Strategic Plan of Samarthan

2011-2015

SAMARTHAN
Centre for Development Support
36 Green Avenue, Chunna Bhatti
Kolar Road, Bhopal
Madhya Pradesh, India
Tel: (0755) 246 7625 / 989 356 3713
Fax: (0755) 246 8663
Email: info@samarthan.org

Strategic Plan of Samarthan 2011-2015

Part I

Organizational Review: 2011-2015

Samarthan was established in 1995 as a support organisation in undivided Madhya Pradesh to address the challenges of poverty and underdevelopment through strengthening the grassroots civil society. The primary mission of Samarthan was to promote participatory development processes by challenging the conventional top down model of development. It was believed that small and medium size voluntary organization and well meaning individuals willing to work as voluntary organizations at the grassroots will transform the development paradigm from the poor and disadvantaged sections. Samarthan started working on building a strong base of the value based voluntary sector in undivided Madhya Pradesh. Gradually, the mission was broadened to encompass participatory governance to strengthen emerging potential of the local governance organisations in rural and urban areas. Samarthan's journey over the last fifteen years has been described in **annex A.**

Samarthan has a well established culture of inviting external facilitators to conduct organizational review in every five years' cycle. The review findings are used to evolve a strategic plan for the next five year. The last review was conducted in mid 2010 and the strategic plan for 2011-2015 is being prepared based on the review recommendations. The key findings of the review are the following:

- High Credibility and eminence built over the years as a support organisation
- Broaden scope of work in governance (beyond Local Self Governance)
- Build and continue grassroots-knowledge and networking with voluntary organizations
- Greater focus on social justice by taking selective communities like SC/ST/minorities
- Need for building operational strategy (over all and for capacity building, research, and advocacy) to maximize the impact
- Building domain knowledge will be helpful for a distinctive identity (including themes and constituencies)
- More clarity on engagement with government (with-not for or against but issue based)
- Chhattisgarh- needs fresh thinking and independent strategy
- Build internal capacities- crucial for next phase (Research skills, second line, etc)

Process of strategic planning

- Sharing of organizational review report with the Board of Trustees and approval on key recommendations.
- Finalization of Review report based on feedback of the board of Trustees
- Sharing of the report with the staff and preparation of draft strategic plan by the team.
- Reflection workshop on strategic plan with the experts/resource persons to sharpen the strategic plan.
- Approval of the draft strategic plan by the Board of Trustees.

Part II

Theory of change, vision and mission of Samarthan

Theory of change

The underlying factors of underdevelopment can be explained by the governance deficit that results in poor performance of the development programmes. There are several constitutional provisions of guaranteeing several rights and entitlement to the citizens in India. Over the last decade, commitment of the central government to promote development through a rights based framework has gained currency. Many positive enactments viz. right to employments, right to information, and right to education are quite prominent. The rights based development promotion is challenged by several impediments that affect realization of above mentioned rights by the most marginalized and poor citizen of the country. The denial of rights is even worse in the states like MP and Chattisgarh which are less developed and low on Human Development Index.

Supply side impediments

1. Weak political will in translation of rights into reality

The constitutional provisions of rights are not converted into strong political will to operationaize the constitutional guarantee. Inadequate political will is found at the national level or state level to translate it into action. There are several examples where the operational rules have not been framed to translate the spirit of the constitution provision into reality. Panchayat Extension in Scheduled Area (PESA) is a classic example where rules have not been framed in states of MP and Chattisgarh even after 15 years of enactment of PESA.

2. Inadequate capacities to translate the intent of the Act as well as operational guidelines

In many cases where the operational guidelines have been worked out, the state machinery is not geared up to deliver the desired entitlements and respect the rights for its realization. There is a shortage of human resources in most of the key development programmes emerged from the rights regime viz. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, NRHM , NREGS etc, The provisions of the Acts on Right to Employment, Right to Education or Right to Information demand far greater human capacities and infrastructure to guarantee rights as envisaged in the constitutional provisions. The states have structural limitations of hiring staff based on short term commitment of the programmes. Moreover, the states have limited training institutions and capacity building mechanisms to reaching out to the un-served population in remote corners of the state.

3. Inadequate resource allocation and efficient resource utilization

Most of the rights can not be fulfilled unless government ensures adequate financial resources to meet the current level of development challenges. In health and education sector, less than 2% share of GDP is currently spent which is abysmally low to fulfill guarantees of 'Education for all' or 'health for all'. The recent commitments of 100 days of wage labour to any household demanding work and willing to do earth work requires massive financial allocation than currently proposed.

Similarly, provisions of right to education also demand major investment in school infrastructure and teaching staff to meet the norms of the Right to Education.

Demand side impediments

1.   Inadequate knowledge of the rights and attitude as dormant recipient

The social fabric of the rural community is divisive and most marginalized population belonging to scheduled caste, scheduled tribe is historically discriminated. The dominant class and caste has controlled and misappropriated development resources actually meant for the poor and other deserving socially deprived households. Moreover, repeated oppression of the poor and marginalized communities has built a culture of silence and pessimism in the sub-conscious. Therefore, the language of rights or value of demanding rights does not get easily communicated to generate any action. Most of the communication strategy of the development programmes is based on 'service delivery' content rather 'fulfillment of rights' to awaken citizens to demand their rights. The development administration and development machinery is also composed of the dominant caste and class which unconsciously or deliberately discriminate the most marginalized citizen who are illiterate, live in remote part of the district or in slum areas of the city. They cannot muster courage to challenge the existing power equation of the village or withstand rent seeking culture of the administrative machinery.

2.   Inadequate collective efforts of the people's institutions to demand rights

One of the outcomes of chronic oppression is low self concept and isolation of the poor. Therefore, the poor become marginalized to find it difficult to individually fight for their rights in the struggle of daily survival of their families. There is no well defined political identity of the poor and most of the economically and socially oppressed have experienced high disillusionment with the political process and commitments.

The poor are not organized around the common thread of being poor or on social identity of being oppressed for caste, gender or tribal identity. Collectives of women as self help groups are more programme driven to facilitate micro-finance rather than realization of civil, social and economic rights. In absence of networks or institutions of the poor reflecting collective strength, micro realities are not getting transformed influencing macro development environment which is an anti-poor development paradigm. The existing institutions of the citizens which are democratic, constitutional and empowering like PRIs and urban local bodies are also not functioning democratically. These agencies have become cost effective executing agencies of the development programme rather than functioning as grassroots institutions of democratic governance.

3.   Inadequate civil society voice and preparedness to address the rights regime
Over the years many campaigns of the civil society have become quite prominent. Collective strength of the campaigns is demonstrated to influence policy by encouraging introduction of progressive bills and converting it into Act- Right to Employment, Right to Education, Forest Rights Act, Right to Information etc. are recent examples. The size of the civil society is rather limited compared to the challenges of realization of rights for the poor on the ground. Many of the voluntary organizations are still working in service delivery mode. Many others are concentrated in sector specific reforms rather than working for overall governance reform. Moreover, collective

platforms of the civil society are either missing or weak in capacities to address the growing challenges of shrinking democratic space for the voluntary sector for building an alternative voice in favor of the poor. Moreover, voluntary organizations have many other limitations such as

(a) Ability to engage with the Government system with evidence based criticism and suggestions/alternatives to change the scenario
(b) Will to collaborate and work together with the Government to influence large scale development programmes meaningfully in favor of the poor and marginalized
(c) Commitment and institutional capacities to work with governance reform institutions like judiciary, elected representatives of upper and lower houses, Regulatory Commissions etc.
(d) Skills to effectively apply governance tools viz. public expenditure tracking, report card, social audits, and public hearing to improve the situation realizing the rights- responsibility as twin concepts.
(e) Strategies to collaborate the compliment with other actors of civil society such as media and academic institutions to build a strong force to address structural and macro political economy questions affecting poverty, discrimination, equity and justice.

The impediments in realization of rights by the poor build up the theory of change for Samarthan. There is a need to work on these impediments. Samarthan draws its vision from the above described theory of change.

Vision statement

Every citizen contributes meaningfully in shaping democratic State and enjoys benefits based on the principles of equality and equity

Samarthan with its limited capacities and area of influence will attempt to build strategic plan to maximize impact with limited resources. Many of the impediments described above, demand long term perspective and enormous energy beyond the capacity of the civil society. The forces of change are very large and interplay of market and state makes the rights realization even more complex and challenging. The above mentioned impediments needs to be addressed by Samarthan as a social change organization to be impactful and bringing change in the life of the poor and marginalized communities.

Mission Statement

Promote and support participatory governance for equity and inclusion in development processes by capacity building, generating evidences and advocating the perspective of the most marginalized for enriched democracy

Part III

SWOT of Samarthan

We need to recognize our strengths built over the years, become aware of our weaknesses and capitalize on the opportunities in the environment along with recognizing the challenges that may affect our efforts. The recent organizational review 2005-10 is an important basis to detail out our SWOT, Moreover, an environmental analysis of MP and Chattisgarh is **annexed in B**.

Strengths

1. Long standing credibility as a 'decentralized governance and NGO support' institution by demonstrating models on the ground, designing capacity building programmes and conducting research with advocacy agenda

2. Strong linkages and fraternity with civil society at the grassroots based on support provided in the past.

3. Strong direct presence on the ground in selective districts viz. Sehore. Panna, Rajnangaon and Bastar.

4. Positive relationship and credible image within the Government and donors as a committed and professional organization on decentralized governance.

5. International and national linkages as network member to take up state issues in national and international platforms.

6. Firmly grounded at the grassroots and using experiences for systematic research and advocacy with the help of a network of civil society organization and CBOs.

Weaknesses

1. Emerged as a hybrid organization with multiple functions of similar scale and multiple programme – capacity building, research, field implementation on the one end and rural governance, urban governance, water, sanitation and health on the other

2. Limited reach and programme effectiveness (sub-optimal capacity use) in each of the area of operation viz. implementation, capacity building, research.

3. Unclear 'theory of change' or unclear political position to build a distinguished identity of the organization – articulation of 'clean governance', alignment with activist groups, constituency focus etc

4. Inadequate mechanisms and focus to convert grassroots learning for larger policy change and dissemination of knowledge

5. Insufficient second line/staff to provide leadership on governance/sector specific issues or independently design and manage programmes of governance, sectors or functional areas viz. research, advocacy, capacity development

6. Gradually loosing stronghold with civil society and existing identity as a capacity building organization

Opportunities

1. Progressive national legal framework where provisions of citizens participation has been emphasized or certain clauses have mandatory requirements of community/Gram Sabah participation viz. Forest Rights Act, MGNREGS.RTE etc.

2. Many Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) and programmes have sufficient provisions for capacity development of community resource persons and people's committees

3. State pronouncement of improving governance and efficiency of services is reflected in top political agenda and bureaucratic leadership.

4. Constituency focused resources and institutional mechanisms are growing to address the poor, SC/ ST (Tribal Sub Plan) and regional imbalances (BRGF/Bundelkhand Package)

5. Visible shift of civil society from service delivery mode towards rights based campaigns and programmes

6. Growing realization of the donors and senior Government officials for more systematic research and capacity building which exist as a gap at the state level

7. Mandatory CSR commitments and overall positive outlook of large scale corporate houses for governance reforms opens up door for alternative funding sources

8. Media is proactively using social issues/ development concerns proving sufficient space to the issues highlighted by the civil society

Threats

1. Growing left wing extremist movement is shrinking space for rights oriented civil society groups, especially those working in difficult areas or addressing issues of the affected poor and disadvantaged groups.

2. Declining credibility of civil society and space for civil society due to non transparent operations and their compromising posture on rent seeking system of development administration. This is coupled with ineffective collective civil society platforms to voice concerns of voluntary sector or on sector specific issues.

3. Shrinking legal space and political space at the state level for civil society to participate in policy decision making process and NGOs promoted by the political leaders are gaining ground

4. Reduced grants and international funding affecting autonomy and work of civil society on civil liberty issues.

5. Growing bidding culture is promoting well established national level management/ consultancy groups to have advantage over the local groups to win assignments at the state level.

6.   State promoted societies/ proxy NGOs/state promoted research institutions are convenient mechanisms for the Government Departments to transfer development funds of key development programmes, bypassing genuine NGOs.

Part IV

Broad Strategic Goals

The SWOT analysis and review findings highlighted that Samarthan's distinctive identity of influencing governance should be maintained. However, the shift in design has been proposed. The following strategic goals have been set for the next five years:

1. Redefined engagement on governance accountability and transparency

Samarthan will continue to strengthen decentralized governance at the grassroots to identify bottlenecks of the Gram Sabha and elected representatives and bring it in policy domain. However, concerted energy will be applied to address the macro challenges that are affecting governance including decentralized governance. Samarthan will work towards achieving the following:

- Identify macro issues that affect the decentralized governance and larger governance performance. There are certain institutions which have not performed their functions meaningfully; such institutions need to be influenced with evidences to demand greater accountability. The following institutions viz. State Planning Commission, State Finance Commission, State Election Commission, State Information Commission, etc. are relevant for interventions.

- Samarthan will also function to review the performance of various bodies constituted by the government to address the development challenges of the deprived sections of the society such as Bundelkhand Vikas Pradhikaran (Bundelkahand Development Authority) and Baiga/Sahariya Vikas Pradhikaran (Baiga or Sahariya Development Authority)

Samarthan will engage and generate empirical evidences on the performance of such institutions so that the governance of such institutions may be significantly improved to impact the quality of life of the extreme poor and Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs).

2. Scaled up application of participatory governance and accountability instruments

Samarthan will continue to evolve new methods, approaches and tools that empower citizens to demand accountability and transparency from the State. Experiments in social audit, public hearing, report card and community monitoring will be scaled up. The well tested tools will be widely disseminated to the common people for application. The following possible strategies will be focused:
- Expand work on RTI promotion to promote self disclosure by public agencies

- Qualitative improvement in social audits in NREGS with large scale cadre building of social audit terms at the grassroots.
- Application of social audits in other programmes to demand accountability
- Mainstreaming commonly monitoring in large scale urban and rural programmes.
- Experimentation and evolution of new set of accountability tools for influencing governance of State institutions as well as civil society organizations.

3. Improved quality of evidence based advocacy to promote citizen's perspective

Samarthan will continue to deepen engagement in building an evidence based advocacy agenda in the area of governance. Larger energy of the organisation will be concentrated around generating grassroots action oriented learning and linking it up with macro policy framework. It is extremely pertinent that the grassroots learnings are widely disseminated and meaningfully shared with the policy making institutions at the state and national level. Samarthan will forge relationship with the national level organisations and campaigns to influence the national level policy makers. Samarthan will aim to become the voice of the voluntary sector on specific issues for representing issues of MP and Chattisgarh.

The areas of research will be determined based on the emerging challenges. However, certain areas of research where Samarthan has already invested to build knowledge base will be continued such as:

- Performance analysis of MGNREGS
- Status of RTI implementation
- Status of urban governance (JNNURM and IUDSSMT)
- Emerging issues and challenges of local governance institutions

4. Strengthened civil society capacities on governance connecting with grassroots groups and networks

Networking with the grassroots voluntary organizations is one of the strength of Samarthan, which could not get sufficient attention in the last 5 years. Samarthan will attempt to connect with well meaning and value based voluntary organizations. Support to the voluntary organizations will concentrate on building their capacities in

- Improved governance (Boards) of the organization and leadership development
- People centered advocacy in governance and rights based approaches
- High quality trainings on participatory research, M&E and process documentation

The format of trainings will be beyond classroom approach, using the methods of E-Courses, mentoring etc.

Samarthan will also invest energy in building networks of voluntary organizations- regional or thematic. Similarly, revival of Madhyavan, a network of voluntary organizations in MP and similar network in Chattisgarh will be the focus of Samarthan.

Samarthan has promoted a network of Panchayat representatives in MP to strengthen their voice on the issues of decentralized governance. We will dedicate our focused energy to build up such a network effectively.

5. Developed resource center on water, sanitation and Hygiene

In Sehore district local governance institutions have been strengthened to demonstrate effective models of service delivery of water and sanitation in a sustainable manner. Gram Sabhas have been mobilized to generate demand for sanitation and utilize available incentives for the poor households.

In this phase of work, Samarthan will specialize in water and sanitation sector and attempt to become a knowledge center in the following manner:

- Develop demand based support mechanism for the Panchayats managing piped water supply systems and promoting sanitation in Sehore district for experimentation and draw learning for large scale application
- Develop capacity building modules for the WATSAN functionaries to develop community/PRI driven approaches in WATSAN
- Conduct public expenditure tracking of the water and sanitation budgets at the state level to promote greater accountability of the public resources.
- Promote report card and community monitoring on WATSAN to bring users perspective and feedback in planning WATSAN programme
- Support sector specific network on WATSAN for campaign and advocacy

6. Deepened engagement with SC/ST communities in selective regions

Samarthan will build specialized understanding on the development challenges of the SC and ST, a predominantly deprived community in MP and Chatiisgarh. The work in Bundelkhand region of MP will be focused around SC communities whereas the work in South MP and Chattisgarh will be concentrated on the ST community. The larger focus of the intervention will be centered on the following areas:

- Build capacity of the SC/ST leadership at the grassroots to become change agents for their community as voluntary sector leaders or leaders in village Panchayat, Gram Sabha or in village level committees
- Performance review of the programmes (SC/ST Sub Plans) focused around the SC/ST development and engagement with the policy makers on the issues and alternative strategies
- Promotion of PESA and FRA which has potential to empower the tribal population

7. Expanded reach and influence on urban governance and migrant workers

Samarthan has built experience and niche in the area of urban governance by working in selective small, medium and large towns. The work in urban areas is still in its nascent stage and demand to expand work is very high as the issues of governance are becoming larger and critical. Some of the key focus areas of work will be the following:

- Strengthen urban planning system by promoting participatory methods and mainstreaming perspective of the poor
- Poverty monitoring in urban context and review of programmes like JNNURM and UIDSSMT with a pro poor perspective
- Review and tracking of social security benefits to the urban poor through community monitoring
- Demonstrate models of promoting rights and entitlements of the migrant labour at source and destination
- Capacity building of the elected representatives and municipal functionaries in the areas of planning and urban governance

The above mentioned areas will demand separate strategies. Such strategies will get detailed out in due course of time. Samarthan may decide to work on the few themes in the first two years and based on the experiences the work will be expanded.

Part V

Organisational Design and Resources

Organisational structure

The organizational structure of Samarthan will be based on the proposed intervention strategy to attain the strategic goals set up for the next five years. There will be three distinctive centers to organize the work of Saamarthan. The thematic areas will be the following:

1. **Center for Rural Poverty and Governance (CRUG)**

The center will specialize in evolving governance agenda from the rural poor's and disadvantaged section's perspective. Therefore, Right to employment, Right to Education and Forest Rights Act etc. will be primary focus of the center to monitor and influence the programmes and policies at the district and state level. As the rural programme is the quite large in Samarthan compared to urban programme, therefore, there will be thematic teams within the center based on the specialization of research and capacity building as well as sector specific teams viz. Water, sanitation and health, MGNREGS and other specializations as and when required.

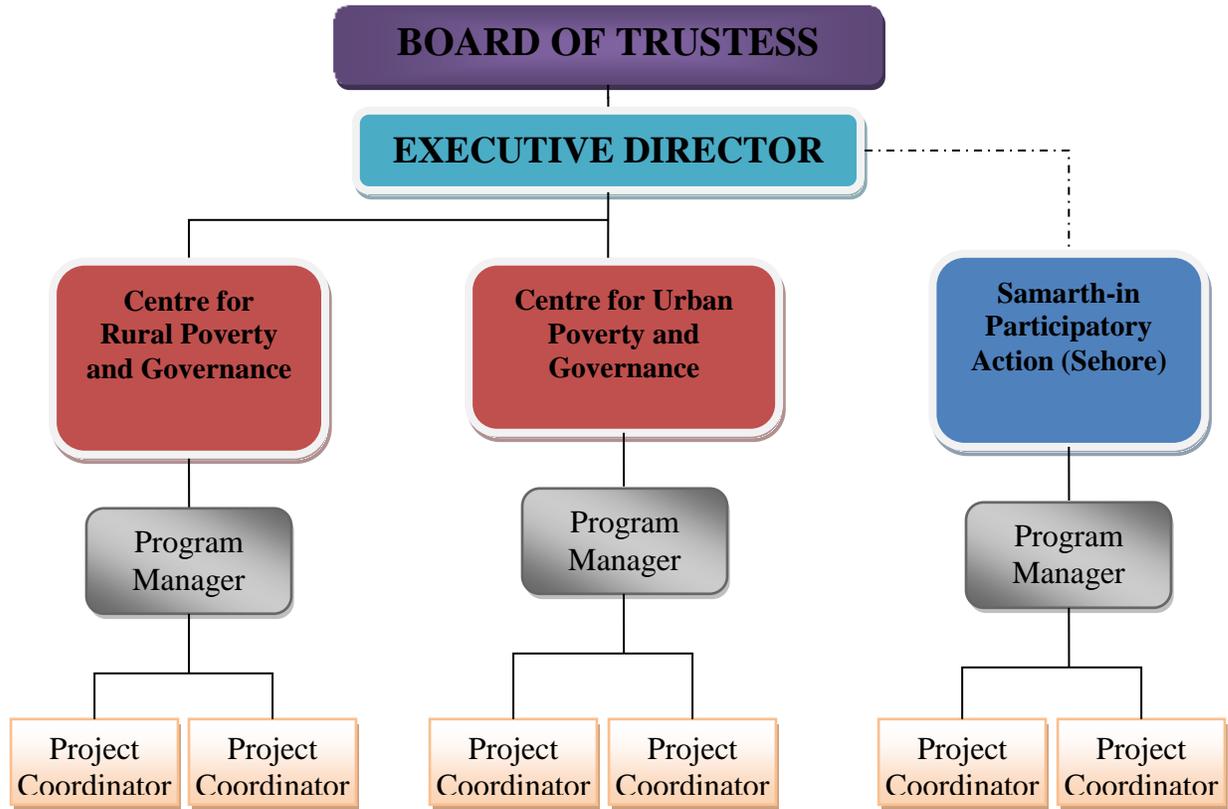2. **Center for Urban Poverty and Governance (CUPG)**

The center will specialize in urban governance issues and also urban poverty analysis. The center will also be responsible for addressing the constituency of the migrants as there is a link of migrants at source and destination.

The urban governance center will gradually grow to become a strong and specialized center to address issues of urban poverty and governance. The teams will function in a matrix structure where thematic leadership will be determined across the centers. Similarly, regional and constituency based team will be developed drawing members from the centers to provide focused intervention in that area.
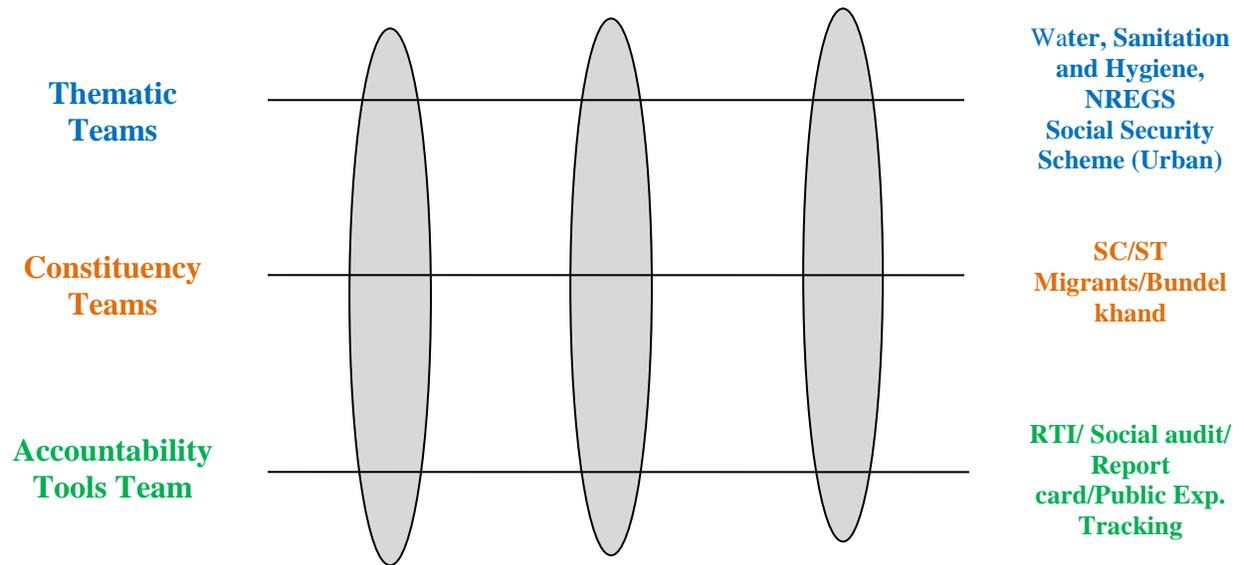

Samarthan Sehore- new identity "Samarth-in- Participatory Action"

Samarthan's longstanding work in Sehore has been registered as a separate entity under the name of 'Samarth–in-Participatory Action'. Samarthan Sehore will be exclusively an implementation wing to expand their work in different districts. The focus of work of Samarthan will continue to be around the issues of participatory development and governance. The current strategic plan will be applicable for the Sehore team; however, the team will gradually evolve their strategic plan of expansion and growth as an independent organisation. Samarthan will work out formal relationship with Samarth in Action to continue experimentation on participatory governance.

Organization Structure

```
                    ┌─────────────────────────────┐
                    │     BOARD OF TRUSTESS        │
                    └──────────────┬──────────────┘
                                   │
                    ┌──────────────┴──────────────┐ ............
                    │     EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR       │           :
                    └──────────────────────────────┘           :
          ┌────────────────────┬──────────────────────┬────────┘
```

Centre for Rural Poverty and Governance	Centre for Urban Poverty and Governance	Samarth-in Participatory Action (Sehore)
Program Manager	Program Manager	Program Manager
Project Coordinator — Project Coordinator	Project Coordinator — Project Coordinator	Project Coordinator — Project Coordinator

Horizontal Structure

Thematic Teams

Constituency Teams

Accountability Tools Team

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, NREGS Social Security Scheme (Urban)

SC/ST Migrants/Bundel khand

RTI/ Social audit/ Report card/Public Exp. Tracking

Current Budget and Projected Resource Mobilization for 2012-16

Samarthan						
Budget heads	**Current budget**	**Expected budget** (Rs. in lacs)				
1. Programmes	**2010-11**	**2011-12**	**2012-13**	**2013-14**	**2014-15**	**2015-16**
1.1 Centre for rural poverty and Governance	266.27	292.90	322.18	354.41	389.85	428.83
1.2 Centre for participatory urban governance	24.55	60.57	66.62	73.28	80.60	88.66
2. Organisational overheads	29.08	35.34	38.88	42.76	47.04	51.74
Samarthan Total	**319.90**	**388.81**	**427.68**	**470.45**	**517.49**	**569.23**
Samarth-in- Participatory Action, Sehore						
1.1 Centre for rural poverty and Governance	94.68	104.15	114.56	126.01	138.63	152.48
1.2 Centre for participatory urban governance	4	4.40	4.84	5.32	5.86	6.44
2. Organisational overheads	9.86	10.85	11.94	13.13	14.44	15.89
Samarth- in -Participatory Action, Sehore -Total	**107.68**	**118.45**	**130.29**	**143.32**	**157.65**	**173.42**
Grand Total	**108.54**	**119.4**	**131.34**	**144.46**	**158.93**	**174.81**

Organisational History

1995-2000: This phase of Samarthan was primarily to identify small voluntary organizations and build their capacities in programme and organizational management issues This was also an effort to build a network of grassroots voluntary groups to dialogue with the Government on development challenges and possible solutions based on grassroots reality.

Samarthan also initiated experimentation with newly emerged constitutionally mandated Panchayati Raj Institutions working directly in Sehore district and with NGOs in several other districts. The work concentrated in demonstrating capacities of village Panchayats to take responsibility and perform their functions as envisaged in the 73rd Constitutional Amendment. The operational bottlenecks faced by Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in becoming self governed institutions which were shared with the senior officials and policy makers.

2000-2005: Samarthan expanded work around participatory governance with PRIs and urban local bodies. A network of voluntary organizations, supported for capacity building in earlier phase, got associated with Samarthan to promote rural governance. Large scale campaign on voter awareness, model building on participatory planning, empowering Gram Sabha to make elected representatives accountable and transparent were the key areas of interventions. Samarthan scaled up interventions in urban governance taking selective small towns for governance reform by designing capacity building programmes for the elected representatives.

Samarthan's direct field presence grew and learnings of Sehore were applied in Panna district in MP and Bastar and Rajnangaon disticts in Chattisgarh.

2005-2010: The intervention strategies focused around facilitating evidence based research and advocacy in participatory governance. The thematic research and campaign focus was around Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGS), National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) and Social Security Schemes in urban areas. The Right to Information was promoted as a campaign theme to support the poor in accessing their rights and entitlements. Interventions in urban governance were deepened by selectively working in Bhopal city and Sehore town.

Large scale demonstration on the ground was emphasized in this phase by supporting the initiatives of the Government viz. decentralized planning for the Backward Region Grant Fund (BRGF) , State Planning Commission in MP and Chattisgarh and Gram Sabha strengthening in DFID funded MP Rural Livelihoods Programme in 9 districts of MP.

Development scenario of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh

MADHYA PRADESH

Demographic profile

The state has a population of 60.3 million which is largely rural (73.5%). There are 20.3% Scheduled Tribes and 15.2% Scheduled Caste in the state. *As per census 2001, urban population is 16* million. The gender ratio in the state is 919 compared to the national average of 933.

Development profile

With about 38 percent of people living below the official poverty line during 2004- 05, the state of Madhya Pradesh accounted for nearly 11 per cent of the total poor population in the country. As per BPL Survey, updated till Oct'2010, 47.49 percent of total household surveyed are found to be below poverty line. Total BPL Household/Family comprises of 23.17 % of SC, 33.4 % of ST and 34.49 % of OBC. The per capita income in the state is Rs 14918 (2008-09), which is below the national average. However, 6.99% growth was reported as compare to 1999-00. The organized industry employs 6 % of the total workforce. Agriculture employs nearly 72% of its workers, although it contributes just 33 % of the state GDP. Average size of the land holding in the state is 2.22 ha as compare to all-india average of 1.57 ha. Small/Marginal farmers hold 65% (all India 75%) of total land holdings but operate only 26% of area, whereas medium and large farmers own 35% of holdings and operate 74% of area.

The NSS data revealed a rise in 37% for male and 44% for female casual workers in 1999/2000. NSS estimates indicate that an approximate 17% of rural children in the state, the fifth-highest in India, in the age-group 10-14 years, are working. Under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGS), only 41% (47 lakh) Job card holders demanded for work during 2009-10, while only 6.7 lakh households received 100 days of employment.

Education

The increase in literacy between 1991 and 2001 has been much faster than the previous decades. From 1991 to 2001, the crude literacy rate in MP increased from 45 % to 64 %, while female literacy increased from 29 per cent to 50 per cent. The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) at elementary level has increased from 84% to 99.4% for SC children & from 80.7% to 96.3% for ST children; 165.64 children are enrolled in school till 2008-09. Free books are given to almost 12 Crore children, out of which 5.4 crore are girls. The number of children not attending school has decreased from 13.28 lakh in 2001 to 2.96 lakh in 2006-07

Health

State has worst condition on various health indicators. It has highest IMR in the country; 70 per 1000 live births against national average of 53 in 2008. Mostly deaths were reported within 48 hours of delivery of child, due to lack of access to better health facilities in rural area. Similarly, birth and death rate is also high during 2008 as compare to national average; birth rate 28 per 1000 and death rate 8.6 per 1000, while national average is 22.8 per 1000 and 7.4 per 1000, respectively.

The JSY has drastically improved the institutional delivery in the state, which was 27% in 2005-06 and 65% in 2009 through benefiting 27 lakh mothers. Under the NRHM, significant amount Rs.344.87 crores, i.e. 110% against the PIP approval of 313.74 crores has been utilized in RCH-II component as compared to national level expenditure of 71% in 2008-09. Nevertheless, the Maternal Mortality Rate reported at 335, above the national average of 254. Utilization on Training component is less than 10%; the target of selecting 62 thousand ASHA workers is not complete, which is reported 43 thousand in 2009. Only 2145 ANMs and other Para -health workers have been trained as skilled birth attendants, against a target of 7619.

State has operational 226 PHCs as 24x7 2008-09 against the target of 596 PHCs by 2010. At the same time, as per DLHS-3 only 32.3% of 24x7 PHCs have newborn care services.
The safe drinking water is also issue of concern in the state. Out of total 126172 hamlets 78% are fully covered, 15% are partially covered and rest do not have any safe source of drinking water facilities (2008-09).

Food Security

Madhya Pradesh is one of the states where starvation and malnutrition deaths have been reported since year 2000 but still the state gets only 41 percent of food grains of its total requirement for distribution under various welfare schemes. The extreme status of malnutrition in the state (60.3% children under 3 years are under-weight in NFHS 3 as compared to 53.5 % in NFHS 2) and 52.8% of children in urban areas are under-weight.

CHHATTISGARH

Demographic profile

The state has a population of 2.1 crore which is largely rural (79%). Population consist of 33% Scheduled Tribes and 12% Scheduled Caste. There is a better gender ratio 990 than the national average of 933. It has low urban population of 45 lakh, out of these 12 lakh live in slums area.

Development profile

The state has high proportion of below the poverty line families; 37 lakh (43%) households as per BPL survey 2003. Out of these 57% households belong to SC/ST. The state is rich in natural resources. The Forest cover is of more than 42% of the total land. The role of forests in people's

lives and their livelihoods is the defining characteristic of Chhattisgarh State. At the same time, while having high SC/ST population and forest cover, there are gaps in implementation of Forest Rights Act. The most forested districts do not have even a single community rights claim.

However, the GDP growth was reported high (8.68%) in 2007-08. Share of secondary sector (Industry and Manufacturing) is of 14.7% and service sector is 7.78%, while primary sector has on lowest 6.26%. Though, 80% of the total work force is engaged in agriculture and allied activities. About half of the farmers in the state have marginal landholding, which is an average land size of 0.22 hectare. Low productivity of agriculture and disguised unemployment in the agricultural sector forces people to migrate in search of livelihood. Thus, every year approx 1600 farmers attempt suicides.

It is estimated that 31.4 % urban population of Chhattisgarh, comprising 1.4 million persons are poor. The proportion of urban population below the poverty line in the state is one of highest in India, next only to Madhya Pradesh and Orissa. The cities in Chhattisgarh are characterized by agglomeration of industries and cheap migrant labour, these labour who are coming from nearby villages have very limited bargaining power, therefore are severely exploited in the labour market.

Education

The State's literacy rate is 65.18% as per Census 2001, which is slightly better than the national literacy rate of 64.8 %. The female literacy has also considerably improved over the last decade. While a state has improved as whole, a great disparity persists in the literacy rates of males (77.4%) and females (51.9%). At the same time the literacy of SC (52.46%) and ST (42.72%) are quite lower than the state average. The female literacy in SC and ST is 48.48% and 32.32% respectively.

Despite of completion of 8 year of SSA, the dropout rate is still higher at class (1-XII) amongst the ST (88.59%) and SC (79.68%) as compare to state average i.e. 76 %. This reflects a clear exclusion of STs and SCs in the state. Despite of huge expenditure under SSA, ST children are not attaining quality education, therefore there is a high drop out from primary and upper primary level.

Increasing demand for secondary education is also unmet. The drop-outs rate of girls continues to be the highest among the scheduled tribes and in the tribal districts. The reason of this absenteeism is attributed to the poverty of the scheduled caste and tribe families where girls are seen as helping hand for the poverty stricken family.

Health

As per the NHFS-3 Chhattisgarh has IMR at 75 per 1000 live birth (as compared to 58 of the National average) and Maternal Mortality rate is at 335 (SRS 2005). Early pregnancy is one of the contributory factors for high MMR and IMR in the State. Though the age at marriage of girls and boys is increasing gradually, but reality is that as per NFHS-3, 60.3% women aged 20-24 were married by the age of 18 and 51.9% of men aged 25-29 were married by the age of 21. Malnutrition is very as 54% children are underweight. Similarly 82% children are anaemic or malnourished.