

# Society for Agro Industrial Education in India

## Annual Progress Report 2012-2013

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

Mob. 09411809030, 09411269157, 09837781554

Website: [www.vri-online.org.uk](http://www.vri-online.org.uk); [www.gramodayapgccollege.org.in](http://www.gramodayapgccollege.org.in)

### Programmes in Operation

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

### Highlights of the Year

- Free Eye Camp and Health Camp
- HIV/AIDS intensive publicity campaign
- Annual Science Fair
- Overseas Visitors
- Affiliation for post-graduate degrees in Geography and Social Work
- NSS Camp in Arikhera village
- Two new issues of IJRS with editorials focusing on education
- Proposed University for Sustainable Development
- Women's Issues
- Receptions for the new MLA and a Minister of State
- Visit of British optometrists

### Total Number of Students at Amarpurkashi

Programme	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13
Primary School	245	267	140	231	212	250	246
Junior High School	344	414	378	405	375	316	369
Inter College	511	411	461	493	510	521	594
Degree College	848	1117	1099	1383	1519	1770	1998
Total	1948	2209	2078	2512	2616	2857	3207

### Gramodaya Primary School Amarpurkashi

	Total	Male %	Female %	G/C %	B/C %	S/C %
Year 2008-09	140	65.0	35.0	23.0	67.4	9.3
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
Year 2012-13	246	59.7	40.2	18.7	74.3	7.0

Students this year came from 12 neighbouring villages:

1. Amarpurkashi
2. Devri
3. Shah Pur
4. Aarikhera
5. Hamza Pur
6. Khata
7. Shakumbhari
8. Safeel Pur
9. Shamas Pur
10. Dinaura
11. Karsara

Not all children received a government scholarship, although it was expected that they would and therefore no scholarships were given from VRI funds. The school is working successfully under the headship of Renu Singh. There are six teachers including Renu. The intake of students was reasonable considering the fierce competition from four other private primary schools in the village.

### **Gramodaya High School Jafar Pur**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>
Dec. 2010	187	64.2%	35.8%
Dec. 2011	219	64%	36%
Dec. 2012	321	65.4%	34.6%

Last year, all students were given government scholarships and we expect that they will receive them again this year. With the generous support of donors from VRI, two new rooms with a veranda are now complete. This school is based in a very backward area. We are pleased that we have been able to attract nearly 35% girls. This year an application to upgrade the school to an inter college was submitted to the State Government.

### **Krishi-Audyogik Inter College, Amarpurkashi**

In 1971, it was set up as a Junior High School and then promoted to a high school in 1996, becoming an inter college in 1999. It received permission to run Inter classes in Science and Mathematics from July 2003.

<b>Class</b>	<b>Total No. of students</b>			<b>S/C</b>	<b>B/C</b>	<b>G/C Min.</b>	
	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>				
6-8	221	148	369	51	264	31	23
9-12	353	241	594	127	393	40	34
Total	574	389	963	178	657	71	57
%	59.6	40.4	100	18.5	68.2	7.4	6.0

Enrolments in the previous years were as follows:-

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Boys (%)</b>	<b>Girls (%)</b>	<b>G/C</b>	<b>B/C</b>	<b>S/C</b>
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 is now well settled as Acting Headmaster. The number of students has increased and is more than the accommodation available. The annual examination results for 2012 were:- High School 93.5% and Intermediate 86.3%. These are much better results than last year. Applications for government scholarships have been submitted and payments are awaited. In the meantime 6 female students (5 who passed Intermediate and one Muslim girl who passed High School) received a cash prize of Rs. 30,000/- each from the government.

### **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 a cash 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 six 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
2012-13	1998	51	49	21	60	19

- 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 provides Masters degrees in English and Sociology. It also offers a B.Ed. for 100 students and a post graduate diploma for 30 students.
- This year, the college is expecting to receive university affiliation for Masters degrees in Geography and Social Work.
- The college is known for its discipline in examinations.
- This year, the one day camps of N.S.S.(National Social Service) were held on 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct., (Mahatma Gandhi's birthday) 15<sup>th</sup> Oct., 19<sup>th</sup> Oct., 1<sup>st</sup> Dec. and 8<sup>th</sup> of December. A seven-day camp was held in the village of Aarikhera. Forty five girls and fifty five boys participated in this social service programme.
- The college has its own website: - [www.gramodayapgccollege.org.in](http://www.gramodayapgccollege.org.in) .

Examination results	2011	2012
B A Part I	85.5%	82.5%
B A Part II	98.5%	100%
B A Part III	97.6%	100%
M A Previous Sociology	100%	100%
M A Final Sociology	100%	100%
M A Previous English	100%	100%
M A Final English	100%	95.2%
B Ed.	100%	100%
PGRRM	100%	100%

### Teachers' Training

On Monday, the 28th August, 2012 all teachers of the primary and secondary schools underwent a full day's in-service training. Then on 26th, 27th and 28th November they were taken to Lucknow where they underwent a further three-day training. There they were addressed by Shri Indal Singh Bhadauria and Shri Ashok Bhai, the Director of the Sahbhagi Training Centre where we stayed. Staff members also visited various historical places and the Bird Sanctuary in Lucknow.

### Science Fair

This is now an annual event with students participating from all our educational institutes as well as many local schools and colleges. 7th November 2012 saw the Inter College and Degree College transformed into a festival of science, music, innovative ideas and excited students. Medicinal plants along with existing flowers and trees created a perfect setting for a fair focusing on the environment.

While having a clear focus on science and the environment, the fair also provided space for other skills. Students from the primary and secondary schools at Amarpurkashi provided entertainment in the form of folk songs and dances. There were several poems and short plays in English such as 'My Garden' and 'Trees' highlighting the importance of nature while the short play 'Mr Garbage' showed bad environmental practices. Many students participated in stalls involving card and number tricks, while others used science to create 'magic', all performed with confidence and showmanship.

Another important aspect of the science fair was its role as a community gathering and platform for important issues represented by stalls for HIV/AIDS awareness and careers guidance for students. The HIV/AIDS stall was well attended, providing important information; many in attendance were wearing the

universal symbol of HIV/AIDS awareness and solidarity, the red ribbon. Throughout the day B.Ed. students were kept busy providing advice to both boys and girls on career paths such as the police, medical professions and commerce.

Some stalls dealt mainly with the scientific such as experiments using hydrochloric acid to test for impurities in milk and ghee. Others took a broader approach such as a modern-day version of Ravana, the demon king whose ten heads each represented a problem facing India from environmental to health and education. Issues that appeared repeatedly were the problems caused by plastic bags including a visually striking display that sought to recreate the impact of plastic bags; this was accompanied by a short play against their use. Water pollution was another important issue. One group from Amarpurkashi even used bricks, pebbles, a hosepipe and some physical labour to create a mini river alongside a model of a water pump and well. Other models focused on homes and particularly factories as major causes of water pollution. This focus undoubtedly reflects the experience of the local area with the visible and very "smell-able" effects of the paper factories on the local river.

The first prize won by Babu Ram Junior High School, Amarpurkashi showed methods of improving the environment of a rural village by having covered communal toilet blocks and different rubbish pits based specifically on the recyclability of materials. Jafapur High School presented models about the impact of greenhouse gases and how to use solar power as an alternative to cooking fuel. H S A Inter College, Sahas Pur presented plates and bowls made from leaves as alternatives to the use of plastics.

The special prize requested by Toby Whitfeld was awarded to the group that demonstrated the best use of waste materials. This went to the B.Ed. students' 'zero waste' display that demonstrated decorative and practical uses for materials often thrown away. These included woven bags, magazines and newspaper holders, pictures made from the straw of old brooms and flowers made from wire and off cuts of materials. The Science Fair provided an environment in which a wide range of students were able to participate in activities that encouraged them to think and act independently and innovatively.

*Report by Chloe Hignett, volunteer in October 2012*

### **Villages-ESPOIR**

Toby Whitfeld, PV from November 2006, lives in France where he has set up Villages - ESPOIR, a charity to raise funds for villagers in India. This year, Villages – ESPOIR generously funded both the Science Fair and the Health Camp.

### **Workshops and Conferences at the Gramodaya Degree College**

**On 13th August**, a workshop was held with B Ed students. The topic was 'The Irrelevance of the Present Education System'. Mukat Singh was the main speaker.

**On the 25th of August**, a workshop was held on the theme 'The Importance of Environmental Education'. The main speakers were Dr Chitra Singh, an environmentalist and Dr Madhuri Singh, a social worker from Moradabad.

The Executive Committee meeting of the Society for Agro-Industrial Education in India was held on **25th of August**.

**On the 2nd September**, a one-day conference was held on the theme 'Future Strategy for Social Change'. Speakers included Dr Jaipal Singh 'Vyast', an educationist, Dr Harbans Dikshit, a law expert and Dr Vishesh Gupta, a sociologist, all from Moradabad. Mukat Singh presented a key paper on the theme.

**On the 5th of September** which is celebrated as Teachers' Day in India, a workshop was organised on the theme 'Our present education system is the root cause of all the evils in society in India.' Mukat Singh led the discussion.

**On the 3rd of November**, a seminar was organised on the theme 'Education for Communal Harmony'. The seminar was chaired by Mrs Nadira Parveen, wife of the local M.L.A. Shri Mohd. Irfan, Advocate. Other speakers included Mrs Afroz Khanam and Mrs Quosar Jahan.

**On the 8th of December**, a special lecture was delivered by I G Shri Shailendra Pratap Singh of Moradabad. He spoke about the impact of Buddhist philosophy on present day education.

**On 19 October**, our staff and students welcomed Shri Rajendra Singh Rana, Minister of State for Uttar Pradesh, on his first visit to the college. He was full of admiration for the attractive campus and the excellent discipline of the college. He promised his full support whenever needed. Our local MLA, Mohd. Irfan joined us in welcoming the minister.

### **Free Health Camp**

On 31st October 2012, a free health camp for villagers was held at the Amarpurkashi Health Centre. A record number of 715 patients were treated by a team of 34 medical staff from Teerthankar Mahaveer University, Moradabad. All patients were given at least three days' medicine and the TMU staff promised that they would be treated free if they attended hospital within a week.

Out of 715 patients, 304 were male, 285 were female and 126 were children. 155 villagers were treated for dental problems by 14 dentists. 240 villagers were seen by 5 general practitioners, including an expert in ECGs. 56 villagers were seen by a bone specialist. One paediatrician saw the children. One nurse and two doctors saw 74 women for female-related problems. 150 villagers were seen for eye problems by two specialists. The remaining patients were seen for a variety of ailments. The total cost of the camp was £ 363.60.

### **HIV/AIDS Awareness Programme**

Initially running from February 2008 until 31st March 2011, this programme was briefly extended in July 2011 but finished in March 2012. The successful programme saw numbers of those tested at the Integrated Counselling and Testing Centre rise significantly.

With the kind and generous support of VRI trustee, Janet Wilson, this work was continued in the blocks of Bilari and Baniakhera. Suitable staff were appointed and trained to undertake HIV prevention and care work in the community. The workers carried out mapping at block level, identified vulnerable villages and organized entry level activities in the community using participatory processes.

### **Free Eye Camp**

The 19th of November saw the start of a free Eye Camp organised with funds kindly donated by Hari Dhanoo, a VRI trustee of long standing. The camp was inaugurated by Dr Vir Singh of the Government Hospital, Moradabad. A team of medical staff headed by Dr Bhavtosh Shankhdhar examined 410 patients and identified 62 for lens transplantation. The remaining patients were treated and medicines given for their various ailments.

On the 20th, 62 patients were tested for sugar, blood pressure and cardiac problems. 35 were found to be fit for lens transplant. Another 6 were treated for minor complaints and were then fit for transplants.

On 21st November, the first batch of 18 patients was operated on for transplant by the FECO method. The next batch of 23 patients was operated on the 22nd November. All 41 patients were kept under surveillance for two nights at Bilari hospital where the operations were carried out. On the 23rd November, their eyes were checked and their bandages changed. They were given post-operative medicines and glasses and instructed to come for a check-up after a week. They were all given instructions to follow strict precautions.

All medicines, glasses and food were provided free. These patients were then checked repeatedly for the next month. There were no problems and we were very pleased to have a 100% success rate.

### **Campaign against Pollution**

At present, only one unit out of three in the Shakumbhri paper factory is working and that too not every day. However, the Ram Chandra factory is working as usual. The pollution has decreased very slightly. One farmer from a nearby village, Gopal Pur, is fighting to claim the compensation he is due for his crop

that was damaged by the overflow of polluted water during the rainy season. Many other farmers have suffered losses but have given up complaining because nobody listens.

### **Overseas Visitors**

During October, we received three project visitors– Anne Richardson, Chloe Hignett and Greg Parker. Greg was a project visitor in February 2006. We were delighted to welcome him for his fourth visit.

In February, VRI sent two new volunteers to Amarpurkashi – Dr Rachel Breen from Liverpool and Dr Tracy Marshall from Leeds. They both settled in very well and did some excellent work in the primary school, teaching conversational English to the teachers.

### **Optometrists' Visit**

From 21st to 28th February, 2013, we were fortunate to have five young optometrists, all of Indian origin, visit Amarpurkashi and volunteer their services. They came well prepared with all the necessary equipment for testing both the health and the vision of the eyes of the students in the primary and junior high schools. On Sunday when the schools were closed, they made themselves available for local villagers.

They carried out their work in a very professional manner and left behind details of the people they had tested. They also raised money before their trip so that those who needed glasses or treatment would be able to get it.

### **Women's Meeting**

In the aftermath of the horrific rape and murder of a young medical student in Delhi, the police were much more active in creating support structures for local women. A senior police officer came to talk to the B.Ed. students of the Gramodaya College and told them of a free helpline.

On the 27th February, there was a meeting of female students and local village women in the college campus. Buses were hired to bring students from schools in Bilari and Akroli. Two self-defence groups also came, one from Chandausi and the other from Meerut. Over 2,000 people attended. B.Ed. students prepared a very moving drama showing the plight of an abused woman. Both self-defence groups demonstrated their skills and showed that women too could learn self-defence. There were also some colourful and entertaining dances from college students.

### **An Exciting New Project**

On 2nd and 3rd March, the Gramodaya College and the International Task Force for the Rural Poor (INTAF) hosted a national workshop which looked at a new proposal for sustainable rural development. Mukat Singh told participants some of his new ideas on education and training for productive and entrepreneurial skills to rural students and villagers based on sustainable agro forestry, composting, sustainable use of water and its conservation and rearing and loaning goats and cows to poorest families. He received wholehearted support from all those present.

### **International Journal of Rural Studies (IJRS)**

The IJRS continues to be published twice a year in April and October and is also available online. The last two editorials discussed education in India.

### **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