

**Compilation of Best Practices of the Award
Winning Panchayats of Appraisal Year 2015-16**

Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar

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ANDHRA PRADESH

1. *Anantapur Zilla Praja Parishad, Andhra Pradesh:-*

“Water Conservation”

The Anantapur District of Andhra Pradesh is one of the driest districts in the country with the second lowest rainfall of 552.30 mm and faces acute scarcity of water. The district is getting 60 percent of rain fall from south-west monsoon and 40 percent from North-east monsoon. The District depends mainly on monsoon for water. It is reported that the availability of the monsoon in the district is irregular since last few years which seriously affected the agricultural operations as well as the availability of drinking water.

There are four main rivers flowing through the district namely Pennar River, Jayamangala River, Chitravathi River and Vedavathi River. In addition to these rivers, five streams are also in the district. However the availability of water in the river is mainly based on the quantity of rain. The major crops in the district are paddy, ground nuts, sun flower, cotton etc. The productivity of the crops is also depending on the amount of rainfall. For drinking water supply, the district depends on 13386 hands pumps, 3218 mini water supply schemes, 37 rain water supply schemes, and 453 Satya Sai water supply schemes. However the availability of the water is not sufficient to meet all the requirements.

The District Administration has prepared a project known as ‘Neelakantapuram Sri Rami Reddy Drinking water Project’. Under this project a reservoir was constructed in the district named as Penna Ahobilam Balancing Reservoir (PABR). The Reservoir is situated near Korrakodu village of Kudaeru Mandalin in the district. The total capacity of the reservoir is 11.10TMc. The main utility of the reservoir is to cover totally 1108308 people of 884 villages and three municipalities for supply of drinking water and irrigation of one lakhs hect. land. As per the project proposal the total estimate cost of the scheme was Rs.602 crores and the sources of fund was Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme, National Rural Drinking Water programme, State Government grants and Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO).

The management of the scheme was fully under the control of the Anantapur Zilla Parishad. The operation and maintenance of the scheme is done by the contractors in bid system by the Zilla Parishad. The contractors do the maintenance of the scheme under the supervision of the Engineering wing of the Zilla Parishad. This helped in improving the supply of water to a large extent.



CHECK DAM CONSTRUCTED UNDER INTEGRATED WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

2. *Nallajerla Mandal, West Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh:-*

“Water Conservation and aquaculture”

The entire Nallajerla Mandal in West Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh State is plain land. This unique terrain is suitable for the construction of farm ponds. The Mandal Panchayat has given top priority for the maintenance of existing farm ponds as well as for the construction of new farm ponds for conservation of water. The Mandal Parishad realized that the farm ponds are beneficial to the people in many ways.

Nallajerla Mandal has 625 kms of underground drainage system. The liquid waste of the drainage system is discharged to the farm ponds. A special species of fish grown in the ponds, which survive on waste material discharged to the farm ponds. There is no foul smell in the farm ponds due to presence of this type of fish. Additional revenue is also generated by way of aquaculture. Another Innovative attempt the authorities have made is the beautification of large farm pond areas. The mandal has renovated and constructed path ways around farm ponds in order to attract public for morning walk as well as to spend evening time enjoying the cool breeze. Nallajerla Mandal is having all together 827 farm ponds both natural and man-made. The maximum numbers of 91 farm ponds are in

Arumunilanka Gram Panchayat. The remaining Gram Panchayats are having varying number of farm ponds. By implementing this unique project the Mandal has benefitted in three ways. Water conservation is achieved; Aquaculture is promoted and the Management of Liquid Waste is accomplished.



3. *Chittoor Mandal, Chittoor District, Andhra Pradesh:-*

“RO (Reverse Osmosis) Plants for Healthy life”

Chittoor Mandal Praja Parishad is situated in Chittoor District of Andhra Pradesh. This case study is about the successful efforts undertaken by the Mandal Panchayat to make the people’s life healthy. Due to poor water quality, people were affected by waterborne diseases.

The effort has largely been taken towards making the safe drinking water accessible to households. Relief has trickled in for the villagers of eight habitations located in Chittoor Mandal Praja Parishad, with the installation of a Reverse Osmosis system wherein the villagers now have access to clean and safe drinking water. The Mandal Praja Parishad

took initiatives in installing RO plants under the areas in their control. Chittoor Mandal Praja Parishad has eight RO Plants which are situated in eight habitations.

The Mandal Praja Parishad initiated the project of construction of RO plant with an estimated cost of Rs. 29 lakhs. The Chittoor Zilla Parishad provided half of grants for this project based on the plans submitted by the Mandal Parishad. Rest half grants received from RWS fund. Each Plant has one staff (Salary of Rs. 2000 per month) appointed by the Mandal Panchayat.



In the reverse osmosis process, cellophane-like membranes separate purified from contaminated water. In RO a pressure is applied on concentrated side of the membrane forcing purified water into the dilute side, the rejected impurities from the concentrated side is washed away by rejected water. RO also acts as an ultra-filter and removes particles such as micro-organisms that fail to pass through pores of membrane. In simple words, Reverse Osmosis purification systems are used for filtering the dissolved minerals and other contaminants of water.

The working time of the Plant is from morning 6am to 9am and evening 5 pm to 7.30 pm. The Plant has a tank of 2000 liter capacity. Water is supplied at a cheap cost of Rs. 2 per can (twenty litre can) whereas the normal rate outside is Rs. 35. The installation of reverse osmosis plants is catering to the needs of the people, with the provision of clean and treated water for cooking and drinking purposes.

Water is an extremely integral part of everybody's lives and the residents of the habitations were hard-pressed for adequate safe drinking water. Clean water isn't a luxury. It is a basic human right. Access to reliable, safe water reduces exposure to pollution, disease, and harmful contaminants, thereby promoting health and wellbeing. The Panchayat took this as a matter of priority and was instrumental in the provision of clean and safe drinking water to the community. Needless to say, the expenditure incurred by the Mandal Praja Parishad for the installation of reverse osmosis plants in the habitations is definitely a productive investment in terms of good health of the people.

4. *Santhabommali Mandal, Srikakulam District, Andhra Pradesh:-*

“Sakshara Bharath”

Santhabommali Mandal is located in Srikakulam District of Andhra Pradesh which has a literacy rate of only 67.2 percent. This reality prompted the authorities of Santhabommali Mandal, to seek some innovative Programme to improve the literacy level of the Mandal. As a result of this, a programme known as ‘*Sakshara Bharat*’ was introduced in the Mandal Parishad. The aim of this programme was to improve the literacy level in the Mandal. Many innovative methods were adopted in the Mandal Parishad for the effective implementation of the programme. In this regard rallies and awareness campaigns with all village level Government Staff and Students’ Organizations were conducted. ‘*Little Soldiers Club*’ was established to motivate parents. Rallies and public meetings were conducted to create awareness among the public and prizes were distributed to the winners. The volunteers conducted survey to enroll illiterates in ‘*Sakshara Bharath*’ centers. The teachers of Zilla Parishad High School motivated 8 and 9 class students to work voluntarily as ‘*Little Soldiers*’.

The methodology adopted for the effective implementation of the scheme has been as follows. Each volunteer was given charge of 10 illiterates. The methodology adopted for teaching/learning was as follows. The timing of the classes was. (morning) from 7.00 am to 9.00 am. and (evening) from 4.00 pm to 9.00 pm. Every day illiterates were taught new alphabet from Aksharamaala book. “*Pedda Balasiksha*” book was used for affective teaching. Slates, Slate Pencils and Black Boards were used wherever needed. A total of 53 Sakshara Bharath centres were constituted in the Mandal for the effective implementation of the programme. Public Address system of village temple was utilized every day in the morning to motivate learners. The programme created a great impact in the entire Mandal. So many people got benefit of this unique programme and became literates. We interacted with a few of the beneficiaries. The entire Mandal accepted this programme. This venture has become a commendable achievement of Santhabommali Mandal Parishad.



5. *L.K.P.Vandlavuru Gram Panchayat, Penumuru Mandal, Chittoor District, Andhra Pradesh:-*

“Revenue Generation”

The efforts taken by the L.K.P.Vandlavuru Gram Panchayat in the mobilization of resources are commendable. The Panchayat is seen concentrating on the increase in the mobilization of local resources. The sources of revenue of the Panchayat include own resources, general purpose funds, specific purpose funds on drinking water, sanitation, street lighting, other items, central and State finance grants, funds for centrally and State sponsored schemes, bank interest etc.

The local resource envelope of the Panchayat include house tax, profession tax, building permission fee, private tap fees, lighting tax, water tax, drainage tax, license fees etc. Tax payers sensitized for timely payment of taxes. The Panchayat is also using digital Panchayat stat application for tax payers. A steady increase is noted in the mobilization of local revenue. The local resources mobilized was Rs.13602/- in 2014-2015 was raised to Rs.42063/- during 2015-2016. Panchayat collected 100% taxes during last three financial years.

6. *Peda Labudu Gram Panchayat, Araku Valley Mandal, Visakhapatnam District, Andhra Pradesh :-*

“RURAL ROAD CONNECTIVITY”

Peda Labudu Gram Panchayat is one of the important GPs situated in Arakuvalley Mandal of Visakhapatnam District in Andhra Pradesh state. This case study is about the successful efforts undertaken by this Gram Panchayat.

Peda Labudu Grama Panchayat have 16 wards in 22 habitations. The connectivity between the hamlets was a big problem in that area. There are 15 primary schools and 3 high schools in this Gram Panchayat. All the primary schools in this Gram Panchayat are in the remote area of this Gram Panchayat. There was no motorable road or foot path for the students or the teachers to reach the schools. Flood is another problem for the students. The road was muddy and became slippery during rainy seasons. It used to get submerged under water in heavy rains. Even the road was necessary to carry the materials to the working area of the construction of drinking water projects in the GP.

The Gram Panchayat committee and different departments considered it as the main problem and to overcome these hurdles, several meetings and programmes were held in Gram Sabha. These helped in solving the challenges and they prepared a plan and the Panchayat committee and Gram Sabha approved the plan of CC roads for the entire area. Total length estimated for CC roads was 25 Km. Out of which 20 Km of CC road completed during the year 2015-2016. All the hamlets and the Village side is covered by the network of roads.

The villagers are keen in maintaining the roads in a better way. It was made possible through the convergence of the MGNREGS scheme and 1169998 man days created by this work. An amount of Rs 74.12 lakh spent as labor charge. The Panchayat successfully constructed the road and thus reached out and benefited the families residing in the GP. Now, the families are able to market their agricultural produce because of good connectivity. Pada Labadu Gram Panchayat is a tourist spot and there are a number of tourists visiting the area. The CC road of these hamlets helps them to explore the Gram Panchayat without any problems in movement. The construction of road thus boosted the rural economy also.

A Pictorial representation of the Road before renovation --



ASSAM

1. *Dhemaji Zilla Panchayat, Assam:-*

“Construction of Market Sheds”

Dhemaji Zilla Panchayat has developed the best idea to generate its own sources of revenue. In FY 2015-16, the Dhemaji Zilla Panchayat decided to construct Market Sheds in various daily and weekly markets across villages under its jurisdiction. After deliberations during Panchayat Executive Body meetings, it was decided that Construction of Market sheds would not only provide many vendors a platform for selling their goods to the villagers, but would also help in generating sizeable income for the ZP. This income could then be used further for more social welfare activities for the people of the ZP.

An area assessment was done and after inputs from the various stakeholders, it was decided to give priority to those villages where there was lack of market space for vendors to sell their goods. Hence, places like Manikpur Bazaar, Borpak Tiniali, Gogamukh, Mingmung, Latak, Jonai and Betonipam were chosen for construction of market sheds. These market sheds have greatly helped local vendors to sell their products in both daily and weekly markets. They have, indirectly, promoted livelihood generation through the construction of these market sheds. The villagers have also benefitted from these markets as they no longer have to travel great distances to purchase their essential needs.

As correctly predicted, these market sheds have helped to fetch a steady monthly rent and annual tax. Income generated from these market sheds have contributed significantly to the total of Rs. 97,11,110/- which was raised by the ZP through its own funds in the year 2015-16. These funds were then further used for developmental work and ZP office renovations, including the construction of a small conference hall within the ZP premises.





2. *Dimoria Anchalik Panchayat, Kamrup Metro District, Assam:-*

“Computer Education for Rural Youth”

In FY 2015-16, feedback was received from the GPs under Dimoria IP that there was a demand for computer education for educated youth so as to enable them to get decent jobs and avoid joining the huge number of educated unemployed in the state. Keeping this in mind, a free of cost computer training centre was established in Khetri GP,

a few kilometres from the IP office. The Panchayat stepped into offering computer educational facilities to the students to make them more efficient in the District.

The Computer centre provides training in MS Office and basic internet and networking. Those youth who have completed 10th standard are eligible for the program. The program is a three month course with a certificate being awarded to those students who have completed the course by passing the final exam (theory and practical).

Around 30 youth have completed the course so far and have received certification. A few of these youth have also been able to leave Khetri for Guwahati for better employment opportunities since they now possess an IT skillset. While the centre is fairly new, it will be hugely beneficial in the long run in making the youth of the IP computer literate and help them become more economically stable in future due to their enhanced technical knowledge.



BIHAR

1. *Jigana Jagarnath Gram Panchayat, Hathua Block, Gopalganj District, Bihar:-*

“Sanitation”

The Panchayat has extensively worked on sanitation for the past 2 years. Target of ODF village was set in Oct 2014 and within six months the Panchayat became the first ODF Panchayat of Gopalganj district and second in Bihar State. The initiative of ODF village was guided by Navgagriti and global sanitation fund along with SBM. Discuss issues related to sanitation regularly in their Panchayat and Gram Sabha meetings. Made efforts to include own source revenues and converge various funds and schemes for sanitation. The GP Formed the VHSC/standing committee on sanitation and it is functional. This committee ensured to include women, SC/ST members, disabled and other marginalized sections of the society. CBOs, SHGs and volunteer groups are also involved in this initiative.





2. Dharnai Gram Panchayat, Makhdumpur Block, Jehanabad District, Bihar:-

“Solar Plant under Green Peace Initiative”

For the past 30 years, Dharnai GP was living in dark without electricity. The women of the house had to finish all their chores before sunset and the children used to study only during day time. Due to this the education of young children was getting affected. The situation was affecting entire community. Hence, an international NGO, GreenPeace along with the support of the Gram Panchayat decided to set up a 101KW solar plant to resolve this issue completely. The NGO funded this initiative with an amount of Rs 2,90,00,000.

The challenge was affecting the whole community, therefore, the issue was 100% demand driven. In 2014, the village successfully set up the solar plant making it India's first fully solar powered village. It was reported that the electricity generated through this solar plant serves about 3 villages under Dharnai Panchayat. The community is extremely happy and satisfied with this solar plant.





GUJARAT

1. *Tapi District Panchayat, Gujarat:-*

“Improving Quality of Life of tribals through education”

The district of Tapi was carved from Surat district in the year 2007 in order to create a separate identity for a nascent tribal population. Despite the schemes and programmes of central and state government and special programmes under Tribal sub plan Tapi district figured low on human development indices. Realizing that education not only provides opportunities for growth it improves the quality of life of the people, District panchayat Tapi focused on delivery of education.

Working as a medium on behalf of state government in matter of primary education, District panchayat education committee undertook planning and guiding for education in the district within the framework of national policy and national scheme. It also implemented programmes regarding secondary education entrusted by state government to district panchayat. Tapi district panchayat, opened new schools and

maintained them, appointed teachers, admit promoted campaigns for enrolling child who has completed five years, encouraged girl education, implemented various educational schemes of government, trained teachers to improve quality of primary education, raised physical facilities in schools, disbursed salaries, celebrated school admission festival, attempted to increase literacy rate in district, arranged various activities including sports festival, child fair, child talent competition, maths association, etc. for the all round development of children.

Moreover, alternate schools for sugar cane workers, brick cline workers are opened under Sarva Siksha Abhiyan. Now in District Panchayat Tapi, there are 798 primary schools. 3 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya with SSA support and 302 upper primary schools.

All the schools were equipped with availability of water, sanitation, common toilets and infrastructure, special teachers were appointed. Electrification was done in schools. Ramp / Railing, garden and mid-day meal provision was made. Niwasi camps in Tapi district for children of migrant labours were arranged. There are around 78 such schools and six hostels for BPL children in Tapi district. Adarsh Niwasi Shalas are established under a special scheme for promoting science education among talented tribal children and are directly supported by the Social Welfare Department. Class Room, Water facilities were provided from SwaBhandol (own fund) of Zilla Panchayat As functioning of schools in tribal areas depends on the regularity of teachers which is often a challenge with the teachers having to commute long distances. Arrangements were made to appoint native teachers in the school. Now 70% teachers are native to the district. Education Committee of Zilla Panchayat monitors all primary schools and those other educational institutes under district panchayat. It monitors activities of village panchayat so as to watch whether every panchayat gives its contribution in school fund. And in case of lapse, provides guidance in maintaining and improving primary schools. CRC and BRC in coordination with Education Committee of Zilla Panchayat monitors the programme of all schools. Twice a fort night review meeting at block level is done. Principals are given programme at the starting of the year. School Report cards are made by State Office Director, School Education, SSA, GSITC, meetings are held twice a year in the presence of DDO & Collector.

On motivation of district panchayat members, teachers took vow to develop skill in each student. Teachers support the weak students by giving them extra time. The syllabus of all schools is 60% academic, 20% curricular and 20% utilisation of resources from Jan Bhagidari. Competition readiness for students is facilitated. Now youths who are becoming parents are involving themselves in school functioning. School in Chapawadi is an appropriate example of work done by District Panchayat to promote education that can be replicated by others. In District Panchayat 100% result is achieved for last 5 to 7 years in two High School and one Higher Secondary School. Principal Nathus Bhai Chowdhuri and teachers after school hours visit home of students and provides counselling to parents and share the achievements of each child with parents. With the concerted efforts of District

Panchayat and school teachers Tapi district is figuring first in performance in education for last two years – 2014-15 & 2015-16 in Gujarat.



2. *VASAVAD Gram Panchayat, GONDAL Block, RAJKOT District, GUJARAT:-*

“Managing the disaster collectively”

There was a devastating flood happened surrounding the river in the village. The village was totally cut off from other parts of the Taluka (Block). The bridge had collapsed. All the village houses and roads were inundated. Due to heavy flood, agriculture of this village was hampered. All records of Panchayat were destroyed. Panchayat immediately swung into action to mitigate the situation with the support of the community. Food packets were distributed throughout the entire village by the village panchayat, Community kitchen was opened for 5-6 days. No loss of life was reported. After the situation was eased and connectivity restored to the village situation was reported to Taluka. MLAs and MPs had come and surveyed the village. Compensation was given to villagers according to their requirements. The Village panchayat has done many works under disaster management:

- Disinfection of Pashu wada safai.

- Janbhagidari – cleanliness.
- Souchalaya construction.
- Construction of Internal roads in different localities.
- Dam at river.
- Cleanliness of river.
- Road repairing.
- Land Levelling.
- Construction of crematorium.
- Afforestation.

All water pipe lines which were 20-22 years old were contaminated due to leakage. Under WASHO Project, all pipe lines have been changed. Health camps are held in every month. The village is made 100% open defecation free. There is one Arogyakendra /Ayurvedic medicine store. Public Health Centre is 30 km away from the village. Once Kongu Fever had spread in the village. To control it from further spreading, many steps were undertaken by the Panchayat under guidance of health department. It sprayed D.D.T, monitored the patient for 8 days by ANM staff in morning and evening. Fever of all family members of the patient was monitored as directed by PHC. All doctors came from district and Taluka to the village. Documentation is well categorised and updated.





3. *Samagoga Gram Panchayat, Mundra Block, Kachchh District, Gujarat:-*

“Panchayat at your Doorstep”

Samagoga is located in Mundra block of Kutchh district in Gujarat. Samagoga is a peaceful village with people of all community living harmoniously since long. The heritage Inn, Musafirkhana and trees are witness of this. Samagoga is also a seat of Jainsadhus and has a much revered Mazar. Samagoga has now almost recovered from the shock and damage in the earthquake of Bhuj which occurred 15 years back. It is now marching towards becoming a SMART village. The beginning has been made with Wi-Fi availability and CC TV surveillance.

Drawing its inspiration from the old practice followed by their elders of resource mobilisation from individual and community for taking care of its own need, the village panchayats taken several initiatives in local resource mobilization and community participation under the able leadership of elected representatives. Sarpanch is an advocate by profession, Upsarpanch's father was Sarpanch for 20 years and other panchayat members are also well experienced.

Activities in the village development plan made in consultation with the community, are selected according to the need and not according to the available funds. Panchayat after deciding on the work scouts for contributors. Panchayat invites or informs all the stakeholders - individual or community donors, CSR and discusses the plan and estimated cost with them and asks for their contribution in a particular work. MLA, MP

fund, govt programmes are also tapped for the activity. Most of the works accomplished by panchayat are reported to be in public private partnership mode. This strategy adopted by panchayat helps in not letting the works remain unfinished due to lack of funds.

Every year Sangeet Sandhya (evening of music) Programme is held in the village to collect funds to look after the stray cattles of the village. Gai or Ghaschana Committee is formed with elderly persons as its members. This committee manages the feeding and care of the cattles from the funds raised through sangeet sandhya programme. Panchayat has constructed water tank for drinking water for all animals by donation in Samagoga village. School bags are given to every child by the donation. Panchayat also acknowledges their donors. They have erected a gate in the name of this donor. The streets of the villages have been after other donors. This has encouraged others to donate for village development. Panchayat has garnered support under CSR from various industries in and around Shamaghogha. Shamagoga Panchayat earlier had only 5% tax realisation. To increase the tax realisation panchayat under the leadership of young and zealous Sarpanch enrolled all houses in panchayat and analysed that taxes are not realised from the owners who have locked their houses and moved out of the village for work. All gram panchayat members then went to Mumbai to meet Jain and Muslim Community who had their ancestral houses in Shamagoga to realise tax. Panchayat members and the officials camped for three days in Mumbai. Expenses were borne by donors. Panchayat collected Tax dues from each person and also made available to them documents related to ownership of land, house, birth/death certificates, ration cards etc. to those who wanted. Panchayat thus collected Rs. 3-4 lakh of arrear taxes and fees. Now the tax collection is 90%. This unique way of tax collection and facilitating availability of documents by “Panchayat aap ke dwar”(Panchayat reaching at your doorstep) has now been adopted by Gujarat Government.

JAMMU & KASHMIR

1. *Bharda Kalan Gram Panchayat, Akhnoor Block, Jammu District, J & K:-*

“Sanitation”

The Gram Panchayat Bharda Kalan has done important correctives in provision of sanitation and in order to maintain the cleanliness in village, different slogans have been written on the walls with pictorial messages. The GP made efforts to make people aware about importance of construction of toilets in their homes in order to maintain personal hygiene. Almost 80% of the villagers have constructed toilets at home with support from Panchayat and the same is being used.

Constructions of streets and drainage system have been ensured utilizing the funds of MGNREGA. Waste water is being routed through drainage system to a Pond so that it could be again utilized. Water Tanks have been constructed to ensure water supply to the villagers. These tanks are being clean on regular basis by the Health and Sanitation

committee with the help of community. Swacchta Prerak committee is also visiting the village at regular interval to make them aware about importance of cleanliness. Wall painting is very prominent in the Panchayat and focus of the same is on sanitation. Pictorial messages have been given through wall painting so that each and every individual can understand the message. Panchayat is also making waste management pit in the village. Hence, selected for thematic Award.





JHARKHAND

1. *Saraiyahat Panchayat Samiti, Dumka District, Jharkhand:-*

“Bio-Metric system in PDS”

Intermediate panchayat, Saraiyahat has implemented biometric system at the point of sale, fair price shops to curb leakages in the PDS to a large extent, including the bogus card menace. Intermediate panchayat, Saraiyahat issued new ration cards in the name of women and introduce biometric system for supply of commodities through the public distribution system (PDS). Biometric system is being implemented for the disbursement of MGNREGS wages payments made through online system. It is linked up with Aadhar Card. It is noticed that an “epass” system introduced in fair price shops in GPs, on the lines of disbursement of MGNREGS wages using a gadget to register biometric identity of the beneficiary, which has yielded positive results in checking the leakage of PDS commodities. Intermediate panchayat has achieved 99.2 % which is significant. C.C Roads: Intermediate panchayat, Saraiyahat has developed CC roads in all GPs to enable the people to get road connectivity and get rid of the problems with mosquitoes as water was stagnating in the roads before development of CC roads. Open wells: Under NREGA programme intermediate panchayat has provided open well to the farmers of SCs and STs

to enable them to develop their income from agriculture Cluster Groups Formation: Cluster groups were formed with 10 to 15 farmers and provided mango, guava and Lichi plants to the farmers under Horticulture department with free of cost and also provided one borewell for each cluster to provide water to the plants for expected growth. The training to the cluster group farmers is provided. The market facility for sale the production of crops is also provided to the farmers to increase their income.

KARNATAKA

1. Kodagu District Panchayat Karnataka:-

(i) “E-BASE EDUCATION SYSTEM”

The best initiative practiced is the setting up of E-base learning system in tribal school at Marur village of Thithimathi. It's been an effort of CEO of the ZP, Ms. Charulata Somal who was a part of global warming expedition team which headed to Antarctica and South Pole. The team members who visited initiated the project E-base learning. In India we have only such three schools Ladakh, Madhya Pradesh and in Karnataka at Kodagu. An E-base is an open and creative learning space for the community (kids) to learn about environmental conservation and drive change through activism and ownership. E-base Kodagu aims to serve as a hub to empower children to become guardians of their natural heritage and address various local issues such as man animal conflict prevalent in the area, protecting the *Cauvery River*, water conservation and native tree preservation. E-Base is different from a traditional classrooms as it encourages practical hands-on learning, identifies and tunes each child's unique talents, appreciates the science in nature, serves as an open forum for discussions where critical thinking is rewarded and most of all-makes learning fun. While visiting the site, it was evident from the children that the curriculum has helped them restore their traditionalism and cultural practice. It has helped them cope with the modern way of living and exposure to which they were shying off. The activity performed has brought in interest in terms of learning. They reciprocate to the methodology in a positive manner. It's been 5 months and the fellow trainer shared her experience as one of the best system of education introduced. The children's are from one to seven grades. Comprising of 90per cent of Scheduled Tribe children and 10per cent of the scheduled caste .The Amphitheatre which is under construction plans to have a clearer view towards the concept. Children are given practical knowledge on waste management, compost pit, gardening, painting, clay modelling, study on variety of plants, animals etc. The objective is to restore the sanctity of the tribal community and also same time gets educated.

(ii) “BREEDING THE ENDANGERED MAHASHEER FISH”

The department of fisheries has come out with a concept of breeding the *Mahasheer fish* which were found abundantly in the local river *Cauvery*. It has become endangered and the department has taken initiative to breed them. The Harangi dam in Kodagu river bank is situated nearby the fishery department, which has infrastructure which contributes towards the process. The eggs are drawn from the fish, kept in the storage for the process and the saplings are shifted to the pond and they are exported to the neighbouring State Kerala as well. This year in 2016-17 around 35000 fishes were produced and exported. Some were reared in the nearby river. Hence the endangered fish is being protected.

KERALA

1. *Kulasekharapuram Gram Panchayat, Oachira Block, Kollam District, Kerala:-*

“Good Grievance Redressal System through Front Office”

Kulasekharapuram Gram Panchayat is situated in Karunagappally Taluk, in northern part of Kollam District in the state of Kerala. The Panchayat is an ISO 9001-2008 Certified and honoured for its good work and effective service delivery system.

Front office system was started in panchayat offices since 2009. In Kulasekharapuram, it has been working from 2007. Front office is now compulsory in all Grama panchayat in Kerala. But in small number of panchayats, it is working properly. Time bound delivery of services to the people is the aim of the front office system. In front office system nothing newly added but keeping all the components existing is taken in a systematic line. Before the front office system introduced in Panchayat, following difficulties were faced by the people and employees:

- Lack of the knowledge about different services given by the panchayat.
- There was no proper way for the receipt of the application.
- No doubt clearing platform for the ordinary people approaching the office for different Services.
- No time bound services.
- No specific internal file moving system.
- Misplacement of files cause delay in services.
- Non priority in application cause in nepotism and bribery.
- There is no redressal mechanism. People can't submit their application.
- Employees can't work freely. Forcing them to work with unwanted recommendation.

- Quarrel between people and employees inside the office are common.



Panchayat published Pouraawakash Rekha means citizen right chart. Which give the information about the services given by the panchayat to the people. So they can understand what are the documents submitted to the panchayat office for their application the time taken for their services. Details of important services given by the panchayat are exhibited in the printed form in front office. There is also electronic display system of information system in front office system. Front office officer is also working as public officer.

In kulasekharapuram gram panchayat front office there is token system. So people can't stand in queue. Application called as per their token number. Seating facility, news paper facility, drinking water facilities are provided in the front office. Front office officer is in charge of front office. Officer is selected on routine base from the clerk and senior Clerk staff. So there is no permanent staff here. Front office assistant who help main officer is also routinely selected. Junior Superintendent in the office monitors it's working. All necessary stationery like pen, paper, pin, etc. provided. Front office time start from 10 am to 5 pm. financial transaction is limited up to 3 pm. Front office is computerized. Computer is provided with high speed internet and internal net work connection. Receipt of application software name sankhya and soochika is used. When an application is submitted at the panchayat receipt is given to him. Which show's the service date and nature of application and section where from service given. After an application given to

front office it is transferred to concerned section. Depending on the nature, if urgent action needed it will go to section without delay. If it's not urgent it will go after front office closed. After the file processed the services return to the main office. So applicant can receipt it from front office. Distribution register and front office diary is maintained. Junior Superintendent Monitor files moving procedure in front office. Distribution register is used for disbursing files to different section. Front office diary keeping for gathering information about what are the services given each day. As part of the paperless office soochika software used for the file processing. The following facilities are kept in front office:

- Front Office
- Electronic Display and token system
- Right to service board
- Notice Board
- Acknowledgement Receipt

This front office service system has been able to provide immediate services to the panchayat people. They are all happy about the functioning of Front office. This best practice has become very useful and have provided benefit to the general public. Hence the Panchayat is recommended for Award.

2. Chembilode Gram Panchayat, Edakkad Block, Kannur District, Kerala:-

“PLASTIC RECYCLING UNIT HAS CHANGED LIVES TO LIVE IN HEAVEN AT CHEMBILODE”

Chembilode Gram Panchayat situated 15 Km away from Kannur district Headquarters surrounded by Gram Panchayat namely Munderi in North, Peralassery and kadamboor in south Anjarakkandy in East and Kannur corporation in west. And included in Edakkad block Panchayath in Kannur district.

The Living standard of the people in Chembilode GramaPanchayath is very high quality when comparing with other neighbouring Panchayat. Most of the people are engaged in agriculture, Trading (Small), small industrial labours, coolies. Some are working in Government sector, Cooperative sector and public undertakings. Due to high density of population and use of heavy amount of plastic materials the Panchayat was accumulating huge quantity of plastic and solid wastes in this Panchayat. As the Panchayat members and common public are educated and aware about the bad effects of Plastic the Panchayat took and discussed this issue at Gramsabha and it was unanimously decided to manage the waste materials so that the environment will not be polluted and harmful. Even now most of the Panchayath is in the process of making an action plan to get rid and this dumping waste. But Chembilode Grama Panchayath successfully commissioned a plant to recycle plastic waste and overcome the crisis of non biodegradable waste in 2007-08 onwards. This work took momentum during the year 2015-16 as community shown their interest to handle the issue. The issue and management plan came from village and reached at Gramsabha. It was decided there to manage through a Plant. The technical and administrative plan of this was approved and then the work for this continued.



The following objective was set to achieve the same:

1. Make the public aware of plastic waste and how it is affecting to our environment and life and its causes.
2. Prevent spreading of plastic waste in the area.
3. Conversion of plastic waste into value added products.
4. Conversion of plastic waste in a scientific way, so that further damage to environment is not caused.
5. Ensure availability of raw material to other production units.
6. Provide employment opportunities to unemployed women youth.

Chembilode GramaPanchayath's approach towards plastic is – Reduce, Reuse and Recycle policy. Making public aware of plastic waste was the first challenge .Panchayat decided to tackle the problem at its root level .On a daily basis 4 women volunteers (including a driver for auto rickshaw) were appointed for the collection of plastic wastes. Four members were trained 4 for the smooth operation of the plant. Four unskilled women were employed for segregation of plastic waste. Each one of the team perform their duty the main team collects plastic bags from schools, households and business establishments and deposit the same in the storing place. The women driver drives the auto with one colleague.Then different processes are adopted to melt the plastic and then brought to hard

condition. After this these are processed for plastic pipe manufacturing. Care has been taken for ecofriendly measures.

By allotting funds during the years 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11 Building, electrification, installation of equipments, purchasing of a pickup van became a reality.

Today the plant could convert a whole mass of 300 Kg plastic waste per day into useful granules (raw material for the value added products). Chembilode GramaPanchayath became free from plastic wastes and ensure clean environment throughout the Panchayat. Beneficiary of this project includes nearby Panchayath, thus also a role model to other local bodies in handling plastic waste. The whole recycling process is done at a centralised point so scientifically the rate of air, water, soil pollution is reduced to minimum. Chembilode GramaPanchayath could achieve central Government Nirmal Puraskar in 2007 and Green Kerala Trophy in the year 2009-10, as recognition of its effort towards eliminating plastic waste. The ability of the Panchayat to fore see is the key factor and in 2007 itself Chembilode GramaPanchayat could start a project like this. The co-ordinated effort of the members and the officials of the Panchayat and the whole hearted support from the public made the project a reality. From 2007 -08 and the efforts put during the year 2015-16 onwards the project runs so smoothly making Chembilode Gram Panchayath a real heaven with cleanliness. Due to the above commendable work and very good panchayat administration this is recommended for award.

3. *Orumanayur Gram Panchayat, Chavakkad Block, Thrissur Block, Kerala:-*

“Rain Water harvesting structure has become the life line”

Orumanayur Gram Panchayat is situated in Chavakad Block, in Thrissur District in the state of Kerala. The main profession of the household's is agriculture work and women are participating in more numbers in it. The Panchayat is having 13 wards. The Panchayat is surrounded with saline water logged area and the community had a major problem of safe drinking water due to salinity. Further the level of water was observed to be decreasing over the last decades. The Panchayat has 13 elected members and it has a very good office building and required number of staffs. It has connected with broadband internet connection and has possessed all office running gadgets for smooth functioning of official work. The panchayat has received funds from state govt and central govt during the year 2015-16. It has also created its own fund for development activities.

The villagers specially the women along with the panchayat have taken a step through rain water harvesting structure to get good quality of water which has become a life line for all of them. The villagers of Subin along with 50 beneficiaries from 13 wards since years together from their birth was getting and using saline water from the drinking water source due to saline waterlog area. This was not at all comfortable to them as per their feeling and they were thinking how to get good water. The problem was so irritating that they were in need of immediate solution to this.



During the year 2015-16 they could get an opportunity to attend Gramsabha and placed their need for solving the issue of getting good quality of water. It was discussed in gram sabha then it was included in the annual action plan. The panchayat took initiatives to construct rain water harvesting structures in the roof of 50 households with an estimated amount of Rs. 4500 each. Mazhapolima (Rain water harvesting system) is a participatory climate change adoption initiative which was launched by the Govt of Kerala at Thrissur district in 2008. The project aims to elevate the problem of water scarcity by harvesting rain water from rooftops and feeding into the open wells. This concept was discussed with the women members especially as a result of which they agreed to participate in this programme. Active participation of Gram Pnachayat beneficiaries led to the installation of rainwater harvesting units with subsidy. District collector is the chairman of this committee. Rain Water harvesting unit adopted the type of technique i.e. roof top harvesting with sand filter, where PVC gutters are fixed to collect roof top water, which is then diverted to the filter using a PVC pipe. Mazhapolima(Rain water harvesting system)was initiated to enhance the water table and increase water availability in open wells throughout the year , improve the quality of water in open wells along with the coastal lines . It also enables the households to consume non salinated and pure water at their own source. The women members with satisfaction expressed that this rain water harvesting structure has helped them to get pure drinking water, has ensured increased in level of water and has been useful for the plants and creatures in their respective village. In this panchayath 50

beneficiaries came under this programme. They all are come under BPL category. The initiative being implemented by the Gram Panchayath and the initiative became more people oriented so more people came forward to adopt it. The panchayat financially supported this project from its state fund directly to the beneficiaries. The beneficiaries are aware about the use and cost of the project. The beneficiaries took their own interest to construct and maintain the same and using it for their drinking water and vegetable crop growing need. The project has brought quite a number of benefits to the households. The first benefit they are getting that is best quality, tasty and good colour water. The level of water in the well has increased by one feet over the year. It is supporting for their kitchen garden and watering their plants. The best benefit is their satisfaction of drinking. This project has opened the eyes of the community for working together and achieving dreams through Their Gram Panchayat. A number of beneficiaries have come forward and demanding the same project since it is giving good benefit. The most important thing is that it has brought an opinion that participation in the gram sabha will surely change their bad condition to better one. This practise of water use has generated a strong faith among the beneficiary, members and staffs of the panchayat. The members and officials have become closer to the community and gaining a good faith for fulfilling the hopes and aspirations of the community. Since this project has fulfilled the burning need of the community and for women especially due to their active participation it can be a best practice. More number of people have come forward and demanding for this project. It has also helped in increasing water level and helping their cultivation process and has supplemented to their income. This work of the Panchayat has been a point of attraction therefore this project is in demand for up scaling in future.

MADHYA PRADESH

1. *Jhabua District Panchayat, Madhya Pradesh:-*

“Helping the Needy with ‘Anaaj Bank’ ”

The women of Mohanpura Gram Panchayat in Jhabua district have taken an initiative of helping the needy villagers by donating a fistful of grains/anaaj every week. These women were of the view that all villagers are part of the community and none of them should sleep hungry. The women of this village have in fact proved that a single fist may not do anything impactful; however, a collective effort can definitely bring a huge change in the community. These women met in an informal meeting and decided to form an “Anaaj Bank” where they bring handful of grains each week and put it in this bank. This in turn is given to the needy families who cannot afford to buy food. The women of this village, under Ajeevika Mission, with the help of formed SHGs are working together to help the families who generally are widow females, landless villagers, poor & handicapped people, etc. The panchayat facilitated the formation of Self Help Groups (SHGs). All the group members donated the grains every time they met. A total of 2 quintals of grains have

been collected so far and has been distributed to around 14 families in the village. It was reported that with the help of 31 committees (SHGs), a total of 317 women have been brought together to contribute to this mission. The Gram Panchayat of this village has also provided an office for this mission which is named as “Ajeevika Bhawan” by the women of this village. This office is used by the women to conduct meetings. Apart from the initiative of donating grains, the women also decided to help the family, where death has occurred with an amount of Rs.100 and would also provide grains from the Anaaj Bank. It was observed that the women of this village are also actively participating in social work activities and have a view that none of the villagers should be hungry. The needy households received food from this bank and hence none of the villagers remained hungry. Such activities need to be recognized by the government to keep the enthusiasm going. The proper recognition will also facilitate institutionalization and replication of such activities in surrounding GPs.



2. *Shobhapur Gram Panchayat, Sohagpur Block, Hoshangabad District, Madhya Pradesh:-*

“Day Care Center for Senior Citizens”

The Gram Panchayat Shobhapur is located in Sohagpur block of Hoshangabad district in MP. There is a certain amount of ignorance towards old aged people. There is a growing need in the community to voluntarily take care of the health and wellness of senior citizens.

The Sarpanch and Panchayat members jointly decided to open a center and name it as ‘Day Care Center’ to provide food and accommodation to old aged people who are very weak and needs special care. During one of the Panchayat meetings, it was discussed and decided that the Panchayat will allocate a space of 10x40 sqft to build a space for

facilitating the old people with food (breakfast and lunch). The villagers also provided the necessary support to make this initiative successful.



It was informed that the building of day care center was constructed at a cost of Rs. 120000/- which was funded by the Panchayat under Panchayat Nidhi. Convergence of other schemes was also done in order to construct this facility. The labour work was done under MGNREGA and some other tasks were also done under Panch Parmeshwar. The day-to-day expenditure of running this initiative was taken care by the Panchayat and other voluntary contributions from the community. As reported, the daily cost of running was around Rs. 1000/--1100/-, hence making the total cost of running the service to Rs 25000-30000/- per month. Around 10000-15000 is collected through voluntary contributions. This collection is done by a group named Jan Kalyan Samoh. The remaining amount is paid by the Panchayat.

The day care center was accommodating 20-30 old people who were very weak. They were provided morning tea, breakfast, fruits, etc. and during the lunch they were fed rice, pulses, vegetables, etc. The senior citizens went back to their houses in the evening time. The overall health of the old people was reportedly improving creating a positive impact in the community. The Panchayat and villagers have a sense of satisfaction after doing this voluntary work and are motivated to keep funding this initiative without any help from the government.

3. *Bahoripar Gram Panchayat, Jabalpur Block, Jabalpur District, Madhya Pradesh:-*

(i) “Gobar Gas Plants”

The Gram Panchayat Bahoripar is located in Jabalpur block of Jabalpur district in MP. The village in general was facing many day-to-day problems such as lack of cleanliness, clogged drains, unmaintained toilets, etc. which was directly creating a negative impact on the environment. Apart from these issues, the women of the village were also facing health issues mainly because of the use of fire wood to cook food. This was also adding to the negative impact on the environment.

The issue of cooking in fire wood was creating a big problem in the lives of women. During one of the Panchayat meetings, it was discussed and decided that the Panchayat will appeal to the government officials to provide funds for setting up gobar gas plants in the village. The villagers also gave the necessary support to appeal for these gobar gas plants.

This project/initiative was ultimately funded by MP’s Agriculture Department. A total of 10-12 lakhs was spent on installing the gobar gas plants. The gobar gas plants have been installed in the village. Approximately 35 gobar gas plants have been installed at a cost of 30-35 thousand per plant. A total of 10-12 lakhs was spent on the setting up of these plants. The gobar gas plants have reduced the dependency on woods for cooking. It was informed that the percentage of wood cutting has reduced to a great extent in the village which has resulted in better environment. The villagers, after this initiative, also now have to spend

less time & effort of collecting woods. The health of women is also improving. The villagers have also started to sell manure which is helping in agricultural yield and resulted in better cleaner environment. This village will continue to set up more gobar gas plants which will be beneficial to the environment as well as the community.

(ii) **“Plantation of Fruit Trees to Protect Environment”**

The Gram Panchayat Bahoripar is located in Jabalpur block of Jabalpur district in MP. The area near the village in general lacks greenery and trees. Less number of trees also affects the temperature of the area especially during summers. In order to protect environment and for sustainable development, tree plantation was undertaken.

To tackle the problem of environment conservation and global warming the Gram Panchayat decided to plant trees in this area. A total of 2000 trees were planted, out of which, around 500 were fruit bearing (Jamun and Amla) trees and the remaining 1500 were trees for the purpose of providing shade. These trees were planted by the villagers in the entire gram panchayat.

For the achieving the objectives, funds were utilized from MGNREGA. The contribution of the community was made in the larger interest of making the area better for future. Community was not only involved in plantation of trees, but also took care for survival of the same. A local village committee was formed to take care of the monitoring and irrigation aspects of the planted trees. An amount of Rs. 400000/- was the approximate funds invested in this initiative. It was informed that cost per fruit bearing plant was around Rs. 15-20 and cost per shade plant was around Rs. 12-15. The community was so motivated for the cause that they made sure that these plants survive and grow properly. It was informed that besides regular watering of plants, pesticides were sprayed time to time.

Besides ameliorating the environment, the aforementioned plantation will add to the panchayat's income in future. It was expected that fructification will commence after 2/3 years. In about 10 years period full yield will be available from fruit trees. As per local scenario, on an average one fruit tree provides fruits worth Rs. 5000/- per year. Assuming the minimum returns from a tree and also assuming that only two-third trees will bear proper fruits in a year, the average earning will be about Rs. 16 lakh from fruit tree plantation, whereas plantation of shade trees will protect the environment and would also provide shade during summers. This initiative would also give employment to some of the villagers who would be able to earn extra income. This initiative will help long way to villagers for improving the quality of life, not only in the village but also in the surrounding as other gram panchayats might also take up such tasks for greener and better villages.

MAHARASHTRA

1. *Ahmednagar Zilla Parishad, Maharashtra:-*

(i) “e-Governance”

(a) Zilla Parishad Orders on the Public view:

Zilla Parishad Ahmednagar has started website <http://nagarzp.in/admin/public-orders.php> issued by each department of Zilla Parishad Ahmednagar. It helps in paperless work and transparency.

(b) Online Grievance Redressal Portal:

Zilla Parishad Ahmednagar has started online complaint system on the website Web Portal address <http://nagarzpnivaran.com> to register complaints and get the compliance complaint. People can register department wise complaints online on this portal and track their complaints time to time. Mostly within 21 day's online complaints are answered.

(c) File Tracking Management System:

Zilla Parishad Ahmednagar has developed a file tracking management system for the computerized recording of files to track the file online. The main purpose of the file tracking management system is to reduce the pendency of files.

File Bar-coding is done for the management of the files and tracking is done by that Bar-coding on the files and the status of files is monitored by all departments. This system helps to clear the files within the time limit.

(d) Sampada Mobile Application:

Online Transfer System has been introduced in Zilla Parishad Ahmednagar. All eligible Employees can send their transfer application online.

(e) E-Service Book:

E-Service Book for Zilla Parishad Employees is completed. The purpose of E-Service Book is to gather clear information of every employee about his service details and maintain accurate database online, so that transfers promotions and service related matters will be more transparent and accurate.

(ii) **Liquid waste Management**

Zilla Parishad, Ahmednagar is working & to make the villages not only Open Defecation Free but also pollution free & clean. The funds for the construction of P.V.C pipe low-cost drainage system, individual soak pit, leach pit & Stabilization pond are arranged from MREGS fund, village fund or any other funds available at gram panchayat level.

(iii) **Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Plant**

Reverse osmosis systems are used to purify impurities from the tap and brackish water. Capable of rejecting bacteria, sugars, proteins, particles, dyes, and other dissolved

constituents. Reverse osmosis can remove many types of molecules and ions from solutions, including bacteria, and is used in both industrial processes and the production of potable water. The result is that the solute is retained on the pressurized side of the membrane and the pure solvent is allowed to pass to the other side. Pure & clean drinking water.

In Ahmednagar District 5 village panchayats have installed Reverse osmosis systems namely 1. Dahigaon Tal: Nagar 2. Kambi Tal: Shevgaon 3. Shinganapur Tal: Newasa 4. Sakur Tal: Sangamner & 5. Babhaleshwar Tal: Rahata having capacity of 1000 lit/ Hour. R.O. Systems of 1000 lit/ Hr. Capacity are sanctioned by DPDC in 45 Villages, which is under e-tendering process.

(iv) National Bio-Gas and Manure Management Programme (Cylinder free village)

National Bio-gas and Manure Management programme (NBMMP) is 100 % central government Scheme included in 20 point programme. To Provide clean gas fuel for cooking purpose and organic manure to rural and semi-urban households through family type biogas plants which are the main objectives of the scheme.

In this district “Cylinder Mukta Gaon” is an innovative activity going on from the year 2014-15. In 2015-16 14 Tahsil, 14 villages were selected for 100% cylinder free villages. In this scheme, Muthevadgaon of Shrirampur, Walkup as Parner and Manjarsumbha as Nagar Tahsil are successfully cylinder Free villages. Remaining villages are in progress.

In View of Social aspect, Agriculture Department (ie. Staff of Agriculture Officer and Extension officer) helped to install two Biogas plants for Snehalaya Institute which is working for HIV-infected children, women, and other helpless women. Very Soon that units will be starting working it will reduce the requirement of gas cylinders from 40 LPG cylinders to 15 cylinder which can save Rs 9000/- per month for them.

2. Arjuni Morgaon Panchayat Samiti, Gondia District, Maharashtra:-

1. MGNREGS assets: Well Construction

Work has been done by Panchayat Samiti, benefitting beneficiaries of community and individual in FY 2015-2016. MGNREGS created the employment of 100 Days for 2093 households. The total no of counting mended are 854655 and expenditure of Rs 142650061. 74 wells were constructed out of which 64 were made in FY2015-16.

2. Pradhanmantri Awas Yojana

Block Arjuni-Morgaon has total 26491 household out of 18889 families have been identified as BPL families. Some of those are living in damaged houses. Therefore

Panchayat Samiti has decided to allot them pucca houses on priority basis. Hence Panchayat samiti had made appeal to gram Panchayat for submission of proposal regarding Pradhanmantri Awas Yojana . Then gram Panchayat has sent a proposal to Arjuni-Morgaon Block office. Under Pradhanmantri Awas Yojana 892 proposals were sanction by DRDA.

3. *Dholewadi Gram Panchayat, Shirala Block, Sangli District, Maharashtra:-*

It's one of the unique villages which celebrate 'Rastrapita Mahatma Gandhi Saptah' every year. GP has won Nirmal gram puraskar in 2003-2004. GP has an excellent drainage system and one of the best drinking water facility which helps in improving the villagers health. Dholewadi is the best example where villagers come together as a team to work. Dholewadi GP has made available solar water heaters to 42 families. For fuel usage, Bio Gas is the choice of villagers which is environment friendly. Dholewadi GP has also taken initiatives for providing Bio-Gas.

4. *Moraleped Gram Panchayat, Tusgaon Block, Sangli District, Maharashtra:-*

In 1972 a percolation dam was constructed by government for irrigation but due to excess use of water drought circumstances arises in Moraleped to tackle the situation villagers came together to launch Jalyukta Shivar Abhiyan(JSA).Under this scheme in 2015-16 Soil Nala , cement dam and excavation constructed on 15,1& 2 locations respectively. Nearly 50 to 60 Acre of additional land had come under irrigation due to Jalyukta Shivar Abhiyan (JSA).Apart from JSA Villagers contributed Rs. 5 Lakh for Drinking water system by ZP. Each family now have own water connection in house. Village has solar street lights and water filter are made available to handicaps. In 2016-17 Moraleped GP has attempted for 3 cycles of crop . Educated youth are engaged in dairy business .GP have taken initiative for Swachh Bharat Abhiyan where 100% villagers had their own Toilets.

ODISHA

1. *Sargiguda Gram Panchayat, Borigumma Block, Koraput District, Odisha:-*

“Steps taken for ODF GP”:

Six villages in the GP having a total of 1289 households . Most of the households were not having the facility of sanitary latrines before 2015.They used to defecate in open. Sanitation and hygiene conditions of the village was very poor. Proper training was provided to villagers regarding cleanliness, sanitation & hygiene their mindset was

changed to make their GP ODF in time bound manner after the completion of training programme. It was decided in GP that help of community people is must to achieve the goal of ODF GP by using sanitary latrines and ensuring cleanliness in the villages. Some people were nominated for regular supervision and monitoring of construction of toilets and cleanliness in the GP. “Gram Sathi” was name name given to the people appointed for supervision and monitoring of various activities to become ODF. It was decided that one Gram Sathi will look after 15-20 households. Members were deployed to nominate Gram Sathi in their respective wards.

Till present Gram Sathi have supervised the construction of 742 household toilets and they are regularly monitoring the community people for maintaining cleanliness. It was reported that construction of remaining 547 household toilets will be done before March 2017 which was deadline fixed to make GP ODF free. Serious efforts were made by Elected members and Gram Sathi to make their GP ODF. This is undoubtedly innovative step of the GP for fulfilling the dream of clean & ODF GP.

Picture of toilet constructed to make GP ODF is placed below:



PUNJAB

1. *Kot Karorh Khurd Gram Panchayat, Ghall Khurd Block, Ferozepur District, Punjab:-*

“Construction of Modern Park”

This was the first park in rural area of the district Ferozepur which inspires many Panchayats of Punjab and is a good example for other Panchayats of country. Landscape of park is very beautifully decorated by expensive stones and fountains. Colorful and decorative lights give serenity to view at night. There is a proper sitting arrangement for elders under the sheds. A special soft green grass and colorful flowers make the sight much more pleasant. Many decorative and traditional plants add beauty to the sight. Many inspirational and moral messages are written on the walls of park and all over the village which help to enrich the moral values among youth of village. Dustbin culture is developed among people of village to make the village neat and clean. For this purpose dustbins are placed in all corners of park and village. Many kinds of swings and rides are provided for the kids. Many meetings and common sessions of Panchayat are usually held in the park. Panchayat has taken initiatives to enhance livelihood of villagers by construction of modern park.

RAJASTHAN

1. *Netarwas Gram Panchayat, Dhod Block, Sikar District, Rajasthan:-*

“Construction of Water Recharge Well”

Underground water is the main source of irrigation for the local farmers Gram Panchayat members felt that water level was falling in comparison to previous years and also observed that during rainy seasons most of the rain water was being wasted and in some area gathered in different parts of the village and thus create water pollution. ERs discussed these issues with the villagers in Gram Sabha and presented the proposal formaking a recharge well for which the fund was to be arranged from Mukhya Mantri Jal Swalamban Abhiyan. The proposal was approved in Gram Sabha and with the help of block level officials estimation of the project cost was prepared and sent for sanction. On 05-02-2016 an amount of Rs. 6.20 lakhs was sanctioned under Mukhya Mantri Jal Swalamban Abhiyan for construction of water recharge well.

After sanction recharge well was constructed, During the same year Gram Panchayat took up the work of construction of drainage and linking with old drainage also.

As a result of which a network of 8000 Ft. long drainage system was prepared to flow of domestic waste water and rain water up to recharge well.

After construction of recharge well and effective drainage system results were fruitful. It was observed that rainy water and domestic water was not floating on the street instead it was flowing into the recharge well and underground water level was also improved. In wells of the gram Panchayat water level was improved up to 2 fit in comparison to previous years.



Picture of Construction of Water Recharge Well

2. *Nari Gram Panchayat, Chirawa Block, Jhunjhunu District, Rajasthan:-*

“Drain Construction”

Brijalpura village is a part of GP Nari hence it was facing major problems due to choked old and open drainage system constructed along the houses where dirty water was discharged from houses on both the sides of roads of the village. Rainy season has added new dimensions to this problem. The clogged drains were a breeding ground for mosquitoes & their population were multiplied in algebraic proportions. Residents faced a potential threat to their health” . This was the scene of the village Brijlalpura in the year 2014-15.

Election of Panchayat was held in February 2015-16 . A young Sarpanch was elected for GP with a clear vision and road map of development of the gram Panchayat . Initially the problem was discussed with the people, wards members and newly elected Panchs of the gram Panchayat Nari. After their consent, draft plan to construct drain (pacca

nullah) was approved in gram sabha and gram panchayat. After the approval from GS and GP, proposal was included in the annual plan, which was approved by the Panchayat Samiti Chirawa of Jhunjhunu district.

As per approved proposal a 800 feet long, two feet wide and three feet deep drain was constructed in a short span of time during the year 2015-16. The drain is now connected through main channel to a newly constructed reservoir, which has enough capacity to store the waste water reaching to it from the village through the drain. For construction, fund of Rupees Five lakhs was made available from the State Finance Commission receipts. After the construction of drain. Now people feel free from the threat of water borne diseases. This unique initiative of gram panchayat has provided a permanent solution to the people of the village.

SIKKIM

1. *Poklok Denchung Gram Panchayat, South District, Sikkim:-*

“Women empowerment through Self Help Group”

34 Poklok Denchung Gram Panchayat Unit is referred as Women Empowerment GPU in the state. Women residing in rural areas face problems such as low level of income , limited access to education and health services, job security as well as limited land and inheritance rights. 34 Poklok Denchung gram Panchayat unit have framed policy on the basis of their needs as well as their contributions as margins of policy development with budget plan from OSR and GPDP.

To eradicate the patterns of discrimination, unsustainable development practices, climate change and violence against women intensify the burden placed on women. GPU has given platform to the women voice by conducting ward Mahila Sabha and Mahila Sashaktikaran Sabha for the first time in the history of Sikkim which is followed by other GPs in Sikkim. Separate Cabin is allotted for ASHA workers in GPK. Gram Panchayat hold monthly meeting with AGANWADI workers to understand the issues and challenges faced by them. In order to encourage women in livelihood projects. Gram Panchayat has encouraged every woman to be a member of Self Help Group.

Today, there are 51 SHG's in the GPU. In every ward there is one women community service provider (CSP) who monitors the performance of every self help group of each ward and reports to GPU. The best performing self help group area is appraised as Federation group. The federation group consist of President, Secretary and the members of all self help groups. The SHG helps in women empowerment through manufacturing and selling of products like candle, natural soap, bags etc. Members have participated in

various exhibitions and trade fair in Delhi and other states. Gram Panchayat Units have funded a women self help group with honorarium in making soaps. Trainings are provided by SIRD and North East Rural Livelihood Projects at gram community hall at GPK in collaboration with Gram Panchayat unit. The anchoring training has become boon for women to express themselves, today voice of every women is heard in this GP. The gram Panchayat unit's policy on women and children have outshined GPU.



A

picture related to training provided by SHG to women's of the village

TAMIL NADU

1. *Coimbatore District Panchayat, Tamil Nadu:-*

(i) Solid and liquid Resource Management (SLRM) Segregation Sheds

Solid and liquid Resource Management (SLRM) is an interlinking concept to utilize the abundant existing natural resources to tackle the immediate issue of garbage management through proper usage of high efficient man power, thereby contributing to solve the twin Issues of waste management and unemployment. The District Panchayat Coimbatore adopted the concept and successfully implemented in 95 Village Panchayats in eight Panchayat Unions in the District.

The District Panchayat decided to construct SLRM sheds in clusters of habitations of Village Panchayats. An estimate has been prepared for Rs.55000/- for the construction

of a segregation shed. Administrative sanction has been obtained from the District Collector to take up the construction of 180 sheds in 95 Village Panchayats at a total cost of Rs. 102.80 lakhs utilizing the SFC funds available with the District Panchayat. On completion of construction of the sheds, SHG members / MGNREGS workers have been trained in the door to door collection of garbage in separate baskets for degradable and non-degradable waste. The organic and inorganic garbage is segregated in the shed, after transporting the same to the segregation site in the vehicles provided under SBM. The degradable waste is deposited in the pits for processing and making of the vermi-compost. The organic manure is sold to the local farmers on nominal rates. The *thoomikavalars* (Sanitary workers) visit every household between 6.00 am and 8.00 am and collect the garbage kept in the baskets and transport to the segregation shed using tricycles. The waste is segregated there. The organic garbage mixed with cow dung and water is dumped into the pits and kept for 60 days covered with gunny bags and the decomposed waste is put in the vermin-compost plant to produce organic manure. The manure fetches income to the SHGs. The non-degradable substances are also sold to private vendors. The project has proved that even waste can be a source for resource mobilization.

(ii) Purified Water Provided with R.O. Plants in Schools

Coimbatore District Panchayat in Tamil Nadu State has undertaken a novel programme to provide safe drinking water to the children in the schools of the District. The programme is in context of the spread of water borne diseases in many parts of the District. Due to the drinking of contaminated water. Reverse Osmosis is the most convenient and safest technique for desalinization of water. It is cost effective and has low energy consumption. The District Panchayat drew up a scheme for installing R.O plants in all the Panchayat Union Schools and P.H. centres during 2015-16. The matter was discussed in the council meeting and a proposal was submitted to District Collector for administrative sanction. The expenditure has been decided to be met from the SFC funds available with the District Panchayat. Accordingly, Reverse Osmosis, plants have been installed in 106 locations in the 12 Panchayat Unions. The expenditure done for this work is Rs. 222 43 lakhs. Now the students are consuming water treated through Reverse Osmosis plants. Noon meal cooking is also done with the water from the plant. The Reverse Osmosis plants have saved the younger generation from the threat of water – borne diseases.



Picture of Reverse Osmosis Plant in a School

2. Irungalur Gram Panchayat, Manachanallur Block, Tiruchirappalli District, Tamil Nadu:-

“Mobile Alert for Water Supply System”

Irungalur is a semiurban Panchayat with a population of 9367 persons in 2782 households, spread over six habitations. The Panchayat is semi-urban and provided with all basic amenities. The Panchayat has succeeded in providing safe drinking water to all the families through a network of water supply system.

There are 27 Over Head (OH) tanks, 24 mini OH tanks and seven Ground Level (GL) reservoirs to store water, from 12 bore wells and five open wells situated at various locations. Water provided from the combined water supply scheme (CWSS) operated by TWAD (Tamil Nadu Water and Drainage Board) is also collected in 12 OHTs and with this infrastructure, the Panchayat is able to provide water to the villagers through 156 public taps and 1193 house connections.

All the public institutions in the Panchayat are also provided with water supply connections. There are three regular full time OHT Operators and seven temporary (part time) OHT Operators appointed by the Panchayat to look after the water supply system. They closely monitor the operation process. The OHTs are cleaned every fortnight and the water is chlorinated before distribution. However, since the OHTs are located in distant habitations, the OHT operators are not in a position to monitor the functioning of the units promptly. In order to solve the problem mobile alerts have been installed in the cell phones of the Secretary, OHT Operator and the President. For 9 OHT, for which water is pumped with 3 motor starters, a sim is inserted on the motor and linked to the cell phones. The following numbers are provided for the three starters, 9566702601, 9750703450, 7094277840. The Secretary, OHT Operator and the President can ‘ON / OFF’ the motor from anywhere. They will get messages in their cell phone, as and when some trouble shoots up. They can immediately act by switching off or switching on the motors or

altering the persons concerned. With this arrangement the water supply system of Irungalur VP has become hassle free and uninterrupted.

TELANGANA

1. Karimnagar ZP, Telangana:-

“sanitation”

Karimnagar is one of the district in Telangana state. Elected representatives & District administration convinced about the need of toilet construction and decided to give it a priority by transforming the district to be a model “Open defecation free district”. Every grampanchayat develops an ODF plan through the sanitation committee. The ODF plan gives the details of the total number of households, number of households which need a toilet and also identifies households which have been sanctioned a toilet but has not been put to use or constructed. This is achieved through a comprehensive survey by the VWSC. Sanction for toilets is done by the District Collector through Superintending Engineer Rural Water Supply and Sanitation as per request of MSO/MPDO. An account is opened for VWSC in any Nationalized Bank, with Sarpanch, VO President and the Panchayat Secretary as the joint signatories. A total amount of Rs.12000 is given to the eligible beneficiary as incentive for construction of IHHL. Once the work commencement order is given to the VWSC by the MPDO, funds are released in three installments by the MSO/MPDO based on geo-tagged photographic evidence. Photographs are uploaded online through the special mobile application developed by the department. The first installment of 50 percent (Rs. 6,000) of funds is released only after photographs are uploaded of the toilet site. The second installment of 40 percent (Rs. 4800) is released only after photographs are uploaded showing the progress of works which should be more than 50 percent. The third and final installment of 10 percent(Rs.1200) is released only after photographs are uploaded showing full construction and a utilization certificate is submitted Karimnagar District has been recognised as a Champion District at national level in construction of Individual House Hold Latrines. Out of 13 Assembly Constituencies,

during the 2015-16 year (05) Assembly Constituencies have been declared 100 open defecation free. The District Collector, Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson, ZPP Karimnagar have been invited to New Delhi to receive the Champion District Certificate.

2. Kasbe Katkur Gram Panchayat, Sircilla Block, Karimnagar District, Telangana:-

“Sanitation”

For management and maintenance of the hygiene in each streets, each households have been provided one bucket. Cleaning of drainages, daily collection of garbages from each house hold and daily cleaning of drainages is done. Special Drum made by the GP through the Tricycles provided by the RWS. Panchayat has introduced the hanging dust bins in prominent places in the GP. It's very easy to remove the garbage in comparison to traditional dust bins. By motivating the people the GP has constructed 100% IHHLs in the village. After completion of IHHLs, rigorous awareness programs were conducted by the GP and Village youth groups' help were solicited to make the village aware. The Gram Panchayath has passed a resolution to impose a fine Rs, 500/- those who defecate in open. With these activities all the households are habituated to use the IHHLs. Now the scenario of the GP has completely changed. There is no side drains in the hamlet village Chinthalapally of GP Kasbekatkur. Due to this problem every household used to let the waste water flow on the roads. This situation escalated further and that led to growing the mosquitoes. Two dengue and so many malaria cases were recorded in 2013-14 FY in this habitation. In 2015-16 no dengue case recorded, but only 6 malaria cases identified. In the present year (2016-17) there is no Dengue or Malaria or other water born diseases were identified. On an average, a general family has to spend more than Rs. 30,000/- for giving treatment of Dengue and Rs. 5000/- for curing Malaria fevers. If the victim is an earned person in the poor family, they lose the wage for one or two months due to the illness. In this way, the sanitation activities have helped the poor families in millions of rupees indirectly.

TRIPURA

1. Khowai Panchayat Samiti, Khowai District, Tripura:-

“Sustainable source of own revenue”

Khowai Panchyat Samiti (Intermediate Block) comes under Khowai district of Tripura has set an example of good governance by ensuring sustainable source of income to overcome the deficiency of fund. The initiative taken by the block towards increase the own source of income is remarkable. It has not only empowered the Panchyat Samiti financially but also created opportunities for local vendors to do business. During the financial year 2015-16 around of Rs. 1,000,000 was earned by the Panchyat Samiti through

its own source of income. The assets created by the Intermediate Block include a park, market stall, community hall, fishery, mango garden etc. The installation of a park namely BANABITHI ECO PARK has drawn the attention of locals in the state & people from different parts visit this park for relaxation, picnic etc. It is basically a public park which is run by the panchayat where they pay Rs 10 per person to explore what the park has to offer, they have picnic spots at two sites of the park where the charge for organising a party is set as Rs 500. Fishery is one of the greatest assets that the intermediate block has to offer. Fisheries help the Panchayat to collect a great deal of revenue. The Panchayat Samiti owns three of the fisheries, which are given to the local people on lease to generate revenue. All three fisheries generate different revenue, from one fishery they earn Rs 55,000 followed by Rs 52,000 and 30,000 respectably. The excitement of functions stays strong as the Panchayat offers a community hall for the celebration of various events and festivals. A share of Rs 500 is deposited by each resident for the smooth and healthy running of the functions hosted. Another state of revenue is collected from the market stalls and banks. The Panchayat owns 12 market stalls and they collect a rent of Rs 1000 from each stall. Rs 2000 is collected as rent from the bank. Panchayat Samiti also has many other means of short incomes such as the mango gardens. This case study establishes that in a short span of a few years Khowai Panchayat Samiti with support from different development schemes has been able to develop sustainable source of revenue for itself.

2. South Charilam Gram Panchayat, Charilam Block, Sepahijala District, Tripura:-

“Self help group & bamboo made handicrafts”

The gram panchayat is doing good work for economic & social upliftment of its residents through various developmental schemes. Moreover there are two best Practices documented in brief of the Gaon panchayat are:

(A) Self Help Group

Self Help Groups (SHGs) have become the vehicle of change in the rural areas, transforming the lives of the marginalized. Realizing that problems cannot be solved alone, or by a single agency, small voluntary groups get together to pool their resources, skills and talent to better their lives. SHGs organize the poor and the marginalized to join hands to solve their problems and the method has been very successfully used by the government and the Non Government Organizations in achieving several goals. As a form of enterprise, SHG performs the role of collective banks and enterprises and ensure better access to loans with a lower rate of interest to start or micro unit enterprises. Women-led self-help groups are known to empower women and improve health and this panchayat has also taken advantage of this fact. The South Charilam Panchayat is best known to all for Women empowerment. The elected body has extended all support for the empowerment of women at the Panchyat. There are 30 active Self Help Group (SHG) existing within the gram Panchayat and all are exclusively run by women. There is a federation that holds all 30 SHGs under a single umbrella.



North Eastern Rural Livelihood Project (NERLP) is inspiring, assisting and promoting the SHGs to attain a sustainable growth. There are many areas in which the SHGs are working and attained skills covering diverse areas like creating handicrafts, fun toys, jute based products, sewing and tailoring, poultry, piggery etc with support received from Gaon Panchyat which has empowered the women of South Charilam GP not only economically but also socially and this empowerment has brought to them a separate identity in the society and made them self-reliant.

(B) Bamboo Made Handicrafts

There are as many as 21 bamboo species in Tripura and this Panchayat block is also lucky in this regard. The Bamboo made handicraft has become a cottage industry of South Charilam GP where almost all households have voluntarily adopted this occupation as their part and parcel of life. There may be families which need no more practicing this skills for their attaining economical soundness, nevertheless all such families like others practice it on daily basis and this encourages the children to acquire the skills from their childhood.



There is a Block level cluster resource centre, named ‘Matangini’ that has been giving recognition to this industry by maintaining regular communication, imparting training and familiarizing the entrepreneurs with advance technological applications to this industry and making exhibition and commercialization of their products.

UTTAR PRADESH

1. Milakamawti Gram Panchayat, Dilari Block, Moradabad District, Uttar Pradesh:-

“Sanitation”

GP has undertaken special efforts to eliminate the incidence of open defecation in its area. IEC activities have been carried out. The GP is getting funds to make it ODF. The delay is on the part of the District. Villagers are contributing by Jan Sahabagita. during festivals villagers clean the village. The 2 Safi karmis are motivated to work in the GP. The issue of Sanitation is taken up in the meetings and ward members are motivated to

encourage villagers in their wards to keep their surroundings clean. The Housewives do not litter the roads with garbage and collect in their home and when the safai karmi comes they give the garbage to him. The safai karmi takes this garbage and disposes off outside the village. The Teachers in the school motivate the children to use toilets. The girl children are motivated to tell their mothers to build toilets for them. GP has been able to institutionalise the decision making on sanitation to some extent. The nigrani samiti has been formed which is responsible for ODF activities. The GP has undertaken measures for Collection of Garbage, Construction and regular cleaning of drains, Ensuring cleanliness in and around the GP. Efforts are being undertaken by GP to construct and use IHHLs/ community toilets by all Households. It is facilitating the construction and use of community toilets/public toilets. It is Monitoring the use of toilets in schools and aganwadis. The SC colonies are also being taken care for constructing the toilets. Dustbin at each crossroad at 11 places have been installed. Garbage collected by the villagers, Safai karmi has a buggy (Rs 11000/-) and throws the garbage at a sarvajanik place 500 metres away from the main habitation. The GP is trying to attain ODF status. 197 Toilets have been made for Households. The funds for these toilets has come and is being utilised to construct toilets. The GP has made 2 community toilets of 6 blocks each. The Nigrani Samiti is doing work in controlling the open defecation and in generating awareness among villagers. It is also creating awareness in cleaning of the GP and garbage disposal. The Standing committees are functional. The GP committee is also functional and holds the meetings regularly.
