

Name of the Gram Panchayat	Sonapur
State	Assam
Theme	Drinking water

Sonapur Gram Panchayat (GP) is one of the important GP of the Kamrup Metropolitan districts and awarded under **Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar -2020** as best performing panchayat for their remarkable efforts made in the area of Infrastructure Development of the GP. This GP was established in 1974 under the 52 No Dispur Legislative Assembly Constituency. It has vast population like Kabri, Bodo, Nepali, Koch Rajbongshi, Tea Garden community, Schedule Caste people and Muslim Community apart from General Community. This GP covers a land of approx. 36Sq. Meter. The Southern part of the GP is covered by beautiful hill touching the boundary of Meghalaya. The River Digaru flowing at the middle of the Panchayat is the lifeline of the inhabitants helping agriculture, Livelihood and growth of the population.

According to Censes 2011, the total number of populations is 13791 among which total number of male is 7104 and female is 6687. Number of people belong to Schedule Caste are 622 and Schedule Tribes are 2112 rest belong to general category.

Initially, GP Sonapur has various issues related to Infrastructure, Drinking Water, Employment, All weather roads, 24 Hours Electricity Supply, Marketing (Panchayat has huge production of orange and other vegetables and trying to link for proper marketing for sale), Flood, Employment, and Coordination with line departments in their area. But the Panchayat took initiative to overcome the above-mentioned issues.

As a first step, the GP has started to organize monthly Panchayat body meeting and Standing Committees meeting quarterly as per the provision of state Act. The implementation of various development schemes and funds are managed by the GP which is looked after a local construction committee to observe the proper implementation of the funds and scheme. The major role of the elected representative is to communicate the people with the Government. The elected representatives identified the problems in the respective GP and presented those in front of the Government. Government takes an initiative to meet those



issues in the interest of the public. Generally, the elected representative of the GP works as a connecting bridge between Government and villagers. The entire PRI representative and functionaries are doing collective works. Apart from these, the elected representatives are involved in maintenance of peace and progress among the villagers.

The GP Sonapur has engaged in various developmental activities for benefit to the rural people. But, one of the remarkable activities carried out by the GP was construction of road to Chamata Pathar High school premises.

The Chamata Pathar High school was established by the donation and *Shramdan* of local people in the year 1986 to cater the needs of education of their children. The school was constructed at the top of hill as the land was donated by a kindhearted person. There are 500 students and 14 teachers & staffs, and this is the only school in this locality. This school is also serving as voting centre for various elections. This is connecting with two villages nearby. There is only one road to connect the school as well as to the villages from NH-37.



Figure 1: Chamata Pathar High School

The condition of the road was very bad and so much of stone makes the pedestrian difficult to climb even in shiny days. During the raining season, rainwater is flowing along with the road developing so much of gullies and making the road muddy, impossible to use the road. There are so many incidences of falling down of students while going to school. In rainy days, the school is forced to remain close as no one able to go to the school. The school authority and local villagers repaired the road so many times. But because of its undulating topography, it is unable to make the motorable road. Again, it is required heavy machinery to remove the stones and also cut the excess soil to make the surface of the road even and smooth. The school authority and local people appealed to District Administration and the Public Work Department several times. Every time they are giving false promises. Actually, it is because of the undulating topography and so many stones to be removed, no one dear to work. At this time Gram Panchayat came forward and executed the work. Mr. Nur Ahmed Laskar, the young President took the risk. He and the Secretary visited the nearby PWD office and discussed the matter and chalked out a strategic plan. During the Annual Plan FY 2019-20 of 14th Finance Commission Grant, this road got the first priority from the people. The fund was allocated

accordingly, and details estimate and design was prepared in consultation with Assistant Engineer, PWD. The GP hired the heavy machineries from Guwahati City and removed the stones by bursting and drilling. Within three months the task was accomplished, and it is now motorable road. The entire exercise was undertaken during the night. The bursting and drilling of stones was very much injurious to the people. Again, during the construction of the road, there was annual examination of the students was going on. So, execution of works during night not hampering the students appeared in the examination. The President and the Secretary was present every night to motivate the workers.



Before



After

As a result, the task was accomplished before the schedule time because of active presence of President and Panchayat Committee Members day and night. Now, the school is easily connected to NH-37. It's a motorable road. The students and people are very much happy with the Panchayat.

As this Gram Panchayat is a vast area consisting of urban and rural population, it will be very immature to express that the development has been completed. In the near future, the GP Sonapur is looking forward for various development projects such as 4 play grounds in the villages Kasutali Pathar, Kapalkata, Chamata Pathar and Alenga as well as rural libraries in each ward, street lights facility to every cremation grounds and burial places in this GP. This GP is famous for its special production of Orange; so that the GP has planned to construct an Orange market and cold store house for better preservation and marketing of this special fruit available in their area.