



HIGHLIGHTS

Focused Rural Development Program (FRDP): Empowering Mithila Artists

Gyandeep Project: Monitoring Visit by Mahindra & Mahindra CSR Manager in Udham Singh Nagar, Uttarakhand

SBI Gram Seva: Empowering Farmers through Organic Farming Training in Chamba, Himachal Pradesh

Photography Workshop in Head Office

KNOWLEDGE NUGGETS

Empowering Communities and Mitigating Climate Change: The Benefits of Improved Cook Stoves

In rural India, traditional cookstoves remain a common choice for cooking, but they come with significant issues. The constant demand for fuelwood leads to deforestation, endangering women and children who venture into forests. These traditional stoves also emit harmful pollutants, causing indoor air pollution, particularly impacting women and children who spend extended hours near them.

However, a transformative solution emerges from this challenge - The Improved Cookstoves. These modern marvels of efficiency significantly reduce the insatiable demand for fuelwood. A remarkable **70% reduction in fuelwood consumption** not only conserves forests but also fosters productivity, improves health, and reduces the strain on these vital ecosystems.

The impact of this intervention is nothing short of profound. It's the preservation of precious forests, the reduction of harmful emissions, and the safeguarding of family well-being. With women saving time, families spending less on fuel, and communities reaping economic benefits, Improved Cookstoves empower resilience against climate change. Additionally, they are resulting in reduced human-wildlife conflict, creating a safer coexistence with nature.

India's rural heartlands are witnessing a remarkable transformation, embracing a healthier and more sustainable future.



Improved Cook Stoves, Rural Communities & Climate Change

PROJECT UPDATES

Empowering Women Farmers and Revolutionizing Silk Processing

SUIDHA is empowering women farmers and enhancing the silk processing industry with our initiatives. We've distributed **28 solar-powered spinning machines** among seven groups, benefiting a total of **140 members**. These machines have significantly enhanced their silk processing abilities. This not only fosters economic independence but also promotes skill development and a sense of community support among women farmers. It's a step toward gender equality in agriculture and contributes to socio-economic development.

Additionally, 35 selected farmers from seven Eri farming groups have received comprehensive training in silk processing, focusing on modern spinning machinery. They're now master trainers in Eri rearing, committed to sharing their knowledge and expertise with their fellow farmers. This knowledge dissemination ensures sustainable growth in silk processing while improving livelihoods.



HDFC Bank Parivartan's Focussed Rural Development Program (FRDP): Empowering Mithila Artists

SUIDHA has been committed to empowering artists and promoting cultural heritage. We provided advanced training to 40 talented Mithila artists in Bihar, where they honed their skills under the guidance of esteemed mentors, including **Padma Shri awardees such as Mrs. Bauaa Devi, Mrs. Dulari Devi, and State Awardee Mr. Prabhakar**.

The dedication to promoting art and culture led SUIDHA to showcase our artists' work at two prestigious exhibitions. We participated in the **Hi-Wellness Festa in Korea**, October 7th to 9th, 2023 introducing Madhubani art to an international audience and sparking an enthusiastic response. This success has ignited our anticipation for establishing global market linkages and propelling Madhubani art to greater prominence.

Additionally, SUIDHA made its presence felt at the 13th edition of the **East Himalayan Trade Fair, Guwahati** hosted by the India Trade Promotion Organization in collaboration with the Commerce and Industries Department of the Government of Assam, held from October 1st to October 8, 2023. A total of **40 artists** from our project showcased their remarkable creations, generating meaningful connections and gaining the attention of prospective buyers.

Through these initiatives, we aim to provide sustainable opportunities for artists and promote the rich cultural heritage of Bihar.



Advance Mithila Art Workshop by Padma Shri Awardee : Mrs Bauaa Devi



Hi-Wellness Festa in Korea



East Himalayan Trade Fair, Guwahati



Gyandeeep Project: Monitoring Visit by Mahindra & Mahindra in Udham Singh Nagar, Uttarakhand

Mrs. Sonam Mehra, CSR Manager of Mahindra & Mahindra, Mumbai, conducted a monitoring visit to five government schools in Udham Singh Nagar District, Uttarakhand, as part of the Gyandeeep program implemented by SUVIDHA.

Her discussions with school principals, teachers, students, and our implementing partner aimed to assess the impact of interventions, including plantation projects, Bal Samiti formation, library setups, and scholarships. Notably, the visit unveiled teachers' dedication and students' excitement for the upcoming libraries in their schools, highlighting the positive transformation these initiatives are bringing to the community. Mrs. Mehra's insights reinforce our commitment to empowering these schools and students for a brighter future.



SBI Gram Seva Project : Empowering Farmers through Organic Farming Training in Chamba, H.P

SBI Gram Seva Project recently conducted organic farming training in five intervention villages: Kiri, Lagga, Sarol, Banjal, and Rauni. This initiative provided **250 farmers** with seed distribution and bio inputs, equipping them for a transition to sustainable agriculture. On-farm demonstrations and training in vermicomposting were also conducted, empowering farmers with practical skills for successful organic farming. The project remains committed to supporting local farmers in adopting environmentally friendly agricultural practices, promoting both livelihood enhancement and long-term environmental health.



Project Unnati: SBI Team Visits for assessment of Project Progress



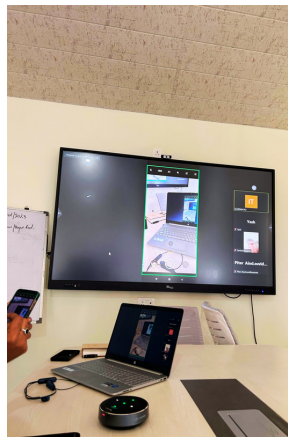
Ms. Kumbhika from the SBI team conducted a field visit to assess the progress of the SUVIDHA project in Sirmour District's Nahan Block on October 12th, 2023. During her visit, she engaged with field staff and beneficiaries, discussing project initiation, and challenges faced at the field level, and reviewing vital project documents. Furthermore, Ms. Kumbhika met with women beneficiaries in Sainwala village, gaining insights into their perspectives on the project. This visit emphasizes the significance of our collaborative efforts for ongoing success.

ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATES

SUVIDHA's Participation in Handloom Expo, Delhi

SUVIDHA actively participated in the Handloom Expo at the Constitution Club of India, Delhi, from 2nd to 4th October. The event showcased an array of exquisite handloom products from Assam and Madhya Pradesh, featuring Assamese Gamchas, Mekhlas, Carbi Mufflars, Missing Mufflars, Arunachal Shawls and Maheshwari Sarees. Representing Madhya Pradesh, two talented women weavers and a handloom master trainer joined the event.

Their exceptional craftsmanship was met with a heartening response, highlighting the rich heritage of handloom weaving and empowering skilled artisans. The sale of their products served as a motivating factor, encouraging them to continue their exceptional work. Additionally, the connections built during the event are expected to help them access a wider market, further enhancing their livelihoods.



Photography Workshop of Staff

SUVIDHA recently conducted an enriching photography workshop, aimed at enhancing our photography skills and showcasing our work effectively on various platforms like LinkedIn and social media.

The workshop covered camera tools, smartphone photography, and key considerations like aspect ratios, lighting, and object positioning. We also discussed different types of photographs and how to enhance visual communication through various angles.

SUVIDHA SHINERS

At SUVIDHA, we believe that recognizing and appreciating the hard work of our dedicated team members is essential to fostering a culture of excellence and motivation. Through our **Employee Recognition Program**, we celebrate outstanding individuals from different programs and skill sets who consistently go above and beyond.



Mr. Ravindra Kapkoti
Head of Information Technology



Mr. Piter Aind
Field Officer (HRDP-Assam)



Mr. Karan Sharma
MIS & Documentation Officer, SBI
Gram Seva, Himachal Pradesh