

GRAM BHARATI SAMITI (GBS)

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Background of GBS

Gram Bharati Samiti was registered on 28 July 1984 at Jaipur, Rajasthan India for rural development with a mission of “Establishing a society based on humanitarian, democratic values and ecologically balanced habitat”. It has been registered for exemption from income tax under section 80G and 12A.

GBS has got special consultative status with United Nations Economical and Social Council (ECOSOC). Mr. Bhawani Shanker Kusum, Ex-President, GBS has served as NGO Delegate for Asia Pacific in the UNAIDS Program Coordinating Board (PCB) for 2 years ending on December, 2007, NGO Observer for Asia Pacific in the Clean Technology Fund (CTF) Committee of the World Bank for 2 years i.e. 2009-2011 and CSO Panel member for Asia in the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) for 2 years i.e. 2016-17.

Mission

To organize people, increase their level of awareness and capacity enabling them to exert for their fundamental rights, participate in decision-making process and exercise control over their lives and natural resources. To uplift the level of living of poor people, particularly the rural and tribal communities and specifically the women by making them economically self reliant is the mission of GBS.

Objectives

GBS objective is protection and improvement of environment by conserving natural resources i.e. land, water, soil, agro ecology and forests. Focus of GBS work has mainly been on restoring waste, infertile, sandy and degraded lands in the arid zone of India in consultation and collaboration with local village communities, particularly the women and youth.

Structure

There is a General Council (GC) consisting 34 members which elects every 3 years an Executive Committee (EC) of 11 members including President, Vice President, Secretary, Joint Secretary and Assistant Secretary. The Secretary, in consultation with the EC, recruits staff personnel to implement programs and activities, gets the statements of expenditure of previous year approved and sanction for programs and budget estimates for the next year.

Staff profile: Permanent – 6, Temporary – 04, Volunteers - 30

International Collaborations

- AmFAR, USA
- The British ODA (DFID), U.K.
- The Mac Arthur Foundation, USA
- Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation, U.S.A.
- AHPSR (WHO), Geneva
- World AIDS Foundation, France
- Mercury Phoenix Trust, U.K.
- HIVOS, The Netherlands
- Intersect Worldwide, USA
- Youth Incentives, The Netherlands
- Australian High Commission, New Delhi
- Embassy of Germany, New Delhi
- The Peace Stone Foundation, Japan
- Art Venture, Singapore
- The Mitsui & Co., Japan
- FK Exchange, Norway
- Help Self Help in Rajasthan (HSHR), Germany
- The Runnebaum Foundation, Germany
- AVACLIM, CARI, France

Affiliations

- a. **Intersect Worldwide** (www.intersect-worldwide.org) b. **RIOD** c. **HSHR** (<http://hsh-rajasthan.de>) d. **Drynet** (www.dry-net.org)

Proposal description

Coordination, collaborative efforts, capacity building and sensitization, transparency, and empowering local leadership are the key parameters of GBS related to the framework to transform communities and systems

- a) GBS formed 710 Self Help Groups (SHG) with 7,000 rural women in 52 villages, provided 230 with vocational training in different trades. Two hundred of them have established their own household units and are earning livelihood sustainably. In this model, GBS adopted capacity building of women through regular meetings and interactions.
- b) In 2004, GBS joined Intersect Worldwide to form the Rajasthan Intersect Coalition for prevention of HIV/AIDS and violence against women, collaborating with over 27 NGOs in Rajasthan involving 210 NGOs/CBOs working on HIV/AIDS across 15 states of India, supported by UNAIDS. GBS adopted transparency, credibility and accountability concepts for good results.
- c) Avaclim (Agro Ecology) This initiative is a reflection of the coordination and collective participation of CSOs. In this approach GBS took initiation to coordinate with CSOs working on agro ecology. Took the support of Vaagdhara and GVS in North and Southern parts of the country.

How is your work accountable to the communities that you serve?

1. **FORMAL MEETINGS:** Open meetings were the major source of receiving the feedback and reflections of the stakeholders with 100% transparency. This has helped GBS and also for the improvement of the programs from time to time
2. **Questionnaires:** For every program GBS has been implementing a strategy to gather feedback either in written form or oral form with reference to a pre designed questionnaire based on

the objectives of the project. Timely feedback helped to take need based and appropriate steps to enhance the quality of the programs

3. Website and social media: Contact details including mobile number of the organization, key personnel, whatsapp number, email and social media was accessible to all the stakeholders to share their reflections at any point of time. Thus the inputs received were reviewed from time to time to take necessary decisions for the benefit of the beneficiaries and the program at large.
4. Online meetings: Covid gave an opportunity to use virtual platform to interact, discuss, share and take feedbacks. Required sessions were planned to take the feedback from various source such as partners, stakeholders, donors, government departments...etc.
5. Feedback from the donors: GBS is always open for any critical comments shared by the donors in view of the program improvement.
6. Random meetings and phone calls: GBS has been implementing this strategy to take the realistic feedback. The received inputs will be reviewed and if found true then necessary corrective actions were taken.

Thus, GBS has been adopting 360 degree feedback mechanism in the last 40 years with reference to the above captioned events and as an organization is willing to learn, un learn and relearn for the success of the program/project.

What 3 organizations are essential to the success of your work (can be local, national, international, etc.)?

- 1) **RIOD**: Land degradation and desertification
- 2) **HSHR**: Youth training camps, women health care services, vocational training and non formal education
- 3) **Drynet**: Land Degradation, Drought and Desertification

Describe the overall experience and backgrounds of your organization's leadership and staff.(in approximately 1000 characters)

- a) Kusum Lata Jain, Secretary, M.A. in Sociology and Public Administration. She is passionate social development professional, visited 10 countries to participate in International conferences, workshops, training etc and did commendable work in stepwells, social forestry, and women empowerment.
- b) Dr Dharmender Nadimetla, Program Director, MSc, CIT(UNESCO) PhD in Psychology. He possess 16 years of passionate and accomplished experience in administration, leadership with focussed expertise on women empowerment, Natural resource management, agro ecology, capacity building sessions to youth and women,

and, content writing. Visited 10 countries and received national and internal awards and recognitions.

- c) Ramchandra Saini, Office administration, MCA and LLB, He is associated with GBS for the last 16 years. He was closely associated with the late founder president Bhavani Shanker and has good comprehensive understanding about all the activities undertaken by GBS.
- d) Dr Pradeep Pagaria, PhD in Agriculture is the scientific advisor on agriculture related topics.

Describe the overall diversity of your organization's leadership and staff.

- a) GBS is pleased to have 12 passionate individuals as staff. Wherein 6 are men and 6 are women. They all belong to Other backward caste.
- b) There are 30 volunteers who belong to adivasi and OBC community
- c) The leadership team has 11 members., 5 are women and 6 are men. 7 of them belongs to general category, 3 other backward caste and one from Scheduled caste.

Approximate annual organizational expenses.

GBS has the following tentative expenses every month:

- a) Monthly Salaries to 12 employees which will be on an average of **3000USD**
- b) Voluntary services payments will be in the range of **USD 4000**
- c) Administrative charges expected to be around **USD 650**
- d) Office expenses like travel, electricity, internet, documentation, reporting: **USD 1000**
- e) Expert services payment: **USD 350**
- f) Travel and logistics: **USD 500**
- g) Per diem payments to the participants: **USD 1837**
- h) Photography and videography expenses: **USD 550**
- i) Printing charges: **USD 425**
- j) Advocacy payments: **USD 550**
- k) Venue, food, team and other logistics for training programs: **USD 7350**
- l) Printing materials related to stakeholders awareness: **USD 2560**

Dr. Monika Boehm-Tettelbach

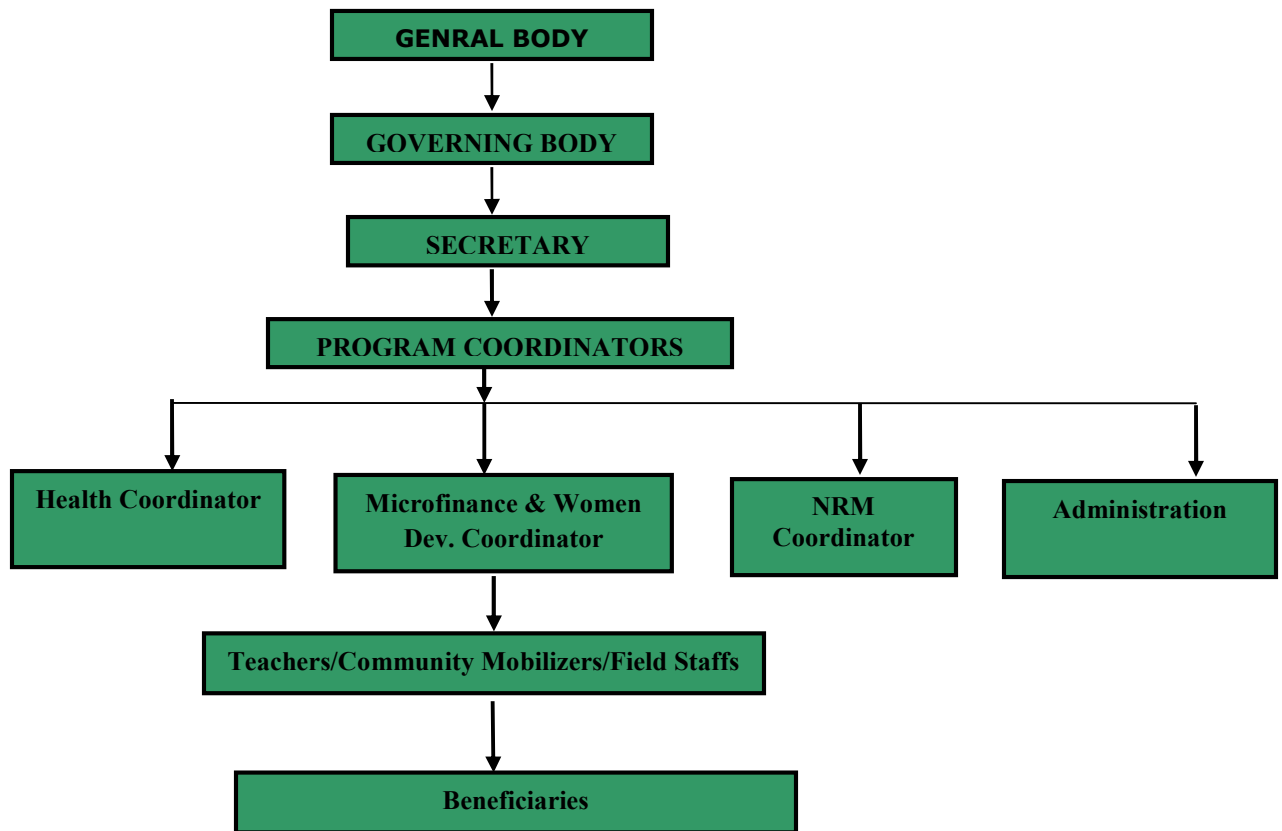
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Organogram



ANNEXURE_A

Major accomplishments

HIV/AIDS

GBS being first NGO initiated in this field in Rajasthan in 1991 with a survey conducted in 10 districts continued intervention on prevention, treatment, care and support for the Tribal communities traditionally involved in sex work, migrant populations and youth. Programs GBS implemented for the tribal communities in sex work included non formal education for the children safe drinking water and health care through an Outreach Medical Unit. Over 10,000 tribal/rural people were benefitted with this program.

Environment

Implemented a model project on wasteland development named 'GANDHIVAN' in village Todaladi of district Jaipur by planting over 80,000 trees of various species of fuel, fodder, fruits, timber and flower, developing rain water harvesting structures, stabilizing sand dunes, conserving soil and moisture successfully etc. The project was recognized widely and conferred with following awards and appreciations:

- Van Vistarak Puraskar, by the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of Rajasthan
- Ford Conservation and Environment Award by the Ford India Co.
- Indira Priyadarshini Vrikshamitra Puraskar by the MoE&F, Government of India
- UNDP included the project in the success stories of wastelands development
- The SAARC delegation called it a model projects on wastelands development
- Jannalal Bajaj Award for Constructive Work in 2019

Women's empowerment

GBS has formed 710 Self Help Groups (SHG) involving over 7,000 rural women in 52 villages, provided 230 with vocational training in different trades .e. weaving carpet and durry (cotton mats), making shoes and bangles, dairy, embroidery, polishing jewels etc. Two hundred of them have established their own household units and are earning livelihood sustainably. Kusum Lata Jain, Secretary, GBS was conferred with Award for '**Women's Creativity in Rural Life**' (**Giving hope to the helpless**) by Women's World Summit Foundation, Geneva on performing outstanding work for welfare of the rural women. '**Mahila Shakti Puraskar**' (**Women's Power Award**) given by the Ministry of Women and Children's Development, Government of Rajasthan on 8th March, 2019 on the occasion of 'World Women's Day'.

Nourished Food for Orphan Children and Widow Women

Gram Bharati Samiti has been working for providing Free Nourished Food and other necessary amenities (Education, Health Awareness, Free Medicines etc.) for destitute, abandoned children and widow women of the society from last 15 years.

Our objectives:

- To ensure children continue to receive nutritious food
- To boost immunity and health of children
- To ensure basic hygiene needs are met

Currently, we are distributing free nourished food grocery Kits to 200 Children and widow women beneficiaries in Block Jamwaramgarh and Amber of Jaipur District by monthly. We aim to reach our beneficiaries in other locations soon in a phase-wise manner. Alongside, GBS aims at countering malnutrition and supporting the right to education of socio-economically disadvantaged children.

COVID19

- Producing and distributing low cost washable masks according to the guidelines of WHO etc. are being carried out regularly.
- Distributing food packets among 1000 to 1500 families both times every day during the lockdown
- Gives food to birds every day
- Distributing grocery kits and clothes to poor families and migrants workers

Restoration of cultural heritage of Step wells

For the past 500 to 1,500 years, step wells have been an integral part of Indian communities, being the sites for drinking, washing and bathing, as well as for festivals and sacred rituals. With unfortunate destruction of these step wells not only a sustainable source of safe drinking water for the village communities, but their cultural heritage was lost. GBS has restored seven ancient step wells including Boharaji ki Bawari, in village Khawarani, Bagichiwali Bawari in village Bhanpur, Balajiki Bawari in village Bhanpur, Banjaron ki Bawari in village Thali and Chuli Bawari in village Sarjoli in district Jaipur, Gopinathji ki Bawari in village Tehla in district Alwar and Sayyed ki Bawari, Dhularaoji, Jamwaramgarh.
