Citizens Participate in Promoting Good Governance

Sehgal Foundation’s Good Rural Governance program empowers rural communities by engaging citizens through an initiative called Sushasan Abhi (Good Governance Now) and by working with village-level institutions. Sushasan Abhi, proudly named by villagers in Mewat, Haryana, is the focus of this leaflet. Villagers and local institutions in rural India have the most at stake in the development of their communities. To combat the poor conditions and inadequate delivery of services that afflict many rural areas, community leaders and citizens are provided with knowledge, skills, and confidence.
PROMOTING CITIZEN ACTION

Sushasan Abhi empowers citizens by raising their awareness of government programs and enabling them through participatory training to understand their rights and access their entitlements. Citizens learn about priority issues, such as their right to information, food security programs, guaranteed rural employment, and social security services. They learn how to apply for and claim entitlements and how to appeal delays and denials to the appropriate government officials. To reinforce trainings and meetings, community radio programs and mobile phone messages spread the word.

Sushasan Champions are trained through Village Leadership Schools to advocate for better delivery of public services. By sharing their knowledge with community members, they help to enable other citizens to connect with government officials to solve local problems.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Sushasan Abhi is active in 400 villages in Mewat, Haryana, where thousands of villagers have become informed citizens through training sessions, legal literacy camps, and community media. Citizen monitoring and voicing of concerns have led to incremental improvement in the delivery of key government services.

OUR PARTNERS ENSURE VALUE

Sushasan Abhi, in partnership with select NGOs and universities in Haryana and other states, trains grassroots NGO workers and law students about citizen participation. Sehgal Foundation seeks partners to help us broaden the reach of good governance initiatives in Haryana, Rajasthan, and Bihar. Through partnerships and community media collaborations, Sushasan Abhi is on track to become an all-India movement.

A CITIZEN LEADER SPEAKS

“I work as a Sushasan Champion in my village. I learned about the misappropriation in school construction funds and decided to complain. The complaint filed with concerned offices in Mewat district, Haryana, yielded no result. Later, I took the complaint to Directorate of Education at the state, which further probed the matter across the entire district and noticed similar inadequacies. The state department issued a charge sheet to head teachers in 119 schools for non-completion of school buildings against allocated funds and ordered funds recovery. I owe the initiation of this citizen action to the good governance training.”

~Sangeeta, Udaka village, Mewat

For further information, please email partnerships@smsfoundation.org
Join the team. www.smsfoundation.org

S M Sehgal Foundation (Sehgal Foundation) is a public, charitable trust registered in India since 1999, based in Gurgaon, Haryana.