

Poverty reduction through a Community Based Inclusive Development intervention

A comparative analysis of people with disability and their families in rural Uttar Pradesh, India, from 2015 to 2020



The Project:

The Parivartan project was a five-year project designed to enhance the lives of people with disabilities. Implemented by lead partner, Purvanchal Gramin Seva Samiti (PGSS) and sub-partner, Naujhil Integrated Rural Project for Health and Development (NIRPHAD). The project aimed to improve the socio-economic condition of over 4156 people with disabilities and their families through skills trainings, livelihood opportunities and financial inclusion. The project was implemented in 52 villages across in Gorakhpur and Mathura districts in Uttar Pradesh, India.

Lives improved

By comparing data from 2015 to 2020, it is evident that the economic situation of people with disabilities and their families participating in the Parivartan CBID program has, overall, improved.

More people in 2020 than in 2015 felt they were in a better position economically to meet the needs of their family in terms of being able to provide enough food and respond to health needs. We conclude this is due to increased participation in skills and livelihood training and increased income diversity.

The way in which people with disabilities perceived their own situation also changed. In 2020, a higher proportion of families felt that their household situation had improved over the past five years, and that their situation was now better than other families in their community.

The project also improved community and family attitudes towards disability. More people with disability in 2020 than in 2015 participated in important family decision making, attended public gatherings and family functions, and were included in village and community level decisions.

As the project progressed, more people with disabilities were able to access government schemes, such as the disability certificate, disability pensions, and health insurance. Improved government linkages also meant that more people were able to access assistive devices, such as wheelchairs, hearing aids and rehabilitation services, improving their mobility and capacity.

By 2020, membership of organisations of people with disabilities (OPDs) and self-help groups (SHGs) not only grew but were strong and positive. Those involved in OPDs and SHGs reported benefitting economically, socially and physically, including people with severe disabilities.

Project Achievements:

- By 2020, 85% felt that their economic situation had improved as a result of the project. 69% of people earning money received income from multiple sources, compared to 22% in 2015, increasing economic security. By participating in skills development training on income generating activities, 60% showed a greater potential to earn or increase their income, 38% more than in 2015. This made supporting family needs easier.
- The project continued increasing the involvement of people with disability in family and community development decision-making processes by raising awareness around inclusion, accessibility, and disability rights. As a result, by 2020, 90% felt they were included in family decisions around finances, compared to 77% in 2015, and 80% said they participated in village and community level discussions. Increased inclusions indicates

that disability issues are better understood and included in family and community decisions.

- By 2020, more people became involved in OPDs (94%) and SHGs (50%). They benefited through improved leadership skills, increased respectability within the community, better access to rights, entitlements, and government schemes, easier access to loans, and more livelihood opportunities.
- The project built strong linkages with government institutions and supported people with disabilities to access government schemes and benefits. As a result, by 2020, 98% had a disability certificate, compared to just 40% in 2015, giving them access to support services and benefits such as the disability pension.

Project Challenges:

- In 2020, less people with disabilities were saving money regularly than in 2015 and 2018 (59% compared to 67% in 2015 and 60% in 2018). This could be attributed to the fact that the survey was undertaken during the Covid-19 pandemic and a large number of participants' (61%) recent income was either heavily or moderately affected by the pandemic. Only 3% said it had a positive impact on their income. However, when comparing the economic situation of people involved in the project to those locally who are not involved, 63% thought their economic situation was either better or the same as other people.
- While the situation for people with disabilities had improved overall, there were few areas where people with severe disabilities lagged. These included:
 - While more people with disabilities felt that the status of their household had improved over the life of the project, people with severe disabilities felt it less.
 - People with severe disabilities felt their leadership skills and opportunities improved less than those with mild or moderate disabilities.
 - People with severe disabilities (and women with disabilities) were less likely to significantly contribute to their family financially.



Poverty reduction through a Community Based Inclusive Development intervention in India.

2015 to 2020 project achievements

Lives transformed: 4156 people with disability, & their families in rural Uttar Pradesh, India

Increased economic security: more people getting income from multiple sources: 69% in 2020 compared to 47% in 2015.

60% showed greater potential to earn income by participating in training.

68% contributed significantly to their families financially.

Less people felt the need to borrow money regularly.

More people had better access to government schemes & benefits.

People with disabilities participated more in family & community level discussions & decision making.

Organisations of People with Disabilities (OPDs) and self-help groups (SHG) grew and benefited members:

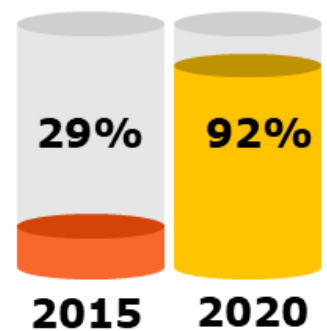
2020 94% were members of an OPD

2020 50% were members of a SHG

By 2020, 85% felt that their economic situation had improved as a result of the project.

Households improved

By 2020, 70% felt their overall status of their household improved, compared to 48% in 2018.



Number of houses with private toilets increased

Challenges

People with **severe** disabilities:

- were less likely to contribute *significantly* to their families financially.
- were less likely to think the status of their household had improved.
- were less likely to consider their leadership opportunities had improved *significantly*.