

**Internship
at
Prayatna Samiti, Gudli, Udaipur,
Rajasthan**

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**Post Graduate Diploma in Rural Management
2012-2014**


**School of Rural Management
Institute of Health Management Research,
Jaipur
2014**

Organization Profile

Prayatna Samiti is a voluntary organization registered in 1989 under Rajasthan State Societies Registration Act (1958). The organization initiated its work in Gudli-Bambora region of Girwa Tehsil of Udaipur District. At present it is working intensively in 12 panchayats of Girwa, Salumbar and Bhinder Tehsil of Udaipur.

It has its headquarter in the Udaipur district of Rajasthan with field offices in Bambora and Salumber. PS is working to promote livelihood enhancement activities among tribal communities in rural areas outside of Udaipur. Under its programs in the block areas of Girwa and Salumber, PS aims to raise family level income through agriculture and livestock promotion. In addition, women have benefited from Prayatna Samiti's institutional building approach and other innovation activities. Prayatna Samiti believes in an institutional building approach, which promotes community participation in order to sustain livelihoods for lifelong benefits. Their institutional building approach includes: Kunwa Parivar (well families), Sustainable Livelihood Groups (SLGs), and Self Help Groups (SHGs). Both men and women benefit from livelihood promotional activities and play active roles in capacity building processes. By creating strong affinity through interactions at the panchayat and community level, Prayatna Samiti has increased the demand for improved animal husbandry and agricultural practices. Activities in pasture lands have generated avenues for self-governance. Alternative methods for enhancing livelihoods through pastureland development have fostered self-dependency and increased household incomes. Horticulture and fodder production have improved the cattle milk production sector. Water conservation through trenches, gully plugs, and check dams has doubled the amount of water harvested. PS has also improved the capacity of land area for supporting grasses, crops and trees.

Prayatna Samiti believes in community participation for sustainable structures. Volunteers and cash contributions are being considered for the well being of the hardware development. An equal contribution is expected from the community to the funds granted by any agency. Community participation to contribute as in-kind for breed development, check dams, well lining, farm labour, etc. In cash contribution are sought for purchase activities like pipelines, seeds, livestock, etc.

1.2 Vision:

Prayatna Samiti aims to enhance self-reliant institutional building at the block level to address food insecurity.

1.3 Objectives of the Organization:

- To facilitate rural reconstruction through the efforts of village communities.
- To assist disadvantaged village communities to identify their problems and develop and implement solutions through collaborative group work.
- To encourage people from disadvantaged village communities to participate in local governing bodies, not just as representatives, but also as aware and concerned citizens.
- To set up alliances between peoples groups, the State and development agencies with a view to rural development..
- To encourage people to participate in local decision making processes

Biodiversity conservation, Breed upgradation, Improved crop varieties, Soil fertility ,Land upgradation, Ground water recharging systems, Pipelines, Water Tanks, Roof Rain Water Harvesting, Climate Change Adaptation, Microplanning, Sustainable Rural Enterprises, Gir cow Buffaloes, Sirohi Goats, Poultry, Horticulture and vegetable cultivation, Kirana Shops

1.4 Brief description of the organization's association with Action Aid.

Prayatna Samiti started partnership with Actionaid in January 2008 as part of the Tribal Self Rule Initiative Network. The long term partnership crystallized after successful appraisal for long term partnership in the year 2010. The long term Local Right Programme begun in the year 2011. With the support of Actionaid, Prayatna Samiti is currently working mainly focusing on: Empowerment through capacity building of the tribal peoples, Advocacy and lobby for protection and promotion of tribals rights, Empowerment for Self Rule, Institution building and campaign for solidarity of the Tribal People.

1.5 Programmes/Projects

1.5.1 Sawna Macro Watershed

Community Based Water and Livelihood Enhancement in Sawna Macro Watershed of Jaisamand Catchment Area

Funded by Wells for India (WFI), a UK based agency, the project aims to enhance livelihoods of poor communities in 10 villages near the Sawna Macro Watersheds in the Jaisamand catchment area, Udaipur, Rajasthan by 2013. PS and WFI have outlined the following objectives for the project is to:

- Provide safe drinking water to every human being and all livestock
- Optimize land and water productivity
- Apply and test groundwater recharge
- Develop water and livelihood based institutional programs

1.5.2 Makri River Basin

Livelihood and Ecological Security Based Approach for Revitalization of Makri River Basin In partnership with CEE and supported by the GEF UNDP Small Grants Program.

1.5.3 Agriculture and Livestock

Within the scope of milk and agricultural production, Prayatna Samiti is engaged in developing local resources for educating farmers.

Trainings provided by the experts form Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Animal Husbandry Department (AHD), Forest Department (Udaipur) are being implemented to harness good results.

Improved cow and goat rearing practices are being developed, as well as increased feed preparation and improved production of fodder. Shed management practices for cows and buffaloes are also being promoted.

Treatment of diseases in plants is being strengthened. The selection of productive varieties and new sowing and harvesting techniques are being adapted. Promotion of drip irrigation is now being promoted to save water and reduce manual labor.

Kunwa Parivar (Well Families): These are group of well dependent families. Every well has at least 5 to 8 dependent families, which form a group for one well i.e., Kunwa Parivar. A Kuna Parivar shares a common understanding as a common platform to address the diverse problems which may be related to agriculture, water, livestock and other non-farm activities. 28 Kunwa Parivars have benefitted the members from Rawatpura, Sulawas, and Karmal villages. Their livelihoods like backyard farming, crop growing and animal husbandry have been benefitted.

Sustainable Livelihood Group (SLG): SLG is a virtually existing group of SHGs and other community members which only focus on income generating livelihoods through discussion among group members with the NGO representatives and other experts to improve existing livelihoods practices. Unlike SHGs, this focuses only on livelihoods rather than on social programs. With impeccable decision making processes SLGs have the following objectives: increase the production from agriculture and animal husbandry practices, adapt good practices and advance technology, utilize the funds from SHGs and other projects for livelihoods, involve farmers in training and meetings, develop personality and inculcate decision making abilities.