

Introduction

PRERAK is a non-religious, non-political, non-profit making, and non-government voluntary organisation working since 1988 for promoting the social, economical, political, educational and cultural life of the poor, under privileged, downtrodden and deprived section of the society. It was founded by some intellectual, experienced community volunteers for the fulfilling the social needs and to bring them towards the main stream of the society by enhancing their qualities and capacities to fight against any worse social situations by themselves at different villages of the Gariyaband district of Chhattisgarh State. The prime focus is given to prepare innovative strategies through which people are made aware about their fundamental rights and duties and became able to utilize their rights to flourish in the mainstream of society.

PRERAK the social development organisation was registered under Madhya Pradesh society registration act 1873 on dated 28th June 1989, Foreign Contribution Regulatory Act under the ministry of home affairs of the government on dated 17th Feb 1993, registered under PWD act under the department of Panchayat and social welfare on dated 13th December 2006 and it is registered under the 12 A Income tax act under Government of India, ministry of finance.

Vision

The main vision of PRERAK is to establish concretized-structured organizational strategies for changing the lifestyle of the human being and to be self-dependent, healthy, and wealthy in the community through the peaceful interaction and avoid the social violence, exploitation and injustice.

Mission

The mission of the PRERAK has to empower the human resource specially the women skills through our trained professional guidance to develop the village level activities for sustaining & surviving to the environment on the behalf of the human being in the society as our target is by, for and of the people.

Objectives

- To make people aware about their problems, issues and situation on the socio-cultural, economic life and the environment where they live in very miserable condition.
- To provide the common platform to think scientifically and to take action on common decision for larger interest of community.
- To promote collective effort for community development.
- To make women free from the social bondage and make them prepared to enjoy their human rights.

- To promote awareness to take control, develop and protect the natural resources like water, land and forest.
- To strengthen the Gram Sabhas ,PRIs and other local institutions.
- To promote people’s economic condition through participatory action and sustainable development process.
- To promote regeneration and reestablishment of permanent and helpful means of income generation.
- Capacity building of indigenous communities and other forest dwellers for proper implementation of various government pro-tribal acts and provisions.
- To build the capacity of the stakeholders to watch over and benefits from proper implementation of schemes set up for the benefit of indigenous people.
- Setting up pilots of community based natural resource management and conservation for enhancing livelihood.
- To take a holistic approach for the empowerment of people with disability.
- To promote community based rehabilitation of people with disability.
- To mainstream children with special need through inclusive education.
- To promote ecological agriculture and revive climate resilient crop.

Key Activities and Intervention

Livelihood Promotion

The livelihood and income of a larger segment of people in the project area depend primarily on rain fed agriculture, Non Timber Forest Produce and wages from labour. Prerak strives to increase the income of the families through improved agricultural practices, crop diversification, promoting best practices in livestock management & Lac production, market engagement of community institutions and generating more number of days of employment under MGNREGA. It has adopted a systematic and scientific approach to address the various problems and issues to improve the economic condition of the people and ensure their household level food security.

Agriculture

For more than a decade Prerak is actively engaged in livelihood promotion of people through sustainable agriculture. Through crop diversification, revival of climate resilient crop and mixed cropping pattern among the traditional tribal farmers, it tries to mitigate the risk of low production in agriculture due to erratic rainfall and change in climate. Prerak intends to

increase agriculture productivity through transfer of appropriate technology to the communities, rather than only introducing alien concepts or crops. Appropriate technologies include System of Rice Intensification (SRI), line sowing, dry land farming, seed treatment, composting etc.

Formation of Kisan Samiti and Farmers Producer Group

Farmer groups are formed in villages as the primary change agents entrusted with the responsibility of promoting and spreading ecological farming practices, improved agriculture practices and other alternative livelihood options among the communities by motivating the community members and facilitating linkages with government. To increase participation of women, women members are included in the farmer groups and participation of both husband and wife is encouraged in the monthly meetings. Prerak also intends to form Farmers producers group for marketing of organic produce in future.

Capacity Building of Farmers

Prerak conducts training programs and regular meetings to build the capacity of the farmers on conduction of meeting, maintaining record and taking decisions for larger interest through collective discussion. Farmers are also taken on exposure visit to many organizations as well as field within the state and even outside to enhance their outlook and knowledge about advanced agricultural practices. Women participation in term of membership and participation in group meetings, training, and exposure visit are ensured to transfer knowledge and skill.

Promotion of Ecological Agriculture Practices

Prerak consistently works to promote cost and input effective agriculture without relying upon any chemical input from market such as fertilizers, pesticides, weedicides and seed. Awareness is generated among farmers on ecological farming practices such as preparation of bio fertilizer like Jivamrut, Panchgavya, Nadep compost, vermi compost and bio pesticide like panchparni, saptaparni, dasparni and many others insecticides depending on symptoms of disease with the use of local available resources to reduce the vulnerability of farmers. Capacity building of the farmers is done on these practices through on farm training and demonstration session by experienced resource persons.

Promotion of SRI System Practices

Poor soil quality, broadcasting of seed, poor extension system and lack of irrigation facilities are the main reasons for low agricultural productivity. Therefore in order to increase the agricultural productivity, Prerak promotes advanced agricultural practices such as system of rice Intensification(SRI). Capacity building of farmers is done on SRI and its different aspects such as,

land preparation, seed selection, seed treatment, nursery development, weed and nutrient management. 10 demo plots are also developed for farmers to demonstrate these techniques to help them learn and replicate.

Promotion of Back Yard Vegetable Production

To ensure round the year food as well as nutritional security for tribal and forest dweller families, farmers are made aware of kitchen garden concept and encouraged to produce vegetable in the backyard of their houses. In this context, farmers are provided with vegetable seeds and technical support to get better production in a low input and cost effective way.

Livestock Care - Immunization Camp. Renovation of Cattle House.

Most of the households own livestock (Cattle, goat, pig and backyard poultry) but outreach and quality of veterinary services is very poor and mortality rate of livestock is high due to lack of vaccination. Therefore Prerak organizes animal vaccination camp in the villages in convergence with Govt veterinary department in regular interval to protect the animals from fatal diseases and also to create awareness among farmers about livestock care. Prerak works with core poor households for strengthening their off-farm livelihood by promoting better practices in livestock management such as renovation of their cattle houses and maintenance of hygiene.

Seed Conservation and seed bank

Prerak also makes its presence felt at the larger arena through Representation of situational analysis and facts related to present condition of agriculture in national level platform, Collection, multiplication and promotion of traditional seed varieties of paddy, millets, pulses and vegetables are done to promote seed sovereignty among farmers and Prerak also conducts exhibition of traditional seed varieties to promote awareness among farmers. Prerak also has developed a regional seed bank for providing traditional paddy seeds to farmers and simultaneously promoting conservation of seeds.

Non Timber Forest Produce

Prerak plays a key role in promoting production of Non Timber Forest Produces which is second largest source of livelihood for tribal and forest dwellers. In this context organization has taken up the some important activities like capacity building of farmers on advanced knowledge of Lac cultivation and Introduction of *Semialata* plant as an alternative to traditional babool and Kusum trees for Lac cultivation. *Flemingia semialata*, a bushy plant that attains maturity within a year and becomes ready for inoculation of Lac insects. Prerak also seek opportunity to increase income through marketing and basic value addition of Mahua seed. SHGs and/or Farmer Groups will be organized to carry out the marketing activities ensuring procurement,

value addition, identifying buyers and maintaining long-term linkages with them. These institutions will collectively engage in activities like product selection, market assessment and business development planning. The scope and feasibility of basic value addition for the identified products will be explored.

VASUNDHARA- The Organic Agricultural Study and Training Centre

PRERAK intervenes in the field of agriculture with an intention to increase agricultural production through advanced practices and technologies for enhancing the socio-economic status of the poor marginal, small and landless farmers. It organizes various trainings on agriculture to disseminate the scientific knowledge on how to increase the yield by adapting to simple and inexpensive technique of cultivation. To further promote this cause, Prerak has established an organic agricultural study and training centre called 'Vasundhara'. Here It promotes organic agriculture, SRI technique of cultivation by imparting training on SRI cultivation, preparation of organic compost and pesticides, demonstrates cultivation through SRI & preservation of the traditional seeds. Nadep tank, wormy wash and wormy compost pits are constructed and different local crop and vegetables are cultivated for demonstration at the Vasundhara to inspire and attract the farmers for its practice in their agricultural fields.



Disability

Inclusive Education Program

Inclusive education means that all students attend and are welcomed by their neighborhood schools in age-appropriate, regular classes and are supported to learn, contribute and participate in all aspects of the life of the school. Inclusive education happens when children with and without disabilities participate and learn together in the same classes. To promote mainstreaming of children with special needs through inclusive education, Prerak works in a holistic approach and carries out many activities like improving enrollment & retention of CWSN in schools, development of Individual Education & Development Plan (IEDP) and TLM for facilitating learning of the

Children with special need, teaching plus curriculum through special educators and provision of TLMs. Organisation also provides many support services like medical certification and helping them receive ration card, pension, train/bus pass and assistive devices etc .

Clinical and Functional Assessment

Infants and young children with disabilities require access to early intervention services, including early detection and identification with support and training to parents and families to facilitate the maximum development of the full potential of their disabled children. In this context Prerak emphasises on clinical and functional assessment of the disability so as to understand the case history, type and level of disability and accordingly the tailor made plan is made to include him in mainstream education and provide him other entitlement services.

Convergence with Govt. Schemes and Provisions (All Department Mainly Social Empowerment and Education (SSA))

Inclusive education for children with disabilities will not be achieved unless proactive steps are taken at every level of the education system, and in the community is actively involved in the process. Hence Prerak envisages strategy for establishing convergence and collaboration with social empowerment, education (Sarva Sisksha Abhiyan) and other sectors for necessary assistance, services, obtaining different entitlements and support for inclusion. The strategy will also facilitate in obtaining assistive services, certification, integrating these disabled children into regular schools to help them socialise and build their confidence and continue their lifelong learning

Medical Services

Medical rehabilitation services is made available through screening and medical camps to provide need based services to the children with disability. The children are assisted in obtaining disability certificates through the recommendation of panel of doctors which help them in receiving various entitlements.

Daily Living Skill, Orientation & Mobility Training

For the promotion of inclusive education, intensive services like sensory training, orientation and mobility training, training on daily living skills, social inclusion, pre Braille and Braille training, development of TLM and its use for covering plus curriculum, curricular activities , human resource development etc are undertaken. Organization also makes the CWSN access physiotherapy services and referral to hospitals when required. In order to deliver need based services to children with special needs, trained human resources are generated focusing on Braille teaching, Taylor frame, preparation IEDP and TLM etc.

Orientation of the Teacher, Anganbadi, Mitanin, Health worker on Disability Issues

Raising awareness on disability and its various facets, and building capacity, knowledge and skills of different stakeholders like parents, ICDS teachers, anganwadi workers, Mitanin, health workers and other relevant stakeholders is an effective strategy for promoting inclusive education and mainstreaming children with disabilities in the formal schools and their inclusion in the larger community. Thus Prerak organises capacity building training programs on regular basis for these stakeholders to help them deal with disabled children, classroom management, bring attitudinal change, use need based curriculum and use of specific aids and appliances to address the problems of concerning disabled children.

Capacity Building of the School Management Committee

Raising awareness on disability and its various facets, and building capacity, knowledge and skills of different stakeholders is an effective strategy for promoting inclusive education and mainstreaming children with disabilities in the formal schools and their inclusion in the larger community. In this context, SMC being a major stakeholder needs to be trained and made aware. Thus Prerak regularly conducts capacity building workshops and training programs for the SMC members and they are oriented on creating a conducive environment in the school for the enrollment of the CWDs by recruitment of special educator, building special toilets and ramp and also monitoring the activities of teacher in the class. They were also informed about various Govt schemes for the disabled.

Formation of Disabled People Organisation and Parent's organization

Initiative has been taken by Prerak to create awareness amongst the CWDs through formation of Disabled People Organisations. The leaders as well as the members of the DPOs are oriented on objectives of the DPO formation and its various advantages. The CWDs are made aware of multi dimensional advantages of DPO formation which can play a pivotal role in their empowerment, make them aware about their rights & various Govt.schemes. Through DPO they can be in better position to discuss and present their issues and demands together in the proper platform. Moreover through formation of DPO they can become self dependent.

Economically Rehabilitation - Career Guidance

For the socio economic rehabilitation of children with disability special care is undertaken to enrich their skills and potentials through various counseling services and vocational trainings. Both intensive and supportive services are provided as per the need of the identified disabled children from 0-25 years for their rehabilitation. From 0-3 years early intervention services is provided. Pre-primary educational support services is provided to the age group of 0-6 years and educational and rehabilitation services is provided to 6-18 years and for 18-25 year

disabled children, special is taken for their socio-economic rehabilitation through vocational training.

SAKSHAM- The Rehabilitation and Vocational Training Centre for Disabled.

Disabled people have specific needs which are totally ignored by their families and society where they live. Consequently, they are not accepted in the society and remain dependent on others throughout their lives. Proper counseling of parents and appropriate development plan is thus required for each beneficiary according to his/her ability to address his/her special needs. So SAKSHAM came to exist in the year 2009 with fully equipped residential centre with special vocational training, education, and with medical intervention-services for the rehabilitation of disabled people and to assist them to become self-sufficient and productive members of the society.

PRERAK through SAKSHAM- The Rehabilitation and Vocational Training Centre for Disabled provides different vocational training like computer education, tailoring, welding and fabrication, carpentry, file and folder making, candle making etc to enhance and sharpen their skill and capacity to be self sufficient and leading a life with full dignity. In each trade nearly 15 disabled students both male and female are trained and soon after the completion necessary arrangement of financial help, market facilities, raw materials etc are made available by the organisation for their self employment.

Environment

Tribal are considered as the original inhabitant of India, but in these days they are socially backward, economically poor, politically dominated, educationally and culturally far from the mainstream of society. Again though various pro-tribal policies and acts have been enacted but due to lack of sensitization and awareness the tribal impoverishment is gradually increasing day by day. So to attain the aim of ensuring sustainable livelihood, protection of tribal rights and to make the tribal community capable enough to watch over the proper implementation of pro-tribal policies, organization has been working on environmental issues for the past so many years.

Nursery and Plantation of NTFP Based Traditional Varieties.

Due to rapid deforestation the sources of NTFP based trees getting degraded at an alarming rate which adversely affect the livelihood of tribal community. The forest department has been trying to compensate the loss of forest cover by planting trees of teak and other such trees which doesn't prove to be much beneficial for the tribal. In this context, Prerak has taken the initiative for raising of saplings for promotion of indigenous NTFP based and fruit bearing trees such as sal,mohua,tendu,char,bhelwa,saroti,amla,khudur,main,dumar bel,bair,karouda and its

plantation in the degraded forests. Prerak also involve the school children in plantation of trees for increasing awareness among them about environment and forest conservation.

Capacity Building of the Tribal Community on - FRA, CFR, PESA

Prerak intermittently guides its effort to generate awareness and build the capacity of the tribal community by organizing village meeting, block level meetings, foot march, wall writing and development and distribution of IEC and advocacy materials to villagers, youths, women and at community level related to forest, forest based livelihood and its condition, traditional tribal rules, PESA act and implementation and its process, FRA rules and guidelines and its implementation condition and gap of implementation of this Act.

Conservation of Traditional Water Bodies

Prerak consistently strives for conservation of traditional water bodies through community participation. Significant measures are taken to enhance the ground water level and ensure safe drinking water by cleaning the dug wells, repairing of tube wells, putting disinfectant in the wells and deepening it further. The water management committee meetings regularly and various decisions are taken pertaining to conservation of traditional water bodies and gaining better control over water bodies for its management.

Women Empowerment and Gender Sensitization

Gender is another priority area highly emphasized in its intervention. To enhance the control of women over land and community resources, increase their participation in decision making process and protect their rights, Prerak involved women in its various programs, impart them technical education, leadership skill development, develop economic self dependency by micro savings and income generation programs. Prerak continually engaged in motivating women for political participation in Panchyat level and facilitate action against gender discrimination and social evil. To increase participation of women, women members are included in the farmer groups and participation of both husband and wife is encouraged in the monthly meetings. Women participation in term of membership and participation in group meetings, training, and exposure visit are ensured to transfer knowledge and skill. Prerak also conducts training and orientation programs for sensitise the farmers as well as its staff on gender related issues.

Awards and Recognition

With the recommendation of Sightsaver International, PRERAK received the National Award on the eve of "World Sight Day" celebration at Hyderabad, from Dr. Ambumani Ramdas, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare for the best contribution and dedication for eliminating of blindness through community based rehabilitation and integrated education program.

PRERAK has also received “State Award” from the honorable Governor of Chhattishgarh Dr. K. M. Seth on the occasion of World Handicapped Day on 3rd December 2005 as one of the best regional voluntary agency for his valuable contribution for the rehabilitation and extension education for visually impaired children in the state of Chhattisgarh.

Way Ahead

1. Prerak in the near future shall play an instrumental role in formation of producers group.
2. Organisation has also planned to do marketing of organic rice.

Networking

1. **Voluntary Action Network India(VANI),New Dehli**
2. **NFTP- EP India**
3. **Right to Education Forum, New Dehli**
4. **Beej Swaraj Manch.New Dehli**

Our Donors

