



## Journey Report

### INTRODUCTION

Sanmat also known as (Sri Someshwar Nath Mahadev Trust) is registered with the Government of Tamil Nadu and they started as a relief extending body after the devastating effects of Tsunami in 2007. Since then, there is no stopping for the organization. The organisation is forwarding welfare services to the tribal and marginalized population. They are presently active in the states of Bihar and Jharkhand and their major areas of work are:

1. Education for children/youth from economically weaker sections.
2. Livelihood & Skill development.
3. Public Health.
4. Social Forestry.

Sanmat as a team is closely working with the tribal communities specially focusing on Primary vulnerable tribal groups, dalit population, marginalised groups, women, children and the community, in the districts of Bihar and Jharkhand. The tribal areas of Jharkhand are Dumka and Jamtara collectively called 'Santhal Pargana'. They cover the aforementioned aspects by looking at the implementation of government policies and schemes. They analyse the loop holes, gaps at the grass roots and devise plans and strategies to overcome them and extend more benefits with the help of policies and schemes. Sanmat works on implementation of Right to Education Act 2009, and Post Matric Scheme 2006, and Modular Employable Scheme. Sanmat is also working in the sector of social forestry through MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National

Rural Employment Guarantee Act). These are government led schemes in the sector of education, skill training and employment generation of BPL (below poverty line) families under the social forestry programme managed according to MGNREGA norms. Sanmat manages two government hospitals to answer the health needs of the people. The hospital runs under the CMO (chief medical officer) and is regulated by district officer as well. The organization is closely involved with the governments of these states and also conducts policy recommendations. They are continuously associated with district and block officers to maintain the quality of their work. Over the course of 13 years Sanmat has closely observed the situations in grassroots regarding various dimensions and due to the efforts of Mr. Amit Choubey and his team, Sanmat is working exponentially in the field of development and organisation of rural sector. The following segment of the report will briefly highlight the core areas of intervention led by Sanmat.

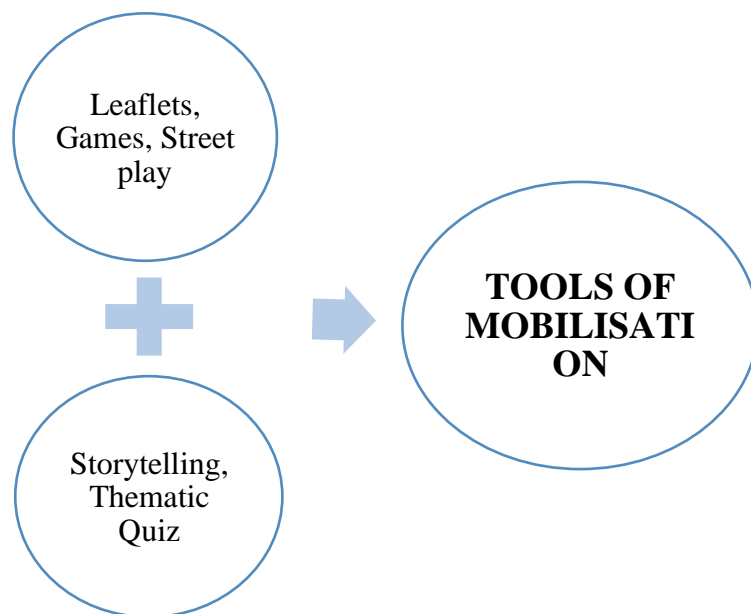
### **PROCESS OF IMPLEMENTATION & APPROACH MODEL**

- Education is a foremost requirement for development of any society. Team Sanmat conducted a research study to find the implementation of **RIGHT TO EDUCATION ACT 12(1)(c)** at the grass roots. Based on the results they formulated a plan to fill the gaps, the working plan devised by the team continuously modified according to the issues and problems faced by the team. The team lead high level collaborations, mobilisation strategy to achieve the anticipated results.

*Techniques of Mobilisation: Collaboration with different agencies, Collaboration with Anganwadis, Collaboration with government school teachers, ward members, senior citizens from the community. Development and training of resource persons (Vikas Mitra). Formation of help desks and helpline numbers. Reaching out the community at their residential areas.*

*Community volunteers and change agents. The team also lobbied support from Patna Mayor, District Education Officer, Block Education Officer, District officer SSA (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan).*

Sanmat achieved massive results with their programme on RTE 12(1)(c), 6700 schools declared seats for students from EWS (Economically Weaker Section). A total of 13446 girls and 5857 boys uploaded their applications. They also gave policy recommendations highlighting: proper execution of reimbursement for schools, simpler documentation process, and fee fixation among others.



**The POST MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME** provides financial support to students studying XI, XII and undergraduates. For this, the team led baseline study to look at the implementation and ran tests with 10 youths from the community.

*It was through Focused Group Discussions (FGD) and workshops the awareness and sensitisation drive took shape. Team Sanmat mobilised youths from the community, trained and sensitised them to overcome issues of caste. The youth from upper caste went for home visits,*

*and door to door visits to mobilise students and encourage them for further education. Colleges on the other hand provided incentive to these youth as a service charge.*

- **The SKILL TRAINING** is led under the flagship of ***Modular Employable Scheme*** of ***National Skill Development Council (NSDC)***. To run the skill and vocational training Sanmat conducts mobilizing through the Panchayati Raj Institutions, Mukhiya or Pradhan of the area. The vocational training is done in apparel making, Retail Agriculture, Construction (Mason), and Maintenance (UPS and inverter). Sanmat heads a dress making centre in Patna with 60 and more women, and a Community Livelihood Centre with the department of housing and urban development Govt of Jharkhand. They also manage an ITI College under the NSDC norms. The trainers are also recruited according to the norms of the skill development council.

They use the IEC model (Information, Education, Communication). This model calls for installation of banners, distribution of pamphlets, and announcements through loudspeakers. Apart from this they conducted consultation with teachers of schools and colleges, meetings with gram sabha, mobilization of street vendors, rickshaw pullers, and self-help groups.

- **The SOCIAL FORESTRY PROGRAM** runs under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). Most of the social forestry initiatives are run according to the norms of MGNREGA. Sanmat is facilitating the implementation of social forestry, agroforestry. The organisation is coordination with 1560-gram panchayats from Bihar to ensure smooth application. Total 8 region coordinators are selected by Sanmat, 12 group coordinators, 110 block coordinators and 1500 panchayat coordinator (Volunteer). The block coordinator is closely associated with the Mukhiya,

ward members to identify promising sites for plantation. The selected sites are updated in the MIS system, accordingly a Vanposhak (one who has the ownership of plant) is selected from BPL (below poverty line) families. For every unit, 2 vanposhaks are selected at Rs 1400/month for 5 years by the Rural Development Department. Selected candidate has to provide a job card and account details. A labour is assigned to every vanposhak for digging. Sanmat encourages development of SHGs to look after nurseries, and they provide technical support for 5 years.

- **The HEALTH CARE SYSTEM** of Sanmat started with the relief work during the Tsunami of 2007, when the organisation came into existence. In later years the team extended health initiatives in the states of Bihar and Jharkhand. Sanmat conducted high level campaigning, and developed an outreach team to cater to health needs of people. They conducted multiple medical camps for regular check-ups. Over the years they have succeeded in establishing friendly and trust-worthy relationship with the people of the area. And presently, Sanmat continues to manage two Tribal Kalyan Hospitals for four years, they have a counselling team and a medical team that still visits the community.

Novel coronavirus is the reality of our life since the year 2020, the next segment throws light on the covid-relief initiatives of the organisation.

COVID-19 The covid-19 situation gave an impetus to the health initiatives of Sanmat, they established a covid-relief centre at the hospital and developed a team of volunteers to spread awareness about the virus and the importance of testing. The first wave of the virus was not as much active in the rural areas and those infected were isolated in different facilities as per the government norms.

The second wave was widespread and difficult to manage in terms of beds, oxygen cylinders, testing, and concentrators. To answer a number of issues, Sanmat collaborated with various donor groups and government bodies to fulfil the demand. They also started vaccination in the rural areas to contain further spread but there is fear of death and infertility among the locals, and they are not participating in both testing and vaccination. There is widespread testing and vaccine hesitancy in rural areas.

### **COVID-19 CHALLENGES:**

- There are infrastructural drawbacks and lack of equipment in the hospital: to cope with this Sanmat coordinated with a Doctor for you, Give India and Swati Foundation for beds, oxygen cylinders, oxygen concentrators etc.
- The lockdown conditions have made it difficult to arrange for them: it has delayed timely supply of services to the needy.
- Operational costs have increased due to increase in price of commodities like the food costs, stay costs for the staff, the basic infrastructural facilities like electricity, water usages.
- There is delayed payment from the government and postponement in the delivery of protection kits for the outreach counselling and medical team.
- There is a decrease and the problem of retention of the ground level staff in the hospital management in the number of frontline workers.
- The shortage and issues related to power supply and distribution in both the districts where SANMAT is operating and managing the tribal hospitals has been rampant and one that needs a special focus.

- Due to the unprecedented shortage of electricity supply, the operations of the different equipment in the hospital gets distorted and the continuation of related activities gets hampered.

## **FINDINGS & CONCLUSIONS**

Various voluntary and involuntary organisations are practicing community organisation at urban and rural level. Sanmat is among those organisations that are actively practicing community organization. The **Social Planning approach** of Jack Rothman and **General Content Approach** of M.G Ross comes through Sanmat's methodology of work.

Sanmat is working towards providing basic services of education, health, and vocational training by intervening with government policies and schemes and managing their smooth implementation in the districts of Bihar and Jharkhand. The *Social Planning Model* propagates, those substantial problems of education, health housing asks for technical problem solving through research, analysis of gathered data, needs assessment, evaluation and decision making. This approach requires no or minimum participation of the local community in decision making. It requires experts to plan the entire process, it also requires channelization of bureaucratic structures for forwarding needed services to the targeted population. It calls for coordination and collaboration among agencies to fill gaps and foster overall growth through policy and planning. Social Planning is a well thought and tested approach of extending services that fulfil different diameters to reach desired result. *The General Content Approach* on the other hand aligns with developing existing services and initiating new services in a coordinated way (Agnimitra, 2010). The working procedure of Sanmat has a tinge of both these models of community organization, they have intervened with government policies on education and skill training, with that they are continuously working to answer the health needs.

Apart from these functional models, the organisation is dedicated towards strong mobilisation, participation and research in their approach. They have conducted need analysis to enhance education, health and vocational development, mobilisation, participation, planning and implementation, evaluation and follow-ups. Community mobilisation is not just a collection of people or material resources, it signifies collective psychology intended towards development.

Capacity building by providing skill and vocational training is also an important aspect of this organisation. It is leading individuals towards financial independence and decision making. And awareness generation is the strongest among all, Sanmat uses a myriad of approaches to sensitize the masses. Various initiatives have reached far reaching results due to mutual relationship between the team and people.

Sanmat is also trying to inculcate participatory tools in their approach. The social forestry initiative gave an impetus to introduce participatory techniques, it helped the team to take decision by asking for suggestions from people at grassroots, they conducted a demographic analysis of the area, and a study on trying to understand the conditions of land before plantation, history of the area. Participatory tools have helped the team to foster social forestry initiatives in the communities. Sanmat's approach is an active example portraying the relevance of the Community Organisation method in the development sector of India.



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Post Matric Scheme:

<https://minorityaffairs.gov.in/SCHEMES/PERFORMANCE/Scholarship-Schemes/post-matric-scholarship-scheme>

To see the scheme amount and emoluments:

[https://www.minorityaffairs.gov.in/sites/default/files/Post-matric\\_3.pdf](https://www.minorityaffairs.gov.in/sites/default/files/Post-matric_3.pdf)

Skill Development: <http://dectmeg.nic.in/dect/html/SDIS.html>

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MGNREGA: [https://www.nrega.nic.in/netnrega/mgnrega\\_new/Nrega\\_home.aspx](https://www.nrega.nic.in/netnrega/mgnrega_new/Nrega_home.aspx)

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