

ANNUAL REPORT

2023-2024



PHOTO: Pragma



GUIDING VISION & VALUES

Pragya India is a non-profit development organization focused on poverty relief, environmental protection, access to healthcare and education, gender equality, social justice, and disaster management. Since its inception, Pragya has been dedicated to transformative change at the grassroots level, particularly in remote and marginalized communities often overlooked in the development process.

The organization designs and delivers solutions that address the needs of vulnerable communities in multiple districts in north India while conserving natural ecosystems. Through a combination of grassroots initiatives, scientific and policy research, and advocacy, Pragya enhances the capacities of individuals, communities, and institutions to foster more humane and equitable societies. Our work is rooted in community partnerships, empowering communities to create the change they envision and ensure the protection of their environment.

To address critical environmental and societal issues, such as violence against women and climate change, Pragya brings people together for collaborative action, fostering long-term relationships through sensitive dialogue and sustained engagement.



ABOUT PRAGYA

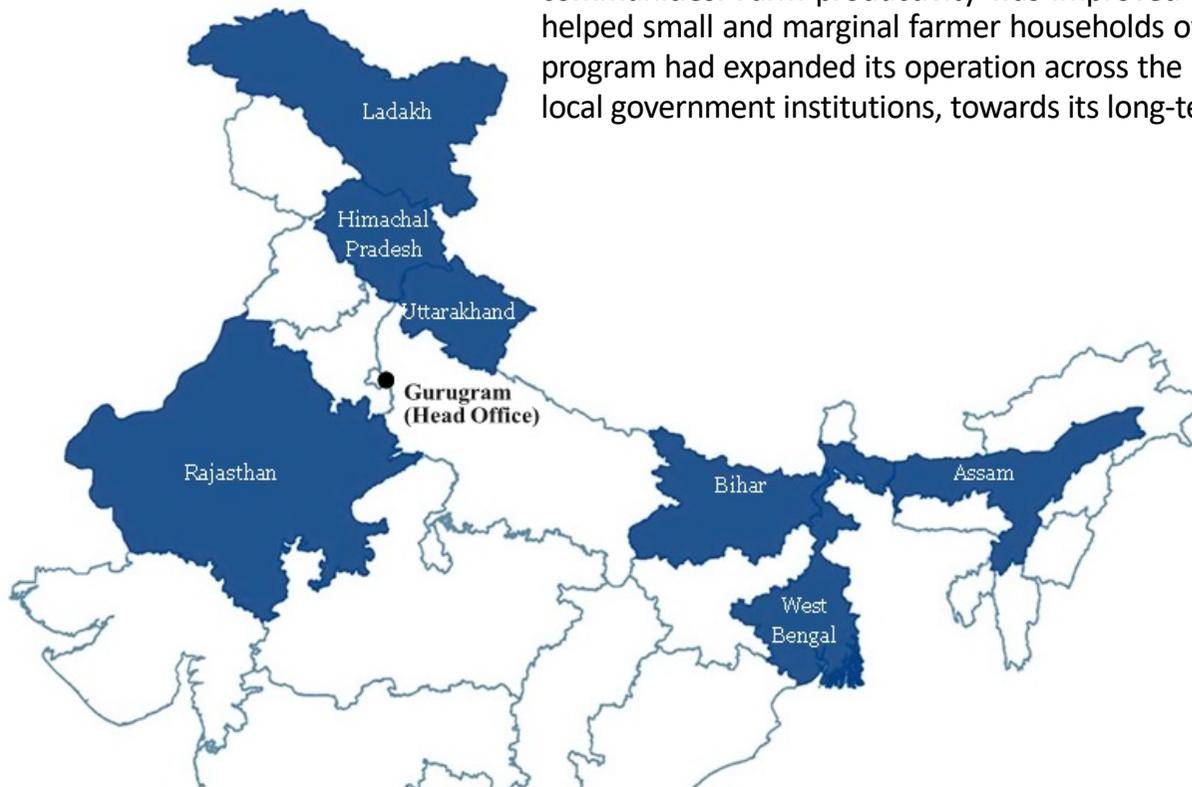
Pragya since its establishment in 1995, has grown substantially, developing expertise in a diverse range of thematic areas including social development, natural resource management, infusion of appropriate technologies, livelihood and enterprise development. We undertake a combination of grassroots development interventions, scientific and policy research and advocacy efforts, guided by the values of cultural sensitivity and ecological integrity. The organization advocates for the well-being of indigenous communities and vulnerable groups and the conservation of fragile natural ecosystems at various international forums.

Pragya (India) is registered as a Trust, is registered with Niti Ayog, Government of India (Darpan ID HR/2017/0150842) and has FCRA (Foreign Contribution Regulation Act) certification.

| Whitley Gold Award for nature conservation | GuideStar India Platinum Certification [GuideStar Number (GSN) 5444] | STARS Impact Award for work of delivery of education to marginalized children | Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN ECOSOC) | Recognised as a Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (SIRO) by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research under the Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India.

CURRENT OUTREACH

In 2023-2024, we have furthered Pragma's progress on the path of its current twin Strategic Emphases, addressing climate change and environmental degradation, and social inequity and vulnerabilities of marginalised groups. Our economic support initiatives benefited small and marginal farmers, women, and informal workers to tackle multi-dimensional poverty. We strengthened our youth-led initiatives in climate-smart agriculture, biodiversity conservation, and disaster risk reduction, enhancing their capabilities to effectively manage climate risks for their communities. Farm productivity was improved and support for high-value cash crops and climate-resilient crops helped small and marginal farmer households overcome food and livelihood insecurity. Our disaster management program had expanded its operation across the Himalayan belt and during the year we worked to integrate it with local government institutions, towards its long-term sustainability.



Apart from agriculture-dependent communities, our work was strongly focused on women, children, youth, and informal workers, helping these groups overcome their vulnerabilities. Our program on women's development is multidimensional. During the year, we focused on addressing violence against women and girls, fostering community and institutional level prevention and response mechanisms, and also working with survivors for their rehabilitation. Our skill-building programs have enhanced the economic capacity of women and youth in marginalised societies. We have continued to work with communities and local stakeholders to deliver and advocate for enhanced services on education, healthcare, safe water, and sanitation.

PRAGYA

PROGRAMMES:

Progress made during the year



PHOTO: Pragya



- 12 working R&D plots and 36 Medicinal Plants Demonstration plots, advancing agricultural research and best practices for propagation.
- 100 local youth Agri-advisors, and 16 local Agri-clinics providing farmers with technical assistance.
- 12,000+ marginal farmers in Assam, Bihar, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand benefited.
- 8 Medicinal Plants Advisory Kiosks set up in Bihar and Rajasthan, advancing the cultivation of these plants as high-value cash crops.

LIVELIHOODS & FOOD SECURITY

Smallholder farming households in many states in India face severe economic marginalization. They mostly belong to vulnerable caste groups and tribes and are predominantly small and marginal farmers. Unfortunately, they are unable to generate any significant surplus or value from the limited land and resources they possess. Climate change is further affecting agricultural productivity, pushing them to the brink of hunger and impoverishment.

Pragya's work with small & marginal farmers spans 12 districts across five states in Assam, Bihar, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand and West Bengal. Recognising the gaps in agricultural extension services, Pragya has adopted the approach of training local youth in agronomy to enable them to deliver such services to their communities. Their efforts are supplemented by Agri-Clinics that we operate in each project district which delivers soil testing, crop advisories and technical training to the farmers.

In the past year, our Agri-Clinics continued to be much in-demand among the farmers, and our youth extension workers grew to be more competent in delivering their advisory services. Training and campaigns on Climate Smart Agriculture helped to improve farmers' ability to cope with impacts of climate change on agriculture. Farm R&D plots that we had set up carried out trials with newer climate-resilient crops or variants, and information on the successfully trialed crops were then disseminated to the farmers via Farmer Field Schools at these. Surveys showed that, because of these efforts, majority of the farmer beneficiaries were aware of Climate Smart Agriculture, and several had also adopted some associated practices.

PHOTO: Pragya



- Continuing advice via digital Crop Advisory, Agri Clinic Database, Agri Enterprise Facilitation Service.
- Regularly conducted Farmer Field Schools and Farmer Conclaves in every district
- Six-monthly technical agronomic training and quarterly teleconferences with experts for farmers, bridging the lab-to-land gaps in agriculture.

LIVELIHOODS & FOOD SECURITY

Pragya has also promoted suitable high-value cash crops among the small & marginal farmers that would help them improve their revenues. Farmers were provided with seeds and saplings of medicinal, aromatic and spice crops, and provided with regular technical information and support by the Agri Clinics. Markets and traders for harvested produce were identified, and buyer-seller meets helped to link the farmers with markets. This has built farmers' capacity to effectively market their produce and establish strong linkages with distant markets and large buyers, ultimately improving their market reach and agricultural revenues.

During the past year, we have also carried out special livelihoods initiatives to help women who are vulnerable to malnutrition and gender-based violence in the states of Assam and W. Bengal, particularly in view of the climate change-induced economic pressures on households. Women were provided training on various handicrafts and handloom trades, as well as the much-in-demand beautician's trade, the selection based on rigorous market studies carried out by Pragya. After training by specialised institutions, women who were most keen were helped to form groups and set up enterprises. Women's handloom enterprises in Assam were provided with looms, candle and incense enterprises in West Bengal received machines and moulds, and beauticians' groups in West Bengal were equipped with make-up kits.



कृषि विस्तार सेवा, तकनीक और बाजार सुविधा सेवाएँ
Agricultural Extension, Technology & Market Facilitation Services
For Small Farmers
सिंचाई संरचनाओं का समर्थन: छोटे किसानों के लिए
Irrigation Infrastructure Support: Provision of Solar Pumps
PRAGYA
सेवा
Araria, Bihar
समलक्षित सेवा

"I used to read about medicinal plants and organic farming and wanted to cultivate them. Now I am cultivating cultivating Bacopa monnieri (Brahmi), Pipli (Piper longum) and Rubia cordifolia (Manjistha). I host Farmer Field Schools to train others about the cultivation protocols."

Sushil Paswan
Progressive Farmer
Garha Village, Araria,
Bihar, INDIA

PHOTO: Pragya



- 50 young Himalayan conservationist trained for monitoring habitats and biodiversity, identifying anthropogenic pressures, and mobilizing corrective actions.
- 29 medicinal plant rich habitats identified with 20 medicinal plants species were governed by Community Conservation Councils formed .
- 9 province level meetings conducted with key stakeholders and district government officials on conservation issues.
- Conservation campaigns with radio, wall-art and school education & competitions, had an outreach to 84,000+ people.

ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY

The Himalayan region is a rich storehouse of biodiversity that unfortunately is a Global Biodiversity Hotspot today, having lost more than 70% of its original habitat due to anthropogenic pressure compounded by the adverse effects of climate change. It is also incredibly valuable as the headwaters of most of the country's rivers and its forests sequester tonnes of Carbon annually to help protect our environment.

Pragya has worked on conserving the Himalayan ecoregion, from the very start of our operations. In the past year too, we continued with this work, addressing multiple anthropogenic pressures across 8 Himalayan districts across Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Ladakh and Uttarakhand. We trained Himalayan farmers to improve the efficiency of their resource use, helping them to improve their soil quality and adopt micro-irrigation techniques. They were also trained and supported to cultivate native medicinal plants in high demand in industry and trade, the effort aided by demonstration plots for medicinal plants cultivation as well as nurseries for their propagation. This is helping to develop these as cash crops for the Himalayas, replacing their extraction from the Himalayan forests. Targeting industry, we conducted a series of interactions to foster responsible practices and sourcing of only cultivated medicinal plant material. This exercise culminated in a high-level, multi-stakeholder Workshop in collaboration with Ayurvedic Drug Manufacturers' Association, and endorsed by National Medicinal Plants Board of Government of India, that formulated a Code for a Responsible Trade Network in the Medicinal & Aromatic Plants sector in the country.

PHOTO: Pragya



- 400+ school teachers trained in a conservation curriculum for introduction in local schools.
- Local ethnobotany documented and made available in open-access digital Himalayan Ethnobotanic Centre.
- Four Ecotrails developed and launched with local youth tourist guides.

ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY

Pragya has also created Community Conservation Councils in the Himalayan districts to lead local-level conservation actions for the protection of natural habitats and endangered species, and trained local youth as Young Himalayan Conservationists. Traditional healers had been mobilised to bring their traditional knowledge to bear on conservation. During the year, these youth were engaged in monitoring areas of concentration of medicinal plants that had been previously identified, and carrying out local advocacy along with the traditional healers. They were also facilitated to conduct conservation campaigns to educate local communities, which were supplemented by radio programs for a wider outreach.

An innovative initiative also developed Herbal Ecotrails in high-tourist districts, with the involvement of local governments, anchoring it with local tourist guides. A digital app for the Ecotrails along with digital Ethnobotanic Centres are helping to popularise these. Communities have also been engaged in conservation actions along these trails, building community stewardship in biodiversity conservation.

PHOTO: Pragya



- Climate Smart Agriculture campaigns conducted in every district with 'Smart Krishi' as a mascot, promoting adaptations in agriculture.
- Demonstration NbS have included: Miyawaki afforestation (in W. Bengal and in Uttarakhand), floating crop-beds (in Assam), Bioswale (in W. Bengal).

ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY

Pragya's work on Climate Change has been progressing rapidly and has made steady gains during the past year. This work is predominantly focused on the coastal region and foothills zone in eastern India, in the states of Assam and W. Bengal, and in the Himalayas (Uttarakhand) with some aspects being delivered in the north Indian plains (Bihar, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand). The environment as well as communities in these areas are exceedingly vulnerable to the escalating adverse effects of climate change- increasing aridity, frequent and intense flooding, and other natural disasters, which are degrading the soils, shrinking water and forest resources, and putting wildlife as well as humans at risk.

Pragya worked to identify Nature based Solutions (NbS) suitable for each of these areas and developed a comprehensive Manual of such solutions, which was disseminated widely to stakeholders, including community leaders, local government, and civil society, who were also trained in Green Development, ie, development strategies and methods that do not compromise the environment. Some of these NbS were undertaken by Pragya in specific high-risk sites in order to build stakeholder involvement and capacity and demonstrate these measures. Pragya's efforts to educate farmers on Climate Smart Agriculture and support them to improve soil and water resource management are also helping to environment health and countering the adverse effects of climate change.



“I did not know that our valley has so much natural wealth. I learnt about our medicinal plants, and also how fragile they are. I do not want that we should lose them. Now onwards, I and my friends will be the protectors of our mountain herbs. I am going to teach my family and relatives too about them and how important it is to preserve them.”

**Tsering Dolma,
School girl,
Phuktse village,
Ladakh, INDIA**



PHOTO: Pragma



EQUITY FOR WOMEN & MARGINALISED GROUPS

Pragma has had an intensive focus on marginalised groups that suffer from various forms of discrimination and inequity, with a special consideration for intersectionalities. Women and children, youth, scheduled castes and tribes, and minorities, have been among those whose disadvantages we have worked to ameliorate.

We have continued to work on addressing vulnerabilities of women and girls in some of the states with high incidence of violence against women and girls—Assam, Rajasthan, W. Bengal. In this initiative, Pragma adopts a comprehensive approach to preventing trafficking, and Child, Early and Forced Marriage (CEFM). In most cases, socioeconomic vulnerability of the victims of trafficking is exploited by the well-organised trafficking channels, and majority of the victims belong to the most vulnerable groups i.e. tribes and minorities. Some trafficking occurs in the guise of providing employment and others in that of CEFM.

Women's Peer Groups had been formed in villages as a first line of defence in preventing trafficking within these vulnerable communities. These are led by Group Facilitators, and during the past year, they were trained by Pragma in leadership and counselling skills and provided with a range of awareness material and linkages with district-level government departments, Civil Society Organizations, social workers and lawyers to seek necessary support.

- 5 Women Information and Assistance Centres (WIAC) conducted 404 awareness and training sessions, empowering 4,500+ women and several women's leaders in rights awareness, counseling, legal services, welfare schemes, and GBV/trafficking laws.
- 35 Women's Peer Groups with 800+ women and adolescent girls as members benefiting from peer group support countering GBV.
- 650+ women and adolescent girls were assisted with support against risk of GBV by the WIACs.
- ~200 frontline workers and 650+ women trained on women's rights, laws and processes for redressal on GBV.

PHOTO: Pragma



- Computer trainings, benefiting ~300 adolescent girls, improving their access to education and economic opportunities.
- Survivor leadership training sessions, trained 123 survivor leaders in safe migration, digital safety, digital literacy, counselling, and legal rights for further propagation to vulnerable women and girls.
- ~600 women and adolescent girls variously trained on assertiveness, resistance to GBV, and self-defence (in collaboration with the Police Dept).

EQUITY FOR WOMEN & MARGINALISED GROUPS

In the district HQs, Pragma continued operating Women Information and Assistance Centres (WIAC) along with extension workers associated with them, that had been established in each target district to assist at risk women/girls and survivors. These Women Information and Assistance Centres have continued to provide helpline and referral services to women at risk of violence, connecting them with shelters, lawyers and counsellors, as necessary. They provided coaching on safe migration and training on Self-Defence, helping build their assertion against violence. The WIACs also organised vocational training for the women in suitable livelihoods, and helped them set up group enterprises, along with necessary equipment and tools. These enterprises are helping to build the women's economic contribution and voice, and reducing their vulnerability to violence.

During 2023-2024, Pragma has also worked on addressing survivors of labour trafficking and associated gender-based violence, which is of severe magnitude in the tribal zones of southern Rajasthan. We have identified survivors in the area and formed them into, provided them with psychological counselling, and wrap-around care within their groups, helping them to overcome their trauma. Educational programmes have built their assertion and understanding of their rights. Selected survivors have been developed as group leaders and trained in leadership and counselling skills and capacity for advocacy for survivors in their communities and with the government. The WIACs have also provided the survivors with coaching on financial and digital literacy, and on safe migration.

PHOTO: Pragya



- 60 women farmer groups using gender-friendly tools for their cultivation that reduces effort, time and associated health risks.
- 328 youth engaged in productive work across Pragya's projects, trained and providing extension services to their communities.
- Sectoral trainings on selected livelihoods, including beautician and incense making for 122 women, who are embarking into entrepreneurship and income-generation. Women's handloom weavers' enterprises in Assam helped with looms, incense and candle making enterprises in W. Bengal helped with machines and moulds and beauticians' group in W. Bengal helped with make-up kits.

EQUITY FOR WOMEN & MARGINALISED GROUPS

Given the increasing feminisation of agriculture, women farmers have been an especial focus and female youth extension workers who had been trained by us, continued to cater to women farmers- in Assam, Uttarakhand, W. Bengal. Special women-focused Farmer Field Schools were conducted in the villages to enable women farmers to enhance their agronomic capacity. In addition, recognising the intense drudgery that women farmer undergo and crucially, the absence of agricultural tools that are conducive for use by women farmers, Pragya had conducted research into the nature of such drudgery and identified gender-friendly agricultural tools. Selected gender-friendly tools had been provided to women farmers' SHGs, and their usage and benefits were studied during the past year.

Youth have been a particular focus group as well, with an effort to engage them constructively in development processes of their communities and areas. In especially marginalised farming communities, youth had been trained as agri-extension workers (in 11 districts); and in areas that are especially vulnerable to natural hazards, they were trained for disaster management, networked and connected to the government through an app, for improved disaster preparedness and response (in 13 districts). Pragya's work on livelihoods and food security have also helped improve incomes for marginalized communities, reduced their exposure to climate risks.



"I am leader of the women's group in my village. Now women and adolescent girls approach me directly and seek guidance on gender issues. I will raise my voice always, and I can also help other girls and women to fight against injustice."

Rajni Devi
Women's Peer Group Member
GhagraKachari Village, Sonitpur
Assam, INDIA

PHOTO: Pragya



- Regular digital literacy & finance training sessions conducted in West Bengal & Rajasthan, with a focus on financial empowerment for women.
- ~300 adolescent girls gained digital literacy skills for career development.
- 200+ women trained on financial and digital literacy, including digital safety and safe migration.
- 4 networks for protection of girls supported across Rajasthan and W. Bengal, comprising women's groups, school teachers and community health-workers.
- Sectoral trainings on selected livelihoods, including beautician and incense making for 120+ women.

EDUCATION

Pragya recognises that in spite to the strides made in Education, there are gaps in the access to education services for children of marginalised groups and their proper use by these children. Girls, children of Scheduled Castes and Tribes and those of minority communities, continue to lag behind in their access to and their performance in education. The children that do enrol in schools, have irregular attendance since they have to aid their families in the family livelihoods, and frequently drop-out, rarely going beyond the primary level; girls are often trafficked or married very early. Curricular gaps imply that the children are not equipped for modern life as well. Education for girls and children of marginalised groups therefore, does not usually mean any change in life circumstances.

Our efforts in recent years have therefore been targeted at bridging these gaps. We had been working on girls education, addressing both education and protection of girls in a combined fashion. Women's Peer Groups formed by us in villages in Rajasthan and W. Bengal are educated in the value of education for girls and the harms of involving girls in economic activities and of child, early and forced marriage. During the past year, this effort continued with support from our WIACs to counter labor trafficking of girls as well as CEFM. A few Women's Peer Groups were successful in halting planned child marriages in their villages.

PHOTO: Pragya



- 4 marginalised schools in Bihar upgraded with superior furniture, transforming education for the marginalised children of those schools.
- Vocational advisory services operational in 6 districts, providing vocational and career guidance to youth.

EDUCATION

In Bihar, we had been working to improve educational performance among children of marginalised groups, delivering supplementary coaching to the children and training formal school teachers in improved pedagogy. During 2023-2024, we worked on a school upgradation programme, aimed at improving classroom conditions, focused on selected government primary schools that cater predominantly to children of marginalised groups. These schools were fitted out with high quality classroom furniture as well as teaching aids. These schools with their superior classrooms and trained teachers are now better at attracting and retained students.

In order to address curricular gaps in formal education, Pragya has developed a course on Digital literacy and on Computers, in collaboration with reputed training institutions. During the year, we have conducted multiple Digital Literacy sessions, predominantly covering women and girls who tend to be left behind and also suffer digital insecurity. Computer courses were also conducted for adolescent girls in W. Bengal, enhancing their employability and enabling them for the job-market.

Moving beyond vocational training, in Bihar and W. Bengal, we delivered vocational advisory services to marginalised youth towards helping them secure employment or take up entrepreneurial projects. This effort was aided by a Vocational Assistance Services Database which had been created and was made available to the youth.

PHOTO: Pragma



- Hygiene and sanitation awareness sessions conducted with 45 women's groups.
- Education and awareness sessions on maternal and child health conducted.

WATER, SANITATION & HEALTH

Throughout the pandemic and its aftermath, Pragma had delivered yeoman's services to the communities that it works with, supporting them as well as medical facilities in these areas with infusions of medical consumables and equipment, as well as training and various other forms of support. Thereafter, our efforts have aimed at ensuring better preventive health management in the communities, as well as improved resource management.

During the past year, Pragma has developed a significant body of IEC material on health, water and sanitation, for educating local communities. These include material on hygiene and sanitation, maternal and child health, water resource management. The developed content has been created into radio programmes, digital learning material, as well as manuals for classroom or village-level delivery. Pragma-operated WIACs in Rajasthan and W. Bengal and Resource Centre in Bihar maintained these IEC for reference by any stakeholder, while Pragma field staff used them to carry out periodic education programmes.

Preventive health and hygiene sessions were conducted by Pragma's field force in villages, covering all the Women's Peer Groups in Rajasthan and W. Bengal, recognising women's role in household health. The maternal and child health programme was not only used in similar village-level trainings, it was also used in women-centric radio broadcasts to ensure wider outreach.

Water resource management, covering drinking, domestic and other uses, has been a critical focus in our programming during the past year. Educational sessions with women's groups and farmers' groups have helped them to assess their water needs and usage practices, and move towards more efficient and safe water usage.

PHOTO: Pragya



- The DRRIS operational in 12 Himalayan districts, with 63 Automated Weather Stations and 240 Disaster Response Teams.
- DRRIS App linked to weather stations in 2,167 villages, providing real-time climate alerts and disaster updates.
- 12 district-level networks in place, including Village Preparedness Committees.
- Risk mitigation efforts installed, including retention walls, afforestation on slopes, embankments, etc.

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

The Himalayan region has been relentlessly struck by a series of natural calamities over the years, affecting millions, yet it has little disaster resilience in terms of early warning and relief. These are ecologically sensitive areas and are highly vulnerable to climate change as well as natural disasters, which are increasing in frequency and intensity due to climate change. Because of limited resources and extreme geography of the region, members from last mile Himalayan communities are often the first line of defence in natural disasters.

Pragya has been working on a comprehensive solution for Disaster Management in the Indian Himalayan Region. Learning from multiple disasters, we had developed a community-centric disaster reduction and response model designed to enhance safety in both pre-disaster and post-disaster scenarios (DRRIS). The DRRIS has been implemented and is operational with our support in 12 Himalayan districts across eastern, central and western Indian Himalayas, from Assam to Ladakh. The system was extended to coastal India as well, with necessary adaptation in hazard profiles.

Within this system, local youth had been trained and formed into Disaster Response Teams (DRTs), helping ensure the safety of their communities. During 2023-2024, these DRTs continued to play a crucial role in both pre- and post-disaster interventions. They monitored on environmental parameters, using data from weather stations and local observations, and raised alerts when thresholds were breached against any parameters, the information relayed through the DRRIS App to communities and authorities in real time. They established communication channels with local Points of Presence (PoPs) like police or army outposts.

PHOTO: Pragya



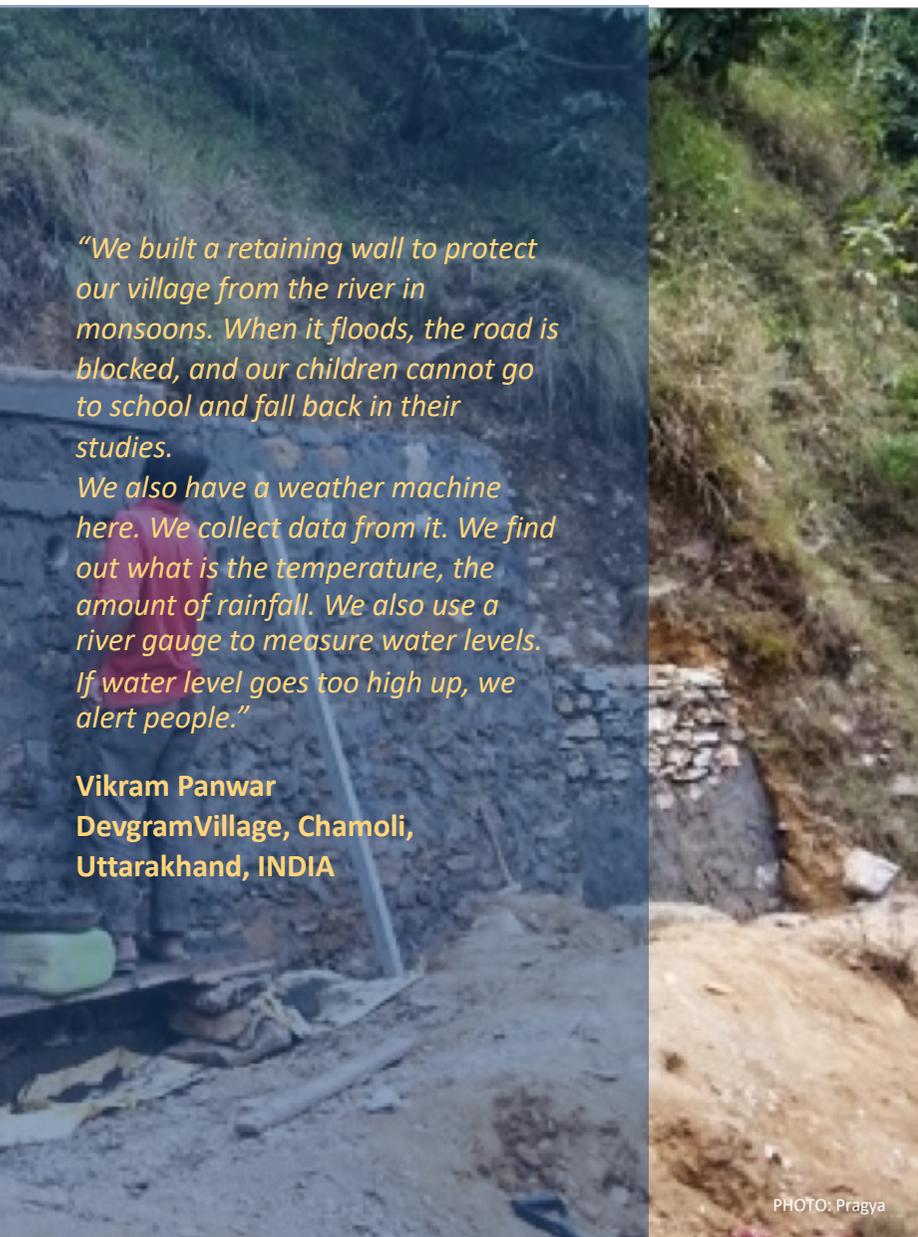
- 4,000+ people engaged through ~500 disaster preparedness campaigns, ensuring community-wide awareness.
- 425 villages received disaster preparedness training, reaching 3,300+ participants, including women leaders.
- Regular mock drill sessions conducted for community disaster preparedness, training women as key responders.
- Regular village-level meetings on Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction, benefiting community people, including women farmers and community leaders

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

The DRTs were also equipped with DRT Kits, which included personal gear and shared response equipment (such as extrication tools and flood barriers). Post-disaster, DRTs are the first responders, aiding in evacuation, medical support, and supply distribution, collaborating with government agencies and other first responders. Through these actions, DRTs ensure communities are well-prepared for natural disasters and can recover more quickly when they occur.

During the year, we provided them with booster trainings and helped conduct village-level awareness and preparedness sessions,. Similar trainings were conducted for stakeholders, including government and civil society. Village Preparedness Committees were helped to assess and boost their preparedness on a continual basis, and also undertake in risk mitigation efforts. Awareness campaigns were conducted with a wide outreach. With a view to facilitating CBDM (Community Based Disaster Management), DM leadership groups were formed involving community members with linkages to government disaster management functionaries fostered with regular network meetings.

A range of support tools had been developed for effective Disaster Management, using a participatory approach and digital modes, and these were maintained and updated. These included: HRVCAs (Hazard Risk Vulnerability Assessment) conducted, District DM Resource Directories, the DRRIS web-portal and App, and multiple AWS (Automated Weather Stations) installed in remote areas with data observation gaps. Over the year, the AWS were gradually transitioned to district governments in several districts, moving the programme to being integrated with mainstream Disaster Management systems.



“We built a retaining wall to protect our village from the river in monsoons. When it floods, the road is blocked, and our children cannot go to school and fall back in their studies. We also have a weather machine here. We collect data from it. We find out what is the temperature, the amount of rainfall. We also use a river gauge to measure water levels. If water level goes too high up, we alert people.”

**Vikram Panwar
Devgram Village, Chamoli,
Uttarakhand, INDIA**



RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY

Pragya's research and advocacy initiatives foster sustainable development, support vulnerable populations, and drive systemic change. Guided by rigorous research, these initiatives address root causes and specific needs of target communities. From mapping vulnerabilities in trafficking-prone areas to assessing climate challenges in the Himalayas and Brahmaputra-Ganga basin, Pragya's work is grounded in community-specific insights as well as scientific understanding.

Collaborating with academic and government partners, Pragya integrates interdisciplinary knowledge into its programs, with oversight from a Research Advisory Panel that aligns interventions with global best practices. Partnerships with leading institutions like the National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), Ministry of AYUSH, and National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), as well as various state and district administrations, exemplify its commitment to cross-sector expertise.

Pragya emphasizes innovation and adaptability, developing scalable, community-centered models such as Women Information and Assistance Centres and the DRRIS App, which combines real-time data with support networks. ICT-enabled training centers and Capacity Building Hubs promote digital literacy and skill-building, while case studies and toolkits contribute sector-wide knowledge, reinforcing shared learning and capacity-building.

A participatory approach underpins Pragya's work, fostering continuous learning and equipping communities with the skills to respond to emerging challenges. By integrating lessons learned, Pragya ensures its interventions remain effective, inclusive, and contextually relevant.

HOW WE DO IT

Our Human Resources

Our Pragya team comprises dedicated professionals across a range of disciplines including management, social work, law, environmental science, engineering, soil science, disaster management and communications. Together we work towards achieving holistic and sustainable development for the last-mile communities in the remote Himalayan mountains, deserts, flood plains and coastal zones as well as urban slums in India. Our staff members devote their time towards empowering local communities so that they can take charge of designing and adopting sustainable solutions for sustainable development. The team implements programmes in both the conservation and development spheres through innovative approaches and engages with key local stakeholders to strengthen ongoing initiatives and build local capacity and stewardship.

Existing Operations

Pragya implements developmental programs and undertakes participatory action research and policy advocacy. Recognising the inter-linkages and cross-cutting nature of various sectors, the organisation has evolved over the years to adopt a diverse portfolio. The operations are guided by the headquarters at Gurgaon (Delhi NCR) and executed on the ground by a network of competent Field Offices across eight states and union territories in India.

The Pragya team implements programmes in partnership with local communities, anchoring key grassroots services and knowledge-sharing processes with the community members themselves. The Pragya interventions enhance competence and confidence of communities to sustainably adapt to climate change, withstand disasters, nurture their cultural and natural heritage and strive towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The programmes establish and strengthen various grassroots structures to respond to local needs and enhance self-reliance.

Pragya India is headquartered in Gurgaon and operates 17 field offices strategically positioned across seven states. Pragya's thematic Programs teams based at the head office lead the implementation and provide technical inputs for thematic area-specific programmes. It has dedicated Research, Communication and MIS teams to anchor participatory research, documentation and evidence management, and build awareness of the critical issues and appropriate solutions. The field-office teams undertake the grassroots implementation of programmes assisted by the Monitoring and Coordination Team based in the head office.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS & BALANCE SHEET



Balance Sheet as on March 31, 2024		Income and Expenditure for the year ended March 31, 2024	
Sources of Funds	Amount (in INR)	Income	Amount (in INR)
General Fund	18,039,211	Grants and Donations	51,474,987
Unspent Grant	8,502,609	Interest & other income	475,518
Total	26,541,820	Total	51,950,505
Application of Funds	Amount (in INR)	Expenditure	Amount (in INR)
Fixed assets	14,213,104	Direct project cost	57,359,806
Investments	2,402,990	Administrative cost	2,438,868
Current Assets (A)	10,259,325		
Current Liabilities (B)	333,599		
Net Current Assets (A-B)	9,925,726		
Total	26,541,820	Total	59,798,674



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