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ABSTRACT

A Local Governance strengthening, women empowerment and Livelihoods

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1.0. ABOUT JNANODAYA

Sree Jnanodaya Grameena Vidya Trust (SJGVT/JNANODAYA) is a grassroots non-profit organization based in Chikkaballapur district, Southern Karnataka, India, dedicated to participatory actions and partnerships that promote social, economic, and environmental equality for communities. Since inception in 1993 the organisation has strived to pursue its vision through a holistic and participatory approach. It firmly believes that for any development, participation of all stakeholders is a crucial foundation on which, sound values, purpose and action can be built upon.



The organisation places emphasis on working in drought prone and resource poor areas, where it is imminent to address the complex and interwoven fabric of social, economic and environmental concerns in an inclusive manner. Hence, the

organisation works along with communities to plan and implement development projects which they perceive are important and where there is a need to make a difference. In addition, the organisation considers that innovative approaches, new concepts and learning from experiences are significant inputs to evolve and grow. To achieve its vision, the organisation primarily works with marginalised farmers, women, community-based organisations, functionaries of local governments (Gram Panchayats), state government, private foundations and like-minded organizations.

Vision

Social, Economic and Environmental fairness for all

Mission

The organization seeks to achieve its vision through the following:

- Support stakeholders through participatory actions that promote social well-being and social transformation
- Enable communities to envision their needs and facilitate capacities, skills and action for change

- Enhance convergence for sustainable interventions to conserve, protect, and manage natural resources
- Kindle, pilot and share new concepts and approaches through meaningful partnerships that bring out innovative ways of achieving sustainable development

Approach

The organization uses a multi-pronged approach to work on the mission and enable realization of the vision:



2.0. DETAILS OF ACTIVITIES

1. Empower Women Financially Through Livelihood Programme Supported by the Target Corporation

Introduction

In the reporting year 2024-25, Sree Jnanodaya Grameena Vidya Trust (SJGVT) made significant strides in enhancing women's empowerment and promoting sustainable livelihoods in rural Karnataka. Supported by Target/CAF, the Women's Empowerment and Livelihoods Program was rolled out in 2 Gram Panchayats (GPs), i.e. Tumanahalli and Bhaktharalli Gram Panchayaths of Siddlaghatta Block in Chickballapur district, targeting the most vulnerable women and families. The program aimed at revitalizing local economies and building community resilience in the post-Covid context, while equipping women with skills, knowledge, and support systems to lead dignified and economically stable lives.

SJGVT has received funding through CAFA for their women empowerment programs for rural women through SHGs and its federation.

Measurable differences made to those served by the Grant in the last two years itself:

1. As per our studies, the income of 73 families increased by 10 to 12%
2. Out of 46 SHGs we signed MOU, 23 SHGs have moved to A grade
3. Participation of women in Grama Sabha increased considerably due to increased access to their entitlements (pensions, insurance and benefits)
4. Women got a platform to voice their opinions and woes. They also found solutions to most of them
5. Assets created in the 73 poor families like sheep, goats and calves
6. Conducted online training to 189 women in 6 GPs on legal advisories on property rights and domestic violence by Legal team of Target by volunteering initiatives

Learning outcome

The program has created a learning of new capacities and skills. It has increased opportunities for rural women to be economically independent. With the training workshops, exposure to the Self-Help Group way of working, they have been exposed to financial literacy, bookkeeping, leadership etc. In fact, rural women are normally not seen much outside their homes or at neighborhood stores and are seldom heard from at any gatherings. The SHGs have given them a voice and they are now quite vocal with their views and opinions. Our Women Empowerment through livelihoods started with the strategy of increasing income, financial independence and a sense of self respect for women. The secondary benefits of decreased domestic violence and increased respect from other members at home is additional.

The women benefited from the vegetable and flower farming support and from the possibilities for marketing their produce. The capital support given for buying livestock, vegetable seeds, setting up mobile carts and petty shops has been appreciated by the women. Those with lands benefited with the support since the lands had been lying waste after the lockdown and they were still recovering.

The women also highly appreciated the information on social rights and we saw some successes with reduction in domestic harassment. We learnt that these workshops need to be conducted regularly and sessions on legal rights and domestic abuse are as important as the ones on finance and economic independence. It always adds value to all livelihood programs if we can help them market their produce and provide them with connections/links to the same.

A Case Study which showcases the impact of the programme-Background and the Context

In the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, vulnerable communities across rural India faced deep economic and social disruptions. Among the most affected were women from low-income households, many of whom lost their informal livelihoods, faced mounting debt, and struggled to contribute to household incomes. Recognizing the urgent need to restore economic stability and foster long-term empowerment, the TARGET Corporation initiated a corporate social responsibility (CSR) programme titled **'Empower Women**

Financially Through Livelihood Programme’.

This initiative aimed to rehabilitate and empower women by promoting sustainable livelihoods, enhancing institutional capacities of Self-Help Groups (SHGs), and strengthening their ability to access markets and government welfare schemes. The programme was implemented in five Gram Panchayats of Shidlaghatta Taluk, Chikkaballapur District, Karnataka, by Sree Jnanodaya Grameena Vidya Samsthe (SJGVS), a grassroots development organization.

Programme Objectives

The initiative was designed to meet the following key objectives:

- Increase awareness and support economic rehabilitation in the wake of the pandemic.
- Promote income-generating opportunities for women from marginalized households.
- Build capacities of SHGs and women leaders in governance, financial literacy, and leadership.
- Facilitate SHG participation in local markets and access to government schemes.
- Strengthen Gram Panchayat Level Federations (GPLFs) to amplify women’s collective voice and ensure social inclusion.

Implementation Approach

SJGVS engaged closely with women’s collectives and Gram Panchayat Level Federations to roll out the programme. Among the five federations that benefitted from the initiative, Sri Sharada Sanjeevini GPLF, located in Bhaktarahalli village, played a significant role in demonstrating how targeted capacity building can lead to transformative change at the grassroots. One of the key SHGs under this Federation, Prakruthi Self-Help Group, received intensive support under the programme.

The support included:



- Visioning exercises that helped members reimagine the SHG beyond just savings and credit functions.
- Training in bookkeeping, leadership, and business planning.
- Exposure visits to understand successful livelihood models.
- Guidance to develop Annual Action Plans for economic activities.
- Support to access financial linkages and government schemes.

Anecdote: From Loan Taker to Employer – Sujathamma’s Story

One of the most inspiring transformations under the programme is that of Sujathamma, Vice President of the Federation and a long-time member of Prakruthi SHG. She candidly admitted that earlier, her engagement with the SHG was limited to borrowing money for household needs. “I thought SHGs were just for emergency loans. The vision-building session opened our eyes to the larger purpose,” she said.

Motivated by the exposure and training, Sujathamma decided to support her unemployed son to start a small event catering business. Using an SHG loan with affordable interest, the family launched their enterprise with basic kitchen equipment and staff from the community. Today, her son employs 20 local women and earns an average of ₹20,000 to ₹30,000 per month.

Her son adds, *“Earlier, we took loans from moneylenders. We would have never stabilised the business due to high interest rates. The SHG loan and mother’s training changed everything.”*

This case demonstrates how livelihood support programmes, when combined with institutional strengthening, can help women move from subsistence to enterprise, and further to local job creators.

Impact and Reflections

The programme has delivered multifaceted impact:

- SHGs have evolved from credit-based groups to livelihood incubators.
- Women leaders like Sujathamma have emerged as community change agents.
- Federations are stronger, more inclusive, and more connected to markets and schemes.
- At least 25 women have started or scaled up small enterprises in catering, poultry, tailoring, and food processing.

- Financial literacy and governance capacities have significantly improved, with SHGs maintaining transparent records and planning for sustainability.

What distinguishes this initiative is the holistic approach – combining financial access, leadership building, market exposure, and institutional development. By embedding capacity-building within the existing SHG ecosystem, the programme has created a sustainable platform for women’s economic empowerment.

Conclusion

The ‘Empower Women Financially Through Livelihood Programme’ showcases the power of targeted CSR interventions to rebuild lives, restore dignity, and regenerate local economies. By working with grassroots institutions like SJGVS and investing in the potential of rural women, TARGET Corporation has contributed not only to financial inclusion but also to gender-responsive rural development.

As Sujathamma reflects, *“We now look at SHGs as a force. We are not just borrowers, but leaders and earners.”* This case study serves as a testament to the transformative potential of women’s collectives when supported with the right tools, training, and trust. The Women’s Empowerment and Livelihoods Program has been a testament to the strength of rural women and the importance of investing in their potential. With Target/CAF’s support, Jnanodaya has not only improved economic conditions but has fostered dignity, agency, and community leadership among hundreds of women across five Gram Panchayats.

As we look forward, our focus will remain on deepening these impacts, strengthening institutional structures, and expanding the program to reach more women in need. We sincerely thank our partners, especially Target/CAF, and the community members who have been instrumental in this journey of transformation.

2. Enhancing Gram Panchayat Capabilities for Improved Service Delivery and Community Participation

During the year 2024-25, The objective of the project is to strengthen 06 Gram Panchayats (GPs) through a structured facilitation process aimed at improving local governance, strengthening service delivery mechanisms, and deepening community participation, especially of women, youth, and vulnerable groups.

Key Progress and Activities

1. Capacity Building and Orientation

An intensive training program was organized in Bengaluru for members of Gram Panchayat Planning Facilitation Teams. Participants included elected representatives (Adhyakasha, Ward Members), representatives from Social Justice Committees, SHGs, ASHAs, Anganwadi workers, youth clubs, and members of other community institutions.



46 training on the PRI and Convergence, Role of CBOs, Multi actor platforms and their roles in Local Governance were conducted and staff. During the year 2-exposure learning visits have been organised to Yellapur, Uttara Kannada and Siddlghatta, Chickballapur district on role of women`s federations in Grama Sabha and Marketing

of the rural products.

2. Field Facilitation and Community Engagement



Facilitators supported GPs in organizing village-level interactions to bridge the gap between citizens and governance systems: The approaches adopted were.

- Door-to-door family visits encouraged Gram Sabha participation.
- Discussions were held with women, youth, farmers, and other vulnerable groups to capture aspirations and priorities.
- Gram Sabha and Ward Sabha attendance improved notably, with women and marginalized communities reporting increased comfort in voicing their concerns.
- Meetings between ward citizens and their elected representatives were facilitated to build trust and accountability.

However, these initiatives have been very helpful for the villagers to voice out their Individual aspirations and mandate for NREGA`s cattle shed, housing and entitlements. 1800 families have received support in this year from Gram Panchayats across 6 GPs.

3. Gram Rathans and MAPs as Change Agents

The project operationalized 61 Multiple Actor Platforms (MAPs) across 6 GPs, mobilizing 610 members to act as a pressure group on key issues such as health, education, drinking water, and public sanitation. Simultaneously, Gram Rathans acted as catalysts for grassroots mobilization and strengthened linkages between citizens and the Panchayat system.

Case study: Gram Rathan for Social and Economic Upliftment

Introduction: SG Kote, a village within Chinnakote Gram Panchayat in Bangarpet Taluk, Karnataka, is primarily home to families engaged in agriculture, animal husbandry, and agricultural labor. Many villagers also migrate to Bangalore for employment opportunities in private firms. In this community, Manjulamma, from the scheduled caste community who has completed the 10th standard, lives a modest life. Her husband works at a chicken meat shop in Bangalore, earning ₹15,000 per month, which supports their basic needs. The couple has no children, nor do they own a home. However,

driven by a desire to establish an identity and contribute to her community, Manjulamma embarked on a journey that would redefine her role within SG Kote.

Building Leadership and Community Engagement

Recognizing her potential, Jnanodaya selected Manjulamma to be a Gram Rathana, where she received training on her roles and responsibilities, equipping her with the skills to effect positive change. Her natural leadership and commitment quickly positioned her as a critical community figure, coordinating self-help groups and facilitating meetings for local issues.

Identifying Gaps in Access to Welfare Schemes

One of the main focuses of the project was to identify individuals in SG Kote who were eligible for, yet lacking access to, essential government welfare schemes. Under the guidance and encouragement of Jnanodaya and drawing from her training, Manjulamma began to identify those in need:

1. **Individuals Below Poverty Line (BPL)** without a ration card.
2. **Senior Citizens** who had not registered for old-age pensions.
3. **Residents Without MGNREGS Job Cards** – essential for gaining employment under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.
4. **Discontinuation of Old-Age Pensions** – assisting those who had stopped receiving their due pension.

Coordinating Community-Wide Support and Access to Resources

With her newfound knowledge, Manjulamma took it upon herself to help community members apply for the necessary welfare schemes. She organized documentation, guided applicants on eligibility criteria, and personally accompanied them to the Panchayat office to ensure applications were submitted correctly. Her efforts were tireless and personal, seeing each case through to completion.



Impact of Her Efforts

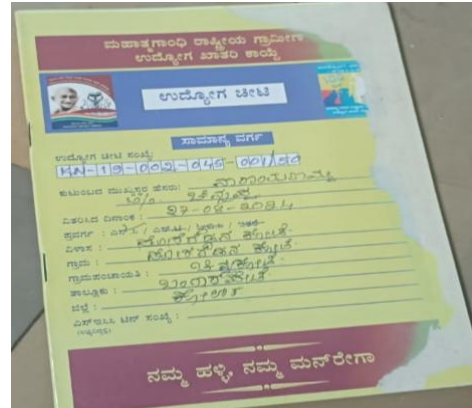
Due to her dedication, several residents of SG Kote received access to crucial resources, previously beyond their reach:

- **25 Women** received MGNREGS job cards, giving them access to consistent and dignified work.
- **Three Senior Citizens** successfully registered for old-age pensions.
- **One Person** received a ration card, securing access to subsidized food.
- **Five Senior Citizens** received their overdue pension payments, thanks to the follow-up efforts facilitated by Manjulamma.

These outcomes not only improved the quality of life for these individuals but also heightened awareness about the availability and importance of government schemes within the community. Villagers who had once felt disconnected from government programs now viewed them as attainable and beneficial.

Empowerment and Recognition of Manjulamma

Through her work, Manjulamma gained a sense of identity and a respected role in SG Kote. Known now as a resourceful and capable person, she serves as a touchpoint for villagers seeking assistance with administrative matters and welfare access. Her journey from a regular village resident to a community leader demonstrates the power of strategic capacity-building and empowerment of individuals at the grassroots level.



Conclusion

This case study illustrates how identifying the right individuals within a community, building their capacities, and positioning them as change-makers can lead to substantial social and economic development. By enabling individuals like Manjulamma, Jnanodaya has created a pathway for effective local governance, providing SG Kote with the tools to foster self-reliance and address issues collectively. Through empowerment, community collaboration, and consistent support, the people of SG Kote have taken meaningful strides toward a more inclusive and participatory local governance model.

4. Institutional Strengthening and Portfolio-Based Planning

Despite limitations in uploading GDPs on e-Swaraj, the Jnanodaya team supported GPs in preparing thematic Perspective Plans for:

- Health and Nutrition
- Education
- Drinking Water
- Common Property Resource Protection
- Revenue Mobilization

Portfolio Heads in these sectors were trained to implement these plans. Over 50% of planned activities in health, education, and water were executed effectively.

Case study: Empowering Community Leadership for Education and Infrastructure Development in Chinnakote Gram Panchayat

Introduction

Mr. Varadaraju, a retired employee of Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) with a diploma in mechanical engineering, is a resident of Vijayanagar village in Chinnakote Gram Panchayat, Bangarpet Taluk, Karnataka. Driven by a desire to serve his community, he contested the Gram Panchayat elections in 2021 from Vijayanagar ward and was elected as a Ward Member.

Known for his problem-solving skills and dedication, Mr. Varadaraju quickly became a trusted community leader, resolving family disputes and addressing public conflicts. His work is now recognized across the panchayat, which comprises several villages including Naralakere, H.G. Kote, Devaganahalli, Vijayanagar, Marutinagar, and Kathahalli.

Role in Education and Community Empowerment

Jnanodaya, an NGO dedicated to community development, has been active in the Chinnakote Panchayat for the past years. When the Gram Panchayat nominated Mr. Varadaraju as the portfolio head of education. He underwent training conducted by Jnanodaya on the roles and responsibilities of the portfolio heads, equipping him to address educational challenges in the community effectively. This Panchayat has approximately 450 children across eight schools, spread across the region's villages.

Educational Development and Problem Identification

Under the leadership of Mr. Varadaraju, the Education portfolio conducted an extensive review of educational quality, focusing on four essential indicators:

1. **Learning Levels** – Ensuring students are meeting curriculum standards.



2. **Infrastructure** – Assessing the physical condition of schools.

3. **Classroom Processes** – Reviewing teaching methods and class engagement.

4. **Community Participation** – Encouraging active involvement from parents and local stakeholders.

Their review revealed a lack of sanitation facilities in three schools, posing significant challenges to students' well-being and hygiene. To address this, the GP constructed toilets worth ₹50,000 in these schools using Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) funds. This improvement had a transformative impact, especially for female students, enhancing attendance and fostering a healthier learning environment.

Active Involvement in SDMC Meetings

To maintain a continuous dialogue on educational issues, Mr. Varadaraju and other GP members regularly participated in School Development and Monitoring Committee (SDMC) meetings. Through these meetings, they gathered valuable feedback from parents, teachers, and community members, identifying pressing issues and working towards quick resolutions. Issues that could not be resolved during these sessions were documented, with actionable solutions outlined for further attention.

MAP Platform for Multi-Stakeholder Engagement

One of the innovative initiatives undertaken by Mr. Varadaraju was the establishment of a community platform called the Multi-Actor Platform (MAP). This platform brought together stakeholders from different parts of the community to voice their concerns and collaboratively develop solutions. During these sessions, stakeholders would discuss various issues ranging from infrastructure to social welfare, resolving some matters on the spot while creating a plan of action for ward/gram sabha. The platform proved effective and popular, leading to its continued use for periodic issue resolution across the community.

Infrastructure Developments and Community Achievements

Under the MAP and Mr. Varadaraju's leadership, the following significant developments were achieved:

- **High-Mast Street Lighting in Vijayanagar:** Addressing community concerns about inadequate street lighting, a high-mast light was installed in Vijayanagar, improving visibility and security in the area.
- **Construction of Ambedkar Bhavan:** Utilizing MLA funds, a new community hall named Ambedkar Bhavan was constructed, serving as a gathering space for cultural events, community meetings, and social functions.
- **Enhanced Water Supply Infrastructure:** A new underground water tank was constructed, and water supply lines were laid, providing a reliable water source to 500 households. This improvement addressed water scarcity and brought much-needed relief to residents.

Impact and Conclusion

Through his leadership, dedication, and collaboration with Jnanodaya and the community, Mr. Varadaraju has made a lasting impact on Chinnakote Gram Panchayat. His approach to community-led initiatives has improved the educational environment for students and driven infrastructural development, benefiting the broader community. The establishment of the MAP platform exemplifies his commitment to inclusive governance, ensuring that all voices are heard, and community issues are resolved collaboratively.

This case demonstrates the power of committed local leadership in transforming a rural community by addressing fundamental issues in education, sanitation, and infrastructure. Mr. Varadaraju's work stands as a model for community-driven development, reflecting the potential for sustainable change when communities are empowered to address their challenges.



5. Exposure Visits and Deepening Empathy

One of the project's highlights was a cross-learning exposure visit to Yellapur, Uttara Kannada district. 40 participants, including women leaders, expressed that the experience gave them a sense of dignity, freedom, and solidarity. The

visit opened up new ways of seeing their role in governance and development, especially for women who rarely move beyond their village's ward and Gram Sabhas.



6. Key Infrastructure and Services Monitored

Ward members and community volunteers actively monitored small infrastructure works, including Drainage improvements and Drinking water systems. These efforts showcased how community supervision can ensure transparency and quality in service delivery.

Project Achievements in Relation to Performance Indicators

During the reporting period, the project made substantial progress across several key performance indicators, reflecting both quantitative targets and qualitative improvements in Gram Panchayat functioning, community engagement, and inclusive service delivery. The following is a synthesis of achievements aligned with the set indicators:

1. Community Aspirations and Participation

A total of 403 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were conducted across six Gram Panchayats (Mahgundi, Chinnakote, Hunakunda, Balamande, A. Jyothnahalli, and Yelsandra), slightly exceeding the target of 400. These FGDs involved women, farmers, children, and youth to map community aspirations. The findings were documented and shared with GP members, helping them understand local needs and plan accordingly.

2. Strengthening Community Relationships

Although the target was to conduct 288 meetings to build village-level relationships, 139 were successfully held, engaging 4,972 participants across all GPs. The sessions created space for dialogue, trust-building, and local ownership of development processes.

3. Evaluating Service Delivery

Six surveys were conducted across six GPs to assess the effectiveness of service delivery, achieving half the targeted number. These surveys provided baseline data to identify service gaps and areas for GP improvement.

4. Inclusion in Governance

There was a 16% increase in the participation of vulnerable groups and women in Gram and Ward Sabhas compared to previous years, indicating notable progress toward inclusive governance.

5. Enhanced Awareness Among Elected Representatives

Out of 91 GP members across the six locations, 30 members demonstrated enhanced awareness regarding the Panchayat Raj (PR) Act, leadership roles, and community participation, surpassing the expected target of 20.

6. Training and Orientation

Six orientation programs were conducted for 57 participants, including elected GP members and community-based organizations (CBOs), meeting the planned target. These sessions focused on democratic values and local self-governance principles.

7. Joint Training for Stakeholders

All six planned joint training programs were completed successfully, with 256 participants including villagers, Gram Rathans, and GP members. These sessions helped create a shared understanding and fostered collaboration between community institutions.

8. Establishment of Pressure Groups (MAPs)

A major achievement was the establishment of 61 Multiple Actor Platforms (MAPs) across the six GPs, surpassing the target of 30. These platforms now consist of over 610 active members and have begun functioning as local pressure groups to address issues and hold GPs accountable.

9. Community-Informed Planning

While the development and formal upload of Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDPs) could not be achieved as planned, the project team supported GPs in preparing perspective plans focusing on water, health, education, revenue, and common property management.

10. Training of MAP and GP Office Bearers

Six training sessions were successfully conducted with 608 participants drawn from 64 MAPs and GP office bearers. These helped build operational skills and enhanced governance literacy.

11. Digitization and e-Governance

Despite initial intentions, no GPDPs were uploaded to the e-Swaraj portal due to logistical or capacity constraints. This remains an area for further support.

12. Implementation of Annual Plans

Out of 30 Portfolio Heads, those leading Health, Education, and Drinking Water portfolios implemented over 40% of their planned activities, while the portfolios for Common Property and Revenue achieved around 100%. In total, 35 portfolio-led activities were completed, exceeding the annual target.

13. Leadership and Convergence Trainings

Ten training programs were conducted across all six GPs, reaching 80 GP members. These focused on leadership development, policy understanding, and strategies for convergence with government schemes.

14. Learning Exposure Visits

A well-received exposure visits to Yellapur, Uttarkannada district, Karnataka was organized with 36 participants, including elected representatives, MAP members, Gram Rathans, and project staff. The experience fostered learning, motivation, and solidarity—particularly among women participants—who expressed that the exposure opened up new aspirations and confidence.

15. Online Engagements and Assessments

No online quizzes were conducted for GP members as planned. This gap highlights the need for increased digital engagement capacity within the GPs.

16. Joint Workshops with Government Officials

4 joint workshops were conducted, primarily involving visits by Health and Education Portfolio Heads to line departments along with the project team.

17. Resource Mobilization

The project exceeded expectations by leveraging 10% additional resources from line departments, individuals, and public representatives against a 7% target. This reflects growing confidence and initiative at the GP level.

18. Scheme Access Baselines

Baseline surveys for schemes related to water, education, health, CPRs, and revenue were completed in five GPs. These assessments helped identify gaps in scheme access and informed local action plans.

19. Citizens' Participation in Gram Sabhas

The project aimed to increase citizen participation in Gram Sabhas by 35%. While full achievement is pending, a gradual increase in participation has been observed in both ward and village-level meetings, with 11% improvement recorded.

20. Linking Families to Welfare Schemes

Of 3000 eligible families identified across the six GPs, 1215 were successfully linked to key schemes such as MGNREGA job cards, health cards, and pension schemes, showing considerable success in scheme facilitation.

The project has significantly contributed to building grassroots democracy by fostering community participation, improving governance capacities, and enabling access to welfare services. Despite some shortfalls in digital processes and formal documentation (such as GPDP upload), the qualitative outcomes—especially the rise of MAPs, increased women's participation, and stronger GP-community interfaces—highlight the depth of transformation underway in these Gram Panchayats.

Impact

- Governance Impact: GPs demonstrated improved transparency and responsiveness in local service delivery. A visible increase in discussions and planning with citizen involvement was noted.
- Participation: Attendance of women and marginalized groups in Gram Sabhas improved. More than 1215 families were connected to key welfare schemes like job cards, pensions, and health cards.
- Accountability: Ward members monitored infrastructure works, ensuring accountability.
- Capacity Building: Over 1780 stakeholders—including GP members, youth, and CBOs—benefited from systematic trainings.
- Community Mobilization: Multiple Actor Platforms acted as collective voices, demanding rights, services, and improved planning.
- Learning and Exposure: Deepened civic understanding and social empathy through peer learning and exposure visits.



Challenges and Lessons Learned

- Enabling vulnerabilities communities to participate in the Grama Sabha
- The need for sustained handholding for MAPs to evolve into active citizen forums was felt.
- Variability in GP engagement influenced the depth of project outcomes across geographies.

The project continued in its 2nd year, has meaningfully contributed to making local governance participatory, inclusive, and accountable. Through regular field visits, family visit to vulnerable families in the villages, combination of training, community engagement, exposure, and joint planning, Gram Panchayats are on a steady path toward becoming responsive institutions that truly represent and serve the people. The support of the Azim Premji Foundation has been instrumental in laying the foundation for a transformative, community-led development process.

