

UPMAAN Mahila Sanasthan

Annual Progress Report 2014-15



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Message from the Secretary's desk

Being a voluntary non-governmental organization, UPMAN had made its appearance in the social development sector way back in the year 1996. It was purely driven by the passion to serve the poor and deprived sections of the society both in urban and rural areas with special focus on women and children in Bundelkhand region. It has since traversed a journey of 24 years, the march has been with renewed vigor and enthusiasm every year, with the firm resolution to help out those living in the edge and equip them with the means for sustainable livelihood. And thus to make them lead a better standard of living so as to enable them catch up with the mainstream of the society.

The beneficiaries have been thousands since UPMAN's coverage of the community would continue to increase with the passage of time. In addition to poverty alleviation programmes, we are equally concerned with the state of affairs in sectors such as health care, nutrition, literacy and education, agricultural productivity and quality, livelihood enhance/self employment, leadership development, water and sanitation including rural infrastructural development. The long track record of zeal and enthusiasm and also the dedication of the organization in implementing various programmes has enhanced its credibility year after year and it is a matter of immense pleasure to write that the achievements this far have been commendable. The organization continues to maintain the same spirit and commitment while implementing the various activities taken up by it. Rather the implementation has been with renewed zeal and vigor to tap the dormant and create energies of the beneficiaries who contributed in large measure towards the successful implementation of the programmes. The achievements have been commendable and speak volumes of the efforts put in by all – be it the beneficiaries, the project staff, the funding agencies, the project consultants or the infrastructure provided by the organization. I am therefore happy to present before you this Annual Report of the organization for the year 2014-2015.

I hereby offer my thanks and gratitude to the contribution and cooperation extended to the organization by the well-wishers, donors and outlets, the project consultants, the members and staff of the organization without which the success of implementation would not have been possible to this extent. I also avail of this opportunity to appeal to them to continue extending similar co-operation and contribution in the forthcoming year also, so that our onward march is glorious and the yeoman service rendered by the organization gets the due recognition.

Sudha Khare (President)

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Introduction in Brief

UPMAN Mahila Sansthan, is a nongovernmental, non-profitable, and non-political voluntary organization registered under the societies registration Act 1860, in the year of 1996. UPMAN primarily works in Jhansi, Lalitpur and Tikamgarh districts in Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. The organization is duly registered under 12-A/80-G sections of IT act and FCRA. The vision of it is to establish a just and equal society by empowering the poorest section of the community. Currently, UPMAN has full-fledged offices in Jhansi and a well-qualified and experienced team of professionals. During past few years, UPMAN has successfully implemented programs like Khushaali (CAPART); PACS (DFID/IGSSS); UPHSDP; Rural Enterprise Development Program (NABARD), residential bridge course for deprived children under the support of government and development agencies. With the implementation of above programs, it has expertise and experience in livelihood natural resource management and agricultural issues. Until the date, UPMAN has formed more than 60-SHG, farmer groups, with bank linkages in addition to the construction of six stop dams in remote rural areas to facilitate the low cost irrigation to the small-scale farmers. Following the same UPMAN has supported the farmers with a number of NADAP and vermicomposting units in its working area. The organization has been involved in female feticide campaign in the district also in voluntary collaboration with local level organizations in implementing the IEC activities. Besides, the organization has been actively involved in BETI BACHAO ANDOLAN in partnership with State Social Welfare Board.

Mission:

To create a more equal, just and sustainable world by empowering the poor & Marginalized to demand their rights and advocating for an effective and accountable state. The overarching vision of UPMAN is RIGHT TO LIFE of women & men with dignity.

Vision:

To empower and enable women & men to access their rights & entitlement and enhance their social, economic and political status by working in partnership with broad range of civil society actors and linking the poor & marginal and their organizations with various actors / forces that

Detail of activities undertaken

Panchayat & youth development programme:



This year, the organization has competently organized activities for Panchayats and youths development in Bangra and Bamor blocks of Jhansi district. In 40 village Panchayats of both blocks, the organization ensured the capacity building of 4000 youth members of Yua Vikas Sangh towards their accountability to village development. Under this programme, the leadership development was exclusively focused. Youths and PRIs were encouraged accordingly for effective implementation of developmental schemes and monitoring thereof. At present, there are 400 youths actively involved in monitoring and advocacy for the effective execution of Agnawadi centers, village schools, immunization, NREGA, capacity building of newly elected PRIs, voter awareness, natural resource management, afforestation, water conservation, financial inclusion etc. In these youth institutions, a number of 950 women are also actively working and participating in Paidal march and FGDs with community people. As a result, a community led mechanism has been developed in the region for the public and policy advocacy process.

Water and agriculture development campaign:

Upman has effectively organized this campaign in 40 village Panchayats of Bamor, Badagaon and Babina blocks of district Jhansi in Uttar Pradesh. This campaign has focused on water conservation and agriculture promotional activities in draught affected areas of the district. Under this programme, the small-scale farmers were encouraged to adopt indigenous



methods of water conservation and agriculture development. They were also capacitated about disaster management process so that they could manage the drought situation in the area. Under the programme, 12 percolation wells were



constructed and demonstrated beneath 12 check dams. In addition to this, a number of 09 wells have been recharged and renovated for water conservation practices in these villages. More than 20 hand pumps have been conserved and recharged by having constructed recharge pits. Hence, the campaign

has laid an example before community people to mitigate the drought situation in the region and develop their agriculture practices by low cost irrigation practices.

In another phase of the campaign, the organization intervened the farmer community in 10 villages and encouraged them to initiate



collective farming practices. In this process, a number of community meetings and consensus building process was undertaken. A random survey was also conducted thereof to select the farmers for these activities. A group of progressive farmers was facilitated for an exposure visit to Kamdhenu Sadhna, Maharashtra. The visit was

focused exclusively to encourage the member farmers about organic production, and making pesticide and manure with cow urine and dung. Thus, they were persuaded to adopt these low cost farming practices in-group activities

Intervention with HIV/AIDS:

UPMAN has effectively targeted the high-risk groups in the city. It has efficiently intervened the HIV/AIDS issue among community people at highways and slums by inspiring them to adopt safe behavior through nukkad plays. Under the program, specific activities i.e. enabling environment, condom promotion, BCC (behavior change communication), advocacy, STI support and counseling, HIV testing etc. are being implemented within the Jhansi district. Upman through various behaviour change communication tools targeted truck drivers and auto rikshwa drivers and sensitized them to adopt safe behaviour and pass on the messages to others to bring awareness about HIV/AIDS prevention.



Capacity building of VHNSCs:



Upman this year carried out VHNSC capacity building programmes in 437 village Panchayats of Jhansi district. The programme aimed to build the capacities of members of VHNSCs lied passive in various villages. With the support of SIFPA and CMO, Chitrakoot, the organization has undertaken the capacity building and mobilization of passive VHNSCs in Chitrakoot

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district. Under this programme, a number of activities and trainings from district to village level have been implemented by the organization like IEC events, wall writing, publication of resource materials, workshops, trainings etc.

The objective behind the programme was to mobilize and capacitate the members of VHNSCs of the district to pursue their duties at village level and utilize the fund provisioned under Panchayati Raj System. As a result, a number of 3105 members of VHNSCs and PRIs were imparted trainings and motivated to carry out their roles in village development. Through these trainings, PRIs and members were



encouraged to utilize the VHNSC fund for given provisions. The members were informed about their roles, responsibilities, duties in the capacity of VHNSC members. In this regard, innovative resource materials were also distributed among members and motivated them accordingly to perform their roles. A monitoring team was also formed comprising of DPM, NRHM; CMO; MOICs etc to monitor the functions and utilization of funds. Hence, total 90 batches of 3105 members were targeted thereof under these trainings. This activity of UPMAN has successfully contributed to promote health, nutrition and sanitation in villages of the district.

Women empowerment and development activities:

Under this process, UPMAN has been involved in women development activities, which were aimed to build the capacities of adolescent girls and women in 20 slums, 10 high schools and 30 Panchayats of Bangra block of the district. In this programmes, women and girls were encouraged to institutionalize and made aware



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of various concurrent relevant issues. The issues informed and educated are given below:

1. Capacity building women and girls on gender equality and sensitization by holding small-scale trainings in the area,
2. Information dissemination on female feticide and PNDT provisions and ensure the accountability to implement PNDT Act 1994;
3. Orientation and advocacy workshops were organized to bring an attitudinal change among families, media, PRIs, police, stakeholders, and administration towards women violence cases,
4. Under this process, special trainings were facilitated to adolescent girls and women especially in security ad self defense issues,
5. Apart from that, special sessions were facilitated on concurrent issues like use of technology, social media with the help of relevant resource materials and experts;
6. In this process, legal literacy camps were organized in 10 villages and 10 slums of the district, where more than 150 women participated actively and gained important information about their legal rights.



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Through this process, a resource team has been formed comprising of legal experts, subject experts, and field and programme coordinators, which has been organizing camps in 20 identified places on quarter basis. These camps have been providing exclusive referral and counseling services to the women and girls.

Livelihood promotion:

Livelihood promotion being one of the core issues of the organization, has been at priority of the UPMAN. This year, a number of 89 existing SHGs were targeted and capacitated in thrift and credit activities. This intervention has prominently benefitted 1050 women with regular saving and micro financing practices. These groups have been promoted with skill and enterprise development



support. Through the trainings, a number of 570 women had been trained on various occupational skills like goat rearing, dairy farming, horticulture, Dona Pattal, fisheries, poultry etc. apart from that, 75 women those who were educated got trainings on computer skills. In this process, 50 adolescent girls turned to self-dependent. Thus, total 45 adolescent girls have been placed at various levels and are self-sustained with regular income generation.

Plans and assumptions for coming year:

- Linking 200 youths and adolescent girls with sustainable livelihood;
- Formation of federations by involving active SHGs and JLGs,
- Evolving 500 small scale farmers as producer company
- Conducting survey of soil, water and fertility in 20 village Panchayats,
- Renovation of traditional irrigation and water resources and involving community people in the concept of watershed development,
- To make the school education more qualitative and practical through awareness on RTE Act 2009
- Coverage of slums for sanitation and health promotion;
- Promotion of organic fertilizers and pesticides through cow farming;