

Upman Mahila Sanasthan

Annual report (2016-17)

Sustainable development through agricultural activities



Email: upman96@gmail.com

Website: www.upman.org.in

Contact. No. 05102445648, 09935596835

Upman Mahila Sanasthan

Brief Introduction

The area (Bundelkhand) in which Upman Mahila Sanasthan works, is one of the most backward and challenging areas of Uttar Pradesh. Bundelkhand region cuts across the Uttar Pradesh boundary and extends to adjoining state of Madhya Pradesh. In Uttar Pradesh Bundelkhand region has seven districts, while in Madhya Pradesh it has got six districts.

Poor agriculture, lack of irrigation, drinking water, illiteracy, unemployment, and migration to cities for jobs are some of the perennial problems. People here do not make enough even for one square meal a day. Further there is acute shortage of water for irrigation, barring 2008 the region has been facing drought since 2003. Average rainfall per year is very low and most of it is lost to runoff. Men in their prime working age leave their families behind, and move to larger towns and cities, in search of livelihood. This migratory pattern is leaving behind young children, old men, women of all age groups.

Our organization is working in this region for socio-economic development of the underprivileged, helpless, women, children and disabled, particularly among the poor class in rural and urban areas through people's participation.

Upman Mahila Sanasthan is a non-profit, non-political and secular voluntary organization based in Jhansi, one of the major districts and cities in Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh, India.

Upman is registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. It is also renewed under amended Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, 2010 and registered under relevant sections of income Tax Act, 1960. It is also registered under Niti Ayog.

Vision

The vision is to establish an equitable society through innovative and integrated approach of the empowerment of underprivileged especially women.

Mission

To work for the socio-economic development of the underprivileged by focusing on various aspects such as education, health, improved agriculture, income generation, panchayat raj, legal literacy, gender, cleanliness, and conservation of water, soil and environment, and climate change.

Objectives

Work for the social development of the people of region via capacity-building, awareness raising, organizational development, trainings, workshops, innovative IECs, folk communication skills, etc.

- Natural Resource Management and Agricultural development by building field tanks, check dams, demo plots, plantation of trees etc.
- Women empowerment through SHG formation and strengthening, Skill development, entrepreneurship development and increasing functional literacy.
- Promotion of Micro-finance and Micro-enterprise development Strategy.
- Forming different types of CBOs, federations and cooperatives.
- Participate in research & development process of the social sector of the Bundelkhand region.
- Establishing counseling centers for legal support of domestic violence victims and other victims.
- Promoting various health and education programmes.
- Advocacy
- Development through CSR in the fields of watershed, empowerment of panchayats, increasing the literacy ratio, women empowerment, RTI, RTE, climate change, etc.
- Thorough lessoning of different government schemes like Swajhta abhyan, adhar card, pan card, Jan dhan yojna, PACSO, etc.

Area of Operation:

Jhansi- UP

Lalitpur- Mahova-UP

Tikamgarh- MP

Issues

These are our focus issues:

- To develop cow based economy.
- To improve cattle farming, dairy farming and small industries.
- To promote zero-budget farming for sustainable farming.
- To improve sustainable livelihood through agricultural and non agricultural activities.
- Women Empowerment; to make community aware of women rights.
- To sensitize the community to girl education.
- Awareness about various social evils like gender discrimination.
- Rural development
- Approaches towards health and sanitation.

Women Empowerment

The progressive development of the lower income families is not happening due to the consecutive years of drought in Bundelkhand. To improve the living standards women are trained in agricultural activities like irrigation, sowing, ploughing, etc. The organization wants the women to be recognized as farmers and is working towards it. The farmer club consists of 1200 members, out of which more than 400 are women. The objective of the organization is to include these women in the farmer community. Women empowerment is the main objective of the organization. When it comes to women empowerment, awareness generation among the women is given the top priority . Tools like individual meetings, group meetings, camps, etc. Another way of women empowerment is getting women the benefits of government welfare schemes like old age pension, widow pension, loans, etc. So far more than 400 women (and men) have availed themselves of the benefit of the government schemes like adhaar card, pan card, Jan-dhan yojna, etc. About 25 women from poor families of district Jhansi were given 60-days of training in computer application, Beautician course & Hena (Mahendi) and then helped to get bank loan to start their own business.



Livelihood promotion

In an area like Bundelkhand, where most of the land is rocky and un-irrigated, the economic status of the farmers is low. Since agriculture is a main objective of our organization, we work for the development of our farmers. To improve their economic conditions, we have promoted zero budget farming new agricultural activities and low investment farming.

For economic empowerment of women, self help groups of women are being formed. This activity is taking place in Bara Gaon Block. So far more than 40 self help groups have been formed and out of these 24 groups have been linked with banks for loans and cash and credit limit.

For building capacity of the groups members, training, workshops, exhibitions, *padyatras* (march by foot), cleanliness campaign and healthy home have been organized. So far 950 families have been motivated and trained for their livelihood through the use of organic manure, zero budget farming and cow based economy.



Bundelkhand Kisan Vikas Producer Company Limited

The company **Bundelkhand Kisan Vikas Producer Company Limited** was founded by our organization with the help of NABARD under the Farmer Production Organisation. We have 250 farmers as company members. The company aims at seed production and seed selling. The main crops cultivated are groundnut, wheat and arhar. The work of the company has benefited each farmer individually. The company has been successful in obtaining manure, seed and pesticide licenses. The company has formed a tie-up with IIFCO and obtained a IIFCO license. The company's legal status in ROC is completed. We are regularly paying Tin-pin and sales tax. The company's balance sheet in 1st year itself had a turnover of 3 lakhs and a profit of 75,000. The farmers in our company have made profits by seed production and organic farming. About 25 farmers have been able to sell groundnut at a rate of 100 per kg though earlier it was sold at 18-20 per kg. These farmers have made a profit of 10,000 individually. The company has been promoting zero budget farming and organic farming. Our farmers have adopted these methods and have improved their livelihood.



Agricultural based Development

Agricultural development is one of the main objectives of the organisation. In an area like Bundelkhand, where most of the land rocky and un-irrigated, it is very important that agricultural land be developed accordingly upon so as to improve the economy of the farmers. The organization has adopted 80 villages where there have been 10 consecutive years of drought. It has also formed 22 farmer clubs which has almost 1000 members.

To improve the condition land development is being done through activities like plantation, field bunding and construction of check dams with the help of NABARD. All these activities lead to retention of water and this water in turn helps in increased agricultural yields. Almost 550 families have been benefited by adopting these agricultural activities. Despite years of drought in Bundelkhand region, effective results are visible in the field.



Literacy

Samagan Kendras are running where the students are imparted training in computer applications. We have established Samagan kendras in 4 schools and panchayats. It promotes e-literacy. It increases the e-skills and academic performance of the students. It increases job options for them. It encourages the dropout males and females of the villages to adopt computer skills and thus promotes **digitalization**.

Almost 10 panchayati rajs, more than 300 rural youth (male and females both), SHGs, farmer clubs and village watershed communities have adopted the methods of cashless economy like **Paytm**, and some have also adopted the means of **card payments**.

Our main activities for improving our education system includes counseling of parents at their home, concurrence of local people of repute and their association with the programme, increase in games material at the centre and training to the teaching staff to make innovative efforts. As a result of these steps, the literacy rate of the girls of the area has been increased by high percentage.



Health and hygiene

The health status of the residents of Bundelkhand area is very poor. It is so mainly because of lack of health awareness and medical care facilities in the village. The organization believes if the hygiene conditions are poor, health cannot be achieved, thus it promotes hygiene. The organization spreads awareness about the various hygienic practices and encourages the villagers to follow them. We have souly accepted the **Swajhta Abhyan** and have been promoting it. Awareness on health issues like family welfare, small family, malnutrition, immunization, cleanliness, etc., is being created through awareness camps, health related street plays, and household visits.

A lady doctor is giving her services at **Abhinav Swasthya Kendra** once a week and a male doctor is giving his services thrice in a week. As a result of these efforts, immunization, safe delivery and polio drop coverage has gone up in the village.

Also we developed farmers to produce the herbal medicinal plants medicinal plants like *satawar* and *ghrit kumari*. So, 22 medicinal and kitchen garden are sustained by **farmers clubs**.

Eco-toilets: The key reason for the poor health conditions in the villages is open defecation. Thus our organization with the help of BHEL CSR has constructed 5 eco toilets in the block Babina- Balampur, Khailar, Attaraiyan, Naya gaon, Rundra Dagariya to improve the health conditions in the villages.



Agro-forestry Development

The organization aims at improving the living standards of the farmers. Its encourages the farmers to practice agro-forestry. Almost 300 farmers and 22 farmer clubs are now benefited by agro forestry. In addition to wheat and other cash crops, the farmers also cultivated fodder for cattle and earned very good profits. This has led to the upliftment of their livelihood. Agro forestry has been implemented in 22 villages of Block Badagaun and Babina.

Strengthening through CBOs

- Under Farmer Producing Organsiation we have founded the **Bundelkhand Kisan Vikas Producer Company Limited** which is being funded by NABARD. It includes 300 farmers. These farmers can now easily approach the market and thus sell their crops at a fair price. This has helped a lot in improving their lifestyle.
- Educational excursions to the organisations in neighbouring areas are regular component of this project so that they can learn by seeing others.
- Charcha mandals are formed to increase awareness among adolescents aabout health, hygiene, sanitation, etc.

- Monthly/ quarterly meetings are organized to have discussions on various topics like health, education, domestic violence, save girl child, role of youth in social development, etc.

Future Plans

Agriculture

Promotion of cow based economy, zero budget farming, low investment farming, efficient agricultural activities and agro-forestry in about 50 families.

Health

Improve basic healthcare services in villages, awareness about HIV-AIDS, mother and child healthcare, and health and hygiene programs in 25 panchayats of block Babina.

Youth empowerment

Our target is to effect 500 youths by formation of youth groups, leadership and capacity building, skill development, sensitize and moralize youth towards successful implementation of different development schemes like digitalization, use of Paytm and card payments, etc.

Water harvesting

Our target is to improve the quality of land of about 10,000 hectares by use of organic manure, use of zero budget farming and low investment farming. This causes the farming to move towards cash crops and reduces migration. Construction of check dams, percolation wells, recharge pits, deepening of wells and ponds, land bunding, roof water harvesting, educating the villagers on optimal use of water resources so as to reduce the effects of drought will also be carried out.

BKVPCL

Our target is to get 1000 new members in the company out of which 40% will be allotted to SC/ST and 35% to women. We plan to provide flour mills and pulses mills to our farmers. We aim to initiate seed development project. To promote use of solar energy, sprinkler, drip irrigation and new agricultural techniques. Our aim is to gain a brand name in the next 3 years. To develop cattle farming, cattle shelter and to promote the use of cow dung. Our company aims to form 20 model towns and also to double the income of our farmers in the next 3 years.

Livelihood generation

Micro-enterprise development, bank linkage, Skill development, Ensuring employment through NGEA, PDS, PMKVY and other schemes.

Panchayat strengthening

Through our **Third Government Movement** we want to strengthen 40 panchayats of Badagaon block so that they may be recognized as third governments. We are governed by Central and State governments. Through this movement we want to stimulate the thinking of society and government so that the gram panchayats work as autonomous

body and are given the status of third government. Ensure transparent working of gram panchayat committee, do advocacy to strengthen second body of panchayat/ gram sabha, Ensuring participation of women in panchayat's working.

Research

On various development issues concerning the Bundelkhand region.

Support & network

Upman is grateful to the following resource providers which have made available resources for tackling issues in our operational area:

1. NABARD
2. BHEL
3. Forest Department
4. State Social welfare Board
5. IGSSS
6. DFID
7. ICCFG
8. CAPART
9. Social welfare department
10. Ghram Vikas Vibagh
11. CNRI, Confederation of rural India
12. World Bank Forestry Project, Uttar Pradesh, for Urban Forestry Project
13. UPHSDC
14. Unicef, Lucknow, for Child Environment Project
15. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, New Delhi, for Reproductive and Child Healthcare (RCH)Project