

ANNUAL REPORT

2019-20

**AZAD
VIKALANG
KALYAN SAMITI**

“COUNT ABILITY, NOT DISABILITY”

Dear Friends of AVKS..

This is an important milestone in the life of AVKS as we turned 12 this year!!

*In 2009, when we started, if anyone had told us that 12 years later AVKS will be triggering over **many rural development work every month**, impacting poverty, water, sanitation, infrastructure etc. OR that we will be **creating massive livelihood** OR will be **working pan India on disaster relief and rehabilitation** OR that **millions of people will join this positive movement**, by turning urban surplus material as additional currency, our only reaction would have been disbelief. For an organization, working with the most neglected communities on their most ignored, un-noticed non issues, growing on this path has been a humbling and beautiful journey..*

Wrapping our head around all these aspects is a big task.. a work that's in progress right now. Just knowing that we made someone's life a little better, made a little positive dent on how they look at their own worth and dignity, that our work reduced the burden of urban waste from landless, makes these 2 decades worthwhile.

*Now that we have our footprint in 25 states and UTs, a lot of cities and thousands of villages; a grid, a pipeline that we have laid, it's also for a lot of new and established ideas. We invite others also to use this strong network of local resources, grassroots wisdom and people. To expedite and spread this invitation to the world, this year we triggered many thrusts –A major **Photo exhibition on disasters- Myths and Realities**, **Chaupal Meets - A Space for No Agenda Conversations** and a **National Dialogue on Menstruation- Missing Voices and Missing Issues**.*

Putting together this annual report we also notice some interesting patterns like infrastructure building, sanitation and water emerging as the top three issues which people in villages have prioritized, to work on. Many kilometers of roads made and the handling of over 5.5 million kgs urban surplus, some of it used for creating livelihood for people, are some of the satisfying bits for us. More insights in the report.

*Mr. Kamlesh Rathor
On behalf of Team AVKS...*

Rural Impact

Institutionalizing Dignity as an intrinsic part of development.

1. **Water Resource management.**

We believe that water has a direct connect with poverty and well being of rural communities. That's why our growing work in water stressed rural areas is focused on improving their access to water for agriculture and livestock. We are targeting localized solutions by improving; repairing already present water bodies like ponds, lakes, check dams etc. We mobilize and motivate rural communities and empower them to find their own sustainable solutions. Cleaning water bodies, directing their constructing new water access points and increasing water tables through rain water harvesting activities are some ideas that have emerged locally.

2. **Agriculture & Plantation:-**

The focus is clearly visible with plantation drives, leading to planting and nurturing of trees and activities conducted around Kitchen Gardens, to improve the nutrition of women especially pregnant/ lactating mothers and children. Land bunding and community farming work also saw a quantum increase this year.

3. **Sanitation :-**

Every year AVKS has been increasing its work on Sanitation to make the lives of rural communities better. The direct benefit to communities is safer access to water, improved health of water bodies and prevention of disease. Our work has also given them a voice in decision making regarding their needs for dignity, health and hygiene.

Road Cleanliness, Drainage cleaning, Village /Colony cleaning, Cleaning around hand pump areas and water bodies, Cleaning of community spaces, Making & repairing of toilets and private spaces, Dustbin making

4. Awareness Campaign for Covid-19:-

In the second waves of Corona Pandemic time, the people of the villages didn't know about the sign n symptoms of covid-19, and that time day by day the number of corona positive patient in the rural areas increased. Then, AVKS has started Awareness Campaign in those more affected areas. Around 38 villages were covered by this campaign.

5. Production of Masks:-

In the rural areas, due to lockdown period people could not go to market and purchase mask for themselves. Then AVKS started production of mask by skilled youth. And with the awareness campaign, masks also distributed to the villagers at free of cost.

6. Distribution of Ration Kit :-

At the pandemic time due to Lack of work, to arrange the daily ration, it was very difficult for the BPL families. In those situations, AVKS started Relief campaign as free distribution of food (ration) with the support of local sources and donators.

7. To assist to get medical kit to affected families :-

In second waves of corona, the large number of the villagers was affected by corona virus and so many died due to covid-19. Then we approach to the affected families through our community volunteers and assisted to provide them medical kit or appropriate treatment.