



Government of India  
Ministry of Panchayati Raj



## Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar 2012-13

## GOOD PRACTICES



Panchayati Raj



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Ministry of Panchayati Raj





# **Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar (Panchayat Empowerment Prize) 2012-13**



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## MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ

**T**his is the second of a series of documents, on good practices of Panchayats who have won awards under the Panchayat Empowerment and Accountability Incentive Scheme (PEAIS). The good practices of Panchayats that have won awards in 2012-13 prove the power of local initiative, and reveal the huge potential that exists for good governance, accountability and sensitivity to marginalized groups, if we empower our Panchayats. I am happy to note that three more States namely, Bihar, Jharkhand and Jammu & Kashmir, that could not participate in 2011-12, have participated in the identification of best performing Panchayats, bringing even more such instances of good practices to light.

2. This year, the good practices identified in various States have been put in the order of a State's rank on the 'Panchayat Strengthening Index' (PSI) which measures the extent to which a State has devolved powers to its Panchayats, built their capacities and created a framework for accountability. While the achievements of all the Panchayats provided in this document are praise-worthy, it can be seen that Panchayats in States with higher ranks on the PSI have been able to take more vigorous and innovative initiatives. This clearly has lessons for State policy.

3. The range of activities of these Panchayats is very wide. These exemplary and motivated Panchayats have improved people's livelihoods, brought about social reform, ensured convergence of schemes for greater public good, promoted

solar electrification, created useful community assets, improved the functioning of schools, initiated solid waste management, mobilized financial resources for creation of civic amenities and infrastructure, and promoted biodiversity and environment management at the local level. They have involved people in decision making, collaborated with NGOs and private partners, and improved their own management practices and processes.

4. I hope that these success stories will encourage all Panchayats to undertake local initiatives for public good and to strive to achieve excellence in service to the society at large. The Ministry feels privileged to disseminate these good practices across the country and would continue compiling such inspiring examples of local initiative by empowered Panchayats in subsequent years.

New Delhi  
April, 24 2013



L. M. Vas

Secretary to the Government of India  
Ministry of Panchayati Raj

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## 1. Jalgaon Gram Panchayat, Ratnagiri District, Maharashtra: Facility for Senior Citizens

A project was thought of and initiated by the village elders of Jalgaon GP, and whole heartedly supported by the Gram Panchayat, to create a place where elders can sit, interact and enjoy a peaceful and pleasant time with each other. These elders had been meeting at a site which was not being used by the Gram Panchayat. So, this group of like-minded elders decided to pool their money and other resources to develop this site.

The proposal was made to the Gram Panchayat which readily accepted it. The project started in 2009-10 with land filling and was completed in 2012. The total cost of the project worked out to Rs 1.5 lakhs for which contributions were made by people in the GP according to their capacity. The largest contribution of Rs 70,000 came from the eldest person in the GP. After the completion of the project, a committee was formed to maintain and further develop the project. A young GP member extended an active helping hand to the committee.

The facility is spread over an area of 5,000 sq ft and consists of a shed measuring 30 ft by 20 ft and the remaining area is left as an open space for a lawn and plantation. Other facilities that have already been provided are:

- Ten benches under the shed with polished granite top for sitting.

- Drinking water tanks with water connection provided by the Gram Panchayat.
- Three solar light poles also provided by the Gram Panchayat.

This facility, besides being used as a meeting place for senior citizens, is also used for holding Yoga classes, cultural programmes and other special occasions for the community. The managing committee has also provided a vertical exhaust pipe for discharge of foul gases emanating from toilet pits in the surrounding buildings. Ramya Jeevan – Jyestha Nagrik Katta, the name given to this facility, has become a proud showpiece of Jalgaon GP.

## 2. Jalgaon Gram Panchayat, Ratnagiri District, Maharashtra: Infrastructure for Panchayat

**M**ost Gram Panchayat offices are limited to one or two ill-lit, inadequately ventilated rooms that serve as office, record room and meeting room. The office of Jalgaon GP in Dapoli block of Ratnagiri district was no exception till recently. However, that is a thing of past. Today, the Panchayat office, called the Gram Panchayat Sachivalaya, is one of the finest buildings in the GP, and definitely the finest GP office in Ratnagiri district and arguably the best in the State.

The beginning of this transformation started three years ago when the previous Sarpanch decided that for efficient functioning and positive image of the Gram Panchayat, a new and better building was needed for not only for the present but for foreseeable future requirements. Thus started the project for construction of the new Panchayat office. It is a three-storeyed building with a constructed area of seventy two thousand square feet. It contains the following facilities:

- Chamber for Sarpanch and Deputy Sarpanch.
- Office for Gram Vikas Adhikari.
- Office for other staff.
- Space for data entry operator.
- Waiting space for visitors.
- Two-bedded guest room for overnight visitors.
- Conference room for twenty persons.

These facilities forming the office unit are located on the first floor. The entire top floor is used as a Gram Sabha meeting hall. The ground floor of the building has rooms for commercial purposes which at present are being used/earmarked for:

- Health Sub Centre.
- Office of Talathi for better coordination with GP.
- Sales outlet of SHG products.
- Office for SHGs.
- Cooperative societies.
- Mini-bank.

Behind the building, there is an open space that will be developed into a garden and parking space. For financing this project, the GP allotted Rs 51.71 lakhs from a its own resources and obtained Rs 34.43 lakhs from the Zilla Parishad Gram Nidhi as internal loan. Another Rs 11 lakhs was given by local MLA funds for the construction of the Gram Sabha meeting hall.



Panchayat Office Building Galgaon Gram Panchayat

### 3. Ratnagiri Zilla Parishad, Maharashtra: Community Farming

**T**raditionally, in Ratnagiri district, only one crop of Kharif was cultivated. While the area under the Kharif crop was around 1 lakh hectares, it was merely 9,000 hectares under the Rabi crop. This reflected gross under-utilisation of cultivable land for about half the year. One reason was that the land holding in the district is fragmented, and the Rabi crop on very small plots is not cost effective. At the same time, vegetable cultivation was negligible in the district and it had to depend on adjacent districts for the supply of vegetables.

Taking note of these problems, the Zilla Parishad designed a special scheme to reduce the underutilization of land through co-operative farming and by involving SHGs. This was done by inducing the holders of small plots to take up cooperative farming during the Rabi season. Subsequently, the Zilla Parishad asked the Konkan Vidyapeeth to provide mini-kits containing seeds for fruits and vegetables like water melon, cucumber etc. to the SHGs and co-operative farms and also to study the suitability of different vegetables in different parts of the district. Simultaneously, the ZP also approached private companies to market their seeds to these groups. Drip irrigation was also promoted.



National Field Verification Team with Beneficiaries of Cooperative Farming in Ratnagiri District

This project has given encouraging results. It has increased the area under Rabi by around 10 per cent already. This is likely to increase progressively, seeing the interest of the farmers. The other major benefits of this experiment are:

- a) Inculcation of culture of community farming with demonstrations.
- b) Involvement of women and youths through SHGs in Rabi cultivation.
- c) Showing farmers the way for increasing their income in Rabi by water management (drip irrigation).
- d) Enrichment of the family diet with vegetables, thus checking mal-nutrition.
- e) Provision of seeds from both the university and private players enabling the farmers to compare results and select the best option.



## 5. Hol Gram Panchayat, Dule District, Maharashtra: A School with a Difference

One major factor in putting a child in school, especially in the primary section, and preventing the child from dropping out, is the proximity of the school to the house. This fact was appreciated by the Hol Gram Panchayat. This GP, with a sizeable population of 4,000 persons had no school of its own till 2006, and primary school children had to walk to other villages to attend school. So, it was decided in the Gram Sabha to construct the school building through contributions and donations. Thus, with concerted efforts, the school building with class room furniture and other essential necessities started functioning in 2006 as a Zilla Parishad school.

The school building has seven class rooms and one office. There is provision for safe drinking water and separate toilets for boys and girls. There are large open spaces for playground and garden. It also has computers and very good quality classroom furniture. The school provides quality education. It has a good laboratory and a waste management system.



The School in Hol Gram Panchayat



Since the school has come up with its effort, the community is very proud and possessive about the school. It is fully involved in the affairs of this school. As a result, this school has progressed well in the last six years and has earned a name for its clean and healthy ambience. It has also been awarded the State level 'Sane Guruji Swasth and Sundar' award twice (year 2007 and year 2009).

For students attending the school, it is fun, and they are served tasty mid-day meals cooked in hygienic conditions. Today the school has 422 children (both boys and girls) and seven teachers including the headmaster and the teaching staff. This school is so popular that children from neighbouring villages also seek admission in this school. In last few years there have been hardly any dropouts recorded.

## 6. Maan Gram Panchayat, Pune District, Maharashtra: Beyond Being an `Eco Village'

'Eco Village Scheme' of the Government of Maharashtra is a very unique and innovative scheme. Maan GP has not only taken this programme seriously, but has also gone beyond it to make its GP beautiful and reduce the carbon footprint.

Under this scheme, every GP is expected to plant trees equal to its population. Three years ago, according to this criterion, five thousand trees were planned to be planted. However, the Gram Panchayat planted more than sixteen thousand trees with the active participation and cooperation of all the villagers. Tree guards were made to ensure the survival of these trees. With these tree guards and the care and cooperation of the locals, the GP has ensured ninety per cent survival rate of these plants. The GP truly looks green with these efforts.



Tree Plantation, Maan Gram Panchayat

Another aspect of the Eco Village scheme was the use of solar energy. The GP distributed 201 solar lamps to BPL/SC/ST families and installed 117 solar street lights. Furthermore, the GP has promoted sanitation and liquid and solid waste management to improve its cleanliness. The GP has distributed 5000 dustbins among the villagers for dry and wet garbage. A garbage collection van called "Ghanta gadi" gathers garbage from each house. For liquid waste management, the GP has constructed an underground drainage of more than 15 km. Each house in the GP has a sewer tank that collects sewer water and uses the same for their garden. As there are no open flowing drains, the surroundings are very clean.

The GP has also undertaken rain water harvesting and water conservation by constructing 25 water conservation and harvesting sites called 'Vanrai Bandhara'. This has enabled the GP to improve water availability over a period of time.

The GP, in its effort to plant a large number of trees, has also developed a nursery with 2 lakh plants. This nursery provides saplings to the villagers to plant more trees and maintain the 'Eco-Village' status.



Nursery with 2 lakh Saplings, Maan Gram Panchayat

## 7. Nashirpur Gram Panchayat, Amravati District, Maharashtra: Rain Water Harvesting

**R**ain water harvesting has become a widely practiced social norm of this GP. The Sarpanch of Nashirpur Gram Panchayat and other elected representatives got to know about this concept through panel discussions on rain water harvesting aired by a T.V. channel. Thereafter, a Gram Sabha was organized in which all the village members unanimously voted in favour of adopting rain water harvesting technology. Now, every household roof of this GP is connected to a common well through underground pipes that carry water to this common well. The water stored in the well gets recharged. The water from this well is used for irrigation, washing of clothes and cattle.



Water Storage Common Well, Nashirpur Gram Panchayat

## 8. Nashirpur Gram Panchayat, Amravati District, Maharashtra: Women Empowerment

Village Nashirpur in Amravati district decided to elect only women to the Gram Panchayat in 2005. Due to the progressive vision of this Gram Panchayat, a woman Sarpanch, woman Deputy Sarpanch and all women members were elected and they further appointed women Gram Sevikas. It is noteworthy that all the teachers, anganwadi workers, ANMs of the sub center were women during the previous tenure of the Gram Panchayat. In this period, the GP got Nirmal Gram Puraskar, Sant Gadge Baba Puraskar, Sant Tukdoji Puraskar, Yashwant Panchayat Puraskar and Tanta Mukti Puraskar. These awards vindicated the decision of electing a 'Mahila Panchayat'.

This Mahila Panchayat showed administrative acumen as reflected by the smooth implementation of Central and State programmes. Women's participation in the affairs of Gram Panchayat has also increased. Every decision making process has been through several rounds of active debates, discussions and deliberations i.e. activity democratic. This Mahila Panchayat took initiatives in maintaining health and sanitation, raising the standard of education, fighting against corrupt practices, planting trees in large numbers and working for the eradication of poverty. The efforts by this Mahila Panchayat in strengthening democratic institutions of the Gram Panchayat are highly praiseworthy.



Mahila Panchayat Members, GP members and NFVT members,  
Nashirpur Gram Panchayat

## 9. Gad Hinglaj Panchayat Samiti, Kolhapur District, Maharashtra: Empowering Women

Under Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) and National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), Gad Hinglaj Panchayat Samiti has created 951 SHGs in 89 GPs under it. This works out to about 11 SHGs per GP. Of these 951 SHGs, 435 have members from BPL families and the remaining 516 SHGs have members from APL families too. All of them are exclusively women's groups.

It goes to the credit of the Panchayat Samiti that none of the SHGs formed so far has been dissolved and all of them have started economic activities. This has become possible due to proper encouragement and help from Panchayat Samiti.

Most of the SHGs are engaged in primary and secondary sectors (agriculture and animal husbandry). Many of them have taken multiple economic activities. Some of the SHGs, after successfully working for some time, gained experience and confidence and having accumulated savings, have started venturing in areas needing higher capital and likely to yield higher returns.



Members of SHG in Discussion with Field Verification Team

Gad Hinglaj GP has recently taken an initiative to open new areas of activities and encouraged the existing SHGs to engage in them. One example of such activity is sericulture which an SHG named Mahakali Mahila Bachat Gat has decided to take up. The Panchayat Samiti has already conducted the first training workshop on it.

Forming new SHGs has never been without difficulties for this Panchayat Samiti. The main difficulties in formation of new SHGs are:

- Traditionally, in this region, women are not expected to work for money. So for forming SHGs, it is not enough to convince and motivate women alone but also their husbands and other members of their families.
- Kolhapur district, and Gad Hinglaj Block in particular, are relatively prosperous areas in the State with a lower proportion of BPL population than the State and National average. Thus motivation level for extra earning is weak.

Notwithstanding these problems, Gad Hinglaj Panchayat Samiti has been able to form new SHGs without a gap of single year since 1999-2000. An Extension Officer in the block reports that in the initial period of forming SHGs, women were not very forthcoming and functionaries from the block had to approach them to understand and resolve their problems. But of late, they have become more proactive and one can daily see five or six women meeting the BDO to discuss the affairs of their SHG. The chairperson of Sarswati Mahila Bachat Gat SHG informs that her SHG was formed in the year 2002 and started economic activity four years later in tailoring and dairy farming after purchasing sewing machines and cattle. They regularly stitch school uniforms for sale. Some of their other activities are

papad and chivda making. They had even taken up construction of a drain in the village. The chairperson of another SHG from the same GP informs that having accumulated some savings, they have decided to venture into farming. She says and the other members enthusiastically concur that their biggest gain from the group has been the strong bond created among them through working closely with each other for over 10 years. These two groups, though they have now become self supporting, acknowledge the support of the Panchayat Samiti in providing information and other opportunities to market their products.



## 10. Sawargaon Gram Panchayat, Chandrapur District, Maharashtra: Modernisation of Cremation Ground

**S**awargaon GP has carried out a very praiseworthy job in improving the infrastructure of its adjacent cremation ground. The whole process of renovating the cremation ground started in the backdrop of the premature death of a person who died due to exposure to 'heat wave' while performing death rituals of a fellow Gram Panchayat member. This episode was an eye opener for the elected representatives of this Gram Panchayat. So in the year 2011, the incumbent Sarpanch convened a Gram Sabha meeting and it was unanimously decided that the cremation ground should be made more convenient and eco-friendly. A wire fencing was erected, hand pump installed for water facilities and 1500 trees planted in the cremation ground through MGNREGA. An environmental committee was also constituted in which the slogan of "One man one tree" gained impetus.

The nursery in the cremation ground began to be used as a source of income by selling plants. Today, good facilities are available for performing last rites in this cremation ground. The villagers take care of the nursery, which leads to a better environment and enhanced incomes.



MGNREGA Work and Modernization of Cremation Ground, Sawargaon Panchayat

## 11. Sivani Mogra Gram Panchayat, Bhandara District, Maharashtra: New Dimensions of Women Empowerment

Sivani Mogra Gram Panchayat falls in Bhandara district of Maharashtra which is widely known for its numerous water bodies. This GP represents a model of sustainable development in which nature, ecology, societal forces, women's empowerment, poverty alleviation, anti dowry campaign, health and sanitation issues are properly addressed.

An all women Gram Sabha was constituted in 2004-05. The chairperson focused on identity, recognition and celebration of womanhood in society. This has created a change in the mindsets of people. Now, women's names are written on residence nameplates. The Gram Panchayat too records the woman's name as the head of the house. Women's literacy rate has gone up substantially, and there is a sense of empowerment.

With a supportive Gram Panchayat, women waged battle against the social evils of the dowry system, child marriage, female infanticide, gambling, alcoholism and gross injustices like corruption. Gender equality has become a slogan of this GP in which men and women are equally valuable assets of the society. Additionally, for eco-friendly environment protection, all the GP members took a solemn pledge to plant a large number of trees. Also, use of sources of energy like biomass, sun energy and wind energy were encouraged. All this could be achieved due to the women in this GP.



Women's Names on Residence Name Plates, Sivani Morgia Gram Panchayat

## 12. Sivani Mogra Gram Panchayat, Bhandara District, Maharashtra : Implementation of MGNREGA

**D**uring the year the Gram Panchayat Shivani Mogra of Bhandara district of Maharashtra has provided employment to all the registered household of the village and has taken up the following works which are beneficial to the village community and help in environment protection:

- **Water Conservation:** The deepening of the village pond has been completed under MGNREGA, because of which the water storing capacity has been increased. Also, a Nala protection work along with sand bags and masonry bunding work has been completed. Farmers are using the stored water for irrigation.
- **Rural Connectivity:** The Gram Panchayat has completed the Shivani to Field Pandan road, to facilitate the farmers to transport their materials and produce, because of which they get a good price for their produce.
- **Plantation for Environmental Protection:** As per the guidelines of the State Government, the Gram Panchayat has planted 4,500 plants in the village and developed a very good nursery named 'Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Nursery'. This nursery today has 25,000 plants of different varieties like Aonla, Hirda, Behada, Tamarind, Karanj, Bamboo, Australian Babul, Amaltas, Bel etc. The Gram Panchayat has also started plantation of orchards of mango, custard apple, aonla and karonda in the government fallow land with a view to provide fruits to the village children.

- Construction of Irrigation Wells: During 2010-11, the Gram Panchayat sanctioned 10 irrigation wells out of which 6 have been completed by the beneficiaries. With availability of water from these irrigation wells, farmers are sowing a variety of new crops and not just rain fed paddy as earlier.



MGNREGA Works by Sivani Mogra Gram Panchayat

## 13. Zari Gram Panchayat, Nanded District, Maharashtra: Reversing Environmental Damage through Self Help

**T**he spirit of Panchayati Raj has been amply demonstrated by the people of Zari Gram Panchayat. Till two years ago, large scale illegal mining operations were going on in the GP area, causing immense damage to its environment and difficulties for the people. Blasting for mining led to a continuous drop in the water table. At this time the chairman, Wild Life Protection Committee of Nanded took an initiative to unite the local population to fight against illegal mining. The people's response was spontaneous and positive. Some persons sat on indefinite fast in front of the office of District Collector and forced the administration to stop the illegal mining.

However, the more difficult task of repairing the damage already caused was still ahead. One year later, the Gram Sabha passed a resolution that the deep depression left by mining be converted into an artificial lake, and forwarded it to the Zilla Parishad. After obtaining the necessary approvals and financial assistance, the Gram Panchayat and Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee joined hands to execute the plan on the ground through shramdan (voluntary labour).

Now, ugly marks left by the mining operation have been turned into a sparkling lake. The ground water table has also risen in the surrounding area of one kilometer which has brought relief to the GP suffering from water scarcity. Now, the GP plans to beautify these lakes by creating gardens and picnic spots to attract tourists.



Lake Constructed in Depression Left by Mining, Zari Gram Panchayat

## 14. Zari Gram Panchayat, Nanded District, Maharashtra: Fight Against Malnutrition

**I**n Zari Gram Panchayat, out of 134 children registered with the anganwadi, as many as 31 suffer from malnutrition. To fight this, the first requirement was to find a suitable diet with required nutrients, palatable to the local taste, which is affordable. Zari, like other parts of the State, zeroed in on the laddo (a ball shaped sweet) with ingredients comprising dates, soya bean, egg, rice, sagu and gud (jaggery). The next step was to find the resources to make this diet available. Fortunately, the GP has several persons with philanthropic spirit, whose contribution has made possible the availability of this diet to the children. This concerted drive against malnutrition has already started showing results and many children have shown an encouraging gain in body weight.



Anganwadi, Zari Gram Panchayat

## 15. Manyachiwadi Gram Panchayat, Satara District, Maharashtra: Environment Protection

When it comes to environment protection, the small village of Manyachi Wadi stands out as a futuristic Indian village as well as a village with a future. All the development in this village in the last ten years has been done with a keen eye on environmental issues. That is the reason that the matters which are still the subjects of thinking or slogan mongering elsewhere, have become the way of life in the village. For example:

- **Sanitation:** The village was among the first in the country to achieve the Nirmal Gram norms and has maintained the same in the last ten years, with access to toilets for everyone.
- **Use of Bio Gas:** Coaxed and encouraged by the GP, 16 houses have their own bio-gas plants. This means no smoke coming out of 16 houses in a very small village, useful disposal of waste, non-use of fuel like firewood and improvement in the quality of life of the women.
- **Tree Plantation:** Manyachi Wadi has far exceeded the state target of 'one tree for one person' in the village. Tree plantation has been sustained by the use of waste water and compost generated from solid organic waste, thereby achieving convergence of three environment improvement efforts.
- **Waste Water Management:** Efficient soak pits and lined drains are used for the disposal of household waste water. Seventy houses discharge water in the drains which in turn discharges into 'Paras Baghs' (community horticulture sites) to irrigate plants. Some of this water is also given to individual plantations on payment. This income, along with the income generated by the Paras Baghs, makes waste water an economic asset.



- **Solid Waste Management:** Most of the household solid waste is organic waste. This waste is used to feed a vermiculture pit of the GP to generate compost manure. All the households are cooperating in depositing their solid waste at the pit. This vermiculture pit also generates revenue for the GP.
- **Use of Solar Energy:** All the nine street lights and two lights in each household are energized by solar energy through individual solar panels. Besides being a clean energy, it has cut down the overall village electricity bill by 70 per cent. Some of the households which are not using other electric gadgets, are getting zero or nil electricity bill. The GP is fully aware that reducing the use of fuel based energy reduces the generation of carbon di oxide.

Maryachi Wadi has aptly demonstrated that environment protection is not a costly proposition, but can actually be turned into an income generation venture. The young and live wire Sarpanch of the village is right on mark when he says, "our motto is cleanliness and prosperity".



Clean Streets of Manyachiwadi Maintained by the Gram Panchayat

## 16. Manyachiwadi Gram Panchayat, Satara District, Maharashtra: Brightness of Solar Energy

Some three years back, spurred by the State Government incentive for installing solar street lights, an idea was sprung in a Gram Panchayat meeting that individual houses should also have solar lighting. Encouraged by the response of the inhabitants, the GP took up solar lighting for the entire village as a project. Stand alone systems for domestic lighting were available with many vendors. Negotiations were held by the GP with prospective suppliers and the GP could bring down the price for each system from Rs 9,000 to Rs 5,700. The village lit up with solar lights on January 15th 2011. The cost of the street lights was reimbursed by the State Government to the GP while the cost of household lighting was happily borne by the individuals. The cost of the entire project worked out to about Rs 7 lakhs while the average electricity bill of Rs 30,000 per month came down by 60 to 70 per cent. Thus, in the last two years, the cost of the project is nearly recovered through savings on electricity bills. Additional cash incentive by the State Government, besides re-imbusement of the street lights, is a bonus for the GP. The cost-benefit through savings in the electricity bills is likely to increase progressively with electricity tariffs being constantly increased. Already in some households which are not using other gadgets, the electricity bills have come to zero.

A very articulate elderly lady of the village said, "solar lights have changed the quality of life in the village. Due to erratic power supply in the surrounding rural areas, while the neighbouring villages are engulfed in darkness, our village shines as if it is a Diwali night." More than the words, the twinkle in her eyes said it all. After her statement, voices could be heard, "Amcha Gram Solar Gram Ahe" (our village is a solar village). The Deputy Sarpanch informs that encouraged by the benefits of solar lighting, the GP is already thinking about solar water heaters and solar pumps.

## 17. Odha Gram Panchayat, Nashik District, Maharashtra: Metamorphosis in Grape Framing

Nashik is famous for grapes and is also known as the 'Wine Capital Of India'. It is, therefore, no surprise that grape farming has been a prime occupation in Odha Gram Panchayat since 1956. It is a major economic activity and most farmers in the GP are heavily dependent on it. The farmers have adopted world class grapes farming techniques. Grape farmers owe their success to the proactive support and inspiration of Gram Panchayat and village functionaries. The Gram Panchayat conducts seminars, symposia and workshops to hone the skills of grape farmers. Recently "Draksh Gunvatta Abhiyan" was organized under the banner of the Gram Panchayat. One co-operative society called "Odha Vividh Karyakari Sahkari Society" has given financial aid to the needy farmers at negligible interest rates. The farmers are growing Thomsan seedless, Sharad seedless and Sonaka variety of grapes which are unique to this part of Maharashtra. These varieties are very popular in the international market and have resulted in significant increase in the export of grapes from the GP. This GP is being showcased as a model of development. Agriculture Ministers of Haryana, Gujarat and international dignitaries have visited the GP to study the model and farming techniques to replicate the same in their region.

## 18. Yavlishahid Gram Panchayat, Amravati District, Maharashtra: Innovative Revenue Collection

Yawali Shaheed is a large village in Amravati district of Maharashtra. The Gram Panchayat was grappling with the problem of tax collection. The GP tried coaxing and cajoling the community to pay taxes. However, large numbers of residents did not pay taxes like house tax, water tax, development tax etc. Arrears were mounting and the GP was progressively finding it difficult to meet its obligations, let alone take up developmental work. To overcome this problem, the Gram Sevak suggested a novel way to motivate people to clear their arrears. He suggested that the GP hold a lucky draw with attractive prizes. Only persons who had paid their taxes were eligible to take part. After the announcement of the draw, 80 per cent of the arrears were cleared in a very short time. The Panchayat kept its promise, and the promised prizes were distributed. But no money for the purchase of prizes was taken from GP funds. Instead, this money was contributed by the Sarpanch and other members of the GP, which was laudable, and earned the appreciation of the entire village.

## 19. Shelgaon Gauri Gram Panchayat, Nanded District, Maharashtra: Water Conservation

The GP had been grappling with the problem of water scarcity. Despite the implementation of schemes like Jal Swaraj and Swajaldhara, the problem persisted. The ground water table was falling progressively and there was not sufficient water for cattle during summer. To overcome this acute problem, the Sarpanch called the Gram Sabha for brain storming, in which a senior citizen suggested that a low lying plot near an overhead tank be converted into a pond to collect over flow from it. The suggestion was accepted and the village put its collective might for the implementation. People contributed financially and through shramdan (voluntary labour) to create a water storage tank with lined sides. Today, it stores upto 80 thousand kilo liters of water, which is used for drinking by cattle and for washing clothes. For washing clothes, a separate washing ghat has been constructed so that the pond water is not contaminated. The water flowing after the washing of clothes is put into a soak pit for recharging of the ground water.



Pond Built in Shelgaon Gauri GP

## 20. Shelgaon Gauri Gram Panchayat, Nanded District, Maharashtra: Water Purification Plant

Shelgaon Gauri is a resettlement village in Nanded district. For years, the inhabitants suffered from diseases caused by poor water quality. The water had a large quantity of iron which could not be removed by the standard chemical treatment. Despite a number of initiatives taken to improve sanitation like the construction of individual and community toilets, better solid waste management and waste water disposal, there was little respite from water borne diseases.

The previous Sarpanch, on one of his study visit to Andhra, saw a water treatment plant in one of the GPs and decided to replicate the same in Shelgaon Gauri GP. He contacted an NGO in Andhra "Bala Vikas" and obtained more information on it.

After the acceptance by the Gram Sabha, a water treatment plant was set up in the Gram Panchayat in 2012-13. An NGO, Bala Vikas, provided the necessary technical help, and cooperated in setting up this plant which has been in operation for the last one year. It cost Rs. 6 lakhs for setting up the plant. For maintenance and operation of this plant, the Gram Panchayat sells the bottled water produced by it. For the inhabitants, the price of water is Rs. 3 for a 20 liter bottle and for outsiders, the same bottle costs Rs. 20. After the water treatment plant has become operational, there has been a significant reduction in water borne diseases in the GP. The iron content has also been brought down to acceptable limits.



Water Treatment Plant, Shelgaon Gauri GP

## 21. Ambepur Gram Panchayat, Raigad District, Maharashtra: State of Art Weekly Market Place

Weekly haats (markets) are an important part of rural life, where people can get their daily necessities. The carnival like festive mood with rides, street food and toy vendors adds to the charm. Such a weekly haat has been going on in Ambepur GP for years. Mostly, the vendors who came earlier sold vegetables and other agriculture produce. Three years ago, Ambepur GP decided to develop this weekly market into a proper market place. One acre of land was developed into a state-of-the-art market place, with systematically laid out sheds for stalls, pathways and boundary wall. Amenities like drinking water and toilets (10 in number) have also been provided. The market place can accommodate up to 1,100 stalls of 5 sq ft each. The rental of these stalls is Rs. 20 per stall per day.

With these permanent structures, the market has become very popular not only in Ambepur, but also in the adjoining villages and localities. It is reported that with this new facility, the number of vendors has increased by at least 30 per cent (not counting the hawkers sitting outside the market) and the inflow of buyers has increased three folds. An added advantage of this market is its proximity to the State highway which makes access to the GP easy. Provision of adequate parking space makes the market place more attractive to the visitors. The lighting provided by the GP enables the market to run in the late hours in the evening. This market, besides bringing extra revenue, has also brought prestige to Ambepur GP.



Market Developed by Panchayat Ambepur GP

## 22. Ambepur Gram Panchayat, Raigad District, Maharashtra: Cleanliness Brings Prosperity

People like to live close to their place of work. Alternately, they would like to live where the living is healthy, clean and convenient. Logically, the most preferred place is one that is both. Ambepur GP has become such a place by providing clean and hygienic living conditions near an industrial belt. Ambepur GP is situated on the Mumbai-Alibag Road, 15 kms away from Alibag town. The GP is not only a Nirmal GP, but has progressively raised the standards of sanitation. There are clean sanitary toilets, clean drains and roads, safe drinking water and no foul smelling waste dumps. The motivator is the Sarpanch herself. It is said that she takes morning walks in different sections of the village and out of sheer respect for her, people clean up their surroundings before her visit. Another effort in this respect is the construction of a pucca hygienic fish market.

As a result, over the years, a large number of outsiders have come to live in rented accommodation in the GP. These persons are either workers of nearby industries or teachers and students of the private high school and primary schools. According to GP estimates, the temporary population living in the GP in rented accommodation is 15,000. Of these about 10,000 persons are industrial workers and about 5,000 persons are associated with local and neighbouring educational institutes, including professional colleges. This temporary population is more than three times the number of permanent residents of the GP.



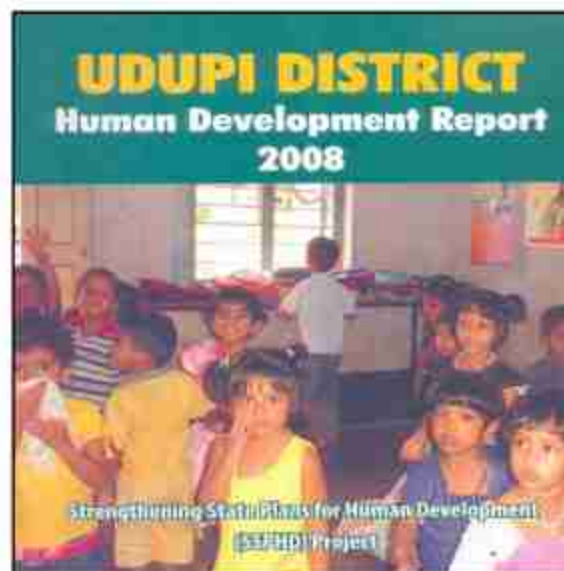
It is evident that these temporary residents boost the local economy of the GP by incurring expenditure on rent and other purchases of daily necessities. While the added population brings economic benefit to the GP, it also brings problems of larger solid and liquid waste generation, sanitation and social evils. Ambepur GP has been successfully dealing with them.



**Clean Roads of Ambepur Village Maintained by the Gram Panchayat**

## 23. Udupi Zilla Panchayat, Udupi District, Karnataka: Preparation of District Human Development Report

The Karnataka Human Development Report (HDR) was prepared in 1999. Now, a District Human Development Report has been made by the Zilla Panchayat. The Udupi Zilla Panchayat has received the UNDP award, ( Manav Vikas - Human Development Award) during 2012 for the commendable achievement on preparing the Human Development Index (HDI) and the Gender Development Index (GDI) for the district. This is an attempt to rank the local bodies in the district according to internationally accepted human development indices. For the first time in the State, HDI and GDI have been prepared for ranking 146 Gram Panchayats and four municipalities in the district on the basis of their achievement in human development.



Human Development Report prepared by Udupi District Panchayat

## 24. Udupi Zilla Panchayat, Udupi District, Karnataka: Public Private Partnership

The Government Composite High School, Volakadu, Udupi district had faced financial difficulties. A majority of the students are from poor and middle class families and find it difficult to continue their education. In this context, the Udupi Zilla Panchayat started supporting the school and mobilized funds from various sources, including government agencies and private individuals for infrastructure development, mid day meals, scholarships and study materials. The Standing Committee on Education and Health of the Udupi Zilla Panchayat took a special interest in developing the school in collaboration with the school management. A former student of the school and an industrialist generously contributed for the development of the school. With the support of government and private agencies, the School Management Committee constructed a building



Classroom with Library at Composite High School, Volakadu

with nine class rooms and a library. An individual contributed two computer labs, staff room, toilets, common library, an auditorium with a capacity of 600, and a play ground. It is reported that many like-minded people are ready to contribute more for the development of the school. It is also reported that two private companies under Corporate Social Responsibility had supported the school management for the development of the computer lab. Scholarships for 30 poor students are also supported by an individual. There are 1184 students in the school and all the students are provided mid day meals with external support. In 2011-2012, academic year, 217 student appeared for the senior secondary examination and all of them passed. As a result, more and more students are ready to take admission in the government school due to the excellent infrastructure facilities. The school management says it is a "saga of public private partnership".



National Field Verification Team with Zilla Parishad Members of Udipi

## 25. Shikharipura Taluk Panchayat, Shivamogga District, Karnataka: Tailoring Training Centre Under Private Public Partnership

**T**he Apparel Training and Design Centre, Shikharipura Taluk is a tailoring training centre under a private-public partnership venture. The Centre was launched by Shikharipura Taluk Panchayat in collaboration with Swami Vivekananda Education Trust. The Trust constructed the building for the Training Centre by spending an amount of Rs.4.00 lakhs. The Zilla Panchayat was generous enough to provide Rs. 13.50 lakhs under Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) Infrastructure scheme. With the help of SGSY infrastructure fund, the Centre has purchased 24 mechanized and power operated sewing machines for the training.

In the Centre there are one Principal and two Instructors. At a time, 50 women can get admission for training. The duration of the training is two months and there is a stipend of Rs. 2500 per month for the trainees. The stipend amount is provided by the Department of Handlooms and Textiles, Govt. of Karnataka. So far the Centre has trained 850 people. Placement for the interested and successful trainees is the responsibility of the institution. It is reported that so far 82 trainees have got placement in Bangalore with a monthly salary of Rs.4,800. The Centre has given preference for women candidates from SCs/STs and also widows for admission.



Apparel Training and Design Centre Under SGSY in Shikharipura Taluka Panchayat

## 26. Shikharipura Taluk Panchayat, Shivamogga District, Karnataka: Successful Implementation SGSY

**S**hikharipura Taluk Panchayat has very successfully implemented the SGSY programme. The Taluk Panchayat has organized 731 SHGs in the Taluk, out of which 171 were assisted under SGSY. All the groups are successful. As women are mobilized under the SHG network, it becomes easy to promote small economic ventures with the financial support of banking institutions. The Taluk Panchayat also mobilized Rs.80.72 lakhs under the SGSY Infrastructure Scheme to construct a marketing centre and various other commercial buildings at the Taluk headquarter. In this marketing centre, there are 16 shopping complexes. The Taluk Panchayat has given six shopping complexes to the SGSY groups to sell their products and the remaining 10 on rental. The expected monthly rental income from these outlets is Rs.80,300 per month.

The Taluk Panchayat was ready to help any SHG willing to bear a part of the financial burden. The construction of an office building for the Milk Cooperative Society run by 30 SHGs is a good example. The Panchayat extended assistance of Rs. 47.72 lakhs when these 30 groups mobilized an equal amount. Similarly Rs. 1.5 lakh was sanctioned to one SHG for constructing a community centre on the condition that they also raise the same amount as their contribution. Another such instance was the sanction of Rs.5 lakhs to Bellagivi Gram Panchayat for constructing a commercial shopping complex when the Gram Panchayat also mobilized Rs.5 lakhs as its share.



Brick Making Unit under SGSY in Shikharipura Taluk Panchayat

## 27. Melina Besige Gram Panchayat, Shivamogga District, Karnataka: Reaching out to People

**M**elinabesige Gram Panchayat has implemented a programme called Panchayat to People as per the decision of the Panchayat Committee on January 2013. The important objectives of the programme are :

- to motivate the people to pay tax ,
- to motivate the people to clean their surroundings and water sources,
- to create awareness on health, water and sanitation issues,
- to understand the general and specific problems faced by the people,
- to improve the quality of delivery of public services from the GP and
- to create awareness among the people about various government sponsored programmes.



Melinabesige GP Members with National Field Verification Team

As a part of the programme, all the members of the Gram Panchayat visited the Panchayat area ward-wise under the leadership of the president, to solve the problems. In the month of January itself they had covered five wards. The following were the major issues solved during the visit:

- The attendance was very poor in one of the anganwadis of the Gram Panchayat. The parents did not take any real interest in sending children to the anganwadis. Possibly, their illiteracy and poor economic position were impediments. During the programme, the team motivated the parents about the importance of attending the anganwadi and its benefits. As a result, the attendance in the anganwadi improved.
- The Gram Panchayat noticed that some households were not using toilets and not cleaning the surroundings of the house. During the visit, the team motivated the members of such households about the importance of using toilets, sanitation and cleanliness. As a result, the usage of toilets increased and the surroundings became very clean.
- The citizens from the SC colony made complaints about the timing and frequency of water supply. During the visit, the colony people demanded 1 hour 45 minutes of water supply per day instead of the existing 45 minutes. Their demand was fulfilled by the team.
- The citizens from the SC colony also demanded a community toilet in the colony. Their demand was accepted on the spot itself, to be supported by the 13<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission grant.

During the visit to households, the team also educated the school students regarding the importance of sanitation, cleanliness and the importance of kitchen gardens. As a result, good sanitation behaviour among the students is being developed, and the students have started a kitchen garden in the school compound.



## 28. Maravante Gram Panchayat, Udupi District, Karnataka: Total Sanitation

The Maravante Gram Panchayat had made a policy to achieve cent percent sanitation coverage in the Panchayat in 2005 under Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC). Out of the total 905 households, 602 had their own toilets at that time. The Panchayat had decided to help the remaining 303 households to construct toilets. In 2005-2007, within a period two years, the Gram Panchayat had succeeded in constructing 254 household toilets. The campaign for toilets was led by the Panchayat committee with the help of local voluntary organizations, teachers, anganwadi workers and health activists. The Panchayat had closely monitored the progress of the work by door to door visits. The following programmes were conducted by the Panchayat:

- Small group meetings for awareness generation.
- Door to door campaign and distribution of pamphlets.
- Financial assistance to the BPL families for constructing the toilets.
- Additional grants to construct toilets for SC/ST families.
- Extending loan facility to the needy families through banks and cooperative societies.

With two years of intensive campaign, the Panchayat could achieve some good results, but 49 families were yet to construct the toilets. The GP committee took a decision to conduct a camp of National Service Scheme Volunteers in the village. The volunteers of Byndoor Pre University College were invited and they held a week-long camp in the village to motivate the households without toilets. The volunteers motivated the families and assisted them in constructing toilets. When the camp ended, all the remaining 49 households had constructed toilets. As a result, the Maravante Gram Panchayat received Nirmal Gram Puraskar (NGP) award for total sanitation, and also motivated their counterparts in the district.

## 29. Maravante Gram Panchayat, Udupi District, Karnataka: Fighting Discrimination against Tribals

**T**he Social Justice Standing Committee of the Maravante Gram Panchayat is actively involved in fulfilling the social and legal obligations of the village. The committee has succeeded in resolving a number of disputes among the villagers. Recently, the Social Justice Committee was involved in the issue of discrimination against a tribal community called Koraga. The Koraga community are traditional drum beaters and were treated as 'untouchables'. During the festival season, their services were very much required, but they were not allowed to enter or go near the temple, whereas another troop was allowed. As per the Karnataka Panchayat Raj Act, this kind of discrimination is a punishable offence and is considered 'ajalu'. In this context, the Social Justice Committee convened a meeting and took a decision to prevent ajalu practices in their village. They also convened a meeting of leaders of the Koraga community and management representatives of three temples and discussed the matter in detail. Finally, the Social Justice Committee of the Maravante Gram Panchayat decided to stop the discrimination against the Koraga community and treat them at par with local citizens of the village people.

## 30. Kodambala Gram Panchayat, Bidar District, Karnataka: Establishment of Milk Chilling Plant

**I**n Kodambala Gram Panchayat, a considerable number of the population is engaged in rearing milch animals. The farmers depend mainly on the milk cooperative society for selling milk. But the society did not have storage facility at Kodambala. Usually, early in the morning, the society collected milk from the farmers and transported it to the Taluk headquarter at Humnabad, which is far away from Kodambala. By the time the milk would reach Humnabad, it would sour. The farmers discussed this issue with the Gram Panchayat. The farmers and the Panchayat committee then approached the district authorities and the district level officials advised the Gram Panchayat to approach the Government of India for financial assistance to start a milk chilling plant in Kodambala under the Clean Milk Production Scheme. When the Gram Panchayat approached the Government of India for financial assistance, the proposal was approved, and Rs. 17 lakhs was sanctioned. With this assistance, a milk chilling plant was established in August 2012. At the beginning, only 70 liters of milk was collected in the plant and 57 farmers were associated. Presently, the daily

collection of milk has increased to 1700 litres and 573 farmers are benefitted. It is also reported that before starting the plant, the price of milk was around Rs. 20 per litre, while now it is around Rs. 37 per litre, which has enhanced profits. It is also reported that in addition to the farmers in Kodambala, around 540 farmers from 16 villages in and around Kodambala get benefit. The Gram Panchayat's timely intervention has changed the economy of a backward village.



Milk Chilling Plant in Kodambala Gram Panchayat

## 31. Kodambala Gram Panchayat, Bidar District, Karnataka: Establishment of Farmers' Club

The majority of the people in Kodambala are farmers and they depend on agriculture for their livelihood. In this situation, the Gram Panchayat organized a farmers' club with 26 members. The following are the major objectives of the club:

- mechanization of farming activity,
- training and exposure visits for farmers,
- introduction of bio farming activities,
- introduction of drip irrigation system,
- introduction of high breed variety of seeds,
- introduction of vermin compost unit in the Gram Panchayat,
- introduction of goat and sheep rearing in the locality,
- introduction of solar energy system in agriculture field,
- reduction of the cost of cultivation and,
- introduction of 'zero' budget farming.

The farmers' club has already started bio-farming in five acres of land and has reported that there is a lot of demand for the bio farming products. The farmers' club is now planning to increase bio farming in the Gram Panchayat area. The Gram Panchayat has supported the farmers' club by providing irrigation facilities and constructing open wells under MGNREGA. During discussions with the members of the farmers' club, they reported that with the irrigation facility and use of high breed variety of seeds, the productivity has increased 200 percent in sugar cane, 150 percent in soya bean cultivation and 50 percent in vegetable farming. The members also reported that there is good support from the banks and the Agriculture Department. The Gram Panchayat has taken a decision to link the farmers' club with NABARD to get more support for the farmers.



Members of Farmers Club Kodambala Gram Panchayat

## 32. Adat Gram Panchayat, Thrissur District, Kerala: Waste Management

**A**dat Gram Panchayat has developed a multi dimensional project for the disposal of solid waste, which also generates income for a Self Help Group of 20 members. Discussions on the issue led to the establishment of a disposal unit of solid waste. The project for the collection, segregation and manufacturing of bio fertilizer is run by a group of women members of Srilakshmy Kudumbasree Unit. The unit, spread in 90 cents of land, has separate sheds for the dumping and processing of waste, a dairy unit with 6 cows, separate sheds for manufacturing and storage of vermin compost, a crusher unit for the processing of plastic and retiring rooms for the workers. The process starts early at 4 am when five members start in a tipper lorry owned by the Panchayat, driven by a person deputed on daily wages of Rs.350 per day, while the remaining 15 members start with the milking of the cows. The milk is sold at Rs.35 per liter to the local hotels and households. Segregation of plastic and the preparation of slurry takes place upto 10 a.m. Proceeds of vermin compost are sold at Rs. 2,500 per bag. Collection charges of Rs.100 per house, Rs.500 per hotel and Rs. 2,500 per auditorium form the basic sources of income. Rs.40, 000 from the plan fund is allotted to the unit for the collection of waste from public places and waste bins from the 18 wards of the Panchayat. The segregated plastic and bottles are turned to powder in a crushing machine. The product has good demand for use in the construction of black top roads. Each of the SHG members get an average income of Rs.6,000 per



month and another Rs.8,000 each from the proceeds of vermin compost. The whole area of the Panchayat is now free from waste and 20 women from BPL families are getting a decent income for work up to 10 a.m everyday. The production of milk and bio fertilizer for the bio farmers of the Panchayat is an additional benefit.



Waste Management Unit in Adat Gram Panchayat

## 33. Adat Gram Panchayat, Thrissur District, Kerala: Housing Project Under Asraya

**A**dat Gram Panchayat has launched a programme for housing 10 families selected under the Asraya project. As per the survey conducted by the Department of Social Welfare with the assistance of Kerala Institute of Local Administrative (KILA), the total population of SCs in the Panchayat was recorded at 3,045. The number of families without land and house was found to be 13. The Panchayat has constructed a double storeyed building to house 10 families with a budget of Rs.40 lakhs. The flats were allotted to 10 SC families selected under the Asraya scheme. A nominal amount of Rs.10 per month is being charged towards rent by the Panchayat. Water charges of Rs.90 per month and electricity charges are to be borne by the consumers. The residence provided had raised the self confidence of the allottees. With greater time available, almost all the members are engaged in livelihood activities and all the children have been enrolled in schools. An innovative attempt by the Gram Panchayat has brought 10 families into the mainstream.



Residence for SC families built by Adat Gram Panchayat

## 34. Chottanikkara Gram Panchayat, Ernakulum District, Kerala: Palliative Care Programme

**C**hottanikkara Gram Panchayat had a number of bed-ridden and mentally ill patients, who lacked proper medical care and attention, and most of their families lacked adequate money for treatment. Most had settled in remote areas of the Panchayat. It is in this background that a Palliative Care Programme was conceived as a comprehensive programme for suffering people, a programme that would provide effective and continuous care. The Palliative Care Programme was launched jointly by the Grama Panchayat and the Primary Health Center for providing treatment and care to the bed-ridden people in the Panchayat. The technical support for the programme was provided by the District Palliative Care Unit. A Project Management Committee was established with the Panchayat president as the chairman and the Medical Officer as the convener. To relieve the suffering of terminally bed-ridden patients and their families, a team was formed which consisted of Palliative Care Nurse (appointed by NRHM), Health Inspectors of the PHC, Asha workers, anganwadi workers, other volunteers and ward members dedicated to providing high quality palliative care. A training program was conducted for selected volunteers from the Panchayat.

As part of this programme a "Home Care Initiative" was launched. The team focused mainly on the bed-ridden cancer and kidney patients, bed-ridden accident cases etc. At the initial stages, monthly treatment was made available to about 40 patients. In addition, the team also trained the family members of the patients in providing medical support to the patients. The entire team thus coordinates holistic comfort and care and the members of the team are highly motivated by their shared mission. Along with home care, supply of wheel chairs, commode chairs, crutches, water beds and medicines was ensured for the patients.

As part of this programme, another initiative was launched jointly by the Tata Hospital, Chottanikkara Gram Panchayat, the PHC and Mehek Foundation (NGO) for providing treatment and care to mentally ill patients in the Panchayat. This initiative was led by a leading psychiatrist from Amritha Hospital, Ernakulam. In this initiative, the ASHA workers identify such cases. There are two volunteers from the Mehek Foundation to assist the doctor. A Palliative Care Unit was set up in the TATA Hospital for treatment. The approach incorporates medical and emotional care.

Effective treatment has been provided to about 84 bed-ridden and about 40 mentally ill patients till now. At present, 115 bed-ridden and 64 mentally ill patients are taken care of by the respective teams. The Gram Panchayat has earmarked an amount of Rs. 3.5 lakhs for the financial year 2012-13 for this project. It should be concluded that this enhanced palliative care programme has influenced the lives of the underserved.



Palliative Care Programme, Chottanikkara Gram Panchayat

## 35. Chottanikkara Gram Panchayat, Ernakulum District, Kerala: Installation of Household Portable Cooking Gas Units

**E**normous quantity of waste is produced every day in Kerala. The case is no different in Chottanikkara Gram Panchayat. The pilgrimage season also adds to the problem. Only a few households segregate, burn or properly dispose the solid wastes generated. In this context, the Gram Panchayat contacted "Outreach", an NGO, a major service provider to the Kerala Suchithwa Mission. It was decided that Household Portable Bio Gas Fiber Plant and Cooking Units should be installed in households to solve the problem. The Gram Panchayat then organized an awareness campaign, and Outreach made presentations to people. About 200 beneficiaries were selected through Gram Sabhas. Outreach then visited the houses of the beneficiaries and installed the Household Portable Bio Gas Fiber Plant and Cooking Unit. The total cost per unit is Rs. 10,800, of which each beneficiary had to contribute Rs. 5695, and the rest was shared by the Panchayat, Suchithwa Mission and the District Panchayat. The programme was officially launched on August 6, 2012. Till now, about 177 units have been successfully installed. The people say that these plants are a big success and many have reported that the bio gas thus generated has reduced their cooking gas usage.

## 36. Lalam Block Panchayat, Kottayam District, Kerala: Cancer Detection Camp

**I**t is very difficult to identify cancer at the initial stages of the disease, when it can be contained. Therefore, the Lalam Block Panchayat prepared a project to conduct cancer detection camps in the block area with the support of the Regional Cancer Centre, Thiruvananthapuram, Community Health Centre – Lalam, and six Primary Health Centers (PHCs) of each Gram Panchayat of the block area. The Block Panchayat with the support of the health workers identified interested participants. Six camps were conducted in each PHC and 669 persons participated in the camps. The suspected cases were referred to the Regional Cancer Centre for treatment. The Block Panchayat spent an amount Rs. 1.40 lakhs for conducting the camps. The camps were a major success and helped to create awareness among the people about cancer and the importance for early identification.



Verification Team in Discussion with Lalam Block Panchayat Members

## 37. Panthanamthitta District Panchayat, Keala: Santhwanam - Health Education Project

**P**athanamthitta District Panchayat implemented a novel project for the improvement of the mental health of students known as 'Santhwanam'. As part of this project, training was provided to parents and teachers on the following:

- Individual cleanliness
- Family education
- Various Stages of growth
- Good touch/bad touch
- Autism
- Parents' education
- Empowerment of teachers
- Child abuse
- Substance abuse
- Health, hygiene and nutrition
- Disabilities /skill development of the students

In the first stage, a 20 member core team was selected and a three days' residential training programme was arranged for them. With the support of the 20 member core team, training was extended to the district level resource group who imparted training to Panchayat level resource group. Subsequently, Panchayat wise training programmes were arranged for the principals, headmasters,

teachers, and PTA presidents. This programme covered all the 54 Gram Panchayats and three municipalities of the district. With the support of the school level resource group, training was given to the students. Power Point presentations, role plays, case studies and choreography methods were used for training. This project was implemented with the support of Department of Education, DIET, SSA, Department of Health and Department of Social Welfare. All over the district, 693 schools and around 1.25 lakhs students were covered .



Toilet installed by Pathanamthitta District Panchayat



## 38. Panthanamthitta District Panchayat, Keala: Up-gradation of District Hospital

The District Panchayat Pathanamthitta prepared a project for the development of the district hospital at Kozhencherry. During 2011-2012, the District Panchayat spent Rs.1.01 crore on the project. Before the intervention of the District Panchayat, the situation of this hospital was pathetic. The District Panchayat repaired the office building, installed a dialysis unit, rewired the hospital, improved staff quarters, improved the drinking water supply, constructed four toilets, and started an artificial Limb unit and a palliative care unit in the district hospital. Now the people in the district have started to opt for the district hospital for treatment, whereas earlier they had to go elsewhere.



Artificial Limb Center at District Hospital managed by Pathanamthitta District Panchayat

## 39. Cherpu Block Panchayat, Thrissur District, Kerala: Laundry Service for Better Livelihoods

**T**he Cherpu Block Panchayat initiated a "Friendly Laundry Service", owned and operated by a Self Help Group comprising of 10 women. The laundry shop functions at the building and land owned by the Block Panchayat. All the women were given training at a Central Government institute. They were also given training in driving and a goods autorikshaw was made available to them. The laundry now receives orders from agencies as well as houses. Through this initiative, self sufficiency and regular income for the SHG members was assured. All the members now receive a regular monthly income of Rs. 2500-3000. With this success, they have decided to expand their catchment area.



Souhrida Laundry Unit Supported by Cherpu Block Panchayat

## 40. Cherpu Block Panchayat, Thrissur District, Kerala: Cultivating Fallow Land

The Block Panchayat committee decided on February 2011 to make use of the fallow lands of 4 Gram Panchayats for cultivation, to ensure food security. As part of the programme, meetings were conducted with the Gram Panchayat presidents and farmers. About 162 acres of fallow land was identified. Regeneration of water sources was a major hurdle, which were solved by using funds generated through convergence from RKVY, Block Panchayat Plan Fund and MGNREGA funds. The Block Panchayat funds were utilized for renovation and protection of available ponds. MGNREGA funds were utilized for renovation of irrigation canals and other drainage systems. RKVY funds were utilized for seeds, fertilizers and pesticides. The Block Panchayat guided the whole initiative and provided necessary training and technical guidance to the farmers. Through this project, rice cultivation in 82 acres of land was made possible. The scheme also helped in generating 4,250 work days. The project helped in improving the water table of the region and brought a quantum jump in the farmers' income.

## 41. Idukki Block Panchayat, Idukki District, Kerala: Organic Farming in Anganwadis

**I**dukki Block Panchayat planned an organic farming project. Promotion of organic farming at the anganwadi level was the first initiative in this direction. It was decided to cultivate vegetables in the 164 anganwadis. The project was named “Ankana Thai Thottam”. The children, along with the anganwadi teachers, planted the vegetables in their compounds. Those anganwadis which did not have sufficient space planted the same in sacks. Cow dung and other organic manure were supplied by the Agriculture Department. The Department also imparted training for cultivation. The vegetables cultivated were used by the anganwadi and the surplus was sold. The children are regularly fed nutritious food with greens and vegetables from the garden. Besides making vegetable dishes, the seeds are also preserved for further cultivation. The waste water from the kitchen is recycled. This initiative generated interest among the parents, who were also motivated to start kitchen garden and backyard cultivation. A committee appointed by the Block Panchayath monitors the whole process. The Honourable Member of Parliament distributed the awards for the best performing anganwadis.



Children at Organic Garden, Idukki Block Panchayat

## 42. Badali Gram Panchayat, Ajmer District, Rajasthan: Residential Area Development

**E**ncroachment of the Gram Panchayat land had been taking place since a long time. After a long struggle, the Gram Panchayat has succeeded in removing encroachments in 12 hectares of land of the Panchayat. This land will be used to develop Adadi (residential area) for weaker sections of society. The remaining land will be used to increase the income of the Gram Panchayat. This is an effort to resolve the problem of encroachment and to use the free land for development.



Land Free from Encroachment, Badali Gram Panchayat

## 43. Duni Gram Panchayat, Tonk District, Rajasthan: Community Infrastructure

The Gram Panchayat has initiated development of different types of infrastructure for the people. Assets that have been built and given on rent by the Gram Panchayat include:

- Bank- A building of the size of 18x53 square feet has been built on first floor of the bus stand premises. Presently, the bank provides all facilities, including ATM. The work of lockers is under progress and 200 lockers will be available to the villagers in the future. The rent of the building is Rs. 14,000 per month.
- Sulabh Complex- A Sulabh complex is ready for inauguration, with separate facilities for men and women.
- Shopping Complex- The Gram Panchayat has constructed a shopping complex in an area of 85x25 square feet, which has 14 shops.
- Haat Bajar- A pucca haat bazar has got sanctioned recently. Platforms will be constructed and given to women shopkeepers only.



Bank Building, Duni Gram Panchayat, Tonk District

## 44. Udawas Gram Panchayat, Jhunjhunu District, Rajasthan: Developing the Senior Secondary School

The old premises of the Government Senior Secondary School were not spacious enough to accommodate students properly. The Gram Panchayat initiated the construction of additional class rooms from donations and government subsidy. There are 18 rooms now whereas previously there were only 8 rooms. A main gate with a boundary wall has been built. Facilities of toilet, drinking water and a big platform for a stage have also been developed.

Presently, 179 children are enrolled including students from SC (98) and ST (10) and OBC (61). All the activities of school are run efficiently by the staff. The Gram Panchayat regularly monitors the progress of the school.



Government Sr. Secondary School, Udawas Gram Panchayat

## 45. Chali Gram Panchayat, Udaipur District, Rajasthan: Drinking Water Scheme

**M**ada village of Chali Gram Panchayat is situated at a high altitude and faces acute water shortage. Therefore, the people submitted a proposal for hand pumps to the Gram Panchayat. Since it was very difficult for Gram Panchayat to earmark a large amount of money for a single village, in the first phase, a tube well was dug up with Rs. 1.35 lakhs from the 13<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission grant. In the next phase, pipe lines were constructed with Rs. 1.50 lakhs. Further, an electric connection was made with the untied fund of the Panchayat with an amount of Rs. 1.44 lakhs. The Gram Panchayat requested the District Magistrate to allocate funds for the construction of a water tank in the village. The District Magistrate, under the District Magistrate discretionary fund, released an amount of Rs. 2.30 lakh for the construction of a water tank. In a meeting held with the villagers, the Sarpanch made the land available for free for the construction of the tank. After the construction, Gram Panchayat handed over the management of the project to a committee. The electricity bills of the project are being paid through the Janta Jal Yojana. Thus, the Gram Panchayat has successfully completed the project for the supply of drinking water to 1200 villagers of Mada village.



ग्राम मादा में पेयजल हेतु कनला जल योजना ग्र. प. चाली

Drinking Water Supply in Mada Village of Chali Gram Panchayat



## 46. Chali Gram Panchayat, Udaipur District, Rajasthan: Mahila Gram Nyayalaya

**T**hree fourths of the population of Chali Gram Panchayat is tribal. The Gram Panchayat convenes a group meeting with women in every village in collaboration with an NGO called Sava Mandir to address crime against women due to social traditions. Initially, a training programme for women was organized. In the training programme, five eligible women who understood the negative impact of these social traditions were selected and a Mahila Gram Nyayalaya was constituted. The Gram Panchayat constructed a Community Centre for Mahila Gram Nyayalaya from M.L.A. funds. This building was named Mahila Sandarbha Kendra (Mahila Reference Centre).

The meeting of the Mahila Gram Nyayalaya is convened every week. Any woman of the Gram Panchayat can lodge a complaint regarding domestic violence with a fee of Rs.11. Within a week, the accused is summoned by the Mahila Nyayalaya. If the accused presents himself, he is charged Rs. 101 as penalty with the instruction to not to be violent. If the accused does not come to the Mahila Nyayalaya, the committee itself goes to his house and convicts. If in spite of this, he continues the violence, the Mahila Nyayalaya with the Gram Panchayat and other eminent persons of the village addresses the issue.

The village women are encouraged to complain against domestic violence by the Gram Panchayat through Nukkad- Natak. Because of the Mahila Nyalaya, the rate of crime against women has reduced now.



**National Field Verification Team in Discussion with Members of Chali Gram Panchayat**

## 47. Annagram Block Panchayat, Cuddalore District, Tamil Nadu: Post Thana Cyclone Management

Cuddalore District is a cyclone prone district of Tamil Nadu. The cyclone on 30-12-2011 which hit Cuddalore, was very severe and the Annagramam area was the worst hit. A large number of houses fell down, thatched huts were destroyed, thousands of trees were up-rooted, hundreds of acres of crops destroyed, street lights and supply posts connecting lines of electricity damaged, roads flooded, canals and river over flowed, paralyzing the life of people in the entire cyclone hit area. The way in which the Panchayat Union officials along with the chairperson, vice chairperson and the members acted in the situation is greatly admired by one and all. The resources of men and material available for emergency in the district were speedily brought to the disaster-hit area. The speedy restoration of electricity supply and making drinking water available in the affected areas within two days was a great achievement of the Panchayat Union. It was made possible only because of the sincere and united hard work of all the elected representatives of the Panchayat Union and the whole hearted cooperation and hard work of the officials from top to bottom. During the post Thana cyclone phase 'build, back, better' was the motto of the Panchayat Union. The Tamil Nadu Government announced sanction of RCC houses to the all the Thana cyclone affected families. Annagramam Panchayat Union took speedy action to identify households that had lost houses in the cyclone. Gram Sabhas were called in each Village Panchayat and deserving beneficiaries were identified. Accordingly, 9,223 families were identified and administrative sanction at Rs. 1 lakh for each house

was obtained from the authorities for the "Thana Concrete Housing Scheme". As people with thatched huts are the worst sufferers, the initiative taken by the Panchayat Union was greatly appreciated. Similarly, the Panchayat Union took immediate measures to get the roads and school buildings repaired. The Panchayat Union brought to the notice of higher authorities the extent of the loss to the schools and roads, and an amount of Rs.180 crore for 11 damaged roads and Rs.49.54 crore for the renovation of 61 school buildings was got sanctioned through the initiative of the Panchayat Union. Another praise-worthy action of the Panchayat Union were the measures taken for the safety of cement, steel and other construction materials stocked at Panchayat Union offices. A closed circuit television camera was installed, in addition to the necessary routine steps to prevent theft.



Water & Electricity Supply Restoration by Annagram Block Panchayat After Thane Cyclone

## 48. Annagram Block Panchayat, Cuddalore District, Tamil Nadu: Women's Sanitary Complex

**I**n Annagramam, the women had to go out for open defecation, as they did not have toilets in their households. The lack of funds prevented them from constructing a toilet near their home, and lack of general hygiene led to contagious diseases. Annagramam Panchayat Union understood the seriousness of the problem and took the initiative to construct toilets in its entire 42 Village Panchayats at a cost of Rs. 2.25 lakh each. The toilets were constructed in a uniformly prescribed size of 750 sq. ft with basic minimum facilities. The minimum facilities stipulated were 14 water closets, two bathrooms, one water tub and stone paved washing facilities. Regular supply of clean water was also a pre-requisite. The beneficiaries were grouped and each toilet was numbered and allotted to a family. Cleaning and day-to-day upkeep was the responsibility of the user family. The Village Panchayat authorities had the responsibility of providing electricity connection and uninterrupted water supply. Another specific feature of this sanitary complex for women is the provision of an incinerator. It was a must, much to the relief of adolescent girls as well as grown up women.

Some of the integrated sanitary complexes for women built previously were rendered unusable. A specific directive was given by the Panchayat Union to renovate these. A user group was given the responsibility for daily upkeep and maintenance.

The provision of well-built toilets and bathrooms with uninterrupted water supply, near their houses, has changed the life of the women folk. As these are exclusively for women, there is safety and privacy. The general hygiene of the village has improved. Another praiseworthy thing noticed was the neatness of the toilets. As toilets were numbered and allotted to families, they take utmost care for their proper maintenance. Even the waste water which flowed out was utilized for cultivating vegetables, bringing additional income to the user group.



Women Sanitary Complex in Annagram Block Panchayat

## 49. Esanatham Village Panchayat, Karur District, Tamil Nadu: From Two Tumbler System To Inter Caste Marriage

**E**sanatham Village Panchayat of the Karur District in Tamil Nadu has received many awards for excellence in different activities. The district award for untouchability eradication for 2010-11 with a cash incentive of Rs. 2 lakh is the latest among them. The Panchayat with a population of 4490, distributed among 26 habitations, has a total of 1205 families of which 141 belong to SC and 174 are Muslims. Members belonging to the communities of Naiker and Vettuva Gounder Naidu, Pillai, Vellala Goundar, Asari, Ponkollar occupy 'higher' positions in the society. Almost all of them have farming as the main source of income and occupy an average of 10 acres of land. The Vettuva Goundar, Pillais and Asaris occupy the second 'position' with holdings of average 5 acres of land. Members of the Muslim community are mainly engaged in trade and finance. Members of the 'lower' caste belong to the communities of Chakkiliyar, Pallar, Periyar and Kuravar and earn their livelihood from agricultural labour, loading and unloading etc. Brahmins called Iyers and Thevar community have only nominal representation in the society. The practice of untouchability among caste Hindus was prevalent in Esanatham for years. The separation was strictly insisted in public places like hotels, tea shops, temples and even in theatres for a time. The 'two tumbler system' in hotels and tea shops, reserved silver or steel glasses, tables and chairs for the upper classes and allowed the lower classes to sit on the cement floor and to use only glass tumblers. There were even separate racks to keep their glasses.

The president of the Panchayat decided to address this issue. In the beginning, he appealed to various people. While some were willing to stop the practice, a minority, suspicious about the reaction from the upper castes hesitated. The Panchayat committee discussed the issue in detail and placed the subject before the Gram Sabha. Detailed discussions at every corner of the village were emerging. The president of the Panchayat encouraged the SC persons visiting the Panchayat to sit with caste Hindus with equal status. Gradually, the untouchability issue began to lose its grip and within a period of two years it came to an end in the village. Along with the end of the two tumbler system, the Esanatham temple was opened to the communities hitherto banned. Rallies were organized in schools by the Panchayat for awareness against untouchability. The concept was widely appreciated by the youngsters and the period witnessed speedy transformations. Temples of the SC are now being visited by the upper castes and all temples are open to everyone without any discrimination. The social transformation in the village caught the attention of the officials of Adi Dravidar (Welfare) Department. After conducting detailed verification, officials encouraged the president to apply for the award for the eradication of untouchability. The Panchayat was selected for the award for 2010-2011 with a cash incentive of Rs.2 lakh. All the major Tamil dailies, both English and vernacular and local cable network gave much publicity to the achievement.

"A society with no discrimination of caste or colour is the dream of the Panchayat" shared the president. The award amount of Rs. 2 lakh has been allotted fully for the development of SC settlements as per the resolution of the Panchayat committee. "Inter caste marriages may be promoted to uproot the evil permanently and some recent incidents have given us hope in the regard", said the president.



## 50. Esanatham Village Panchayat, Karur District, Tamil Nadu: Tapping Local Resource

**T**he strength of any local self government institution can be judged by its capacity for mobilizing local resources for development. Esanatham Village Panchayat is making an honest attempt in this regard.

The farmers residing by the side of the Palanatham channel, located at the eastern side of the village, have been under the threat of flood for years. After the heavy flood in 2007-08, discussions about the construction of a retaining wall gathered momentum and the issue was raised in the Gram Sabha. The possibility of public construction was discussed and it was agreed by the farmers to contribute 1/3 of the local estimate. Rs.2.80 lakh was contributed by 10 farmers of the area and was placed under the Self Sufficiency Scheme (SSS), a State Government programme. The interest and timely action of the Panchayat brought another Rs. 5.60 lakh, the two-thirds share as grant from government funds. The 70 meter retaining wall for the prevention of flood stands out as a testimonial for the mobilization of local resources for development.

The success in the implementation of the scheme has created a new perspective for development and for realizing the felt needs of the community. The construction of a culvert in the same area was also proposed in the Gram Sabha under the same scheme, SSS. The farmers and the general public have already collected and deposited Rs.1.70 lakh as the share. The project will be commissioned soon, reported the president. A proposal for the extension of the retaining wall is also discussed widely and the possibilities are being explored for the remittance of the 1/3 share by the public.

Having realized the scope of local fund mobilization, another group from the Village Panchayat came out with the proposal for the construction of a school.

A well-wisher agreed to hand over 30 cents of land for a token amount of Rs.36,000 against the market value of Rs. 3 lakh. The villagers of Kullamapatti collected the amount from the public for the purchase of the land which was transferred to the Panchayat. Expenditure for the infrastructure facilities of the school has been met from the SSA, except water supply, which was met from the funds of the Panchayat. Now, 21 students of which 16 belong to the SC community, are studying in the school. The village youth, inspired by the results of local fund mobilization have intimated the Village Panchayat their willingness to contribute their manpower for an innovative project. The "Natham Purambokku" (common land) by the side of the Nallama Naikan Patti road, the area near the village library was cleared and saplings of Treea Neem, Pongai, Vilvum and Njaval were planted. Drip irrigation facilities are provided for watering along with wire mesh fencing for protection. The total cost of the project was collected from the public and the manpower was rendered by the youth. The trees will bring more revenue to the Panchayat in the years to come.



Verification Team with the Students of a School  
Constructed with Voluntary Contribution at  
Esanatham Village Panchayat



Verification Team with Functionaries of the  
Panchayat, at a Plantation site in Esanatham  
Village Panchayat

## 51 ■ Pappambakkam Village Panchayat, Tiruvallur District, Tamil Nadu: ISO Certification.

The front wall of the Panchayat office was conspicuous by a good number of notices attractively written and painted. One was "ISO 9001-2008 Certified Office: Office Time 10 a.m to 6.p.m".

On enquiry, the president revealed that since she took charge of office, she wanted to do something special and innovative, which would be beneficial for the people. She had heard of ISO certification and thought of getting this certificate for her Panchayat. She contacted many, but it was seen as a utopian idea, and some people even laughed at her. But she went on persistently pursuing this idea. Fortunately, she happened to meet an enterprising chartered accountant at Chennai. She talked to the chartered accountant about her idea. In the beginning he dismissed it, saying that nowhere in the country had a Panchayat got an ISO certification, but as she persisted, the chartered accountant took it up as a challenge and began to search intensively in the internet and also contacted his friends and professionals in the field in other cities like Kolkata, New Delhi, and Mumbai. He then informed her that for an ISO certificate, the Panchayat as a whole, the elected representatives, the village community and all would have to work as a team and strictly follow the office procedures laid down and ensure full transparency to the Gram Sabha. The Panchayat agreed.

The chartered accountant and his team taught the secretary to maintain official records up to date, with proper entries. The elected representatives were also given guidance in public relations. Punctuality in the office was insisted. Office time was clearly painted and exhibited on the walls of the office building and the concerned

officers were asked to be present at office hours without fail. A fire extinguisher was installed in the office and also a first aid box. The president studied the Panchayat Act and Rules and got thorough orientation in holding the Panchayat committee meetings, conducting Gram Sabha and in attending to public grievances. She began to be fully involved in the day to day life of the villagers, irrespective of caste and hierarchy. She made frequent visits to the anganwadi, health sub centre, school, library and shops under public distribution system. Subsequently, a resolution was passed unanimously for the ISO certification, and was sent to the concerned authorities. The Panchayat got the ISO certification, ISO 9001-2008. The ISO certification for Papparambakkom was a foundation stone for the future development of the village. Officials began to visit the Panchayat, and the District Collector was present for the last Gram Sabha. Many development projects were sanctioned.



Quality Objectives of Papparambakkam Village Panchayat



ISO Certification received by Papparambakkam Village Panchayat

## 52. Papparambakkam Village Panchayat, Tiruvallur District, Tamil Nadu: A Farmer Friendly Panchayat

**P**apparambakkom is a very prosperous village, because of the persistent hard work of the farming families. The farming community comprises up to 90 per cent of the total households in the village. The land is fertile and the climate is conducive for cash crops like mangoes and sugarcane. Such crops are grown along with paddy as there is good source of water from bore wells. The Panchayat area has a very large water body covering an area of 90 acres. But, it lacked sufficient depth and was full of shrubs and dead trees. Very fertile paddy fields covered a large area nearby of 280 acres or more. But this lake had no maintenance and heavy rains had deposited mud, silt and other waste in the absence of protective side walls. The storage capacity of the lake was decreasing every year. The farming community was raising this as an important issue continuously in the Gram Sabha. The vice president and the ward member from the locality raised this issue in the Panchayat committee meeting and got a resolution passed unanimously. The matter was taken to the District Collector and other concerned officials. The president and vice president presented the plight of the poor farmers before the Chief Engineer of the Irrigation Department of the district. The arguments of



Public Participation during the Verification of Papparambakkam Village Panchayat

the Panchayat women leaders convinced the Chief Engineer. The Chief Engineer then gave instructions to the Superintendent Engineer to visit the area for an on the spot study. The Panchayat was able to convince the engineering team of the devastated condition of the lake. A detailed estimate for the repair and maintenance works was prepared quickly, as the Panchayat functionaries and the entire village community was ready to help the officials, and the work was sanctioned with an estimated amount of Rs.9 lakhs. The work was completed within record time with the support of the Panchayat and the farming community. Now the entire area is full of greenery of newly replanted, improved variety of paddy seedlings. The Panchayat has proposed for the construction of two more canals for extending the smooth flow of water to the far end of field and "we are determined to get the proposals sanctioned" said the president.

## 53. Thindamangalam Village Panchayat, Salem District, Tamil Nadu: A Network of SHGs Supported by the Panchayat

**T**hindamangalam Village Panchayat 16 km away from Salem District headquarters is a Panchayat coming up as a role model in rural development activities. In the adjacent building of the Panchayat is a coir manufacturing unit, run by SHGs. The unit tells the success story of how a federation of a few SHGs can become a powerful production unit empowering women through the support of the Village Panchayat. Thalampio SHG, Mahilampoo SHG, Rooja Koottum SHG, Thamarai SHG, are the four SHGs of women. All these SHGs have formed into a cluster unit with the support of the Village Panchayat to launch coir producing units. With the support of the Village Panchayat, these four SHGs got an assistance of Rs.40,000 each as revolving fund of which Rs.10,000 was government share. The SHGs are bank linked. The Rooja Koottam, one SHG from the cluster, has passed grade II and has been assisted with Rs.2.4 lakhs as economic assistance, out of which Rs.1.2 lakh is subsidy.



Discussion between Panchayat and Verification Team at the Coir Fiber and Marketing Unit, Thindamangalam Gram Panchayat.

Earlier, each SHG was taking up coir making on its own. Consequently, the day to day operations of purchase of coir fiber and marketing of woven coir were uneconomic and the output and return were negligible. With the president's initiative, these four SHGs were merged into a federation. A factory building was constructed by channelizing SGSY Infrastructure Fund at a cost of Rs.5 lakhs as a coir manufacturing unit. The coir manufacturing unit now has seven operating machines with motors, each costing Rs.42,000. This is a good example of a federation of SHGs taking up an income generation production unit with the guidance and assistance of their Village Panchayat.



## 54. Chheyar Block Panchayat, Thiruvannamali District, Tamil Nadu: Convergence of Innovative Schemes

**T**he Chheyar Panchayat Union is one of the largest Panchayat Unions in Thiruvannamalai district with 53 Village Panchayats. The total receipts for the Panchayat Union from different sources were Rs.151.34 lakh for the year 2010-2011 and Rs.156.63 lakh was the estimate for 2011-2012. These were not sufficient to meet the growing requirements of the Panchayat Union.

The Panchayat Union mobilized funds from Central Schemes like IAY, MGNREGA and PMGSY to the maximum. MPLADS and the 13th Finance Commission award were other sources of income. But these were not enough. Therefore, the Panchayat Union, under the leadership of the chairperson and the BDO looked towards special programmes of the State Government under the TN Village Habitation Improvement Scheme (THAI) for getting assistance for different development activities in a 'convergence model'.

The Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj in its recent report about the performance of the rural development programmes has clearly explained the objective of THAI scheme. It states "for the first time in the history of India with respect to rural development, the habitation is considered as the development unit". The objective is to provide all the basic amenities to all the habitations and thereby prevent the disparities in development among habitations. The minimum basic requirements to be covered are water supply, streetlights, roads, burial grounds, pathway to burial ground and additional requirements of public distribution shops, anganwadi centres, SHG building, threshing floor, play ground etc.

The Panchayat Union took advantage of this scheme with utmost transparency at each stage. With the help of the Union councillors and the concerned Panchayat presidents, a detailed survey was conducted. The BDO, Assistant Engineers and other officers were fully involved in identifying the development gaps in remote hamlets. Based on the survey, a detailed action plan under the convergence model was initiated. A special Gram Sabha was convened and the action plan presented before the Gram Sabha of each Village Panchayat for approval. The Gram Sabha approved projects were then sent to the district for technical as well as administrative sanction. Since the THAI scheme is a prioritized scheme of the TN government, speedy approvals and timely execution of the projects proposed was possible. As this is a village habitation improvement scheme, it reaches maximum households of the Panchayat Union with special focus on backward and remote areas. The pukka cement floor for paddy threshing constructed under the THAI scheme under convergence has benefitted the womenfolk a lot, said an SHG member of Kilpudupakkom Village Panchayat. She further added that "the pukka floor has not only saved our energy but also a lot of paddy otherwise wasted while processing"

While looking into the details of the expenditure pattern, one could notice certain interesting facts. Out of the nine Village Panchayats under Cheyyar Panchayat Union there is an equal expenditure of Rs.30 lakhs for each Village Panchayat. But the schemes implemented in each Panchayat differ as per their needs. The schemes are water supply, street lights, burial ground and improvement to burial ground, cement road, BT road and other types of works. Kilpudupakkom Panchayat wanted more street lights and more pukka cement roads and they got it. Some other Panchayats wanted more funds for drinking water or for more number of burial grounds, and got them.

## 55. Chheyar Block Panchayat, Thiruvannamali District, Tamil Nadu: Innovative Scheme for Differently Abled Citizens.

An innovative scheme for differently-abled citizens was put into operation by the Cheyyar Panchayat Union. The scheme was unique in itself as it focussed on the otherwise ignored sections of society. The Panchayat Union unanimously decided to conduct a survey of such persons, and after giving sufficient publicity, a survey was carried out and people were identified on the basis of the extent of the disability. The total number of such persons came to 1185 in the area. Of them 961 (81%) were differently abled, 144 mentally challenged and 80 visually challenged. Out of the total identified in the survey, 355 had migrated to some other place and only 830 remained at the time of project implementation. Out of these only 606 were found fit for undertaking some sort of physical labour. The Panchayat Union decided to accommodate them in some type of job employment under MGNREGA and these people were issued job cards. The other 144 mentally challenged and 80 visually challenged could not be covered under the scheme because of very high disability.

These 606 persons who got job cards are employed under MGNREGA works. They are allotted only such type of work as they can perform without much difficulty. The interesting thing about the team was the prominent role played by two educated persons among them. Taking into account their educational background, they had been given the position as Work-site Facilitators and performed their work diligently.



Verification at Cheeyar Block Panchayat Office

## 56. G. Kallupatty Village Panchayat, Theni District, Tamil Nadu: Solid Waste Management

**G** Kallupatty Village Panchayat of Theni District, Tamil Nadu has a series of success stories to its credit. The innovative ideas developed by the Panchayat towards waste management are commendable. The urban nature of the Village Panchayat and the scarcity of funds spurred the Panchayat to implement a new scheme

The earnest attempts of the Panchayat through IEC activities had created a sense of hygiene among the villagers. But the absence of an effective system for the collection and disposal of solid waste remained to be addressed. After having discussed the problem in Panchayat and Gram Sabha meetings, the president came forward with an offer of Rs.2.5 lakh for the purchase of a vehicle for the collection of waste from houses. Inspired by the offer, four persons of the village donated another Rs. 1.25 lakh. The District Collector permitted the Panchayat to purchase the vehicle. Villagers with driving licenses offered their voluntary services for driving the vehicle for the collection of solid waste on rotation basis.

The vehicle was named 'Thumai Vhanam' (vehicle of cleanliness) and was equipped with a public address system. The schedule of operation was fixed and intimated to all households. The 'vehicle of cleanliness' started plying with announcements and a meaningful old film song that gives the message of sanitation and healthy living. Gradually, all the villagers were educated on the subject and a habit of storing of household waste and waiting for the Panchayat vehicle has been created successfully. Within a short span of time, the huge heaps of waste deposited in public places began disappearing. The whole village is kept clean and messages for proper sanitation and healthy living are repeatedly given through anganwadis, schools and Gram Sabha meetings. The Panchayat is now planning for the segregation and disposal of solid waste and also for the safe disposal of liquid waste. The Panchayat has started correspondence for using 'Natham Porampokki' (common land) for the segregation, disposal and re-cycling of waste.



Solid Waste Solid Waste Management at G Kallupatty Village Panchayat

## 57. G. Kallupatty Village Panchayat, Theni District, Tamil Nadu: Social Mobilization and Nonconventional Resource Management

**G** Kallupatty Village Panchayat has succeeded in mobilization of funds, human resources and voluntary donations for developmental activities from the local citizens and NGOs. The Panchayat has proven stories of success in this regard. An individual hailing from a well to do family of the village has donated 10 acres of land from his family property for establishing a higher secondary school in the village. He has also constructed a building which is used as a hostel for the students. Besides, he was reported to have sponsored about 500 students till date. Of late he has donated 8 cents of land for the construction of a burial ground for the members of a particular community. The Panchayat has mobilized Rs.4 lakh from another individual for the purchase of a vehicle for the collection of garbage. RTU (reaching the unreached), an NGO having headquarters in the village, was approached by the Panchayat for the convergence of their developmental activities for the marginalized groups in the society in the field of housing, sanitation and drinking water. The Panchayat has also successfully mobilized manpower for the running of the vehicle for the collection of solid waste from every household in the Panchayat. The Panchayat has been assisted by local citizens and NGOs in digging open wells, bore wells, erection of electric pump sets and pipe lines.

The Gram Sabha is used effectively for raising the felt needs of the people and suggestions are incorporated in formulating action plans. Vigilance against anti-social activities is effected with the support of civil society. G Kallupatty Village Panchayat stands out in the mobilization of funds and manpower for meeting the developmental needs of the area. The trust among the people towards the G Kallupatty Village Panchayat may be one of the reasons for the successful mobilization of local resources.

## 58. Nattarmangalam Village Panchayat, Cuddalore District, Tamil Nadu: An All Women Panchayat

**N**attarmangalam Village Panchayat has made history in the State by electing unanimously an 'all women Panchayat' consisting of nine members and the president. The Panchayat has 750 families and a population of 2500, the majority of whom are Dalits. The unanimous election of all women members is important, as the Panchayat had been declared as a general constituency by the State Election Commission. The decision to allow women to file nominations was taken in a meeting of all villagers where the majority present were men. All the village leaders opined in a common platform that the all round development of the village can best be assured in the hands of women. The villagers also decided that the candidates need not spend even a paisa towards election expense. As per the decision of the village community, ten women got unanimously elected to the Village Panchayat. The unopposed election of ten women to Nattarmanalam Village Panchayat was news. National as well as local newspapers and visual media gave great publicity to this. Immediately after the election, the president who was a school teacher, told the media that she had resigned her post with the sole objective of serving the village as a full timer, as she was elected unopposed and had the whole hearted support of the village community. She further disclosed to the media that her priority is to provide toilets to every house. She said, "Women suffer a lot due to lack of toilet facilities. All are poor and are incapable of constructing toilets of their own." She was able to mobilize voluntary contributions from people, and approached different philanthropic groups for raising funds for toilet construction.

Out of 750 families, only three houses had toilets when she stepped into the Panchayat office, and now all the houses have toilets. In addition, there are sanitary complexes for women in the village. "My next plan is to increase the monthly income of each family from the present income level of Rs. 2,500 to Rs. 3,000 to Rs. 10,000 within a year", the woman president stated. From the very date (25 October 2011) the ten women took charge as the leaders of the Panchayat, they have been trying to put into action their cherished dreams.



An All Women Village Panchayat: Nattarmangalam, Tamil Nadu



## 59. Pethureddupatti Village Panchayat, Virudhunagar District, Tamil Nadu: Housing for Scheduled Caste Families

The president of Puthureddypatti, looking to the improvement in the living conditions of the SC community, has succeeded in getting an allocation of 24 IAY houses, including a green house. But even then the construction of houses was found to be an uphill task. The poverty ridden SC families needed help and guidance for the proper and timely completion of the houses. The Panchayat helped them by training them in driving tractors/vehicles by means of which they could transport the materials. The Panchayat also provided technical guidance in saving the additional costs. A new well-built colony has now emerged with all the basic amenities and facilities. The facilities include 10 street lights, 6 public taps, 4 house tap connections, concrete road and drainage facilities. In respect of water supply, a new mini power pump with water tank was also provided. It was decided that a new road will be provided to the colony in the next financial year. With the help of the Agriculture Department, tree saplings were provided.

The Panchayat has taken initiative to promote livelihoods. Training was organized for about 30 young women, including SC young women, who acquired the skill and enhanced their earnings. Further, with the help of Social Welfare Department, tailoring machines were distributed to very poor women and widows. Training was also organized for youth from SC community in computer courses. In Pethureddypatty, there are about six persons who are folk artists who play instruments like Thavil, Urumi and Nadaswaram. Benefit under the pension scheme was given to one poor folk artist. The widow of the deceased is now getting family pension. The application of yet another folk artist is given due consideration under

the new scheme. Women from the Village Panchayat regularly contact the Panchayat and ask for assistance. Pethureddypatty is emerging as a model in this respect. The support of NGOs, ward members, government officials, and general community is with the Panchayat. Housing to all, priority to SC families and livelihood promotion of young men and women among SCs, are its goals.



Housing for Schedule Caste Families by Pethureddupatti Village Panchayat

## 60. Pethureddupatti Village Panchayat, Virudhunagar District, Tamil Nadu: Provision for Potable Water

**P**ethureddypatti Gram Panchayat has contributed innovative ideas for the betterment of the lives of the citizens. Prominent among them is a system for the supply of pure and safe and drinking water. The area is generally drought prone, and hence the Panchayat has given priority to address water scarcity and has provided 14 power pumps, 5 mini power pumps, 14 hand pumps, 6 overhead tanks, 64 public taps and 104 house connections. The major source of water in Annamalayar Oorani were the bore wells for the last 25 years. But from 2005-2006 onwards, people began to complain regarding the purity and taste of the drinking water supplied by the Panchayat. The issue came to the Gram Sabha for discussion and the matter was placed before the district administration and Tamil Nadu Water and Drainage Board (TWAD). It was observed that the ground water level of the area had gone down and the presence of phosphate and sulphate had increased, resulting in the salty taste of water. The report was placed before the Gram Sabha, in which district officials was present.

Discussions on the issue led to the introduction Reverse Osmosis (RO) system to attain purity of the water to a desirable level. The District Collector requested the president to submit proposals for the introduction of the RO system in processing drinking water. The expenditure in this regard was resolved to be met from a cash award of Rs. 5 lakhs received by the Panchayat. Administrative sanction for the proposal was accorded without delay. Availability of a suitable building for the establishment of the machinery and equipments was the next issue to be

addressed. A government building, where an office had been functioning formerly, was allotted by the district administration for the purpose. Finally, with an investment of Rs.3 lakhs, the machinery was installed. A temporary staff is posted with an honorarium of Rs.1,200 per month for the operation of the system and for the billing and collection of water charges.

Initially, drinking water was distributed for free. But in spite of the repeated requests from the authorities, widespread misuse of water was observed. Therefore, a water vending machine was established through which 18 ltrs of pure water was supplied by the insertion of a two rupee coin. Of late, the water charges have been increased to Rs.3 per pot (18 ltrs) and the vending system is replaced by an electronic billing system. Beneficiaries have expressed their satisfaction with the scheme. The revenue generated from the sale of water has contributed a considerable share to the own income of the Panchayat with an average of Rs. 75,000 per year.



Provision of Potable Water in Pethureddypetty Gram Panchayat

## 61 ■ Thirichirappali District Panchayat, Tamil Nadu: Connecting Remote Villages to Urban Nodes

**A**mong the various factors which contribute to the economic development in remote rural areas, infrastructure development plays a significant role, of which road connectivity is a prime concern. There are 25 Village Panchayats under a ward in the District Panchayat, of which 10 Village Panchayats are located in a remote area, under the foot of Thuvankurichi forest range.

Due to lack of connectivity with major roads, the farmers used to transport their agricultural products by head-load upto the location where road connectivity was available. Unable to do so, many farmers limited their farm activities. Even in times of emergency for medical treatment, they had to carry the patients / sufferers. School children could not reach the school and during the rainy season.

These issues were discussed during the District Panchayat meeting. It is in this background that the Panchayat took a decision to allocate funds for a new road in these localities. Three councillors of the area agreed not to claim their share of allocation during the next year to enable this. This unity and sense of fellowship among the councillors paved the way for construction of the new road.

But laying seven kilometer of road with 20ft width in private land was not an easy task. With the efforts of the Panchayat, about 15 farmers came forward to spare their land for road construction. It is reported that the worth of the land spared for the construction of the road is Rs. 4 lakh. The agriculture products are now easily transported by auto rickshaw and bi-cycle. The new road has helped in economic development. The role of the District Panchayat in coordination is to be appreciated.



Tribal Settlement Thenpuranadu Village Panchayat, Thiruchirapalli District Panchayat

## 62. Amritberia Gram Panchayat, Purba Midnapur District, West Bengal: Installation of Solar Street Light

**B**efore the year 2008, in Amritberia GP there were no lighting arrangements in the streets at night, as the West Bengal State Electricity Board (WBSEB) had not provided any street phase connection. In this backdrop, Amritberia Gram Panchayat has taken up a project for installing solar street lights in collaboration with the Department of Renewable Energy, Government of West Bengal. The project is being funded from grants received under 3rd State Finance Commission (SFC), Backward Region Grant Fund (BRGF) and nominal contribution from the residents living in the adjacent area where the solar lights are installed. In each Gram Sansad area, at least one solar light is installed at the junction of the streets. Thus, a total of 32 solar street lights have so far been installed by the GP at a cost of around Rs.2 lakhs. The Department of Renewal Energy had undertaken maintenance of these lights for a period of two years. After the expiry of the guarantee period for maintenance, the GP is providing services for repairs and maintenance of the solar battery and the solar panel at a cost of Rs. 6000 per light

out of its own resources. The GP undertakes wide publicity for using solar energy for lighting as well as domestic purposes. This publicity has created awareness among the people of the GP and 100 families have already started using solar energy for lighting and other domestic use in their houses at their own cost. This novel effort of the GP has resulted in illuminating the area.



**Solar Light at a Street Junction in Amritberia Gram Panchayat**



## 63. Amritberia Gram Panchayat, Purba Midnapur District, West Bengal: Publication of Booklet for Transparency

**I**n order to apprise the entire population living in 11 Gram Sansads about the activities of the GP, it has started publishing booklets half yearly and annually since December, 2003. These booklets are distributed to the participants in Gram Sansad meetings held biannually in May and November each year, and in the annual Gram Sabha meeting held in December. The booklets are also distributed to the Panchayat Samiti at Mahisadal, BDO Office, local libraries and other GPs of the block. The booklets contain information on:

- Annual and half yearly Income & Expenditure Statements of the GP and of Gram Unnayan Samiti of each Sansad
- Beneficiary lists under different schemes i.e., Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOPS), Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS) etc.
- Statement of Receipts & Payments under each type of fund
- Budget and plan for the next year
- List of SHGs and SGSY groups
- Names of blood donors with their respective blood groups
- Information about Rastriya Swastha Bima Yojana
- Circulation of bylaws among members

- Basic data of the GP and important telephone numbers
- Other important and useful information related to the functioning of the GP.

This is being published by the GP from its own resources. Basic information is also painted on the walls of the Gram Panchayat building as well as on the notice boards. This attempt to circulate the publication amongst all the people living in the area is a novel idea which provides all the basic information about the GP as well as its functioning. This can be replicated by other Gram Panchayats.

## 64. Amritberia Gram Panchayat, Purba Midnapur District, West Bengal : Construction of Crematoria and other Infrastructure

**I**n the past, the villagers used to burn the dead bodies in the open field by the side of any pond in the absence of any fixed crematoria. Such practices pollute the environment. The Gram Panchayat has now constructed regular crematoria with shelters and a platforms for keeping the dead bodies. So far they have constructed 17 such crematoria/ burning ghats in all the Sansad areas, funded from MGNREGA, ISGP and 3rd SFC grant. The Gram Unnayan Samiti of each Sansad collects a nominal amount of Rs. 10 from the families for burning the dead bodies in these crematoria for maintenance. Each burning ghat comprises of a covered shed and a cremation stand with four iron pillars fixed on a cemented platform. The cost of construction of each such crematorium / burning ghat is Rs. 84,075.



Crematorium Shelter at Amritberia Gram Panchayat

Other social initiatives taken by the GP are:

- Construction of culverts funded from 3rd SFC grants. Twelve culverts have been constructed at the cost of Rs. 89,151 over irrigation canals carrying river water.
- Construction of 17 play grounds and 9 goal posts from MGNREGA fund, the cost of which is around Rs. 2 lakhs.
- Construction of Veterinary Center (Prani Vikash Kendra), funded under 13th FC and 3rd SFC grants. The Center provides free treatment for cattle and birds thrice a week with services provided by a veterinary doctor deputed from Mahisadal block. The Center also provides artificial insemination services.



Cremation Platform at Amritberia Gram Panchayat

## 65. Kalekhantala II Gram Panchayat, Burdwan District, West Bengal: Construction of Water Treatment Plant

The Kalekhantala- II Gram Panchayat has constructed a three stage water treatment plant to supply pure potable water to the inhabitants of the GP as well as the adjoining villages, with Rs. 6.36 lakh allotted from ISGP. Water is drawn by a submersible pump and stored in a tank with a capacity of 2000 liters (lts). This is then passed through 3 stages for filtering impurities like iron, arsenic and then is passed through an ultra violet filter for eliminating bacteria. This filtered water is free of bacteria, iron and arsenic. However, it retains its mineral value. This pure water is then stored in a second 2000 litre tank and distributed in 20 litre jars or 1 & 2 litre bottles. Each 20 litre jar of water is sold to the public at only Rs. 5 per jar, excluding the cost of the empty jar at Rs.150 . A 2 litre bottle of water is sold for Rs.2 and a one litre bottle for Rs. 1. It may be mentioned here that in cities and



Kalekhantala - II Gram Panchayat Arsenic, Bacteria & Iron Removal Plant Filter

towns, charges for similar products are Rs. 40 to 60 for a 20 litre jar and Rs. 20 & 10 to 12 for a 2 litre and 1 lit bottle respectively. Further, water is also sold to people for ceremonies in a 2000 litre tanker. This is a novel way to augment the GP's own resources and at the same time provide the people with pure & potable water.



Kalekhantala – II Gram Panchayat Water Treatment Plant

## 66. Kalekhantala II Gram Panchayat, Burdwan District, West Bengal: Construction of Toilets and Waiting Rooms in Bus Stand

The GP has constructed a number of toilets and waiting rooms/ sheds in the bus stand as well as Pay & Use Toilets in several locations of the Panchayat. It has constructed a Pay & Use Toilet cum bus stand with a plan to build a Community Centre on the terrace of the building which will be available on rent to the public. Renting out this Community Centre and fees for Pay & Use Toilets is expected to generate an income to the extent of Rs. 2.00 lakh to Rs. 3.00 lakh annually.



Parulia Bus Stop and Pay and Use Toilet of Kalekhantala – II G.P.

Other social measures which the GP has taken to better the lives of the inhabitants are:

- Concretizing the entire lane network in the villages which prevents the lanes from becoming slushy in the rainy season.
- Building tube-well platforms to avoid water stagnation at the base of the tube wells.
- Building passengers' rest sheds in a number of places.



Parulia Children's Park at Kelekhantala – II G.P.



Concrete Road of Kelekhantala – II G.P.



## 67. Bhatparetiya Gram Panchayat, Harda District, Madhya Pradesh: Installation of Solar Streetlights

Street lighting is a critical concern for public authorities in rural villages. Inefficient lighting wastes significant financial resources and poor lighting creates unsafe conditions. Energy efficient technologies and design can cut electricity costs dramatically (often by 25-60%). These savings can eliminate or reduce the need for new electricity generating plants and provide the capital for alternative energy solutions for populations in remote areas. In view of this, the Bhatparetiya Gram Panchayat in Harda District of Madhya Pradesh has installed solar streetlights in the village.



Solar Streetlights in Bhatparetiya Gram Panchayat

## 68. Bhatparetiya Gram Panchayat, Harda District, Madhya Pradesh: Water Harvesting for Sustainable Development

**I**n most semi-arid regions of India, inadequate availability of water is the most limiting factor in agricultural and rural development. In such regions, if rainfall is harvested and used judiciously, it can support a higher cropping intensity. Therefore watershed management is essential in order to enhance land, water and agricultural productivity. One method of effective water harvesting is the construction of check dams.

Barkhera Guatam GP has constructed 8 check dams on Gaderi river under various schemes for water harvesting for irrigation as well as for domestic and animal use. Many unskilled labourers have got employment also. The ground level water was available at 250 to 300 feet before the construction of these check dams. After construction of the check dams, the ground level water has risen and there is an increase in the level of water in wells and hand pumps. Irrigated land has also increased because of these check dams.

## 69. Kamatada Gram Panchayat, Harda District, Madhya Pradesh: Supporting Schools

The Primary and Middle Schools of Kamatada GP are under the control of Zilla Parishad. The Grama Panchayat members review the performance of children and the upkeep of the school every month. Cash awards are provided to meritorious students every year by the Gram Panchayat to encourage the children. The teachers, also motivated, teach well and encourage the children to be tidy and participate in sports. The maintenance of the playground is excellent and the maintenance of the classrooms and toilets is also very good. The children are happy with the mid-day meals.



Class room and play ground of Primary School in  
Kamatada Village in Harda District

## 70. Handiya Gram Panchayat, District Harda, Madhya Pradesh: Jute Handicrafts Production

**H**andiya Gram Panchayat of Harda District has played a vital role in the formation of SHGs and in making these groups self employed. One such SHG is the Narmada Swa Sahayat Samooh whose members have availed the basic and advanced training programmes on jute handicrafts with the support of the National Jute Board at the village. The SHG members then decided to launch a unit for production of jute handicrafts by utilizing group funds as well as bank finance. They produce different jute handicraft items e.g. caps, bags etc. They participate in fairs and take bulk orders from different business houses.



Jute Handicrafts Production by Narmada Swa Sahayat Samooh, Handiya Village

## 71. Amapali Gram Panchayat, Raigarh District, Chhattisgarh: Construction of Platform for Women at the Village Pond

**T**he Gram Panchayat has constructed a separate stepping platform structure (Mahila Ghat) in the Panchayat pond for exclusive use by women. The cost of construction was met entirely out of the Gram Panchayat fund and the platform was constructed with the help of the community. The pond and the surrounding areas are maintained with care for cleanliness and beauty. To make it more environment friendly, the GP has taken up plantation work in the area.



National Field Verification at Women Snan Ghat Built by Amapali Gram Panchayat

## 72. Jhalmala Gram Panchayat , Durg District, Chhattisgarh: Resourceful Revenue Generation

**G**ram Panchayat Jhalmala has made major efforts to generate revenue for undertaking developmental programs in addition to government schemes. The Panchayat has created several durable assets that are generating additional and sustainable income. Six shops were constructed by this Gram Panchayat and given to the community on a rent of Rs 200 per month. Various taxes are being collected annually e.g. Rs 50 per household as house tax, Rs 10 as sanitation tax and Rs. 50 to Rs. 500 as business tax depending on the size of the commercial establishment. These efforts have resulted in a sizeable annual revenue income for the GP, which is being spent for development projects. The Gram Panchayat is also generating awareness among the community about the importance of taxes.



Local Market Maintained by the Jhalmala Gram Panchayat

## 73. Jhalmala Gram Panchayat, Durg District, Chhattisgarh: Piped Drinking Water Supply

**R**egular and proper piped drinking water is being provided to every household as a result of consistent efforts by the Jhalmala Gram Panchayat. An overhead tank of 1500 litre capacity has been constructed by the Public Health Engineering Department and connected with pipeline to every household of the the GP area. The Gram Panchayat is maintaining regular and proper supply of drinking water to the community. For this purpose, water and electricity tax is being collected from every household. Now, around 90% households get regular water supply.



Water Tank built by Jhalmala Gram Panchayat

## 74. Daniya Gram Panchayat, Rajnandgaon District, Chhattisgarh: Improvement in Taxation

After getting elected as the first woman Sarpanch of the Daniya Gram Panchayat, the Sarpanch decided to collect mandatory taxes and donation from the community. Initially, the community did not agree with her decision because they did not know the importance of taxation. However, after extensive discussion, they understood its importance and cooperated. Gram Panchayat Dania has made efforts to collect taxes of Rs.24 per annum on sanitation, Rs 60 to Rs. 256 per annum on house / property, Rs. 180 to Rs.360 per annum on commercial activities and Rs. 30 per month on water. The Sarpanch head has tried to realize the previous outstanding taxes and improve the tax base.

छ.ज. पंचायत राज अधिनियम 1995 की धारा 77 की उपधारा (2) के अन्तर्गत अनुसूची 2 के प्रविष्ट क्र. (9) के अधीन ग्राम पंचायत विस्तारानुसार सेवा फॉर्म उदरहीन कर सकेगी।

1.	तिवाज, जाति, आय आदि प्रमाण पत्र के लिए -	रु. 10/-
2.	नामांतरण आदि के लिए उत्तराधिकारी प्रमाण पत्र -	रु. 20/-
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4.	भवन निर्माण अनुज्ञा फॉर्म प्रमाण पत्र -	रु. 20/-
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6.	पंचायत के अनुज्ञा के बिना अप्राधिकृत निर्माण की निवृत्ति रु. 100/-	
7.	हॉटल, टावा, मोटर गाड़ी मरम्मत के लिए अनुज्ञा -	रु. 500/-
8.	हॉटल, टावा, मोटर गाड़ी मरम्मत आदि के लिए नवीनीकरण शुल्क प्रति वर्ष रु. 200/-	
9.	कांई भी अन्य कारखाने इकाई संचालित हेतु अनुज्ञा -	रु. 100/-
10.	पाइप द्वारा जल प्रदाय के लिए आवेदन पत्र -	रु. 20/-

Display of tax rates by Daniya Gram Panchayat



## 75. Daniya Gram Panchayat, Rajnandgaon District, Chhattisgarh : Increasing the Ground Water Level

A drain (small river) close to Gram Panchayat Daniya was filled with water earlier, but due to excess growth of vegetation at the banks of this drain, its width decreased from 60 - 90 ft to 6 - 10 ft. over time. Such growth covered around 7 acres of land due to which the water level of the area went down to 150 ft from its ground surface and the land became degraded. During the year 2010, the widening of this drain was undertaken under MGNREGA by the Gram Panchayat. At present, the drain has come back to the original width of 60 to 90 ft. Simultaneously, the depth of the small river has also increased by 2-3 ft. Additionally, soak pits were constructed in all the available hand pumps. As a result of the above mentioned activities, the water table in the Gram Panchayat area has risen significantly. As around 10000 man days were involved in this work, the Panchayat was also successful in generating the employment for the needy families. This has also helped in preventing recurring flood every year. Similarly, works of plantation and road construction were completed by the efforts of the Daniya Gram Panchayat. One person stated that "the initiative of village head has changed the picture of the village".



Widening Work of Drain, Daniya Gram Panchayat

## 76. Charakhapara Gram Panchayat, Rajnandgaon District, Chhattisgarh: Information, Education and Communication Campaign

The Gram Panchayat Charakhapara has evolved ways to disseminate information on various welfare schemes such as drinking water & sanitation, old age pension, NRHM, pregnant mother and child health etc. This is being done through wall paintings, hoardings, inter personal communication, audio-visual activities and distribution of posters and pamphlets. Because of public education and mass campaign, people are found to be more sensitized and are better aware of their rights and entitlements. This in the process has helped in better implementation of various welfare schemes in the Panchayat.



IEC Material displayed on the walls in Charakhapara Gram Panchayat

## 77 ■ Tonahinara Gram Panchayat, Raigarh District, Chhattisgarh: Road Connectivity

**T**onahinara is one of the remotest village of Dharmjaigarh block. There was no road connectivity till 2011. The Gram Panchayat passed a resolution to connect this village with Derpani Road. Subsequently, 650 metre of Gram Panchayat land was allocated to construct the road and connect with Darapani road at a cost of Rs. 9.2 lakhs under MGNREGA. At present, the road is being constructed with the help of community participation and under the guidance of the Gram Panchayat Sarpanch. It is also a good example of collective action by the Gram Panchayat and its community. In this construction work, many inhabitants of the village were engaged on daily wage basis under MNREGA scheme.



Construction of Link Road under MNREGA Tonahinara Gram Panchayat

## 78. Sahaspur Loahana Janpad Panchayat, Kabirdham District, Chhattisgarh: Construction of Stop Dam and Link Road

Under MGNREGA development related works were taken up for increasing the income of the rural communities in Kholwa Gram Panchayat by the Water Resources Department, Gram Panchayat and Forest Department. The Block Panchayat, with help of Water Resources Department has constructed a stop-dam-cum link road under MGNREGA in the Kholwa Gram Panchayat, facilitating a short route to the village Renda Khemahi which has reduced the travel time considerably, and the stop dam is being used for vegetable cultivation. Up to 3- 4 ft. water fills up in the stop dam throughout the year, due to which, the ground water level of the area has also gone up. The Gram Panchayat, Kholwa with the help of the community has also constructed a WBM road from Kholwa to Rehnda Khamahi, due to which the connectivity of the area has improved to a great extent. Till this time, this entire village remained almost inaccessible. The Forest



Construction of Stop Dam, Sahaspur Loahana Janpad Panchayat

Department has also set up a community based nursery at 200 ft. distance from stop dam where saplings of forest plants like 'sagaun', bamboo and flower bearing plants are grown. This has facilitated easy supply of saplings to the local communities and encouraged afforestation in the area. As a result, the green cover has gone up considerably. The above initiative of the Block Panchayat is helping the environment conservation efforts and has enhanced the income of Gram Panchayat Kholwa. The newly constructed link road has improved the connectivity of the village and will contribute to the overall development of the entire area.



Construction of Link Road, Sahaspur Loahana Janpad Panchayat

## 79. Dharamjayagarh Janpad Panchayat, Raigargh District, Chhattisgarh: Creation of Revenue Generation Assets

**D**harmjaigarh Janpad Panchayat has created several durable community assets that are generating additional income as follows:

- 10 commercial centres have been constructed at Dharmjaigarh bus station and given on rent at Rs. 350 to Rs. 3500 per month (as per their size) through open auction.
- A godown has been constructed under TRIFED scheme by the block and given to the Food Corporation of India on rent of Rs 6000 per month and is being used for storage of food and crops.
- A building was constructed by the Panchayat from their own fund and provided to Chhatisgarh Gramin Bank on a monthly rent of Rs. 15000.
- A shopping complex named 'Late Rajaram Ekka Shopping Complex' has been constructed at a cost of Rs. 15.09 lakhs. Nine shops have been constructed by the Janpad Panchayat from their own fund in this complex and given to individuals /agencies by means of open auction which fetched Rs. 68.74 lakhs. The Panchayat has since decided to utilize the revenue generated to renovate the existing Dharmshala and to construct a new Dharmshala.
- Three residential flats for the block staff were constructed and given to staff on rent.



Shops Constructed by Dharamjaigarh Janpad Panchayat



Building Constructed by Dharamjaigarh Janpad Panchayat and Rented to Chhatisgarh Gramin Bank

The entire staff and ward councillors of the Panchayat under the leadership of its chairperson were found to have worked together in a very cohesive team and have been putting in efforts for the all round development of the block. They have also worked consistently for enhancing the revenue of the block and not depend solely on government grants. The Panchayat now aims to sustain the process during the coming years.

## 80. Dharamjayagarh Janpad Panchayat, Raigargh District, Chhattisgarh: Construction of Road under MGNREGA

**A**malitikara Gram Panchayat area under Dharmjaigarh Janpad Panchayat was a very remote part of the block. The connectivity of the village with the main road was almost non-existent. During 2011-12, road construction work under MGNREGA from Santosh Nagar to Kerakona was approved by the Janpad Panchayat by consensus. The project is a major breakthrough for the people of the village. Before the project, the people of the village faced serious problems in commuting, besides difficulty in transporting their farm produce, as also in bringing various agricultural inputs, and thus faced a major hindrance in the development process. Due to the remoteness, many people of the area migrated to other places in search of jobs and better facilities. But after the road was constructed, the accessibility of the village improved. Further, since the road was constructed under MGNREGA, the villagers also could get employment for 100 days.



Road Construction under MNREGA in Progress in Amalitikara Gram Panchayat



## 81 ■ Sarguja District Panchayat, Chhattisgarh: Hariyali Fulwari

Like many other rural habitats in the country, malnutrition among children and pregnant mothers was a serious problem in Surguja district. Against this backdrop, the District Panchayat Sarguja took a decision to implement a programme called "Hariyali Fulwari" aimed at addressing the nutritional and health needs of children aged 6 months to 3 years and pregnant mothers. This is an innovative programme for the care and support of children and pregnant mothers which is run only in Surguja district. The program runs 300 Fulwari centres with the support of the Janpad Panchayat. Each Fulwari covers 30 to 35 households from the nearby area, and has 10-15 children and all the pregnant mothers of the area. The children are given good care and support by their own mothers. These Fulwari Centres are housed with the consent of the landlord without rent, and managed by an unpaid Mitadin (woman volunteer). A Fulwari spends Rs. 6 per day per child and Rs. 15 per day per pregnant mother for their care and support. A Purchase Committee of two mothers and a Mitadin has been formed in each Fulwari, under which assets like utensils, toys, mosquito net and mat have been purchased at a total one time cost of Rs. 8,000. Each Fulwari is monitored by a block coordinator on a regular basis. The following services are being provided to children and pregnant mothers by the Mitadin with the support of block coordinator in each Fulwari:

- Preparation and distribution of supplementary nutrition to children of ages from 6 months to 3 years, pregnant mothers, and children and pregnant mothers at risk
- Growth monitoring, promotion of breast feeding and counselling of mothers.

- Assisting health staff in immunization and health check-ups of children and pregnant mothers.
- Management of neonatal and childhood illnesses.
- counselling women on birth preparedness
- Communicating with parents.
- Mobilisation of community and community participation
- Management of Fulwari Centre
- Preparation of monthly progress reports.
- Regular monitoring of growth of children and pregnant mothers.



Fulwari Centre at Bakalo Gram Panchayat of Surguja District



Children at a Fulwari Centre, Bakalo Gram Panchayat

## 82. Sarguja District Panchayat, Chhattisgarh: Career Guidance Training

**I**n Surguja district, in the rural areas, after passing 8th, 10th and 12th class, young people do not have a competitive environment and career guidance and counselling, due to which the students are unable to succeed in various competitive exams. Taking advantage of the unemployment of the youths, anti-social elements and armed insurgents try to lure them into their cadres. Against this backdrop, the District Panchayat took a special initiative to start a 17-day residential Career Guidance Training course with the help of selected professionals from the district polytechnic college. The Chief Executive Officer of the District Panchayat issued an order to all Janpad Chief Executive Officers to identify applicants who qualified in the physical examination, but could not qualify in the written tests for recruitment for the Armed Forces. Accordingly, the Janpad Panchayats took initiative in identifying applicants through advertisement in radio and local news papers. The efforts of District Panchayat and the Janpad Panchayats made good impact, and 37



Career Guidance Training with the Help of Polytechnic Experts, Sarguja District Panchayat

applicants were registered for this training. The course module included techniques for solving test questions, model tests etc., along with well maintained library facilities, besides lodging and boarding facilities. All the selected 37 candidates have completed the residential training programme successfully. Subsequently, all the 37 trained candidates appeared for the written examination and 27 out of 37 candidates passed the examination and got appointed in the Armed Forces.

## 83. Mustafabad Gram Panchayat, Yamunanagar District, Haryana: Building Community Assets

**T**he Gram Panchayat land had been encroached upon for the last ten years. The Gram Panchayat has removed the encroachments and converted the land into a sports ground for youths, thus encouraging sports in the Panchayat. The Panchayat has also connected a remote part of village with a concrete road. Earlier, the approach to the area was muddy and in a very bad shape. Now, there is a concrete approach road and people of the area are very happy. The Gram Panchayat has also initiated a scheme "Kachare Se Kamai" which generates income from waste.



Cemented Road Built by Mustafabad Gram Panchayat

## 84. Javla Gram Panchayat, Vadodara District, Gujarat: Education and Employment Generation

**T**wo years ago, after 10<sup>th</sup> class, students had to go to the Taluka or district headquarters for further study. A rich person presented his proposal to construct a technical college with all facilities to the Gram Panchayat. The establishment of the college required a lot of paperwork, approvals, liaison with the Education Department etc. The Gram Panchayat arranged a meeting to obtain support for the college. The Gram Panchayat then contacted the Education Department, gave a No Objection Certificate (NOC) for land and construction, and helped to get certificates from other line departments. The Sarpanch played a very important role in it. Today, around 1200 students are studying different subjects in this college, and the Gram Panchayat is generating income through it. Every year a part of the course fee is taken by the Gram Panchayat as tax. This college has also helped the people to increase their income. Local people got employment during the construction of the college building, and now for maintenance and other work. Students coming from outside rent rooms in the village, have food, use transportation facilities and purchase from local shops, and these activities also increase the income of the people.



Technical College in Javla Gram Panchayat

## 85. Javla Gram Panchayat, Vadodara District, Gujarat: Income Generation

**T**his Gram Panchayat has a popular Hanuman temple where a lot of people visit. Near the temple is a lake spread over 12 acres, which is a popular tourist spot. Last year, the Gram Panchayat realized that it could generate income and provide extra facilities from this. So in the General Body meeting and later in the Gram Sabha, a resolution was passed to construct two rooms in the premises of temple. These rooms can be used as storerooms and for cooking food for ceremonies etc. A rent is fixed by the Gram Panchayat for use by outsiders, which helps generate extra income and provide extra facilities to the village people. The GP is also developing the area near the lake and has installed some chairs for the use of the visitors. Further, this year, the Gram Panchayat passed a resolution to develop the nearby ground for cricket, so that local players can practice and competitions can be organized.



Construction of Room for Tourists in Javla Gram Panchayat



The Lake in Javla Gram Panchayat

## 86 ■ Karcheliya Gram Panchayat, Surat District, Gujarat: Safe Drinking Water Supply

**I**n Karcheliya Gram Panchayat, the Health Department was getting information of a high level of disease due to contaminated water. The Health Department consulted the Gram Panchayat, and both investigated and found that the drinking water used by tribal people contained fluoride and disease causing bacteria. In the GP meeting and Gram Sabha, these issues were discussed and a decision was taken to establish a Reverse Osmosis Water Purifying Plant of a capacity of 20,000 liters. There was convergence of funds to complete this structure. Some funds were also taken from donation. A total of Rs 10.50 lakh was spent on the establishment of this plant. Since starting this water plant, the occurrence of water borne diseases has reduced drastically.



Reverse Osmosis Water Purifying Plant, Karcheliya Gram Panchayat



## 87 Karcheliya Gram Panchayat, Surat District, Gujarat: Waste Management and Income Generation

**N**on/mismanagement of wastes is the root of most diseases. Facing such a problem, the Gram Panchayat decided to manage all the waste generated in the village. To achieve this, money from different schemes, award money, donation etc. was pooled in. Toilets were constructed in each house. Each household was given a dustbin, tricycles for waste collection were bought, a shed for recycling and segregation was constructed, and workers for garbage collection and segregation were engaged. Currently, workers collect waste from each household in their tricycles and segregate the waste. Biodegradable waste is used to produce organic fertilizer. Non-biodegradable waste like plastic is sent for recycling to a nearby factory and other recyclable products are recycled or reused. This procedure is conducted under the guidance of an agricultural university.



Tricycle for Waste Collection, Karcheliya Gram Panchayat

Fertilizer made through the waste is now selling at Rs. 3 per kg and last year, an income of Rs. 46,600 was generated by the Gram Panchayat through the sale of fertilizer. Now the Gram Panchayat has a proper waste management system and people are enjoying a healthy life.



Segregation of Waste, Karcheliya Gram Panchayat

## 88. Ras Gram Panchayat, Anand District, Gujarat: Service Delivery

The Gram Panchayat people had to go to the district headquarter Anand, which was 21 km away, to deposit electricity bills. This consumed a lot of time as well money, and people were always worried about missing the due date for payment of bills. In a Gram Panchayat meeting, with the consent of all the members, it was decided that a computer operator working on e-gram would collect all the electricity bills and deposit money online. To avail this facility, every person is charged Rs. 7 on every bill paid. Out of Rs. 7, Rs. 3 is given to the operator and Rs. 4 goes into the Panchayat account. Every 2 months, around 400 bills are deposited through this procedure, generating a small income for the Panchayat and for the operator. The village people now need not worry about the last date, extra time, and unnecessary trouble.



Electricity Bill Collection Center in Ras Gram Panchayat

## 89 ■ Ras Gram Panchayat, Anand District, Gujarat: Renovation of Pond for Drinking Water and Fisheries

**T**he Gram Panchayat has a talab (pond) that is spread over 50 acres with a large catchment area. The talab was used for washing clothes, animals etc. The Panchayat realized that it could be a drinking water source and also be used for other economic activities like fisheries, etc. The Panchayat planned renovation of this talab in consultation with the Taluka engineers and local people. But there were financial constraints. The Panchayat drew some amount from MGNREGA some from Total Sanitation Campaign, some from drinking water schemes, some from donations and started renovation. A drinking water tank and pipelines were also constructed simultaneously. Now the water tank supplies drinking water to 18 villages and the Panchayat receives tax income from this. Fisheries have started at a large scale, with new technology. The Panchayat receives lease rent by letting out the talab for fisheries. Every household of the village receives safe drinking water. Earlier, people were polluting the talab water by washing clothes and animals. Now, the Gram Panchayat has constructed five separate structures that are called "Wariguru" for washing clothes and drinking water for animals.



Water Tank, Ras Gram Panchayat

## 90. Nabrangpur Panchayat Samiti, Nabrangpur District, Odisha: Success Story of Check Dam

The farmers of Betal village whose lands are on the side of the canal were under crisis during the rainy season, as the excess runoff water not only damaged the crops but also the agricultural land with unwanted materials which it carried along. Due to this phenomenon, the productivity of the land was decreasing. Consequently, the farmers got poor returns, and those borrowing money from money lenders were the biggest losers. After repaying the loan, they were left with almost nothing. The width of the nallah (drain) was also increasing day by day due to soil erosion, and the fertility of the soil was deteriorating. Some farmers decided to construct a temporary guard wall to carry out vegetable cultivation, but it was temporary and did not yield much benefit. The farmers discussed this issue with the villagers, Panchayat members and the Sarpanch. The Panchayat approached the Agriculture Department, the Collector and the Soil Conservation Department to solve their problem. The Soil Conservation Department, in consultation with the Panchayat members, decided to construct a check dam under Biju KBK scheme. The Panchayat members were instrumental in deciding the location and in getting land from the farmers. A check dam has now been constructed and the following benefits are accruing to the farmers:

- Water is conserved and utilized properly and timely.

- Approximately 200 acres of land has been turned into good cultivable land, where not only paddy, but also vegetable cultivation is going on. It is estimated that farmers are getting approximately Rs.60,000 per acre from paddy and vegetable cultivation.
- Looking at the increased income and profit out of onion cultivation, the farmers have decided to focus more on onion cultivation along with the usual practices.



Check-dam Built by Nabrangpur Block Panchayat

## 91 ■ Erendra Gram Panchayat, Ganjam District, Odisha: Village Welfare Fund.

Erendra Gram Panchayat has created a Village Welfare Fund at the Gram Panchayat level, and to manage this fund, a village level welfare committee was formed by the villagers of Erendra in their meeting in April, 2009 under the chairmanship of the Sarpanch with two other villagers as members of the committee. The main goal of the welfare fund is to help the poor and needy persons of the village for medical treatment and poor and meritorious students for continuing their studies and such other purposes as the committee may decide. The welfare committee has taken donations from the people of the village for the fund and has been able to collect Rs. 1.08 lakhs. The committee decided to deposit this amount in the local post office under the Monthly Income Scheme which is generating Rs.720 per month as interest. The interest is being drawn from the post office regularly and is being spent for the welfare of the people of the village as and when decided by the committee. One such instance of financial help given is to a woman suffering from stomach tumour. The Village Welfare Fund committee members came forward and provided financial help of Rs.4,000. With this, she could go to Berhampur Medical College for her treatment and has been cured.

## 92. Erendra Gram Panchayat, Ganjam District, Odisha: Additional Irrigation Resources

**F**or years, Dhepabandha tank near Erendra village provided irrigation to the village. But during the floods in 1990, the tank was damaged and irrigation from the tank was drastically reduced. The Gram Panchayat Erendra came forward to renovate the tank and create additional irrigation sources. The Gram Panchayat brought the matter to the notice of Panchayat Samiti, Zilla Parishad and government departments. Due to their constant persuasion and demand, Government of Odisha, through its Minor Irrigation Department, sanctioned an amount of Rs.9.72 lakhs to renovate the tank. The renovation work started on 31.12.2010. Now, with the increased catchment area, more than 120 farmers of the Erendra G.P. as well as nearby Khallingi G.P. are growing sugarcane, paddy and vegetables, which has created additional sources of income.



Irrigation Tank Renovated by Erendra Gram Panchayat



## 93. Ganjam District Panchayat, Odisha: Camps for Children with Poor Vision

**B**al Jyoti, an initiative for screening and follow up action for children with poor vision provides free treatment facilities to school children through health camps at the block level, through the convergence of Sarva Sikshya Abhiyan (SSA), NRHM [District Blindness Control Society (DBCS)], District Red Cross Society and private hospitals. Berhampur-based Ecos Eye Hospital provides training to school teachers to help them screen students with poor vision. A dedicated mobile ophthalmic unit, equipped with sophisticated equipment and eye experts and paramedical staff are posted at the camps. Medicines and spectacles are provided to children free of cost. The district administration has tied up with the MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Behrampur and the LV Prasad Eye Hospital, Bhubaneswar, for further treatment. The Zila Parishad president and the ZP members have been instrumental in encouraging the schools and the children to participate in these camps.



Eye-checking Camps by Ganjam District Panchayat

## 94. Ganjam District Panchayat, Odisha: Residential Facilities for SC/ST Students to Get Admission to Central Schools and English Medium Public Schools

The Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population of the district is 18.57% and 2.88% of the total population respectively. The children of SC/ST do not get opportunities to get quality education in or near their homes. The ZP and the district administration during their various interactions and meetings felt the need for providing facilities to deserving high caliber SC/ST students, to enable them to get admission to Central Schools and English medium schools. The ZP and Ganjam district administration joined hands with the Red Cross and PREM, a NGO, to set up a residential hostel to coach high caliber students from the Ashrams and Sevashrams for SC/ST students to help them get admission to the Central and English medium schools. The building for the hostel has been built from BRGF funds. One acre of land was allotted near the Central School, Ambapua and a double storeyed building with an estimated cost of Rs.34 lakhs has been constructed. Approximately Rs. 1000 to Rs. 1200 is spent on each student every month.

The number of students in the hostel is follows:

Sl. No.	Year	No. of students			Expenditure made. (in Rs)		
		SC	ST	Total	From Red - Cross	From Govt.	Total
1	2007-08				3,20,200	-	3,20,200
2	2008-09	11	52	63	4,53,547	-	4,53,547
3	2009-10	9	69	78	7,60,817	-	7,60,817
4	2010-11	8	101	109	14,04,025	-	14,04,025
5	2011-12	25	120	145	2,51,512	15,88,085	18,39,597
6	2012-13(till Jan,2013)	23	132	155	-	21,77,628	21,77,628

The students get quality education, quality healthcare, sports facilities, etc. They are imparted skills related to the basics of personal hygiene (brushing teeth, taking bath daily, usage of toilet, discipline), personal care, personality development, basics for English speaking, reading and writing, etc. The students are given free education, boarding and lodging facilities, dress, books, scholarship, etc. Several are now studying in the Central School and are able to cope.



Residential School for SC/ST by Ganjam District Panchayat

## 95. Ganjam District Panchayat, Odisha: Dry Fishing Yard

**T**he Sonpur GP, at the border of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh, is on the sea coast. Almost every household of the village is engaged in fishing. The fishermen had a problem, as they did not have any permanent structure or platform to keep fish for drying in the winter season. They were forced to dry fish on the sand at the sea coast. Because of this, the fish was covered with sand, which resulted in deterioration of the quality of fish. They had to clean the fish for the market, which was time consuming. This also got lower prices. The fishermen community headed by the Sarpanch approached the ZP and the district administration. The ZP approved their demand for construction of platforms from the ZP share under MGNREGA. A total of 37 platforms were approved, out of which 34 are constructed 3 are under progress. The unit cost of one platform is Rs. 75,000. The platforms are used by the fishermen to keep the fish before sale and also to dry the fish. There is a shed near the platforms which has been built under the SGSY Infrastructure Component for Rs 8 lakh, which can be used for auctioning the fish, putting the fish in ice boxes or for marketing for retail consumers.



Platforms to Dry Fish Built by Ganjam District Panchayat

## 96. Hinjilicut Block Panchayat, Ganjam District, Odisha: Improving Documentation

The Hinjilicut Block has pioneered in the process documentation under IAY. Each beneficiary who is given an IAY house has a separate documented file in his name. All the details and photographs of the various stages of the construction of the house are kept in the file. Similarly, documentation under MGNREGA has been systemized. Each project of MGNREGA, under different types of works (plantation, land development, soil & water conservation, infrastructure development, etc.) has a separate documented file in the name of the project. All the details and photographs of various stages of the works are kept in the file.

Project Initiation Meeting



Transparency Pillar at Work Site



Sample Pit



Basic amenities at project site



Documentation by Hinjilicut Block Panchayat

## 97 Nabarangpur Panchayat Samiti, Nabrangpur District, Odisha : Legal Aid Cell

The SC & ST communities are entitled to avail free legal services under Section-12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act 1987, but due to lack of awareness, many people are not able to avail the benefits. In this context, the Panchayat Samiti passed a resolution to set up special Legal Aid Cell in the block with the help of District Legal Services Authority, to provide free legal service consultancy to ST & SC people. The Legal Aid Cell was started in August 2012, after a workshop for the Panchayat members and Sarpanches. The Legal Aid Cell is open on all working days throughout the office hours. The cell has retainers, who help applicants get legal aid and also help in resolving disputes where conciliation is possible. The cell has 26 registered cases, out of which 2 cases have been solved.



People at Legal Aid Cell of Nabrangpur Block Panchayat

## 98. Kulai Gram Panchayat, Dhalai District, Tripura: Support to Women Self Help Groups

**K**ulai G.P. along with their local NGO- Prabha Dhalai, is working for the women SHGs groups. They are running a goat development project with the support of TATA Education Trust and technical help of the NGO- BAIF (Ranchi). The objective of the project is to strengthen the economic condition of the rural women members of SHGs by goat rearing. In 2011-12, the main emphasis was on de- worming, vaccination and awareness to reduce the mortality of goats. After starting this project, there is a huge reduction in the goat mortality rate, and therefore enhanced income.

Apart from this, with the support of Department of Handicrafts, Government of India, the NGO and the Kulai Gram Panchayat are providing skill development and design development training to the SHG workers. The group makes handmade products of bamboo and cane, which add to the income of the SHGs.



Women SHG members in Kulai GP, Tripura

## 99. Bankimnagar Gram Panchayat, West Tripura District, Tripura: Establishment of Rural Haat

The people of the Panchayat of Bankimnagar had to cover a long distance to purchase various things for daily use. The Panchayat came forward and set up the rural Haat (market place) and some well furnished stalls. People don't have to travel long distances for marketing now, and the Panchayat also generates income.



Haat and Shopping Complex at Bankimnagar Gram Panchayat



## 100. Dukli Panchayat Samiti, West Tripura District, Tripura: Income Generation and Awareness of GOI schemes

**D**ukli Panchayat Samiti is supporting Bipadnashni Nirvhar Dal SHG group by providing them opportunities to exhibit their handmade pottery items in various fairs. A training centre is also run by the block for the SHG women who want to do pottery work. This initiative of the Panchayat Samiti has enhanced the income of SHG women.

The Dukli Panchayat Samiti has undertaken extensive Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) for all the Government of India schemes that affect people. The ordinary people are now able to claim their entitlements, know their rights, and access welfare programmes. The Panchayat Samiti is also campaigning for the empowerment of women to enhance their earning capacity and inform them of their rights.



SHG Group in Dukli Panchayat Samiti



Pottery Made by SHG Group in Dukli Panchayat Samiti

# UTTARAKHAND

State Rank on Panchayat  
Strengthening Index (PSI): 13

## 101. Sahaspur Block Panchayat, Dehradun District, Uttarakhand: Renewable Source of Energy

**B**io gas plants have been developed for cooking and lighting in Charaba Gram Panchayat. The village Pradhan has arranged a Guashala in close coordination with the Block Pramukh where more than 50 abandoned and neglected cows are kept. The cow dung from these abandoned cows is being used as fuel for generating electricity through biogas plants.



Office Building of Sahaspur Block Panchayat



Biogas Plant at Sahaspur Block Panchayat

## 102. Patrampur Gram Panchayat, Udham Singh Nagar District, Uttarakhand: Community Participation

The Gram Panchayat has taken effective measures to make the uneven hilly terrain into a plain land, thus making cultivation possible. Due to this effort, many barren land holdings of poor farmers have been converted into cultivable land.

The Gram Panchayat has also helped homeless and needy villagers. One such beneficiary is a lady whose husband died. In a meeting of the Gram Panchayat, it was decided that a house would be built for her and all the Gram Sabha members would contribute as per their wish. Now the lady has her own house and has been helped by the Gram Sabha.

The GP has organized awareness campaigns to prevent female foeticide, child marriage, dowry, domestic violence and other women issues through IEC material. The Panchayat has taken initiatives to improve quality of life of poor women, physically handicapped, BPL families, SC community etc.

The GP members make regular visit to schools and supervise the quality of education and teaching methods. The GP has provided drinking water facility for children in school. The GP has organized a cleanliness drive and encouraged villagers to plant more trees in the village.



Drinking water facility at School of Patrampur Gram Panchayat



Anganwadi Centre at Patrampur Gram Panchayat

## 103. Bhumakiya Gram Panchayat, Almora District, Uttarakhand: Construction of Water Tank

An agricultural-cum-drinking water tank was built by Bhumakiya Gram Panchayat. The tank collects natural water coming out from a Naula, a natural source of water in hilly areas. The stored water is used for drinking water as well as for irrigation. This tank is one of the examples of utilizing natural resources and preserving nature for the betterment of the village and village people.



Office of Bhumakiya Gram Panchayat

मद - मनरेगा			
क्रमांक	कार्य का नाम	लागत	वर्ष
1	बाल संरक्षण कार्य	89,430	2011-12
2	देविदा आश्रम के कल क्षति ग्रन्थ ग्रंथ	92,128	2011-12
3	भूमि सुधार कार्य	74,000	2011-12
4	मौला सुधार	37,000	2012-13
मद - जल निधि ( विप्लव माला )			
क्रमांक	कार्य का नाम	लागत	वर्ष
1	दीवार निर्माण		2010-11
2	लकड़वालीपट्टन क्षेत्र काजकान मन्मल चण्ड	11000	2010-11 2012-13
3	दी-सी-निर्माण कार्य	13500	2012-13

Drinking Water Tank Constructed by Bhumkiaya Gram Panchayat.



Irrigation Tank Constructed by Bhumkiaya Gram Panchayat.

## 104. **Balaeli Gram Panchayat, Shahjahanpur District, Uttar Pradesh: Development of Marketing Infrastructure**

**B**alaeli GP has taken very good initiative in providing employment opportunities to the needy and deprived sections of the society. In its effort, it approached the District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) with a request to build infrastructure in their village. DRDA agreed to their request and built marketing infrastructure in the village. After construction, shops were handed over to the GP which allocated the same to 2 SHGs and 18 needy people of the village. The GP has also built two platforms on which shop keepers from other villages sell their products. Once the shops were ready, the GP used the funds under MGNREGA to level the land as it was a shallow area and there were problems of frequent water logging. It also utilized the village fund to build a pucca path inside the complex. The structure is helping the self employment of rural people. The GP is also earning from the proceeds of rent.



Cemented Roads Constructed in the Market by Balali Gram Panchayat

## 105. Bhagoopur Gram Panchayat, Agra District, Uttar Pradesh: Campaign for Hygiene and Development of Local Market

**I**n the village Bhagoopur of Agra district, under the present Pradhan, a youth organisation has been formed by the name of 'Yuva Mangal Dal'. Several youths and Panchayat members have taken part in its activities, which focus specially on the cleanliness of the village, as a step towards better health and hygiene. They regularly form groups to ensure that the village streets and drains are clean. Various groups of people, especially the youth, whether jobless, employed or studying, are engaged in ensuring that the village remains neat and clean.

The village under the leadership of present Pradhan, is also organizing regular Haats which cater to about 25 nearby villages. The Haat is organised on community land that belongs to the Panchayat. It has proper tin sheds and special attention is given to the maintenance of the area. It is cleaned regularly. Moreover, in the past two years, it has generated an income of Rs.20,000 and Rs.30,000 respectively. Farmers from nearby villages bring their farm produce to the Haat early in the morning, which is bought directly by the consumers, eliminating the role of the middlemen. Moreover, a bus is made available to the participating farmers who travel from nearby villages, both in the morning as well as at night.



Panchayat Ghar in Bhagoopur Gram Panchayat



Haat Built by Bhagoopur Gram Panchayat

## 106. Chandrapur Anchal Panchayat Samiti, District Kamrup (Metro), Assam: Construction of Thrashing cum Storage Shed for Paddy

As the Kamarpur Irrigation Scheme was nearing completion, it was realized that the production of paddy would increase substantially. In the existing paddy fields, there has been regular and repeated history of flooding every year, due to it being a low lying area. The farmers had been losing their crops due to this flooding. It was decided by the Panchayat members and the local administration that storage cum thrashing sheds would be the easiest way to mitigate flood related damage to the harvested paddy. Therefore, they took a decision to construct thrashing sheds at various locations with good production of paddy, so that the farmers in the vicinity could not only store their paddy, but also protect it from rain and floods. These sheds have been constructed under SGSY. Farmers have heaved a sigh of relief after the construction of these sheds, specially in Kamarpur and Ververi villages in Chandrapur Anchal Samiti.



Storage Shed Constructed by Chandrapur Anchal Samiti



## 107. Golaghat East Anchalick Panchayat, Golaghat District, Assam: Construction of Bunds to Stop Floods

Singijan is a small tributary of Ghiladhari river that flows through Furkating and Balijan Gaon Panchayats. Another small stream known as Konajan falls in the Singijan river. In the paddy season, the river overflows and the flood water covers all the paddy fields with excess water and adversely affects paddy in 150 hectares of land in Balijan, Athgoan, Ghiladhari and Furkting GPs.

Therefore, the four Gram Panchayats jointly proposed to dig a channel under MGNREGA and a resolution was accordingly passed in the meeting of Golaghat East Anchalick Panchayat. Since the channel and the bunds have been constructed, the farmers are able to grow agricultural crops. In winter, the water helps in irrigation for horticulture.



Hazards before Construction of Singijan Bundh in Golaghat East Anchalick Panchayat

## 108. Shyampur Gram Panchayat, Darrang District, Assam : Construction of Network of Internal Roads

**S**hyampur Gram Panchayat used to remain flooded for almost 3-4 months every year. The villagers had a tough time during this flood period. There were hardly any proper internal roads and people had to use boats to go from one place to another during the flood period or walk through the water if it was not too deep. The Gram Panchayat decided to build a number of internal roads under MGNREGA at a relatively high ground level so that they would not get submerged in water. So far, the GP has managed to construct 53 internal roads with a total length of about 28.60 kms.

This move has not only facilitated easier movement during floods as well as at night, but has also decreased the instance and the duration of the floods. As per the estimates of the GP, the flood level and duration has decreased by almost 60% after the construction of these internal roads. These roads have been acting as small embankments / bunds restricting the easy flow of water into the village. Even if the water enters, it gets trapped between the mesh of internal roads (as the level of land between the various roads is much lower) and the free flow gets restricted. In-turn, the water which gets trapped has increased the water table and helped in ground water recharge also.



Internal Roads by Shyampur Gram Panchayat

## 109. Shyampur Gram Panchayat, Darrang District, Assam: Promotion of Household Horticulture Gardens

**U**nder MGNREGA, the GP has decided to promote household horticulture gardens, in a plantation area of about 400 sq. mt. in individual farm lands.

This is a useful model which has not only restricted the frequent flooding, but has also given opportunities to the people for additional income. The selection of the mix of plants has been done in such a way that these are all tall plants and therefore do not get fully submerged in flood water. Moreover, they are planted on the boundaries of lands which are already about 3-4 feet above the farm land level. Since these plantations do not get fully submerged in water, they keep bearing fruit regularly, so even if floods destroy the paddy or paddy-like crops, these plantations survive and remain a source of income generation for the people.



Horticulture Garden grown with support from Shyampur Gram Panchayat

## 110. Hamirpur Panchayat Samiti, Hamirpur District, Himachal Pradesh: Constructing and Maintaining Rural Assets

**H**amirpur Intermediate Panchayat has constructed irrigation tanks for irrigation and preserving water for animals. Rain water and water from hills is stored in these tanks for irrigation, which has enhanced productivity. The Panchayat has taken good initiatives to improve school education in villages. The schools are well maintained. All the class rooms, playground, drinking water, toilets are well maintained and the method of teaching and learning is very attractive.



Irrigation Tanks in Hamirpur Pachayat Samiti



Well Maintained School Building in Hamirpur  
Pachayat Samiti

## 111. Sari Gram Panchayat, Shimla District, Himachal Pradesh: Rain Water Harvesting

**G**ram Panchayat Sari has initiated rain water harvesting in the Panchayat areas. The Gram Panchayat has encouraged people to use roof tops to collect rain water and store it into tanks so that water can be used for the purpose of drinking, irrigation and for animals. The Panchayat has also constructed some 100 water storage tanks to store rain water. Further, the Panchayat is encouraging people to take up worm composting as an alternate method for producing plant manure, which is a good effort to improve agricultural output.



Rainwater Storage Tanks in Sari Gram Panchayat

## 112. Harnampura Gram Panchayat, Ludhiana District, Punjab: Watershed Development and Power Generation

**A**round 20-25 houses in the village are situated below the normal ground level and hence the residents faced the problem of water logging. To prevent this, the Panchayat dug 9 small pits (4 feet in length, width & height) and one deeper pit of 4 feet diameter and 20 feet depth. The nine small pits collect the logged water and are connected to the deep pit. The logged water enters the deep pit and from there it is transferred to a large tank situated 5 feet above ground level through a pump. From the pump, the water is released into the drainage system and flows to other side of the village.

The Panchayat has put 17 solar street lights on the main squares of village. The total project cost is around Rs. 3.4 lakhs. The Panchayat has raised Rs. 2 lakhs from State Government and the rest Rs. 1.4 lakhs is subsidized by the Punjab Energy Development Agency (PEDA). The feedback from the villagers is positive. The Panchayat has selected this system over the conventional system of lighting streets because it offers following advantages.

- There won't be any electricity bills

- There is no need to switch on/off daily as it is automatic
- The maintenance cost of conventional system is higher as compared to this system.



Solar Powered Lights in Harnampura Gram Panchayat

## 113. Fatehpur Gram Panchayat, Jalandhar District, Punjab: Infrastructure Development

The Panchayat played key a role in the construction of two roads. The first is the Babe wala road, a 1.5 Km road from Fatehpur to Jalandhar-Ferozepur Road, with an approximate cost of Rs. 10 lakhs. The fund for this road has been arranged from the Rural Development fund and MGNREGA fund. The area had illegal encroachment. The Panchayat tackled the issue by putting social pressure on the encroachers. Once the encroachments were removed, the Sarpanch levelled the land with his own resources till the funds for the road became available.

The second is the Kewa Road for which the Panchayat took initiative and did advocacy with the government and succeeded. Before the commencement of the project, the encroachment was removed and the road was levelled by contributing funds of Rs. 3 Lakhs.

The village also has a Youth Club, supported by the Gram Panchayat, called the Miri Piri Youth Club. The club maintains a ground on which volley ball and Kabaddi tournaments are organized. The Panchayat has contributed Rs.1 lakh for the maintenance of the ground. There is a facility of flood lights on the volley ball court. The purpose of arranging these state-of-the-art facilities is to engage the youth of the village. The Panchayat and Youth Club have a belief that the adolescents of the village should be engaged in sports to build their health as well as keep them away from using drugs. The Panchayat and the club have also organized Kabaddi tournaments every year since the last 12 years, in which 60-65 teams participate every year. The cost of the tournament lies between Rs. 3-4 lakhs, which the Panchayat arranges through contribution. There is also a 'langar' which



runs simultaneously with the tournament, to provide food to the players as well as the visitors. The village has a 62 KG weight range team of Kabaddi and 55 KG weight range team of volley ball. The club, in coordination with the Panchayat, is planning to create a football ground and a village football team. The vision of the club is to get their village recognition through sports.



Play Ground at Fatehpur Gram Panchayat, Punjab



Road Constructed by Fatehpur Gram Panchayat

## 114. Fatehpur Gram Panchayat, Jalandhar District, Punjab: Supply of Safe Drinking Water to the Village

**F**or ensuring availability of safe drinking water in the village, the Fatehpur Gram Panchayat has taken the following initiatives:

- There is a drain flowing adjacent to the village carrying chemical waste of the factories in Jalandhar. Hence the water of the village was contaminated. The Panchayat took initiative and fitted 5 submersible pumps at 250 feet depth in the village, as water at this depth is not contaminated. The villagers are getting safe drinking water through this initiative. The funds for this project were arranged through the lease money from land and a grant of the Water and Sanitation Department.
- The Panchayat has purchased a 5000 liter movable water tank, through the Rural Development fund, to ensure the availability of water at various locations such as for tournaments, marriage functions of poor families or during 'Nagar Keertan' before the Sikh Gurus' birthdays.
- The Panchayat has also generated a pool fund of Rs. 60,000 through contribution and submitted this to the Water and Sanitation Department for a water tank for storage of water. Rs.60,000 is 10% cost of the tank and the remaining amount will be subsidized by department.



Water Tanks for Supply of Clean Drinking Water in Fatehpur Gram Panchayat

## 115. Dhar Kalan Block Panchayat, Pathankot District, Punjab: Innovative Technique to Ensure Water Supply

**D**har Kalan block faced inadequate water supply and poor quality water. The Panchayat Samiti took initiative and brought three projects to the block to ensure the availability of safe drinking water.

The Panchayat Samiti established 3 water storage and filtration plants at 3 different locations. Water is taken from Ranjit Sagar water reservoir and fed into a water tank and chlorinated. This stored water is then transferred to a filtration unit where it is filtered through oxidation. The water is then transferred and stored in a tank. From there it is lifted through motors and stored in a tank situated at the highest point of the area, in a tank. From there the water is transferred to all the villages situated at a lower level through the force of gravity. There are two outlets in the tank situated on a hill top. The upper outlet is connected to a motor to supply water to villages which are situated at the water storage level or above. The lower outlet supplies water to villages situated below the storage level through gravity.

The project provides water to 45 villages. The details of the three projects are as follows:

Location	Benefited Families	Benefited People	Project Cost (Rs. In Lakhs)	Funding from Govt. (Rs. In Lakhs)	Contribution through people (Rs. In Lakhs)
Sarti (Chibbad)	1268	10146	402.45	399.00	3.45
Hardosaran	1240	9925	490.86	487.00	3.86
Kot Matti	1136	8734	541.80	513.50	28.30
<b>Total</b>	<b>3644</b>	<b>28805</b>	<b>1435.11</b>	<b>1399.50</b>	<b>35.61</b>

The charges for getting a connection are Rs. 75 per month, which go to the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Department. NABARD gave a loan for this project on the condition that the loan amount will be 90% and 10% shall be arranged by the beneficiaries. The Samiti convinced the banks to reduce the contributory amount as the villagers were poor. The percentage was reduced to 5%. The amount of contribution was decided by the Samiti as Rs. 400 from General Category and Rs. 200 for SC/ST or BPL.

## 116. Dhar Kalan Block Panchayat, Pathankot District, Punjab: Transparency in Recruitment System

The Samiti conducted the recruitment of anganwadi workers and helpers through a transparent process by announcing and displaying the names of the selected candidates on their notice board. The officials were to issue the appointment letters to the selected candidates. Earlier, the names of the selected candidates were not displayed and reportedly, bribes were taken from the candidates, saying that the letter of appointment was issued against that bribe. The candidates also used to give bribes as they were unaware that they were already in the merit list. The initiative taken by the Samiti put an end to this system. There is a case in which an official demanded money from the candidate, but the candidate was active and aware of the merit list. She filed a complaint with the police and the official was arrested. The Samiti also displays the village wise list of BPL families at the Block Panchayat's head quarter.



Display of List of BPL Families by Dhar Kalan Panchayat Samiti

## 117. Naushera Gram Panchayat, Amritsar District, Punjab: Service Delivery and Infrastructure Development

**N**aushera Gram Panchayat has brought about improvements in the following ways:

- **Availability of Potable Water:** The Gram Panchayat has constructed a water treatment facility with support from the Government of Punjab to ensure the availability of potable water to the villagers. With the help of 27 kms of pipeline, which is the longest in Punjab, a total of 1075 households are being provided potable water on a daily basis. Schools, religious institutions, public parks have been provided free connections. The Panchayat has formed a water committee to ensure optimal utilisation of the facility and quality services. A robust financial management system is in place to ensure transparency in the financial transactions.



Water Tank Built by Naushera Gram Panchayat

- **Removal of Encroachments by Panchayat:** A road measuring around 2 kms in length and 44 feet in width passing from Pandori Warraich to Fatehgarh Churian Road, Muradpura was illegally encroached upon. After efforts for over an year, the land was got vacated and was levelled under MGNREGA and the road was widened. In order to beautify the stretch, 2,000 saplings have been planted on both sides of the road by the Panchayat.



Finished Road with Saplings in Naushera Gram Panchayat

## 118. Hukumsinghwala Gram Panchayat, Bhatinda District, Punjab: Prevention of Water Logging

The village faced the problem of water logging, as the drains were not built properly. The water used to get logged near the houses and on the roads. The Panchayat developed a plan to tackle this problem. Firstly, the Gram Panchayat renovated the drainage system and made pukka drains on the sides of the roads. These drains opened into two major drains, from where water flowed to a pond situated adjacent to the village. As the pond also had limited capacity, the Panchayat used MGNREGA funds to clean the pond and build a boundary wall. To prevent overflowing from the pond, the Panchayat fitted a motor on the side of the pond, which pulls the water from the pond and sends it to a tank situated at a height. From this tank, pipelines discharge water to the farms. This is an innovative technique deployed by Panchayat to recycle waste water and prevent water logging.



Construction of Boundary Around the Pond by Hukumsinghwala Gram Panchayat



## 119. Hukumsinghwala Gram Panchayat, Bhatinda District, Punjab: Farming Machinery for Poor Farmers through Cooperative Society

Poor farmers with small land holdings were unable to procure machinery and tractors. They had to ask landlords for machinery, who charged heavy amounts for this facility. The Panchayat helped in creating a the cooperative society which purchased 2 tractors on loan of Rs. 10.55 lakhs. The government provided a subsidy of Rs. 3.3 lakhs as the tractors were purchased by the cooperative society for social welfare. These tractors were rented to small farmers and no advance payment was demanded. When these farmers earned profit, they returned the money to the society. The society subsequently purchased other machinery for farming and started giving it out on reasonable rent. The cooperative society has returned the loan taken for tractors to the bank through the income from rent. The society has employed a secretary, a sales man, a chowkidar and 2 tractor drivers whose salary is given from the rent money. The society is also providing manure, fertilizers and pesticides to the farmers.



Farming Equipment Available on Rental at Hukumsinghwala Gram Panchayat

## 120. Bagaha 2 Panchayat Samiti, Champaran District, Bihar: Supporting the SC/ST Community

**T**he Panchayat Samiti Bagaha 2 has 25% population of SC and ST community. The ST community is from Nepal and is really poor. The Panchayat Samiti has been allotting Indira Awas Yojana, Social Security Pension, Scholarships to ST/SC students, etc. to them. The Panchayat Samiti is renovating the dried pond and planting 25,000 trees of timber, fodder, fuel and fruits, and has undertaken a project related to aquaculture. The initiative taken by the PS will fulfil the nutritional needs and be an income-generating activity for the SC and ST community, as the water reservoir will have fish and provide drinking water to animals i.e. goats, pigs etc. and also provide water for trees. This is also an income generating asset for the Panchayat Samiti.



The Pond Renovated by Bagaha 2  
Panchayat Samiti



Plantation for Income Generation by Bagaha 2  
Panchayat Samiti

## 121. Gopalganj Zilla Parishad, Bihar: Establishment of e-Kisan Bhavan

The Zilla Parishad in coordination with the Agriculture Department has established an e-Kisan Bhawan with the objective of -

- a) Technology transformation from land to field through residential training
- b) Weather forecasting
- c) Price forecasting

This initiative to build an electronic Kisan (e-kishan) Bhawan in this sugarcane belt will benefit thousands. Now the farmers can get the information on new technology, inputs, pricing of products, expected purchasing dates of sugar mills etc.



e-Kisan Bhavan Established by Gopalganj Zilla Parishad

## 122. Dharamdiha Gram Panchayat, Madhubani District, Bihar: Supporting Women

**T**he president of this Gram Panchayat is a woman and very hard working. 50% seats in the Panchayat are held by Elected Woman Representatives (EWRs). EWRs head the Health & Education Standing Committee and focus specially on the children's education, girls' enrollment, sanitation facility at school, especially for the girl child, proper nutrition of adolescents including provision of iron and vitamin tablets. The Panchayat has supported women's groups in obtaining microfinance and in undertaking income generating activities.

## 123. Paigamburpur Gram Panchayat, Muzaffarpur District, Bihar: Creating Income Generating Assets through Central Schemes.

**P**lantation work under MGNREGA and construction of Rajiv Gandhi Sewa Kendra under Bharat Nirman, also known as MGNREGA Bhawan, in the Gram Panchayat are special initiatives. Plantation of fruit timber trees along the road side and bunds is a good source of income for the Gram Panchayat. In 2011-12, the Gram Panchayat has earned an income of Rs 40,000/- by selling fruits and wood. Construction of a guest room and information centre well equipped with computer and internet facility are also commendable works.

## 124. Phulbar Dakshini Gram Panchayat, East Champaran District, Bihar: Community Mobilisation to Prevent Floods.

**R**ecurring floods in the Gram Panchayat result from an overflow of water from the local rivers which damages not only the crop land but also houses, animal sheds etc. The Gram Panchayat has initiated the building of bunds of around 11 km for protection, in a participatory mode with the community.

The Panchayat motivated the community to work voluntarily and successfully completed the 12 ft. high & 16 ft. wide bund. In the year 2011-12, the GP, after mobilizing MGNREGA funds, planted 16000 of timber, fuel and fruit plants, which are assets for the Panchayat.



Bund Constructed by Phulbar Dakshini Gram Panchayat



Plantation by Phulbar Dakshini Gram Panchayat

## 125. Harpurbocha Gram Panchayat, Samastipur District, Bihar: Using MGNREGA Funds for Irrigation

**I**n the year 2009-10, a water harvesting and conservation structure was constructed with MGNREGA funds, but the structure could not store water for more than 3 months after the monsoon. So in 2011-12, with the help of the Gram Sabha, priority was given to restructure this tank. Voluntary contribution in the form of labour was made by the community. A drainage channel and bunds were also built. Presently, this structure is able to irrigate the agricultural fields of a thousand families, resulting in Rabi cultivation of wheat and pulses. This has benefitted more than 200 SC households. Plantation work in the boundary area with fruit trees has provided additional benefit to the Gram Panchayat in terms of sustainable incomes at the village level.

## 126. Kootah Gram Panchayat, Kathua District, Jammu & Kashmir: Community Mobilization

**T**he Panchayat has successfully mobilized funds from the people of the village for developmental works. The Panchayat has constructed two wells and a cremation shed through public contribution. It has also constructed a community bath by a contribution of Rs.3 lakhs from villagers, along with a well which is about 200m deep. From this well, water is lifted and stored in a tank situated beside the community bath area, which provides safe drinking water. In the community bath, there are separate bathrooms for men and women. In addition, the Panchayat has



Water Tank, Community Bath and Road Constructed by Kootah Gram Panchayat

mobilized Rs. 8 lakhs from the villagers for the construction of a new school building. Further, the Panchayat has focussed on the construction of roads in the village. There is not a single kacha road in the village. Recently, the Panchayat has constructed a road with interlocking tiles which is 2 km long and 10 feet wide, under MGNREGA.



Wells Constructed by Kootah Gram Panchayat



# 127. Nagrota Gram Panchayat, Kathua District, Jammu & Kashmir: Campaigning Against Female Feticide and Building Infrastructure

The Panchayat has passed a resolution that sex determination should be banned in their village, and a fine of Rs. 20,000 has been assigned for such an act. They have taken this initiative because the child sex ratio showed that the number of girl children was declining. The GP asked all the members to bring the necessary gender specific data from their wards, and came to know that for every 10 boys in the village there are 7-8 girls. They then passed a resolution against female foeticide. Their plans for next Gram Sabha are to pass resolutions to limit the size of the 'Baarat' to reduce the expenditure on marriage and boycotting of the system of dowry in order to bring back the child sex ratio to normal.



Newspaper Report, Nagrota Gram Panchayat

The Panchayat has also improved the drainage in the village. They have constructed a one kilometer long cemented drain in which all the small drains of the village have been merged. This drain carries the entire waste water of the village outside the village. Small drains have been constructed inside the village to prevent water logging. For this construction, the GP has used a combination of different techniques based on local knowledge. Along with the drains, they have constructed roads and have given the responsibility of cleaning the roads adjacent to their houses to the villagers. This promotes the ownership of the public property among the villagers.



**Pucca Roads Constructed by Nagrota Gram Panchayat**

## 128. Madhupur Panchayat Samiti, Deoghar District, Jharkhand: Enhancing Incomes through Water Management

**T**he Panchayat Samiti has made a remarkable achievement in constructing a check dam. Before the existence of this check dam, more than 200 acres of land lay uncultivated in the rabi season every year. But after the construction of check dam, there is assured irrigation for 200 acres. The Panchayat Samiti is regularly organizing farmers' meetings at different locations to make people aware of the importance of the check dam and educating them about conservation of water. There are a significant numbers of MGNREGA wells which are being utilized for irrigation purposes, particularly for vegetable cultivation. Presently, rabi crops, which include wheat and mustard, are grown in the irrigated area of the check



Check Dam constructed by Madhupur Panchayat Samiti

dam. This has added significantly to the income to the farming community around the check dam area. The Panchayat Samiti is coordinating with the District Agriculture Office, ATMA, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Dairy Development Board, fishery office, as well as the Forest Department for the overall development of the farming community. The farmers are also exposed to various training programmes organized by the Samiti which ultimately improve their income.



**Irrigated Area Near the Check Dam constructed by Madhupur Panchayat Samiti**

## 129. Jengging-Yingkiong Anchal Samiti, Upper Siang District, Arunachal Pradesh: Successful Implementation of NFSM (Rice)

**T**he National Food Security Mission (NFSM) was launched in Upper Siang District, Arunachal Pradesh. The main objective of the mission was to increase the production of rice through area expansion and enhance productivity. Three villages namely Simong, Gette and Gobuk in the Jengging-Yingkiong Anchal Samiti were covered under this Mission. An awareness generation meeting was conducted for the farmers of Simong village where the Anchal Samiti members, Zilla Parishad Chairperson, various Panchayat members and over 200 farmers attended. The District Agriculture Development Officer, who was also present for this meeting, highlighted the mode of implementation of NFSM and selection of



National Field Verification Team with Officials of Jengging-Yingkiong Anchal Samiti and the Project Site of National Food Security Mission

beneficiaries. The respective Panchayats resolved to identify the beneficiaries with consensus after due deliberations with villagers, preferably in Gram Sabha meetings, and record the same.

The Jengging - Yingkiong Anchal Samiti coordinated with and guided the above three villages for identification of land and beneficiaries, to ensure timely implementation. It was only because of the able cooperation and coordination of the Panchayat members that this mission could be effectively implemented in these three villages of the Anchal Samiti. All the Anchal Samiti and Panchayat members were physically present during the distribution of inputs under this project.

Despite various hurdles and constraints while implementing the scheme, the average yield of rice was enhanced from 25 quintals per Ha to 30 quintals per Ha. The lush green fields could be seen all over these villages during the field visit, confirming the wonderful work done by the Anchal Samiti. This has not only increased the productivity, but has also increased the income of the villagers, as well as motivated others farmers, not only in this district but for people from other districts also.



NFSM Project Site at Jengging-Yingkiong Anchal Samiti

## **130. Simong (West-1) Gram Panchayat, Upper Siang District, Arunahcal Pradesh : Collaboration in a Drinking Water Supply Project**

**S**imong is a village inhabited by more than 1000 people nearly 10 km away from Yingkiong, the headquarter of Upper Siang district. It is located at the altitude of 700 meters above sea level.

A water supply scheme was taken up by clubbing two departmentally sanctioned water supply schemes with effective coordination and assistance of the Jengging Yingkiong Anchal Samiti. This scheme is designed to supply water for about 15 years. The raw water is tapped from a spring called 'Tikling'. The water from the source enters into a pre-sedimentation tank where the large suspended particles settle down. The water is then made to pass through a secondary sedimentation tank. Large quantities of suspended particles settle down in this tank. The water from the secondary sedimentation tank is almost clear, and is further filtered by slow sand filter. This removes 99% bacteria and other pathogenic germs from the water. The potable water from this filter is stored in a clear water reservoir and then distributed to public through a public stand post.

This water treatment plant has been constructed on a land donated by the villagers themselves. This scheme could be accomplished only due to full involvement and participation of the Gram Panchayat as well as the villagers. It is now supplying water to three important villages namely Simong West - I, Simong West - II and Simong East of Jengging Yingkiong Anchal Samiti.



Water Treatment Plant at Simong (West-1) Village



## *ABBREVIATIONS*

ANM	Auxiliary Nurse Midwife
ATM	Automatic Teller Machine
BDO	Block Development Officer
BPL	Below Poverty Line
BRGF	Backward Region Grant Fund
CSR	Centre for Social Research
DIET	District Institute of Education and Training
ER	Elected Representative
EWR	Elected Woman Representative
13 <sup>th</sup> FC	13 <sup>th</sup> Finance Commission
GP	Gram Panchayat
HDI	Human Development Index
IAY	Indira Awas Yojana
ICT	Information Communication Technology
ISGP	Institutional Strengthening of Gram Panchayats
IP	Intermediate Panchayat
KBK	Koraput-Bolangir-Kalahandi (KBK)
KM	Kilometer
MGNREGA	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
MIS	Monitoring Information System
NABARD	National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
NGP	Nirmal Gram Puraskar

NOC	No Objection Certificate
PRI	Panchayati Raj Institution
PS	Panchayati Samiti
PTA	Parent Teacher Association
RKVY	Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana
SC	Scheduled Caste
SFC	State Finance Commission
SHG	Self Help Group
SGSY	Swarnajayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana
SSA	Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan
ST	Scheduled Tribe
ZP	Zilla Parishad