



Seva Mandir



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# Seva Mandir

T R A N S F O R M I N G L I V E S

# Our Mission

Seva Mandir's mission is to make real the idea of society consisting of free and equal citizens who are able to come together and solve the problems that affect them in their particular contexts. This commitment is to work for a paradigm of development and governance that is democratic and polyarchic. Seva Mandir seeks to institutionalize the idea that development and governance should not just be left to the state and its formal bodies, such as the legislature and the bureaucracy, but that citizens and their associations should engage separately and jointly with the state.

The mission, briefly, is to construct the conditions in which citizens of plural backgrounds and perspectives can come together to benefit and empower the least advantaged in society.

Dr Mohan Sinha Mehta  
Founder, Seva Mandir  
(1895-1985)



'Where there is sorrow,  
where there is poverty and oppression,  
where man is inhuman to man,  
where there is darkness of ignorance,  
it is here Seva Mandir must reach out.'

**Our Founder**





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# President's Foreword



## Janat Shah

President - Seva Mandir

The start of this new chapter for Seva Mandir has also been marked with a change in leadership. Priyanka Singh and Ajay Mehta stepped down as Chief Executive and President respectively, and have handed on the baton of responsibility to Ronak Shah and myself.

**Seva Mandir** has entered the next chapter of its journey. Last year, we reflected on the past 50 years of working with and empowering the rural communities in southern Rajasthan, and on our own growth as an organisation. Now, we have taken our first steps into the next 50 years and we continue to be as determined as we always have been to overcome new and existing challenges. The organisation's philosophy of inclusive participatory development will continue to shape the work that we do with communities.

This year, we have seen evidence of the critically important role that Village Institutions have in communities. **A 3-year study conducted by Dr. Raj M. Desai of Georgetown University, USA and Dr. Anders Olofsgard of the Stockholm School of Economics, Sweden** showed the incredible positive impacts Village Institutions have on natural resources, conflict management, public goods access and grievance redressal, women empowerment and social relations among communities.

Village Institutions bring together all members of society, regardless of gender, age, caste, class or religion. This study shows that when we put aside our prejudices and come together for the collective good, we can truly effect monumental positive change.

Climate change is one of humanities greatest threats. It is, however, important to realise that it affects people differently

across the globe, especially those who live in poverty. This year, Seva Mandir has deepened its efforts to mitigate the effects of the climate crisis in southern Rajasthan by increasing work on natural resource development and on regenerating and protecting common lands. We have reached nearly 40,000 families through the strengthening of natural resources. We also celebrated the crossing of one million trees planted with the support of MakeMyTrip.

Seva Mandir works with many fantastic donors and this year we have welcomed new partners. Whether corporate, institutional or individual, your support not only provides us with the means to undertake our projects and programmes but fills us with pride.

As we have learnt, it takes collective action from all members of society to beat some of the deepest and toughest challenges communities face. I thank all of our supporters for your continued support and belief in Seva Mandir, our work and in the communities of southern Rajasthan.

The start of this new chapter for Seva Mandir has also been marked with a change in leadership. Priyanka Singh and Ajay Mehta stepped down as Chief Executive and President respectively, and have handed on the baton of responsibility to Ronak Shah and myself. I'm extremely grateful to be given such a prestigious opportunity to be president of Seva Mandir and I would like to express my deep thanks to both Priyanka and Ajay for their incredible dedication and visionary work during their tenure.

The legacy of our founder Dr. Mehta and the principles he built the organisation around form the bedrock of our work. Ronak and I are proud to continue implementing these principles and promoting inclusivity, collaboration and participation in Seva Mandir, with our staff and in the communities we work with.

**Janat Shah**

President

Friends,

Seva Mandir has crossed the milestone of 50 years and now continues its onward journey. Our continued yatra will see fresh challenges faced and issues solved, new geographies explored and more members join Seva Mandir's family. The organisation's values and culture will steer us in our onward journey and continue to unify us in our mission to improve lives and strengthen communities.

## Ronak Shah

Chief Executive



# Overview

There have been times when our values have been questioned or put to the test. The organisation has had the courage to acknowledge these challenges transparently and address them openly amongst our stakeholders.

This year, at the conclusion of the 50th year, our team prepared an exhibition to portray the values and culture of the organisation. The abstract concepts of mutual respect, dignity and others were showcased through objects, stories, videos and models that the team members and communities have internalised in their professional and everyday lives. It was a memorable expression.

In rural southern Rajasthan, access to quality and affordable healthcare remains a challenge. For many years Seva Mandir ran a clinic in Kojawada village which was the only reliable and affordable place for the community to receive professional treatment for primary diseases (which constitute the majority of illnesses). Unfortunately, due to the lack of in-house doctors, the centre was not able to provide consistent medical care.

This year, we partnered with Basic Healthcare Services (BHS), an organisation founded by two highly committed doctors who developed an innovative way to deliver primary healthcare in remote villages through their AMRIT Clinic model. The Seva Mandir



– AMRIT Clinic was opened at Kojawada in June and by end of the year had treated more than 3,700 patients.

Delwara town continues to provide important lessons of the relationships between society, citizens and democracy. During the last year, we experienced a major conflict around the Indrakund (a beautiful historic stepwell) which created differences and fragmentation amongst the local stakeholders.

Seva Mandir's long belief of dialogue once again proved to be the tool to resolve the conflict. While all differences might not have been conversed until now, an agreement to work on the beautification of the well was reached and, by the end of this year, the activity was initiated. The many rounds of discussions will contribute to restoring the relationship eventually.

September 1st, 2018 was a day of much change. Both Ajay Singh Mehta (the President of Seva Mandir) and Priyanka Singh (the Chief Executive) stepped down from their posts. For any organisation, this can be a challenging time. However, the commitment and collective responsibility from the staff and the governing members made the transition smooth, fast and welcoming. Senior colleagues and those who have been here for many years, shouldered the responsibility of managing the transition.

Looking forward, we are transitioning into an exciting period for the organisation, which has a good hand of experienced and young members, committed to the transformation of communities.

I am thankful to Priyanka Singh for handing me the baton when the organisation has the room and scope to take on new fronts, both in scale and depth.

**Ronak Shah**

Chief Executive



# Strengthening Village Institutions

Seva Mandir undertakes all work at grass-root levels through community institutions called Gram Samuhs (GSs) or village groups, of which households of a village or its hamlets can be members. The groups are formed and facilitated by Seva Mandir to be the primary platforms for discussion and decision-making.

The samuh members democratically elect the Gram Vikas Committee (GVC, or village development committee), which has equal representation of men, women and children and of all hamlets and community groups within the village. Each committee also manages a village fund, known as the Gram Vikas Kosh (GVK), which is built up through villagers' contributions.

To further empower the Gram Samuhs and spread the impact of local-level self-governance, the committees have been amalgamated into federations, which are multi-layered, self-governing community institutions created by Seva Mandir to address larger-scale issues.

The village institution program continued to provide the institutional back up to all of Seva Mandir's activities. This year, the programme concentrated on two main activities; a) -strengthening federations for sustaining community development activities, and b) anchor the new phase of community action through satyagraha and non-cooperation.

## Village Institution

Seva Mandir has extended its outreach to 14 new locations and regions. Most of these groups are situated in new regions like Panarwa and Charbhujia where the villages are deprived of village development works. In total, our working area is spread across 213 Gram Panchayats in 15 Panchayat Samitis of 2 districts – Udaipur and Rajsamand. Total increase in the membership this year is 1,512 (new households).

## Village Cohesion Index

Village Cohesion Index (VCI) is used as a tool for evaluating the cohesiveness and performance of the village institutions in four areas: participation, leadership, resources and management.

During this period, VCI was conducted for 107 GVCs, and most of the gram samuhs that undertook VCI were found to be performing on the average level. A comparison of performance and VCI of 23 groups in a period of three years showed that the groups were progressing, but performance was correlating with active interventions in the community.

It was found that 10 groups were consistent on their grades (A or B). Many groups in Kumbhalgarh rose from B to A+, as various community level activities contributed in building strength in all four parameters of the index 6 groups dropped from their last grades, where the community level activities reduced which can bring people together to dialogue more.

## Village Development

### Fund (GVK)

The fund across 668 Gram Vikas Koshs was Rs. 74,975,870 by end of this year. 64% of the total fund is under fixed deposits. There was a net growth of Rs.8,186,657 this year in village development funds. 38% of the growth in the fund came from the interest earned from banks while the remaining came from the contribution made by the community through the development activities.

The villages continued to invest their fund prudently and use the interest earnings for collective good. During the year, a total Rs.21,65,900 was utilised by 179 village groups from their village funds as direct usage as well as revolving fund. Out of this, Rs.755,900 was used as a part of community ownership of resources, wherein major part was used for the maintenance of common property resources. Rs 14,10,000 was used for agriculture produce aggregation in 18 villages.

Most of this is as result of ongoing physical projects as well as FD interest earned this year.

 Around 38% of the total income i.e. Rs.30,85,170 came from interest earned on FDs and savings.

 Another major source was work done under NRM activities in Kumbhalgarh and Badgaon where the total income is around Rs.20,28,054 which is around 25%.

In addition to the cash contribution in village development funds, the contribution from communities was given through labour. 96 village groups contributed labour of value of Rs.2,025,470 as Shramdaan (voluntary labour contribution) for the common assets and natural resources.

The government scheme volunteers were able to leverage benefits from the government schemes for 3,610 beneficiaries. The benefit that will be availed in the coming year by these beneficiaries will be around Rs.12.48 crores. Along with that,17 village groups submitted 25 proposals of drinking water, pastureland development, community forest rights, AWC, road and toilet construction.

The records of 455 village institutions were audited in this year. The social audit was also introduced as part of our regular audits from this period. Under social audits, 12 assets from 11 village groups were evaluated jointly by the members of village institutions. At most places, the records were adequately maintained and the rules for proper usage and maintenance of the assets were made. At a few locations, the records were not properly maintained due to a lack of follow-up on the upkeep. This is being resolved through meetings and orientation of the committees.

## Federations

The federations, both at zonal and block level, worked on the social as well as financial matters on their members. They liaison with the local government departments and with other non-government agencies to arrange the support in relation to the matters. The federation members supported and strengthened the member institutions and its committees in their regions, encouraging the leadership and spreading knowledge about government schemes. The federations played a key role in making the new villages understand the values and processes promoted by Seva Mandir.

28 federation leaders started supporting in conducting their re-elections, awareness, assisting in panchayat leveraging and government welfare schemes. They have provided guidance in SPI trainings, women GVC trainings, fund management workshops, panchayat linkages, government schemes etc.





By end this year, the total Zonal federations were 31, while the Block federations were 2. The committees of 2 Zonal federations were re-elected to change the leadership and improve their performance. In this period, 113 meetings of the federations were held where 4,887 federation members (45% females) participated.

The federation took up challenging problems that impacted larger number of communities.

In this year, 34 issues were raised by the federations related to clean drinking water, health, adolescent issues, child protection, education and corruption.

The federations also discussed on agriculture produce aggregation and community assets creation and maintenance. Other critical issues included improper implementation of government programmes like Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan, discrepancies by PDS and e-mitras, etc.

### FEDERATION ENSURED WATER SECURITY

During summers, many villages in Kherwara block were facing the issue of severe scarcity of drinking water. The issue was shared by respective committee members and discussed in the block federation meeting. Block federation, which is the highest hierarchy of local governance model of Seva Mandir and caters to the needs of more than 200 villages, took complete responsibility and conducted surveys in different villages to assess water scarce situations. Around 60 tasks in 20 villages came out that needed to be completed for removing severe water scarcity and were listed by the members.

These included repair and digging of handpumps, common wells, supply through tankers etc. The proposals were presented in Gram Panchayats and were requested for support. At the same time, a list of very urgent 15 proposals was also made and given to the Tehsil to get immediate support for the areas under severe water scarcity. As a result, half of the proposals (all urgent covered) were followed upon instantly by the respective Gram Panchayats within the same month and the rest were also completed later on. This has by far benefitted residents of around 20 villages which were facing extreme shortage of water.

## SEMLA VILLAGE LEADERS RESCUING CHILDREN FROM TRAFFICKING

Semla is a small village of Udaipur district in Rajasthan, located about 80 km from Udaipur city. The village has 59 families and literacy rate of 63%. Most families are small and marginal farmers, mainly dependant on agriculture and wage labour for livelihoods. Four children were taken away by a local agent to work as labor in BT cotton factory. The children were forbidden to tell anyone in the village not even their parents before going. When children went and could not be traced, the parents were very concerned over sudden disappearance of their children. Three children were regular students in school and left their studies.

The community were worried about the matter, as such cases had happened in the past, and children could not be traced. The village leaders and committee members started enquiring about the whereabouts of children. It was found from children's friends that the kids had gone to Gujarat with a man from nearby village who met the children in a marriage ceremony. The children were lured for earning more money for their family in a BT Cotton factory. The leaders traced the location and asked the trafficker to send the children back. When he constantly denied of his involvement in taking the children, the leaders decided to take legal route and warned him for the consequences. The trafficker got scared due to constant pressure and police action, and finally sent the children back.

These children are now back in school, however they still dread the conditions they had to live when taken away for work. They were made to do a lot of hard work and were beaten by their supervisors. They worked for eight days but weren't given any wages. The committee members persuaded the factory owner to pay for the work, and strictly forbidden them from engaging any child labour from their area. The community leaders are now working towards awareness creation for ensuring that no more children leave their schools under influence of child traffickers. They are committed to struggle other children who left school to work in BT cotton fields and factories in Gujarat.



## Capacity Building

55 capacity building events covering 2,906 participants (including 40% women and 4% children) from 505 village institutions were organised. The participants were trained on the roles and responsibilities of GVCs, management of funds, monitoring development activities in their villages, Panchayat liaison, record keeping, welfare schemes of government.

Furthermore, 10 trainings were conducted to increase the capacities of federation leaders. 88 awareness camps were conducted on common resource management, strengthening of village institutions, domestic violence, alcoholism, malnutrition, drinking water, etc. 4 exposure visits were organised for GVC and Federation members to learn agriculture produce aggregation and sanitation.

### Seva Mandir's presence in the villages

⌘ Gram Samuh	757
⌘ Gram Vikas Kosh	668
⌘ New GVCs Elected	19
⌘ New GVCs added this year	14
⌘ Re- elections conducted	86
⌘ Total membership	68,970





# Developing Natural Resources

Dependency of communities on natural resources like pastures, forests and water bodies, for their livelihoods is still large. These resources have been severely degrading mainly due to indiscriminate encroachments, over-use, deforestation and lack of management, to name a few.

The region has been experiencing increased variations in the local weather, which now brings In recent years, climatic variations e change has added to agricultural vulnerability. Exploitation and privatization of groundwater has also been high. Another critical emerging challenge observed is the

diversification of land use with productive land being increasingly used for other commercial and urbanization purposes.

Seva Mandir in this light, is continuing to contribute towards the development and strengthening of natural resources as well as promoting farm-based livelihood activities in order to mitigate and combat some of these pressing challenges that face the local communities today.

During this year a total of 39,500 families have been reached through the integrated intervention from the natural resource management programme



“A pastureland sustainability study observed that 68% of the developed pasturelands were properly managed, a reduction of 2% from the last year. This is primarily because boundary walls in the developed pastures were broken and livestock moved freely in the open, leading to poor productivity”





## Work on Common Lands

### Pastureland Development

The rejuvenation efforts of common pasture lands by Seva Mandir continued this year. Some of the activities undertaken in the year 2018 -19 with their outreach to benefitting households are mentioned below:

- Afforestation was done on 168 hectares of land with 25,727 plants with a survival rate of 80%. A total of 478 families were benefited.
- 69 hectares of community pastures and 2,200 numbers of plants have been re-planted under gap filling work. The overall survival rate is 87%.

A pastureland sustainability study observed that 68% of the developed pasturelands were properly managed, a reduction of 2% from the last year. This is primarily because boundary walls in the developed pastures were broken and livestock moved freely in the open, leading to poor productivity of the pastures. Discussions were held with the community on the repair and maintenance of their pastures.

The average productivity of grass this year was found to be 14 quintals per ha of land. On an average, each benefitting household harvested grass worth Rs.2,000 from the common lands.

### Work on Forests

The year 2018-19 was a significant year for Seva Mandir. After relentless efforts, 9 proposals of Community Forest Rights (CFR) from Jhadol block were sanctioned by the government. It has been a long struggle to obtain the legal rights on management of forests. This will enable 1,272 families in 9 villages have usage rights and ownership of 1,009 hectares of forest land. Further steps taken in the 9 villages:

- ⇒ Community forest rights resource committees (CFRRC) has been formed and have been endorsed in the Gram Sabha.
- ⇒ Consultations have been conducted with the community, revenue and forest department, panchayats and CFRRC to initiate making of the management plans. Village level survey has been under progress for the plans.



## Watershed Development

Seva Mandir undertakes watershed development activities to enhance the health of land and water as well as to aid agricultural productivity that in turn helps in strengthening livelihoods.

In this period, at 613 hectares benefiting 1,530 families was treated as the watershed approach. New initiatives were undertaken to create climate resilient communities, in which 338 families were registered to avail agro-advisory services from IFFCO Kisan (Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative) and value-added services in collaboration with NABARD was done in one watershed project.

Two of our major watershed projects in Majam and Kumbhalgarh ended this year. In a period of 3-4 years of watershed treatment, the groundwater level in Majam increased by 0.7 ft, while in Kumbhalgarh, the increase

went upto 23 ft. Both locations saw a rise of 20% in cultivable lands. The ratio of wasteland to total land was changed from 55:45 to 45:55. The overall crop productivity increased by 35%, which gave more food in the homes and for sale..

## Water Resource Development

During this year, work was done on 12 rainwater harvesting structures that benefitted 371 families, with a command irrigation area of 30 hectares through gravity flow. Of them, 7 new structures were constructed and 3 old were repaired. 4 new structures were constructed under the convergence with Rajasthan Jal Swavlamban Abhiyan. In addition, work on 1 arch dam and 1 pond that was initiated in last year was completed. The additional harvested water is benefiting 1,688 livestock. The potential for recharge was created for 89 wells.

## Livelihoods

Seva Mandir supports rural families through agriculture and allied activities in order to improve food security and livelihoods. The works with farmers to improve agricultural yields is done by promoting eco-friendly best practices, communal seed banks with improved crop varieties, diversified vegetable cultivation, and vermi-composting. Conducting health camps for livestock is also an integral component of our work.

During 2018-19, a total of 1,630 farmers were reached through various interventions in agriculture and livestock. This year, the efforts were increased on market linkages of produces with the Zone federations and Udaipur Urja Initiatives (UUI) that benefited 758 farmers.

### A. Agriculture

- ⊙ 1,477 farmers were reached through training and capacity building and production enhancement activities of the packages of best practices in grains, pulses and vegetables. With convergence with Department of Agriculture (GoR), food-grain crop (maize, wheat) and pulse (gram) seeds were provided to 160 farmers, worth Rs.2,72,000.
- ⊙ 1,379 farmers earned in total Rs.61.23 lakhs by selling different farm produces during this year through Seva Mandir's intervention.
- ⊙ A new initiative of Azolla cultivation with 8 farmers was undertaken to improve the feed quality for livestock and green manure in agricultural field. On an average, the farmers cultivated 2,110 kg of Azolla.
- ⊙ Cultivation of marigold and rose flowers on 11 hectares of land was conducted by 90

women farmers and had a production of 48,120 kg. On an average, a women farmer earned Rs.8,020 from floriculture.

- ⊙ 426 farmers have started fruit orchard plantation and planted 3,460 fruit plants of guava, lime, amla and pomegranate. The survival rate of the plants is 80%.

### B. Livestock

#### Backyard poultry:

- 429 families have constructed night shelters for their country-run chickens, which will benefit 6,463 birds to receive safe and appropriate protection.
- 4,988 birds were vaccinated in this reporting period in a quarterly cycle. The mortality rate of birds after the intervention has reduced to 8-12% compared from 30-40%. This year, the mortality rate of poultry due to Ranikhet disease was around 50% in the region, but in the intervention area, the mortality remained at 10%.
- As a result of the backyard poultry farming, a family on an average earns Rs.3,200 annually.



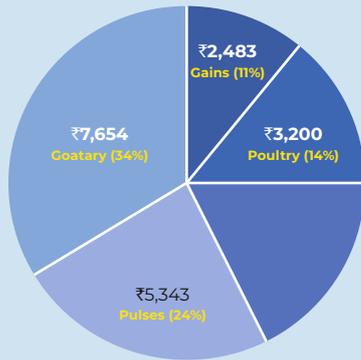


### Goatery:

- 👍 3 improved Sirohi breeds were introduced in Kumbhalgarh in 2017-18 to improve the breed of local goats. The results of the intervention were achieved in this reporting period. 135 female goats and 167 bucks got added benefiting 39 families.
- 👍 The total income generated by 39 families through this intervention was Rs. 2,98,500 and an average family earning was INR 7,654.

### Other activities:

- 👉 16 cattle health camps were organised to provide vaccination and health check-ups to 4,735 large and small ruminants.
- 👉 Efforts in livelihood intervention aim to increase the earning capacity of a family through comprehensive farm-based interventions on (a) grains (b) pulses (c) vegetables (d) poultry and (e) goatery. A family can earn an additional income in a range of Rs.2,500 to Rs.23,000 directly through engaging in one or more livelihood activities..

Assorted livelihood income basket  
(INR in average)

The figure shows the different sources of additional income for the farmers supported through our livelihood programme. It is important that each family engages in multiple farm-based activities to earn a decent income. Seva Mandir follows the strategy of integrated farming, supporting families for more activities.

## Training and Capacity Building

Seva Mandir conducts a variety of trainings and capacity building programs to promote best practices in agriculture and livestock management, afforestation, watershed management and climate change sensitization.

This year, 153 training and capacity building programs were conducted on diverse themes, including afforestation, watershed management, agriculture, backyard poultry, climate change sensitization, installation of automatic weather station and orchard maintenance. A total of 7,422 participants benefitted from these sessions, out of which 3,196 (43%) were women participants.

## EMPOWERMENT AND INCOME GO TOGETHER

Community development is about women like me and poor families being empowered to take their lives into the path of self-reliance”. - Tamli Bai (Translated).

Tamli Bai is a 38-year-old Bhil tribal woman from Beed Ki Bhagal Village in Kumbhalgarh block. She has three children in her family of five. Two of her children are pursuing education, while one is a farmer. Her husband is a farmer but “also migrates seasonally for wage labour. Her family owns a total land of 0.80 hectares.

Tamli's family is one of the many, which benefited from farm bunding, livelihood activity and irrigation work in her village. It all started in 2016, when the Gram Samuh in her village informed its members about planning the development of the existing private and community land and water resources. Tamli did not let this opportunity go. Since the beginning, she would regularly attend the Gram Samuh meetings held in her village, discuss her needs with the Samuh members and participate actively in the implementation of all activities under the project.

Tamli never imagined she could participate and be a decision maker in the development process of her community and family. Being a part of the women SHG helped her to find a common platform to raise issue and build her agency. Not only has she become more pronounced in raising issues in community forums, she also invests her time in reaping the optimum benefits from these interventions.

This year, Tamli could earn around Rs. 4000- 5000 every season from agriculture, totaling to Rs.23,200 new income from agriculture and livestock rearing.



# Clean Drinking Water and Sanitation

The lack of clean drinking water (CDW) and sanitation continues to be a serious problem in Seva Mandir's work area. Our main focus is on creating the access to appropriate and simple technology, helping establish usage and management norms at household and community level, and helping people change their behavior and practices regarding CDW and sanitation.

## Clean Drinking Water

Access to clean drinking water (CDW) remains a key challenge for most families in our geography. The availability of clean water for household consumption especially in

summers and monsoon become critical affecting the health and wellbeing of the people. Women and children in particular are most vulnerable and affected due to the scarcity of clean drinking water.

Seva Mandir's main technological interventions in improving access to CDW at household level are:



**Restoration of water sources**



**Construction of tanks and supply systems**

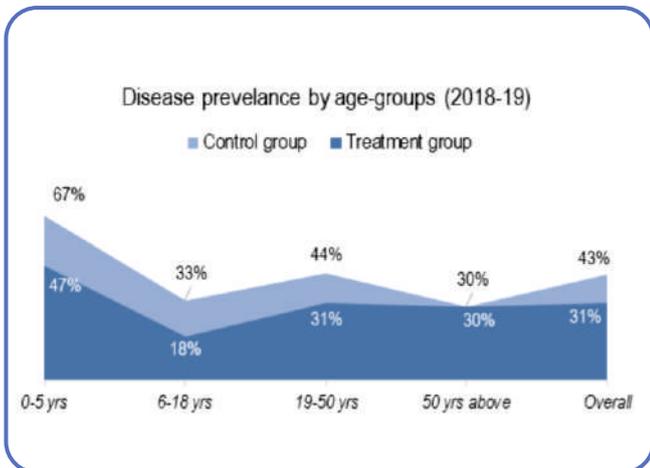


**Repair of handpumps and household filters**

In 2018-19, 116 drinking water systems were built reaching up to 1,996 families. These include,

-  35 drinking water tanks with proper management system. 5 tanks were fitted with solar powered pumps.
-  41 wells renovated and restored to make them safe and free from contamination.
-  28 defunct handpumps were repaired.
-  178 household filters were provided to families who were far away from drinking water tanks or handpumps.
-  10 roof-top rain harvesting structures created and 2 bore wells recharged.

To determine the impact of CDW and sanitation interventions at the household level. The comparison was done with both treatment and control groups of families having access to CDW and Sanitation. The graph shows the positive outcome of lower diseases. The prevalence of water borne diseases among treatment group (WASH families) was at 31.33% compared to the control group (non-WASH families) at 43.2%. However, there has been variation across the age groups.



## Sanitation

Major causes of water-borne disease amongst the region's rural population, and of malnutrition amongst children under five, are open defecation and poor sanitation facilities.

To ensure access, Seva Mandir works through community institutions which identify families who need access to toilets in a village. To ensure behavioral change and usage, the community institutions and, community based workers including the women's to educate families particularly women through informative material and community events, and using role models in the community to help convey a positive message and encourage usage.

In this reporting period, water-based twin pit toilet cum bathroom facility, were constructed for 450 families.

A toilet usage study was conducted with families with access to water based toilets in Kumbhalgarh: The summary findings are given below:

-  The current usage of toilets is 98% at the household level. However, when we break down the usage at the member level, we find in 76% household all members use toilet, while in 22% of the household only some members use toilet.
-  The usage of toilets is lowest at 20 % with 0-5 age groups, usage among 6-18 age group is 70 % and, usage of toilets is highest at 95 percent with adults of 19 years and above

## Capacity Building & Knowledge Management

Seva Mandir conducts a variety of trainings and capacity building programs to promote best practices in agriculture and livestock management, afforestation, watershed management and climate change sensitization.

This year, 142 training and capacity building programs were conducted on diverse themes, including afforestation, watershed management, agriculture, backyard poultry, climate change sensitization, installation of automatic weather station and orchard maintenance. A total of 7,422 participants benefitted from these sessions, out of which 3,150 (43%) were women participants.

### A STORY OF DIGNITY AND HEALTH

"I feel now my family is part of the change we are taught in school. I also feel confident that we have the basic amenities everyone deserves...men usually do not feel the constraints of a toilet-bathroom, but for my mother, and me it is most empowering." - Anju Bheel Anju Bheel is a 15-year-old girl from Gundi ka Bhilwara a hamlet of Hamerpal village, a scenic village surrounded with hills and forest. She has a younger brother, and together they are a family of four. Anju's parents are farmers, but they also work as wage laborers to supplement their family income. A few months ago, it seemed quite normal to labour so much to fetch water or go out to defecate in the open. The hamlet was covered under CDW and sanitation facilities. Her family now has a toilet-bathroom facility close to the house. Her friends also have the same facility.

Anju helps her mother in the household chores, but now lightened due CDW availability close to their home. All members of her family uses the toilet-bathroom facility. She and her mother could feel the difference more than other members in her family could. They can now use the toilet and bathroom any time of the day, unlike before, where they have to time themselves to defecate or bath.