated on developing institutional structures; management capacity and leadership abilities in these people so that they can achieve social justice and equality of their own.

#### **Mandate:**

The mandate of the organisation is to facilitate rural reconstruction through the efforts of village communities to build a local people's movement for addressing issues of collective social and economic concern.

Prayatna Samiti sees its role as a facilitator for community action, to support the efforts of communities to come together to take the responsibility of development. It works to promote self-empowerment and leadership abilities among marginal farmers and rural labourers by developing institutional structures, management capacity and leadership abilities. The organisation works to enhance awareness of the socio-economic, political and environmental issues that affect people, so that they may address them collectively.

It works through village groups in 60 villages of Girwa and Salumber tehsils of Udaipur district. One noteworthy outcome is the coming together of 1,800 women who are now actively engaged in a range of economic activities. Prayatna Samiti

comprises a partnership of local workers and committed professionals who act as facilitators for self-managed development of village groups through training programmes, workshops and constant interaction.

**Objectives:**

- Establish an organization that can work towards rural reconstruction.
- Identify problems, and work towards solutions through collaborative group work.
- Promote understanding of, and participation in democratic institutions.
- Develop leadership abilities amongst local people.
- Facilitate communication among people's organizations and various development organizations.
- Improve situation of basic necessities such as health, education, livelihood and local self-governance.

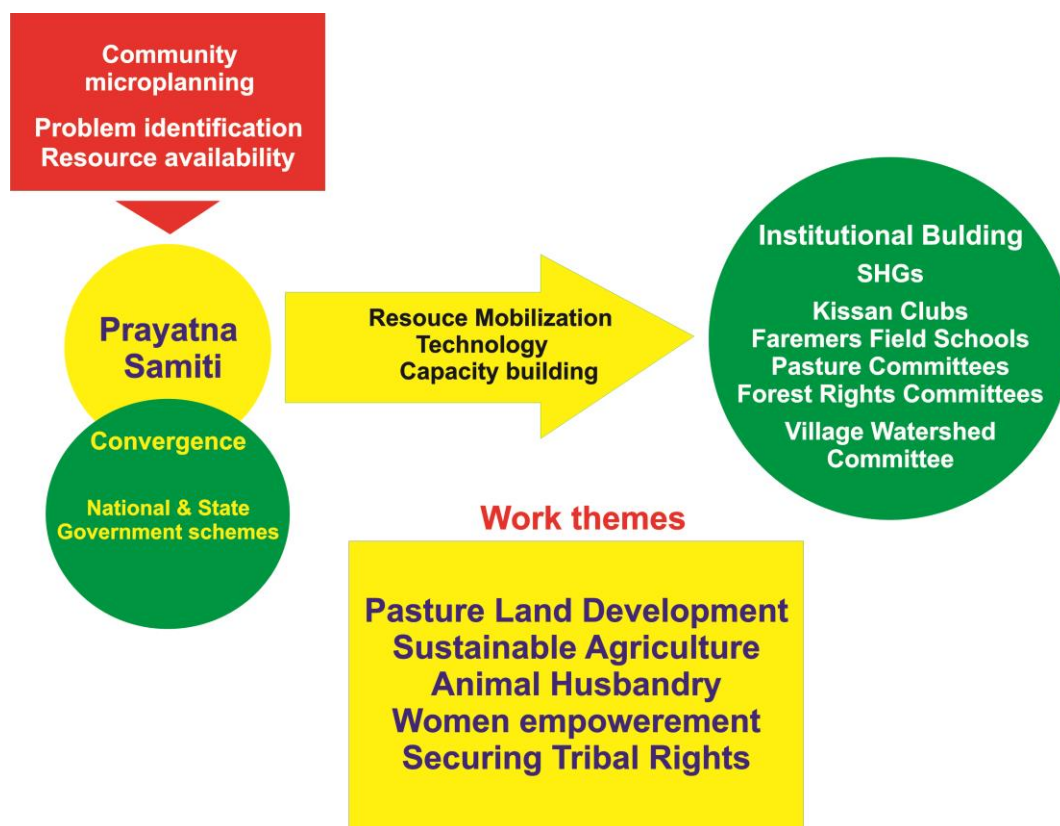
**Work Area:**

The organisation is working with 4,012 people living in 120 villages of 5 blocks of Udaipur district located in Rajasthan state of India. The area lies in Southern part of the state which is marked by undulating terrain comprising of hillocks and steep hills of Aravalli mountain range. The temperature in winters often drops to 4°C and reaches up to 45°C in summers. The average rainfall since last 33 years is recorded as 644.91 mm. Highest Intensity/hr of rainfall is 45 mm.

**The Community:**

Majority of the people are restricted to reading and writing which is followed by primary education category. The main livelihoods practiced are agriculture and animal husbandry. The migration status is 2 persons migrating for 4 months from each family. There is limited agricultural land as most of the area is sloped surface. Animal husbandry is hit by low milk yield as there is no feed and disease management. The pasture land has low productivity and less water holding capacity. Tribals are not familiar with the social welfare schemes and their rights.

**Working Strategy:**



### Thematic Areas:

#### 1. Community management of commons:

Pasture forms a chunk of land mass fulfilling the fodder requirement. Apart from this most of the timber, fuel and NTFP is collected from the land. In the work area around 39 % of the land comes under waste land category which is unprotected. The private pasture land is often well protected by people. However, the land is marked low productivity.

#### 2. Sustainable agriculture

The focus lies in crop cultivated area. The main crops are maize and wheat cultivated in kharif (June to October) and rabi (October to March) seasons, respectively. The produce is normally used for family consumption. The farmers with more than 0.18 ha land often sell the grain at market price. The crops are also the source of fodder and fuel. Lack of irrigated land, water resources, soil productivity, and information of improved practices is a setback in production.

#### 3. Animal husbandry

Since ages animal husbandry has remained one of the prime sectors of rural interests. In the work area cow, buffalo, goats, pigs, hens, camels, sheep are reared for milk, meat and leather. There are 8,424 cows, 5,616 buffalos and, 11,232 goats in 2,808 families of the work area. The total milk yield is 54,756 litres/day with an average of 2.2 litre/animal/day which is less in comparison to animal density per household. Consequently the income level do not show a marked effect in the livelihood pattern.

#### **4. Enhancing access to community rights**

The work area consists of 80 % of tribal community residing in Schedule V area. Tribals residing in the forest region are confined to small land holding barring them of agricultural production. Limited intervention of village Panchayats for peoples' development in health, water restoration, employment, education and, food security.

#### **5. Fostering gender equity**

Woman is an important part of the family and community. She equally toils with man in any of the developmental tasks. However, society has still not recognized her importance in maintain community ecosystem. Prayatna Samiti encouraged women to take part in village development. Women power was recognized through formation of Self Help Groups. SHGs also proved to be a strategy for promotional programmes and organising mass campaigning for achieving food security.

## Thematic Area wise description of Annual Report

### *Thematic Area:*

Community management of commons

### *Objectives:*

- Restoration of commons through institutional building
- Enhancing land efficiency through treatment of pastures
- Implementing SWC measures for water recharging and increasing vegetative cover
- Increase growth of fodder grasses thereby checking runoff
- Increase milk yield of animals by increasing fodder
- Secure the traditional livelihood of the region. Secure land based rights of the communities.
- Maintain equilibrium among the biotic components existing in the ecosystem.
- Safeguard pastoralism in the region.

### *Partners:*

MARAG, ILC, WDF-NABARD, Piplas Jalgrahan Vikas Samiti, Hanuman Jalgrahan Vikas Samiti, Action Aid Association

### *Activities:*

Capacity building of people's institution- Hanuman Jalgrahan Vikas Samiti was done to raise decision making capacity for the management of Khanatalab watershed pasture land. 30 meetings were organised during which people decided the work of land treatment measures and amount of fodder grass generation in the commons. 14 ha Commons boundary was repaired by the women groups in Rawatpura watershed. Demand raised for construction of farm bunds.

Prayatna Samiti facilitated 8 workshops which led to form Rajasthan Raika Vikas Sangthan (RRVS). More than 800 pastoralists were mobilized to secure their rights over the grazing lands. Issues and challenges faced by the community were put under the light which led to form Sub-committees of 10 members each to form advocacy forums in 4 blocks of Pali district. Members of the RRVS attended the Maldhari Parlimament in Gujarat during which they learned to organise a policy level dialogue with government and political parties. As a result of which RRVS organised a Maldgari Sansad in Pali in which more than 6000 Raikas gathered to put up their concerns and got familiarized with their social rights.

*Results:*

People understood the role of pasture management as a result a 35% increase in fodder was reported from the Rawatpura watershed. Ground water level raised by 3 feet. New SHGs started to work in the watershed areas.

In the important step to hold a dialogue with the Chief Minister of Rajasthan Raikas put up 16 demands for their upliftment. They were:

Allot 5 % reservation quota to the backward classes; Madhya Pradesh government to follow the directions of the Supreme Court; follow the grazing land related directions of High Court; follow the Forest Rights Act while grazing the animals; development of grazing land in the villages and remove the settlements of land mafia; like Kissan Credit Card there must be a pastoralist card to be issued to pastoralist; consider goat and sheep under the famine code; equip pastoralists with weapons to protect themselves and their animals; provide animal shelters to protect animals; make State level policy for grazing; provide right to grazing and lopping after crop harvest; allot rights related to conservation; purchase wool at ascertained MSP; remove *Prosopis juliflora* from the grazing lands and cultivate the land; form a State Pastoralist Board; provide hostel facility to the pastoralists' children.

To uphold the dignity of Raikas World Pastoralists Day was commemorated on 26th November 2017. During the day rally was taken to recognize the rights of Raikas and influence government to make the policy benefitting the community. Moved by the demands the Chief Minister of Rajasthan issued a letter to Madhya Pradesh government to allow the entry of pastoralists in the State. The government sanctioned Rupees Three crore to build hostel for children.

*Thematic Area:*

Sustainable Agriculture

*Objectives:*

- Increase crop production through soil fertility, checking runoff, and intercropping
- Enhance livelihoods of marginalized farmers
- Skill development of the farmers by suggesting them the improved package of practices of seasonal crops
- Increase food security through traditional agriculture and enriching biodiversity

*Partners:*

The Swallows of Finland, NABARD, SARRA, ILC, CUTS, Action Aid Association

*Activities:*

The activities addressed dry land conditions prevailing in the region. Taking training and capacity building and institutional building as the main approach 798 marginalized farmers belonging to tribal category were familiarized with dry land farming measures.

Resource building consisted of introduction of productive composite varieties of wheat and maize along with organic farming measures like vermiwash, compost, biopesticides and plant growth enhancers. Physical measures consisted of construction of farm bunds, land levelling, provision of pipelines, well lining and gradonis which enhanced land area and secured livelihoods.

Efforts have been made to mainstream Natural Resource Management under National Rural Guarantee Scheme. Through this crop cultivated and waste land area are addressed to supplement dry land farming measures.

Apart from this the agricultural inputs have also been given to address malnutrition and revive traditional agriculture. In this direction Foxtail millet, Finger millet, Proso millets were cultivated by the tribal farmers. 60 Nutrition Gardens have been developed to promote nutritional food security and enhance production and incomes. In this way over 645 ha crop cultivated area has been addressed to overcome grain deficit. To ensure the seedling supply and pre preparation of seedlings before the onset of sowing 5 Green House Nurseries were set up in the working area.

*Results:*

The land based livelihoods in this way have promoted sustainable agriculture. People are practicing raised bed nurseries, row sowing of seeds, bed cultivation of vegetables, double digging, intercropping of vegetables with maize, contour farming of vegetables and cereals and millets cultivation. In case of vegetables, per family production of crops has been raised by 50 kg per year. Due to development of nutrition gardens women were able to save INR 900 per month which they used to spent for vegetables by purchasing them from the market. 10 new types of vegetables introduced in the area have enhanced the nutritional intake of the families. Fox tail and Finger Millets consumption started by the people. They also saved the seeds for next year. 0.75 ha area of fallow land was utilized by the nutrition gardens. People have started application of bio pesticides made up of cow urine and plant growth promoters –butter milk. Organic manures have shown good results in case of protection from pests and increase in growth. Green House Nursery raisers developed seedlings of brinjal, chilli, and tomato which they sold to the people. In this way the dry land farming systems created additional incomes to the farmers. In case of cereals the production has been raised from 15 q to 28 quintals per ha.



*Thematic Area:*

Fostering Gender Equity

*Objectives:*

- Create women empowerment through facilitating interloaning
- Develop leadership among women for resolving village based issues
- Strengthening women in making decisions on village and family based issues

*Partners:*

NABARD, The Swallows of Finland

*Activities:*

10 women SHGs were formed consisting of 135 members. Monthly meetings were organised in which more than INR 65000 was saved. The women members were further trained in SHG management and taken to the farming based trainings which supported in leadership development.

*Results:*

Majority of loans were taken on the farming activities like wheat seed purchasing, land levelling, animal feed concentrate. Leadership was shown in case of guiding other women in good agricultural practices. 120 women were identified as primary beneficiaries during to promote the dry land farming practices by traditional agriculture.

*Thematic Area:*

Enhancing access to community rights

*Objectives:*

- Build the capacity of the forest dwellers by strengthening the local institutions and network partners for management of forests thereby enriching local biodiversity
- Involve all the stakeholders to understand the role of tribal communities in forest management
- Forest management through asserting rights and building ownerships of local community
- Mainstreaming MGNREGA with Natural Resource Management

*Partners:*

Action Aid Association, FES, ILC, The Swallows of Finland, SPWD

*Activities:*

The area of the work facilitated by Prayatna Samiti is a patch of Tropical Dry Deciduous Forest situated in Southern region of Rajasthan which covers Salumber, Lasadiya, Jhalara and Kurabad blocks of Udaipur district. The indigenous people dwelling in the area belong to Meena tribe. The land forms an uneven terrain of rocky hillocks. The area is marked by existence of more than 45 species of trees. Main trees of the region are Palas, Saghwan, Tendupatta, Mahua, Akol, and Gular which provide wood, fruits and medicines.

Observing the situation the necessity was to form a local institution dealing with advocacy and lobbying Panchayat, Block and District departments for granting rights over the forest land. A local institution named Jan Jati Adhikar Manch (JJAM) constituting 30 members organised its monthly meetings at block level. The body took up the issues and discussed in traditional Gram Sabha. More than 30 Gram Sabha had been organised in which JJAM supported the people to present their forest right claim to Panchayat. 12 trainings had been organised on FRA in which experienced resource persons familiarized people with their rights, application filling, kulak filling, writing notices and process of sanctioning the right. 20 Gram Samellan were organised along with 12 awareness camps to sensitize people on the current situation and their role in land management. The Samellans were presided over by Sarpanch, Panchayat Secretary, District Magistrate and Forest officials.

To increase employment under MGNREGA people were encouraged apply for the labour for NRM related work. The need was to increase ground and surface water. This included the participatory micro planning by taking GPS points of the future work which will be included under the 5 year action plan of the Gram Panchayat. Sarpanch was made the focal point to deal with villages for which he/she provided manpower and coordinated meetings with the Panchayat representatives. In this way the role of NRM through NREGS was promoted among the people with different perspectives. 2 village conventions were organised in which the DPR along with the digital maps were discussed with the community. In this way the transparency was maintained between Panchayat and community.

*Results:*

JJAM is functional to hold advocacy and lobbying Panchayat and Block levels. To make follow ups for the pending claims over the individual rights 16 notices were sent to block level Sub Divisional Committee and District Magistrate this year. 10 CFR claims were submitted at the Sub Divisional Committee level. 1300 claims over individual land of 563.25 ha have been sanctioned. The land secured under the rights is being utilized for agriculture, construction, grazing, and animal husbandry.

5 DPRs were prepared and discussed with the Gram Panchayat. People understood the role of NRM work and its necessity in MGNREGA.