



# ANNUAL REPORT

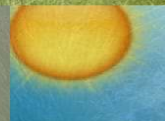
2020-21

# LOK PRERNA



Mathura, Jharkhand 815351, India

	Decimal	DMS
Latitude	23.977634	23°58'39" N
Longitude	87.012029	87°0'43" E



28°C  
82°F

2018-09-29(Sat) 10:26(am)

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## Governing Bodies:-

Sl. No	Name	Designation
1	Ms. Teresa Hansda	President
2	Sri Satish Kumar Karna	Vice President cum Director
3	Sri Madhav Kumar Das	Secretary
4	Smt. Bitia Murmu	Member
5	Ms. Renu Mukti Kullu	Member
6	Sri Raju Murmu	Member
7	Sri Pradeep Kumar Singh	Member

## Introduction:

**LOK PRERNA** is a podium of like-minded people who believe in the philosophy of 'Helping people to help themselves' and implement it for the cause of marginalized and disadvantaged section. Being a non-profit voluntary development organization, it started its work since 1991. This organization got registered on 3<sup>rd</sup> April in the year 1992. The Vision of the organization is to **“Establish a non-exploitative Self-reliant social order devoid of inequalities based on caste, creed, religion or sex and characterized by dignity of the Individuals with the primacy of truth and non-violence for its perpetuation”** and the mission of the organization is the *‘Empowerment of the lowest rungs of the Society’*.

Since the inception, to achieve the vision of the organization, Lok Prerna has actively devoted itself to community mobilization, awareness creation and for the creation of community assets. In that respect, Lok Prerna working on different themes of human development in the four districts of the Santhal Pargana Region, i.e. Deoghar, Dumka, Pakur, Jamtara of Jharkhand state and Giridih – the adjoining district of Santhal Pargana. In the last 28 years, the organization able to extend its reach to the 2892 Villages and 54 Slums of 272 villages Panchayats & 23 Municipal wards of 29 Blocks of the 7 aforesaid districts.

The strategic goal of the Lok Prerna for the development of the targeted society, focused on the state and national themes which are relevant for the community as well as emphasis on the local issues, too. So, where the

organization works on the state and national level issues like Community Health, Education and the Livelihood Development of the community, on the other hand, it is also focusing on the local themes like Natural Resource Management excluding the cross cutting theme of Women and Child Rights which is in the strategy of the Lok Prerna since the inception. The organization believes in the concept of *“Think globally and act locally.”* In the last one year, with the kind support of various national and inter national donor agencies, Lok Prerna is moving in the right direction to achieve the desired goal. The organization also repeatedly engaged in the dialogue with not only the community people and the donor agencies, but it is also involved with the government at different levels, district, state and central, for the policy advocacy.

The path of the human development of the organization was not always rosy, sometimes it was full of thrones which came from the side of community, government machinery in form of non-cooperation and sometimes from the nature also. But on the other hand, the organization also get cooperation, suggestions and hand holding from the community, donors and the other like minded people, when ever required. So, the good sign is always there in form of determination of the organization, in the determination of the human resource of the organization, in the determination of the community to bring the change and in the determination of those agencies and individuals who believes that Lok Prerna will be able to achieve its vision in near future.....

### **1. Community Health:**

Since the separation of Jharkhand state from the Bihar state in the year 2000, the health status of this state is very poor according to the human development index of the state. With the goal of the improvement of the health status of community people in general and specifically women of the reproductive age group and of children, become a thrust area for those organization who wish to improve the health status of the state. So, in the last one year, Lok Prerna worked in the fifty villages of Devipur Block of Deoghar district and in another ten villages of the Giridih District on the health issues, focused on the Mother and child health. In the 2217 villages of Giridih district, Lok Prerna able to select and trained 2029 “Sahiyya” s on the issues of food, water and sanitation including reduction of IMR, MMR, mal- nutrition, promotion of Institutional delivery, etc. Lok Prerna formed 1888 Village Health Committees (VHC) in the 2217 villages of the Giridih district and open joint bank account of 1560 VHC and sahiyya’s, too. Some of the Sahiyya also

participated in the “Sahiyya Maha Sammelan” on the occasion of observation of May Day. **For her best performance as a Sahiyya in favor of the promotion of institutional delivery and immunization in Jhariyagadi village of Giridih block, Mrs. Anita Devi awarded by the Deputy Commissioner, Giridih.**

On the other hand, the organisation conducted Reproductive and child health improvement programme in the fifty villages of the Devipur block of Deoghar district. Under that programme, community members were orientation on the total Ante-Natal and Post-Natal care. In addition to that, referral services, Positive Deviation Hearth (PD Hearth) programme also conducted there to improve the health status of those villagers. Linking up the community with the Government health services is one of the major agenda of all the above mentioned works. Excluding that, regular inputs to improve the health awareness among the adolescent girls, Kishori Dal have been formed in the fifty villages of Devipur, Mohanpur, Sarwan and Deoghar blocks of the Deoghar district. Lok Prerna also took initiatives to generate awareness on adolescent health care, demonstration to preserve the nutrition value in the existing foods also given to the community to cope with the mal nutrition.

In the 174 villages of Devipur & Jarmundi blocks of Deoghar and Dumka district respectively, for Strengthening of Institutional Delivery Systems, Lok Prerna has worked with the 9549 poor households of those area on the water, sanitation and hygiene promotion. Here also to aware the targeted population Lok Prerna succeed in building up 62 Village Water & Sanitation Committees (VWSC) who got the capacity building support regularly from the organization and in the field level, they aware the community with the representative of organization on the importance of maintaining health, hygiene as well as the importance of institutional delivery. On the other hand, to help the community in maintaining their own health and hygiene, organization is giving the support to build up low cost individual house hold latrine, tube wells, etc. for the BPL families and for the families other than BPL, but poor according to the parameter of VWSC.

***For these noble works, Lok Prerna being awarded by the President of India, Mrs. Pratibha Devi Singh Patil, in the “Nirmal Gram Puraskar” for the year 2008. It has been added as a feather in the success cap of the organization.***

In all the above mentioned initiatives to improve the health status of the poor community people in different areas by using different relevant means, one of the key tools used by the organization is the tool of Advocacy and Lobby work with the Government machineries. Time to time the organization interacted with the concerned government authority starting from block level to the state level, sometimes individually, sometimes through networks. After the restless effort of so many years, presently Lok Prerna is able to bring some changes in the existing health practices of the community. Now a days, community knocking the doors of the government health workers as well as the government health centres instead of knocking the door of any “Jhola Chhap” Doctor (Rural Medical Practiceners). Now, the benefits of ANC-PNC and institutional delivery are also being taken by the community people by making it easily available and accessible. Here, Sahiyas (called ASHA’s in other parts of the country) are also playing an important role with the other civil society representatives. Adolescent girls are adopting the basic health care initiatives like, maintaining health and hygiene, intake of Iron Folic Acid tablets, health check up in the ICDS centres, etc. Methods of family planning also become popular among the community people. Women are showing their interest to adopt family planning methods from the Sahiyya and from the representatives of health workers of the organization.

## **2. Strengthening Education:**

After working on the human development issues from past twenty eight years, it is heartily felt by the organization that, with out the proper education, definite development can’t be achieved by any individual or by any organization. Keeping this in mind and also to protect the right to education of the children, Lok Prerna planed to work on the intensification of Formal Education for children as the future of the community and the universe largely depends upon them. Under that initiative, Lok Prerna selected a total number of 3500 children, Who are left out or dropped out from the school and become the major bread earners of their family in the fifty villages of Deoghar, Mohanpur, Sarwan and Devipur blockes of the Deoghar district and aimed to make them regular in the school and the successful completion of their basic, atleast primary education. Another 2000 children from the same area have been selected by the organization who do not belongs to the child labour group, but either they are left out or droop out from the school. Lok Prerna aims to make these children regular in the school as they can complete their education upto Madhyamic (Matriculation), at least up to Basic (Eighth Standard). In both of the cases, Lok Prerna targeted 50% girl’s children.

### **3. Initiatives for the Livelihood Development of the community:**

Jharkhand is among one of the poorest states of India according to the human development index of the country. So, any activity towards the development of this state can't be fruit full until and unless all the people of this state make assure of the two major meals of the day. So, promotion of livelihood for the assurance of two major meals of a day for every citizen of this state is mandatory for their holistic development. Lok Prerna is well aware of that matter. So, the organization stepped forward to secure the livelihood of its target population.

To promote the income generation of the poor people, emphasizing on the income generation of the women. Regular trainings, meetings and workshops are being organized for the capacity and quality enhancement of those groups. Besides that, training on the trades the groups willing to start were also organized for them through out the year. Mostly the SHGs are starting the trades like, poultry, goatry, making bamboo crafts, plate making, making of puffed rice, vegetable cultivation, agriculture, etc. For all the training support and other material support, Lok Prerna is continuously doing advocacy with the concerned government departments like DRDA, Banks, NABARD and other agencies. After an extensive advocacy, support to build up fourteen poultry sheds has been given by the DRDA, Dumka. NABARD Regional Training Centre of Ranchi also gave the training support of 150 SHG members. For the marketing of the SHG productions, the organization also took part in melas (fair) to demonstrate and sell the finished products. The organization is also trying to link them up with the local market.

The economy of the Jharkhand state is basically depends on the agriculture. On the other hand, only the 14% of cultivable land is under the coverage of government's irrigation facility. Consequently in a dry state like Jharkhand, development of irrigation facilities to upgrade the agricultural productivity, is an exceptionally concern matter.

Inspite of improving irrigation facilities, the organization also organized farmers training on the issues like dry land farming, multi – cropping, production of cash crops, low cost farming technologies Like System of Rice Intensification or System of Wheat Intensification, vermin compost, vegetable cultivation, etc.

Other than the above mentioned initiatives, Lok Prerna also worked on the Skill development of the Mahuli Community, which is a tribal community of the Masalia Block of Dumka district; earn their bread and butter from producing bamboo crafts. Lok Prerna conduct a skill development training for those 250 artisans as they can produce better quality of production which will be sellable. Lok Prerna also able to convinced the DRDA, Dumka for establishing a shed for their works. It was also an initiative of the organization to promote and make sustainable the local craft culture by securing their livelihood.

Lok Prerna also played an active responsibility for the convergence of the community people with the government facilities available for the livelihood development of the poor. For example, Lok Prerna repeatedly generated awareness among all the targeted community on the government's poverty alleviation schemes like National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NAREGA), Public Distribution System (PDS), and other social security schemes like Old age pension, widow pension, handicapped pension, etc. besides the awareness generation on the entitlements of the community from the government, regular lobby work is done by the organization for the policy advocacy with the government departments at different level. All these advocacy works done by the organization were not only to ensure the entitlements of the community from Government or for the policy advocacy, the organization also tried to convinced the government authority to replicate the best practices done by the organization, like SRI method or skill development of tribal artisans for the livelihood development.

#### **4. Initiatives for the Natural Resource Management/Watershed:**

Jharkhand is a state where 35% of the population is tribal who largely depends on the forest for their livelihood. On the other hand, the present threat on the environment is well known to all. Being a responsible civil society organization of this state, Lok Prerna always felt that, conservation of the forest for the conservation of bio-diversity should be given the same importance like the other developmental initiatives. The organization also believes that one of the possible ways of the bio diversity conservation is natural resource management. So, to aware people on the importance of bio-diversity conservation, Lok Prerna organized a two months long campaign in the ten villages of Raniswar block of Dumka district on the "Climate Change". Under that initiative, Lok Prerna, other than generating awareness on bio-diversity conservation, discussed the issues of the importance of plantation, vermin



compost, water resource management, etc. At the same time, orientation also given on the demerits of use of chemical compost in the agricultural land, demerits of use of diesels, petrol, industrialization, etc.

Lok Prerna also worked in the six villages around the Trikut Hill under the Mohanpur block of Deoghar district. In those villages, population is mostly tribal and depends on the Trikut Hill for their bread and butter which resulting destruction in the bio-diversity of the hill – it becomes a warning for the hill. Observing all these things, Lok Prerna took the challenge to protect Trikut hill from the destruction made by the community for their livelihood. So, to minimize the livelihood dependency on the hill of the community, besides awareness generation on bio-diversity conservation, Lok Prerna giving orientation on alternation sources of income generation, like- formation of SHGs, training on paddy cultivation through SRI technique, etc. to those community people. On the other hand, Lok Prerna also started plantation, building up check dams for the irrigation, renovation existing natural water sources like ponds, small river flows, etc. This is a both way initiative, on the one side Lok Prerna is doing plantation, water conservation for the bio-diversity conservation, on the other hand, the organization trying to aware people about the importance of bio-diversity conservation and giving the community alternative sources of income generation as they become independent from the Trikut hill for the livelihood. To some extent, community become aware of the importance of the matter, they are also showing interest for the preparation of nursery for the plantation. Now, community protecting the bio-diversity of their area and dependency on the forest also a little bit minimize. But the practice of the total community can not be changed overnight. So, it will take a long period to change the practice of community and Lok Prerna is committed with all of its efforts to bring that change.

- **Watershed Development Program for Sustainable Agriculture Development:**

RIDF-NABARD project is a watershed development project supported by Govt. of Jharkhand and implemented by LOK PRERNA. The project is started on FY-2016-17 in 52 villages of 2 Blocks of Fatehpur & Nala in Jamtara District.

Our work has broken with conventional wisdom by recognizing that watershed development is not just about harvesting rainwater; it is also about sharing it equitably and managing it collectively. Whenever our dams are built, written agreements are forged about water sharing, hours of pumping, sequence of irrigation, cropping patterns and watering run off intensities. Our emphasis on

equity and transparency has often met with severe resistance from vested interests.

Since 2017, there has been a significant increase in the number of borewells which tap groundwater, the principal source of drinking water and irrigation in our area. Since these villages are located on a hard rock terrain where the occurrence of groundwater is highly unpredictable, there is the danger of both over-exploitation of groundwater as well as well failures. Though the local village community intends to invest in excavating new wells or pond deepening, they also fear that

this may result in declining water levels from existing wells or pond. To regulate groundwater extraction and prevent over-exploitation, demand-side management of groundwater is needed. For effective demand management among users, we must have an understanding of the



groundwater systems of the region. The Aquifer Management approach seeks to map and define boundaries of the region. The physical framework in which groundwater is stored and transmitted. The highly variable availability of groundwater in our area requires careful consideration of Ridge to Valley approach in the management system within the area as well communities.

Watershed management is one of the major programmes of Lok Prerna. A significant impact of the work has been drought-proofing of the kharif crop. As in any typical dryland region, rainfall in our area is low, highly erratic and characterized by long dry spells between rainy days. Water harvesting structures help farmers tide over this crisis by providing crucial lifesaving , protective irrigation. We see the watershed programme as vital public investment to incentivize private investments by even the poorest farmers on their own lands. The yield of kharif (mostly rainfed) crops has shown a rise in the range of 10-20% and that of rabi (mostly irrigated) crops has shown a rise of 60-70%. Overall, the value of production of kharif and rabi crops together has doubled. The Benefit-Cost Ratio ranges from 1.49 to 2.06 and Internal Rate of Return on investments from 30% to 49%. An 80% reduction in distress migration has been observed during the years of ongoing watershed

implementation. With significant expansion in irrigated area and crop productivity, high labour absorption in agriculture is visible even after the watershed programme closes. It is this “sedimented employment” which reduces external migration from the area in the long run. Hundreds of tribal farmers who have grown a single rainfed crop all their lives are now cultivating 2-3 crops. Many have returned home after years to reclaim land they had virtually given up for good.

Lok Prerna believes that any effort at water conservation and harvesting is ineffective if it does not include attempts to regulate the end-users to which water is put. Since agriculture accounts for 90% of the water use, interventions for optimisation of water use in agriculture have to be an integral part of a watershed management programme. We have tried to work out a package of agricultural practices finely tuned to the resource endowments of the watershed, which is accessible to the poor (low-cost) and sustainable (low-risk).

We as Lok Prerna thrusts that all activities within the NB-RIDF Watershed programme keep salient features of RIDGE TO VALLEY approach to develop technological inputs related to soil and moisture conservation. We have been developing the following technological structures on

Upland treatments :-

1. Trench cum bund – 176 hectares completed out of 948 hectares
2. Water Absorption Tank – 42 hectares completed out of 112 hectares
3. Farm Bunds – 25 hectares completed out of 52 hectares
4. Deep contour Trenches – 3 hectares completed out of 6.5 hectares

Middle land treatments:-

1. Farm Pond – 87 completed
2. Dova – 65 completed out of 95

Drainage land treatments - It has to be planned to develop the following structure this year :-

1. Loose bolder structures – 375 meters
2. Gabion structures – 155 meters
3. Stone gully Plugs – 232 meters
4. Drum Check dams – 54
5. Earthen Check dams - 6
6. Concrete Check Dams - 22

We within this process strengthening the community organization in the name of KRISHI STHAYI SAMITI. KSS is now able to operate their two bank accounts in the

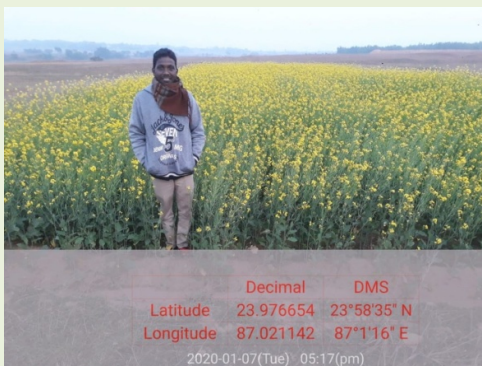


name of KSS and another WDF (Watershed Development Fund). In this 96 bank accounts we have approx deposit rupees 14 lakhs for their operation and maintenance.

This year 122 farmers has been promoted fisheries in their water harvesting tanks Farm Pond and Dova and 335 farmers has also been promoted their community pasture land for their sustainable livestock management with grow their income as well.



555 farmers has also been promoted and adopted third cropping pattern of various



cultivation of cereals, millets, vegetables, and other horticulture species.

The middle of the project period the scenario is going to be changed. The water table is increasing and greenery saw everywhere in this 9 micro watershed area.

5.

## 6. Initiatives for the formation and strengthening of community based organization:

Based on the past experiences of the nation and the state, Lok Prerna believes that community development is possible only when the community themselves involved in their own development process. If the community didn't take part to decide what will be better for them, all efforts towards their development will be a futile exercise. So, from the very beginning, the developmental strategy of the Lok Prerna is formation of the community based organization wherever the organization works, whatever the issues is. Lok Prerna firstly gives the capacity building inputs to each of the CBOs and each of the members of those CBOs. Later, the organization orients them to identify what is good for them and accordingly the organization prepares their development plan for that area by them. During the implementation period also, Lok Prerna always involves those CBOs throughout the process. This strategy just not helpful for the proper planning and implementation of any developmental work, but it also helps to formulate the impact sustainable for the long period.

62 VVWSCs, 1888 VHCs, fifty Kishori groups and fifty bal samsads. Regular meetings with all the above mentioned groups are always come in the event calendar of Lok Prerna. All the groups got the inputs not only in the socio-economic development; they also got orientation on their political rights and also how to exercise those rights as a citizen of India. Lok Prerna is trying to originate the seed of future civil society organizations in all these CBOs.

## **7. Initiatives for the cross cutting issues of women and child rights:**

Lok Prerna always believes in the concept of “Equality” and bringing gender equality through ‘equity’ is a dream of the organization since the inception. On the other hand, Lok Prerna also believes that children are the future of any country and as the one third Indian populations are children, so, total development cannot be achieved without the development of the children. With that perspective, all the developmental initiatives taken by the organization are not only gender sensitive, but are equally sensitive towards the development of children. Lok Prerna always gives preference to recruit equally qualified female candidates. Not only in the programs but at the organization level too, Lok Prerna initiated “Committee Against Sexual Harassment (CASH)” and also established child protection policy. Organization regularly organizes orientation training and workshops for the staff of the organization, at least seating together in each quarter to discuss the issues of gender and child protection other than the grievance redressal. All the members of the organization, starting from the governing board to the field staffs and all the visitors coming in the premises of the organization, are abide by the Gender policy as well as the child protection policy of the organization.