

**National Panchayat Awards 2018**  
**Best Practices**

**1. KONWARGAON GRAM PANCHAYAT**  
**(BLOCK BHURBANDHA, DISTRICT MARIGAON, ASSAM)**

**“Digital transformation in rural India”**

Konwargaon GP covers an area of 10.2 Km<sup>2</sup> with a population of around 10,104, sex ratio of 974 higher than the national average (Census 2011) and 1,985 households. Apart from the important activities undertaken by the GP such as timely conduct of meetings/events, transparency in selection of beneficiaries and implementation of schemes, coordinated functioning with Government Departments, focus on own source revenue generation etc.

Konwargaon GP has emerged as a shining light in leading the digital transformation in rural India. Some of its efforts worth highlighting are as follows:

- Taking a step towards effective implementation of digital economy post demonetization of the Indian economy in November 2016, Konwargaon GP took the initiative of cashless economy in Chatanguri village under its jurisdiction.
- In order to successfully implement the plan, this Panchayat partnered with United Bank of India (UBI), Morigaon branch. Training programs were organized for shopkeepers focusing on using Point of Sale (POS) machines, BHIM UPI app as well as other mobile wallets.
- All the shopkeepers in the Panchayat were provided with free POS machines by UBI which were then linked to their bank accounts and further to BHIM UPI app. As a result, shopkeepers started accepting payments from customers in digital form. This was consistent irrespective of the amount; shopkeepers even accepted Rupee 1.00 electronically. This move greatly supported both shopkeepers and general public and comforted their daily lives.

- With the efforts of this GP, a new mobile tower was also installed to ensure good network coverage for online transactions.
- Further, this GP is making effective usage of e-panchayat applications developed by Ministry of Panchayati Raj such as PRIASoft for cash books maintenance & auditing of accounts, ActionSoft for progress of Gram Panchayat Development Plan, National Assets Directory and mAsset app for capturing assets, AreaProfiler etc.



Image: Purchase being made through digital transaction at a chemist shop



Images: Trainings/Discussions on digital transaction being held at the GP

All these efforts greatly reveal the potential of rural India, as well as the level to which modern technology has been embraced even in remote areas of the country.

## **2. KHUDA LAHORA GRAM PANCHAYAT (DISTRICT CHANDIGARH, CHANDIGARH)**

### **“Free Education and Livelihood Generation”**

KhudaLahora Gram Panchayat covers an area of 1.5 Km<sup>2</sup> with a population of around 14,500 and 2,410 households. The literacy rate of this GP is 90%. Among the highlighting features of this Panchayat which includes timely conduct of panchayat meetings, voluntary disclosure of the information, identification of scheme beneficiaries etc.; one of the notable efforts made is providing free education and counseling to children and generating livelihood for the locals.

Owing to the proximity to the Punjab University, members of this Panchayat consulted the authorities of this University for providing free trainings to women and children of the area and career counseling to the children. As a result of this initiative, Punjab University organized volunteers and teachers who provided free trainings for 6 months in Silai and Kadhai activities to local women and children in the Silai center. Also, classes on courses in Computer, English speaking etc. were conducted free of cost. The teachers provided adequate support through counseling to the children in terms of the choices for their career. Results included overall upliftment of village community as a whole through means for livelihood generation and inculcating intellectual abilities in the children.



Image: Discussions being held between panchayat members and officials of Punjab University.



Image: Trainings being provided to women at Silai center organized by Punjab University



Image: Free counseling being provided to children

### 3. SHILPHILLI GRAM PANCHAYAT (BLOCK SURAJPUR, DISTRICT SURAJPUR, CHHATTISGARH)

*Thematic Area: Marginalised Sections Improvement*

#### **“Serving the marginalized and generating livelihood”**

Silphilli GP covers an area of 4.2 Km<sup>2</sup>. It is home to population of 3,547 people, 30% of it being migrants, and consists of 486 households. There are 1879 males and 1668 females, with a sex ratio of 888. Satisfactory performance with regard to functioning of this GP is observed through its conduct of day to day and other major activities. Institutions such as anganwadis, PHC, school etc. and panchayat committees are also adequately functioning in this GP.

Silphilli GP has undertaken several initiatives for the welfare of the marginalized sections of its area, few of which are cited below:

I. Livelihood generation through recycling :

- Panchayat formed 17 Self Help Groups(SHG) under NRLM scheme, comprising of 170 members.
- Training in Plastic Engineering provided to 40 women from SHGs groups in Raipur.
- Livelihood generated for families of SHGs women through recycling and manufacturing plastic cups and plates, thus, inculcating a feeling of self-dependence among all. As a result, earnings of Rs.20,000/-approximately was made through this activity.
- Gram Panchayat provided 75 quintals of different varieties of seeds to 50 families belonging to ST community to facilitate farming and earning livelihood.

II. Curbing social evils and serving the marginalized:

Special efforts of this Panchayat towards establishing a healthy, progressive and peaceful society are as follows:

- Women of this Panchayat indulged in brewing local liquor were educated about the dangers of alcohol which subsequently resulted in making this Panchayat free from alcohol addiction.
- Special efforts were made to encourage girl education wherein 20 SC/ST girls were distributed cycles and a rally was conducted to promote 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' campaign.
- A community centre, toilet and primary school was constructed for ST community.
- Mass marriages of 250 couples from poor families were organized.
- 2 health camps were conducted to provide free health check-ups for old, women and disabled persons.
- 240 senior citizens, differently abled and widows were benefitted through pension schemes.

In addition, another achievement of this village that needs to be highlighted is that it is the first digital village in Chhattisgarh with wi-fi connection. Earlier, people of Silphili were facing problems in filling online forms on a day-to-day basis. Applying for basic documents such as caste certificates, ration card, pensions, etc. was becoming difficult for them. They had to travel 25-30 Km away from the village, to get internet access. One of the local residents came forward and volunteered to provide help for setting up a Wi-Fi modem. Further, the Panchayat members of Silphili came forward for mobilization of resource and contributed around Rs. 15,000/- to Rs. 20,000/- for this purpose.



Images: Community centre and community toilet constructed for marginalized sections



Image: Primary School with good participation from girl child



Images: Cultivation on the land provided to migrant ST Community





Image: Wi-fi Connection provided at Panchayat Bhawan

Overall, this GP has highlighted a great achievement through improvements in the sectors of revenue generation, education and digitization mostly through self perseverance showcasing a lesson for all.

#### 4. NARMADA ZILLA PANCHAYAT (GUJARAT)

##### “Sanitation Selfie”

Narmada district covers an area of 2755.36 Km<sup>2</sup> with a population of around 5,90,297 and 1,22,174 households. Sex ratio of this District is 987 which is higher than the national average. Notably, Narmada is the first Open Defecation Free (ODF) district of Gujarat State and is the third ODF District Panchayat in the country. It was declared an ODF region on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

Despite several challenges relating to deep rooted socio-behavioral factors, remote inaccessible location, hilly terrain and resistance by common man to use of toilets, this Panchayat was successful in its efforts towards making the area ODF. A systematic and innovative approach was adopted by the District administration in coordination with the Panchayat and measures included (i) Selfie with Toilet; (ii) Mass Hand Washing campaign; (iii) Formation of Nigrani Samities; (iv) Mass Public Rallies; (v) Early morning visits by the officials; (vi) Roping in of Doctors to advocate against open defecation; (vii) Names of open defecators on notice board of Gram Panchayat; (viii) Attendance of students in terms of presence/absence/usage/non-usage of Souchalaya (ix) Mass Oath Taking.

The district was successful in involving local people in this mission wherein people joined and supported Government to achieve better results. One of the most important methods to identify the houses without toilet adopted is Roll Call wherein children are inquired about the status of toilet at homes during roll call. It proved to be a very simple and effective method to obtain the present status of the program. The objectives behind this initiative is to change the outlook of children in school and parents as well for avoiding open defecation and to sensitize them for better health and hygiene. The roll call model helped the teachers to prepare a database of household without toilets and focus to motivate those households. Under the 'Selfie with Toilet' programme, the Government office has received a huge influx of selfies. An idea also was borne wherein people who click a selfie with a toilet in their house are felicitated. These selfies are posted appear on the website of Zilla Panchayat. This has also left a remarkable impact on social media as well. Few of the initiatives of Zilla Panchayat include:

- Changing mind set of locals in terms of motivating and supporting the household for toilet construction
- Bringing positive changes through people's participation despite being a tribal area with low literacy and difficult geographical location
- Creating awareness regarding Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin
- Bring collectiveness among schools through involvement of school children and teachers for better community participation and strengthening the ability to perform better in health and sanitation sectors.



Image: Sanitation camps being organized for school children



Image: Collection of plastic waste done by the locals



Image: One of the awareness camps organized for women and children.



Image: Toilets constructed in the panchayat

## 5. CHAUNTRA BLOCK PANCHAYAT (DISTRICT MANDI, HIMACHAL PRADESH)

### “Holistic Development”

Chauntra Block Panchayat covers an area of 1,531 Km<sup>2</sup> with a population of 25,701 and 530 households. Literacy rate of this Panchayat is 90%. Satisfactory performance in terms of functioning is observed in this Panchayat through its conduct of day to day and other major activities.

Chauntra Block Panchayat has conducted swachta rallies with the help of mahilamandals and yuvakmandals. Proper segregation of waste is ensured through usage of two dustbins in each house. Further, soak pits, dumping pits, cowdung pits etc. have also been constructed. One combined pit for the whole panchayat area has also been constructed for segregation of waste. This Panchayat also organized sanitation rallies to make people aware about the practices of sanitation and spread awareness regarding open defecation. As a result, cleanliness activities were undertaken wherein roads were cleaned and dumping hotspots were also identified. These hotspots were cleaned with the help of members of the Panchayat and Mahila Mandals.

Notably, this GP ensured recycling of plastic/wastes through which flower pots, baskets, mats etc are being crafted. Cleaning of water tanks bodies and tanks was ensured through water testing kits in every Gram Panchayat under this Panchayat.

Under school Shikha Samwad, parents were motivated to send their children to school and as well check their books keep a follow up with the schools. This Panchayat also ensured regular inspection of the mid day meals provided to children. Motive is to check the quality of education and ensure proper usage of facilities provided by the Government.

In the field of Disaster Management, committees have been constituted, basic equipments are available at every panchayat, mock drills are conducted every month, volunteers and public in general are also trained to react during the event of major disasters.

Taking a step towards eradicating social evils, liquor eradication campaign are also organized in this Panchayat.



Image: Women segregating garbage in pits



Image: Collection of garbage carried out by local women



Image: Disaster Management mock drills being conducted in school

## **6. DHAMOON GRAM PANCHAYAT**

(BLOCK MASHOBRA, DISTRICT SHIMLA, HIMACHAL PRADESH)

### **“Livelihood generation through cooperation”**

Dhamoon GP covers an area of just 7.6 Km<sup>2</sup> with a population of 2,211 and a sex ratio of 992 which is above the national average. There are 530 households in this Panchayat and the literacy rate of GP is 83.27%. Institutions such as anganwadis, PHC, school etc. and panchayat committees are adequately functioning in this GP.

In this GP, a cooperative society named as “Mahakali flower and vegetable production cooperative society”, was established in the year 2009 but without any technical or financial

support. However, with the initiative of newly elected Pradhan in December, 2015, improvement in the functioning of this society was noticed and as a result, presently, there are 50 families of farmers associated with this society. Total turnover of this society is Rs.1.50 crore. This society has undertaken several initiatives such as technical support awareness camps, arrangements for selling farmers' produce with nominal charges of 2 %, awareness on all types of seeds, fertilizers, chemical pesticides, insecticide etc.

Earlier, due to menace/danger of wild animals, farmers were not able to cultivate vegetables without a fear of loss. However, with the efforts of GP and society, all the agricultural activities are now being undertaken in the greenhouses/polyhouses. Presently, total area of production covered is around 40,000 sq meter. As a result, the average income of the farmers has also increased many-fold. This society is also cultivating organic species of flower and exotic vegetables like red and yellow capsicum, iceberg and seedless cucumber and the farmers produce is being sold in the nearby markets. Technical support by the State Environment Science and Technology Department is also supplementing the efforts of this Panchayats. Further, the green houses for vegetable nursery production had also been setup by State's Agriculture Department.



Image: Cultivation being done inside polyhouse





Image: Interaction between locals and State Govt.'s official.



Image: Part of area under cultivation in the GP

## 7. KAKIRA KASBA GRAM PANCHAYAT

(BLOCK BHATTIYAT, DISTRICT CHAMBA, HIMACHAL PRADESH)

### “e- Governance”

KakiraKasba covers an area of just 3.6 Km<sup>2</sup> with a population of 1,245 and a sex ratio of 967 above the national average. There are 196 households in this Panchayat and commendably, literacy rate of this GP is 96.7%. Coordinating and scheduled working pattern is an appreciable feature of this GP which has its own building as well. This GP has also made its own logo.

KakiraKasba GP is playing a leading role in the State towards a modern era of panchayats by practicing efficient use of technology. It is the first GP of Himachal Pradesh which has maintained all the data online ensuring complete transparency of activities undertaken. Payments to the beneficiaries are also made through online payment modes. This panchayat has shown an entire new level of efficiency and excellence in their services. There is CCTV surveillance along with audio facility in the Panchayat Office and the conversations with officials are done through Skype. Videos of the works executed are uploaded on YouTube channel which shows the transparency of work done. Further, Minutes of Meetings are recorded and also circulated to all the concerned departments. Considering the use of digital technology impressed upon by the Government of India for transparency and efficacy, this GP can be considered a role model for all the Panchayats of the State or Nation as a whole.



Image: Computer peripherals/Internet components available at the GP



Image: Meeting held with Officials of the Government Department

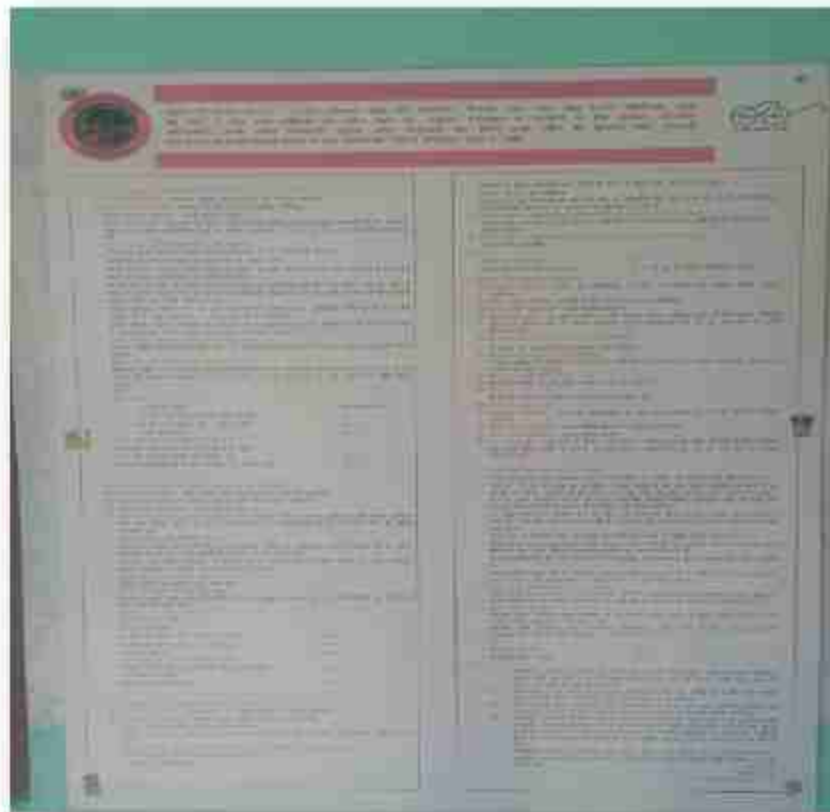


Image: RTI procedure on the Notice Board of the GP Office/Logo of GP visible on the Notice board

## 8. RADDER-NAGANUR GRAM PANCHAYAT (BLOCK NARAGUND, DISTRICT GADAG, KARNATAKA)

*Thematic Area: Sanitation*

### **“Towards a cleaner and better future through participation”**

Radder-Naganur Gram Panchayat covers an area of 65.22 Km<sup>2</sup> with a population of 3,002 and a sex ratio of 985 higher than national average. There are 594 households in this Panchayat and commendably. Holistic governance is a remarkable feature of this Panchayat.

Success of this Panchayat includes in its tag of ODF achieved during the year 2016-17. The Panchayat is the first ODF Panchayat in its district. Steps taken towards achieving this are as follows:

- Efficient utilization of funds; a total of 176 toilets are constructed in 45 days
- Every local did voluntary work from 6 am to 7 pm without any incentives. Further, an army servicing personnel also donated his land towards the construction of toilets in the village.
- Construction of toilets in the outskirts for beneficiary who lacked place near their home
- Awareness on sanitation and solid and liquid waste management are organized by the Panchayat.
- Drinking water is supplied to all at a cost of Rs. 1 for 10 litres.

Anganwadi were upgraded, by mobilizing funds from the donors away from village and is termed as “grandma’s donation”. Man power is utilized in Sharamadhaan a unique concept by the villagers in cleaning the village once a week for an hour. The Panchayat has also institutionalized and customized the grievances redressal mechanism under ‘Jamabandi’, a local institution initiated for social audit.



Image: Awareness camps being organized



Image: 'Sharamadhaan' – Voluntary service

Further, Panchayat provides awareness on sanitation, solid and liquid waste management, communicable diseases, preventive medicines etc are seen given through public address systems, wall writings, pamphlets, bit notices etc. Information of the schemes implemented, information on RTI etc. are displayed at the Panchayat office. Street plays ,seminars , and workshops are also conducted for sensitizing on the issues of child labour ,child marriage, Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act,2012 (POSCO Act), full enrolment, sanitation, conservation of environment, maintenance of water bodies and organic farming etc.



Image: Tax collection camp being conducted

Hence, the perseverance of this GP and its visionary members have together changed the face of this GP in a short span by achieving the status of ODF. Further, decentralization and transparency has been a noted feature of this GP in the State.

## 9. KOLLAM ZILLA PANCHAYAT (KERALA)

### “Health & Nutrition for Women & Children”

Kollam Zilla Panchayat covers an area of 2,491 Km<sup>2</sup> with a population of around 25,84,118 and a sex ratio of 1,112 way above the national average. There are 5,85,616 households in this Panchayat. Functioning of this GP in terms of conducting meetings, display/dissemination of information to public, implementation of schemes is remarkable. Kollam district also ranks first in livestock wealth in the State. Dairy farming is fairly well developed and the district offers well developed health educational facilities.

Particularly focusing towards improvement of health, provision of proper nutrition to women and children as well as earning livelihood, this Panchayat took following initiatives:

- i. “Swapnachiraku” – the newborn baby follow up clinic: This project was started in Govt. Victoria Hospital wherein 13 to 16 deliveries are performed per day and simultaneously providing comprehensive health care package meant for the new born babies till the age of 5 years.
- ii. Through an MRI Scanning Unit, this Panchayat provides modern medical facilities to the poor people with least cost.
- iii. Jeevanam Kidney Welfare Foundation: A dialysis centre consisting of 10 dialysis unit in District Hospital, Kollam was established and the cost of chemicals required for the dialysis, the salary of technicians etc. are borne by ZP except for a small amount which is charged from the patients for the services delivered. This foundation aims to provide free dialysis to 30,000 patients per year.
- iv. ‘Snehathooval’ – Through this scheme, all babies born in Govt. Victoria Hospital are provided sterilized towel free of cost.
- v. Makeup Materials for Transgender: Biggest challenge before Panchayat was to implement a project for the marginalised community of Transgender who are not very much interested to be involved in common activities for livelihood like other people. ZP

decided to implement the project for providing makeup materials and costume material free to for Transgenders.

- vi. Nutritious food to HIV Patients: ZP is providing nutritious food to the HIV patients helping to develop immunity for building a resistance for this disease. Around 300 people are benefited through this project.
- vii. "Nutritious food to pregnant and lactating tribal mothers" a special package for tribal people: In order to eliminate the number of infant mortality rate in Kollam district, nutritious food like cashew nut, pulses, protein powder are provided to tribal women from the period of pregnancy till the child attains age of one year.
- viii. Around 141 scooters with side wheels have been distributed to differently-abled, especially college students and around 550 persons have benefited out of this project.
- ix. Distribution of free Ayurvedic medicine to the aged people.
- x. Pain and Palliative Unit at District Homoeopathic Hospital to provide relief from pain, physical as well as mental stress of the patients. The unit is functioning with a team lead by Medical Superintendent including Medical Officer, resident Medical Officer, NHM medical officer along with nurse and nursing assistants.
- xi. Thyroid Clinic and Research Centre: At this centre, thyroid patients obtain treatment at very low cost.
- xii. ABC programme for controlling stray dog population through dog population management and anti rabies vaccination programmes wherein 4 centres have been identified in various GP and necessary infrastructure facilities to conduct surgery, pre and post operative care of dogs have been arranged. During 2016-17, 3,850 dogs were sterilized under this programme.
- xiii. Egg to Egg Project –This project aims to attain self sufficiency in egg production by the year 2020. A hatchery unit was started and the unit which produces 1 lakh chicks per week. These are distributed to the people at a marginal rate and this has led to expansion in the production of eggs in Kollam district at around 5.2 lakhs eggs per day in the year 2016-17.
- xiv. Mobile Veterinary unit started with the aim of providing door to door facility to the poor farmers engaged in cattle breeding. The unit visits all GPs every month and the doctors examine cattle and provide medicines upto Rs.100/- free of cost and at a subsidy rate



above it. This unit conducted 241 camps in 2016-17 and around 3,000 farmers were benefitted out of it.



Image: Makeup materials being distributed to Transgender community



Image: Sterilization/ Animal birth control programme being undertaken



Image: Sterilized towels being distributed under Snehathooval scheme



Image: Tri-wheelers being provided to differently abled



Image: Dialysis centre

## 10. BUDHANNOOR GRAM PANCHAYAT

(BLOCK CHENGANNUR, DISTRICT ALAPPUZHA, KERALA)

*Thematic Area: Revenue Generation*

### **“Understanding the concept of self sustenance”**

Budhannoor Gram Panchayat covers an area of 19.2 Km<sup>2</sup> with a population of 18,563 and a sex ratio of 1000 way above the national average. There are 6,564 households in this Panchayat and commendably, literacy rate of this GP is 96.7%. Effective monitoring of the schemes and activities, regular meetings and effective usage of technology is a remarkable feature of this Panchayat.

This GP is focusing primarily on earning its own source of revenue through tax collection. In its direction, this GP has collated its efforts through the following activities:

- Constitution of Finance Standing Committee and support in its conducted of field survey

- Enlisting all the institutions, persons, traders, liable to pay taxes advising the defaulters to pay arrears of taxes
- Sharing the list of defaulters shared in the meeting and publically
- Engaging Kudumsree volunteers and employees of the panchayat for door to door collection of taxes; targets and performance are as well reviewed. A month's salary is given as a bonus for achieving the target.
- Organizing tax collection camp
- Mandatory submission of receipt of tax paid for availing different services of panchayat like ownership certificate, residential certificate, licenses etc.
- Organizing tax collection camps
- Enlisting common properties which have potential for revenue generation



Image: Discussions being held regarding tax collection with the Government Officials

As a result of all these efforts of the Panchayat, during the year 2016-17, it collected Rs. 33,43,925 through taxes, Rs.44,700 Rental income, Rs.25,0141 through fee and user charges, Rs. 78,800 through sale and hiring charges and Rs. 25,949 through other sources.



Images: Renovation of Kuttamperoor River done by locals

Further, it would be appropriate to mention that notably, Budhanoor Panchayat is ODF and every household has drinking water facilities and electricity. Locals understand the importance of natural resources available and sustaining their lives through it and thus undertook renovation of Kuttamperoor River. Hence, the locals have achieved a cordial relationship with the nature while earning a living out of it.

## **11. BALADI BLOCK PANCHAYAT**

(DISTRICT EAST NIMAR, MADHYA PRADESH)

### **“Bridging the caste gap through initiative and voluntary contribution”**

Baladi Block Panchayat (termed as Janpad Panchayat in Madhya Pradesh) covers an area of 532.7 Km<sup>2</sup> with a population of 55,173 and a coverage of 12,535 households. Sex ratio of this BP is 1,150 which is way above the national average.

Acknowledging the fact that privilege is a varying concept for rich and poor, affording even the basic amenities in life is a struggle for the marginalized sections. Something as simple as organizing a marriage, can become very difficult for marginalized communities. This is what was experienced by the people of Baladi Janpad Panchayat. The marginalized sections of this BP, especially SC/ST, were facing financial constraints in organizing any function or gathering. Owing to a poor background, affording to celebrate family functions/occasions was a humongous task.

Understanding the dilemma, the Panchayat came up with a unique solution. After thorough contemplation on this scenario, this Panchayat came up with the idea of building a community centre. The Panchayat President and CEO took the initiative and planned to build two community centres serving all including marginalized communities. Though the Panchayat had a vision in mind for this act, but they did not have the land upon which the community centre could be built. Voluntary contribution came in through donation of land by a farmer residing in Gram Panchayat Killod. With his assistance, the Panchayat initiated the work of constructing the community centre. As a result, 2 community centres were built in this Panchayat; one named after Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. These community centres came as big source of relief for the marginalized sections easily providing for organizing the family functions and meetings. To bridge the caste gap prevalent in the society, Baladi Janpad Panchayat as well used the community centre to organize employment training programs and meetings. Additionally, the centre was made available to all sections of the society for personal or professional use.



Image: One of the Community Centre built in the BalladiJanpad Panchayat

## 12. SAITON GRAM PANCHAYAT (DISTRICT BISHNUPUR, MANIPUR)

*Thematic Area: Revenue Generation*

### **“Earning from Nature”**

Saiton Gram Panchayat covers an area of just 5 Km<sup>2</sup> with a population of around 4,660 with a commendable sex ratio of 989 higher than the national average (Census 2011). There are 860 numbers of households in this GP. Community participation in all the activities is a feature of this Panchayat.

For earning its own source of revenue, following steps were taken by the GP:

- Developing fish farms of the famous Loktak lake and holding the open auctions to allocate fish farms among the citizens
- Bonding the lease agreements legally to avoid unwanted issues in future
- Following potentially generating assets with nominal fees/charges were created during the financial year 2016-17:
  - ✓ Club House or Building for indoor games and Sports facilities.
  - ✓ Community Hall

- ✓ Bathing Platform and Pond
- ✓ Four walled bathroom for women nearby pond
- ✓ Marketshed for vegetables and fish sellers

Further, it is also worthwhile to mention here that GP Saiton is also an ODF Panchayat. All the abovementioned collective efforts have resulted in generating income for the locals while also motivating youth through engagement in livelihood practices.



Image: Loktak lake where fish farms are allocated among citizens



Image: Sports facility club



### 13. BOUDH BLOCK PANCHAYAT

(BOUDH DISTRICT, ODISHA)

#### “Small Hands, Big Savings”

Boudh Block Panchayat covers an area of 1,049 Km<sup>2</sup> with a population of 1,39,531 and 28,851 households. Sex ratio of this BP is 993 which is higher than the national average. This Panchayat is characterized by good infrastructure and overall functioning with agriculture as the primary source of income. This Panchayat is an example of how a small change in the habit of the pre-school children can lay the foundation for big dreams and financial decision making.

Boudh Block panchayat has 228 primary schools and 15 high schools and 4 colleges. But the interesting highlight is the pre-school education with the concept of giving piggy banks to the children to stock their savings. Gradually, this practice was spread over to all the Anganwadi Centres (AWCs). Encouraging fact is that many children have shown keen interest in decorating their mud piggy banks with colours and there is adequate support from parents, AWC workers and elder children. The collection of the piggy banks is encouraging and the amount is kept in a separate account. This way, pre-school children have saved a huge sum of money amounting to Rs. 2.00 lakhs without any financial contribution from other sources. This practice has spread its roots around the area and is not just limited to this block. This practice has inculcated a sense of responsibility and developed a good habit of saving and thus providing a lesson to the children in terms of financial decision making. This model can easily find its place and be replicated in good practices adopted in schools across the country.



Image: Piggy bank collection of the pre-school children

## 14. MARTAM GRAM PANCHAYAT (WEST DISTRICT, SIKKIM)

*Thematic Area: Sanitation*

### **“Health is Wealth”**

Boudh Block Panchayat covers an area of 5.87 Km<sup>2</sup> with a population of 2,226 and sex ratio of 924 with coverage of 468 households. This panchayat is characterized by good overall governance.

This GP was declared ODF in the year 2014. This has been achieved through concerted continued efforts of this GP through its following activities:

- Awareness Generation & sensitization of locals about open defecation
- Construction of toilets in every household under Swachh Bharat Mission
- Convergence of resources for sanitation activities
- Construction of 25 sanitary toilets for poor and left out community.
- Undertaking extensive Solid Waste Management programmes
- Zero Waste Protocol: Martam GP has been instrumental in implementation of the Zero Waste protocol
- Adequate initiatives for water, sanitation and hygiene in schools, especially for the girl child.
- Regular check up of quality of services provided by Integrated Child Development Centers
- Inclusion of members of NGOs and SHGs have been include in the Village Sanitation Committee
- Focus on sanitation related issues during meetings
- Distribution of dust-bins in schools, shop keepers, temples, ICDS centre etc.

Commendably, this GP has with cooperation from locals has left no stone unturned to make it a vibrant one among others in the State in terms of cleanliness and averting the possible health issues.



Image: Health awareness programme organized in school



Image: Gram Sabha in procession

## 15. SADAYAPALAYAM GRAM PANCHAYAT (BLOCK KUNDADAM, DISTRICT TIRUPPUR, TAMIL NADU)

*Thematic Area: Social Sector Development*

### **“Service at a large”**

Sadayapalayam is fairly big Panchayat covering an area of 53.6 Km<sup>2</sup> with a population of 10,342 and sex ratio of 977, higher than the national average, with coverage of 2,714 households. Regular conduct of meetings and trainings of panchayat members and maintenance of accounts is a remarkable characteristic of this Panchayat.

Sadayapalayam is one of the few Panchayats aiming at its holistic development. Its efforts towards especially social sector are highlighted below:

- This Panchayat had taken initiatives to mainstream education into the development agenda of the Panchayat.
- Efforts are taken for identifying dropouts and non school going children from marginalized sections, especially girl children from SCs/STs and minorities and children with disabilities. As a result, this Panchayat does not have any drop out child and has ensured full enrolment of children in primary and secondary school
- Different child development activities are organized in the Panchayat
- Evening tuition to primary and middle school students alongwith books are provided to students.
- Special days are celebrated for distributing gifts to students
- Napkins are provided to female students.
- Sports material are distributed to students
- Skill education is provided to students and women
- Standing Committee meetings are regularly organized
- Community leaders are active in monitoring quality of education in schools and aganwadis, organizing events for physical and mental development of children etc.

- There is 100% institutional delivery; PHC have all the facilities for the institutional deliveries
- Low fat nutrition status of five children has improved; epidemics curbed through continuous treatment; anaemic women are cured with provision of nutritional food
- The elected representatives activity participated in all the activities alongwith representation from health functionaries AWW, ASHA, ANM, and doctors, teachers, parents, CBOs and volunteers



Image: Gram Sabha



Image: Awareness generation camp being organized



Image: Cleanliness activity under progress

This GP has set a fine example of collective efforts. Among many, a commendable positive outcome to mention is that skill education/trainings provided to women in jewelry making, stitching and embroidery etc. has proved to be an important and probably the only source of income through market sale of the products thus improving the rural economy as a whole.



Image: Skill education being provided to women



Image: Evening tuitions for children

## 16. MUSTIPALLY GRAM PANCHAYAT

(BLOCK SIRCILLA, DISTRICT KARIMNAGAR, TELANGANA)

*Thematic Area: Community Based Organisation*

### **“Saving lives”**

Mustipally Gram Panchayat covers an area of 16 Km<sup>2</sup> with a population of 4,993 and a sex ratio of 986, higher than the national average. There are 1,427 households in this Panchayat. This GP stands fairly in terms of satisfactory functioning and community participation among others.

A large population of this Panchayat is engaged in weaving cloth, mostly on power looms. 600 power looms and 60 hand looms are functional in this Panchayat. This weaving industry has resulted in a large influx of the migrant population in search for livelihood. Females as well are actively engaged in the Beedi industry for meeting their ends.

Owing to the stressful and hazardous job and resulting lives of these weavers and beedi rollers, there is a persistent physiological disorder observed in them. Balancing act deemed appropriate by these weavers is consumption of cheap and illicit liquor regularly. These circumstances have also led to suicides. Taking a step towards this, following actions were taken by this Gram Panchayat:

- Frequent meetings and discussions on the subject
- Contact with authorities of district hospital for proper advice and guidance for counselling of weavers
- Meeting of Sarpanch and colleagues with psychiatrist
- Provision of necessary medical facilities to the sufferers and mobilizing the community and a force of voluntary workers
- Conducting the survey of the weaver community
- Volunteers of Helping Hearts organization collected and analyzed the information and also provided counselling
- Defining the action towards this cause as a mission mode

Due to these efforts of Mustipally Gram Panchayat in association with Voluntary Organizations, not a single suicide was reported in the year 2016-17 and 2017-18.



Image: Weaver working at the industry





Image: Voluntary organization conducting survey and discussions alongwith Panchayat members

## **17. PAW WALA SODA GRAM PANCHAYAT (BLOCK RAIPUR, DISTRICT DEHRADUN, UTTARAKHAND)**

### **“Small Panchayat, Big initiatives”**

Paw wala soda GP covers an area of only 3 Km<sup>2</sup> with a population of 316 and 65 households. However, interestingly, the sex ratio of this GP is 985 which is way above national average of 940 (Census 2011). Literacy rate of this GP is 87.5 %. Proper functioning in this GP is ensured through maintenance of record and timely conduct of events.

One of the biggest initiatives of the GP is that it provided irrigation facilities to locals due to which 25 hectares of land, which was earlier neglected for want of irrigation sources despite being fit for agricultural activities, is now being utilized efficiently. Results include motivation inculcated in the locals and youngsters towards agricultural practices. The GP has also

constructed 37 vermi-compost pits for conversion of wastes to manure. Infact, 15 families have their own Gobar gas units in the GP.

Towards cleanliness, GP is also collecting taxes from people. In this direction, GP has also taken initiative of “solid and liquid waste management” under Swachh Bharat Mission by ensuring proper segregation of solid and liquid waste with separate bins in the premises. GP also imposes fine of Rs.100 for open defecation.

GP has also taken steps towards providing livelihood to local women through “Silkworm culture” which is being practiced in this GP.

To ensure safety of the locals including women and children, 25 street lights have been installed in this GP.



Image: Waste/ Garbage collection in closed bins



Image: Street Light installed in the GP



Image: Vermi-compost pit



Image: Site of one of the source for irrigation

**18. HANSUDI AUSANAPAR GRAM PANCHAYAT**  
(BLOCK BHANWAPUR, DISTRICT SIDDHARTH NAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH)

*Thematic Area: e-Governance*

**“Developing a Smart Village”**

HansudiAusanapar is a small Gram Panchayat covering an area of just 2 Km<sup>2</sup> but with a population of 1,027 covering 225 households and a sex ratio of 956. Among others, this panchayat is fairly contributing towards the motto of digital India.

Concerted efforts of this GP towards digital governance are as under:

- Installation of CCTV cameras to check the open defecation, prevent the violence against women and prevent anti social activities
- Installation of nine wi-fi routers in the area providing free internet services
- Geo- tagging of all institutional and household information to the GIS platform
- Uploading of socio-economic details of all families on the GIS platform
- Effective usage of e-panchayat applications developed by Ministry of Panchayati Raj such as PRIASoft for cash books maintenance & auditing of accounts, ActionSoft for progress of Gram Panchayat Development Plan, National Assets Directory for capturing assets, AreaProfiler etc.

Apart from this, GP is effectively making use of the public announcement system for announcing the Gram Sabha meeting details; renovating the class rooms, modern toilets, washing facility, smart class rooms; constructing compound walls ; developing modern painting on the building and compound walls etc. Therefore, HansudiAusanapur Gram Panchayat can easily be tagged as a smart Panchayat and has done remarkably in providing all the basic amenities to the locals.



Image: Effective usage of GIS



Image: GP Office well equipped with computers



Image: Public announcement systems in place



Image: Surveillance through CCTV

## 19. LUCHUIYA GRAM PANCHAYAT

(BLOCK SHOHARATGARH, DISTRICT SIDDHARTH NAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH)

*Thematic Area: Sanitation*

### “Swachhtaki ore”

Luchuiya Gram Panchayat is a small panchayat covering an area of just 3.23 Km<sup>2</sup> and 267 households with a population of 1,763 and a sex ratio of 976 higher than the national average. Apart from the important activities undertaken by the GP such as timely conduct of meetings/events, implementation of schemes, effective utilization of funds is an important feature of this Panchayat.

Highlighting features of this GP towards the sanitation sector are as follows:

- Out of three villages of this GP, Luchuiya village is already declared as ODF

- GP constructed 90 toilets under SBM during 2015-16 by utilizing an amount of Rs.10.80 lakhs; community toilet has been constructed for remaining 28 households in the GP by using an amount of Rs.14.45 lakh
- A woman from a SHG undertakes proper maintenance of the toilet complex and she is paid an amount of Rs.1000.00 per month. Community toilet is effectively being used by the community and is kept neat and clean
- GP has constituted a Vigilance Committee consisting of 20 girls students, 20 women members and 11 male members to monitor open defecation



Image: Community toilet with water facility



Image: Educating people about sanitation through wall paintings



Further, all the three villages have coverage of street lights with 14 LED street lights.

Overall, the Panchayat has achieved a praiseworthy status in the District and State as a whole in terms of its sanitation activities and providing a clean environment for its present and future generations.



Image: Panchayat meeting in procession.

## **20. MARGUBPUR GRAM PANCHAYAT**

(BLOCK BULANDSHAHR, DISTRICT SIDDHARTH NAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH)

*Thematic Area: Civic Services*

### **“Helping the Helpers”**

Margubpur Gram Panchayat is a remarkably small Panchayat covering an area of just 0.79 Km<sup>2</sup> but densely populated with 267 households with a population of 1,601 and a sex ratio of 954 higher than the national average. Smaller size has resulted in adequate maintenance and functioning of this GP.

### Livelihood through SHGs:

- Most of the male members are engaged in agriculture activities whereas women members are mainly engaged in household work and many households are having poor economic condition due to lack of better income generating opportunity. To facilitate the women members for their economic empowerment, SHG of women was formed for income generating works and subsidized loan could be availed by them from banks. One of these SHG named as Khan SHG, formed in the village during June 2017, has 10 members.
- GP has also mobilized the officials to provide work to the SHG for preparation of school uniform and as a result, Rs. 80, 000 was earned by this group during the year 2016-17 by painting 600-700 clothes.



Image: Panchayat meeting in procession

### Efforts of GP towards Civic Services:

- Issues related to civic services are discussed in the Gram Sabha; Collective decisions are taken up for inclusive growth of the Panchayat.
- Panchayat has ensured electricity coverage for all households.
- Three transformers have been installed in the village ensuring regular electricity supply; all the households are electrified
- Panchayat is maintaining a complaint register
- Transparency in implementation of schemes is ensured
- Income and expenditure details are read out during Gram Sabha
- Scheme details have also been painted on prominent walls.
- Entire household is having access to safe drinking water.
- Panchayat is providing facilitation in issuance of birth and death certificates.
- Cremation ground has also been developed by the Panchayat.
- Identified poor families are getting Rs. 10,000 from Panchayat for marriage of their daughter.
- Panchayat has also taken initiative to help poor families for medical treatment and livelihood.
- Pradhan has donated an e-rickshaw to one poor family for livelihood generation
- Panchayat is maintaining proper coordination with school and anganwadi functionaries.



Image: Women SHG getting orientation

The abovementioned efforts and achievements of the Panchayats make it clearly visible that holistic approach can achieve milestones.

## **21. RAGHUNATHPUR-II BLOCK PANCHAYAT (PURULIA DISTRICT, WEST BENGAL)**

### **“Bricks break the silence of development”**

Raghunathpur-II Block Panchayat covers an area of 197.67 Km<sup>2</sup> with a population of 1,07,750, 19,667 households and sex ratio of 945. Open discussions and active participations in the meetings is a key feature of this Panchayat. This Panchayat also shares its boundary with Jharkhand State.

Till the year 2015, this Block has been considered as the most backward one in the State be it in the sector of Communication, Education, Sanitation, Livelihood promotion, Employment generation or implementation of schemes. However, since the year 2016, the deafening silence in the development broke with consolidated efforts of elected representatives and district/block administration. Effort was made with primary focus on income generating activities in Nildiah Gram Panhayat of this Block Panchayat by establishing one Fly Ash Bricks factory to boost tribal economy in convergence with various schemes like MGNREGS, Fourteenth Finance Commission Grants, ST/SC Development Funds, MLA Local Area Development fund. Converged funds amounting to Rs. 45,27,599.00 (Wage: Rs. 5,56,346.00, Material : Rs.39,71,253.00,) were utilized efficiently towards this cause. The Block Panchayat also established one brick making unit with capacity of 70 HP machine which can produce 5,000 bricks per day @ 1000 bricks per hour by engaging 22 man power per day with rotating manpower of 4,203 tribal households of the Panchayat throughout the year. Raw materials are collected from nearby areas. Quarterly production capacity of the unit is approximately 4.5 lakhs bricks. Bricks are sold to the Govt. and private purchasers @ Rs. 4.70 per unit and thus making a profit of around Rs. 6.50 lakhs per quarter. This amount is usually distributed among tribal households on the basis of their contributed man days.

The bricks manufactured and sold are generally used for construction of Housing and Individual Household Latrine (IHL) among others. Plans for eco-tourism are being developed by (i) building the roads till hill tops supplemented with tree plantations (ii) nearby attraction sites such as temple Jada Kaluani Mandir and Jain temple (iii) demarcating an area of 20 acres with fencing boundary of iron chain and cement poles and displaying every activity in a map and guide map for better understanding of visitors.

Hence, perseverance and concerted efforts of officials and elected representatives with developmental vision and mission broke the silence of development in this panchayat paving way for a better future.



Image: Fly Ash Bricks factory at Nildiah GP of Raghunathpur-II Block, West Bengal

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