

Annual Report 2017



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Secretary's Desk

It gives me an immense pleasure to present the Annual Report of the year 2016-2017. As the Secretary of the organization it is my privilege to acknowledge the efforts and support extended by different stakeholders including partner community and dedicated team in achieving mission agenda of Vaagdhara.

It has been 30 years since Vaagdhara came in to existence. Many of us have been associated directly or indirectly in its various development endeavors. In the past so many years we have experienced changing and vibrant situations and could establish organization as an instrument for social change. The journey is a great mirror for all of us to reflect upon and accordingly plan our future directions.

In this global era when everything around us is getting changed continuously, VAAGDHARA has been a continuous source of spirit for the marginalized community of Southern Rajasthan, since we feel the need of our presence among them as a necessity, so as to improve their living conditions.

With the expansion of organization' thematic domain there is increase in diverse human resource base. There is in an depth input of professionals within the organization as well as participation from the community. This necessitates us to establish efficient organizational systems. In the upcoming year our main focus will be on formalization of different human resource subsystems and establishing systematic monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

VAAGDHARA acknowledges that all achievements we had in the year gone by are the results of not only just our labor but Collective Corporation from our partner agencies and also of the community. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to each and every member of team who had worked tirelessly to help the organization in meeting changing requirements of the organization. I also acknowledge the support provided us by different financial institutions.

In the coming year VAAGDHARA will continue its efforts to serve people in its outreach area by building their capacities and by providing enabling support to volunteer activists for making our society a better place for all. Following pages will describe in detail the work has been done in different thematic subgroups.

With best regards

Jayesh Joshi
Secretary
VAAGDHARA

About Us

Initially VAAGDHARA was a group of rural farmers, who came together to share vital resources to survive a long dry period, which Rajasthan faced at the year 1986. Through his cohesion and surely also due to the innovate principle, which the farmers started to use, to protect their families and survive, a long-rooted network was built, which follows the basic principles like in those days: sharing of knowledge and strong cohesion.

Vaagdhara is growing exponentially where today influencing the lives of probably more than 900 Tribal villages in a positive, innovative and especially in a sustainable way. Those achievements give us strength and faith in our work VAAGDHARA do, day by day.

But on other note, these numbers proof and demonstrate that there is much more help needed. The number of people, who lives at a subsistence level and facing abuse regularly is still incredible high and seems to be insuperable.

Vaagdhara is working relentlessly to change this situation, as bringing together a diverse partners from different areas like INGOs, Government, Other likeminded organizations, networking to develop approaches and actions to tackle their challenges and provide sustainable solutions. Vaagdhara is continuing its journey towards the kind of awareness and knowledge development to tribal communities which bring impact to their lives in sustainable manner.

VAAGDHARA always focus its efforts with an integrated approach to bring the impact on overall growth of poor tribal families and to improve the Human Development Indicators in the target area. The main thematic areas of VAAGDHARA include Sustainable Livelihoods, Child Development and Protection and Policy Advocacy and the organization strongly be



lieves that efforts in isolation in these areas could not lead to holistic development of the community. Therefore, in this regard, VAAGDHARA works in close coordination of one theme to the other and nurtures the Community Based Organizations in such a manner that they can work on Livelihood, Education, Health and Nutrition while being sensitive towards Child Development.

The organization believes that the CBOs are the key to sustain their efforts. Till date, VAAGDHARA has strengthened 982 CBOs, benefitted 42,402 Families through its various Livelihood interventions and has reached 71,541 Children in order to ensure their rights. Being an ECOSOC accredited organization, VAAGDHARA has got the opportunity to participate and present in the UN Events. Therefore, to bring the communities perspectives, issues and concerns in the limelight VAAGDHARA always conducts the research studies on the subjects directly or indirectly related with the life and livelihood of the people and share the findings at UN Platform through organizing the Side Event, and submitting the written and Oral Statements. Besides, the organization also contributes towards achievement of SDGs which goes parallel with its other ongoing programs.

Vision

The poor in tribal region of India have sustainable livelihoods even in changing climate situation and their children are at par with others on all development parameters like education, health, rights and participation.

Mission

Creating and nurturing vibrant institutions of poor communities in tribal region of western India; inculcating appropriate scientific and indigenous technology and knowledge for sustainable livelihood and realization of true childhood for their children by 2020.



OUR PRIME OBJECTIVES:

- Develop tribal junction of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat as a place where children get opportunities for better emotional, physical and educational growth.
- Address issues pertaining to sustainable natural resources management and livelihood in the target area, with a focus on hunger, food sovereignty and access to safe water leading to better quality of life.
- To build knowledge and resources of poor tribal community such that they are in harmony with bio-diversity, ecological and environmental conditions of area suitable for building their resilience against climate change
- To promote networking, policy advocacy and facilitate participation of deprived tribal community to voice their issues at local, regional, national and international platforms

Our performance

- 25668 Number of children positively impacted across 750 villages.
- 42489 Number of Tribal Farm Families directly impacted through Sustainable Livelihoods
- State Level Consultation organized on "Nata Pratha Custom: Impact on Children" chaired by Mrs. Manan Chaturvedi, Chairperson, Rajasthan State Commission for Protection of Child Rights with involvement of more than 60 stakeholders.
- Organized event "Sachha Bachapn" on Children's voice on Child Labor and new Child Labor Law. Children as Ground Level Panel to comment on Child Labor Amendment Act, 2016.
- Research studies conducted on Functioning and gap identification of Health and Nutrition services, LANSA research (Nutri Sensitive Farming System)
- 5 villages of Banswara District have been declared as "Child Friendly Villages".



- Organized VCPC elections where children took part as the decision makers and votes for selection of VCPC Chairperson.
- Research study conducted on the "Reasons of Transgenerational Poverty: Tribal Community Perspective" and shared at the United Nations during the 55th Session of Commission for Social Development.
- Our knowledge products in form of IEC and Module Development on various issues related to different thematic areas. We published more than 22 posters, flyers across the themes.
- The advocacy efforts with NCPCR resulted in a notification to the district officials for providing Birth Certificates in the area.
- VAAGDHARA being an UN ECOSOC accredited organization, made efforts in submitting the Written and Oral Statement and organized the Side Event during the 55th Session of Commission for Social Development. The written and oral statements submitted by VAAGDHARA are accepted and published online in the UN Documentation System
- Baseline Setting for SDG Partnership 2020 as voice of tribals and nomadic.
- Vaagdhara been selected and represent written Paper on Nutri sensitive Micro Planning- Address to Malnutrition at Addis Ababa.
- Promoting Youth Volunteerism through developing volunteers at ground level and German volunteers who can motivate Tribal youth for development sector.
- Establishment of Community Radio Center.
- Technical Innovations Kisan Card App formed.



Thematic Areas

Sustainable Livelihoods

Vaagdhara is working for empowering tribal communities for identifying and providing overall local solutions for sustainable livelihoods and we are taking more comprehensive and integrated step towards eradicating poverty, as well linking with livelihood solutions to existing natural resource management, food and nutritional security. We are supporting our Agriculture with different programs helps to address the issue by strengthening local, national systems to make integrated approach available to those who need them.

5267

families with sustainable livelihood opportunities

5133

families linked with government programs

Child Development and Protection

With the child as the nucleus of our work, we are working to ensure that holistic development of children penetrates deeper to address the grassroots and critical issues affecting children, and respond with solution based approaches. Vaagdhara always focus on underlining and putting into action long-term goals that focus on the child while also ensuring sustainability of our efforts. We've worked to ensure that these are measurable goals for ensuring child rights across (Right to survival, Right to development, Right to Protection and Right to Participation) No. Of children are benefitted with their rights in current year are as:

17455

Child Survival

14437

Child Development

4636

Child Participation

Child Protect

Facilitating the poor to voice their issues and concerns

VAAGDHARA reaches out to the community in its area of work and develop institutions for community development. VAAGDHARA acts as a catalyst and facilitator by providing platform and network to help the community to voice their concern and to positively engage with policy makers for enabling policy environment. It also engages with traditional institutions in its intervention geographies, so that soon these institutions will have its leaders who will in-turn have greater say in the community and thus these leaders will address the issues, concerns and ambitions of the marginalized community.

Strategies

To address above focus areas, VAAGDHARA adopting an approach of using **sustainable scientific Practices** to increase **productivity in agriculture** and deliver **impact at larger scale** in their Young Generation in terms of **safe Childhood**.

Over the next five years (to 2020) our strategy will emphasize the need to improve, enhance and support the community based organizations of the poorest and most vulnerable Tribal community of Central India where there is high burden of low productivity, unemployment, food and nutrition insecurity, migration, malnutrition and other prevalent issues. We have set ourselves a number of ambitious new targets which will guide over the coming years. The each strategy will be delivered using our unique approach to attain their safe life and livelihoods. We will

continue to work closely with our Partners including government, like minded organizations and other institutions to deliver programs that deliver large scale and locally relevant solutions to sustainable impact in lives of the Tribal community.

We will work to increase low cost intervention and promotion of appropriate technology to fill gaps in community behavior change and their better living standards. We will build the effectiveness of new and innovative interventions, demonstrating a multi channel approach and share our impact at a larger level in tribal communities.



Livelihood

The message of Sustainable Livelihoods is clear for Vaagdhara and inhabiting Tribal community in this specific year: that livelihoods approaches which are an essential lens on rural development, but these need to be situated in a better understanding of different focus areas like food and nutrition, agriculture, poverty and others. VAAGDHARA's approach helps improve understanding of the dynamic nature of livelihoods and what influences them for sustainable solutions. We are working on people's strengths and opportunities to support innovative and sustainable livelihood strategies. We also examine the influence of policies and institutions on livelihood options and highlights the need for policies that address the priorities of the tribals.

The attractiveness of Sustainable Livelihoods lies in its applicability to different contexts, situations of uncertainty and in its capacity as a consultative and participatory process for the cross fertilization of ideas and strategies between various stakeholders.

"For Vaagdhara, sustainable livelihoods is a systemic and adaptive approach that links issues of poverty reduction, sustainability and empowerment processes" (e.g., participation, gender empowerment, and good governance).

The Wadi Program was a major success due to the involvement and active participation of various stakeholders viz development institutions, tribals, corporate and financial institutions. Tying up of the seed to market requirement ensured sustainable livelihoods. We termed this wadi as "Tribal Rehabilitation" Program. The WADI families are having high level knowledge on WADI and having significant difference in knowledge on variables like food and nutrition, migration and education status. Convergence is also an integral part of the Wadi program through three major schemes- Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, National Horticultural Mission and National Rural Health Mission are explored through Vaagdhara. Some of the key highlights of convergence with Wadi of this year 2016-17 are:


500

Peoples linked with National Horticulture Mission program in Andandpuri

1100

Families linked with National horticulture program


765

Farmers family adopt cultivation of green gram.

200

Families linked with TAD Vegetable cultivation program

Also, departmental wise schemes related to irrigation facilities, drinking water facilities, land development, fencing etc. was explored with continual meeting through Vaagdhara Team. The advantages of Wadi program can be stated as follows:

- ➔ The Wadi Model provides an effective solution to ensure their livelihood and nutritional security while also helping to regenerate the natural resource base. This model also has the potential to benefit over more than 1000 of tribal farmers of south Rajasthan as well as neighboring areas. The opportunity is thus immense in terms of enhancing the food production of the country using the same amount of cultivated area. With the wadi intervention areas emerging as hubs of vegetable and fruit production, there is a further opportunity of linking these farmers to local and regional markets through value chain interventions and food processing based enterprises.
- ➔ As instructed by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India we are pursuing a special initiative in 131 villages of Annadpuri Block in the form of Cluster Facilitation Team (CFT) Strategy and Convergence between MGNREGA and NRLM. At the same time, Vaagdhara have initiated an Intensive Participatory Planning Exercise and Micro Planning in Ananpuri Block. Therefore, it co related and provide the outcomes convergence with MNREGA scheme. It is the primary responsibility of the VAAGDHARA to put in place a Cluster Facilitation Team of nine members in assigned block who are entrusted with facilitation of different activities to achieve the objectives written below:



GP-wise annual action plans for implementation are in position which are to be prepared through participation of the villagers and on watershed approach.

At least 75 days' work for ST households willing to work are provided.

Women participation in MGNREGA is enhanced to reach 50 percent of the total person-days generated

Wages are paid within 15 days from the date of closure of the muster roll



This convergence is the cornerstone of achieving people's participation, improving the quality of assets, energizing the delving system in a manner that would have a positive impact on elimination of poverty in Tribal areas"

Sohan Nath Jogi, Project Manager

As VAAGDHARA, CFT is helping tribal communities to substation enhance the quality of assets being created in the MGNREGS and ensure better sustainability of rural livelihoods.

Thus, there CFTs help in mobilizing the communities in the convergence programme. Convergence between the two will cover identification and planning for work, worksite execution and measurement, adverse payment of wages through funds devolved to CBOs and provision of capacity building and training of all stakeholders. Some of the Impacts which have been show during this period are as:

Person days generated with average wage rate 133.55 Rs. during the year 2016-17.

1,430,253

Unskilled labor of 24,027 job card holder families worked under MGNREGA.

46,810

Percentage of women participation under MNREGA

49,7%

Average person days of employment

59,53

Among **33547** Job card holders **26408** families demanded employment and **24027** families provided employment.

VAAGDHARA has invested in the creation and strengthening of Community Based Organizations with greater female participation. Be it women Self Help Groups, Mothers' groups and Community Health Volunteers, each one of these institutions has driven change towards greater gender parity by empowering women through information, larger community discussions, training programs and grassroots level advocacy initiatives.

The economic independence of women (to some extent though) achieved through vocational, agriculture, entrepreneurship training programs and credit linkages organized/facilitated by VAAGDHARA for women Self Help Groups, have led to a visible positive impact on the number of years a girl child spends in school.

Similarly, 'i-Saathi'— an attempt towards digital literacy of tribal women— where a group of selected young, educated female volunteers and SHG members are empowered to use internet in their daily lives and act as 'Change Agents', capable of making hundreds of women digitally literate in the village. When these women turned digitally literate, they used internet infrastructure provided by VAAGDHARA to access internet which really makes their life resourceful.

Behind bringing something as basic as literacy around the use of a touch-based phone and accessing the internet through smartphones. Volunteers then look out for potential Internet Saathis who can become torchbearers and can be trained for various types of modules which include navigating through a smartphone, checking internet signals, battery status, and making a search online. After completion of their training, these women, capable of spreading the word, move ahead to teach other women in their own or neighborhood villages, thus creating a ripple effect.

From which seeds are better for better farming, to understanding which henna design is suited for brides, having 'virtual darshans' of major temples, and even learning how to cook special dishes to impress their mother-in-laws, women in Chatarpura village can't stop listing down the ways learning the basics of a smartphone helped 46479 women in their daily lives. The men too from being resistant turn into facilitators and let the women deal head on with digital illiteracy.

One of the torchbearers of the program, Pushpa has not only learnt the basics but also joined the bandwagon of online shoppers. "I have ordered a wrist watch," she adds. She faced resistance from the men of other villagers, but has been able to fight her way out of the societal pressures and help lead the program. "I have taught 450 women in seven months of joining the Saathi program," says Pushpa.

Self Help groups in Banswara with support of CMF- Sakh Se Vikas ahd made tremendous break through in both "women Empowerment" and "Poverty Alleviation". **There is no shortcut in empowering women and giving them the decision-making authority; the ability to voice their opinions is an irreversible step down that road. Vaagdhara continues to empower and uplift women in all aspects of life.** During this year, we are also targeting new areas such as Agriculture and Natural Resource Management, Health and nutrition, Education, household budgeting and others. The project is focusing on rural livelihoods to impact on lives and income of Tribal households and during Demonetization, SHGs could purchase 92 Quintal wheat seeds from Rajasthan state Corporation for cultivation in their areas.

We have a reach of 470 Self Help Groups (SHGs) of women, their 11 Clusters and 5272 households covered through clusters and two Federations. The period witnessed SHGs spread over 330



villages in 4 blocks. The program formed strengthening rural livelihoods through agriculture SHGs and covered additional 167 villages during the intervention and livestock based livelihoods. This year data is as:

Total SHGs Saving	8433741
Total SHGs members	2667
Total Loan Outstanding	7116722

The initiative with SHGs seeks to demonstrate poverty reduction through community owned financially for Tribal Communities. As an impact of the initiative, it was observed that there was a reduction of 59% in loans taken from moneylenders. Loans from SHGs currently comprise 60% of total loans accessed by member households.

"Increased in social impacts on women, which reflected in an increased involvement in decision making in the family and in increased utilization of health services by the members."

Abhinav Sharma, Program Manager

Hriki 55 years old Tribal women previously doing labor work, but due to be a member of SHG, she turned to an entrepreneur and started grocery shop in her village. She become an inspiring example for others to initiate small business. Now it's better earning income rather than labor work, she said.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT FOR SUSTAINBLE AGRICULTURE



Vaagdhara always focus on empowering women as we are empowering a nation with that.

With the help of community institutions, the program aims to build the market to facilitate the adoption of more than 500 clean cooking

grassroots distribution channels (local entrepreneurs), setting up financing mechanisms, focusing on awareness and marketing of clean cooking solutions, and enabling existing grassroots rural institutions to develop capacities in the field of energy access. Local Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and Federations have been en-



solutions in the Tribal areas. This is a technology agnostic program and the solutions range from natural draft cook stoves to induction stoves, covering a wide array of options that are made available to the communities along with an emphasis on their adoption.

The program is trying to address challenges in the supply of good quality and efficient clean cooking solutions to Tribal women by creating

gaged in facilitating loans for members and demand generation in their respective areas. Revolving funds have been created with the Federations to enable various financial mechanisms for users to purchase cook stoves.

Under the program with support of Tata Trusts, more than 200 women micro-entrepreneurs have been trained and have sold more than 500 devices so far. A range of awareness and marketing activities have been carried out, that include: cooking competitions, nukkad nataks, product demonstrations, puppet shows, canopy exhibits etc.

Though the level of acceptability is less at initial phase, but new strategy have been adopted and tribal women developing their interest to adopt the cook stove solutions for cooking purposes.

Transforming how three billion people cook so cooking no longer kills is no simple task: clean cooking is an energy issue, a health issue, an environmental issue, a women's empowerment issue, and in many countries, it is also a social and cultural issue. Addressing this challenge requires numerous steps, such as conducting research, developing grading standards, educating households, building demand, creating new distribution models, and changing harmful behaviors that have been ingrained over centuries. To achieve change on this scale, we need the strengths and expertise of all sectors and communities at the table.

"I have doubts initially", Ms Kanta from Kanji ka ghada village said. But the way Vaagdhara team members explanted the harmful affects of traditional cooking, and a quick demonstration helped me to convince myself and I started using cook stove and also started convincing other members.

"I've never had a paying job in my life and I'm a social entrepreneur now; making money on my own is such a joy," says Rameela from umaji ka gheda village.

"My work has given me exposure to the world outside, to people and challenges, to new experiences. I have earned the respect of villagers."

Food security has become a pressing concern in the tribal villages of Banswara District. Crop failures and lack of facilities to sustain their livelihoods have led many families back into the trap of poverty and marginalization. Vaagdhara with the focus on integrated Umbrella framework approach initiated interventions who developed linkages in between Agriculture, food and nutrition security, Natural Resource Management.

"Agriculture and usage of Natural resources are the first steps of sustainable development of rural community"



Sustainable agriculture is the production of food, fiber, or other plant or animal products using farming techniques that protect the environment, community health, human communities, and animal welfare. Vaagdhara is focusing on the sustainable agriculture which enables us to produce Nutritional and healthful food without compromising future generations' ability to do the same. It is an integrated system of plant and animal production practices having a site-specific application that will over the long term:

Satisfy community
Nutritious food
and fiber needs.

Make the most efficient use of
natural resources surrounding the community and integrate, where appropriate, natural biological cycles and controls.

Sustain the economic viability of
farm operations.

Enhance
the quality of life
for farmers and
society as a whole.

We are making the transition to sustainable agriculture into their daily lives which supports their integrated development. For farmers, the transition to sustainable agriculture normally requires a series of small, realistic

steps. Family economics and personal goals influence how fast or how far participants can go in the transition. It is important to realize that each small decision can make a difference and contribute to advancing the entire system further on the "sustainable agriculture continuum." The key to moving forward is the will to take the next step.

Finally, it is important to point out that reaching toward the goal of sustainable agriculture is the responsibility of all participants in the system, including farmers, laborers, policymakers, researchers, retailers, and consumers. Each group has its own part to play, its own unique contribution to make to strengthen the Agriculture community.

The ultimate goal for this "Vagad farmer's sovereignty march" was to "rejuvenate and revitalize live system of traditional and scientific farming, which can provide nutrition free of poison to each and every life at local level, even under threat of climate change"

Mr. Deepak Sharma , Reseracher

Community Based Research on Nutrition Sensitive Farming System

Finally, to explore how agricultural interventions can be designed to improve nutrition, VAAGDHARA organized a pilot feasibility study demonstrated the potential for community-led educational videos to promote better nutrition. The FSN study underway in two different agro-ecological locations integrates nutritious crop production, livestock, poultry, fisheries and forestry activities to address the needs of farming families based on the asset endowments, market conditions and community preferences of the target population, considering their common and differentiated nutritional needs at individual and household levels. It takes account of life-cycle needs by gender within households, but also socio-cultural and economic differences across caste groups. The goal of FSN is to demonstrate the feasibility of a pro-nutrition agriculture intervention to improve the nutrition status of the community. The effectiveness, acceptance and sustainability of such a model of interventions will be evaluated for the benefit of replication, up-scaling and wider dissemination to address the disconnect between agriculture and nutrition in this region. Study of nutritive values and quantitative estimation of nutritive value of some of the food items were conducted and collected from Indian food composition database. More than 100 food items of indigenous origin were identified, many of which were rich sources of micronutrients like calcium, iron, vitamin A, and folic acid. Utilization indigenous foods into routine diets can be leveraged to address malnutrition in tribal communities. Our study is an important step towards

Forgotten Food Grains



Kodra



Kang



Pathariya



Cheena



Hama



Bavta

Ignored Leafy Vegetables



Kachnar



Rajan



Luni



Karinjda



Puwar



Dhimda

documenting the nutrient rich indigenous foods in this tribal community which could be used for quantification of nutrient intake in this community. To the best of our knowledge, no previous study has looked at the dietary and nutritional aspects of the indigenous foods in the tribal of Banswara district. We would also like to highlight that there are many more such indigenous food items yet to be identified in adjoining districts offering immense scope of further study in this geographical area with such tremendous food and plant biodiversity and help community in fighting malnutrition.

Growing up healthy to enjoy a happy childhood

"The Village Child Protection Committee didn't change the life of a certain child, it changed the mindset of our whole village, which effects the lives of all children"

Lalu Ram, Kamjika Khera, VCPC President

Vaagdhara has always given high importance on community institutions, due their effectiveness on grassroot level and sustainability. An institution, where problems were discussed, issues were tackled and problems were solved combines our strength in child protection with effective advocacy issues.

VAAGDHARA has strong institutions of communities, which are must for sustaining and holistic interventions from pre-birth till 18 years of a child. We improve the access to available services for vulnerable children through the formation and action of village level child protection institutions, made up of resourceful persons, who work together to ensure protection and well-being of vulnerable children in their communities.

Vaagdhara has been development a tracking system through village level institutions like Village Child Protection Committee(VCPC), Children Groups(CG), School Management Committee(SMC), Village Health Sanitation Nutrition Committee (VHSNC) and Mother Groups(MG) to ensure the

VAAGDHARA adopted twin-track to enhance child protection and inclusive quality education. With the support of Child Right for Change, Kushi and EPRTC the interventions will improve the lives of 200,000 children to ensure their protection against all kind of abuse exploitation and violence; prevention of migration of work and ensured improved quality of education with focus on learning at preschool and primary level.

In addition, VAAGDHARA always believes to work with government rather than creating a parallel system, like supporting and strengthening Panchayat Level Child Protection Committee, Block Level Child Protection Committee and District Level Child Protection Committee.



Setting a proper environment for future

The 1,000 days from the beginning of a woman's pregnancy to her child's second birthday are some of the most critical for human nutrition and growth. If an infant doesn't receive enough food or proper nutrition during this time, the effects often can't be reversed. Especially for children under two, the effects of chronic malnutrition can be lifelong. Those who survive may have reduced resistance to disease and infection later in life. If children miss milestones as they grow through their second birthday, they don't have an opportunity to go back and catch up when the food is available. VAAGDHARA know the importance of this crucial time of mothers and children, so we set a special focus on right to survival for more quality on the lives of children.

The importance of first five years of life of children have a measure role in the formation of intelligence, personality and social behavior. Early childhood programs which are focus on developing skills in young children their further life.

Our programs like Rajasthan Nutrition Program(RNP), Fight Hunger First Initiative(FHFI), Child Right for Chane(CRC) and Kushi were implemented with an overall aim to make a significant and sustainable impact among women and their children in most marginalized communities of Banswara District. The project covers two districts Bhilwara and Banswara.



By organizing health check-ups, nutrition camps and wellness drive linked with government services like ICDS, as distribution of information, education and communication(IEC) material, we aim to improve access to reproductive, maternal, child services, which will directly benefit women in the reproductive age and children below five years.

VAAGDHARA is developing the capacities to improve children developmental readiness to start primary school on time, especially for marginalized children and to complete a quality basic education in ICDS center. We are promoting awareness raising for parents and learning elements in ICDS center, providing material for engaging children, BLES to make ICDS more colorful and appealing to children eye.

School is the foremost fountain of knowledge children are exposed to. It gives a chance for them to acquire knowledge on various fields of education such as people, literature, history, mathematics, politics, and other numerous subjects. This contributes to cultivation in the thought process. When one is exposed to the influences coming from various cultural sources, his/her on world and existence becomes vast.

Our educational program is based on holistic and quality education by ensuring all children between 3-6 in Anganwadi and 6-18 in school. The aim to fulfill a child's right to quality education and health children receive formal schooling in a safe and child friendly environment.

Case Study

AWC 2, Dantra is located approx. 30 km away from block head quarter Hurda. Average presence of children at AWC was 4-5 against enrolment of 16. Cluster coordinator Mr. Mahaveer explored discussion with AWW Smt Lali Jat to know the reason for less attendance. AWW shared that Parents of children are not sensitive towards PSE due to lack of knowledge and Parents said that at AWCs only Immunisations organised and provided THR. To change their mind set Cluster Coordinator visited at Individual HHs and interacted with Parents & give information of Khushi Project and PSE activities and importance of PSE for overall development of child. Next day Cluster coordinator visited to AWCs and said to AWWs to conduct PSE activities as stated in PSE training program to increase participation and retention of children. With the help of cluster coordinator AWWs conducted PSE activities with children so attendance of children was increased. But total Enrolment was only 16. It was less as per govt. guideline. Hence to increase enrolment at AWCs cluster coordinator and AWWs planned



to conduct community meeting at AWCs. As per plan convey the information to community to participate in meeting at AWCs. Community members including parents of 3 to 6 years enrolled & left out children participated in meeting. Cluster coordinator of Khushi Project discussed about Khushi Project and in detailed explained importance of Pre School Education

for overall development of children. In meeting AWWs also conducted some PSE activities with present children in front of community and cluster coordinator asked to community to compare between PSE activities which was held at AWC and Private school. Now community understood importance of PSE and appreciate

quality of PSE at AWC and assured to AWWs for send their children at AWCs timely. After these efforts 7 left out children (1 boy & 6 girls) also enrolled at AWCs and coming regularly. Regular meetings were organized with caregivers and sensitize them about the importance of PSE. Due to regular efforts of CC & AWW community people agreed to send their children at AWC. Now total enrolment is 23.

Keeping children safe and free from harm

Children pushed into child labor, children facing abuse in the community, children trafficked, children affected by a calamity or emergency – VAAGDHARA works to protect children from different kind of harms, abuse, exploitation, physical danger and violence.

We work with the most vulnerable tribal families sensitizing and education them about the rights of children to help them to understand that children are meant to be at school and not at work.

We formed Children Group through which we bring together vulnerable children in a community. These children then collectively work out solutions to help them self and each other and ensure child rights in their area.

Children Group identify and prevent cases of child marriage, child abuse and child labor. Children Group facilitate their movement into school by means of enrollment drives. With the support of

VCPC and CG we map out of school, irregular and vulnerable children for ensuring quality education and a protected environment to these children.

Our program Child Right for Change, ChildLine 1098 and EPRTC support to prevent all kind of abuses and implemented child tracking mechanism at grassroot level where affected children find a safe and conducive environment. VAAGDHARA keep children away from harm and provide them a happy childhood.



Say no to child labor!

After her father died in an accident, Sita, a girl from the village Kakaji Ka Garda, was forced to work to provide a livelihood for her and her family. Her mother, KaaliNinama, was suffering from leprosy and therefore unable to work. Her family was very poor, Sita, now 16 years old, dropped out of school in fourth class to get involved in child labour. Although she tried to attend school regularly, but it was not possible for her because she was engaged in labour activities.

In the monthly meetings of VCPCs it is normal that two members of the CG are present and report about irregularities in school and known cases

of child labour. In the VCPC meeting of Kakaji Ka Garda village, the CG members told the VCPC about Sita's case. Following this, all VCPC members visited Sita's home and informed her and her mother about the importance of school and government schemes which are eligible for her situation. With the help of VAAGDHARA's development activist and the VCPC members Sita's mother was linked with the widow pension and Sita with the Palanhaar scheme. These schemes now net the family 1500 INR per month. Sita was also enrolled in school and her regular attendance is ensured by the VCPC. Furthermore, Sita became a member of the CG and she participating actively. After experiencing the rights and the support she is entitled to, Sita now is relived to be able to go to school and explore her new perspectives.

Developing decision makers



Child participation improves the relevance and appropriateness of decision made in relation to children issues by ensuring that their experiences, situation and knowledges are represented. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC, Article 12) recognize the right of children to be heard in all matters affecting them.

Child participation is an essential principle on which VAAGDHARA is working with certain interventions like life skill training, strengthen and formation of Children Group, organized Baal Gram Sabha and various elections for promoting child participation in community decision making in context of child development. In different programs VAGDHARA mobilized, organize and engage children in their own development.

Election of CPC Chairperson: Child participation

The village-level child protection committees (VCPC) were constituted in the villages under VAAGDHARA's intervention project. During constitution of CPC, a community meeting in every village had been organized with participation of representatives from different part of the village. It was decided to do a conduct election in which children would vote for electing the leadership. This would be on the principle of giving an opportunity to exercise participation rights and to empower with a chance of decision making in the matter related to them.



Facilitating the Poor to raise their voices and Concerns

Vaagdhara is constantly being recognized as the voice of Tribals. Last year, new dimensions were added to our advocacy efforts when we started to voice and argue on Effective ban of Tobacco Control and develop Tobacco free Rajasthan as we examine the major problems posed by tobacco and convention of Rights of Children. Vaagdhara initiate the process with support of Campaign for Tobacco Free kids and discussions with MLAs and other State Officials started in context of tobacco control.

Vaagdhara continued to advocate, communicate and leverage on all the tribal issues and their concerns last year. We worked to take their voices to public forums at national and International level and ensured that they were heard. Issues taken up included key areas like basic rights to health, education, protection, livelihoods, agriculture, food and nutrition security, Gender and participation.

We strengthened more than 500 grassroot institutions and communities Taking Action on different issues that showcase successful community initiatives aimed at improving integrated sustainable development. The different advocacy initiatives demonstrate how strong leadership, community engagement and advocacy, innovative thinking and changes in local policies and institutional practices can successfully converge to shape healthier, more equitable tribal community environments.

Representation at UN Level

The 55th Session of Commission for Social Development was an attempt focused on strategies for eradicating poverty to achieve sustainable development for all during the two-year review and policy cycle for the 2017 and 2018 sessions. The priority theme for the 2017-2018 review and policy cycle included the **“Strategies for the eradication of poverty to achieve sustainable development for all”**.

This expert meeting was organized to provide expert inputs to prepare for this important task. The outcomes of the meeting will provide important inputs to the Report of the Secretary-General on the priority theme by providing concrete, evidence-based reviews of poverty eradication strategies, highlighting those strategies that have been effective and those that have not and will draw lessons that will spur efforts to eradicate poverty within the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Considering the priority theme of the event, VAAGDHARA being an UN ECOSOC accredited organization, made efforts in submitting the Written and Oral Statement and organized the Side Event during the 55th Session of Commission for Social Development. The written and oral statements submitted by VAAGDHARA are accepted and published online in the UN Documentation System. The Oral statement recommended the actions that go beyond the domain of economic development and talk about tribal rights, social security, women empowerment and food and nutrition security to eliminate poverty. It also recommended the need to ensure tribal sovereignty and maintain their dignity as one of the key integrated themes for all poverty attacking actions.

The Written Statement submitted by VAAGDHARA was an attempt to analyze the key causes of poverty in India and evaluated the government's response to these challenges. The document also shared VAAGDHARA's experience of working with the poor tribal areas of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh and recommended practical strategies (based on the experience of organization) to address the poverty conundrum through cost – effective and locally available resources. Below are the recommendations for poverty eradication given by VAAGDHARA:

Communication strategies should be appropriately chosen keeping in view the target community's access to various modes/ means of

communication. Wage employment aside, focus should be placed on making agriculture and allied activities more profitable and sustainable. The state heads should develop the pro-poor sensitive market and SDG implementation policies for the equitable growth among all sections of society.



Volunteerism among local community (especially among educated youth) needs to be promoted to strengthen the local bodies and other institutions, and to create demand for services.

A Side Event was organized on 10th February, 2017, at the 55th Session of Commission for Social Development at United Nations Headquarters, New York. The Side Event was organized by VAAGDHARA and aimed to achieve the following objectives:

Bringing critical perspectives and experiences from the grassroots to the 55th Session of Commission for Social Development. Recommending practical strategies to address the poverty conundrum through cost and locally available resources.

The Side Event was also an attempt to discuss the issue of poverty reduction based on the insights received from the study conducted by VAAGDHARA on the Reasons of Trans – generational poverty among the tribal's in Southern Rajasthan. The Side Event was moderated by Mr. Jayesh Joshi, Secretary, VAAGDHARA, and the speakers included Mr. Mahendrajeet Singh Malviya, Ex Rural Development Minister and Member of Legislative Assembly, Rajasthan, and Mr. Jeffry Huffines, UN Representative of CIVICUS. More than 25 participants, including the civil society representatives and country delegates participated in the event. The focus of the event was to understand the perceptions of the community about causes of their poverty and to find out possible solutions for the identified issues. The study also focused on understanding the relations of the Community with different government and non – government institutions and their access to various services.

SACHHA BACHPAN: Deliberative Panel of Children to understand issues and Strategies around Child Labor

Saccha Bachpan is an effort to make children participate in the process of policy making. Since the child labour law directly influences the lives of millions of children it is an urgent need to give those a voice in the process of policy making. VAAGDHARA, which engages with marginalized communities, is seeking out the voices of affected children regarding their rights. That's why we conducted a Ground-Level-Panel of children to comment on the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016. VAAGDHARA believes that participation is a basic right of all children. The Ground-Level Panel enables a process of sharing the experiences and opinions of 15 children on child labour and how it impacts their lives. The purpose is, to develop a statement from the panelists, which we will share with policy makers.



AHN Academy Week, Addis Abeba, Ethiopia

for five days the global community of interdisciplinary researchers and research-users working at intersection of agriculture-food systems, health and nutrition convene in Ethiopia; to learn, share and strengthen collaborative partnerships with the goal of improving nutrition and health. Mr. Jayesh Joshi Secretary Vaagdhara participated and shared selected powerpoint presentation on "Nutri-sensitive Micro Planning". he shared the pilot based initiative with tribal community and how agriculture can link with their food and nutrition security and provide grassroots level solutions. He shared the whole process and accelerate the development of a robust scientific evidence base needed to guide changes in agriculture and food security - in a way that is both healthy and sustainable.



Information, Education and Communication



Volunteers



This year I'd the pleasure the get insights in a total new sector I never engaged before. I stayed one year in India, precisely said Banswara. I joined the weltwärts program, which is a development volunteer service for all interested young people. The focus is on making a concrete contribution to a development organization, as well as learning from

each other and facilitating intercultural exchange.

From Germany all the way to a tribal village in Rajasthan...! This is the experience of Phillipe, one of Weltwaerts volunteers who came to India in August 2016.

"To empower women in tribal regions of southern Rajasthan, the local partner organization VAAGDHARA forms Self Help Groups and provides training to them. During the first training for a new Self Help Group the small children are weighed, their size and the Mid-Upper Arm Circumference are taken to check the nutritional status and identify malnourished children. Furthermore, the women receive training on balanced, gender equitable nutrition and kitchen gardening. This is a great chance for the women to increase the health of their children, families and the whole village community."

I learned the culture of India and exchanged ideas and perspectives on the living conditions, attitudes and habits with my friends in my environment. At the same time, I let others gain insight into my culture. I reflected my own cultures well. I will remember my experiences for a long time and set also the course for my future.



Financial

**VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURE GENERAL
DEVELOPMENT HEALTH AND RECONSTRUCTION ALLIANCE
(VAAGDHARA)
VILLAGE AND POST-KOPDA
DISTT. BANSWARA (RAJ.) 327001**


BALANCE SHEET AS ON MARCH 31, 2017

	Sch.	2016-17	2015-16
SOURCES OF FUNDS			
General Reserve	1	5759026.66	5497935.50
Capital Reserve for Fixed Assets	2	6106006.00	3169757.00
Revolving Fund	3	370000.00	0.00
Total		12235032.66	8667692.50
APPLICATION OF FUNDS			
Fixed Assets	4	15721569.00	12785320.00
Current Assets, Loans And Advances	5		
1) Deposits		44582.00	16375.00
2) Bank Balances		2322489.35	5799128.55
3) Other Current Assets		534821.00	106738.00
4) Overspent amount recoverable on Projects	7	5236234.04	1841973.80
		8138126.39	7764215.35
Less: Current Liabilities & Provisions	6		
1) Sundry Creditors		5158957.00	3132641.00
2) Other Liabilities & Provisions		2970606.00	1525881.77
3) Unspent amount payable on Projects	7	3495099.73	7223320.08
		11624662.73	11881842.85
Total		12235032.66	8667692.50
Accounting Policies & Notes on Accounts	11		

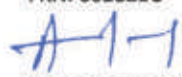
For VAAGDHARA

Place : Banswara
Date : 23.07.2017


(Secretary)


(President)

As per our report of even date
For B.L. Pagaria & Co.,
Chartered Accountants
FRN: 001821C


(Anand Pagaria)
Partner
M.No. 401182





**VOLUNTARY ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURE GENERAL
DEVELOPMENT HEALTH AND RECONSTRUCTION ALLIANCE
(VAAGDHARA)
VILLAGE AND POST-KOPDA
DISTT. BANSWARA (RAJ.) 327001**

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR
ENDING MARCH 31,2017**

	Sch.	2016-17	2015-16
INCOME			
Grants and Donations	8		
A. Grants		25869589.41	23632515.46
B. Donations		1470800.00	2920500.00
Interest Income		187577.42	180904.00
Miscellaneous Income		57783.00	40771.00
Creditors Written-back		4032.00	48991.00
VTDR Income		1268985.00	.00
Total		28858766.83	26823681.46
EXPENDITURE			
A. Development Programme Expenditure	9	31051232.00	23468945.00
B. Administrative Expenditure	10	1331702.26	1659477.81
Total		32382934.26	25128422.81
Excess of Income Over Expenditure		(3524167.43)	1695258.65
Net excess of unspent/overspent balances carried to Balance Sheet	7	7122480.59	(281775.46)
-Difference over last year's balances			
Allocable Surplus		3598313.16	1413483.19
Less: Net purchase of fixed assets transferred to capital reserves		3337222.00	278680.00
Net surplus transferred to General Reserves		261091.16	1134803.19
Accounting Policies & Notes on Accounts	11		

For VAAGDHARA


Place : Banswara
Date :23.07.2017


(Secretary)


(President)

As per our report of even date

For B.L. Pagaria & Co.,
Chartered Accountants
FRN: 001821C


(Anand Pagaria)
Partner
M.No. 401182



OUR GOVERNING BOARD AND MANAGEMENT

VAAGDHARA believes that its human resource is its biggest asset. The organization significantly invests in providing them opportunities to grow and provide them with exposure to understand better, the operating environment. The overall commitment among professionals towards the organization is high, and they are able to contribute to organizational goals and strategies at all levels. The Team dedicate themselves in striving to achieve the organization's vision.

Our Board

Mr. B.M. Dixit President Rt. Additional Director Agriculture, Govt of Rajasthan

Mr. Jayesh Joshi Secretary Development Analyst

Ms. Varshka Joshi Member Professional IDS, Jaipur

Prof. Viju J. James,

Dr. Meeta Singh Member Director of IFES

Ms. Richa Sharma, Theme leader (policy and Advocacy)

Mr. Kanji Charpota Member Community Representative

Senior Management Committee and Theme Leaders

Mr. P.L. Patel , Strengthening Livelihoods

Ms Richa Sharma , Facilitating Poor to raise

Ms Surbhi Saraswat , Addressing Child Rights

Mr. Saurabh Sabikhi, Finance and Human Resource

Mr. Parmesh Patidar , MIS Leader

Core Programme Team

Mr. Abhinav Sharma , Project Manager

Mr. Rohit Samariya, Project Manager

Ms. Priyanka Jain, Project Manager

Mr. Sohan Nath Jogi, Project Manager

Mr. Chandrapal Khushwa , Project Coordinator

Mr. Pramod Pandya , Project Coordinator

Mr. Prahalad Kumar, Project Coordinator

Mr. Rajesh Hiran , Advocacy Coordinator

Ms Mangla Sharma , Advocacy Coordinator

Mr. Amit Bhatt , Media Coordinator

Ms Saroj Soni, SHG Coordinator

Mr. Ranjeet , Community Radio Coordinator



Our partners

Vaagdhara is always grateful to have esteemed donors from government and international agencies who not only provide financial support; but also provide technical support and work together as partners to shape our efforts for tribal communities.



UNICEF



Save The Children



Welthungerhilfe



NABARD



**Freedom From
Hunger India Trust**



Plan India



IGSSS



LANSA



Government of Rajasthan



**Department of Science
and Technology, Delhi**



VAAGDHARA

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Anandpuri, Banswara

Sajjangarh, Banswara

Gogunda, Udaipur