

Annual Report

Of

Stewards Trust

Apr'2022 – Mar'23



Stewards Trust

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Message from the Team

Dear Friends & Partners.

The journey of Stewards Trust started in 1987 with a promise to improve the lives of underprivileged community members of rural areas. The organization had a vision, “to build the capacity of the people & empower them to become responsible citizens and enable them to avail their fundamental rights.” Many positive transformations in the lives of the target rural population have been observed during its journey.

In the last 36 years of our work we have tried to bring attention and resources to underprivileged rural community masses. One thing came out loud and clear – that we do our best to fulfill the vision of the organization by working towards basic needs, dignity and the voice of the last person.

Little seeds were sown in different aspects to improve the lives of people which are bearing fruits now. We hope our values and our work continue to resonate with our friends and partners and it nudges you to get involved and take action.

Dr. John Sylvester
Executive Director

[On behalf of Team Stewards Trust]

Highlights 2022-23

25

BP families got 2 goats each
Sustained income generation

+ 11203

Adolescent girls/women
Menstrual Health & Hygiene
Under sanitary pad project

60 + Participants

Capacity of youth built
under RYTP & ITRI

361+

Women in SHG
Women Empowerment

+ 150

Children in Primary school
Under Precious Hand project

2 overseas donors

Under engaging donors

INCOME GENERATION PROJECT

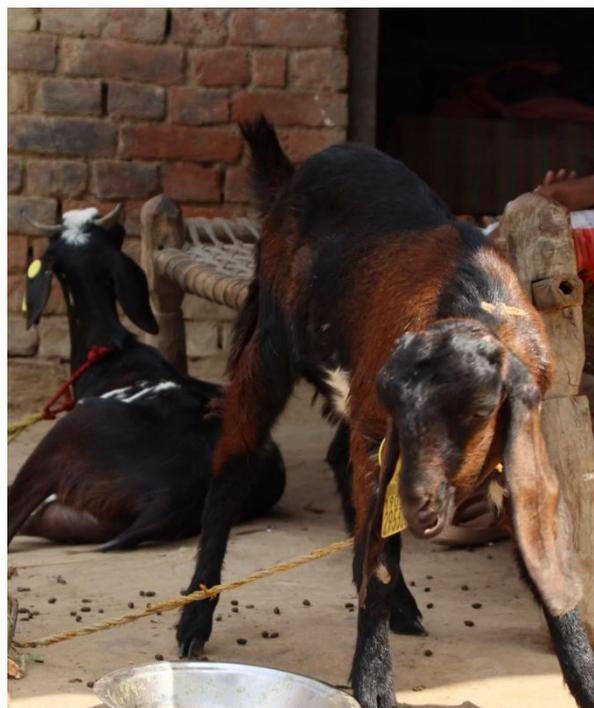
Goat Rearing

Goat is a multi-functional animal and plays a significant role in the economy and nutrition of landless, small and marginal people of the society. Goats can survive hard climatic conditions and live on shrubs and tree leaves with no extra care. They are very strong animals and can resist various common diseases. The goat meat–mutton – is relished by all meat eaters and can be sold without any problem in the local market. Goat milk is very much in demand for the people who are sick since it is very easy to digest.

Goat rearing is a very beneficial programme. Selected BPL families are supported once to purchase 2 goats and thereafter they can take care of them and multiply. Once they have enough heads, they can sell them in the market keeping some animals in stock to multiply further.

The goats were distributed to the beneficiaries in the month of April 2021 in the presence of the veterinary doctor who examined the health and gave one initial shot of vaccination. The second shot of the vaccination to the goat was given before the onset of monsoon. Each goat was tagged for identification and reporting by the veterinary doctor before distribution. The benefits from the goat rearing to the families have started flowing.

The project was completed in Dec'2022 and thereafter a self-evaluation was conducted. The evaluation findings were encouraging. Some of the major findings are; there were 92% of families/beneficiaries enjoying goat milk in their daily diet, 76% admitted that they are selling the milk in the community and earning money. The money earned by families is used in multiple ways e.g. food, children education and savings. Hence Objectives (1) income generation & employment opportunities for the beneficiaries from the project have started and (2) nutritive value (in the form of milk intake) in the family is reported. (3) Saving habits for future emergencies or investment is induced among the beneficiaries. The sale of animals in the market/community by the beneficiaries has not started yet. Because of two reasons (1) most of the animals are pregnant and would deliver kids in 2 – 4



months (reported at the time of evaluation), (2) beneficiaries want to increase the number of animals before selling them. Both the reasons were found valid. The objective of small scale goat rearing enterprise among the beneficiary is in the process and will take form in 1 – 2 years' time.

Case study #1 – Mrs. Gudia Devi

One of the case studies of the goat project is very shocking. The beneficiary name was Mrs. Gudia Devi, age 26 years and had three children namely; [1] Anamika (girls) age 6 years, [2] Surya (boy) age 4 years, and [3] Sandhya (girl) age 2 years.



Mrs. Gudia Devi lived in a mud wall house having thatched (country made tiles) roof. In the house there is no electricity, no running water and no toilet facilities. Furthermore, her house is built on government property, which means she could have been removed from her house whenever, government wanted the land. They have bare minimum household items. The main source of cooking meals is firewood. The family is the poorest of the poor.

Her children are going to Aganwadi (a government run facility in the rural areas). Till date no child is enrolled in the formal education system.

Her Husband Mr. Sataym had left Mrs. Gudia about 2 years back and resided in another city with another woman. He used to work as unskilled labour in a nearby town area.

She was the only person in her family who was supporting three children by working in fields as unskilled agricultural labourer. Her monthly income was not more than 2000/- per month.

Unfortunately Mrs. Gudia died in 2022 because of a dengue fever outbreak in the city. Her three children are now living with her mother in law, Mrs. Santara who is also a widow. Mrs. Santara is about 50 years old and works in the agriculture field as an unskilled labourer. She is the only person left behind who is taking care of the children.

The goats supplied to Mrs. Gudia, are still alive and being raised by Santara and the eldest child. Both goats are pregnant and delivery is due in the next 3 - 4 months. Very little milk (300 ml from both goats) production is reported from the goat yet.

Mrs. Santara states, *“I am a very unfortunate woman. I am living in abject poverty and have no one to help me. My husband died, my son ran away and now after Gudia’s death I have huge responsibility for three small children. I am old and not able to work hard and fetch extra money to feed the children. How will I feed them? God knows.*

I am thankful to the organization for providing two goats to Gudia. This will be very helpful for the children. Goats that are pregnant have started giving milk. Although it’s very little in quantity, I use them to feed the children. As goats will give kid(s) the milk production will also increase. I can sell some milk and fetch some extra income for the children. I am planning to increase the number of goats and when I require money for children I will sell one. My biggest wish is, children can get some education and not have to work as labourers in big farmers fields.”

MENSTRUAL HEALTH & HYGIENE

Sanitary pad distribution and manufacturing

The Menstrual Hygiene Management Project aims to educate the girls and women [14-50 years old age group] in menstrual hygiene management (MHM) and also production of single use biodegradable sanitary pads for selling on full price/discount price and for free distribution. The project is being managed and operated by local women [e.g. sanitary pads will be produced by a group of women, selling of pads is done by another group of women and education on menstrual health is provided by women]. Besides developing a network for sanitary pad selling, door to door selling by women is also encouraged. School going children have support and information on sanitary health through project female staff in their respective schools whereas women in villages will be engaged in group meetings to share the information.



The profit from sale of the project is utilized to sustain the project and to support women involved in production/selling of sanitary pads. In the project year Stewards Trust installed a semi-automatic sanitary pad making machine to enhance the quality and quantity of pads. In the last three months – after installation of the semi-automatic machine, the trained women were able to produce 40 quality pads per day [in 4 working hours/day]. Because of the quality pad, it has gained popularity in the local market.

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More than 11000 young girls and women between the age of 14 – 60 years were covered under an awareness programme under the project. The awareness was done through using SHG, women meet, school, and Anganwadi platforms. The Asha workers were motivated to encourage the young as well as women to use sanitary pads for better hygiene. During 2022-23 there were more than 4000 pads distributed free amongst the target population. Apart from free distribution, Stewards Trust aims to self-sustain the project and hence selling of pads is also promoted in the area. Till date more than 2500 pads were sold and the money [profit] is shared by the women involved in production and marketing.

PRIMARY EDUCATION

Free primary education to underprivileged children of rural areas

Education is the most important and essential need for children. A nation could not develop without education. In the target area, many children could not go to school because of several reasons. BPL families send their children for work and fetch some extra income for their family consumption.

Therefore, the organization is providing free education to underprivileged rural children through its three education centers situated in villages Baithakwa, Hardoan (Koroan Block) and Derwa (Shankergarh Block) of Prayagraj. Children are getting school kits which include school dress, shoes, stationery, and books according to their classes. National festivals and sports are organized by the school staff along with the children from time to time. Further, children are also entitled to get a mid-day meal and/or nutritious meal for their proper health



development. The organization motivates the parents for sending their girls to education centers specially.

Stakeholders e.g. Parents, Teachers and community members are involved in addressing the issues in children education and taking initiatives to solve them.

Through three primary education centers, the organization is reaching more than 150+ underprivileged children who without support would have been working in the fields or as unskilled labour in nearby towns.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Self Help Group - Literacy & Income Generation

Formation of women's Self-Help Group (WSHGs) is well established in India for empowering Below Poverty Line (BPL) women and improving their livelihoods. Stewards Trust has taken responsibility to form WSHGs in remote villages of Koraon Block of Uttar Pradesh among the BPL community women. The villages are approximately 100 km from the organization's head office.

Stewards Trust (ST) encouraged the BPL women to form WSHGs and induced monthly savings which could enhance their livelihoods and income by doing economic activities. Therefore, empowering and equipping them with better income and bringing food security and nutrition for the entire family. Apart from introducing the credit and theft informal groups, ST also started literacy classes among the illiterate women (within or outside of WSHGs) to make them literate so that they can take care of WSHGs responsibilities themselves.

The project has been implemented for two years and in Jan 2023, self-evaluation of WSHG was conducted. On the basis of assessment and desired output received, the partners extended the project for a further 3 months period.

Through the project, women from the BPL community have shaved their share monthly and also gained benefits from the government e.g. bank in respect of loan. Many women started doing their small business and increased their family income. It is also found and reported in the assessment that the increased family income is utilized by purchasing food items and on their children especially education. This was the ultimate result of the project.

Case studies

Background of Beneficiary:

Mrs. Santosh Devi is from backward community i.e. Kol. She lives with her family in a very small village, i.e. Hardoan, of Koraon block, Allahabad District since birth. Her village is about 28 km from Koraon Town. She is married to Mr. Chhote Lal who is an unskilled labour and hence don't have regular income from his job. She has one son and four daughters.



Her house is made of mud wall and thatched roof. She has electricity in her house but no running water in her house.

Family of Santosh Devi is living Below Poverty Line which means her total monthly family income is between INR 3000/- to 4000/-. Her children are getting education in one of the Stewards Trust schools situated in Hardoan village. She is a member of Radha Ajiwika Self Help Group. Her group is associated with Village Organization i.e. 'Vishwas'

SHG and Santosh Devi:

Santosh Devi joined Radha Ajiwika Self Help Group from the beginning i.e. Feb '2020. In the group her designation is as a member. At the beginning, Mrs. Santosh Devi was not able to pull the money from her family expenses to save in the group. It was a very hard time for her to meet the family expenses and save money in a group. However she continuously deposited Rs. 80.00 per month. She was a regular and the most sincere member of the group.

In the month of Aug'2021 her group 'Radha' got a loan of Rs. 110000.00 (Rs. One Lakh Ten Thousand) from the bank. The amount was equally distributed among the members. Mrs. Santosh Devi got Rs. 30000.00 which she utilized to open a village grocery cum cosmetic shop in her house. The main items in the shop are good grains, biscuits, soaps (bathing & washing), tooth paste, spices, bangles, colour, lipsticks etc. to increase her family income.

At the time of writing her case study, Mrs. Santosha Devi's shop is doing well. She is able to sell Rs. 1000 – Rs. 1500/- per day. The profit made from the sale is between Rs. 100 to Rs 150/- per day. This is additional income in her family (her husband is earning between Rs. 3000 to Rs. 4000). The total income of her family after opening the grocery cum cosmetic shop is now between Rs. 6000 to Rs. 8500/- which is about double before getting loan from bank and opening of grocery cum cosmetic shop.



CAPACITY BUILDING/TRAINING

Of rural youth

Selected young men and women from the village background were provided a 2 years' training programme and building their capacity in different aspects e.g. identification of community needs, identification of resources, uniting people to address the needs, getting help of existing local government & non-government agencies to fulfill their needs and tools and techniques to make small community based proposals to benefit their community. Reference materials on tools and techniques were developed and translated in Hindi by the organization which was provided to trainees. In and around



Bastar rural areas [Jagdalpur & Bakawan] there were 60 such key persons selected and their capacity was built.

Under the training/capacity building programme; rural youth participate in two or three days' workshops and thereafter they go back to their community to

practice the learnt skill. The workshop is conducted after two months' interval. During the training period, the participants were provided with accommodation, lodge and food along with learning material e.g. diary, pen, charts etc.



The second component of capacity building of youth is done through STC – Satellite Training Center- where youth from two centers get an online course by

experts. The course material is delivered from Prayagraj and received at village level. To have interactive sessions, online centers at Prayagraj and rural areas are well equipped with required devices e.g. TV, camera, speakers, internet and sitting

arrangement. The target youths were enrolled for one year to complete the course. In 2023-24 there were two centers of STCs functional in Bastar and Odisha state. The centre's names were Chhotamura in Bastar and Navaragpur in Odisha. There were 35 boys and girls registered under the course.

After completing the course, trained youths communicate and establish relationships with their respective community where they can bring desirable changes in cooperation with community members.

The project had brought a number of benefits e.g. safe drinking water (hand pumps), village sanitation, Awas Yojana, making of Aadhaar Cards/ration cards for BPL, pothole implementation and many more to the rural community in more than 31 villages by the trained persons. Apart from these benefits, the trained persons engage in establishing rural CBOs and enroll members to bring desirable changes in their community. Moreover, they are also training other rural CBOs from where changes can take place.

ORGANIZATION CAPACITY BUILDING

With the financial help from Tear Netherlands, Stewards was able to develop two overseas donors who were willing to invest in the organization's idea and uplift the lives of people living in abject poverty.

It is also important to mention that, organization could not be able to establish any relationship with the Indian donor's agency [government as well as private] which resulted in no Indian funds for development activities. However, it must be noticed that one of the consultant firms [engage in developing a CSR fund for organizations working at grassroots level] has been identified and Stewards Trust is in contact with it.

Under capacity building, Stewards Trust conducted three in-house meetings with field as well office staff who were trained in team work, monitoring and reporting, understanding logic framework, communication and child & adult policy and procedures.

Further, web maintenance and social media updates were regularly under capacity building components.

FINAL NOTE

We thank all our partners who have been with us on this journey. Please note that each and every contribution/suggestion to us is important.

Every year more needs are identified which urgently need to be addressed. Stewards Trust is committed to fulfill the rights of each and every citizen in its capacity.