

SPANDAN
SAMAJ SEVA SAMITI



for the love of marginalized

Spandan Samaj Seva Samiti

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About us



Spandan Samaj Sewa Samiti (Spandan) was founded in 2002 by Seema and Prakash as a response to the alarming issue of acute malnutrition among children of the Korku tribe in Khandwa district, Madhya Pradesh. Initially focusing on Khalwa block, Spandan played a pivotal role in bringing government attention to this pressing challenge.

Over the years, Spandan has evolved into a prominent community-centered organization, addressing critical issues such as hunger and food security, health and nutrition, women’s empowerment, skill development, and livelihood promotion. The impactful work of its founders, Seema and Prakash, has earned them recognition as Right to Food Fellows and recipients of the prestigious Ashoka India Fellowship. In 2014, Seema was honored with the Stree Shakti Samman – Rani Lakshmi Bai Puraskar by the Government of India for her exemplary contributions.

Today, Spandan operates across Khandwa and Burhanpur districts with a dedicated team of 40 professionals, continuing its mission to empower communities and foster sustainable development.



Mission

To create a food secure environment wherein the disadvantaged communities can have access to food and nutrition and thereby lead a dignified life



Organization Development Road Map

Visioning

Witnessed malnutrition and deaths and dedicated our lives to work among the Korku tribe.



Mission definition

Korku, hunger, malnutrition, women, food crisis and the disadvantaged defined.



Strategizing

A participatory approach that would engage, empower, infuse confidence and help them possess the initiated process.



Advocacy

Drew Government attention to this crude reality to promote food rights of the poor.



Choosing pathways

Concurrent situation led to choose non clinical approach, agriculture, women empowerment, demystification, research & documentation and capacity building as major pathways.



Moving forward

Positioning with the fast changing ecosphere and countering challenges and work for sustainability.



Community Centric Malnutrition Management

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Early Tracking and Follow up

This is done through community based anthropometric surveys and the victim cases are registered and followed up by home visits, nutritional counselling and facilitating food & employment schemes



Enhancing micronutrients intake

This is achieved through promotion of Backyard Nutrition Gardens and Behavior Change Communication (BCC).

The BCC focus is on helping families increase 1-2 food groups every year.



Agriculture Pathways

To increase food security we have chosen an agriculture pathway that leads to sustainable agriculture practices, neighborhood land and water resources development and undertaking allied agriculture practices like promotion of goat rearing and preparation of organic manure and pesticides locally. Its facilitating a journey of food from farms to plates



Training and Capacity Building

It is the pivot of our initiatives. All stake holders are engaged through our trainings, workshops, awareness drives, behavior change campaigns and celebration of events. An example is the scientific temper building of traditional community healers to help them demystify malnutrition among their people.



Women Empowerment

Women are the backbone of our work, innovation and advocacy. They have accomplished feats like excavating village wells and tanks as well as deepening village tanks. The women are running and managing their own collectives and are now gradually engaging in male dominated occupations like motorcycle mechanics and functioning as barefoot veterinary workers.

Wash activity

Sanitation and hygiene became a major concern during the COVID pandemic. Our work with U5 children primarily focused on promoting handwashing practices and awareness of physical and environmental cleanliness. This effort expanded to include the promotion and installation of 280 Tippy Taps across 52 remote tribal villages. Handwashing was widely taught to both young and old using " SUMAN K, " a song to teach handwashing easily. During COVID, 415 circles were painted to maintain safe distancing. Handwashing stations were also installed at schools, among other places. We reached out to 6000 mothers and children within the community and assisted families facing reverse migration. We were recognized as one of 50 Last Mile Responders by the World Economic Forum.

TOP 50 Last-Mile
Responder **India**

WORLD
ECONOMIC
FORUM



COVID Response
Alliance for Social
Entrepreneurs

Current Social Issues



Stunting among U5 children is a matter of all round concern now. Every third child in the community is stunted. It points to the chronic hunger situation. The care during first 1000 days of a child's life calls for specific interventions. The other important aspect that needs attention is increasing household food security. Another pressing issue related to tribal culture and dignity that needs to be focused upon is checking migration and creating local employment and entrepreneurship.

● Stunting

● Food Security

● Tribal Women Entrepreneurship



Future Thrusts



Identify core issues

Have clear goals based on concurrent ecosphere



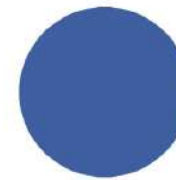
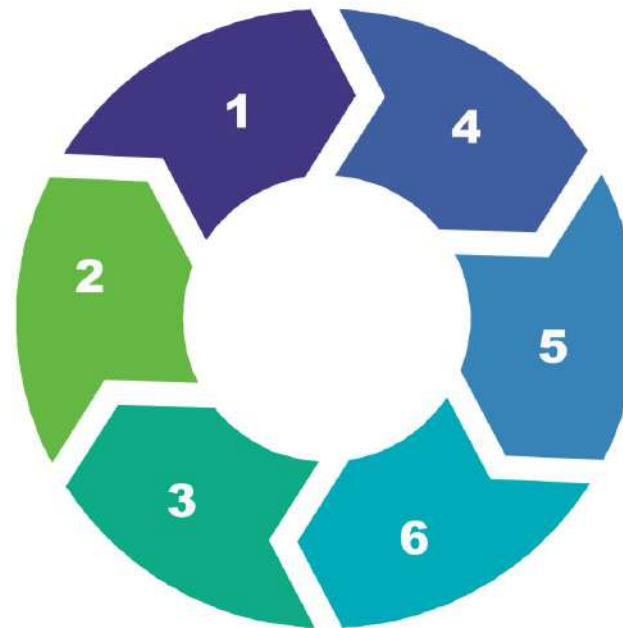
Find Likeminded supporters

Have realistic assessment of needs and present it to donors



Develop community centric strategies

The community we serve instruct us to define our strategies



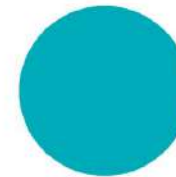
Effective Monitoring System

Clearly defined monitoring system to track progress and reduce wastage of time and resources



Have Effective Capacity Building

A proactive process to raise capable team with clear roles and responsibilities



Report results

Timely reporting and updates to all the stakeholders

Interventions and Results:

1. **Community-based malnutrition management:** In this, we are trying to help malnourished children to recover in a non facility-based care in the community itself. With this, we are also supporting the families to access most of the food and nutrition in their neighbourhood.
2. **Soil and water conservation work:** 202 soil and water conservation structures developed with Spandan's food/cash for work and 28 structures developed with voluntary people's contribution. This led to a 4.3 Mt increase in groundwater level (Based on water levels of observation wells).
3. **Backyard Nutrition Gardens:** 5000 families have been supported with seeds and technical advice to grow BNG. This helps them to diversify their diets and consume more micro nutrients that are essential for better nutrition of mother and child.
4. **Backyard Poultry:** 3200 HHs using poultry/eggs or fish as part of their diet (at least once a week).
5. **Preservation of Korku language and Culture:** Korku language is one of the 196 endangered languages in India as per UNESCO. The language is restricted to oral traditions and does not have a script. The new words are not coined and there has been no conscious effort on the part of the community to facilitate the inter-generation transfer of valuable aboriginal knowledge and skills. Korku children have been in a dilemma as the mother tongue and mainstream schooling language differ. We have persisted with proactive research into the oral traditions and collated the available information. The younger generation is being presented with variety of materials containing information on Korku language and culture.

WHY YOU MAY LIKE US ?

We are a mission driven organization committed to the marginalized communities like Korku tribe for their hunger and malnutrition



OUR LEGAL STATUS

Registered under societies Registration Act to work across the country

Registered u/s 12A and 80G of IT Act

Registered under FCRA

Registered under MCA for CSR 1



CORE COMPETENCIES

Community based malnutrition management

Skilling and livelihood

Promotion of traditional crops

Tribal Women empowerment

Neighborhood land & water resources

Preservation of indigenous language and culture



Major activities

Non-facility-based malnutrition care in the community

Revival of traditional and cultural crops

Tribal girls trained as motor bike mechanics

Behaviour Change
Communication on Diet diversity and childcare

Encouraged tribal women role in local self governance

Voluntary labor contribution for land & water conservation work

Backyard Nutrition gardens for increased micronutrients intake

Celebration of events like National Nutrition month and World Breastfeeding Day

Awards & Recognitions

- CSR Award from NGO Box
- Certificate of appreciation by Glenmark Foundation
- World Economic Forum recognition for First 50 last mile responder during COVID 19
- ASHOKA INDIA Fellowship
- Stree Shakti Rani Laxmi bai National award
- Times of India distinguished Leadership Award

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Finally

Thank you for considering us! At our core, we are a mission-driven organization dedicated to uplifting marginalized communities, particularly the Korku tribe, by tackling issues of hunger and malnutrition. We are legally registered under multiple acts to operate across the country, ensuring transparency and credibility in our endeavors. Our core competencies include community-based malnutrition management, skilling for livelihood enhancement, and the promotion of traditional crops, all aimed at empowering tribal women and preserving indigenous culture. Our initiatives range from training tribal girls as motorbike mechanics to encouraging voluntary labor for land and water conservation. We take pride in our recognition, including awards from the NGO Box and the World Economic Forum, which acknowledge our impactful work. By choosing us, you support a dedicated effort to bring sustainable change to communities in need. Your trust empowers us to continue our journey of fostering growth, health, and empowerment.

Our Partners



In our endeavors, we would like to thank the following:

- Glenmark Foundation
- Paul Hamlyn Foundation
- National Geographic Society
- CARITAS India
- WeltHungerHilfe (WHH)
- Piramal Foundation
- UNICEF
- GEF/UNDP/MoE&F/CEE
- GOONJ New Delhi
- EdelGive Foundation
- Azim Premji Foundation
- GIZ

