



ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR 2022 - 2023



RAJMERU SANSTHA

Plot No. A-10, Flat No. S-1, Prime Rose Apartment, Budh Vihar- II,
Ram nagariya, Jagatpura, Jaipur

Introduction

To address issues affecting the life of poor and marginalized, Rajmeru as a collective forum came into being and later on its expanded its membership to associated members and individuals from development background in the country. RAJMERU which is the combination of two Hindi words -Raj (Sand) and Meru (Mountain), act as a viable platform for discussion, sharing of information and experiences in consent to facilitate a process of democratic planning and decision making is dedicated to enable people to ultimately become the owners of all development efforts. Rajmeru with an aim to form an egalitarian and just society will stand forward to discuss, negotiate and advocate at various levels on issues of common interest.

Rajmeru is a registered state level forum that consists of 18 members with expertise of CSO and Individuals, working in different locations of Rajasthan and other states of the country. It has successfully expanded its network with more than 300 CBOs and their collectives working in different areas on varied issues and concerns. RAJMERU after a long deliberation has made a shift in its approach and activities considering the specific geographical nature, arid climate and environment. The Rajmeru has also initiated its efforts for ensuring entitlements of the people through continuous dialogues at the state and national level. The core issues being dealt with are drought mitigation, livelihood, Natural Resource Management and Local Self-Governance etc.

Foreword

It gives me great pleasure to present the report of RAJMERU for the financial period 2022-2023. This financial period was satisfactory for the forum. Rajmeru organized workshops for discussion on various topics where CSOs, POs, and members of non – member organizations shared their experience and suggestions. Strategy was developed on the basis of discussions and documented. Copies were sent to CSOs and POs of the same area.

Emphasis on efforts to increase information dissemination about various schemes and participation of CSOs was focused during this year. Capacity building workshops were organized for the same. Rajmeru is committed for the upliftment of the poor, dalits and backward classes. Various programmes, seminars and workshops in close collaboration with the government and the local departments, were organized at the local level as well as state level to bring awareness and to provide support to them.

None of this would have been possible without the whole hearted support of the Coordination Hub, working committee members, Rajmeru members, CSOs, non members well wishers and donors. I take this opportunity to thank everyone to make our journey in 2022-2023 a meaningful endeavor.

Chairperson

Rajmeru Sanstha, Jaipur

Acknowledgement

Rajmeru successfully completed 16 years, and strengthened the bond among CSOs and POs. Rajmeru worked on issues of livelihood, right to food, water scarcity and its impact on future, disaster management, community capacity building. Awareness programmes, seminars, workshops were organized to advocate the issues at community and state level.

This year Rajmeru strengthened its networking at state level, and successfully carry forward the work of capacity building programme for peoples organizations, proper information dissemination at all levels, with the help of CSOs and POs.

Rajmeru is obliged to all whom provided their support and valuable guidance in achieving the goals; none of this would have been possible without their support. Rajmeru is committed for the upliftment of the poor, dalits and backward classes, so that they can live a respectable life rightfully.

Secretary General
Rajmeru Sanstha, Jaipur

Vision, Mission & Goal

VISION

Rajmeru visualizes a society where justice, equity and socio economic righteousness prevail with dignity and self-respect of each individual.

MISSION

Establishing an organic linkage with various civil society actors to emerge as a force towards fighting against poverty, inequality and deprivations and promote people's collectives for transformational development

GOAL

Promoting Action in Collaboration with CSOs, networks, Government and other stakeholders for facilitating Sustainable Development processes through strengthening local leadership and their institutions.

Objectives

•To ensure participative decision making process in terms of social, economic and cultural life of the people.

To ensure collective action along with different stakeholders, government bodies and other concerned departments on need and entitlement related issues.

•To create a common platform for likeminded individuals and organizations to formulate plans for the welfare of the people

Key Interventions & Thrust Areas



Livelihood and Food security



Natural Resource Management



Strengthening Governance



Integration of cross cutting issues-
Gender, Climate Change and Disaster
Risk Reduction(DRR)



•Research and Documentation



Networking and Alliance Building

Key Issues

Rajmeru envisages changing social scenario via information, awareness and empowered the rural populace. All development interventions at Rajmeru are guided by the principles of People oriented collective action, collective decision-making, participatory approach and practicing of equity principles. Rajmeru aims to promote People's collectives for collective action for sustainable development at various levels.



Major Activities

This year our major focus was on Strengthening self-governed Institutional Mechanisms and Coordination Hub Processes in Rajasthan, India with Rajmeru and its associated network.

1. Strengthening Institutional Mechanism

1.1. Meeting to facilitate Hub Mechanism at State level

Organized 4 meetings to facilitate Coordination Hub mechanisms at state level with all proposed people's organizations. In these activities 30 people's organizations were participated from different areas of Rajasthan, all the people's organizations working on different social issues, some of them working on education, MNREGA and some of them working on FRA and some of working to resolve their Water Problems and other social issues; especially Gender inequality. The agenda of these meetings was to introduce Coordination Hub Mechanism and to discuss the strategies of Self-governing system building in Rajasthan for local leadership promotion. All the People's organizations interested to work in an organized system of Coordination Hub, implemented by Rajmeru Sanstha.



1.2. Meetings of PO's & VDC's to coordinate collective action

A total number of 23 meetings with different people's organizations working in Rajasthan to introduce Coordination hub and discussed on the social issues of their community, and collective action on their local issues. We have interacted with people or community members to introduce coordination hub to strengthen the People's organization at their own end.

1.3. Promoting Gender Mainstreaming process

Gender mainstreaming involves integrating a gender perspective into all policies, programs, and activities of institutions to ensure that the different needs, priorities, and experiences of women and men are taken into account. We have trained to members of people's organization. Here's we are having to strengthen this mechanism:

- ✓ Training and Capacity Building: Conducted training programs for all People's Organization's members on gender issues, gender analysis, and the importance of gender mainstreaming. This will help create a more gender-sensitive and aware workforce within the institution.
- ✓ Gender Analysis and Impact Assessments: Incorporate gender analysis into program planning. Conduct gender impact assessments to identify potential differential effects of projects on men and women.
- ✓ Gender Focal Points: Designate gender focal points within the institution responsible for promoting gender mainstreaming and ensuring gender considerations are addressed in all decisions.
- ✓ Engage Stakeholders: Involve local communities, women's organizations, and civil society groups in the decision-making process to ensure their perspectives are considered in institutional plans and programs.

1.4. Strengthening Local Resource Mobilization process in PO's

Local Resource Mobilization is a critical aspect of fostering sustainable growth for the residents. The training focused on promoting self-reliance and encouraging local contribution to actively participate in the development process.

Training Objectives:

- I. To raise awareness among rural communities about the importance of local contributions in cash or kind for their own development.
- II. To equip participants with the necessary skills and knowledge to manage and utilize resources effectively for community development projects.
- III. To foster a sense of ownership and responsibility among rural community members towards initiating and sustaining development projects.
- IV. To encourage collaboration among community members and stakeholders to collectively contribute to the growth of their locality.

Participants were provided with an overview of the responsibilities and roles of the local treasurer in managing finances and resources for community. They were introduced to budgeting, financial reporting, and transparency practices at their local level. The training emphasized the positive impacts of local contributions. By investing their own resources, community members have a greater sense of ownership and are more likely to participate actively in development initiatives.

The training program on developing local community chest in cash or kind for community development has been a significant step towards empowering rural communities and promoting self-reliance. By equipping participants with the necessary knowledge and skills, we have witnessed a transformation in their approach towards sustainable development. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the trainers, participants, and stakeholders who contributed to the success of this initiative.



2. Collective Action and Networking

Planning meetings were organized with CBOs & POs at the regional level to plan the campaign at the regional level. In these meetings, plans were made to organize campaigns on area specific issues. All the People's Organization have successfully done a Campaign with Collective Action on issues of entitlements related to MGNREGA, Social Security, Food Security and FRA etc. The output of these activities was, all the communities re-connected to the respective People's Organization and supporting it.



3. Strengthening Knowledge Management, Capacities and Skills of various Stakeholders

Rajmeru has worked on Strengthening Knowledge Management, Capacities and Skills of various Stakeholders like Building capacities of People's Organizations on Gender Based Societal Analysis, Issue Identification



and Strategic Interventions at various levels and Capacity Building of People's Organization on Leadership, Advocacy, Networking and other processes for collective activism through trainings and exposure visits. To strengthen the PO, VDC meetings were organized regularly.

4. Youth Leadership Development

30 youth leaders were identified as the youth leaders cadre for the second line leadership of 30 People's Organization and their profiles were developed for further processes. One training regarding youth leadership building was also organized with selected youth leaders.

5. Training and Capacity Building on OIO process

A training about the OIO process was conducted with the Rajmeru team members. The aim of training was to develop an understanding about Outcome and Impact Orientation of the project and how can we perform our project at best at organization level. During this training a deep understanding about the effect chain of the project.

6. Conclusion

With the overall impact of all the organized activities, local people's organizations have started to be strengthened. The identity of people's organization & CBOs have been established at the local level. Besides this, leadership skills have also been developed, which has been seen while advocating various issues at the regional level. CBOs have become active. Youth leaders have now started taking interest in social actions for their community. Gender mainstreaming process has enabled the active participation of women in various platforms. Women leaders have started coming forward in an active role in their CBOs & POs. There is a need to work more to expand the work of POs and their self-reliance in future.