



# **Reaching out to community in Covid-19 emergency**

## **REPORT OF SHRAMDAAN CAMPS AND CORONA AWARENESS CAMPAIGN**

*Submitted by-Parmarth Samaj Sevi Sansthan*

# About the Project

The project Building grassroots civil society cadres for effectiveness and transparency is being implemented in 100 villages of three states – Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan with the support from European Union and WHH.

## Overall Objective of the project:



To contribute to a strengthened, accountable and transparent civil society in India that is effective in protecting rights of the vulnerable sections of society.

Specific Objective- Member organizations and individuals related to the people's movements have increased institutional as well as sartorial capacities.

The following are expected achievements of this action:

- Better organizational leadership of the NGOs in relation to institutional governance, strategic direction, people's management as well as the management of processes and resources.

Better clarity of the role and purpose of civil society and the parts the organizations can play, for instance in terms of advocacy, watchdog functions





# Background

Covid-19 pandemic has now engulfed the whole world and its impact will be seen for many years to come. It is one of the worst tragedies post World War that has adversely impacted the people and the economies of countries and will cause deprivation, frustration and unemployment to masses in poor and developing countries.

Indian economy is among those countries that are worst hit by this pandemic and its impact is being seen mostly on the poor and migrant population who migrate from their villages to cities and metros in search of employment.

In the wake of Covid-19 pandemic on 24th March the total lockdown of the country was announced to meet the emergency. As all the factories, shops and business institutions were closed, crores and lakhs of workers and labourers were deprived of their employment and with no option left, they started returning to their native villages. The worst hit were the daily wagers, hawkers and petty shop keepers as all the activities were halted except essential services during the lockdown and these people faced severe financial crisis.





## Situation in Bundelkhand



The situation of Bundelkhand due to lockdown was very pathetic. Bundelkhand is a drought prone region which is facing consecutive droughts for the last two decades. The region has been affected by droughts for 13 times in the last 20 years. This region is subjected to natural disasters every year due to adverse weather. Sometimes the kharif crop is destroyed and sometimes the Rabi crop. This region is often in crisis. In the last two decades, due to natural disasters, migration has become a permanent problem in Bundelkhand. The population of Bundelkhand is currently around 2 crores, out of which almost 40 per cent of the population migrates every year.

But due to the situation arising out of the lockdown, most of the migrants have either returned on foot or by some private vehicles. Afterwards, when government started running Shramik Special trains, many have returned from these trains also. As per media reports almost 9 lakhs of migrants have returned to 14 districts of UP & MP Bundelkhand.

By the time they returned, the Kharif crop was already harvested and hence they could not get any employment in the villages and now they are facing severe survival problems, having no money and no employment.

Jhansi city is a major junction and is gateway for the people coming from West and South. Being located at the borders of UP and MP, migrants from both Bundelkhand regions will go through Jhansi and during the lockdown Jhansi saw a huge influx of migrant population who were returning to their homes.

The condition of the migrants was very miserable; many of them had to walk thousands of kilometers before the government took decision of running Shramik Special trains and buses.

Parmarth Samaj Sevi Sansthan responded to this pathetic situation to provide relief to the migrant workers with the support of WHH and EU.

## Shramdaan Shivirs



After lockdown a large scale reverse migration of the labourers has taken place who returned from cities to their native villages. For these migrants the immediate need was of having employment. In such a situation MNREGA was the only option available to them. However MNREGA has always been in the centre of controversy and many questions were raised on its functioning from time to time. The biggest problem of MNREGA is not providing work to eligible persons and timely payment to them. In Bundelkhand region when the migrant workers returned home after travelling thousands of kilometers, they had to remain in quarantine centre for 14 days. Since they came after harvesting so they could not get any work. Besides, there were no employment options available to them in the villages.

The government has started the work under MNREGA from the month of May, but in many places only formalities are being done in the name of providing work to the needy persons, the labourers are working only in name in many places.



Besides, they haven't received payment even after one month. That is why the labourers are frustrated a lot.. They have returned to the villages after facing lots of problems and now they don't wish to return to cities. They are in search of employment within the villages. In such a scenario, agriculture now has a lot of potential in providing employment options. But for agriculture, water availability is very important, especially for irrigation. The migrant workers have done exemplary work by contributing in shramdaan shivirs for water conservation initiatives. These workers are now constructing and repairing the boundaries of the village ponds and also are cleaning and clearing the pond sites. This work has been possible with the efforts of Pani Panchayats and Jal Sahelis. Parmarth Samaj Sevi sansthan has organized these shramdaan shivirs with the support from WHH and European Union. Total 27 such Shramdaan shivirs are organized that are now being praised by all. The details of these shramdaan shivirs are as follows:

SR. NO.	DISTRICT NAME	VILLAGE NAME	STRUCTURE NAME	LANDMARK	WORK	NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES
1	Tikamgarh	Budaura	Talaiya	Jinnan Talaiya	Deepening	40
2	Tikamgarh	Tamora	Chandeli Pond	Goan ke Pass	Deepening	21
3	Tikamgarh	Surajpur	Pond	Khera Ka Talab	Deepening	50
4	Tikamgarh	Jagatnagar	Pond	Ptha Talab	Deepening	43
5	Tikamgarh	Mastapur	Pond	Futera Talab	Deepening	45
6	Chhatarpur	Bhoyra	Pond	Beti Bandh Talab	Deepening	50
7	Chhatarpur	Barethi	Talaiya	Nar Singh Babal Talaiya	Deepening	51
8	Chhatarpur	Jhiriyaajhor	Talaiya	Jhiriyaajhor Talaiya	Deepening	25
9	Chhatarpur	Kunwarpura	Talaiya	Eroriya ki Talaiya	Deepening	25



SR. NO.	DISTRICT NAME	VILLAGE NAME	STRUCTURE NAME	LANDMARK	WORK	NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES
10	Chhatarpur	ChoudhariKhera	Talaiya	Choti Talaiya	Deepening	25
11	Chhatarpur	Bahadurpur	Talaiya	Simiriya Baba ki Talaiya	Deepening	40
12	Chhatarpur	Bandha	Talaiya	Choti Talaiya	Deepening	31
13	Chhatarpur	Sevar	Pond	Gulaitigadda	Deepning, Bandh Nirnam	40
14	Chhatarpur	Rajnagar	Talaiya	Dudkhar Talaiya	Deepening	23
15	Chhatarpur	Agrotha	Chandela Pond	Agrotha Pond	Deepening	57
16	Jhansi	Manpur	Canal	Manpur Pond	Cleaning	58
17	Jhansi	Simiriya	Talaiya	Tekampur ki Talaiya	Deepening	49
18	Jhansi	Sarvan	Pond	Purana Talab	Deepening	50
19	Jhansi	Khadi	Checkdam	Dulari Ji Ke khet Ka Checkdam	Deepening	30
20	Jhansi	Manpur	Pond	Manpur Pond	Deepening	40
21	Lalitpur	Gevra	Bundeli Pond	Goan ke Pass	Deepening	50
22	Lalitpur	Gundera	Talaiya	Koti Talaiya	Deepening	50
23	Lalitpur	Bijrotha	Pond	Purana Talab	Cleaning	50
24	Lalitpur	Radhapur	Pond	Goan ke Pass	Deepening	50
25	Lalitpur	Jhavar	Talaiya	Pani ki Tanki ke Pass	Deepening	43

26	Banda	Bhavarpur	Ghrar	Bhavarpur ka Talab	Cleaning	52
27	Banda	Kathelapuruva	Talaiya	Banda Pond	Deepening	50
<b>Total</b>						<b>1138</b>

**Total number of structures revived is:**

- 10 large ponds, 14 small ponds, one checkdam, one river cleaning, one canal, one pond cleaning
- Total amount of harvested water is 11076 Cu. mt



**Bahadurpura pond Chhatarpur**

**Jgatnagar Pond, Tikamgarh**







**Bangay pond,  
Tikamgarh**



**Simariya pond  
Jhansi**



**Gevra pond  
Lalitpur**



**Bijrotha pond  
Lalitpur**



**Sevar pond Chhatarpur**



**Khadi checkdam, Jhansi**

# Barethi small pond, Chhatarpur



# Sarvan pond, Jhansi

## Media coverage of Shramdaan Shivirs





## Case Study Kodiya pond revival

Kodiya is a medium size village in block Jatara of Tikamgarh district in Madhya Pradesh. Like most of the Bundelkhand villages, this village is also facing water crisis.

There is a large pond in the village that required repair. There is a big seepage in the pond and due to that whatever water is stored during monsoons, drains off soon. The farmers are facing lots of problems in irrigating their fields. The pond site needed to be cleared then pond deepening was required so that water would be stored during the monsoons.

There is an irrigation drain/canal also linking it to the fields of the farmers but it is damaged and required repairing.

This water body is the main source of irrigation for 100 farmers or 150 acres of land but there is seepage problem in main bund .So water can't be stored and hence irrigation is not possible. There is an irrigation drain for water supply to fields but the drain is damaged.

Parmarth with the support from EU and WHH organized shramdaan camp for migrant workers who had returned to their village during lockdown. The shramdaan camp continued for 5 days and the seepage was repaired along with deepening.

Today this pond is repaired and after monsoons this pond will store enough water for irrigation of 150 acres of land and water table will also increase.



# Migrant workers have turned Bhagiraths

Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown in the country saw the return of migrant workers in huge numbers to their native villages. A sizeable number of migrants were from Bundelkhand region, a water stressed region synonymous with droughts and water scarcity. Bhanwarpur village in Naraini block of Banda district in Uttar Pradesh is also one of such villages where a big number of migrants have returned after facing lots of hardships and travails. This village is dominated by Dalit communities and almost 90 percent of the people migrate to cities in search of employment every year. Now, those who have returned, they don't wish to go back to cities and are determined to do farming in their own village. However in want of water, irrigating lands is the biggest hurdle in fulfilling their dreams. There is a perennial river called Dhrar river, that flows through this village, which had become totally dry as it is filled with silt and watercress and there was not a single drop of water in that.

Parmarth Samaj Sevi Sansthan has promoted Bundelkhand Water Forum, a network of civil societies inclusive of representatives of CSOs, academicians and media persons under Jal Jan Jodo Campaign, a national level campaign. The forum is committed to raise voices for ending water crisis in Bundelkhand region. During the quarterly meeting of this forum, the CSOs raised the issues of migrant workers and asked for support. One such CSO is Vidyadham Samiti that is working in Banda district.

Vidhyadham Samiti had also approached Parmarth Samaj Sevi Sansthan mentioning the plight of the migrant workers. Parmarth agreed to provide relief in the form of ration kits to these distressed families in lieu of Shramdaan (labour contribution). The migrant families decided to revive the river so that with the availability of water they would be able to start farming. 184 persons from the village took the responsibility of this enormous task and without any government support started cleaning and clearing the river. They cleared the silt on the banks of the river till one kilometer and deepening work was initiated. All this hard work finally bore fruits and soon water came out of the river. A dry river was rejuvenated, a colossal effort by the modern day Bhagiraths. Soon the news reached to the government officials also and the Block Development Officer along with other officials visited and was amazed to see water in the dried river. They offered the labourers to work under MNREGA, but the workers declined the offer and said that they will continue the work of river rejuvenation so that there will be sufficient water for irrigating their lands.



**मेहनत का रंग** दो दिन में दिखने लगा प्रवासियों के श्रमदान का असर

## सूखी नदी की कोख से फूट पड़ी जलधारा

■ अयोध्या विभाग, खासतः भोजपुर के प्रवासियों की मेहनत रंग लाने लगी है। सबसे मिलकर सूखी पड़ी गांधी नदी में डग ऊई कटौती काइइये और खरपातार को एक किलोमीटर को लंबाई तक साफ कर दिया। इसके बाद नदी के बंद पड़े जलस्रोत फूट पड़े। दिखने ही देखते नदी की कोख में जलधारा फूट पड़ी। नदी को नया जीवन देने को संकल्पित प्रवासी मजदूरों समेत पूरा गांधी खुशी से झूम उठा। सबसे एक दूसरे का मुंह मीठा कराया और नदी की सुखाई साफ-सफाई में योगदान देकर खुद भी आसपास के प्रवासी भी श्रमदान में जुटे। भोजपुर की धरार नदी में जल स्रोत फूटने देखा पड़ोसी गांधी बंगला, कठिबान पुरा के प्रवासी मजदूर अंश प्रकाश, सुंदरान, शिवमवन भूषा, रामकृष्ण, हरिचरण समेत करीब 25 लोग पलकड़ा और कुदाले लेकर नदी की सफाई-सुखाई में जुट गए हैं। सप्ताहिक कार्यक्रमों का शेष में बताया कि दिल्ली मुजरात गांधी महागढ़ से लॉक डाउनु करतत लखीपुर गांधी के प्रवासी मजदूरों ने भी नदी को पुनर्जीवित करने के लिए श्रमदान शुरू कर दिया है। गांधी पहुंचे अधिकांश : प्रवासी मजदूरों का होमलन देखकर नदी के छंद विनायक अधिकारी समेत कई अधिकारी शुरूआत की भोजपुर गांधी पहुंचे, सूखी नदी में पानी हिलीये माल देखा सके पानी लगे उंगली दक ली। श्रमदान प्रवासी मजदूरों का होमलन बढ़ाने हुए पानी हम आर सबको मनोरथ के तहत काम देने आर लोग मनोरथ के काम में जुट जाएं। हम पूरा प्रवासी मजदूरों ने दो टुक जवाब देते हुए कहा कि नदी को पुनर्जीवित करने के बाद आगे की खेतीमें आर लोग पानी ले हमारे इन्हीं काम को मनोरथ में जोड़ सकते हैं।

नदी में पानी दिखने लगा तो लोगों ने बांधने उतरसाह से शुक्र कार किया काम।

# Corona Awareness Campaign

Post Unlock-1, the Bundelkhand region witnessed a rise in corona cases. In this context creating awareness on precautions for the pandemic has become more necessary. Parmarth rose to the occasion and started Corona Awareness Campaign from 10th June in four districts of Bundelkhand namely Jhansi, Lalitpur, Tikamgarh and Chhatarpur. IEC materials for the campaign were also prepared. A vehicle was hired and decorated as Awareness Rath and the district fellows along with volunteers covered the intervention villages and made people aware of Covid-19 symptoms and precautions like wearing masks, maintaining social distancing, regular hand wash, use of sanitizers, avoiding going to public places etc. Altogether 160 villages were covered under this campaign.

During the campaign it was observed:

1. Awareness levels in the villages were extremely low. People had heard the name of the pandemic but are not aware of precautions, symptoms etc.
2. Social distancing was not followed in the markets, village grocery/ provision stores, at hand pumps etc.
3. People were not using masks, particularly women and children
4. Health department still had focused mainly on urban centres, but the focus should also be on the villages as well considering the huge number of migrants that have returned to their villages.

In this context the awareness campaign was the need of the hour and during the campaign masks were also distributed to the people.



Sl. No	Place	Number of villages covered	Number of persons reached
1	Jhansi district (Babina Block)	24	3175
2	Lalitpur district (Talbehat block)	29	8018
3	Tikamgarh district	28	8614
4	Chhatarpur district	53	7413
5	Rajasthan state	26	24,000
	Total	160	50,220



IEC materials for awareness campaign





## Campaign in villages

### कोरोना जागरूकता रथ यात्रा शुरू

मन्तर संवाददाता/काठमांडू

परापूर्व स्वास्थ्य सेवाएं संस्थान ने 10 से 20 मिनट तक बन्देकण्ड और जलवा बर्तक में कोरोना जागरूकता रथ यात्रा निकाली जा रही है। जल जन जोड़े अभियान परापूर्व स्वास्थ्य सेवाएं संस्थान के जिला सरोकार स्थापित रथ ने बरदा कोविड-19 की इस महामारी के दौर में समाज को जागरूक करने के लिए गांव गांव जाकर सतत भाषा में लोगों को छोटे-छोटे समय स्मरण जा रहे हैं। यथार्थ अनिवार्यतः। मीटर को दूरी बनाए रखने शुरू पर मरक कोविड समूह से बार-बार हाथ धोना, आँदानी एवं बॉक्सर स्फैंकर से बन्देकण्ड। जागरूकता रथ का हुआ शुभारंभ।

बॉक्सर टैंगर, लेसन का स्मरण जा रहे हैं। इस दौरान जलवा बर्तक को निशुल्क धोना विलगन भी किए जा रहे हैं। सैकटाउन हटते ही कोरोना के दिन प्रीटिन बूटो मारने देखने को मिल रहे हैं। इसीलिए गांव में लोग डोर नहीं बाँधें बचाव के उपाय करने, समाज जितना जागरूक होगा उतना ही हम बेमारी पर निर्भर कर सकेंगे। यह यात्रा बन्देकण्ड बर्तक के सुहन, मुकनना लला, बुली सुलनु, मीनिसा लोरा से खरीत तक करीब 50 गांव में एवं बरदा बर्तक के जला नगर, गोर, नरिय, बरगा, बरगा, मन्तर, मन्तर सतत 50 ग्राम में यह यात्रा चलेगी।

### कोरोना रथ के माध्यम से लोगों को किया जा रहा है जागरूक

टीकमगढ़ खुरी : परापूर्व स्वास्थ्य सेवाएं संस्था द्वारा टीकमगढ़ जिले के बन्देकण्ड व जलवा बर्तक में कोविड जागरूकता रथ यात्रा के माध्यम से गांवों में जाकर लोगों को कोविड 19 महामारी के सम्बन्ध में जानकारी दी गई। आज जिले के मोहनगढ़ में आयोजित कार्यक्रम के समापन अवसर पर संस्था के प्रमुख डॉ. संजय सिंह ने कहा कि कोविड महामारी के सम्बन्ध में अभी लोगों को और जागरूक करने की जरूरत है, उन्होंने कहा कि कोविड जागरूकता रथ यात्रा बन्देकण्ड, तमुरा, मजना, मुजमुरा, सुरजपुर, बुधैरा, पटौरी, कामपुर, खरीला, एतौरा, खैडेरा, बरदा, लमेरा सतत करीब 50 गांव में यात्रा पट्टी इसके साथ ही जलवा बर्तक के नन्दपुर, जगत नगर, गोर, टपटन, नरिय, बरगा, खौडिया, कटौरी, मन्तर, मोहनगढ़, अवरौ सतत 50 गांव में पट्टी इन यात्रा में लोगों को 1 मीटर सम्बन्धित दूरी बनाए रखना सबुन से बार-बार हाथ धोना घुन पर मास्क लगाना भीड़ में ना जाएं यह बताया गया व पट्टी के साथ यात्रा- गांव मास्क वितरण किए गए। इस कार्यक्रम में उपस्थित मोहनगढ़ लहरीलदार सतीश ठानी ने कार्यक्रम की उपरोक्त बातों को कहा कि उचित समय पर परापूर्व स्वास्थ्य सेवाएं संस्था द्वारा यह यात्रा निकाली जा बहुत उपरोधी सतित होगी। कार्यक्रम का संवाहन समाजता साथ द्वारा किया गया।

इस मौके पर संस्था से सम्बन्धित राणा, शिबेक अश्विनवार, कामलेरा शर्म, ब्रमि यामते, रान सिंह बुटेल सतित लहरील कारोतय के कर्मचारी व जनप्रतिनिधि प्रमुख रूप से उपस्थित रहे।

## Media coverage of campaign







**PARMARTH SAMAJ SEVI SANSTHAN**

686, Shivaji Nagar, Behind Bharat Petrol  
Pump, Jhansi- 284128

