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MAHILA JAGAT LIHAAZ SAMITI

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OVERCOMING BARRIERS - ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18

The Mahila Jagat Lihaaz Samiti or Society for Respect for Women and Earth, also known by its acronym Majlis which in turn means a collective, was formed by Dalit and Adivasi women of western Madhya Pradesh in 2016 to advance the two most neglected causes of women's empowerment and conservation of the environment. Considerable progress has been made in both these spheres and in allied programmes in the year under review as detailed below.

1. Gynaecological Health Programme for Women

The brunt of the burden of poverty in rural areas is borne by women. Deep-rooted patriarchy in rural societies prevents women from addressing their own needs. In most cases patriarchy has been internalised by the women themselves and they think nothing of working long hours for the benefit of the rest of the family. The most worrisome problem for women relates to their reproductive health. The combination of patriarchal oppression and poverty inducing destructive development policies has resulted in alarming health problems for poor women. In the case of rural women this is compounded by inadequate medical facilities and illiteracy. The taboo surrounding reproductive matters means that there is a culture of silence and women cannot talk freely about these. Thus, for rural women improving their health is most often an urgent need that they have perforce to neglect.

Women's health is a much more complex issue than just the provision of adequate healthcare services. It has come to be recognised that women's health, safe motherhood, population control, and poverty alleviation are all dependent on women having reproductive health rights apart from economic and political rights at par with men in a society that is egalitarian in all respects. Thus the basic requirements for improving the health status of women are a direct multi-pronged attack on poverty through the creation of labour intensive work opportunities, removal of social inequalities of all kinds, a campaign against traditional and modern myths and a comprehensive community health care system with primary and referral services. So any programme aimed at improving the health status of poor adivasi women has to necessarily incorporate both the service delivery and the mass organisational approaches to community work if it has to be successful.

Majlis has extended its work in Indore on women's gynaecological health to the rural areas nearby to address this problem. It has organised women to fight for their rights and also arranged for special reproductive health camps to be held. A reproductive health survey was conducted by the organisation in Udainagar Tehsil of Dewas district. The results presented a shocking picture of the reproductive health status of the women of the area. As many as 84.7% of the women suffered from some reproductive health problem or other. 49.1% suffered from vaginal discharges and 45.4% from dizziness arising possibly out of high blood pressure. 65% of the women complained of waist pains. Another disturbing statistic was that 6.8% of the women suffered from STDs, which was quite high for such a remote rural area where there was no prostitution. On an average the number of diseases being suffered simultaneously by a respondent, the morbidity index, was as high as 3.1. This morbidity index for Adivasi women was highest at 3.5 while that of the Dalit women stood at 2.6 and

that of other caste women at 2.1. Thus even though the other caste women who are economically well off are not as badly off as the Adivasis and the Dalits, nevertheless, the level of morbidity among them too is very high. Statistical testing showed that the null hypothesis that the means of the samples of the different caste groups were from the same population could be accepted at a 5% level of significance. Thus it can be surmised that some other factor in addition to poverty was responsible for the poor reproductive health of the women. Significantly none of the 28 unmarried girls surveyed reported as suffering from any problems. The detailed observations of the day to day life of the married women in the area confirmed that the pernicious effects of patriarchy were mainly to blame for their sorry reproductive health status irrespective of their economic condition.

The survey revealed that the average haemoglobin level of the women was only 7.36 grams per decilitre of blood, which was about 46% of the desired value. Thus our hypothesis that there was a close relationship between the anaemic condition of the women and their poor reproductive health status too was amply borne out. Significantly unmarried girls showed an average of 11.1 grams per decilitre, which was relatively all right further confirming that it was married women who were more subject to the pressures of patriarchy. Furthermore 73.6% of the women had been married before completing 18 years of age, 41.7% had lost at least one child, 17.3% of women had more than 5 children and only 10.4% of the women had been sterilised. These discouraging statistics also pointed toward the pervasiveness of patriarchal values. The survey also revealed that there was no statistically significant difference in the literacy levels of boys and girls and the nutritional levels of girls was slightly better than that of the boys even though the difference was statistically insignificant. These levels, however, were far below that of the upper socio-economic strata in urban areas as was only to be expected. Thus these data too confirmed that the effects of patriarchy begin to make themselves felt on women only after marriage. The picture below shows a teenage adivasi woman who is eight months pregnant and yet is bringing drinking water on her head from a distance of one kilometer with a smile!

This obviously puts women under severe stress during pregnancy when they have to deal with the added burden of the foetus inside the womb. Under the circumstances the single most important health service for ensuring safe motherhood for poor women whether in the rural or urban setting is that they should get at least three ante natal checkups by qualified gynaecologists backed up by proper laboratory facilities. Since the women do not have the wherewithal to obtain such facilities it should be the responsibility of the public health system. Now this is where the government health system in Madhya Pradesh invariably slips up. Most primary health centres do not have gynaecologists and neither do they have proper laboratory facilities. Over and above this the PHCs serve a much larger population than is the norm because the government does not have the funds to set up and run PHCs as per the norm. Consequently most pregnant women in both urban and rural areas do not get the necessary specialised ante natal checkups. Thus even though the National Family Health Survey IV data show that in 2015 only 8.3% of the respondents in rural Madhya Pradesh had full antenatal care while for urban areas the proportion was 19.5% . Pregnancy for poor women is a very difficult time because they are in most cases severely anaemic (due to factors that arise from the prevalence of deep rooted patriarchy). Thus, in such cases only qualified gynaecologists can provide proper help.

The partial solution to this problem in Madhya Pradesh has been to hold special monthly camps in selected areas where the health department tries to provide these services in collaboration with NGOs. But even these focused attempts, which are anyway of a temporary nature, have been lacking in impact because of the neglect of the following gender sensitive aspects -

1. The camps are held in the community centres of the slums and tent house material is used to create partitions where women are to be checked up. This immediately creates the problem of lack of privacy because there is not enough seclusion for the women who are to be checked up.
2. Proper instruments and rubber gloves and sanitisation facilities are not provided to the doctor and so she cannot do the checkups properly.
3. The doctors keep on changing and so the patients find it difficult to relate to them enough to be able to freely discuss their problems.
4. No laboratory facilities are available.
5. Proper medicines are also not available.
6. There is no attempt to involve the men in the whole process and sensitise them to the special needs of their wives during pregnancy.

Consequently, even though all the pregnant women in the communities in which these camps are held are ostensibly covered by the programme, in reality they do not get the quality of service that they are entitled to. This sorry state of affairs exists because of the lack of gender sensitivity on this critical issue. Thus the focus for ensuring the reproductive health of women should be on providing proper checkups by qualified gynaecologists on a regular basis to all poor women in this country. This is their right as citizens of this country. It is solely because of deep set patriarchy and widespread poverty that women are still being deprived of this right within their family and by the government. It is in this context that Majlis has developed its own model of reproductive health camps in which these lacunae have been removed and these are now being conducted in villages also apart from the slums of Indore. The picture below shows one such camp being conducted in the village of Pandutalav in the field centre of Majlis.

2. Decentralised Rooftop Solar Programme

The difference between hype and performance in national policy determination is nowhere more visible than in the solar energy scenario prevailing in India and Germany. Germany decided two decades back to increase the use of renewable energy and in 2010 it legislated for a new programme called Energiewende or energy transition which aggressively promoted the swith to renewable energy with huge subsidies to wind and solar power generation and heavy investments in research to make both more technically efficient and cheaper to produce. As a consequence 32% of electricity production in Germany currently is from renewable energy and its cost of production has become so low that investments in coal based power have become economically unfeasible and is now having to be subsidised instead. All nuclear power generation is to be phased out completely by 2022. Not only centralised solar and wind generation but decentralised rooftop generation also has contributed to this huge energy transition that has become such a success that energiewende has now become a common word even in English. The price in terms of a surcharge paid by the citizens on their electricity bills, which is in effect a subsidy, is huge but has been enthusiastically cheered by the citizens because they feel that this is a transition worth making as they want to reduce their green house gas emissions to zero from the 2% of world emissions that it is now. Those who first adopted roof top solar or set up solar plants on a large scale were assured returns at high rates till 2024 to promote solar power generation. Even though subsequently solar power costs have come down substantially and the rates for new generation are much less, nevertheless the German Government has kept its promise to pay the enhanced rates agreed initially to the first movers. Thus, renewable energy has become mainstream with installation and service agencies becoming common and the whole grid being optimised for the fluctuations that are a part and parcel of renewable energy due to natural fluctuations in wind flow and solar insolation over time. Despite Germany being a country with comparatively less solar insolation it took a conscious decision to promote solar energy and has now become the world leader in its technology and implementation.

What is the scene in India? Given that this country is much larger in area and receives much more solar insolation we should have been the pioneers in solar electricity generation instead of the Germans or at least followed in their footsteps once they took the lead. While some movement is visible in centralised production of solar energy through huge solar parks, the progress in the sphere of decentralised solar energy generation is dismal. This despite the fact that supply of grid electricity to rural areas is a loss making proposition and has to be heavily subsidised. On the other hand the subsidy being offered to solar energy is not large enough and it is not being given as promised especially to the decentralised implementers. Thus, due to a lack of enough solar implementers the ecosystem for solar power for individual consumers is not building up and it is very difficult for such consumers to pursue solar energy deployment. I will detail below the various problems that we have faced in the implementation of solar energy that show that despite all the rhetoric we have a long way to go in India.

We began by installing 500 Watts of solar panels in our office in Indore to power the 1500 kva inverter cum battery system we already had. So instead of charging the battery from grid power we began charging it with solar power and also using the extra solar power after charging the batteries during the day directly through the inverter. We had to add a solar charge controller separately to the inverter and battery system. This charge controller had to be sourced from a supplier in Bengaluru while the panels were sourced from a manufacturer in Kolkata and the whole set up was installed by a vendor in Indore. This system worked fine except that once or twice we ran too many appliances on the inverter during the day leading to its burning out on one occasion. However, since the inverter was from a well known company that has a service centre in Indore it was repaired immediately.

After this we installed another 500 Watts of solar panels in Pandutalav village about 50 kms from Indore. Here we installed a combined charge controller cum inverter sourced from a supplier in Chennai to save on costs. However, the solar inverter had some glitch in it and so it would not support loads of more than 10 watts or so. Since, the supplier did not have a service centre in Indore the only option was to send the inverter back to Chennai to be serviced. A detailed email was sent to the supplier giving the details of the problem. Yet the supplier sent back the inverter without solving the problem. So we had to send it back to the supplier. Yet again the inverter was sent back without the problem being solved. Eventually the supplier sent a new inverter as replacement because they were unable to diagnose what was causing the problem in the one that had been sent earlier. This meant a down time at the field centre of one month during which we had to use kerosene powered lamps!!! Solar inverter technology has become quite well developed and this particular company was using German technology and yet there were problems. Due to the fact that the market for solar inverters is not big enough, the companies selling them cannot afford to have service centres all over the country unlike say cell phone manufacturers. Neither has local expertise developed in repairing these inverters as in the case of cell phones.

In the meanwhile the solar system we had installed in Kakrana village in Alirajpur district last year had also stopped functioning. On investigation it was found that the special solar connectors that are used to connect the panels to the inverter had burnt out in the heat. So even though some current was coming through to the inverter it was insufficient and so neither was the system running nor were the batteries charging. Since Kakrana is situated 250 kms from Indore it was not possible to immediately go down and service the problem. By the time the service personnel from Indore

reached there, the batteries had become discharged. So the batteries had to be brought to the nearest town 25 kms away and charged from the grid, the solar connectors dispensed with and the panels connected directly to the inverter. Earlier once the system had underperformed because the batteries had not been filled with distilled water as is necessary from time to time. These problems that arose in Kakrana are the standard ones that have plagued decentralised solar units throughout the country for quite some time and so currently we have thousands of panels lying idle across the country because the connectors have burnt out, the batteries have discharged and the charge controllers and inverters have malfunctioned and there are no service personnel nearby unlike in the case of mal functioning of the mainstream electric system.

Then we installed a net metering system in our office in Indore adding another 500 Watts of panels to make it a 1 KW system once this was made functional in Indore. In net metering during the day the consumer feeds the extra solar electricity produced into the grid while during the night she imports electricity from the grid. In this way there is no need to invest in expensive storage batteries. The consumer thus becomes a prosumer, producing and exporting electricity to the grid during the day and importing it during the night. If the prosumer is a net exporter then she gets paid for the electricity that she has supplied to the grid at a tarrif rate decided by the Electricity Regulatory Commission. Theoretically this is all very nice but in reality there are a lot of problems. The general employees of the electricity distribution company are not aware about this policy but the ground approvals have to come from them. Being used to bribes for any approval these employees stall the process expecting bribes despite the top level policy push for roof top solar net metering. Thus, the whole process of getting the approvals turned out to be a tortuous one since we were not prepared to pay bribes and took a few months to get through. Eventually, once the system was installed and operational the problem of billing arose. The meter reader was neither acquainted with the new metering system and nor was he ready to learn it when we tried to explain it to him. Despite our system having been a net exporter for the month for which the reading had to be taken he arbitrarily reported that we had imported electricity as we used to earlier. So we got an inflated bill that we had to complain against. After this another person came to check the meter and we explained to him the whole system as he was also not aware of the net metering system. Anyway our bill got rectified for that month. Next month, however, the same problem occurred again and once again we had to file a complaint. This went on for a few months and now things have become better with zero meter readings being recorded. The cumulative export into the grid is to be paid for by the electricity company only at the end of the annual billing cycle and not monthly. Even though one such annual billing cycle is over there is no sign of the electricity company paying us for the electricity we have exported to it. Knowing that the electricity company is not likely to pay for the exported electricity easily I had sized our system in such a way that we would export during the winters and import during the summers and overall be only marginal exporters. We have fought with the electricity company and succeeded in getting the bills rectified but in many cases the consumers have not been able to do so and are being slapped with the old bills in an ad hoc manner and so are complaining that they are not receiving the benefits that were promised. The capital subsidy that was promised on the installation cost has also not materialised. Thus, the net metering solar roof top programme is not likely to become a great hit in Madhya Pradesh. The situation elsewhere in India too is not very encouraging.

Finally, we got round to installing a bigger solar system in Pandutalav village. The plan was to install a 1 Horsepower submersible pump in a borewell cum handpump that was installed there. However,

sizing the solar system for this turned out to be a tricky proposition. Even though the power demand was only 0.75 KW what was crucial for designing the system was the current drawal by the motor. The pump runs at a current of about 8 amperes but the initial starting torque is almost double that at 15 amperes. Therefore, an inverter would have to be installed that could deliver 15 amperes to start the pump even if the running requirement was only 8 amperes. Given the way solar inverters work this would require a 3.5 KW inverter instead of the 0.75 KW required by the pump. So not only would the cost of the inverter go up but also that of the panels as a minimum of 2 KW of panels would have to be installed. Similarly the battery storage would also go up from just two batteries to four. Since it was a waste of resources to install such a system just to run the pump it was decided to use it for other heavy duty uses also like running mechanical grinders, drills and welding machines. Even so it was a huge investment that would not make an economic sense without a subsidy. In our case since the system was being installed with grant funding there was a hundred percnet subsidy. However, it is unlikely that decentralised solar irrigation will take off in a major way in this country without subsidy from the government. There is a scheme for providing 90 percent subsidy to farmers for installing solar pumps but it is being provided to only a very few farmers in a district every year. The installed solar panels are shown below

Once again in this system also there was a malfunction problem. The villager from Pandutalav phoned to say that the inverter had stopped working. By the time this could be checked ten days later, the batteries had discharged completely. So the batteries had to be taken to the town nearby to get them charged from the grid. After that the vendor in Indore took videos of the various control panel indicators showing that the charge controller was not working and sent them to the supplier in Mumbai. In the meanwhile, the original charge controller that had been installed in Indore and which had become redundant after the installation of the net metering system to charge the batteries and run the inverter and the pump, was used for charging the batteries. The service person from the supplier arrived in Indore after a couple of days with the card for the inverter and not that

for the charge controller. After testing of the system it became clear that it was the charge controller that was malfunctioning as we had informed them. Yet they had sent the service person with the card for the inverter and not for the charge controller. Eventually, another service personnel came with the proper card and the inverter was repaired after a week of down time. If we hadn't had a spare charge controller then in the height of summer there would have been a serious water shortage and we would have to draw water manually from the hand pump to irrigate the plants as had to be done for a few days initially.

The huge potential of decentralised rooftop solar energy is not being harnessed in any systematic manner in this country despite a lot of propaganda. It is both economically and practically difficult to implement decentralised rooftop solar given the lack of subsidies and an ecosystem for maintenance and repairs. Consequently it is only the committed people who have some kind of grant funding who are pursuing solar energy and it is unlikely to become a revolution like it has in Germany despite our country being much richer in solar insolation.

3. Education for Girls

The striking thing about Government schools in Bhil Adivasi areas in Madhya Pradesh is the abysmal standard of teaching in these schools and the huge difference between the quality of teachers and the standard of the books that are prescribed. The main reason is that there are not enough teachers who are capable of teaching the prescribed books. In most cases there are single teacher schools with the teachers themselves being products of these schools and so unable to understand the books they are supposed to teach and in most cases there is no training provided.
When we did get down to running some schools of our own we came up against this major constraint of lack of capable teachers. Whether it is the residential Rani Kajal Jeevan Shala in Kakrana or the Adharshila Learning Centre in Sakar, the basic education that the teachers had received when they were in school was so poor that despite being trained periodically they are not able to teach properly. Often I have gone and taught in these schools for a day or two to find that the children in a particular class were at a level of a few classes further down. There is no solution to this problem because it is next to impossible to get teachers in Adivasi areas capable of teaching the prescribed texts.

One of the programmes of the centre of the Mahila Jagat Lihaaz Samiti at Pandutalav village is to improve girls' education standards. What we have planned is that we will provide coaching classes to the girls studying in nearby schools at the secondary level from classes eight to twelve on weekends. Considerable publicity was done in the nearby villages that quality coaching would be provided to girls in all subjects on saturdays and sundays and so they should come for this. The first class that was held under this programme had only four attendees but slowly the attendance increased as shown below.

Why, despite the publicity done for the programme and the credibility Majlis has in the area, did so few girls turn up initially? Thereby hangs a tale. We asked the girls which subjects they found most difficult and they said in one voice English and Maths. So we started with English only to find that even the girl in the twelfth class did not know a word of English. We started off with some basic sentences and as we worked through them we talked to the girls about how they were taught in class. It appears that after learning the alphabet in English they had never read or written anything

in class. The teachers come and tell them to read as they themselves are unable to read the texts and just sit like dodos. The students then go home and do other things and don't touch their books at all. That is why most of the girls had not turned up because they didn't have any conception that there could be a teacher who would teach!! What is the point in going to a coaching class and sitting there all day without being taught after having done that through the week in school.

This was a shocking revelation to us that students in Adivasi areas can't believe that there can be teachers who can teach and make studying both a fun and a learning experience. The same was the situation with maths. Apart from tables up to ten or so and some rudimentary addition and subtraction the girls didn't know much. We had to spend a laborious few hours trying to make them understand how to multiply and divide. For the first time they had filled up their exercise books with so much writing and were enthused enough to say that they would go back home and practice what they had written and read.

One is left wondering about the farce that is being enacted in the name of education in Adivasi areas. The prescribed texts are of a high standard and unless they are taught well from the lower classes, the backlog of knowledge that builds up is near impossible to address in the higher classes. Since there is a no detention policy upto class ten when the first public examination is held, students are promoted through to class ten without being taught much. They come to accept that teachers do not teach and they need not learn. In the end what we have is a huge lot of young people who have been turned into duffers by an inappropriate education system. They are all very intelligent children who do a lot of thoughtful work on their fields and in their homes but when it comes to learning at school its just a waste of time and effort. So while the children of the rich go to schools where teachers do teach and they go on to become important cogs of the system, poor adivasi children are deliberately turned into duffers as they are NOT TAUGHT, due to lack of teachers, the same prescribed texts as the rich children.

In recent years there have been many projects to groom a few underprivileged children who have somehow learnt something in poor schools and help them to enter elite institutions like the Indian Institutes of Technology, with one of them being very famous by the name of Super Thirty. They do a

laudable job by helping these few children put a foot into the edge of the closed door of opportunities in the mainsteam world. But eventually these few children become part of the oppressive building and the door remains firmly shut for the vast majority. The schools that we run in Kakrana and Sakar do provide some opportunity to the Adivasi children but given that their total students is less than 400 in number, this is a drop in the ocean.

4. Sustainable Agriculture

Modern civilisation has reached such a stage that it is very difficult to remain indigenous anymore!! Our efforts to promote indigenous agriculture on our farm in Pandutalav is a case in point. For two years now we have collected indigenous seeds of rice, bajra (pearl millet), rawla (foxtail millet) jowar (sorghum), makka (maize), wheat, gram, pulses and many other grains from remote adivasi areas where they are still being cultivated and tried to cultivate them on our farm during the monsoon crop. While maize has been a success the cultivation of the other grains has proved problematical. Primarily because we are the only ones cultivating them in Pandutalav where everyone else cultivates only hybrid varieties of maize. So the birds from early morning till evening come to feast on the ripening grain beginning with the bajra and rawla which are the first to ripen, followed by the jowar and rice. Last year there was no one to chase away these birds so very little could be harvested. Just enough for seeds for the next year and limited consumption came through.

This year the farming has been done in a more systematic manner. A centre has been built on the farm and there is an Adivasi couple who are expert in farming who are supervising the farming operations. Even so it is a very difficult task to keep the birds off the ripening bajra. Two scare crows have had to be planted in the bajra and a wire with empty tins has been tied to the scarecrow which has to be regularly pulled so that the empty tins bang against each other and make a noise. This is not enough, however, and so a slingshot has to be used to fling stones at the birds as shown in the picture below.

Both the farmers have to take turns to keep the birds off the rawla and bajra all day. The rawla has been harvested and within a week or so it will be the turn of the bajra and by then the jowar next to it will ripen followed by the rice. So for two months or so it is a daily exercise to ensure that the harvest does come in. What then does this do to the economics of indigenous grain production? It makes a big hole in it!! While there is still a fair amount of subsidy and marketing support for hybrid seed and chemical fertiliser based agriculture, there is none for indigenous agriculture. That is why, except for some remote hilly areas where it is difficult to transport fertilisers and the soil quality does not suit hybrid seeds, indigenous seeds are not being cultivated at all. So we are providing the subsidy to make it possible on our farm on a pilot basis.

To spread this kind of indigenous farming among the farmers nearby, they too will have to be subsidised to do so. Since there is very little likelihood that the Government is going to provide this subsidy, we will have to implement a project to do this and build up a big enough base of indigenous farmers so that a few years down the line indigenous farming can be revived in the area. In fact developing and establishing an indigenous and sustainable ecosystem of farming which is also climate change resilient, requires considerable investments in soil, water and forest conservation, composting and decentralised energy generation from biomass for post harvest processing. This is a herculean task at present, given the Government's support for chemical agriculture in collusion with the agricultural multinational corporations who rule the world of agriculture globally right from production to consumption.

A few NGOs have expressed interest in Majlis' efforts to revive traditional indigenous agriculture at the centre. The representatives of these NGOs came on a visit to the centre and were treated to various dishes prepared in the traditional Bhil Adivasi cuisine from traditional cereals and pulses grown organically on the farm at the centre. The final parting delicacy were laddoos made from chikni jowar which is a vanishing strain of sorghum that Subhadra is trying to revive. Subhadra has also installed traditional flour grinding and rice pounding machines at the centre and the visitors enjoyed trying their hand at the grinding machine turning out tur dal with training from Subhadra.

Eventually, the NGO and Majlis reached an agreement that we would supply organic cereals and pulses and Adivasi preparations to the NGO which provides holistic health solutions and also markets organic products. The NGO took samples of quite a few varieties of cereals and pulses that Subhadra had grown on the farm as the Adivasi areas in which it works in Andhra Pradesh too grow the same cereals and pulses though of different genres. The Pandutalab centre of Majlis has been developed to promote healthy living based on labour intensive sustainable agriculture and this is the first time we had visitors who tried out this earthy concept. As time progresses we hope we will be able to extend this to nearby farmers also.

5. Future Plans

The organisation has successfully crossed many barriers in the path of development and is all set to progress further in the future. The major programme of the organisation will be to spread the model of reproductive health developed by it to other parts of India. There are possibilities of holding camps in Kolkata, Ajmer Delhi and Mumbai in collaboration with other NGOs. The sustainable agriculture programme is progressing apace with collaborations with other NGOs for the sale of conserved indigenous seeds. Wheat and rice cultivation will be broadbased further this year with the installation of a drip irrigation system to cover the whole of the farm. Waste water in the Indore office is being treated and recharged into the ground at the moment but a new system will be put in place to reuse the treated wastewater through dual plumbing for flushing and gardening as per the latest norms. The education programme has to be fine tuned further and the possibilities of starting a hostel for girls will be explored as the weekend coaching model being tried at the moment has its limitations. Decentralised solar models that are appropriate to rural areas and can be easily serviced are being sought out and if a suitable model is found then it will be implemented. Finally there are plans to take up one watershed for comprehensive climate change adaptation and mitigation action.