PROFILE OF MVSS

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UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (UNCSD) RIO+20, RIO DE JANERIO, BRAZIL; JUNE 20-22, 2012

MVSS, as part of a larger coalition, Beyond Copenhagen, participated in the Rio+20 UNCSD conference, held in Rio de Janerio, Brazil. Mr Ashok Mathur were present at the conference. Prior to the conference in June, the organization was instrumental in awareness building about the issue of sustainable development and the Rio+20. Various consultations were held to bring together various organizations at the national level (National Conference in April 2012), and internationally as well (at APRN Biennial conference), and create awareness among Politicians, media, staff and partner communities.



At the Rio+20 Conference, side events, on Sustainable agriculture and Equity in energy, were held to inform participants about the various nuances of the topics, and inform about the many issues associated with unsustainable practices in agriculture, and issue of equity in energy. This is to substantiate the critique on the Zero draft, which neglected the principles that came out following the Earth summit of 1992, particularly equity and CBDT. MVSS took an active approach in awareness building by including a diverse contingent comprising of media persons, social activists, civil society members, women and legal experts. Following of the vast array of discussions at the conference by major groups etc have been helpful in initiating the process of mainstreaming our activities in the frame of sustainable development. The outcomes were also analysed by the coalition and at the organizational level, and widely circulated.

APRN BIENNIAL CONFERENCE ON 5-9 JUNE, 2012 IN HANOI, VIETNAM

Organised by: Asia Pacific Research Network & IBON

The Biennial Conference of APRN was held under the thematic framework of sustainable development leading up to Rio+20. The event was titled RIO FOR PEOPLE: Strengthening People’s Voices for Genuine Sustainable Development/ Consolidating People’s Strengths on the Road to Rio and Beyond.

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ORGANISATIONAL PROFILE **/ about us**

Maru Vikas Sodh Sansthan (MVSS) is sustained non- profit organization working since 1992 from its registration in Rajasthan Societies Regd. Act, 1958 with the Regd. No. 16/Bkn/92-93. is a development organization working for the empowerment of the Thar Desert communities. MVSS is based on the Gandhian philosophy of self-reliance and works toward the rehabilitation of drought affected and marginalized rural communities, enabling village ownership and control over its environment, institutions, and relations.

It was an initiative taken of the part of the local youths of the village with a dream of generating and enhancing youth leadership towards holistic development of the community. Under the leadership of Mr. Rameshwar Lal Sharma, the founder member & the Secretary, the organization focused on the local need and worked for sanitation, cleanliness and targeted the social evils like alcoholism, witch hunting, dowry etc through various activities which include voluntary labour and social programmes.

The overwhelming responses of the people, their enthusiastic participation was the reward that the reward that the organization received for its efforts and the due recognition of its works in the form of awards and the certificates was the encouragement that the organization needed at every step. Transparency, result- oriented intervention, participatory approach with professionalism and sensitiveness to the current social issues and towards the deprived sections have been its guiding philosophy which have provided lubricants to the wheels of the organization and will always do so.

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OUR MISSION

The Gandhian philosophy of Sarvodaya—all rising, but the last person first—is the basis of MVSS' strategy and approach. We work for the collective rise of men, women, and children, regardless of economic situation, caste or religion. This philosophy is becoming more and more pertinent, because India's social incongruities are increasing as the country enters into the modern age.

By emphasizing the empowerment of rural communities, MVSS adheres to another Gandhian notion, Gram Swarajya, or village self rule. We work towards rehabilitation of the rural community, enabling villages to take ownership of their environment, institutions, and relations. We operate under the belief that self-reliance is necessary to survival. Thus, rather than merely aiding rural populations, we seek to actively engage them in our projects.

The following are our main objectives:

Integrated development of humanity without discrimination of caste, religion, or sect.

Creation of village institutions ensuring adequate representation of all sections of the community, including women and marginalized castes.

Incorporation of better health behaviors and association of these behaviors with the overall development of rural society.

Sustainable development of natural resources to increase productivity and income.

Conservation and development of village commons.

Improvement of education, with particular emphasis on educating girls.

Promotion of financial savings at the individual, group, and community levels in order to increase familiarity with the economic system and to reduce dependence on outside capital.

Empowerment of village communities, with emphasis on the poorer and weaker sections of society, in order to reduce economic and social disparity and to create a self-reliant and decentralized community system.

Coordination of training programmes to teach youth, women, and fieldworkers how to implement strategies of integrated development in their own communities.

Generation of awareness among rural communities, particularly the poor, so that underprivileged groups can benefit from development schemes.

Completion of research projects and studies to make development programmes more effective and to improve community participation.

Provision of humanitarian relief during calamities and other emergencies.

Organization of campaigns and people’s movements on social issues, in accordance with Gandhian ethics.

Cooperation with parter organizations sharing similar objectives, both outside and inside of Rajasthan.

Encouragement of mutual respect, leading to communal harmony.

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Our Projects

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| 1. People's Organizations / first page | [PDF](http://www.gravis.org.in/index2.php?option=com_content&do_pdf=1&id=20) | [Print](http://www.gravis.org.in/index2.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=20&pop=1&page=0&Itemid=129) | [E-mail](http://www.gravis.org.in/index2.php?option=com_content&task=emailform&id=20&itemid=129) |

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| H:\DCIM\107NIKON\DSCN0253.JPG  A village cannot achieve self-reliance unless the management and leadership for their efforts is coming from  within the community. MVSS entrusts the growth of new initiatives, the direction of programs, and all major  community decisions to the people and facilitates the establishment of a range of people's organizations for  this purpose. The people's organizations are democratic and engage people from all sections of the community  to manage the development efforts, as well as figure out how to obtain the resources needed, locally if possible.  The communities are thus endowed to carry on the development initiatives without further assistance from  MVSS - and are able to attain self-reliance. The types of people's organizations developed and established  by MVSS are detailed below.    **Village Development Committees (VDCs)**  C:\Users\Raj\Desktop\New folder (3)\New folder\DSCN17012.jpg  MVSS has facilitated the establishment of a Village Development Committee (VDC) in each village that it  works in. The VDC acts as an intermediary between MVSS and the rural community, and is responsible for the  formation and preservation of village funds, the selection and prioritization of prospective development  initiatives, the implementation and supervision of projects, and the allocation of wages or materials. Moreover,  the VDCs are platforms for villagers to voice individual and collective concerns to each other, as well as to MVSS  . VDCs also work as pressure groups for proper implementation of government funded programs run by  village panchayats. The VDC is made up of representatives, democratically elected during the gram  sabha (village meeting), with an equal representation of women and all castes. MVSS  has formed 805 VDCs till date..    **Self Help Groups (SHGs)**  C:\Users\Raj\Desktop\New folder (3)\DSCN1719.JPG  MVSS forms self-help groups (SHGs) to further the socio-economic empowerment of women.  SHGs provide platforms through which women can acquire new information and skills, as well as discuss  pertinent women's issues. Through their new-found strength in unity, subsequent increase in self-esteem  and economic empowerment, the women members of the SHG are able to move together toward self-reliance.  MVSS has facilitated the establishment of 850 SHGs .    **Village Education Committees**  C:\Users\Raj\Desktop\New folder (3)\Picture4.jpgC:\Users\Raj\Desktop\New folder (3)\New folder\DSCN1619.JPG  These village-based organizations are formed in villages where MVSS runs schools and are made up of  representatives from the community who are especially concerned with children's education. Over half of the  representatives are women and parents. The education committee closely monitors the day to day activities  of the schools; manage the community's education fund and the school's teachers, oversee the distribution  of teacher's salaries, and secure food and other materials needed for the schools. Decisions relating to the  future plans of the school such as links to government funds and programs, as well as educational topics  and approaches, are all made by the education committee.    **Village Old People's Associations (VOPAs)**  C:\Users\Raj\Desktop\New folder (3)\DSCN0253.JPG  MVSS has formed Village Old People's Associations in 145 villages where the development activities focuses  on the empowerment of the elderly. These VOPAs basically act like VDCs, but are comprised entirely of  people over the age of 60. In addition, 378 Sub-committees of older people have also been formed.    **Mineworkers Trade Unions**  J:\web\Picture 197.jpg  MVSS has facilitated the establishment of 9 mineworkers unions  - with a total of over 18900  members. These organizations have brought the mineworkers together and with union support,  the mineworkers have been able to address government organizations and officials on the  injustices they have faced. The mineworkers unions have also been involved in bringing  worker's compensation lawsuits on behalf of disabled mineworkers against mine owners.    **VFPMC**  H:\DCIM\106NIKON\DSCN0117.JPG  Village Forest **Committees** is an important area of MVSS work. To ensure the sustainability of  MVSS VFPMC work, the organizatyion has promoted the formation of over 95 VFPMC.  The VFPMC help in organizing activities in their villages. |

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