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BEST PRACTICE **AWASIYA YOJNA**

for Saharia Tribe in Karahal Block of Seopur District of Madhya Pradesh

Documentation Supported by :

Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions
Government of India



Documented & Published

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1.0 Tribal Scenario in India

Tribals constitute 8.61% of the total population of the country, numbering 104.28 million (2011 Census) and cover about 15% of the country's area. The proportion during the last Census was 8.2%. There has been an increase of 0.4% during the last decade.

The fact that tribal people need special attention can be observed from their low social, economic and participatory indicators. Whether it is maternal and child mortality, size of agricultural holdings or access to drinking water and electricity, tribal communities lag far behind the general population.

2.0 Tribal scenario in Madhya Pradesh

Madhya Pradesh has the largest Tribal population in the country. In Madhya Pradesh, the total Scheduled Tribe population in 2011 Census is 15.3 million. Of this, 14.3 million are in rural areas and 1.0 million in urban areas. In terms of proportion, the Scheduled Tribe population constitutes 21.1% of the total population of the state. The highest proportion of Scheduled Tribe population to total population is recorded in Alirajpur (89.0%) and the lowest in Bhind (0.4%).

The tribes of Madhya Pradesh belong to the Central Indian tribal stalk. There are as many as 46 different tribal ethnic groups with their unique culture and traditions. With their simple and colourful life style, combining various sheds of tribal culture, they constitute a microcosm of tribal life in India. Out of forty six (46) Tribes in MP, Bhil is the most populous tribe followed by Gond. Four other STs in the descending order are Kol, Korku, Sahariya and Baiga. Along with Bhil and Gond, the six tribes constitute 92.2 percent of the total ST population of the state.

Out of the six tribes, Sahariyas are the most backward tribes, if we consider the education level

Names of STs	Literate without educational level	Below Primary	Educational levels attained				
			Primary	Middle	Metric/ Secondary/ Higher Secondary/ Intermediate	Technical & non technical diploma	Graduate and above
All STs	10.8	46.5	24.8	9.7	6.6	0.1	1.4
Bhil	15.5	47.1	21.2	8.2	6.3	0.1	1.6
Gond	8.4	45.0	27.4	10.9	7.0	0.1	1.2
Kol	7.2	47.1	26.9	11.4	6.6	0.0	0.6
Korku	10.1	56.0	22.9	6.8	3.6	0.0	0.5
Sahariya	15.4	62.2	16.1	4.0	1.8	0.1	0.5
Baiga	11.4	50.4	26.0	8.3	3.4	0.0	0.5

Table-1 :A Levels of Education among the major Scheduled Tribes of M.P.

3.0 Status of Sahariya in Madhya Pradesh

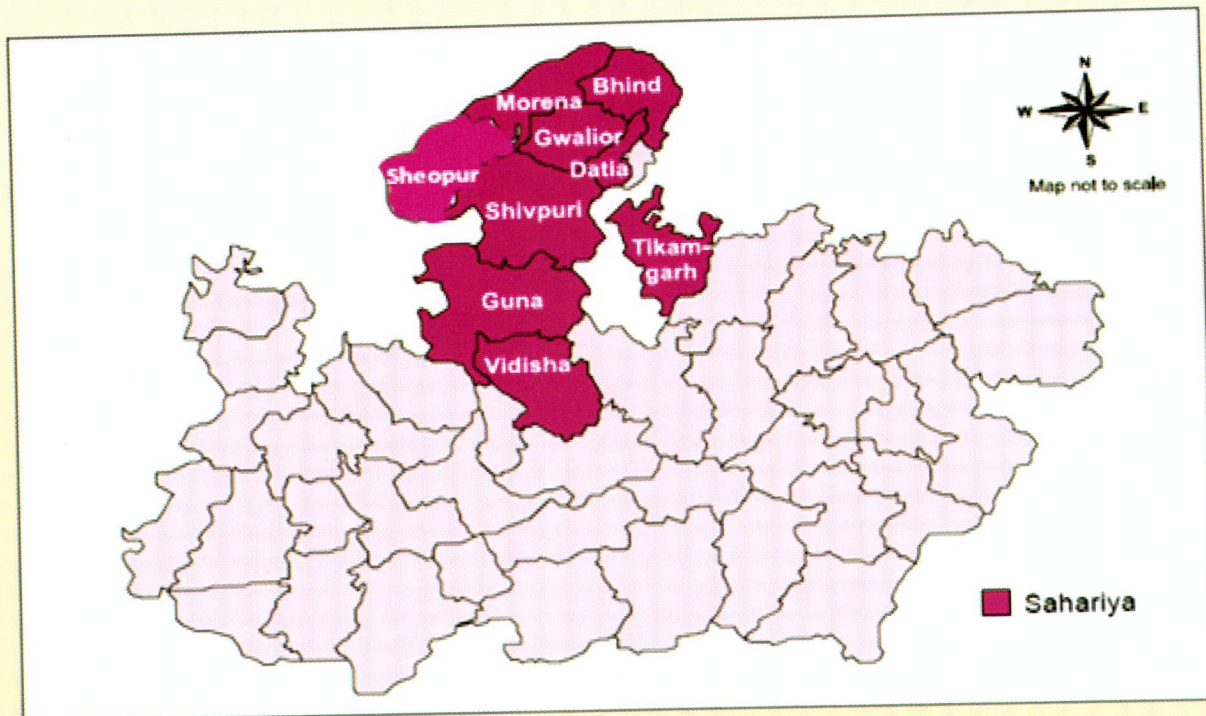
3.1 The Sahariya Tribe: Etymology

The etymology of "Sahariya " is uncertain but many possibilities exist. Some believe that the tribe's name means "companion of the tiger", where SA means companion, and HARIA means tiger. The most common view is that the present designation of tribe name is said to given by some Muslim rulers (probably by Ruler of Shahabad) who found them residing in the jungle: the Arabic word 'sahara' means 'desert' or 'wilderness'.

3.2 Distribution:

Sahariya tribe is found in the North West part of the Madhya Pradesh. Sahariya tribe is mostly found in the Bhind, Morena, Gwalior, Sheopur, Shivpuri, Guna, Vidisha, Raisen, Sehore, Bundelkhand districts of Madhya Pradesh:

The main residential area of Sahariya tribe is the forest of Shahabad which is spread from Rajasthan to Guna of Madhya Pradesh.



(Source: www.mp.nic.in)


Districts with Sahariya concentration in Madhya Pradesh

3.3 Physical Appearance

Sahariya's people are generally of dark complexion and medium heighted.

3.4 Social Organization

The residential place of Sahariya's is known as "Sahrama". The head of the family is honoured with a title of "Patel", in the society level the leader is known with the title of "Pardhan". Pardhan use to do all the work just as the Patel do but at the society level. The main work of Pardha is to attend all the social functions like marriage and all the



religious functions including betrothal. Pardhan is also responsible for the collection of penalties. This tribe has five panch in its panchayat as Kotwar – Barai – Bhopa – Hathnariya. Along with these four panch the fifth member is the oldest person of the village.

3.5 Habiliments

The male people of this tribe use to wear Dhoti, Colored shirt & safa. Sahariya tribe is highly influenced by the Rajasthani culture and it can be clearly seen in their dresses. The ladies of Sahariya tribe use to wear lahanga, Ghagra, ludga, petya, saluki, & polka.

Men and women of this tribe are fond of ornaments. Male are fond of wearing Chhelkadi Murki in ears and Kanthi in neck, on the other hand ladies use to wear "Bor" in head, Fikar potta and Gutti aera in ears, a golden or silver kanta in nose and khagwari in neck.

3.6 History

The history of the Sahariya tribe is dotted and in many places, completely lost. The older generations of known Sahariya tribe people fail to give any account of their history, and written records of ancestry are virtually nonexistent. Although traditionally they trace back their beginnings to the days of the Ramayana and even beyond. They trace their origin from Shabri of the Ramayan. Another theory suggests that 'Brahma, the creator was busy casting the Universe. He made out a place to seat all persons. In the centre of the place he placed one Sahariya who was a Simpleton. As others came, they also began to sit and gradually pushed the Sahariya to the further end of the square. By the time all had come, the Sahariya was pushed to an extreme corner or khoont. The story goes on to say that an annoyed Brahma chided the Sahariya for his inability to cope with the pressure and decreed that he would henceforth live in forests and such other out of the way places. Others claim descent from Baiju Bheel, a worshiper of the Hindu god Shiva.

Sahariyas are generally quiet people and do not interact much with outsiders. They live in small hamlets. Their villages are located in forests and difficult terrain without adequate road communication. Services like health and education have not reached

them to any notable degree. For any health problem, their first referral point is the local healer and places of worship.

3.7 Social Life & Economic status

Sahariyas generally reside in separate basti in the village which is called Saharana. They live in small families. The elder sons live separately after marriage and younger son bear the responsibilities of the parents and unmarried brothers-sisters. There are some arranged marriages and some in the ceremony in the fairs. The religious practice by these tribals is Hinduism.

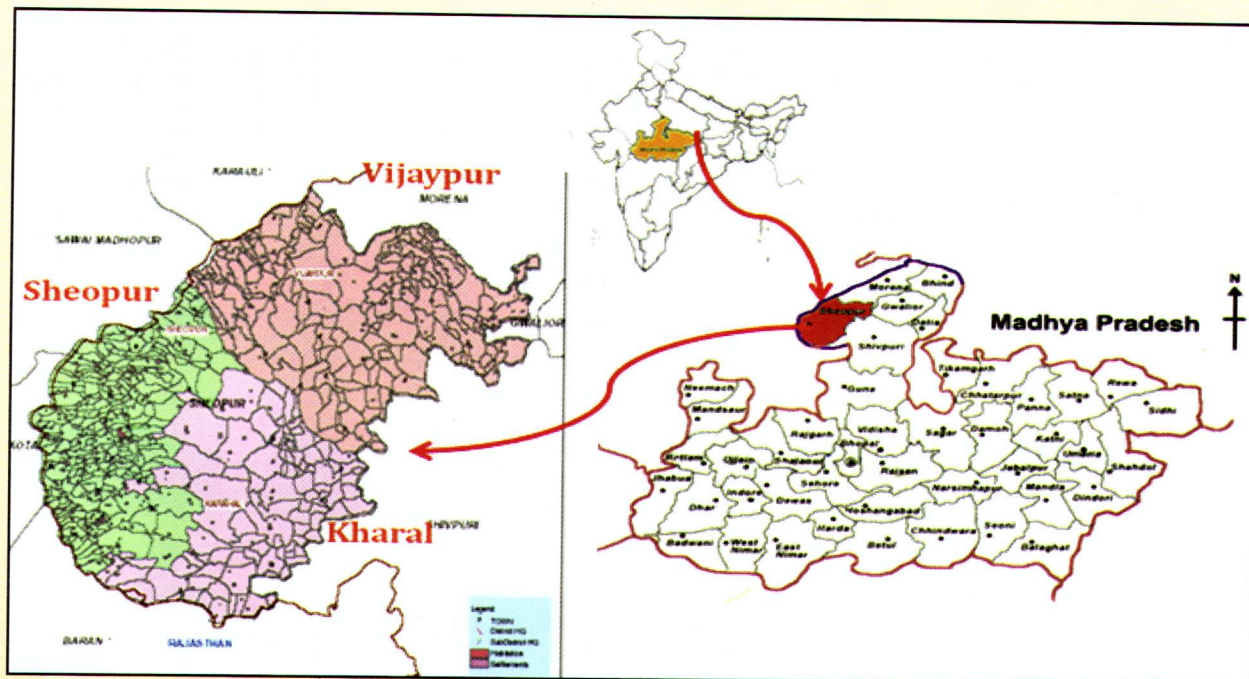
Agriculture is the predominant occupation. Wheat, jowar, bajra and maize are the main cereal crops. Gram and arhar are the main pulses. Agriculture is largely rain-dependent, with only two per cent of the total land area being irrigated. The area supports poor types of forest, as the soil is shallow. Collection of minor forest produce, such as mahua and tendu leaves, gum, bamboo, medicinal herbs and firewood is a major preoccupation during the agriculturally lean season and for landless. The minor forest produce is sold to local tradesmen at very low prices due to indebtedness and lack of access to alternate markets.



Pic -1 : Previous living status of Sahariya

4.0 Situation before the practice

4.1 Tribal scenario in Sheopur District of Madhya Pradesh



Pic 2 : Location of Sheopur District in India

Sheopur is located at northern part of Madhya Pradesh. The district is well connected by Road & Railways network. Around 21% of the total population of the district belongs to scheduled tribe groups.

Sahariyas are totally dependent on forests for its very existence in terms of its society, family, livelihood and everything else. The people of 'Sahariyas' tribe never bothered of their future, because they were confident that forests, which they respect and protect, would never leave them hungry. However, the other groups of Society have exploited the forests to the tilt, for meeting their own self-interests. As a result, the very source providing the food security to the families of 'Sahariyas' tribe has been irretrievably damaged. Left with no alternative, the people of 'Sahariyas' tribe had to look out for labour work in the local stone mines to earn their livelihood. Slowly, they have become a tool of exploitation in the wider perspective of our social system



4.2 Sahariya Lifestyle at a glance

1. Their habitations are located outside the main villages. It is generally a cluster of houses. The housing reminds of prehistoric scenes. It is made of some stone boulders and roofing is also of stone slabs. In some villages mud structures are also constructed. Brick and concrete are very rare. Government has attempted at providing housing to them. But Sahariya prefers to live these stone huts- locally called as Patore. Most of their livelihood resources are in the control of powerful people .e.g. land, water and forest produce. In most cases their land is bad and that too is usurped by others. High indebtedness, land alienation, abysmal literacy level, preponderance of tuberculosis and malaria, and lack of social security are some facets of their vulnerability.
2. Severe malnutrition among the children and starvation deaths has also been reported. Shy and submissive by nature, they fall easy prey to the manipulation of corrupt people. The services like health, education, electricity and nutrition care and social security exist mostly in profound sentiments of the policies; most Sahariyas have been denied access to them. As the forest cover is disappearing, Sahariyas are forced to work as casual labor. Formal administrative system has never been understood by them.
3. Complex procedures of the Government have further scared them away from seeking its support. Government has been pushing scheme after scheme for their development, little benefit reaches to them. Middlemen and corrupt Government Officials have taken benefit of these programs. At many places Sahariyas have been tortured to leave their native village by the mischievous people to take over their land. In such cases they have migrated to other places in search of security.
4. The area is also infamous for dacoits and organized robbers. These groups move from place to place looking for hideouts from the police. Poor Sahariyas are forced to entertain these hooligans with monetary, food, liquor etc.. Any attempt to refuse brings heavy penalty on them in the form of physical beating, gang rape and rampage of their villages. Police looks at them as informers and tries to use force and threat for gathering information about the movement of dacoits.



4.3 Challenges faced by Sahariyas

4.3.1 Problems of the Sahariya:

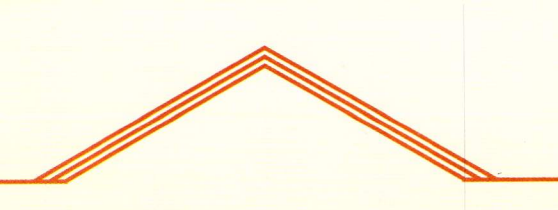
- Poor community organizations
- Poor Outreach to government schemes and welfare programs.
- Poor and in some cases absent dialogue with the service providers
- Shrinking forest and natural resources.
- Exploitation by multiple agencies and groups of people.
- Complex and cumbersome government systems.
- Abysmal performance of institutions of local governance.
- Ineffective social protection and security.

4.3.2 Livelihood issues:

- Poor land quality
- Control of power centers within the community on resources such as water, land and forest.
- Livelihood options limited to other classes.
- Large prevalence of money lenders.
- Dependence on manual labor
- Outdated skills of agriculture
- Inadequate knowledge on natural resource management.

4.3.3 Critical Concerns

- Land tenure and related conflicts have become a part of Sahariyas' very existence. They were never known to own land but had a major contribution in converting forestland for agriculture.
- It is this land or the ambiguity of their ownership of it, which has been a constant source of conflict with their more powerful neighbors as well as with the Government.
- The conflicts range from oppression by the dominant castes, who are constantly trying to drive the Sahariyas away from the land, to the local officials who perpetuate amazing forms of mal-governance and injustice.



◆ **For instance :** (i) Giving pattas without actual possession of land, or vice versa; (ii) Year after year realizing a fine from encroached forest lands but not maintaining records of the same thus, depriving the Sahariyas of proof of duration of occupancy

- There is a constant conflict between the Forest Department and the Revenue Department on the issue of the demarcation of land. The Sahariyas who occupy such areas are caught between the two government departments.
- Exploitation – Khadaans (Stone Quarries), bonded labour, dacoities (robbers) and liquor have become synonymous with the lot of the Sahariyas.
- The Sahariyas are encouraged by the mine or land owners to take petty loans which, more often than not; they are unable to pay. Then they are unable to run away and instead forced to work. Dacoities are a common feature in this area and they particularly target the Sahariyas.
- The dacoities are more often perpetuated by the dominant caste or the mine owners themselves or supported by them with the intention of forcing the Sahariyas to penury as well as terrorizing them to abandon their land and run away, thus providing the former a chance to snatch away the land.
- Liquor is another mode of well-planned exploitation. Liquor is often sold by the mine owners at the site of the mines and the payment deducted from the wages of the workers



5.0 Present Approach

Madhya Pradesh Rural Livelihood Project conducted a study on Sahariya community and got an important finding on Social Resources that those who lived in thatched roof houses felt constant danger to their lives through fire accidents or from poisonous reptiles and insects.

Taking cognizance of their problem, the then Collector District Sheopur Shri S.N. Rupla took an initiative and directed the Sahariya Development Authority to construct residential colonies with CC road, community hall including provisions for safe drinking water and electricity. Each house made should have 2 rooms, a kitchen and cattle shed along with toilet.

As a result, a residential colony for homeless Sahariya Community in Sheopur district was provided at the cost of Rs. 1,50,00,000. Likewise 120 Sahariya families will be getting homes soon at the cost of Rs. 42,00,000. Also 739 Sahariya families from 29 villages got repair and maintenance assistance worth 30,95,000. Rs. 2,54,00,000 was invested for construction of residence under the supervision of the Chief Engineer of Sheopur District Panchayat.

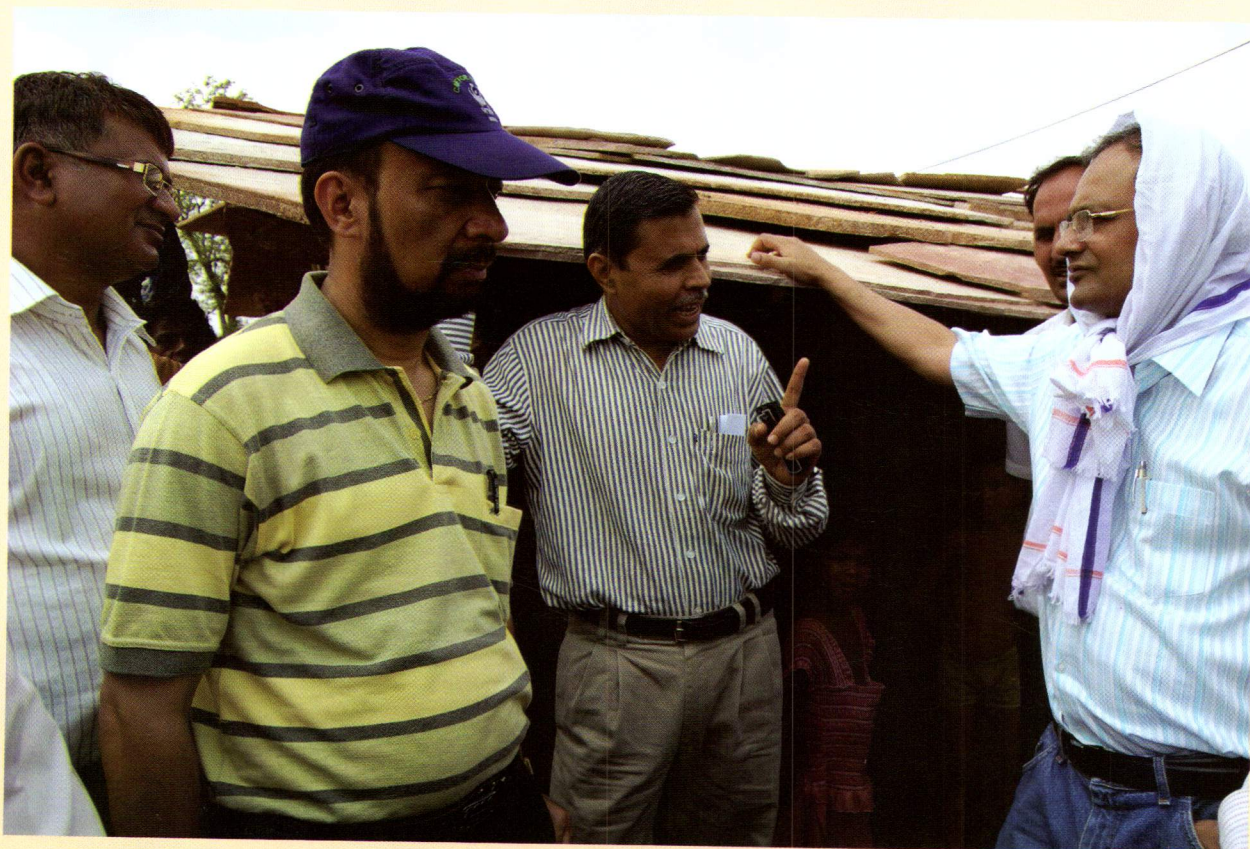
5.1 Strategy adopted

A meeting of the District Administration and public representatives was held at Sahariya Development Authority office. In this meeting a list of villages were rolled out where colonies were to be constructed. The Gram Sabhas of these enlisted villages were slated to identify appropriate beneficiaries. A committee was formed in which a presiding official was elected through participatory methodology. This would create a social pressure on the committee to execute the project on time and deter diversion of funds.

The next step was to transfer cash into individual accounts. In the absence of individual accounts, new accounts were opened in the name of the committee and funds were transferred to the same. Chaupal meetings were organized keeping in mind the daily routine of the community. During the meetings the concerned parties met, discussed issues and used these forums for trouble shooting. Since the administration prioritized

the project, construction took off wherever government land was available. Funds were released in three stages during which continuous monitoring and technical advice was provided to the beneficiaries. The blue print for the houses was made using participatory method which made all houses look similar. Purchase of construction material and provision of masons were made by the beneficiaries themselves. Construction workers were drawn from the community itself to ensure that the houses were in-tune with the cultural preferences of the community.

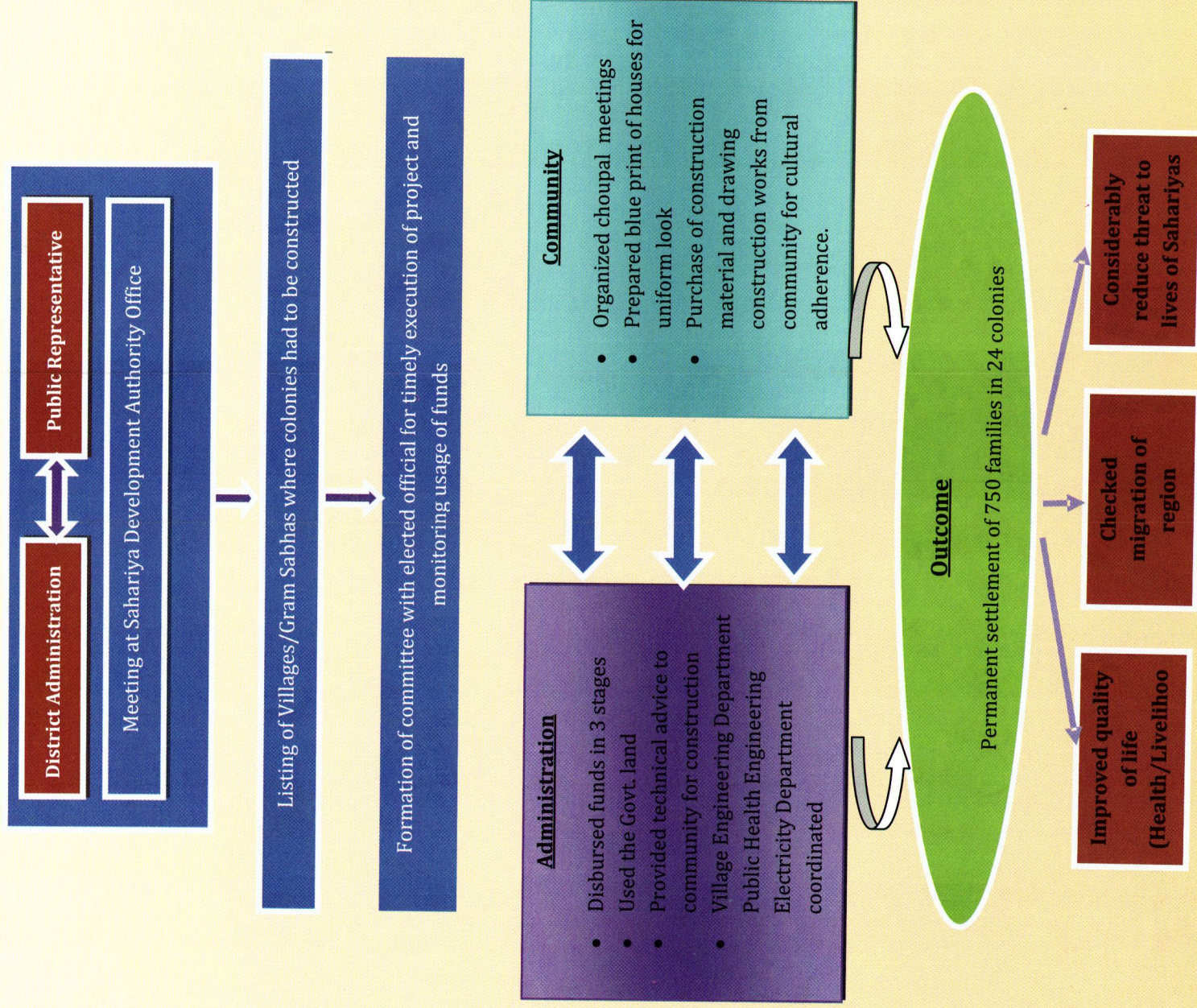
CC roads at the settlement were constructed by Rural Engineering department, water supply systems were laid by the Public Health Engineering department and power supply was taken care by the Electricity department. Solar panels were installed in places where there was no power supply.



PIC 3 : Monitoring



PIC 4: Gram Sabha in Progress



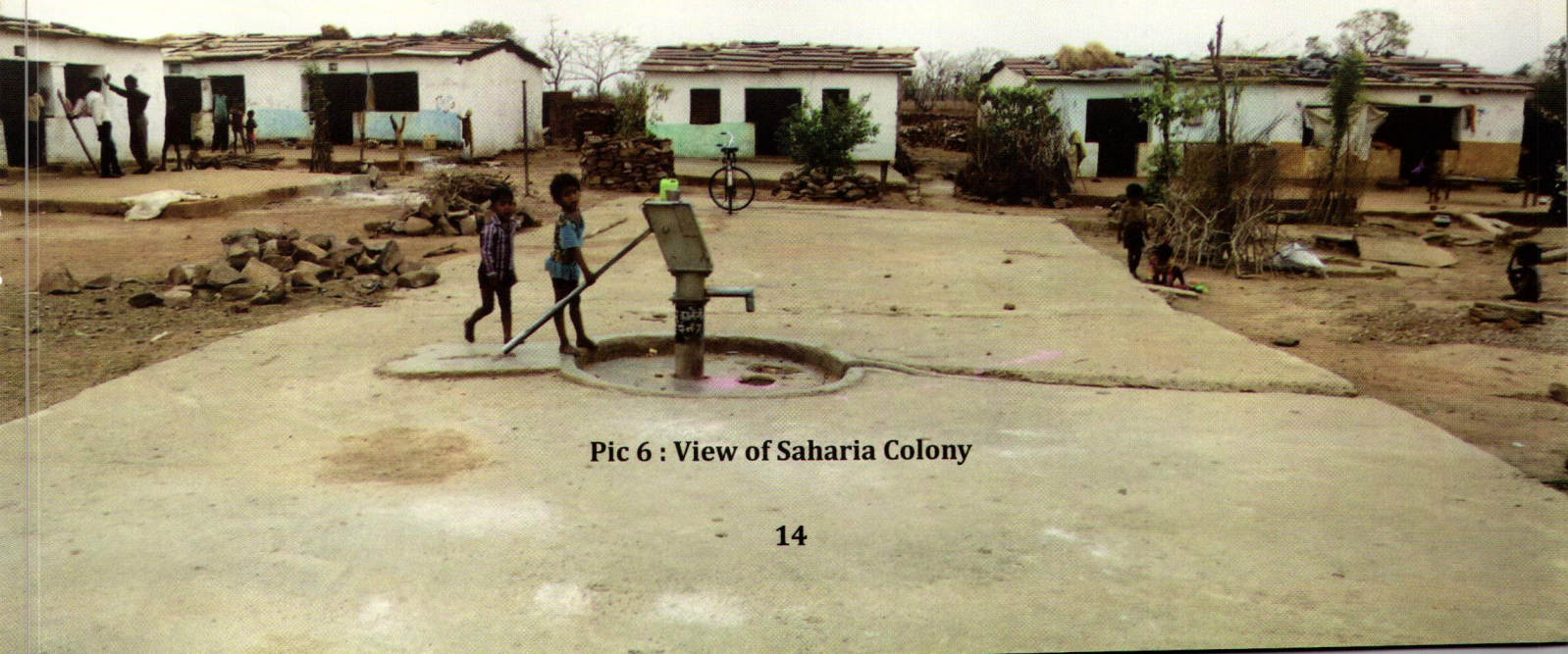
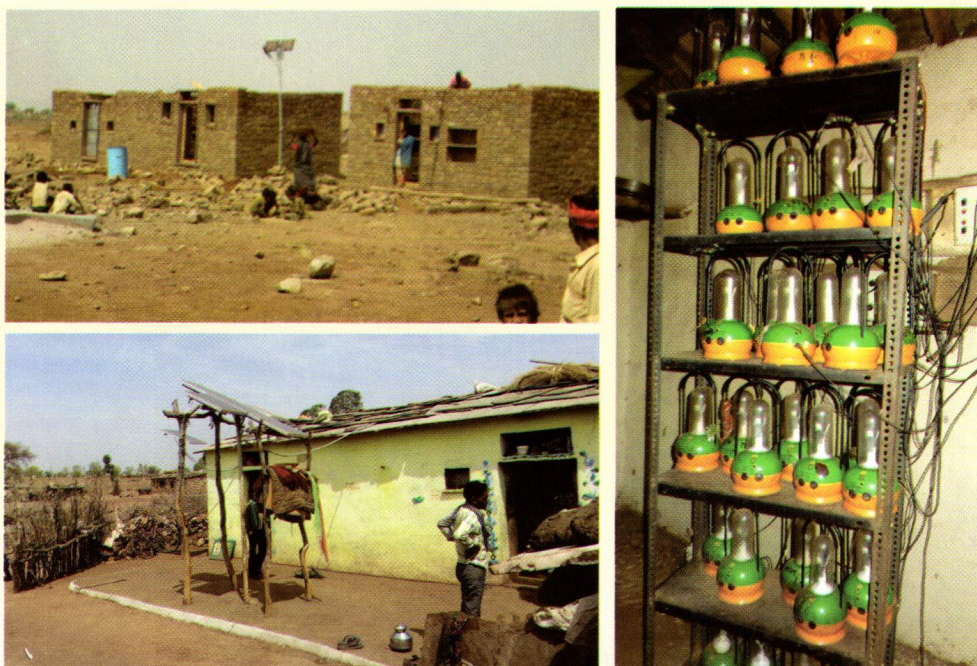
PIC 5 : Community Participation with adequate Administrative Intervention leads to Community Ownership Models

6.0 Results Achieved

In the 1st phase 6 colonies in Pannar, Pipraani, Chhappar, Surajpur & Hirapur were completed. In further phases, 24 such colonies were made for beneficiaries from Sahariya community. Due to this, total of 750 families benefitted from these colonies.

Permanent settlement helped these families to improve their quality of life and also considerable reduced the threats to their lives. There were improvements in general health and livelihood options were enhanced. This project also checked outward migration in the region.

This initiative has won the Chief Minister Excellence Award of Madhya Pradesh for the year 2011-12.



Pic 6 : View of Saharia Colony





7.0 Lessons learnt

1. Community participation brought about success of the project
2. Transparency in the selection process of the beneficiary ensured the success of the project.
3. Community involvement also brought about community ownership over the project which led to the beneficiaries actually using the houses.

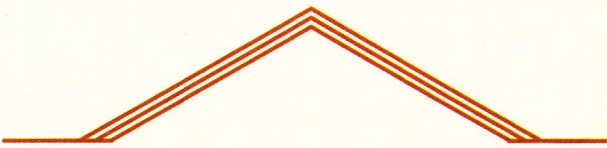
8.0 Sustainability and Replicability

The participatory approach of the project increases the scope of replicating such projects in other areas. The schemes can also be implanted for other tribal group to improve their lifestyle and to provide them social security. Due to low cost of the project a two-room house can be made for just Rs. 50,000. Residential complexes housing 50-60 families helps in providing basic facilities like electricity, water & sanitation. This also improves the possibility of forming SHG for economic benefits.



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सहस्रिया | 16 | ग्वालिबर बुधवार 23 दिसंबर 2009

आवासहीनों को जल्द मिलेंगे आवास

● गांवों में निर्माण कार्य चल रहा है अग्रगति पर
● जहाँ करोड़ रुपए से कराया जा रहा है निर्माण

इलाहाबाद। बिना में विकास आवासहीन परिवारों के लिए 3 करोड़ 75 लाख रुपए की लागत से आवासहीन परिवारों को निर्माण कराया जा रहा है। इसी प्रकार 25 लाखों में 120 सहस्रिया परिवारों के लिए 42 लाख रुपए की लागत से 120 आवासों का कार्य भी जारी है। साथ ही आवास विकास के 29 लाखों के 739 सहस्रिया परिवारों को 36 लाख 95 हजार रुपए की राशिगत राशि से भी आवासों का निर्माण कर रहे हैं।

मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी

(आवासहीन परिवारों) के निर्माण को अग्रगति पर चल रहा है।
निर्माण कार्य करने की कार्यवाही :
सहस्रिया विकास और आवासहीन परिवारों को आवासहीन परिवारों के लिए निर्माण कराया जा रहा है। साथ ही आवास विकास के 29 लाखों के 739 सहस्रिया परिवारों को 36 लाख 95 हजार रुपए की राशिगत राशि से भी आवासों का निर्माण कर रहे हैं।

मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी

बी पी एन टाइम्स
ग्वालिबर, बुधवार 16 दिसंबर 2010

25 सहस्रिया परिवारों को मिले आशियाने

150 परिवारों के लिए किया कॉलोनी का निर्माण

सोनीपुरा, ग्वालिबर

कोलकाता परामर्श कर्मियों ने कहा कि सहस्रिया विकास और आवासहीन परिवारों के लिए निर्माण कराया जा रहा है। साथ ही आवास विकास के 29 लाखों के 739 सहस्रिया परिवारों को 36 लाख 95 हजार रुपए की राशिगत राशि से भी आवासों का निर्माण कर रहे हैं।

मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी

श्योपुर के 2500 सहस्रिया परिवारों के आंगन में उजाला

सहस्रिया विकास और आवासहीन परिवारों के लिए निर्माण कराया जा रहा है। साथ ही आवास विकास के 29 लाखों के 739 सहस्रिया परिवारों को 36 लाख 95 हजार रुपए की राशिगत राशि से भी आवासों का निर्माण कर रहे हैं।

मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी



खदल गया रहने का अंदाज

सहस्रिया विकास और आवासहीन परिवारों के लिए निर्माण कराया जा रहा है। साथ ही आवास विकास के 29 लाखों के 739 सहस्रिया परिवारों को 36 लाख 95 हजार रुपए की राशिगत राशि से भी आवासों का निर्माण कर रहे हैं।

मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी

सुविधा युक्त कॉलोनी में रहेंगे आशियाने

सहस्रिया विकास और आवासहीन परिवारों के लिए निर्माण कराया जा रहा है। साथ ही आवास विकास के 29 लाखों के 739 सहस्रिया परिवारों को 36 लाख 95 हजार रुपए की राशिगत राशि से भी आवासों का निर्माण कर रहे हैं।

मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी

Annexure: 1

List of ongoing Sahariya rehabilitation projects in the district

S.No.	Nome of the Project	Type of Work	Amount (Rs.)	No. of Beneficiaries	Work Status
1.	Sahariya Settlement Residential Project	Residence Complex	6,75,00,000	675	A. 7 Complex Completed B. 20 Complex under-construction C. 1 Complex completed pending for approval
2.	Chief Minister Residence Mission	Residence Complex	35,00,000	50	Under-construction
3.	Indira Awaas	Single Accommodation	12,12,05,000	3,463	Completed
4.	CCD Plan	Single Accommodation	42,00,000	120	Completed
			64,00,000-85,00,000	151	Under-construction
5.	CCD Plan	Roof Repairing	36,95,000	739	Completed
			15,00,000-22,00,000	443	Under-construction
Amount spent on residential complex and no. of beneficiary in last 2 years			20,88,00,000	5,641	

