

## Annual Report 2022-23 PARMARTH SAMAJ SEVI SANSTHAN Enabling Community to Rise above Odds



Our Address: Parmarth Samaj Sevi Sansthan, Near Income Tax Office, Orai District Jalaun, 285001; Contact Details: Phone Number: 9415114151; http://www.parmarthindia.com; E-mail: parmarths@gmail.com Our **Vision** is to build a society where all people can gain access to basic amenities such as water & sanitation, enhancing livelihoods through community-led approach, education and healthcare and where all people can realize their full potential.



Our **Mission** is Capacity building and Empowerment of deprived and vulnerable communities, improving their access to and quality of public services in the core service sectors.

#### Parmarth 22-23: From the Desk of the Chief Functionary



Climate change is the reality of our times that is impacting communities and livelihood resources. There is an increase in the frequency of floods and droughts. The biggest crisis arising due to rising temperatures is water crisis. The ground-water table is continuously depleting and the flow of water in rivers and streams is decreasing.

Parmarth Samaj Sevi Sansthan has completed its 27 years and has been consistently working to develop decentralized and community owned water management systems in the context of solving the deepening challenges due

to climate change, under which community-based organizations like Jal Saheli, River Valley Organization and Pani Panchayat have been created. Parmarth is the Secretariat of National level campaign- Jal Jan Jodo Abhiyan (JJJA) and under its aegis CBOs and voluntary organizations, academicians, researchers, activists are brought together to collectively work for a common cause – water crisis. Many state and national level conferences, meetings has been conducted this year to prepare action plans for mitigating water crisis.

More than 1500 Jal sahelis are now becoming the voice of their villages and are providing leadership for water conservation in their communities. In their own way they have created an oasis of strong women leaders in the parched Bundelkhand that now are role models and inspiration for the women all over the country. Three Jal sahelis of Parmarth has been honoured by Hon'ble President of India with Swachh Sujal Shakti Samman this year.

Parmarth is keen on revival of small rivers and water bodies that will ultimately lead to sustainability and will be able to address the pressing issues of ground water depletion. Every river has its own economy- with the collective efforts of Parmarth and the community, 4 rivers of Bundelkhand are revived. The rivers are providing economic benefits to the communities living on the banks of these perennial rivers, which has brought smiles back on the faces of the people residing at and around river banks.

We visualise Parmarth as a community initiative, which is constantly striving to bring sustainability in the promotion of livelihood resources with a women centric approach While the organization has done the work of promotion of natural resources, it has also done effective work for education, health, and equality for respectable status of women in the society. In the process, Parmarth's activities and interventions are directly contributing to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of No Poverty, Zero Hunger, Gender Equality, and Clean Water & Sanitation.

Post covid, there was an economic recession in the whole world, effect of which was most visible in areas like Bundelkhand. In such situations, Parmarth has made many innovations for the promotion of livelihood resources of the people at the community level through off-farm and on-farm activities and use of technology in Agriculture.

Parmarth understands that a child plays an important role in the society. Therefore, we are ensuring child rights through various interventions. Parmarth's working on principle of holistic and inclusive approach to reach to all and everywhere. Parmarth and water led initiatives have become synonym today due to our consistent efforts. In the year 2022-23, Parmarth has made significant achievements in water conservation, river rejuvenation, sustainable agriculture and livelihood. In making these efforts successful, we had special support from domestic and foreign organizations, friends, and groups. We are grateful to them. With their cooperation we are moving towards achieving our goals.

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## Parmarth's Values and Approach

**Our Core Values:** 



#### **Our Approach:**

Our emphasis is on "Preparing People to Help Themselves". Parmarth believes in capacitating people for their own betterment and follow the core principles in every intervention.



#### We **believe** in:

**a. Ecological Restoration** as the process of assisting the recovery of an ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged, or destroyed.

- **b. Social Equality** in having equal access to rights, social services, and status and ensuring that every person who is poor, deprived can improve their lives and get equal opportunities by availing the benefits of schemes run by the government.
- **c. Enhancing Livelihood Opportunities** through sustainable economic initiatives for the marginalized and build their capacity to demand and access entitlements.
- **d.** Enhancing Women Empowerment through our programs and institutional practices. Parmarth recognizes the importance of gender responsive projects and programs and this approach is included in designing, implementation, and evaluation through the Gender Smart Initiatives.



#### Our Key Strategies:

Mobilizing & organizing community groups with a focus on Dalits/Adivasi and Women; Knowledge building and capacitating CBOs and community; Model demonstration and its replication through socially excluded groups with focus on women; Convergence and multi-sector engagement; Public Engagement and Campaigning; Policy Advocacy.

## **Our Core Donor Partners**



## **Legal Status**



RegisteredunderSocietyRegistrationAct1860,RegistrationNo-624,Dated-11thJanuary,1996.•RegisteredunderForeignRegulationAct(FCRA)-RegistrationNo136500010,Dated -7thJanuary,2000

•Registered under Income Tax Act, 1961 under section 12(A) No. 17/12 A/IT Commissioner-II/Tech/Kanpur, Dated - 25.11.2002

•Registered under Income Tax Act, 1961 under section 80(G) IT Commissioner-II/80-G/124/Tech/Kanpur/923, dated - 17.06.2009

•Income Tax Permanent Account Number: AAATP6454F

•TAN - KNPP01309A •Registered with Darpan Portal of NITI Ayog with unique ID UP/2016/0099233

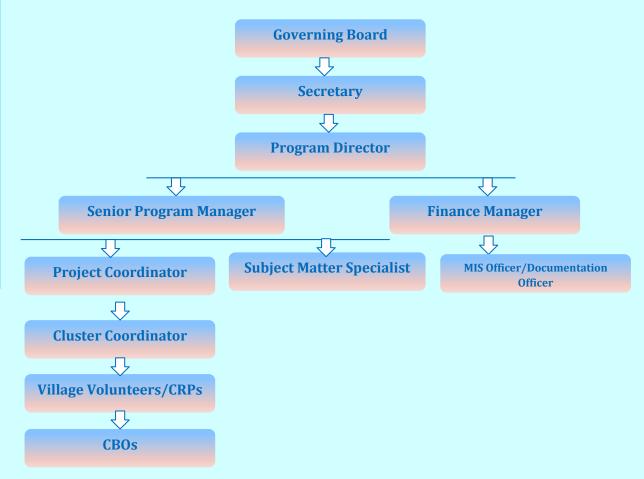
•HR Manual •Anti-Sexual Harassment Committee Rule Book

#### **Our Team Structure**

Parmarth has a defined formal human resource structure; it also considers the CBOs that it has created as an extended, informal but integrated part of its team. Hence, our team structure touch upon both the formal and the informal structure.

**Parmarth's formal team** is the core team of Parmarth. It works tirelessly to plan, implement and monitor projects while also creating and firming the informal team of community level bodies through hand holding and capacity building.

This formal structure is thus the organization's think tank and the backbone of the organization. A synoptic view of the core team and the broad team framework is as follows:



Today Parmarth has 3 state offices and 8 field offices. It also has total full time staff strength of 88 members across its offices.

This team framework works under a participative approach, firming up top down decision making mechanisms with bottom up feedback first.

**Since Parmarth considers itself as a community initiative, its CBOs are an extension of the organization.** They are the driving force that by sheer strength of numbers, play a critical role in advocacy and lend support in achieving program and organization outcomes.

A few core CBOs merit special mention in this are:

- i. Pani Panchayat
- ii. Jal Saheli
- iii. Nadi Ghati Sangathan

A synoptic introduction of these **community collectives** is worth to mention.



**Pani Panchayat:** Pani Panchayat is a community based village level committee, which works towards protection, conservation & management of water resources. They motivate and guide the community towards adoption of water efficiency and conservation and provide leadership for collective action. Pani Panchayats are

inclusive and have representatives of all social groups irrespective of social-economic statues and receives support from all sections of the village community.





**Jal Sahelis:** the Jal Sahelis seek to engage individual women/adolescents responsible for carrying forward the water security agenda and provide leadership collective action for water rights & entitlements. They are systematically capacitated on water conservation techniques, water rights, leadership, budget and financial issues, water provisions etc. and

they sensitize the community by passing their knowledge. They also mobilise the community and help in perspective building on these issues.

This financial year, the Jal Sahelis of Parmarth have received coverage and been honoured in various ways. Wion News covered the work being done by Jal Sahelis and their story was covered as a documentary by MG Changemaker. In the India Water Week an exhibition featuring the Jal Saheli models was showcased.

Jal Saheli Sharda Banskar & Ganga Rajpoot received the Water Warrior Award from the President and Jal Saheli Devkumar was honoured with the Women Excellence Award 2023.

**Nadi Ghati Sangathan:** Nadi Ghati Sangathan is a grassroot organization working at the local level to conserve small rivers in the region of Bundelkhand. The organization comprises of ground level workers and river rejuvenation warriors known as "Jal Sahelis" and "Jal Yoddhas", who are relatively uniform in their presence across Parmarth's water conservation and sustainability initiatives.



These river rejuvenation warriors reside in villages situated along the banks of the small rivers that Parmarth strives to rejuvenate and conserve. Their primary focus is on protecting and reviving these rivers. We have established six river valley organizations to raise awareness among communities in their respective areas about the importance of river conservation. They organize river Yatra, tree plantation drives, engage in voluntary labour to reduce encroachment and ensure good flow in the rivers, and such similar activities along the riverbanks to contribute to their preservation efforts.

## **Our Direct Geographical Coverage 22-23**





## **Uttar Pradesh**

14 blocks in the 7districts of Jhansi,Lalitpur,EtahChitrakoot,Jalaun,Mahoba and Hamirpur

## Madhya Pradesh

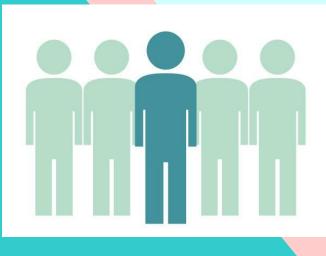
4 blocks in the 4 districts of Tikamgarh, Chhatarpur, Chindwara and Niwari



## Rajasthan

2 blocks in the 2 districts of Karauli and Alwar

#### **Our Outreach**



Overall, through its interventions, over the years Parmarth, either directly or indirectly and through networks has been able to reach out across different states of India and touch the lives of innumerable people.

In the financial year 2022-23 itself, Parmarth has benefitted approximately 126301 people directly and 286381 indirectly through its interventions.



Our works towards **achieving several SDGs** through interventions:

Our **Future Direction of Work** is in keeping with these focus areas.

The two thematic areas that are close to our heart are **water security and response to climate change**. Parmarth has experientially realized how a lot of other aspects of living and earning, especially in rural areas and among the marginalized sections, are linked to these core themes. Thus, Parmarth's interventions and also Parmarth's expertise has concentrated on these themes, on which it would endeavour to work in the future. Parmarth has always strived to combine traditional knowledge with technological progress, to create the best of solutions. It will continue with this approach and essentially focus on the following areas in the coming years:

- Increasing water literacy among our target beneficiaries, so that they may get actively involved with issues of water.
- Strengthening water self-sufficiency behaviour among the community, fostering a resilient system that has its backbone in local groundwater and other local water resources and conservation practices
- Strengthening local production, productivity, income generation and livelihood creation
- Enhance community empowerment and collectivisation towards their rights and entitlements, with focus on greater entitlement realization.
- Focusing on holistic approach that includes themes such as hunger and education

## **Recognitions and Awards for Parmarth and its Jal Sahelis: 2022-23**



Sujal Shakti Samman



Jal Sahelis Honoured by Agriculture Minister

## **Our Policy Level Engagement: 2022-23**

- Water User Efficiency with WRG 2023 and UP Govt. In multi stakeholder partnership with WRG, Parmarth is the implementing partner. To reduce water and agriculture efficiency and reduce carbon emissions, use of technology and mechanization of agriculture to enhance income, this is playing a strong role.
- Parmarth is providing suggestions for water conservation and river protection/rejuvenation Jhansi district In order to promote water conservation in Bundelkhand, a Bundelkhand Water Conservation Committee has been formed in collaboration with officials from the Jhansi Mandal. It is working in coordination with various government departments and providing suggestions for water conservation, facilitating rejuvenation of small rivers and water conservation structures etc.
- Our models of river rejuvenation are being adopted in Jhansi and Lalitpur districts We are working towards the revival and rejuvenation of small rivers in Bundelkhand, carried out in collaboration with the local communities and this is now continuously supported by the administration. In Jhansi district, three small rivers, and in Lalitpur district, seven small rivers are being taken up as a model by the district administration.

**Parmarth's Water Use Master Planning (WUMP) model** has been well accepted as a holistic, participatory and inclusive planning process that takes an integrated approach towards management of water resources and conjunctive water uses at the local level. It ensures optimal, rightful and efficient consumption of water through mapping of the agriculture land, cropping pattern, domestic & livestock water uses in the particular area. Active involvement of local governance bodies like PRI, Farmer Cooperatives etc., CBOs and community is crucial for this annual and periodic planning.

• Parmarth is working with the department officials in the two districts of Madhya Pradesh towards successful implementation of the 'Jal Jeevan Scheme' – This scheme aims to ensure the supply of drinking water in every household, in the Chhatarpur and Niwari districts of Madhya Pradesh. The organization is coordinating with district administrations and officials associated with the Mission, building capacity of village-level Water and Sanitation committees, and making efforts at the village level to raise awareness and involvement of the communities. **Intervention Theme 1: Water Conservation and Climate Health** 



**Water has been Parmarth's journey and identity.** Parmarth has always realized the importance of water conservation and water rights. This is particularly because Parmarth is situated and works closely with the water starved community in arid and parched regions such as Bundelkhand. Thus SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation for all, has been at the core of our interventions.

Our philosophy of water conservation is to ensure drinking water security throughout the year and to create water-sufficient villages. To make this a reality, **water security plans are being prepared in every village of intervention**. Efforts are being made to implement these plans after getting them approved by the Gram Sabha. Knowing the gap between the demand and supply of available water resources in the village, schemes are being implemented accordingly.

Our water conservation model is based on low-cost water conservation structures such as check dams, sack dams, stop dams etc. **Revival of more than 40 Chandel period ponds and creation/revival of more than 500 small and big water structures are among our achievements in 2022-23.** The organization is making special efforts to recharge the ground water and the structures are built after the geomorphology of the place is studied. Local knowledge is being given special priority in the construction of structures and along with the construction of water structures, water use efficiency is being promoted, for which the use of drip & sprinkler and micro-irrigation method is being promoted. Special efforts have been made for the revival of small rivers.

Special efforts have been made for the revival of small rivers. **In the year 22-23, four rivers Kanera, Barua, Bargi and Bachhedi have been revived with our collective efforts. River valley organizations have been formed** for the continuity of the revived rivers and for maintain the purity and cleanliness of the rivers.

We believe that water literacy is an important dimension to promote the work of water conservation and for promotion of water literacy, models like Jal Saheli, Pani Panchayat etc. are being created by Parmarth. Jal Sahelis are moving towards making more than 300 villages of Bundelkhand water-rich and promoting water conservation in these villages. Many of these villages have become water-sufficient villages, and efforts are being made to make other villages also water-sufficient.

Besides, Parmarth is also working to make the water supply and drinking water schemes functional. Mass awareness campaigns are being organized in the community to prevent excessive exploitation of ground water and bore well recharge works are being done on priority basis. On the one hand, intensive plantation work is being done to reduce the increasing effect of climate change and on the other hand, **water schools are being operated**.

In 2022-23, Parmarth had focused on this core thematic area through the Water and Land Rights Project, WASH project, Watershed development Project, access to safe drinking water through solar disinfection with WADI Projects. Besides this, it's PRABHAT and UP Agri-Water accelerator projects also have some overlapping components with this theme. Hence each of these is covered in this thematic section.



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A Synoptic Quantitative View of Theme 1 (since our ground network works across themes in the thematically overlapping projects, they have been included under each theme where they are involved)

Through our interventions on Water Rights and Water Conservation, we have been able to reach out to total 57193 direct beneficiaries and 34781 indirect beneficiaries	We could successfully <b>repair</b> <b>approximately 200 hand-pumps</b> through our efforts. As a result approximately 11 000 families have been benefitted.		
We were successful in engaging <b>close to</b> <b>6000 CBO members from 256 CBOs</b> through our interventions. We also engage approximately <b>650 Jal Sahelis or</b> <b>Poshan Sahelis.</b>	Water conservation work of Parmarth has resulted in <b>additional water storage of 1 24 827 cubic meter</b> .		
We have <b>constructed approximately</b> <b>400 soak pits and 75 wash stations.</b>	Through our efforts we could <b>rejuvenate</b> or revive 4 rivers in 2022-23.		
Gradual <b>improvement in ground water</b> <b>levels</b> in arid regions has been noticed as a result of our efforts. Even <b>drinking</b> <b>water is more readily available</b> in regions such as Sumerpur.	<b>Changes in cropping patterns (less water intensive varieties)</b> & increase in cropping seasons resulting in greater productivity has been noticed in most of our intervention areas.		

Link between Panchayat & line departments with community is much improved resulting in **co creation of efforts, especially towards water conservation and management.** Through our water conservation work such as creating farm ponds, check dams, pond repairing etc. with the government departments, resulted in **saving of 24, 75, 953 cubic meter of water**.

#### **Rejuvenation of Rivers and of Peripheral Communities**

Parmarth is working towards the revival of small rivers in Bundelkhand. The organization has formed Nadi Ghati Sangathan/organizations at the village level. Our organization and these collectivized, and often, organized, masses and CBOs are continuously advocating for the cause of river protection and rejuvenation at the district level.

Our river rejuvenation work has been taken as models by the administrations of Jhansi and Lalitpur, who are now undertaking the work of rejuvenating three and eight other rivers, respectively, in Bundelkhand, based on this model.

This year, we have organized four river Yatras. These efforts made for the **rejuvenation of the four rivers: for the Barua River in Lalitpur, Kanera River in Jhansi, Bargi River in Tikamgarh, and Bachhedi River in Chhatarpur.** Besides these, our **Birasat Bachao Yatra conducted programs throughout various locations of India** for water literacy and river conservation. Together, these expeditions facilitated direct dialogue with over **two hundred thousand people**.

88 members of the community also contributed labour towards protection and rejuvenation of **Satar River** and 300 members of the community participated in river walk/yatra for the **Bachhedi river**.

Our river yatras/drives to raise more awareness about the protection of the rivers among the communities, is showing positive results. Currently, these rivers have a sustained water flow for a longer duration, leading to increased greenery in the surrounding areas and improved water availability for irrigation purposes for the peripheral communities.



## Our Outreach through various Water Rights' Campaigns

Parmarth's direct outreach of the various campaigns and 'yatras' itself was 74761 people. The indirect outreach was 241500. A total of 12 core campaigns/yatras were executed.

The 'Birasat Bachao Yatra' on water and land rights was country wide campaign and had a direct outreach of 45000 and indirect outreach of 1,75,000 and thus its impact has been both intensive and extensive.

The Jhansi region remains the epicenter of some of our core campaigns. As many as 6 campaigns originated from here. These included the Cleanliness & Water Conservation Campaign, the World Water Week Campaign, the Global Hand Wash day Campaign, the 100 Day Shramdan (dedicate 100 days of labour campaign) the Bhujal Saptah Campaign and the Swachhta Apnayen Beemariyan Bhagayen , Jal Bachayen Jeewan Bachayen Campaign (adopt sanitation, drive out diseases; save water save life campaign). The direct and indirect outreach of these campaigns has been 15,261 and 31,500 respectively. These has been organized through the WASH project at Jhansi.

Besides these, the Sarsa River Basin Yatra originated at Alwar; the Sherni River Basin Yatra originated at Karauli; the Voter Awareness Campaign originated at Tikamgarh & Chhatarpur; the Wash Awareness Campaign and the Voter Awareness Campaign originated at Chhatapur and the Voter Awareness Campaign also originated at Chhatapur. Thus, Chhatapur was an epicentre of 3 campaigns. These campaigns have been organized under various projects including the Land and Water Rights projects, Atal Bhujal Yojana and SSI Project.



#### **Intervention on Water Rights**

With the support of WeltHungerHilfe, Parmarth was able to work on Water Rights Land **Rights** and covering an extended The area. main objectives of this intervention are to strengthen water rights and land rights sustainable in a



Legal Training Workshop for Pani Panchayats

**community owned framework.** This project is spread over 60 villages in 6 blocks and as many districts in the three states of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

For the purpose, Parmarth created village-level cadres and groups, the Jal Sahelis and the Pani Panchayat Samitis, to establish water conservation and water use efficiency models. It has been systematically capacitated through training programs covering a wide range of topics, including legal literacy. Besides this, selected members have been sent for exposure visits for cross learning. They were also handheld at monthly meetings of Pani Panchayats and Jal Saheli Sammelans.

The Nadi Ghati Sangathan members have been also capacitated through a series of workshops. These sanghtans are formed near Bachhedi Nadi in Chhatarpur, near Barua Nala in Talbehat, near Bargi River in Tikamgarh and near Kanera River in Jhansi.

Today, they play key roles in **repair & construction of water structures**, **conservation of natural water resources and optimal, rightful and efficient consumption of water in the village**. They also **contribute labour (shramdaan) and mobilize** the villagers for water structure construction or rejuvenation. Overall, they tirelessly work towards **resolution of water problems in their villages**, **through social action**.

This program has selected and capacitated 335 Jal Sahelis. It has created total 60 CBOs, with membership strength of 1628 members, more than 80 percent of whom are female. It has also created 6 Nadi Ghati Sangathans. **The intervention has benefitted as many as 9973 people directly** and **11925 people indirectly**. Water rights of people in the 6 villages have been enhanced through the project. Drinking water resolution was ensured through the CBOs and cadres through social action in 30 villages. Water crisis has reduced in the project villages and has reduced up to 80 percent in 16 sample project villages. It was **possible to conserve water resources by protecting 55 small and large water structures**, resulting in reliable water supply in 600 hectares of agricultural land. Additional water storage capacity of **909519** cu. mt or **240269501** gallons has been achieved through the project.

## **Promoting Water Use Efficiency through Micro-Irrigation**

The Government of Uttar Pradesh (GoUP), with support from 2030 Water Resources Group (2030WRG), designed a program for improving water use efficiency through the adoption of micro-irrigation, mechanization of farm activities, strengthening agriculture value chains, and climate change risk mitigation. As an implementing partner organization, Parmarth has been running this intervention, **UP Agri-Water Accelerator Project**, also called **Pragati**, in Jhansi, Lalitpur and Chitrakoot districts of Uttar Pradesh.

Although essentially perceived as an effort to double the farmers' incomes (and thus also covered under the specific theme 2), this intervention had strong components of water conservation. Under the intervention capacity building training of Jal Sahelis & SHGs was done on aspects such as water management. Farmers' registration was also done to avail of drips and sprinklers, to strengthen demand side management of water.



**Training of Jal Sahelis** 

To promote water use efficiency, according to the registration done in the Horticulture Department, **mini sprinklers were distributed to 17 farmers and pipes for irrigation to 41 farmers** in Lalitpur District alone.

#### Water Conservation and Management through the Prabhat Intervention

Parmarth Samaj Sevi Sansthan has been working since 2019 in 36 villages of the 3 districts of Etah, Hamirpur and Chhindwara in the 2 states of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, through its Prabhat intervention.

This intervention, supported by HUL, is dedicated to the needs of poor farmers. It promotes measures of water conservation & management, enhances agricultural production and productivity through newly introduced techniques, improves income potential and facilitates community level water governance.

The project has four **key target objectives**:

- ✓ Additional agricultural production and biomass achieved through enhanced water availability and/or agricultural practices
- Enhancing water conservation and savings potential; promotion of water availability; water and soil conservation and efficiency in management, by covering both demand and supply side water strategies
- ✓ **Income enhancement and increased person days of income generated** through enhanced water availability, agricultural practices and/or allied activities
- ✓ Strong Community Bodies and Local Level Water Governance

Benefits created by Parmarth through the Prabhat Project	Numbers
No. of water storage/harvesting structures created through the initiative of the Prabhat project	31
Hectares of land benefitted from farm bunding	6332
Acres of land that gained from shift of farmers to organic farming, leading to better soil health	2673
No. of farmers benefitted directly as a result of their part or full transition to organic farming	2255
Total Quantity of Water Saved (In BL)	26.72
Total Farmers with enhanced income from Linkage to FPOs	500
Total Individuals (including farmers) with enhanced income from various other sources through the Prabhat Project	18481
Total increased person-days of income generated	364237
No. of farmers who have adopted methods of cultivation that have increased agricultural productivity and bio mass	10811
No. of women benefitted through their participation in CBOs created through the Prabhat Project	756
No. of seed banks created	36

Under the Prabhat intervention, the team has been Promoting Surface Water Storage through rejuvenation of water bodies such as check dam construction, farm pond construction and also water harvesting. For example, in Hamirpur, renovation and revival of earthen bund/dam, ranging from 4 km to 7 km in length which had been built during the British era has been completed.

Need based Ground Water Recharge has also been done. Besides this, demand side water savings mechanisms such as micro irrigation techniques, such as sprinklers, has been introduced.

The Prabhat team is technically sound and introduced water conserving crops. For example, in Chhindwara, the team promoted soyabean, which requires less water than

maize. Crops with low water intensive needs, such as pea varieties of GS10 & AP 3 and mustard variant varieties have been introduced.

The core community level cadres/bodies in the Prabhat intervention are of vital importance. The Pani Panchayats played key roles in water governance. Besides this, The Community Resource Person (CRP) worked like an



extended hand of the intervention and a lot of agricultural demonstration activities of the Prabhat intervention have been done in their farmlands.



The Prabhat intervention has created behavior changes among as many as 12900 families. A lot of these families are today adopting water efficient methods in their daily lives and in farming practices, including surface and ground water conservation

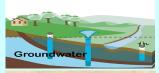


Women are empowered & have started playing strong roles in meetings, decision makings, income & water conservation. Their nutrition levels are also improving



A sustainable model of intervention has been created with strong roles of community & community-based organizations

Link between Panchayat & line departments with community is much improved resulting in co creation of efforts, especially towards water conservation and management

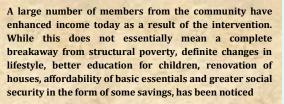


Gradual improvement in ground water levels in arid regions has been noticed & as a result even drinking water is more readily available in the Sumerpur region as has been noticed from wells & tube wells



Changesincroppingpatterns(lesswaterintensivevarieties)&increaseincroppingseasonsresultingingreaterproductivity







Various relatively dormant government schemes and benefits, such as MNREGA, have been activated owing to greater community cohesiveness created through the intervention and community awareness on their rights have been enhanced

#### **Creating Model Villages with Water Security and Conservation**

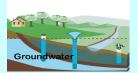
Parmarth's intervention in 7 Gram Panchayats of Sonipat factory locations aimed at **creating 'Model Eco Villages'** and is a multi-pronged intervention. Water Panchayat Committees has been formed in all the 7 villages. Through these committees, work was carried out in the respective villages for water conservation and management.

Targeting Community Level Water & Environmental Situations



On the one hand, through this project Parmarth targeted the communities. Here, it endeavoured to provide good quality drinking water in the communities and sustainable water solutions for them for both domestic & agricultural use; also prevent environmental degradation & loss of soil nutrients & minerals.

Targeting Factory Level Water & Environmental Situations On the other hand, it targeted mitigation at the factory level, working towards easing of potential exposure because of groundwater extraction at factory sites; tracking and lessening the carbon sequestered and increasing overall biodiversity of species through and for better environment management.





Through the project efforts, more than 60,000 cubic meters of water were conserved through the construction of water structures and promoting efficient water usage in agriculture, aiming for water conservation. More than 2800 plants were planted for environmental conservation and promoting greenery in the area.

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#### Watershed Development and Ensuring High Quality Eco System

Parmarth's aim in the **Watershed Development Project** has to conserve, regenerate and balance the use of land and water resources within the watershed by humans. The intervention has been conceived and executed with very specific benefits in mind such as increased access to drinking water; identification and rehabilitation of natural resources degradation and sustainable use of natural resources; increased per capita income by creating a stable, productive and high quality ecosystem with improved agricultural yields and scope to mobilize new sources of income.

This intervention has been carried by Parmarth in 7 Grams of Tikamgarh district and 3 Grams of Jalaun district in Uttar Pradesh and considered community participation and ownership as well as integration of intervention activities with policies, as important landmarks of the program. It has been executed in three phases:

This intervention is inching towards restoring the groundwater level to a sustainable level, increasing forestation, increasing per capita income and strengthening the ecosystem.

This financial year, in Jalaun alone 34 outlets were completed, resulting in the conservation of more than 17,000 cubic meters of water; 2,000 plants were planted for soil conservation; 50 kitchen gardens were established to improve nutrition and livelihood support activities such as goat rearing were undertaken for the community in the watershed area. In Tikamgarh, 626 RM of CCT was excavated, 1528 RM of farm bunding was done, 2 ponds were excavated, 3 waste water systems were constructed and 500 plants were planted.



**Better Water Conservation and Management to Combat Climate Change** 

This **Water Initiator project** has been aimed to combat the water scarcity, food insecurity, livelihood issues and enhance water conserving sustainable agricultural practices.

Reducing water scarcity through artificial groundwater recharge and construction & management of water harvesting structures are the main areas of intervention. It is also strived to promote improved & sustainable agriculture practices & cropping pattern through measures of agri-water use efficiency. Overall, an effort has been made towards income enhancement, reduced food insecurity and increased community involvement for their betterment.

Five community based organizations with membership of 90 strength has been created and strengthened to work with the community, to motivate and support the community. The Parmarth team provided need based hand holding and technical support to the community.

As many as **700 members** of the community, including small and marginalized farmers and people from the most marginalized sections, **benefitted from the intervention directly, whereas 6000 members benefitted from it indirectly**.





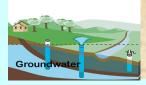


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Community behavior change on matters of sanitation was noticed and the community members constructed as many as 370 soak pits, as a consequence. Community participation in water conservation was enhanced and construction and repair work was carried out for 11 water structures, which resulted in the conservation of 78,343 cubic meters of water. The total irrigated of land in project area, which was 164 hectares, increased by 122 hectares to 286 hectares.

A large number of farmers' incomes were enhanced owing to water conservation, management and adoption of new agricultural techniques. 342 farmers gained from the former as they can now grow crops in Rabi season whereas 254 farers gained from the latter.

Parmarth's **WADI initiative** aims for sustainable livelihood opportunities for the tribal families and marginal farmers. While this initiative has been covered in greater details under theme 2, it is worth mentioning that land and water management has been an important part of the initiative, as it is cross cutting across our programs.



Thus, Community participation in water conservation has resulted in construction of 11 water conservation structures, which are conserving more than 4900 cubic litres of water. 9 water ponds are also supporting orchard activities of the target population.

#### Promoting Access to Safe Drinking Water and Revival of Water Sources

As part of its endeavors, Parmarth decided to work with communities exposed to water shortage and water risks, to provide them with safe and adequate water for domestic and agricultural purposes. The core emphasis of this initiative has been **providing improved access to safe water resources, reduction of waterborne diseases, revival of water sources and their management.** 

The initiative has two important aspects: **empowerment of women** as water managers and facilitators in safe drinking water; **reduction of health costs** for treatment of waterborne diseases.

The following strategies and measures has undertaken in the program:

- Families has been trained in the method of Solar Water Disinfection with WADI

**The WADI device** is a solar powered UV measurement device that visualizes the process of solar water disinfection (SODIS) in Glass bottles. It is placed alongside bottles that are filled with contaminated water and exposed to the sun. Once the process is completed, a smiley face on the WADI confirms that the water is safe to drink. WADI is endorsed by the WHO, meeting its microbiological performance criteria and is classified for providing targeted protection.

- Strong collaboration and integration with local stakeholders including Panchayat members.
- Ground level women cadres for water management and water use sensitisation, has created. They played an important role in sensitizing the community on important hygiene measures for disease prevention and water use. Participation of male cadres, called Jal Yodhas have been also encouraged

Various activities such as mass campaign, development, and distribution of IEC materials etc. enhanced visibility and awareness about the program.

- Water sources have been constructed and revived, with the support of the project, community and Panchayat.

## WE DID IT !

Supply of clean drinking water was provided through the Jal Jeevan Mission in 3 villages and with the support of the Gram Panchayat in 15 villages. 2500 beneficiaries were provided with WADI to purify water. A significant reduction in reported sickness of water-borne diseases in project-targeted communities in Jhansi district was noted. Respondents were aware about the ill-effects of using untreated water and better drinking water practices were noticed in 99 percent cases. In collaboration with the government, construction and maintenance work of 27 water conservation structures was carried out for water conservation and support. These structures are conserving approximately 13,500 cubic meters of water.

**Parmarth has also carried an intervention in Niwari and Chattarpur with BMZ support with the objective of upscaling and strengthening WASH systems with a bottom-up approach.** This focuses on water, sanitation and hygiene for all. Under the project, work is being carried out at three levels: micro, meso, and macro.

At the micro level, capacity building of Gram Panchayat-level water and sanitation committees is being conducted, along with the formation of "Jal Saheli" cadres. This is raising awareness among the people at the Gram Panchayat about sanitation and water conservation. 54 Jan Chaupals (public meetings) and more than 150 Mohalla meetings were held and some meetings involved VWS committee members as well as other people from the village.

At the meso level, advocacy is being done at the district level to ensure proper implementation of water and sanitation-related schemes and address any deficiencies in the planning process. Regular advocacy meetings were conducted at the district level and efforts were made to evaluate schemes to strengthen them further. Also through the program, capacity of district officials was enhanced.

At the macro level, advocacy work is being carried out at the state and central government levels to bring about policy changes and provide stability to schemes like the Jal Jeevan Mission.

Campaigns to raise awareness in the belt on water conservation, sanitation and rights have also been organized. **Participation of more than 20,000 people has been recorded in these campaigns.** Also, **32 training sessions on water and sanitation has capacitated and motivated the Gram Panchayat, volunteers, Jal Sahelis, and district-level officials.** All these efforts have borne fruits and through the relentless efforts of the Parmarth team, the village and districts level bodies, the village cadres and the community, the following could be achieved:

## WE DID IT !

- Efforts have been carried out on three rivers to restore their vitality and ensure their sustainability, with some degree of success.
- Construction and repair work of 45 small and large water conservation structures was carried out. These structures resulted in the conservation of more than 22,500 cubic meters of water. Additionally, a direct benefit was obtained by 300 beneficiaries in the form of irrigation for 125 hectares of agricultural land.
- The maintenance work of 64 hand pumps was carried out in the Nivari and Chhatarpur districts for ensuring the availability of clean drinking water. This has benefitted more than 3000 families.
- 10 village-level Action plan was undertaken for water and sanitation management, enabling effective implementation of water and sanitation initiatives at the village level. This has ensured participative decision making and better access to water across the marginalized sections.
- Wash stations were constructed in 76 schools with broken bathrooms, which underwent repair in Chhatarpur and Nivari districts, enhancing cleanliness in schools and creating awareness among children about sanitation. This initiative has benefited more than 10,000 children.

#### **Creating community-led sustainable ground water management Model**

The objective of this initiative mentioned in the **Atal Bhujal Yojana** is to demonstrate community-led sustainable ground water management which can be taken to scale and to improve the management of groundwater resources in select water stressed areas. Both the community and the local governance structure are engaged in this initiative.

On the one hand, community has been sensitised and mobilized towards the cause. This has raised awareness about the appropriate use of water within the community. In collaborating with farmers, efforts are being made to increase the efficiency of water usage through drip and sprinkler irrigation systems, while reducing the use of groundwater and promoting the use of surface water in agricultural areas. The goal is to restore the groundwater level to a sustainable level.

Community based institutions, such as Water and sanitation Committees has been created and capacitated through this initiative. Regular community meetings have been conducted for discussion on groundwater management. Participants have been informed about sustainable agricultural practices, groundwater storage, crop diversification, water security plans, and water conservation structures.

Simultaneously, as many as 18 training sessions were organized for the Village Water and Sanitation Committees (VWSCs). During these training sessions, committee members have been provided with information about their village's water security action plans and training on activities aimed at increasing groundwater levels. This enabled them to integrate activities related to groundwater recharge in their villagelevel action plans.

# WE DID IT !

Regular interface and inter-linkage between community and the VWSC was also created. More than 100 meetings that involved the community and the VWSC were held. Close to 3000 people have participated in these meetings. The aim has been to foster comanagement and decision making by community-based institutions and also fiscal decentralization. As a result of these efforts, the community is today consulted for the development of community-based water security action plans at the village level





Community participation in water conservation was enhanced. Coordination was established with various departments for construction and repair of 41 water conservation structures. As a result more than 15 lakh cubic meters of water conservation was achieved. The conservation of water through these structures will reduce groundwater depletion and the dependency of farmers on groundwater. Behavioral change towards water conserving modes of irrigation was noticed. Drip and sprinkler irrigation systems are now used across 45 hectares of agricultural land.

36 farmers were provided with drip and sprinkler irrigation systems in collaboration with the Department of Horticulture.

Intervention Theme 2: Agriculture Productivity Enhancement and Livelihood support



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In the various regions that Parmarth works, it realized that factors such as climate, lack of access to adequate water, capital, technology and technological knowhow, push small and marginal farmers and landless labourers into distress migration, social vulnerability, food insecurity and indebtedness.

To combat this situation Parmarth endeavoured to enhance the livelihood opportunities for the marginalised, women and the farmers in the region. It merits mention that a large share of these farmers are surviving on small and marginal farming with up to 2 hectare of land holding.

In this context, Parmarth's efforts have ranged from creating alternative livelihood options besides trying to increase agricultural incomes.

The core projects of Parmarth in 2022-23 in this direction have been the Tribal Development Project, the Kitchen Garden and sustainable development Project, the Samraddhi Goat Rearing Project, the UP Agri-Water Accelerator Project and the PRABHAT Project.

A Synoptic Quantitative View of Theme 2 (since our ground network works across themes in the thematically overlapping projects, they have been included under each theme where they are involved)

Financial Years	State Coverage			
Number of total direct beneficiaries	31620			
Number of CBOs	112			
Number of CBO members	1796			
Number of SHGs	130			
Number of Poshan Sahelis	40			
Number of additional person-days generated (through Prabhat and Land and Water Rights project)	3 74 828			
Number of kitchen Gardens set up	2183			
Number of Community Nutrition Gardens set up	42			
Additional units of Plantation Done	56 588			



#### **Increasing Income through Agricultural Transformation**

The **Uttar Pradesh Agri Water Accelerator Project**, aimed for **increased incomes in agriculture through agricultural transformation**. It strived to do so through a **multi-pronged approach**, such as increased access to advanced equipment in agriculture, strengthening and mobilizing technical and financial resources through private sector resources and collaboration, strengthening of agri-chain etc. It also aimed to halve carbon emissions in the agricultural sector within the next five years. It stressed on water efficiency and management in farm use (this has been touched upon under theme 1).

Various activities have been conducted systematically under this project. District-level action plans have been developed to enhance agricultural and water-use efficiency, training for farmer groups, Jal Saheli, and Pani Panchayat members to make agriculture water-efficient, self-help groups of women and farmers were also trained on latest methodologies in agriculture. In fact, 55 training programs were organized to capacitate 1680 farmers on water conserving, high yield technologies like LISA, SVI etc. The farmers and SHG members have been sensitised to government schemes and coordination with government line departments was established.



Financial inclusion and empowerment of women as a large number of women farmers gained from new farming techniques



New high yield, cost effective techniques of farming and multipurpose farming from saplings of lemon, guava, cranberry etc. distributed by Parmarth has resulted in increased income of farmers



A total of 482 farmers benefitted from high-quality seeds provided through government schemes



Carbon emissions reduced in the area of intervention



**Increasing Youth Engagement for Community Welfare & Income Enhancement** 

The core emphasis of the **youth exchange initiative** has been to **develop youth leaders who take responsibility and create positive change in their lives and communities** and in this case, *increased their engagement in agriculture as well as enhanced community income through new agriculture techniques & kitchen gardens.* 

Three youth fellows were selected and capacitated for the purpose on aspects such as organic farming practices, kitchen gardening and water use efficiency. Vegetable seed distribution was also done to 240 beneficiaries of the program, for the establishment of kitchen gardens, and hand holding support on the methods of kitchen gardening have also been provided. Besides this, exchange program with Nepalese youth was done to motivate the fellows as also to enhance their learning with across-the-border techniques.

As many as **650 kitchen gardens were establishe**d through this project. Through these kitchen gardens, on average, **each beneficiary is obtaining more than 329 kilograms of vegetables per season.** Data from a sample of 16 farmers shows that approximately **2,000 rupees worth of vegetables per person per season** were sold by them from their kitchen gardens.

Several farmers adopted innovative agricultural practices **47 farmers installed drip irrigation and sprinkler systems** for efficient water usage in agriculture practices.

Thus this has been water conserving and income enhancing at the same time, generating goodwill and interest among youth for profitable agricultural practices.

#### Income generation through the Prabhat intervention

Through the Prabhat intervention also additional income has been generated, as shown in the tables below:

Parameters	Etah	Hamirpur	Chhindwara
Number of additional labour days created by end of intervention period	1,11,426	1,71,323	81,488
Average increase in income among farmers	25%-30%	25%-35%	30%-35%
Farmers/other individuals benefitted from	Number of beneficiaries Average percentage rise in income		
Community Nutrition Gardens	186		20-30%
Lower cost of agriculture	2255		40-50%
New Farming Techniques	9370		20-25%

#### Supporting women Farmers' Collectivization and Livelihood through Goatary

Parmarth has been working systematically towards financial independence of women. It also realized experientially that women's livelihood collectives could be mutually beneficial financially to all these women.

Accordingly, through the Samriddhi Project, Parmarth provided women with the support for goatary and also to form Farmers' Producers' Organizations or FPOs. A target of **50 women** was provided with low interest **micro-credit to purchase three goats** and **veterinary support to rear them** well. The organization also ensured repayment on a regular basis for loan rotation to provide loans to other beneficiaries. Providing support to create and successfully run an FPO was created to strengthen sustainability aspects of the intervention. Overall through various projects Parmarth distributed 634 goats to 228 women.



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Environmental sensitivity and conservation are cross cutting across all the efforts of Parmarth. Accordingly, in this project too Parmarth has promoted community participation in environmental conservation. This helped develop environmental sensitivity within the community, and they actively started engaging in environmental conservation efforts. The FPO and women beneficiaries became a strong nucleus for such environmental sensitivity efforts, among which **tree plantation** is core. To make the community benefits holistic, Parmarth also established a grain bank in the community.



Project ensured Women Empowerment through financial security of 246 women so far through goat rearing. Micro credit is repaid and rotated so that more women can benefit



A sustainable model of intervention has been created through Vedavati FPO and through expanding coverage through loan recovery rate of 69 percent



Food security strengthened through grain bank where wheat supplies to 67 underprivileged families from 4 villages have been provided



Environmental change is being pursued by SoCCs and through plantation of 2500 trees

## Enhancing Women's Empowerment Sustained Agricultural and Nutrition Practices

There are innumerable ways in which Parmarth has ensured and enhanced livelihood, particularly among farmers and women. Climate smart agricultural practices and productivity enhancement, particularly among the small and marginal farmers, has been one of them. In this intervention, in Jalaun, Uttar Pradesh, this has been integrated with nutrition, women empowerment and livelihood enhancement. It makes the intervention a multi-pronged intervention. Parmarth took the following **strategies and measures** to make it a success:

- It selected **40** Poshan Sahelis, who are basically proactive women among the target community, ready to play a role in the intervention. They are ebing capacitated and their knowledge enhanced through various training and hand holding sessions on community kitchen gardens. The Poshan Sahelis empowered the community, particularly the women, on nutrition positive behavior & practices, as well as handheld them to develop community and households nutrition gardens.

A Poshan Saheli was selected for each Community Kitchen Garden, to provide guidance and maintenance support. 10 to 12 women were selected and provided with training for each community kitchen garden. The project also promoted climatesmart agriculture.

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- Poor & marginal farmers have been capacitated so that they may adopt sustainable and climate smart agricultural practices. Economically weaker families were provided with improved variety seeds to promote smart climate sustainable agriculture practices.
- Through the motivation and hand holding support of the project, a Farmer's Producers' Organization of women has been formed. This is also expected to provide sustainability.
- Self-help groups have been formed under the project with the financial assistance received through NRLM, they created scope among the members for livelihood opportunities. The self-Help Groups also played a strong role in making their member women aware of cleanliness, sanitation, livelihood, water conservation and women's rights.





WomenEmpowermentensuredtoeachofwomenconnectedtothegardensestablishedthroughtheproject,financialgainsthroughlivelihoodandtheircollectivizationsuchasthroughSHGsandFPOs.



A sustainable model has been created through the women's FPO, Poshan Sahelis and through community role in nutritional security planning for these kitchen gardens.



Food security strengthened by kitchen gardens, through which 148 families with more than 800 members received nutritious vegetables. Also, 25 days' worth of food supplies was distributed to 200 families during flood.



Through seed and capacity building support, a good number of farmers are practicing climate smart agriculture.



Financial and social security was enhanced. 347 members of the SHGs engaged in various incomegenerating activities such as animal husbandry, grocery stores, and goat rearing etc. The self-help groups collectively saved an amount exceeding 11 lakhs. Vegetables worth 12 lakhs were sold by women engaged in kitchen gardens. A total of 364 women were linked with FPO are benefitting from it.

## **Creating Sustainable Livelihood Opportunities for the Tribal families**

Another landmark initiative of Parmarth is the WADI initiative, which aims for **sustainable livelihood opportunities for the tribal families** and marginal farmers. The target beneficiaries here are the Sahariya households, considered as the most marginalized among the marginalized. The effort here is to **generate remunerative self-employment for these families** and to prevent their out-migration.

Like other interventions, the strategy adopted here compromises:

- ✓ Development for the community by the community by creating and **nurturing** people's organizations and collectives.
- ✓ Women empowerment and their inclusion by ensuring their participation in the development process.

Through this initiative, Parmarth focused on:

- Effective utilization of available land, water and human resources
- Introduction of environmentally friendly income generating activities cater to the needs of fuel wood, timber, manure and fodder for the tribal families
- Improvement in the health, sanitation and access to drinking water of these tribal families

As part of the project, village-level committees have been formed to work with the community for the benefits of developing and running of orchards and other livelihood support. Parmarth has provided plants, seeds and hand holding support for these orchards of fruit trees (Papaya, Guava, Mango, Lemon, Karonda, Jackfruit, etc.) sown and grown under this initiative.

As part of women empowerment initiative, self-help groups have been formed in the project, and assistance has been provided to stabilize their businesses by connecting them with government schemes.

As many as 18 CBOs with 239 members have been formed. Parmarth has been supporting them and reaching out to the target beneficiaries with hand holding support for water conservation, inter cropping, irrigation etc.

To enhance the capacity of beneficiaries in orchard management, 9 training sessions and 1 exposure visit has been organized. A total of 442 beneficiaries participated in these activities. Additionally, for women's livelihood support, 105 meetings of self-help groups have been organized, where they were equipped with information related to their businesses. Through the orchard and also goatary based livelihood support endeavours, Parmarth is striving to lift these families above poverty line in a sustainable manner.





Women are empowered through their participation in SHGs & have started playing strong roles in meetings, decision makings, income generation etc.



A sustainable model of intervention has been created with strong roles of community & communitybased organizations.



Changes in cropping patterns such as introduction in inter cropping has resulted in better productivity



Income of 500 Sahariya families has been enhanced through orchard development for which Parmarth supported by re-planting 22000 trees in 200 orchards; income of 50 landless families has been enhanced through livelihood activities such as goat rearing.



Betterlinkagetogovernmentschemesresultedinaccesstoimproved variety seedsfor305 beneficiaries, ensuringa reductionincropcostsandanincreaseinproduction.inininin



Sustainable irrigation and water access has been established for orchard development through construction of 11 water conservation structures and 9 water ponds.

## Income generation through the Model Eco Village Intervention

While water conservation and sustaining activities have been covered in the last section, it is necessary to touch upon the benefits to income generation ensured through this project.



To increase agricultural productivity and promote soil conservation, farm bunding work was carried out in a 509-hectare area. Additionally, demonstrations of improved crop varieties were conducted. During this process, 325 farmers were directly engaged with the project. As a result of the activities undertaken under the project, an additional production of 390 tons was achieved. As a result of undertaking various works under the project, individuals received additional employment for 8242 days, leading to improvements in their livelihoods.



## Intervention Theme 3: Health, Education and Humanitarian Relief



Parmarth had always realized the importance of having a water rights and water conservation. This is particularly so because Parmarth is situated and works closely with the water starved community in arid and parched regions such as Bundelkhand. Thus SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation for all, has been at the core of Parmarth's interventions.

**In 2022-23**, Parmarth had focused on this thematic area through the Water and Land Rights Project, WASH project, Watershed development Project, access to safe drinking water through solar disinfection with WADI Projects. Besides this, its PRABHAT and Agri-Water accelerator projects also have some overlapping components with this theme. These are explored in this first section.

Through this thematic intervention, effort focused on water/water body conservation. It also centred on water and sanitation rights, especially for the rural communities, particularly marginalised communities, as a vital element for food, livelihood and nutrition security.

Here it merits mention that Parmarth has successfully introduced models and frameworks to engage the community in rightful and efficient consumption of water. These include the Jal Saheli model, Pani Panchayat model and the Water Use Master Planning (WUMP).

# **Ensuring Child Rights and Child Protection**

CHILDLINE the country's first toll-free tele-helpline number (1098) was launched in 1996 for street children in distress. It reaches out for the protection of vulnerable children and is available to them 24 hours, 365 days of the year. Over the years, this number has been life changing for millions of children across India. Parmarth has joined hands with CIF, the nodal agency of the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development, in operating and mobilizing children for the 1098 toll free child line number in Jhansi and Jalaun.

In this intervention, **Parmarth follows an action process** which starts at the first call and continues till the child in need of care and protection is safely rehabilitated.

The helpline 1098 is called by a child or an adult in need. The call is received on helpline 1098 and the details noted; helpline units are mobilized, if required.

In case of emergency, the team rushes within 60 minutes to rescue the child.

To intervene, multiple stakeholders such as police authorities, child protection boards, social workers and counselors, are mobilized. The child's consent & participation is ensured at each step.

In the year 22-23, through this intervention 739 children benefitted directly and 1425 indirectly.

This has been possible through the awareness generated by Parmarth among the children of the toll free number and also through its quick response to the emergency needs of children who call. Through Parmarth's efforts more than 935 outreach programs and 124 awareness programs were organized. Parmarth also networked with district administration and held 69 meetings for the purpose. Through the CHILDLINE, Parmarth has been able to link children to relevant services such as medical help, nutrition, education and shelter for their rehabilitation. It has also protected children from child marriage, sexual and physical abuse, beggary and helped in locating lost children.

Through these outreach programs, direct communication has been established with over 35,000 children & adults, the quantitative breakup of which is shown below:

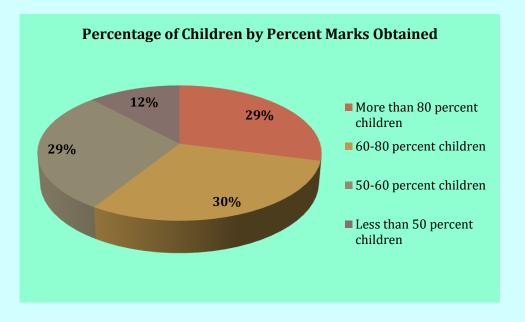
No. of Outreach					
Sr. No.	District	No. of Outreach	Reached Children	Reached Adult	
1	Jalaun	168	7500	5000	
2	Jhansi	767	10332	12194	

## **Working Towards the Education of Children**

While Parmarth's interventions have been focused on certain thematic areas, it has gradually taken a more and more holistic approach. In this broader state of affairs, the emphasis has also shifted to education of the children. In this direction, **Parmarth is running Kishor Kaushal Vikas Kendra in Madhaugarh block of Jalaun district with the support and assistance of Asha for education and Tulsipatra Foundation**. Parmarth is also providing mid-day meal to these children to support their nutrition aspects.

A total of 102 students, particularly from the poor and marginalized sections, with focus on enrolling a high share of girl children, are enrolled at the centre. These children are often those who could not continue with education owing to social or financial reasons, or both. The effort of the centre is not only to ensure their academic progress but also strengthen in them life skill, human empathy, leadership and personality. The project has set up a library for the children to enhance their general knowledge, idea of different aspects of society and also enhance their reading, thinking and imagination.

As a result of this intervention, these children who had dropped out and were in no way at par to age specific subject competency, have started showing definite improvements in learning:



In this reporting year 19 of the 22 students, or approximately 86 percent of the students who appeared for their class 10<sup>th</sup> board examination from this centre, secured first division marks, whereas the remaining secured high second division. Half of the total students were girls.

## Targeted Health Initiatives towards prevention and cure of HIV/AIDS

This targeted project in Jhansi and Jalaun districts aimed to raise awareness among the ommunity about HIV/AIDS and reduce the transmission rate of HIV virus by providing information. Besides this, it endeavoured to determine the HIV status of 95 percent of the estimated population and ensure regular availability of medication to 95 percent of the individuals, who have tested positive.

The broad process of the intervention are as follows:





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## Providing Humanitarian Relief and Agricultural Support during Flood

Parmarth provided humanitarian support to small and marginal farmers and the landless in 10 villages of Rampura block of Jalaun district to provide them pro-active relief from the impact of flood. It also helped the target families meet their basic household needs. For the purpose, the target families have been provided with a financial assistance of Rs.4000 each. The beneficiaries used this financial assistance to purchase food and agricultural seeds.

250 target families were selected for the intervention in the 10 villages in



consultation with the local community and stakeholders and also through a survey. Only marginal and small farmers with landholding sizes less than 5 acres and farmers who do Balkat (share cropping) system (wherein rent of land is paid in advance to the owner of the land) were targeted for immediate support.

Parmarth provided cash support for the

agricultural and other varying needs of the marginal and small landholding families so that they may avail agricultural inputs for coming Kharif season and the landless families are able to meet their daily needs.



## 2022-23: A few Events in which Parmarth Participated

- 1. Paramarth Samaj Sevi Sansthan hosted a Farmer's Conference at the 8th International Khajuraho Film Festival organized in Khajuraho. Aspects such as water management and conservation skills in agriculture, conservation of traditional seeds in Indian agriculture etc. have been discussed and the same has widely recognized and appreciated by the organizers of the Khajuraho Film Festival.
- 2. To commemorate World Nature Conservation Day, Parmarth has organized events like the one at Jhansi in which More than 600 Jal Sahelis, Jal Yoddhas, Gram Pradhans and environmentally conscious individuals from the Jhansi region participated. Dr. Ajay Shankar Pandey, the Commissioner of Jhansi Division, has been honoured with the Bundelkhand Gaurav Award, while Gram Panchayat Pradhans from various villages and also several Jal Sahelis have been recognized and honoured for their exceptional work in water conservation.
- 3. A public dialogue program was organized by Parmarth in collaboration with the Flood-Drought Global People's Commission at Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar central University in Lucknow to understand the impacts of climate change in India. The event witnessed participation from social activists and hundreds of farmers and prominent dignitaries such as Honourable Ramkesh Nishad, Minister of state Jal Shakti, Uttar Pradesh, Rajendra Singh, Chairman of the Flood-Drought Global People's Commission etc.
- 4. On the occasion of World Water Day, Paramarth organized a Water Leaders Convention in Deendayal Upadhyay Sabhaghar, Jhansi. During the program, 21 Jal Sahelis and Water Warriors who have been actively working in water conservation initiatives like pond and river restoration, water use efficiency, creating awareness about water conservation, have been honoured with Water Leaders' Award. The Chief Guest, Dr. Adarsh Singh, Commissioner of Jhansi Division, emphasized that water is our heritage and needs to be preserved. Likewise, distinguished guest, District Magistrate Ravindra Kumar, highlighted that water is one of the five essential elements of nature and needs to be conserved.

# 2022-23: A Synoptic View of Our Thematic Areas and Projects

(A few projects have strong components under more than one thematic head and have been included in each theme and the respective rows highlighted for easy identification)

Name of the Project	Geographical Coverage (name & no. of
	districts/blocks; no. of villages)
Theme 1: Sanitation and Water / Wat	er Conservation
1. Water and Land Rights Project (Securing land and water rights for marginalized communities through	State- 3- Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan
people led advocacy)	Districts-6- Jhansi, Lalitpur, Tikamgarh, Chhatarpur, Karauli, Alwar
	Block- 6- Babina, Talbehat, Jatara, Badamalhera, Masalpur, Thanagazi Villages- 60
2. WASH (Global Programme Upscaling WASH-systems-strengthening in fragile and developing contexts to achieve SDG-6	State- 1-Madhya Pradesh Dsitrict- 2- Niwari, Chhatarpur Block- 3- Badamalhera, Chhatarpur, Niwari Villages- 119
3. Watershed development Project	State- 1- Uttar Pradesh District- 1 - Jalaun
4. Improving access to safe drinking water through solar disinfection with WADI system	State- Uttar Pradesh District- Jhansi Block- Babina, Badagaon Villages- 50
5. Atal Bhujal Yojana for Surface Water Conservation	State- Uttar Pradesh District- Jhansi Villages- 21
6. The Water Initiator Project	State- 1-Uttar Pradesh District- 1 – Jhansi Block – 1- Babina Villages - 5
7. Model Eco Village Project	State- 1-Haryana District- 1 – Sonepat
8. The PRABHAT Intervention	State- 2-Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh District- 3 – Jalaun, Etah, Chhindwara Blocks – 5- Chindwara, Sheetalpur, Nidoulikalan, Marhara, Sumerpur Villages- 36

9. UP Agri-Water Accelerator Project	State- 1-Uttar Pradesh District- 3 - Jhansi, Lalitpur, Chitrakoot Blocks – 6- Babina, Badagoan, talbehat, Jakaura, Karvi, Mau Villages- 150
10. WADI Project (Tribal Development Program)	State- Uttar Pradesh District- Lalitpur Block- Talbehat Villages- 18
Theme 2: Agriculture and Livelihood based	
1. Kitchen Garden	State- Uttar Pradesh
(Sustainable development for	District- Jalaun
kitchen garden and improved	Blocks- 2
agriculture practices.)	Villages- 42
agriculture practices.j	Villages- 42
2. Samraddhi Project (Goat Rearing	State- Uttar Pradesh
Project)	District- Lalitpur
Trojectj	Block- Talbehat
	Villages- 12
	inuges 12
3. Youth Exchange Program for	State- Uttar Pradesh
Positive changes in Community	District- Jhansi
	Block- 1
	Villages- 10
4. Model Eco Village Project	State- 1-Haryana
ũ ý	District- 1 – Sonepat
	•
5. UP Agri-Water Accelerator Project	State- Uttar Pradesh
	District- Jhansi, Lalitpur, Chitrakoot
	Blocks- 6- Babina, Badagaon, Talbehat,
	Jakhaura, Karvi, Mau)
	Villages- 150
6. WADI Project (Tribal Development	State- Uttar Pradesh
Program)	District-Lalitpur
	Block- Talbehat
7. The PRABHAT Intervention	Villages- 18 State 2 Utter Drodesh Medhya Drodesh
7. The PRABMAT Intervention	State- 2-Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh
	District- 3 – Jalaun, Etah, Chhindwara
	Blocks – 5- Chindwara, Sheetalpur, Nidoulikalan Marhara Sumorpur
	Nidoulikalan, Marhara, Sumerpur Villages- 36
	vinages- 30
Theme 3: Health and Education	
1. Targeted Interventions (TI) Project	State- 1 -Uttar Pradesh
	Districts-2- Jalaun, Jhansi
	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
2. Childline Project	State- Uttar Pradesh

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3. Children's Education Project	District- Jhansi State– 1 - Uttar Pradesh District-1- Jalaun
4. Humanitarian Support Project	State– 1 - Uttar Pradesh District-1- Jalaun Block – 1 - Rampura

## **CASE STUDIES**

#### Thakurpura Pond has emerged as a model pond in Uttar Pradesh

The story of the efforts made for revival is very interesting and struggling, but due to the tireless efforts of the community, government and organization, Lahar Thakurpura pond has been revived and has become an ideal pond whose reality can be seen. This pond has been revived with minimum resources. To see this pond, Honorable Chief Secretary of Uttar Pradesh Durga Shankar Mishra also visited in April 2023.

For revival, 100 days Shramdan Mahabhiyan, Pani Panchayat meetings and Jan Chaupal have been organised. On April 1, 2022, a program of 100 days of Shramdaan, Water Conservation Maha Abhiyan was organized by the Gram Panchayat on the bank of the pond in Lahar Thakurpura village with the help of the local community, the main objective of which was to speed up the work of water conservation with the help of the local community. And the 100 days Maha Shramdaan work had to be made successful. During this period the following efforts were made to revive the pond. Due to the cleaning of water hyacinth in the pond, clean water became available for drinking to the animals of nearby villages. Due to the construction of ghat the people of the village now started using water for washing clothes and bathing. Due to the presence of water in the pond, the ground water level in the water sources of nearby villages has increased. Millions of fish in the pond have got a new life, which has increased the possibilities of fish farming. To beautify the pond, the district administration has done the work of laying apex around it so that the pond can be developed as water tourism. Rejuvenation of the pond has reduced migration from villages. The water of the pond was naturally cleaned and made suitable for irrigation, so that the farmers of nearby villages could easily get water for irrigation. Availability of drinking water for the animals throughout the year has been ensured. Due to availability of water for irrigation, agricultural production has increased which has made it possible to increase the income of farmers in nearby villages. Today, even in a temperature of 45 degrees, this pond is full of clean water which is a centre of attraction for the local community. Not only Jhansi but people from nearby districts are also coming to see this pond.

#### Jal Saheli Pushpa Jha emerged as a change maker of her village

Jal Saheli Pushpa Jha is a resident of village Bhuchera, development block, Talbehat district, Lalitpur. Pushpa's village is located at a distance of 20 kilometers from Talbehat development block. Pushpa has only 1.25 acres of land in the name of her husband from which she was earning her living. Pushpa joined Parmarth Organization about four years ago, initially Pushpa had to face a lot of problems, there was a lot of opposition from her family members and people of the community, but Pushpa bore everything and moved forward. There was no facility of drinking water in Pushpa's village, she took the initiative at the district level to lay a water pipeline with the help of Parmarth Sansthan. She joined the Jal Saheli Water Conservation Campaign and became Jal Saheli. With Pushpa's effors, a water pipeline was laid in her village, which brought water to the village. After this the attitude of the people of the community changed towards Pushpa and now the people of the community started supporting her. Along with drinking water, Pushpa made the community aware about cleanliness, purdah system, and education and also made the community aware about kitchen gardens. Now kitchen gardens are established in most of the houses and they are being used. Pushpa, along with Parmarth organization, ensured livelihood to 10 families by getting them support for goat rearing. Seeing her work, today the people of the community.

### **Revival of Kalani Pond**

Kalani is a medium size village in Chhatarpur district. Like most of the villages in Bundelkhand region, this village is also facing severe water crisis. There is a large pond in the village but owing to silt deposits and encroachments the pond is almost defunct.

Parmarth team members conducted meetings in the village to sensitize the community on WASH issues. During one such meeting, the villagers mentioned the problem of water crisis and the defunct pond. They requested Parmarth team members to initiate efforts for deepening and revival of this pond. They also promised their full support through shram daan.

Parmarth team intervened and through community contribution the pond was deepened. This happened in the month of June. During monsoons, the rains filled the pond and now there is enough water for the people.

# Parmarth and Community efforts gave life to the Khudar river, benefitting many villages

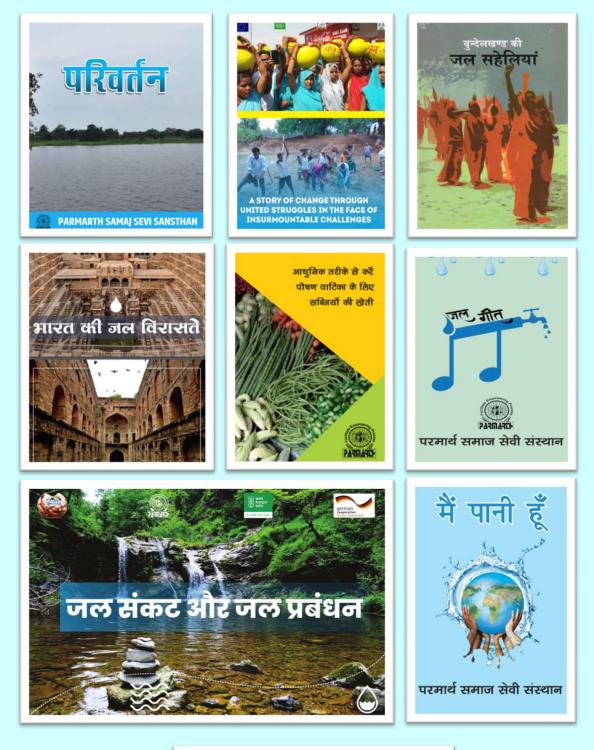
With the efforts of Parmarth and community, in Gram Panchayat Mau Masaniya, District Chhatarpur, Madhya Pradesh, a ghat was constructed on the river Khudar, which covers a distance of 40 kilometers from Beni Sagar Dam to Ken River via Khajuraho, for river it's revival by coordinating with the Panchayat in the village and through the cooperation of the village Jal Saheli, water warriors and the organization. The repairing of the Stop Dam was done through the Panchayat with the participation of the village and in the same sequence, 12 iron gates of the Stop Dam were installed. As a result, today the river is filled with 10 to 12 feet deep water and water is flowing for about 3 kilometres on the other side of the river. Due to the efforts made by the organization on the river, about 300 acres of land was irrigated this year, which benefited about 60 to 70 farmers of Mau Masaniya, Dhongi, Melbar, Bamanora. Now, due to the presence of water in this river, the ground water level of the nearby villages has increased and the village wells are filled with water. The water in the village used to dry up in summers. Today those wells are full of water and the people of the village have got relief from the problem of drinking water. Adequate water is available for people to drink and in the village itself for their daily needs. The animals of nearby villages are also getting sufficient drinking water from the river. Some farmers have even grown crops like Urad, Moong, Maize and vegetables, grass for animals in their fields even in summer. An understanding towards water has developed among the people and they are trying to conserve rain water as much as possible. Many farmers have done Med Bandhan work on their fields with the help of Panchayat. Many farmers have purchased sprinklers for irrigation. People are making soak pits in their homes.

#### **Revival of Sattar River**

Sattar River originates from Gurjara village of Niwari district and ultimately meets river Betwa. More than 6 villages are located at the banks of this river that is 15 kms long. However, this river is heavily polluted as the pilgrims going to Orchha throw the wastes, flowers and other things in the river. Even the hotels established near Orchha dump their garbage in this river.

In Niwari district, Jal Jeevan Mission is supplying water from surface water of River Betwa, but nothing is being done for ensuring source sustainability. Sattar River merges into Betwa River and reviving local and small rivers is essential for revival of big rivers. Parmarth team planned to initiate shramdaan and to engage the community for cleaning of the river. The team also engaged the workers of Municipal Corporation in this campaign. More than 50 persons participated in river cleaning. Parmarth also put a board near the river to appeal to the people to keep the river clean. A check dam is also built on this river. Parmarth team constructed an earthen bund in form of bori bandhan ( keeping sand/ soil filled sacks to prepare a stop dam). With these efforts, water is now stored and today it is full of water.

## **SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS OF PARMARTH**

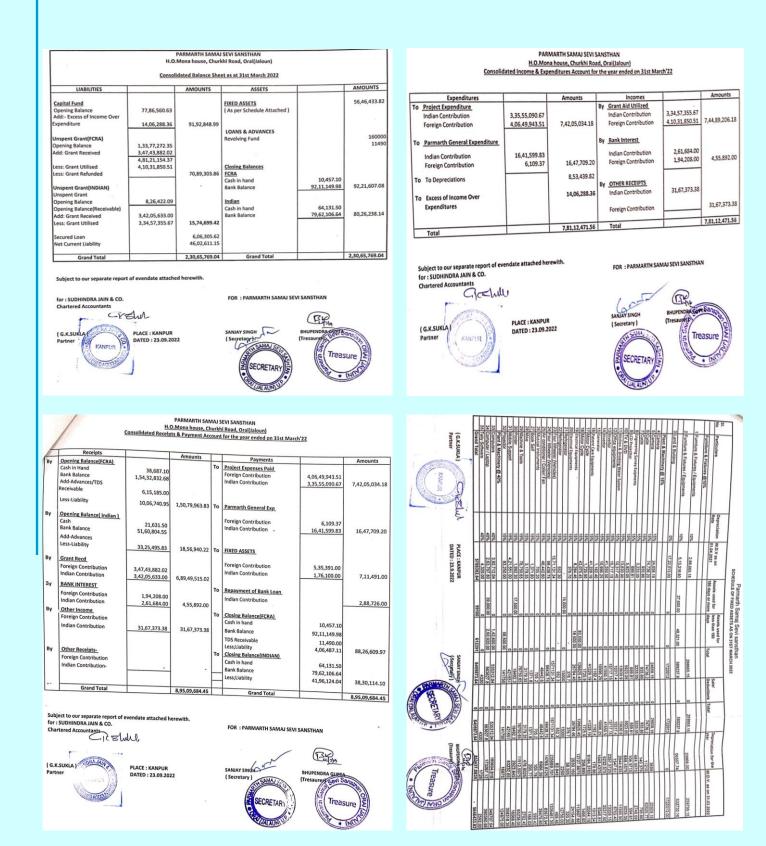




## **PARMARTH IN THE SPOTLIGHT**



# **BALANCE SHEET (CONSOLIDATED)**





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