

PARTNERS PAGE



VIKASH SAMUKHYA
A CIVIL SOCIETY CONSORTIUM FOR DEVELOPMENT

Volume-VI, No.6



23rd June 2023

***The monthly
E-Newsletter of
AIHMS-Global &
VIKASH-SAMUKHYA***

www.aihms.org / www.vikashsamukhya.org

*****United Nations Public Service Day Greetings*****

The United Nations Public Service Day is celebrated on 23rd June of every year. The day was designated by the United Nations General Assembly's resolution A/RES/57/277 of 2003, to celebrate the value and virtue of public service to the community. It highlights the contribution of public service in the development process, recognizes the work of public servants and encourages young people to pursue careers in the public sector.

In the month of **June 2018**, we had started our first issue of **PARTNERS PAGE** as a humble monthly publication with a total circulation of 1,000 copies to all partners and patrons. After so many months of consistent efforts, we are proud to reach 6,000+ global institutions and 60,000+ individuals on a monthly basis. We are honoured to publish the **61st Edition of PARTNERS PAGE** for your ready reference of our activities in India. However, all the earlier volumes have been made available in both of our websites that can be reached by you at any time.

<https://aihms.net/e-newsletter.html>

<https://www.vikashsamukhya.in/e-newsletter.html>

As you can well recall that the severe outbreak of **COVID-19** in April 2020 has led to many of our consortium members doing their best to help the cause by supporting the marginal and outreach communities living in remote areas of different backward districts in India. In September 2022, we have celebrated the Global Week of Sustainable Development Goals worldwide and the current issue of **PARTNERS PAGE** is being published as a tribute to all our 535 CSO Partners all over India, working on 17 SDGs across 25 states and 2 union territories.

Sincerely, we thank you for your encouragement and support all these years and look forward to working with you in near future when another new wave of Economic Recession is threatening us right now.

~AIHMS-Global & VIKASH-SAMUKHYA Team

PARTNERS PAGE: E-Newsletter of VIKASH-SAMUKHYA



VIKASH SAMUKHYA
A CIVIL SOCIETY CONSORTIUM FOR DEVELOPMENT



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Committed to Working Together with our 535 CSO Partners until the 17 SDGs are achieved for India



Our Program Sectors

Health & Family Welfare

Nutrition & Food Security

Formal & Non-Formal Education

Livelihood Opportunities & Skill Development

Agriculture & Animal Husbandry

Information & Communication Technology (ICT)

Renewable Energy & Clean Environment

Climate Change & WASH

Partnerships & Networking

(Control + Click each sector for further details)



VIKASH SAMUKHYA
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VIKASH SAMUKHYA
A CIVIL SOCIETY CONSORTIUM FOR DEVELOPMENT

State-wise Distribution of CSO Partners in India



Consortium Membership List Updated as on 23rd June 2023

1. Ad hoc Members:	219
2. Provisional Members:	164
3. Regular Members:	143
4. Prime Members:	009

Total: 535



State /UT	No.
Andhra Pradesh	09
Arunachal Pradesh	09
Assam	07
Bihar	66
Chhattisgarh	10
Delhi	10
Gujarat	07
Haryana	02
Himachal Pradesh	07
Jammu & Kashmir	04
Jharkhand	40
Karnataka	09
Madhya Pradesh	22
Maharashtra	19
Manipur	07
Meghalaya	06
Mizoram	07
Nagaland	08
Odisha	75
Rajasthan	20
Sikkim	09
Tamil Nadu	28
Telangana	06
Tripura	08
Uttar Pradesh	75
Uttarakhand	14
West Bengal	49
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	02

SDG-2: Zero Hunger

Civil Society Response in India



Samaritan Help Mission (West Bengal) is in action, distributing nutritive food & micro-nutrient rich supplements to school students in their mid-day meals

PARTNERS PAGE: E-Newsletter of VIKASH-SAMUKHYA

SDG-2: Zero Hunger

Civil Society Response in India



Gopabandhu Seva Parisad (Odisha) is in action, distributing food, medicine & other essentials to the poor households having women & children in villages

SDG-3: Good Health & Wellbeing

Civil Society Response in India



Tarun Chetna (Uttar Pradesh) is in action, conducting mass awareness programs on Tobacco Free Environment and taking pledges from the local participants

SDG-3: Good Health & Wellbeing

Civil Society Response in India



EKTA (Odisha) is in action, conducting Health Check-up & Social Mobilization Camps for tribal communities in remote areas with local service providers

SDG-3: Good Health & Wellbeing

Civil Society Response in India



Aulia Adhyatmik Anusandhan Kendra (Bihar) is in action, conducting regular Workshops for Women on Maternal Health, Gender Rights, Health & Hygiene

SDG-3: Good Health & Wellbeing

Civil Society Response in India

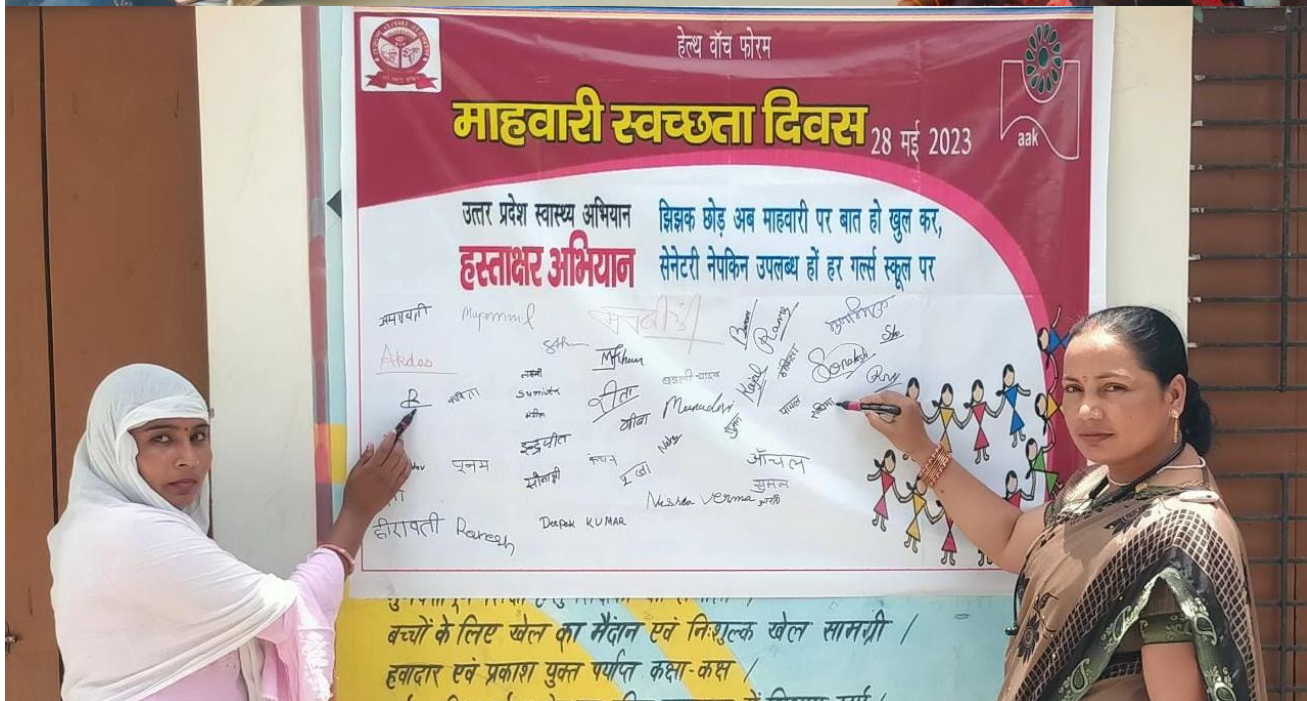


Gopabandhu Seva Parisad (Odisha) is in action, conducting Regular Health Checkup Camps for Women of Fisherfolk Communities on Maternal Health

PARTNERS PAGE: E-Newsletter of VIKASH-SAMUKHYA

SDG-3: Good Health & Wellbeing

Civil Society Response in India



Tarun Chetna (Uttar Pradesh) is in action, conducting interactive sessions with adolescent girls on Menstrual Health & Hygiene issues in rural areas

SDG-3: Good Health & Wellbeing

Civil Society Response in India



Vikash Path Bikram (Bihar) is in action, conducting mass awareness programs on Tobacco Free Environment and taking pledges from the institutional participants

SDG-3: Good Health & Wellbeing

Civil Society Response in India



Yuva Rural Association (Maharashtra) is in action, conducting Health Awareness & Checkup Camps for children & adolescents in rural areas for their wellbeing

SDG-4: Quality Education

Civil Society Response in India



Samaritan Health Mission (West Bengal) is in action, conducting Intensive Training Sessions for School Teachers on Quality & Inclusive Education Systems

SDG-4: Quality Education

Civil Society Response in India



Lok Sewa Evam Gramin Pradhogiki Vikas Sansthan (Uttar Pradesh) is in action, conducting Training Sessions for Community Health Workers on Child Health

SDG-4: Quality Education

Civil Society Response in India



PRASTUTEE (Odisha) is in action, conducting Health Education Sessions for adolescents of the outreach areas on different issues of Health & Education

PARTNERS PAGE: E-Newsletter of VIKASH-SAMUKHYA

SDG-4: Quality Education

Civil Society Response in India



EKTA (Odisha) is in action, organizing and participating in Media Interface Sessions with Children on issues of Child rights, their education & protection

PARTNERS PAGE: E-Newsletter of VIKASH-SAMUKHYA

SDG-5: Gender Equality

Civil Society Response in India



SADHANA (Karnataka) is in action, conducting Training Programs in Tailoring & Embroidery for its Women Entrepreneurs & Stakeholders in rural areas

PARTNERS PAGE: E-Newsletter of VIKASH-SAMUKHYA

SDG-8: Decent Work & Economic Growth

Civil Society Response in India



Gopabandhu Seva Parisad (Odisha) is in action, training fisherfolk communities with life saving skills and techniques in the deep-sea during emergencies

SDG-13: Climate Action

Civil Society Response in India



EKTA (Odisha) is in action, conducting Plantation Programs in rural & tribal areas of the district with community support on World Environment Day

SDG-13: Climate Action

Civil Society Response in India



Hind Yuva Shakti (Bihar) is in action, conducting Plantation Programs in villages of the district with community support on World Environment Day

SDG-13: Climate Action

Civil Society Response in India



Lok Sewa Evam Gramin Pradhogiki Vikas Sansthan (Uttar Pradesh) is in action, conducting plantation programs to orient the local institutions on climate issues

SDG-13: Climate Action

Civil Society Response in India



Gopabandhu Seva Parisad (Odisha) is in action, observing the World Environment Day by organizing public rallies & cleaning the sea beach at Puri

SDG-13: Climate Action

Civil Society Response in India



Manav Seva Kendra (Bihar) is in action, conducting labor intensive works in rural areas to preserve the biodiversity in building a sustainable environment

SDG-16: Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions

Civil Society Response in India



Vikas Path Bikram (Bihar) is in action, organizing & participating in a National Level Civil Society Consultation on Quality ECCE Services with donor support

SDG-16: Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions

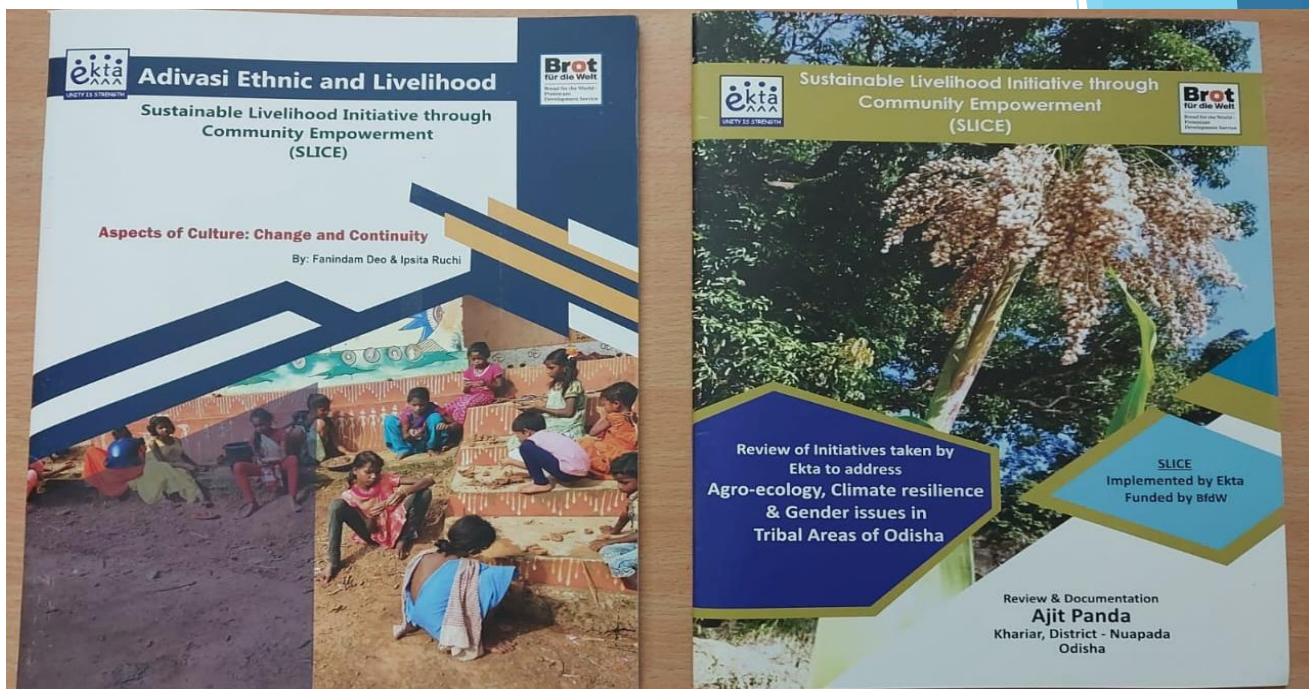
Civil Society Response in India



SADHANA (Karnataka) is in action, organizing and participating in a National Level CSR Convention for different institutions working on 17 SDGs in India

SDG-16: Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions

Civil Society Response in India



EKTA (Odisha) is in action, releasing and sharing the Study Reports on Sustainable Livelihoods, Culture & Environment in a Dissemination Workshop

SDG-16: Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions

Civil Society Response in India



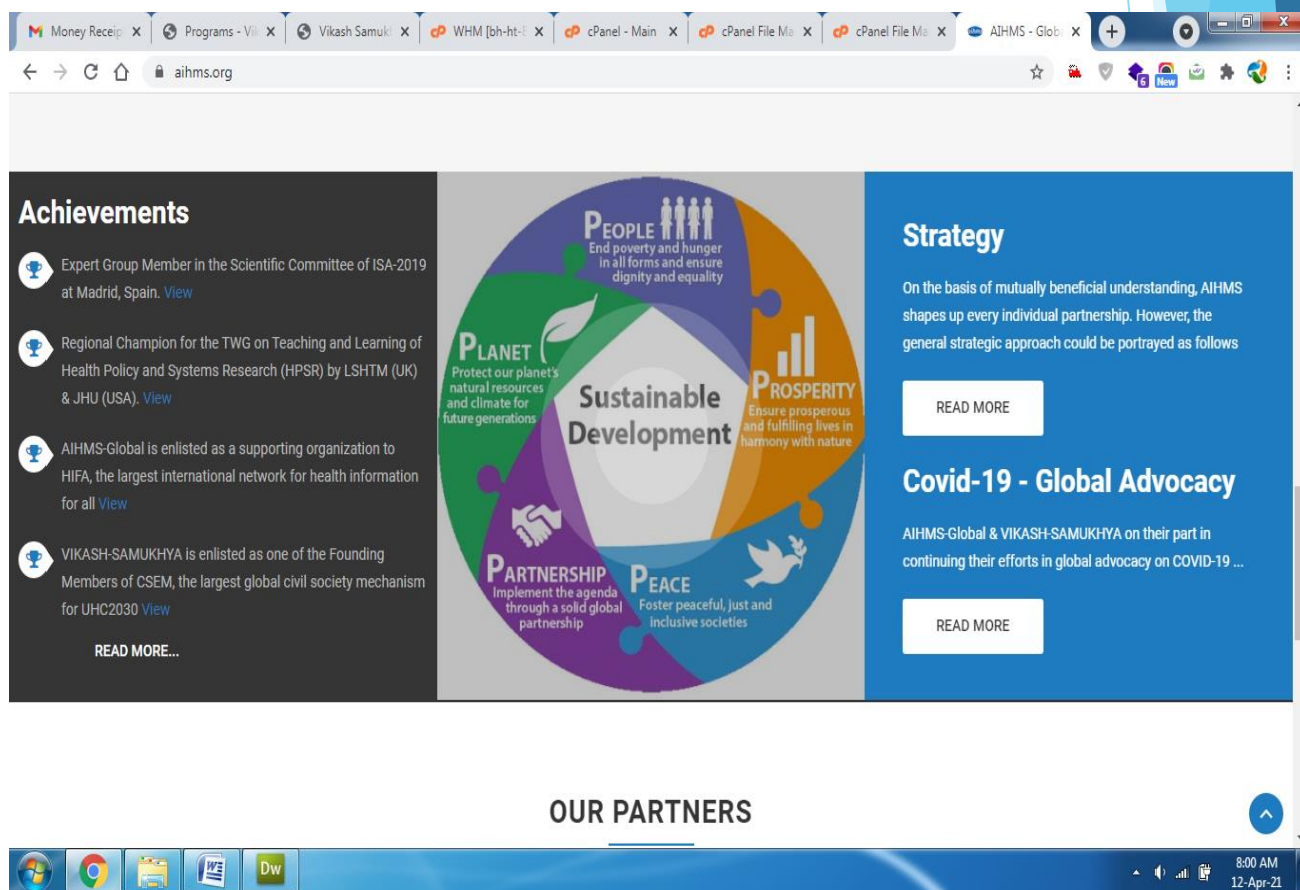
Gopal Kiran Samaj Sevi Sanstha (Madhya Pradesh) is in action, organizing a National Level Award Function to honor the individuals & institutions on SDGs

Global Advocacy on COVID-19

AIHMS-Global

Since April 2020, AIHMS-Global & VIKASH-SAMUKHYA on their part are continuing to do their best regarding Global Advocacy on COVID-19, by collaborating with national & international institutions to address the severity of the global pandemic.

<https://www.aihms.org/global-advocacy.html>

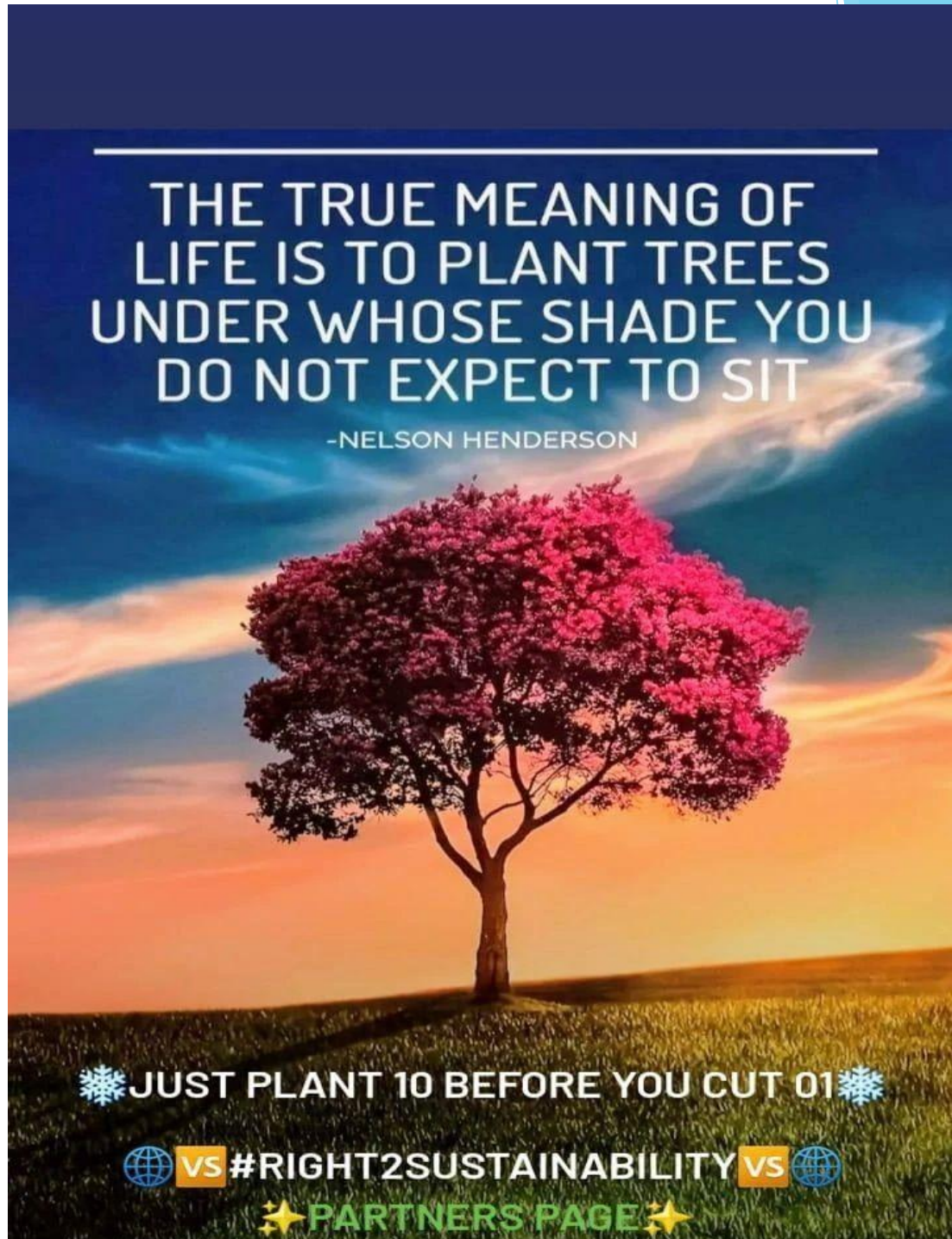


The screenshot shows the AIHMS-Global website with the following sections:

- Achievements:**
 - Expert Group Member in the Scientific Committee of ISA-2019 at Madrid, Spain. [View](#)
 - Regional Champion for the TWG on Teaching and Learning of Health Policy and Systems Research (HPSR) by LSHTM (UK) & JHU (USA). [View](#)
 - AIHMS-Global is enlisted as a supporting organization to HIFA, the largest international network for health information for all [View](#)
 - VIKASH-SAMUKHYA is enlisted as one of the Founding Members of CSEM, the largest global civil society mechanism for UHC2030 [View](#)
- Sustainable Development:** A circular diagram with five segments: PEOPLE (End poverty and hunger in all forms and ensure dignity and equality), PLANET (Protect our planet's natural resources and climate for future generations), PROSPERITY (Ensure prosperous and fulfilling lives in harmony with nature), PARTNERSHIP (Implement the agenda through a solid global partnership), and PEACE (Foster peaceful, just and inclusive societies).
- Strategy:** On the basis of mutually beneficial understanding, AIHMS shapes up every individual partnership. However, the general strategic approach could be portrayed as follows. [READ MORE](#)
- Covid-19 - Global Advocacy:** AIHMS-Global & VIKASH-SAMUKHYA on their part in continuing their efforts in global advocacy on COVID-19 ... [READ MORE](#)
- OUR PARTNERS:** A section with a blue arrow icon.

SDG-17: Partnerships to achieve the Goals

Civil Society Response in India



SDG-17: Partnerships to achieve the Goals

Civil Society Response in India

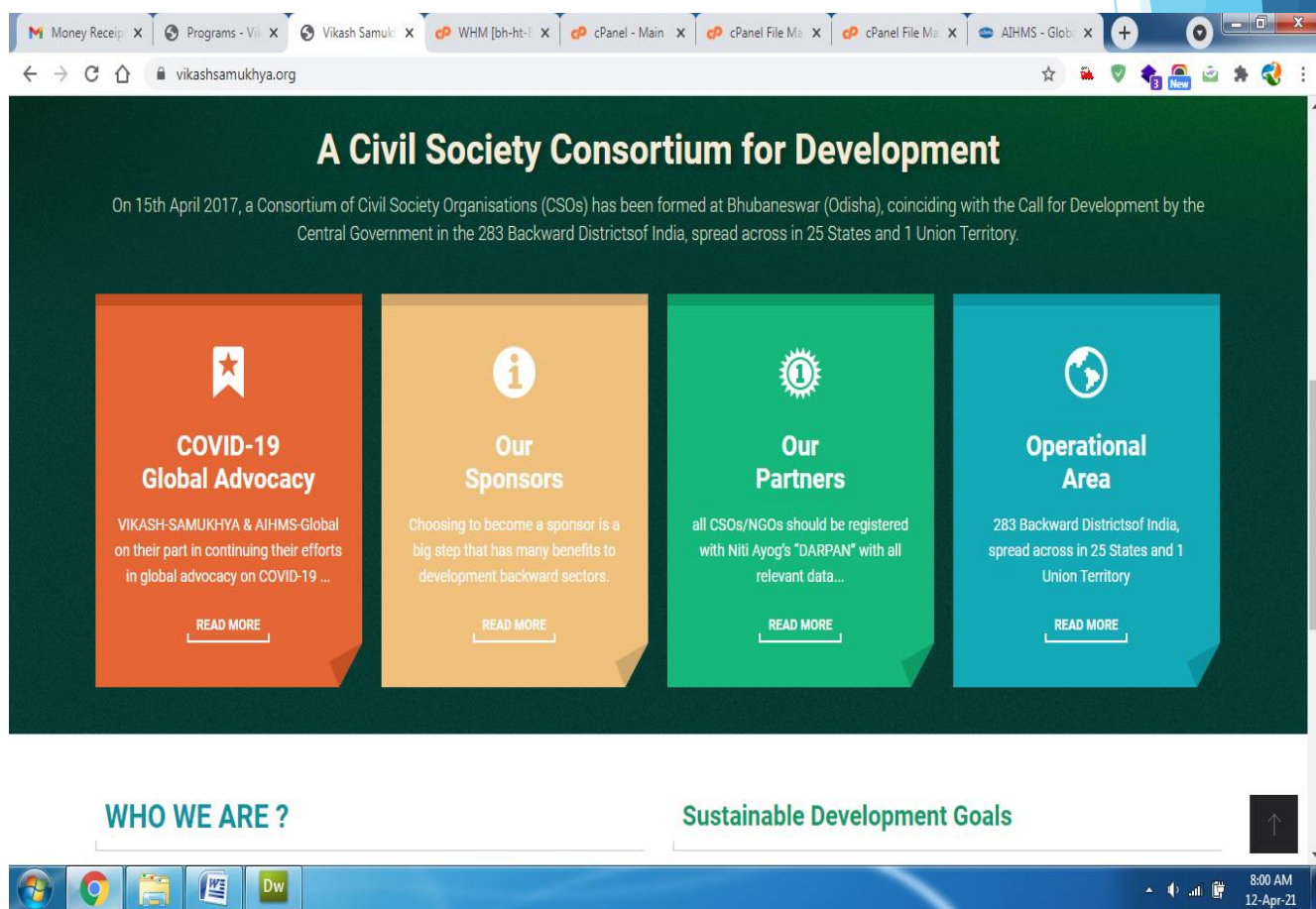


Global Advocacy on COVID-19

VIKASH-SAMUKHYA





Since April 2020, AIHMS-Global & VIKASH-SAMUKHYA on their part are continuing to do their best regarding Global Advocacy on COVID-19, by collaborating with national & international institutions to address the severity of the global pandemic.

<https://www.vikashsamukhya.org/global-advocacy.html>



A Civil Society Consortium for Development

On 15th April 2017, a Consortium of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) has been formed at Bhubaneswar (Odisha), coinciding with the Call for Development by the Central Government in the 283 Backward Districts of India, spread across in 25 States and 1 Union Territory.

COVID-19 Global Advocacy	Our Sponsors	Our Partners	Operational Area
 VIKASH-SAMUKHYA & AIHMS-Global on their part in continuing their efforts in global advocacy on COVID-19 ... READ MORE	 Choosing to become a sponsor is a big step that has many benefits to development backward sectors. READ MORE	 all CSOs/NGOs should be registered with Niti Ayog's "DARPAN" with all relevant data... READ MORE	 283 Backward Districts of India, spread across in 25 States and 1 Union Territory READ MORE

WHO WE ARE ? **Sustainable Development Goals**

17 SDGs: STOP PRESS (In Hindi)

अनाज, दुध, पानी को जहर से बचाने में जन सहभागिता जरूरी : पुरुषोत्तम कुमार

संजय कुमार

कार्यालय संचालक

बिहारशरीफ। नूरसराय प्रखंड अंतर्गत छठ घाट पापौनी के सटे रोड स्थित पीपल पेड़ कि जड़ भाई कार्य श्रमदान से किया जा रहा है, जो पर्यावरण संरक्षण हेतु वृक्ष बचाव कार्य जारी है और जारी रहेगा।

मानव सेवा केन्द्र लोहड़ी के सचिव पुरुषोत्तम कुमार ने बताया कि आज आने वाले समय कि पुकार है, मानव जीवन में खुशहाली जो है, स्वच्छ हवा, स्वच्छ पानी, स्वच्छ भोजन और स्वच्छ वातावरण यह सभी जानते हैं, लेकिन हम सब मिलकर इसे जाने अंजाने में दूषित कर रहे हैं और जिसका प्रभाव आम जन जीवन पर पड़ रहा है। मानव जीवन



अस्त-व्यस्त हो गया है, अनाज दुध पाने सभी प्रभावित होकर दूषित हो गया है, जिसका मुख्य कारण है, हम मानव छपी जाल में अपने क्षणिक सुख सुविधा के कारण पर्यावरण संरक्षण के बजाय दूषित

कर रहे हैं। अपने न सही आने वाले पेड़ी दर पीड़ी को शुद्ध स्वच्छ हवा पानी अनाज दुध देने के लिए जल जंगल जमीन को बचाना होगा।

यह कार्यक्रम अंतराष्ट्रीय स्था गूंज के राज्य प्रमुख शिवजी

चतुर्वेदी के मार्गदर्शन में और गूंज पटन के अरुण उपाध्याय जी के नेतृत्व में ग्रामीणों को सहयोग से मानव कल्याण हेतु श्रमदान का महत्व रागव कर श्रमदानियों को एकजुट करने में मानव सेवा केन्द्र लोहड़ी के देख रेख में लगे हुए तमाम श्रमदानियों को हासला बढ़ाया जा रहा है और आम लोगों से आवाहन करते हुए कहा कि इस कार्यक्रम में शामिल होकर दूषित पर्यावरण को स्वच्छ वातावरण में बनाने में सहयोग करें। पर्यावरण की रक्षा जीवन सुरक्षा।

इस कार्यक्रम में शामिल गौतम कुमार, दिनेश रविदास, राजो दास, महावत प्रसाद उर्फ धनंजय सिंह के अलावा चार दर्जनों से अधिक श्रमदान प्रेमियों शामिल हैं।

अनाज, दुध, पानी को जहर से बचाने में जन सहभागिता जरूरी: पुरुषोत्तम कुमार



बिहारशरीफ नई मोच एक्सप्रेस। नूरसराय प्रखंड अंतर्गत छठ घाट परियोजना के सटे रोड स्थित पीपल पेड़ कि जड़ भाई कार्य श्रमदान से किया जा रहा है, जो पर्यावरण संरक्षण हेतु वृक्ष बचाव कार्य जारी है और जारी रहेगा। मानव सेवा केन्द्र लोहड़ी के सचिव पुरुषोत्तम कुमार ने बताया कि आज आने वाले समय कि पुकार है, मानव जीवन में खुशहाली जो है, स्वच्छ हवा, स्वच्छ पानी, स्वच्छ भोजन और स्वच्छ वातावरण यह सभी जानते हैं, लेकिन हम सब मिलकर इसे जाने अंजाने में दूषित कर रहे हैं और जिसका प्रभाव आम जन जीवन पर पड़ रहा है। मानव जीवन अस्त-व्यस्त हो गया है, अनाज दुध पानी सभी प्रभावित होकर दूषित हो गया है, जिसका मुख्य कारण है, हम मानव छपी जाल में अपने क्षणिक सुख सुविधा के कारण पर्यावरण संरक्षण के बजाय दूषित कर रहे हैं। अपने न सही आने

वाले पेड़ी दर पीड़ी को शुद्ध स्वच्छ हवा पानी अनाज दुध देने के लिए जल जंगल जमीन को बचाना होगा। यह कार्यक्रम अंतराष्ट्रीय स्था गूंज के राज्य प्रमुख शिवजी चतुर्वेदी के मार्गदर्शन में और गूंज पटन के अरुण उपाध्याय जी के नेतृत्व में ग्रामीणों को सहयोग से मानव कल्याण हेतु श्रमदान का महत्व समझ कर श्रमदानियों को एकजुट करने में मानव सेवा केन्द्र लोहड़ी के देख रेख में लगे हुए तमाम श्रमदानियों को हासला बढ़ाया जा रहा है और आम लोगों से आवाहन करते हुए कहा कि इस कार्यक्रम में शामिल होकर दूषित पर्यावरण को स्वच्छ वातावरण में बनाने में सहयोग करें। पर्यावरण की रक्षा जीवन सुरक्षा इस कार्यक्रम में शामिल गौतम कुमार, दिनेश रविदास, राजो दास, महावत प्रसाद उर्फ धनंजय सिंह के अलावा चार दर्जनों से अधिक श्रमदान प्रेमियों शामिल हैं।

बिहार मंथन

पटना

पर्यावरण दिवस के अवसर पर जल, जंगल, जमीन कि संरक्षण हेतु समाज को जागरूक करने के लिए किया गया श्रमदान

जल, जंगल, जमीन कि रक्षा पर्यावरण सुरक्षा :- पुरुषोत्तम कुमार



संजय कुमार कार्यालय संचालक बिहारशरीफ। नूरसराय प्रखंड अंतर्गत महामंदपुर गांव में पर्यावरण दिवस के अवसर पर जन जागरूकता कार्यक्रमों में शामिल चार दर्जनों से अधिक लोगों ने मानव सेवा केन्द्र लोहड़ी सचिव पुरुषोत्तम कुमार के नेतृत्व में श्रमदान कर जल जंगल जमीन बचाने हेतु एक दूसरे को सहयोग और आकर्षी भाईचारे को मजबूत करने के लिये पुर्वोक्तों के द्वारा गोमाम श्रमदान पुनः स्थापित करने के लिए यह अनोखा कार्य किया गया।

पुरुषोत्तम कुमार ने बताया कि आज विश्व पर्यावरण दिवस है, हमारे पास पड़ोस की जितनी परिचय है वह पर्यावरण ही है, इसके स्वच्छता से मानव जीवन के साथ जीवन जुड़ा कि निर्दोषी बना रखा होता है। आजकल लोग इसे नजर

अंज कर रहे हैं और हम सब क्षणिक सुख के लिए पर्यावरण प्रदूषण का महत्व को भुला दिया है। मानव छपी पर्यावरण प्रदूषण के जाल में फंस रहे हैं। अपने न सही आने वाले पेड़ी के लिए पर्यावरण संरक्षण करने की जरूरत है। पर्यावरण दिवस के अवसर पर देख के शहरी और गांवों में आज का दिन जीवन सुरक्षात्मक आनंदमय बनाने हेतु पर्यावरण दिवस मनाया जा रहा है। हर जगह अपने दम से लोकिक अंतराष्ट्रीय स्था गूंज के राज्य प्रमुख शिवजी चतुर्वेदी के मार्ग दर्शन में अरुण उपाध्याय के सहयोग से सम्मानित ग्रामीणों द्वारा श्रमदान कर पर्यावरण दिवस मनाया गया। यह कार्य में सहयोगी राजो दास बिक्की कुमार, रेखा देवी, राज, दास, गुजरात कुमार, नीता देवी, रघुवीर मोची के साथ अन्य लोग शामिल थे।

Manav Seva Kendra (Bihar) is appreciated by the local press for their efforts in helping the rural communities to save their bio-diversity by doing labour intensive works through different schemes of government & other donors

17 SDGs: STOP PRESS (In Hindi)

प्रतापगढ़/कौशाम्बी

तम्बाकू नियंत्रण कानून के उल्लंघन के लिए दंड और जुर्माना बढ़ाया जाए

हमें भोजन की आवश्यकता है तम्बाकू की नहीं - नसीम अंसारी

ताज हिन्द ब्यूरो

प्रतापगढ़। तरुण चेतना द्वारा विश्व तम्बाकू निषेध दिवस के अवसर पर चाइल्डलाइन 1098 के कार्यालय में प्रेसवार्ता किया गया। प्रेस वार्ता के दौरान उक्त बातें चाइल्डलाइन/ तरुण चेतना के निदेशक नसीम अंसारी ने कहा कि प्रत्येक वर्ष 31 मई को पूरी दुनिया में विश्व तम्बाकू निषेध दिवस मनाया जाता है विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन द्वारा इस वर्ष की थीम हमें भोजन की आवश्यकता है तमाखू कि नहीं। भारत में तंबाकू सेवन से होने वाली बीमारियों से हर साल 13 लाख से ज्यादा लोगों की मौत होती है। इनमें से दस लाख मौतें धूम्रपान के कारण होती हैं। और शेष धूम्रपान रहित (गुटका खैनी दन्त मंजन) तम्बाकू के कारण होती है। विश्व के कुल कैसर रोगीयों में से आधे रोगी भारत में हैं। ण्डूई 2003 में संशोधन करके हम भारत

में हर साल हो रही लाखों मौतों को रोका जा सकता है।

इसी क्रम में रेलवे स्टेशन पर

सिगरेट और अन्य तंबाकू उत्पाद बनाने के लिए (निषेध विज्ञापन व्यापार और वाणिज्य, उत्पादन,



संकल्प बैनर पर हस्ताक्षर कर लोगो ने प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी और केंद्रीय स्वास्थ्य मंत्री श्री मनसुख माडविया से अपील की कि

आपूर्ति, विनियमन वितरण अधिनियम (ण्डूई), 2003 में हवाई अड्डों, होटलों और रेस्तरां से चिन्हित धूम्रपान क्षेत्र हटाने,

तम्बाकू उत्पाद खरीदने की कानूनी उम्र 18 से बढ़ाकर 21 वर्ष करने, दुकानों पर विज्ञापन प्रतिबन्ध सहित, खुली सिगरेट और बीड़ी की बिक्री पर रोक व मौजूदा तम्बाकू नियंत्रण कानूनों के उल्लंघन के लिए दंड और जुर्माना बढ़ाया जाने की मांग की। इसी क्रम में सुबह रेलवे स्टेशन पर स्वास्थ्य विभाग, ह्यूमन ट्रैफिकिंग पुलिस व चाइल्ड लाइन और तरुण चेतना द्वारा चारु नर्सिंग कालेज के छात्रों और पैसंजर्स के साथ जागरूकता कार्यक्रम किया गया, जिसमें स्टेशन अधीक्षक समीम अहमद सहित ह्यूमन ट्रैफिकिंग के थाना प्रभारी चंचल कुमार सिंह, तम्बाकू नियंत्रण प्रकोष्ठ के डॉ. ज्ञानेंद्र मौर्य, मुकेश मौर्य, जीआरपी से उप निरीक्षक राम जीत, चाइल्ड लाइन से हकीम अंसारी, महेताब खान, रीना यादव और अभय यादव, सोनिया गुप्ता आदि लोग उपस्थित रहे।

Traun Chetna (Uttar Pradesh) is appreciated by the local press for their efforts in helping the rural communities to opt for Tobacco Free Environment in their areas by taking pledges on World No-Tobacco Day on 31st May 2023

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Profile

UNDERSTANDING GENDER -FROM ABUSE TO EMPOWERMENT



Women Empowerment is a loaded term. The combination of physical, economic, social, and information resources that women are exposed to and the necessary redistribution of these resources to help them realize their self-worth and improve the lives of other women is a long journey that must be undertaken in perspective. "Empowerment can mean different things to different people. To me, from what I have been witnessing since school days, empowerment comes when women decide to take their lives in their own hands. No matter what the family or community thinks about them, they consciously protect their self-respect and do not let anyone decide for them," says Ms Vidum Lal Munya, Founder of Lok Sewa Sansthan in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh.

Founded in 1989, Lok Sewa Sansthan draws heavily from the founder's experiences and encounters with abused women. When he attended his tuition for class ten, he saw women in the neighborhood oppressed and dependent on their male family members. Domestic violence and abuse was common. He witnessed the arrest of a woman who left her marital home when they forced her into sex work. "I had seen how abusive her family was. When she stood up for herself and accused her in-laws and husband of domestic violence, I felt the anxiety in me rise for a while," recalls Vidum. It is this incident that planted the seed of gender equity and women empowerment in him. He affected him so much that he kept preparing himself mentally for taking up this mission which he ventured soon after graduation.

His first step was to mobilise girls who had dropped out from school. He then hired a local teacher and brought them both taught these girls. Seeing the improvement, he contacted a local school who encouraged them to clear the Higher Secondary examination. It was due to these efforts that 80 drop-outs managed to complete their schooling. He then identified children of women prisoners who were also living inside the prison, without having a meaningful childhood and access to education. He spoke to authorities and finally managed to reach these children. 65 children have now completed their primary school due to these efforts.

Vidum's work in the prison exposed him to many other realities. Having seen his genuine concern for the future of their children, the mothers began to share their stories. Most of them narrated how they were falsely accused or misused in a situation. Downy leading to such wrong arrests shocked him and the fact that they were denied bail bothered him. Vidum took these cases to a lawyer and after examination of all case details, he filed bail applications. 24 women were released on bail and reunited with their families. However, this effort did not continue as the district authorities were not appreciative of a sub-system operating in their premises.

Catching up with the global SHG movement, Lok Sewa Sansthan formed 50 self-help groups and helped them set up small businesses. "The idea of SHGs was instantly accepted because women had for long yearned credit services but being illiterate or unaware of banking, land documents, they were never in a position to access formal credit services. They had to always depend on the men. This instrument promised social transformation by helping women access credit services when they needed it. It was like breaking a big barrier that held them captive so far. Besides all the access aspect, they had the liberty to choose priorities for expenditure," exclaims Vidum. Inspired by the impact his team had on women, they also came up with a women's toll-free helpline number that managed to resolve 15000 cases of domestic violence and physical abuse. Alongside, the calls also pressed the need for a family counselling centre. The organization went ahead and addressed this aspect as well. Over 5000 cases of marital disputes were resolved. Lok Sewa gradually touched upon



every service that women in Ayodhya needed. Over 200 abandoned destitute women were provided rations twice or thrice a year and 900 young girls and women were educated about menstrual hygiene, and also given sanitary napkins. Yet, Vidum felt that these were not efficient interventions as the root cause - poverty - was not focused upon. The gender poverty interface posed a unique challenge and Vidum had to work out a plan to intercede this interface and help women realize empowerment. So the team identified 10 villages and 15,000 women from BPL (Below Poverty Line) families. These women were educated about their legal rights, domestic violence as a punishable offence, protocols to be followed by ration shops, health facilities they were entitled to and the functioning of all local systems. "This was an incredible strategy. Women began to identify gaps in services and systems. Their questioning and complaining led to regularization of Anganwadis & ANMs' regular visits, control service provision for all pregnant, lactating women by the ASHAs. In fact, one group of women organized themselves and undertook to manage distribution of ration at a PDS unit," shares Vidum.

Women were also educated about Right to Information Act and the processes to be followed. While they were lauded for taking big responsibilities, Lok Sewa simultaneously worked to address human trafficking in the Indo-Nepal border where women as young as 16 years old were lured by promises of marriage and high paying jobs, and were subjected to forced relationships, abuse, sex work. More than 200 such women were rescued and rehabilitated in Lok Sewa's Shelter Home. Most of them are now post graduates, working in different sectors and leading independent lives. It has been three decades now but Vidum still believes in starting small and engaging one stakeholder at a time. The program for pregnant mothers for example, saw the engagement of a gynaecologist who agreed to visit his centre once a month and conduct outpatient services free of cost for that day. With every step, his team not only addressed needs but managed to set up services that can run longer without heavy costs involved. "This was important because funds cannot flow consistently for one particular intervention, for a longer period. The continuity we worked in needed sustained interventions and that is why we took one step at a time," he reiterates.



Shamwaj Prjy T

Lok Sewa Evam Gramin Pradhogiki Vikas Sansthan (Uttar Pradesh) is appreciated by the reputed journal for their efforts in helping the rural poor in providing benefits through schemes on Gender & Empowerment

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