Name of the Gram Panchayat	Sangkhu Radhu Khandu
State	Sikkim
Theme	(Women and child development)Child Friendly

23 Sangkhu Radhu Khandu Gram Panchayat Unit (GPU) is located at 03-Maneybong Dentam Constituency of West Sikkim. The GPU consist of 07 Gram Panchayat Ward (GPW) namely: Upper Sankhu, Lower Sankhu, Middle Sankhu, Upper Khandu, Lower Khandu, Upper Radhu and Lower Radhu respectively. It is having an area of 889.52. Hectares approx. with Altitude: 1537.m, Latitude: N15.418 and Longitude: 08.914.

The Gram Panchayat decides and sorts out the activities to include in GPDP plan after the Gram Sabha. During the financial year 2018 - 2019, 21 activities were planned for the Gram Panchayat. The activities consisted of Plantation Drives, Various Issues based Awareness Camp, Sanitation, Construction of Mid Day Meal Kitchen, Street Light, School Fencing at Lidung Primary School, Boundary Fencing at Bhalukhop Primary School, Construction of Samaj Ghar, Office Expences, Furniture, Office Equipments, Repair of RWSS, Extension of Football Ground at Khandu Secondary School, Construction of Public Toilet at Chata Chautara, 20 Mile Dairy, Digital GPU and Low Cost No Cost Activities. The Gram Panchayat was successful to implement all the 21 planned activities for the financial year 2018-2019.

In addition to this the Gram Panchayat is declared as Child Friendly GPU and has successfully conducted its prior meetings and is looking forward to set examples by working in this field too. Main emphasis is given to Child Protection and many resolutions have been passed by the Gram Panchayat regarding the exercise of the rights of the children. The Gram Panchayat, before being declared Child Friendly GPU, have had conducted many awareness camps and Legal Awareness Camps to make children more aware of their rights.

Regardless of many remarkable efforts made by Gram Panchayat Unit there still lie some barriers in overall development of villagers such as:

➢ Poverty is one of the most important ill factors which have dwelled upon us for some major times. Another factor is intake of alcohol by large number of public. There are still some deprived societies which still lives in GPU area.

- Major problem regarding creation and generation of some basic factors is the need of money. Due to huge number of public who are uneducated leads to fewer chances of them getting employed.
- As GPU area is located at hill area major risks of landslides hangs around us. There is also a huge problem for drinking water as the sources are in the verge of extension.
- Due to its location and altitude there is a huge network problem issue. No network provider is providing good quality of internet to the public. Moreover due to huge number of public have lesser education; they are unaware of new and improved technology. In addition to it, no new technological equipments are made available.

The following remarkable efforts were made by GPU to resolve these issues and challenges.

- To counter some major cases of unemployment the Gram Panchayat has been successful to generate employment through OSR and allotting Convergence works. Major focus has been given in distribution of cardamom plants, cows, pigs, etc. Livelihood training of SHGs and women empowerment also has been a major impact in reducing major Social factor issues. The GPU has constructed sanitary disposal unit at schools and it has stayed a successful case till date. Moreover, the GPU frequently conduct skill development programmes to indulge school youths in constructive manner.

- To overcome economic factor the GPU has constructed Organic vegetable stall where local can sell locally grown vegetables at good prices leading to some income for them. The GPU has also constructed bakery unit, a car wash centre and cafeteria as a major platform for development of socially and economically poor families. The GPU also pays major focus in developing tourist spots. The GPU not only believes in developing but also looks forward in modifying the area and beautifications are also done to attract major tourist flow.

- Leadership development trainings are conducted to boost our youths and capacity building programmes to make our youths ready and prepared to deal with major

- problem of unemployment cases. Recently the GPU has also conducted Bal Parliament where children were introduced with their importance and their power in molding the society.

➢ To counter Environmental factors Construction of water tanks and plantation drives are given major importance. The GPU has introduced waste management system which includes garbage collection, distribution of dustbins and ban on use of plastic and thermocol. This GPU is a Child Friendly GPU has we have taken a small initiative in building a dust free teaching environment at schools by providing whiteboards and markers to replace blackboards and chalks.

➢ The GPU is currently working in conducting online filing process and has also taken an initiative in producing its online classes too. Single window system is the base of its functioning and e-library at GPU is a top priority at current time and we look forward to construct and make it available to the students at the earliest possible time.

As Stakeholders Involvement, were involved in Ward Development Committee, Village Development Committee, Gram Planning Forum, Water and Sanitation Committee, Village Health and Sanitation Committee and many other committees looking at all the possibilities they generate to reduce major problems in the society.

As an outcome of these efforts, It has been found that by adding stakeholders in committees it is quiet easy to implement plans as there is a huge involvement of public in it and it is also easy to generate awareness. They create helping hand in resolving grassroots problems and also helps in strengthening the functions of Panchayat. With their addition it has become easy to find out the focus group and a major help in generating new plans.

As a major challenge, even though Panchayati Raj allots major powers to the Panchayats yet Drawing and Dispersal Officer creates barriers which leads to shrinking in functioning of the Panchayats. State and Central Share of funds is not received at once which leads to improper dispersion of funds to the needy. Technical personals are not readily available hence the processes of implementation of plans are delayed. Due to sector wise allocation of funds, the funds cannot be used in time of need (other than the OSR fund collected). Agricultural allied activities are permissible work but we cannot utilize funds individually which has been creating major problems in the proper function of the Panchayat.

Best Practices:

Some of the Good Practices followed by the GPU is to insure that there is no use or minimum use of plastics. Hence, the GPU follows the policy of Zero Waste. The GPU boosts youngsters to follow this practice through conducting regular awareness camps and insists

them the take active part in programmes conducted by the GPU relating to awareness for environment and other programmes too.

Another practice followed by the GPU is to issue Sanitation Certificates to the public as well as to the local shop owners. This certificate is issued after thorough verification by the Ward Panchayat. To ensure that the public follows the criteria of sanitation, any document bought for process to the GPU by the public, first document looked for is the sanitation certificate.

The GPU also produces own Yearly Calendar which has its planned activities for the current year. Furthermore, the GPU distributed aprons and caps to the hotel workers to ensure hygienic environment. The Panchayats also visits the shops to verify license and to check whether or not the owners are selling the products listed in the license. The completed works are disclosed in front of public to maintain transparency through Wall Writings/Display Board, Digital Mode and Account Bills, Annual Gram Sabhas and also Social Audit cum Vigilance committee provides their reports.

A major lesson learnt in these years is that we genuinely require educated Panchayats having a sound Technical Knowledge on new and advanced technologies. We also need such Panchayats who can generate new and innovative ideas which will reduce the burden of general public.

As Sustainable Future Strategy, the Gram panchayat Unit is looking forward in creating an e-library at the GPK which will enable the children of GPU to come in hand with advance way of learning. This has been our plan as we hope it will act as a bridge to connect our children with others around the globe. Another such plan is that of developing our tourist spots by making necessary changes which includes beautification and construction of required essentials. The GPU is also looking forward to become Digital GPU in next few years. We hope that by going digital the public will benefit from it and will act as a greater advantage tool to us in competing with major inefficiencies which lies at present time.