

# NEWSLETTER

# SWANITI EDGE

## ABOUT SWANITI EDGE

As we approach the end of 2022, Swaniti has several exciting events, research papers, and IMPACT stories to share across different verticals and geographies. The newsletter is aimed at highlighting the achievements of Swaniti team members, and keep everyone connected.

**Swaniti Edge** intends to bring together teams and curate free-flowing discussions to encourage knowledge-sharing, collaboration, and innovation.



# WHAT'S NEW@SWANITI

Highlights@ Swaniti

Knowledge creation

Assam @ Swaniti

Tripura @ Swaniti

Arunachal @ Swaniti

Andhra Project @ Swaniti

Ramgarh-JH @ DMFT

Chhattisgarh @Swaniti

New Members @ Swaniti



# HIGHLIGHTS @SWANITI

## ROUNDTABLE #UNFOLDING SWANITI

Roundtable is an initiative of Swaniti to build a common platform/forum for multiple stakeholders in the development & policy space to come together, collaborate, and share knowledge. **Unfolding Swaniti** is also intended at increasing the visibility of interventions of Swaniti in different states under various verticals. The latest roundtable was organized under the aegis of Rural Livelihood & Governance vertical where the Andhra Pradesh Social Development Project (APSDP) team anchored it.

- A stellar panel of 14 organizations including The World Bank, Samhita Social Ventures, KPMG, Oxford Policy Management, Ashoka University, IPE Global, FES, Samagra, Muskaan Dreams, Sattva, Veddis Foundation, YRA, Microwave consulting, and TRIF attended.
- All organizations participated in the discourse and engaged with Swaniti team members. They underlined the importance of work being done under APSDP and expressed interest in collaborating to tackle challenges pertaining to different schemes.

**APSDP**

The Andhra Pradesh Social Development project (APSDP) is aimed at **improving the inclusion and access** of government programs to the most vulnerable sections of the population by putting in place a culture of **bottom-up planning**.

The team has **worked on flagship programs** like MGNREGA, Unnathi, Rythu Bharosa, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, and RURBAN mission to be able to capture the **insights from the community and translate them to policy-level changes**.

**FOOD & CIVIL SUPPLIES DEPT**

- Visited 6 Districts  
27 Mandals & interacted with 300+ farmers
- Preparatory works in progress to pilot OSC in a mandal

**Focus areas**

- Procurement
- Distribution

**Interventions**

- "One Stop Procurement Centre"

**Phase 3 of distribution field visit to Tribal & ITDA areas**

The infographic also includes a screenshot of a video conference with 14 participants.



# KNOWLEDGE CREATION

Knowledge creation is one of the major paths of growth and we promote insights and research pieces of our team members.

**This is also a way to get featured!**

## POOR POLICY IS FAILING THE ELDERLY IN INDIA'S UNORGANIZED SECTOR

Published on IDR

***"As India's population ages, we need to start thinking about those among the elderly that are more vulnerable"***

*Sujay Pan, Senior Data & Policy Analyst*

An article authored by Sujay Pan was published on IDR. The article explores government schemes and initiatives like - Atal Pension Yojana (APY), National Policy on Older Persons (NPOP), Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana (AVAY), and Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PMSYM) - that are targeted at the elderly population. It provides recommendations that can make public and private sector policies more inclusive, especially for the elderly population working in unorganized sectors, and let India age with grace.

### **READ MORE**

***At this point in time when the flag bearers of the global economy are going to engage with India in India, the country must offer systemic solutions to the world.***

*Ankit Raj, Chief People Officer*

This blog talks about India's role in the international fora as we assume the Presidency of G-20. It highlights how India needs to establish a stern stance in taking the agenda of G-20 forward. India, as an emerging economy, can utilize this platform for deliberation & action, and build a clear pathway toward an effective action plan on Climate Change. This presidency will prove to be establish India's leadership in the foreign policy domain, and enable the country to build its standing & soft power.

### **READ MORE**





# ASSAM @SWANITI

*The Nort-East Entitlements project is running in three North East states viz. Assam, Tripura, and Arunachal Pradesh; to establish bottom-up planning, setting up a digital medium for capturing grievances and deploying an effective grievance redressal system in alignment with the state and district administration.*

The Swaniti team in Assam has been conducting Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), interviews, case studies, and secondary research with job card holders in the tea gardens in the Jorhat district to identify implementation gaps. The **primary objective of the study is to establish a strong community-based feedback mechanism that will help bridge the gap between the community and the administration thus institutionalizing a strong grievance redressal mechanism.** The team conducted meetings and Focussed Group Discussions (FGDs) to understand the issues pertaining to MGNREGA at Boloma GP of Kaliapani Block and interacted with the beneficiaries. In addition to this, an orientation of the BDO officer was also organized with the goal to discuss the state of MGNREGA in the block. Based on the intervention taken by Swaniti in the region, you can find a case study highlighting the impact and change that the project endeavors to bring

## CASE STUDY

MGNREGA is one of the largest job guarantee programmes in the world. During the scoping study, Swaniti identified gaps in awareness and knowledge about approaching MGNREGA for job seekers. Ranjit Nayak is a ward leader of a Gram Panchayat in Jorhat Block, Assam. He has been actively involved with the tea garden community and receives a number of demands for work as he is a representative of the community. Job Seekers are not aware of the process and end up informing Ranjit, without an application Ranjit awaits work allocations from GP/Block office. To resolve this gap, Swaniti oriented the GP functionaries on the rights and entitlements of Job Card Holders under MGNREGA. In addition, the team organized community meetings and focus group discussions for Job Card Holders about Demand for Work, Unemployment Allowances, and Napi. The team managed to enlist 89 Job Card Holders that were presented to the GP functionaries and the BDO.

# TRIPURA @SWANITI

The Swaniti team working in Tripura under North-East Entitlements Project conducted an awareness session on various **Scholarship schemes under National Scholarship Portal (NSP)** at Nalchar Higher Secondary School, Nalchar R.D Block, Sepahijala, Tripura. The objective of the session was to increase the enrollment ratio by sensitizing the beneficiaries about the different components of the schemes. This was to be achieved by

- Creating awareness about the schemes
- Identifying challenges of the application procedure
- Comprehending the availability of digital infrastructure in schools

Here is a case study to show Swaniti's work and outcome from these sessions!

## CASE STUDY

Sujit Barman is a 16-year-old student of Charilam Higher Secondary School situated in Charilam block of Sepahijala district in Tripura. He hails from a family of four and falls under Other Backward Caste (OBC), and he wanted to avail the benefit of the National Scholarship Portal (NSP). He faced challenges while trying to avail the benefits of NSP while applying for a post-matric scholarship for all OBC students studying in India. Hesitant initially, he gained confidence and reassurance as the team members built trust during the course of the conversation.

Sujit faced challenges including a lack of awareness of the list of documents that are mandatory to get benefits of NPS, how to attain those documents, and how to use the application to know the status of the documents among others. Swaniti helped outline solutions to each of the challenges that Sujit faced wherein he was briefed about the procedure for application in detail including the departments and offices he must contact for each stage of the application. Hitherto Sujit was unwilling and hesitant to talk about this scholarship scheme owing to his past experience, after the session with Swaniti he seems to be more optimistic about his chances of availing the scholarship.

# ARUNACHAL @SWANITI

Swaniti is working in the Namsai district of Arunachal Pradesh which is situated near the Assam-Arunachal border. Our team endeavors to establish a bottom-up planning mechanism by setting up a digital medium for capturing grievances and deploying an effective grievance redressal system in alignment with the state and district administration. The team has shortlisted 33 Gram Panchayats (GPs) for the scoping study. The key stakeholders attending the village-level meetings were the gram panchayat chairperson, gram panchayat members, Gaonburah, NREGA and PMAY-G beneficiaries, SHG women, etc.

Swaniti is at a stage in the project implementation where they are identifying bottlenecks in the program through surveys and interviews. The following is a case study based on a challenge identified by the Swaniti's interaction & communication with the community members during their scoping study:

## CASE STUDY

### CHALLENGE: UNSEASONAL ALLOTMENT OF WORK UNDER MGNREGA

Namsai is surrounded by hills on all sides and is prone to floods, especially during monsoons. The villagers have built their houses on bamboo pillars in order to protect their houses from frequent flooding. This is a challenge that the villagers identified and wanted to resolve, and therefore they proposed developing drainage through MGNREGA work allotments. A total of 800 meters was constructed and the rest of the work was proposed for winter, but the authorities allotted it during the monsoon season which has slowed down the progress of the work. There are several obstacles to the construction of the drainage system including unskilled workers, unseasonal work allotment, and a lack of equipment for workers among other factors. Swaniti team is working along with the village communities to identify problems and devise/co-create solutions.

# ANDHRA @SWANITI



The Andhra Team is working with **Andhra Pradesh Food & Civil Supplies department since February 2022**. The team is working closely with the Commissioner, the Managing Director, and the Director to streamline the policies related to paddy procurement and rice distribution, i.e. Public Distribution System (PDS). **The scope of the work is to identify challenges and provide tangible interventions**. The team has completed the Paddy Procurement study and for the past 2 months, they have been working on the **Public Distribution System (PDS) i.e. rice distribution to the beneficiaries**.

The team has visited the 6 districts, interacted with 500+ farmers, and met different stakeholders involved in the Paddy Procurement process across the state. After intensive field visits, the team identified the grassroots-level issues:

- Crop Cultivator Rights Cards (CCRC)
- E-crop enabling
- Bank Guarantee
- Moisture level
- Middlemen

The team has recommended a **'one-stop procurement center'** as a physical intervention that can resolve most of the challenges around procurement. The anticipated outcomes of the intervention would be:

- Adherence to FAQ norms.
- Providing all the services at a single point.
- Eliminating Middlemen and end to miller & farmer connection.
- Beneficiary satisfaction.
- Entrusting confidence among farmers in the procurement process.



# RAMGARH -JH @SWANITI

Ramgarh lies at the heart of Jharkhand state. The Swaniti team at Ramgarh identified that the two villages Sosokala and Kumhardaga situated at a distance of 3 km were poorly connected. The people experienced difficulties as the distance doubled to 7 km due to a lack of roads and connectivity. A make-shift bamboo bridge was constructed but it posed a security risk, especially during the time of emergency. There were several challenges that the villagers faced including delays in health emergencies, impact on institutional deliveries, and a lack of market supply chain for the farmers. Through the District Mineral Foundation Trust, the District Administration built the bridge connecting the communities. The bridge's construction has not only increased student attendance rates and the prompt supply of health services to Kumhardaga residents, but it has also proven beneficial for the farmers' livelihoods.



Construction of the bridge through the DMFT fund

# CHHATTISGARH @ SWANITI

*Towards Chhattisgarh's Industrial Policy for a net-zero economy: a consultative workshop*

The Chhattisgarh team works closely with the state government's 'Green Council' project focusing on climate change and sustainable livelihoods.

This team, in partnership with LEAD at KREA University, organized a two-day consultative workshop on the agenda '**Towards Chhattisgarh's Industrial Policy for a Net-zero economy**' in Raipur. Hon'ble Vice Chairman of the State Planning Commission and former Chief Secretary to the Government of Chhattisgarh, Mr. Ajay Singh inaugurated the event and delivered the keynote address. Leading experts from government, academia, heavy industries, and civil society delivered talks and participated in roundtable conversations on topics ranging from international experiences of carbon capture to initiatives in Chhattisgarh across sectors such as green technology, agriculture, public health, rural livelihoods etc. This was done with the aim to devise an industrial policy based on net-zero carbon emissions with implementable policy prescriptions for a sustainable world.



# NEW MEMBERS @SWANITI

October & November



**Madhusmita Brahma**  
Assam  
Senior Associate



**Mahak Sharma**  
New Delhi  
Assistant Manager



**S M Sharib,**  
Assam  
Project Manager



**Usha Kiran,**  
Jharkhand  
Senior Project Officer



**Raunak Roy,**  
West Bengal  
Associate



**Vidhi Rupal,**  
New Delhi  
Business Development  
Analyst



**Javeria Shaikh,**  
New Delhi  
Associate Manager



**Jay Vikram Singh,**  
New Delhi  
Associate



**Arjun Dutt,**  
Delhi NCR  
Associate



**Oviya Thangaraj,**  
North Chennai  
Associate



**Amrita Sivram,**  
New Delhi  
Associate



**Ritu Manna,**  
Jharkhand  
Project Officer



**Mathur Sathya,**  
Tamil Nadu  
Associate



**Shantham Chandrashekher**  
Andhra Pradesh  
Associate



**Ureeda Rafiqui,**  
New Delhi  
Associate



**Amrut Poddar,**  
Jharkhand  
Associate