



ANNUAL REPORT

2024 – 2025

PRABHAT SAMITI



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Towards Equality and Justice – President's Message

It is my privilege to present the Annual Report of Prabhat Samiti. As we look back on the year, I am reminded of the courage and determination shown by the communities we work with.

Prabhat Samiti envisions a society where every individual –irrespective of caste or social identity–has equal access to justice, dignity, and essential services. We remain committed to empowering communities to understand their rights, participate in governance, and claim what is rightfully theirs.

This year, we deepened our presence across Banda, Chitrakoot, Mahoba, Jaunpur, and Saharanpur. Our work strengthened community awareness on government schemes, improved access to health, education, nutrition, and rations, and enhanced understanding of the Prevention of Atrocities (POA) Act. We supported survivors of caste-based violence in securing justice and state compensation, while helping communities integrate their priorities into Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDP). These achievements reflect the collective effort of community leaders and our dedicated team.

Despite progress, structural discrimination, fear of retaliation, and gaps in service delivery continue to hinder equitable development. Accessing justice remains a challenge, particularly when institutions are influenced by caste hierarchies. Ensuring that communities can assert their rights without fear requires sustained engagement. In the coming year, we aim to further strengthen community leadership, deepen justice-focused interventions, expand monitoring of public services, and strengthen advocacy for inclusive planning processes. We also plan to enhance collaboration with local institutions to improve accountability and long-term systemic change.

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to our team, partners, and community members whose trust and commitment make our work meaningful. Together, we move closer to a future where equality is not an aspiration, but a lived reality.

Rajaram Yadav

Secretary, Prabhat Samiti



समानता और न्याय की ओर— सचिव का संदेश

यह मेरा सौभाग्य है कि मैं प्रभात समिति की वार्षिक रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत कर रहा हूँ। वर्ष की समीक्षा करते हुए, मुझे उन समुदायों के साहस और दृढ़ संकल्प की याद आती है जिनके साथ हम काम करते हैं। उनका संबल ही हमें उत्तर प्रदेश के हाशिये पर बसे अनुसूचित जाति (SC) और अनुसूचित जनजाति (ST) समुदायों के लिए एक समावेशी और न्यायपूर्ण समाज के निर्माण के अपने मिशन पर निरंतर आगे बढ़ने की प्रेरणा देता है।



प्रभात समिति ऐसे समाज की कल्पना करती है जहाँ प्रत्येक व्यक्ति—चाहे उसका सामाजिक या जातिगत परिचय कुछ भी हो—न्याय, गरिमा और आवश्यक सेवाओं तक समान पहुँच प्राप्त कर सके। हम समुदायों को उनके अधिकारों की जानकारी देने, शासन प्रक्रियाओं में भागीदारी बढ़ाने, और अपने हक्क का दावा करने के लिए सशक्त बनाने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध हैं।

इस वर्ष, हमने बांदा, चित्रकूट, महोबा, जौनपुर और सहारनपुर में अपनी उपस्थिति को और मजबूत किया। हमारे प्रयासों ने समुदायों की सरकारी योजनाओं पर समझ बढ़ाई, स्वास्थ्य, शिक्षा, पोषण और राशन जैसी सार्वजनिक सेवाओं तक पहुँच में सुधार किया, और अत्याचार निवारण अधिनियम (POA Act) के बारे में जागरूकता को मजबूत किया। जाति-आधारित हिंसा के पीड़ितों को न्याय और सरकारी मुआवजा दिलाने में हमने महत्वपूर्ण सहयोग दिया। साथ ही, समुदायों की आवश्यकताओं को ग्राम पंचायत विकास योजना (GPDP) में शामिल कराने में भी महत्वपूर्ण प्रगति हुई। ये उपलब्धियाँ समुदाय के नेताओं और हमारी समर्पित टीम के सामूहिक प्रयासों का परिणाम हैं।

इन प्रगति कदमों के बावजूद, संरचनात्मक भेदभाव, प्रतिशोध का भय और सेवा वितरण की खामियाँ समान विकास में बाधा बनी हुई हैं। न्याय तक पहुँच अभी भी चुनौतीपूर्ण है, विशेषकर तब जब संस्थानों पर जातिगत प्रभाव हावी रहता है। यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए कि समुदाय बिना भय के अपने अधिकारों को assert कर सकें, निरंतर और मजबूत प्रयासों की आवश्यकता है।

आगामी वर्ष में, हम समुदाय नेतृत्व को और सशक्त बनाने, न्याय-केंद्रित पहलों को आगे बढ़ाने, सार्वजनिक सेवाओं की निगरानी को विस्तार देने, और समावेशी योजना प्रक्रियाओं के लिए वकालत को मजबूत करने का लक्ष्य रखते हैं। साथ ही, स्थानीय संस्थाओं के साथ सहयोग बढ़ाकर जवाबदेही और दीर्घकालिक प्रणालीगत परिवर्तन लाने पर हमारा विशेष ध्यान रहेगा।

मैं हमारी टीम, साझेदारों और समुदाय के सदस्यों के प्रति हार्दिक आभार व्यक्त करता हूँ, जिनके विश्वास और सहयोग से हमारा काम सार्थक बनता है। साथ मिलकर, हम उस भविष्य की ओर बढ़ रहे हैं जहाँ समानता एक आकांक्षा नहीं, बल्कि जीवन का वास्तविक अनुभव होगी।

राजाराम यादव

सचिव, प्रभात समिति

About the Organization

Vision

- Establishment of a discrimination-free and egalitarian society.

Mission

- Promote social, economic, and cultural programs which enhances communities' access to better health, education and livelihood services. Enrich mindset of people so that societies can become more inclusive and all have a dignified life.

History and background

Prabhat Samiti is a grassroots Non-Government Organization established in 1990 in Banda district of Uttar Pradesh. Registered under the Society Registration Act, 1860, the organization was founded with a commitment to advance equity, dignity, and justice for marginalized communities in the Bundelkhand region. From its inception, Prabhat Samiti has focused on addressing deep-rooted caste-based exclusion and ensuring that the voices of marginalized Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) communities, particularly those recognized as SC in Uttar Pradesh—are heard, respected, and integrated into development processes.

Over the years, the organization has steadily expanded its reach and strengthened its role as a catalyst for community empowerment. What began as a small initiative in Banda has now evolved into a multi-district effort working across Banda, Chitrakoot, Jaunpur, Mahoba, and Saharanpur, fostering inclusion and improving access to essential entitlements.

Prabhat Samiti's core work revolves around enhancing community awareness, capacity, and leadership so that marginalized groups can access basic services, social protection schemes, and justice mechanisms. The organization builds understanding of government schemes and strengthens community knowledge of The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, enabling communities to claim their rights and respond effectively to caste-based discrimination and violence. As part of this effort, the organization tracks cases of caste-based atrocities, ensuring timely support to survivors in accessing justice, compensation, and state welfare provisions.

Alongside justice-focused work, Prabhat Samiti supports communities in monitoring the delivery of essential services—health, nutrition, education, livelihoods, and food security—ensuring that no household is left behind. The organization also facilitates participatory planning processes, helping communities articulate their needs and integrate them into the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) through inclusive development approaches.

Rooted in the principles of equality and collective action, Prabhat Samiti continues to work towards a future where marginalized communities of Bundelkhand live with dignity, security, and equal opportunity.

Our Outreach Footprint

Geographical outreach

Prabhat Samiti has a strong grassroots presence across five districts of Uttar Pradesh—Banda, Chitrakoot, Mahoba, Jaunpur and Saharanpur, with a core focus on the Bundelkhand region. These districts represent some of the most underserved and marginalized communities, particularly those belonging to the Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) groups. Our community-based approach enables continuous engagement with local institutions, frontline workers, and panchayats, ensuring that issues of exclusion and rights violations are addressed at their source.

Thematic focus areas

Our work spans multiple interconnected thematic areas centered on social justice and inclusive development. We strengthen community knowledge on government schemes and entitlements, focusing on health, nutrition, education, social protection, and livelihood opportunities. A significant thematic pillar is our work on The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, through which we assist survivors of caste-based atrocities in accessing justice and state compensation.

We also support communities in monitoring essential public services, tracking gaps, and improving accountability. Further, Prabhat Samiti facilitates the development of community-led inclusive development plans and helps integrate these priorities into the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP), ensuring that the needs of marginalized groups are formally recognized in local governance processes.

Direct reach out



Under five children: 637



Young adult (19-35 years): 1745



Adult (36-65 years): 1990



Children (6-18 years): 2796



Senior citizen (65+ years): 698

Highlights of the Year

Major achievements of the year

Prabhat Samiti has a strong grassroots presence across five districts of Uttar Pradesh—Banda, Chitrakoot, Mahoba, Jaunpur and Saharanpur, with a core focus on the Bundelkhand region. These districts represent some of the most underserved and marginalized communities, particularly those belonging to the Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) groups. Our community-based approach enables continuous engagement with local institutions, frontline workers, and panchayats, ensuring that issues of exclusion and rights violations are addressed at their source.

Housing Security-

59 households from Banda, Chitrakoot, and Jaunpur successfully accessed housing support under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, following facilitation of 436 applications submitted across five districts of Uttar Pradesh

Social Security Pensions:

Access to social protection was strengthened with 33 elderly persons receiving old-age pensions, 22 women availing widow pensions, and 3 persons with disabilities starting to receive disability pensions

Employment and Livelihoods:

Under the MNREGS scheme, 786 individuals secured wage employment amounting to Rs. 8,32,338. Additionally, 62 new job cards were issued from 369 applications facilitated.

Food Security:

640 individuals gained access to subsidized food grains through the Public Distribution System (PDS).

Community-Based Monitoring:

A total of 310 community members (156 women and 154 youth) were capacitated to conduct community-based monitoring of government services at the Panchayat level..

Social Audit:

Social audit of the MNREGS scheme was facilitated in Saharanpur with active participation of 1,141 community members.

Gender Justice and Awareness:

During the 16 Days of Activism, 1,595 women and youth across five districts were sensitized on gender-based discrimination and violence.

Decentralised Planning:

572 community members supported the development of inclusive Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDPs) in 15 Gram Panchayats.

Highlights of the Year

Capacity Building and Policy Advocacy:

Eleven capacity-building workshops engaged 424 stakeholders on SC/ST entitlements and resource allocation, culminating in a formal submission to the Government of Uttar Pradesh for prioritising SC/ST development

A strong and functional collective of marginalised Scheduled Caste women, Savitri Bai Phule Mahila Sangathan, was developed and strengthened, comprising women leaders from 15 Gram Panchayats across five districts of Uttar Pradesh

A district-level Scheduled Caste youth collective was established and consolidated in five districts, with 125 SC youth members actively engaged in community action and governance processes.

Three survivors of caste-based atrocities successfully received compensation through facilitated access to statutory relief mechanisms. Overall, the project enabled communities to access government schemes, social security benefits, livelihood support, and atrocity compensation amounting to Rs. 1.56 crore, significantly strengthening economic security, rights realisation, and social inclusion of marginalised households.



Program Overview

Community-based Institution development

Savitri Bai Phule Mahila Sangathan

During the year, focused efforts were made to develop and strengthen collectives of marginalized Scheduled Caste (SC) communities as platforms for collective action, leadership, and rights-based advocacy. A women-led collective, Savitri Bai Phule Mahila Sangathan, was formed and consolidated with active participation of women from 15 Gram Panchayats across five districts of Uttar Pradesh. The collective has emerged as a strong forum for articulating women's voices and addressing issues of caste and gender-based exclusion at the community level.



Youth collective

In parallel, a youth collective comprising 125 SC youths was developed across the same five districts, providing a structured space for youth leadership and social engagement. Members of both collectives are actively engaged in tracking cases of caste-based violence, raising awareness on gender equality and social inclusion, and undertaking community-based monitoring of key government services. Identified gaps and violations are systematically raised with concerned authorities at village, block, and district levels for redressal, thereby strengthening grassroots accountability and community resilience.

Leadership Development and Entitlement Awareness Trainings for Dalit Women and Youth

Prabhat Samiti organised a series of 21 capacity-building trainings across five districts of Uttar Pradesh—Banda, Chitrakoot, Jaunpur, Mahoba, and Saharanpur—to strengthen leadership and improve access to government schemes among Dalit women and youth. In view of cost effectiveness and logistical efficiency, selected trainings for women and youth were merged without compromising learning outcomes.

A total of 896 community members were trained, including 271 Dalit women and 460 Dalit youth, along with elderly participants, ensuring intergenerational participation.

The trainings were facilitated by Prabhat Samiti team members and focused on enhancing awareness of key government schemes such as old-age, widow and disability pensions, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, MNREGS, scholarships, hostel facilities, financial assistance to victims of caste-based atrocities, and the Public Distribution System.

Special emphasis was placed on practical guidance for accessing entitlements, including information on mandatory documentation such as Aadhaar cards, income and caste certificates. The trainings significantly strengthened community capacity, confidence, and collective action for rights realisation and social inclusion.

Local Governance

Orientation of Gram Panchayats on Government Schemes and Inclusive Planning

Prabhat Samiti facilitated orientation programmes in 15 Gram Panchayats to strengthen Panchayat-level understanding of government schemes and inclusive development processes. In 11 Gram Panchayats, focused consultations were held with elected Panchayat representatives to support the preparation of inclusive Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDPs) by systematically incorporating issues and priorities of Dalit communities.



As part of the process, lists of identified and tracked excluded beneficiaries were prepared and formally submitted to the respective Gram Panchayats for necessary action. These orientations enhanced the responsiveness of Panchayat institutions, promoted social inclusion in local planning, and strengthened accountability mechanisms to ensure that marginalised households are effectively covered under relevant government schemes and development initiatives.

Development of Inclusive Panchayat Development Plan

Across five districts—Banda, Chitrakoot, Jaunpur, Mahoba, and Saharanpur—the Savitri Bai Phule Mahila Sangathan and Youth Collectives facilitated the



development of Inclusive Panchayat Development Plans in 15 Gram Panchayats. Women leaders conducted community-based monitoring of Panchayat-level institutions, including schools, Anganwadi centres, VHND spaces, and Panchayat offices, and systematically analysed the gaps identified. Joint teams of women and youth leaders undertook transect walks across villages to assess infrastructure and service-related issues such as roads, street lighting, drainage, and common spaces. Based on this evidence, inclusive development priorities were consolidated and formally submitted by women leaders to the respective Gram Pradhans.

for integration into the Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDPs). This process strengthened participatory governance, accountability, and community ownership in local development planning.

Access to government services and entitlements

Under the Access to Government Schemes and Entitlements component, the project facilitated significant outreach and tangible economic benefits for marginalized communities across multiple districts of Uttar Pradesh. Through systematic awareness generation, handholding, and continuous engagement with line departments, community members were supported in accessing their rightful entitlements under various government schemes. Cumulatively, the project enabled communities and survivors of atrocities to access benefits and compensation amounting to ₹1.56 crore, contributing to improved livelihood security and social protection.

As part of livelihood promotion efforts, 65 women were supported to initiate home-based poultry farming by leveraging the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM). They received chicks, essential equipment, and practical training, enabling them to generate supplementary income and strengthen household-level economic resilience.

In the employment domain, 786 community members across four districts—Chitrakoot, Jaunpur, Mahoba, and Saharanpur—secured wage employment worth ₹8,32,338 through the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). Additionally, community-led advocacy resulted in the construction of critical village infrastructure. In two villages of Saharanpur, RCC roads worth ₹16,45,000 were constructed, benefiting the entire village. Further, a mini-bridge (nala) valued at ₹4,65,000 was constructed in Saharanpur, significantly improving connectivity and access for all residents.



Gender, Education and Health

Community-based monitoring of Education and Health Services

In 15 Gram Panchayats across five districts, leaders of the Savitri Bai Phule Mahila Sangathan undertook systematic community-based monitoring of education and health service delivery.

The monitoring covered 53 schools, 46 Anganwadi Centres, and Village Health and Nutrition Day (VHND) delivery spaces, with a focus on identifying gaps in infrastructure, service quality, and regularity. Key issues related to school functioning, Anganwadi services, and VHND infrastructure were documented through structured observation and community feedback. These findings were collectively raised with school teachers, Anganwadi workers, ICDS officials, and the Education Department to seek corrective action and service improvement. Simultaneously, Gram Panchayats were actively engaged to address identified gaps by utilising Panchayat-level resources, particularly funds available under the Kayakalp Scheme and untied funds.

This process strengthened local accountability, improved coordination between communities and service providers, and enhanced the quality and responsiveness of education and health services at the grassroots level.

Gender and Social Inclusion

Fact-finding on cases of atrocities and support services

In this year, a total of 18 cases of caste-based atrocities were systematically tracked to ensure timely documentation and follow-up from four districts including Banda, Chitrakoot, Jaunpur and Saharanpur. Of these, detailed fact-finding exercises were conducted in 14 cases of caste-based atrocities against SC communities, involving field visits, interactions with survivors and families, and collection of preliminary evidence. Based on the findings and sustained engagement with the local administration and police authorities, First Information Reports (FIRs) were successfully registered in all 14 cases. This represents a critical step towards accessing justice and triggering legal processes under relevant provisions of law.

As a result of continuous follow-up and legal support, compensation was disbursed to victims in three cases, providing limited but essential relief. However, despite FIR registration and procedural progress, the conviction rate remains zero, highlighting persistent gaps in investigation quality, prosecution, and systemic accountability. The activity underscores both the importance of grassroots monitoring and advocacy, as well as the urgent need for stronger legal enforcement, survivor-centric support mechanisms, and institutional reforms to ensure timely justice and deterrence against caste-based violence.

Support to women on cases of domestic violence

10 cases of domestic violence were identified through community-level outreach and engagement across five districts (Banda, Chitrakoot, Jaunpur, Jalaun and Saharanpur). Of these, timely interventions were undertaken in seven cases, where either structured mediation processes were facilitated at the family or community level, or the cases were formally escalated to the concerned government departments and support services. These interventions aimed to ensure the safety of survivors, reduce immediate harm, and promote access to appropriate legal and psychosocial support. The activity reflects the importance of early identification, responsive mechanisms, and coordinated action with relevant authorities to address domestic violence and strengthen community-based protection systems.

16 Days of Activism on 'Violence Against Women' (25th November – 10th December)

As part of the global 16 Days of Activism on Violence Against Women campaign, Prabhat Samiti organised a series of awareness and mobilisation activities between 25 November and 10 December across Banda, Chitrakoot, Jaunpur, Mahoba, and Saharanpur districts. The campaign focused on strengthening constitutional awareness, promoting gender justice, and amplifying women's collective voice against violence and discrimination.

A key highlight was the Constitution Day programme on 26 November 2024 organized jointly with the Savitribai Phule Dalit Mahila Sangharsh Morcha, Dynamic Action Group, and the Scheduled Caste Gram Pradhan Organisation. Community members collectively took the Preamble oath and reaffirmed their commitment to constitutional values.

Dialogues highlighted Dr. B.R Ambedkar's role in nation-building, women's rights, and social justice, with special focus on laws against dowry, caste-based atrocities, gender discrimination, and violence against women.



In Saharanpur, adolescent girls and youth were meaningfully engaged on issues of gender-based discrimination and violence through interactive recreational activities such as songs, role plays, extempore speeches, and poster making. Girls created innovative posters carrying strong messages to stop gender-based violence and promote gender equality.

Across districts, the campaign engaged nearly 600 women and men, fostering informed action, collective resistance to violence, and strengthened community ownership for gender-equitable and constitutional democracy.



Promotion of Constitutional Values and Democratic Engagement

Prabhat Samiti organised a series of awareness and engagement activities across five districts of Uttar Pradesh to promote constitutional values and democratic participation. These activities were conducted on key occasions including Savitri Bai Phule Parinirman Diwas (10 March), Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Jayanti (14 April), Constitution Day (26 November), and Human Rights Day (10 December).



Approximately 2,495 youth and 3,052 women participated in discussions focusing on constitutional values such as equality, justice, dignity, and rights of marginalised communities. The dialogues addressed issues faced by oppressed and Scheduled Caste communities, women's rights, access to government schemes and entitlements, and strategies for constructive engagement with duty bearers. Youth participation was further strengthened through interactive methods including quizzes and extempore competitions on constitutional values and gender equality.



These district-level events contributed to enhanced awareness, collective consciousness, and active citizenship, reinforcing constitutional democracy at the grassroots.

Impact Stories

Stepping stone towards reducing caste-based inequality

Keshkali has been the president of the School Management Committee (SMC) in the Composite School, Kandohara, since July 2011. Since then, looking into her work and activeness, parents elect her in all new terms of SMC. When she became president, she found that there were only two classrooms in the school and only one teacher was appointed, but a large number of children were enrolled. She raised the issue of teachers and classrooms, as a result of which two new classrooms, a library, and a gallery were constructed in the school, and two new teachers got appointed. She holds the meeting of SMC every month in which she thoroughly reviews the work that happened in the school and progress on RTE norms and standards. She shares that, earlier, only 5-6 Dalit children were enrolled in the school where hardly any girls were enrolled in the school. But she started raising awareness among parents, engaged other SMC members, and encouraged the enrolment of Dalit children. At present, 56 children are enrolled in the school. More than 95% of the children among the enrolled children are from the Dalit community of her panchayat.



Last year, she started doing community-based monitoring of schools. They found that, in the premise of school, the area that was allotted for the playground was forcefully occupied by a feudal person who was doing agriculture in the field. Keshkali and other SMC members raised the issue to the Block Development Officer (BDO), who took action on this and did a measurement of the area in the month of June, 2024.

In front of other parents and police officers, Lekhpal did a measurement of the land, and with the stern action, the occupied land was evicted. Now a boundary wall has been constructed in the school. This provided security to children in the school. The SMC got resources in their account, and in the meeting, members found that there is a need to install a submersible and get an electricity connection for their school, and they took the collective decision to get this done. An application was given to Basic Shiksha Adhikari, and work got done.

In one meeting, they found that among three cooks appointed for preparation of mid-day meal (MDM) in the school were from the Scheduled Caste (SC) community and were fired. In place of these, all three cooks were appointed from the dominant caste. SMC members raised objections against this, as a result of which one cook for SC and one from OBC got appointed



Impact Stories

Stepping stone towards reducing caste-based inequality

Girls of the upper primary section should get free sanitary pads in the school, but in the school, girls were not getting this. Keshkali raised this issue at the block level in Naraini, where a government official shared that this should be done, but no one takes action on this. Keshkali took the positive step, brought sanitary pad blocks to the office, and kept them at the Nyaya Panchayat Resource Center (NPRC), Jabrapur, through which they got distributed in the school. Now sanitary pads have started being distributed in many schools as a result of this. Keshkali says, 'Due to lack of money, I could not complete my education. Being from a poor Dalit family, getting education was a dream for me, but the resource crisis at the family level became a big challenge for me. My father was the sole earning member in my family who had to take responsibility for my parents, five brothers, and two sisters, including me. Somehow, I could get an education till class eight. I got married at an early age of 16 years, and that was the end of my education career.'

One day, I met with Prabhat Samiti and started serving the organization as a volunteer. In my work as well, I had to overcome taunts of my family members and villagers while going out. My husband and colleague of Prabhat Samit were my supporting hands who helped me in dealing with all obstacles I came across. Gradually I completed my education till class 12th from Bundelkhand University.



Looking into my activeness, I was elected as president of the School Management Committee (SMC). For the past five years, parents and teachers have shown trust in me and appreciated my hard work for the community and children by re-electing me continuously as the president of SMC. I could not get my dream of getting an education fulfilled, but my heart beats for the education of children. I will support children and teachers in improving the quality and infrastructural parameters of schools in my Panchayat so that no Dalit child should be left behind from education.'

Prabhat Samiti is working for the inclusion of Dalit children in mainstream education in 52 schools and 35 Anganwadi's of five districts in Uttar Pradesh. The organization has formed a collective of women named 'Savitri Bai Phule Mahila Sangathan,' which tracks effective functioning of panchayat, service delivery, and inclusion of Dalit communities. The collective strives on the issues of communities, inclusion, discrimination, and atrocities against Dalit communities.

Impact Stories

Rise of Courage: Women Leaders Who Fought Against Atrocity

For decades, Madaiyan Gram Panchayat in Chitrakoot district lived under the shadow of feudal dominance. The Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities, especially the Kol community were forced to work in the fields of powerful families, often without pay and always without dignity. Fear was woven into everyday life.

In the middle of this harsh reality lived Munni, a 56-year-old woman from the Kol community. Her family survived in a small hut built on their ancestral land. Right next to them lived the influential Patel family, whose legacy of crime and violence was well known across the region. Years ago, the head of the family, Bhola Patel, infamous for trafficking women and girls was imprisoned for life. But even behind bars, his family continued to exert control over the village. Years before his arrest, the Patels had set up a kiosk on Munni's land. Although Munni objected, the family dismissed her concerns, promising that the shack would be removed whenever she needed the land to build a home. Munni had no choice but to accept their words. In November 2024, after years of hope and struggle, Munni finally received approval for a house under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. Her joy was short-lived. When Bhola Patel returned on bail in June 2024, he refused to remove the kiosk. Munni's dream of a permanent home seemed impossible.

Everything changed when Munni shared her ordeal during the 16 Days of Activism campaign against gender-based violence. Surrounded by courageous women, she narrated how the Patels had encroached on her land and blocked her from building her rightful house. This time, her story did not fade into silence. Instead, it lit a spark.

The women leaders of the village came together and decided that Munni's struggle was not hers alone, it was a fight against generations of oppression. They drafted a strategy, mobilised the community, and filed formal complaints with the police and the district magistrate.

But resistance was met with retaliation.

The Patel family lodged a false case against 22 Kol community members, accusing them of eve-teasing and vandalism. The police arrived in the village and began verbally abusing Kol families, reinforcing the same old hierarchy of fear.

This time, the community refused to bow down. When the police attempted to arrest two Kol men on fabricated charges, the women and men of the village stood firm, blocking the van and demanding justice. They decided to escalate the issue.

Forty-five community members, 40 of them women hired a tractor and travelled to the office of the district magistrate. They staged a peaceful dharna, holding their ground with courage forged from generations of injustice.



Impact Stories

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They submitted a petition detailing the atrocities, the false charges, and the encroachment on Munni's land. Moved by their collective strength, the magistrate issued immediate orders:

- Stop police harassment of the Kol community
- Evict the Patel family from Munni's land

The next day, the police executed the order. The kiosk was removed, and the land was restored to Munni.

With the support of women leaders and the community, Munni's house is now built a symbol not only of shelter, but of victory, dignity, and collective power. What seemed impossible for one woman became achievable when the entire community, led fearlessly by its women, rose together.

In Madaiyan, the narrative has shifted: women who were once silenced are now the leaders of justice. Their courage reclaimed not just land, but hope.

Unity gives the strength to fight together

Ram Charitra and his wife Kismati were landless agricultural laborers from Malkupur village of Jaunpur who worked in the field of dominant large farmers. They had six daughters. Four of them got married and two are unmarried, who are 17 and 23 years old, respectively. Both were the only earning members in the family. Both were doing farming on the land of dominant farmer Sindhu Singh on a shared farming basis.

For the farming work, both couples went to the field for irrigation early morning on 5th June. In the adjacent field of another dominant farmer, Kamlesh Singh, fencing was done in iron wire in which high voltage electric current was running to protect the field from animals. Both were unaware of the electric current and died of electric current. Kamlesh Singh saw this and made the dead body disappear from the field. When their daughter went to the field to give them food, she did not find them in the field. In the evening, after a lot of searching, villagers went to the police station to lodge the complaint and returned them by giving consolation. On 6th June, around 100 women went to the police station and collectively demanded to lodge the FIR and find the missing couple. With the pressure of women members, the police station in charge asked for 24 hours of time to find them. The whole day, women members sat around the police station to demand justice. When the Circle Officer came, the FIR was lodged on this. After two days of continued sitting of the collective, Kamlesh Singh was arrested and inquired about. He accepted that they have thrown the dead bodies into the Sharda River dam. With the pressure of political leaders, they kept on confusing police officials so that they could not get the dead body. One of the collective members, Ramanand Nishad, called two divers from Ayodhya. Some other allies who were pro-SC community also supported women members in their fight, and water coming in the canal was stopped. Between 13th and 14th June, the dead bodies of Ram Charitra and Kismati were found. After getting proof of murder, a fresh charge sheet was filed against the convict under the ST/SC POA. Three people were sent to jail. The collective effort of 'Savitri Bai Phule Mahila Sangathan' could pay off.

Board Members

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Member



Meet Our Team & Volunteers

Binod Kumar Sinha

Program Coordinator

This year, Prabhat Samiti prioritised system strengthening and policy engagement, building strong grassroots collectives and advancing decentralised development planning. Through empowered youth, adolescents, and women leaders, we upheld constitutional values and enabled communities to claim their rights, entitlements, and voice in local governance

Keshkali Verma

District Coordinator, Banda

इस वर्ष हमने सावित्रीबाई फुले महिला संगठन को सशक्त किया, जो सेवाओं की सामुदायिक निगरानी कर रहा है। हमारे स्वयं सहायता समूह की महिलाएँ आजीविका योजनाओं से लाभान्वित होकर पोल्ट्री पालन शुरू कर चुकी हैं, जिससे उनकी आय बढ़ी है और वे आत्मनिर्भर व सशक्त बनी हैं।

Devi Dayal

District Coordinator, Chitrakoot

चित्रकूट में अनुसूचित जाति एवं अनुसूचित जनजाति समुदाय एकजुट होकर अपने वन अधिकारों के लिए संघर्ष कर रहे हैं। बच्चों को विद्यालय भेजने की पहल हुई है तथा विकेन्द्रीकृत विकास योजनाएँ बनाकर ग्राम पंचायतों को प्रस्तुत की गई हैं। महिलाओं ने जाति-आधारित अत्याचारों के मुद्दों को सामूहिक रूप से जिला स्तर तक उठाया है।

Future roadmap

In the coming years, Prabhat Samiti envisions a deeper and more transformative role in advancing inclusive village development, grounded in the active participation of marginalized communities. A central pillar of the organization's future roadmap is to strengthen the process of developing inclusive Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDPs), ensuring that the needs, aspirations, and rights of Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) communities are fully represented. Prabhat Samiti will work to create platforms where community voices shape local decision-making, improving transparency, accountability, and the equitable allocation of resources.

A major focus will be on strengthening community leadership, especially among women and young people. Building leadership skills, enhancing civic knowledge, and supporting grassroots representatives will enable communities to effectively monitor the functioning of their Gram Panchayats and ensure proper delivery of essential public services. The organization places strong emphasis on promoting women's leadership, recognizing it as a key driver of social change and gender equity. Efforts will be expanded to link women with the State Rural Livelihood Mission (SRLM) for sustainable economic empowerment through self-help groups, skill-building, and access to livelihood opportunities.

An important component of the future strategy is the strengthening of community-based institutions, particularly the Savitri Bai Phule Mahila Sangathan, which has emerged as a collective platform for women to raise their voices, support each other, and advocate for their rights. Prabhat Samiti will focus on building the organizational capacities of such collectives so they can independently mobilize resources, negotiate with local governance institutions, respond to incidents of violence or injustice, and create community-wide solidarity on critical social issues. Strengthening these community institutions will help cultivate long-term resilience and ensure that marginalized groups have sustained representation.

The roadmap also highlights the need to build the capacity of SC/ST communities to understand and address caste-based discrimination and atrocities. Through legal literacy, social awareness, and collective action, Prabhat Samiti aims to promote dignity, justice, and social cohesion. Additionally, bridging gender inequality remains a core goal, achieved by empowering women and girls, nurturing their leadership potential, and encouraging their active involvement in decision-making spaces.

Through these integrated strategies, Prabhat Samiti is committed to building equitable, gender-just, and resilient communities that can claim their rights, shape their futures, and participate meaningfully in grassroots democracy.



Acknowledgement

Prabhat Samiti places on record its sincere gratitude to the community members, particularly the women leaders associated with the Savitri Bai Phule Mahila Sangathan, for their exemplary leadership and unwavering commitment to advancing the rights of marginalised communities. Their proactive role in identifying issues and raising them at appropriate institutional platforms through structured community-based monitoring has been instrumental in supporting vulnerable sections and strengthening grassroots accountability.

We also acknowledge the dedicated contribution of Ms. Usha, Gender and Social Inclusion Facilitator, whose efforts in conducting fact-finding on cases of caste-based atrocities have provided timely and critical support to survivors of caste-based violence and strengthened community confidence in justice processes.

Prabhat Samiti is deeply grateful to Change Alliance for its continued support, which has been pivotal in shaping our strategic direction, strengthening organisational systems, and enhancing our outreach to marginalised communities. We also extend our appreciation to PEACE for supporting the capacity building of our grassroots workforce on key thematic areas, thereby reinforcing the quality and effectiveness of our interventions.



We sincerely thank all consultants and volunteers for their valuable technical inputs, strategic guidance, and programmatic support. Special appreciation is extended to our District Coordinators, the backbone of the organisation, whose leadership and dedication have been central to strengthening Prabhat Samiti's interventions and organisational growth.

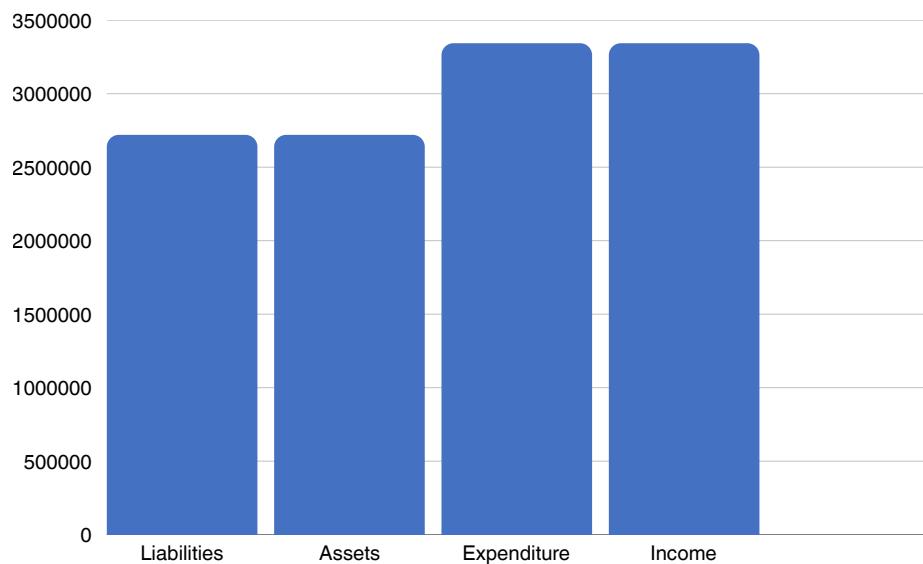
Raja Ram Yadav

Secretary, Prabhat Samiti

Financial Statements

2024-25

| Liabilities | Amount (₹) | Assets | Amount (₹) |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Capital Fund (Closing Balance+UG-FC) | 117,262.00 | Fixed Assets (Net) | 76,303.00 |
| Audit Fees Payable | - | Cash & Bank Balance | 2,643,500.41 |
| UG-FC | 2,602,541.41 | Other Current Assets | — |
| Total Liabilities | 2,719,803.41 | Total Assets | 2,719,803.41 |
| Total Expenditure | 3,343,300.59 | Total Income | 3,343,300.59 |



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