



Gram Bharati Samiti (GBS)

# Annual Report 2017-18



## Environment

### DESERTIF' ACTIONS, France

Bhawani Shanker Kusum participated in the new edition of DESERTIF' ACTIONS organized by the City of Strasbourg, Climate Chance Association, and CARI with support from the Secretariat of the UNCCD in Strasbourg, France on June 27- 28, 2017. **The main objective** Climate imbalance and land degradation: lands at the heart of 21st century issues and what non-state actor's dynamics on land degradation and desertification? Following were the thematic issues discussed in the conference:

#### Day –I

- Dry lands resilience: Tools available in the territories to define their adaptation?
- Can Climate finance contribute to land restoration?
- How territories based projects can contribute to LDN targets?
- How to take into consideration land issues in land restoration dynamics?
- How to face concurrency of diverse water uses with its precariousness?
- Migratory flow: challenges and actors' at the local, national and regional scale?



CSO panel members discussing their role in the implementation of UNCCD

## Day –II

- Progress report and development perspectives of the 4/1000 Initiative today?
- Actors' coalition and actions to ensure integrated and sustainable development?
- Solutions decentralized cooperation can offer to combat desertification?
- Economy of energy practices for the development of territories?
- Impact of the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel in territories?
- Challenges to rebalance to land to women who can build on ancestral knowledge?

Bhawani Shanker Kusum made a presentation on GBS experience on restoring degraded lands in the arid zone of Rajasthan; India 'How territories based projects can contribute to land degradation neutrality national targets' as a CSO panel member of UNCCD.

The Executive Secretary of the UNCCD, the High-Level Climate Champions, the Chair of IPPC, the representative of the current UNCCD Turkish Presidency, the representative of the future UNCCD Chinese Chair, the Inter ministerial French Ambassador for environment, Senator of Loire Atlantique, the Mayor of the city of Strasbourg and co-chair of UCLG, UN civil society constituencies and the UNCCD CSOs panel representatives were among the key participants of the conference.

### At UNCCD

Bhawani Shanker Kusum after he was elected as CSO Panel member from Asia in the UNCCD mobilized 83 CSO/NGO engaged in land degradation, drought and Desertification in region to get their organization accredited with UNCCD, which was appreciated by the UNCCD, particularly its Secretary General Ms. Monique Barbut.

### Meeting with CSO of India

Bhawani organized several meeting with the NGOs of India accredited with UNCCD i.e. on **10.08.2016, 25.04.2017 and on 06.06.2017.**

In addition to describing them the objectives and current affairs of activities of UNCCD he told them in detail about the following concurrent issues:

- LDN Fund and projects related to it
- Participation in COP13 held on September 6-16, 2017 in Ordos, China
- Process of confirmation of accreditation with UNCCD
- Participation in the Youth Forum held in Ordos, China on September 6-10, 2017





CSO representatives interacting in a meeting held at GBS office in Amber

### Participation in COP13

Thirty personnel of NGOs accredited with UNCCD from Asia applied for scholarship to participate in the COP13 to be held in Ordos, China on 6-16 September, 2017, but following ten of them including three from India could get scholarship:



International delegates together with CSO panel members at COP13 Ordos, China

1. Ms. Thi Hop, CSRD, Viet Nam
2. Ms. Sadaf Gul, SCOPE, Pakistan
3. Mr. Abdus Salam, DEW, Bangladesh
4. Mr. Bhawani Kusum, GBS, India
5. Mr. Moti Lal Nepali, DWA, Nepal
6. Ms. Kusum Lata Jain, India
7. Ms. Asha Bothra, Meera Sansthan, India
8. Ms. Nahideh Naghizadeh, CSD, Iran
9. Ms. Nurgul, SOS-Land, Kyrgyzstan
10. Mr. Sou Socheath, LLEE, Cambodia



CSO delegates on dais of COP13 showing their integrity towards UNCCD

Also, Mr. Tanweer Arif, SCOPE, Pakistan, Mr. Mahesh Jain, GRS, India and Mr. Arun Kumawat, Navachar Sansthan, India participated as self funded delegates. Bhawani made a presentation on Gandhivan wasteland development work in relation to restoration of degraded lands in the arid zone of India, which was appreciated widely. Also he did intervention on behalf of the CSO panel on LDN and other relevant issues. The participation of CSO of Asia and particularly of India was very encouraging.

The participation of CSO of Asia and particularly of India and their performance in the COP13 was discussed in a meeting of CSOs of India organized in GBS office, Amber on 23.10.2017. The performance of Indian delegates in the COP13 was appreciated by all the CSOs.





Bhawani presenting a spindle to Ms. Monique Brbut, Executive Secretary, UNCCD

### Meeting of CSO of India

GBS organized a meeting of CSO/NGOs accredited with UNCCD at UNDP office in New Delhi on 9.11.2017 on 'Investing in Land to address land degradation, drought and desertification'. Forty six delegates of CSO/NGOs from different parts of India participated in the meeting.



Bhawani making presentation on CSOs work on combating desertification in Rajasthan

Bhawani Shanker Kusum, CSO Panel member for Asia in the UNCCD while delivering Welcome address briefly told about the UNCCD, and described the problems of drought, desertification and land degradation in the India. Also, he described to the CSO participants the background of UNCCD, its structure, objectives, COP and its constitution etc.

Mr. Pradeep Monga, Deputy Executive Secretary, UNCCD addressing the CSOs stated the importance of the work being carried out by them at grassroots level. Describing the overall situation of drought, desertification and land degradation in the Asian region and particularly in India he emphasized to focus on the implementation of LDN to address these problems. He encouraged CSO to play an important role for achieving LDN targets.



Mr. Pradeep Monga, Deputy Executive Secretary, UNCCD addressing the CSOs

Ms. Priyanka Kohli, Ministry of Environment and Forests and Climate Change, Government of India highlighted the bottom up approach adopted by the Ministry in the implementation of UNCCD in India. She said that work at grassroots level is important to combat DLDD. Ms. Kohli introduced National Action Programme (NAP) and spoke on different schemes implemented by Government of India i.e. soil erosion mitigation, reforestation, forest and land rights, bio-diversity conservation etc.

Mr. Victor K. Igbokwe, an Intern of UNDP shared the success stories of UNDP work in Madhya Pradesh and Nagaland State on reversing Land Degradation in co-ordination with local forest dwellers and forest caretakers.



Many of the CSOs shared their work to achieve LDN targets and challenges faced while implementation. Their focus was on promoting simple devices for rain water harvesting, forestation in degraded areas, agro forestry and capacity building for the community people etc.

### Ms. Monique's address

Ms. Monique, Executive Secretary, UNCCD speaking as chief guest of the meeting congratulated Mr. Bhawani Shanker Kusum for organizing such a successful meeting of Indian CSOs. She remarked 'I am delighted to note that the Indian CSOs are engaged very actively in various activities aimed at improving the environment'.



Ms. Monique Barbut, Executive Secretary, UNCCD speaking as chief guest

She told that Mahatma Gandhi has taught us as how to protect the environment by limiting human needs. Ms. Monique remembered when in a meeting with CSO panel members she had challenged them to increase the number of CSO accredited with UNCCD to at least 500 until COP13 and appreciated Bhawani's leadership in mobilizing CSOs in Asia by accrediting 100 CSO from the region.

She expressed her pleasure on submitting a project to LDN Fund based on their multifaceted experience on environmental issues and hoped that they will have a good plan of action for empowering the women in the context of LDN.

Mr. Fazle Ahmed facilitated the discussion while Ms. Asha Bothra and Hazi Rukhsar Ahmed chaired different sessions of the meeting. Vote of thanks was given by Mr. L. Rakesh Kumar Reddy, Volunteer, Grameena Vikas Samithi, TIRUPATI, Andhra Pradesh, India.





CSO participants in a group after concluding session of the meeting

### World Sustainable Development Summit

Bhawani Shanker Kusum participated in the World Sustainable Development Summit organized by the Energy and Resource Institute (TERI) on 'Partnership for a resilient Planet' at Habitat Center in New Delhi on February 15-17, 2018. Also, he participated in the meeting of CSO panel members of UNCCD organized on February 14, 2018.



CSOs of India with CSO panel members at WSDS at TERI in New Delhi

Bhawani made a presentation as a panel member on 'Civil Society Engagement in Land Degradation Neutrality' organized on February 15. He shared GBS experience of working on restoration of degraded land in Rajasthan. Also, three other CSO representatives i.e. Abhishek Jain, Robin Kumar and Rakesh Reddy participated in the meeting.

## Marcos visits Jaipur

### Gandhivan project

He traveled to Gandhivan (the forest developed is named on Gandhi), to visualize the wasteland development project being implemented by Gram Bharati Samiti (GBS) in the remote of district Jaipur on February 18. He appreciated the work carried out by GBS on combating land degradation and desertification in the area. He interacted with key staff personnel of GBS on various aspects of the project. Also, he planted a tree at Gandhivan.



Mr. Marcos Montoiro with GBS members (left) planting a tree (right) at Gandhivan

### Interaction with CSO

Mr. Marcos participated in the meeting of CSO/NGOs of Rajasthan accredited with UNCCD organized at GBS office in Amber (Jaipur) on February 19. Twenty seven CSO from different parts of Rajasthan participated in the meeting. The meeting was commenced with the opening address by Mr. Bhawani Shanker Kusum, previous member, CSO Panel from Asia and President, Gram Bharati Samiti who felicitated the guest with small token of appreciation. He briefly mentioned the project proposal submitted to LDN Fund on restoration of degraded lands in the arid zone of Rajasthan in consultation with the CSOs of Rajasthan.

Many of the CSO participants gave presentation of the work they are doing in their respective areas. Focus of the presentations made by the CSOs was on restoration of degraded land in different parts of Rajasthan using indigenous knowledge and simple and low cost technology including:

- Stabilizing sand dunes,
- Plugging gullies,
- Checking soil erosion,
- Planting trees under different categories,
- Regenerating endangered tree species,
- Harvesting rain water.





Marcos with CSO representatives at GBS office in Amber

The guest of honor, Mr. Marcos Montoiro addressed the CSO with his reflection on their work and his experience over the years. He emphasized on the positive impact the CSOs were undertaking. He appreciated the procedure of initiating and implementing the projects by CSO with a less than handful of resources. He expressed his desire to replicate the model projects he witnessed during the meeting in other parts of the planet. He applauded the work of CSO aimed at LDN, land rights, combating desertification, rain water harvesting, soil fertility, organic farming etc. Moreover, he exclaimed that he would be keen to support the GBS and other CSO members in high regard for more resources in further authorities and level. He expected that they will certainly be able to implement LDN in India. He ended his speech with an adorable smile and a “*Dhanayad* (Thank you)”.



Pradeep Poonia presenting about his organization's work on land degradation

Mr. Fazle Ahmed, a senior CSO member and educationist while concluding the meeting, expressed his gratitude towards Mr. Marcos for his inspiring attendance in the meeting of the CSO and his encouraging address. He reiterated that the group of CSOs engaged in environmental work in Rajasthan is committed to implement LDN as a model one that could be replicated in other parts of the world.



Mr. Marcos addressing CSOs (left) while Mr. Fazle Ahmed chairing (second from right)

### **Rain water harvesting project**

Marcos traveled to village Harsoli together with Bhawani, Ramchandra, Kusum, Robin, Mahesh Kumar and Preet to visit the rain water harvesting activities. He visited several houses having the system established for harvesting the rain water from the roof of their house.

Bhawani told Marcos that it was a very low cost device based on indigenous knowledge and small technology under which a house of six members' family could be independent of safe



drinking water for whole of the year with a meager amount of \$1,500. And the whole village ‘**Charasada**’ consisting 100 households has been made independent of potable water with an expenditure of \$150,000.



Marcos with a rural family while visiting rain water harvesting work in village Charasada

Bhawani further told that all the people of 230 villages of the area are facing acute problem of safe drinking water being the water saline in the area due to the **Sambhar** salt lake. He said they are in search of funding agencies to get support for replicating this project in these villages.



A low cost device for harvesting roof top rain water in Charasada

### **Resurrection of Dravyawati River**

A meeting was organized Rajasthan Pradesh Sravodaya Mandal on June 05, the World Environment Day on **Resurrection of Dravyawati River** flowing in the South Western area of Jaipur at Press Club in Jaipur. The **Dravyawati River**, which has been quenching the thirst of thousands of the people residing in the walled city of Jaipur before a couple of decades. It was gradually converted in to a narrowed rivulet due to encroachment illegally made by some people with support of local politicians and bureaucrats. The Government had to resurrect it by emancipating from the encroachments on the directive of the Court.



Ms. Radha Bhatt, a reverend Gandhian watering a sapling in the meeting

The volunteers, RTI activists and whistle blowers including Mr. Rajendra Kumbhaj, who raised voice and filed writ petitions in the court, were honored in the meeting for their encouraging work and follow up.

Ms. Radha Bhatt, previous President of Sarva Seva Sangh and Gandhi Peace Foundation, speaking as Chief Guest of the meeting reminded the duty of the people, particularly the women and youth to be vigilant for safeguard of the natural resources, i.e. land, water and forests that are shrinking gradually and creating serious threat to the mankind. She said that we need to play the role of a trustee in saving water and forests, which are our life line.

Ms. Asha Bothra, chairing the meeting congratulated the social activists on saving the **Dravyawati River** by offering them a shawl on behalf of Rajasthan Pradesh Sravodaya Mandal and encouraged them to keep this spirit up for the sake of the nature and the people.



Justice P.L. Jain (retired), Justice Indrasen Israni (retired), Bhawai Shanker Kusum etc. were among the other speakers of the meeting.



Participants of the meeting with Radha Bhatt, the chief guest of the event

### **Bela Jain Memorial Garden**

Tree plantation event was organized at **Bela Jain Memorial Garden** in Gandhivan on December 22, 2017 by Mahesh Kumar Jain on the occasion of his wife Bela Jain's birthday who passed away in 2016.

An all religion prayer was organized in the beginning followed by tree plantation in the **Bela Jain Memorial Garden**, established in the memory of Bela Jain.

Bhawani Shanker Kusum speaking in the meeting held after the prayer told that Bela will be remembered for a long as every tree planted in her memory will be reminding all of us whether we come here or not. The trees will be serving not only the mankind, but every living being e.g. birds, animals even insects through all of their parts i.e. leaves, twigs, fruits, flowers, shade, bark etc.

Thus Bela's memories will always be unforgettable for us. Nearly one hundred people including family members, relatives and friends participated in the event.



Bhawani speaking in the meeting (left) Kusum and Mishika planting tree (right)

## Women's empowerment

### FK Exchange for women's empowerment

#### Partner's visit - Nepal

The partners' visit under the proposal GBS had submitted to FK Exchange, Norway last year for promoting women's handicrafts in India, China and Nepal by exchanging the volunteers of all the three countries in collaboration with China Green Foundation, China and Dalit Welfare Association, Nepal took place during this year.



Bhawani speaking to the community women in Kathmandu



Bhawani Shanker Kusum, Coordinator of the project and Ramchandra visited Nepal and China under the partners' visit. They travelled to Kathmandu on 17-19 April, 2017 to visit Dalit Welfare Association (DWA), Nepal.

During their visit to DWA Bhawani Shanker Kusum and Ramchandra Saini participated in a meeting organized with the community women living on the outskirts of Kathmandu and discussed with them their socio-economic problems, living conditions, source of income, handicrafts and household income generating activities they are involved in, health conditions etc.



Bhawani and Ramchandra with Moti Lal Nepali and his colleague in DWA office

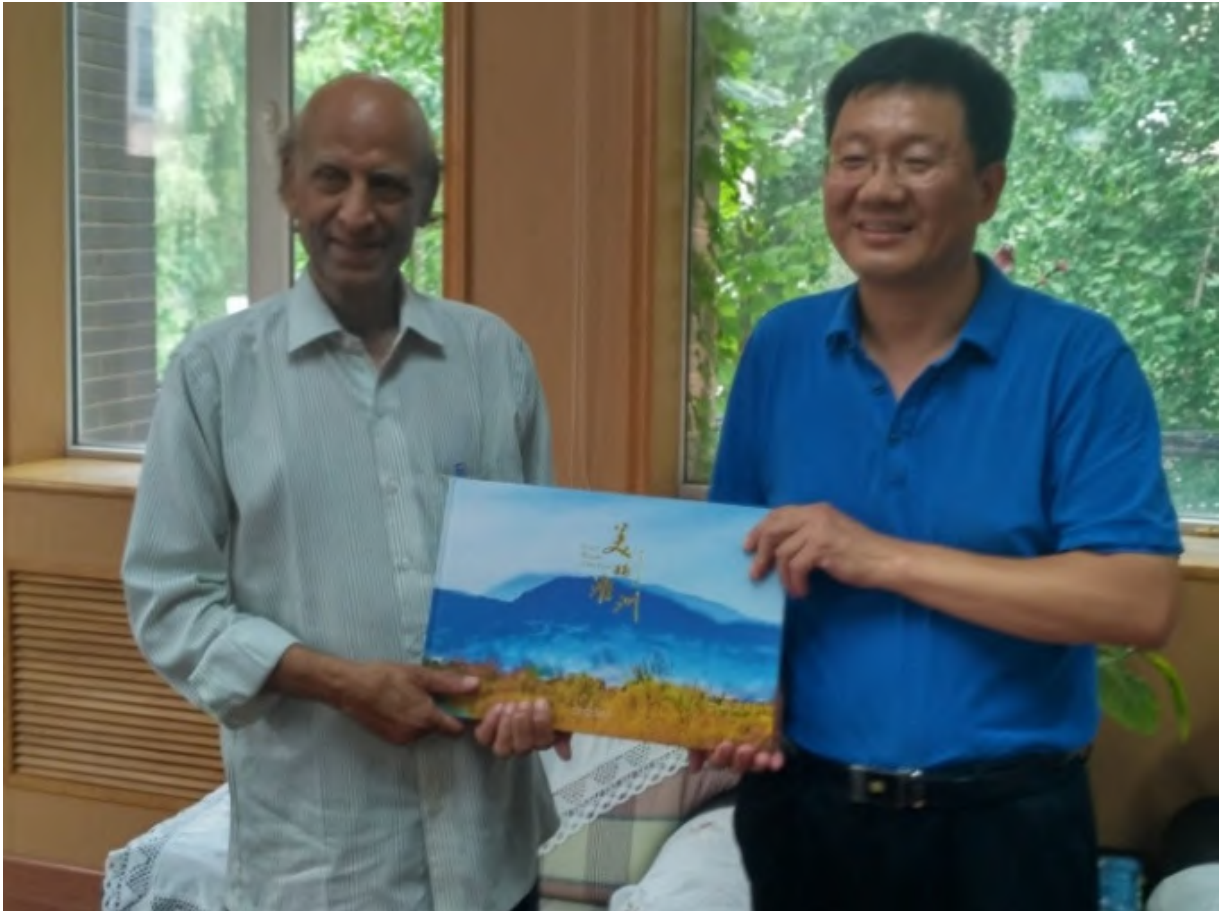
During interaction with the poor women of backward classes it was notified that they were very much interested in promoting their handicrafts. Also, they expressed their interest in training for weaving *durry* (cotton mats) and embroidery as the women entrepreneurs were been already doing in India.

Bhawani and Ramchandra also interacted with Mr. Motilal Nepali, the Chairman, DWA and his staff personnel in their office. They discussed with them various issues including:

- Objectives, activities and expected outcomes of the project
- Selection of outgoing participants travelling to India and China
- Lodging/boarding arrangements for the volunteers coming from India and China
- Tenure, program and schedule of activities for the incoming participants

### Partner's visit – China

Bhawani Shanker Kusum together with Ramchandra Saini visited China Green Foundation (CGF), the Partner 3 of the FK Exchange program in Beijing, China on July 20-22, 2017.



Mr. Chen Peng, Vice-president, CGF presenting Bhawani a report of CGF work

They participated in a meeting organized with Mr. Chen Peng, the vice chairman of CGF who whole heartedly supported the proposed project of FK Exchange to be implemented in collaboration with India, Nepal and China. In the meeting with staff personnel of CGF issues related to lodging, boarding of the incoming participants were discussed. Also, they had meeting with two women's organizations in the rural areas of China i.e. Serve for China that work to cultivate rural entrepreneurs and rural public services to create sustainable impact and Zeng Li, a women entrepreneur of embodiment of Miao minority group.

While having discussion on various issues of the project with Ms. Jiajia, Project Manager, China Green Foundation two major problems were felt in the implementation of the project i.e. lack of English knowledge and requirement of prior permission from the Government.

The problem of language was felt practically wherever they went in Beijing e.g. hotel, restaurant, shops, even in the office of China Green Foundation while communicating in English.





Bhawani with Jiajia Luo, Jasmine and Jiayun Wang at CGF office in Beijing

Ms. Jiajia told that they have to seek permission from the Government to implement the FK Exchange project in China and establish collaboration with international agencies. However, they have initiated the process to get the permission and it is expected to be approved soon.



Bhawani and Ramchandra with Zeng Li, her colleague after the meeting

### Mobile health project 2017

The project aimed at providing the rural women of SHG in the villages of Jamwaramgarh block in district Jaipur continued during the year with support from the HSHR and Runnebaum Foundation, Germany.



Rinu, the nurse dispensing medicines to the patients and describing dosage

### Medicines

Medicines were bought from the budget allocated by the Runnebaum Foundation and HSHR and partly received from some local donors as well to cover the need of the patients of the area.

### Services of the nurse

After delivering services health care in the rural areas Sisly, the nurse became sick and expressed her inability to keep continue her work with GBS. So another nurse Suman working in a private hospital was approached to provide her services. She worked for a month i.e. August, 2017, but could not spare much time due to her engagement in the hospital, so after one month another young woman nurse Rinu Kumari was engaged who proved very efficient and appropriate for the project.

She is continuing since September, 2017. Her performance in the field was good and patients were happy with her services



### Health problems among the women

It was notified during the visits of the nurse that the women are generally sick of ENT (ear, nose and throat) problems, abdominal issues, cough, white discharge, skin diseases etc. whereas the children have the problem of itchiness, stomach, liver, night blindness, diarrhea etc. Some of the women of the area were found infected with gynecological problems, so they were advised to SMS Hospital or Zenana (Women's) Hospital.



The women patients sharing their health problems with Sarita and Rinu

### Villages covered

Following villages were covered under the project during the year:

- |                      |                     |                   |
|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Dantala           | 11. Asthal          | 21. Indragarh     |
| 2. Netala            | 12. Kharana         | 22. Bilod         |
| 3. Dantala Gujran    | 13. Phutala         | 23. Manota        |
| 4. Pawta             | 14. Sankotada       | 24. Booj          |
| 5. Kharad            | 15. Paladi          | 25. Kharkhada     |
| 6. Bhavani           | 16. Maliwas         | 26. Sarjoli       |
| 7. Kanikhor          | 17. Meeno ka badh   | 27. Deodha Dungar |
| 8. Dantali           | 18. Nangal Gagorian | 28. Ghoreth       |
| 9. Maliyon ki dhaani | 19. Lalwas          |                   |
| 10. Shivpura         | 20. Raipur          |                   |

## Impact assessment

The project impacted the women in various ways including:

- The women adopted health seeking behavior
- Paying attention on cleanliness
- Having shower themselves and their kids
- Focusing on herbal intakes
- Avoiding bad food habits
- Keeping and drinking safe water



Rinu prescribing medicines and advising the women the dosage and abstinence

Also, the women learnt many things related to acupressure from Dr. Manisha Bhargava in order to keep themselves fit and avoiding the habit of taking medicines every time.

## Health awareness camps

Two camps were organized in 2017 to raise awareness on health among the community people, especially the women of SHG in village Pawta and Neemla with support from HSHR and the Runnebaum Foundation, Germany. The first camp was organized in Pawta on October 25 whereas the other one in village Neemla on November 14, 2017.

All the women gathered at common place decided for the camp in the village. First of all Sarita introduced Dr. Bhargav to the participants of the camp and Raju on behalf of the women of the SHG of the village welcomed Dr. Bhargav.

## How to live a smooth life

Dr. Manisha Bhargav spoke to the women as how to live a smooth life without having any trouble and spending extra money. She asked the women their health problems and suggested



easy solutions. Also, she answered the questions related to their gynecological problems. Dr. Manisha advised the women to:

- Boil water before drinking to make it safe
- Use green leafy vegetables as much as they could
- Washing eyes with clean water twice or thrice a day
- Use sanitary napkins or clean clothes during periods and destroy safely after use
- Get proper diagnosis and treatment on account of long spell white discharge



Dr. Manisha Bharagava advising the women simple ways to keep them fit

### **Effective acupressure**

Dr. Manisha solved the problem of headache, backache and pain at knee joint etc. by doing some acupressure exercises. She taught them how to do some simple exercises themselves while having such problems as she would not be available all the times. A few young girls were much excited in this task and showed their willingness in learning to do for the villagers. Dr. Manisha taught them a few basic things and offered to give training later on.

### **Sanitary napkins**

Kusum Jain has made arrangements for low cost sanitary napkins for the women and girls in collaboration with Global Fund for Children. Sarita introduced the napkins in village Pawta and Neemla initially and could be added to other villages if demand comes in. She told the women that the napkins could be produced in the village also at a later stage if more women start using regularly and demand increased in bulk.

Dr. Manisha advised the women and young girls to use sanitary napkins to avoid any infection and keep themselves clean and tense free. She addressed queries raised by some of the girls about the use of sanitary napkins in village. Raju, Lachha, Mangi and Sahnti distributed breakfast among the women. They thanked Dr. Manisha , Sarita Yogi and the whole GBS team for organizing such a useful camp.



Dr. Manisha advising women how to do acupressure to cure some problems

### **Pregnant and lactating women**

A project on finding out the facts about maternal nutrition during pregnancy and lactation periods in the rural areas of Rajasthan was implemented by GBS in collaboration with Sight and Life, a Pune based NGO during June 11 – July 06, 2017.

Following were the Objectives of the project:

- To Identify which benefits of good maternal nutrition during pregnancy and lactation periods are most valued by Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLW)
- To understand important myths that are barriers to healthy food during pregnancy
- Finding key social influences that shape PLW's decisions on what/when to eat
- To motivate PLW to act to improve their nutrition.

### **Focus group discussion**

Following Focus Group Discussions (FGD) with PLW and their family members were organized under the project:

- **Group 1** with husbands (8 people): There were 2 husbands of lactating women and 6 were of pregnant women.
- **Group 2** with a group of 9 women including 6 pregnant and 3 Lactating women, who were talked together.



- **Group 3** with mother in laws (total 8) including 5 of pregnant women and 3 of Lactating women.
- **Group 4** with *ASHA/ANGANWADI* workers group (total 8).



Ms. Prachi Atre interacting with the women on their pregnancies

The project was implemented in 3 districts i.e. Udaipur, Baran and Barmer of Rajasthan as per following schedule:

- Udaipur** : Ms. Kusum Jain and Ramchandra together with Ms. Prachi Atre of Life & Site participated in the FGDs organized on 12-14 June, 2017 with support from Mahan Sansthan, Udaipur.
- Baran** : Kusum Jain and Arun Kumawat together with Ms. Prachi Atre participated In the FGDs organized on 21-23, June, 2017 with support from Mr. Pratap Lal Meena of Haroti Adim Janjati Vikas Samiti.
- Barmer** : Kusum Jain and Ramchandra together with Ms. Prachi Atre Participated in the FGDs organized on 3-6, July, 2017 with support from Mr. Valli Mohhamad of Jagmal Kalyan Vikas Sansthan.



Prachi Atre and Kusum hearing pregnant and lactating women' problems

## Entrepreneurship development

### The beginning

As these resource less women of backward castes could not be able to do much in lack of proper awareness, training and adequate funds, a project '**Improvement of the quality of life of rural women through entrepreneurship development**' was implemented in 2015 in village Koliyon ki dhaani in district Jaipur with support from the Foundation of Development Cooperation of the Federal State of Baden-Wuerttemberg (SEZ) and in collaboration with HSHR, Germany.

### The project for village Pawta

Looking at the success of the project of first phase in village Koliyon ki dhaani, many women entrepreneurs approached GBS to implement such a project in their areas also. Then after discussing with GBS Executive committee, a proposal of the project was developed for village Pawta in consultation with HSHR and submitted to SEZ with a request for financial support.

### Focus of the project

- Developing basic infrastructure for training,
- Vocational training,
- Awareness on women's rights and reproductive & sexual health,
- Skill and design development in embroidery work,



- Creation of jobs,
- Environment education,
- Cleanliness of their habitats



The work shed being constructed in village Pawta for women's training

### Formation of PAC

The **Project Advisory Committee (PAC)** was formed under the leadership of Ms. Sarita Yogi (Convener) involving key stakeholders of the area. The project performance and outcomes were monitored and assessed in the monthly meetings of the PAC. Also, problems or bottleneck faced in the implementation of the project were discussed and addressed properly in the PAC meetings.

### Selection of the trainees

One hundred women entrepreneurs were selected for the project in consultation with the PAC. Preference was given to those who had some experience and showed interest in the project activities.

### Recruitment of Master Craftsman

Ms. Raju, a senior artisan of the local village community who was provided with training by GBS a few years ago was selected as Master Craftswoman for the project. Her role in providing the women entrepreneurs with training was very appreciating.

### Construction of work shed

As decided in the project, quotations were invited from three contractors and masons for construction of a work shed covering an area of (18X64) 1152 sq. feet for training. Quotation of Mr. Laxman Bairwa, an experienced mason was accepted by the PAC and an agreement was signed with him for constructing the work shed. He completed the construction within the desired time.



Women rejoicing the completion of the work shed

### Training

The training was provided to the 100 women entrepreneurs in three batches of 30, 35 and 35 trainees two months each batch. Training was begun with providing theoretical knowledge to the women selected for training. Ms. Kusum Jain, joint secretary, GBS and Ms. Sarita Yogi, the Coordinator facilitated the sessions. They tried to know the level of knowledge of the trainees and expectations from the training and provided them briefly the basic knowledge on different issues related to their personal life, their rights, health, small family norms, cleanliness, children's education, raising socio economic status of their family etc. Later focus group discussions were organized with the trainees, which proved a very good exercise to lead the training to a success.

### Training on embroidery

The master craftswoman Raju described to the trainees important parts of the weaving. She taught them how to fit a loom for embroidery with all of their parts. Later she told them the following initiatives for embroidery:

- Grasping the map of a design
- Making lots of stars and other raw materials related to the design
- Fixing the clothes i.e. saari etc. according to the map
- Doing simple embroidery work in the initial stage
- Developing designs
- Setting of color threads
- Cutting the threads after completing the design



### Skill and design development

In the second round the women artisans were provided with training on application of various designs and developing skill to use different sizes, colors and type of raw materials etc. that they grasped gradually.



Trainee women learning embroidery (left) while Monikaji viewing their craft (right)

### Outcomes of the Project

Following were the key outcomes of the project:

- One hundred women artisans of backward castes received training in embroidery
- The skill and designing of Rajasthani handicraft improved
- Income of the women artisans increased to a good extent
- Sustainable jobs created for entrepreneurial women of the area
- Awareness raised on their rights, literacy, health and violence against women etc.

### Dr. Monika visiting Pawta

Dr. Monika Boehm Tettlebach, President, HSHR, Germany paid a visit to village Pawta on 26.02.2018 together with Kusum, Sarita and Ramchandra. She was glad to have an overview of the women's entrepreneurship project implemented by GBS in village Pawta in collaboration with HSHR and SEZ, Germany.

Dr. Monika interacted with the women artisans who received training under the project and engaged in doing embroidery work. It was good experience to see the women entrepreneurs earning their livelihood at home. Dr. Monika interacted with the Rinu Kumari, the new Nurse joined GBS mobile health services unit. She was happy with her service rendered for the women and children of village Pawta and neighboring areas.

Also, Dr. Monika visited GBS office and discussed shared many issues with Bhawani and Kusum related to the projects being implemented by GBS in collaboration with HHR and the Runnebaum Foundation, Germany.



A trainee girl learning embroidery (left); Monikaji, Kusum and Sarita interacting with women

### Evening School for rural entrepreneur women

The evening School initiated in '**Koliyon ki Dhaani**' a village 45 km. away from Jaipur in India with support from Evangelische kirchengemeinde, Kobe-Osaka, Kobe Union Church and Onfilia Co., Ltd., Japan has now entered in its third year. When it was started two years before, the people particularly the male members of the community were very skeptical about the results. Many of them used to say that the women of this caste could not learn read and write in this age. But now a big change could be seen among these women after two years regular practice, though the pace is still slow.

#### Women's can do anything

The women of Koliyon ki dhaani have proved that they can do anything either it is designing, mapping and weaving a durry (cotton mat) or learning how to read and write. The women of thirty or forty years of age those who never went to School in their childhood and didn't know how to use a slate and chalk are now writing on slates and reading the charts and pictorials.

Thirty to thirty five women of 15 to 50 years of age can be seen here studying under one roof. Ten girls of 13 to fifteen years of the dhaani (small village) those who could not get formal School education happily join the group of their aunts, mothers and grandmothers of forty to fifty years and study there.

#### Developing confidence

The women entrepreneurs have developed their confidence by practicing regularly. Now they can write whatever they asked for, design on slate whatever they are asked for and identify the words and numbers in the charts.

#### Learning by doing

The old saying 'practice makes a man perfect' has converted here into 'practice makes a woman perfect'. Starting from learning to write and identify the letters of Hindi script has reached now to composing words and framing sentences for some of them.



Prem, Mohari, Buddhi, Dhanni and Kamali are a few of them. Giving them to do some tasks and counting things was very interesting and creative for them. They could learn counting things easily through this way. Rajendra, the teacher has adopted this method initiated by Kusum, Sarita and Ramchandra. Now they are perfectly doing tasks through such funny games.



Sarita asking the women learners to identify the words in the evening class

### **Fluctuating number of learners**

The number of the students has been increasing and decreasing at several times, especially at the time of sowing, weeding, harvesting etc. and occasionally on wedding or other family functions. However 35 women entrepreneurs of age between 15 and 50 have been enrolled and 10 of them are between 13 and fifteen.

### **Level of Knowledge**

Since number of learners have been fluctuating due to several reasons as mentioned above, their progress of learning is affected. When they attend after a long gap they have to restart where they had left from.

So, they lack the pace. Though, there is no class tenure as such, nevertheless slight difference of level of knowledge is there between the beginners and the senior ones those who have completed basic things i.e. alphabets, numbers etc. Both are attended properly by the teacher as he knows their level.



Prem, Mohari and Dhanni showing their performance to Sarita

### **Creativity through games**

Playing games also increase creativity among the people regardless of gender and age as well. It was proved in Koliyon ki dhanni when Sarita involved them in some indoor games. All the women learners participated in these games happily. It not only created healthy recreation for them, but provided them with new ways of learning. Telling names of fruits, wild and pet animals, household things, birds, flowers, colors etc. were amusing games for them. Now they have started to remember many more such things to prove themselves intelligent.



Sarita playing game with the learners to develop their skill



### **Sarvodaya Samman to Satya Devji**

Shri **Satya Devji**, senior Gandhian, Freedom Fighter and a devotee Sarvodaya Sevak was provided with **Sarvodaya Samman** by Sarva Seva Sangh, the national non political Gandhian Institute on completing 92 years of his age in spreading Gandhian thoughts and serving the people at grassroots level.

He was honored with the **Sarvodaya Samman** in the *adhiveshan* (annual conference) of Sarva Seva Sangh organized in Motihari, Bihar on March 25, 2017. Since Shri Satya Deoji could not participate in the *adhiveshan* to receive the **Sarvodaya Samman** due to his sickness, Ms. Asha Bothra, President, Rajasthan State Sarvodaya Mandal together with Bhawani Shanker Kusum, Spokes Person of Sarva Seva Sangh and Ms. Kusum Jain a Sarvodaya worker travelled to Chirawa, Shri Satya Deoji's village to present him the 'Samman'.



Ms. Asha Bothra, Bhawani and Ksum presenting Satydeoji awards in lieu of his honor flanking by Mr. Vijay Kumar, the Director and Principal of Kishori International School

Mr. Vijai Kulahai, the founder of the Kishori International School welcomed the guests in the meeting organized at his School. **Shri Satya Deoji** was present in the function together with many other renowned persons of the area. **Bhawani Shanker Kusum** while speaking in the meeting told about the **Sarvodaya Samman** announce for **Shri Satya Deoji** in the **Sarva Seva Sangh adhiveshan**.

He recited the 'Abhinandan Patra' (Congratulatory Address) prepared by **Sarva Seva Sangh** about **Shri Satya Deoji's** contribution for welfare of the mankind, especially the down trodden and spreading Gandhian thoughts in the society. Ms. Asha Bothra presented him the Abhinandan Patra and a shawl (ceremonial gift) amidst of applause by the people present in the function. **Shri Satya Deoji** spoke briefly on the work he carried out during his life time on Gandhian philosophy.



Community leaders and School staff attending the ceremony of honoring Satyadeoji