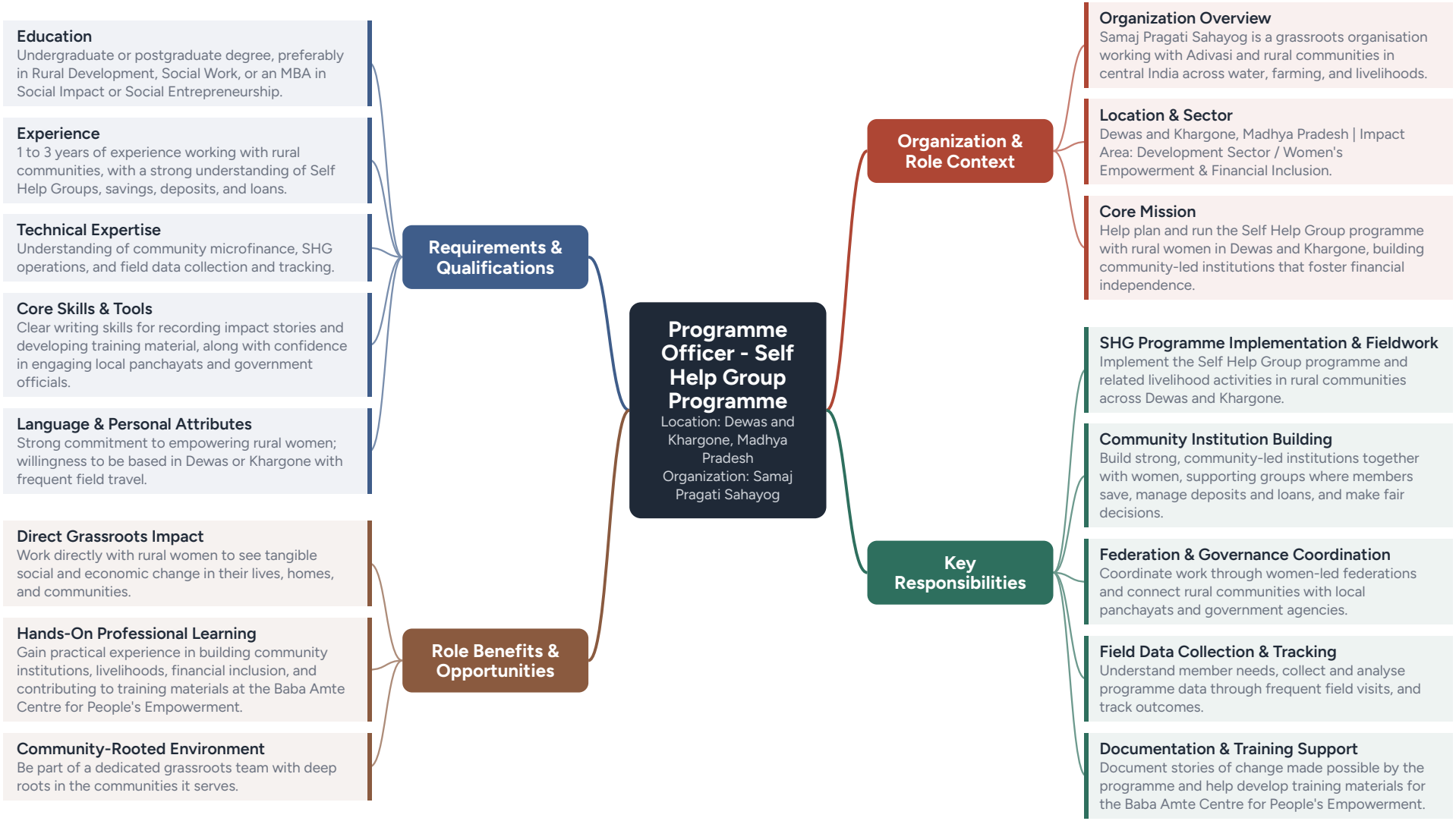
Samaj Pragati Sahayog

Programme Officer – Self Help Group in Madhya Pradesh | Samaj Pragati Sahayog

Dewas, Khargone, Madhya Pradesh · full-time · entry level · Competitive

Application Assist →

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Skills this role needs

Community mobilisation	Self Help Group facilitation	Field data collection and analysis	Documentation and storytelling	Training material development

Job description

Samaj Pragati Sahayog

Samaj Pragati Sahayog is a grassroots organisation that works with Adivasi and rural communities in central India. From its base in Bagli, in the Dewas district of Madhya Pradesh, it works on water, farming and livelihoods so that families can earn a steady living and build a secure future in their own villages. A large part of its work is with women, who come together in Self Help Groups to save money, take loans and make decisions as a group. This role sits within Samaj Pragati Sahayog's Self Help Group programme, which helps rural women build strong community-led institutions and gain financial independence.

Role

As Programme Officer, you will help plan and run the Self Help Group programme with women in the villages of Dewas and Khargone. You will work side by side with women to build groups they lead themselves, where members save together, use recurring and fixed deposits, take loans, make open and fair decisions, and bring about change within their own homes. Through this work, women gain more control over money and a stronger voice, backed by their federations, local panchayats and government support.

Responsibilities

- Implement the Self Help Group programme and related livelihood activities in the field.
- Build strong, community-led institutions together with Self Help Group women.
- Coordinate the organisation's work through women-led federations.
- Connect rural communities with local panchayats and government agencies to strengthen the programme.
- Understand the needs and home lives of women members, and shape Self Help Group activities around them.
- Collect, analyse and track programme data through frequent field visits.
- Document stories of change that the Self Help Group programme has made possible.
- Help develop training material for the Baba Amte Centre for People's Empowerment.

Requirements

- An undergraduate or postgraduate degree, preferably in Rural Development, Social Work, or an MBA in Social Impact or Social Entrepreneurship.
- 1 to 3 years of experience working with rural communities.
- Experience with, or a good understanding of, Self Help Groups and how members manage savings, deposits and loans.
- Ability to collect, analyse and keep track of programme data from the field.
- Clear writing skills to record stories of change and help prepare training material.
- Confidence in working with local panchayats and government officials alongside the community.
- Willingness to be based in Dewas or Khargone and to travel often for field visits.

Benefits

- Work directly with rural women and see real change in their lives, homes and communities.
- Gain hands-on learning in building community institutions, livelihoods and financial inclusion.
- Help shape the training material used at the Baba Amte Centre for People's Empowerment.
- Be part of a grassroots team with deep roots in the communities it serves.

Apply

Check your fit for the role and receive the apply link in your mailbox

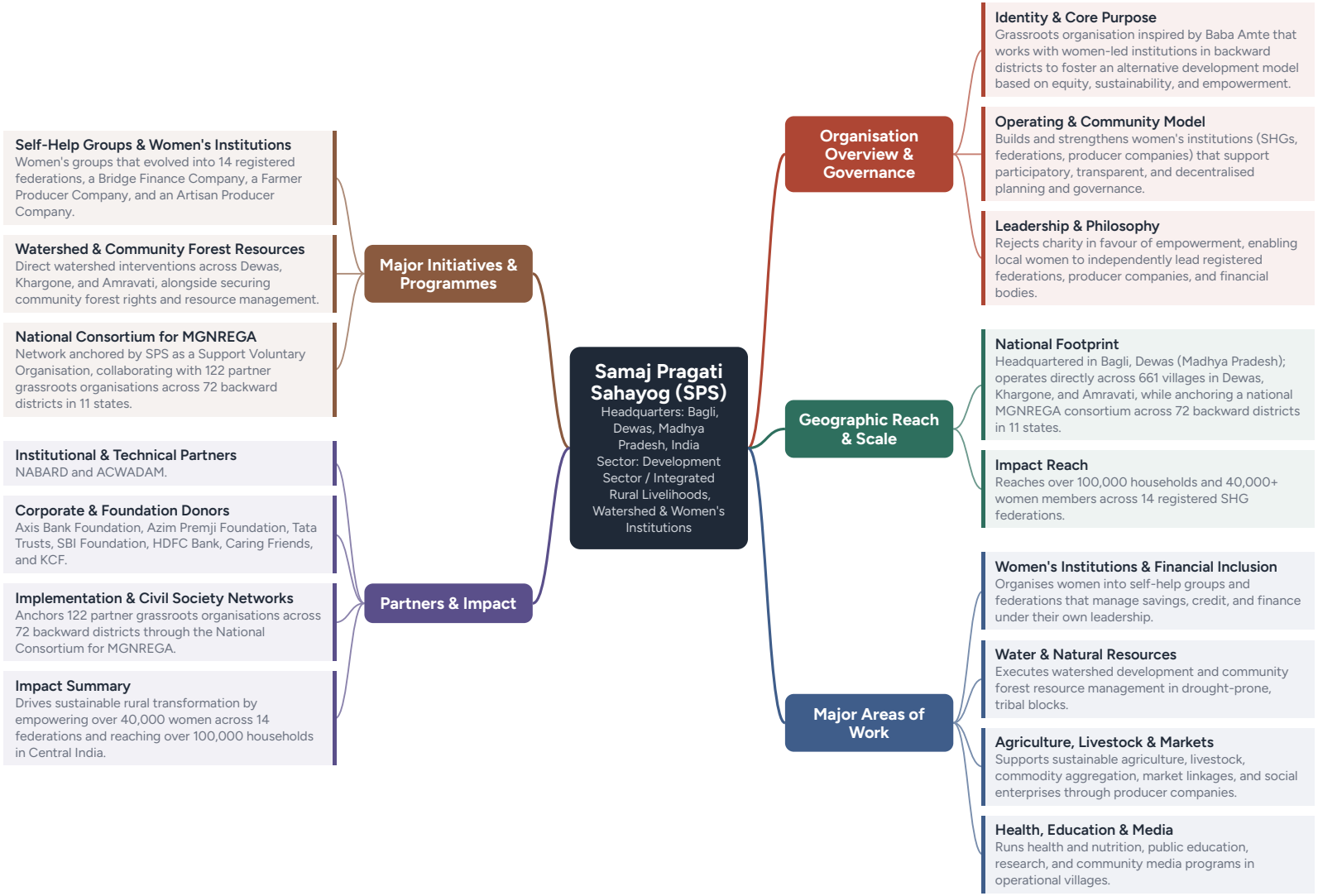
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About the organisation

Samaj Pragati Sahayog

Rural Livelihoods and Watershed Development

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About Samaj Pragati Sahayog

Samaj Pragati Sahayog (SPS) is a grassroots organisation that works with women-led institutions in some of the most backward districts of India. Its work covers financial inclusion, watershed development, sustainable agriculture, commodity aggregation and markets, livestock, skill development, social enterprise, health and nutrition, public education, research and community media. SPS describes its path as an alternative model of inclusive development based on equity, sustainability and the empowerment of the most disadvantaged sections of society. It takes inspiration from the life and work of Baba Amte, who rejected charity in favour of empowerment. The base of its approach is building and strengthening women's institutions that support participatory, transparent and decentralised planning and governance. The self-help groups it promoted have since formed registered federations and producer companies that run as independent institutions led by local women.

> *Headquarters: Bagli, Dewas, Madhya Pradesh, India*

Major Areas of Work

- Women's institutions and financial inclusion: Organising women into self-help groups and federations that manage savings, credit and finance under their own leadership.
- Water and natural resources: Watershed development and community forest resource work in drought-prone, tribal areas.
- Agriculture and livestock: Sustainable agriculture and livestock support to strengthen rural livelihoods.
- Markets and enterprise: Commodity aggregation, market links, skill development and social enterprise through farmer and artisan producer companies.
- Health, education and media: Health and nutrition, public education, research and community media work in the villages where it operates.

Major Initiatives and Programmes

- Self Help Groups: Women's groups that form the base of SPS's work and have grown into registered federations, a Bridge Finance Company, a Farmer Producer Company and an Artisan Producer Company, all led by local women.
- Watershed: Watershed development in the drought-prone, tribal blocks of Dewas, Khargone and Amravati districts where SPS works directly.
- Commodity Aggregation: Aggregation of members' produce and connections to markets.
- Community Forest Resource: Work with communities on securing and managing community forest resources.
- National Consortium of Civil Society Organisations for MGNREGA: A network anchored by SPS as a Support Voluntary Organisation, through which it has worked with 122 partner grassroots organisations in 72 of India's most backward districts across 11 states, mainly in the Central India Adivasi belt.

Impact

SPS states that the institutions it promoted have over 40,000 women members through its SHG federations and that its initiatives reach over one lakh households. Its own outreach figures list 661 villages across nine blocks in Dewas and Khargone districts of Madhya Pradesh and Amravati district of Maharashtra. It reports that its self-help groups have formed 14 registered federations.

Partners

Axis Bank Foundation, Azim Premji Foundation, Tata Trusts, SBI Foundation, HDFC Bank, NABARD, ACWADAM, Caring Friends and KCF.

SPS suits people who want to work at the grassroots in tribal Central India over the long term. It is based in the remote hinterland of Bagli, so most of the work happens in villages with women's federations, farmers and producer companies rather than in an office. Its range of work, from watershed development and agriculture to finance, markets, health and community media, gives a close view of how integrated rural development works on the ground. Its role as anchor of a national MGNREGA consortium also links field work to policy and to a wide network of partner organisations. It is a good fit for people who are comfortable with rural postings and want to build community institutions rather than deliver charity.

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