

2014-2015



Annual Progress Report

April 2014-March 2015

AADHAAR- An Association for Development, Harmony and Action Research

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Foreword

It is our pleasure to share with you the annual report of AADHAAR for the year 2014-2015. This has been a significant year for the organization where AADHAAR has been able to engage and advocate with the state government on the issue of planned growth in urban centers. AADHAAR could mainstream the significance of Building Byelaws in small and medium towns in the hilly terrains of the state that are prone to natural disasters and how their implementation could play a significant role in reducing the impacts of the disasters.

This year, AADHAAR received generous support from donors and NGOs especially Sir Dorabji Tata Trust (Mumbai), Owner driven reconstruction Collaborative-SEEDS and most importantly, from Empathy Foundation (Mumbai) for its reconstruction work

We would also like to thank Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, Mumbai, for extending its support in giving shape to our efforts at conserving natural resources especially water in Devprayag, Uttarakhand. Empathy Foundation support has also been critical in our endeavours to improve education for children from the rural areas of disaster hit Ukhimath block of District Rudraprayag for which, we thank them sincerely.

Last but not the least, we appreciate our volunteers, supporters and governing board members for their support and guidance in our journey.

Neha Chaturvedi

President

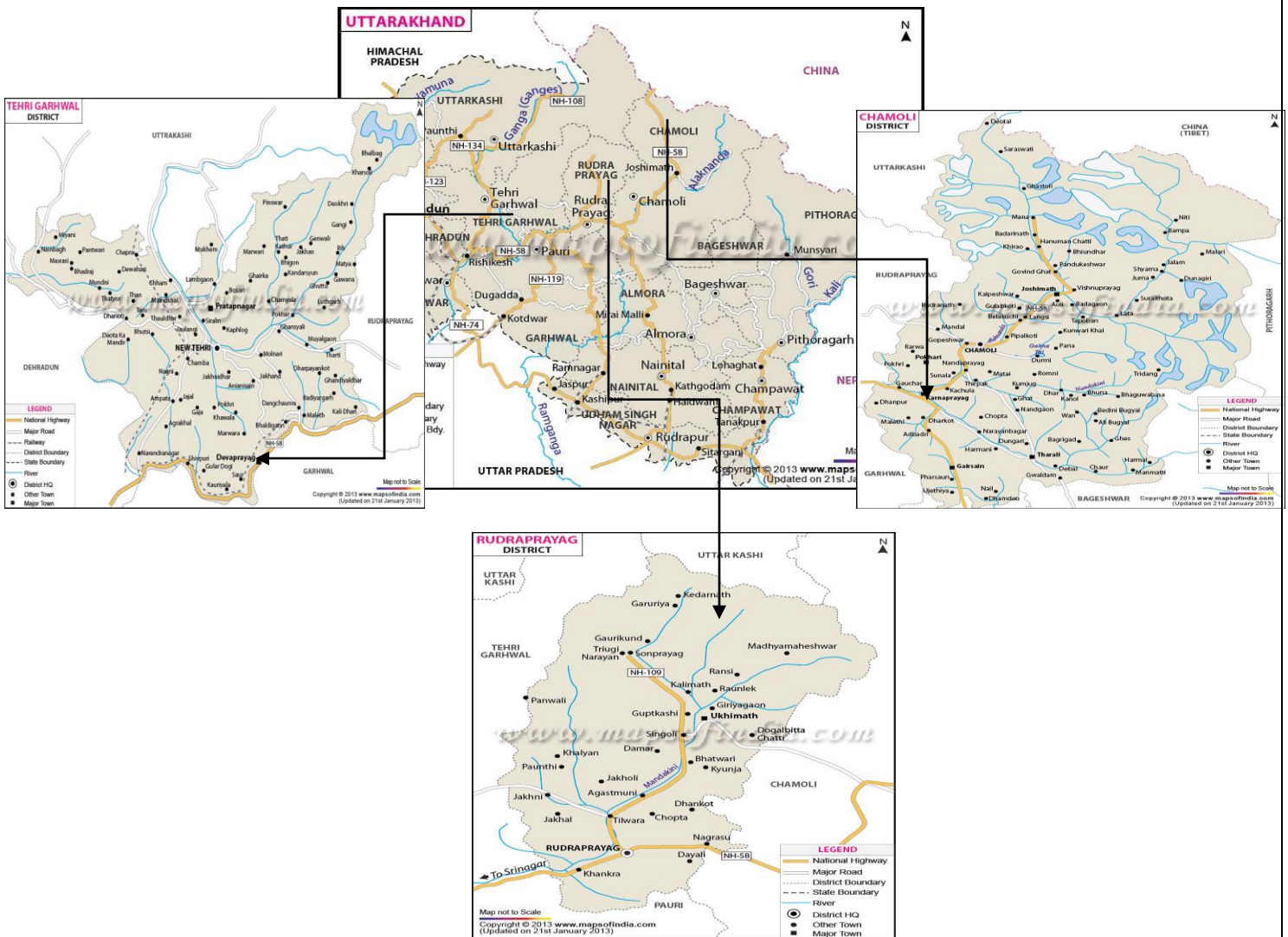
Kamleshwar Singh

Secretary

I. Background

AADHAAR has been working in two north Indian states namely Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh since its inception in 2011. During the year 2014-15, the organization expanded its presence in the state of Uttarakhand from one district (Dist Tehri Garhwal) to three Districts while it continues to work in one district in Himachal Pradesh namely in Dist Solan. Two new Districts where AADHAAR now has a presence in Uttarakhand include Dist Rudrapur and Dist Chamoli.

Field sites in Uttarakhand:

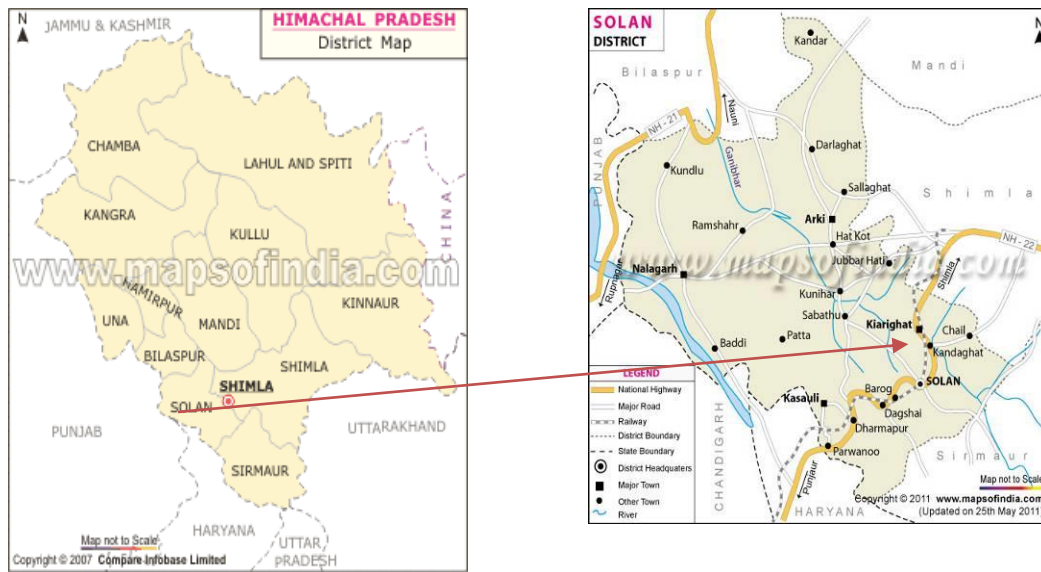


Source: <http://www.mapsofindia.com/maps/uttaranchal/districts/tehrigarhwal.htm>

Source: <http://www.mapsofindia.com/maps/uttaranchal/districts/chamolil.htm>

Source: <http://www.mapsofindia.com/maps/uttaranchal/districts/rudrapurayg.htm>

Field site in Himachal Pradesh:



Source: <http://www.mapsofindia.com/maps/himachalpradesh/districts/solan.htm>

II. AADHAAR's Programmes and Interventions in 2014-2015

In addition to the field intervention work underway in District Tehri Garhwal on the issue of environment and water conservation, new themes were taken up in the year 2014-2015. This also gave AADHAAR an opportunity to expand its programmatic outreach to newer areas in the state of Uttarakhand.

Annual report for the year 2014-2015 presents the highlights of AADHAAR's work under different themes. The report has been divided into four sections which are as follows:

1. Field based Interventions
2. Advocacy
3. Support to Civil Society
4. Liaison and Linkage Building

Section I Field based Intervention

1. District Tehri Garhwal

Since its inception in early 2011, AADHAAR has been working in Gram Panchayat Mahar (Devprayag Block) where the focus of the work has been ***environment protection and water conservation with the involvement of the community***. Project titled "Community Action for Sustaining Livelihood through Promoting Rain Water Management and Environmental Conservation" is being supported by Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, Mumbai. This year long project has been underway since Feb 2013 and was extended for additional three months in 2014 (March-May, 2014).

Rain water Harvesting



During the extension period, 12 additional ferro cement tanks were constructed at the Household level in Gram Panchayat Mahar. Also, Scheduled Caste Households were given a priority during beneficiary selection. With this, a total of 30 Ferro cement tanks have now been constructed with community contribution in the project field area.

Strengthening and Supporting Self Help Groups

Self Help Groups formed under the project continue to engage in credit and inter-lending. Monthly meetings are also being organized by the groups that now manage their affairs on their own and seek support from the organization as needed. Monthly meetings were held regularly on dates decided upon by the groups. Groups are also slowly beginning to understand the importance of penalty rule and beginning to implement it. All the SHGs have their accounts in the nearby Cooperative Bank.

Regular hand holding support and orientations were organised for three women saving and thrift groups members. Secretary and president AADHAAR gave inputs on women empowerment and on the need and linkage of groups with other institutions.

Awareness building of women SHG members especially on Govt. Acts and provisions



Women Collectives are being made aware of and informed about different Acts and their provisions. Being a panchayat election year, community was made aware about choosing right candidates through pre election voter awareness.

Health and Sanitation

Discussions on Health and Sanitation were regularly held with women especially the members of SHGs. Villagers were informed about sanitation and personal

hygiene especially menstrual hygiene. A drive was launched to test the water quality of hand pumps in the village. It was found that the drinking water is slightly acidic in nature but no fecal material was found in the water

Other Support to the SHGs

Seeds of Tomato, capsicum and peas were distributed to the SHG members for encouraging them to take up kitchen gardening. This was done to promote the idea of developing nursery among members who were interested. Mango trees were also made available to the members. Runners of grasses were also distributed among the willing families.

2. District Rudraprayag

Post Disaster Reconstruction Initiative-Ensuring Quality Education

Rudraprayag was one of the worst affected districts during the June 2013 Kedarnath valley disaster which resulted in widespread loss to life and property across the district. Immediately after the disaster, AADHAAR was involved in relief work in District Uttarkashi and is now involved in post disaster reconstruction in the state.

Under its education support, AADHAAR, in partnership with Empathy Foundation (Mumbai) is working in District Rudraprayag where it is rebuilding two government Inter colleges namely GIC-Narayankoti and GIC- Paldwadi (Block Ukimath). A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Empathy Foundation - AADHAAR and District Education Department, Rudraprayag for rebuilding the GICs that had been destroyed in the 2013 disaster. AADHAAR's role primarily is to monitor the construction work at the GICs and to coordinate with the Contractor who was identified for undertaking the construction work. Maniknath Builders (pvt) Ltd, a Rishikesh based company was engaged for construction work.

MoU between the State govt. and Empathy Foundation/AADHAAR was signed on April 15, 2015. Thereafter, MoU was also signed between Empathy Foundation/AADHAAR and the Principals of both the GICs and with the Construction Company. The rebuilding work got underway in May 2014 and it is hoped that AADHAAR will be able to hand over the school buildings in June 2015.



Figure 1 Status of GIC buildings after the flash flood



In early Feb 2015, Empathy Foundation team which included Mr. Mitul Damani (Trustee, Empathy Foundation) and Mr. Sundareswaran (CEO, Empathy Foundation) visited the GIC to oversee the progress of the work at both the GICs. During the visit to GIC Narayankoti, the visiting members participated in the cultural programmes that were organized by the College. This also gave them an opportunity to interact and engage with the GIC administration and children besides the SMC members and the community that had come to attend the event.

As of March 2014, work in GIC Narayankoti is nearing completion while work in GIC Paldwadi is 70 percent completed. It is expected that the work would be completed by April-May 2016 provided weather conditions remain favourable.



Figure 2 progress of GIC Narayankoti building



Figure 3 Progress of GIC Paldwari building

Discussions are underway with Empathy Foundation on how to sustain the work and take it forward from here. Educational support and skill building besides support in further developing GIC infrastructure is being explored.

3. District Chamoli

Disaster Resilience in Urban Areas of Uttarakhand

In the wake of 2013 disaster, ODRC with the support of Paul Hamlyn Foundation had initiated a project titled 'Building Resilience in Urban Areas of Uttarakhand'. Karnaprayag Township was identified to study the existing pattern of growth in urban centers in the state from the perspective of disasters and to suggest viable corrective measures to minimize risks and vulnerability in the urban centers in the state.

Phase I of the project got underway in August 2013 where ODRC team members from People in Center (Ahmedabad) and Alchmey Urban Systems (Bangalore) were involved. During this phase, an assessment of the disaster vulnerability of Karnaprayag town was carried out and recommendations were made to the Municipality and the District Admn on what corrective measures need to be adopted to lower risk to life and property in the face of natural calamity. A detailed report on work done under Phase I was shared with the key stakeholders.

Phase II of the project developed on the basis of discussions with different stakeholders and recommendations made in Phase I. For Phase II, the following interventions were identified namely,

1. Drafting Byelaws for Karnaprayag Municipality and state level experience sharing for policy advocacy
2. Safe Construction Technology Demonstration Park at Karnaprayag for spreading awareness on safe construction practices in disaster prone areas.

AADHAAR team made visits to take the process forward with the President (Nagar Palika Karnaprayag), District Magistrate and others concerned officials in Dist Chamoli. In the meeting with President Nagar Palika- Karnaprayag, number of issues were discussed ranging from a need for better sewerage, parking facilities, need for night shelters etc. One of the important issues that came up was the need for better planning in the town, taking into account the vulnerabilities of the area. This drafting of building bye-laws for Nagar Palika emerged as one area in which ODRC could provide technical support to the Municipality.

The DM was informed about the interventions that were to be taken up in Karnaprayag for which, support from the district admn was also sought. The DM issued a letter to the relevant line depts. / officials in the District for supporting ODRC in this initiative (Nov 20, 2014).

For drafting the Building Byelaws for Karnaprayag Municipality, a number of meetings were organized with the community, elected representatives of the Municipality and concerned officials with the objective of making them aware about the importance of building bye-laws and to understand the needs of the Municipality. Municipality wards were also visited along with the elected representatives. A survey was also commissioned to know the awareness level of the city dwellers about the importance of building byelaws and their willingness to adopt it. Communities' expectation from the byelaws was also mapped.

To further strengthen this process, a number of meetings were organized with relevant govt depts. and officials including the Director, Urban Development, Additional Director, Urban Development, State Town Planner, Regional Town Planner (Garhwal) and Secretary, Mussorrie and Dehradun Development Authority (MDDA) besides others. Inputs for framing the Building Bye-laws for the hill town of Karnaprayag were sought from the officials. Draft Building bye-laws were shared with Municipality and the community for their suggestions as well as with the Chief Town Planner Office (Uttarakhand) for their comments. To extend this process to the other municipalities of the district and blocks, a regional meet was also organized in Gopeshwar, Dist. Chamoli.

Regional Meeting on Disaster Resilience and Building Byelaws, March 3, 2015, Gopeshwar, District Chamoli

A one day regional consultation was organised at Zilla Panchayat Bhavan, Gopeshwar (Dist Chamoli, Uttarakhand) on March 3, 2015 on Disaster Resilience and Building Byelaws. The participants were Chairpersons and representatives of four Municipalities namely Karnaprayag,



Gopeshwar, Gairsain and Nandprayag of District Chamoli. In addition, representatives of Zilla Panchayat, Chamoli also participated in the consultation.

The participants shared that with increased construction in the urban centers and townships, implementation of Building Byelaws has become all the more significant in the state of Uttarakhand. Discussing about community engagement in the Bye-laws,

findings of Karnaprayag community survey on building byelaws were shared. As stated above, the survey was carried out in order to seek suggestions and willingness for adoption of rules and regulations for planned development in the town.

Construction of Karnashila Disaster Resilience Building Technology Park, Karnaprayag

Karnashila Technology Park was set-up with the purpose of spreading awareness about safe construction practices in disaster prone hill areas using traditional construction technology that makes use of locally available material. Mr. R.K Mukarji (TARN, Dehradun) was entrusted with the task of constructing the Technology Park. A visit was made to Karnaprayag in mid Feb (2014) to check the technology park site in the light of the draft design prepared by the Architect. The park is being developed with the support of Municipality of Karnapayag with the objective that it will help disseminate information about safe construction practices in the area.



The land in the main town (adjoining river Alaknanda) was allotted by the municipality for the construction of the park. The work on the technology site has started from the last week of February but the progress of the construction work is slow due to the rains.

Liaison and Linkage Building

Workshop on RNTCP under Axshya project in Uttarakhand

On April 29, 2014, AADHAAR was invited to participate in the state level meeting that was organized by the Union, New Delhi Axshya in regard to the Tuberculosis control programme being implemented in the state. The meeting was organized at Dehradun with the objective of informing the participants about the Axshya project in the state as well as to discuss the prospects of expanding the work in the state with existing and new partners. Ms. Neha Chaturvedi represented AADHAAR in the meeting.

Training on Participatory Ground Water Management

Peoples' Science Institute (PSI), a Dehradun based NGO that works on the issue of water management organizes a two weeks training programme every year for NGOs and professional working on the issue of water and related themes (NRM, Livelihood etc). The training is organized in collaboration with Araghyam which is a Bangalore based funding organization that is known for its work on the issue of water in the country.

AADHAAR was invited to participate in the two weeks training programme that was organized from Dec 2-16, 2014 at Dehradun. Ms. Neha Chaturvedi attended the training programme.

Sehgal Foundation Advisory Meeting on Panchayats Empowerment

Dr Rajesh Sinha (Vice President, AADHAAR) and Mr. Kamleshwar Singh (Secretary, AADHAAR) attended the advisory meeting of Sehgal foundation on June 25, 2014. The objective of the annual meeting is to review the progress made in Sehgal's foundation's work on strengthening local institutions of self governance (Panchayats) and to seek inputs for future interventions. Many suggestions given in the last advisory meeting had been incorporated in the programme and were shared during the meeting.

During the meeting, inputs were shared on building women Sangathans (women collectives) that have been formed at the community level, revival of panchayat level subcommittees (that are practically non functional in Haryana and elsewhere). Along with the plans and programmes, detailed discussions were held on determining programme indicators. Discussion were also held on expanding Sehgal foundation's work in the states of Bihar and Rajasthan

04/07/2014- Field Visit by Tata Energy and Research Institute (TERI), New Delhi

A team comprising of six members from ICImod (Nepal) and TERI, New Delhi visited AADHAAR's field area on July 4, 2014. This visit was facilitated by Mr. Kamleshwar Singh (Secretary, AADHAAR). The purpose of the team visit was to do a pre-feasibility assessment for HI- AWARE study in Ganga river basin objective of which is to know the impacts of the climate change in the Ganga basin. A group discussion was organised in the Gram Panchayat-Mahar to know the impacts of the climate change and the adaptation practices adopted by the local communities to cope up with the climate change

Meeting on National Housing Rights

Secretary AADHAAR participated and shared the concerns of the hilly states in National Convention on land rights being organised by Ekta Parishad on 2-3 September, at

constitutional club New Delhi. It was deliberated in the workshop that socio, economic and gender justice should be kept in the draft bill.

Meet on Child Participation in Disaster mitigation and Management, Mountain Children Forum

State level meet of the children from across the field area of Mountain Children Forum, (Dehradun based NGO) is an annual event hosted by the organization. AADHAAR was invited to the event which was organized at Dehradun on 21 Nov, 2014. The objective of the meet is to give children an opportunity to share their experiences and learning with each other on Disaster mitigation and Management and to discuss about their future plans besides celebrating collectively.

Ekta Parishad Silver Jubilee Celebration

Ekta Parishad, India's largest land rights movement completed 25 years on Jan 21, 2015. A three days (22-24 Jan 2015) event was organized at Tilda (Chhattisgarh) to celebrate the journey of Ekta Parishad as well as to discuss on the future course of action. A number of civil society organizations and groups attended the event and discussed ways to work in collaboration on the issue of land rights of the marginalized communities.

Support to Civil Society Organisations

Impact Assessment- 'Sustaining Mountain Livelihoods (SML) Programme

During the period Aug-Sep 2014, AADHAAR conducted impact assessment of Sustaining Mountain Livelihoods (SML) Programme. SML was a three years programme that was



implemented by Peoples' Sciences Institute (PSI), Dehradun and its partners in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand and was supported by the Himmothan Society, Dehradun.

The purpose



of the impact assessment was to evaluate qualitative changes brought about by the SML project in the lives of beneficiaries. The Impact Assessment aimed to assess the impact of the project under the following key broad areas: Ecological and Environmental Impacts, Economical Impacts, Institutional Building and Strengthening, Government linkages and mainstreaming.

Pre Election Voter Awareness Campaign (PEVAC) Training, Sehgal Foundation Panchayat 8-10 Sep, 2014- PEVAC training for IRRAD

Mr. Kamleshwar Singh and Ms. Neha Chaturvedi from AADHAAR facilitated a three days training for the programme team of Sehgal Foundation, Gurgoan on Pre election voter awareness campaign (PEVAC). The training programme was organized from Sep 8- 10, 2014 at Mewat in Haryana.

The objective of the training was to develop an understanding of the programme teams on PEVAC, and developing Sehgal Foundation's strategy for the upcoming Panchayat Elections in Haryana.

