

ŠRUTI

Society for Rural Urban & Tribal Initiative

ANNUAL REPORT



2021–22

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ABOUT SRUTI

SRUTI – Society for Rural, Urban and Tribal Initiative was founded in 1983 with the belief that individuals are powerful instruments of social transformation. Originally conceived by social sector leaders Tara Ali Baig, Bunker Roy, Ela Bhatt, Lotika Sarkar, Poonam Muttreja, Samir Chaudhuri and Dr Ramalingaswami, the SRUTI Fellowship Programme supports individual and community action towards securing justice, rights, dignity and opportunity for some of India’s most marginalised groups.

In the 39 years of its existence, the organisation has worked to raise resources from within the country to support 150 Fellows and several volunteers from communities who work together to sustain the process of change through community involvement.

SRUTI aims to harness the power of individuals working at the grassroots to attain its vision of a society that is based on the core values of justice, equity, compassion, respect and dignity for all. Collective social action and local leadership at the grassroots form the crux of the SRUTI Fellowship. SRUTI and its Fellows believe that social change and sustainable economic development can be achieved by empowering oppressed and vulnerable communities to access justice, equality and opportunity, and be true stakeholders in a vibrant democracy.

SRUTI’s core mission, therefore, is to identify and invest in individuals armed with zeal and a vision to work towards a more equitable society within a democratic framework: individuals with idealism, staying power and the ability to mobilise communities at the grassroots and seek solutions for their most pressing issues through ‘Sangathans’ – people’s groups that facilitate community social action.

Some key issues addressed by the SRUTI Fellows and the Sangathans include: Access to and Ownership of Natural Resources – Jal, Jangal, Zameen; Land and Forest Conservation; Small Holder and Sustainable Agriculture; Right to Food; In-situ Livelihood; Panchayati Raj Institutions and Governance; Rights to the City; Education; Right to Information; Caste and Gender.

SRUTI extends a mix of financial support and intermediary inputs to an individual Fellow/a group of Fellows through the Fellowship Programme that has evolved substantially over the decades. The Fellowship Programme is financed by resources mobilised, to the extent possible, from within the country, through support partnerships and a range of fundraising efforts. The Fellowship Programme, its related engagement and outreach efforts, and the Resource Mobilisation Programme form the key pillars of SRUTI.

For more information, please visit www.sruti.org.in

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTORS: LOOKING BACK AT 2020-21

The start of the new year was marked by the outbreak of a new strain of the coronavirus, the Delta variant, that ushered in the second wave of the pandemic, a more dreadful outbreak of the virus around the months of April-May 2021. This COVID wave brought about a nationwide lockdown all over again. It caused a deeper kind of scarcity of services – of oxygen cylinders, medical drugs, and access to hospital beds, doctors and nurses. Our Fellows received distress calls from across their work areas, and all efforts were directed at promptly creating linkages with relevant stakeholders. In such times of despair, Fellow groups, community leaders and Karyakartas (volunteers/activists) worked with equal agility to liaise with relevant authorities and departments in their work areas to ensure unobstructed support to communities. Continuous engagement over the year with the youth from across the 14 states where SRUTI works, through several methods, bore results in the inspiring leadership they exhibited while supporting families in their localities.

To counter the growing myths and fears about the outbreak of this wave and ensuing vaccination drives, online discussion meetings with experts and local awareness programmes were organised frequently, to ensure dissemination of proper information about the disease, including preventive and precautionary measures. Avenues of education and health – both physical and mental – and strengthening governance and accountability of PRI representatives were other priority domains of work. Participants of the last 3 batches of the School for Social Change (SSC), a flagship initiative of SRUTI, marshalled online meetings to share local and national socio-political-economic developments; they identified themes for the building of perspectives for the online sessions. *Yuvaniya*, the online reportage platform, continued publishing its bi-weekly editions, expanding both the readership of the magazine and the base of contributors penning their thoughts and views from across the country.

The SRUTI Fellowship Programme also observed fresher energy, dynamism and innovation in its work. In an attempt to strengthen perspectives and values enshrined in the Constitution, and bolster processes and work around these values – equality, fraternity and justice – numerous online and offline meetings, training and workshops were organised by Fellow groups in their areas.

Despite the setbacks caused by the pandemic and the resultant suspension of government/departmental work, sustained efforts over the years in strengthening each community's rights and recognition over their forest, water, land and natural resources ensured that the momentum of work resumed once the virus abated. Consequently, in several areas, Gram Sabhas and communities successfully won relevant rights and titles for the use, conservation, protection and management of their forests and resources.

It was encouraging and heartening to observe the resilience of the communities and the commitment with which the immediate fallouts of the devastating second COVID wave were addressed.

Underscoring the idea of 'People for Change', this Annual Report featuring our collective work and efforts through the crisis reflects our learnings during the period and resilience to continue striving for justice and peace.

**With best regards to all our friends and supporters,
Shweta, Satyam and all members of Team SRUTI**

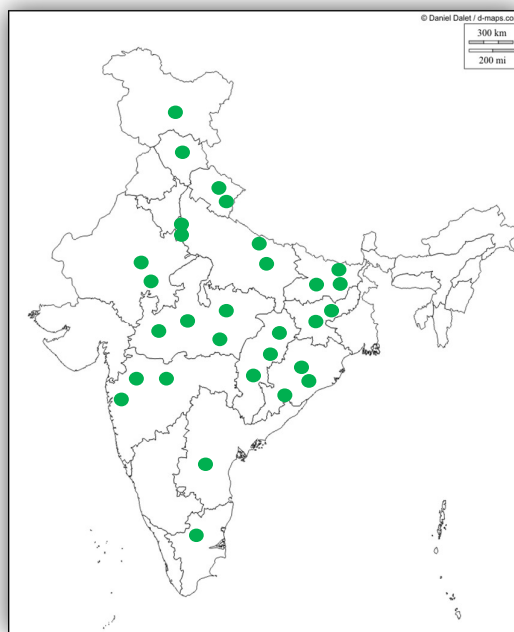
SRUTI FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

The uniqueness of SRUTI's Fellowship Programme is that its outreach is widespread yet deep-rooted. We directly support individuals and communities involved in social work at the grassroots, making the process of change organic and relevant on the ground. SRUTI's focus is on Constitutional rights and community-driven interventions; we facilitate the efforts at the grassroots through the intermediary processes of outreach, engagement, association, capacity building and solidarity.

A consistent endeavour at SRUTI has been to raise independent funds to supplement resources mobilised by the Sangathans. All the resources for the Fellowship are raised through Indian funds and activities at SRUTI – the Scrap Collection Programme, organising sales of clothes, and donation drives.

Since its inception, SRUTI has supported the work of 150 Fellows at the grassroots across India. We currently support 33 Fellows and 197 Karyakartas in 14 states: Andhra Pradesh (AP), Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh (HP), Kashmir, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh (MP), Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu (TN), Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh (UP).

The current outreach of SRUTI Fellows is over 7361 villages and 250 urban clusters covering around 6.8 lakh families and 34 lakh people.



SRUTI Fellows

Bihar

1. Kailash Bharati – Mazdoor Kisan Samiti, Gaya district (dt)
2. Santosh Marandi – Adivasi Mazdoor Kisan Mukti Vahini, Banka dt
3. Sohini – Jan Jagran Shakti Sangathan, Arariya dt

Chhattisgarh

4. Jang Sai – Gaon Ganrajya Sangathan, Surguja and Ambikapur dts
5. Rajim Ketwas – Dalit Adivasi Manch, Baloda Bazar and Mahasamund dts
6. Yunus Toppo – Jan Abhivyakti, Korba and Surguja dts

Delhi

7. Dharmendra Yadav, Delhi Nirman Mazdoor Sangathan
8. Sadre Alam – People's Foundation, Northwest, Southwest, and South Delhi dts

Himachal Pradesh

9. Akshay Jasrotia – Kisan Sabha, Mandi dt

Jharkhand

10. Arvind Anjum – Visthapit Mukti Vahini, Singhbhum dt

11. Jerome Kujur – Jan Sangharsh Samiti, Latehar dt

Kashmir

12. Dr Sheikh Ghulam Rasool – J&K RTI Movement, School for Rural Development and Environment, Budgam and Srinagar dts

Madhya Pradesh

13. Jayashree – Adharshila Learning Centre, Barwani dt

14. Veerendra Kumar – Bundelkhand Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan, Damoh dt

14. Aradhana Bhargav – Kisan Sangharsh Samiti, Chhindwara dt

16. Abhay and Swapnil – Zenith Society for Legal Empowerment, Shivpuri dt

Maharashtra

17. Dashrath Jadhav – Shramjeevi Sangathana, Latur dt

18. Ulka Mahajan – Sarvahara Jan Andolan, Raigad dt

19. Vilas Bhongade – Kashtkari Jan Andolan, Nagpur, Bhandara, Wardha and Gondia dts

Odisha

20. Amulya Nayak – Adivasi Chetna Sangathan, Dhenkanal and Angul dts

21. Prafulla Mishra – Adim Adivasi Mukti Manch, Nayagarh dt

22. Trilochan Punji – Zindabad Sangathan, Balangir dt

Rajasthan

23. Hira Lal – Hum Kisan, Manthan Shikshan Kendra, Jhalawar dt

24. Suman – Khetihar Khan Mazdoor Sangathan, Chittorgarh dt

Tamil Nadu

25. M.S. Selvaraj – Vyavasayigal Tozhilalargal Munnetra Sangham (VTMS), Nilgiris dt

Uttarakhand

26. Basanti – Maati Sangathan, Pithoragarh dt

27. Gopal Lodhiyal – Uttarakhand Van Panchayat Sangharsh Morcha, Nainital dt

Uttar Pradesh

18. Afaq Ullah – Awadh Peoples Forum, Faizabad dt

29. Lal Prakash Rahi – Dialogue in Solidarity Harmony in Action Sanstha, Jaunpur dt

Fellowship Exits

1. K. Victoria – Nellore dt (Andhra Pradesh)

2. Pradeep Dash – Rayagada dt (Odisha)

3. Sarojini Malick – Nayagarh dt (Odisha)

4. Rajnish Gambhir – Lakhimpur Kheri dt (Uttar Pradesh)

ACTIVITY REPORT FOR 2021-22

After the devastating second wave of the pandemic, which lasted 4 months (mid-March to mid-July, 2021) in India, the month of July witnessed a slowdown in the spread of the disease. The second wave created the worst human disaster in country since the partition of India. According to the data provided by the government, more than 400,000 people lost their lives during this wave; various other sources suggest that the real death toll could be close to 5 million. (source: [bbc.com](https://www.bbc.com))

While relief work was the need of the hour during the second wave, the longer-term challenges came after the wave had passed: first, to start the rebuilding process, and second, to head towards normalcy. Fellow groups actively engaged in relief work, and when lockdown restrictions eased, they immediately began to reach out to the people in their respective communities and regions to address the burning issues thrown up by the pandemic. These included unemployment, education, health and access to government welfare schemes. All the Fellow groups needed to jump-start various processes to organise and mobilise people of their communities on these issues. New initiatives were required to push people out of the trauma caused by the waves of the pandemic.

The latter half of 2021 and the year 2022 turned into a period of recovery after the 2 severe waves of the pandemic, a period for rebuilding and resuming the processes that had been put on hold for a while. Even though another strain of the coronavirus – Omicron – hit the world again in January and February 2022, this third wave of the pandemic was comparably mild. Therefore, most of the programmes through the year could be facilitated online. Post-pandemic, starting from March 2022, we could reinitiate a variety of offline programmes.

Constitutional values emerged as a crucial theme for SRUTI this year, and efforts towards strengthening these were taken up by SRUTI Fellows. This involved both, efforts at grassroot level by the Fellows groups and programs at national level organised by SRUTI. The programs that encompassed range of initiatives including workshops, meetings, cultural events turned out to be another step towards strengthening the overall fellowship programme. Other primary themes on which SRUTI Fellow undertook numerous innovative and varied activities in their work areas included forest, Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and governance, and youth engagement. When PRI elections were held in a few states, Fellow organisations worked hard to ensure active public participation, promoting dialogue between voters and candidates. Trainings and workshops could be physically organised on different themes – forest, land, participatory governance – this year, a welcome respite from the pandemic-induced virtual ones of the past year. The experience during the lockdowns had shown that digital tools were not effective enough in rural areas, compounded by relentless technical glitches faced in these areas. *Yuvaniya* magazine, a youth engagement platform, continued to gain ground; it experienced exponential growth in participation and reach in its second year.

SRUTI SAATHI MILAN: ANNUAL FELLOWS' MEET, 2021-22

This year, SRUTI Saathi Milan was organised between 18 to 21 December 2021 – in the backdrop of the economic and social disruption caused by the pandemic – in the work area of Kendriya Jan Sangharsh Samiti, Jharkhand. The Fellows' meet was convened to discuss, rethink and tackle the environmental degradation, human crises and livelihood issues emerging in different areas. Fellows from Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Jharkhand, Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, and Uttar Pradesh attended the meeting.

The first day of the meet was earmarked for visits to the Sangathan's field areas. Polpol, an Adivasi village in Palamu district, was visited to deepen understanding of the various complexities faced by the Adivasi people of the region, which compound the livelihood loss and insecurities of these indigenous communities. The visit was fruitful for both communities and Fellows to understand the issues and share inputs to plan initiatives and actions for mitigating livelihood insecurities.

In the course of the meet, Fellows shared details of relief activities undertaken during the pandemic, challenges faced in reaching the marginalised sections of the society, obstacles in carrying out local outreach, etc. On the final day, the SRUTI Saathis worked collectively to frame action points based on the rich discussions and field visits over the first 3 days of the Saathi Milan. They strategised on the way forward, prepared blueprints of

tentative outlay of programmes and events, and mapped out how to extend solidarity and support to Fellow networks and collaborate with larger networks and alliances on pressing issues in their respective areas.



YUVANIYA: A YOUTH ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE

Yuvaniya magazine – conceived in the camps and discussions of the School for Social Change (SSC) and among Fellows – moved forward by leaps and bounds towards its vision of a platform for the youth to express and share their thoughts and views on various themes. The magazine seeks to help SSC participants remain connected with each other, and in the process, inculcate and hone writing, reporting and versification skills in them. *Yuvaniya* thus became a printed collection of ideas and perspectives of these individuals and helped them remain connected with and updated about each other. The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic blocked all possibilities of physical meet-ups for camps and programmes. Consequently, attempts were made to take this unique initiative online and scale it up that way. With its online launch on 1 September 2020, *Yuvaniya* was revitalised, the aim being to share the perspectives of the youth, especially those residing in rural and tribal areas, on the social, economic, and political developments surrounding them.

The online magazine continues to bring out its biweekly editions. Till March 2022, the magazine was able to engage with 200+ youth (belonging to marginalised and Adivasi communities) from rural and urban India. Youth from 11 States (Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Jharkhand, MP, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Odisha, Uttarakhand and UP) became important contributors to this youth-driven initiative, contributing as many as 382 posts: articles, poetry, video and photo stories, biographies, etc. A total of 24 editions were published in the reporting period, taking the total number of editions to 38 by 31 March 2022.

Themes of articulations in *Yuvaniya*

- women’s rights •legal marriage age for girls •abortion rights •debate over hijab ban •status of educational institutions/education in villages/tehsils/towns/cities
- cultural and traditional practices of different communities
- biographical introduction of different Karyakartas and volunteers associated with Sangathans
- challenges of migrant labourers •rescue of bonded/migrant labourers
- nature and environment •people’s resource rights •stories of struggle by local communities in different parts of the country
- prevalent superstitions in the society and initiatives by different groups to promote scientific temperament

The enthusiasm of the contributors was met with equal zeal by those sitting behind their screens, reading the opinions and creative output of the youth. By March 2022 (as also shown in the Figure below; the figure shows the data till September 2022), the writings had received a total of 35,000 views from around 18,000 visitors to the site.



Thematic Areas of Work of SRUTI Fellows

The work undertaken by the Fellows during the period of the report may be grouped into the following thematic areas:

- COVID-19 Relief Work
- Forest Rights Recognition and Conservation
- Labour Rights, Land Rights Recognition and Social Security
- Panchayati Raj Institutions and Governance
- Agriculture and Livelihood
- Education and Leadership Building
- Gender, Caste, and Social Inclusion
- Constitutional Values

COVID-19 RELIEF WORK

The impact of the pandemic was so deep that responding to emerging needs it generated remained a priority of all Fellow groups through the year. The first wave taught the bitter lesson that only relief work would never be enough, especially with rural and marginalised communities. Nonetheless, relief work did take up a large chunk of the time and resources of the Fellows especially at the beginning of the period of the report.

Relief Work in the Valley (Kashmir)

A month-long lockdown imposed in Kashmir to counter the depredations of the second wave left people severely distressed. Aid provided by the government proved insufficient and families living on the margins required additional support to tide over these difficult times. To help people weather the storm, the **School for Rural Development and Environment (SRDE)** took up relief work activities, particularly in areas hosting large populations of economically vulnerable communities in Budgam, Pulwama, Baramulla and Bandipora districts. It also initiated strategising around preparedness, contingency planning and monitoring.

Volunteers associated with SRDE undertook needs-assessment surveys and accordingly prepared or modified their relief plans. SRDE distributed a total of 650 ration kits across 4 districts (Budgam: 390; Bandipora: 120; Pulwama: 70; and Baramulla: 70).

Mediator between Funders and Sangathans for Relief Packages (Madhya Pradesh)

Lack of access to food was one of the biggest challenges faced during the COVID crisis in 2021. Due to a small number of volunteers, the relief work carried out by **Zenith Society for Socio-Legal Empowerment** in Shivpuri (MP) was limited. With the support of Rahul Jaimini (Co-Founder, Swiggy and Pestotech), they distributed rations for a month to 50 families in Shivpuri city particularly to orphan children, children with HIV, and other needy families.

Of much wider reach was their work as mediators: Zenith got in touch with relief-providing agencies for distribution of funds and ration to Sangathans and grassroot community workers. After collecting information relating to their work areas and requirements for relief work from the Sangathans, Zenith passed it on to these agencies.

In Malanpur, Zenith's team from one of their initiatives, Samudayik Adhikar Kendra, along with Anganwadi workers of the area, emerged as frontline workers in ensuring access to medicines and basic health facilities. Team members got 7 medical kits and another 10 were given to Anganwadi workers. Equipped with these medical kits consisting of an oximeter, steamer, thermometer and medicines, the team went door to door, checking people's symptoms, assessing their condition and providing basic medical support. All serious cases were referred to the nearest government health facility. Over a period of 3 months, the team helped hundreds in the most backward and rural areas of Malanpur.

Relief Work in Angul and Dhenkanal (Odisha)

Karyakartas of **Adivasi Chetna Sangathan (ACS)** and **Malayagiri Adivasi Sangharsh Manch (MASM)** in the districts of Angul and Dhenkanal responded immediately to the serious situation with whatever resources they had at their disposal. It was difficult for many tribal and rural communities to acquire accurate information regarding COVID-19 since these places were cut off from the reach of the mainstream media and other

HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ **Over 6000 families in 15 districts of 10 states** were provided ration, hygiene and protection kits through SRUTI Fellows and local networks.
- ❖ **1200 people** were provided face masks, generic medicines and health screening in remote areas of Angul, Dhenkanal and Simlipal (Odisha). Fellows lent support in **65 clinically safe deliveries** for tribal women, **165 new vaccination centres**, and **vaccination of 5450 people** in Angul and Dhenkanal.
- ❖ SRUTI Fellows coordinated with **10,000 migrant workers** to help them return to their homes in Balangir (Odisha).
- ❖ In Ayodhya (UP), more than **5000 people** were reached through awareness campaigns on COVID vaccines to reduce **vaccine hesitancy** among communities.
- ❖ Buses and train tickets were arranged for more than **1000 migrant workers** during lockdown in the second wave.
- ❖ **10** marginalised families were facilitated to receive **compensation amounts of Rs 25,000** each in Nilgiris (TN). Travel arrangements were also made.

communication channels. In order to address this issue, Sangathan Karyakartas held 450+ village meetings in the months of April and May alone. These meetings served as a platform for the dissemination of knowledge and raising awareness.

At the peak of the second wave, Karyakartas reached out to 1200 people, distributed 500 face masks and critical medicines, and also checked body temperatures and oxygen levels. Karyakartas assisted 65 tribal women in having clinically safe deliveries during this time. Rations support and other assistance provided by the government departments were closely monitored by Karyakartas as well; they ensured around 7600 people received rations and financial assistance provided by the government institutions.

As the second wave subsided, and rumours of the side effects of vaccines spread like wildfire, Sangathans shifted their focus towards vaccine awareness. Sangathan Karyakartas reached out to the villages and provided correct information about the vaccine, which resulted in 5450 people getting vaccinated. Karyakartas also corresponded with the government to demand more vaccination centres. Consequently, between May to September, 165 new vaccination centres were opened in these 2 districts.

Relief Work in Nilgiris, Coimbatore, Erode and Tirupur districts (Tamil Nadu)

During the pandemic-induced lockdowns, **VTMS (Vyavasayigal Tozhilalargal Munnetra Sangham)** launched a drive for donations in many places in TN and assisted hundreds of affected families. It organised assistance for those families who had lost their members to the pandemic. Families which lost their income were identified and given Rs 25,000 for starting small businesses. So far 10 families have been aided this way.

Another initiative of VTMS was to collate statistics in April and May on the pandemic's impact on marginalised sections/communities. Baseline survey and data collection were carried out in the Nilgiris, Coimbatore, Erode and Tirupur districts.

The Sangathan also worked on ensuring access to government welfare schemes and thus helped families receive emergency ration cards for vegetables, relief money, etc. An awareness campaign to educate the locals about the disease was also launched; the aim was to impart information on practices for prevention and precautions that communities need to adopt.

COVID Awareness Online Session by Health Experts

Considering the rapid spread of coronavirus during the second wave, there was a critical need to organise interactive sessions by health practitioners. With the severity of the infection, high spread rate and poor availability of medical facilities in rural areas where primary health care systems are not reliable enough, it was necessary to make people aware of measures to take in case of a medical emergency. SRUTI facilitated online sessions with Dr Samir Mone and Dr Rajni Nahar in April–May 2021.

These online sessions were aimed at providing authentic information about the disease. Both medical practitioners spoke of the measures to be taken to prevent community spread and methods of containment of the spread. Demos of the use of the pulse oximeter to monitor a COVID patient were also shared, along with information on generic medication for mild cases of potential COVID infections.

These sessions were designed such that participants could share their concerns and pose queries regarding the virus, such as how to detect if someone is COVID positive; ways to prevent the spread of the infection in rural areas; and ways to boost immunity. These sessions proved to be quite effective; 87 people from 13 states participated in the session conducted by Dr Samir and 25 people from Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra participated in the one by Dr Rajni.

Vaccine Awareness Drive in Gaya (Bihar)

Mazdoor Kisan Samiti (MKS) had done commendable work in distributing ration and hygiene kits during the first wave of the COVID pandemic. The Sangathan helped more than 1500 families in 5 blocks of Gaya district. During the devastating second wave, as the Sangathan received news of more and more people falling ill, they knew they had to act fast to tackle the vaccine hesitancy in the area, especially considering that the rural healthcare infrastructure was far from adequate.

Rumours of people dying or falling sick after vaccination were spreading rapidly. From the beginning of July 2021, the Sangathan started a vaccine awareness drive. Sangathan Karyakartas organised village

meetings in their respective areas, where they talked about the misinformation and misconceptions around vaccination. Karyakartas provided people with information about where to get vaccines. It is common knowledge that rural areas are poorly served by public transport, and during the second wave it became especially difficult for many people to reach primary health centres for vaccination. For such people, Sangathan Karyakartas also arranged the means of transport. Their efforts proved to be very successful: by March 2022 more than 2000 people had got their vaccine shots in the Sangathan's area (250 villages of 5 blocks in Gaya district).

SSC and Online Youth Engagement during the Pandemic

The School for Social Change (SSC) has been a flagship programme of SRUTI aimed at youth engagement to promote scientific temperament and rational thinking. The programme has been running for the last 4 years in 4 language schools: Hindi, Marathi, Tamil and Odia. With the outbreak of pandemic in January 2020, physical SSC camps came to a stop.

Online sessions of SSC, Maharashtra

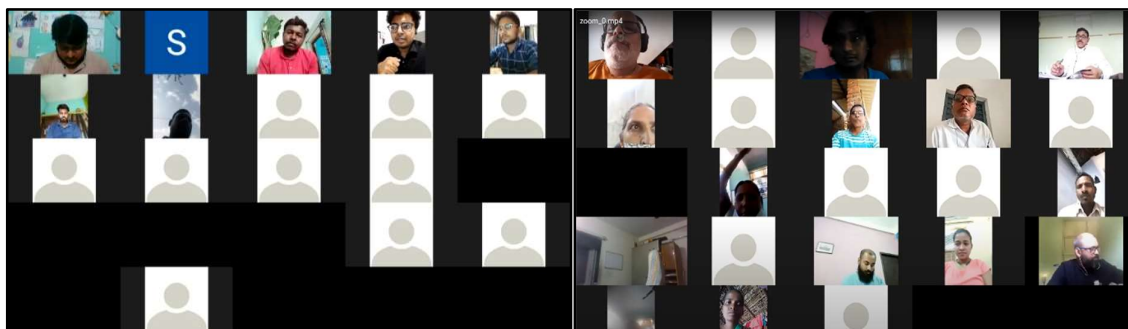
The prolonged gap in interaction prompted the organising of online discussions to engage youth. While lack of internet accessibility in rural areas continued to be a challenge, SSC Maharashtra managed to organise 5 online sessions from April to June 2021. These saw the participation of more than 100 youth from Nagpur, Latur and Raigad districts. During these sessions, relevant issues of the youth in the time of pandemic, such as employment, health, education, were discussed.

These sessions were aimed at providing youth with a scientific understanding of important issues and raising their awareness of the concerns of communities; the idea was to build synergy between them to foster collaborative actions in these dire circumstances. Ensuring critical and deeper understanding about core issues helps empower the youth regarding rights, entitlements and duties, enabling them to effectively work for rights recognition and involve the community in the process of decision-making even in the pandemic situation. Post the online discussions, the young leaders played a key role in awareness-generation campaigns, coordinating with migrant workers, distribution of rations, etc.

Alumni meet of SSC participants

SSC training helps in building a sense of community among the young leaders. The training period not only gradually bridges gaps in understanding between the trainers and participants but also helps establish a bond amongst them. The post-training phase of SSC has proven to be a very powerful tool in bringing the representatives from communities together as participants and for follow-up ground action for access to rights and entitlements.

In the second phase of COVID-19 and subsequent lockdown, SRUTI organised 3 online alumni meetings with participants of all previous batches. Young leaders discussed their issues and reported on the situation in their areas at the time of the pandemic; they also shared what they were doing in their respective areas for relief work. These online meetings also became a platform for sharing personal experiences, struggles and loss during the pandemic. The mutual involvement of the young grassroots leaders helped in understanding their issues and addressing these concerns effectively. The meetings facilitated the discussion and identification of themes around which the youth wanted to build more understanding. Consequently, issue-specific meetings were organised with SSC alumni.



School for Social Change (SSC) and online youth engagement during the pandemic



Vaccination awareness village meeting in Gaya (Bihar)

Vaccination awareness village meeting in Angul (Odisha)



COVID relief work in Shivpuri (Madhya Pradesh)



COVID relief work in Budgam, Bandipora, Pulwama and Baramulla (Kashmir)

FOREST RIGHTS RECOGNITION AND CONSERVATION

In the first half of 2021–22, the pandemic continued to create barriers to work on rebuilding processes in the domain of forest rights and conservation, including the implementation processes of the Forest Rights Act, 2006 (FRA).

In the states of Bihar, Chhattisgarh, HP, Jharkhand, MP, Odisha, TN, UP and Uttarakhand, SRUTI works on forest and legal ownership rights through its Fellow groups. The flattening of the curve in the disease outbreak came with the loss of many lives. Threats to survival and livelihoods loomed in the minds of the majority. Against such a backdrop, it might seem that restarting processes and actions around the implementation of FRA would be an uphill task.

But the last quarter of 2021 provided a major lesson for all working on this theme. It was realised that consistent work done over the years around the issue of FRA had laid the foundations to navigate through crises, such as the pandemic, and bounce back quickly. Work was promptly taken up wherever it had halted due to lockdown. The response was overwhelming across all areas. New alliances were forged, new areas were brought into the fold, and several trainings and workshops were organised. Fellow groups reinvigorated the local groups and communities towards work related to implementing FRA.

Women Leading the Struggle for Forest Rights (Chhattisgarh)

Fellow Sangathan **Dalit Adivasi Manch (DAM)** has been assisting more than 250 villages in Chhattisgarh's Baloda Bazar and Mahasamund districts for over 20 years now. In the last year, with regular campaigning, training and assistance, the Sangathan expanded their work and reached out to 40 additional settlements. The Sangathan has prioritised the active involvement with women of different communities, resulting their enthusiastic participation in working towards recognition of their legal rights over their land, water, forests and other natural resources.

To address the unique learning obstacles faced by the women, DAM has organised a series of training and workshops with them and other stakeholders on themes like FRA, organic farming, seed preservation and distribution, and relevant government departments. The idea is to bring women to the forefront and help them draw linkages between their day-to-day struggles, their relationship with their forests and farms, livelihood opportunities and FRA; a priority is to increase their awareness of social welfare programmes relevant to them. Today, the Sangathan sees women emerging as leaders, Karyakartas and torch bearers, with more and more of them playing an indispensable role in the area through their interventions for legal rights recognition.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ SRUTI facilitated **33 regional-level and 15 state-level programmes** on the theme of recognition of forest rights and conservation.
- ❖ **532 follow-up village-level meetings** were held by the SRUTI Fellows where CFR (Community Forest Rights) claims were filed and are currently in process.
- ❖ **120 training/workshops** at the **village level**, **32** at the **regional level**, and **6** at the **state level** were organised to facilitate CFR processes, covering **5000 people**.
- ❖ **In 6 states** – HP, Jharkhand, MP, Odisha, TN and Uttarakhand – **424 new villages** were brought into the fold for initiation of CFR processes. **261 new CFR** claims were submitted and **156 CFR titles** obtained, and **1802 IFR** (Individual Forest Rights) claims were filed and **937 IFR titles** obtained in SRUTI Fellow areas.
- ❖ In Gariyaband, Dhamtari, Mahasamund, Baloda Bazar, Korla, Bastar and Korba districts of Chhattisgarh, SRUTI Fellows and consultants have started the post-CFR recognition processes. To facilitate this, **12 CFMC** (Community Forest Management Committee) workshops were organised.
- ❖ In HP, **28 villages** received **CFR titles** and moved ahead with forest management and conservation. This achievement impacted entire geographical regions such as Bada Bhangal, as **261 new CFRs** were verified at the **VFRCs** (Village Forest Rights Committees) after Gram Sabhas prepared such claims. **140 claims** among these have been submitted to **SDLCs** (Sub-Divisional Level Committees). **96 villages** have constituted **CFMCs** and are progressing towards collective and sustainable forest governance.

Capacity Building for Effective Implementation of FRA in Balangir (Odisha)

On 21 November 2021, a capacity-building training was organised in Balangir district, with Trilochan Punji and Lochan Bariha from **Zindabad Sangathan** as the primary resource persons. The participants deliberated on aspects such as the status of FRA in Odisha and future actions, taking into consideration the difficulties encountered in the implementation of the Act.

A group discussion followed the introductory session, where FRA and its provisions were analysed in detail. The intention of the government to foster the myth that the Scheduled Tribes are the only groups covered by the Act was discussed. The training gave the Sangathan an opportunity to engage with the communities and make them realise that both tribal and non-tribal communities have lived in the region's forests for several centuries, and that the Act applies to all forest-dependent communities, with no one community being favoured over the other.

Strengthening Land and Forest Rights of Communities (Jharkhand)

Sangathans in Jharkhand have been working on land and forest issues for 3 decades, playing an important role in organising collective local-level interventions. Special attention has been paid to moving forward on the Community Forest Rights (CFR) process in order to facilitate CFR activities under FRA in identified areas of Gumla and Latehar districts. 106 CFR claims have been filed and Fellow group **Kendriya Jan Sangharsh Samiti (KJSS)** is closely following up on these. Of the 106 claims, 70 are still pending at the Sub-Divisional Level Committee (SDLC) level, while 36 CFRs have been prepared and await joint verification at the Gram Sabha level. The sluggishness in the FRA implementation process has distressed the forest-dependent communities. Understanding the urgency of the CFR rights recognition process, Fellows and consultants working in the area have organised 5 village-level meetings and started building a strategy towards strengthening and hastening the processes as well as guiding the procedures which are currently under development for additional intervention.

Two state-level public meetings and consultations were held at Ranchi and Tutwapani, Latehar, in the months of February and March 2022, reaching out to thousands of Adivasi people along with the relevant government bodies. These meetings with Adivasi intellectuals, activists, networks, community leaders and relevant stakeholders served the dual purpose of (i) better understanding the state's existing land and forest alienation problems and (ii) bolstering the Adivasi people's collective efforts to plan for such issues. At the local level, the Gram Sabhas continued their long-running campaign throughout the reporting period and approved resolutions for effective implementation of the Constitution's Fifth Schedule (relating to Scheduled Areas), the Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas Act, 1996 (PESA), and FRA. The Governor of Jharkhand, who oversees the state's protection of the Fifth Scheduled Areas, received more than 150 Gram Sabha resolutions.

Reviving Forest Rights Processes in Angul, Dhenkanal and Simlipal (Odisha)

From April to July all processes of claiming forest rights by Sangathans in Odisha were halted due to the outbreak of the second COVID wave. As the impact of this second wave slackened, Sangathans started reaching out to people and restarted the process with a priority towards capacity building of communities and Karyakartas. Sangathans in the districts of Angul, Dhenkanal and Simlipal organised trainings on Individual Forest Rights (IFR) and CFR claim filing, and the implications of these rights for life and livelihood. Awareness meetings on understanding FRA and support in preparing required documents for filing the claims were held. Sangathan Karyakartas also put in efforts to reconstitute the Village Level Committees (VLCs). The efforts made for effective implementation of FRA resulted into submission and verification of numbers of Individual and Community Forest Right claims (please see the grey box below for exact figures).

Panchayat elections scheduled for February 2022 in the state once again interrupted the processes for operationalising rights recognition on the ground. The Sangathan's pace of work was also hampered due to the imposition of the state guideline and election code of conduct, yet it did not retract completely and carried on extending support wherever it could in the domain of forest rights recognition – by helping people obtain their caste certificates, reactivating dysfunctional VLCs, and working with the government departments for joint verification of claimed forest lands.

Between October 2021 and March 2022, all 3 Sangathans in Odisha – ACS, MASM and Similipal Adivasi Sangharsh Manch (SASM) – reactivated 6 FRCs in 3 districts and 85 members of different VLCs were trained in FRA processes. 435 IFR claims were submitted at the VLC level, 85 IFR claims submitted at the SDLC level, and joint verification of 35 IFR claims facilitated in this time period.

The Sangathans submitted 5 CFR claims to VLCs and 3 to the SDLC. With the facilitation of the Sangathans, 115 people obtained caste certificates. The Sangathans also rectified 260 IFR claim forms and resubmitted those to the VLCs. 35 families received IFR titles.

Managing Traditional Forests (Chhattisgarh and Himachal Pradesh)

In terms of claiming their traditional forests under CFR and Community Forest Resource Rights (CFRR) – and thereby correcting historical injustices – the Gram Sabhas in various areas of Chhattisgarh and HP are in different stages of post-management processes. Gram Sabhas where Community Forest Management Committees (CFMCs) have been constituted are formulating relevant rules for protecting, preserving and managing their traditional forests. Some of their initiatives are:

- Gram Sabhas have divided their forest landscapes into different compartments based on their traditional use. These compartments have been named according to their traditional names/uses and are being demarcated for different purposes like *nistari* (community rights), grazing, collection, conservation, burials, sites of traditional gods and goddesses, water sources, etc.
- The Gram Sabhas have appointed ‘fire watchers’ from amongst themselves to look out for any forest fires and protect the jungles from burning.
- The Gram Sabhas have resolved to meet more regularly, in many cases on a monthly basis.
- Villages have appointed forest guards to keep a strict vigil over their forests.
- Preparations have begun for developing seed banks and nurseries, to be used by the villages in rejuvenating their neighbouring forests.
- Gram Sabhas are planning to impose fines on individuals found to be taking fuelwood on vehicles. Fines will also be imposed on Gram Sabha members found to be repeatedly absent from village meetings.
- Possibilities of increasing livelihood opportunities of the villages from Minor Forest Produces (MFPs) are also being explored. Exposure visits are being sought for this purpose.
- Wherever CFMCs have been constituted, the Tribal Department and concerned authorities are now working towards convergence of multifarious governmental and welfare schemes.
- Neighbouring CFMCs and Gram Sabhas are ideating towards constituting a cluster of ‘federations’ to consolidate dialogues and interventions with the Forest Department and other concerned authorities.

Village-to-Village Campaign for Rigorous Filing of IFR and CFR Claims (Bihar)

Responding to the need for strengthening work on issues related to forest rights recognition, **Adivasi Mazdoor Kisan Mukti Vahini (AMKMV)**, a Sangathan group working in Banka (Bihar), organised 2 perspective-building and training programmes to understand the values and ambit of FRA, the status of implementation of the Act, methods and best practices to respond to the situation, and accordingly build action plans. During these discussions, it came to light that there are 62 high-potential FRA constituencies, which constitute about 26% of the total constituencies in Bihar. A substantial majority of Dalit and Adivasi communities dependent on forests populate these constituencies, thus making them prospective areas for strengthening rights recognition. Yet the forest rights issues of Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) voters in these constituencies continue to be systematically ignored by the state government. Challenges in these areas include political apathy in terms of implementation of FRA; attempts at illegal eviction of forest inhabitants; forced plantation by the state’s Forest Department, even in private lands; trench digging through villages;

In the Sangathan area of Banka district, 695 IFRs were filed and 690 of them got rejected. With an acceptance rate of approximately 0.71%, only 5 IFRs were recognised in Gauripur village.

58 new individual claims have been prepared, of which 17 were submitted to the SDLC.

violation of due processes in the state government's review process; and atrocities committed on tribal communities by the Forest Department.

In Gaya and Banka, following numerous village-level meetings, and organisation of awareness drives and training workshops with relevant stakeholders, around 7000 claim forms have been prepared and await government support in their filing. In the coming months, the Sangathans in both districts planned to intensify the FRA implementation processes by organising multiple village-to-village campaigns and building outreach initiatives with concerned departments.

Sensitising Forest Dwellers about Forests and Forest Rights (Uttarakhand)

In Uttarakhand, the SRUTI Fellow group **Van Panchayat Sangharsh Morcha (VPSM)** has been organising regular training and workshops on FRA and the claim-filing process in Van Gujjar Khattas (forest village settlements). In this reporting period, 15 village-level trainings have been organised by the Sangathan. Additionally, the Sangathan has focused on initiating biodiversity mapping in 3 districts of Uttarakhand by engaging youth volunteers. It is focusing on building an understanding between humans and nature, on communities' relationship with the forests, following which rights-claiming processes will start.

25 Sarpanchs (head of the village Panchayat) from across the Kumaon region participated in a conference held at Bhowali on 12 December. Building a collaboration towards legal recognition of all traditional rights of Van Panchayats was the main agenda of the conference. The Sangathan also expanded its area of work by addressing the Bhalugaad Waterfall issue and facilitating dialogue to address emerging conflicts between the Van Panchayats, Forest Department and Tourism Department. As a result, the 3 concerned Panchayats near the waterfall not only received their community rights but have also started managing the tourist site. The Sangathan has initiated training workshops with 15+ guides to capacitate the local groups to effectively take up management work after the conflicts with the concerned departments are positively solved; a total of 30 young people have got jobs so far.

Tourism and livelihood development is being strengthened by local organisation **MATI** in Munsiyari, especially focusing on engaging women. Women in the area are now proactively producing goods made of wool, cultivating and harvesting herbs and medicinal plants, and organising bird watching tours (they have identified 225 species of birds, along with documenting their scientific names); they have significantly contributed to conserving these pristine forests.

Solidarity over Forest Rights (Tamil Nadu)

The SRUTI Fellow group VTMS in Nilgiris, TN, is actively contributing to and amplifying work under FRA. The geographical area is marked by several complexities. Adding to the problems, Nilgiris is a biosphere area where more than 3 lakh people depend on livelihood from working in the plantations – mostly government-owned estates. It is also a densely forested area and people living there are under threat of being evicted.

In an attempt to extend solidarity towards each other and to collaborate as a larger platform across the state, in February 2022, several issue-based organisations and unions of fishermen, plantation workers, community leaders and people's organisations convened a conference to discuss their struggles, share recent developments, and most importantly, call upon a collaboration of community organisations and people. The convention saw the participation of organisations and community leaders who shared with each other their current struggles and their notions of the way forward. The convention also agreed unanimously about the necessity of building state-level and national collaborations.

By March 2022, of the 1082 claims for community rights filed, including that for grazing, 450 CFR titles had been issued, 86 claims had been rejected, while the rest were pending at different levels. But the area recognised and entitled to the Gram Sabha has never been reported or is available on any portal. As a result, 8,144 individual rights titles were issued out of 33,755 filed claims for an area of 38.96 sq km – a paltry 0.2% of the minimum potential area and 0.17% of the recorded forest area.

Using FRA to Increase the Bargaining Powers of Traditional Forest Dwellers (Himachal Pradesh)

FRA has helped communities in HP get recognition of their rights of access to, use of and dependence on forests, and of their indispensable role in conservation and management of forests and ecosystems. Local communities preserve natural resources with defined governance mechanisms, even as they earn income through livelihoods that are reliant on natural resources: selling of MFPs, cattle farming, goat farming, tapping and selling seasonal herbs and medicinal plants.

Kisan Sabha working across 4 districts of HP – Chamba, Kangra, Baijnath, Mandi – has used the powerful tool of FRA to ensure that traditional forest dwellers are not estranged from their ancestral rights. The Sangathan has mobilised and intervened for awareness building on FRA and its provisions. Regular village, block- and district-level meetings have been held in the area to ensure knowledge of the Act is disseminated. Additionally, the Sangathan has involved the relevant departments at all levels in carrying out any meetings. Training workshops around IFR, CFR, CFRR and their management, for all stakeholders – village communities, PRI members, local bodies, concerned departments – have been an integral part of the interventions for legal rights recognition.

Campaign for Rights Recognition of Nomadic Pastoral Communities

Kisan Sabha proactively works towards ensuring rights recognition of nomadic and pastoral communities residing in or travelling through areas of HP where the Sangathan is active (4 districts). Claim forms regarding nomadic grazing rights, habitat and resource rights for various pastoral communities have been prepared and submitted. Deliberations with relevant authorities have helped ensure that the produce from sheep – wool – is registered as a natural product of livestock and can thus be sold through Societies in the forest areas.

The Sangathan also intervened to ensure that the value of wool was marginally more than the value determined as government prices. In another instance, the Sangathan using dialogue and outreach initiatives helped in access to proper paths/roads and sources of drinking water for livestock during their movement in the grazing season. Loss and damage caused to livestock during transit to grazing lands was also taken up by the Sangathan when 36 sheep were run over and killed on National Highway 36. Kisan Sabha lent support in ensuring that due police investigations were taken up.

As a result, as many as 550 IFR claims were filed for more than 3 hectares of land. Some of these are pending either at the SDLC or the Gram Sabha level. Similarly, 9 CFRR claims have been filed by villages and are pending at the SDLC level. The Sangathan also works towards undertaking correction, review and follow-up of claims filed, their status at various levels, and meeting with concerned departments.

28 Gram Sabhas of Multhan Tehsil constituted the Chotabhangal Mahagram Sabha after receiving their community forest titles. This Sabha was constituted so that the Gram Sabhas could partake in collective open trade of herbs and medicinal plants, and thereby generate better incomes. The Maha Sabha has drafted its working plan and submitted it to concerned departments. A similar Maha Sabha comprising Gram Sabhas in Badabhangal has been constituted. The Women’s Association of this Maha Sabha meets regularly to make decisions and working plans for the sale of herbs and medicinal plants collected in different seasons.



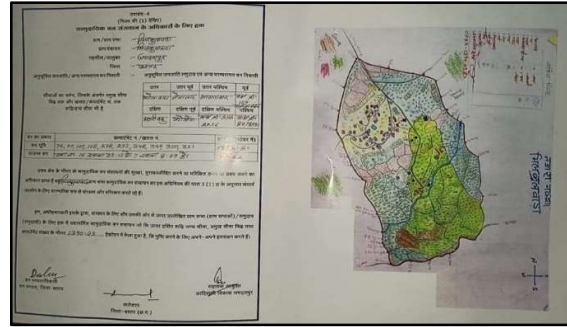
Training for women on FRA in Pithora (Chhattisgarh)



FRA campaign in Kangra (Himachal Pradesh)



CFR process in Gariyaband (Chhattisgarh)



CFR title of a village in Bastar (Chhattisgarh)



FRA village meeting in Dhenkanl (Odisha)



FRA village meeting in Gumla (Jharkhand)

LABOUR RIGHTS, LAND RIGHTS RECOGNITION AND SOCIAL SECURITY

The numerous COVID-induced lockdowns had a particularly harmful effect on the unorganised sector, especially the migratory labourers. Having learned from the first wave, governments did offer assistance in the form of rations, quarantine centres and transportation during subsequent outbreaks, but the magnitude of the second wave was overwhelming. The importance of labour rights and social security was underlined during this period of crisis. Fellow organisations continued to engage communities on various levels about issues of labour, land and social security. In 2021–2022, Fellow groups made a concerted effort to mobilise communities for their land rights, aided displaced people, and supported them in gaining access to government welfare programmes in order to develop land resources for agriculture, irrigation and alternative means of livelihood.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ In **12 states** – Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, MP, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Kashmir, Jharkhand, Odisha, TN, UP and Uttarakhand – Fellow Sangathans organised **500 meetings** for workers. 44 of these programmes were held at the district level, 4 at the state level, and the rest (452) were held at the village level. During this period, **20 skill-building workshops, 31 perspective-building meetings, and 5 seminars** were conducted. These meetings enabled the participants to become aware of their labour entitlements and legal rights. **15,000** people were reached through these programmes.
- ❖ **1000 labour cards** were issued by the labour welfare board after continuous efforts made by Karyakartas of Sangathans in Odisha, Delhi and UP.
- ❖ Sangathans from UP and Delhi helped people access their social security entitlements by reaching out to Panchayats and blocks. **300 ration cards** were issued which ensured food for more than **1000 individuals**.
- ❖ More than **50 people** in Bihar were helped to get the housing schemes benefit issued.
- ❖ In Delhi more than **500 ragpickers** were helped to get their **e-shram** card issued.

Rehabilitating Garbage Collectors Displaced by Floods (Himachal Pradesh)

Near the tourist town of Dharamshala in HP, close to the small water body called the Charan Khad, was a slum colony settled by garbage pickers and cleaners of the town. The residents of this slum had migrated from Maharashtra and Rajasthan in search of work and ultimately found themselves cleaning the city while living on the extreme margins themselves. In 2015, when it was announced that Dharamshala was to be developed as a Smart City, the families of this slum were arbitrarily evicted from their land. The local Sangathan **Kisan Sabha** then stepped in, relocating all the families 6 kilometres away from Dharamshala near Chaitdu, not too far from their previous settlement in Charan Khad.

In July 2021, water levels in the Charan Khad rose to alarming levels following heavy rainfall, leading to the flooding of the settlement. As an immediate response, all 75 families were evacuated and safely relocated to the government school building in Chaitdu. With the help of local authorities and departments, the Sangathan provided relief and accommodation support to all families till the situation improved. A disaster management committee was constituted that helped these families to set up their houses on some government land (near Saraah) as per the guidelines of the concerned departments. Accordingly, levelling of identified lands was done by machines after which the colony was settled. The Sangathan also liaised and ensured the availability of electricity and water facilities in the colony, along with the construction of a school and a community hall. A visit by the state Governor to this slum was organised and a memorandum was submitted to the appropriate departments demanding provision of all facilities that may be needed by this settlement in future.

Mudkheda Patta Study in Shivpuri (Madhya Pradesh)

In 2002–03, the MP government granted land titles to landless Dalits and Adivasis in Dholagarh Panchayat of Shivpuri district. However, till date, legal possession of those lands has not been implemented for most of the people, forcing them to remain landless. There was no clear picture as to why land possession had not been handed over all these years, why the records had not been updated and rectified.

A study to understand the same was undertaken in Sahariya Adivasi majority adjacent Mudkheda village which comes under Tenhata Himmatgad panchayat. Meanwhile, **Zenith Society for Socio-Legal Empowerment** is providing legal support to the families who were dispossessed from their lands by people with social and

political clout. Consequently, 2 Adivasi families have got their land back and plan to start tilling their lands from the next season.

Organising People for Land Rights in Angul, Dhenkanal and Mayurbhanj (Odisha)

Three Sangathans in Odisha – **ACS, MASM and SASM** – have been actively taking up land-related issues faced by communities residing in their work areas. A baseline household survey was carried out with the aim of identifying landless families in these areas. Following this, regular village meetings and awareness drives were held to better understand the deep-rooted issues and also the various government laws and schemes that address some of these issues.

In another instance, the Sangathans assisted in the preparation and submission of 235 applications at the Tehsil level regarding issues pertaining to homestead land, and did regular follow-ups with the concerned departments. Out of these 235 applications land titles have been allotted to 85 people so far, and 160 new applications have been prepared to be submitted at the Tehsil level.

Liaising with different departments, the Sangathans facilitated land development activities under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) for utilising agricultural land. A total of 36 people received Rs 50,000 from government schemes to develop their land for agriculture and horticulture. 110 acres of revenue land and 15 acres of forest land were thus developed. Through another initiative, 65 farm ponds (of 4355.6 sq ft each) were constructed under the ‘Mo Pokhri’ scheme for rainwater harvesting, irrigation and fishery. The impact has snowballed: 85 more individuals have applied for government assistance for land development, and 105 people have submitted micro plans for farming and pond construction support through MGNREGA. The construction of an irrigation canal system under MGNREGA has also been a focus.

Outreach interventions for conversion of tribal hamlets to revenue villages have constituted another priority for the Sangathan. Consequently, an application for the conversion of 7 forest village/hamlets is pending at the District Collector’s office; 5 new applications have been prepared and submitted at the offices of the Tehsil office, sub-collector, collector, revenue divisional commissioner and revenue secretary as well.

Land Rights Recognition Meeting in Villupuram (Tamil Nadu)

A meeting on the issue of recognition of land rights was held on 24–25 January 2022 at Alambadi, Villupuram district, with 42 persons (representing people’s organisations and a few NGOs) from across 14 districts of the state. The purpose of this state-level meeting was to discuss in detail specific problems of people of the hills and the plains; urban issues; fisher communities’ challenges; the issue of Panchami land (Panchami land is the assigned land which was distributed for Dalits in Tamil Nadu during the British rule in 1892. It can neither be sold nor re-classified.); and the problems confronting Adivasi communities. The discussions also touched upon aspects such as alienation of rights of forest-dependent communities due to non-implementation of legal forest rights recognition, the displacement threat faced by people in tiger reserves and the need for collaborative efforts to engage with government bodies for recognition of their legal rights; increased human–animal conflicts; setting up of electricity poles and gas pipelines in peoples’ agricultural lands; livelihood losses faced by fisher and indigenous communities due to the pandemic; and the lack of implementation of relevant pro-people policies and laws.

Deliberations and experience sharing on each of these themes were followed by collective strategising and appeal for alliance building to strengthen work and outreach interventions around these issues afflicting the communities.

Submission of a Memorandum for Pattas for Ancestral Lands (Rajasthan)

Village Bherukheda in Rajasthan, falling under Nahargarh Gram Panchayat, is surrounded by small hillocks. Situated 25 km from the district headquarters (Chittorgarh), the village has a total of 28 households (112 individuals), all belonging to the Bhil Adivasi community. The village has one primary school. Due to its topography, goat farming (rearing) and small/meagre farming are the primary sources of income; some families earn additional income through wage labour and MGNREGA work. Even though all households have built homes, none of them have titles for the land on which they have built their houses. The lands belong to the Gram Panchayat and thus it is unwilling to give families their Pattas. The local Sangathan **Khetihar Khan Mazdoor Sangathan** has stepped in to address the issue. Using effective strategies such as organising frequent

meetings and awareness-building tools like Nukkad Natak, a collaborative outreach intervention has been initiated, resulting in a memorandum of demands being handed over to the concerned authorities.

Joining Hands for Justice for a Labourer's Family (Rajasthan)

Ramlal Bhil of Bhaagriyo village, in Udaipur district, agreed to do sharecropping on the land of a Rajput landowner. In return for growing mustard on the 15 bigha land – from sowing to harvesting – he was to receive one-third of the produce. This agreement was never recorded formally. Ramlal along with his pregnant wife and 7 children moved to the farm. Four of the children and the parents worked for 6 months and harvested the crop, amounting to 80 sacks of mustard. The landowner then took all sacks and shooed away the family, shouting that they had already stayed and eaten for free throughout. The family pleaded with the owner several many times but to no avail. The family was left with no money or food to feed themselves, which was especially difficult for the pregnant mother.

Ramlal heard about **Khetihar Khan Mazdoor Sangathan** and approached them for help. Senior Karyakarta Narayani Bhil along with a few others conducted a village meeting and then, with the aggrieved family, approached the landowner. The landowner turned them away. The next time Narayani and the family went to meet him with a larger group of Sangathan members and villagers. This time the landowner was pressurised into immediately paying the family their dues. Ramlal and his family finally received 8 quintals of harvest and Rs 50,000 as a result of this collaborative effort of the villagers and the Sangathan.



Rehabilitation of Dharamsala's garbage collectors after flooding of their colony (Himachal Pradesh)



Mudkheda Patta study in Shivpuri (Madhya Pradesh)



Organising people for land rights in Angul, Dhenkanal and Mayurbhanj (Odisha)



Villagers and a Sangathan join hands to get justice for a wage labourer family in Udaipur (Rajasthan)

PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTIONS AND GOVERNANCE

The Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI), one of India's key administrative systems, was put to the test during the pandemic. SRUTI Fellows played a pivotal role in establishing dialogue with the PRIs during the outbreaks and the successive lockdowns. The Fellows coordinated with the local authorities to set up quarantine centres for migrant workers who were returning to their villages. During lockdown, they made sure the communities had access to various amenities and the relief and support provided through government schemes. The pandemic served as a reminder that the nation's hinterlands still struggle for access to the most basic civic services, including food security, healthcare and education, and that these shortcomings and gaps could only be remedied only through a strong and accountable PRI system.

Towards decentralisation, Gram Sabhas were strengthened in 8 states: Jharkhand, MP, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, TN, UP and Uttarakhand. Sangathans conducted regular meetings and capacity-building workshops at the village, regional and state levels with elected representatives, community members and Sangathan leaders. A positive impact was noted in both Fifth Schedule (PESA) and non-PESA areas, where Gram Sabhas saw increased participation of people in meetings and redressals.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ **260 meetings/trainings** were held in 2021–22. 220 meetings were organised at the village level, 35 at the regional level, and 5 at the state level. A total of **8440 people** were reached through these meetings.
- ❖ A **voter awareness** campaign was carried out in **350 villages** of Angul and Dhenkanal (Odisha) by ACS and MASM, where 8000 leaflets were distributed to the people. The Sangathans backed **85 independent candidates** for the elections where **76 were triumphant**.
- ❖ Awareness building, training and **campaigning** on panchayat elections were conducted in **7 blocks** of Balangir district by **Zindabad Sangathan**. **10 Sarpanchs** and **70 ward members** backed by the Sangathan won in the elections.
- ❖ **VTMS** organised a Panchayat election campaign in TN. **31 candidates** were backed by the Sangathan with **17 emerging victorious**.

Voter Awareness Campaigns in Angul, Dhenkanal and Mayurbhanj (Odisha)

Strengthening and working in coordination with PRIs remains a core theme of the Sangathans. Using tools like village meetings and Nukkad Natak awareness campaigns around PRIs, the local communities have been apprised of the roles and responsibilities of PRI members in Odisha.

Fellow organisations **ACS**, **MASM** and **SASM** organised several campaigns to encourage voter participation. These were carried out in 350 villages across 4 Tehsils in Angul, Dhenkanal and Mayurbhanj districts. During the state's Panchayat elections held in February 2022, the Sangathans distributed 8000 leaflets attempting to build voter awareness.

Volunteers and other members of the Sangathans held village meetings to explain the Panchayat election process and answer any questions the citizens had. Creating platforms for dialogue between candidates and young people was another crucial tool in the campaign. It not only piqued the interest of the literate youth to take informed decisions and demand accountability from contesting candidates, but also resulted in a higher participation of the citizens.

Expanding its scope of work, the Sangathan backed 85 independent candidates for the election; out of them, 76 candidates won the elections (62 ward members, 10 Samiti members and 4 Sarpanchs). Out of these 76 victorious candidates, 30 were women – a significant achievement for the people and the Sangathan.

Campaign in Nilgiris to Strengthen Peoples' Role in Panchayat Elections (Tamil Nadu)

With Panchayat elections due in the state in February 2022, **VTMS** initiated a 15-day awareness programme, beginning on 1 February, across the Nilgiris district. The programme focused on voicing the demands of the local communities. 20 people including Sangathan leaders and youth continuously engaged in activities to strengthen the programme. This resulted in the selection of 31 persons from the district to contest the elections; **17 of them won** the elections.

On 30–31 March 2022, VTMS organised a 2-day training camp on Panchayat Raj that was facilitated by M.L. Das, a prominent trainer in Panchayat Raj law from Chennai. The traditional Panchayat system of Tamil Nadu, the Panchayati Raj Act 1992, Tamil Nadu State Panchayati Raj Act, 1994, FRA 2006, Forest Conservation Act, 1980, and Tamil Nadu Forest Act 1882 were covered in the training. A consensus on organising basic and advance trainings to build understanding of laws pertaining to Panchayati Raj and its institutions is crucial and must be taken up soon.

Capacity Building for New PRI Members, Balangir (Odisha)

Fellow organisation **Zindabad Sangathan** was particularly successful in raising awareness about the Panchayati Raj elections in 7 blocks of Balangir district of Odisha. With the support of the Sangathan, 10 Sarpanchs and 70 ward members were elected in 3 blocks in the Panchayat elections. The election awareness programme was an opportunity to interact with many Gram Sabha members and potential candidates contesting elections. These interactions in the course of the capacity-building workshops helped the Sangathan forge possible collaborations with these representatives.

On 22–23 February 2022, a 2-day training workshop with elected representatives from marginalised groups and indigenous communities was organised. The training included discussions on the 73rd and 74th Amendments to the Constitution, FRA and the Orissa Grama Panchayat Act, 1964. In this training for the newly elected Panchayat representatives, topics such as participatory decision-making processes and the significance of citizen involvement in maintaining accountability and transparency in programme execution were also stressed.

Supporting Locals' Campaign for a Basic Right (Himachal Pradesh)

Facing an acute shortage of drinking water, as many as 5000 families in Kangra came together to voice their concerns. The nearest source of water for the families was far as 14 kilometres away from their residence. The local Sangathan, **Kisan Sabha**, helped in facilitating dialogues with relevant departments.

Effective deliberations with the authorities resulted in prompt action. Consequently, the work of laying pipelines has been going on and expansion work is also underway. The Sangathan and locals ensure proper monitoring of work from time to time. Till date more than 1500 families have gained access to drinking water. Upon completion of work, all 5000 families will be able to access clean water.

Campaigning for Drinking Water Access and Bolstering Women's Voices (Rajasthan)

In Hattipura village of Nahargarh Gram Panchayat, falling in Bhadesar district of Chittorgarh (Rajasthan), the residents faced drought conditions, and consequently, an acute shortage of water. The Naharharh Gram Panchayat initially responded by providing water tankers, but the supply failed to meet the drinking needs of the villagers, let alone provide for the cattle they owned. In such desperate circumstances, the villagers mobilised and approached **Khetihar Khan Mazdoor Sangathan**, a local people's organisation working on several issues in the area for years now. Senior Karyakarta Narayani Bhil, along with others organised several village meetings, following which a memorandum was prepared and handed over to the Sarpanch and Secretary of the Nahargarh Gram Panchayat. Raising a strong demand for drinking water with the support of the Sangathan, the villagers warned the Panchayat representatives they would approach the authorities at the block and district levels, and even carry out rallies, if no solution was found soon. The Panchayat representatives promised to sanction and install tube wells in the villages and also install a water tank within a week. Within 4–5 days, the representatives visited the villages and consulted the residents, and a day after that, 2 villages were able to access drinking water, after successful campaigning.

In the same area of Nahargarh Panchayat, women belonging to the Adivasi communities of Raipuria village, tired of not having a voice in village meetings, came together with the support of the Sangathan to form a women's association. They collectively demanded an increase in the number of MGNREGA job days and the wages they receive. The Mahila Sangathan now organises regular meetings to discuss emerging issues in their village.



Voter awareness campaigns during Panchayat elections in Angul, Dhenkanal and Mayurbhanj (Odisha)



VTMS campaigning in Nilgiris to strengthen peoples' role in Panchayat elections (Tamil Nadu)



Clean drinking water, locals' campaign in Kangra (HP)

Capacity building for PRI members, Balangir (Odisha)

AGRICULTURE AND LIVELIHOOD

With economic growth drastically impacted by the pandemic, the unemployment rate surged in the year 2021–22. The alarmingly scarce opportunities for earning wages, along with the looming threats of hunger and poverty, led Fellow groups to prioritise facilitation of livelihood opportunities in their respective areas. Livelihood issues were thus an important focus of Fellow groups across all states.

SRUTI fellows established channels of communication to disseminate information among people about various government welfare and relief schemes, lent support in availing these schemes, and organised training workshops on several alternative livelihood initiatives including organic farming. Fellow groups also worked on irrigation and seed conservation in some areas.

Irrigation Water Canal Managed by a Local Committee in Kangra (Himachal Pradesh)

Regular engagements and village meetings organised by the peoples’ Sangathan **Kisan Sabha** have played a huge role in ensuring that villagers come together and give voice to issues concerning them. Because of this, the issue of access to irrigation sources for agricultural needs came to light. The Jal Shakti Department has the responsibility of ensuring farmers’ access to irrigation facilities. Yet, continued negligence of this need had left the farmers in distress.

Under the guidance of the Sangathan, the locals came together and constituted a committee for ensuring regular supply of irrigation water. Thus, Jadhwal Kulah Committee came into being 9 years ago and has been successfully working in the area, filling the gaps left by concerned departments. The Committee ensures that the canals are duly cleaned (debris and deposits from rains, and dumping of construction material) before every sowing season; maintenance and repair work is done as per need.

Trainings on Agricultural Technologies and Alternative Livelihoods in Angul and Dhenkanal (Odisha)

In the wake of the successive lockdowns engendered by the pandemic, the Sangathans realised the need to expand the scope of livelihoods for the rural and underprivileged communities. Since agriculture continues to be one of the biggest sources of livelihood in rural pockets, **ACS** and **MASM** in Odisha organised awareness trainings and knowledge building on the use of modern agricultural technologies and organic farming. Ensuring access to government-supplied seeds, fertilisers including organic manure, and pesticides was a key priority for the Sangathans. The Sangathans helped communities of their areas to avail government subsidies in purchasing agricultural equipment such as water pumps, sprayers, power tillers, threshers, etc. from government-authorized dealers. With the help of the Sangathans some farmers were also able to access government schemes such as the Kisan Vikas Patra, Kisan credit card and Pradhan Mantri Krishak Bima Yojana. 35 people successfully acquired a Kisan credit card, and 520 farmers availed seed and organic manure from government schemes for free.

Another initiative in the region related to livelihoods was the promotion of Tussar silk cultivation. 15 families from 5 villages in Angul district practised sericulture on a pilot basis to experiment and find out the quantum of income addition through this seasonal livelihood opportunity. The Fellow group **ACS** liaised with the

HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ Sangathans from **13 states/union territories** – AP, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, HP, Jharkhand, Kashmir, MP, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Odisha, TN, UP and Uttarakhand – made concrete efforts to establish sustainable agricultural practices in their working areas.
- ❖ A total of **525 meetings/training** were organised of which 400 were at the village level, 120 at the regional level, and 5 at the state level. Of these programmes, 4 were seminars, 49 skill-building workshops, and 75 perspective-building meetings, among others. A total of **15,667 people** were reached during the reporting period.
- ❖ In **14 villages** of Pithoragarh (Uttarakhand), **260 women** farmers were helped with organic seeds for the cultivation of green vegetables. Each farmer earned an average of Rs 2,50,000 during the season.
- ❖ Efforts of **3 Van Panchayats** in Nainital led to the **employment of 30 youths** when the Panchayat took control of Bhalugarh Waterfall. The Panchayat earned an amount of Rs 25 lakh during the reporting period.

Sericulture Department to organise relevant training for the families, and ensure distribution of seeds and incentives to the farmers at various cluster levels. The harvested produce was purchased at Minimum Support Price rates by government agencies. The Sangathan is now building momentum to spread this initiative to more villages.

The Sangathans have organised frequent meetings on the issue of impact of climate change on agriculture, food security, livelihood and health. Promotion and awareness of climate resilient crops, improved agricultural practices, multi-crop agriculture and use of organic fertilisers have been covered in these meetings.

Under the 'Mo Bagicha' scheme, 12 women collectives (consisting of 15 women each) have received **training** on vegetable gardening, organic farming, seed identification and conservation, and preparing organic fertilisers. Members of these collectives have started their individual vegetable gardens and are also farming collectively. These farms provide them with variety of produce such as pumpkin, brinjal, lady fingers, spinach, cucumber, etc. In remote tribal hamlets such farms are turning out to be a great source of home-grown nutritious food; in addition, the surplus is sold in nearby markets for small earnings.

Local Outreach Efforts to Save Livestock of Nomadic Pastoralists (Himachal Pradesh)

The outbreak of foot rot disease has been endemic, for the last 3–4 years, in the working areas of **Kisan Sabha**, a local people's organisation of HP. Nomadic pastoralists residing in these areas have been facing health crises in their livestock. This has led to many of these pastoralists selling off their livestock and thereby losing all sources of livelihood. Kisan Sabha stepped up to help, using local outreach and an awareness programme to ensure such infected livestock are found, reported to the relevant authorities, and given proper medical treatment.

The Sangathan also helped the communities constitute themselves into a Maha Sabha. Regular meetings of this Maha Sabha have helped them raise awareness about the disease, locate appropriate channels for voicing distress, and find effective solutions to their problems.

Small-scale Vegetable Farming Initiative in Kottayam (Tamil Nadu)

While working with tribal and forest-dependent communities in the Nilgiris, livelihood challenges impacting the locals have remained a key concern for **VTMS**. As with the rest of India, the locals here were impacted by the severe employment crisis created by the 2 devastating waves of the COVID pandemic and subsequent lockdowns. VTMS initiated small-scale vegetable farming in these rural parts by engaging the women. A training meeting was held in February 2022 at Nadukani to discuss prospects of setting up a vegetable garden, employing 20 women to look after and harvest the produce. Vegetable seeds, seedlings and natural fertilisers were distributed during the training to incentivise women to adopt organic farming methods in their gardens.

The involvement of officials of the Horticulture Department of the Government of Tamil Nadu was sought at all stages. They also distributed subsidised agricultural products. Drawing from the success of this pilot, VTMS is now exploring potential groups across different areas that may be engaged to adopt backyard vegetable gardens. This will enable the families to not only improve their own health by growing and consuming nutritious vegetables, but also enable them to supplement their income by selling the produce.

Promoting Traditional Organic Farming and Seed Conservation in Nimad (Madhya Pradesh)

Madhya Pradesh's Nimad region boasts a rich and diverse knowledge and collection of traditional varieties of food crops that were once available with all the tribal farmers of the area. Traditional knowledge learned over generations shaped the practice of sowing specific varieties of seed, depending upon the nature of soil and availability of rainfall. With time, modern irrigational and agricultural inputs and technologies entered the picture, impacting traditional practices and seeds. In the previous year, 2020, a detailed survey – conducted in collaboration with Rainfed Agri Network – revealed that 15 varieties of sorghum, 5 varieties of maize, non-irrigated (now rare) variety of wheat, and countless varieties of millets, pulses, oilseeds were sown in the same area at different points of time. With the expanding market and demand for hybrid seeds that came with the Green Revolution, this rich heritage of seeds now stands on the verge of extinction. At this juncture, the importance of traditional seeds, which are climate resilient, is felt even more. Erratic rainfall and the fast-

approaching climate crisis have highlighted the urgent need to save these seeds, and preserve the livelihood and traditional knowledge and practices of tribal communities.

Understanding the importance of reviving traditional systems, **Aadharshila Learning Centre (ACS)** organised a workshop in June 2021 with the aim of promoting traditional organic farming and seed conservation practices of these communities. ACS has been engaged in sustained efforts towards building capacities and perspectives of communities and other stakeholders. For this initiative, the Sangathan focused primarily on women. All key persons engaged or interested in this domain were invited for a 2-day conference-cum-workshop. The goals were to create a platform where preserved seeds could be collected and exchanged amongst those interested in sowing them, foster discussion of the hindrances being faced by farmers harvesting these traditional seeds, and strategise towards common action plans to resolve these issues. A mutual consensus was built on the need for instilling motivation among farmers for conservation and returning to traditional and organic farming practices.

The Sangathan sought to lead by example: it was decided that following the conference, traditional seeds would be collected from various sources and sown on the farmland of ASC in Sakad, Barwani district, and of Khedut Mazdoor Chetna Sangathan in Gulwat, Alirajpur district. An action plan was chalked up. First, 24 local Haats in 3 districts – Barwani, Dhar and Alirajpur – were visited. The onset of monsoons prompts farmers here to sell the seeds available with them, and sometimes one is lucky enough to find rare seeds! Due to delayed monsoons this season, seeds were available in the markets till the end of July. Some seeds were also collected from women of Sakad, Segi, Bhura Kuan and Surani villages (in Barwani district).



Jaduhal Water Canal irrigation in Kangra (HP)



Helping nomadic pastoralists with livestock (HP)



Workshop on organic farming and seed conservation in Nimad (MP)



EDUCATION AND LEADERSHIP BUILDING

The situation following the nationwide lockdown in the first wave of the pandemic had already highlighted the hollowness in the foundational pillars – education and health – of the country; this was only reinforced by the second wave. In the field of education, with a complete shut-down, teaching/learning shifted to online mediums for those who could afford it, while for those hailing from marginalised/underprivileged communities residing in urban settlements (slums and bastis) and across rural belts, the doors of education remained close indefinitely.

SRUTI fellow groups embraced all the challenges and continued their work and response right from the first wave. Lessons from the first wave gave Fellow groups across all states ideas as to how to respond to emerging issues. Addressing the gaps in educational spaces, resource centres were set up in many areas to facilitate opportunities of online learning for the youth. Previously established initiatives – such as Mohalla (neighbourhood) schools and mobile libraries – were pursued with more attention. Even in the remotest interiors across different areas, Fellows and Sangathans worked diligently on promotion/access to digital literacy.

As the second wave subsided and lockdown restrictions eased, Fellows promptly reconnected with communities on the ground. By October 2021, physical programmes, workshops and conferences were being convened. Across all capacity- and perspective-building workshops organised by different Sangathans, an attempt was made to engage the youth and urge them to reflect on the impact of the pandemic on their physical and mental health, and other spheres affecting their life. Exchange visits and exposure tours were also organised as the situation improved.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ **490 meetings/training** were organised in **12 states/union territories** – Bihar, Delhi, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, MP, Odisha, Rajasthan, TN, UP, Kashmir, Chhattisgarh and Uttarakhand – on ‘Education & Youth Leadership’. Out of these 287 were village-level meetings, 200 were regional-level, and 3 were state-level. The meetings were aimed at building awareness of the country’s changing socio-economic and political scenario, and empowering the youth with leadership competencies. Through these activities, **15,458** youths were reached. These youth from the communities, with the support of local Sangathans, have taken up community interventions including conducting surveys, formation of peer groups, sensitisation on gender-based issues, etc.
- ❖ More than **500 students** belonging to economically weaker sections from Bhalaswa and Bawana (Delhi) were provided educational support of books through resource centres started during the first wave of COVID.
- ❖ **500 young girls** were engaged in various **COVID-19 awareness campaigns** carried out in the resettlement colonies of Delhi; the discussions aimed to reduce vaccine hesitancy among the people in the community.
- ❖ More than **900 children from 19 villages** in Khagaria (Bihar) participated in a children’s fair that aimed to motivate and inspire children cast down by strict lockdowns.

Setting Up and Strengthening Resource Centres (Uttar Pradesh and Delhi)

Two new resource centres were inaugurated by local children in Jaunpur, UP, in September 2021. The blueprint for these centres was drawn from the successful setting-up and running of resource centres at Bhalaswa, Bawana and Shabad Dairy in Delhi and Faizabad, UP, over the past year.

The pandemic deprived many children and youth of the magic of holding a book in their hands and reading it, of the sheer normalcy of interacting in a classroom or a playground. Virtual learning methods not only created a stark distinction between those who could afford switching to these methods but also predisposed these young minds to many health- and behaviour-related risks due to increased screen time, lack of concentration and unmonitored digital exposure. In such a context, the resource centres have been a boon, making books, newspapers and other resource materials accessible to more and more children across villages. They also offer a ray of hope to those who otherwise have no access to formal education.

300+ new books were purchased for these centres through local crowdfunding initiatives. These books covered the gamut from literature, history and politics to children's books. Each of the 2 centres in Jaunpur sought to engage with and benefit 500+ youth and children in the area.

In Bhalaswa, Delhi more than 500 students from economically weaker families were extended educational support in the form of textbooks through the efforts of the resource centre set up last year. The book distribution programme was organised on 8 September 2021.

Climate Change Awareness Conference, Bhalaswa (Delhi)

Delhi Young Artist Forum (DYAF) in collaboration with SRUTI organised an awareness programme on 6 August 2021 at Bhalaswa (Delhi) with the participation of 30 youth. The conference addressed the impacts of climate change on everyday life and the role of youths in climate resilience. During the discussions it was stressed that we as citizens and collectives have roughly until 2030 to make massive societal, system-level changes required to avoid the worst effects of climate change.

There was dialogue around climate change being a crisis that places a disproportionate burden on the most vulnerable populations: low-income communities, Dalits, tribals, elderly persons and people with disabilities. It was stressed that the upcoming policies in climate solutions must target such vulnerable communities.

Perspective Building of Youth on Mental Health and the Health System (Uttar Pradesh)

Healthcare in India has progressed rapidly when it comes to adopting modern technologies in its delivery. From advanced biomedical tools to diverse surgeries performed even by robots, the healthcare industry in India appears to be at a peak. But with COVID-19 putting even healthcare systems of advanced countries to the test, the realities of India's healthcare set-up were completely exposed. Especially by the ferocious second wave of COVID-19 in April 2021, when the cry for oxygen cylinders, basic medicines and drugs resounded around the country.

Additionally, the lack of awareness regarding the healthcare system and its access made it very difficult for the ordinary person to avail treatment required for COVID-19. In such times of despair, **Awadh Peoples Forum (APF)** organised a perspective-building workshop in Faizabad on 16 and 17 July 2021 to orient youth about various aspects of the Indian healthcare system; provide them the necessary skills to facilitate individuals in availing healthcare; and ensure safety precautions for themselves. The workshop was a concrete step towards instilling in the youth capacities to support the public in this hour of need.

APF also initiated preliminary actions towards addressing and talking about issues of mental health especially related to the pandemic. From 22 to 31 July 2021, youths were engaged through art and craft workshops, discussions and virtual presentations. More than 100 participants from 10 different schools of Faizabad, actively took part in the sessions. This was done with the aim of engaging these students and building dialogue to understand and build perspectives on how they view and look after their mental health, to ensure it is treated the same way as physical health.

Perspective Building of Youth on Online Education (Delhi)

DYAF, a Sangathan working with the youth of Delhi slums since 2008, established **5 Zoom centres** in the slums of Bawana and Bhalaswa during the lockdown period. These centres were established to provide access to internet to the children and youth of these marginalised urban communities.

DYAF worked on building perspectives within the youth about the need to shift towards online education in the times of the pandemic. The underprivileged students of the area could attend online classes and partake in several online discussions covering varied issues. While taking all precautionary measures, some physical activities were also organised by the Fellow group to spread awareness related to COVID-19 and build youth perspectives.

Exposure Visit by Fellow Organisation Kashtakari Jan Andolan to Balangir (Odisha)

Between 22 and 27 February 2022, a team from **Kashtakari Jan Andolan**, a Fellow organisation active in Maharashtra's Vidarbha region, undertook an exposure visit to the field area of another SRUTI Fellow – Trilochan Punji of **Zindabad Sangathan**, active in Balangir, Odisha. The visiting team had the chance to interact with people from a completely different community, cultural context, language and geography of this

area in Western Odisha. The Sangathan has been proactively working on issues related to labour rights, natural resource management, livelihood, migration and displacement among other day-to-day concerns affecting the communities. The team from Maharashtra visited several villages in the Belpada, Turekala, Titlagarh and Patnagarh blocks of the district, and engaged actively with the communities to understand labour issues and natural resource management programmes initiated by Zindabad Sangathan. The tour also gave them a better understanding of the numerous facets of forced migration and the responses of local organisations in resolving problems.

Organising a Bal Mela in Khagaria (Bihar)

Children of 19 villages and localities of 4 Panchayats – Jahangir, Jalkauda, Tetarabad and Olapur Gangaur of Khagaria, Bihar – were mobilised for a children’s fair. The programme was organised in Jalkauda Inter School. As many as 900 children and their parents participated in 4 different sessions. The idea behind the fair was to have an open field for children for leisure and joy, and help them take a break from the distressing mental and emotional state caused by the pandemic. It was an opportunity for them to interact with each other and prepare themselves to face this changed world with more confidence and self-esteem.

The children participated in activities like painting, green grass art and dress designing. ‘Gram Art Workshops’ were organised over one month in different villages and prize winners in these workshops were felicitated in the Bal Mela.

The activities gave the children an opportunity to put on their thinking caps and explore their creativity. One activity involved the children collecting interesting things from their homes and using them to make art. Another session was on weight and height: the children were encouraged to find out their own weight (using a weighing scale) and height; a few children experimented by weighing themselves before and after drinking water and busied themselves in doing calculations. In activities like jumping rope and pulling rope, they were made to perform in teams to give them a participatory understanding of teamwork.

There was an exhibition of books, posters and paintings on COVID prevention done by children, as well as of new words introduced to daily usage during the pandemic. An art gallery of several hundred paintings made by the children of Farkiya won the attention of a lot of locals. Children swayed and danced with great enthusiasm to the beats of music and enjoyed performing group dances on a stage. All the children were awarded with prizes and certificates.

Campaign to Promote Scientific Temper in Nainital (Uttarakhand)

Fellow group **Van Panchayat Sangharsh Morcha (VPSM)** in Nainital, having felt the need to spread and promote scientific temper to build rational perspectives in the community, initiated several campaigns in the region. Their focus was to engage with school students from the 8th to 12th standards. The awareness drive kicked off in the month of July 2021. Sessions included lectures, discussion, activities and film screenings on various subjects such as the origin of the universe, earth, life, evolution, religion, caste, class, gender and identity. The primary focus of these sessions was to make participants understand the ‘cause and effect’ of any action that takes place. By the month of November 2021, more than 500 students and youth had participated in the initiatives of the Sangathan to promote scientific temper.



Resource centre in Faizabad (UP)

Climate change awareness programme in Bhalaswa (Delhi)



Exposure visit by a Fellow organisation Kashtakari Jan Andolan to Balangir, Odisha



Bal Mela in Khagaria (Bihar)



Perspective building on online education in Bhalaswa and Bawana (Delhi) (Left); Workshop on mental health in Faizabad (UP) (Right)

GENDER, CASTE AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

The economic and social impacts of the pandemic were different for different groups. At all junctures, the gap between the privileged and marginalised only grew wider. Social inequities deepened, with discrimination against the oppressed intensifying. In their individual areas of work and outreach, SRUTI Fellows responded to these emerging divides in the society, working towards social justice and inclusion in these times of crisis.

Session on Social Inclusion in Bhalaswa and Faizabad (Delhi and Uttar Pradesh)

On 10 August, **DYAF** conducted a perspective-building session with the youth of Bhalaswa resettlement colony, to discuss the issues of caste, religion and social justice. The aim of the session was to inculcate an understanding of social inclusion among these young adults.

The session was designed such as to initiate discussions to build the understanding that if diversity and pluralism can be ensured in families and educational institutions, then an environment of inclusion and tolerance will automatically be created in the society and the state. And if it can be successfully adhered to, then as a society, we will be able to reduce divisiveness, stigma, hate speech and misinformation which create social unrest. Captivated by these discussions, the youth were able to relate instances from their daily life and build shared perspectives on the need for interventions for social inclusion in their surroundings.

On 10 June, an online discussion on social inclusion was organised by **APF** with the participation of 26 people from the Sangathan. Along with the health crisis, the economic and social disruption caused by the pandemic were the main agenda points of discussion. Even as people were endeavouring to overcome the financial crisis, existing social inequalities grew wider and discrimination against the marginalised increased manifold. Keeping this scenario in mind, the online discussion was aimed towards building perspectives of youth and community on building an inclusive society, where access to basic amenities, services and schemes was not hindered for any one particular individual, community or group.

International Rural Women's Day Celebration in Faizabad (Uttar Pradesh)

A conference on the occasion of International Day for Rural Women was organised by **APF** on 15 October 2021 in Faizabad (UP). All activities and sessions for the day focused on reaffirming the goals of gender equality and empowering the women of rural areas. The theme for the year was 'Rural women cultivating good food for all', to stress the indispensable role and contribution of women, including those from indigenous communities, in enhancing agricultural and rural development, improving food security, and eradicating rural poverty, as also pledged by the United Nations.

The conference created an opportunity for more than 50 women, engaged in different kinds of work, to come together and converse on the many challenges they face. It acted as a platform where the women could critically reflect, extend solidarities, and share their experiences on aspects such as unequal wages for the same work despite comprising half the workforce, discrimination in access to resources, participation in decision-making relating to land and livestock ownership, etc.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ Fellow Sangathans organised **300 programmes in 10 states**: Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, MP, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand and UP. Out of these, 260 programmes were organised at the village level, 35 at the regional level, and 5 at the state level. These activities included 26 seminars, 49 skill-building workshops, and 68 perspective-building meetings. 8066 people were connected through these meetings.
- ❖ A **16-day campaign** was organised in UP and Delhi, where gender-based issues during the time of the pandemic were discussed. **2000+ youth** were connected through Jagrukta Baithak, film screenings, discussions and Zoom meetings.
- ❖ **25 Nukkad Sabhas** (neighbourhood meetings) were organised under the Samantake Sathi initiative in Ayodhya (UP) to spread the message of peace, harmony and equality, **connecting 500 people**.
- ❖ 26 Sangathans in UP together started a campaign on social inclusion aimed at building the perspectives of youth and communities on creating an inclusive society.

In Chittorgarh, the local Sangathan Khetihar Khan Mazdoor Sangathan successfully campaigned and:

- Registered 2 cases for incidents of violence against women using laws constituted for women's safety. In both instances, mutual agreement helped in the resolution of the cases with the aggrieved female receiving monetary compensation and all household items given to her in-laws.
- Registered 2 cases in incidents of atrocities against individuals hailing from the Adivasi community. In one case, the victim received monetary compensation and the case has been pushed to the court under Section 3 of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. In the other incident, the case is ongoing and the police have recorded the statements of the parties.

Women's Day Celebration in Faizabad and Jaunpur (Uttar Pradesh)

For International Women's Day 2022, **APF** in Faizabad and **Dialogue in Solidarity Harmony in Action (DISHA)** in Jaunpur organised programmes on the theme of 'Women and their role in strengthening democracy'. The aim of the programme was to sensitise citizens to promote participation of women in democratic processes. The speakers invited for the occasion emphasised women's active participation in national and local politics, in academia, in trade, in civil society and in the media, and how this participation is fundamental to the survival of a democracy. It was also underlined that equal representation is vital for the achievement of sustainable development, peace and justice.

The participants passed a resolution to not let the political system neglect or undermine the participation of women in the area, nor to evade accountability for ensuring equal rights of the women. The participants resolved to uphold, practice and promote values of true democracy which are based on the realisation of human rights and gender equality.

Training on Gender Justice in Rajnandgaon (Chhattisgarh)

A day-long training programme on gender justice was organised in Rajnandgaon (Chhattisgarh) in June 2021. The programme was hosted under the collective banner of several networks and alliances working on the issue in the state, in the backdrop of increasing incidences of violence against women. One of the Fellow groups, Dalit Adivasi Manch, which engages with the issues of gender justice and rights in the districts of Mahasamund and Baloda Bazar, actively organised and participated in the training.

The programme was attended by more than 40 participants from across the state. The major focus of the training was to mobilise participants through their own experiences within their families and society, and help them deconstruct the norms and biases that have been formed against women in the society.

Fraternity Campaign in Faizabad (Uttar Pradesh)

SRUTI fellow organisation **APF** has always believed in the method of 'learning through practice'. To understand and analyse various aspects of fraternity in our society, APF conducted a 4-day campaign from 19 to 22 February 2022. The objective of the campaign was to spread awareness within the citizens on various issues such as social inclusion, the Constitution and other related issues through Mohalla Darshan (neighbourhood visit), formation of Mohalla youth groups, Bal Panchayat (children's council), youth dialogues in educational institutions, film screenings and gender-sensitisation programmes.

One of the highlights of this campaign was the Aman Trophy football tournament where it was compulsory for each team to have members from different castes and religions. The tournament was organised to promote and celebrate the diversity and co-existence. Four teams participated in the tournament.

This campaign was very impactful in the city, with many civil society groups, community leaders, professors and intellectuals participating in it.



Women's Day celebration in Jaunpur (UP)



Discussion on social inclusion in Bhalaswa (Delhi)



Fraternity Campaign - Aman Trophy, Faizabad, UP



CONSTITUTIONAL VALUES

SRUTI's Fellowship programme, based on the premise of disseminating knowledge and strengthening actions of values enshrined in the Constitution, reached out to collaborate with individuals working at the grassroots, throughout 2021–22, creating a plethora of opportunities for such work. The existing Fellowship programme running across 14 states was re-evaluated and evolved such that a more focused approach was adopted in the work areas to strengthen Constitutional values. For this, the focus was directed towards Fellow groups in Jharkhand, MP, Maharashtra, Odisha, Uttarakhand and UP.

The onboarding of Karyakartas and Fellows underwent a screening process where Mentor Fellows (Sangathan leaders who have spent years developing peoples' groups in their regions) played a pivotal role. Through efforts and mobilisation for relief and rescue during the first phase of the pandemic, Sangathans had also been involved with many young people and saw potential in some of them to be involved in a longer process of engagement. Following rigorous online meetings and discussions within Sangathans and on collective platforms, Mentors and Fellows identified and shared profiles of 85+ individuals who could be engaged with.

Consequently, SRUTI conducted more than 30 online discussions (some reported here) with team members, fellowship requests, mentors, consultants, and senior Fellows. After a detailed process, a total of **72 individuals** were selected for the Fellowship Programme from these **6 states**.

Safar-e-Aain – Towards the Constitution

A formal inaugural online programme, Safar-e-Aain (a journey towards constitution), was organised with all Fellows on 16 August 2021, alongside Independence Day celebrations. Activities included Preamble reading, context setting around Constitutional values, efforts and initiatives of social movements over the years, and cultural celebrations including singing songs and reciting poetry.

This meeting opened up a platform for mutual sharing, to exchange ideas for making the Constitution and its values a part of one's everyday life. Strategising on the way forward, ideas around collective sessions for engaging students and youth, distribution of stickers and posters of the Preamble, initiating awareness meetings on key concepts like rights, decentralisation, justice formed part of the programme's agenda.

Constitution Day Celebrations in Some States

The existence and successful survival of democracy is the most remarkable achievement of this large, multifarious country and the Constitution is its backbone. To reinforce the significance and importance of the Constitution, the 71st anniversary of its adoption was celebrated across the states of Jharkhand, MP, Maharashtra, Odisha, Uttarakhand and UP. Numerous activities were conducted by SRUTI Fellows in their respective areas.

In Jharkhand Fellows interacted with school and college students. The programme commenced with an orientation about Constitution Day and its significance. Some little-known facts about the Constitution of India were also shared with the students. Thereafter, the guiding values alluded to in the Preamble were explained by the Fellows, followed by reading of the Preamble by the participating students.

In Raigad, Nagpur and Latur districts of Maharashtra, Fellows took up outreach and awareness programmes in their respective areas to educate people about the Constitution and Constitutional values. The Fellows sought to educate the citizens about the values of the Preamble and explained the philosophy of the Constitution, elaborating on the meanings of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity. They tried to highlight

HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ **5 state-level orientation and planning meetings** on Constitutional values.
- ❖ Formation of **2 study circles** for awareness building on Constitutional values.
- ❖ **4 state-level meetings** on Constitutional values.
- ❖ **23 village-level campaigns** on Constitution Day.
- ❖ **8 workshops** with school children to impart Constitutional values.
- ❖ **3 ground reports** on seminars and workshops on Constitutional values and Adivasi rights.
- ❖ **1 national-level workshop** to understand the Preamble of the Constitution.

how a society can collectively attain fraternity through the values of liberty and equality. Aspects of the Constitution were explained in very simple language and through stories depicting day-to-day happenings.

On Constitution Day various village-level awareness programmes were conducted in Faizabad and Jaunpur districts of UP. While interacting with citizens, the Fellows emphasised the importance of the Constitution and why every citizen should follow it, that it is a matter of pride that we are part of the largest democracy. A video related to the Constitution of India was screened; it showed the history, creation and the contents of the Constitution in a very lucid manner.

In Balangir district of Odisha, Fellows conducted a state-level meeting on Constitution Day. They explained the Preamble of the Constitution, its importance and amendments. They appealed especially to students and teachers to strive to protect and promote the spirit of the Indian Constitution, and to uphold the citizen duties and rights enshrined in it.

Meeting on Constitutional Values (Maharashtra)

A state-level meeting of Fellows and Mentors of Maharashtra was organised at Sane Guruji Rashtriya Smarak, Mangaon, from 4 to 6 October 2021. It was attended by participants from **Sarvahara Jan Andolan** (Raigad), **Kashtakari Jan Andolan** (Nagpur) and **Shramjeevi Sanghatana** (Latur).

The meeting began with songs on the Indian Constitution and discussion of issues of oppression faced by people. In the introductory session, all participants were asked to share their own stories of involvement and association with the work that they are doing. In the deep sharing that ensued, many personal stories emerged from among the participants – of caste atrocities, social discrimination, Adivasi rights, experiences of dealing with the police and taking up cases of atrocities, community struggles against injustice, personal struggles, and experiences of organising and political education.

It was an enriching meeting as all participants could listen to, understand and appreciate the journeys – personal, social and political – of each person. It helped build an understanding of the various methods successful social movement groups have used for reaching out to people, including organisation of workshops on perspective building and taking up action through community mobilisation.

Meeting on Constitutional Values (Odisha)

Odisha's state-level meeting on Constitutional values was organised on 9–10 November 2021 at Vishwa Yuva Kendra, Boinda. Fellows from **ACS**, **MASM** and **SASM** participated in the meeting.

In the meeting, the Fellows shared experiences and challenges faced in the field, and designed strategies. The meeting was an opportunity to recount the initiatives undertaken to disseminate Constitutional values in their areas, highlighting the progress made. Discussions reiterated the importance of adopting creative methods of communication to enhance learnings. Also, the critical need to organise all disadvantaged communities to fight for the right to live with dignity, justice and equality was voiced. Devendra Bhai, a social activist from Rajasthan, elaborated on India's Constitutional values. Fellows were also asked to prepare their individual plan for the coming 6 months to increase awareness of and promote Constitutional values.

Republic Day Celebration and Awareness Meetings on Constitutional Values (Odisha)

With Constitutional values a primary theme of SRUTI's work this year, a series of awareness meetings were held in 15 villages across Dhenkanal and Angul districts of Odisha. These meetings saw the participation of 400 individuals including women, children and PRI members. The purpose of the meetings was to raise awareness on Constitutional values among socially excluded groups. The meetings emphasised the crucial role that citizens play in preserving the nation's secular and democratic foundation. The Preamble was translated into the region's widely spoken Santhali language by the Fellow organisation **Adivasi Chetna Sangathan** and the translation distributed to spread awareness on Constitutional values among tribal populations.

Republic Day Cultural Programme in Faizabad (Uttar Pradesh)

The 73rd Republic Day was observed by **APF** through cultural programmes across Faizabad city in various schools, colleges and neighbourhoods. APF volunteers explained the significance of Republic Day and its history to more than 1000 youths. A musical night featuring Qawali singing was organised in collaboration

with a renowned progressive singing group, Kabeer Kala Manch, to promote the idea of fraternity, communal harmony and peace.

Workshop on the Preamble to the Constitution, Nagpur (Maharashtra)

To reinforce the significance and importance of the Constitution, more than 150 Karyakartas and Fellows from Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, HP, Jharkhand, Kashmir, MP, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, TN, Uttarakhand and UP participated in a 4-day workshop on 'Deconstructing the Preamble to the Constitution of India'.

The programme commenced with an introduction to Constitution and its significance. Historical facts about the Constitution of India and its making were shared with the participants. Thereafter, the guiding values mentioned in the Preamble were briefly explained by the Fellows which was followed by a reading of the Preamble.

Cultural expressions of all the states – dance, songs and traditional attires – were exhibited. This was followed by 3 days of discussions to understand and analyse the Preamble. Mentor Fellows conducted specific theme-based sessions on the Preamble to discuss and deconstruct it and elaborate on Constitutional values. During these sessions, which were specifically centred on the concepts of justice, liberty, equality, fraternity, secularism, socialism, sovereignty and democratic republic, Fellows engaged with the participants through activities correlating their own daily life with socio-economic and geo-political experiences. The final session summed up the essence of the Preamble, explaining the idea of 'adapting and giving these constitutional values to ourselves' – 'We the people of India'.

This congregation of participants from different areas to celebrate and discuss the Constitutional values as enshrined in the Preamble led to a very engaging and enriching experience that we at SRUTI plan to document as modules for larger use and mutual learning. **Click on the link given below for the short film made by Mashal News on the Nagpur workshop:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wultGckXGLk>



Online programme – Safar-e-Aain

Workshop on Constitutional values in Nagpur



Constitution Day celebration in Odisha (left) and Maharashtra (right)



Republic Day celebration in Chakradharpur (Jharkhand) and Balangir (Odisha)

PEOPLE AT SRUTI

Structure of the SRUTI Team (2021-22)

<i>Slab of monthly salary (Rs) plus benefits paid to staff</i>	<i>No. of male staff</i>	<i>No. of female staff</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>10,001-25,000</i>	-	-	-
<i>25,001-50,000</i>	8	3	11
<i>50,001-100,000</i>	2	0	2
<i>100,001-125,000</i>	1	1	2
<i>Total</i>	11	4	15

People

SRUTI General Body

1. Enakshi Ganguly Thukral, President
2. Prof. Prabhu Mohapatra, Vice President
3. Jamal Kidwai, Treasurer
4. Prof. Rajeswari Raina
5. Ravi Rebbapragada
6. Prof. Uma Chakraborty
7. Rita Sarin
8. Avinash Kumar
9. Kanika Satyanand
10. Abha Singhal Joshi
11. Nitin Sethi
12. G.B. Panda
13. Kabir Dixit
14. Gazala Jamil
15. Satyam Shrivastava, Ex-Officio
16. Shweta Tripathi, Ex-Officio

In the year 2021-22, one General Body meeting (online) was organised.

SRUTI Executive Board

1. Enakshi Ganguly Thukral, President
2. Prabhu Mohapatra, Vice President
3. Rajeswari S. Raina, Member
4. Ravi Rebbapragada, Member
5. Jamal Kidwai, Treasurer

The year 2021-22 saw 2 meetings (both online) of the SRUTI Executive Board.

SRUTI Team

1. Asha Raveendran, Programme Executive
2. Amit Kumar, MIS Officer
3. Baldev Thakur, Finance Officer
4. Elin A. Lakra, Programme Executive
5. Emlon Tirkey (till August 2021)
6. Jojoy Mathew, Asst. Officer, Finance & Admin.
7. Juheb Jhony Choudhary, Programme Executive
8. Mahipal Singh, Programme Executive
9. Rakesh Sharma, Asst. Manager, Resource Mobilisation
10. Sanjay Kumar Verma, Asst. Manager, Resource Mobilisation
11. Satyam Shrivastava, Director
12. Saurabh Sinha, Sr. Programme Executive
13. Shweta Tripathi, Director
14. Siddharth Bhatt, Programme Executive
15. Tejasvita Malhotra, Asst. Programme Executive

***In alphabetic order**

Internal Complaints Committee Members

Name	Committee	Affiliation
Elin Archana Lakra	Presiding Officer (Chairperson)	SRUTI
Asha Raveendran	Member	SRUTI
Jojoy Mathew	Member	SRUTI
Purwa Bhardwaj	Member	Trainer and Subject Expert
Seema Mishra	Member	Delhi-based Lawyer
Jayashree	Member	SRUTI Fellow

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

SRUTI
SRUTI (Society For Rural, Urban & Tribal Initiative)
NEW DELHI - 110016 (INDIA)

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st MARCH 2022

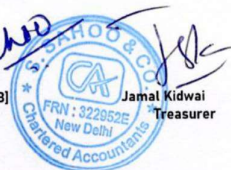
Particulars	SCHEDULE	F.Y. 2021-22	F.Y. 2020-21
SOURCES OF FUND			
I.FUND BALANCES:			
a. General Fund	[01]	4,926,801	7,919,054
b. Gratuity Fund		1,200,000	1,200,000
c. Corpus Fund		43,766,500	43,516,500
d. Project Fund	[02]	5,412,521	-
e. Assets Fund	[03]	328,918	-
II.LOAN FUNDS:			
a. Secured Loans		-	-
b. Unsecured Loans		-	-
TOTAL	[I + II]	55,634,739	52,635,554
APPLICATION OF FUND			
I.FIXED ASSETS			
Gross Block	[04]	2,292,894	2,270,039
Less: Accumulated Depreciation		560,496	398,325
Net Block		<u>1,732,398</u>	<u>1,871,715</u>
II. INVESTMENT			
		<u>44,602,000</u>	<u>44,852,000</u>
III.CURRENT ASSETS, LOANS & ADVANCES:			
a. Loans & Advances	[05]	2,310,526	3,289,265
b. Grant Receivable	[06]	776,592	-
c. Cash & Bank Balance	[07]	6,746,722	3,078,900
	A	<u>9,833,840</u>	<u>6,368,164</u>
Less: CURRENT LIABILITIES & PROVISIONS:			
a. Current Liabilities	[08]	533,500	75
b. Unspent Grant Balance		-	456,251
	B	<u>533,500</u>	<u>456,326</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS	[A - B]	<u>9,300,340</u>	<u>5,911,839</u>
TOTAL	[I+II+III]	55,634,739	52,635,554
Significant Accounting Policies and Notes to Accounts	[21]	-	-

The schedules referred to above form an integral part of the Balance Sheet.
IN TERMS OF OUR REPORT OF EVEN DATE

For & on behalf :
S.SAHOO & CO.

[CA Subhjit Sahoo,FCA,LLB]
Partner
MM No. 057426
Firm No. 322952E

Place: New Delhi
Date:



Jamal Kidwai
Treasurer

For & on behalf :
SRUTI

Shweta
Director

Satyam Shrivastava
Director

SRUTI
SRUTI (Society For Rural, Urban & Tribal Initiative)
103/4, Kaushalya Park, Hauz Khas, New Delhi-110016

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2022			
Particulars	SCHEDULE	F.Y. 2021-22	F.Y. 2020-21
I. INCOME			
Grant In Aid	[09]	29,070,416	18,585,807
Interest Income & Other Income	[10]	4,609,081	17,415,645
TOTAL		33,679,496	36,001,452
II. EXPENDITURE			
FCRA Section			
Upscaling Community Tenure Rights in India governance & climate justice, recognition of citizenry-constitutional entitlements and rights	[11]	7,254,130.10	8,164,933.62
Trainings & Facilitation -Paul Hamlyn Foundation	[12]	5,038,724.82	1,620,351.53
Trainings & Facilitation-Right Resource Initiative	[13]	-	335,073.41
Donation For Flood In Assam And Bihar	[14]	-	2,171,466.00
Administrative Expenses		180,014.07	10,000.00
		-	235,019.16
Indian Section			
AZIM JI PHILANTHROPIC INITIATIVES PVT.LTD.	[15]	5,772,362.00	-
Astha Sansthan	[16]	-	382,573.00
Donation - Caring Friends	[17]	-	3,980,000.00
SRUTI -Fellowship Programme & Other Expenses	[18]	12,268,183.37	14,043,823.48
Other Expenses		-	-
Depreciation	[04]	560,496	163,306
Less: Depreciation Transferred to Asset Fund		64,683	-
TOTAL		31,009,228	31,106,546
III. EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	[I - II]	2,670,268	4,894,906
Less: Transferred to Project Fund		5,662,521	-
Less: Transferred to General Fund		(2,992,253)	4,894,906

Significant Accounting Policies and Notes to Accounts [21]
The schedules referred to above form an integral part of the Income & Expenditure A/c.
IN TERMS OF OUR REPORT OF EVEN DATE

For & on behalf :
S.SAHOO & CO.

[CA Subhjit Sahoo, FCA, LLB] Partner
MM No. 057426
Firm No. 322952E

Place: New Delhi
Date:



Jamal Kidwai
Treasurer

For & on behalf :
SRUTI

Shweta
Director

Satyam Shrivastava
Director

SRUTI
SRUTI (Society For Rural, Urban & Tribal Initiative)
NEW DELHI - 110029 (INDIA)

RECEIPTS & PAYMENT ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2022

	SCHEDULE	F.Y. 2021-22	F.Y. 2020-21
R E C E I P T S			
Opening Balance :			
Cash in Hand (In INR)		31,687	82,763
Cash in Bank (In INR)		3,047,213	9,817,611
Grant In Aid	[19]	27,837,573	6,454,326
Interest & Other Income	[20]	4,609,081	17,417,645
Proceeds from Investments		250,000	500,000
Loan and Advances		1,591,710	1,608,390
TOTAL Rs.		37,367,263	35,880,735
P A Y M E N T			
FCRA Section			
Upscaling Community Tenure Rights in India	[11]	7,254,130.10	8,164,933.62
Strengthening peoples' organisations, communities and local institutions to ensure self governance & climate justice, recognition of citizenry-constitutional entitlements and rights	[12]	5,038,724.82	1,620,351.53
Trainings & Facilitation -Paul Hamlyn Foundation	[13]	-	335,073.41
Trainings & Facilitation-Right Resource Initiative	[14]	-	2,171,466.00
Donation For Flood In Assam And Bihar		-	10,000.00
Administrative Expenses		180,014.07	241,501.00
		-	-
Indian Section			
AZIM JI PHILANTHROPIC INITIATIVES PVT.LTD.	[15]	5,772,362.00	-
Astha Sansthan	[16]	-	382,573.00
Donation - Caring Friends	[17]	-	3,980,000.00
SRUTI -Fellowship Programme & Other Expenses	[18]	12,268,183.37	14,043,823.48
Non Recurring Expenses		27,580.00	5,600.00
Changes in Loan/Advance and Liabilities		79,546.00	1,846,513.00
Closing Balance			
Cash in Hand (In INR)		29,895	31,687
Cash in Bank (In FC)		6,716,827	3,047,213
TOTAL Rs.		37,367,263	35,880,735

Significant Accounting Policies and Notes to Accounts [21]

The schedules referred to above form an integral part of the Receipts & Payment A/c. IN TERMS OF OUR REPORT OF EVEN DATE

For & on behalf :
S.SAHOO & CO.

For & on behalf :
SRUTI

[CA Subhjit Sahoo,FCA,LLB]
Partner
MM No. 057426
Firm No. 322952E



Jamal Kidwai
Treasurer

Shweta
Director

Satyam Shrivastava
Director

Place: New Delhi
Date:

SRUTI
SRUTI (Society For Rural, Urban & Tribal Initiative)
103/4, Kaushalya Park, Hauz Khas, New Delhi-110016
FOREIGN PROJECTS

SRUTI
SRUTI (Society For Rural, Urban & Tribal Initiative)
NEW DELHI - 110016 (INDIA)
FOREIGN

Amount in Rs.

SCHEDULE [04] : FIXED ASSETS	GROSS BLOCK				Rate of Dep.	DEPRECIATION				NET BLOCK		
	PARTICULARS	As at	Addition			As at	Upto	During the year		Upto	As on	As on
		01.04.2021	> 6 months	< 6 months		31.03.2022		01.04.2021	Deletion			
A. ASSETS OUT OF GENERAL FUND:												
BUILDING	644,371			644,371	10%				64,437	64,437	579,934	644,371
FURNITURE & FIXTURES	81,588			81,588	10%				8,159	8,159	73,429	81,588
FURNITURE & FIXTURES (TF)	19,169			19,169	100%				19,169	19,169	-	19,169
COMPUTERS	9,894			9,894	40%				3,958	3,958	5,936	9,894
COMPUTERS (TF)	95,632			95,632	100%				95,632	95,632	-	95,632
OFFICE EQUIPMENTS	240,340			240,340	15%				36,051	36,051	204,289	240,340
OFFICE EQUIPMENTS (TF)	68,680			68,680	100%				68,680	68,680	-	68,680
VEHICLES	95,039			95,039	15%				14,256	14,256	80,783	95,039
VEHICLES (TF)	58,906			58,906	100%				58,906	58,906	-	58,906
A. ASSETS OUT OF GRANT FUND:												
COMPUTERS		37,000	185,100	222,100	40%				51,820	51,820	170,280	-
OFFICE EQUIPMENTS												
Temare Facility-GPS Machine			109,150.00	109,150	8%				8,186	8,186	100,964	-
KZE- 1 No. Djembe (Dhol & Dafli)			8,050.00	8,050	8%				604	604	7,446	-
KZE- Projector 1 no.			54,300.00	54,300	8%				4,073	4,073	50,228	-
TOTAL [A]	1,313,619	37,000	356,600	1,707,219					433,930	433,930	1,273,289	1,313,619.18

Indian Fund	GROSS BLOCK				Rate of Dep.	DEPRECIATION				NET BLOCK		
	As at	Addition		As at		Upto	During the year		Upto	As on	As on	
		01.04.2021	> 6 months				< 6 months	31.03.2022				01.04.2021
B. ASSETS OUT OF GRANT FUND												
COMPUTER	140,634	20,500		161,134.21	0.40				64,454	64,454	96,681	140,634
COMPUTER	325			325.22	1.00				325	325		325
FURNITURE & FIXTURE	36,910			36,910.39	0.10				3,691	3,691	33,219	36,910
OFFICE EQUIPMENT	148,625	7,080		155,704.53	0.15				23,356	23,356	132,349	148,625
VEHICLE	231,600			231,600	0.15				34,740	34,740	196,860	231,600
TOTAL [B]	558,094	27,580		585,674					126,566	126,566	459,108	558,094
TOTAL [A+B+C]	1,871,713	64,580	356,600	2,292,893					560,496	560,496	1,732,397	1,871,713



J.K.
Jamal Kidwai
Treasurer

Shweta
Shweta
Director

Satyam
Satyam Shrivastava
Director

DONORS & CONTRIBUTORS

We thank our institutional, individual and scrap donors for their continued support.

