

## **Activities**

### **1. Sustainable agriculture**

Being a grassroot organization MVSS made efforts to ensure food security of rural community by focusing attention on livelihood programmes and enhancing health and nutrition. The agriculture programmes we have are Saksham, Urja jyothi, SAFBIN, PLDP which has promoted natural traditional farming in order to increase climate resilience of farmers and to make agriculture less input-intensive. Restoring the water control to small and marginal farmers leads to increased resilience of agriculture-based livelihoods. Organic farm input preparation is now a regular exercise across project locations. Other practices with high adoption rate are intercropping, bio-growth promoters, use of insect traps and sticky traps, trap crop cultivation, border crop cultivation, bund agro-forestry and Conservation agriculture plots.

### **Major achievements**

- 6232 farmers adopted improved composting (Amrit khad, vermicompost, nadeph).
- The adoption of bio-pest repellents such as amrit pani and other was observed across all project locations.
- 18,464 farmers adopted bio growth promoters.
- 2486 farmers undertook vegetable cultivation with maximum progress from Vidisha programme area.
- 1501 farmers practiced forest tree plantation with the help of Horticulture department.
- 1484 farmers pulse cultivation in Kharif and 3290 farmers undertook pulse in rabi in Raisen
- 2763 farmers adopted system of root intensification for various crops.
- 612 farmers used new agri equipments.
- 199 farmers cultivated new seed varieties.

HYBRID SEEDS are leading to disappearance of indigenous varieties affecting both plant biodiversity and agriculture resilience. In order to preserve the indigenous and endangered seeds, and to reduce input cost for small and marginal farmers; three seed banks were established during the year in Shahgarh block.

### **2. Non formal education centres**

Our focus this year has been on our motto, education for everyone. Education, being one of our core interventions, remote learning services, developed interest and motivation among 800+ non school going children, bringing them out of online school hibernation. Hundreds of school children from remote rural villages, who have barely seen the insides of a school, were provided with home tuitions and learning support. We have major projects Divya, Vidhya, Shiksha, Samantha covering 4 districts. MVSS is proud of the initiative, which strives to educate non school going children and pave the way for their brighter future through 22 NFE centres. With the closure of schools, the education of children suffered a lot. For a smooth continuation of the studies, beneficiaries were given stationery kits which contained notebooks, pencils, pens, coloring books, crayons, sketch pens, etc. We were also able to provide ID Card for 182 parents (Adhaar Card) as

most of them are gypsy with no Identity proof. It had also become important to take utmost care of our mental health. We distributed play items to the beneficiary which included ludo, skipping ropes, balls for their recreational activities. Additionally, to maintain hygiene in their surroundings, 6350 health and hygiene kits were distributed to beneficiaries which included soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, sanitizers, and mask. To provide warmth in the extreme winters, 2180 children were given woollen clothes like jackets, body warmers, socks protect to themselves from the acute winters. We have also been able restore lives of 356 vulnerable children who went missing, away from home, emotional support, abuse, child marriage, labour and in need of support through Child help service 1098.

### **3. Youth empowerment**

The condition of rural youths is most critical. The climate vulnerability coupled with extremely low landholdings and low income, make agriculture unviable for rural youth and due to lack of exposure, education, and skills they are forced to migrate as labourers in cities. The entrepreneurship development initiative of MVSS in collaboration with FVTRS and CHAI is focussed on creating a local enabling eco-system to promote entrepreneurship development rural youth. Both the employability skills and entrepreneurship development initiatives are designed in a way to keep youth central to the entire process and provide them counselling, training, skilling, mentoring, placement or enterprise development support and hand holding until successful transition. We have trained 786 and placed 659 through various self employment schemes. A total of 786 youth were trained on employability skills and self-employment courses such as; Retail Sales, electrical, computer operator, beautician, and stitching. Placement-linked training provisioned to 452 male and 334 female candidates of which 62%, 356 male and 303 female candidates placed.

### **4. Health Services**

**MVSS** has been working for healthcare since 2009 and provides high quality and affordable primary medical care to low-income and underprivileged groups in rural villages in collaboration with CHAI. Their aim is to make healthcare accessible to the poorest and the most deprived sections. MVSS has 7 centers operating across the remote rural areas. Our organization ensures healthcare and nutrition intervention for women and children in vulnerable communities of Sagar, Banda blocks. Our programmes encourage preventive health, balanced nutrition and child development practices in underprivileged settlements.

#### **Some major achievements**

- Support for surgeries and recovery for 13 CWDs
- Healthcare assessment for 178 CWDs
- Assistive devices for 16 CWDs
- Therapy (Speech and Physio therapy) for 83 CWDs
- Pension facility provided for parents for CWDs

## **5. CBR**

MVSS works on transforming the lives of underprivileged people with disability in collaboration with Lilliane Fond and Jan Vikas Samiti, Varanasi. We work to enable, equip and empower children and adults with a range of disabilities including spinal cord injury, speech and hearing, cerebral palsy, and to some extent, mental issues. This year, we have given support to 80+ lives of people with disability.

### **Our major achievements**

- Community Mobilization Rehabilitation activities were carried out actively.
- Assessment and Counseling of beneficiaries and 225 families were conducted.
- Educational support was provided via home- based learning assistance and working with local schools.
- Health support included assessments, referrals, aids and appliances, surgery, and therapy.
- 386 Parents received orientation and training as well.
- 118 Government school teachers received orientation and training on inclusive education practices.
- 83 students at 'Day Care with Intellectual Disabilities' are taught vocational skills, along with learning, sports, and arts.
- A functional Physiotherapy centre for 83 children with special needs

## **6. Women Empowerment**

MVSS is providing more power to women by enabling them with all the resources and development skills so that they can live a self-reliant life. Our activities inculcates the concept of women empowerment in a broad concept that encompasses things beyond the access to education, liberty of making a choice, education of girl children, bringing volunteers and donors under the same roof with an objective to change the work for the welfare of women and help them in establishing their identity in the male-dominating society.

MVSS is taking firm steps in accomplishing the objective of empowering the maximum number of young girls and women so that they can become mature and capable citizens of society whose decisions will start to matter a lot for everyone. Furthermore, we have begun including more people as volunteers in our family to bring a change by effectively implementing our plan regarding women empowerment. To empower young girls, MVSS has taken several initiatives by providing livelihood training, organizing community awareness programs, and rendering IGA facilities to rural young girls and women to initiate their ventures and become entrepreneurs. MVSS also has 78 Adolescent girl groups through which we are able to distribute sanitary pads at low cost, aware them of menstrual hygiene and health. MVSS has impacted lives of women jail inmates as well providing them with work and income through our Papad making programme run at Central Jail Sagar.

MVSS has at present 469 SHGs, 67 Adolescent girl groups, 112 farmers clubs, 144 youth clubs and 321 child parliament formed in 2022-23. An amount of Rs 4.3 Cr is being revolved in groups through saving and inter loan and loan from government banks.

## **Financial Status**

In the year 2022-23 has been able to raise FC funds of around 73.80 lakhs with 22 lakhs in pipeline and Local funds of 37.02 lakhs. Total income received is around 1.13 Cr and the total turnover is 1.95 Cr.

## **Future Plan**

MVSS will be expanding the Skilling centres to new locations and initiating mobilization workshops to reach those who need assistance. The team is also considering teaming up with local training centres and offer skill building support. Along with the current skill training and employment, the team is also exploring new domains to setup training activities which would help more people with disabilities. The Job Fairs started this year have been helpful to the youth and our Skilling centres are planning on resuming the project with an expanded reach. We have been receiving significant support from the funding agencies and look forward to keeping up the alliances in the coming years.

In collaboration with Caritas India SAFBIN III in Shahgarh concentrating on adaptive and climate change resilient farming among the marginal farmers

- **With Bless India a Mega project is being planned for supporting education through digitalization and Integrated farming model for 20,000 farmers.**
- **Caritas Spain has extended Urja Jyoti project for Naiserai block covering 5 more villages and extending zero cost farming models in the area.**
- **We are also awaiting final approval of Setting up sanitary pad making unit in MVSS Sagar.**
- **In collaboration with GIZ we are going to start natural farming and nutritional support through FPOs.**
- **A Multi purpose hall construction is also in its way on the top of MVSS.**
- **We are also in process of replicating CL 1098 through our own Child help service programme. The aim is to impact lives of children who are vulnerable as CL1098 is going to be closed.**
- **Bio fertilizer production is also going to be extended with the help of Caritas India and GIZ.**
- **On 4th April MVSS is going to conduct Mega Farmer' Fair in collaboration with Caritas India and Caritas Austria. The event will witness participation of 500 farmers and delegates Caritas Austria Head, Caritas India Executive Director, Team from Triupra, Jharkhand and other North eastern regions.**

**Fr Thomas Philip**

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