

Annual Progress Report 2007-2008
of the
Society for Agro Industrial Education in India
Amarpurkashi, Bilari 202411, District Moradabad, U.P.
Tel: 05921 270567 M: 9411809030, 09412140798
E-mail: apk_gram@yahoo.co.uk
Web-sites: www.villageindia.org www.ivcs.org.uk

Programmes in Operation

- Gramodaya Degree College & Research Institute
- Krishi Audyogik Inter College
- Gramodaya Primary School
- Jafarpur Gramodaya Junior High School
- Health Centre, Free Health and Eye Camps
- Kopal II (Campaign Against Female Foeticide and for Registration of Births and Deaths)
- Urban Mapping for HIV/AIDS Awareness Programme
- TARAhaat Computer Centre
- Solar Energy Programme
- Social Audit of the NREGA Programme
- International Journal of Rural Studies (IJRS)
- IVCS Project Visitors' Scheme
- Campaign Against Pollution
- Voluntary Action Network
- Experimental farm

Highlights of the Year

- Protest against pollution of Aril River and farmers' land
- Free Eye Camp
- Science Fair
- NSS Camp in Deori village
- Two new issues of IJRS
- Project Visitors of 4 nationalities
- Mukat Singh elected chair of UPVAN
- New Health Centre building completed
- APK film by Tom Riddle
- Award for Communal Harmony
- Toby's Scholarships for computer course students

Staff at Amarpurkashi

| Programme | Total | Male | Female |
|--------------------------|-------|------|--------|
| Primary School | 11 | 0 | 11 |
| Inter College | 25 | 22 | 3 |
| Degree College | 22 | 19 | 3 |
| Jafarpur School | 8 | 6 | 2 |
| TARAhaat computer centre | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| Admin | 2 | 2 | 0 |

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| Drivers/electrician | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| Administration | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Project co-ordinator | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Farm unit | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| Health centre | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Kopal II | 4 | 3 | 1 |
| HIV/AIDS | 5 | 3 | 2 |
| Family Counselling | 4 | 3 | 1 |
| Project Visitors' Co-ordinator | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Mess | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| TOTAL | 101 | 74 | 27 |

Students at Amarpurkashi

| Programme | 99/00 | 00/01 | 01/02 | 02/03 | 03/04 | 04/05 | 05/06 | 06/07 | 07/08 |
|--------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Primary School | 231 | 280 | 332 | 337 | 222 | 242 | 222 | 245 | 267 |
| Junior High School | 372 | 437 | 447 | 466 | | 494 | 436 | 411 | 344 |
| 414 | | | | | | | | | |
| Inter College | 158 | 205 | 208 | 252 | 307 | 388 | 452 | 511 | 411 |
| Degree College | 196 | 218 | 261 | 290 | 365 | 436 | 450 | 848 | 1117 |
| Total | 957 | 1140 | 1248 | 1346 | 1388 | 1502 | 1535 | 1948 | 2209 |

Gramodaya Primary School 2000- 2008

| | Total | Male | Female | G/C | B/C | S/C |
|-------------------------------|-------|------|--------|------|------|------|
| (all figures are percentages) | | | | | | |
| Year 2003-04 | 222 | 69.4 | 30.6 | 15.3 | 75.7 | 8.1 |
| Year 2004-05 | 242 | 67.0 | 33.0 | 10.3 | 73.0 | 8.3 |
| Year 2005-06 | 222 | 63.9 | 36.1 | 17.5 | 75.2 | 7.3 |
| Year 2006-07 | 245 | 65.7 | 34.3 | 14.7 | 67.3 | 11.0 |
| Year 2007-08 | 267 | 64.4 | 35.6 | 12.4 | 73.8 | 13.8 |

A new head teacher from Chandausi joined the school in July but resigned in February. Senior teacher Babita Singh took over but she had to leave in May as she was married to someone from a village far from Amarpurkashi.

Dial Sharma, a retired primary school teacher from England, joined the school in October as a volunteer and provided valuable training to the staff. He worked there for two months. Mr Sharma was a friendly, sociable person who got on very well with all the project staff.

This year, most of the primary schoolchildren came from far off villages, i.e., Palanpur 8 km, Pipli 7 km., Kaili 7 km, and Dhak Nangla 8 km. They were collected by two vehicles provided with part support from IVCS. However, this proved expensive and unsustainable. Transport has therefore been withdrawn. Next year, only pupils within walking distance will be enrolled.

IVCS scholarships amounting to over Rs.32, 000 were given to 71 children.

Three new toilets were built this year.

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 (sixth-form) classes in Science and Mathematics from July 2003. Numbers have been steadily rising, especially in the last four years. This has strained existing accommodation. The number of female students has also risen steadily.

| Year | Total | Male (%) | Female (%) | G/C | B/C | S/C (%) |
|-------------|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------|------------|----------------|
| 2003-04 | 801 | 74.5 | 25.5 | 16.0 | 66.6 | 5.0 |
| 2004-05 | 824 | 73.4 | 26.6 | 16.5 | 62.6 | 16.8 |
| 2005-06 | 863 | 72.4 | 27.6 | 11.5 | 70.0 | 18.5 |
| 2006-07 | 855 | 70.2 | 29.8 | 9.2 | 74.8 | 16.0 |
| 2007-08 | 885 | 67.8 | 32.2 | 9.2 | 75.7 | 15.1 |

In Science, the overall pass rate for the Intermediate Board Examination 2007/8 was 88% and for Arts students 94.4%. However, there was a pass rate of only 49% for the High School Examination.

All students in the Inter College received government scholarships amounting in total to Rs.315,960.

One teacher, Rajni Goswami, was married this year and Varsha Rani and Yogendra Kumar Singh joined the B.Ed. course. Thus we said goodbye to three teachers.

Two new large class rooms and one new shed were built. The college was again selected as a centre for the annual high school and intermediate examinations. Over seven hundred students from seven other schools and colleges took part in the examinations. Inspectors paid several visits to the centre and found it running satisfactorily.

Gramodaya Degree College & Research Institute

The degree college received affiliation from M J P Rohilkhand University, Bareilly in 1995 and was later inaugurated by the Vice Chancellor, Dr. M D Tiwari. The same year the college received a cash award of Rs.20, 000 and a citation from the Governor of Uttar Pradesh. Since then, the college has been steadily progressing, maintaining its academic place in the university with a high percentage of passes. Student enrolment over the last 8 years is given in the table below. This year's enrolment shows a steep rise in the number of students on roll.

| Year | Total | Male | Female (%) | G/C | B/C | S/C (%) |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------------|------------|------------|----------------|
| 2003-04 | 365 | 73.7 | 26.3 | 30.9 | 54.8 | 14.2 |
| 2004-05 | 436 | 70.4 | 29.6 | 30.8 | 57.6 | 11.6 |
| 2005-06 | 450 | 61.1 | 38.9 | 26.3 | 57.7 | 16.0 |
| 2006-07 | 848 | 67.6 | 32.4 | 27.4 | 55.4 | 17.2 |
| 2007-08 | 1117 | 63.5 | 36.5 | 24.7 | 57.6 | 17.6 |

Year-wise results of Gramodaya Degree College in %

| Year | BAI | BAII | BAIII | PGRRM | B.Ed. |
|------|-----|------|-------|-------|-------|
| 2003 | 84 | 99 | 97 | 100 | ---- |
| 2004 | 82 | 84 | 91 | 100 | 100 |
| 2005 | 86 | 88 | 96 | 100 | 98 |
| 2006 | 98 | 97.5 | 98 | --- | 100 |
| 2007 | 90 | 98 | 95 | 66 | ---- |

The final examination of PGRRM students was delayed by the university and there were no students for B.Ed. in 2006/7.

- 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.
- Applications to offer Masters degrees in English and Sociology will be submitted next year.
- A ten-day N.S.S. camp was held from 11th Dec. to 20th Dec. 2007, in village Deori. 50 girls and boys participated. Five one-day camps were also held on 15th September, 2nd October, 1st December 2007 & 12th January 2008.
- 746 students applied for government scholarships. Of these, 23% students were from the S/C group, 60% from the OBC group and 17.5 from the G/C. Scholarships totalling Rs 1,057,000 for the S/C and G/C groups were received by the end of the financial year. Now we are waiting to receive scholarship money for OBC students.

Village Resource Centre (TARAhaat)

A computer centre with six PCs, peripherals and accessories was set up in the Degree College in June, under franchise from TARAhaat, New Delhi. There are three members of staff who teach three computer courses:-

1. B I T – Basic Information Technology, duration six months
2. D I T – Diploma in Information Technology, duration 13 months
3. Basic Computer Applications, duration three months

A one month English conversational course was run in October as a pilot project for 16 trainees. Jyoti, Greg Parker and the October pvs ran the course which was very successful.

In January, ISRO installed equipment to enable us to access their educational programmes through video conferencing.

Toby's Scholarships

Toby Whitfeld, a project visitor from 2006, set up a scholarship scheme for students who wanted to study computing but were struggling to pay the fees. Four-fifths of the fees are currently being paid for 13 students. He also arranged a special three months' basic English course to be taught over the

summer by Lekhni Gupta. A number of students from poor families are currently attending this course.

Action Research

On the 1st February, a new staff member was appointed to carry out action research into local government primary schools to see whether the attendance of both teachers and pupils had improved. Ten schools were secretly investigated. A summary of results is given below:-

1. None of the schools opened at the officially specified time.
2. None of the schools remained open for the whole of the school day.
3. Out of a total of ten teachers working in these schools, two (20%) were absent for the whole day.
4. Out of a total of 20 Shiksha Mitras (Temporary Teachers), five (25%) were absent.
5. None of the teachers or the shiksha mitras attended their schools for the whole day.
6. Only two of the ten schools held prayer assemblies.
7. Only 20% of the total number of students on roll was present at the beginning of the school. This number was 18% when the school closed.
8. Pupil – teacher contact time was only 45%.
9. Only 20.8% of the pupils were present for the mid-day meal.
10. Approximately 90% of the total number of students attending school that day arrived before any of the teachers.

These findings are very similar to those quoted in research carried out by the World Bank in 2004 for the entire country. Thus, in spite of huge sums of money invested in Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, there is no evidence of any change in the situation over the last four years.

Progress of the Gramodaya Junior High School at Jafarpur

This school was set up in July 2004 at the request of villagers from Jafarpur village in Budaun district. The number of students has risen from 168 last year to 193 this year, 23% of whom are girls. The school received recognition from the government last year and thus its students are now entitled to receive government scholarships.

Staff Training

In April, over 50 members of staff were taken by bus to Rishikesh for in-service training. They stayed in the family-run Kabir Ashram for three days. The training sessions were marked by free and frank discussion among staff and a range of issues such as improving the quality of teaching and examination results were discussed in detail. Staff also looked at the need to develop a sense of ownership and camaraderie.

IVCS Project Visitors

The number of Project Visitors was quite low this year.

| Year | Male | Female | Total |
|---------|------|--------|-------|
| 2003-04 | 09 | 21 | 30 |
| 2004-05 | 09 | 30 | 39 |
| 2005-06 | 09 | 28 | 37 |
| 2006-07 | 11 | 26 | 37 |
| 2007-08 | 11 | 10 | 21 |

In all other respects, however, the scheme was very successful with pvs from the U.K., Australia, Spain, Slovakia and the USA.

For pvs, getting involved in a useful activity is never easy but quite a few found a way of doing this. Some helped with conversational English for the computer centre students; some worked with small groups of pupils in the primary school and built up the children's confidence in speaking and understanding English. One pv painted a beautiful mural in the primary school. Others went to Jafarpur Junior High School and helped with English there.

KOPAL II – Campaign against Female Foeticide and in favour of the Registration of Births and Deaths

This three-year programme began in October 2005 under the guidance of Vatsalya, Lucknow, the nodal agency for the whole of Uttar Pradesh. Plan International India are the donors. Our society is responsible for the district of Moradabad in general and the block of Bilari in particular. The campaign is primarily an awareness-raising campaign. The staff includes a block co-ordinator and three field animators.

All the programmes suggested by the nodal agency have been carried out successfully and within the stipulated time, under the leadership of Adil Husain, the block co-ordinator.

Dr Neelam Singh, head of Vatsalya, was very pleased with our performance and subsequently, Adil Husain was appointed district co-ordinator for Moradabad. His job is to facilitate implementation of the 1994 Act which makes it illegal to misuse ultrasound technology for determining the sex of a foetus.

Family Counselling Service

With support from the Central Social Welfare Board, New Delhi, a Family Counselling Centre has been set up in Moradabad and began operating in May 2007. There is one male and one female counsellor.

Aaroh – a campaign for the Rights of Women Farmers

With support from OXFAM through Disha Samajik Sangathan, Saharanpur, a pilot project to raise awareness of their rights among women farmers has been running in Moradabad district for the last year.

Free Eye Camp

From 28th November until 1st December, 2007, a free eye camp was held, thanks to a generous donation from a UK-based organisation to which Dial Sharma, our volunteer from Asian Foundation for Philanthropy, successfully applied.

336 villagers came to have their eyes examined and 33 were taken to Bilari Community Hospital for cataract operations. For after-care and convalescence, they returned to Amarpurkashi.

NEW HEALTH CENTRE

The building of the new clinic is now complete. Doors and windows have been fitted, the walls part-tiled and marble flooring laid. The total cost was far more than originally estimated but thanks to generous donations from past project visitors and their families, we were able to comply with the doctors' requirements and are now nearly ready to open.

Electricity will shortly be fitted to the rooms and fans and lights installed. All that remains is for money to be raised to buy furniture and medical equipment. We hope to inaugurate the clinic with a free eye camp and health camp in November.

Link Workers Programme on HIV/AIDS Awareness

NACO, the National Aids Control Organisation of the Government of India, with help from the UNDP, has selected district Moradabad for a Link Workers Scheme, starting in Feb. 2008. Vatsalya, Lucknow is the nodal agency for Uttar Pradesh. Both NACO and Vatsalya have selected our society as the implementing agency for the rural area of Moradabad district.

On behalf of NACO, CMS, Bangalore selected our society to conduct a mapping programme for the entire district of Moradabad. This was carried out very successfully under the leadership of Kripal Singh who was appointed District Resource Person. The survey was completed between 23rd Feb. and 20th March 2008 and 100 villages were covered.

Science Fair

This year, IVCS donated funds for the annual Science Fair which was held on 31st October 2007 and proved an outstanding success with pupils from over ten different schools visiting and competing. The main prize for the best exhibit was won by our very own Krishi-Audyogik Inter College. The winning model showed the pollution caused by the neighbouring paper mill.

Protest against Pollution

Since December 2005, farmers of Amarpurkashi, Vijai Pur and Deori villages have been protesting against the Shakumbhari Straw Paper Mills and Ram Chandra Straw Paper Mill. Polluted water from these mills pours into the already polluted Aril River and overflows, damaging farmers' crops. The factory owners responsible for the loss of crops have not paid a penny in compensation or shown the slightest concern.

The stink of chemical effluents often pervades the air of neighbouring villages and black granular coal dust from the chimneys of the factories settles on every thing, clothes, food, fodder and open water. The ground water table has dropped dramatically as these factories use huge amounts of water. In addition, underground drinking water has become polluted, causing a sudden rise in the number of people suffering from jaundice.

The Amarpurkashi Project decided to stage a peaceful protest against this pollution. In September, a three day workshop was organised in which this matter was discussed at length. A token dharna (sit-in) was also staged to urge the polluters and the appropriate government departments to bring about a sustainable solution.

There was no response.

On 17th Feb. 2008, a meeting of representatives from eleven CSOs including the District Pradhan Sangh, CRY, Voice of the People, Ilam Sanstha, Bar Association Bilari and Chandausi and the Society for Agro Industrial Education in India was held in Amarpurkashi and a co-ordinating committee to save the Aril River was formed to stage a 24 - hour sit in from 18th Feb. Mukat Singh, convenor of the co-ordinating committee, aggrieved farmers from Deori, Vijai Pur and Amarpurkashi, students and village pradhans began an indefinite dharna by the main road near the river and the paper factories. The Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board, the Governor of Uttar Pradesh, the Chief Minister, the District Magistrate, Moradabad and the Regional Pollution Control Board were all informed of the protest and were also sent a seven point action plan with proposals aimed at bringing about a sustainable solution.

Once again, there was no response.

On the 21st Feb., therefore, it was decided to begin a relay fast from 11 am the next day. The authorities were informed in advance. As a result, on the 22nd Feb., the SDM, Bilari and the Executive Engineer, Irrigation, Moradabad arrived at the venue of the protest, apologised for not being able to make contact earlier and accepted all the suggestions which they publicly promised to implement. The hunger strike was cancelled and further protest postponed.

As of 20th June, there has been no further action of any kind. None of the proposals has yet been implemented.

Our Networking Initiatives

Amarpurkashi is linked to the following civil society groups:

1. International Task Force for the Rural Poor (INTAF).
2. Poverty Eradication Network Worldwide
3. Earth Action Network International.
4. eCivicus International
5. Voluntary Action Network, India (VANI), New Delhi.
6. Uttar Pradesh Voluntary Action Network (UPVAN), Lucknow. Mukat Singh is elected chair of UPVAN at present.
7. Uttar Pradesh Voluntary Health Association (UPVHA), Lucknow.
8. Western Uttar Pradesh Voluntary Action Network (PAVAN)
9. All India Co-ordination of People's Groups, Mumbai.
10. Development Studies Association, UK.
11. Lok Shakti Abhiyan, New Delhi,
12. Indian Volunteers for Community Service (IVCS), London.

PAVAN/UPVAN

On the 26th April 2008, a general meeting of PAVAN, a network of voluntary societies operating in Western Uttar Pradesh, was held at the Circuit House, Moradabad under the chairmanship of Ashok Bhai of Sahbhagi Shikshan Kendra, Lucknow. Dr Neelam Singh, former chair of UPVAN, was also present. It was decided that PAVAN should work as an adhoc group until its general meeting in Nov./Dec. where it would be formally linked to UPVAN. In the mean time H R Sunny would act as its convenor.

HOLI Celebration

On 20th March 2008, one day after Holi, the Holi Milan fair was held in Amarpurkashi. This year, however, no official invitation was sent out to neighbouring villages as project staff felt that interest in the fair was waning. To our surprise and delight, seven Holi dance parties turned up anyway! The Fair was a great success and made it clear that there is still plenty of interest in this event. Prizes were awarded to the participating dance groups by Mukat Singh and Ram Kumar Sharma, the Chair of the Project.

International Journal of Rural Studies

The IJRS continues to be published twice a year in April and October. The journal is available on the internet at www.ivcs.org/IJRS

INTAF – International Task Force for the Rural Poor

A meeting of INTAF and Lok Shakti Abhiyan was held in September 2007 in which a campaign to save the Aril Nadi was launched.

2008 is the INTAF World Assembly year. After consultation with life members, it has been decided to hold this assembly in India at Amarpurkashi. The dates are tentatively fixed 8th and 9th November 2008.

Acknowledgements

Our heartfelt thanks go to the Indian media for their generous coverage in regional newspapers and local tv. Sincere thanks also to those who contributed in the form of donations or time to the programmes and activities at Amarpurkashi. Without their support and goodwill, our achievements would not have been so great.