

ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20

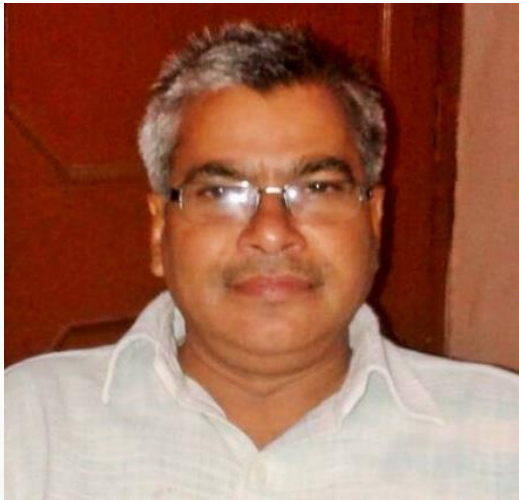


SAVERA FOUNDATION



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Message from the secretary's desk:



Savera Foundation is working in the two districts Giridih and Koderma of Jharkhand since 2006. We initiated working with the community on education. We found large numbers of tribal and Dalit children are out of schools engaged in mica scrap collection or wandering in the jungle in search of mica scrap. It was not only depriving them their better future but it is health hazards for the children of tender age to be affected by mica dust being exposed whole day. The children exposed to mica dust chalked their lungs and if not cared early acquire tuber colossi. We started motivating parents to send their

children to school to gain knowledge so that one day they could get rid of the vicious cycle of poverty. Owing to acute poverty among the community parents were unable to send their children though they like their children to go to school. Even if admitted discontinue due to unmet expenses which well off or outsiders fail to understand and wonder or curse the community and their children. Our concern also is for climatic change which is being witnessed by one and all. Hence, we make efforts to preserve and protect natural forest and renovate water bodies. Initially, we lacked resources to support the community unlocking their capacity. Now we have some resources to organize, strengthen, and empower them through formation of Kissan clubs, youth clubs, SHGs etc. Their scarce subsistence agriculture is being gradually diversified so that they not only depend on harvested grains alone but also some income from other sources like horticulture, animal rearing, forest products, and skilled labour. Children are cared, from early at Anganwari level extending helping hand to Sevika and Sahayika so that they are taken care of well – additional nutritious food, immunization and growth monitoring. At the school level we support and help teachers – motivate them and reward better performers. SMC are strengthened through round of capacity building measures so that they play a constructive role in the school management. For the weak children extra classes or remedial classes are taken up so that irregular, weak and late starter children can catch up with the rest of the children. Drop out and out of school children's parents are counselled to send their ward to school. Time to time extracurricular activities are being taken up for the government school children for overall development – organize exhibitions to inculcate scientific temper, sports, games and drawing competition and life skills etc. so that they can be at par with the other children. This is our humble beginning; there is lot more to be done for that resources are also needed which is hard to come by. We hope and believe one day we would be able to bring change and happiness in the lives of the people we are engaged in. Though there are numerous hardships and difficulties from internal and external nonetheless we are confident we would overcome, come by what may! We are extremely grateful to our sponsors, donors, well-wishers and partners without whom our larger effort would have been unimaginable. Therefore, we thank them all from Savera Foundation Family and our community (stakeholders). I thank all the dedicated Savera Foundation family members who are working in the frontline as well as those behind curtain without whom it would not have been possible.

The Organization:

Savera Foundation is a philanthropic social organization. It has been registered under Society Registration Act XXI of 1860. It has taken initiatives for the upliftment of Tribal and Dalit communities in the remote villages of Giridih district since 2006. Savera Foundation is dedicated to work for the poorest of the poor and marginalized sections including women, children, (Dalits and Tribals) towards a dignified life. Since its inception main focus areas have been education, health & sanitation, community organization, livelihood enhancement, agriculture development, gender equality and Dalit rights. The organization envisages a society free from injustice and exploitation where Dalits, Tribals (especially children and women) and the deprived can live their lives peacefully and in harmony with nature.

Vision:

We envisage establishing a society free from injustice, and exploitation where Dalits, Tribals and deprived can live their lives peacefully and in harmony with nature.

Mission:

To enable individuals and community within the working area that they can fully participate in the life, decision and structures of the community and have equal opportunity in development process.

Empowerment through Sustainable development (DKA)

Through this initiative, Tribal, Dalits and other backward and vulnerable communities have been skilled to be self-reliant on a sustainable livelihood strategy through different educative measures.

- **Formation and Strengthening of Kissan Clubs**-The village level organisations like the Kissan Clubs, SHGs, Youth Clubs were formed and strengthened in order to gather the grievances, find solutions and implement activities accordingly in a better and organised manner. The kissan clubs were trained on modern agriculture and allied activities to have a positive turn over in crop production with the help of organic manure and fertilizers. The members of the Kissan Club and the other farmers in the target areas have completely given up on chemical fertilizers and pesticides.
- **Health camps and Training**- Subsequent training camps were held to spread awareness about seasonal sicknesses and the precautions of such illness. The participants were also made aware about the importance of nutritional food intake. We have also worked to develop awareness on healthcare issues like Malaria, Diarrhoea, HIV/AIDS, TBs, STD/UTI etc. People were made aware of the symptoms, precautions and the prevention of such diseases. Health Check-up Camps were also organized in the villages with a team of doctors and pathologists to diagnose any kind of diseases that the people were suffering from. Health Campaigns were also held in schools to make the children aware of crucial issues like personal hygiene, Anaemia and related reproductive health related problems.
- **Women Empowerment**-Young women were empowered through this project to earn additional income and become self-independent.
- **Support to drop-out and Landless Farmers**-In the Educational spectrum, this project has encouraged the parents to educate their children and send them to schools. We have also been able to provide landholding support to the drop-out youths and engaged them in other livelihood activities. Jal, Jungle and Jamin (Land, Water and Forest) were revived considerably helping the communities to derive a sustainable income.
- **New Techniques in Agriculture**-Certain skilling measures like the SRI Method of Paddy Transplantation, Crop Rotation and Multi-Cropping, demonstration of Kharif and Rabi Crops, Application of Organic Manure and Compost etc. were tried out for the farmers to increase the income and improve their standard of living.
- **Kitchen Farming**-The farmers were also supported by distributing vegetable seeds, fruit bearing saplings that of Papaya, Mango, Guava, Lemon, Jackfruit, Blackberry etc. to set up their own backyard kitchen gardens.
- **Remedial Classes**-Concerted efforts were also made to increase the enrolment rates in schools. The details of RTE Act were discussed in details with the parents, Teachers and the School Management Committee. Remedial Classes were organised

for children who dropped out from schools and for those children who couldn't perform well in studies.

- **Advocacy**-Network building and advocacy with the Government departments were a part and parcel throughout the project. The resources and development schemes of the government like building of ponds, roads, PM Awas Yojana, Poultry sheds for SHG Members, installation of handpumps, pump sets and motors for irrigation etc. were mobilised for the beneficiaries whenever it was possible.

Skill Development Training for the unemployed School Dropout youth (FVTRS)

The skill development program for school drop-out youths has been initiated in order to train candidates who are in need of jobs. The candidates were trained on several trade skills like electronics, Beauticians, Stitching and Embroidery and Palm Jaggery to either be self-employed or be employed elsewhere in factories or in urban centres so that they can earn a living.

A statistical representation of the success of the trainings is given below:

Trade	No. of Male Beneficiaries	No. of Female Beneficiaries	Self-Employed	Employed	Looking for Employment
Stitching	0	30	14	0	16
Beautician	0	45	18	4	23
Electronics	45	0	22	4	19
Palm Jaggery	11	19	24	0	6

- **Life-Skill Training-** Several training sessions were held for drop-out and landless farmers who had no sustainable source of livelihood. The trainings helped them acquire skills that in turn helped them in getting a job in the urban centres or in factories. Many of these beneficiaries are self-employed too. The participants were trained on Problem Solving Skills, Negotiation Skills, Stress Management Skills, Leadership Skills and Decision-Making skills. These training were imparted in order to make the participants efficient enough to enter into the labour market.
- **EDP (Entrepreneurship Development Program)** – Under this event the beneficiaries were given skill trainings in order to start their own enterprises or business initiatives. Training on Cost Management, Time Management, Market Linkages and Value Additions were given to help them be efficient in opening their own businesses.
- **Covid-19 Relief Work-** Under the circumstances of the spread of the corona virus, we conducted the relief drive wherein we distributed masks and sanitisers to the community people. the masks that were distributed were made by the participants of the stitching centres. This gave them a great opportunity to earn money based on their stitching skills.
- **Advocacy-** The Palm Jaggery groups were linked to JSLPS and are bestowed the duty of supplying jaggery to the ANM Centres.

Integrated Watershed Management Programme (AID)

Savera Foundation is working in Kosmai and Deopur Tribal Villages in Koderma district and Thansinghdih Panchayat of Giridih District in Jharkhand to ensure food and water security in the areas. The entire programme focuses majorly on the issue of water scarcity for drinking and agricultural purposes. Throughout the program, we have developed gully plugging, para ponds, small dams etc. to ensure that the nearby villages can save the runoff rainwater and store water. The statistical evidence of such work progress is mentioned below in the table:

INITIATIVE	NUMBER	PURPOSE
Gully Plugging (width=12", depth=2.5", length= 3 times the width)	15	Decrease surface run-off, helps soil to retain water for longer period of time.
Distribution of Plant Saplings (2Mangoes, 1Blackberry, 1Guava)	100 individuals	To promote homestead horticulture and kitchen gardening.
Small dams (length=30-35", depth=8")	3	Recharging the water table, maintains soil moisture, increases water level
Para Ponds (60'*60'*40')	4	Rainwater stored can be used for agriculture, fish breeding.
Hume Pipes	22	To decrease the surface run-off.

Apart from all these initiatives, we have also made efforts to throw seed balls into the forest areas to increase the growth of trees in the forests. Seeds of mango, jackfruit, jamun etc. were covered with soil and were made into balls which were thrown randomly into the forests. The plan is to grow more trees from the seeds as rainwater falls on them.

Right to Survival- Securing Health, Nutrition and Education for Children and Safeguarding them from the Harms of Illegal Mining (TDH)

To ensure better health and nutrition status of children, creches were opened where 100 children in the age group of 3 months to 6 years were benefitted through proper nutritional food and care. They were provided with services like food supplements, height and weight check-ups, MUAC check-ups, playful activities etc. During the lockdown, the children were supplied with dry ration and were taught hygienic practices like washing of hands regularly. Promotion of Kitchen Gardening was a major focus so that children get nutritional food at their homes. 62 families of creche children were involved in practicing kitchen gardening at their homes and 48 families from the community were also motivated to do the same.

The SMCs were trained on its roles and responsibilities towards children. The child clubs were involved in trainings and were involved in various activities throughout the period. 15 children groups that were formed were trained completely on the norms of Physical Distancing and Hand Hygiene Practices. The communities were also made aware about their participation in the Gram Sabhas and also about various Government schemes like the student stipends, VHND Sessions, JSY/JSSK, PDS, Pension Schemes etc. The total number of individuals benefiting from the schemes after the trainings are: MGNREGA- 292 individuals, JSY- 44 individuals, JSSY- 66 individuals, PDS- 1313 individuals, Pension Schemes- 112 individuals. There was also continuous liasoning with the government departments for the best interest of the communities.

Revival and Management of Traditional Water Resources- Conservation of Rainwater with community initiatives (PHF)

Due to the rocky topography and the sloppiness of the region, there is an acute shortage of water in the rural areas of Tisri Block of Giridih District. The area being hilly and sloppy, the water retention capacity of the soil in these regions is very low and the soil becomes infertile for agriculture. There is also a problem of high surface run-off of the water. Agriculture was a difficult task therefore, especially during the hot season as all the water bodies would dry up. Therefore, to look into this aspect of water shortage, 10 villages of Thansinghdih Panchayat, Giridih District were selected for the intervention wherein rain water was harvested and conserved through the construction of Bunds in Ravines and Rivulets. 03 villages have formed a committee called water security committee and developed plans to ensure security to water resources and water for all. This committee is responsible for grievance addressal to the block and district administration.

Training on Climate Change- The community members were trained and made aware about the causes and consequences of climate change. The focus was mainly put on Afforestation and conservation of water in whatever form was possible by the community people, both at an individual level as well as on a community level.

Exposure visit- The beneficiaries were taken for exposure visits to Amrapara, Pakur to learn new techniques on Rain water Conservation, Agriculture and Animal Husbandry. The participants acquired knowledge on the usage and preparation of Organic fertilizers like Vermi-Compost etc. that works as the best alternative for chemical fertilizers and helps in keeping the soil fertile for longer time. They were also trained about the benefits and methods of animal husbandry as a supplementary source of income.

Liasoning with Government Departments- Throughout the project period, there was continuous liasoning with the authorities about the issues of water scarcity and various other government schemes. Meetings with the PRI members, BPO, Block Headquarters and the community people were facilitated by the organisation to help the people address their grievances to the concerned authorities. This resulted in the repairment of the defunct handpumps in the areas and people were also registered in various government schemes like Ayushmann Bharat Scheme, Mukhyamantri Ashirvaad Yojana Schemes etc. This has resulted into construction of water resources and Trench Cum Bund structures to conserve rain water.

Training to Jal Sahiyas- The Jal Sahiyas were trained on their role and responsibilities towards addressing and working thoroughly for the concern of water shortage and water availability in the villages. They were asked to be more efficient in their work and to continuously address the grievances of the people and address them as and when required.

Training on Rainwater Harvesting- The village cadres were made aware about the various techniques of rainwater harvesting. They were told that each and every individual is needed

to conserve as much water as they can. Methods of rainwater harvesting like storing the water in wells, rooftop conservation of water, construction of Sokhta Gaddhas (Bore Wells) were introduced to them. it was outstanding to see people practicing such methods at their homes.

We are positive that the water conservation methods practised in the target areas will pay off and the water crisis problems will be resolved.

Ensure Food Security among Small and Marginal Farmers by Introducing Sustainable Livelihood Options (GGF)

The communities that the organisation intervenes with are mainly tribal villages and are involved in crushers and mining activities and are dependent on the forest resources for their sustenance and income. Hence, it becomes specifically important for the communities to be aware about the forest rights and acts that the government has in place to avoid conflicts. Therefore, several meetings and training sessions were held to make people understand about FRA. Forest Rights Committees (FRCs) were formed and were trained thoroughly about their role in protecting and claiming their forest rights. They were also enlightened about the Individual Forest Rights (IFR) and Community Forest Rights (CFR). The members of these committees were strengthened to be determined in claiming their rights over the forest resources. The panchayat members were also trained on the same. To promote forests, people were supported with saplings of trees to plant and grow more trees and increase afforestation. At a time of global environmental crisis, such initiative has given positive fruits in protecting our forests.

Childline India Foundation (CIF)

Savera Foundation is working for children who are in extreme vulnerability particularly those who are under the threat of getting trafficked or illegally held hostage for domestic work or are exploited in any form. Such children are rescued and rehabilitated through countrywide network social welfare and police. Savera Foundation has been working with CIF since 2016 for children who need protection.

PHOTO GALLERY

Remedial Classes for Drop-out Children:



Cultivation through SRI Technique:



Construction of Hume Pipe:



Construction of Ponds:



Promotion of Plantation:



Child Club Meeting:



Measurement of Children for Health Status Tracking:



Skill Development Training:



Training of Farmers on Rain Water Harvesting Techniques:



Felicitation for the Best NGO:



Community Involvement in Village Mapping:



Construction of Check Dams:



Awareness on Nutritious food intake:

