

Annual Progress Report 2008-2009

Society for Agro Industrial Education in India

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

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Programmes in Operation

- Gramodaya Degree College & Research Institute
- Krishi Audyogik Inter College
- Gramodaya Primary School
- Jafarpur Gramodaya High School
- Health Centre, Free Health and Eye Camps
- HIV/AIDS Awareness Programme, Link Workers Scheme
- TARahaat Computer Centre
- Solar Energy Programme
- Social Audit of the NREGA Programme
- International Journal of Rural Studies (IJRS)
- International Task Force for the Rural Poor (INTAF)
- IVCS Project Visitors' Scheme
- Campaign Against Pollution
- Voluntary Action Network
- Experimental farm

Highlights of the Year

- Completion of new Health Centre
- Annual Science Fair
- Project Visitors from the U.K.
- APK Pollution film by Blossom Carrasco
- Free Eye and Health Camps
- NSS Camp in Deori village
- Two new issues of IJRS
- Mukat Singh elected chair of UPVAN
- Toby Whitfeld's *Villages-Esperoir* provides computer and English scholarships

Staff at Amarpurkashi

Programme	Total	Male	Female
Primary School	11	2	9
Inter College	26	22	4
Degree College	21	17	4
Jafarpur School	8	6	2
TARahaat computer centre	3	3	0
Health Centre	2	2	0
IVCS PVs Scheme	1	0	1
Mess	3	3	0
Administration	2	2	0
Drivers/electrician	5	5	0
HIV/AIDS/LWS	48	24	24
Farm unit	3	3	0
Health Centre	2	0	2
Project Visitors' Co-ordinator	1	0	1
Mess	3	3	0
Project Co-ordinators	2	1	1

TOTAL	141	93	48
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Students at Amarpurkashi

Programme 08/09	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08
Primary School 267 139		280	332	337		222	242	222 245
Junior High School 378	437	447	466		494	436	411 344	414
Inter College 461	205	208	252	307	388		452 511	411
Degree College 1117 1099		218	261	290	365	436		450 848
Total 2077	1140	1248	1346	1388	1502	1535	1948	2209

Gramodaya Primary School Amarpurkashi

	Total	Male %	Female %	G/C %	B/C %	S/C %
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
Year 2008-09	140	65.0	35.0	23.0	67.4	9.3

This year saw a number of changes in the Gramodaya Primary School. The previous year, we provided transport to children from outlying villages but the cost proved prohibitive and we were forced to withdraw that service. Instead, we decided to focus on local students, particularly those from Amarpurkashi. There are now five primary schools operating within 2 km of APK so competition is fierce.

We decided that our primary school should go for quality rather than quantity. We therefore offered free places (with scholarships given by IVCS) to the first hundred students to enrol. 'Free places' meant their fees were covered but they were expected to buy uniforms and books.

We also changed the school uniform. Previously, this was a typical old-style Victorian-era uniform, very thick and heavy, difficult to wash and totally inappropriate for the Indian climate. The new uniform is a simple pyjama/kurta, easy to clean and cool in the summer.

Finally, we appointed a school co-ordinator/teacher whose job is to liaise with parents, follow up all absences and teach Maths to the older students. In September, we also appointed Shri Dau Dayal Sharma, a retired teacher, to advise the primary and junior high school teachers to

improve the quality of teaching. Once a week he also attended Jafarpur School to help the teachers there.

Enrolment at Jafarpur Gramodaya High School

Class	SC		BC		General		Total
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	
6 th	2		26	18	2	0	48
7 th	2	4	25	6	4	0	41
8 th	2	3	14	3	3	0	25
9 th	2	5	8	10	0	0	25
10 th	4	5	16	6	3	0	34
Total	12	17	89	43	12	0	173

173 students were enrolled in classes 6 to 10. 34% of these were girls. 16% were S/Cs, 76% B/Cs and 8% G/Cs..

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. 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
2008-09	839	64.6	35.4		13	69 18.0

The overall pass rate for the Intermediate Board Examination 2008 was 74% but for the High School Examinations was only 10%.

Over 90% of the students in the Inter College received government scholarships.

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 steadily progressed, maintaining its academic place in the university with a high percentage of passes. Student enrolment over the last 6 years is given in the table below.

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
2008-09	1099	62.2	37.8	23.9	57.0	19.1

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	----
2008	83	97.4	100	----	----

- 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 have been submitted this year. It is hoped that the M A Classes will start in the next academic session.
- 746 students applied for government scholarships. Of these, 23% students were from the S/C group, 60% from OBC and 17.5% from G/C. Scholarships totalling Rs 1,057,000 for S/C and G/C groups were received by the end of the financial year. We are now waiting to receive scholarship money for OBC students.

Village Resource Centre (TARahaat)

A computer centre with seven PCs, peripherals and accessories was set up in the Degree College in June 2007, under franchise from TARahaat, New Delhi. There are two 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

In January 2008, ISRO installed equipment to enable us to access their educational programmes through video conferencing. Regrettably, this equipment could not be used because of a structural defect in the system.

Villages-ESPOIR

Toby Whitfeld, PV from November 2006, has remained active and involved since his return to France where he lives and works. He has set up *Villages - ESPOIR*, an association which raises money to help villagers in India. APK has already benefited from this initiative. *Villages – ESPOIR* provides scholarships to local villagers to study computing and last year sponsored a summer course in Conversational English.

ANNUAL STAFF OUTING

On Saturday, 4th April, 104 project staff and their families travelled in two large hired coaches to Nainital, a small town in the Shivalik Mountains, 150 km north of Amarpurkashi.

This day trip was an educational experience for all and a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for some. Among those who went was *Lalaji's* wife who had never even been as far as Moradabad before.

It was a long day, as the coaches left at 5am and returned at 9 in the evening. People were not used to the height or the zigzag road up to the mountains and there were many cases of travel sickness. However, staff had long wanted to see what the mountains were like and now everyone's curiosity had been satisfied!!!

IVCS Project Visitors

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
2008-09	03	06	09

This year, numbers of new pvs were disappointingly low. However, in all other respects, the scheme was very successful. Mauro Baldelli from Italy and Liz Doel from the UK came in September. Rebecca Beaumont came in October and Danny Ashton in November. In December, Blossom Carrasco, a volunteer sent to us courtesy of AffP (Asian Foundation for Philanthropy) came and filmed the pollution that is casting a blight over the lives and livelihoods of villagers from Amarpurkashi and surrounding areas. In February, we welcomed Jenny Loughran, M Jolly, Shonad McDermott and Matt Keenan from the UK.

PAST PVs

We were delighted to welcome a number of past pvs to APK in the autumn, as well as two committee members. On 14th October, 2008, Marijn Leroy, PV from March 2006, paid a fleeting visit while on 16th October, Nayan Shukla, PV from 1988, came, renewing the many friendships he has made over the years.

On 17th October, Sarah Voaden, PV from October 2006, and her husband, Manoj Raghav from APK, came to stay in the village with family. On 18th October, Greg Parker, PV from February 2006, paid another very welcome visit to APK. On 19th October, we were happy to see Pawan Rawal, IVCS committee member, past resident of APK, now married to Kiran Patel, (PV from October 1999).

On 1st November, Samta Patel, PV from September 2004, paid a return visit. She was accompanied by her friend, Sushma, on her first visit to a U.P. village, as well as Pushpa Devi, ex-pv co-ordinator, now studying and working in London and a member of the IVCS Executive Committee. On 2nd November, Bronwen Mason, PV from 1975, paid her first return visit to India and APK after 33 years!! In February, two past pvs from January 2008 – Paul Bradley and Steve Ostrowski – came to visit. A month later, Danny Ashton, pv from November 2008, also paid a return visit while Jenny Loughran, pv from February 2009, returned for a week at the end of May.

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.

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. The next phase of the programme is now in force. Under this phase, Mukat Singh and Adil Husain are working on the Advisory Committees of districts of Moradabad, Bijnor, J P Nagar and Ram Pur.

Aaroh – a campaign for the Rights of Women Farmers

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

NEW HEALTH CENTRE

The building of the new clinic is now complete. A laboratory technician and a cleaner have been appointed. Two blood pressure machines, one stethoscope, two weighing machines, one sugar monitor, a nabiliser and some furniture have been bought.

A homeopathic doctor came from Moradabad every Tuesday to attend the clinic.

We are now in touch with qualified, experienced doctors from the nearby towns and negotiating with them to give one day a month to the clinic.

FREE HEALTH CAMP FOR WOMEN

On Sunday 19th April, six lady doctors and consultants came from the Moradabad branch of FOGSI (Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecology India) to talk to local village women and give free advice and examinations. They were: Dr Nina Mohan, Dr Usha Singh, Dr Ritu Khanna, Dr Shashi Mohan, Dr Uma Varthwal and Dr Usha Tandon.

Although the weather on the day was very hot with strong dusty winds, 75 women from 6 nearby villages (Amarpurkashi, Shah Pur, Safeel Pur, Shamas Pur, Deori and Vijai Pur) took advantage of this opportunity. The camp was so successful that the doctors have offered to make it a regular event.

YOGA AT APK

Yog Rishi Swami Ram Dev of Patanjali Yog Peeth, Haridwar, has now become widely known both at home and abroad. He has regular programmes, morning and evening, on *Aastha* channel (807) on Sky in which he demonstrates a range of yoga poses and breathing exercises. He also promotes a healthy diet, ayurvedic medicines and a simple lifestyle.

He has set up a university devoted to yoga at Haridwar with branches in the USA and UK. More recently, he has extended his work to include a campaign against corruption and pollution.

At APK, Mukat Singh and two of the intercollege lecturers (Satya Pal Singh and Shishu Pal Singh) have joined his campaign and been trained in yoga exercises. They aim to train more people locally and organise regular yoga sessions.

Free Eye Camp

On 7th December, 530 people from Amarpurkashi and the surrounding villages came to the new clinic to have their eyes examined. An eye doctor and his team were sent from the government eye hospital in Moradabad to examine patients. Free medicines were distributed and 39 villagers identified for cataract operations.

29 patients (17 women and 12 men) subsequently turned up for the operation. Because of stringent new regulations, we could not have the operations done in our health clinic so patients were taken to Bilari Community Hospital where our staff and graduate students looked after them both before and after the operation. The project provided food and transport. The transplantation of new lenses was successful in all cases.

A few months ago, there was a rash of post-operative disasters in some government eye hospitals and as a result, rules and regulations were tightened. This means that free eye camps now cost more than double what they used to. However, we naturally want the best for patients and will continue to offer these eye camps whenever funds are available.

Link Workers Programme on HIV/AIDS Awareness

NACO, the National Aids Control Organisation of the Government of India, with help from the UNDP, selected district Moradabad for a Link Workers Scheme, starting in Feb. 2008.

Plan International is the nodal agency for this programme in Uttar Pradesh. Our society has been selected by the Plan International to run this programme in the rural areas of Moradabad district.

Under this scheme, 148 staff members are at work, one half of these are women. One hundred villages each having population over 5000 have already been identified. Eleven more villages having high risk of HIV/AIDS have been added to these. All these identified villages are covered by 40 Link Workers under supervision of 3 female and one male staff. One male and one female District Resource Persons guide the whole programme and one M & E Officer oversees the work.

HOLI Celebration

On March 11th, the project campus was a place of riotous colour and a lot of very wet people!! Holi was, as usual, a totally over-the-top event, enjoyed by all those brave enough to venture outside their rooms and be soaked in bright pink, purple and green.

Next day, wearing clean clothes but still sporting strangely coloured hair and pink-tipped ears, pvs saw the traditional post-Holi *mela* or fair that takes place in the open ground by the market area. This year invitations were sent to nearby villages and many came with troupes that sang and danced the age-old Holi folk dances. The event proved a great success.

International Journal of Rural Studies (IJRS)

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) Seventh World Conference

255 participants registered for this highly successful event. They came from Britain, Australia, U.P., Bihar, Kerala, Maharashtra and Rajasthan. 24 became Life Members and 23 took out an annual subscription.

The theme for the seventh triennial conference was "Poverty, Politics and Power". Chief guest was Gregory Parker from Sydney, Australia. Greg first came to APK as a pv in February 2006. He gave an excellent, clear and well-planned opening speech which Mukat Singh translated into Hindi. Other key guests included Dr Shafiqur Rehman Burq, M.P. for Moradabad, Dr Banwari Lal Sharma from Allahabad, Ajit Kumar Singh from Bihar, Dr Naresh Jha from Bihar, Dr Dileep Kumar from M J P Rohilkhand University, Bareilly and Dr Anand Kumar from JNU, Delhi.

A new international co-ordinating committee was elected for 2008-2011. Jyoti Singh was re-elected international convenor and new state and regional co-ordinators were appointed. A workshop will be held in Delhi in February where a three-year action plan will be worked out.

At the end of the two days' conference, a common declaration was issued. The main focus was on empowering the rural poor, encouraging them to exercise their voting rights, to make full use of the "Right to Information" Act and to make an active stand against the invidious practice of dowries.

INTAF COMMITTEE MEETING

On Sunday, 1st March, the first meeting of the newly elected International Co-ordinating Committee was held at the offices of *Chandrika Social Upliftment and Rural Development Society* in the village of Jamhor, Bihar. The meeting was hosted by Ajit Kumar Singh who is secretary of *Chandrika* and Bihar state convenor for INTAF.

The aim of the meeting was to formulate a three-year action plan and this was successfully achieved.

Acknowledgements

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