2018-19 Annual Report

Participation. Education. Governance.

Localising Sustainable Development Goals

6 cities 110 gram panchayats 9 districts
reaching 53,843 citizens
Growing inequality of wealth, opportunity, and access to basic services. Intolerance to differences in language, dress, rituals, food and culture. Irrelevance, fragmentation and even decay of institutions of democratic governance -- legislature, judiciary, law and order machinery, media, civil society. The past year has seen it all. PRIA continues to respond to these challenges through its underlying motto of "Knowledge.Voice.Democracy." -- by engaging youth to become active citizens; listening, supporting and amplifying the voice of hitherto excluded in processes and rituals of participatory democracy; and promoting and deepening practice of participatory research among practitioners and communities, and with the next generation of students/researchers in order to build their capacities as socially responsible agents of change.

In this increasingly uncertain, complex world we live in, PRIA remains committed to creating a better world – one with reduced inequalities, equitable distribution of scarce resources, and engaged, empowered citizens.

Rajesh Tandon
Founder-President, PRIA
In Ajmer, Jhansi and Muzaffarpur

Through the ECRC project we have built an exemplar of community engagement of the urban poor in city-wide planning

- 3,210 Settlement Improvement Committee (SIC) members, of which 53% are women and 50% are youth members. SIC members are mature and confident, capable of making municipal authorities accountable.
- Some SIC leaders represent the urban poor community in the advisory body of Ajmer Smart City Limited.
- Sharing research on women sanitation workers has sensitized municipalities to the needs to women sanitation workers. Muzaffarpur Municipal Corporation set up its Internal Committee as per SHW Act 2013.
- Jhansi Municipal Corporation conducts regular health check-ups for women sanitation workers.
- Granular data generated through the project is helping respective municipal corporations take informed actions for provisioning of sanitation services.

In Rajasthan

Over 3 years, participation of women in gram sabhas has increased in the intervention blocks: from 36% to 41% in Govindgarh block and 21% to 49% in Banswara and Talwara blocks.

- These women are voicing and protesting against lack of quality and timely maternal health services in their panchayats.
- Frontline health workers (ASHAs, anganwadi workers, ANMs) have emerged as effective convergence points within gram panchayats.
- Maternal health is now on the CPDP agenda of 104 panchayats in Govindgarh and Banswara.
- Community-led initiatives and infrastructure towards reduction of MMR (SDG indicator 3.1.1) and percentage of pregnant women aged 15-49 years who are anaemic (SDG Indicator 2.2.4).
- Hearing of the success of conducting Mahila Sabhas in 18 gram panchayats in Banswara, sarpanches of non-intervention blocks have made requests to help them in facilitating Mahila Sabhas.

Youth and Education

- Nascent network of youth leaders built through the Youth-n-Democracy (YnD) campaign.
- Making education relevant for researchers and communities (building capacities of students as community-based researchers).
- Reforming curriculum through advocacy with University Grants Commission (UGC) for Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA).
- PRIA has emerged as a preferred Southern practitioner organization for research partnerships with UK/EU universities to promote Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI).
- Knowledge for Change (K4C) Hubs established and 52 mentors trained on community-based participatory research.
YOUTH ENGAGEMENT FOR ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

YOUTH-N-DEMOCRACY CAMPAIGN

PRIA’s Youth-n-Democracy (YnD) campaign has opened spaces for conversations among students in colleges and universities across India on Democracy In Everyday Life (#DiEL). From slam poetry sessions to the popular street play competition Youthra, the YnD campaign engaged the youth of India in open dialogue on issues of identity, aspirations, diversity, gender and sexuality. The campaign has operated at a national level and has engaged with young people from more than 45 Indian cities. It consciously reached out to youth in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities, especially those studying in "non-elite" institutions. Youth champions and leaders identified through the campaign will take forward democratic actions and the principles of DiEL in their individual lives, and in their community.

From 2019, PRIA’s youth programme will be led by youth, in ways youth do. A fellowship program for self-development and leadership is planned.

PRIA is gaining recognition as an organization working with youth on issues of democracy.
REFORMING LOCAL HEALTH GOVERNANCE IN RAJASTHAN

APNA SWASTHYA APNI PEHEL

Since April 2017, PRIA’s maternal health project in Rajasthan (Apna Swasthya, Apni Pehel) has focused on improving rural health governance involving community, frontline health workers, panchayat and district officials through convergence, participatory health planning and monitoring – to bring maternal health benefits to all women.

PRIA’s unique approach during the project intervention period has been to promote the convergence of two standing committees of the panchayat – Social Justice Committee (SJC) and Village Health Sanitation Nutrition Water Committee (VHSNWC).

Rarti Choupals (night meetings) gave women the freedom to speak and express their concerns without any cultural barriers and fear in their minds.

The project has also recognized and built convergence of Frontline Workers (FLWs), that is, ASHAs, anganwadi workers, and ANMs, who maintain constant pressure on the local machinery to listen to the issues raised by pregnant and lactating women.
The project interventions were successful in making health a panchayat agenda. The project’s holistic approach to participatory governance can improve development/health indicators of rural communities.

-- From the external mid-term evaluation report of Apna Swasthya Apni Pehel project
ENGAGING CITIZENS AND MAKING CITIES RESPONSIVE

AJMER, JHANSI AND MUZAFFARPUR

Building on the achievements in the first and second year of the project across the three cities of Ajmer, Jhansi and Muzaffarpur, in 2018 the Engaged Citizens, Responsive City (ECRC) project focussed on:

- Continued capacity building of SIC leadership
- Building city level SIC forums to amplify voice of the urban poor
- Building Citizen Forums, a multi-stakeholder platform to influence municipalities to ensure equitable access to sanitation services for all citizens, including the urban poor
- Continued city-wide campaigning to generate awareness on sanitation

Much like SDG 17 which supports the efforts of other SDGs like a scaffolding, ECRC’s interventions strive to enable partnerships that incorporate as well as respond to multiple SDGs (SDG 6, 11 and 5). ECRC’s processes and activities are SDG 17 in action, which helps neighbourhoods, wards and cities converse among each other. These local partnerships give us lessons that can enable global partnerships to create gender just, equal, sustainable cities and communities where clean water and sanitation reaches every home.
Women and youth continue to be the primary mobilizers of the Settlement Improvement Committees (SICs). There is specific focus on mainstreaming women leadership through SICs to amplify gender equality (SDG 5) at local and city level.

Ward level meetings became catalysts for building partnerships for local action, when data was shared among multiple stakeholders (Resident Welfare Association members, Citizen Forum and SIC members, and elected representatives, along with the informal settlement dwellers) exposed the gaps in sanitation services between informal settlement and colony residents despite living in the same ward. It sensitized the middle class to step up and support clean water and sanitation for all (SDG 6).

Through the multiple rounds of sharing meetings, a total of 360 staff and councillors of municipal corporations have been sensitized on participatory planning and monitoring of sanitation services. Several rounds of meetings and workshops continue to be organized with elected ward councillors and officials from the municipal corporations and other parastatals.

Three state level conferences on “Partnership to Scale Up Innovative Solutions for Urban Sanitation” were organised in Jaipur, Lucknow and Patna in May, September and October 2018 respectively to pursue policy oriented dialogues. The conferences were successful in bridging multiple scales and types of partnerships to make sanitation planning more inclusive, especially between local politicians such as MLAs and civil society organizations.

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4 things that changed when citizens in Muzaffarpur took action, enabled by PRIA

- Regular Cleaning of Drains
- Access to Clean Water
- Timely Garbage Collection
- Proper House Numbering
In September 2018 we launched our first CSR collaboration for communities living in 10 villages in Sonipat district, Haryana. Undertaken in partnership with Martha Farrell Foundation, the project aims to create 1000 adolescent youth leaders (boys and girls). These young girls and boys will become market ready to avail diversified career choices and grow as sensitive, conscious young citizens ready to take a stand on issues of violence faced by women and girls.
ENSURING DIGNITY OF LABOUR

FOR WOMEN DOMESTIC WORKERS IN SOUTH DELHI, GURUGRAM AND FARIDABAD

The project organized women domestic workers to increase their capacity for lobbying and advocacy in order to address the issue of sexual harassment in their workplace.

Absence of district level mechanism, lack of clarity of powers of Local Committee, non-access for informal sector women workers and absence of any appellate authority for Local Committees are some of the challenges the project is addressing, and sensitizing government authorities to the need for safeguarding the rights of informal sector women workers under the SHW Act 2013.

THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENT HAS BEEN TO STRENGTHEN THE REDRESSAL SYSTEM THROUGH FUNCTIONAL AND EFFECTIVE LOCAL COMMITTEES AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL. A MODEL FOR OUTREACH AND RAISING AWARENESS AMONG ALL WOMEN WORKERS IN THE INFORMAL SECTOR HAS been DEVELOPED FOR THE SOUTH EAST DELHI DISTRICT AND ADVOCATING FOR ADOPTION OF THIS MODEL BY THE DELHI GOVERNMENT.

Over 70 stakeholders from civil society, trade unions, academia, media, informal sector, Delhi State Government, and Delhi Commission for Women joined the state level consultation organised on 10 September 2018. Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi, Manish Sisodia, was the chief guest on the occasion.
SHARING KNOWLEDGE FOR PARTICIPATORY CHANGE

LITTERED DIGNITY
A FILM ON THE EVERYDAY LIVED EXPERIENCES OF WOMEN SANITATION WORKERS IN INDIA BASED ON THE PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH CONDUCTED IN AJMER, JHANSI AND MUZAFFARPUR.

IT HIGHLIGHTS THE NEED TO BRING WOMEN SANITATION WORKERS AS DIRECT STAKEHOLDERS IN THE SANITATION SYSTEM OF INDIA

HIDING INJUSTICES FOR CENTURIES
SEMINAR ON LESSONS FROM INDIA’S PUBLIC POLICIES ON SANITATION WORKERS

BRINGING TOGETHER PRACTITIONERS, ACADEMICIANS, STUDENTS AND POLICY ANALYSTS TO ENGAGE IN VIBRANT DISCUSSION ON HOW TO BRING DIGNITY TO INDIA’S SANITATION WORKERS

TOILET TALES
MOBILE-BASED STUDY ON STATUS OF PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY TOILETS, FOCUSED ON ACCESS BY CITIZENS LIVING IN LOW-INCOME SETTLEMENTS, IN AJMER, JHANSI AND MUZAFFARPUR

ADVOCATING TO BETTER THE SANITATION PLANS OF THE THREE CITIES.

The scope and urgency of India’s environmental health challenges needs local knowledge generated in diverse contexts to inform local practical actions and decision-making. Addressing environmental challenges requires engaging citizens in understanding the causes and co-creating solutions through Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR). On 28 February 2019, citizens and researchers came together at the American Centre in New Delhi to discuss how CBPR can contribute to creating a safe, clean, and healthy environment, and how citizens can contribute to such efforts.
DEEPPENING PRACTICE AND TEACHING OF PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH

As the educational wing of PRIA, the Academy draws on practical lessons from the action learning projects of PRIA and its local partners implemented over the last three decades. The educational courses offered by PIA are a perfect blend of PRIA’s practice based experience and academic rigour. PIA has over 2000 alumni from 35 countries and has linkages with several universities in India, USA, UK and Canada for course development, course teaching and internships.

In the past year, learners from James Madison College, University of Michigan, USA; University of Glasgow, Scotland, and Mahatma Gandhi National Council of Rural Education (MGNCRE), Hyderabad, India were offered specialised programs to learn participatory research methodologies and rural community engagement.

KNOOWLEDGE FORCHANGGEE

The Knowledge for Change (K4C) initiative trains next generation of mentors and leaders in Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR). It creates K4C Hubs to build a cohort of master trainers in CBPR. Each Hub is a community-university partnership and mentors and students comprise of practitioners and undergraduate/graduate students. K4C offers global standards of curriculum and pedagogy which has been developed by the UNESCO Chair in Community Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education.
As a leading practitioner of CBPR in occupational health, PRIA leveraged this experience to conduct a workshop and build capacities for CBPR in environmental health.

At a workshop held in February 2019, US and Indian researchers and practitioners reflected upon the CBPR methods used in the two countries, showcased different approaches of participatory research, evolved an environmental health focused CBPR framework relevant for India and identified collaborative CBPR opportunities in India.

Following the workshop, partnerships are being explored with Centre for Community Medicine at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi.

PRIA is a partner in a multi-partnership research collaboration supported by the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF), UK and Scottish Funding Council. As part of this research collaboration, a workshop on Role of Universities in Developing Skills for Smart Cities was held.

Presentations by academicians and researchers included how universities located within a city or in the surrounding areas can support and encourage skilling and lifelong learning opportunities to help create “learning cities” as opposed to “smart cities” in India.
From the importance of building knowledge societies for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), at the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) in London, to endorsing the Global Communiqué-VIII issued by the Big Tent Consortium (a global network of universities and their community partners), to Engage2018 in Edinburgh, Dr Rajesh Tandon along with his co-Chair, Dr Budd Hall, travelled the globe to advocate for the role of universities in the implementation of the UN SDGs.

In India, as member of the Subject Expert Group (SEG) on Curricular Reforms and Educational Institutions Social Responsibility set up by the University Grants Commission (UGC), Dr Tandon contributed to the development of a national framework document that serves as a standard reference guide for Indian universities attempting to enhance their rural engagement to realize the objectives of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) 2.0.

Under the auspices of the Chair, in collaboration with UNESCO India, the first-ever meeting of the 10 UNESCO Chairs in India was held. The reflections in the meeting of India’s UNESCO Chairs generated a number of ideas about ways to engage with each other on an ongoing basis.

The Chair has organized and participated in dialogues at the UGC office in New Delhi, at Odisha Vikas Conclave in Bhubaneshwar, at Gandhigram Rural Institute in Madurai, and the FICCI Higher Education Committee in New Delhi.
# Financial Summary

## Income and Expenditure Account
(Year ended March 31, 2019)

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Note: Extracted from Audited Statement of Accounts 2018-19

Statutory Auditors: Sanjesh Jawarani & Co., Chartered Accountants, New Delhi
PRIA ALUMNI MEET

MEMORIES, LAUGHTER, CONVERSATIONS.

9th February | 10am to 3pm
PRIA Head Office, Delhi