ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20

Swayam Shikshan Prayog
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FORWARD

“Women leaders are no longer beneficiaries. Women in grassroots communities do not look at themselves as recipients. They look at themselves as farmers, entrepreneurs, leaders, resource persons, and even partners to the governments and the corporates.

I am honored to be a part of this initiative which has been able to bring hope and joy to so many lives. I would like to thank you for associating with us and we look forward to engage with you through various initiatives in the future.”

PREMA GOPALAN
Founder & Executive Director, Swayam Shikshan Prayog

ABOUT US

VISION & MISSION

SSP’s Mission is to promote sustainable community development through empowerment of women at the grassroots.

SSP’s vision of a resilient future is to re-position grassroots women’s collectives to strive for harmony with nature and to realize their well being, sustainable livelihoods and full leadership potential.

Impact: SSP has empowered over 200,000 grassroots rural women and their households on improving their livelihoods, food security and assets/income with improved well being, health and nutrition for women and young girls and improved decision making in households and communities and in governance in 30 districts across seven states in India.

LEADERSHIP

The Governing Body of eight members including the Executive Director meets once in every quarter, review and track the organization’s policies in relation to mission, monitor financial performance especially inflow and utilization of resources and advice on policy and legal matters, including fund management.

The senior leadership team of SSP represented in the management committee ensures a common vision and strategic planning through quarterly reviews. While the senior management along with program managers do a monthly review of progress. SSP has over 80 staff supporting it’s programs and functions and 650 women community resource persons. Most of the members in the core leadership and senior management are with SSP for over 20 years.
**IMPACT**

200,000 rural women entrepreneurs, farmers and business leaders

6,000,000 People impacted

**KEY SECTORS**

Climate Resilient Agriculture  
Women’s Entrepreneurship & Leadership

Water, Sanitation, Health & Hygiene  
Energy and Environment

**GEOGRAPHY**

Our work, by choice, is centered around low income climate threatened communities spread across more than 2,000 villages in 30 climate-threatened rural districts in 7 States in India – Latur, Solapur, Washim, Ahmednagar, Osmanabad, Nanded, Beed, Jalna and Pune in Maharashtra; Wayanad, Kottayam, Alappuzha, Ernakulam, Thrisur in Kerala, Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga, Nalanda, Gaya, Patna and also in other districts in partnership with local NGOs in Bihar, and Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Assam and Odisha States.
SSP facilitate sustainable community development by building capacities of grassroots women’s collectives to lead social and economic transformation in climate threatened regions of India with a focus on building climate resilience through women’s groups. SSP’s model seeks to empower and recognize rural women as farmers and change-makers by ensuring they get cultivation rights over their family farm and later land rights to make a shift from cash crops to food crops and gain over selling produce in local markets. We target small and marginal farmers with less than five acres of land.

Women were trained as Samvad Sahayaks or the Community Resource Persons (CRPs) on climate resilience farming strategies as a part of the Sakhi Food Secure Agriculture (SFSA) program. CRPs facilitates farmers with techniques to grow multiple crops in one acre of land. Agricultural group meetings helped with soil tests, germination tests, and seed processing. Women were provided training on agro-allied business enterprises and were taught to develop organic cattle feed supplements.

Over 70,000 rural families are self-reliant to meet their daily consumption needs.
- 4056 women farmers trained through refresher trainings
- 2572 women farmers from 134 villages trained on seed preparation
- 286 women farmers trained to make bio-fertilizers
- 229 women farmers trained to make bio-pesticides
- 107 women trained on cattle feed supplements
- 7078 women farmer were participated in the 515 group meetings
- 84 women farmers accessed government schemes. convergence amount is Rs. 1,580,000/-

Organic farming training helps rural women become self reliant
Revati Kangule’s financial crisis led to her child’s illness and this was a turning point for her to achieve something in life and be financially independent. And with that thought, she enrolled for SSP’s training in organic farming, in Nanded. She now supports hundreds of women to be self-sufficient and start their own business and successfully completed Organic Farming at 750 acres. Having supported and guided 270 women from 30 villages in Nanded, she has come a long way. Krushithon, AgroOne, Reliance foundation- Samajik Karya are some of the many awards she has received.
Vanita received entrepreneurship training from SVEP program through SSP in 2017 on marketing skills, value chain, maintaining records, attracting more customers and expanding her business. Based on market opportunity she started a small ice-candy manufacturing unit. Since 2018, Vanita has managed to earn up to INR 4 lakhs per season from her business. Maintaining financial records and data enabled her to enhance her understanding of market conditions and customer requirements. Vanita has also developed the confidence to expand her business beyond her village. She runs the business without compromising her household responsibilities and stands as an inspiration to others. She provides consultation to entrepreneurs to maximize profit margins and improve business potential. Vanita has earned self-respect and dignity through her business.

BREAK YOUR MENTAL BARRIERS: A STORY OF AN INTUITIVE ENTREPRENEUR

Our non-farm livelihood strategy is to launch rural women as new entrepreneurs and provide business support to existing women-led enterprises resulting in enhanced earnings and social status. A total of 7,725 potential entrepreneurs trained and 4,129 enterprises were supported in Mohol and Barshi blocks in Solapur under the Startup Village Entrepreneurship Program. The promotion of grassroots women’s empowerment through entrepreneurship and leadership program is being implemented across 4 blocks of Osmanabad and Solapur with Women’s Resource Centers (WELI) with the support of Dalyan Foundation. Business trainings were organized to support dairy, management of cattle fodder, control of animal diseases, and value-added services along with allied enterprises and standardizing inputs like packaging, branding, marketing, finance, and a sales channel for their produce in Osmanabad and Latur districts. This project is supported by Avendus Capital. The project ‘improving access to clean energy and nature based solutions in 600 underserved villages in Nalanda and Gaya’ in Bihar through last mile women entrepreneurs/Sakhi network is supported by Misereor. The project is focused on training, awareness generation and popularizing clean energy at the grassroots level.

IMPACT

- Mudra Loan accessed from bank by 124 SVEP entrepreneurs is Rs 107 lakhs.
- 7725 Potential entrepreneurs trained under 321 Entrepreneurship Development Program (EDP)
- 4129 enterprises supported under SVEP Rs1.45 crores- Community Enterprises Fund from MSRLM
- Community Enterprises Fund of Rs. 231 lakhs given for 887 enterprises
- Entrepreneur credit access from bank of in Rs 164/- lakhs by 353 entrepreneurs
- Nutritional value check for 10 types of food products was checked in the Authorized Labs of Pune.
- Developed orientation tools - Promotion of Flip charts and working process for CRP-EPs
- 580 SVEP entrepreneurs trained from KVK for product packing, branding, labeling and legal process
- 16 trainers engaged to deliver refresher & basic training and handholding support to entrepreneurs.
- 997 women participated in mobilization meetings and 276 women attended network meetings to discuss progress and innovative ideas for scale-up.
SSP brings together local governments and women for enhanced food security, sustainable sanitation, nutrition, and productive activities in drought-hit regions of Marathwada in Maharashtra. Local governments and women’s collectives brought together for enhanced water security for sustained sanitation, nutrition & productive activities in drought-hit regions.

The women-led community in which Arogya Sakhi’s and families are trained on water allocation during the lean period, with an aim to build community resilience towards improving water security and nutrition for women and children across 100 villages in Osmanabad district in the wSHARP project supported by UNICEF. We also offered preventive antenatal, postnatal, child care, nutritional health, and family planning counseling and sanitation and hygiene information during their home visits in project villages.

To reduce mortality through addressing anemia and malnutrition problems among women and children, a program in 30 villages of Nanded district focuses on a holistic approach of the Arogya Sakhis model, kitchen garden, and nutrition. This program supported by Kamal Udwadia Foundation seeks to empower married women, pregnant women, and women with children under age five through home base care with Arogya Sakhi.

Women in rural India fight the water crisis
Amidst climate change and water scarcity, rural areas are the worst hit. Swayam Shikshan Prayog - SSP with help of UNICEF India has addressed the water crisis of 10,000 women in 100 villages of maharashtra. Read how women carry the burden of the water crisis in india: https://bit.ly/3nISOZX

IMPACT
- 96 Kitchen Gardens created in 17 villages
- 94 hand wash demonstration conducted in schools, Anganwadi, PHCs and beneficiary houses
- Poshan Melawas conducted for girl child and pregnant mothers
- Immediate measures carried out to tackle the covid-19 outbreak with looming lockdown
- repercussions in villages
- Arogya Sakhis and Sakhi Task Force Trained to help villagers
- Home visit to families & providing awareness on COVID prevention & government scheme
SSP has initiated the Kerala Post Flood Program immediately after the August 2018 flood to support the affected people and to create sustainable models in community resilience. We held hands with the local govt authorities, with our foremost attention on forwarding the success of our women in leadership, diversifying their livelihoods, and enhancing entrepreneurial skills. We focused on making agriculture climate supple, providing food and health security to each being, surety of clean drinking water, sanitation, hygiene, along with constructing, repairing damaged houses and toilets.

Kottayam: Majority of the people settled in Mundar, an isolated land surrounded by backwaters from all sides, fall under below poverty line and struggle to make both ends meet. The catastrophic flood devastated houses and their livelihood, further doubling their distresses. 28 new houses are being constructed and 129 houses repaired in Mundar, Kottayam and 12 new houses in Thrissur. 13 women masons who had completed the mason training are also part of the construction process.

Wayanad: To help families recover from the devastating impact of the floods in Wayanad, women’s group members and SSP teams worked with Gram Panchayats and took charge of cleaning houses, streets, schools, andanganwadis and distributed food and hygiene items to the vulnerable families in collaboration with panchayats and through relief camps. In partnership with local authorities, SSP supported Sakhi farmers groups to access different varieties of high-quality seeds. SSP organized capacity building programs and also provided community resource fund to 12 self-help groups for starting their own businesses, as part of COVID -19 relief initiatives.

Women take lead in rebuilding their lives after continuous floods
Women’s groups took six acres of land on lease and prepared the land for paddy cultivation in Kottathara. Sakhi Farmers Group, helped them to sow Gandhakasala aromatic rice which has good demand in the market in 3.5 acres. Similarly, Sakhi Farmers Group in Karakkunnu also cultivated paddy in 2.5 acres of land to revive the agriculture and improve their income. These practices set examples for the communities in rebuilding the lives of Wayanad.

IMPACT
- 40 new houses constructed for flood victims of Kottayam (Mundar) and Thrissur
- Improved/repaired 140 houses in Wayanad and Mundar
- Training on cultivation of multi crops vegetables for women farmers
- 800 solar lanterns distributed to 200 families in Mundar
- 75 Solar Street Lights installed to address the electricity problem in Mundar
- RO Water Plant System installed
- Newsletter MIZHI on SSP’s intervention published in local language for the communities
**Bihar**

SSP implemented the Disaster Risk Resilience program by joining hands with Misereor and NGO’s in 9 districts. We rushed on to strengthen grassroots capacities, climate change adaptation, and also worked on disaster risk reduction, through the promotion of women’s leadership. Women farmers were provided with agriculture-based skill training with the help of Krishi Samvad Sahayaks. SSP has also conducted capacity-building workshops with the purpose of promoting low-cost models of organic farming, organic manure, vermicompost production and compost pits for solid waste management, along with climate pliable farming techniques, use of organic pesticides, and regular network meetings.

We have had learning and follow-ups in Bihar, few to count, like Learning Exchange with Community leaders, Leadership development trainings on qualities of leadership, reasons to shift to organic farming, inspiring women to be potential farmers, strengthening disaster task force and how to avail government schemes. On Community Resilience Fund, follow-up visits and special initiatives were taken by Community Resource Persons with women, which included partnership meetings with Block project manager and district/state level government officials.

**Odisha**

The cyclonic storm, Fani in Odisha had devastated communities and caused tremendous losses. Instead of mourning, the brave women of Ganjam District collectively started restoring livelihoods and homes. Supported by Huairou Commission, SSP, and ORRISSA, the NGO began building women’s leadership for climate action in 2018.

The program enhances access to reliable climate resilient information for combating climate threats and building resilience through a robust govt-NGO-community ecosystem. The women farmers in the Ganjam district were mobilized to design their plan for Kharif crops with a diversified range to help small farm families face the repeated climate change challenges. Community Resilience Fund (CRF) being transferred to vulnerable communities. The women groups in the villages are learning ways to negotiate with the government to address the community’s cause of safe drinking water, adequate cyclone shelters, effective drainage, irrigation to the crops, and many more in the times to come to build on their efforts of resilience building. Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) tools used for understanding local resources and mapping helped vulnerable women to chart out the stress areas of their livelihoods as well as basic needs. 500 beneficiaries benefited.
**Godavari Dange, Grassroots Woman Leader represented SSP and Huairou Commission at Grassroots Assembly held in Penang, Malaysia on the 14th of October 2019. While leading the session on Women’s Leadership, Godavari Dange highlighted the role of women groups in identifying solutions through actions in climatic and disaster risk contexts emerging as climate leaders and change makers in various countries where our strategies are implemented.**

**Grassroots Assembly at Penang, Malaysia**

**Grassroots Women at ‘The Climate Week NYC Summit**

Naseem Shaikh, SSP presented “The Role and Significance of Grassroot Women’s in Mapping Climate Risks and Managing the Community Resilience Fund (CRF) for Locally-led Climate Innovations” at the Summit. “Women’s land ownership is crucial in developing resilient food production and consumption systems”, says Godavari Dange, Grassroots Leader on the Resilient Future Day linked to the event held in September 2019.

**SPNM Program at Harvard Business School**

Ms. Prema Gopalan, Executive Director of SSP attended the Strategic Perspectives in Nonprofit Management Program (SPNM) at Harvard Business School from 14th to 20th of July 2019. Thanks to A.T.E. Chandra Foundation for providing the Scholarship and DASRA for the encouragement and support. The learnings from the program especially rethinking the organization strategy, mission, and where we want to go is being transferred to SSP to ultimately create greater social impact in the coming future.

**Global Commission of Adaptation (GCA) at Dakar, Senegal**

The event was co-hosted by OXFAM and Huairou Commission and was attended by Prema Gopalan, Executive Director, SSP on the 18th and 19th of May 2019. The Dakar constituency-based consultation provided a bird’s eye view on the specific impacts of resilience strategies by the communities.

**CBA13: Local Solutions Inspiring Global Action**

The CBA13 at Addis Ababa brought together practitioners, grassroots leaders, govt planners, policymakers, and donors, working at all levels to brainstorm ways to drive the ambition for a climate-resilient future.
AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Outstanding Social Entrepreneur of the year 2019

Prema Gopalan, Executive Director of SSP received the Award of Outstanding Social Entrepreneur of the Year 2019 from Prof. Klaus Martin Schwab, the Founder and Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum at the SEOY 2019. Award Ceremony held at Delhi on October 3rd in 2019, as part of the India Economic Summit hosted by WEF in collaboration with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Govt of India.

Prema is also one of the 40 awardees who have received the award for Social Innovation Driving Change and Transforming Society at the World Economic Forum’s Sustainable Development Impact Summit (SDI) held in New York on Sept 23, 2019. We are happy to be part of the Schwab community!

Coffee Table Book

A decade of recognising entrepreneurs who make change happen: The ‘Coffee Table Book’ published on 03rd Oct, 2019 by Jubilant Bhartia Foundation is a ‘Commemorative Book’ showcasing the Social Entrepreneurs associated with the 10 years of Social Entrepreneur of the Year India Award. https://www.jubl.com/uploads/image/SEOY_10_years_Coffee_Table_book-single_pages.pdf

Earth Care Award

Sadhana Deshmukh, grassroots leader of SSP received the Earth Care Award 2019 from CK Mishra, Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. The 9th Earth Care Award is a joint initiative of JSW and The Times of India

Bhagwan Janaki Smrithi Samman

Gautam Kumar, Program Coordinator at SSP received Bhagwan Janaki Smrithi Samman for innovative work in the field of social work at the Bihar Krishi Mahotsav-2019 organised by Muzaffarpur Botanical Research Institute Bhatouila, Bihar. Gauam Kumar has been felicitated for doing many innovative things in the field of social service for last 15 years. He travels in most of the districts in Bihar and educate people through awareness on climate change and use of organic manure in farming, formation and nurturing of disaster task force, training and employment of rural women entrepreneurs, etc.
**MEDIA, ARTICLES**

In 22 Years, Prema Has Helped Over 5 Lakh Women Become Organic Farmers, Mentors

“These women were stuck in the daily rigmarole of managing the kitchen, kids and the household. But now they were emerging as faces of a widespread change.” [https://www.thebetterindia.com/218547/prema-gopalan-rural-women-empowerment-maharashtra-organic-farming-entrepreneurs-womens-day-say143/](https://www.thebetterindia.com/218547/prema-gopalan-rural-women-empowerment-maharashtra-organic-farming-entrepreneurs-womens-day-say143/) (March 05, 2020)

Climate change knowledge through exchange visits

The peer learning has helped organisations, such as in India and Kenya, learn about climate adaptation and land management - [https://www.climatechangenews.com/2020/03/06/grassroot-organisations-share-climate-knowledge-exchange-visits/](https://www.climatechangenews.com/2020/03/06/grassroot-organisations-share-climate-knowledge-exchange-visits/) (March 03, 2020)

Unshakeable courage

Twenty five years after Latur was jolted by an earthquake that left a trail of destruction, several thousand women affected by the tragedy are recognized as transformational leaders! [https://www.dailypioneer.com/2019/columnists/unshakeable-courage.html](https://www.dailypioneer.com/2019/columnists/unshakeable-courage.html) (Daily Pioneer Article, 06 December 2019)

Women conquer climate emergency in Marathwada


Eco India | Scroll.in

Eco India Premiere: The women farmers in Maharashtra who are fighting for their right to own land: [https://youtu.be/zzTqCQLXjj8](https://youtu.be/zzTqCQLXjj8) Watch the video on success stories of the women farmers of Marathwada, who in their new roles as farmers, leaders, and decision makers, are leading transformations of their farms and communities amidst severe drought and water crisis, with support from SSP (Premiered on Sep 7, 2019).

**DD Sahyadri | Doordarshan News**

UNICEF India team from 10 different state offices visited and interacted with women grassroots leaders, farmers on 14th & 15th Nov and got to know about our climate resilient farming model, food security, water security and Women for Sanitation Hygiene and Resilient Practices (w-SHARP) initiative in Osmanabad and Latur districts of Maharashtra supported by UNICEF. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j_v2LZtpTw&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j_v2LZtpTw&feature=youtu.be) (Broadcased on Nov 16, 2019).
PARTNERSHIPS

Government, UN / Bilateral Organisations and CSR/Philanthropic Organisations
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<td>Educational Development for Art and Music</td>
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**Notes:**
- All figures are in Indian Rupees.
- The above table represents expenses for the year ended March 2020.
- The organization focuses on various areas including education, health, and economic development.

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**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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**ANNUAL REPORT**

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**SWAYAM SHIKSHAN PRAYOG**

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# Annual Report

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<td><strong>Total Expenditure</strong></td>
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**SWAYAM SHIKSHAN PRAYOG**

**Membership No:** 30268

**Trusted**

C.A. ASHOK R. MELMANE

**Mumbai:** 1200 202020

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**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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**ANNUAL REPORT**
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