

## A story of community empowerment through sensitized women’s groups



# PACS project – Impact Assessment story of Muslim women’s empowerment

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\*NBNVS is a right based participatory development organization working with women & children belonging to the excluded community. We facilitate them for realizing their legal rights and entitlements to access government's health, education and other poverty alleviation schemes.\*  
\*"SAVE THE GIRL CHILD - SAVE THE SOCIETY"\*

\*DIAL 1098 , HELP US CARE FOR CHILDREN IN DISTRESS, CARE & PROTECTION\*

## Acknowledgement

15 September 2011 was the rememabareable day when we started working of PACS program in three District of (U.P.) Ballia, Mau, Ghazipur. We were firmly determined that we will constitute the deprived people of Dalit and Muslim community in upcoming four years for their rights.

I am really happy and contented to present you this report on accomplishing the goals and targets in last four years as we achieved our mission successfully. In the past four years NBNVS has worked in 352 villages of 181 Gram panchayat and 7 Blocks 3 District of UP. Ballia, Mau & Ghazipur.



We have recorded remarkable success in issues like Livelihood (MNREGA), Health, Education and Nutrition for strengthening community based organization (CBO) was framed.

The team of NBNVS was continuously experimenting in resolving the issues and implementing new ideas for making for making socially excluded Dalits, Muslims, disabled, women and deprived people of the society socially, economically and education all empowered. The result of these efforts is that 40112 families of the most deprived and excluded community have got the benefit.

Last but not least I would like to express my gratitude to all the partners’ government officials, media persons, team members of NBNVS and all the well-wishers for their kind support and guidance without which it would not have been easy to achieve the goals and fulfil the mission of PACS program.

 **AJHAR ALI**  
Director



**Sri Sharad Kumar Singh**  
**IAS**

## **Message**

NBNVS is doing remarkable work for the empowerment and upliftment of the poor, deprived and under privileged section of the society by making them aware and providing those benefits of the various government policies.

The Director/Secretary of NBNVS Mr. Ajhar Ali’s committed efforts and remarkable leadership quality and team management is highly appreciable.

Hope NBNVS will continue to work with the same zeal and dedication in future also and scale new heights of achievement and glory. I hope that this organization will keep on working for the development and upliftment of Basic Education in future too.

My best wishes are with the organization.

**Sri Sharad Kumar Singh**  
**IAS**  
**DM- Ballia**



Sri K. Bala Jee, IAS

### Message

NBNVS has been focusing on issues based on health, education and livelihood. It is working continuously for the upliftment and betterment of Socially Excluded Community like Dalit and Muslim to bridge the gap and differences between excluded community and mainstream people of the society. The Society believes that the major method to bring social change and development is through strengthening the community. It is making continuous efforts to make the community self-dependent so that the community itself can raise its voice for its rights.

*I Congratulate NBNVS for its noteworthy contribution for the society and wish them success in their future endeavours.*

Sri K. Bala Jee, IAS  
Chief Development Officer  
Ballia



Sri Khem Pal Singh, PCS

### Message

NBNVS is doing remarkable work for the empowerment and upliftment of the poor, deprived and under privileged section of the society by making them aware and providing them benefits of the various government schemes like Education, MNREGA, Nutrition, Health (RSBY, JSY).

NBNVS is doing noteworthy work for the development of Basic Education in Ballia district. The organization has been working intensively towards the education of children especially those of the poor, deprived and under privileged community.

It has been working meticulously for the successful implementation and functioning of Right to Education bill in primary and junior schools. By strengthening the role of SMCs in schools it has helped in improving the quality of education in schools.

The Director/Secretary and the entire team of NBNVS are committed efforts and remarkable leadership quality and team management is highly appreciable.

Hope NBNVS will continue to work with the same zeal and dedication in future also and scale new heights of achievement and glory. My best wishes are with the organization.

  
Sri Khem Pal Singh  
08/3/16  
PCS

ADM(finance & Revenue), Ballia





Sri Heera Lal, PCS

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Sri Heera Lal, PCS  
Regional Food Controller  
Faizabad



पत्रांक .....

दिनांक .....

प्रिय अजहर अली जी,

निदेशक,  
नव भारतीय नारी विकास समिति,  
बहेरी, बलिया।



मुझ जान के हर्ष हो रहा है कि आप की संस्था द्वारा हमारे कार्य क्षेत्र में समाज के बहिष्कृत समुदाय के साथ व्यापक स्तर पर पैक्स कार्यक्रम के अर्न्तगत मनरेगा, स्वास्थ्य, शिक्षा एवं पोषण पर कार्य हुआ, जिसमें लोगों को मनरेगा, स्वास्थ्य, शिक्षा एवं पोषण के क्षेत्र में बहोत जानकारी एवं जागरूकता हुयी, साथ ही आपके जिला सम्मेलन में जिस तरह से ग्रामिण महिलाओं ने अपनी सहभागिता दिखाई जो अत्यन्त सराहनिय रहा, इस पुनीत कार्य के लिये आपको और आपके संस्था परिवार को साधुवाद है।

हम संस्था की उज्जवल भविष्य की कामना करता हं।

अजहर अली  
15/01/16



## Table of Contents

Contents	Page Numbers
<u>Background &amp; Methodology</u>	4-8
<u>The Process of Intervention</u>	9-20
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Team Structure and Function</li><li>- Group Structure and Function</li></ul>	
<u>The Achievements of the Intervention</u>	21-39
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Quantitative Achievements</li><li>- Cases</li><li>- Qualitative achievements</li><li>- Success Stories</li></ul>	
<u>Conclusion and way forward</u>	40-41
<u>Challenges, Learning</u>	42-43
<u>List of Acronyms</u>	44

## 1

## BACKGROUND AND METHODOLOGY

### 1.1 A Background to the Documented Intervention

This is an intervention supported by PACS and implemented at the ground level by Nav Bhartiya Nari Vikas Samiti and its partners. PACS or Poorest Areas Civil Society programme is an initiative of Department of International Development government of UK to work with civil society organizations in India on issues of social exclusion and discrimination on various thematic issues. PACS has been working in 90 poorest districts across seven states of India, namely, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. In these states, PACS has been working with socially excluded communities such as Muslim minority, women, persons with disability and scheduled castes. PACS in Uttar Pradesh has been working in 17 districts with 20 CSOs, 32 network partners and with more than 4000 CBOs.

One of the organizations PACS has partnered with during this phase of intervention is Nav Bhartiya Nari Vikas Samiti (NBNVS), which is a voluntary development organization established in 1993 with the prime objective of upliftment of the poorest communities especially the socially marginalized women & children. The organization believes that social change can only be possible with the change in the lives of poor and marginalized people. The organization took to the ideals of Gandhi ji to promote integrated and self-sustaining village society by uplifting the depressed, exploited and the down trodden section of the society viz. children, women, Old-aged people; put an end to illiteracy; make them disease free; economically and politically empowered and to transform the Ballia district into a healthy and vibrant society.

Accordingly, the Mission of the organization is **“To empower each person or the community irrespective of caste, creed or religion, however vulnerable or disadvantaged it may be to able to achieve higher level of consciousness, so as to match main stream of the society.”**

NBNVS envisions *“creating a society where basic needs of every individual like food, shelter, health, education and entertainment are addressed irrespective of caste, creed, religion, gender and language; where justice, equality, liberty, security and human rights are assured; where cooperative culture is a way of life.”* The organization’s mission is *“to build society through community empowerment for sustainable development and protection of rights.”*

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Within this framework, the organization has achieved community level success in several areas such as prevention of female feticide, legal literacy for education, employment assurance through vocational training to the youths, women empowerment for strong leadership and right and entitlement, livelihood and micro finance etc.

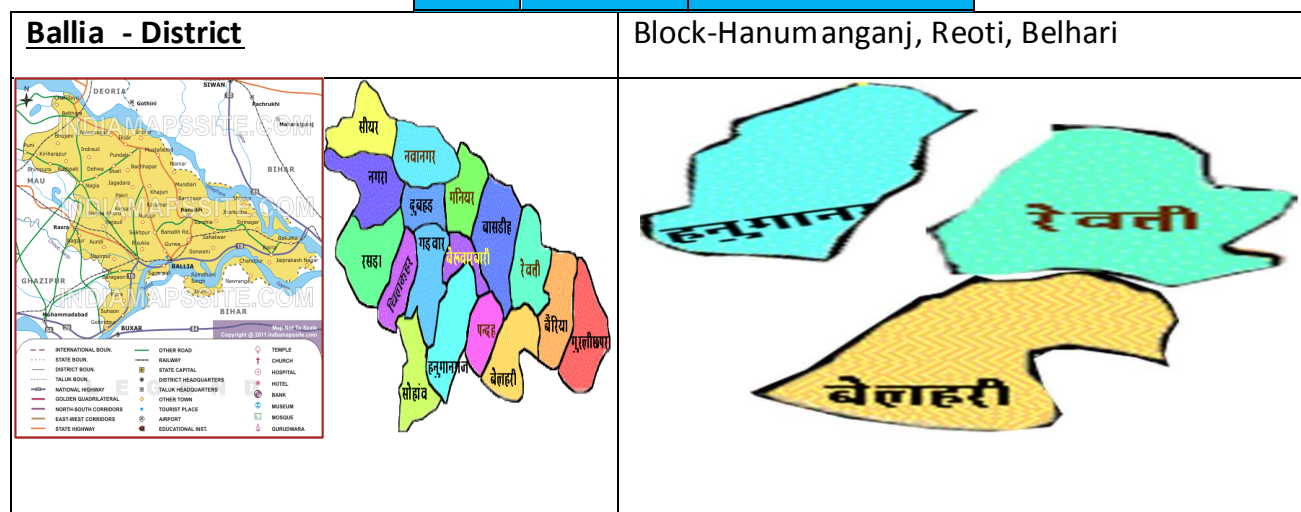
NBNVS is working in three Districts of UP in Ballia, Mau & Ghazipur. Among these, the intervention covered by this document is in Ballia, Mau, Ghazipur one of the poorest of the 100 districts in India identified by the planning commission of India.

## 1.2 About the Intervention

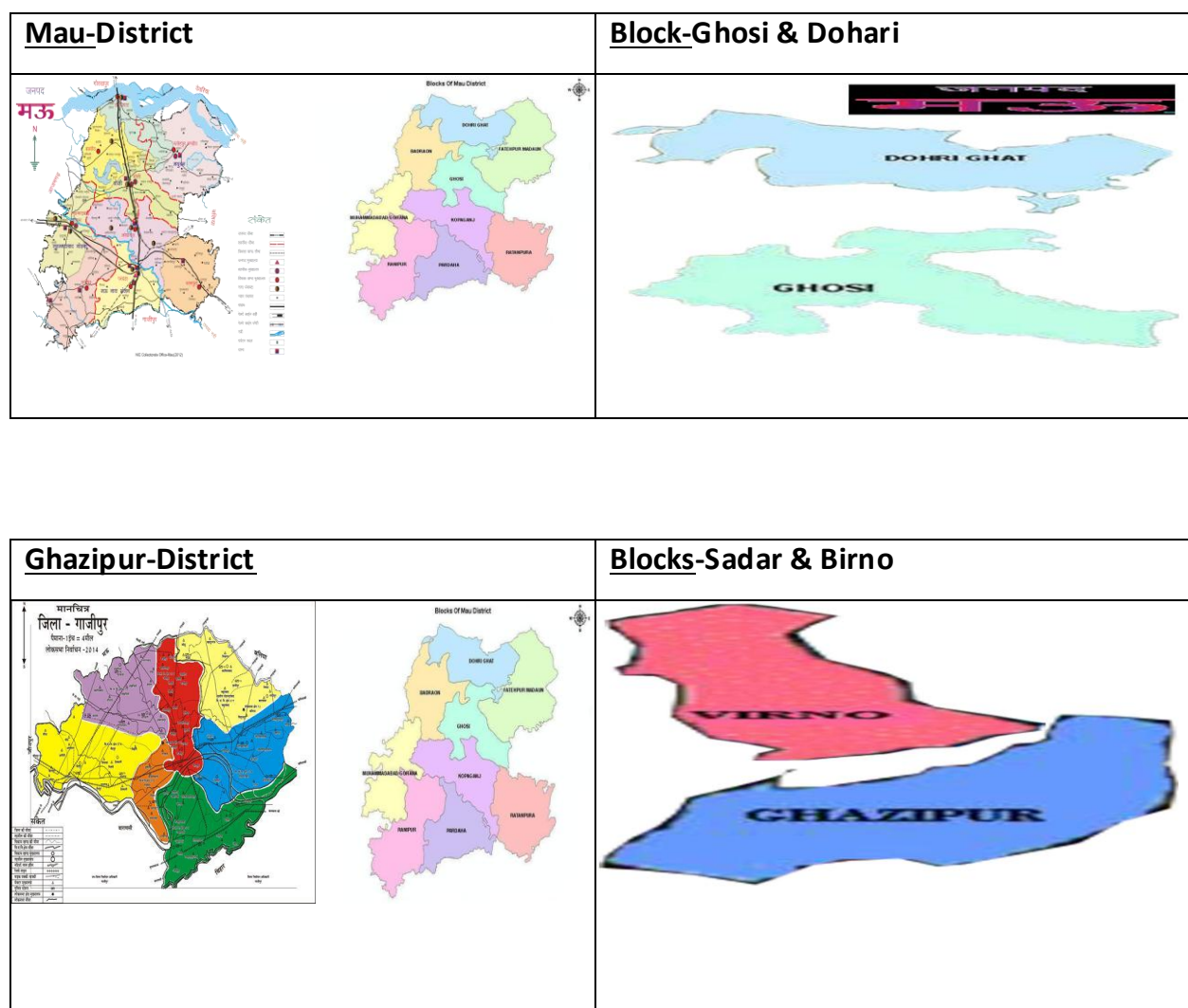
The intervention covered by this document is based in total 7 blocks of three district of Uttar Pradesh.

These blocks are:

S.N.	District	Blocks
1	Ballia	1. Hanumanganj
		2. Reoti
		3. Belhari
2	Mau	4. Ghosi
		5. Doharighat
3	Ghazipur	6. Sadar
		7. Birno



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Title of the intervention is ‘Improving non-discriminatory access to livelihood, education and health for 40000 Dalit/Muslim families in 3 districts of U P’ and it covers 118 Gram Panchayats in the 7 blocks combined. This also consists of 352 revenue villages. 4 NGOs, including the lead partner are working in these 7 blocks. The thematic focus areas are:

## (1) Livelihood -

(a) MNREGA

## (2) Basic Services-

(a) Health (b) Education (c) Nutrition

### The intervention endeavours to address certain core problems of the targeted community. These are:

- Widespread discrimination and denial of services and entitlements to the socially excluded communities (Dalits and Muslims), especially in the implementation of NREGS, SSA, MDM, NRHM, JSY, ISCDs, TSC.
- Women from these communities face double discrimination, in the family and out of family.
- Socially excluded communities lack information, knowledge, organizations, leadership and skills to avail their entitlements properly.
- They are not adequately represented in different administrative and PRI committees as most of their elected representatives in the PRI are powerless and voiceless.
- Lack of representation and participation in local government bodies especially formed at district, block and village levels.

In this context, the **objectives** of the intervention were:

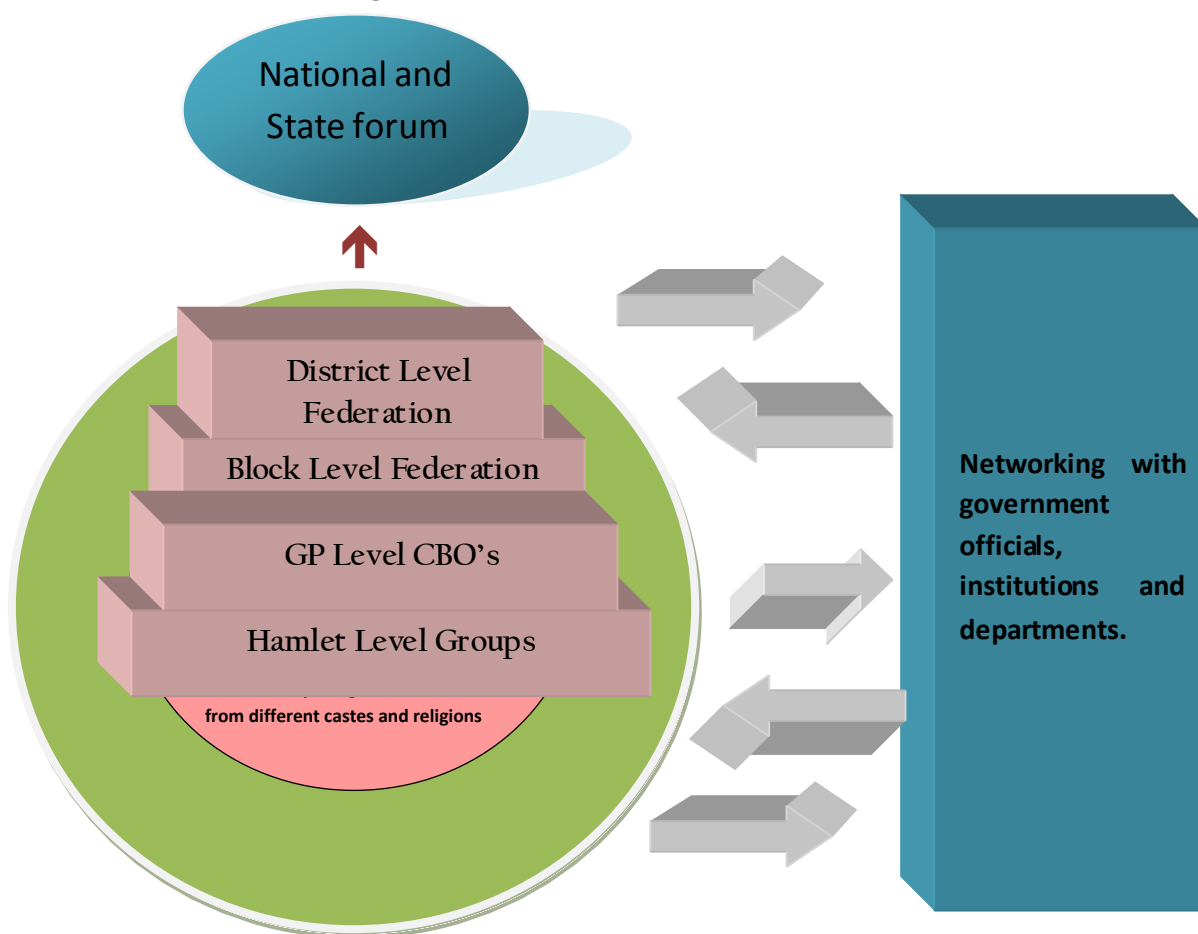
- To develop strong civil society organisations that can fight for their rights to address the core issues mentioned above
- To ensure representation of women and marginalized sections in these CSOs so that they can fight for their rights and entitlements
- To ensure that these civil society organizations work to make service providers more responsive and accountable to socially excluded groups

The **strategies** of the intervention were:

- To develop women’s group and federate them at GP, block and district level to form strong CBOs
- To network with government institutions and officials at various levels and make them stronger stakeholders to this positive process of change and thus ensure positive change in a more veritable way

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This can be shown in **diagram 1.1** below:



## 1.3 About this Document

This document is an effort to provide a synoptic view of the intervention that allows the reader to understand the process of the intervention, the efficacy of the intervention and also the outcomes of the intervention. Here both the quantitative and the qualitative outcomes have been touched upon.

## 1.4 Methodology for Documentation

For the purpose of the intervention field visits were planned and carried out in various blocks of the intervention. Discussions were carried out with villagers and particularly with the women’s groups and federations. This was substantiated with discussions with members of the various teams to have an in depth notion of the process. Data was also collected over the entire period of intervention and entered on Excel Sheets for registering the quantitative gains from the intervention. This data has also been of immense use during this documentation process.



## 2

## THE PROCESS OF INTERVENTION

### 2.1 Introduction

The last chapter provides a backdrop to the intervention and also to this document. This chapter moves a step further and provides an insight into the process of intervention. The process includes the method of intervention. But it also reflects on how the method itself has been planned in a way as to contribute to the efficacy of the intervention. Relevant entities that form a tool to the process such as manpower structure and women’s group structure have all been touched upon here as they make the section more holistic. Insights into the structures are important as they enable an understanding of the way the group functions.

### 2.2 Team Structure and Function

The project team may be considered as the first level of input to the intervention. As such the manpower structure through which it functions is important to the functionality of the intervention.

The team structure for the intervention is simple and compact.

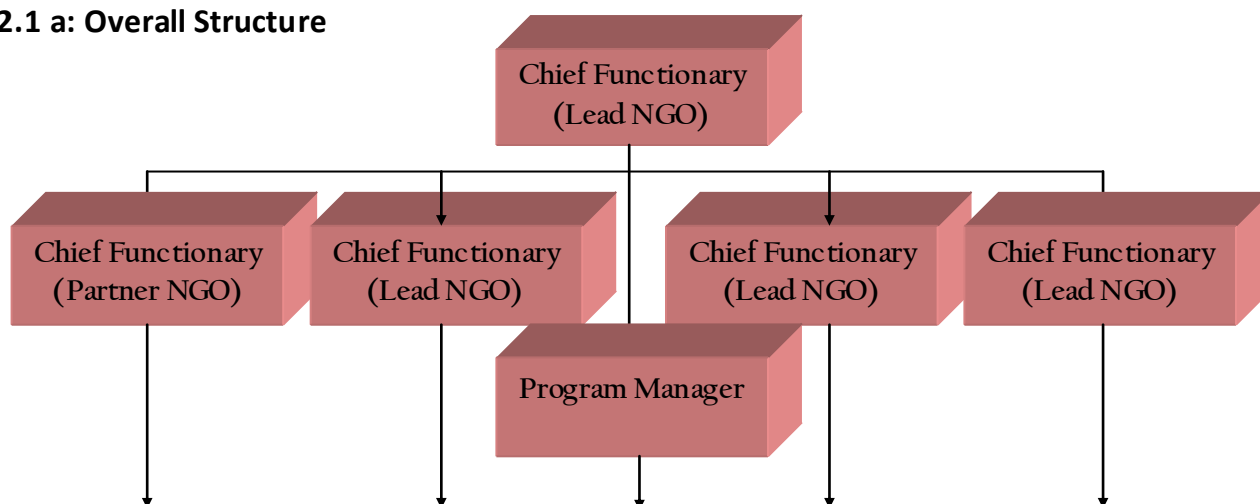
- As already mentioned the intervention was executed by 4 NGOs among which 1 was a lead partner. Thus the four NGOs that have joined hands to implement the PACS project are:
  - Nav Bhartiya Nari Vikas Samiti
  - Nirbal Sewa Samiti
  - Purvanchal Vakash Sansthan
  - Nav Jyoti Mahila Kalyan Samiti

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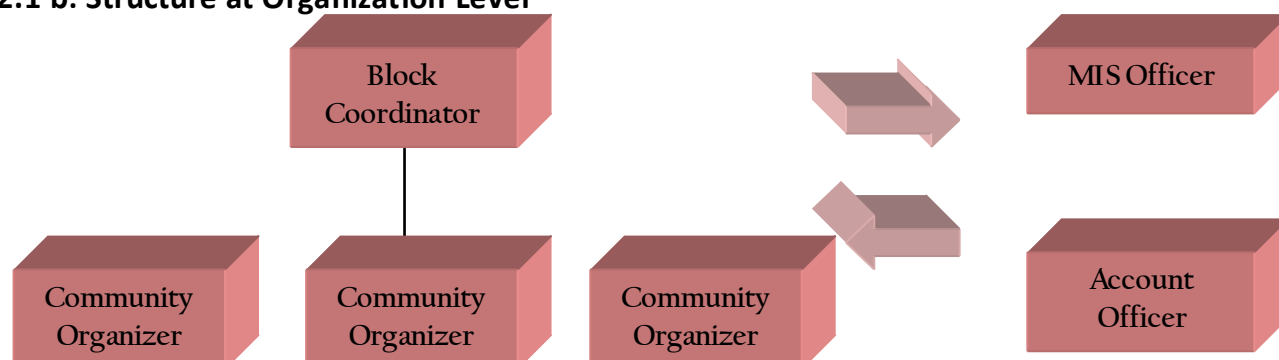
- There are 5 community organizers and 1 block coordinator at each NGO level. Only Lead Organization has 6 CO’s and 1 BC. The role of the community organizers is to visit the various houses in a chosen hamlet and generate awareness among them about the relevance of the intervention and also how joining hands to form women’s groups and federations would enable them to get various entitlements and benefits.
- Besides this, there is also 1 program manager at the lead NGO level. The program manager oversees the entire operation on the field and provides inputs for better planning; in finding solutions and also provides general monitoring support. This is the line structure.
- Besides this, there is support or staff function that supports this line structure. This consists of 1 MIS and 1 Account Officer.
- The Chief Functionary of the organizations supersedes this entire structure.

This may be shown in **Diagram 2.1** below:

### 2.1 a: Overall Structure



### 2.1 b: Structure at Organization Level



*A key point for selection of community organisers is that effort is made to select both male and female members from the target community. This is done with a purpose. The women members are expected to play a key role in mobilizing the women to join the groups. On the other hand the male members are expected to play a definite role in speaking to the male family members of these women and address family concerns and obstacles to their joining the groups. In this way, the effort is to keep the structure as holistic as possible.*

### 2.2 Group Structure and Function

While the team structure has been discussed, one can now move on to the immediate purpose behind development of the structure – namely formation and functioning of strong women’s groups that usher in changes through better access to community rights and entitlements. As already mentioned the entire intervention is based and executed through women’s groups. These women’s groups are called ‘Bhartiya Nari Sangh’s.

- The **main criterion** for being selected in a sangh is that **the woman has to be from an economically marginalized family**. Thus while the greater share of women who belong to these Sanghs consist of Muslim women and also women from SC and OBC castes, there are between 5 to 10 percent women in these bodies that are from relatively upper castes.

*Sometimes having women from diverse castes in the same group may pose a hazard to smooth functioning of the group. To ensure homogeneity despite the heterogeneous caste composition, the groups takes various micro steps such as:*

- *Neutral sitting arrangement, where all women and even visitors sit on the same level, namely on the cloth spread on the ground*
- *Neutral location, where the group gathers at a place that is caste neutral*

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- The role of the NGO is not only restricted to formation of groups but also to their gradual strengthening so that they may become relevant vessels of social change. For this purpose, the **groups are graded** into A, B, and C. the effort of the NGO team is to retain groups that have graded A, and to further strengthen those in B and C. These grades are basically given on various parameters such as:
  - The knowledge and awareness levels of the group members.
  - Having Project Advisory Committee (PAC) track the project.
  - Priority of the group in sorting matters of common interest rather individual cases or vested interest
  - Respect received by the group members at home as the group strengthens and targets common problems of the community
  - Regularity of group in meeting up and systematic functioning
  - Financial provision for tackling group expenses etc.

**Grade-A (A) के आधार पर**

नव भारतीय नारी विकास समिति, बहेरी - बलिया

पैक्स परियोजना अंतर्गत संगठन के मूल्यांकन व मजबूती के सम्बंध में जानकारी हेतु फार्म

पैक्स कार्यक्रम के अंतर्गत कार्यक्रमों की जानकारी: **शुद्धि प्रयास**

पैक्स कार्यक्रम के अंतर्गत कार्यक्रमों की जानकारी: **कमल कौशिक**

संगठन के सदस्यों के बीच कार्य करने के अनुभवों के आधार पर

नाम	पद	मंडल	संख्या
निज देवी	अध्यक्ष	8601733267	निज देवी
लीला देवी	उप-अध्यक्ष		लीला देवी
सुभाषी देवी	सुपेन्डेंट	8601733267	सुभाषी देवी

संगठन का नाम: **शुद्धि प्रयास संगठन - बहेरी**

संगठन के सदस्यों के बीच कार्य करने के अनुभवों के आधार पर

संगठन के सदस्यों के बीच कार्य करने के अनुभवों के आधार पर	19
संगठन के सदस्यों के बीच कार्य करने के अनुभवों के आधार पर	3
संगठन के सदस्यों के बीच कार्य करने के अनुभवों के आधार पर	26.01.2013
संगठन के सदस्यों के बीच कार्य करने के अनुभवों के आधार पर	01
संगठन के सदस्यों के बीच कार्य करने के अनुभवों के आधार पर	20
संगठन के सदस्यों के बीच कार्य करने के अनुभवों के आधार पर	35%
संगठन के सदस्यों के बीच कार्य करने के अनुभवों के आधार पर	81%
संगठन के सदस्यों के बीच कार्य करने के अनुभवों के आधार पर	34%
संगठन के सदस्यों के बीच कार्य करने के अनुभवों के आधार पर	35%
संगठन के सदस्यों के बीच कार्य करने के अनुभवों के आधार पर	35%

**संगठन के सदस्यों के बीच कार्य करने के अनुभवों के आधार पर**

संगठन के सदस्यों के बीच कार्य करने के अनुभवों के आधार पर

संगठन के सदस्यों के बीच कार्य करने के अनुभवों के आधार पर	5
संगठन के सदस्यों के बीच कार्य करने के अनुभवों के आधार पर	14
संगठन के सदस्यों के बीच कार्य करने के अनुभवों के आधार पर	10
संगठन के सदस्यों के बीच कार्य करने के अनुभवों के आधार पर	10
संगठन के सदस्यों के बीच कार्य करने के अनुभवों के आधार पर	10
संगठन के सदस्यों के बीच कार्य करने के अनुभवों के आधार पर	23
संगठन के सदस्यों के बीच कार्य करने के अनुभवों के आधार पर	10
संगठन के सदस्यों के बीच कार्य करने के अनुभवों के आधार पर	33%
संगठन के सदस्यों के बीच कार्य करने के अनुभवों के आधार पर	10
संगठन के सदस्यों के बीच कार्य करने के अनुभवों के आधार पर	43%

संगठन के सदस्यों के बीच कार्य करने के अनुभवों के आधार पर

1. संगठन के सदस्यों के बीच कार्य करने के अनुभवों के आधार पर
2. संगठन के सदस्यों के बीच कार्य करने के अनुभवों के आधार पर
3. संगठन के सदस्यों के बीच कार्य करने के अनुभवों के आधार पर
4. संगठन के सदस्यों के बीच कार्य करने के अनुभवों के आधार पर
5. संगठन के सदस्यों के बीच कार्य करने के अनुभवों के आधार पर

**Diagram 2.2: Grading Tool**

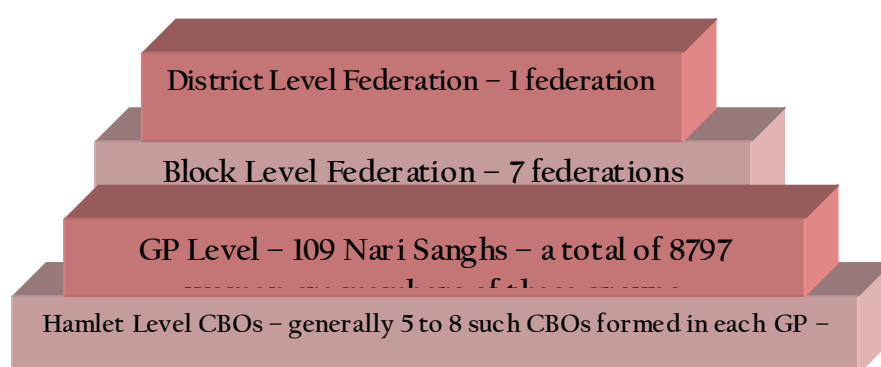
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*Approximately 55 percent groups are in grade A, 30 percent in grade B and approximately 25 percent in grade C.*

- Each Sangh has from 50 to 150 members. The age of the women varies between 20 to 60 years.
- As mentioned, the women in the groups are selected from the families that are found to belong to economically marginalized (poor). The groups are then federated at three levels:
  - The GP level
  - The Block level
  - The District level
- To form the CBO’s at the GP level CBOs are first formed in selected hamlets of a GP. Thus each Sangh/Federation formed at the GP level is made up of 25 to 30 CBOs, each CBO consisting of 100 to 150 members. The CBOs formed at hamlet level consists of women members from that hamlet.
- The overall structure is like a pyramid where the hamlet level CBOs together forms the GP level federation. Then again the GP level groups form a federation at the block level and finally at the district level.

For the 118 GPs covered by the intervention, there are 109 CBO;s Sanghs/GP Level Federations that have been formed. Together these women’s GP level federations have **8797** members.

This is shown in **Diagram 2.3** below:



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Each level of group has two leaders – the ‘adhyaksh’ (president) and the sachiv (secretary). These women are chosen in public meetings when at least 60 percent members of the concerned groups are present.

Besides this, 5 women are selected from the federations at the GP level who are part of a vigilance committee. The women’s groups essentially work as a right based pressure group.

Members of the group, who are gradually sensitized, thus **take up various local issues that affect their lives**. This includes:

- Proper functionality of the ICDS centre
- Employment of both men and women in MNREGA and receipt of payment for the same
- Generation and proper utilization of smart cards through RSBY
- Functionality of schools as per RTE norms

The members of this **vigilance committee**:

- Monitor and evaluate the group from within and ensure that there is no discriminatory mal practise within the group.
- Monitor and evaluate the various entities that are related to group focus themes such as schools, RSBY implementation, MNREGA implementation etc. and bring group focus to the list of mal practices and anomalies.
- Often their vigilance and findings through the same may be starting points for action to remedy things.

Various types of activities are conducted through the women’s groups. On the one hand are regular activities that are conducted in a systematic and often slotted manner. These include:



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- **Monthly Meetings** – the groups meet at least ones a month on a fixed date to discuss local issues. Here diverse but relevant topics are discussed, deliberated upon and course of action decided to remedy the situation. The meetings not



only provide base for chalking out action points but also help in improving relationship and camaraderie among the group members. This unity goes a long way in addressing points of common concern on an equal footing.

- **Inputs from NGO representatives** - On the other hand NGO representatives also visit each GP level women’s group every month and sensitize them to various rights and entitlements. In every meeting previous topics are refreshed and new topics discussed so that knowledge level of the women increase and they are more empowered.



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Besides the regular activities mentioned above, the groups also partake in various other activities. These include:-

- **District and Block level interface & Sensitization meetings** – these meetings are of



immense value as they bring the group members, community stakeholders and government officials on to a common platform. As problems are brought forward by the community, often in the

presence of government officials of relevant departments, a good number of them are instantaneously solved. Thus these interfaces play a key role in strengthening entitlement realization. These interface activities are held at various levels – including panchayat level, block level and district level. So far panchayat level and 7 block level interface meetings were organized.



- **District and Block Level Learnign and sharing workshop-**

We have organized 3 District and 7 Block level Learning and sharing workshop , to



share and explore our works amongst local District Administration , CSO’s, CBO’s and others stake holders, in details of our achievements and activities and get suggestion from them

to improve and handholding.

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- **Public hearings** – these were held from time to time and were effective tools in having problems addressed and situations solved. Here a resource person was called for the duration of the public hearing. The resource person could be a retired judge, PCS officer, member of district legal service authority etc. Ones the community expressed their problems before the resource persons, sometimes the resource persons tried to solve them. They advocated on these matters, opened dialogues and drafted applications to the suitable authorities, often with decent success.
- **Social audits at Panchayat Level** – Another vital activity that was held from time to time and helped in better compliance in MNREGA was social audit. These were held at Panchayat level and often the media was called for sharing of the social audit results. So far 15 such social audits have been conducted. Here data on MNREGA was first collected from the respective government department. This was then verified against data collected by women’s group at the local level. Department officials were also called for the purpose.
- **Campaign Mode and other activities District and Block level Sammelan**– another



CBOs and federations formed through the intervention often work on campaign mode on various issues. These include campaigns on nutrition and MNREGA.

mode of achieving objectives was through campaigns. The various





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Besides this 2 wall writings per GP was budgeted so that the community is made aware on issues such as Education, Nutrition, MNREGA, JSY and RSBY. Also, toll free numbers that are relevant to the villages are also written down so that community members can seek information and file complaints where rights and entitlements were being compromised. Similarly, various types of get together ‘sammelan’s get organized that serve to generate awareness, get unity in strength, share from common learning and give visibility to issues. For example, ‘Jila and Block Stariya Sammelan’ was held to bring women labourers together and enable



them to get better through MNREGA. are also useful for straightening the on the issues of Education, Nutrition and MNREGA.

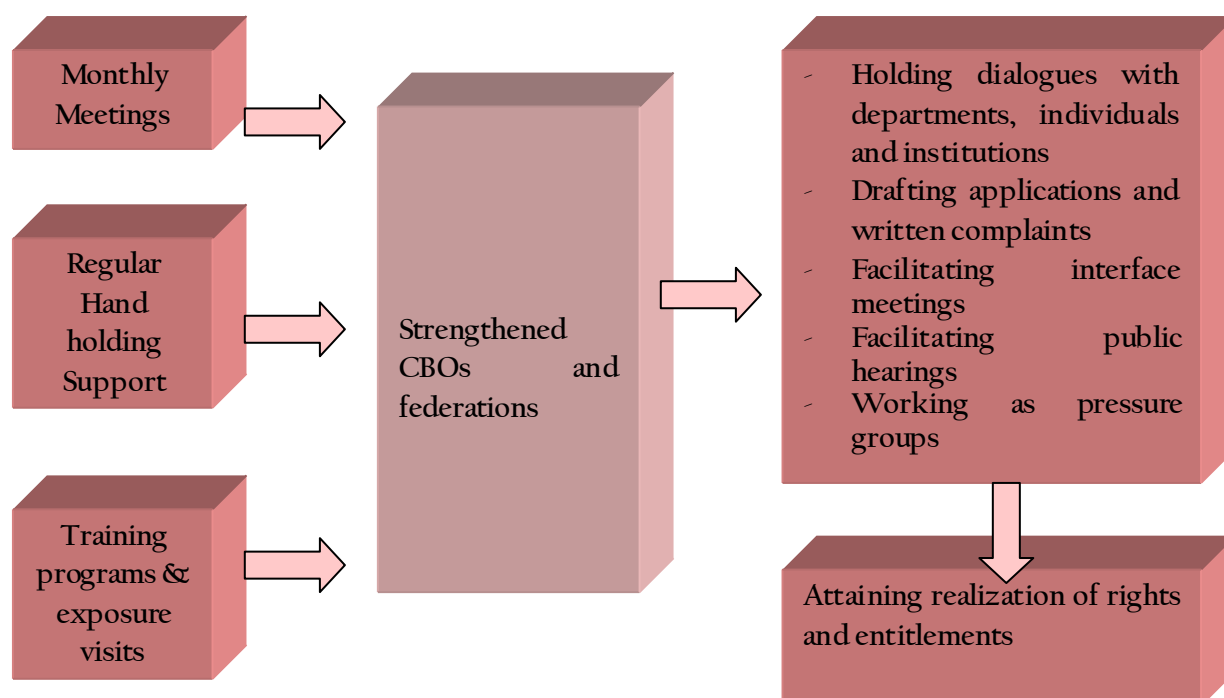
deals  
IEC materials  
community  
Health,

*Thus the groups take recourse to various activities to attain their objectives. These include:*

- Holding dialogues with respective institutions and individuals at the GP level
- Drafting applications to higher level authorities
- Involving the media
- Working on campaign mode
- Facilitating interface meetings

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The above is shown synoptically in **Diagram 2.4** below:



# **PACS project – Impact Assessment story of Muslim women’s empowerment**

## **2.3 Network Structure and Function**

An important feature of the intervention is that members of the women’s groups, the project staff and also the executive directors of the NGOs hold positions in various level government bodies related to health, education, nutrition and income generation.

For example members of the GP level women’s group are members in:

- AWW monitoring & evaluation committee
- MNREGA vigilance committee
- ASHA mentoring group
- VHND
- VCPC

Similarly, Project Organizers are members of:

- ICDS committee
- Block level education committee
- Rogi Kalyan Samiti
- SMC trainer group
- BCPC members

Executive Director is member/ secretary of:

- District Child Advisory Board
- DCPS
- PCPNDT committee
- District Education Committee
- DHC



## 3

## THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE INTERVENTION

### 3.1 Introduction

So far this document has covered the basic details of the intervention such as basic details of the intervention and the process of the intervention. This chapter focuses on the achievements. The achievements are basically of two types – quantitative achievements and qualitative achievements. The chapter also covers findings from the field in the form of cases and success stories that gives life to the achievements.

### 3.2 Quantitative Achievements

As already mentioned, NBNVS and its network partners have been working on core thematic areas. These include health, education, and nutrition and livelihood. The women’s groups formed as a vessel to be right based action groups to seek their rights and entitlement on these parameters have successfully championed the cause of the community so that families from the covered GPs have benefitted in a big way from various schemes.

*For example, in health, the community has benefitted in a big way from implementation of the RSBY and the JSY. Smart cards are now being developed in a systematic manner. Community members who would otherwise have had to spend themselves or forego treatment because of the prohibitive cost have now been able to undergo systematic treatment through RSBY. While 19328 people in all have benefitted from RSBY and JSY during the intervention, the total benefit accrued in monetary terms is to the tune of Rs. 52428400.*

*Similarly, through MNREGA, a lot of women have received employment over certain duration of the year. Also, payments have been more forthcoming rather than stalled. As many as 1583 members have benefitted through MNREGA during the intervention period. Total monetary benefits accrued through the intervention have been to the tune of Rs. 24, 86,430.*

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*Approximately 40 percent ICDS centres that were largely dysfunctional prior to the intervention have now started functioning either regularly or at least to a definite extent. As a result of this, children who did not receive nutrition from these centres have now started doing so on a more regular basis.*

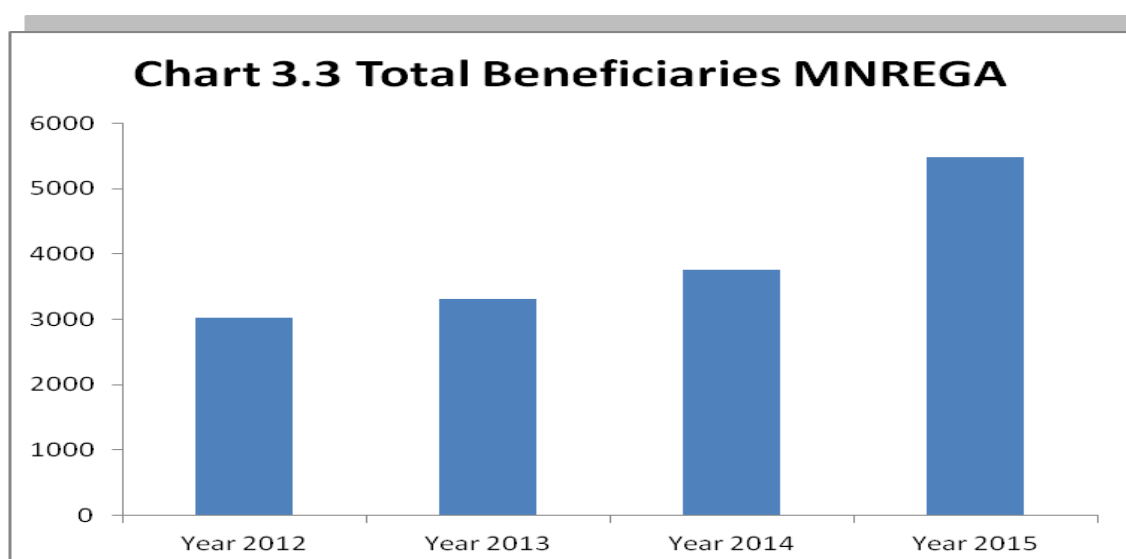
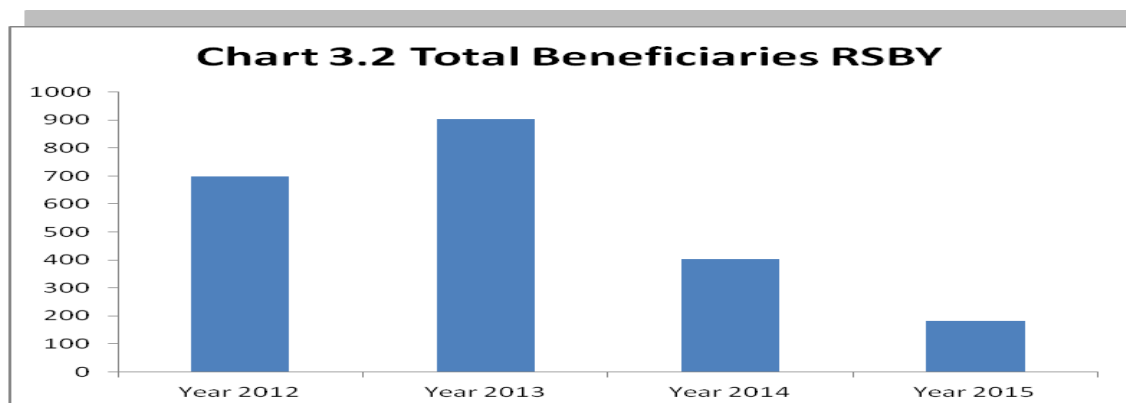
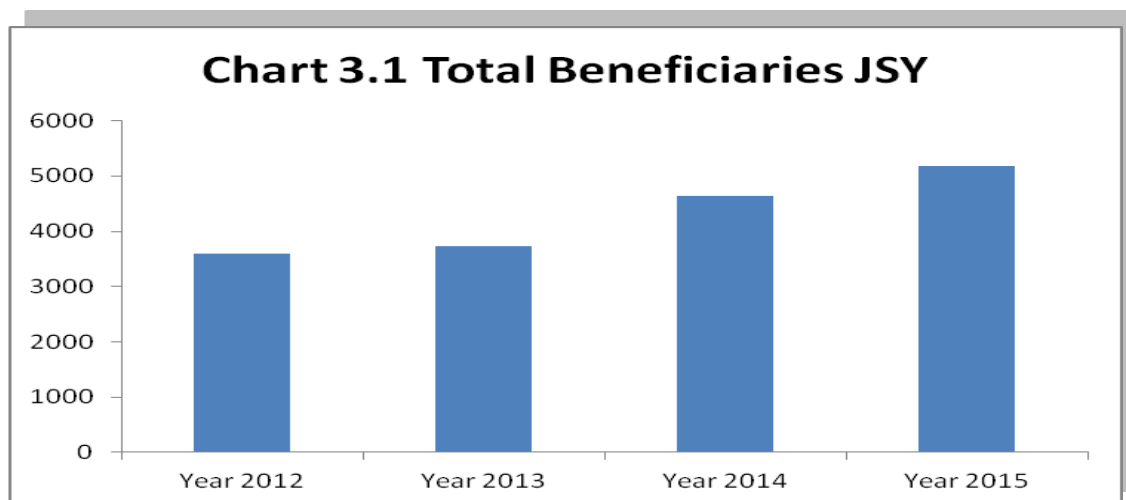
*The women’s groups formed through the intervention also visit schools regularly. As a result attendance of teachers have become more regular, SMCs are strengthening school performance and quality of meals at MDMS.*

The quantitative achievements of the intervention can be shown in the form of the following table:

Name of Schemes	Total Beneficiaries	Benefit in amount (INR)
Janni Surksha Yojna (JSY)	17141	28997400
Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojna (RSBY)	2187	28431000
Housing (Indira Awas)	404	24864605
Housing (Lohiya Awas)	188	36774434
Kanya vidya dhan yojana	3	90000
Samajvadi Pension yojana	4362	26172000
Widow Pension yojana	199	1628242
Old Age Pension yojana	165	131148
Viklang Pension yojana	158	268186
MNREGA	15583	2486430
Scholar Ship Primary	26781	8034300
Scholar Ship Junior	9808	4707840
Assets Under MNREGA		37950000

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The following charts show beneficiaries from some schemes and entitlements:



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- 06 micro plan and labour budget were formed and converted into SOPs.
- 435 women have been able to use their wages generated through MNREGA in purchasing of various household articles such as pressure cooker, pots etc. 12 families could enrol their children in higher education and two women purchased goats for further upliftment of their livelihood.
- 10 members of women federation have been given three days training of Intensive Planning Process Exercise (IPEP) as a result of which they participated in planning process and formed the budget of 5 GPs.
- 98% women of excluded groups in the covered project area have got the full benefits of JSY.



### Qualitative Outcomes

Besides the various quantitative outcomes mentioned above, there are also certain definite qualitative outcomes:

1. Greater decision making and lesser violence in the lives of women – the lives of the women who have joined the women’s groups have undergone a sea change. These women are now bigger decision makers at home and also are in greater charge of their own lives. They take key decisions without always having to be under the command of their men folk. They also have lesser restrictions to interact as compared to earlier times. Overall, they are far better treated at home and are also far less exposed to domestic violence.
2. Reduction in gender divide and overall greater respect for women – the women in the community are far better respected than they used to be earlier. There is

## **PACS project – Impact Assessment story of Muslim women’s empowerment**

greater faith in the power of women. Today men no longer tell the women folk to stay at home. Instead, they encourage them to go out and look into community rights and entitlements.

3. Greater interaction between women of different castes and religions resulting in better harmony – the women’s groups are comprised of women from different castes and religions. Constant interaction and common camaraderie in facing the same challenges have made them a greater family. Thus there is greater harmony between castes and religions as a result of the intervention.
4. Improvement in standard of living for the community – as a result of the various entitlements, there is an overall improvement in the standard of living in the community. Children are getting better education through regularity and better functioning of schools, infants are getting nutrition through ICDS centres, the differently abled are getting tricycles for their communication, the unhealthy are getting treatment through RSBY and both men and women are getting better income through MNREGA.
5. Greater community ownership towards their rights and entitlements – the intervention has resulted in improving community awareness which in turn has resulted in greater community ownership. For example approximately 200 non budgeted wall writings were facilitated by the community. Here community volunteers, children of women who were members of the groups etc. all came forward to develop wall writings. Thus, today, it is a community program.

### **Success Knocks – Case I: Jago Mahila Jan Samuh**

This is a story of CBO Jago Mahila Jan Samuh belonging to village Haibatpur, post Maldepur.

The women of the village were not getting timely nutritious food provided by Aanganbadi.

According to CBO head Prem Sheela Devi ji the Aanganbadi worker was reluctant to provide daily nutritious food to the women. Several efforts were made by the women but all in vain. Finally CBO head contacted to the DPO and CDPO.

The leader of CBO say that the all women should collectively go and demand for the supply. Even then if the Aanganbadi worker refused to give them nutritious food they should go to the CDPO.

The next day when they all went in a group and asked for the supply, at first she refused but when they threatened to take the problem to the CDPO she finally yielded and agreed to give them daily nutritious diet from the next day.

Today the situation is that all the members are getting timely daily nutritious diet.

Likewise, through their concerted efforts they have had smart cards made. The AWW is also working regularly and providing children and infants with the prescribed quantity of nutrients, something she had never done earlier. Thus from income generation to health to finance – these women have impacted the quality of living in a positive way. Today the same society and people who had branded them ‘prostitutes’ call them ‘neta’ (leaders) and follow their examples.

Today the women are widely respected in their community. Not only have they successfully ensured schooling for the children but also through their efforts money held up under MNREGA for male workers have been released. The gender divide is lower than ever before and people are coming forward to seek support from the group.

The women have not stopped at this. Their current effort is to make the nearest ICDS centre fully functional. So far, through their efforts the centre has started opening regularly, although the amount of nutrient provided is below stipulated limits. But the women are hopeful that sooner or later through their efforts and the NGOs support they will reach their objectives here too.



### **Success Knocks – Case II: Parvati Nari Sangh**

This is the story of Parvati Nari Sangh belonging to Gram Panchayat Rasoolpur, situated in Mau district.

In March 2015 people of the excluded community, especially women were inspired to due to MNREGA-Kaam Maango abhiyaan. The effect of this is that today more and more women MNREGA laborers are demanding work by filling demand letter.

A meeting was held in Rasoolpur on 1.6.2015 by CBO Parvati Nari Sangh in which women said that they were interested to work in MNREGA. They told that some construction work was ongoing in Gram Sabha but the Pradhan refused to give them work saying that the needed labourers have already been hired.

CO Ram Pravesh motivated all the women to fill the demand letter and present it to the Pradhan or Rozgar Sevak. He told them to take their plea at block level if they are not heard at village level. He personally talked to the Pradhan on the issue.

The women took up the issue on a serious note and pressurized the Pradhan. Due to the pressure and the talk by CO Ram Pravesh and the Pradhan finally relented.

As a result of this total 26 women out of which 3 were Muslim worked from 10.06.2015 for 14 days under MNREGA.

However, their battle at different levels was far from over. The Pradhan refused them any employment under MNREGA saying that there was no provision for women to work under MNREGA. Later, on learning that the women were aware of the rules, they were allowed work but were made to do work equal to that of a man. The women not only did it with aplomb but also asserted that this was against the rules of MNREGA. Finally, the Pradhan and officials relented and the women are getting employment through MNREGA.



### Success Knocks – Case III: Nari Sangh Silhawdi, Block Gaura

This story is of village Bigahi which is a socially and economically weak village of Ballia district in Belhari block. The condition of the Primary school of this village was very poor.

Under the PACS programme the SMC which was formed last year was made aware of its rights and duties due to which the members actively participated in the upliftment of the school.

The CBO formed in the village Bigahi under the PACS programme made people aware of the SMC and its rights and duties. The people of the village actively participated in the selection of the SMC. All the people were made aware of the involvement of

The villagers thank this women’s group for their children’s education. Not so long ago, most of the children belonging to the backward hamlets could not make it to school as the closest school was far away and involved crossing a big culvert.

Gradually the women’s group was formed and grew strong and decided to take up the issue. They visited various government officials at various levels for the purpose. This included meeting and putting up an application with the DM. till this stage nothing much moved. However, luckily the Minister of Education Hon,ble Sri Ram Govind Choudhary they contact to him the women’s group were able to get a direct channel of contact with the state education minister. Finally the wheel moved. Even here, initially the land allocated for the school turned out to be disputed. Not disheartened nevertheless, they pursued the matter further. Finally land was reallocated and the school constructed. Today, the members of the women’s group are proud to say that the children in their hamlets regularly go to school.

Today the women are widely respected in their community. Not only have they successfully ensured schooling for the children but also through their efforts money held up under MNREGA for male workers have been released. The gender divide is lower than ever before and people are coming forward to seek support from the group.

### Intervention for Ensuring Access to Education Entitlements:

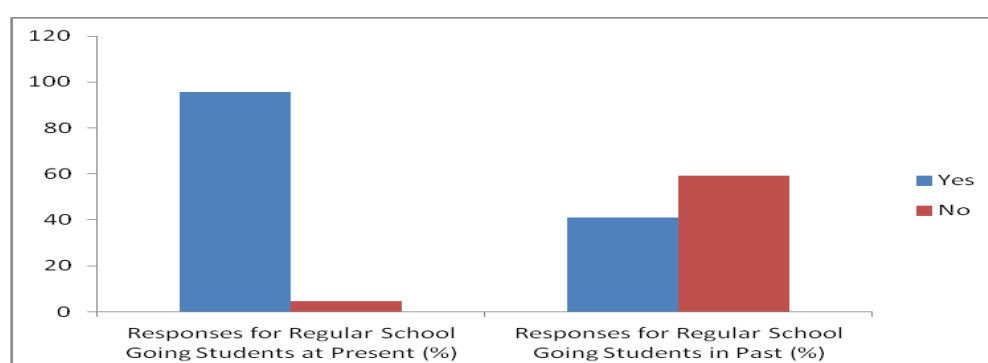
Education is considered as back bone of the society. Illiteracy and less education have been strong reasons behind back exclusion of SC/ST, Muslims. Even in the modern age of science and technology a large section of the marginalized communities facing discrimination to attain educational entitlements at their door step. NBNVS experience of working with the SC/ST, Muslim and other poor narrate different cases of discrimination in attain education. The impact assessment survey reveals the remarkable achievement by NBNVS in the field of elementary education. The survey has a context of Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2009 which enable 6 to 14 years child to get education as their fundamental right. Implementation of the act has been a big challenge till yet. A large section of the community people is still unaware about the act which ensures elementary education as fundamental right of the children. The School Management Committee (SMC), which meant to be a decision making body of the school, has been in the centre of debate due to its formation and proper functioning. It is obvious that the government primary schools cover children from deprived section of the society. This section of the society has been pushed out from the various opportunities in the field of education. Under Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2009 it is understood to bring not only the child into school but to parents into decision making body (SMC) of the school. In the course to make the community people aware about School Management Committee and its functioning, NBNVS and partner organizations/CBOs worked hard. NBNVS organized workshop, community meetings, and perspective building trainings in the coverage area in all the three districts to make the people aware about RTE and to train them to become part of SMC and play their roles in various significant matters of child education. After pouring great efforts on the front of elementary education the number of school going child has increased. Apart from this the community based participation in SMC has also grew up. At the time of beginning of the project in the coverage area a very less number of community people were aware of the implementation and entitlements under the RTE Act, 2009. Now more than 90 percent people are aware about RTE 2009. The study reveals key role of the CBOs in RTE awareness. Almost all respondents give credit to the organization for capacitate on this front.

## PACS project – Impact Assessment story of Muslim women’s empowerment

### Initiatives to end Discrimination in accessing Educational Entitlements

Though only 4.5 percent of the respondents have a graduate certificate, however they are sending their child to school for quality education. But the irregularity inside the school and discriminative attitude of government functionary discourage them. In the worst situation CBOs has come forward and taken the issues of elementary education on priority. The CBOs experienced that discrimination has been posing big hurdles in accessing education by the marginalized communities. Almost all respondents give recognition to the organization’s work to bring discrimination on the brink in the coverage area. The decrease in discrimination encouraged downtrodden people to send their child to school regularly. 95.5 percent respondents said that their child attends school on regular basis. (Table 13) At the time of starting of the project this figure was only 40.9 percent. The respondents said that earlier the teachers discriminate their children in getting education and educational entitlements. So they didn’t send their children to school. However, there were other reasons of not sending child to school such as engagement of the children in earning livelihood, distance of school from home and lack of teaching-learning environment in the school. After CBOs intervention the condition slowly improved everywhere where child were excluded to enjoy a fruitful environment and affection to learn and grow together. The community people appreciated role of the CBO/Sangathan, which are formed and influence under supervision of NBNVS. The community people say that they were not able to think about the education. According to them they could never realize the significance of RTE Act and education until the CBO/Sangathan reached them four years ago. More than 92 percent respondents had a positive response to organization for capacitate them to avail educational entitlements. Table 13.

	Responses for Regular School Going Students at Present (%)	Responses for Regular School Going Students in Past (%)
<b>Yes</b>	<b>95.5</b>	<b>40.9</b>
<b>No</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>59.1</b>



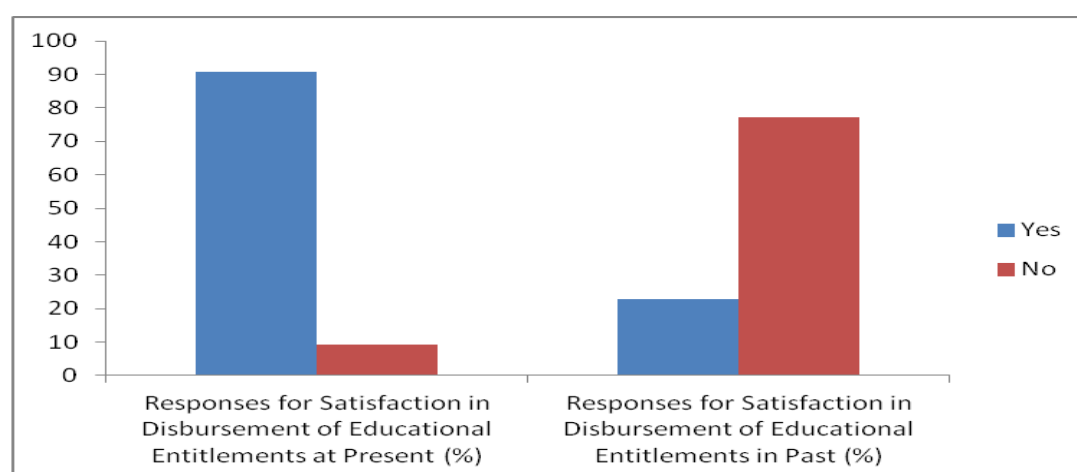
## PACS project – Impact Assessment story of Muslim women’s empowerment

### Benefits of free Books, Uniform and Scholarship under SSA

MDM has been one of the integral components of SSA. About 90.9 percent respondents say that they are satisfy with the MDM arrangements in the school. Earlier the situation was different. Only 22.7 percent people were satisfied with the MDM arrangement in the school. More than 93 percent respondents give credit to the CBOs/Sangathan for improving quality and supply of food under MDM. Under the PACS project in three districts Ballia, Mau and Ghazipur the CBOs role seems to be recommendable. Due to their hard work as part of the project made the people able to access benefits of free books and uniform and scholarship under SSA. About 91 percent respondents said that the disbursement of the educational entitlements is satisfactory. Earlier either they were not aware about the entitlement or they did not have capacity to access the same. Due to these reasons amongst 22.7 percent households the children didn’t have benefit of the free books and uniform distribution and scholarship. The community people acknowledge the roll of CBO/Sangathan in ensuring educational entitlements to their children. 93.8 percent give credit to the CBO/Sangathan for the achievement in last four years of the project where as 6.3 percent respondents acknowledge education department for the same. (Table 14)

Table 14.

	Responses for Satisfaction in Disbursement of Educational Entitlements at Present (%)	Responses for Satisfaction in Disbursement of Educational Entitlements in Past (%)
<b>Yes</b>	<b>90.9</b>	<b>22.7</b>
<b>No</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>77.3</b>

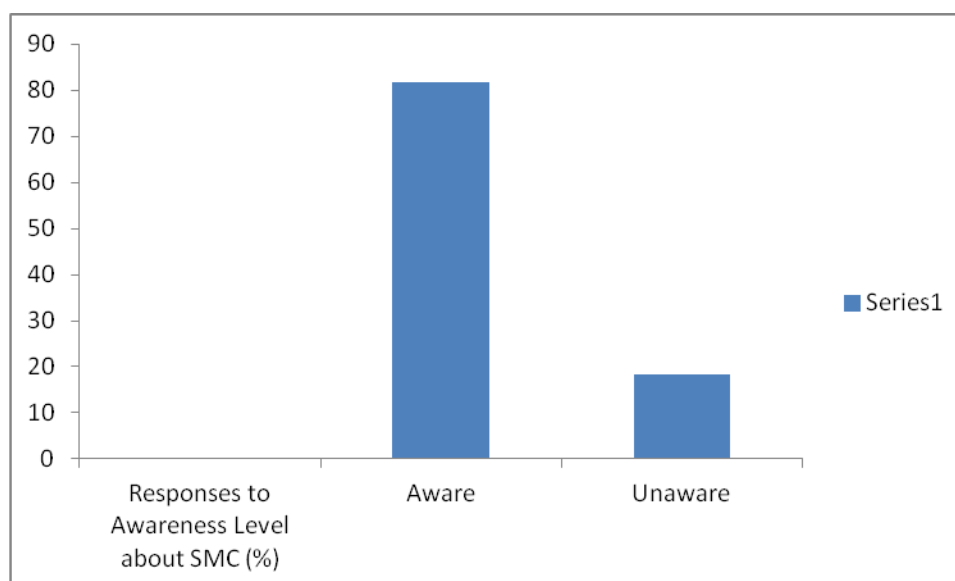


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Awareness level regarding SMC is 81.8 percent. (Table 15) The proportion of the respondents who are member in SMC is 36 percent. Whereas the meeting are concerned only 75 percent SMC members say that they are called to participate in SMCs meetings. 75 percent respondents give credit to PACS project for enhancing knowledge about SMC and its functioning. We can say that it impact of PACS project that 85.7 percent people witness regular meetings of SMCs.

Table 15

Responses to Awareness Level about SMC (%)	
<b>Aware</b>	<b>81.8</b>
<b>Unaware</b>	<b>18.2</b>





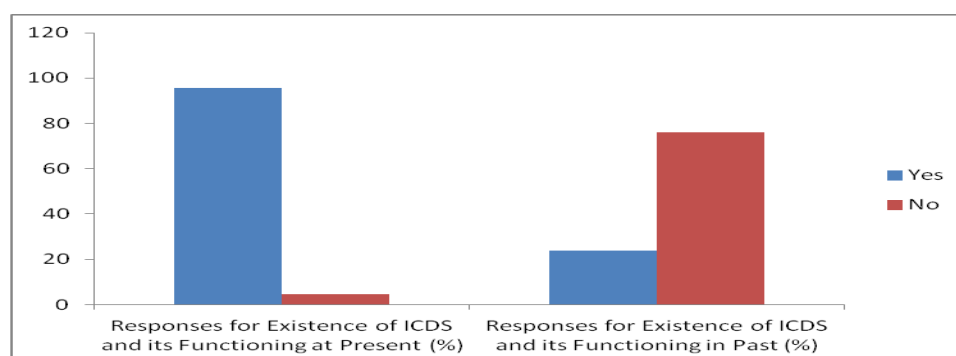
## PACS project – Impact Assessment story of Muslim women’s empowerment

### Interventions for Accessing ICDS and Basic Health Care

The study reveals that currently 95.5 percent respondents are aware of the ICDS services. According to the findings only 23.8 percent of these respondents were aware in past. (Table 17) They acknowledge the CBOs and their activities in the coverage area for increasing awareness level about the ICDS and its functioning.

Table 17.

	Responses for Existence of ICDS and its Functioning at Present (%)	Responses for Existence of ICDS and its Functioning in Past (%)
<b>Yes</b>	<b>95.5</b>	<b>23.8</b>
<b>No</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>76.2</b>



More than 90 percent households are aware about the entitlements given to child, adolescence girls and women under ICDS. About 95 percent respondents say that ICDS open on regular basis in their respective localities. Amongst the 95 percent only 76.2 percent said that ICDS was opening regularly in past. It's CBOs/Sangathan which drew attention of the authority to open and facilitate the services of ICDS on regular basis

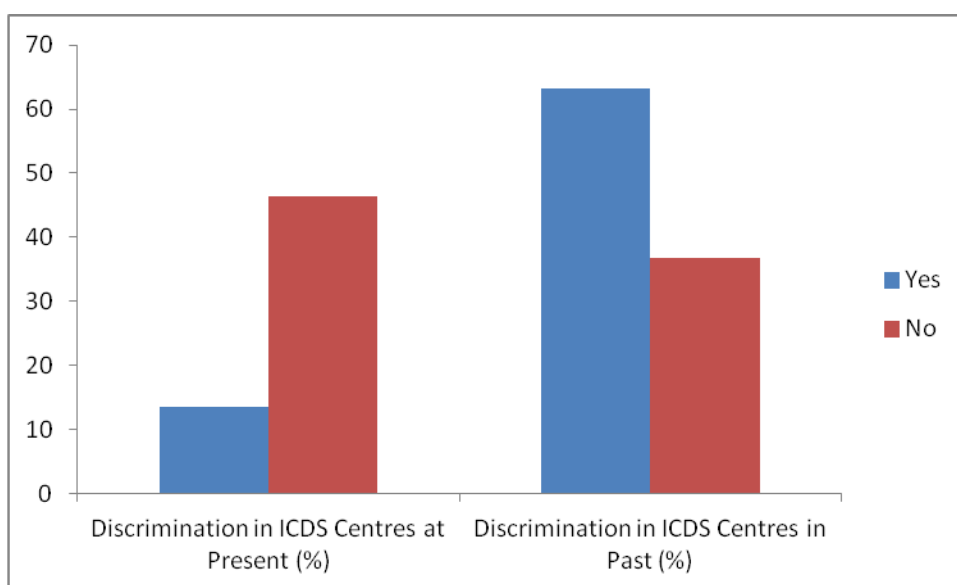
Discrimination has badly affected lives of the excluded communities not only in past but also in present. NBNVS has special attention to eliminate discrimination from various walks life of the socially marginalized communities. As far as PACS project is concerned, the field survey reveals a very fruitful outcome. In the project coverage area before PACS intervention near about 63 percent households were facing discrimination with their child

## PACS project – Impact Assessment story of Muslim women’s empowerment

in ICDS. While during impact assessment survey this figure seemed to go down to the level 4.5 percent. (Table 18)

Table 18.

	Discrimination in ICDS Centres at Present (%)	Discrimination in ICDS Centres in Past (%)
<b>Yes</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>63.2</b>
<b>No</b>	<b>46.4</b>	<b>36.8</b>



## Health and Nutrition

In last couple of years the government has expedite the campaign to make Adhar Card of every citizen of India. In the coverage area of the project about 91 percent respondents got their Adhar identity card. It has possible due to the awareness spread by the CBOs under the project. At the same time the CSOs and CBOs advocated to get health insurance card under RSBY to the eligible community people. After continue effort made by the community based organizations at least 54.5 percent households got health insurance card under RSBY. But it is not the end of the task. During the field survey it is realized in the meetings of CBOs that most of the people who have a Smart Card under RSBY, are not aware and able to get health benefits in the mean time. Therefore, the community people provided special orientation on benefits of Smart Card to get health entitlements in illness.

Though 72.7 percent of the surveyed people satisfied with the basic health amenities at Primary Health Centre/Community Health Centre/Sub-Centre, however 22.7 percent respondents witnessed discrimination in getting basic health care services at government hospitals. Amongst the 22.7 percent respondents 40 percent brought the cases of discrimination into knowledge of concerned authority. The cases of discrimination were brought into knowledge of NBNVS as well. NBNVS as part of PACS project organized capacity building training/workshop and meetings in the coverage area. The impact of PACS project was seen a wider impact on functioning of health centres. Due to the effect of CBOs intervention about 40 percent of the victim of discrimination in various government hospitals could become able to raise their voice against

### Case Study

#### Discrimination with SC Women in Accessing Health Services

In the coverage area the women were not able to access to the health care centre. There are many reasons to not access the health amenities. Lack of health consciousness and consciousness based association amongst the community people were most prominent reason behind it. As part of PACS project NBNVS identified the basic issues of the health accessibility of the women. It was realized that if the women come into association they would be able to raise their voice, to assert their constitutional rights and thus they could access the available health facilities at their door step. In the case of Mamta Devi w/o Shri Pintu Prasad the association helped them to overcome from trapping into a critical condition of pregnancy. The case of Mamta was reported in the month of September 2014 in Apadariya Haripara village of Dohrighat block of district Mau. Mamta was pregnant and on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2014 she suffered acute pain in her stomach. Nobody was there to take her to the hospital. Lakshmi Nari Sangh noticed illness of Mamta and strengthened support towards her. The volunteers of LNS Smt. Urmila Devi, Dhanmati, Kamali Devi, Bindu Devi, Geeta Devi and Champa Devi collectively helped Mamta. They took Mamta to hospital at Karauli calling ambulance van. Thus, Mamta was taken to hospital. She got needful treatment during last hours of pregnancy. According to the ANM if there is delay in admitting Mamta into hospital, it might be risky to save life of two i.e., her and unborn baby.

The important aspect of this case study is to deal with the caste based discrimination. The community people acknowledged the role of LNS empowered by NBNVS in combating discrimination against low strata castes in accessing health amenities. This story reveals the enthusiastic efforts of the programme and opens ample scope to pose barricades against all kinds of discrimination through association and awareness.

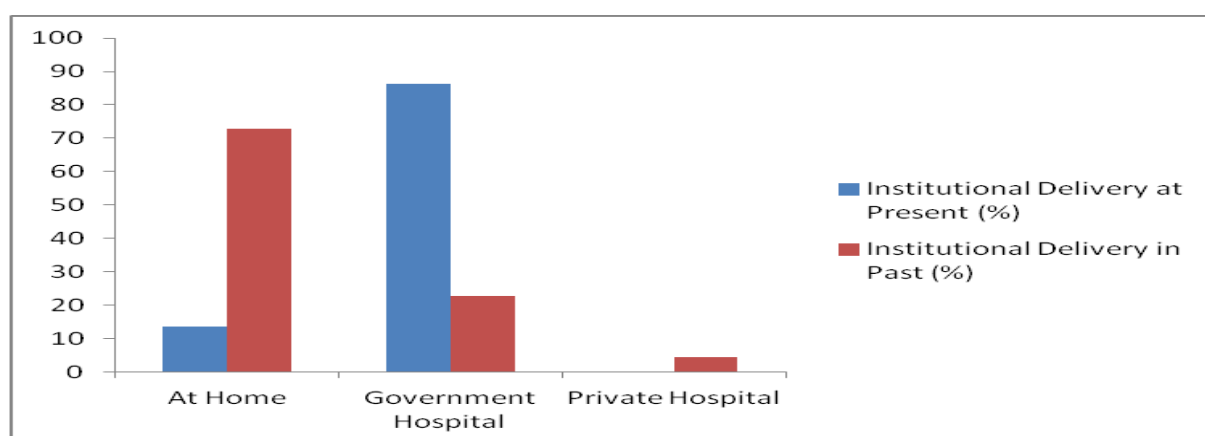
## PACS project – Impact Assessment story of Muslim women’s empowerment

discrimination. About 50 percent of the community people acknowledge and admire the CBOs role in getting non-discriminatory access to basic health amenities.

Under PACS project NBNVS covers a large section of women in ensuring a discriminatory access to health services. Due to the role of project the pregnant women from 86.4 percent houses adopt institutional delivery in government hospitals. While five years ago only 22.7 percent cases of pregnancy were reported to government hospitals for institutional delivery. (Table 19.) To achieve this task ASHA and ANM has also played important role. The CBOs has been engaged to sensitize to the ASHAs and ANMs in providing basic health care service to the women and child on a priority basis. The regular mock and orientation meeting with the ASHAs, ANMs and community people make them able to register the delivery cases by the time. In this assessment report the figure of registration of delivery cases is sent percent, while before starting the PACS project it was only 22.7 percent of the eligible cases of pregnancy. During focussed group discussion it is witnessed that the CBOs have been working to expand coverage of government ambulance service such as 108 and 102.

Table 19.

	Institutional Delivery at Present (%)	Institutional Delivery in Past (%)
<b>At Home</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>72.7</b>
<b>Government Hospital</b>	<b>86.4</b>	<b>22.7</b>
<b>Private Hospital</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4.5</b>



## Livelihood (MNREGA)

The poor and marginalize people of the society have been brink of the survival. They do not possess land and suitable livelihood support due to social and historical reasons. They have not been in the pursuit of the educational, social and economical development. In past they have been deliberately pushed in the margin by the dominant castes/class of the society. NBNVS understand the socio-economic and educational deprivation of the excluded communities like SC/ST and women and have been working to mainstream them through the effective implementation of project. In the coverage area of the project it is observed that the community people are generally depend upon Agriculture Labour, Daily Wage Labour and Shop keeping etc., to earn livelihood. Though NREGA has been the main thrust of project, therefore in this report special attention have been paid on various aspects of NREGA.

MNREGA is aimed to provide at least 100 days job to the villagers in a year. It is learnt during field survey that 5 years ago only 9.1 percent people were aware about the NREGA. But due to simultaneous effort made under the project situation has drastically changed. Now about 90.9 percent people are aware about NREGA job card and the procedure of job allotment under NREGA.

### Case Study

#### Discrimination in MNREGA

A case of discrimination with SC women in job allotment under NREGA was reported and documented in August 2014 by Mahila Jagrukta Sangathan in Hanumangunj block of Ballia. During community meeting it is learnt that the women are being denied in giving job by the concern authority. In the meeting the block coordinator supervised the community women to ask job in writing. The eligible women submitted written application to the Rojgar Sewak. Second day after this the women got job under NREGA.

This success story shows the impact of project.

A similar case of discrimination in job allotment under NREGA was reported in July 2014 in Ghosi block of district Mau. The women of Sipah village of were denying work on the basis that they do not have equal capability like men and they do less work in comparison of male labourers. A 36 years old woman Smt. Kalawati Devi of Kamdhenawa village dared to raise her voice to higher authorities. She submitted written application to Gram Pradhan and BDO for allotment of job to women labours without any discrimination. Hearing the issue the BDO called Rojgar Sewak and ordered him to allot equal job to women as well as men. These success stories show a decreasing state of discrimination with women at work place and increased level of self confidence amongst SC and Muslim women.

Another case of discrimination with SC and OBC women in job allotment under NREGA was reported in January 2015 in Kotiya village of block Dohrighat in district Mau. The women in this village were given orientation on job allotment under NREGA to make them able to advocate their problems themselves. After regular orientation the women got confidence and seek job in written. This practice by the community women drew attention of the Gram Pradhan and they got 14 days job in February 2015.

The above success stories show that awareness about various aspects of the government schemes and capacity building orientation may change the situation.

## **PACS project – Impact Assessment story of Muslim women’s empowerment**

According to 95 percent respondent massive awareness could be possible only by the planned activities of the CBOs under the PACS programme.

Amongst 26 percent of the eligible job card holder claimed that they could have been faced problem in getting job card. With the help of CBOs, Media and Gram Pradhan they could succeeded to get job card. Job card makes a household eligible for 100 days job in a year. But it could never be possible without help of the CBOs. The CBOs capacitated to the community people about how to demand job under NREGA. The study reveals that all the eligible households made demand for job allotment under NREGA to the Gram Pradhan. In 78.9 percent cases the job card holder people put a written request to get job under NREGA. 90 percent respondents acknowledge the role of CBOs in ensuring job.

This study narrate that about 90 percent of the job seekers were allotted job under NREGA. Four years ago the situation was different. Only 26.3 percent people were able to get job while 73.7 percent people were denied to allot job under NREGA. CBOs facilitated these people with the capacity building training. The regular training made them able to file a complaint to the block and district level officers to get job. (Table 21.)

Working with women of the excluded communities has been a significant aspect of the project. Due to the intervention under the project, participation of women labourer in NREGA grew up to the extent of 72.7 percent households.

The CBOs have played key role to make the marginalize people aware about the entitlements at work place under NREGA. People from the excluded communities were provided training to file RTI to collect required information and to mount pressure on the concerned official for proper implementation of NREGA. The community people given orientation to know NREGA toll free number to query regarding NREGA.

Though, people are aware about NREGA in more number, however the number of days of job is less allotted. The study shows that only 5.6 percent of the eligible job card holder got job for 50 to 100 days. The maximum 55.6 percent people got job for only 10 to 20 days. (Table 22)



## PACS project – Impact Assessment story of Muslim women’s empowerment

Table 21.

	Status of Written Complaint for Job Under NREGA at Present (%)	Status of Written Complaint for Job Under NREGA in Past (%)
<b>Yes</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>26.3</b>
<b>NO</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>73.7</b>

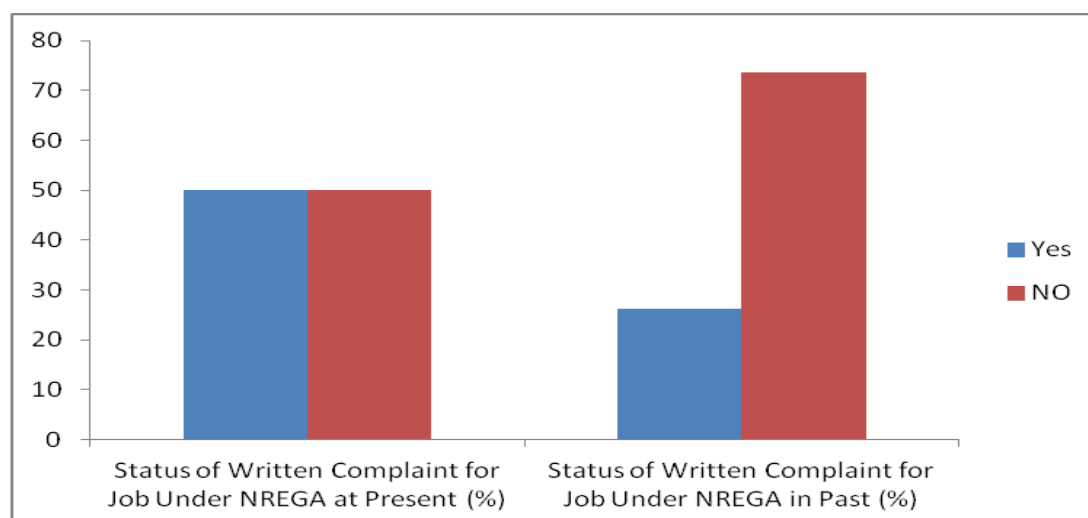
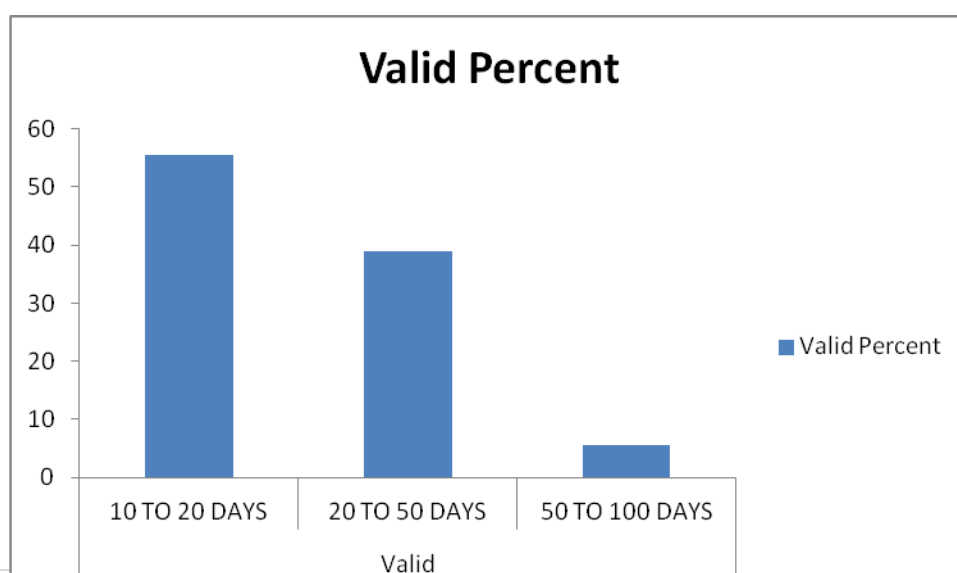


Table 22.

Status of Days of Job		Valid Percent
<b>Valid</b>	<b>10 TO 20 DAYS</b>	<b>55.6</b>
	<b>20 TO 50 DAYS</b>	<b>38.9</b>
	<b>50 TO 100 DAYS</b>	<b>5.6</b>



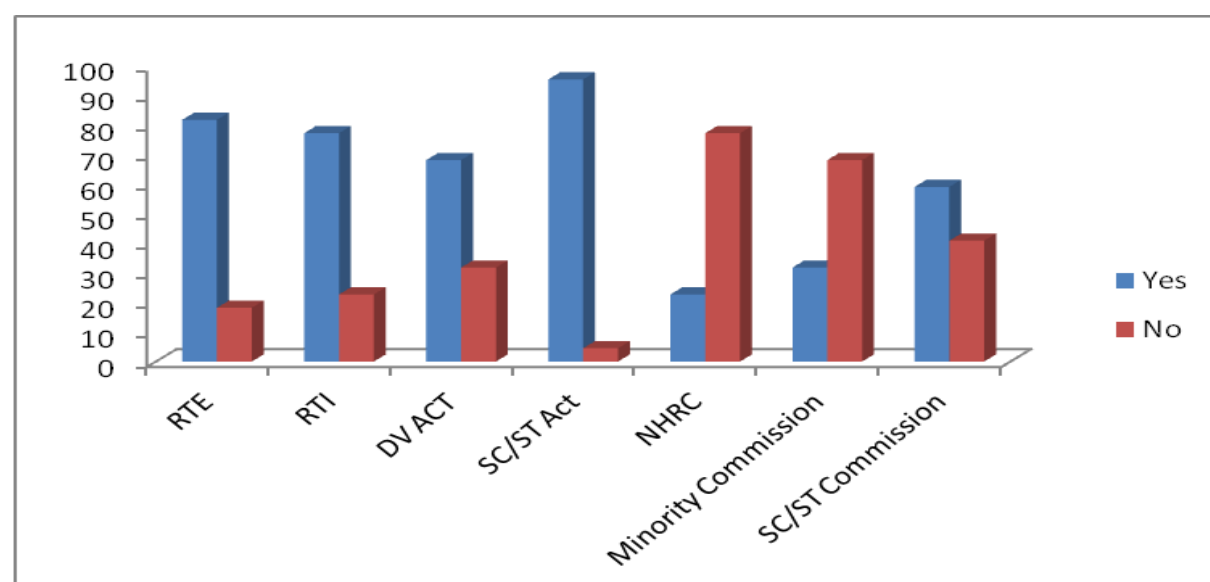
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### General Awareness about Acts and Commissions

The study reveals a low level of awareness about NHRC, Commission for Minorities, National Commission for Women, and Commission for SC/ST, DV Act 2005, RTI Act, and Prevention of SC/ST Atrocity Act. It draw attention to increase activities to spread awareness about the above democratic institutions, which are milestone in Indian democracy and hope of the excluded communities such as SC/ST, backwards, women, child and the minorities of India. (Table 16)

Table 16.

Awareness level about various Acts and Commissions (%)							
	RTE	RTI	DV ACT	SC/ST Act	NHRC	Minority Commission	SC/ST Commission
Yes	81.8	77.3	68.2	95.5	22.7	31.8	59.1
No	18.2	22.7	31.8	4.5	77.3	68.2	40.9



# 4

## Conclusion and way forward

After the above analysis based on the field survey and focused group discussion with the community people and BCs, we reach at the following conclusions:

NBNVS has a wider intervention on the issues of exclusion and discriminatory access to government entitlements in three districts of eastern Uttar Pradesh.

During field survey and focused group discussion presence of CBOs was seen in every block of the three districts. It is learnt that the CBOs have made the successful implementation of the project.

The members of CBOs found well oriented on the issues of exclusion and discrimination. This perspective helped other community members in asserting their constitutional right.

During field survey it is observed that the CBOs organize regular meetings in the coverage area. They discuss the issues like NREGA, SSA, NRHM, ICDS, RTI, DV ACT, SC/ST Act and various commissions.

The BCs acknowledge that their individual capacity has gradually increased because of regular orientation by the NBNVS and continues intervention in the field.

During field survey it is noticed that sensitization workshops, capacity building trainings, awareness meetings etc., are organized frequently in the coverage area. It includes men-women, media persons and government officials too.

In organizing the above mentioned event pamphlets, posters, banners and handbills were used as IEC materials.

Implementation of the project at various levels seems to be satisfactory. It creates ample scope for further expansion and intervention on the said issues. There are few issues which need special attention to make the project a big success. For instance the backward Muslim witnessed less awareness about the various democratic institutions and

## **PACS project – Impact Assessment story of Muslim women’s empowerment**

government entitlements. NBNVS need to extend coverage to those Muslims who have equal social status like their counterpart SCs. But due to constitutional provision they are not included in SC list. They are Nat, Halalkhor and Faqeer etc. They are presently said to be Pasmanda Muslims.

The question of democratization and based activities need to added in the programme. It will set a more inclusive model of project implementation.

As for as monitoring of the programme is concerned, documentation is well organized and cases of discrimination are well drafted specially those cases which were handled successfully by the intervention of NBNVS.

There has been complete utilization of budget against the planned activities and financial monitoring is also good.

# 5

## CHALLENGES AND LEARNINGS

This document has now covered the intervention, its process and learning. However, it cannot be complete without a vital word on the challenges that were faced and the learning from the same.

The **challenges** that the team faced in taking the intervention forward were:

- Challenges within the government system resulting in having difficulty in much required cooperation from government officials
- Opposition from stakeholders within the GP who loose on vested interests in case of awareness of the community
- Organizing unorganized women who are also illiterate and facing internal opposition in participating in women’s group and group activities
- Low presence of members in federation meeting due to long distance between villages and hamlets from where they were to travel

The **learnings** from the intervention were:

- Federating is a unique way to gain unity from strength and can help to overcome serious hurdles
- Networking with government departments and officials and building joint stakeholder ships is a very important tool in accomplishing objectives through the government machinery
- Knowledge is a big weapon and can overcome ground level problems if shared with appropriate stakeholders
- Illiteracy is not a hurdle to generating awareness so far as suitable communication and interaction strategies are designed

An overall understanding of the process and its outcomes definitely shows what the project believed in, namely that knowledge is power. Today, women who were earlier relegated to home, have broken gender barriers and taken up issues that concern them as well as their children and men folk. Slowly, the wheels of change have started and these women have ensured that rights and entitlements of the community reach the rightful stakeholders.

## **PACS project – Impact Assessment story of Muslim women’s empowerment**

Not all women’s groups are equally strong. Nor are the obstacles that they face equally rigid. Nevertheless, definite quantitative and qualitative changes are happening in the field. Research and studies can be further undertaken to get a better understanding of what worked and what did not work. This will enable better replication of the initiative in the days to come and will usher in changes on a wider scale.



# **PACS project – Impact Assessment story of Muslim women’s empowerment**

## **List of Acronyms:**

ASHA – Accredited Social Health Activist

AWW – Anganwadi Worker

CDPO – Child Development Project Officer

CBO – Community Based Organization

GP – Gram Panchayat

ICDS – Integrated Child Development Services

ICPS – Integrated Child Protection Scheme

JSY – Janani Suraksha Yojana

MNREGA – Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Act

OBC – Other Backward Castes

PACS – Poorest Areas Civil Society

RSBY – Rashtriya Swastha Bima Yojana

SC – Scheduled Castes

SMC – School Management Committee

SEG – Socially Excluded Group

CO – Community Organizer

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## Media Coverage





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# अमर उजाला

अमर उजाला

वाराणसी | मंगलवार | 20 अगस्त 2013

## हुई बेहतर शिक्षा हक अभियान की शुरुआत

आसपास

● संवाददाता

बलिया। नव भारतीय नारी विकास समिति के तत्वावधान में बेहतर शिक्षा हक अभियान का शुभारंभ सोमवार को हुआ। विकास भवन के सभागार में अपर जिलाधिकारी खेमपाल सिंह की अध्यक्षता में अभियान की शुरुआत की गई। इस दौरान जिले के सभी प्राथमिक एवं उच्च प्राथमिक विद्यालयों में नई स्कूल प्रबंध समिति के गठन किए जाने पर चर्चा की गई।

इस मौके पर जिला समन्वयक पीके उपाध्याय ने कहा कि इस अभियान के माध्यम से पूरे प्रदेश में बेहतर स्कूल प्रबंध समिति का गठन कराए जाने का प्रयास किया जाएगा। इससे स्कूलों के बेहतर संचालन में मदद मिलेगी। साथ ही स्कूल के बच्चों का भविष्य भी उज्ज्वल हो सकेगा। संस्था के निदेशक अजहर अली ने बताया कि संस्था जनपद में वंचित

एसडीएम खेमपाल सिंह ने की कार्यक्रम की अध्यक्षता

● बेहतर प्रबंध समिति बनाने का किया जाएगा प्रयास

समुदाय के लोगों को सरकारी योजनाओं के प्रति जागरूक करने के उद्देश्य से पैक्स कार्यक्रम का संचालन कर रही है। कार्यकर्ताओं के माध्यम से गांवों के गरीब परिवारों को पोस्टर, पंफलेट, नुक्कड़ नाटक एवं बैठकों के माध्यम से जागरूक किया जा रहा है। इस मौके पर वलई विजन के बसंत जी, सभी खंड शिक्षा अधिकारी, सह खंड शिक्षा अधिकारी, बीपी पांडेय, अशोक चौबे, अनूप चौबे, अनुमल्लाह के साथ अन्य कार्यकर्ता मौजूद रहे।





