



Grant Report

1st October 2021 -31st December 2024

Enhancing Access to Social Protection Schemes through Accountability Framework and Citizen Engagement



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1. FINAL PROGRAMME UPDATE

1. What are the key activities undertaken during the review period? Please share your assessment of how the program is progressing towards planned goals/effects. *(For Y1, it should also include recruitment, induction, and capacity building of staff and community cadre; baseline, MIS, and office set up.)*

The major project activities consisted of the following and here are our experiences of carrying them out:

- Community rights advocates (CRAs): CRAs are an important player in the project who act as the linking cord between the project and the community members. They have key responsibilities of organising and holding regular meetings of community solidarity groups formed at village level, facilitating identification of people/households excluded from various government schemes and programs and forging action to link them up with those schemes, managing village information register, providing assistance in organising project activities such as trainings and campaigns etc.

CRAs have certainly been a huge support to the project, but more than that having them has led to creation of a cadre of community leaders who are conscious about rights and are inclined towards working for realization of rights of others who are excluded and deprived. CRAs who have been associated with the project since considerable time now have shown tremendous growth in their ability to identify, comprehend and raise local issues through community participation. However, there is a wide variation among the CRAs in the skills, capacities and commitment they exhibit depending on diverse factors such as the time they are able to spare apart from their household and other responsibilities, educational level, personal zeal to bring about a difference in people's lives etc.

One of the major challenges we faced while working with CRAs was their selection and high attrition rate in some villages. This did impact the continuum and pace of project interventions in these villages.

There are currently 60 CRAs working under the project. There are nine villages which lack CRAs at present.

- Group formation and their monthly meetings : The project thrives on community solidarity groups formed at the village level for identifying and addressing local issues related to social securities. These groups are meant to hold regular meetings to discuss on thematic issues and develop plans and take responsibilities to address them. The project initially started with multiple small groups in each project village. The groups included the following : MGNREGA group, PDS group, Women's group, Village Health, Sanitation and Nutrition Committees (VHSNCs) in every village and Forest Rights groups, PESA committees and Shanti Samitis in villages where applicable. The groups provided platforms for discussion around various govt. schemes and programs, assessing the status of access to those schemes, status of exclusions and the reasons for the same and then developing actionable plans to ensure that excluded ones are linked with those schemes.

The above model worked well in the beginning as constituting multiple committees helped in having more focused discussion around the thematic areas and in ensuring engagement of wider community members. However, later it was felt that managing too many groups in every village was becoming cumbersome for the CRAs and the discussions were becoming repetitive. Also in smaller villages to have active members for so many groups/committees was becoming a challenge. Hence, it was decided towards the end of the second year to merge some of these groups. This was followed by an exercise in every village of group mergers. Thus, MGNREGA and PDS groups were merged and so were VHSNCs and Women's groups. Lesser number of groups in the villages have helped reduce work burden off the shoulders of the CRAs, giving them more time to engage in other activities and has also led to more wider discussion within the groups during the meetings.

Regularity of group meetings in the villages varies from village to village though. In villages where the presence of CRAs have been on and off, the frequency of meetings have been found to be low and the groups were also less active than those which have been holding more regular meetings. The frequency of meetings and member participation also gets affected during peak agricultural or marriage seasons, monsoons etc.

The groups of MGNREGA, FRA and PESA have also been organized into Federations to raise collective demands.

- **Soochna Sangrahan Register and MIS** : Soochna Sangrahan Register (village information register) is a register maintained by the CRAs to keep records of village households/individuals excluded as well as linked with various govt. schemes and programs and to track if those linked are getting regular benefits of the schemes. The register helps them with follow-ups and to keep a count of eligible individuals/households that are still deprived of the schemes and need assistance. The records maintained by the CRAs in these registers feed into the MIS maintained under the project.

While the register has its utility, not all CRAs are equally skilled at maintaining it. There are certain villages where the register is not regularly updated or where there are inconsistencies noted in the information at times, especially in the cases where the CRAs are not well educated and have weak writing skills or where the CRAs have not been able to spare adequate time to the project. Also, new CRAs take time to get used to maintaining the records in the register. It requires quite a bit of handholding support and guidance from Sector Coordinators to ensure that they get skilled at maintaining records efficiently. It remains a challenge to maintain these registers in the villages where there are no CRAs. The delays in updation of registers also affect the MIS and leads to further delay in MIS updation.

- **Trainings and consultations** : The various trainings and consultations organized during the course of the project not only helped generate greater awareness among the community members about different schemes, laws and the entitlements therein, but also served as common platforms for people from different villages and backgrounds to come together and share their experiences and learn from each other.

- **Helpline** : A helpline number was circulated in the project villages for people seeking information or assistance in enrolling with any scheme. The helpline ensured quick help and also encouraged and guided people to enroll their complaints on 181, the state government's toll free number for grievances related to govt. schemes. Helpline was useful in reaching out to people excluded from schemes or facing difficulties in registering themselves and providing them prompt support and guidance. During the project period the helpline received 693 calls, of which 413 grievances were resolved.

Below is a summary of all the major activities organized during the course of the project:

S. No.	Activities planned (Till end of Project)	Achievements (Till December 2024)
1.	3 Orientations of community rights advocates	6 orientations
2.	Monthly meetings of Community Rights Advocates (102 batches)	105 meetings
3.	Orientation of MGNREGA group members (3 batches)	3 batches
4.	Orientation of PDS group members (3 batches)	3 batches
5.	Annual orientation of MGNREGA mates (9 batches, 3 per year)	9 batches
6.	Orientation of FRA committee members (2 batches)	2 batches
7.	Orientation of PESA committee members (2 batches)	2 batches
8.	Orientation of PRI members on social audits/ village report cards (3 batches, 1 per year)	3 orientations
9.	Orientation of VHSNC members (3 batches)	3 batches
10.	Meetings of village community forums (PDS, MGNREGA, FRA, PESA, VHSNC and women's groups)	60 villages
11.	Annual meetings of MGNREGA federation (4 batches, 2 per year in Y2 and Y 3)	6 meetings
12.	Annual cluster meetings of PDS group members (6 batches, 3 per year in Y2 and Y 3)	6 meetings
13.	Biannual meetings of FRA Federation (5 batches, 1 in Y1, 2 per year in y2 and y3)	5 meetings
14.	Biannual meetings of PESA Federation (5 batches, 1 in Y1, 2 per year in y2 and y3)	5 meetings
15.	Annual cluster meetings of VHSNC members (6 batches, 3 per year in Y2 and Y 3)	6 meetings
16.	2 Exposure visit	2 visits

17.	360 Awareness camps and campaigns (2 per village per year)	360
18.	11 IEC and publications	11 IEC
19.	1 Helpline	1 helpline
20.	60 Dashboards	60 dashboards
21.	6 Women's Assemblies (2 per year)	6 assemblies
22.	Baseline and endline survey of 60 villages	Baseline and endline
23.	6 monitoring rounds of 119 anganwaris, PDS shops and health facilities (monitoring exercises carried out every 6 months)	6 rounds of 126 anganwaris, PDS shops and health facilities
24.	Development and digitisation of 10 tools	12 tools
25.	Biannual Village report cards generation	6 rounds
26.	20 Sharing meetings with block/district officials (4 in y 1, 8 each in y2 and y3)	22 meetings
27.	2 State consultation on social protection schemes	3 consultations
28.	10 District consultations on social protection schemes	10 consultations

2. Share your assessment of how the program is progressing towards planned goals/effects.
 - a. Summary of key effects (Interim and Final Effects) achieved till the reporting period including qualitative aspects as per the agreed Programme Design Sheet.
 - b. Effects Planned vs. Achieved (Interim and Final Effects) during the reporting period. (Explain in brief, what worked and did not work, the challenges faced to achieve these outcomes, and any other details.
 - c. Articulate the means of verification of activities (e.g. registers, photographs) and how you are tracking and monitoring the progress.

The following were the key effects achieved under the project :

- A cadre of 72 community volunteers (*Jan Adhikar Prahari*), advocating for people's right to social protection has been created.
- Around 6000 community members are directly associated with the project as active members of various community groups created at the village level.
- Diverse community groups formed at the village level have provided platforms for community members to deliberate on social protection schemes and their access to them. An environment is thus being created where community members have begun to actively discuss about their rights and entitlements.
- There's a gradual increase in sensitisation in the community about their rights. Community members have started to voice issues related to IFR, MGNREGA, improving anganwari services, health facilities etc.

- A system of regular assessment of health facilities, AWCs and PDS and development of village report cards has been put into place.
- Greater convergence with the government. Joint events such as village and block level awareness and registration camps, joint planning/sharing meetings with block/district officials etc are paving way to greater synergy with government officials.
- 26 FRA committees, 55 VHSNCs and 40 *Shanti Samitis* which have been lying dormant have been reorganised and activated.
- 163 petty cases were resolved by *Shanti Samitis* at the village level.
- 413 people benefitted from the helpline.
- 46% of the excluded persons were linked with job cards this year.
- 142 households were included under NFSA.
- 49% of the MGNREGA sites reported improvement
- 24 CFR applications and 189 IFR applications were filed during the reporting period. 1 CFR and 7 IFR approved.
- 87% of the PESA Gram Sabhas were organised this year.
- 77% of the women eligible for PMMVY and IGMPY are registered under the schemes as compared to 54.8% in the baseline.
- 92% of the persons eligible for various pension schemes (old age, widow pension, disability pension) are linked with the schemes as compared to 87% in the baseline.
- 38% of the eligible persons are linked with Shramik cards as compared to 32.5% in the baseline.
- 69% of the eligible children are linked with Palanhar as compared to 50.6% in the baseline.
- 78% of the eligible children are linked with Rajshree Yojana as compared to 68.1% in the baseline.
- 50% of the govt. institutions (including health facilities, AWCs and PDS shops) showed improvement this year.
- 35 villages transitioned to green category during the reporting period under the report card showing greater satisfaction among the community members with access to social protection schemes.
- 161 letters/memorandums were given to different departments by various village level community groups this year raising issues regarding different social security schemes and programs.
- 4567 eligible people applied for different rights and entitlements through camps
- About 12000 Community members were reached out through Kalla Jathas

- Successful advocacy effort by Prayas and other civil society organisations across the state led to the passing of Right to Health Act in Rajasthan on 21st March 2023.

Means of verification :

- **Soochana sangrahan register and MIS** – Used for tracking household linkages with job cards, PDS, pensions, PMMVY, IGMPY, Shramik Cards, Palanhar Yojana, Rajshree Yojana, and full ration distribution.
- **Government website** – Used for MGNREGA-related indicators such as workdays completed, average workdays per household, and households completing 100 days of work.
- **Project team assessments** – Used for evaluating MGNREGA site improvements, health facilities, anganwadi, and PDS infrastructure/services.
- **Records maintained by Sector Coordinators** – Used for tracking PESA Gram Sabha meetings and decisions.
- **Camp records** – Used to track applications for rights and entitlements through camps.
- **Report cards** – Used to assess village improvements in social security access.
- **Call records** – Used to verify the number of grievances raised and addressed via helplines.
- **Letters, memorandums, government orders** – Used as evidence for issues raised at different levels (village, district, state) and actions taken by authorities.

3. For the current reporting year of the grant, are there any significant changes made to the programme and budget? Please share the reasons behind the changes made.

None.

4. What were the challenges, (Organisational, programmatic, Financial) if any? How did you handle these? Is there any leadership change in the organization going forward? What is your plan for actively building second-line leadership?

Challenges and Mitigation Strategies :

- **Identifying and retaining motivated CRAs:** Finding and retaining educated and motivated volunteers in some villages has been difficult. To address this, we focused on continuous capacity-building, mentoring, and providing non-monetary incentives such as recognition within the community.
- **Scattered population hindering community meetings:** In some villages, dispersed settlements make it challenging to gather people for meetings. We adapted by organizing multiple smaller meetings, using locally preferred communication channels, and leveraging existing community events for outreach.
- **Diverse political affiliations affecting consensus:** Differing political leanings sometimes created hurdles in mobilizing the community around specific issues. To navigate this, we

emphasized rights-based and evidence-driven discussions, ensuring neutrality and inclusivity in advocacy efforts.

- **Timely data collection and MIS management:** Since CRAs were managing quantitative data for the first time, ensuring accuracy and timely reporting was a challenge. We addressed this by providing hands-on training, simplifying data entry processes, and setting up periodic review mechanisms.

2. END OF GRANT REPORT

1. Reflect on the overall effect of the grant – on the community as well as the blocks/neighborhoods you operate in. What has changed? Summarize the effects and what gives us confidence that the effects have been achieved.

The grant has had a profound impact on the communities and blocks where the project is being implemented, bringing about significant changes in awareness, access to entitlements, and institutional strengthening. One of the most notable shifts has been the emergence of a strong community-driven advocacy network. Through the formation of community groups and a cadre of local advocates, there is now a growing sense of ownership among people regarding their rights and entitlements. These groups have become platforms where discussions on social protection schemes and government services are actively taking place, leading to increased awareness and mobilization at the grassroots level. More people are now raising issues related to employment under MGNREGA, access to forest rights, and the improvement of health and nutrition services.

Access to government schemes has also improved considerably. Many previously excluded individuals have been able to secure job cards, pensions, and social security benefits, ensuring better financial stability for vulnerable households. More women are now registered under maternity benefit schemes, and a higher number of children have been linked to support programs that promote their well-being. These changes indicate not only improved service delivery but also a shift in community attitudes toward demanding their rightful entitlements. In addition, many villages have reported enhancements in public services, with efforts being made to strengthen health centers, anganwadis, and fair price shops. The increased community engagement in assessing these services has led to tangible improvements, creating a sense of accountability among service providers.

Another significant outcome of the project has been the revival and activation of key village-level institutions. Many community committees and governance bodies, which had previously remained inactive, have been reorganized and are now playing an active role in resolving local disputes, addressing service gaps, and facilitating access to government schemes. The revitalization of these institutions has strengthened local decision-making and helped build mechanisms for sustained community action. Similarly, sustained advocacy efforts and public dialogues have resulted in better government responsiveness, with officials engaging more actively in resolving community grievances and implementing necessary improvements in services.

At the policy level, the project has contributed to wider systemic changes. Community groups and partner organizations have engaged in advocacy efforts that have led to important policy discussions. Strategic legal action has helped highlight critical gaps in service delivery, while persistent advocacy has influenced policy decisions, including the passage of the Right to Health Act in Rajasthan. This reflects the broader impact of the project beyond immediate community-level outcomes, contributing to long-term structural change.

The success of the project can be attributed to the collective strength of the community and its ability to sustain advocacy and demand action. The combination of direct interventions, community-led monitoring, and policy engagement has ensured that the impact is not just temporary but continues to shape the way rights and entitlements are accessed and implemented. The growing engagement of the community, strengthened institutional mechanisms, and improved government convergence all point toward lasting change, reinforcing confidence in the effectiveness of this approach.

3. STORIES OF CHANGE

1. Share any stories of change at the individual (target group), community, or system levels
(*share annexures or links*)

CASE STUDY -1

Village Mandakala – People’s Initiative for Village Republic under PESA

Background:

Pratapgarh district of Rajasthan has more than 70% of its population belong to scheduled tribe and therefore the entire district is under schedule V of the tribal sub plan and Panchayat Extension to Schedule Area (PESA) Act passed by the Government of Rajasthan apply here. The act allows a revenue village to declare itself a village republic for deciding matters related to it.

Mandakala in Dhariyawad block of Pratapgarh district Rajasthan is a revenue village nestled in the mountains and is so large that it spans approximately 7 to 8 kilometers. The village is divided into three sections, each with its own revenue-related activities. There is a large pond in the village, and a river flows through the village while touching the mountains. Some places in the village are the sites of deities.

A process to declare the village as a republic was initiated under the Panchayat Extension top Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act, 1999.

Initiative: A village meeting was held on April 10, 2023, to explain and understand what PESA is and what it entails. People found the concept of PESA and village republic quite exciting and empowering and showed keen interest to understand it better. They then decided to hold another meeting on April 20, 2023. In this meeting, all the heads of the village and community members participated. During the meeting all present agreed to declare their village a republic and called for installing a *Shilalekh*(plaque) declaring the same.

Community members then decided to hold a meeting to plan for the *Shilalekh* on April 26, 2023. In this meeting, they decided to constitute eight committees to take up different responsibilities for the *Shilalekh* and the ceremony which was to take place for its inauguration. The next meeting was then held on May 10, 2023 in which community members decided that each family would contribute Rs. 404 and 3 Kgs of wheat for the *Shilalekh*. Also Shanti Lal Meena was given the responsibility of looking over the *Shilalekh* construction and painter Deva was assigned the responsibility for painting. The next community meeting was called on May 14, 2023 during which the construction of *Shilalekh* was initiated and the date for its inauguration was fixed as May 25, 2023 with the consensus of the entire village.

The next meeting was scheduled for May 18, 2023, in which the *Shilalekh* program was postponed by two days for some reason. Hence, May 27, 2023, was decided as the date. On May 24, 2023, the file was prepared, the map was traced, banners were made, and templates were prepared. On May 25, 2023, invitation letters were sent to all the government officials, including the collector, district revenue officer, district police superintendent, SDM, water department, electricity department, NREGA department, medical department, forest department, and other departments. On May 27, 2023 a grand event was organized in the village with the participation of people from other villages as well and the announcement of Village Republic was made and the *Shilalekh* was inaugurated by the eldest woman of the village.

Conclusion: Mandkala village was declared as Village Republic under the PES Act and plaque of this effect installed in the village.





Media Clip

CASE STUDY -2

Community Members Claim their Right to Work under MGNREGA in Keljhar Kheda

Struggle of families in Keljhar Kheda village to get benefit of the NREGS (National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme) highlights several issues faced by rural communities in accessing government welfare programs effectively. This is a case study of the process initiated.

Lack of Employment Opportunities: Despite having job cards under the NREGS for ten years, families in Keljhar Kheda village did not receive any employment opportunities. This highlights a systemic failure in the implementation of the scheme in the area. Access to employment is crucial for rural livelihoods, especially in areas where agriculture may not be sufficient to sustain families throughout the year.

Efforts: The initiative taken by Prayas to organize meetings and educate villagers about their entitlements under the NREGS helped people get aware of the various provisions under the scheme and the very fact that they need to demand work to get work. In a meeting held on 2nd June 2022 the NREGS group members decided that they want to demand work and apply for the same. On 4th June 2022 Prayas was to organize a registration camp in the village for various schemes. The CRA of the village Kamlesh Kumawat proposed that those who want to apply for work attend the camp so they could be assisted in filing the application. On the day of the camp 45 persons applied for work under NREGS. Of them seven persons had some issues with their bank account and Aadhaar card but the applications of rest of the 38 were accepted. It was after 10 years that people got work under NREGS in Keljhar Kheda and it was a happy moment for all of them. This could happen only

by forming village NREGS group and facilitating the application process. This empowered the community to demand their rights and access government benefits.



Meeting of NREGA group

Challenges in Application Process: The discrepancy in names between bank accounts and Aadhar cards leading to some families being excluded from the muster roll highlights administrative challenges in implementing welfare schemes. This issue needs to be addressed promptly to ensure that eligible families do not face unnecessary hurdles in accessing benefits.

Importance of Community Engagement: The incident served as a learning experience for the villagers, highlighting the importance of collective action and advocacy in demanding their entitlements. By actively participating in the application process and addressing discrepancies, the community demonstrated their agency in seeking redressal for their grievances.



Registration camp

Moving forward, it's crucial for local authorities and implementing agencies to address the underlying issues that led to the prolonged denial of employment opportunities to the villagers. This includes ensuring transparent and efficient processes for application, verification, and disbursement of benefits under the NREGS. Additionally, efforts are being made to create sustainable livelihood opportunities beyond seasonal agricultural work to improve the economic well-being of rural communities of Keljhar Kheda.



MGNREGA Site in Keljhar Kheda

CASE STUDY -3

Village Shehpura - Toilet Construction Begins at Anganwari Center

Background:

Shehpura, a revenue village within Sihad panchayat in Dharyawad block of Pratapgarh district, is situated near Jawahar Nagar circle on the Pratapgarh – Dharyawad road. With a population of 726 individuals across 167 families, the village predominantly relies on agriculture despite small land holdings. While all houses are electrified, only half are pucca structures. The absence of piped water supply necessitates reliance on hand pumps for drinking water. Notably, sanitation facilities are lacking, with few households having latrines. Essential amenities include a primary school staffed by two teachers and an anganwari center with one worker, an assistant, and an ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activist).



The Issue: Monthly Mother and Child Health Nutrition Day (MCHN) sessions are held at the Anganwari center, where ANM Ms. Anita Meena conducts ante-natal and post-natal checkups and immunizations. However, the absence of a toilet at the Anganwari center hinders essential health services, such as urine examinations, which are vital for antenatal care. Currently, such tests are only conducted at the sub-center in village Sihad.

Meeting of the VHSNC

Initiative: Recognizing the urgency of the situation, the Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Committee (VHSNC) convened a meeting on July 6, 2023, where it was unanimously agreed that a toilet should be constructed at the Anganwari center. Following this decision, the VHSNC members liaised with the panch of Shehpura, who provided a signed letter addressed to the Sarpanch of Sihad panchayat on July 27, 2023.

Subsequently, VHSNC members, including the ASHA, Anganwari worker, and ANM, persistently engaged with the Wardanch and Sarpanch to advocate for toilet construction. Their efforts culminated in the matter being raised during a public hearing on February 1, 2024, where it was announced that the budget for the toilet construction had been sanctioned. Administrative approval was granted on January 6, 2024, followed by financial approval on January 15, 2024.

CASE STUDY -4

Effort for Free Ration Distribution in Gadwada and Badodiya Villages, Chittorgarh Block

Introduction:

In the rural villages of Gadwada and Badodiya, situated within the Chittorgarh block, a pressing issue emerged regarding the accessibility of free ration distribution. Residents, predominantly from the Bheel, Bhambhi, and Charan castes in Gadwada, and the Bheel and Rajput castes in Badodiya, faced significant challenges in obtaining their rations due to the remote locations of the Public Distribution Supply (PDS) shops.



Gadwada Village: Gadwada village, comprising Juna Gadwada, Moti Ba Gadwada, and Rajaba ka Gadwada sections, is perched on a hillock, making access difficult, especially without adequate public transport infrastructure. The nearest PDS shop is located 11 kilometers away at the NetavalGarhPachhli panchayat headquarters.

Similarly, Badodiya village in Udpura panchayat, nestled in a valley surrounded by hillocks, faces a similar predicament, with its PDS shop located in village Nalda, 10 kilometers away. These geographical challenges, compounded by the absence of suitable transport options, particularly affect families without younger members, leading to some households not receiving their entitled rations.

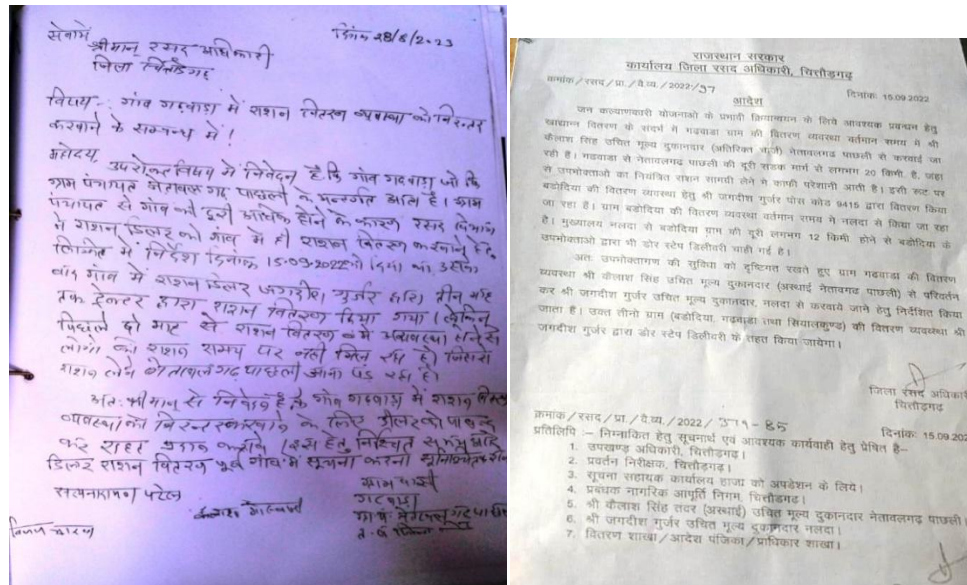
Initiative:

Recognizing the urgency of the situation, community members in Gadwada and Badodiya organized meetings to address the issue collectively. After deliberations, it was decided to petition the District Supply Officer (DSO) of Chittorgarh district to instruct PDS operators to deliver rations directly to the villages,

alleviating the burden on residents to travel long distances. The representation letters, drafted with input from the affected communities and signed by a significant number of adult villagers, outlined the challenges faced and requested direct distribution to their respective villages.

Resolution:

Upon receiving the representations, the DSO duly examined the matter and on September 15, 2022, issued directives to PDS dealers to deliver rations directly to Gadwada and Badodiya villages. This intervention provided immense relief to the villagers, particularly those unable to undertake the arduous journeys to collect their rations.



Conclusion:

Through collaborative efforts and effective advocacy, the villagers of Gadwada and Badodiya successfully secured improved access to essential food supplies. This case study underscores the significance of community mobilization and engagement in addressing local challenges and advocating for necessary changes in governmental procedures.

CASE STUDY - 5

Management of Facilities at Worksites for MNREGA Workers: A Successful Initiative

Issue Description :

In the project area, workers from several villages, including Kheri Charan, Khadi Baavdi, Rajpuria, Eral, Chittodi, Kheda Chittodi, Keljhar Kheda, and Netawalgadh Pasli, applied for work under MNREGA. Their applications were submitted through the Gram Panchayats of Eral and Netawalgadh Pasli, after which the workers were assigned work at their respective approved sites. However, essential facilities such as water, medical kits, crèches, and shade were lacking at these worksites.

Resolution of the Issue: To address these issues, the local community, along with the CRAs conducted several observations of the worksites and held meetings with the workers. During these discussions, the workers highlighted the lack of shade at the work sites as a major concern. Due to the absence of proper shade, workers had to rest under trees using tarpaulins or cloths for cover.

To address these concerns, on May 1, 2024, a two-day district-level event was organized to celebrate Workers' Day. All MNREGA workers participated, and discussions were held about the problems they were facing. Following the discussions, a rally was organized from the meeting site to the district collectorate, where a memorandum was submitted to the District Collector, demanding payment of wages and the provision of shade at MNREGA worksites.



Meeting with workers

Solution Implementation: The MNREGA department took the workers' demands seriously and immediately acted on them. As a result, tents were provided on all the identified sites to ensure shade for the workers.

Conclusion : This initiative proved to be a significant step in securing the rights of workers and improving the working conditions at MNREGA sites. Through collective efforts and administrative responsiveness, the workers received much-needed relief, and their working conditions were improved. This case serves as an excellent example of positive communication and collaboration between the community and the administration

CASE STUDY -6

Securing Employment for Workers under MNREGA in Gadhwada Village



Gadhwada village, located under the Gram Panchayat of NetawalgadhPashli, is divided into three parts: Juna Gadhwada, Moti Ba Gadhwada, and Raja Ba Ka Gadhwada. Due to its location on a hill, the village faces limited transportation access, with a distance of approximately 11 kilometers from the Gram Panchayat and 24 kilometers from the block and district headquarters. The community consists of Bhil, Bhambi, and Charan families, most of the community remains uneducated and economically disadvantaged.

Due to poverty and lack of education, the Bhil families have been intimidated by the Charan community, leading some to migrate to a new settlement in Ghatiyawali Kheda. Those who remain in Gadhwada have little land and depend on manual labor for survival, often working as agricultural laborers for landowners.

The village has a higher secondary school that serves students from nearby villages, while those seeking higher education must travel 24 kilometers to Chittorgarh. There is one Anganwadi center in the village, and some young people and women travel daily to the district headquarters for work.

During a meeting of the MNREGA and Food Security Group, community members expressed their concerns about not being able to secure work due to the lack of a trained MNREGA mate in the village. The hilly terrain of Gadhwada has limited employment opportunities, and MNREGA work is their only source of livelihood. However, when the Gram Panchayat hired a mate from another village, they were unwilling to work in Gadhwada, leaving the villagers without job opportunities.

रसीद

क्र.सं.	व्यक्तिगत/समूह में कार्य मांगने वाले व्यक्तियों के नाम	जॉबकार्ड नं.
1	पैतूराम भील ड/भेरु भील	666 4590
2	गणेश भील ड/कछन ड/भारण	137161
3	भगवत बिडि ड/गणेश भील	137161
4	कृष्ण भील ड/सेवा भील	52949888
5	फारी भील ड/काधु भील	52949888

निम्न व्यक्ति/समूह का महात्मा गांधी नरेगा योजनान्तर्गत रोजगार मांगने का निम्नांकित पखवाड़ा अवधि/दिन..... का आवेदन पत्र (प्रपत्र 6) दिनांक..... को प्राप्त हुआ।

माह	पखवाड़ा		माह	पखवाड़ा		माह	पखवाड़ा		माह	पखवाड़ा	
	प्रथम	द्वितीय		प्रथम	द्वितीय		प्रथम	द्वितीय		प्रथम	द्वितीय
अप्रैल			जुलाई			अक्टूबर			जनवरी		
मई	—	✓	अगस्त	—	—	नवम्बर	—	—	फरवरी	—	—
जून	✓	✓	सितम्बर			दिसम्बर			मार्च		

हस्ता. सरपंच/ग्रा. वि. अधिकारी/ 15/1/24
ग्रा. रो. सहायक/क. सहायक/वाइ पंच

To address this issue, on May 15, 2024, an application was submitted for 35 MNREGA workers from Gadhwada, requesting employment. However, due to the absence of a trained MNREGA mate, the workers were unable to get work on time.

The MNREGA Secretary of Gadhwada, Bantu Ji, was contacted to resolve the issue. He explained that internal conflicts within the village had made it difficult to find a mate willing to work in Gadhwada. Therefore, it was suggested that a literate person from the village be selected for MNREGA mate training. After a group meeting in the village, it was decided that Seema Charan, who had completed 12th grade, would be trained as the MNREGA mate. Seema agreed to take on the responsibility, and her documents were sent to the Gram Panchayat. She later received training in Chittorgarh.

In June 2024, after Seema Charan completed her training, MNREGA work became available to the villagers. The workers were able to find local employment, improving their economic.





Meeting with community members



Meeting with MGNREGA workers