Annual- Cum- Activity Report "2024-25
Shreya Vikas Seva Sansthan

Message from the Secretary!

This year has seen ***Shreya Vikas Seva Sansthan***, Hariharpur, Hajipur, Bihar made a significant progress towards moving from a start-up organisation to one which is achieving its goals of making a difference to the lives of those in rural areas, we aim to help. The building blocks which were put in place in the previous year positioned ***Shreya*** well to move forward despite the inclement economic climate.

Next year we shall continue to work in collaboration with our local Commercial bank, as well as our own small directly-managed operations in Bihar. In all our work we will focus on making a social impact so that we help communities in operational Areas to rise out of poverty.

I would like to thank our Well wishers, Donors, Nationalised Banks, Gramin Banks and all our supervisors for their tireless efforts to fulfil our objectives, and position *Shreya* as a successful, transparent and ambitious organisation.

Santosh Kumar
Secretary

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This 2nd Annual Report of **Shreya Vikas Seva Santhan** a grass root level organisation, established in 2022, provides a comprehensive overview of the organization's activities, performance, and impact. It details its outreach to beneficiaries, and its contribution to financial inclusion. The report also highlights the organisation initiatives in promoting financial literacy, building sustainable financial practices, and addressing challenges in the Micro Credit. Ultimately aiming to create a more inclusive and equitable society where everyone has the opportunity to participate in the financial system and improve their lives.

Women constitute almost half of the total population, majority of them are living in remote rural areas facing heavy burden of poverty. They are the most vulnerable and deprived segment of the society. For meaningful and sustainable economic development women participation in economic activities is equally important as men. Availability of economic opportunities for women are limited in rural area as a result their participation in integrated economic development is also limited. To make them active participant of development there is need of proper initiatives. **Shreya Vikas Seva Sansthan** has initiating Joint Liabilities Group Formation and Linkages Activities and operating in the remote and isolated areas of Bihar since 2022.

We are serving low-income households, micro-entrepreneurs, women, and other vulnerable groups in remote and unreached areas, who lack access to traditional financial services. These groups often have limited formal financial records, making it difficult for them to access mainstream banking products.

Achievement

As a small organisation, our key achievements in the last year were, successfully expanding our outreach to underserved communities in Bihar, we've also focused on empowering women through micro-lending, helping them start and grow their own businesses. A notable success is our ability to maintain a high repayment rate, demonstrating the effectiveness of our lending practices.

Expanded Outreach:

This reporting year, as a small Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), we have expended our outreach in other adjoining districts of Bihar i.e. Muzaffarpur, Saran, Begusarai, Patna and Ara apart from Vaishali by nurturing & leveraging Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) to reach more individuals, particularly landless and tenant farmers. JLGs provide credit support for these individuals, facilitating micro-loans and increasing financial inclusion.

Challenges faced:

Limited access of capital and credit linkages by Nationalised/Garmin Banks for credit services to unnerved community groups is the major challenges faced during the last financial year, as JLGs primarily rely on bank loans, government funding, and private investments. We are trying to reach our client with our limited fund. Few Nationalised/Garmin banks in the area has shown interest and started linking our JLGs formed in the operational areas and opening their accounts for credit linking. For a small organisation like us, unit transactions costs are particularly high.

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Financial Performance:

- **Number of JLGs Formed** : 315
- **Number of active clients** : 612
- **Total loan volume disbursed**: INR 177 Lakhs trough Bank and INR 045 Lakhs form own / Loan Fund.
- **Loan repayment rates: 100% (** As per Bank Norm)
- **Non-performing asset (NPA) Less than 0.002%**

Revenue and Expenses:

- **Sources of funding** (Bank Linkages. Corpus, Personal, donations, interest income and Service Charges, etc.)
- **Operational expenses** (salaries, overheads, etc.)

Loan Monitoring:

A mobile based App platform designed for keeping data and record related to Village Savings and Loans Associations (JLGs). It offers affordability, ease of use, and cloud-based accessibility, eliminating the need for maintenance and ensuring automatic updates. Tailored to the specific needs of Small size organization,

is fully optimized for mobile use through Server. It digitizes all aspects of credit, risk, and portfolio management, allowing users to manage their protfolio entirely from their mobile through software solutions.

Future Plans:

Strategic Goals for the Next Year:

- **Expansion of operations to new areas**: Expanding into new areas will involves strategic diversification and adaptation to meet evolving needs in the rural clients. This will include geographical expansion, offering new financial products, leveraging digital technologies, and focusing on specific underserved populations in the operational area.

- **Development of new products and services**: The integrated approach followed by **Shreya Vikas Sanstan** is beautifully working and the customers are really happy to be associated with the organization. **SVS** practices a decent method in terms of product planning and development. Even after being a very small organization, it adopts the process all most similar to the typical product development process with a few deviations. The different financial and non financial services we deliver, match with the need and expectation of the customer, which helps in building a stronger level of trust with the local community. As we are working with the community in those particular areas, we know their needs very well. Depending on the changing scenario, we will come up of the new ideas about product development and product planning with Local Bank requirements.

- **Improvement of Operational efficiency and Impact**: In our operation areas, in future, we will continue our efforts to nurture & provide loan to JLGs and Individuals in our microcredit operations. At present it does not include savings, insurance or transfer payments. In rural areas, these services are required now a day. We will try to link them with local banks for their financial and other needs. We will also try to associate with NABARD and other Financial Institutions for better services and other need. Recognising the potential of rural population as crucial microcredit client, through their skill building and active involvement, these small Loans will have a greater impact and foster responsible behaviour that can spread to other low income household and help them to become more knowledgeable and engaged as a potential client.

Women's collective empowerment through JLGs – A few Success Stories that transformed lives

We would like to share a few Success stories of financial inclusion and women empowerment through some life-changing real-life success stories in our operational areas.

Four members formed a JLG group, took loan of Rs. 75000/- form the organization, the members- were Mrs. Nashima Khatun, Mrs. Naziya, Mrs. Rukhshar, and Mrs. Rukiya. This group purchased 16 Black Bangal goats. To protect these goats from all kinds of weather conditions they installed an ingenious shed made of bamboo and other sustainable materials. The average weight of each Black Bangal goat substantially increased to 10-15 kgs after one year. Each year these women collectively sold 4-6 goats and

Figure 1 Nashima devi with her goat

earned up to ₹40,000 by rearing these goats for both milk and meat. With this JLG group, they have successfully become financially self-reliant, and with their new income, they were able to alleviate themselves from the shackles of poverty.

Another JLG, a group of 5 women started Tailoring & Boutique activities with a range of options from Dresses, Petticoat, blouses, Nightees for the local people and clothing stores. They took a loan of ₹ 1,00,000 and agreed to pay a sum of ₹4,500 every month. Each member worked Hard and earned an

Figure 2 Punam Devi, Lalganj, Hazipur (Tulshi Ladies Palour)

average of ₹10,000. This is another success story that conveys that with its modest financial support rural women can

Overcome their circumstances and improve their financial situation by collaborating and forming a JLG group. Challenges such as access to credit, market access, and the need for further infrastructure development can impact the growth of these activities.

Another, JLG was formed in Hazipur in Raghopur Reverine bellt with small holder's women farmers, with a group of 4 people. They started cultivating Vegetables in their small land .They purchase hybrid vegetable seeds from Krishi Kendra and prefer growing

hybrid varieties over indigenous as they could get more yield. Shreya Vikas Sansthan regularly visit the farms and provide necessary suggestions. They carry out inorganic farming practices as they are mainly focused on marketing larger quantity of produce. Labour cost is high for the pandal system of cultivation, but they feel when JLG members join labourers in cultivation, it is done more efficiently. They used to sell their produce through collective sale. They produce 1500 kgs of vegetables in seasion. Due to floods in the previous year, they got fewer yields and their profit was 0.80 lakhs. Prior to the floods, their revenue was more per year from 4 acres. They have proved that agriculture is a profitable enterprise when carried out collectively with passion. A modest loan from their JLG group just was able to transform their lives for the better, making them financially self-reliant. Their success inspires other women and encourages them to consider farming as a viable livelihood option.

Another Successful story on Dairy Entrepreneur

In rural areas, livestock plays a multifaceted role in providing draught power to the farm, manure for crops, and energy for cooking and food for household consumption as well as creates rural employment and improves rural economy. Women play an important role in dairy farming sector. Look after the

livestock farming practices besides their day-to-day household chores. This is a story of **Mrs. Kusuma Devi from Gopalpur** village of Bidupur block of Hajipur. She has addressed the challenge of poverty and proper nourishment of children and family by serving the cow. In the year 2024, she approached **Shreya**'s Coordinator for loan for purchase of few more cows. After due diligence and other formalities, she was granted a loan of

Figure 3 Kusuma Devi With Her Products

Rs.50,000 by the organisation for establishing a mini dairy. She, Purchased 3 cross breed cows and slowly grew the herd to 6 cross bred cows by the end of 2024. Starting with single cross bred cow, she has now a well managed unit with an average daily milk yield of 50 litres. **Kusuma** was involved in her father's cattle trade business, accompanying him to the Local Market. Slowly she learned to identify high-quality milking Cow, negotiate prices, and understand the nuances of the cattle trade. Armed with her knowledge and a strong work ethic, Kusuma started her own dairy business with Cross breed Cows, handling the milking herself and selling the milk and milk product (Paneer & Cream) to a local dairy Market. With about 50 litres of milk for value addition, she produces about 6-7 kg paneer and 2.5 kg of Cream per day fetching her Rs 2000-2500 per day. With a gross income of about Rs 4000 per day and a net income of over Rs. 2000 per day, she has also motivated other Women in village and neighbouring village also.

Conclusion

When no banks were providing loans for small-scale Activities, we tried to support them with our limited resources to these members and provided collateral-free small loans to low-income families, elevating them from poverty and transforming their world. Above cited success stories reiterate the importance of JLG Micro Credit and exemplify the transformative power of these JLG units in the sector. These are just few JLGs amongst the umpteen other stories that helped rural women across our operational areas to live financially independent lives upholding their self-esteem intact. Through continuous support and

investment in these initiatives, we can catalyze a more financially inclusive future for rural women in our operational areas. We solicit your support to upscale our endeavor for financial inclusion of

Other Program Highlights:

Figure 4 Women Day Function at Office

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Figure Environment Day Function in School

Figure 6 Financial Inclusion Training to JLG Members

Figure 7 Children Participation Republic day

Figure 8 Loan Disbursement at Bank

Rural women, with low-income households, and the often tiny businesses they manage are all too often starved of finance in Rural Areas. Most formal financial institutions view them as high risk and high cost, as the transactions are often small and the clients in hard-to-reach locations. We will continue our journey to serve these poor class– **Santosh Kumar**, **Secretary, Shreya Vikas Seva Sansthan**

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