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JAN UTTHAN SAMITI

RANCHI, JHARKHAND

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HISTORY

A team of rural development professionals from Xavier Institute of social service (XISS), Ranchi who were highly sensitive to the causes of disparity exploitation and poverty envisage the idea of Jan Utthan Samiti as a development organization in the year 1985. In the initial years of their career, they served different capacities. During the course of involvement, they realized that there was a gross disparity between development theory and its practices. What was being called the vision of the community was actually that of the organizations. They also realized that participation in the development process was again of the organization and not of the community, activities were organizations centered and not people/community centered.

This realization led them towards exploring ways of establishing a just society, free from exploitation and to establish a body which could provide a platform for experimentation and materialization of innovative thinking by putting people in the core of the development initiatives and enable people to manage, own and control their destiny. As a consequence, these professionals spearheaded the task of establishing Jan Utthan Samiti (JUS) in the year 1986.

Since its inception JUS has a strong belief in people's participation democratization. It has always practiced innovative thinking, experimentation and adopting need-based strategies and interventions. Over the years, JUS with its team of trained and determined professionals has persistently endeavored to live up to its expectations and prove its potential by addressing people's need as a partner in the struggle. JUS management style and overall approach embark of visionary leadership, innovation and participation. In more than past three decades of its existence, JUS has matured in terms of organizational capacity to handle and address different issues based on emerging needs of the area and people and has proved its potential.

DRIVING FORCE

Vision

Establishing an equalitarian, self-reliant and cultured society that is free of exploitation.

Mission

To make people aware, organize and catalyze the process wherein they are self-dependent and can decide for themselves.

Objectives

JUS aims for ensuring decent standard of living for poor and deprived masses of Chhotanagpur in the fields of education, health, economic, culture and environment with emphasis on:

- Initiating action research on issues related to area and community.
- Providing capacity building training among people.
- Taking up field projects on experimental basis for new idea/concepts. Networking and advocacy on issues of community concern.
- Striving for gender sensitization and gender development

Strategies

- People's participation.
- People's knowledge/experience.

- Generating critical awareness among people.
- People's organization

OPERATIONAL DISTRICT & BLOCKS

JUS operational area is whole of newly formed Jharkhand state (earlier it was Chhotanagpur plateau). However, the concentration of activities is so far in 60 villages in Khunti district.

TARGET GROUP

The women, children, landless, agriculture laborers, marginal and small farmers belonging to Tribal and Dalit communities are the main target groups.

(Gender is cross cutting theme)

INFRASTRUCTURE

Coordinating office

The coordinating office at Ranchi operates from a rented house for proper coordination, liasoning and effective communication. This office is equipped with required staff and materials.

Field Office

The Samiti has its own field office in one acre of land at village Kapariya in the district of Khunti acting as Development Resource Center. It is equipped with required staff, materials and moderate facilities to accommodate 30 trainees on residential basis. Field level coordination, liasoning, communication and implementation of development programmers and schemes are done.

THEMATIC AREAS

- People's Institution and Governance.
- Sustainable Livelihood Development.
- Quality Health for Women, Adolescent and Children.

ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED UNDER THEMATIC AREAS

1. People's Institutions and Governance

Training to Members of Gram Sabha.

The Gram Sabha (GS) is the cornerstone of the entire scheme of democratic decentralization in India initiated through the 73rd Amendment to the Constitution. Hence, the success or failure of the Panchayati Raj system largely depends on how powerful and effective the GS is at the decentralized level to fulfill the desires and inspirations of the people.

Considering the importance of successful PRI the Samiti in consultation with respective Gram Sabha's identify and train potential members. It is being done since the project's inception in 2015. This year also a new batch of 50 members was identified and trained for 06 days in two phases **(04 days + 02 days)** at Samiti's resource center.

The training was facilitated by external resource person and topics like constitutional provision, structure, function and role and responsibility of each member to play enabling role in strengthening Gram Sabha were covered.

They were also aware about Govt. development schemes and programs (for community and BPL families) as well as developing linkages with different line departments.

Organizing Interface meeting with service provider at Block Level.

An interface meeting of village representatives with service providers from agriculture and health departments was organized at Samiti's resource center, Kapariya. The purpose was to provide common platform for discussion and sharing the ongoing development schemes and programs in the area, assess the performance and functioning of Govt. functionaries working in the area and identify households and villages to be covered under future development schemes and programs.

34 villagers participated in the meeting which was facilitated by the external resource person & project team. One full day was devoted to discuss in detail the above said points. It was an open house discussion and all the members present in the meeting took active part.

Outcomes and Results

The Gram Sabha members and Elected Representatives of PRI members demonstrated enhanced capacity in terms of planning, decision making and taking up village level issues. They are involved in mobilizing government resources for initiating development activities in the villages. Community under the leadership of community leaders involved in pressurizing the government officials for improving the service delivery through PDS. The functioning of PDS centers has consequently improved to some extent and people have also expressed their satisfaction over the services rendered.

2. Sustainable Livelihood Development

Agricultural Activities

Training to farmers on SRI method of Paddy cultivation: (06 days)

The 06 days training program on SRI method of paddy cultivation was organized in two phases of 03 days each at Samiti's resource center, Kapariya and in the farmers field respectively. Both the phases were facilitated by external resource person.

A new batch of 54 farmers from the project villages identified by the project team in consultation with the respective village committees was the participants in the said training.

The 1st phase of the training has covered mainly the topics like - the historical background of SRI technique, importance of SRI technique in present context, how SRI method is better than traditional method, its' cost effectiveness and importance of SRI in monetary term.

The 2nd phase was devoted to train the participants to identify suitable land for applying SRI method, preparation of seed bed, preparation of organic manure and its' use, selection of quality seed and its' treatment etc. Major part of the training during 2nd phase was organized at village level.

Demonstration on SRI method

Demonstration of paddy cultivation using SRI method has been done in 05 acres of farmer's fields to provide practical experiences to the trained farmers.

Exposure Visit of Farmers: (04 Days)

An exposure visit of 04 days duration was organized in order to provide an opportunity to the exposure visit team to acquire knowledge, skills on new techniques/process/methods which were being practiced for cultivation of cereals, pulses and seasonal vegetables by the progressive farmers in the villages of Ormanjhi Block in the District of Ranchi.

58 persons including 18 women took active part in the visit and apart from interacting with the progressive farmers of 04 villages; they also visited their farm fields. The team was led by the project team.

Practice of SRI method by trained farmers.

Using learnt skills, knowledge and experience (got during training, demonstration and exposure visit) all the trained farmers prepared their land (30 decimal by each farmer) and practiced SRI method. The practice of SRI method increased the productivity which created positive impact among other villagers.

Training on Pulses, Oil seeds and other Cereals Cultivation to farmers: (05 days)

The cultivation of cereals are very common in the area and therefore emphasis was given for cultivation of pulses considering the soil texture, climate, availability of land and its market value. The state government are also providing all required help and support for its' promotion by involving more farmers in the area.

Considering the said facts and to promote the cultivation of the pulses and oil seeds through improved skill, technique and knowledge, the Samiti devoted 05 days to train 66 identified farmers. External resource person invited to conduct the training organized in two phases (03 days+02 days) at both Samiti's resource center and farmer's field. The following topics were covered-

- Importance to grow pulses and oil seeds and its economic value in the market
- Types of land, preparation and soil treatment
- Different variety of seeds, identify quality seeds and its treatment for better germination and increase productivity.
- Pre and post cultivation methods including control of diseases, pests and insets

Support of inputs.

Improved Variety of seeds for cultivation of pulses and oil seeds and other required inputs were purchased from reputed seed institution and distributed among the trained farmers.

Construction of Compost Pit

02 nos. compost pits were constructed at community identified places in two villages for demonstration purposes. Use of compost for increase the productivity as well as reduction in cost of cultivation was also shared during demonstration. Enlightened and motivated with the demonstration, almost all the villagers constructed compost pit at their respective backyard.

Cultivation of pulses and oil seeds

All the trained farmers practiced the cultivation process which they learned during the training program. 13.20 acres of land (20 decimal land of each farmer) has been used by the trained farmers for cultivation of pulses and oil seeds. The practice increased the per acre productivity and reduced overall cost.

Organizing Kisan Mela.

65 farmers displayed their agriculture produces in the farmers fete (Kisan Mela) cum workshop organized at Samiti's resource center, Kapariya. The fellow villagers from project villages as well as the villagers from adjacent villages participated in the fete and enlightened to see the different agriculture produces. The interactive session organized later in the day played pivotal role to aware and sensitize all the participants present in the fete.

The farmers were awarded certificate of appreciation, prizes for their participation on account of the displayed products. The best 03 farmers were awarded with different improved agriculture equipment.

Vegetable cultivation training to Farmers. 06 days

The 06 days training program involving 57 farmers was organized in three phases of 02 days each duration at both Samiti's resource center, Kapariya and at the villages.

The 06 days were devoted to train the farmers on improved technique of different vegetable cultivation during summer, rainy & winter seasons using quality/certified seeds and organic manure. Besides it they were also trained on marketable products, grading, sorting and market mechanism etc. The external resource person and project team jointly facilitated the training.

Practice of vegetable cultivation.

The trained farmers later arranged / collected seeds and other inputs for cultivation of vegetables like Tomato, Potato, Cauliflower, Cabbage, ladies figure, Brinjal, etc. Both pre and post cultivation processes / methods were done by the trained farmers in their identified land under the guidance of project team and external resource person. Both coverage and productivity per acre were increased.

Agri- aligned Activities

Training on Pisciculture (05 days)

The pisciculture is one of the most suitable and economically viable trades in the state due to availability of community ponds in abundance. And therefore the Samiti has been promoting this trade in all the project villages involving the community.

During the reporting period a new batch of 20 participants were identified and given 05 days training on different aspects of pisciculture. The training sessions were facilitated by external resource person.

Later 06 of them were participated in a visit cum training program and spent 03 days in the state fishery department at Ranchi to further enhanced their knowledge base, skill and techniques. The program was sponsored by Khunti District fishery department.

Input Support for Fish Rearing

Rs. 1500 has been given to each village community as seed money under the project for pisciculture. The state fishery department, Ranchi also provided baby fish, pisciculture kits, fishing nets and feed to the 06 participants who participated in a visit cum training program

Renovation of Ponds.

The renovation of community ponds in the project villages was proposed in the project for promoting pisciculture, duckery, vegetable and paddy cultivation in catchment area as well as to meet water requirement of the community during the summer season.

The 04 community ponds in four project villages were again renovated during the year involving the entire adult male and female of respective villages and the villagers spent more than one month to complete the renovation work.

The Samiti has provided promotional amount of Rs. 5000 to each village for keeping the villagers motivation intact and complete the renovation work on time (before rainy season).

Fish rearing by village community.

The project villages undertook fish rearing in their respective community pond using seed money and inputs provided by Samiti and state fishery department.

Training on Duck rearing

The duck rearing has been exclusively specified for women of BPL families in the project villages. The women identified and trained during 1st & 2nd year proved that the duck rearing is viable one which provides additional income to the family.

20 women from the project villages were identified and given training on duck rearing for 04 days. The external resource person covered the different aspects of duck rearing, best species, feeding, diseases and its' control, better management and its' economic aspects.

Input Support for Duck rearing

Ducks (43 nos.) was purchased from Ram Krishna Mission, Ranchi with the help of village representatives and distributed among 08 beneficiaries. Remaining 12 trained persons purchased ducks from local market by taking loan from their respective SHGs.

Duck rearing

The trained beneficiaries practiced duck rearing following the methods, skills and techniques learnt from the training programs. It proved beneficial as it increased the family income.

Process Initiation for Organic Certification for vegetable cultivation

January-June is the best period in the year to grow different vegetables and therefore the Samiti has organized number of interactive sessions with the agriculture scientists of BAU and ICAR (Govt. institutions) involving vegetable growers of the project villages.

Apart from sharing in details the process of organic certification of vegetables, the agriculture scientists also aware, motivated and trained to the participants for adoption of quality and improved seeds, improved cultivation techniques, organic manures (including vermin compost), proper management of plants (including control of pests and different diseases).

Linkages with Government Development Schemes and Promotions of SHG co-operative

Linkages to Jan Dhan Yojana & Linkages to Kishan Credit Card.

Building awareness among villagers has been done since the launching of Jan Dhan Yojana & Kishan Credit Card by the Govt. of India. These schemes launched extensively benefiting citizens and farmers respectively. In order to avail the benefits of these programs, the villagers were convinced to enlist it as important agenda in their respective monthly village meetings for discussion.

Accordingly the villagers discussed both these programs in their monthly meetings on regular basis which made aware to almost all the villagers and majority of them linked themselves in these

programs and availing of the benefits. The project team very often facilitated the monthly village meetings organized at village level.

Training to Women on SHG Cooperative.

30 women SHG members (03 from each SHG) were given training by external resource person for 05 days at Samiti's resource center, Kapariya.

The training was exclusively on women SHG cooperative and covered the topics like structure, function, rules and regulations, role and responsibility of each member; inter loaning as well as individual loaning system, maintaining accounts etc.

Outcomes and Results

The outcome of the capacity building of farmers towards bringing improvement is evident in terms of increased area under cereals, pulses, oilseeds and vegetable cultivation with diversification in all three main seasons (summer, rainy and winter). It has provoked the farmers to produce not only to meet their consumption needs but also for marketing the surplus. Now farming is also being visualized as an enterprise, more than 100 farmers from the area are engaged in cultivation of vegetable for commercial purposes. The income accrued is reinvested for farm inputs like equipment, water pumps, seeds and fertilizers to meet the requirement for the next season.

The practice of non-farm activities proved beneficial for the majority of the households to earn additional income. Linking with Government development schemes like Jan Dhan Yojna further improved their economic conditions. Women's SHG in all the operational villages empowered the women members and provided opportunities to initiate different income generating activities by taking loans.

3. Quality Health for Community

Mass Awareness Camp & Campaign Program

Inter Village Campaign.

Mass awareness camp was organized at a common place involving 57 selected representatives from 05 project villages during the period for creating health awareness on various health aspects based on the outcome of the village meetings.

After the camp, the participants, project team and volunteers organized a mass awareness campaign and covered the 05 villages chanting different slogans to further enhance the level of awareness and sensitize the villagers, PRI members and teachers of existing schools on available health care, importance of institutional delivery, medical facilities and health related schemes and programs and its accessibility.

One full day was devoted for the above said activity. The project team & volunteers facilitated, guided and supervised the day's event.

Cluster Level Camps.

The 10 villages has been divided into two clusters of 05 villages each for intensive discussion and sharing with the representatives on different health issues, health rights, Govt. health sponsored schemes, programs and services and more particularly the participation of the villagers in Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (**Construction of Free Toilets in household who don't have toilets**).

Cluster level camps were organized twice in each cluster during the year. 115 villagers (women & men) participated in the camps and discussed and shared the above mentioned topics. The project team and identified health functionaries working in the area facilitated the discussion and sharing.

Training to Stakeholders-Health

Training to Health Functionaries.

04 days training program in 2 phases of 02 days each was organized in Samiti's resource center at Kapariya involving Govt. health functionaries (ASHA, AWW, ANM etc.) working in the area.

The training mainly focused on existing health issues in the area, behavioral aspects and proper communication with the target community for minimizing the gaps.

The sessions of 04 days training were facilitated by external resource person and project team using different training methods. 37 participants attended the training.

Training to Village representatives, PRI members & Teachers.

In order to enhance the awareness level of identified village representatives, PRI members and Teachers of existing schools on health rights, Govt. sponsored health development schemes and programs, NRHM and roles and responsibilities of health workers and health services, the Samiti with the help of external resource person organized 03 days training at Samiti's resource center, Kapariya.

The training was organized in 02 phases (02 days + 01 day). In both occasion the training was organized at Samiti's Resource center and altogether 91 participants (women & men) attended.

The participants were also given inputs to develop better bonding and understanding with the fellow villagers, extend support and required help whenever need arises, keep regular contact with ASHA, AWW, ANM etc. (all Govt. health workers) and monitor their work.

Interface Meeting and Sharing

Block Level Sharing Workshop

44 persons attended the block level sharing workshop organized at Samiti's resource center, Kapariya. One day was fully devoted during the reporting time for intensive sharing and dialogue among recognized community leaders, member of health committees, Govt. health functionaries and other existing stakeholders.

The intensive sharing, dialogue and discussion were done mainly on existing health issues, functioning of Govt. health workers and its further improvement to cater better health services,

proper and timely implementation of Govt. Health development schemes and programs, institutional delivery and immunization to infant, child and mother.

Outcomes and Results

- **The activities organized under mass awareness camp & campaign program at village and cluster level proved beneficial in raising the awareness level of the community and in particular the importance of participation in Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Construction of free toilets in households who don't have toilets).**
- **80% households in the project area constructed Toilets under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.**
- **More villagers (particularly women and girls) were seeking medical care and other health services from the Govt. run hospitals.**
- **The training to health functionaries proved beneficial to bring the changes in their attitude, behavior and communication. Now they are more confident, friendly and supportive and cater the health services to the community in more better and meaningful way.**
- **The training to village representatives, PRI members & teachers has had positive impact and their support and co-operation to the health functionaries were helpful in providing better health services in the area.**
- **Block level sharing workshop made both villagers and block officials to aware further on existing health issues & gaps in Govt. health delivery systems. It minimized the gaps and better health services were provided.**

The block officials devised future strategies and plan considering people's requirement and suggestion.

STRENGTHENING HUMAN CAPABILITY

Building Capacity of project staffs. (07 days)

07 days were devoted during reporting period in order to building capacity of project team members and volunteers, (village youths deputed by Gram Sabha to extend support to project team for implementation of development activities in the operational villages).

15 participants including volunteers attended the training program which was organized at Samiti's resource center, Kapariya. External resource person and senior members of project team facilitated the sessions of 07 days organized in phases.

The different village issues, its specification, project management, effective and meaningful implementation of activities, monitoring, evaluation and report writing were covered as main topics during 09 days training under the building capacity of project staffs.

The participants were also trained and acquainted with Govt. development schemes and programs so that they can share these with village committee members.

Outcomes and Results

The performance standards have increased and results are active and alert participation in meetings, training programs and discussions at various levels on issues of community concern. Staff members are more vocal to share and provide inputs to the community members in the village meetings being facilitated by them.

JUS STAFF & GOVERNANCE

JUS Staff

JUS perceives that building the program team is one of the prerequisites as project management is not a one person operation. Team building involves a whole spectrum of management skills required to identify, commit and integrate the various tasks into a single program management system. JUS has a blend of senior development professionals, middle level development professionals and front line managers (31 nos.).

With this diversity comes incalculable energy and optimism. Senior bear the responsibility of overall management of the organization's affairs and extending necessary support and guidance to the project team for planning and execution, mid-level professionals are responsible for planning and execution, coordinating and liaising with different stakeholders. While the front line managers or field workers are from the operational area itself who possesses in-depth knowledge of the local socio-cultural fabric. There are village level volunteers who have a supportive role to play in program execution. The services of external consultants and resource persons are taken in addition to the team especially in areas that need technical expertise. JUS has good professional relations with several academicians, subject specialists who render their professional support and guidance as and when required.

JUS Governance

Several competent and committed development professionals who come from diverse professional arena as having their own distinguished record of public service and delivering crucial responsibilities for governing the operations of the JUS the general body of JUS.

The General Body of JUS has 11 members including two community representatives. From this general body, 7 elected members form the executive committee of the Samiti that bears the responsibility of governing the day-to-day functions of the organization. The members of executive committee are:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS (2017-2018)		
Name	Designation	Present Involvement
Mr. S. S. Singh	Convener & Co-founder	Presently Faculty of Xavier Institute of Management, Bhubaneshwar.
Mrs. Marsha Bhengra	Asst. Convener	Presently School teacher in Government run school at Jamshedpur.
Mr. A. K. Parira	Secretary & Co-founder	Fully involved in organizational activities.

Dr. R. K. Pandey	Treasurer	Fully involved in organizational activities.
Mr. S. Anand Kumar	Member & Co-founder	Presently Administrative Officer of Damien Foundation (Govt. of Bihar).
Mr. A. Ahmad	Member & Co-founder	Presently Asst. Co-ordinator Xavier Institute of Social Service (XISS) Ranchi.
Mrs. Helena Tete	Member	Presently President of South Vihar Welfare Society for Tribal

RESOURCE PROVIDERS & FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT & AUDIT

Resource Providers

JUS is fortunate to have the support of its donors and support agencies that have put their trust and equipped organization with the required resources and the capacity to intervene. The donors extended the necessary financial, technical support, guidance, mentoring and stood firmly behind JUS's endeavors.

Financial Management & Audit

JUS follows a systematic financial management system with the well-established accounting policy and procedure manual. The policy and procedure manual guides the organization to record and monitor financial transactions. Opportunity to work with donors has played a pivotal role in improving the financial management practices of JUS. The standard financial management practice by a reputed state and national level NGOs has also been followed by the Samiti.