

# ANNUAL REPORT

2021-2022



**astha**

Astha Annual Report 2021-22

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## **Preface from the Coordinating Director**

We are happy to present the 35<sup>th</sup> annual report of Astha Sansthan to you. In the beginning of the year 2021 the second COVID wave presented a great challenge to us. Rural and tribal areas that had not been greatly affected earlier were also badly hit. Covid cases rose very fast and many people started losing their lives. Vaccination was available, but initially many people in rural areas were refusing to get vaccinated. In view of this, Astha staff and field-level workers got vaccinated and circulated video clips of getting vaccinated on social media and in meetings with community members to create trust towards the vaccine. This helped a great deal and many community members started coming forward to get the vaccine, when this happened Astha workers also supported public health centres in managing the process of vaccination. Most families were dealing with sickness like cold, cough, fever, pneumonia; on the suggestion of Astha staff PHCs made medical kits that were delivered by Astha volunteers and field workers to many families so that the pandemic could be dealt with.

In the second wave of Covid, many of us in the social sector also lost friends and family members. We had to make many changes to our planned activities and objectives in view of the situation. Astha converted both the Udaipur and the Kotda training centres into quarantine centres and made support available to the district administration. However, most people preferred to self- quarantine at homes and not many stayed at these. Despite the challenges presented by the second wave, Astha collected detailed information about people who had migrated back to the villages due to Covid and supported them in getting work through MGNREGS.

Taking forward our work on participative village development planning in tribal areas Astha and trained community leaders worked closely with the state government's "PrashasanGaononke Sang Abhiyan" (Campaign to promote administrative ease and efficiency for villages) to ensure that development plans made by tribal revenue villages were included in the annual (Village Council) Gram Panchayat Development Plans. In this regard relevant orders were passed by the concerned district and state level authorities. In this regard, Astha worked with 151 villages during this year. Special meetings and preparation to ensure informed community participation in making village development plans was done. The village development plans thus made were submitted in Village Councils.

The State Government, on the occasion of the World Indigenous Day on the 9<sup>th</sup> August 2021, launched a program to recognize community forest claims under the FRA. Along with the program it was also announced that villages which receive their community forest claims can apply and receive grants for tree plantation and forest management of up to 10 lakhs. In view of this, work to prepare claims in the prescribed format was escalated and 239 revenue villages were supported in preparing and submitting their claims at the block level. However, as has happened in the past due to the lack of will and cooperation from the forest department not much has happened after the submission of these claims.

In both the campaigns mentioned above, to ensure participation of tribal women special capacity building training programs were organized. Women were also supported in participating in "Ask for Work" campaigns for MGNREGS, through these campaigns 17,000 women got MGNREGS work.

For policy level changes in laws affecting tribal areas and scheduled castes and tribes Astha joined state network in advocacy, as a result Rajasthan Government passed **Scheduled Cast and Scheduled Tribe Act**. Under this law provisions for timely monitoring and oversight of budgetary allocations and expenditure for tribal areas have been made. This law will help to improve the system for budget allocation and expenditure for scheduled tribe and scheduled caste communities in proportion to their share in the population of the state.

To know more about Astha's work with tribal communities on PESA, community forest right & management, village development planning, and MGNREGA implementation with women's participation, please see the section on the work of the Tribal Development Resource Unit in this report.

Work with single women in Rajasthan has been implemented in 515 village councils of 109 blocks and 30 districts. At present 83,474 single women are members of single women organization in the state. In the year 2021-22 regular monthly meetings of single women groups were conducted in 502 village councils. In these meetings problems related to domestic violence, food security, implementation of social security schemes, etc. were discussed and solved collectively. Work to support women's claim for work under MGNREGS and their right to land and property was also taken up. State level meetings of single women's leadership group could be resumed in this year after Covid related disruptions. During the second wave cash support to 221 vulnerable families and kind support to 3,521 households across 16 districts. All relief work was led by single women association themselves, right from identification of the most vulnerable in their communities to organizing vaccine awareness activities and distribution drives.

"Celebrating Sisterhood" or *Behna Dooj* festivities were conducted in 266 Village Councils across 75 blocks of 27 districts with participation from 8,418 women and 210 local elected representatives and office bearers.

Work with women farmers continued in this year with the objective of promoting women's leadership in agriculture and for sustainable agricultural practices with 480 women farmers in 32 village councils across 14 districts. In this year women farmer's groups adopted several sustainable agricultural practices like natural farming, vermicompost and natural pest management practices, nutrition gardens. Backyard poultry was also taken up in 2 village councils that were badly affected during the second COVID wave.

In this year Astha began a new special program for promoting women's right to land and property. The program is being aimed at single women and tribal women, with initial work in 100 villages with single women across Rajasthan and 100 villages in southern Rajasthan with tribal women. In this work capacity building of grassroot women leaders both with regard to natal and marital family property and community forest right and forest management is being done. Based on experiences from this initial work Astha will take forward this work on women's land rights in other areas as well. Work with single women will be further strengthened as more and more single women leaders train and support other women to realize their land and property rights.

Work with Single Women in other states – in the last year single women leaders were supported in their work of organizing single women in some districts of Telengana, Uttarakhand and West Bengal. Covid relief and awareness activities with full participation and decision making of single women leaders at the grass root level could be organized in all three states, this included distribution of

ration kits; provision of medicine kits, ambulances and tele-medicine support, training for vegetable cultivation, support to those bereaved during the Covid waves and support to single women facing violence in their homes and communities.

It has been Astha's effort in the last 35 years to work consistently with the most deprived tribal communities and with disadvantaged single women on the issues that they face. In this process leadership for socio-political change has come up from these communities. This leadership has been further developed through capacity building, mentorship and the opportunity to work for change in a structured way. With changing circumstances, the challenge to keep leading value-based change processes with wide spread public participation has become tougher. It is our effort to provide the support needed to grassroots leaders so that change processes can move ahead in the right direction.

Nationally we have seen that the voluntary sector has made immense contributions to the strengthening and preservation of Constitutional values, laws and policies while being accountable, creative and responsive in its work for social change. This kind of work is very important for society and while there have been efforts to regulate it, committed organizations have been able to continue in their mission. Along with coping with regulatory requirements and changes, social sector organizations also need to evaluate and realize their own contributions to nation building. Often organizations that do good work feel satisfied with their efforts and take it for granted that their work is for society at large and therefore visible to all. They do not make special efforts to present their work to all kinds of different stakeholders, the result of this has not been positive. We need to come out of this and make our stance and presence stronger at the state and national level.

Organizations work hard on the issue that affect the most vulnerable among communities. But we need to become more cognizant of the role that society expects the voluntary sector to perform in today's context. At the same time, we need to strengthen ourselves on values like compassion, accountability transparency, rationality, equality, inclusivity and freedom. We need to rethink our own structures and ways of functioning on these parameters.

Keeping in mind all these aspects and challenges Astha in its forthcoming strategic plan will continue to provide required support to tribal people's and single women's organizational efforts. Astha will also work to preserve tribal culture, heritage and practices for sustainable agriculture. It will continue its work on women's empowerment, youth involvement in community led change, health and nutrition. Astha remains committed to working with tribal communities and single women to further their participation in upholding constitutional values and in democratic processes for change and development. Astha will strengthen its own basic infrastructure so that it can better serve disadvantaged communities.

Support from all of you has always been a source of strength for us. We are sharing this year's efforts with you in this Annual Report 2021-22 and invite your valuable suggestions.

**Bhanwar Singh Chadana**  
**Coordinating Director**

## Introduction

"Astha" is a Hindi word which means "Faith". Astha has Faith in the people, in their abilities, strengths and knowledge. Astha believes that these capabilities are being suppressed by the dominant forces of the society and as a result, people themselves don't recognize their inherent capabilities. Thus, Astha decided to work with people, to make people recognise their inherent capabilities.

Astha has a rich field-based experience of 34 years; the work area of Astha has been primarily Rajasthan, but also on the national issues and larger forces and policies affect the conditions in Rajasthan, and at the local level it addresses those as well. Astha believes that the capabilities of poor, tribal, marginalized and women; are being suppressed by the dominant forces, and the result is that people themselves don't recognize their underlying capabilities. All through these years, Astha was working with/on/for the issues of the poor, deprived, tribal, marginalized and vulnerable sections of society.

The activities and programs of the organization mainly focus on the rights-based approach – organizing the unorganized poor, marginalized, tribal and women, strengthening the local self-governance and discussion, advocacy with government departments. Astha's rich experience of organizing and mobilizing people has led Astha and the associated People's Organizations into important leadership roles as part of larger campaigns and awareness in Rajasthan and at National level. Work of the organization is being assessed by the team through regular monitoring, periodic reviews, internal evaluation process every year and major evaluation by the external evaluators, every three years.

## Vision- Mission

**Mission:** Astha's Mission is to help people to organise, expand their capacities and empower them to bring change in the condition of various deprivations under which they live.

Astha focuses on "bottom-up" strategy meant doing a solid piece of fieldwork, and getting involved with the lives of people.

The fieldwork strategy has evolved to one which helps people to become organised, and aware to work on the problems they face, through a combined strategy of empowerment and constructive action.

Because the problems facing the poor, oppressed, exploited are deep-rooted and complex, Astha also has the strategy of having Resource Units to do the research, networking, linkages and trainings so that those working at the grassroots can be effective in empowered through capacity building for constructive action.

## About Astha

What Astha Thinks About.....

Astha does not believe that it is the role of NGOs to "parallel the government", to do what the government does or should be doing. Astha does believe that the poor and oppressed cannot wait

for the government nor for the NGOs, for that matter, to come and solve their problems - they will have to collectively do that work themselves. Astha, as stated above, does believe in the strength and ability of the poor and oppressed, but we also know that in all the centuries of India's history, the poor have not usually gotten organized around injustice or exploitation, have not collectively analyzed their situation all by themselves. Some catalyst or outside intervention is necessary to get this process going and to nurture it to be strong. And that is the role of NGOs, to be that catalyst to help the poor to become organized and aware, to work on the problems they face. The Astha team of social activist educators does what they can do, and The People do what they can do, and together, we bring in a new society marked by more peace, justice, love, equality than what exists today!

### **Objective**

- To work on the economic, social problems of the poor and disadvantaged by helping to bring into existence groups and organizations of the poor and disadvantaged, particularly in the rural areas.
- To work with the groups of the rural poor on the problems they face. This work will include help with program planning, leadership training, issue-based training and linking with others with a similar concern.
- To conduct continuing, functional, liberating educational programs, particularly for the underprivileged sections of the society.
- To conduct participatory research projects on problems affecting the poor and disadvantaged in society, and to place the results of that research before groups, agencies, institution, departments etc, working in that field.
- To collaborate, and maintain links with the other organizations, groups, and networks working with the poor.
- To establish and maintain libraries and documentation resource centers for the related material.

### **Strategy**

- I. ***Independent People's Organizations***– We have observed that ***deprived, exploited, poor people are normally unorganized, due to which they don't understand their abilities and strength and that's why they are unable to change their conditions.*** Astha, with its deep conviction about people's strength, feels that ***until they are organized, they would not be able to recognize and use their collective strength.***
- II. ***The Necessity of Women's Participation and Leadership***- Astha believes equally that ***women's participation and leadership in the processes of social change are very crucial.*** Through our experience, we feel that for sustainable development and social change, it is necessary that women participate in the process in leadership roles.
- III. ***Knowledge is Power***– Astha believes that knowledge is power, and knowledge comes from teaching and learning, from action/reflection, from analysis of root causes. Once people have the knowledge, they can make use of it. Thus, the Astha team has decided that ***one of our main strategies would be to do extensive training involving sharing knowledge and analyzing problems, working towards an action plan, carrying out the plan and then back together for reflection-on-action.*** Action-reflection is an effective medium for gaining knowledge.

- IV. **Advocacy for Policy Change**– The fourth main pillar of Astha's work is Advocacy for Policy Change in favour of the poor and deprived sections of the society. It was decided that Astha would focus its attention on **bringing necessary amendments in existing laws, policies, schemes and Acts, and acting as a pressure group** along with the People's Organizations, to work for changes in laws, policies, schemes and Acts that are more "pro-poor".
- V. **The "Macro" and "Micro" are linked**– Astha focuses on developing an understanding in the People's Organizations and in the structures of Astha itself, about **how the global/national/larger problems and regional/local situations are connected**. Astha also focuses on **how, in a democracy, government policies and laws are influenced by the collective action of people**, and that people's organizations have the strength that is significant to make the government accountable and answerable to the citizens.
- VI. The above five dimensions along with the deep conviction in the strength and capacities of the people have made the dream come true as "Astha". Astha began its work with the commitment towards people and having faith in them. That faith has been confirmed and verified over more than three decades of work.

## **Tribal Development Resource Unit (TDRU)**

Tribal Development Reference Unit is established as a resource centre on tribal issues. The main objective of which is to help the community-based organizations of southern Rajasthan to become strong and self-reliant.

- a. To work in the direction of implementation of Tribal Self-Government Act (Panchayat Provisions Extension Act on Scheduled Areas) and Forest Rights Act.
- b. To take forward the process of increasing the leadership capacity of community-based organizations, nurturing mature and alternative leadership.
- c. To work for policy change in collaboration with like-minded organizations at the state and national level on the issues and problems of tribal society. Through Rajasthan Adivasi Adhikar Manch, to bring collective issues of tribal society on one platform and help in the action plan.

The unit is working on the issues and problems of Adivasis through various community-based organizations in Udaipur, Dungarpur, Banswara, Pali, Bhilwara, Chittorgarh, Pratapgarh districts of southern Rajasthan. In which, mainly in Kotra, Jhadol, Girwa, Kherwara, Bali, Desuri, Kushalgarh, Sajjangarh, Dungarpur, Jhathri, Simalwada and Sagwadablocks. Continuing the above work, this year also, efforts were made in the role of co-operative with community-based organizations and villages to strengthen the work of tribal self-government act, community forest rights and forest management, women's leadership development, economic and social empowerment.

### **I. Improve the Adivasi Governance System:**

Special effort is being made on village assembly empowerment through community-based organizations in the Fifth Schedule area. The main objective of the Tribal Development Reference Unit is to ensure the tribal community access the rights and entitlements provided by the constitution.





**Gram Sabha Meeting in a village in Jhadol Block**

**Efforts for tribal community to be able access basic provisions during lockdown:** As the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic peaked in the working year, the situation became dire. The biggest impact of the above situation was on the poor tribal community. Understanding the gravity of the situation, efforts were made at various levels to manage the basic needs of the tribal society so that the tribal community could lead a respectable life with dignity. During second wave of the pandemic Astha operated and managed two isolation centers- one in Kotda and another in Astha Training Centre Bedla, Udaipur. Though awareness efforts were done with the tribal community, very few people turned-up to use the isolation facilities.

**Networking & co-ordination with administration:**

1. With coordination of ADM (Additional District Magistrate) and village assemblies, dry rations were distributed to the needy and underprivileged families at the local level. Due to the state of fear and confusion among the people of Jhadol area, the local people very few undergone the COVID-19 infection tested, treated and vaccinated.



**Gram Sabha Leaders meeting with ADM**

2. Awareness campaigns were organised in Jhadol&Falasia blocks through local workers, leaders and village assembly members to motivate them to get vaccination done.

3. Ration kit was distributed to a total of **125 people** who got vaccinated so that others also got motivated and came forward to get vaccinated in large numbers.

4. The TDRU assisted in distribution of **700 of “Mother-Daughter Honour and Baby Nutrition Kit”** to pregnant and lactating women.



Meeting with District level Govt. officials

### ***Tribal Village level leadership development:***

For better implementation of tribal self-government and to ensure equal and active participation of the people in the governance process, along with developing mature and alternative leadership at the local level, it is also very important to develop leadership capability of the village assembly leaders. Village level tribal leaders play an important role in an inclusive process of social and economic development at the local level. Training is an important medium for the above work. An attempt was made



Village Assembly Women leaders attending Workshop

to strengthen the understanding of the people through trainings, workshops, dialogues, village & block level meetings and issue-based campaigns, in which **23,416 Adivasis (11184 women and 12232 men)** joined, participated and attended.

### ***Digital Documentation Skill Development Workshop:***

In the workshop, the workers and leaders working at the field level were told about the importance and use of smartphones during their work. In this context, information was given about how they can digitally document their experiences, challenges, problems, successes during participatory work (by preparing case studies, articles, photos and videos). Digital documentation by activists and leaders will help in taking local level issues



Digital Documentation Skill Development Workshop

on digital platforms (social media). digital play. This workshop was attended by **36 Astha staff and Animators (26 women and 10 men)**.

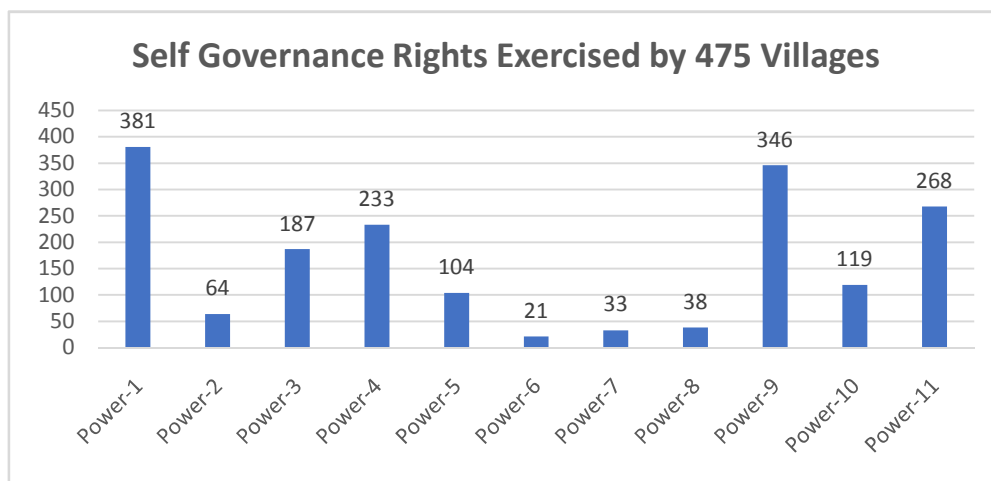
## II. Role of Village assemblies

The village council is focal point of the tribal self-governance work. Therefore, through People’s organization in the field, the village assemblies were supported in the implementation of the Tribal Self-Government Act. Under the State PESA Act 1999 and Rules 2011 in the Scheduled Areas, work was done on the theme of "Good Governance through Gram Sabha" for on-ground implementation of PESA. Apart from this, continuous advocacy was done at the district and state level for the implementation of the Tribal Self-Government Act.

Along with continuously exercising self-governance rights, out of 475 project focused villages, 151 **villages** have prepared and submitted their **revised village development plans (R-VDP)**. The revised village development plans are inclusive in nature, focusing the gender, differently abled and all the marginalised sections of the community.



Revised VDP preparation Meeting in a village in Kotda Block



## III. Study on status of revers migrant workers during COVID-19

Like last year, this year also due to the second wave of the COVID-19 epidemic, the state government has again imposed lockdown. Which had the biggest impact on the migrant workers. The lockdown affected the economic, social life of villages due to the influx of large number of reverse migrants to the villages. To understand the situation of reverse migration in South Rajasthan, a detailed survey was undertaken by Astha.

**Study Objective -**

1. To understand the status and issues of the reverse migrants who have returned to the villages again due to the lockdown.
2. To understand the status of the access of reverse migrants to the various social security schemes.
3. To understand the rights and rights of the people under MGNREGA and the status of its implementation, including getting full work and wages to the needy people during the Corona period.
4. Incorporate the information obtained in the study from the point of view of “economic and social development” and “gender justice” in the revised village development plan.

**Survey Findings:**

1. During the survey of reverse migration during the month of **July 2021 in 470 intervention villages**, it was found that out of **9772** migrating families, **5655** families re-migrated to other states where as 4118 families migrated to different parts within the home state. **7951** families responded to have MGNREGA job cards and **1876** families do not have the MGNREGA job cards.
2. During the survey it was learned that only **3939** families were COVID vaccinated out of total **9772** survey families.
3. In the survey it was learned that **437** families with malnourished children, there are 20 orphans, 09 single women, **134** people with disabilities, 368 widows and 1063 old age people.

**IV. Forest Rights- IFR/CFR**

**Forest Management Plans. Creation of Ownership of Village assemblies/ CLM-GIS Mapping**

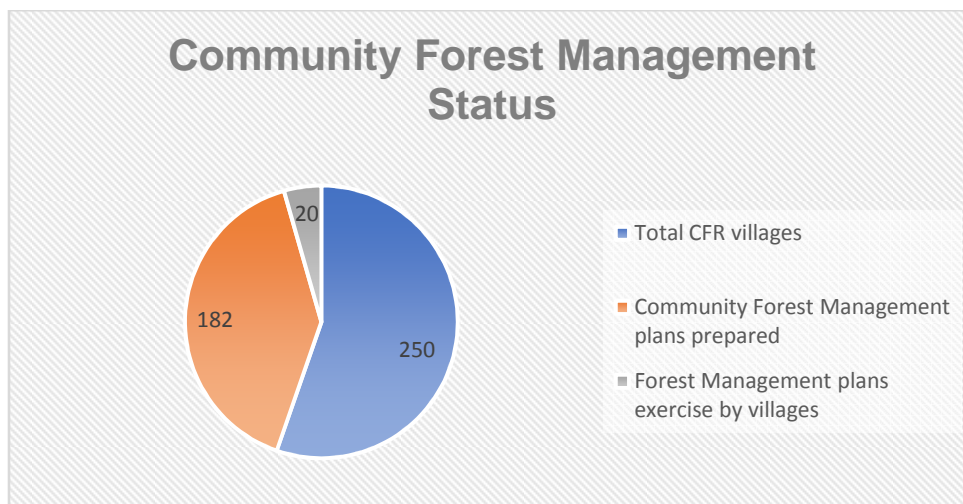
Astha efforts continued for the traditional forest rights (individual and community forest rights) of the tribal community like in previous years. For the rights given in the Forest Rights Recognition Act, constant dialogue was held with the state government and the local administration so that the provisions of the Act could be implemented with its true spirit. The forest use-conservation-promotion-management process can be strengthened by the tribal community under the traditional forest



**GIS Mapping and Village Forest Management Committee Meeting**

rights. During the year 2021-22 the TDRU team envisioned to create conducive environment for exercise the implementation of 182 community forest management plans. Due to the second wave of COVID and team took active participation in “Prasasan Sang Gaon” (State

government's campaign for better coordination of local administration with village), the team could achieve to implement the plan in 20 CFR villages.



#### **Networking & advocacy on forest rights:**

For the disposal of the cancelled and pending claims of community forest rights, constant advocacy and dialogue were undertaken by Astha. As a result of which the concerned department has announced to start the campaign from 9th August 2021 to bring the community forest rights claim letter in process.

*In the meeting with the Tribal Commissioner on July 8, the following demand was proposed in the context of "Forest Rights Campaign"*

1. An order should be passed at the sub-division level to publicize the special Gram Sabha event for community claim preparation.
2. Necessary cooperation should be given by the government department in the community claim letter to be prepared by the PESA village assembly before August 9, announced by the state government.
3. In the absence of information, an order can be passed at the sub-division level to organize a special PESA village meeting again to prepare the community forest rights claim letter for the villages which have missed this program (as per the calendar date)



**Prasasan Gaon keSang Campaign in Banswara District**

**V. MGNREGA& Various social security schemes:**

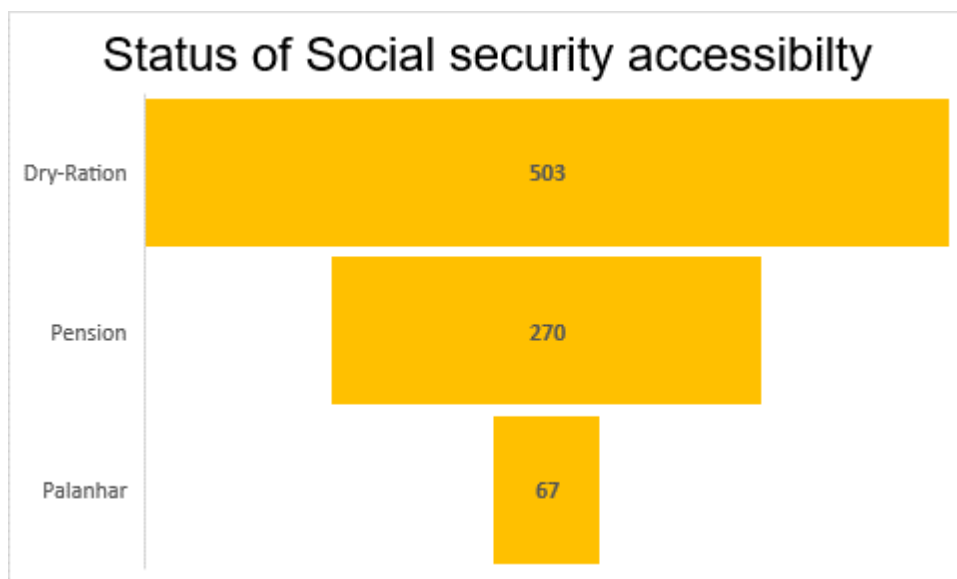
The second wave of the pandemic during the first six months has affected the planned implementations of many activities. The project team reviewed the situation and instead of single cluster level activity, multiple small group activities were organised at sub cluster level and village level. The project team capitalized this opportunity and collected evidence-based information/ data on various social security schemes and increased the engagements with block level and district level government agencies. On the basis of findings, the survey on reverse migration in the month of July 2021, the project team undertook special focused campaign to revive and open new MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) work sites and payment of pending dues of completed MGNREGA work. MGNREGA campaign was organized at the regional level with the objective of economic and social empowerment of the reverse migrants. For better implementation of MGNREGA law in the campaign, mainly application for outstanding days of people according to the financial year, complete work-full price system, applications of work in group and work received, maximum number of female mates. During this process **17,502** eligible female family members who hold a job card have received government benefits and paid work under MGNREGA.



**MGNREGA Worksite**

**Various Social Security Schemes:**

The pandemic and reverse migration has created additional pressure on the existing village owned resources in the tribal pockets of the South Rajasthan and Astha's demographic area of interventions. To ease this pressure, there was a need to ensure that the various social schemes of the Government such as – Old age pension, housing, food security schemes, Palanhar scheme, vaccination to pregnant and lactating women etc. were accessible to the most needy and marginalised section of the community. The TDRU team along with the associated Community Based Organisations in Udaipur, Banswara, Bali and Dungarpur districts made a continuous effort which resulted as 19,878 people (men, women children, Old aged and differently abled persons) were successfully accessed various social security schemes.



#### VI. Land Rights: Land right was one of the focus areas during this year for Astha.

Women, single women and widows were deprived of land rights which has resulted in low levels of socio-economic strength and safety of women. Forest mapping to ascertain communities and women land rights to support petitions on land ownerships with the Government is not available. This results in the forest department disputing the land rights claims made by Indigenous women, thereby affecting their livelihoods. GIS mapping of the forests is one of the tools to help the Adivasi women in accessing land rights.



Since the forest land rights are not in the name of the indigenous women, there are safety concerns during forest produce collection. These risks are posed by encroachers, and sometimes officials of the Forest Department themselves.

While the quantitative information of land titles and land claims is discussed by the Government, the intricate interdependence of the Indigenous women's lives with the forest is seldom known. The indigenous communities have been there in the state since the 7th century, and there are unrecorded stories of medicinal plant use, Biodiversity Preservation, Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK), and agriculture. Along with this, art, music, and indigenous faiths and beliefs are deeply rooted in the forests. Preserving and digitally archiving this knowledge is essential before it is lost due to rapid urbanization and migration.

To deal with this issue Astha has started to programs in association with Womanity Foundation and FIMI (International Indigenous Woman's Forum). It has been envisioned to make the programs to reach more than 8000 single and tribal women in 300 villages.

## Women Empowerment Resource Unit

### I. Support to the CBO

In order to do social, economic, family and cultural empowerment of poor widow and single women in Rajasthan by Aastha Sansthan, efforts were started from the year 1997 to connect the single women marginalized by the society to the mainstream society. For this, Aastha tried to connect single women with each other, organized them and explained the importance of organization to help each other, protect their rights and lead a dignified life. This effort was so successful that the journey which started from 450 single women in the beginning has reached 83474 single women today.

The work of single women empowerment is actively going on in 515 panchayats of 109 blocks in 30 districts of Rajasthan. At present 95 single women leader animators and 2575 single women leaders are actively working at the panchayat level. This year 5991 new members were made and at present 83,474 single women members are associated with Ekal Mahila Sangathan.

#### Activities organized for the empowerment of single women:

1. **Panchayat level meetings** - Monthly meetings were organized every month in 502 panchayats out of 515 by single women leaders at the panchayat level. In which 57,729 single women, 12,997 other women, 4,696 men and 3043 Jan Pratinidhi Panchayat level government non-government organization members participated in one year. The issues and problems of single women were discussed in the meetings, mainly in which problems related to domestic violence, food security, social security schemes were heard and resolved.



Single women panchayat level meeting

2. **Single Women Block Level Meetings** - This year block committee member meetings of single women were organized in 81 blocks, because due to Corona, meetings could not be held in many blocks, Panchayat level and block level issues of single women in the block meetings organized and Work was done to solve the problems. Along with this, the



Single women block level meeting



experiences of the work of another Panchayat were exchanged.

3. **Block Facilitator Monthly Meetings** -This year 10 monthly meetings of single women block leaders were organized in Kota, Udaipur cluster. In which 656 block facilitators participated in monthly meetings of 10 months. The estimated facilitators in this were 65-66 per meeting. Report presentation of Panchayat work done every month, documentation inspection, discussion on upcoming plans, setting agenda of Panchayat meetings, discussion on capacity building trainings, planning and problems and challenges faced during work.
4. **Single women leader state level meetings** -State level meeting of single women leaders is organized thrice a year. Like every year, this year also the state level meeting was organized thrice a year. In which presentation of district wise work reporting for four months, presentation of successful and special cases by single women, discussion on working on special issues and problems of single women, special activities, planning of programs, problems and challenges, solutions in the field discuss and local
5. **Capacity Building Training** -In this year, subject based capacity building trainings were organized for single women leaders as per the need from time to time, as well as individual women leaders in collaboration with other networks also enhanced their capacity. This year, single women leaders participated in Block Leaders Capacity Building Training, Farmer Women Capacity Building Training, Women Land Rights related trainings.
6. **Sisterhood celebrations (Bahinadool jashn Bahinchaareka)** during 8-13 November 2021 BehnaDool programmes were held in 27 districts, 75 blocks and 266 panchayats, attended by 5418 people and 210 local elected representatives and government workers. Some links to videos of the festivities -



**Bahinadool jashn**

## II. **Women Farmers**

Work with women farmers for sustainable and women led agricultural practices is ongoing in 32 Panchayats across 14 blocks of 7 districts. The work is being led by Single Women farmers with marginal land holdings. In this year many groups took on vegetable cultivation and kitchen gardening. Groups also explored resource centers near their localities to learn from others about vermicompost, natural farming, seed banks, integrated farming, back yard poultry and other progressive farming practices. 2 women farmer leaders completed a 6 days training on setting up a bio-resource center to support natural farming.



**Women farmer in her farm land**



Women Farmers attending vermicompost training

### III. Women Land Rights

Women's land rights have been a recurring area for work and intervention in our work on women's organizing - with single women across Rajasthan, and with tribal women in 4 districts of Southern Rajasthan. We recognize the centrality of land and property ownership in improving the economic and social status of women, within their families and in the larger community. We also recognize that women's ownership / co-ownership and control of land results in better productivity, health and nutritional outcomes and reduces alienation of land from the most vulnerable communities. It also gives women more security in their marital life, both from violence and being abandoned/ thrown out.

**There are 2 main prongs to the women's land rights work that Astha has done so far,**

1. Land and property rights of single women (mainly widows) - awareness on inheritance laws, processes for adding name to land record, opening land mutation accounts, developing local collective strategies for ensuring that widows who own the land, also have full control of it.
2. Land Rights for Tribal Women - Astha has been committed to ensuring that women's ownership and co-ownership by married couples is made central to the Forest Rights Act. This work took the form of advocacy at the time of the framing of the act, notification of rules and laying out of processes in the initial phase; and has since then meant active communication and awareness raising to ensure that this does not get lost in implementation



Women Land Right Meeting

of the Act. Astha has also worked to ensure that women's views are taken into account when communities prepare claims for recognition of Community Forest Rights.

**IV. COVID relief work**

In association with various Ekal Nari Shakti Sangathan ration distribution and vaccine awareness programmes were carried out in 36 blocks of 16 districts covering 3,521 households. Direct Cash support to 221 households in extremely vulnerable situation after the second wave of Covid-19 from April to June 2020 was done in May and June 2021. Regular follow-up of these households was completed to ensure that linkages to relevant social security schemes were made in December 2021. Child line reports regarding all minors left without a parent were also registered in the specific districts. Most of these households were headed by single women at the time the support was provided, while some were households with members suffering serious sickness, supporting recently orphaned minor children and young adults up to 21 years of age who had lost a parent.



**COVID relief received by Single Women**

## Support Units

- I. **Administrative Support Unit:** The Administrative Support Unit extends its support and nurtures the Resource Units of Astha with administrative services. The Unit is based at Central Office (Udaipur) constituting of accounts section, computer section and support staff.
- II. **Account and Finance:** Proper books of accounts are being maintained for FC and Local funds using fund accounting method. The books of accounts are maintained on a day-to-day basis. The financial reports are being prepared as per the requirement of funding agencies (quarterly, six-monthly, and yearly) and final accounts of the organization (audited statements of accounts) being prepared at the end of the financial year (April-March) duly signed and sealed by Auditors and authorities of the organization. At present, there are three full-time staff working in the accounting section of the organization. Astha produces annual accounts/ institutional audits. Astha maintains computerized books of accounts using Tally 9.0 accounting software since 2008. The internal auditor has been appointed and auditing regular books since 2008. The internal auditor has been appointed and auditing regular books for the last five years.
- III. **Computer Section:** The computer section extends its support to the Resource Units for typing of reports, newsletter, preparing press notes, and publication of booklets, pamphlets, and leaflet. The staff of the section is the capable in publication and maintains data for survey and small research studies.
- IV. **Human Resource Cell:** The cell is responsible for managing the records of human resource engaged in the resource units. It provides support in workers/ staff etc., keeps personal records, and helps in extending security (insurance for personal accident, vehicle, and property). Students from social work institutes come to Astha for an exposure visit to and worked with the resource complete their placement period and gain working experience from the organization.
- V. **Astha Training Center, Bedla:** The Astha Training Centre facilities are used to strengthen those working with poor, exploited and marginalized. Capacities enhancement of grassroots workers working in the field of health, literacy, communal harmony, food security, budget analysis, gender equity, drought relief, soil and water conservation keeps regular engagement of the training center almost throughout the year. During the reporting year, a total of 97 events (training/ workshops/ meetings) were held at the Astha Training Centre and a total of 2513 people (763 women and 1750 Men) participated in these events.
- VI. **Planning Monitoring & Evaluation (PME) Support Unit:** Monitoring is an integral part of any social development initiative. The PME Support Unit at Astha has been engaged in tracking the progress of interventions at the central level but it has further scope to be strengthened and institutionalized at the grass-root level. The PME Support unit constantly engaged in collecting, filtering, managing, processing and analyzing data from the field to assess the outcome and impacts of ongoing interventions. This also helps in better planning at central as well as the grass-root level. It is Astha's aim that field workers and community leaders become aware of themselves about the concepts of monitoring. Astha has formed an Outcome and Impact Monitoring team comprising of senior program coordinators, field staff and the PME Support Unit which regularly monitors program implementation and respective

outcome indicators. Monitoring was done by field visits to sample villages in the project area and interaction with community and collection of data related to planned activities.

A corruption case taken up by ENSS that started in November 2019 recently got some positive results. At that time, a few Association leaders, who also render services as Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) nursery school/ *anganwadi* workers, brought to the notice of the ENSS State Coordinator a corruption issue against their ICDS Supervisor, by the name of Indu Atal. She was forcing all the ICDS workers working under her to pay to her an amount of Rs. 2,000 every month, in order to insure continuing positive reports about their work! The Sangathan reported this corrupt practice to various administrative and political leaders – the Child Development Project Officer (CDPO), the Deputy Director Women Child Development Department, the MLA, but got no positive reaction. Then they reported the matter to the Divisional Commissioner who started an investigation, and transferred Indu Atal to Kota from Itawa Block where out her corrupt practices.

½ years, and then she was Block, and resumed her 2,000 per month from each under her! She apparently administrative, and 2 Association leaders Anganwadi Workers, with Coordinator of ENSS again corruption stopped. They Workers to raise their



ENSS Sangathan member ICDS Workers Manju Rathore and Padma

corruption, and contacted the Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Sachin Pilot, former Deputy Chief Minister, senior administrators in the Women Child Development Department, the Kota District Collector, and the Anti-Corruption Bureau.

The latest part of the story reveals that it is not just Supervisor Indu Atal who is collecting bribes from the Anganwadi workers, but also at least one more Supervisor, Anita, who was inspired by Indu Atal and began doing the same thing with her Anganwadi Workers! Meanwhile, most of the other 26 Anganwadi Workers who had joined the struggle to stop this corruption, could not withstand the pressures on them, and withdrew from the struggle. But the 2 strong Single Women members, Manju and Padma of ENSS supported by the State Coordinator continued! They gave another written complaint about the 2 corrupt Supervisors to the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), and on the basis of the second complaint, the ACB ordered a “sting operation” that continued for 15 days, and during this investigation, Supervisor Anita and her male “helper/*dala*” were caught red-handed receiving the bribes. The trap laid included marked and numbered bank notes, with incriminating coloured powder on the notes, and so the ACB has solid proof of the bribery and corruption. This action took place in March 2022, and both Supervisor Anita and the “middleman/ male accomplice” are now arrested and in jail! The investigation proceedings around Indu Atal are in the final stages, and she too will likely go to jail! The boldness of the Single Women leaders forced the ACB to take action against corruption.

However, we feel that this case may not be over just yet! There may be other ICDS Supervisors involved in such corruption; the senior administrative and political leaders may again influence the action. But the Association has kept up its action since November 2019, and is not about to give up until justice is done!

## Financial Statements

ASTHA SANSTHAN  
Regd. Office: 13-C, II Floor  
Category - II, Vijay Mandal Enclave  
New Delhi, India



CONSOLIDATED

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st MARCH 2022

Particulars	Sch.	31.03.2022	31.03.2021
<b>SOURCES OF FUNDS</b>			
Corpus Fund	1	31921961.92	31921961.92
Capital Fund	2	11698514.25	11312663.25
Reserves & Surplus	3	(4784869.06)	1872578.10
Motor Cycle Fund	4	273604.00	242529.00
Staff Gratuity Fund	5	6386915.00	1443864.16
Staff Welfare Fund	6	2541103.86	2570947.86
<b>Total</b>		<b>48037229.97</b>	<b>49364544.29</b>
<b>APPLICATION OF FUNDS</b>			
Fixed Assets	7	11698514.25	11312663.25
<b>Investments</b>			
LIC Group Gratuity Cash Accumulation Plan		6386915.00	0.00
<b>Current Assets, Loans &amp; Advances</b>			
1 Cash & Bank Balances	8	34205508.21	43029276.84
2 Loans, Advances & Other Current Assets	9	1710855.00	2875063.78
3 Overspent amount Recoverable on Projects	10	60654.00	478071.09
(A)		<u>35977017.21</u>	<u>46382411.71</u>
<b>Less: Current Liabilities &amp; Provisions</b>			
1 Other Liabilities & Provisions	11	0.00	122416.00
2 Unspent amount Payable on Projects	10	6025216.49	8208114.67
(B)		<u>6025216.49</u>	<u>8330530.67</u>
Net Current Assets (A-B)		29951800.72	38051881.04
<b>Total</b>		<b>48037229.97</b>	<b>49364544.29</b>
Significant Accounting Policies & Notes on Accounts	16		

For Astha Sansthan

B. Schaday  
Co-ordinating Director

Secretary

Accounts & Finance Coordinator

Place : Udaipur  
Dated: 17 September, 2022



In terms of Our Report of even date attached

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

(Anand Pagaria)  
Partner  
M.No. 401182



ASTHA SANSTHAN  
Regd. Office: 13-C, II Floor  
Category - II, Vijay Mandal Enclave  
New Delhi, India



## INCOME &amp; EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED ON 31st MARCH 2022

Particulars	Sch.	31.03.2022	31.03.2021
<b>INCOME DURING THE YEAR</b>			
Grant In Aid received	10	21256392.69	23104784.98
Donation Received		245000.00	127085.00
Interest Earned		2042214.60	2516319.15
Other Receipts	14	1715279.00	1599975.95
Membership Fee		396.00	99.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>(A)</b>	<b>25259282.29</b>	<b>27348264.08</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE DURING THE YEAR</b>			
Programme Expenses	12	26138601.58	28568109.54
Administrative Expenses	13	6637055.96	6062238.00
Dedit Balances Written off/ (Written Back)	15	407247.14	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>(B)</b>	<b>33182904.68</b>	<b>34630347.54</b>
<b>Excess of Income over Expenditure (A-B)</b>		<b>(7923622.39)</b>	<b>(7282083.46)</b>
<b>Less: Net excess of Overspent/Unspent grants balances carried to Balance sheet - Difference over last year balances</b>		<b>1877548.23</b>	<b>7613793.86</b>
<b>Net Allocable Surplus/ (Deficit)</b>		<b>(6046074.16)</b>	<b>331710.40</b>
<b>Less: Appropriations:</b>			
(i) Transferred to Staff Gratuity Fund		7047.00	105924.00
(ii) Transferred to Staff Welfare Fund		132464.00	191450.00
(iii) Transferred to Capital Fund (Acquisition of Fixed Assets)		471862.00	128860.00
<b>Net Allocable Surplus/ (Deficit) transferred Reserve &amp; Surplus</b>		<b>(6657447.16)</b>	<b>(94523.60)</b>

Significant Accounting Policies & Notes on Accounts 16

For Astha Sansthan

B. Schady  
Co-ordinating  
Director

Secretary

Accounts & Finance  
Coordinator

Place : Udaipur  
Dated: 17 September, 2022



In terms of Our Report of even date attached

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

(Anand Pagaria)  
Partner  
M.No. 401182



# Media Coverage

कोटड़ा के दौरे पर पहुंचे कलेक्टर व बाल आयोग सदस्य, लोगों ने बालश्रम, स्कूलों व शिक्षकों की कमी, आधार भूतान की समस्याएं बताईं

## प्रत्येक माह में यहां बैठक रखूंगा, जिसमें जिला लेवल के अधिकारी भी रहेंगे, समस्याओं को सुलझाएंगे : कलेक्टर

संवाद: नया | पत्रिका

कोटड़ा के कलेक्टर के रूप में कार्यरत के.एस. शर्मा ने कहा कि प्रत्येक माह में जिला लेवल के अधिकारियों के साथ बैठक रखी जाएगी, जिसमें जिला लेवल के अधिकारियों के साथ बैठक रखी जाएगी, जिसमें जिला लेवल के अधिकारियों के साथ बैठक रखी जाएगी...

आदिवासी विकास मंच ने बाल आयोग सदस्य को कोटड़ा में बच्चों से जुड़े मुख्य मुद्दों से अवगत करवाया



कोटड़ा, जनसुनवाई में कलेक्टर को बच्चों से जुड़े मुख्य मुद्दों से अवगत करवाया

कोटड़ा में शिक्षकों, स्कूलों की कमी : कलेक्टर ने 2021-22 में 60 शिक्षकों की 29 स्कूलों में तैनाती की है, जबकि 2020-21 में 250 शिक्षकों की तैनाती की थी।

## लुप्त हो रहे 'नानू' अनाज को युवा दे रहे संरक्षण

संवाद: नया | पत्रिका

कोटड़ा में 'नानू' अनाज को युवा दे रहे संरक्षण : युवाओं ने 'नानू' अनाज को संरक्षण देने के लिए एक समिति बनाई है।



युवाओं ने 'नानू' अनाज को संरक्षण देने के लिए एक समिति बनाई है।

## वीसी की आईडी शुरू करवाने, विज्ञान के दौरे

संवाद: नया | पत्रिका

वीसी की आईडी शुरू करवाने, विज्ञान के दौरे : वीसी की आईडी शुरू करवाने, विज्ञान के दौरे...

## आदिवासी संस्कृति पर शिक्षकों कार्यशाला, संरक्षण व संवर्धन

संवाद: नया | पत्रिका

आदिवासी संस्कृति पर शिक्षकों कार्यशाला, संरक्षण व संवर्धन : शिक्षकों को आदिवासी संस्कृति पर कार्यशाला...

## 200 किसानों को मिलाना प्रयोग

संवाद: नया | पत्रिका

200 किसानों को मिलाना प्रयोग : 200 किसानों को मिलाना प्रयोग...



200 किसानों को मिलाना प्रयोग : 200 किसानों को मिलाना प्रयोग...

## विश्व पर्यटन दिवस : कोटड़ा में तीन दिवसीय पहला ट्राइबल

संवाद: नया | पत्रिका

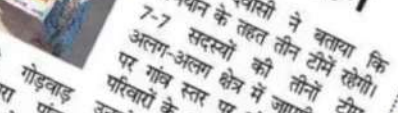
विश्व पर्यटन दिवस : कोटड़ा में तीन दिवसीय पहला ट्राइबल : विश्व पर्यटन दिवस...



## रोजगार गारंटी में पूरा काम-पूरा दाम अभियान का हुआ शुभारंभ

संवाद: नया | पत्रिका

रोजगार गारंटी में पूरा काम-पूरा दाम अभियान का हुआ शुभारंभ : रोजगार गारंटी...



## विकास सभव नहा महिला संगम कार्यक्रम

संवाद: नया | पत्रिका

विकास सभव नहा महिला संगम कार्यक्रम : विकास सभव नहा...



विकास सभव नहा महिला संगम कार्यक्रम : विकास सभव नहा...

## बाली में 30 दिवसीय आवासीय प्रशिक्षण शिविर

संवाद: नया | पत्रिका

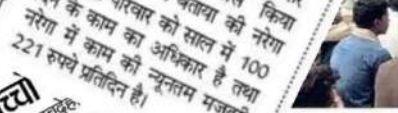
बाली में 30 दिवसीय आवासीय प्रशिक्षण शिविर : बाली में 30 दिवसीय...



## बाल श्रम मुक्त समाज विभाग, संस्थाओं व बच्चों

संवाद: नया | पत्रिका

बाल श्रम मुक्त समाज विभाग, संस्थाओं व बच्चों : बाल श्रम मुक्त समाज...



## युवाओं को अनाज संरक्षण के लिए कार्यशाला

संवाद: नया | पत्रिका

युवाओं को अनाज संरक्षण के लिए कार्यशाला : युवाओं को अनाज...



युवाओं को अनाज संरक्षण के लिए कार्यशाला : युवाओं को अनाज...

## बाल श्रम मुक्त समाज विभाग, संस्थाओं व बच्चों

संवाद: नया | पत्रिका

बाल श्रम मुक्त समाज विभाग, संस्थाओं व बच्चों : बाल श्रम मुक्त समाज...



## बाल श्रम मुक्त समाज विभाग, संस्थाओं व बच्चों

संवाद: नया | पत्रिका

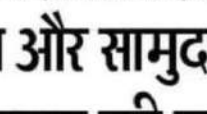
बाल श्रम मुक्त समाज विभाग, संस्थाओं व बच्चों : बाल श्रम मुक्त समाज...



## युवाओं को अनाज संरक्षण के लिए कार्यशाला

संवाद: नया | पत्रिका

युवाओं को अनाज संरक्षण के लिए कार्यशाला : युवाओं को अनाज...

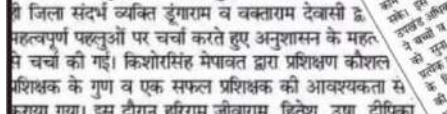


युवाओं को अनाज संरक्षण के लिए कार्यशाला : युवाओं को अनाज...

## बाल श्रम मुक्त समाज विभाग, संस्थाओं व बच्चों

संवाद: नया | पत्रिका

बाल श्रम मुक्त समाज विभाग, संस्थाओं व बच्चों : बाल श्रम मुक्त समाज...



## बाल श्रम मुक्त समाज विभाग, संस्थाओं व बच्चों

संवाद: नया | पत्रिका

बाल श्रम मुक्त समाज विभाग, संस्थाओं व बच्चों : बाल श्रम मुक्त समाज...



## युवाओं को अनाज संरक्षण के लिए कार्यशाला

संवाद: नया | पत्रिका

युवाओं को अनाज संरक्षण के लिए कार्यशाला : युवाओं को अनाज...

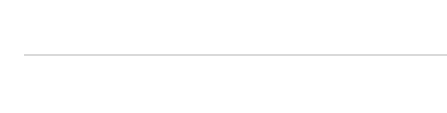


युवाओं को अनाज संरक्षण के लिए कार्यशाला : युवाओं को अनाज...

## बाल श्रम मुक्त समाज विभाग, संस्थाओं व बच्चों

संवाद: नया | पत्रिका

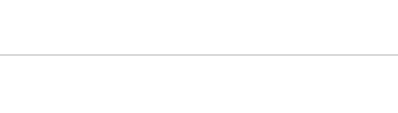
बाल श्रम मुक्त समाज विभाग, संस्थाओं व बच्चों : बाल श्रम मुक्त समाज...



## बाल श्रम मुक्त समाज विभाग, संस्थाओं व बच्चों

संवाद: नया | पत्रिका

बाल श्रम मुक्त समाज विभाग, संस्थाओं व बच्चों : बाल श्रम मुक्त समाज...



## युवाओं को अनाज संरक्षण के लिए कार्यशाला

संवाद: नया | पत्रिका

युवाओं को अनाज संरक्षण के लिए कार्यशाला : युवाओं को अनाज...



युवाओं को अनाज संरक्षण के लिए कार्यशाला : युवाओं को अनाज...



**Annexure**

**Staff List**

<b>Sl. No</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Sl. No</b>	<b>Name</b>
1	B.S.Chadana	18	Ramesh Nagda
2	R.D.Vyas	19	Prem Shanker Paliwal
3	Ashwani Paliwal	20	Man SinghSisodiya
4	Ramesh Paliwal	21	Kirti Joshi
5	Rajkumar Jalora	22	HemlataShrimali
6	Manglesh Joshi	23	Ganpat Singh
7	Ganesh Gancha	24	Lehar Singh
8	Jitendra Agrawal	25	Manohar Singh
9	Kamlendra Singh Rathod	26	Nandini Singh
10	Pradeep Kumar Pradhan		
11	Mrs. Parul Choudhry		
12	Shyam Lal Purohit		
13	MangilalGurjar		
14	Vagta Ram Devasi		
15	Sohan Lal Gameti		
16	Pawan Udhani		
17	Reena Sharma		

## **ELECTED EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

**2022**

<b>Sr.No.</b>	<b>Name and Address</b>	<b>Designation</b>
1.	Ms. Anita Mathur,	President
2.	Sh. Ashwani Paliwal	Secretary
3.	Ms. Madhu Sarin	Member
4.	Sh. R.D. Vyas	Member
5.	Mrs. Suneeta Dhar,	Member
6.	Ms. Sofia Khan	Member
7.	Sh. Bhanwar Singh Chadana	Ex-Officio

## **THE GENERAL BODY MEMBERS**

**2022**

<b>Sr.No.</b>	<b>Name and Address</b>	<b>Designation</b>
1.	Ms. Anita Mathur,	President
2.	Sh. Ashwani Paliwal	Secretary
3.	Ms. Madhu Sarin	Member
4.	Sh. R.D. Vyas,	Member
5.	Mrs. Suneeta Dhar	Member
6.	Ms. Sofia Khan	Member
7.	Sh. Bhanwar Singh Chadana	Ex-Officio
8.	Sh. Nand Lal Pande	Member
9.	Dr. Ginny Shrivastava	Member
10.	Ms. Sejal Dan	Member

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