

ANNUAL REPORT

2019-2020



SANJEEVANI INSTITUTE FOR EMPOWEREMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (SIED)

CONTENTS

Board of Trustees

Foreword

SIED's contribution in Sustainable Rural Development in Maharashtra

SIED's Area of Operation

Watershed Development and Natural Resource Management

Integrated Water Resource Management

Climate Resilient Agriculture

Assessing Climate Risks, Vulnerability and Resilience to Climate Change

Women's Empowerment and Gender Mainstreaming

Capacity Building and Trainings for Knowledge and Skill Acquisition

Sustainable Livelihoods

Renewable Energy

Health, Hygiene, Nutrition and Sanitation

Highlights of 2019-2020

Our Donors and Enablers

Statement of Finances for 2018-2019

BOARD of TRUSTEES:-

Mr. Crispino Lobo

Co-Founder, Managing Trustee

An alumnus of the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, USA, and the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, India, Crispino has five academic degrees covering the fields of philosophy, theology, psychology, economics and public administration. He is well-known in development circles for his knowledge and achievements in the fields of natural resource management, participatory watershed development and integrated water resources management. He was the Program Coordinator of the Indo-German Watershed Development Programme (IGWDP) from 1992 till 2001. He led the development of the Capacity Building Program in the IGWDP (called the Participatory Operational Pedagogy – POP) and the Participatory Net Planning (PNP) which is now widely used in NABARD funded projects and the national Integrated Watershed Development Program (IWMP). Together with Fr. Hermann Bacher, he co-founded SIED. Currently he heads SIED's sister institution, the Sampada Trust, a microfinance and entrepreneurship development

Mr. J. R. Pawar

Co-Founder, Executive Director

Mr. Pawar is an agriculture engineer with a post-graduation in environmental studies. He has a vast experience of 23 years in the developmental sector. He is a founding member and Trustee of the Sanjeevani Institute for Empowerment and Development (SIED). Currently he is leading SIED as an Executive Director.

Mr. Harish Daware

Trustee

Mr. Harish Daware is an Agriculture Engineer and has a vast experience of 24 years in the developmental Sector. He is a Trustee of SIED.

FOREWORD-:

Dear Reader...

Sanjeevani Institute for Empowerment and Development (SIED) is pleased to make public the annual report for the year, 2019-2020. SIED has an operational area across the state of Maharashtra with a greater preference to the rural area.

SIED has adopted the participatory approach for the integrated develop of the rural communities residing in the hilly and remote areas and facing frequent and prolonged droughts. These are the communities which are highly vulnerable to the climatic changes. Local communities are given opportunities to form the community based organizations which has been capacitated in the due course of time so that they could implement the project and take the development forward to the next levels. These CBOs include village development committees, women SHGs, users' groups, FPOs, FPCs etc.

The projects implemented during the year 2019-2020 have covered wide range of the interventions which include- community awareness enhancement, formation and capacity building of the various CBOs, ridge to valley area treatments for land development, drainage line treatments with construction water harvesting and storage structures, nalla deepening, plantation, crop diversification, promoting economical and effective agronomic practices, promoting use of organic cultivation methods, high value crop cultivation in shade net, horticulture development, water management by drip and sprinkler irrigation, community health improvement, hygiene and sanitation practices, improvement in the educational facilities in the primary Zillah parishad schools, women organization and empowerment, livelihood development, livestock development, promotion of the renewable energy, promotion of digital education, etc.

What one can see in these project villages is- enhanced level of community awareness, capacitated CBOs, organized and empowered groups of women, harvested surface water, recharged ground water, increased water in wells, increased area under irrigation, diversified cropping patters, increased agriculture production, enhanced employment availability, reduced migration, clean and hygienic villages, healthy livestock, sustained livelihood activities, etc. All these interdependent and specific interventions which have been highly successfully have put the villages on the path of sustainable development. The quality of life has been improved significantly. The only need is to communicate the realized dream to the next generation in its reality. These village communities are and will be our real ambassadors for the future work by way of sharing experiences, lessons and encouraging other needy villages to take up similar developmental projects. We are sure that these project villages will be real models of sustainable development in the rural Maharashtra.

Regards

J.R.Pawar

Executive Director

SIED's Contribution in Sustainable Rural Development in Maharashtra

Sanjeevani Institute for Empowerment and Development (SIED) has a mandated itself of implementing integrated developmental projects across the state of Maharashtra. It has been implementing development activities in 357 villages spread over 27 blocks of 11 districts in Maharashtra. SIED works on wide range of interlinked and complimentary interventions which mainly include formation-strengthening-handholding of the Community Based Organization (CBOs), community mobilization, women empowerment, social development, agricultural based livelihood activities, watershed management and land development, water resource development for seasonal and perennial irrigation, stream diversion, participatory irrigation management through user groups, climate change adaptation projects, promotion of sustainable agriculture, use of renewable energy, health, livestock management, formation of liability groups, producer company and market linkages for agricultural products.

The developmental activities undertaken by SIED have so far benefitted 79376 families reaching out to approximately 402899 rural poor people across Maharashtra. Of these families, about 58% belong to various nomadic communities and scheduled tribes/castes. SIED implemented project Kasarwadi receive best watershed award from NABARD, SIED also received FICCI water award under NGO category for the year 2015. SIED is working with the wide donor base which includes NABARD, HDFC Bank, GIZ, HSBC, KKS Germany, Hindustan Cocoa Cola Beverage Pvt. Ltd., Coca Cola India Foundation, PIAGGIO Vehicles Pvt. Ltd., Can pack India Pvt. Ltd., Sir Ratan Tata Trust, Hindustan Unilever Foundation, Cotton Connect South Asia Pvt. Ltd. SIED has a committed and value driven team of more than 60 persons to undertake implementation of various projects across the state of Maharashtra.

The Project interventions undertaken by SIED have led to the following impacts on ground.

The efforts of community awareness, mobilization, capacity building and training have resulted into the effective and efficient function and project management by the respective Village Development Committees. These committees are continuing the development at the village level with the support of government funding, maintaining the assets created by the projects and enforcing the social regulation with the help of the community and with the close coordination of Gram Panchayats. This is ensuring the sustainability of the development in the respective villages.

Women, which were once considered just as a work force in the agriculture, has been aware about the roles they can play at family, village and at the cluster level and help in the village development. They are also aware about the various women related issues, health issues and dealing with it effectively. Women are organized in terms of

the Self Help Groups (SHGs) which has eventually become their identity and they can discuss any and everything related to them, family and village there and give and take support. Women are now working hand in hand with the men and contributing in the development.

Degraded Natural Resources which was the major reason for the frequent drought, water scarcity, lowered agricultural productivity and distressed migration to other places has been dealt with by the project community in a participatory approach with the help of the SIED team. Other line departments and the academic institutions have also been on board while dealing with the regeneration and subsequent management of the natural resources. These efforts have transformed the village.

Green hills, grass and tree cover on barren land, increased well water levels, increased ground water tables, perennial streams, stored surface water in check dams, double cropping on cultivated lands, horticulture, floriculture, vegetable, crop diversification, organic farming, farmers' group and group efforts and in some cases farmer's producer companies are also functioning. This has also impacted positively the community with increased income, reduced migration, etc. In case of agriculture specifically, additional area has come under irrigation. The seasonal as well as perennial irrigated area has gone up after the implementation of the project. As ground water level is increased across all the project villages, new wells have been and are being constructed. Some group wells are also being preferred by farmers. Reduced input cost with increased use of locally available fertilizers, diversified cropping patterns with shift to more crops which can give the regular cash flow improved economic conditions of the farming families.

Sustainably functioning locally focused livelihood activities. The needy and poor families which have got the benefit during the project period had been trained to make savings through SHGs, take small loans and repay during the period and those who are poorest of the poor have been supported through the livelihood initiatives. These families are in fact catering the needs of the local community and local economy and that is the reason why they are sustaining over a period.

Food and fodder security- As a result of the ridge to valley treatment of the waste and cultivable land, the soil and water conservation helped in the grass cover, tree cover development. Also farmers have developed the fodder varieties. All this together is catering the fodder need of the cattle from the project villages. The tie up with the animal husbandry department is taking care of the health of the cattle across the developed villages by SIED. The milk production has increased in these villages. This is serving as one of the major source of income and this particularly helping a lot to the landless families as they are getting easily fodder from the forest and common land. The diversified cropping pattern is also taking care of the food need of the family for a year.

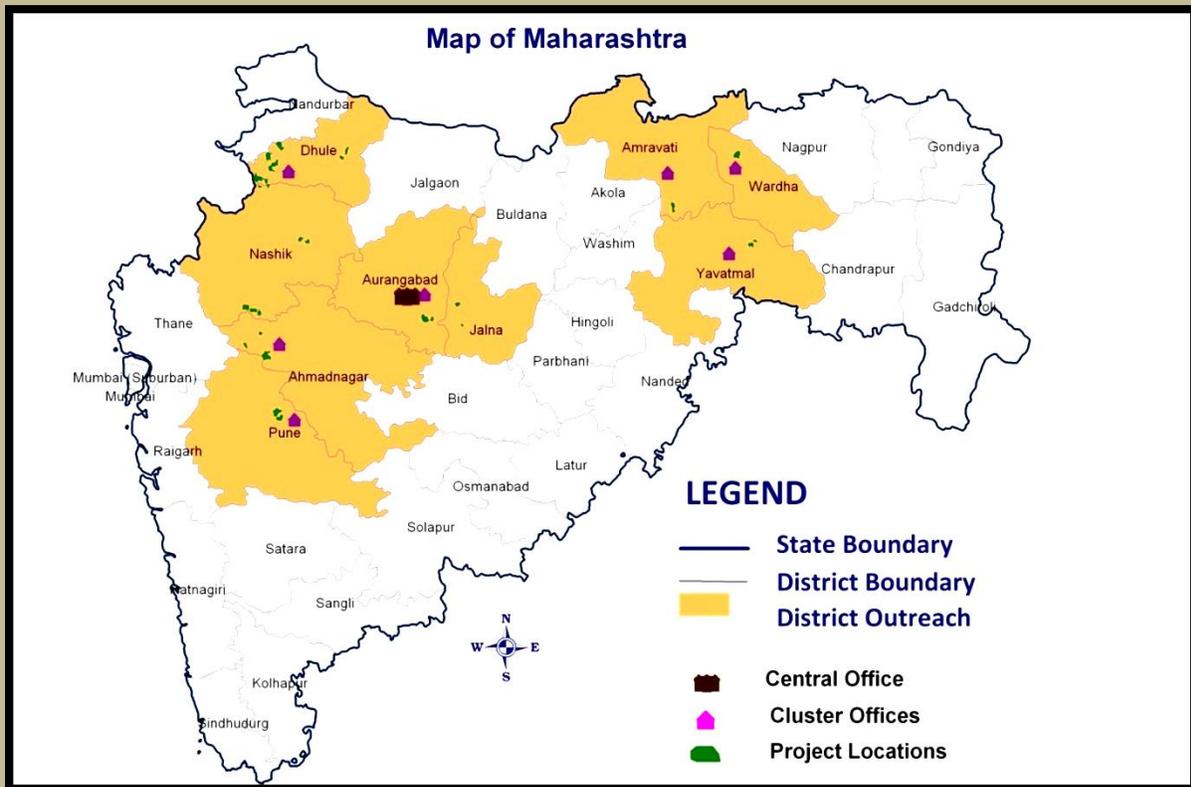
Renewable energy:- The village communities are using the solar lanterns, solar home lights systems and solar street lights and are not facing any problems due to power cuts. Once this was the major problem as it was used to be dark during power cuts and everybody from the family used to face the problem. But now it has become the history and village communities are now enjoying hours free from power cut due to use of the solar energy

Established linkages with the government departments like agriculture, rural development, animal husbandry, KVK, agricultural university, forest, horticulture and ATMA etc. This linkage enables them to take forward the development that has been done by the SIED.

The sustainable income for the tribal families has been the reality at the moment by way of the well-established WADIs for the tribal families. In tribal areas like Akole and Sakri, the tribal families are having the continuous income from the mango plantation on a sustainable basis with the minimum input cost and minimum water requirements.

Farmers have formed the Farmer’s Producer Organization and they are procuring the agriculture produce and they are selling in bulk and are getting benefitted.

Area of Operation



Watershed Development and Natural Resource Management:-

SIED believes that the well-being and economic sufficiency of agrarian communities is directly related to the productivity, quality, quantity and range of services that the ecosystems they live in can provide. Therefore, SIED has been in the forefront of mobilizing vulnerable communities in semi-arid and resource fragile regions to help themselves out of poverty by harvesting rainwater across the landscapes they live in and regenerating their ecosystems.

Ecosystem based Watershed Development

Watershed is the geographical space in which communities and ecosystems exist and live. People draw their sustenance and livelihoods from the landscapes and ecosystems they interact with. SIED directly mobilizes communities to regenerate and rehabilitate their landscapes and watersheds by undertaking a range of watershed development and management activities. These integrated soil and water conservation measures help stabilize fragile ecosystem services which in turn lead to increased water availability, agricultural productivity, biodiversity enhancement, stabilized livelihoods and improved quality of life.

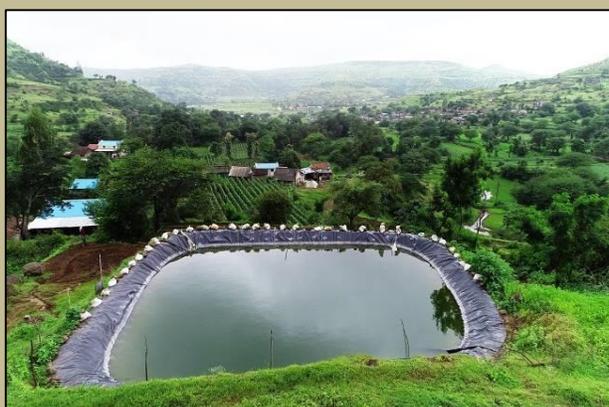




The cumulative area treatments so far undertaken by SIED till March 2020 is **45281** ha which includes **38029.05** ha private land treatment & **7251.91** ha land treatment on common lands, forest lands & waste lands. On these various lands the treatments undertaken are water absorption trenches (WATs), continuous contour trenches (CCTs), loose boulder structures, stone bunding, terracing, graded bunding, farm and compartment bunding. In the water courses and streams, stone gully plugs, gabion structures, earthen and composite nalla bunds, check weirs and percolation tanks have been constructed. Till the end of the current year, along the drainage channels, we have constructed **1385** major structures which include **472** check dams, **174** Repair of existing check dams & **739** earthen nalla bunds.



Simultaneously **5441** minor structures were constructed in which **4902** are loose boulders & **539** are gabions. More importantly, implementation of these measures has helped immensely to increase the ground water tables, resulting in increased availability of drinking water. In addition to this **269** farm ponds & **78** new wells have been constructed across different project villages so far from the beginning. Deepening of **819** existing wells was completed from the beginning. **324810** cum nalla desiltation works were completed from the beginning. All these interventions and micro irrigation practices leads to increase **22651** acre additional area under irrigation. Not only our villages, but adjoining villages also outside the treated watersheds now have potable drinking water throughout the year. To spread awareness of the importance of soil and water conservation through active participation of villagers, awareness programs were conducted in terms of the gramsabhas, hamlet meetings, corner meetings, labour meetings and women SHG meetings.



Horticulture Plantations:-

In order to increase vegetative green cover, SIED promotes the plantation of local species serving a dual purpose of afforestation and preserving the existing biodiversity. On **1961.46** ha of land horticulture plantation has been undertaken cumulatively from which **1768.73** ha area under agro horticulture and **192.73** ha area under dry land horticulture. Also, in the wake of climate change, diversification of agriculture plays a pivotal role. Hence, farmers are encouraged to take up horticulture as an

activity which not only helps them to generate an income source and restores degraded soils but adds to the green cover. Also, training to preserve local flora and fauna was conducted.



Integrated Water Resource Management:-

Watershed development activities play a crucial role in harvesting rainwater and regenerating ecosystems. However, for an effective and long lasting solution to the issues revolving around water, a new water governance and water management paradigm shift is needed. The new paradigm integrated water resource management requires the coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources.

1. Micro Irrigation:

Making water available by way of the soil and water conservation and building cement check dams is just beginning. To make judicious use of the water made so available with the awareness of the community about the need and importance of the water management holds the key to the success. To have this done, and in order to make optimum utilization of the available water resource in the dry land and semi-arid regions, we also promote the techniques of micro irrigation that mainly involve drip and sprinklers. Drip irrigation allows the water to slowly drip at the roots of the plants, either from the soil surface or buried below the surface. Sprinklers help in judicious and uniform distribution of water for irrigation.

Till the March 2020 SIED has promoted various supports to available the irrigation facilities to farmers in their field like Pipeline, electric motor, drip sprinklers either in group or individual. Total **817** farmers can get access for the irrigation water or use of Microirrigation practices like drip and sprinklers to save water.



2. Lift Irrigation:

Water availability in the nearby reservoirs would be useful if it could be used directly when well recharge is not effective enough. Hence, in spite of having farm lands, villagers who have no access to irrigation cannot cultivate crops in the rabbi and summer seasons. Having understood this, In Wardha district SIED has undertaken the implementation of the lift irrigation scheme in one of the project villages.



3. Agriculture Development:-

To make agriculture more adaptive to the climate change, water management systems have been installed. Demonstrations have been taken up to further demonstrate the cutting age technology for the water management. To reduce the farmers' vulnerability to the crop failures by way of reducing the input cost, demonstrations of the vermin compost and demonstrations of the bio pesticides have been undertaken. Model plots for cotton cultivation have been demonstrated by clubbing various aspects of cotton cultivation. Apart from this number discussions, input events, expert opinions on field, doubt clearing has been undertaken for the purpose of making agriculture an attractive field. Crop diversification has been one of the ways to reduce the vulnerability to the crop failures. To have this achieved, initial crop diversification

demonstrations have been done successfully. The integrated agricultural interventions includes mainly- soil testing, seed treatments, timely sowing, organic fertilizers application, reducing use of the chemical applications, inter cropping, mixed cropping, harvesting , storage and market linkages. The use of water management technology like, drip, sprinkler, micro sprinkler is also included in this. To take the farmers to the next level of the commercial and market oriented agriculture, shade net, poly houses etc. are also tried. All these agricultural interventions together have led to the reduced crop failure vulnerability making agriculture increasingly profitable.

For the purpose of sustainable agriculture development, since beginning various activities have been undertaken. The cumulative achievement is **6548** farmers have done soil testing, **1535** farmers have adopted vermin composting method of fertilizer, **14** units of shade net cultivation have been erected, **110** bio dynamic fertilizer methods have been demonstrated, **235** demonstrations of inter cropping technique to minimize risk of crop failures, **620** demonstrations of the use of Neem ark for diseases control, **504** demonstrations of dishpan ark for crop protection and 6 organic input center have been operationalized cumulatively. **1684** other agri based demonstrations completed for extension of various package of practices on large scales. Promotion of creeper vegetable practices also well known as trellis vegetable cultivation was started from 2018-19. It is very impactful activity and farmers get assured returns from less area. Total **129** trellis demonstrations completed till this report.





WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND GENDER MAINSTREAMING-:

ENGAGEMENT OF WOMEN THROUGH SELF-HELP GROUPS-:

Women population constitutes around 50% of the world population. A large number of women around the world are unemployed. The world economy suffers a lot because of the unequal opportunity for women at workplaces. The main advantage of Women Empowerment is that there will be an overall development of the society. The money that women earn does not only help them and or their family, but it also help develop the society. Women Empowerment also leads to more economic benefits not to the individuals but to the society as well. Unlike earlier days when they stayed at home only and do only kitchen stuffs, nowadays, they go outside and also earn money like the male members of the society. Women empowerment helps women to stand on their own feet, become independent and also to earn for their family which grows country's economy. Women Empowerment also reduces poverty. Sometimes, the money earned by the male member of the family is not sufficient to meet the demands of the family. The added earnings of women help the family to come out of poverty. Total **2794** women SHGs have been promoted / revived since beginning with a total number of women SHG members of **33672**.





DRUDGERY REDUCTION ACTIVITIES

Women have themselves identified activities that require more manual labour, create drudgery and occupy a large portion of their time too. To ease their work, with SIED's assistance, they are now using grinders, pressure cookers, smokeless chullhas (stoves), hot water challahs (stoves), kitchen utensils, etc. Some of them have turned their drudgery into entrepreneurship by opening flour and rice mills, thus, supplementing their family income. Also, to reduce the dependence on firewood for cooking, **221** LPG connections have been provided. So far, till the end of the current report year, **1737** hot water chullhas have been installed for the needy and poor households.



LEARNING AND EXPOSURE VISITS

Exposure visits are organized so that people get an opportunity to visit other villages to observe and learn from their successes. They also help in instilling confidence to start their own enterprise.



CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAININGS FOR KNOWLEDGE AND SKILL ACQUISITION:-

For efficient and effective implementation of various developmental activities, strengthening the abilities, skills and competencies of people is extremely crucial. Moreover, the feeling of ownership and team work are the driving factors for the success of an intervention activity. SIED not only provides hands-on training to the villagers, thus enhancing their skill sets, but also shares its experience gained over the years with other NGOs, governments, corporates and international agencies

Throughout the year, SIED conducted trainings for villagers for enhancing and building their capacities. These trainings advance their skill sets for developing their villages, boost their confidence and provide a common platform to share their learnings and experiences with fellow and other villagers.



SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS-:

In the absence of the means and options of the livelihood, the neediest families migrate to the nearby areas in search of the work. This type of the migration is distressed migration which has many side effects on the old and the young generation, on health, education of these vulnerable generations. The project would provide them wage work during the project period. However after the project is over these poor families. To assist them in pursuing the sustainable livelihood sources, project interventions could help. After the initial discussion with the beneficiary community in this regard, we have implemented the on farm and off farm livelihood initiatives to compensate the absence of the livelihood opportunities during and after the project is completed. Till this report total **2810** poor and landless families get benefitted due to these activities.





RENEWABLE ENERGY:-

Combating climate change while providing clean energies and reducing drudgery has been one of the major drivers for renewable energy development in rural settings. Alternative energy sources are therefore urgently needed and an important objective of SDG7 is to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and clean energy for all.

Hot Water Chullhas (stoves):-

Women spend a lot of time and energy in collecting firewood. They make several rounds in the day to gather it. The traditional chullhas are hazardous to health as the smoke can cause acute respiratory, ear and eye diseases. On the other hand, the smokeless and hot water chullhas reduces the dependency on firewood and drudgery and promotes health.

Till the end of the current year, SIED has helped **1737** families to have the reduced side effects on the family in general and on the women in particular due to the use of the traditional chullhas. To these families hot water chullhas have been provided which have not only reduced the fuel wood need but also made the family space healthy.



SOLAR HOME LIGHTING AND SOLAR STREET LIGHTING:-

Until recently the power cut used to be the regular thing in the rural, remote and hilly areas. In some parts even now this is the case. Considering this and acknowledging the need of the families seed has provided the solar home lights and solar street lights. After the installation of solar lights, villagers now comfortably travel and snake bites have reduced. Also, people can now peacefully meet after dark for social gatherings.



Till March 2020 total of **53** solar street lights and **920** solar home lights have been made available by SIED to the community on priority basis.

HEALTH, HYGIENE AND SANITATION:-

Access to quality and affordable health care, balanced diet and basic sanitation is a challenge for the poor and the disadvantaged communities, especially for women and children. In India, over 50% still defecate in the open. Eliminating open defecation is the main aim of improving access to sanitation worldwide and is an accepted indicator for the SDGs. Worsening the situation, 80% of children below the age of 3 and 55% of women suffer from anemia. These alarming statistics call for an immediate action plan that needs to be implemented and monitored on a timely basis. SIED's intervention activities are in alignment with the National Health Mission (NHM) which aims to

ensure achievement of indicators such as prevention and reduction of anemia in women.

During the year SIED has organized community health awareness input sessions, community health check camps, WASH events in the schools and input sessions even in the SHG meetings.



All these interventions combined together have led to visible outcomes. Capacitated and more confident community, clean and healthy villages, modern schools, clean and safe drinking water, increased surface water stored in check dams, earthen nalla bunds, farm ponds, composite gabions etc. Increased water level in wells, shifting cropping patterns, shift towards floriculture, vegetable, cash crops and horticulture. Increased agriculture employment, increased crop production, increased agricultural income, increased milk production, healthy livestock, etc. The government linkage has also built to some extent. These village communities appear stress free and have the regular cash flow from various sources. Their quality of life has definitely improved in terms of good health, good education, safe and sufficient drinking water, cleanliness, access to usable toilets, increased income and improved awareness apart from improved agriculture.

IMPROVED EDUCATION FACILITIES FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS:-

Zillah Parishad Primary School's libraries have been upgraded by adding the books other than text books and the facilities to store the books. Digital education opportunities have been made available by way of computer, printer, digital screens and allied accessories installation. Drinking water RO units have been installed in schools. Solar cookers have been installed to help the mid-day meal cooking process. Practical classes have been conducted to increase the students' computer handling skills and make them more and more confident about the use and applications of the computer. To increase the practical learning ability of the primary students, the educational paintings. SIED has so far, installed, **27** water RO filters have been installed, **24** schools have completed the educational paintings and **23** school libraries have been upgraded with the addition of the books



HIGHLIGHTS OF 2019-2020-:

SIED has been awarded with the with CSR IMPACT Awards-2019 in the category of Rural Development and Infrastructure- Large Project- Special Jury Recommendation. Recognition and Appreciation award from Cotton Connect South Asia Pvt. Ltd for the year 2018-2019. SIED Received appreciation for the ongoing entrepreneurship development work from Pratham.



OUR DONORS AND ENABLERS-:

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- Hindustan Unilever Ltd.
- Swiss Re
- Garware Polymer
- Hindustan Coca Cola Beverages Pvt. Ltd.
- Watershed Organization Trust
- Rotary Club
- Government of Maharashtra

We also would like to express our sincere thanks and would to acknowledge the support received from Government of India and Government of Maharashtra for the work that we are doing for the holistic rural development in the state of Maharashtra.

Last but not the least we express our gratitude to our local partners in the field of rural development, that is the village communities wherever we are working for the support and constructive role they have played



About Us

Sanjeevani Institute for Empowerment & Development (SIED) is established on 18th May 2007 with a key mandate of implementation of developmental projects aimed at reducing poverty by way of natural resources regeneration and management in rural areas of Maharashtra. SIED works on various thematic areas like watershed development, Natural resource Management, sustainable agriculture development, creating rural livelihood opportunities, use of renewable energy, community health and sanitation, climate change adaptation, horticulture development, water storage and irrigation water management, capacity building, women empowerment, digital awareness and financial literacy, skill development, networking, etc. The key intervention is making water available for the neediest communities by a participatory self-help approach in rural areas of Maharashtra.

SIED has been implementing various developmental activities in 357 villages spread across 27 blocks of 11 districts in the state of Maharashtra. The comprehensive water harvesting and developmental measures have been implemented over 1,14,176.72 acres of land in these villages with measures like farm bunding, continuous contour trenching, gully plugging, construction of cement check dams, Earthen nalla bunds, plantation of horticulture, poly house, green house, crop diversification etc. The developmental initiatives undertaken by SIED have helped to improve quality of lives for 79376 families and approximately 402899 rural persons. Out of these families, around 62% families belong to scheduled tribes, scheduled castes and nomadic communities which are comparatively the most climate change vulnerable sections of the society.

Sanjeevani Institute for Empowerment and Development (SIED)

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