

ACTIVITY REPORT

2022-23



CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICE SOCIETY

kunjwani bypass, Gangyal, Jammu - 180010

Overview

It was one another year filled with learning and action for us. Over the four decades CSSS has been promoting and supporting projects and programs for the socio-economic development of the people of Jammu & Kashmir without regard to caste, creed or community. It has been striving to achieve a humane social order in which the marginalized and vulnerable sections of the society receive a fair deal. To address and achieve the objective of equitable society, we have been supporting and working in partnership with community-based organizations, local administration and village panchayats. Keeping in tune with the origin and the objectives of CSSS, at the same time adapting to the ground realities and the changes happening in the global scenario, CSSS, as an organization moving ahead with strong commitment and dedication.

Where we work: Our focus is mainly the rural areas and villages where livelihoods and access to opportunities is an issue. Presently we are working in Jammu, Samba, Doda, Kathua and Pulwama districts of Jammu & Kashmir covering 121 villages with approx. 6225 households.

Our target beneficiaries: We work for rural communities who are deprived of vocational skills, livelihood and opportunities for sustainable development. We work for rural youth, children but women and farmers are our prime focus. We believe in holistic approaches in solutions and therefore it needs to engage the entire community in the development process. Apart from the regular community engagement, CSSS is been involved in Rehabilitation and Institutional care of children with special needs.

Our Strategic Approach: We believe every society is the change maker of their own lives and their community. All they need is inspiration, guidance and support. CSSS practices and implements its work through:

- Encourage community participation
- Empower and strengthen the aspiring rural people
- Reinforce effective leadership and institution building at local level
- Promote and support livelihood opportunities for rural communities

Vision

Attainment of a Just and Peaceful Society wherein every human person enjoys fullness of life.

Mission

Promotion, restoration and sustenance of dignity of human beings, preferentially the poor and the less privileged, by partnering with state and non-state actors through the process of empowerment and right based approach.

2022-2023 (TARGET COVERED)

6,193



No. of Households

8,980



Direct Beneficiaries

45,425



Indirect Beneficiaries

1. Skilling and capacity building of SHGs

We have conducted 31 training programmes on account keeping, skilling on Agri and non-agriculture means and livelihood security. This was done by keeping in mind the establishment of small business avenues for families who are currently linked with us through SHGs. During the programmes we also motivated women on social mobilization and collective agency as rural women often lack the basic capabilities and self-confidence to counter and challenge existing disparities and barriers against them. Most of the training programmes were on value addition in the field of agriculture, kitchen gardening, floriculture and crop diversification.



2. Capacity building training programme for farmers

We organized 38 training programmes for farmers on vegetable cultivation, organic farming, mushroom cultivation, soil testing and fertility, horticulture, floriculture, traditional manures etc. During the programme, trainees were educated about the selected topics and along with that, they were motivated for use of vermicompost, bio-fertilizers and organic fungicides and organic pesticides in vegetables. Farmers were also trained on proper spacing and requirement of irrigation in the vegetables. They were also suggested that they should use only well decomposed manures in their vegetable fields so that they can get healthy crop and keep their soil healthy.



3. Orientation and capacity building Programme for SHGs on digitalization

We have conducted 30 orientation programme for SHGs on importance and need of digitalization of SHG accounts and federation. The orientation programme helped the SHG members to understand the concept of digitalization and how it increases the transparency in the group accounts and maintenance of registers. The orientation programme covered the new and old SHGs functioning in the target areas as well as the federation.

4. Health Awareness Programmes

During the programme, people were made aware of the personal hygiene and prevention and precaution related to COVID-19. Apart from these safety measure, they were also given tips on staying fit with the help of Yoga, physical exercises and balanced diet. Overall, the health awareness programme was focused towards making rural people aware of how they can maintain a healthy lifestyle while undertaking various preventive measures. Altogether, 29 health awareness programme conducted during the year.



5. Formation and strengthening of Community Based Groups (CBGs)

Community based organizations are a pivot for addressing issues which focus on improving the lives of the people. The process has led to the emergence of large numbers of grassroots level groups of women and farmers for facilitating development action for change. We conducted 62 orientation programme to strengthen Community based group (CBGs) and to form new ones in different target villages. The orientation meeting was conducted in order to refresh the group management and financial management norms. Expert from the relevant department were invited to carry out the orientation programs. The main content of the orientation programme was concept and benefits of groups. It mainly focused on orienting



the target group regarding the existing village conditions and role of SHGs/farmers club in building development, followed by the effectiveness of community groups in bringing economic development in villages. The Strengthening of the existing SHGs have empowered the women in the target villages, equipping them with knowledge in meeting processes, leadership skills, addressing social issues, and initiating diverse income-generating activities. Furthermore, they have actively forged alliances and engaged with various networks to amplify their visibility and mobilize resources effectively, thereby strengthening the overall capacity of the groups.

6. Medical camps

In the last one year, we conducted 7 medical checkup camp including one exclusive camp for special children in target villages. Altogether 765 people enrolled their names for General Health checkup. Free drugs were dispensed to all the patients. Main complaints among the adult population were related to back pain and knee pain and were treated symptomatically. All adults were screened for hypertension and follow up was done for the known hypertensives. Patients with altered findings and poor adherence to the old treatment were referred to higher centers for further need. Complaints regarding vision and other ophthalmic complaints were screened and referred to the concerned department.



7. Inputs on livestock management

In the rural agriculture, the most commonly employed farm power apart from manual labour, invariably comes from Cattle which distinctly stand out from other farm animals. Efficient use of these animals in turn depends on their feeding, maintenance of their health and fitness and training them to adapt to different kinds of work has a definite say in successful agriculture. We organized training cum Participatory session programme on their feeding pattern, maintenance of their health and veterinary check-up camps. We organized 13 livestock management input sessions for the farmers during the year. During the programmes, participants were given information on Animal feeding and nutrition, General husbandry practices, Common health problem and their management on farm, Deworming in cattle, Immunization, vaccination and livestock insurance.



8. Promotion of Mushroom Unit

we selected 16 poorest family for mushroom unit activity. Selection process of the beneficiaries started very early as soon the project started. Final selected beneficiaries underwent one month training on mushroom cultivation at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, R.S.Pura in collaboration with SKAUST. During the training programme, they learnt the entire process of composting, spawning, turning, casing, maintenance of the crop and harvesting. After the successful completion of the course, they were given mushroom bags filled with ready compost and with casing as per the available spaces at their respective houses or farms. One bag is expected to give



at least 2 to 3 kgs of mushroom which will give good profit to the family. Once the beneficiaries receive the profit, it will motivate them to increase their work and get better income.

9. Vocational Skill Training Programme

During the year 16 vocational courses conducted on cutting & tailoring and Beauty culture with the aim of motivating, skilling and self-depending young women who are unskilled and mainly drop outs from high schools. The vocational training centres are designated to the villages where high number of such beneficiaries are reported.



10. Teachers Training Programme on inclusive education

CSSS organized one day teacher's training at Fatima Convent, Bishnah. The topic of the training was "Promote Inclusive Education system". Beneficiaries included teachers from Fatima Convent School, Bishnah. Resource person explained the participants how to identify a disability, counsel the parents, and educate them about the intervention and rehabilitation part of the special children.

11. Awareness Programme on Environmental Protection

During the year, we conducted 11 awareness programme in target villages on conservation and importance of environmental prevention and protection. The program focused on making the people aware of the harmful effects of plastic on our health, tips to conserve water in routine, sanitation of villages, planting more trees and plants, emphasis given on use of natural means as compare to chemical products, use of organic manure, herbal pesticides etc.



12. Risk Communication and Community Engagement:

Under this programme, we have selected 18 volunteers who are engaged in awareness building on COVID-19 in community and also to ensure that authentic and updated information and advice are shared with the communities, mitigating the rumours, with the support of the frontline volunteers. Our team of volunteers guided people for early health seeking behaviour focused self-reporting and monitoring especially in those with recent travel history or history of potential contacts. They are augmenting, hand hygiene and respiratory etiquettes among general public as a routine/regular practice against everyday respiratory illness/respiratory tract infections Widespread Community Transmission. They reassured that the public reinforce the critical need to protect themselves, their families and others-social distancing measures, continued focus on hand-hygiene, respiratory etiquettes and early health seeking behaviours. They created awareness in the villages to ensure population at risk, is adequately protected from the infection of COVID-19 by educating them prevention behaviours. Volunteers used social media to address rumours, fake news and harmful practices and norms and provided correct information.

13. Skill training on Food Processing and Detergent Making

We conducted 5 programmes on food processing, with an objective to provide support to vegetable /fruit producing farmers, and enable the women members to earn livelihood by processing of surplus vegetables and fruits of surrounding areas. The group of women was trained in collaboration with Horticulture department on preparation of good quality Jam, pickles, jellies, sauces, chutney, ketchup, besides drying of vegetables and fruits. **Millet and its processing:** During the programme, resource person talked about different methods of processing like Millet energy bars: Mix cooked millet with nuts,. Millet crackers: Combine



cooked millet with flour, salt, and herbs or spices, and roll the mixture out into thin rounds. Millet granola: Mix cooked millet with rolled oats, nuts, and dried fruit. As a result of this training, SHG members displayed stall of millet products in one of the KISAN MELA organized at SKAUST.

14. Promotion of backyard poultry

In Akalpur unit, we identified 10 poorest families from the target villages and provided healthy chicks in order to provide them alternative source of livelihood. We also capacitated these families on poultry unit development and maintenance system. At present, each family is having more than 50 chicks which is adding extra income to their household and also helping to increase the nutrition level of the family.



15. Participatory Knowledge Centres (PKCs)

With the aim to provide additional support to the socially excluded children to continue their school education and for their overall development, 15 PKCs are running in the target villages of Nagrota block catering to the need of children belonging to the age group of Primary school going. Apart from educational support, the centers organize various healthy competitions among students to promote extra

-curricular activities among the children and to inculcate a feeling of collective action among them.



16. Formation and Strengthening of Neighborhood Children Parliament (NCP)

In Nagrota area, 4 Neighbourhood Children Parliament (NCP) are functional. Regular meetings are being conducted to engage the children in developing greater understanding on issues pertaining to child development and community issues that impact the larger population. Children are an integral part of the society and their development is emphasized by us. We have worked to ensure that the children know about the rights and provisions guaranteed to them as under the Indian Constitution. NCP serves as a platform for the children to come together and form a group with the purpose of solving the problems faced by them in their own community. Here, the children identify social issues and upon realization work on it to bring about pragmatic solutions. Through this, they work for their own personal development as well as that of the community. Strengthening the NCPs is an ongoing process and

details are given in the next table regarding the capacity building of NCP leaders.

Participation in Government Programmes

1. Our farmers from R.S.Pura area participated in KISAN BHAGIDARI, PRATHMIKTA HAMARI” Campaign under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav launched by Union Agriculture Minister from 25th April to 30th April 2022 at KVK* Jammu. The purpose of the interaction was to make farmers aware of flagship schemes of Government of India and to assess the achievements and benefits that the farmers are gaining at the grassroots.
2. Our farmers from R.S. Pura area participated in live interaction programme with Prime Minister on 31st May 2022. During the interaction programme, Prime Minister emphasized on the Farmers Producer Organisations (FPOs) and added that FPOs have been given relief on income tax by the government to encourage the cooperatives among the farmers. Farmers also gained awareness ON PRADHAN MANTRI FASAL BIMA YOJANA, PARDHAN MANTRI KRISHI SINCHAYI YOJANA, BLUE REVOLUTION, ELECTRONIC-NATIONAL AGRICULTURE MARKET (E-NAM), Organic Farming etc. for doubling the farmers’ income, Soil Health Cards, quality seed and micro-irrigation.
3. They also participated in five days programme on Certified farm advisor (CFA) on organic farming which included Documentation, Awareness and Demonstration of Indigenous Technical knowledge Veterinary & Animal Husbandry Extension Education (Faculty of Veterinary) SKUAST, Jammu.
4. On 17th September 2022, farmers participated in “National Campaign on Poshan Abhiyan and Tree Plantation” at KVK Jammu. They learnt the importance of a balanced diet for protection against the non-communicable diseases prevalent in the world.
5. On 17th Oct, our farmers from R.S.Pura area participated in PM Kissan Samelan Programme at KVK Jammu and New Delhi. They had live interaction with Prime Minister and some of the progressive farmers went to New Delhi to directly participate in the programme. During the event, the Prime Minister also released the 12th instalment amount under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) through Direct Benefit Transfer.
6. Farmers also participated in regular programme organized at Shere Kashmir Agriculture University and Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Jammu such as KISAN SAMELAN, GOSTHI, WORKSHOPS, STAKEHOLDER INTERACTION etc.
7. Farmers from R.S. Pura area participated in Multistakeholder workshop on Millets on 6th March 2023 at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Jammu. The first session was on millet diversity, crop improvement and production technologies. They also



emphasized farming techniques and methodologies pertaining to millet cultivation. The second session was on post-harvest processing in millets. The third session was on nutrition, value addition and marketing of millets on nutrition profile of millets, and the importance of unpolished millet rice vs polished millet rice, and how it affects the glycemic index. The farmers had a good interaction with the academicians and industrialists, particularly on millet processing machineries, and gained ideas on what millets to cultivate in cluster for better marketability