

The Society for Agro Industrial Education in India Progress Report 2011-2012

Amarpurkashi, Bilari 202411, District Moradabad, U.P.

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Website: www.gramodayapggcollege.org.in ; www.vri-online.org.uk/society

Programmes in Operation

- Gramodaya Post Graduate College & Research Institute
- Krishi Audyogik Inter College
- Gramodaya Primary School
- Jafarpur Gramodaya High School
- Health Centre, Health Camps and Eye Camps
- HIV/AIDS Awareness Programme/Link Workers' Scheme
- KOPAL III – Female Foeticide Campaign
- Aaroh – Rights of Women Farmers
- Solar Energy
- International Journal of Rural Studies (IJRS)
- International Task Force for the Rural Poor (INTAF)
- VRI Project Visitors' Scheme
- Campaign Against Pollution and Corruption
- Voluntary Action Networking - PAVAN
- Experimental farm

Students at Amarpurkashi

Programme	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12
Primary School	242	222	245	267	140	231	212	250
Junior High School	436	411	344	414	378	405	375	316
Inter College	388	452	511	411	461	493	510	521
Degree College	436	450	848	1117	1099	1383	1519	1770
Total	1502	1535	1948	2209	2078	2512	2616	2857

Gramodaya Primary School Amarpurkashi

	Total	Male	Female	G/C	B/C	S/C
		%	%	%	%	%
Year 2009-10	231	70.6	29.4	17.3	74.5	8.2
Year 2010-11	212	58.0	42.0	17.2	73.7	9.1
Year 2011-12	250	55.6	44.4	14.8	78.0	7.2

Students this year came from 12 neighbouring villages:

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| 1. Amarpurkashi | 5. Shakumbhari |
| 2. Devri | 6. Safil Pur |
| 3. Shah Pur | 7. Karsara |
| 4. Aarikhera | 8. Dinaura |
| 9. Mohd. Ibrahim Pur | 10. Hamza Pur |
| 11. Khata | 12. Shamas Pur |

Nearly all children received a government scholarship so no scholarships were given from VRI funds.

The Acting Head, Renu Singh, has now settled into her role and is managing the school very well. For the first time, all the salaries of the teachers are being paid by fees received from the students. In previous years, the head teachers did not make any effort to get students to pay their fees so the school could never meet its expenses.

Jafarpur Gramodaya High School

Students enrolled at the school were as follows:-

Year	Total	Boys	Girls	G/C	B/C	S/C
2010-11	187	64.2%	35.8%	-	-	-
2011-12	219	64%	36%	5.5%	77.6%	16.9%

At long last the school has received state government approval to be a high school. After two years, we will apply for it to be an inter college. With the generous support of donors from VRI (Volunteers for Rural India), we were able to build two new classrooms and make a start on a third.

This year, all students were given government scholarships. The school now has a qualified headmaster, Pushpendra Singh.

Krishi-Audyogik Inter College

This college began as a junior high school in 1971, was promoted to a high school in 1996 and became an inter college in 1999. It received permission to run Inter classes in Science and Mathematics from July 2003.

Year	Total	Boys (%)	Girls (%)	G/C	B/C	S/C
2009-10	898	62.7	37.3	7.4	75.4	18.2
2010-11	885	59	41	10.7	72.4	16.9
2011-12	837	58.2	41.8	9.4	74	16.6

Satya Pal Singh continues as Acting Head Master of the college. He is now well settled and working satisfactorily.

Final results for 2011 were 88% for the 12th class (Inter) and 78% for the High School examinations. This year, the Inter College was again an examination centre for high school and intermediate students. As well as 110 students from our inter college, 610 students from four other inter colleges sat their exams at our centre.

All students of 6th to 8th classes received midday meals regularly throughout the year. In addition they received all their text books from the government. Nearly all students from 6th to 12th class received government scholarships this year amounting to over Rs. 600,000. Under the Government's scheme of encouraging the education of girls, 18 female students have received Rs. 15,000 each and 12 have received a bicycle after they passed the eleventh year examination.

Gramodaya Post-Graduate College & Research Institute

The college first received affiliation with M J P Rohilkhand University, Bareilly in 1995 and was later inaugurated by the Vice Chancellor, Dr. M D Tiwari. That same year, the college received an award of Rs.20, 000 and a citation from the Governor of Uttar Pradesh. Since then, it has steadily progressed, maintaining its excellent academic record with a high percentage of passes. Student enrolment over the last 7 years is given in the table below.

Year	Total	Boys (%)	Girls (%)	G/C	B/C	S/C
2007-8	1117	63.5	36.5	24.7	57.6	17.6
2008-9	1099	62.2	37.8	23.9	57	19.1
2009-10	1383	61	39	24	56.4	19.6
2010-11	1519	55	45	24.8	54.6	20.5
2011-12	1770	49.7	50.3	24.2	56.9	18.8

The college provides degree level education in ten subjects:- English Literature, General English, Hindi Literature, General Hindi, Sanskrit, Geography, Sociology, Political Science, Economics and History

It also offers a B.Ed. for 100 students and a post graduate diploma in Rural Resource Management for 30 students.

In 2009, the college received university affiliation for Masters Degrees in English Literature and Sociology with 60 seats in each subject. Enrolments in these classes this year were as follows:-

Course	1 st Year	2 nd Year	Total
M.A. English	51	26	77
M.A. Sociology	60	51	111
B.Ed.	101	-	101
PGRRM	10	-	10
Total Post-Graduate Students			299
Total Undergraduate Students			1371
Grand Total			1770

This year, the ten-day National Social Service camp was held in Khata village. Campers included both girls and boys. The camp was inaugurated by Dr Ashok Kumar Singh, the principal.

More than 68% of college students received state government scholarships.

The college website is: - www.gramodayapggcollege.org.in .

Year-wise results of Gramodaya Degree College in %

Year	BAI	BAII	BAIII	PGRRM	MA Eng I & II	MA Soc.I & II	BEEd
2004	82	84	91	100			100
2005	86	88	96	100			98
2006	98	97.5	98	---			100
2007	90	98	95	66			----
2008	83	97.4	100	----			100
2009	86	97	100	----			----
2010	84	97	60	100	100	N.A.	100
2011	85	98	98	100	100	100	100

Survey of Amarpurkashi village

B.Ed. students undertook a snap two-day survey of Amarpurkashi village in December. They formed pairs of one male and one female student and knocked at every door on one particular day. They found some interesting results:-

1. The total population was 1522 which included 48.82% men and 51.18% women. This means that in Amarpurkashi, there are 1048 women for every 1000 men.

2. The total literacy rate was 48.16%. This included male literacy of 58.94% and female literacy of 41.0 %.
3. The total number of children aged 6 to 14 was 420 which is 27.6% of the total population.
4. Of these school age children, 27% were found to be out of school in spite of the fact that there are six primary schools in the village. These include one government and five private schools.

Shri Ayodhia Ram Lal Gramodaya Junior High School, Fateh Pur Chandan

Kirpal Singh (top student of the first PGRRM batch and District Resource Person for the HIV/Aids project) and his father, a retired teacher, have set up a primary and junior high school near their village. They have donated their own land for the school and built sufficient rooms. I was invited to attend the school's annual function in November and was most impressed by the progress of the school.

Years	Total on roll	S/C	B/C	G/C
1-5	250	62	186	2
6-8	65	13	50	2
Total	315	75	236	4

There are 37.2% girls.

Teachers' Training

On Sunday, 28th August, all teachers of the primary and secondary schools underwent a full day's in-service training. They were then monitored for two days to check that they were following the correct methods of teaching.

On 22nd of September they were taken on a staff outing to Vrindaban, near Mathura. Here our old friend Dr Vineet Narain who has a house there and a large office showed us around various places and temples, told us all about the conservation work he is doing and gave an interesting talk on the history of Vrindaban. The tour was much appreciated.

Annual Science Fair

This was held on Wednesday, 2nd November 2011 and was once again a great success. It was inaugurated by Dr Kripa Shankar Varma, Assistant Director of Health for the division of Moradabad. First prize for the best science model made by students went to H.S.A. Inter College, Raja-ka-Sahaspur and second prize to Nanak Chand Inter College, Chandausi. This fair is now an annual event with students participating from all our educational institutes as well as many other schools and colleges.

INTAF National Conference in Amarpurkashi

On 26th and 27th November 2011, a national conference on "Corruption and Its Effects on the Rural Poor" was held at Amarpurkashi. The Gramodaya Degree College and Research Institute hosted this event which was organised by INTAF India. Over 240 delegates from voluntary development organisations and networks attended, as well as researchers, students of rural studies and people living and working in villages.

After two days' lively, well-informed discussion, the conference formulated nine recommendations which were sent to the Speaker of the Lok Sabha and the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha with a request that they be included in the anti-corruption bills due to be placed before parliament.

Free Health Camp

A free Health Camp was held at the Amarpurkashi Health centre on the 9th October 2011, courtesy of private doctors from Moradabad. 384 patients came from 30 local villages. The doctors included three gynaecologists and a specialist in children's illnesses.

Three days' medicine was given to every patient according to the advice of the doctor who examined them and they were told that, if they had any further problems, they could go to the doctor's clinic in Moradabad where they would be treated for free.

Free Eye Camp

From 10th to 14th November 2011, a free eye camp, funded by VRI trustee, Janet Wilson, was held at the Amarpurkashi Health Centre with the help of the Government District Eye Hospital, Moradabad. 354 patients were examined for various eye problems. Of these, 33 were identified for cataract operations to be done on 11th November. Unfortunately, there was a strike of technical staff that day. However, 26 cataract operations were successfully carried out at the Government Hospital, Bilari on 14th. The other 7 patients could not be operated on as they had other problems that made them unsuitable.

The cataract patients spent some time at Amarpurkashi convalescing and then were checked and 12 days' medicine given to them. They returned to Amarpurkashi on 27th for another check-up. No problems were found. They were told to return once more three weeks' later for a final check.

These patients came from 18 villages, some of them 35 km away. Four women came on their own without any assisting friend or relative.

HIV/AIDS Awareness Programme under the Link Workers' Scheme

Initially running from February 2008 until 31st March 2011, this programme was briefly extended in July 2011 and finished in March 2012. At the Integrated Counselling and Testing Centre, numbers of those tested increased significantly once the programme started. Of those found to be infected with HIV, 38% were women and 62% were men. It is most disappointing that the programme has been scrapped just when the workers were becoming more successful in finding those who are HIV infected.

A.G.M. of the Society for Agro-Industrial Education in India

This was held at Amarpurkashi on 1st October and was very well attended. Two new committee members were elected. The meeting reviewed the progress of all the activities currently undertaken at Amarpurkashi.

Overseas Visitors to APK

There were two project visitors to APK in October – Brigid Muldoon from Canada and Tom Horton from the U.K.

From 16th to 18th October, Amarpurkashi hosted a visit from Cynthia Wilkinson and Dr. Manjula Sharma from the University of Sydney. They are hoping to send a group of undergraduates to do two weeks' field study at Amarpurkashi next year.

In November, Toby Whitfeld, pv from 2006, paid another very welcome visit. After his time as a pv, Toby set up an organisation, *Villages Espoir*, which has generously supported some of the activities at APK.

In February, Vibha Aggarwal, pv from October 1996, came for a visit, this time with her two small daughters.

In March, APK welcomed Adam Merchant, a volunteer from the U.K.

Another visitor in March was Moppy Barr from the U.S.A. Moppy was a project visitor in November 2003. This was her third visit to APK.

Other Visitors to Amarpurkashi

In October, four undergraduate students from the Department of Agriculture Economics, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel University of Agriculture and Technology, Meerut came to APK for three months' field work. During that time, they surveyed the village and learnt about local villagers and their life style.

EIGHTH INTAF WORLD CONFERENCE London, 18-19th June 2011

A very successful Eighth INTAF World Conference was held in Development House, London, with the generous support of AFP (Asian Foundation for Philanthropy). The theme, "Experiences of Working with the Rural Poor", provided a unique opportunity for people with different experiences to give their views from a range of interesting perspectives.

The first speaker was Mukat Singh, who spoke from a grass-roots perspective as someone who has worked with the rural poor for the last forty years. He talked frankly about the lessons he has learnt, namely, that it is only by living and working with the rural poor that you can help them; that the greatest obstacle is the attitude of those who are supposed to help them; that it is not enough merely to bring education to the villages – you must look at the *kind* of education they are receiving; that the lifestyle of urban dwellers is the most expensive, exploitative and wasteful while that of villagers is sustainable and community-oriented; that all policies and programmes are devised by urban academics sitting in offices far from the realities of rural poverty; and that none of their schemes takes regional differences into account.

He finished on a positive note by pointing out that those fortunate to live and work among the rural poor are invariably enriched by the experience.

The next two speakers, who gave a joint presentation, were Dr Kamal Taori, Chairman of the Rural Business Hub in India and Irmel Marla, originally from Germany but now living in India and Chair of the International Institute for Holistic Research and Voluntary Action, a joint India/Germany establishment. They emphasized the importance of a holistic approach and self-realisation without exploitation.

There was a complete change of perspective from the next speaker, Stephen McClelland, who is Head of European Programmes at DFID (Dept. for International Development). He spoke in a personal capacity, drawing on his knowledge of the way the government works. He gave many facts and figures which enlightened the audience about the ways that the government is trying to help the rural poor. He agreed that criticism of government officials is often warranted and of course they have to be held to account, but he also pointed out that they are indispensable if we are to abolish poverty for only governments can deliver on a big enough scale.

Hari Dhanoo, from Trinidad, whose ancestors came originally from Eastern U.P., spoke from the perspective of an individual donor. He has visited APK and seen the work done there and this has inspired his continuing support.

Bala Thakrar spoke next. She first went to India as a graduate, backpacking around the sub-continent. This trip fired her deep love for India and paved the way for a remarkable career that culminated in the successful establishment of her own organisation, the Asian Foundation for Philanthropy. She has devised a pioneering scheme for people of Indian origin to volunteer in India as well as other innovative programmes such as Gyaan Yatra.

The next speaker, Jasber Singh, brought the perspective of a researcher. He spent a year in four different districts of Andhra Pradesh, carrying out research into biofuels and the experiences of the rural people who grew biofuel crops. He found that biofuel was not the answer to rural poverty and was shocked to learn of the painful experiences *dalits* and tribals had.

The final speakers were three volunteers. The first, Nayan Shukla, went to India in 1988. He has paid many return visits since then and became closely involved with VRI here, supporting development work in India by raising funds and raising awareness. Sophie Bray and Aditi Shah spoke of their recent time as volunteers. They had thoroughly enjoyed getting involved and felt it had been an enlightening experience.

The conference was followed by an informal meeting the next day. Some of those who attended were keen to have the next conference in India in two years' time.

VISITORS TO LONDON

Unfortunately, no one from India was able to get a visa in time to attend the conference in London.. Dr Jai Pal Singh Vyas received his visa just two days later and decided to make use of it and go to London anyway. He stayed with Mukat and Jyoti Singh in Harrow for his two-week visit and enjoyed trips to Oxford and famous London landmarks. He was also interviewed on television on Venus channel by Krishan Ralleigh, editor/founder of the magazine India Link International, and presenter of the Venus programme '*Mera India*'.

Other visitors who went abroad for the very first time were Ram Vir Singh and his wife, Sushma. Many VRI/IVCS project visitors know them. Their son, Pawan, who married Kiran Patel, a project visitor from 1999, sponsored them for a two-month family visit to England.

Aaroh – a campaign for the Rights of Women Farmers

With support from OXFAM through the NGO, Disha Samajik Sangathan, Saharanpur, we have been running a pilot project to raise awareness among women farmers in Moradabad district of their rights. This year, five villages have set up women farmers' groups.

International Journal of Rural Studies (IJRS)

The IJRS continues to be published twice a year in April and October and is also available online (<http://www.vri-online.org.uk/ijrs/index.php>). The editorial in the April 2011 issue dealt with the problem of pollution and the details of protests carried out by local people. The editorial in the issue of October 2011 was about the main theme of the Eighth INTAF World Conference in London.

P C P N D T Committee

Mukat Singh, General Secretary of the Society, and Adil Husain, staff member, are representatives on this district committee which is a follow-up programme of the Campaign Against Female Foeticide that began in 2005. Our society, in partnership with the lead agency of Uttar Pradesh, Vatsalya and Plan International, are in fact the force that keeps this committee active. This year there were six meetings, all of which we attended. Fortunately, the committee is headed by the District Magistrate. Following the example of our work in Moradabad district, similar committees have been formed in the districts of Bijnor, Rampur and J P Nagar. Our man, Adil Husain, regularly attends meetings of these districts as well.

Some other Highlights

- Mukat Singh appeared twice on Venus Channel in London during his stay last summer. On the 12th July 2011, he was interviewed with Dr Jai Pal Singh Vyast of Hindu College Moradabad when he was a guest at the Singhs' house in Harrow.
- On 23rd August 2011, Mukat Singh together with Dr Ashok Singh and Satya Pal Singh participated in a meeting called by the ADM (E) in the Police Station Bilari.
- On 4th September, all the staff of the society were invited to the Eid Milan celebration in the village of Mohd. Ibrahim Pur.
- On 15th October, we welcomed a Communal Harmony Rally and provided board and lodging for all the participants of the rally for the night.
- On 31st October, a field demonstration of sugar cane early sowing was carried out in the society's field, with guidance from the experts of Ajudhia Sugar Mill.
- Mukat Singh and Dr Ashok Kumar Singh participated in a national conference of science teachers hosted by the Vice Chancellor of B H U, Varanasi. Mukat Singh was invited as a guest speaker and shared the stage with scientists such as Prof. Yashpal.
- On 15th Feb. Mukat Singh was invited as the chief guest of the annual function of the Prem Shanti High School, Bahoran Pur.
- From 29th Feb. to 4th March, three battalions of Para Military Force were stationed in the degree and inter colleges while elections were taking place.
- On the 26th March 2012, all our staff and students gave a tumultuous welcome to Haji Mohd. Irfan Advocate who won the Assembly election on the 6th March. He is an old pupil of our secondary school and also a valuable member of the management committee of the society.

Representation

The Society is represented on the following government bodies:-

- National Rural Health Mission committee , Moradabad
- District Blindness Eradication Committee, Moradabad
- PCPNDT Committee, Moradabad, Bijnor, J P Nagar and Rampur
- District Renewable Energy Sources Committee, Moradabad
- Tehsil Child Labour Eradication Committee, Bilari, District Moradabad

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