

Pragati Gramin Vikas Samiti

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Pragati Gramin Vikas Samiti (PGVS)

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Secretary's foreword.....

Pradeep Priyadarshi

It gives me immense pleasure as I'm filled with a deep sense of gratitude for your unwavering support and co-operation when I look back into the years of our struggle to carry forward our mission of empowerment of the resource-poor and marginalized part of the humankind towards general prosperity and peace in society.

The organization has commendably continued with its significant variety of human endeavour in the areas of livelihoods, health, education, rural infrastructure, child rights, women empowerment, land right and Dalit rights, etc., as per its own concept of work and strategies of community service. If the organization has successfully carried forward its mission of empowerment of the resource- poor through inclusive growth on its own over these years, it really owes to our volunteers' inner strength to stand for the values of servitude to the under-served people with a great sincerity of purpose and commitment to the cause. What is even more praiseworthy is while in today's world development has become more and more materialistic our organization has shown the way by making it out to be environment friendly phenomena.

I take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks to all members of the General Body, the Governing Council, the staff members, the social resource-persons and the volunteers of community development for their tremendous efforts in carrying on the organizational activities towards some new vistas, and against many odds & obstacles, only to live up to the challenges ahead. My warm regards are also due to the Govt. departments & agencies, bureaucrats & other Govt. officials, foreign agencies & the concerned bankers for their encouragement and moral support.

Last but not the least, I wish the organization all success in advancing further towards its goal, and all of you to keep on the spirit of volunteerism in wiping out tears from as many eyes as possible and bringing smiles to as many faces in the years to come.

Thank You.....

Pragati Gramin Vikas Samiti at a Glance

Pragati Gramin vikas Samiti (PGVS) is a non- government organization. It is registered under Societies Resitration Act 21/ 1860. It is based on Gandhian Philosophy - Non Violence (Ahimsa), Local self Governance (Gram Swaraj), Local Self Reliance (swanibhar), and Responsible Governce(Jawabdehi Sarak) . Pragati Gramin Vikas Samiti started its work in 1985 in 6 villages of Naubatpur Block of Patna district with a thrust for changing the condition of deprived people of the society.

Our Vision

The organization envisions an equity based society where no one should be discriminated on the basis of religion, caste, or gender. Our vision is to build a society where women and other marginalized communities will become a part of mainstream society, where, no children will be left from formal education and where all will be educated and all will be access to humanistic job opportunity.

Our Mission

To build an equitable society through upliftment of rural poor population through capacity building of socially and economically weaker section of the society, education of children, health of women, adolescent girls and youth. It also visualizes linking the marginalized to the Government programmes.

Geographical sphere

At present PGVS is working in 1250 villages of 36 Blocks in 18 Districts in Bihar, with 16,600 [9560 woman] members in Community Based Units like Gram Ekais, MHG, Mahila Manch Units, and Women Farming Groups.

Districts

Buxer,Bhojpur,Rohtas,Aurangabad, Gaya,Arwal,Jahanabad,Nalanda, Nawada, Jamui, East Champaran, WestChamparan, Samastipur,Muzaffarpur,Saharsa, Supaul, Madhepura and Patna

Blocks

Rajpur,Chausa,Koilwar,Sahar,Bikramganj, Rafiganj, Bodhgaya,Dovi, Belaganj, Atari,Kurtha,Ghoshi, Makhdumpur, Islampur,kowakol,Sirdala,Sikandra,Khaira, Ramgarhwa, Ramnagar, Bagaha, Varishnagar, Kurhani, Sakara, Sonevarsha, Shaur, Chhatapur, Murliganj, Patna sadar, Danapur, Maner, Bihata, Naubatpur, Bikram, Dulhin bazaar and Paliganj

Key Achievements of the Organization

- A total 3610 families has got homestead land entitlement with joint ownership (under name of women and men together)
- A total sum of 18,492 applications (12,168 applications exclusively submitted by women) has submitted for homestead land in 12 districts.
- A total 2567 Acres land of Bhoodan has been occupied by beneficiaries
- A total 3685 Acres land of Bhoodan has been re-distributed and ensured legal ownership to the beneficiaries (mostly landless community)
- A total 1250 Acres land of Agricultural has been occupied and now under farming by marginal farmers
- A total no of 456 Mutual Help Group (MHG) have saved Rs.10,24,368 as a community asset. About 150 MHG have linked with Bank controlled by 1560 Dalit woman.
- Village unit [Community Based Organizations] were established in 760 villages with 15200 members. They have contributed a total membership fund amounts to Rs 1,52,000.
- Applications for 8,650 families for job cards were processed through the organization and 6,540 were received. Out of this 813 people got job for 10 to 15 days.
- 2560 Dawa Patra has been expected under FRA for verifications.
- The Block level Mahila Manch committees resolved 156 cases of women's rights issues and violations at the community level.
- The 'State Land Reforms Commission' has come after many demonstration and successful dialogue with the State; PGVS is one of the key organization played this role along with allies.
- PGVS has done land mapping in six districts with Praxice and published a report.
- PGVS has also published another book of Success Story called "landlessness and social justice".
- PGVS is the active allies of various land rights campaign at State as well as national level i.e. during Janadesh 2007 (organized by Ekta Parishad and 200 other social organizations), about 5000 people were mobilized by PGVS. This foot march get significant success in pressurizing the Central government for announcement of Forest Rights Act and a National Land Reforms Council which focused to ensure land rights to the excluded communities.

Key Achievements:

- Set up of land rights front (Bhumi Adhikar Morcha) in all 18 districts of Bihar, which is connected with approximately 1000 villages (as a community based organization). These fronts are led by community leaders of excluded community.

- The set up of Mahila Manch (Women Forum) which focused women land rights campaign at local as well as State level based on extensive membership of 5000 women in Bihar. This also linked with the national campaign for women land rights.
- Being a People's Movement for the socio-political development of Mushar community, PGVS get significant success for building leadership base of this community with a large strength of 2000 people in Bihar; which is also linked with the Dalit Rights Movement at national level.
- PGVS has successfully organized several 'Youth & Development Camps' in Bihar, which always resulted in 'Village Development Plan' like Ahar-Pyne Rejuvenation in South Bihar. This brought about 8000 acres of barren land under productive for agriculture in Gaya, Nalanada, Nawada and Jahanabad districts.

Our Partners

PGVS has been getting support from many NGOs, INGOs, and other local agencies for organizing and empowering grassroots communities:

1. Action Aid - Development Area Project
2. Oxfam & Novib- Netherlands - Re-build Bihar Programme
3. Oxfam (I) - Post Flood Program
4. Swiss League - Empowerment of women and girls of Musahar community
5. Action Aid - Drought Action and Advocacy program

Name of the Project	Funded by/ Name of the Donor	Duration of Project (From Year- To Year)	Total Budget in INR	Coverage (State, District, Block)
DA Project	Action Aid	2004 to 2013	33,13, 358-00 for the year 2010	Bihar, Patna, Paliganj& Bikram
Re-building Bihar program	Oxfam - Novib	2003 to 2011	87,41,225-00 for the year 2010-2011	13 districts, 21 blocks
Post-flood advocacy program	Oxfam- Novib	Dec 2008 to May 2010	47,000,00-00 On going	3 Districts, 4 Block
Empowerment of Musahar woman& girls	Swiss league	2006 to going on	4,06,291-00 for the year 2010	1 district, 1 block
Drought Action & Advocacy Program in Bihar	Action Aid	One year	7,74,500-00	1 district, 2 blocks

Development Action Program

Supported by Action Aid - RO-PATNA

Action Aid has been working here in partnership with local organization, PGVS (Pragati Gramin Vikas Samiti) since 2004 in 60 villages of Bikram and Paliganj blocks of Patna district of Bihar. We are working to improve the lives of more than 3000 families of 'Musahars' the most deprived marginalized and unprivileged community in Bihar. This community stands in the bottom of the development hierarchy. They are discriminated by educationally, economically and socially. The majority of Mushahars lived without any legal entitlement of homestead or agricultural land. They are being used by the upper class of the society for their agricultural needs. Poverty is a major factor that discriminates amongst people. It leads to a lot of problems for the people with respect to livelihood, education or general survival in the society; it triggers the problems of child labour and bonded labor.

It is known that certain castes in our society enjoy the status, dignity and resources where as others are downtrodden and deprived section. For example, all the rights and resources are meant for the upper castes such as the establishment of schools, temples, water pumps etc. and the Dalits basti is deprived of such facilities. It is also seen that in most villages, a number of lives lost are those of the lower caste people due to social division and problems emanating due to it.

About the Project:

Basic information about the DA/DI:

Evolution, Vision, Mission and Objectives and background of leadership of the Organization

Pragati Gramin Vikas Samiti (PGVS), a non-governmental organization was registered in 1988 under the Societies Registration Act of 1860. The organization is also registered under Section 12 A of the Income Tax Act.

It was started as a group of social activists in the year 1985, and has been working among socially disadvantaged and subjugated Musahar (SC) community in four blocks of Patna. The founder members of the organisation are also associated with Ekta Parishad, a peoples' organisation of repute. The organisation has been working on the issue of land rights for dalits and control of community over natural resources since inception. The founder member of the organisation was also associated with Chatra Yuva Sangharsh Wahini, a youth cadre facilitated by Loknayak Jai Prakash Narain.

PGVS has its registered office at Naubatpur, Patna and adm-office is situated at west bailey road, Patna. It has also block offices in Bikram and Paliganj blocks

where the DA villages are located.

Vision: To work for the most marginalized and vulnerable sections of society to ascertain dignity, equity and equality, rights and justice.

Aim and Philosophy: PGVS believes that development is a process of socio-economic progress, which is best achieved through active participation of the people. PGVS emphasizes building on the resources of the people by increasing their knowledge, skills and economic strength thereby enabling them to manage the issues affecting their lives. The efforts are towards conscientious development process.

Core Principles:

- Promoting the interests and rights of the poorest of the poor.
- Ensuring gender equity and gender justice.
- Being truly participative (programmatically and financially) and collaborative.
- Being responsive and sensitive to various development and rights issues.

Brief description of the organisation's association with Action Aid

The first financial support to the organisation was extended in the form of NF Project in the year 2002 for one year. Project has shown outstanding achievement during the NF period. Appraisal for long-term partnership was conducted in the year 2003 and the long-term initiative was started in February, 2004. The main issues taken up under the project are homestead land, livelihood, food security, education of children, and dignity of the dalit community.

Background of the project:

Project locations (block, district, state)	Bikram and Paliganj Blocks of Patna District, Bihar
Number of villages covered directly under the project	60 Villages
Number of families under direct coverage	3502
Total population under direct project coverage	17729
Female	8708
Male	9021
Persons with Disability** (Male and Female)	143
Social Group, the project works with (Dalits/Tribals/ Muslims/Women/Urban Poor/Informal Sector Labour/MBCs (fisherfolk) etc.	Dalits
Specific Partner communities within the	Dalit Musahar

Social Group	
<u>Key Rights based theme focus of the project</u>	• Right to Food and Livelihood • Right to Dignity • Right to Education • Right to Health and • Women's Rights
Year of start of project	2004
Year of Perspective & Strategy Document	Perspective Document I 2005
Year of Program Review	2008
Year of Withdrawal Plan	2011
Year of Impact Assessment & Exit Audit	2013
Case History level	650
Funding Agreement (Yes/No)	<i>Yes</i>
Year of expiry of funding agreement	2011

ARRP and its findings:

Major interventions and outcomes (Theme wise):

Plan 2010 of PGVS was focused on four rights. These were

- Right to food and livelihood
- Right to education
- Right to dignity
- Right to health

In addition to these, child rights, women's right and that of the people living with disability are included.

Right to food and livelihood

Musharhars have been denied from all resources of livelihood since time immemorial. Our organization had initiated some right to food and livelihood activities among Musharhars. Formation of the grain banks, revolving of village fund, livelihood support, and focus on NREGS etc were the main activities during the year. This year campaign for land NREGS was given importance.

The main objectives of these activities were

- To ensure issuance distribution of Grain under Antyodaya Scheme amongst all mushahar families who got Antyodaya Card.
- To ensure the issuance of job cards to all families of Mushars under NREGS

- To ensure 100 days job under NREGs to all families
- To prevent hunger/starvation deaths in the DA villages
- To reduce dependence of the Mushahar communities on moneylenders in the DA villages o priority basis

In the year 2010 PGVS had continued its activities under the theme to ensure the livelihood options for the poor community. Through PDS activities there were 5010 card holders received food grains and 358 card holders whose card were with the dealer was released. Under Antyodaya Anna Yojana 3810 card holders received food grain and 881 card holders whose card was with the dealers were released. The new applications submitted for job under MNERGA 4625 House hold, 4432 Households got jobs, 5269 job seekers applied for work, 3870 job seekers got work. In the support of Cahndhosh- Paliganj Help Centre 15 labourers got their delayed payment. 1234 persons enrolled in Old age pension scheme and 791 persons are receiving old age pension. Grain banks are fully functional in all the DA villages.

Change occurred	Change occurred in the lives of women and girls	Indicators
Antyodaya Anna yojana	Women and girls are consuming sufficient food grains	Regularization of distribution under the scheme
NREGA	Enhancement of self confidence and income	Now they able to get work near their villages
Hunger Deaths stopped	Ample food stored in Grain banks	Grain banks are functional in all villages

Right to education

- To ensure 90% enrollment of the children in the schools and 60% retention
- To increase enrolment of girl children by 60 %
- To ensure Govt. schools made functional

Change occurred	Change occurred in the lives of women and girls	Indicators
Enrollment of children	Children are living neat & clean and their mother are now happy that their children are going to school	85% children are going school

Girl children	Enhancement of confidence among girl children	75% girls children are going to schools regularly
Govt. Schools	Now they are demanding that schools should open regularly the parents are now realizing the education as a right	40 schools are fully functional and MDM became regular

Right to Health

Making Government PHCs/HSCs functional

Ensuring all Mushahar families access to government health facilities in the DA Area

Change occurred	Change occurred in the lives of women and girls	Indicators
Govt. PHC	Women and girls are now aware of the reproductive health, now they are accepting health as a right	70% of the RCH made functional Rogi Kalyan meeting held at a regular intervals
Mushahars are preferring to go to hospitals	The Mushahars going to hospitals during illness	Now they are aware about the non curable HIV/AIDS infection and reproductive health and other infectious diseases
Sanitation	Cleanliness now is a priority for them. They clean their houses daily.	Now their houses became clean and clothes too.

Right to Dignity:

Right to dignity has been conceptualized as most important in the case of Dalits. Despite all constitutional provisions dalits are facing exclusion, atrocities and untouchability.

- Strengthening of Mushahar Vikas Manch and Mahila Ekta Manch at block and district level.
- Organization of Dalits and alliance building at intra state and inter level for amplifying their voices

- Organization of Dalit sammelans, samman samaroh, padyatra, rally and other sensitization and agitation activities
- Meetings, interface with other dalit organizations for alliance building and expressing solidarity at the time of need
- Legal support to Musahars to fight against atrocities
- Ensure legal literacy to Musahars in the project area
- Legal intervention to ensure women's rights and that of the people living with disability
- Monitoring of discrimination with dalits in schools and other social occasions
- To ensure dignity of Musahar community in the society

Change occurred	Change occurred in the lives of women and girls	Indicators
Strengthening of MVM	Participation of Musahars in Dharna, Padyatras	MVM functional at village to state level
Mahila Ekta Manch	Linkage with bank through SHG under SGSY	SHG functional in 60 villages
Activities regarding right to dignity	Raising of voices united through rallies and padyatras, samelan.	Sensitization of Media Boycott of Bhoj

Women's and girls Right

Change occurred	Change occurred in the lives of women and girls	Indicators
Campaign for women land right	Demonstration at block level and state level on land right by the name of women	Self confidence developed now the women group managing grain banks, farming by themselves.
Fight against atrocities	Raising voices against the discrimination women are facing in the society	Many cases solve and registered in Police stations
Campaigning against VAG	They are raising their rights and atrocities through drawing and	No of girls has been participated in programs conducted by the

	seminars	organization and at community level
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Few Success Stories after the intervention on Action Aid

Economic Liberty to live life with dignity

Through PGVS & Action Aid started forming SHGs among Women group of the most deprived section of the society e.g. Musahars in Bikram & Paliganj. The saving attitude developed among the women and they demanded for at least one Goat to each family. Keeping this in mind PGVS & Action Aid decided to support financially to the SHG members. PGVS & Action Aid has distributed goats in the project area e.g. 60 villages of Vikram and Paliganj blocks of Patna district. There were 20 goats distributed in each village to support 20 families in the villages in four years and phase wise. Initially the 1200 goats distributed and it reached up to 2659 through returning of one goat to the organization. The idea was to support the family in revolving manner that they could earn money out of this livestock. The Goat milk is useful for the children and to ensure the nutrition among children. Now this support helped the families to have a dignified life in the society.

Case Study Now I have liberty to spend my money

"Thanks to Action Aid and PGVS that, now I have right to earn money of my own and right to spend it of my own. The workers of PGVS show me the path to release my husband from bonded labour." These are the words of Rajkumari Devi(38) wife of Dukhit Manjhi(40), a resident of Bara Village, Benibigha Panchayat of Bikram Block of Patna District, who lives with her husband and 4 children Inder Kumar (10-male) in std -III, Sugamani (6-female) in std-I, Rudal Kumar (4- male) in ICDS, Suhagi (Female -1 year) and eldest daughter Runa got married last year.

She recalls, before my marriage my father in law was working as bonded labour in land lord's house. He was borrowed only 10,000/- rupees for treatment that money became so substantial that my father in law was died working whole day and night in the land lord's house, and unable to repay the amount of interest even. After his death my husband started working at 8years of age in place of my father in law. When I came to this house as a newly married bride I found my husband is working as a bonded and there is no income as such to survive. After a day long work in the field and feeding the cattle my husband was just able to bring only 2 Kgs. of Paddy for us. He worked under a land lord for 10 years then again he worked for another 20 years under another land lord. We were completely dependant on the land lord's kindness. Many a time I slept empty stomach with my children. The life of suffering

was too long after my marriage she explains with tears in her eyes.

She adds the workers of PGVS gave me 2000/- rupees to purchase livestock. From that money I purchased one pig @ 1000/-rupees and one Goat @ 1000/-rupees. The goat was alive but the pig died. From that goat I obtain many goats and sold it in a good amount in the market. I return one goat to the other member of our group. From this money I released my husband from the trap of bonded after 30 years of sufferings.

Now I have liberty to work any where and at a good wage condition. Now I send my children to schools. I take care of my goats, and by selling them I will be able to get a buffalow.

She continues when she became the part of SHG and saved a certain amount in the group. This saving attitude gave her strength to save money and released her husband. Now, she is able to purchase food and clothes for her family.

Rajkumari concludes, "This sort of initiatives can be helpful for poor people to free from the traps. Economic strength gives confidence to live life with dignity."

Feeling proud to be the first generation to get own land

About 35 lacs of population of Bihar are Mushahars, but they stand in the bottom of the development hierarchy. They are discriminated by socially. The majority of Mushar lived without any legal entitlement of homestead or agricultural land. They are thrown in the fringes of villages without basic amenities even drinking water.

In this regard the Govt. distributed home stead land to Musahar community of Khanpura of Paliganj Block. The Govt. has not distributed the land to all the members of the community. The Govt. functionaries were unable to present on the day of land distribution, so they distributed the land among 64 families. Started living on the land made up of the temporary houses. Again the Govt. functionaries distributed the land equally to the community. Now the community feels proud to be owner of the land. They named the Village as Ekta Nagar, which means united. Through this they have shown their unity.

This year 152 families of Musahar community of Bikram and Paliganj Block got 3 dismal homestead land each.

Case Study

The understanding of development and its need encourage them to ask for their

rights. The struggle for land in the Karanpura village of Madhama Panchayat of Paliganj Block of Patna district put a recognizable smile over faces of 15 women from Mushahar families entitled by 3 decimal of homestead land by their names. Initially the government surveyed that there are only 101 families are Dalits but after the intervention of Action Aid and PGVS, it was found through a base line survey that there are 542 families belonging to Dalit Community.

"Feeling proud to have our own land, it augmented our social dignity"

Initially the women of this community developed saving attitude among them by forming of Self Help Groups. The feeling of land less ness bound them together in such a way that they protest against the Govt. and asked for their land right. At last the Govt. purchase a land of 45 decimal and distributed among the land less Dalits of the village by the name of women. Sanchi Devi, wife of Vijay Manjhi mother of 3 children feels proud to be the first person to have land by her name. She adds "now onwards my husband can't threat me to leave his house. I am feeling safe by having the land by my name. I am feeling more confident rather before."

All the fifteen women wish that the work of Action Aid and PGVS may continue, so that more and more women of our community could be able to fight for the land of their own. We do believe the right of a woman on land can protect her from domestic and social violence. It has direct relation with the social dignity of a woman.

I am Sahnti Kumari, an 8 year old girl reading in STD III in the village school. I live in Karanpura village with my parents and brothers and sisters. My mother Ranju Devi (28) feels proud to be the first generation to get the land of her own. My Father Gajendra Manjhi (32) is an agricultural daily wage laborer unable to get a regular wage to feed the family. Many times he has to migrate in search of work. The land where they were staying is belonging to the land lord. Being staying in the land lord's land my parents have to work in their fields without any wage. Sometimes they engage me for some domestic work. For this I was unable to attend the school for my studies.

"I am happy because I can stay at school and keep my friends. At school we are getting meals at midday and have had a Balmela recently organized by PGVS & Action Aid. Our parents now understand how important education is." These are the words of Shanti Kumari and the child you sponsor, an eight year old girl from Paliganj. Now Ranju is feeling happy & the land entitlement enhancing her social status too. Many families living in Paliganj find difficulties to get work at a near by places. Therefore, parents often migrate ending their children's education. Your kind sponsorship of a child here in Paliganj Block is helping to change this. With

your donations, Action Aid and PGVS have been able to work with the Dalit community for their rights like Shanti Kumari's family.

Confidence built to ask for Rights

Previous year less rainfall caused drought again. So the level of migration increased day by day. MGNREGA is the Govt. initiative to check migration in drought prone areas. But the irregularities and improper implementation of the Act became biggest challenge for the community to get 100 days of employment under this. PGVS and Action Aid taken initiative and started 12 MGNREGA Help Centre to aware the community to get employment under MGNREGA. Apart from this the centre helped the community to get information related to other Govt. programs as well as social security schemes under Govt. programs. After this kind of intervention 4625 families applied for job card, 4432 families got job cards, 5269 families applied for job, 3870 got employment.

Case Study

Ranju Devi- 32, the widow of late Budhan Manjhi, of Paipur Village of Palignaj. After her husband's death she had the burden to feed 3 children Bali (12), Babita (6) and Guddu (5). The question of survival is still stirring with her as a shadow. Every day she has to think how to feed her children. In this circumstance she got information about the NREGA in her village. She added her name for job card and applied for 100 days job under NREGA. She along with other 43 persons of her village got work near the village. The work was for renovation of Pyane (water canals) and Panchayat Rojgar Sevak engaged them for 25 days, but till 20 days after the work they unable to get the payments. So they filed a case against the Pachayat Rojgar Sevak under labour inspector. After filing the case the Rojgar Sevak realized his mistake and tried to compromise with all 43 persons. He called all of us and paid the money in front of Mukhia. He wanted that we should withdraw the case. Mukhia also requested us in favour of the Rojgar Sevak and promise us that this sort of mistakes will never continue after this. So we decided to withdraw the case from the labour inspector.

Ranju Devi adds "we decided to withdraw the case, but now we are happy to receive our pending wage from Rojgar Sevak. From this onwards we will raise our voices against irregularities. So that no other person will dare to do such heinous work?"

Ekta Parishad Bihar **(Rebuild Bihar Programme)**

History of Ekta Parishad

Ekta Parishad is based on Gandhian Philosophy - Non Violence (Ahimsa), Local self Governance (Gram Swaraj), Local Self Reliance (swineherd), and Responsible



Governed. With this view it wants to build new society which is free from all the evils. A society which is free of hunger, poverty, a society where everyone lives with dignity. For this it has organized deprived section of population into two complimentary streams. Firstly, it brings the people together to fight for livelihood right. And secondly, it develops community based on economic system that enables local self

sufficiency.

Since 1992 four NGO's PGVE, Prayas, Lok Jagran and Arpan had been championing the cause of the EP Bihar. During the Padyatra processes leading role of the NGOs. During the period leading up to 2001 it was PGVS that played the major lead role.

PGVS and EP are working since the project started with serious efforts through the Rebuild Bihar Programme. Some tangible headway had been made in the program areas especially by way of successful non-violent peoples' action by communities. Though the situation of landlessness, land ownership and occupancy irregularities still persist and contributed greatly towards the impoverishment of rural Bihar, some benefits have accrued from organizational program like processing of land claims by the poor, acquiring of homestead and occupancy of Bhoodan land and registration of tenancy.

PGVS & EP are actively associated with many other social organizations and land rights movements at State as well as National level. The all efforts focused towards land rights of marginalized communities. Being an active member of Ekta Parishad (a land rights movement) in Bihar, PGVS has successfully carried many foot marches, mass demonstrations and people's consultation in alliance with other social organizations. PGVS also promote and strengthen the campaign of women land

rights at State as well as National level under the umbrella of Ekta Parishad.

Ekta Parishad organized a long Padyatra went through six districts of Bihar e.g. Jamui, Nawada, Nalanda, Gaya, Jehanabad and Patna in Bihar from 11 September 2001 to 11 Oct. 2001 forerunner to "Re-building Bihar Programme". Padyatra passed through about 600 villages holding public meeting where local people spoke about problem and openly voiced their grievances.

An Ekta Parishad backtracking after the Padyatra came out with a plan training Youth "For Peace and Development". Between two year 2002-2003 for youth sharam dan camps of ten days with 400 youth participant in each camp. They were highly successful and Sharam dan work to improve access to water for drinking and Irrigation were carried out at four sites.



Vision & Mission of Ekta Parishad

The establishment of a global order based on "Jai Jagat" through People's control over land and livelihood resources, empowerment of the poor, dispossessed and Adiwasic community.

Project Background

Pilot 2003-05 Project of Rebuild Bihar Programme

Pilot I (April 2003 to March 2004)

PGVS -EP Bihar started working in partnership with Novib - Netherland to implement "Re-building Bihar Programme" initially for a period of two years from April 2003 to March 2005.



Ekta Parishad is the people's organization to take first incentive in the field of conducting Morchas. Formation of Morchas is to raise the issues of grass-root level and formed pedestal platforms composed for the community. The basic idea behind this strategy was to effect local level mobilization and advocacy through people's action on local issues.

Morchas named as per the local emerging and right based issues. These Morchas were formed to help people to fight for their rights on the priority of local issues.

Sl.	Name of morchas	Local issues	Geographical location		
			Block	Vill. No	Dist.
1	Awasiy Bhumihin Morcha	Homestead land	Bihata	40	Patna
2	Mahila Bhumi Adhikar Morcha	Women land right	Naubatpur	40	
3	Bhumi Adhikar Morcha	Land Right Campaign	Phulwarisarif	40	
4	Bhudan Kisan Morcha	Bhudan Land Redistribution	Bakebazar	40	Gaya
5	Prasaper Sawalamban Morcha	Economics Programme	Khijarsaray	40	
6	Mohane Nonai Sangharas Morcha	Water Irrigation	Parawalpur	40	Nalanda
7	Tarakol Dam Nirman Morcha	Water Irrigation	Kawakol	40	Nawada
8	Dharaut Nahar Nirman Morcha	Water Irrigation	Makhdumpur	40	Jehanabad
9	Grahi Bandh Visthapit Morcha	Displacement - Forest land	Khaira	40	Jamui

Pilot II Phase (April 2004 to March 2005)

A recent review showed that an operational plan for action be undertaken in following areas in Patna, Jehanabad, Nalanda, Nawada, Jamui districts. Simultaneously Contact and build up action be initiated in three northern Bihar dist. Muzafferpur, Samastipur, West Champaran and Arwal.

I Phase 2005-08

First Phase (April 2005 to March 2006)

And new concept of PGVS is a focus village every work panchayat. That is 75 Focus villages on year 2005-2006. Total work village 482 and 80 Panchayat.

Second Phase (April 2006 to March 2007)

Under the new strategies, in 2005, the working region of Ekta Parishad has been increased. Ekta Parishad has been working in 15 Constituencies 10 Districts. They are Patna, Nalanda, Jehanabad, Gaya, Nawada, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, W.

Champan, Jamui, and Arval. The names of the constituencies are: Noubatpur, Fulwari, Maner, and Danapur (Patna), Imamganj, Belaganj, Atri (Gaya), Makhdumpur (Jehanabad, Govindpur (Nawada), Islampur, (Nalanda) Kurtha (Arval), Kurhni (Muzaffarpur), Sarairanjan (Samastipur), Bagaha (W.Champan). Later Kurtha (Arval) was placed to PACS in 2006-2008 displacing it from Rebuild Bihar Campaign.

Third Phase (April 2008 to March 2009)

The change of area RBP

2006-07	Drop Block	New Add Block 2007-2008-9	
Noubatpur	Sarairanjan	Warisnagar	Noubatpur
Bagaha	(Samastipur)	Sahar (Bhojpur)	Bagaha
(W.Champan)	Makhdumpur	Kurtha (Arval)	(W.Champan)
Sarairanjan	(Jehanabad)	Raffiganj	Warisnagar
(Samastipur)	Imamganj	Ghoshi	Kurhni (Muzaffarpur)
Kurhni (Muzaffarpur)	Phulwari	Rajpur (Buxar)	Sahar (Bhojpur)
Kurtha (Arval)	Fatuha	Ramnagar	Islampur, (Nalanda)
Islampur, (Nalanda)		Bodhgaya	Govindpur (Nawada)
Govindpur (Nawada)			Kurtha (Arval)
Makhdumpur			Atri (Gaya)
(Jehanabad)			Belaganj
Atri (Gaya)			Raffiganj
Belaganj			Danapur (Patna),
Imamganj			Maner
Danapur (Patna),			Ghoshi
Maner			Rajpur (Buxar)
Phulwari			Ramnagar
Fatuha			Bodhgaya

Comparison of Last Seven Year Area Status

Sl	Activity	April 2003- March 2004	April 2004- March 2005	April 2005- March 2006	April 2006- March 2007	April 2007- March 2008	April 2008- March 2009	April 2009- March 2010	April 2010- Sep.2011
1	No. of District	6	6	9	9	9	15	15	15
2	No. of .Block	9	9	15	15	15	22	22	22
3	No. of Panchayat	45	45	80	80	75	122	122	140

4	No. Total Village	360	360	482	482	480	525	709	840
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II Phase 2008-11

Strategic Approach of RBP

- Mobilizing people and connecting them to a state wide land agenda
- campaigning for land right.
- Women and girls empowerment.
- Collective farming & Livelihood security and food security
- Community mobilization.

Land Right Achievement

Ekta Parishad - PGVS has been demanded to state government, to implement of recommendation Land Reform commission. Bihar government is rejecting of recommendation Land Reform commission.



Then a process of imitating a "Land Right campaign" was started through a series of meeting, advocacy and dialogues with member of the cadre group and community people in the village. Again it was realized that for an all round long term policy and practice change the land campaign had to have a deeper and wider approach then simply acquisition and distribution of land. Homeless and Landless

Homeless and landless were at the centre of the turmoil and violence that contributed greatly toward the impoverishment of rural Bihar. However people's woes did not stop at land but touched almost at aspect of community. In this contest the government had declared some years ago that it would purchases the land from such land owner and regularize it in favorer of homeless community.

Ekta Parishad is organizing poor communities to claim ownership of homestead land and identification through village survey & applied homeless application from mass action programmed.

The government is identification of only homeless musahar community. EP is regular mass action activity for pressure on government would purchases the land

distributes.

Vasgit Parcha

- 271 families got vasgit land parcha (20.91 dm.) in 25 villages.
- 4676 family application applied for vasgit land parcha in block.

Homestead Land

Ekta parishad is organizing Dalit communities to claim ownership of homestead land. The governments are Identification of through only Musahar village surveys and distribute 0.3dm.Land after purchase. EP is regular mass action Programme in block & state level for homestead land.

The New homestead application fill up and Submission status

	Particular	Total Status of	
		Appl.	Percentage (%)
	Total Working Village	840	
	Target Application	52500	
	No. of fill-up Application	27395	52.18
	No. of fill-up Application of village	479	57.02
Homestead	Submit Application in Block	9997	36.49
	No of Submit Application of vill.	193	1.93

Government action on old Application Status

- 157 Musahar families got home Land (0.3dm.Land) Parched & mutation raid of 6 villages. (Kurahani , Buxer)
- 5465 Musahar family identification of application for home land (0.3dm.Land) of 173 villages in work area.

Forest land

- 4005 Family application applied for occupy forest land in 35 village (Khaira & Sikandra Block in Jamui district and Bagaha in West champaran)
- 3314 FRA are approved the Gram Sabha in 6 panchayat (khaira and Sikandra -Block)
- 882 Acrea Forest land Kabja from Dalit and Adiwasi Community Jamui & West champaran District.

Bhudan Land

- 186 Application given the Bhudan and Block office For mutation.
- 72 Family are Bhudan Land Deed (Motation)

Case Study

I. Harishanker (Dardha)

II. Forest Land

Forest Right Act for Tribals - 2008 and the case filed against them by Forest Department



Though the Forest Right Act being implemented, but the Forest Department is still anguishing the tribes and Dalits. In Kariya Tola and Bahidad Village of Gahadi Panchayat of Kheira Block of Jamui district is victim of the same. In this village 58 families facing 229 numbers of cases filed by the department. The cases are filed against the elders of the

community as well

Tribal Forest Act - 2008 and case filed against the Tribals

After implementation of Forest Act, the forest Department continuously is harassing the Tribals and non Dalit community. In the Karia Tola and Byahidak village of Gadahi Panchayat of Kheira Block of Jamui District of Bihar is one of the victims. There are 229 cases have been filed against 58 families by the Forest Department here. In these cases there are children and elderly persons also included. In Chadkhar Panchayat 6 villages (like, Dipakarhar, Rupavel, Vardin, Pratappur, Mahegro, Sirsiya) there are 55 cases filed by forest department. The Forest Department filed 16 cases against few families from these villages.

In this context Ekta Parishad, Jamui - letter no - 06 Dated - 22.07.2005 met the District Magistrate and Forest Sub-divisional Officer and villagers submitted application. Again on 12 November 2009 there was another application submitted to withdraw on the cases on Tribals of Kheira Block. The forest department is occupying the land which is being used by the Tribals for the purpose of agriculture.

The detail description of the cases filed against the Tribals

Khaira Block		Patna District	
Sl.	Name of Panchayats	Name of Villages	No. of families of Number of Forest Cases
1.	Hadkhar	Dipakarhar	11
		Rupavell	2
		Bardaun	18
		Pratappur	8
		Mahegro	11
		Sirsiya	5
2	Girahi	Kariya Tola	58
Total		5	113
			284

- The status of Government intervention in Jamui District on Forest Act.

There was district level Committee formed under the Forest Act. No one was elected from the Organization as the member of this committee. There is no one from the organization in the Block level committee too. Till date no committee has been formed at Panchayat level.

- Bagaha (West Champaran)

The Tribals of the villages of Sirsiya Belhawa and Naurangiya jointly take up 200 Acares of land from Forest Department which was encroached by the forest department but in fact this land was being used as agricultural land by the inhabitants of these villages.

COLLECTIVE FARMING AND LIVELIHOOD SECURITY



In most of the villages and Tribal belts of Bihar major numbers of population is unable to get the basic need like food, clothes and shelter due to poverty as a cause the children felt ill frequently. Non availability of facility of health at a near by place easily the children are unable to get immunized and proper

treatment for their illness. There is contradiction among the food grain and the starvation as Government is saying that there is ample food grains stocked in the Storages but again there is starvation without availing grains showing the incapability of the Govt. To stop starvation the initiative of Collective Farming was emerged as a solution for the most deprived section of the community. To encourage Collective Farming Ekta Parishad is giving training on management of natural resources under the Rebuilt Bihar Program.

The Role of Agricultural laborers

There is a biggest contribution by the agricultural laborers in the field of farming from the time immemorial. From the food security of the family to the national contribution on agriculture the contribution of these agricultural laborers are appreciated. From the starting of preparation of field, germination, care, management, storage and selling of the grains the agricultural laborers have bigger role at every level, which can not be denied. Here in Bihar the major number of population is dependant on agriculture. In agriculture there is a biggest need of physical labour. There is an important role of a labour by using traditional irrigation system from sowing to harvesting. Keeping this in view Ekta Parishad promoted Collective farming by trained them by using local natural resources for new revolution in the field of agriculture.

Why Collective Farming?

The collective farming has been started in the unfertile lands available in the locality by the homeless and land less Dalit Population. From which they will be able to feed their families and secure their livelihood. From this security the level of confidence and self employment will be increased as well as the economic security will be ensured.

Benefits of Unorganized Agricultural laborers

Through collective farming the share croppers, unskilled persons will be trained on management of local natural resource management,

which will be helpful for them to be skilled farmer. They will learn how to preserve the natural resources like water, land and forest.

Till date these land less and homeless community is identified as agricultural laborers. Though these communities are dependant on agriculture but they are unable to secure the livelihood for the whole year. The communities help the whole country to secure the food for its citizen but it is too difficult for him to secure his own food security and livelihood too. Due to landlessness they are unable to secure the food for themselves.

If the landless and homeless population will have land of their own, they have their own labour to do cultivation which will be helpful to food security. With the importance of agriculture and labour power they can establish a new social life for themselves.

Case Study:

DEVNARAYAN NAGAR

The women group has taken initiatives for the economic liberty for their families.

DEVNARAYAN NAGAR is a tola under the revenue village of Baruhi Panchayat of Sahara Block of Bhojpur district. It is situated in a distance of 4 Km. from the block head quarter. Sone Nahar is in its East and its flowing from South to North. This Nahar is started flowing from Harpur Block and ended in Sandesh Block.

The land on which the whole village is established was donated by the then MLA Mr. Devnarayan Singh. So the village was named by his name as Devnarayan Nagar. In Devnarayan Nagar Dom and Mushahar community are staying together. Among them 120 families are Mushahars and rest 10 families are belonging to Dom community. The total population of this tola is 625. Till date this community is excluded from main stream of the society and they treated as untouchables for other community. The State Government is also putting this community at a stair of Scheduled Caste / Dalits or sometimes in Mahadalit for political mileage. It is clearly visible that

they don't have clothes to wear and food to eat. The poverty of this community reflects from their living style.

Position of Government Programs:

The condition of Government programs is worst in this area. Neither these people got the facility of Antodaya or Ration. About 50 % of the population is not included in B.P.L. only 10 families included in B. P. L. list. Widow pension or Old Age pension is also not given to the beneficiaries.

Pragati and Ekta Parishad started working in these villages through Jagjagi Centres. In these centres girls from Mushahar Community get education. Besides this Women group Gram Ekai formed and women group started saving. Sima Devi, Shanti Devi, and Sunaina Devi lead the groups.

Process of Collective Farming

1. On 12 June 2008, Sindhu Sinha explained in Gram Ekai meeting on the Savings and its benefits and inspired the community on saving.
2. On 21st August 2008 Women Saving Groups formed and members started saving in the groups. Sima Devi became the secretary of this women group.
3. On 15th June 2009 it had been decided that group will go for collective Farming. There was lacking of funds for land on Patta, so 11 women members collected 100 rupees each. .30 Decimals land was prepared for collective farming.
4. There was .15 decimals land with the group in which they started potato cultivation; in 10 decimals land pulse was sowed. For seeds 10 members collected 250 rupees each.

Now after the harvesting the women members are so happy to see the potato and pulses. They harvest 8 quintal potato from which they keep some for their use and rest sold in the market. The group invested Rs. 1870 for this cultivation and benefited with Rs. 2130 from this cultivation. Now in

this land the pulse (Mung Dal) sowed. In 10 kattha land paddy sowed. Besides that the pulse cultivated in 10 decimals from which 80 kg masur harvested. Now women group is stepping forward to write the new economic liberty for

POST-FLOOD EXTENSION -- PEOPLES' RIGHTS ACTION FOR LIVELIHOOD SECURITY

EKTA PARISHAD – PRAGATI GRAMIN VIKAS SAMITY [EP-PGVS] – BIHAR

PROJECT PERIOD 01 December 2008 to 31 May 2010 [18 Months]

PROJECT NUMBER IDA-503792-0007618

PERIOD OF REPORTING 01 December 2008 to 31 May 2010 [18 Months]

their families. The children are now going to schools, the community became independent economically.

I as the young childrens too.

Post Flood Programme

Brief description on the project

Project Overview

EP-PGVS worked for the first time in Saharsa and Madhepura districts through relief activities with the dalit and minority communities in August 2008. And it was acquainted with relief work in Supaul through the activities of Oxfam GB and its local partners. It was the manner in which the floods were caused and their damaging after effect on land and livelihood are still issues directly relevant to the organisation's regular ongoing Rebuild Bihar Programme. Also, by 2008 Sep-Oct the govt had distributed 1 quintal wheat and 2250 Rs. to people in and around government relief camps and become silent. And civil society organisations had withdrawn their relief activities and not interested in raising further questions of relief and rehab.

In the course of the flood relief work EP-PGVS survey and interaction with the community has clearly shown that the disaster and subsequent water-logging aside the overall poverty situation in Saharsa, Supaul and Madhepura is so acute that it will be extremely difficult for over 75 per cent of the population to get back even to the pre-flood economic conditions. The situation was such that many areas remained water-logged and uncultivable till the end of the June-July 09 Kharif cropping season.

Also, there were vast tracts of cultivable fields that were inundated with sand brought by the flood waters, and also a large portion completely cut and washed away. Though the government kept promising reclamation of such areas practically nothing materialised. The total estimated area so affected is 300,000 hectares in the three districts. Moreover, the pre-flood watercourses and canals still lie in an unusable state. For these reasons the Rabi crop of the year 2008-09 was a near

complete failure.

In contrast to floods of 2008 the monsoon failed miserably and the region remained dry in 2009 monsoons, and now towards the end of the 2010 summer season the position and status of agriculture in the region remains dismal as a majority of cultivating families remain dependent on migratory labour for survival.

The quantum and scope of the rehabilitation process is so large that the government has to be involved in financing the infrastructure re-building process. The government started an assessment process [that included video photography] in the affected areas through the 'Bihar State Flood Relief and Rehabilitation Department' from January to March 2009.

Reportedly this entire process was rife with corruption of a bizarre nature. Videographers and surveyors expected and demanded payment from families to have their damages recorded and their names listed for compensation. However, where EP Village Ekais were operational this process was thwarted and the Ekais ensured that eligible beneficiaries were recorded. In January 2009 the surveyors in collusion with the Gram Sevak had collected Rs. 200 per household in Sakua and Chekatola villages in Murliganj for this recording but a combined protest and gherao by the EP Gram Ekai members resulted in having this money returned to every family.

In spite of this a large number of eligible families were simply not recorded. Moreover, it is not clear how the information collected and the video records were used for future planning if at all.

The government used this list to good effect and promises and part distributions were overflowing the region as the run up to the April-June 2009 General elections began - "Food and rations would be provided to the flood victims for the next six months; every labourer will be given work; skill training will be provided to all youth in the area; houses better than the ones destroyed will be constructed; full compensation for crop losses will be given; all fields will be cleared of sand deposits; all those who lost trade and business will be compensated fully; all students will be provided compensatory stipends; all those who lost livestock will be amply compensated. A new stream of development will be launched for entire Kosi region. A new arising will take place. This area will become a model", etc. etc. appeared almost daily in the media.

But soon as the elections were over in June with people reinstating the parties in governance in the hope of continuing rehab and compensation, the Government declared that the process had been duly and satisfactorily completed and no further needs of the people remained and by August-September 2009 the Block offices were preparing to 'close the files'.

However, EP-PGVS had conducted its own detailed 'Post-Flood Damage & Needs Assessment Survey' from April 2009. And even before the provisional report was ready in December 2009 it had become apparent that the State process had been ad hoc, irregular and incomplete. And through its various mass based peoples' action programmes the Parishad began to highlight the lacunae among the people and in the media. From January 2009, a month after the EP programme began, the run up activities, political manoeuvring and posturing had started in preparation of the national General Elections in March-April.

This issue began to be revisited and the Chief Minister finally undertook public programme to take stock of poverty situation in the State through a "*Viswas Yatra*" [Awareness March]. During 19th to 21st May 2010 he was in the Kosi flood affected districts with the initial idea of assuring people that those who had received only part compensation would be paid the full amount soon. However, EP local units made it abundantly clear that not all eligible families had been covered in the government list and raised the demand that all those who were left out [but appear in the EP Survey list] should be included for rehab and compensation.

The Chief Minister had to finally agree to do so and in some Panchayats this new listing has been started by the local administration. The CM's promises after his "*Viswas Yatra*" have kindled new hope but people are well aware of the need to organise and continue to press the State for their right to land, livelihood and basic minimum services and take up micro level reconstruction work through community organisational action and dialogue. This becomes all the more important in the light of the fact that Bihar State Government has drawn an assurance of INR 80 million 'assistance' [800 Crores] from World Bank and an assessment team is visiting the region from 25th May to 04th June 2010.

There is a deep seated and long standing anger evident among the people of North Bihar as a result of loss and suffering visited on them continually year after year from unending floods and water logging. This abated somewhat with the hope that rehab and compensations would be addressed seriously through the government survey and ensuing electoral promises. When these began to go awry the frustrations of the people resurfaced and can still take violent dimensions in the near future like the incident at Birpur in Supaul where police and protesting flood victims clashed violently on 18th February 2010.

It was in this context that EP-PGVS chose to continue an extension project in the area to focus on peoples' right to proper relief and rehabilitation with support from Oxfam-Novib and Oxfam-India from December 2008. EP non-violent peoples' action prevented the issues from being buried and local unrest going out of hand in the region.

Starting with Padayatra on 20th February 2009 it maintained the tempo of the peoples' campaign putting on pressure at the right moments through a series of non-violent organised mass actions right up to May 2010.

Strategically EP-PGVS operated simultaneously through organisation and mobilisation at local/micro [village, Panchayat and Block] and through dialogue and advocacy at state, national and international levels. Therefore local grassroots Ekta units have been formed at village level to merge these communities with the Ekta Parishad Land and Livelihood Campaign at State and National level.

Details of strategies, processes, activities and their outcomes and impacts are provided in the different sections of this report.

Area Coverage & Organisation Building under the Programme

	HH	Membership	Villages	G. Ekais	GP	Blocks	Districts
Proposed	6,790	35,000 ¹	77	90	7	4	3
Project	8,892	50,000 ¹	95	163	16	4	3
End							
%	130	166	123	181	242	-	-
Increase							

¹ *Membership numbers are in excess of project beneficiary population as EP membership drive was extended to many town areas in the 4 Blocks and also villages outside project area.*

The above table indicates the achievements on area and community coverage at the end of the project period of 18 months from December 2008 to May 2010 in relation to coverage estimated at the time of project proposal.

EP-PGVS successfully mobilised flood affected communities through formation of Gram Ekais in villages, and Block Committees in blocks to press for rehabilitation and reconstruction work directly through over 8,500 household [50,000 EP membership] from 95 villages in 19 Gram Panchayats. Some of these villages [though not all] are those where flood relief activities had been undertaken by EP-PGVS with Oxfam Novib and Rangoonwala Foundation in Saharsa and Madhepura, and Oxfam GB in Supaul.

Indirectly this strategy attracted large numbers of people in other villages in adjoining Blocks. These villages also got an opportunity to voice their grievances by participating in Block level mass action programmes like public hearings, rallies and meetings where they placed their applications for rehabilitation and compensation to the government and administration officials directly and now have their own Gram Ekai units. This is the reason why there has been a manifold increase in the final count of organisational strength at the grassroots.

Stated Objectives of the Project

- Conduct a "Damage & Need Assessment Survey" of programme area and publish a findings report along with recommendations to State Government.
- Community organisation through awareness building on government promises for rehabilitation, and their right to livelihood, shelter and land.

- c. Mobilising communities to press for swift repair of breached embankment and formulation and declaration of State Flood Control and Rehabilitation policy.
- d. Advocacy to back up community demands and action through networking and linkage with other organisations and agencies.

Report of Activities, Outcomes and Achievements

[AS PER MILESTONES OF THE PROJECT]

DAMAGE ASSESSMENT SURVEY

Outcomes:

By May 2010, 6790 families in 77 villages in Saharsa, Madhepura and Supaul will be listed in the village level damage assessment survey and will get compensation as per the CRF norms and "Kosi Flood: Relief and Rehabilitation Policy 2008" especially in terms of housing, agriculture, livestock, loss of life.

Milestones:

- Damage Assessment Survey will be completed by May 2009.
- 50 per cent [3000 families] would have received compensation as per the Survey list by January 2010.

In January 2009 a draft format was prepared by the Resource Team and tested in the field and modifications incorporated as required. This survey was of a delicate and critical nature as the claims being recorded had to be authenticated and verified while taking care to ensuring that no affected family were excluded. Following the failure of the 2008 Rabi crop many families had migrated to fend for themselves even till March 2009. These people began to return in March-April following the confirmation of Lok Sabha elections in from the third week of April.

By this time EP-PGVS had put together a team of workers who would conduct the survey. They were provided a two-days training and orientation on the needs, expected outcomes and technique of the survey. This was followed by a one day meetings covering village clusters organised by the trained workers to introduce the survey among the community leaders of the EP organisation and at the same time enlisted the participation of selected cadres to conduct the survey.

The surveyors moved from house to house in each village interviewing heads of households and family members and taking their signature and/or thumbprints on each format when done. Throughout this process a group of local residents moved with the surveyors clamouring for their turn and/or participating in the process by confirming or refuting the claims of the interviewees.

What emerged as priority in the minds of the people showed that the damage and needs could be prioritised as follows:

- Crop damages

- Loss of daily earning and livelihood
- Erosion and sand filling of agriculture plots
- Loss of livestock
- Health complications and lack of treatment services and facilities
- Loss of human lives

In December 2009 a draft provisional report and list of beneficiaries was prepared and taken back to the villages and used for awareness building purpose to help people file their claims to the government and administration. Of the total 8892 families surveyed 8086 families received one or more kind [category] of relief or compensation leaving 806 families who received absolutely nothing at all. However, no family received their full dues of compensation either category wise or in totality.

	Housing	Crop	Land	Livestock	Human	Grain	Cash
Families	2,757	541	238	373	17	8086	8086
Compensation	10,081,800	16,422,570	949,070	37,30,000	1,750,000	12,937,600	12,937,600

A detailed list "Damage & Compensation" received is attached as Annex - 1

By December 2009 EP-PGVS had also completed a survey and report of 'Flood Disaster Damage Compensation' actually disbursed and identified gaps and excluded families. These two reports together became the most important documents that helped mobilise peoples' action and opinion that forced the government to admit that its claims of the issue and task of relief and rehabilitation were satisfactorily completed was premature and unwarranted.

1. DISASTER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES

Outcomes:

By May 2010, out of the 77 villages the 30 most vulnerable villages will be better prepared to face future emergencies especially floods and also have 30 fully capacitated village level Disaster Management Committees in place (with at least 33% women's membership). The DMC members will be trained in disaster awareness raising, life saving skills such as search and rescue, first aid, dissemination of early warning systems, executing relief operations and post disaster activities like damage and need assessment for demanding government compensation claims.

Milestones:

- One person as Trainer-Coordinator and one person as Assistant Co-ordinator [one woman] will be selected by 15 February 2009.

- By September 2009 all 30 village level DMC will have been formed.

During the Survey 30 most vulnerable villages were identified mostly those that had been inundated when banks and embankments along rivers and canals had caved in and were lying un-repaired or temporarily shored up. Village level Disaster Management Teams [DMT] were formed in these villages in 3 Blocks of Saharsa and Madhepura districts. Each village team consists of 20 young men and women with different responsibilities to address flood disasters if and when it occurred. At that time danger still existed of the Kosi embankment repairs succumbing to fresh floods from unexpected rains in the upper reaches of the river.

After the 2007 floods in Muzzafarpur area in North Bihar all senior workers, coordinators and selected cadre were trained directly in the formation and operations of a DMC by resource persons from UNICEF. These people oriented Block coordinators, village workers and cadres to form the 30 village units. These groups were formed between April-June 2009 before on set of monsoon season, which turned out dry that year.

Each DMT has a President, Secretary and Treasurer with the President as the convenor and the Secretary as overall assistant. These three persons along with one other team member forms the Disaster Management Committee of that team.

However, resource constraints prevented a rigorous training on techniques, fund raising and operations from being undertaken at that time. If resources permit, it has been proposed that in order to ensure continuity and capable functioning of the DMC in case of floods and/or earthquake [possible natural calamities of the region] a three day comprehensive training be conducted for 160 persons [5 DMC members x 30 units + 10 workers and coordinators].

GRAIN BANKS

Outcomes:

By May 2009, formation of grain banks with two containers containing food grain worth Rs 7000 in the 30 most vulnerable villages for ensuring food security especially during the emergencies. Moreover, the grain banks will continue functioning with local contributions subsequently it will reduce dependency on loans for food and thereby preventing increased indebtedness.

Milestones:

- All the targeted 30 villages with DMC will have Grain Banks established by May 2009.

All 30 Grain Banks were established in selected villages were established in

Murliganj, Sonbarsa and Saur Blocks in September 2009. A total of 14,250 kilos [142.50 quintals] were purchased from local markets in the presence of Gram Ekai leaders and donated to the village with due ceremony. On 31st May 2010 the banks had 9,004 kilos grain stock in hand, with 5,250 kilos disbursed as loans.

Grain Bank Summary Status								
Sr. No.	District/Block	GP	Vill	DMC	No. of Containers	Capacity/Container	Grain	HH
1.	Saharsa / Sonbarsa	5	10	10	10 x 1	600 kg/each	5000 kg	55
2.	Saharsa / Saur	5	10	10	10 x 2	400 kg/each	4750 kg	49
3.	Madhepura / Murliganj	5	10	10	10 x 2	400 kg/each	4500 kg	50
Dist - 2 / Block-3		15	30	30	50	22000 kg	14,250 kg	154
Stock in hand 31 May 2010							9,004 kg	
Disbursed as loans [Outstanding]							5,250 kg	

In all these villages Disaster Management Committee and Gram Ekais in that particular hamlet were already in place. And they felt that instead of establishing a separate committee to manage the banks members of DMC, Gram Ekais and EP cadre from that locality would be in-charge of and manage the banks. Each bank has a group of 7 or 11 persons responsible for its management and maintenance. The containers itself have been strategically placed in safe locations away from each other but easily accessible to all in the locality.

The container is located at the home of one member while the key is kept with another member of the group. The record registers are with the President of the local Ekai or the DMC. Request for loans can be made to any of the above persons who will call a meeting or directly consult with at least 50 members of the group then disburse with as little delay as possible after recording the amount duly signed by the recipient.

People are returning with 25 per cent interest [the present market rate is 50 per cent]. The return performance is quite satisfactory and in distress cases people are allowed a maximum return time of one season. EP Panchayat workers and/or District Coordinators check both registers and the containers at least every fortnight.

On the 25-26th November 2009 a workshop was held for the 60 members of the Grain Bank management. They were trained on storage, management, records and accounts.

Ironically this area devastated by floods in 2008 faced a very dry monsoon season and Madhepura district was declared drought affected in 2009. Under the circumstances the Grain Banks have become very crucial.

LIVELIHOOD

Outcome:

By May 2010, 6790 families in 77 villages in Saharsa, Madhepura and Supaul district will have successfully advocated for the improvement or implementation of a govt social security schemes and get entitlements. Examples: NREGA 4000 families will get a job card and get job for 100 days; 2000 families under the Antodaya and Annapoorna scheme under PDS-system in all the 77 villages will get allocated food grains on monthly basis.

Milestones:

- By February 2010 more than 4000 families will have got job cards and 100 days work.
- By February 2010 more than 1000 families will have received food-grain under Antodaya and Anapurna schemes through regular monthly distribution.

The task of organisation building starts with formation of the very basic units at the village level called the Gram Ekais. All rights action and development programmes are then strategically planned and implemented through these units. During the formation of these units it became obvious that the status of NREGA especially with regard to Job Cards for eligible families was in a sorry state, rife with malpractices and outright corruption. Many new members of the Ekais, who are well below the poverty line, had tried in vain to their Cards but had been asked to pay exorbitant bribes or simply rudely rebuffed. Almost all the Ekais as soon as they were formally set up decided on three priorities - relief-rehab compensation; Job Cards and work under NREGA and PDS functionality.

The Ekais immediately set up preparing list of BPL families eligible for Job Cards who had been excluded from the NREGA process for one reason or another. These were submitted to the relevant officials at Panchayat and Block level. And initially these petitions were ignored but a month or two later when people began to take out rallies, hold public meetings and sit-ins at the Block offices the machinery

began to sit up take notice and do the needful. At the same time weekly and monthly Ekai meetings also became a platform for informing people of the NREGA scheme rules, regulations and procedures.

NREGA MOBILISATION					
Particulars	Murliganj	Sonbarsa	Saur	Chattapur	TOTALS
<i>Job Cards thru new applications</i>	200	1068	550	100	1918
Total No. of Family got NREGA Work [Apr 09 - May 10]	1,275	1232	1239	134	3780
Total Disbursed Wages [Rs] [Apr 09 - May 10]	19,62,012	32,02,982	19,35,710	0	71,02,622
Total Average No. Work Days					21

One peculiar practice that came to light was that some persons who generally took job contracts from the Block, or were Mukhiyas of Panchayats, would help people enrol and obtain the Cards but would hold them in lots themselves. This allowed them to take job contracts put man-days on the Cards as convenient and collect payments while no job was actually executed on the ground and sometimes the original Card holders were paid a token amount to keep quiet. The reason for people indulging in this practice appears to be the fact that when they did do NREG work they were never paid fully and sometimes after a delay of weeks or months.

However, with the start of awareness building through the EP-PGVS Right to Livelihood campaign this situation began to change and all Ekai members [and then later even those outside the Ekais] using the strength of the organisation behind them began to demand and get their Job Cards back.

Also, in Raghunatpur, Ajgaiwa in Saur Block a group of 28 persons from two Ekais who had worked for 15 days six months ago were being denied payment by the Rojgar Sevak on one pretext or the other. This man was then gheraoed by the Ekai members and given a deadline of 10 days to pay up or the organisation would file a case against him with the police and NREGA authorities. This man who had been arrogantly denying payment now relented and immediately began to settle peoples' dues. In a short time there were many such examples followed to exhibit the power of their own organisation. EP units are now planning to start 'NREGA *Shayata* [Help]

Centres' in each working Panchayat to help more people. There is still a great potential for a vast amount of earthwork of different categories that needs to be done in the area towards field reclamation, re-excavation of waterways and ponds etc. that the organisation aims to do by village micro-planning through the Ekais and the proposed NREGA Help Centres.

PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM [PDS]: Below Poverty Line [BPL], Antoday & Anapurna

While the Ekais were being formed in the villages and hamlets there were varied complaints from members regarding the malpractices and non-functionality of the PDS outlets especially with regard to the Anapurna, Antoday and BPL grain supply. People also said that they had all at some time or the other complained to PDS managers about their grievances only to be met with excuses or outright abuses.

So the process of written petitioning with mass/group signatures under the aegis of EP Gram Ekais began. Ekai leaders now began to approach the PDS dealers and Block officials en-mass articulating their grievances and laying out their demands. The impact was almost instantaneous, and in majority cases the arrogance and dismissive attitude quickly changed. And not only were the petitions accepted but many PDS dealers used these petitions of the people to obtain ration supplies from the FCI through the sanction of Block and District Supply Officers.

Below is the summary of food grains supplied in the EP-PGVS operational field area through direct involvement of organisation members

Block	Villages	Anapurna Cards	Grain Quantity	Total Kgs.	Antoday Card	Grain Quantity	Total Kgs.
Murliganj	42	40	40	1,600	1125	200	2,25,000
Saur Bazaar	34	125	40	5,000	1117	175	1,95,475
Sonbarsa	57	118	60	7,080	764	175	1,33,700
Chattapur	1	0	0	0	281	125	35,125
Totals	134	283		13,680	3287		5,89,300

However, all indications are that the government is finding it difficult to continue with the Anapurna scheme where each card holding family is to be provided 10 kilos of food grain free every month. There has been no government supply under Anapurna scheme in the area since January 2010. The quota per family per month under Antoday has been increased to 35 kilos from April 2010 but so far no one has received at that quota rate. In contrast to this the State Government has reportedly announced a "*Vishesh Annapurna*" scheme recently and people suspect

that this may only be an electoral stunt in the light of State elections in September-October 2010.

EP-PGVS COLLABORATION WITH GOONJ & ADARA

Goonj is a Delhi based NGO that has been working in collaboration with Ekta Parishad in other States also. In Kosi Goonj collaborated with EP-PGVS from the time of flood relief distribution and later adapted its programmes to suit the needs of the flood affected people. The two organisations jointly families and persons who had lost the implements and tools of their trade or occupation. Goonj then put together '*Wapaasi Kits*' [Rehab kits] that contained essential tools of different trades/occupations. Each kit contained materials worth about Rs. 2000/-.

For example kits for agriculture labour contained a spade, shovel and sickle. Kit for a small tea shop contained a kettle, strainer, glasses, tea packet and sugar. Kits for cobblers contained a last, awl, needle, thread etc. Similarly very practical and useful kits were also put together for small fisher people, small grocery traders, women labourers, barbers and bicycle repairers.

1758 such assorted kits were distributed in Sonbarsa, 700 in Saur Bazaar and 1640 in Murliganj bringing the total to 4098 kits.

EP-PGVS collaborated with ADARA, another NGO, in Jeevachpur village in Chattapur Block and following a similar process of identification and selection of needy families installed 9 hand pumps and distributed one milk-cow each to 20 families.

HEALTH

Outcome:

By May 2010, four Public Health Centres (PHCs) will be fully functional (regular doctors, nurses, medicines, equipments, services and ambulance) in the four blocks of Saharsa, Madhepura and Supaul districts of Bihar.

Milestones:

- The primary process of doctor and staff attendance and cleanliness etc. will be visible after EP interaction with "Rog Kalyan Samity" and peoples block level action by December 2009.

EP-PGVS was aware of the shortcomings of the government health services and the state of the PHCs from the time the floods took place in August 2008. Also, the village Ekais were regularly receiving reports of families and people who were seriously ill. In all the peoples' action programmes and petitions to the government at the village, block and district levels were submitted to the authorities. Small groups of people from Ekais repeatedly approached PHC for proper treatments and in many cases written complaints and memorandums were filed with PHC and Block

officials.

EP-PGVS also organised three conferences of small local groups and organisations to highlight concerns on the state of health services in these blocks. These were held on January 22nd at Murliganj [58 participants], 23rd at Sonbarsa [55 participants] and 24th Chattapur [85 participants]. These were given fairly prominent coverage by the media. And taking a cue from this process many of the participating organisations sat on indefinite fast from 5th May 2010 at the Sonbarsa Block in protest against the irregularities and malpractices of the Sonbarsa PHC In-charge. It was called off on the 9th after a round of talks with BDO and Health Officer and on the assurance of an enquiry and better facilities in future.

EP CAMPAIGN FOR RIGHTS OF KOSI FLOOD VICTIMS; NETWORKING & BROAD BASING [MOBILISATION AND ADVOCACY]

EP-PGVS as an ongoing policy and practice always works towards broad basing the issues of peoples' right to land and livelihood and the flood relief and extension work in Kosi region followed this pattern from the beginning.

- a. When EP-PGVS started its Flood-Extension work landless labourers and small cultivators were without work and faced with hunger. At this time Ekta Parishad announced a ***Jun Sunwai*** [public hearing] on 8th December 2008 at Sonbarsa. The response was phenomenal. People marched to the venue, stone's throw from Sonbarsa Block office, in small and large groups beating drums, shouting slogans holding the Ekta Parishad green and white flags and banners. They came from all directions till the gathering became over 12,000 people. Turn by turn representatives of villages came up on the stage and shared their woes and grievances, all demanding proper delivery of relief and rehab sans corruption and malpractices. The organisation collected over 4,600 written petitions from the people, sorted them into categories and submitted them to the Saharsa District Magistrate with due receipts.

This huge programme was followed up with a cadre training workshop for 200 youth by Rajagopal P.V. [EP President] from 9th to 11th December. At the end of this a large group from Murliganj resolved to hold a similar ***Jun Sunwai*** programme in Murliganj Block on 26th December 08.

This event was even more effective and spectacular though the gathering was somewhat less at about 7,000. However, the media reported that people from almost every village in the Block and beyond had come to the hearing and over 3,600 petitions were submitted to Madhepura District Magistrate.

The impact of this series of programmes was almost immediate and with the General elections on the horizon it was impossible for the government to remain silent, and it announced a second package of Rs. 2090/-.

- b. The next major broad basing and networking effort was the 'Kosi Satyaghra Padayatra' from 20th February to 05th March 2009. Followed by a two days dharna and rally at Saharsa were many organisations joined in support of Ekta Parishad.

{Please see the detailed report of the Yatra attached as Annex - 4}

- c. EP-PGVS actively participated and contributed to the 'Rashtriya Nadi Parisambadh' [*National Rivers Consultation*] organised by Dinesh Mishra, noted environmentalist and writer associated with '*Bad Mukti Abhyan*' [freedom from flood campaign] on 19th - 20th March 2009 in Patna.

Among the participants some eminent personalities like environmental activists Sundarlal Bahuguna, Rajendra Singh and noted Gandhians Suba Rao and Amarnath Bhai were also present who later assured their full support to Ekta Parishad's efforts in the region.

- d. At a public meeting in Saharsa, after the **Kosi Satyaghra Padayatra** the **Kosi Navnirman Sarvoday Manch** [Forum] was formed on 5th March 2009 at Saharsa, at the initiative of Ekta Parishad-Bihar and membership of *Sarvoday Mandal* [Saharsa], *Sarva Seva Sangh* [Patna], *Lok Samity* [Saharsa], *Lok Vikas Kendra* [Supaul], *Kosi Vikas Manch* [Saharsa], *Gohardiha Prakhanda Swaraj Sangh* [Madhubani], *Kosi Lok Jagran Manch* and *Muzaffarpur Vikas Mandal* [Muzaffarpur].

During the discussions all participants had voiced the concern that there was little hope of the government upholding or fulfilling the promises it made in its announced relief and rehabilitation policy. It was felt that this was declared on paper keeping an eye on the forthcoming elections. The **Kosi Navnirman Sarvoday Manch** resolved to be involved primarily with the issues of:

- Overseeing and reporting on rehabilitation and compensation delivery of the government under National Disaster Act.
- Initiate and press for the formation of a new Policy for Flood Control through civil society action and advocacy with the State.
- Promote a new initiative for the formation of River Control Policy in the State.

From 10th to 12th April 2009 the 'Bihar Sarvoday Mandal - Patna' organised a workshop for peoples' organisations and NGOs in Saharsa. In this workshop the mandate of the **Kosi Navnirman Sarvoday Manch** was reaffirmed Shri Premnath of 'Kosi Lok Jagran Manch' as its President and the agenda for discussion was "Developing strategies to tackle peoples' issues arising from the Kosi disaster".

The following action plan emerged from this workshop:

- Highlight the issues arising from the Kosi disaster at the international level, especially with Nepal.

- All active organisations to establish dialogue with legislators, parliamentarians and inform them of the gravity of the Kosi situation.
- Demand the implementation of relief and rehabilitation as per the 'National Disaster Policy' norms and guidelines.
- Concerned organisations should take up training programmes for workers, cadre and community level for capacity building in the areas of situation analysis, agriculture alternatives, animal husbandry, rehabilitation, information on 'National Disaster Policy', use of RTI and strategies for peoples' movement.

In order to execute the above programmes it was resolved that all partners of the 'Kosi Nav Nirman Sarvoday Lok Manch' would implement and monitor these activities in their own capacities.

The next meeting of Kosi Nav Nirman Sarvodaya Lok Manch was held on 25th and 26th June in Supaul. Here member organisations reported what they had been able to achieve as per the programme agreed upon at the earlier meeting.

- e. EP-PGVS now launched another series of action to put pressure by holding the "*Jan Satyagraha Mahadharna*" sit-in programmes in Saur Bazaar 15th June, Sonbarsa 16th June and Murliganj 17th June 2009. Braving the heat wave hundreds of people gathered with their petitions and publically bore witness to the neglect they still suffered from and demanded the following:
 - Make a new list of affected families and include all those who had been excluded so far for whatever reason.
 - Increase the amounts of the compensation packages.
 - Immediately deliver the livestock, death and crop compensation as promised.
 - Regularise and stop malpractices and corruption in NREGA, PDS, Indira Awas and Social Security Schemes.
 - A strong demand for all government officials to respond responsibly and behave civilly towards any and all petitioners who came to them.

The last demand had an almost immediate effect as from that day onwards petitioners and their representatives began to be addressed and treated with due respect in government offices.

- d. But in the ensuing months there was no response on the other demands as the Blocks claimed that they had no instructions from the State government in Patna. So to show their seriousness, people returned en-mass with deepening frustration to all three Blocks on 23 September for a day long programme of '*Dhyan Akarshan Dharnd*' where the same demands were reiterated.
- e. On the 19th June 2009 Rajagopal P.V. President of Ekta Parishad held consultation with Dr. Jaganath Mishra [twice ex-Chief Minister of Bihar] to discuss strategies and action to set up a Bihar Flood Task Force on behalf of civil societies to engage in dialogue with different political parties and the

State Government. For active support and participation in such an effort Shri Shivmurthy [Chairperson Bhudan Jag Committee] and Shri Tripurari Saran were also contacted and assured their support.

- f. On 27th and 28th June 2009 EP-PGVS attended a workshop held at Rajviraj in Nepal organised by a forum of organisations working on disaster mitigation in Saptari district and supported by Oxfam GB - Nepal and 'Kosi Pidit Samaj-Saptari'. Twelve organisations from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, along with many local and national NGOs of Nepal. Also present were Minister for Irrigation, GON, Shri Nageswar Prasad Singh, District Magistrate of Saptari and other senior engineers from different departments of the Nepal government.

From the discussion, debates and inputs it emerged that the lack of joint planning and project monitoring between the two country governments [especially the technical departments] has led to the faulty design of projects on rivers flowing through both countries for which the common people on both sides have to suffer hardships time and again.

All organisations therefore resolved to press their respective governments to work at joint programming and project design and implementation of such river projects. EP-PGVS affirmed this resolution and in its turn would undertake national level advocacy towards promoting joint planning of this nature.

- g. The continued lackadaisical and callous approach of the government again forced the people to hold the '*Wada Nibho* [Keep the promises] *Jan Satyaghrd* from the 12th to 14th December 2009 EP-PGVS organised where over 1100 people representing community leaders and 20 different organisation [mostly from the Sarvodaya stream] from Saharsa, Madhepura, and Supaul districts gathered outside the Saharsa Commissioner's offices. Besides reminding the government to deliver its earlier assurances of relief and rehabilitations it also highlighted the malpractices and corruption in the district administration. Events of all the three days and the issues raised were given wide coverage by the electronic and print media in the districts and at Patna level.

The impact of this programme was that for the next two months the relief rehab efforts of district administrations and local organisations took new steam. Moreover, the State Government responded with Chief Minister to make a tour of the region and at a public meeting in Nirmali in Madhubani he gave an assurance that in 2010 the Kosi victims will be "provided a new and bigger package", and all those who had already been registered and had received from Rs. 1,500 to 10,000 would be provided a package of 55,000. However, the government still did not make any commitment towards those who had not been registered as affected families for some reason or the other, like

On the 14th of December EP-PGVS also participated in seminar in Madhepura organised by a forum of NGOs working with relief and rehab programmes in the Kosi region.

- h. EP-PGVS participated actively in the workshop organised by 'Samta Gramin Vikas Seva Sanghsthan' from 25th to 29th December 2010 in Saharsa. The workshop was designed to understand the present socio-ecological situation of the area in the light of the geo-cultural ethos of the region. The challenge that emerged was working out suitable joint strategies to address the problems and issues of common people arising out of the flood disasters in northern Bihar and Kosi in particular.

DOCUMENTATION AND MEDIA

Primary Documentation

All workers and coordinators maintain a daily diary and their first hand activity reports are prepared and submitted monthly. The original copy is submitted to the Kosi Zone office at Saharsa and the Project Coordinator makes his summary report and recommendations to the State office at PGVS Patna and this is reviewed at the monthly Coordinators meeting filed and stored systematically. A carbon copy is retained by the worker for sometime till the necessary follow ups in that report are completed and then stored at the Kosi Project Zone office in Saharsa. The monthly work plans and programme budget requisitions also form a part of this documentation.

Records of minutes along with resolutions of village Ekai and other community based units [like DMC, Grain Bank, Mahila Manch etc.] is maintained in registers kept with designated members of the units in the villages.

Six monthly and annual activity narrative reports are prepared by the Project Coordinator based at Saharsa. The documentation person of EP-PGVS State Resource prepares the reports and press notes of major events and regional mass action programme.

Survey and case studies are compiled for media and organisational [publishing and/or advocacy] purposes by the State Resource team with direct help from the concerned coordinators, workers, and cadre in the field.

Secondary Documentation

Six Hindi and two English daily newspapers are examined daily at the State and District offices and all news and feature items related directly are cut out and filed and six monthly compilation spiral-bound. A chronological master list of the same is also prepared. Also, news and features related to issues that EP is working with as well as relevant government declarations and announcements are also stored in similar manner.

All digital photo and video material is computerised and stored at the State office.

All pamphlets and copies of applications, memorandums and posters emerging from Block and District are systematically filed and stored at the District office.

Media

In general the overall media coverage of EP-PGVS work, especially peoples' action programmes, received very good coverage both at District and State level national and regional publications. However, though the media has done justice to the events and also individual flood victim cases they have often failed to give adequate analytical space to the strategic positioning of the Ekta Parishad.

All media reports have been chronologically sorted and spiral-bound. A master-list has been prepared of all compiled material with details such as date, title, author, publication, subject etc. and are available at the State office in PGVS, Patna.

Legal Research

During the consultations with members of Nav Nirman Sarvodaya Lok Manch between March and June 2009 it was suggested that a PIL or a Writ Petition be filed in Patna High Court for proper delivery of rehabilitation package promised by the State. It was agreed that EP-PGVS would explore these legal possibilities and also undertake the collection and collation of necessary documentation.

EP-PGVS consulted a prominent legal firm in Delhi 'Enviro Legal Defence Firm' managed by Sanjay Upadhyay, Advocate in the Supreme Court of India. This firm has prepared a 22 pages preamble for the brief - "Assessment Report of Flood Related Disasters in India; Focus on Kosi region". This is backed by the field Damage Assessment Survey of EP-PGVS and secondary documentary material of over 100 pages. This secondary material consists of, among other papers, earlier court rulings regarding relief, compensation and rehab for flood victims in Bihar, a host of other relevant information acquired from government departments through Right-To-Information procedure.

A copy of the Assessment Report and the compiled secondary documentation is available with EP-PGVS.

PROGRAMME & FINANCE MONITORING

- **Weekly** Block Coordination meetings were held by the Block workers team leader along with selected cadre to review and prepare activity plans. Here the workers informed of the progress in the organisation building process and the status of the compensation and govt. relief & rehab activities through the BDO.
- **Monthly** meetings were held by the Project Coordinator where he received the Panchayat and Block reports. Copies of these written reports from the Block team members was reviewed and filed in the Saharsa Coordination office. The Project Coordinator prepared his own monthly report based on block reports and his own observations in the field.
- **Monthly** State level meetings were held at the head office of PGVS in Patna. And all accounts for the month and budget requisitions for next month were cleared at this time.

- The EP-PGVS Resource team from Patna made **quarterly** a PME field visit for 2 to 3 days followed up with a meeting of Kosi Project Team at the Saharsa Coordination offices.
- This narrative report has been compiled from the information provided in the above mentioned reports copies of which are available at the head office in Patna and field worker's reports in Saharsa. Data and information from media and government official sources have been used as relevant.

District	Block	Number of workers	Number of Panchayat	Number of Villages	Number of Ekais
Field Area & Personnel					
Madhepura	Murliganj	5	6	35	78
Saharsa	Sonbarsa	5	5	25	28
	Saur Bazaar	5	5	25	41
Supaul	Chattapur [From October 2009]	2	1	10	16
3	4	17	17	95	163

Empowerment of Musahar woman& girls

SWISS LEAGUE

Ekta Parishad Bihar/ PGVS is a non Government Organisation registered under Society Registration Act 21 1860. From the last 25 years the organization has been contributing for the upliftment of the "oppressed people "of the society. It is working for the musahar community people under the Swiss League Project from April 2006 in two blocks - Sahar and Koilwar. PGVS is working in 15 villages of 9 panchayats for the upliftment of women and girls of musahar community.



Objective of the Project

- To educate the girls of musahar community and to motivate them towards literacy and education

- b) Empowerment of women of musahar community
- c) Community mobilization

Women Empowerment

Many positive changes can be seen in women of Sahar and Koilwar Blocks. Their perspective towards life has changed. They are becoming self dependent and decision maker. They conduct meeting to discuss their problem and to find a solution. They visit Block and even they go to District Level Administration. The women of these block form their own group. This group is known as Self Help Group. In Sahar and Koilwar there are 11 Self Help Group. In this every month they put 10Rs and when they need money they borrow from this group. Like this they help other women also by



lending them money. Earlier they used to take loan from other farmer where for 100Rs. They have to give 10Rs. interest per month. And if they are unable to pay back this loan they become a bonded labourer of that particular farmer in this way they were exploited by the farmer. But now things have been changed.

Channuni Devi says "now I don't have to take loan from other farmer. SHG is there to help me. And because of this farmers are annoyed"

Grain Bank

With the help of PGVS a concept of Grain Bank has been introduced in two Blocks (Sahar and Koilwar). In Koilwar and Sahar Block 12 Grain Bank is functioning. It came into light that Musahar community face starvation for three months. These three months are September, October & November. In these three months there is no work available in the area. Musahar are purely unskilled agriculture laborer. And during this situation they have to lend money or grain from other farmer. Usually they have to give double of what they have taken from the farmer. Therefore to fight with this kind of situation the concept of Grain Bank has been introduced.

PGVS has given one container for Grain Bank.



The villagers have collected 5kgs grain from each house. And whenever anybody need grain can come and take it from Grain Bank. People are getting benefits from Grain Bank. Now they don't have to spread there hand in front of anyone. Musahar community people are living with dignity.

Status of Grain Bank

SN.	Constituency	Block	Panchayat	Village	Grain Bank
1	Barhara	Koilwar	Giddha	Giddha East	Kgs
			Giddha	Giddha West	Kgs
			Bhadvar	Bhadvar 1	6kgs
			Bhadvar	Bhadvar 2	Kgs
			Koilwar	Koilwar	Kgs
			Nagar		
			Phanchayt		
			Sakaddi	Sakaddi	Kgs
2	Sahar	Sahar	Gulzarpur	Gulzarpur	Kgs
			Gulzarpur	Shivchak	Kgs
			Pedhao	Rajdeonagar	Kgs
			Pedhap	Pedhap	Kgs
			Ekvari	Chaprapur	Kgs
				Moulabag	Kgs
			Baruhi	Devnarayannagar	Kgs
Total	2	2	7	12	

Saving Fund

Women of these Blocks - Koilwar and Sahar formed one group. This group is known as Self Help Group. This group is consisting of 10 to 20 women. Every month each women put 10Rs. in SHG which they can use in future.

SN.	Block	Village	Members	2009-2010	2010-2011
1	Koilwar	Geddha East	20		
		Geddha	10		
		West			
		Bhadvar1	20		
		Bhadvar 2	10		
		Koilwar	10		
2	Sahar	Rajdeo nagar	10		

Perhap	60
Gulzarpur 1	11
Gulzarpur 2	10
Shivchak	10
Devnarayan	21
Nagar	

This year many Musahar people are free from all kind of debts. They don't have to spread there hand in front of anyone. Now they live with dignity.

Program and Activities during (2010 - 2011)

S. No	Name of the Issue	Description
1	Jansangram Chaitavani Dharna (9thAug 2008)	❖ Demand for 4dml land ❖ Correction of names in BPL Lists in every villages ❖ Construction of pension office and community hall ❖ Indra Awas allotment
2	Old Age Pension	❖ Demand for Old Age Pension
3	NREGA(National Rural Employment Guarantee Act/Scheme)	❖ Job under NREGA and job card.
4	Three days Girls Training Camp (25thNov - 27thNov 2008)	❖ Child Marriage ❖ Problem of adolescent girl ❖ Importance of marriage

- | | | |
|---|----------------|---|
| 5 | Homestead Land | ❖ To ensure
homestead
land |
| 6 | Grain Bank | ❖ Relief from
hunger and
poverty
❖ Free from
debt |

Drought Action and Advocacy Program {DAAP}

PGVS is working in 80 villages of Paliganj subdivision (Paliganj, Dulhin Bazar & Bikram Block) of Patna district in Bihar with drought affected Dalits people for their survival of life. In first phase we have been support to strengthening the grain bank in sixty villages, repairing & installations of hand-pumps for safe drinking water in 60 villages and reconstruction of ponds in two villages

In absence of rainfall 80% Paddy has been affected during last year. As a result the Dalit agriculture labours of this area faced the problem of non availability of job. Due to hunger people prefer to migrate to other places in search of jobs. Seeing this critical condition PGVS has decided to support the community in this Drought situation and with the support of Action Aid PGVS has started drought action and advocacy program in DA project areas.

In first phase we have strengthen 60 Grain bank in 60 villages. To meet the water crisis programs like installation of new hand-pumps and repairing of old pumps and renovation of ponds has been undertaken. These activities were not enough to address the situation and meet their food security and sustainable livelihood option as due to this condition the wheat as well as other crops affected. The Government initiatives were also not enough to meet the need or provide relief package in drought areas. PDS system MDM and ICDS were also irregular. Government officials were shy about the condition. In this situation PGVS has decided to go in phase II for drought action and advocacy program with following objectives:

- To develop community capacity to overcome the hunger
- To promote sustainable agriculture in the community
- To promote diversification of food in the community
- To ensure drought related entitlement to the community
- To improve functioning of the institutions which support in food security of marginalized

Coverage area:-

- Dist---- Patna
- Block--- Paliganj and Bikram
- Panchayat—12
- Villages--- 60

Activities and achievement:

To develop community capacity to overcome the hunger

Impact of Drought Situation in Brief:

In the year 2010- out of 38 districts 26 districts were severely affected by drought in Bihar. The problems especially had affected our communities in the project area. Loss of crop and loss of wages subsequently have put the marginal community on the verge of starvation. A large number of Dalit and extremely backward work force migrated to the other states in search of livelihood. The negative consequences of the migrating labourers are that people are coming back to their villages due to scarcity of jobs in the other states. Migrations have made their life miserable because they spent the money they had in traveling. The marginal and small farmers are in the debt trap because they took loan for cultivation but crop failures have further pushed them into margin. Keeping in view the severity of the problem it has been decided to intervene and address the situation in the project areas. The Drought Action & Advocacy Program was launched in 60 villages of 12 Panchayats of Paliganj and Bikram Blocks of Patna district.

Vulnerability Analysis:

Situation of poor & marginalized Community:

We are working to improve the lives of more than 3000 families of 'Musahars' the most deprived marginalized and unprivileged community in Bihar. This community stands in the bottom of the development hierarchy. They are discriminated by educationally, economically and socially. The majority of Mushars lived without any legal entitlement of homestead or agricultural land. They are being used by the upper class of the society for their agricultural needs.



It is known that certain castes in our society enjoy the status, dignity and resources where as others are downtrodden and deprived section. For example, all

the rights and resources are meant for the upper castes such as the establishment of schools, temples, water pumps etc. and the Dalits basti is deprived of such facilities. It is also seen that in most villages, a number of lives lost are those of the lower caste people due to social division and problems emanating due to it.

The schools in villages are mostly located in Upper Caste localities. It can be easily ensured that the majority of Dalit parents and children prefer not to go to the schools. In this way the Dalit children are losers who avoid going to schools located in the upper caste Bastis. If these children go to schools they face discrimination. Dalit children sit in the last rows in the schools. There are separate water vessels for the lower caste children.

Caste and class factors exist in the society and affect the educational processes severely. It would be simplistic to believe that these do not impact participation in schools. A lower enrolment rate and a higher drop out rate have been observed in case of these groups - how can one quantify the humility factor. This is especially true in the case of girls and women of these groups. If one happens to be a Dalit child in a poor landless family, she/he perhaps faces all possible sorts' of deprivation.

Situation of Food Availability: food availability is still a challenge in many families of the project areas. As the non availability of work to all hands. The implementation of MNREGA is not able to provide 100 days of work to each eligible family member. Out of 3000 families of project areas only 4432 members able to get job cards under the MNERGA. And only 3870 nos. got work who was seeking a job under MNERGA. The condition of PDS is also in a better condition but the ability to procure food grains is a challenge too as the non availability of jobs making them so marginalized. Only 5010 card holders able to get ration under PDS in the project area after intervention.

Livestock's situation the Goats and pigs donated by AA are available with the families of the project area. It supported the families in the time of crisis. The gotary is emerged as a sustainable livelihood option for 1682 families in the project area. The returning system is supporting families in a multiple ways.

Drinking Water Facility: there are traditional water bodies in the villages. But due to drought it became dried up and the drinking water scarcity emerged as a challenge. The level of ground water is now going down.

Loss of Food Grains: only source of the mirginalised groups of the community was to work in fields of owners during harvesting. From this work they able to get a minimum amount of paddy for the whole year. But the non availability of work in the

field the labourers are unable to get ample food grains to feed the families. Less produce in agriculture made the community to store the food grain. 5010 card holders got food grains under PDS and that to not at a regular basis.

Migration of Labourers; Migration checked (40-50%) from 2009 to 2010, the work made available to labourers those are migrating to other states in search of job. The Work under MNREGA helped to check migration in project area. This option has emerged as a solution to get work with in the village. But it is also not sufficient to provide the wage at a regular basis. In MNERGA the contractors are using machines for digging. The daily wage labourers those are engaged in during harvesting are unable to get work as the land owners are using machines to cut the paddy in their fields.

Hike in the Prices of Essential Commodities; Price hike is a major cause of starvation in the drought areas. The hike is 300 to 400% which is beyond tolerance. The price hike and non availability of wage for laboures forced them to sleep empty stomach.

Situations of Irrigation Facilities; Less rainfall may cause drought this year and some areas of Paliganj & Vikram may affected by drought. In Irrigated land the cropping condition is good that means less cultivation will be cause of more migration in the project areas. The irrigation in agricultural field is dependant on ground water and the level of ground water going down day by day. It may put the inhabitant in a great crisis of water specially in case of drinking water.

Situation of Small & Marginal Farmers/Share Croppers; due to drought the small & marginalized farmers and share croppers are unable to do farming. The scarcity of water and subsidized irrigation facility they are migrating to other states in search of livelihood. These groups became more vulnerable due to drought affect. Government is also not taking any initiatives to check the migration. The condition of these groups in DA project area became more critical and vulnerable.

Indebtness among poor & marginalized community and its relevant reasons; the agricultural labourers and marginalized farmers are under debt. Those who took loan and invested in agriculture and faced the drought hit became more poor and unable to repay the debt. They unable to get the subsidy from the Govt. as a result they are migrating from their own land.

Situation of Delivery of Food Security Schemes and MNREGS; PDS and other food security Schemes are unable to reach the community due to high extend of irregularities in the DA project area. After



intervention some how the condition became changed. After the intervention there are 3870 got job under the MNREGA that to they are still unable to get 100 days of work. 4625 HH applied for job card, 4432 HH got job cards, and 5269 HH applied for job in DA project area. Out of 100 days they able to get only 30 to 50 days of work under MNERGA.

During last year PGVS had intervene larger activities to promote capacity of Musahar community fight against hunger. We have done following activities:-

- For strengthening the 12 NREGA help centre in 12 Panchayats, PGVS has organised cadre training in each centre, which in 600 people had been participated.
- Three days Padyatras had lunched in each Panchayats for awareness building on MNREGA and other social security schemes. More than 67 villages had been covered and around 7500 peoples were benefited.
- Block level Dharna and rally organized for demanding right to livelihood, which had around 8000 people had been participated.
- Village planning meetings with Panchayat level committee had put an impact.

To promote sustainable agriculture in the community

PGVS has organized farmers training in two blocks with marginal farmer for promoting sustainable agriculture farming and Shree Vidhi paddy farming. 65 farmers had been participated. The community has taken interest in sustainable agriculture farming

To ensure drought related entitlement to the community

PGVS has taken initiative to ensure entitlement to the community through mass action movement at different level. MNREGA, PDS and other social security scheme are receiving by community after protest .



To improve functioning of the institutions which support in food security of marginalized

PGVS has taken action with local peoples organization MVM

to mobilized the different institutional persons to improve their role in ensuring food security in ICDS, Mid day meal PDS and others.

No. of families directly covered under different programmes under DAAP 2010

Programmes	Number of families/beneficiaries
Immediate Food Grain support to most vulnerable families	3500
Drinking water for livestock	30
Drinking water for People	60
Fodder for livestock	Nil
Community Grain Banks	60 villages
Alternative livelihood development/support	Going on
Revolving fund support for collective farming	Going on
Kitchen Garden	nil
Deepening of public wells	30
Repairing/Depening of hand pumps	30
Any other activites (pl. specify)	NHC in each panchayat
Cattle Rearing	

Intervention of DAAP in the Project Area:

Name of the Program/Activity under DAAP	Outcomes	Impact on the Community and other Stakeholders (Govt./PRI/etc.)
setting up grain banks	There are 60 grain banks set up in the 60 villages under DA intervention areas	It became immense support for the marginalized families.
Setting up seed banks	Groups take land on rent and started cultivating and farming. The seed banks are established at the panchayat level and kept seeds like rice, wheat, pulses, millets and oil seeds.	It supported the community those are started group cultivation.

Ensuring drinking water for both human being and cattle	Repairing of hand pumps in the villages have helped the villagers to great extent in resolving the drinking water problem.	The drinking water facilities for the community by repairing and new installation of hand pumps solved the problem of drinking water to some extend.
Making institutions functional	The ICDS and PDS system made functional in the DA areas. Regular monitoring by the panchayat and block level cader supporting the community to get the food grains under these schemes of Govt.	It solved the problem of food grain crisis in the community. ICDS centres made functional and children of the community are coming to the centres not for the food only but to learn something from the centre.
Preparation of village plan under MNERGA	In all the 60 villages identification of cadets and became trained for preparation of village development plans	It improved the resources at the village level
MNREGs Help centres at Panchayat level	There are 12 Help centres being established in each panchayats of DA area and sensitizing the jobless mass to secure jobs under the MNREGA	MNERGA Help Centres at panchayat level facilitating the process of making applications for Jobs requirement, job cards, wages, and compensations for not meeting jobs. This also became helpful for addressing the issues related with the MNREGS and vigilant on the implementation process of MNERGs

Promotion of Sustainable Agriculture	Training of farmers on scientific methods of farming in project area. Farmers capacity has been developed.	This helped the sharecroppers to do farming in scientific way but following the traditional cropping.
Water and land development	The traditional water bodies included under NREGA in the villages	This was planned in the gram sabha and revived.
Livelihood support for diversification of livelihood options	Livestock rearing among the community to support as livelihood option	Helped them to get a sustainable livelihood option. It is also promoting the livestock among community members through returning of one baby goat to other families.
Promotion of Kitchen garden	Kitchen gardens promoted land around the land and hand-pumps became utilized.	This land used for growing vegetables and fruit bearing plants. This improved the nutritional status of the families.
Establishment of Drought Action & Advocacy Centre at block level	The DAAC was established to handle the drought situation in the drought affected area at block and panchayat level.	Following up the drought action & advocacy and liasoning with Govt.Department.
Weekly meeting with Govt. Official	Weekly meeting with the concerned official to listen the issues and grievances of the community	It was helpful in resolving the drought affected crisis and rehabilitation measures for the community at a very low lelvel.
Campaign on	The campaign on food right on the basis of SC interim	The campaigning was undertaken with the

Food right	order. The campaign was on the proper implementation of PDS, AAY, MDM, ICDS, Old age pension, National Maternity benefit Schemes, national family benefits schemes.	community, and helped to assert their food right and entitlements before the duty bearers.
Public Demonstrations Dharna Pradarshan	Foot march and Dharnas for food rights and livelihood options.	CBOs and deprived mass demonstrated for asserting the food rights & livelihood options.
State level workshop on revisiting drought policy in the state	The drought action and mitigation workshop organized at state capital on 4 th December 2010 for advocacy on the drought relief and action programs by the state Govt.	The workshop with specific suggestion at all level supported to prepare report for advocacy at state level.
Organization of marginalized	All the Mushahar community and other Dalits united under one umbrella of MVM.	MVM, DAM & MAM unitedly demanded the homestead land right for the Dalits and a joint patta right for the most deprived section of the society.