



livelihoods

today and tomorrow

June 2016

Gram Panchayat Development Plan



7- Coalitions for Janaandolan!

Happy Summer Solstice!
 Happy Yoga!
 Happy Music!
 Happy Environment!

Village Panchayats are local governments for many centuries now, from the days of Vaishali. Gradually they became the instruments of State Governments and lost their self-reliant character. 73rd and 74th Amendments to Constitution have tried to restore their status as Local Government. It is still a long way to go. Untied funds allocation to the Panchayat from Government of India directly is one more step in that direction. Some Rs.488 per capita/year! This amount is meant for implementing the Gram Sabha-approved Gram Panchayat Development Plan as planned by its members. All including the poor, and vulnerable have a say in this plan. Gram Sabha monitors the implementation of the plan thereafter. In this context, 'livelihoods' has explored 'Gram Panchayat Development Plan'.

Please read MK Gandhi's classic, 'Village Swaraj'.

The e-links include VCA - 'Fishing' [Mukteswarapuram]; subsector - 'A guide to the Analysis of Fish Marketing Systems'; e-book – 'Village Swaraj'; and v-book – 'A film on Odisha Tribal Empowerment & Livelihoods Project'.

Supplements include Legendary Effort – Right to Food; and Kshetram- 'Aravali Range'. Livelihoods Management Notes are on 'Books on Livelihoods, Development and Management'.

With the faith and hope that you find this issue useful, we remain.

the 'livelihoods' team

The World Humanitarian Summit has provided a critically important platform to bring together humanitarians, development actors and peace builders in order to better tackle the growing humanitarian crises around the world, but there still remains much work to do, said the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).



Mistakes can be rectified with right attitude and graceful acceptance.

Latest Livelihoods

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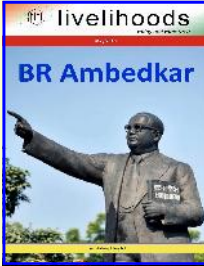
Legendary Effort Right to Food

Kshetram Aravali Range

Livelihoods Management Notes Books on Livelihoods, Development and Management

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Response



Thanks Murali garu for the cover page with Dr.B.R.Ambedkar.

Jyothi Neelaiah.

All developmental schemes in one book . Thank you sir for sharing it !

Pankaj Kumar.

Thank you for sending magazines. This is very informative.

Indravelli Ramesh.

JaiBheems. Johar Ambedkar !

Bhaskar Somani.

Live Illustrations

Dr. E. Venkatesh.



Can 'Vidyanjali' scheme boost community participation in all Govt. Schools?

News

Telangana IT exports at Rs 75,000 crore in FY16: Telangana government today said IT and IT-enabled services exports stood at Rs 75,070 crore during 2015-16, up 13.26 per cent from previous year. In 2014-15, the exports stood at Rs 66,276 crore, Telangana IT minister KT Rama Rao said in a press conference.

Fertility level dips in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana: The recently-released National Family Health Survey-4 (2015-16) shows a decline in fertility in both AP and Telangana state. As per NFHS-4 data, Total Fertility Rate (TFR) for AP stood at 1.8, as compared to 2.6 recorded for the erstwhile undivided AP during NFHS-3 conducted in 1992-93. As per NFHS-4, TFR is 1.5 in urban areas and 2 in rural areas. TFR is average number of children per woman in the state. The total TFR for Telangana state as per NFHS-4 is same as AP, 1.8. However, for urban areas it is 1.7 while it is 1.9 for rural areas. The TFR of AP and TS are lower than the Replacement Level Fertility for India which is 2.1. RLF is defined as total fertility rate at which a population exactly replaces itself from one

generation to the next. The population growth rate for united AP had decreased from 13.86% in 2001 to 10.98% in 2011. The recently-released Sample Registration System survey-2014 data for undivided AP revealed that natural population growth rate was 10 per cent, one of the lowest among the big states in the country.

20 lakh people from Telangana, AP change Aadhar card address: At least 12 lakh people in Andhra Pradesh and 8 lakh in Telangana have applied and got their addresses changed in their Aadhar database over the past two years. Change of address and in other particulars like marital status is crucial as they are linked with land ownership data, property tax details and gas subsidy Aadhar cards are must for government schemes, to avail bank loans and verification linked to them. Any discrepancies in Aadhar data will curtail public from availing services since banks also cross check data provided for opening bank account. Customers fill up KYC form and as well as loan sanctions form with Unique Identification Authority of India authorities. ❖



Universal Health, Digital Livelihoods and Jobs: From providing universal health care to finding jobs, the World Bank's Global Program on Forced Displacement (GPF) announced three innovative ideas to improve the development response to forced displacement, selected from an open call for proposals. As the number of refugees and internally displaced persons reaches historic highs with many displaced for years, development programs are urgently needed to complement humanitarian assistance in transformational ways.

Tanzania: NMB to Extend Sh60 Billion Loans for Agriculture: Tanzania's vision of becoming a middle income country by 2025 through agriculture-led industrialization will receive a boost as the National Microfinance Bank (NMB) announced to set Sh60 billion for developing agribusiness in the next five years. ❖

News From the States

Panels to be set up to monitor implementation of govt schemes:

Centre has asked states and union territories to set up district-level advisory and monitoring committees to oversee implementation of its various urban development schemes. Union Urban Development Minister M Venkaiah Naidu has given his approval in this regard. "States/union territories will appoint the senior most Member of Parliament as the chairperson of the committee. Two more MPs, one each from Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha, will be the co-chairpersons," an official statement said. The members of the committee will include all MLAs from respective districts representing the urban local bodies (ULBs), mayors and chairpersons of ULBs, chairpersons and chief executives of urban development authorities in districts, among others. These committees will monitor implementation of schemes such as Swachh Bharat Mission, Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Housing for All (Urban) and Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission. The committees will meet at least once in three months and submit action taken reports to state/UT governments for necessary action, the statement said. States/UTs in turn will submit consolidated reports every year to the Ministry of Urban Development and Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation, it said.

Banks to disburse Rs 1.80 lakh crore loans under Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana in FY'17:

Having met the target last year, banks are expected to disburse Rs 1.80 lakh crore loans under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) in the current fiscal, Minister of State for Finance Jayant Sinha said. Last year, 3.5 crore beneficiaries availed Rs 1.22 lakh crore loans under PMMY. The scheme is being improved this year, Sinha said while addressing the financial literacy camp held here. Major improvements are also in the offing for Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency Ltd (Mudra) Yojana including providing of technical support and hand-holding borrowers for setting up business, he said. Besides, loan origination system would be put in place for proper monitoring of the loans, he said. Under PMMY, loans ranging from Rs 50,000 to Rs 10 lakh are provided to small entrepreneurs. As of now, three products available under the PMMY are Shishu, Kishor and Tarun, to signify the stage of growth and funding needs of the beneficiary micro unit or entrepreneur. Shishu covers loans up to Rs 50,000 while Kishor covers those above Rs 50,000 and up to Rs 5 lakh. Tarun category provides loans of above Rs 5 lakh and up to Rs 10 lakh. Sinha also said the government has put the economy back on track with the help of progressive policies adopted by it. The improvement in the economy has resulted in an increased inflow of FDI, he said, adding that India has become the number one FDI destination in the world and this has been

achieved in two years of the NDA rule. Various social sector schemes including Atal Pension Yojana launched by the government have become a shield for the poor, he said. He also said that the objective of 'Make in India' is to provide jobs to youth.

Cabinet clears Rs6,000 crore package for textile sector:

The cabinet cleared a Rs.6,000 crore package for the textile sector, aimed at generating 10 million jobs over the next three years and improving the sector's competitiveness globally. The sops, which include incentives related to tax, production and labour to garment makers, are meant to help India overtake Bangladesh and Vietnam in apparel exports over the next three years. With China, the largest garment exporter, ceding ground to other countries on account of increase in wages and a shift to high-technology industries, the Indian government thinks it is the right time to push local manufacturing. "Over the next three years, the Rs.6,000 crore package will lead to an additional investment of \$11 billion, generate one crore jobs and increase textile exports by \$30 billion," said Rashmi Verma, secretary in the ministry of textiles.

1.46 lakh lives lost on Indian roads last year:

An official report, released by Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari, said 1.46 lakh people were killed in road accidents in India in 2015 — an increase of five per cent from 2014. Road accidents as a whole rose 2.5 per cent during 2015 to 5.01 lakh or 1,374 accidents every day, claiming 400 lives, the report said. The report said a majority (54.1 per cent) of those killed in road accidents during 2015 were in the age group of 15-34. Thirteen States, including Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Uttar Pradesh, accounted for the highest number of accidents. Among cities, while Mumbai had the highest number of accidents (23,468), Delhi saw the most number of deaths (1,622) in road accidents. Also, drivers' fault was responsible for 77.1 per cent of the accidents, deaths and injuries, mainly because of over-speeding, the report noted.

India to Provide ID card to Persons with Disabilities:

India is in the process of implementing a project to provide a unique ID card to persons with disabilities aimed at creating a national data base that will enable the Government to have real time information on their level of education, income and employment status, the UN was told. "Data and statistics on persons with disabilities is key to their inclusion in the implementation of the Agenda 2030," said Vinod Aggarwal, Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment at the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities here yesterday. He said the Indian Government is in the process of implementing the 'Unique ID for Persons with Disabilities' project with a view to create a national data base for persons with disabilities, and issue them an unique ID card. ❖

Lakshadweep

Lakshadweep islands, also known as Laccadive, Minicoy and Aminidivi Islands are a group of islands in Laccadive Sea, 200 to 440 Km of south western coast of India. The archipelago is a Union Territory (UT) governed by the Union Government of India (GoI). The Lakshadweep comes from Sanskrit word 'Lakshadweepa', which literally means one hundred thousand islands. Lakshadweep's total surface area is just 32 Km; the lagoon area covers about 4,200 Km. The region forms a single Indian district with ten sub divisions. This UT's capital is Kavaratti, and this region comes under the jurisdiction of the Kerala High Court.

These islands have a tropical humid, warm and pleasant climate, becoming more equatorial towards the southern islands of the territory. Summer temperatures range from 35° during fair weather, and the days are warm and stuffy due to humidity. The UT's main languages are Malayalam, English and Mahl. As per the Census 2011, Lakshadweep has a population of 64,473; of this, male are 33,123 and female are 31,350. The literacy rate is 92.28%.

The major crop grown here is coconut, with a production of 27.7 million nuts per year. Area under cultivation is about 27 km. Fishing is also another major activity, and the sea around the islands are highly productive as they stand topmost in the country on per capita availability of fish. Moreover, coconut fibre extraction and conversion of its fibre into products, is the main industry in the islands. These units produce coir fiber and coir yarn in addition to other coir products like curled fiber, corridor mat, mat and matting. Small coir units are also functioning under private sector in different islands.

One of major sectors in these islands is tourism, with a vast number of the people dependent on it. The pristine green islands almost shine bright in the clear blue sea. The presence of the coral in the waters makes them more attractive. This group of islands has lately become one of the most popular tourist destinations of India. The scenic beauty of the beautiful beaches attracts many tourists every year. There is a wide variety of options for enjoying different water sports like scuba-diving, yachting, pedal boating, kayaking, canoeing, swimming, snorkelling etc., in the waters of the surrounding sea. The Society for Promotion of Nature Tourism and Sports (SPORTS) has been recognized as the nodal agency for the promotion of tourism, and they operate a number of tourist packages to the islands of Minicoy, Kalpeni and Kavaratti in Lakshadweep.

Tourists need a permit to visit islands, while foreign nationals are not permitted to visit certain islands. According to the current alcohol laws of India, alcoholic beverage consumption is not permitted in Lakshadweep Archipelago except in the Bangaram Island. ❖



Cholanaikans

The Cholanaikans of Kerala are a primitive aboriginal community from Nilambur forests, who dwell in caves and live life through hunting-gathering and foraging. The name "Chola" literally means "forests" and "naikans" means "kings of the forests."



The hunter-gatherer tribe has its roots to people of Prakthana community, who are migrants from Mysore forests. Cholanaikans primarily inhabit the southern part of the Kerala state, predominantly the regions in Silent Valley National Park, and are one of the last remaining hunter-gatherer tribes of the region. Traditionally, the tribe resided in Karulai and Chunkathara forest ranges near Nilambur which fall in Ernad Taluk of Malappuam district, Kerala.

Until 1960s, the primitive group were leading a secluded life and had very poor contact with mainstream urban society. The population of the tribe in 1991 was only 360, and their numbers have been dwindling continuously, and as on today their number is 191 members only. The Cholanaikans speak the Cholanaikan language which belongs to the Dravidian family. The culture of Cholanaikans is deeply embedded in the forests, as they hold a very close and symbiotic relationship with it. Cholanaikans live in rock shelters called "Kallulai" or in open campsites made of leaves, and live in groups consisting of two to seven primary families; each group is called "Chemmam" and the tribe is very particular in observing the rules framed by their ancestors for the purpose of maintaining the territories under the Chemmam. The economy of Cholanaikans is based on Chemmams, which are found widely scattered in the forest ranges and depend on food-gathering, hunting, foraging and collection of NTFP. Their dress, ornaments, household articles, tools and weapons are all made from natural products of the forests. Their staple food is rice and wild roots, tubers, seeds, fruits and meat.

Prior to their mainstreaming, their livelihood sources were from hunting, collection of NTFP, basket and mat-making. However, due to gradual depletion and deforestation, and restrictions on entering the forests for hunting, foraging or collection of NTFP for barter or sale to non-tribals; the community is on the verge of a breakdown.

As their important sources of livelihood from forests are diminishing, they are taking to other livelihood occupations, such as becoming tapping workers in rubber plantation, etc. Unable to get adjusted, the tribe is struggling with their survival, as they are becoming very poor and even the forest products they are managing to collect are not able to provide adequate income for a living.

Moreover, the tribe's culture needs to be respected and protected by the authorities, so that the tribe can continue its practices and its customs. There is a need for the government to bring about pragmatic and pro-active development measures in-synch with the tribe's culture, before the tribe becomes extinct. ❖

Coalitions for Janaandolan!

World Environment Day!

World Music Day!

International Yoga Day!

Summer Solstice, Longest Day of the Year!

Brexit – People voted for Britain's Exit from EU.

Raghuram Rajan has opted not to seek renewal.

India's bid for membership in Nuclear Supply Group is thwarted.

We are waiting for Cabinet Reshuffle at the Centre. We hope this happens quickly, without any further delay. Reorganizing Departments and Ministries is still a work in process.

Many Secretary positions are still to be filled.

Telangana is getting ready to have 24-26 districts, from the present 10. AP is expected to follow suit.

Hyderabad is bidding farewell many a staff of AP.

Country is gearing up for Assembly Elections in several states [Punjab, UP], at least 6-12 months in advance.

Janaandolan for self-help, livelihoods improvement, poverty reduction and development, requires servant leaders, facilitating hands. It also requires literature and material, text, charts, audio, video, modules etc. It also requires financial resources to meet the actual costs of campaign, mobilization, capacitation, experiential sharing/learning and demonstration. Can we pool up all these? Can we pool of volunteer doers? Volunteer planners? Volunteer resource persons? Volunteer donors? And how do we do it fast?

Janaandolan is not limited to rural areas. It is in tribal areas. It is in urban areas. It is emerging livelihoods. This is a TRUE livelihoods Janaandolan. May be some 150-200 million households to become part of this. Some 15 million SHGs, 1 million primary SHG Federations, 30-40 thousand secondary Federations, 10000 tertiary Federations, 1000 district Federations, 50-60 Regional/State Federations, 5-10 Regional/National Federations as the foundation institutions, and people's banks, social collectives and livelihoods collectives at cluster/block/district/state levels, supported by 10000+ Community-managed Learning Centres, 1000+ national resource persons, 10000+ state resource persons, 500,000+ block resource persons, 10 million animators/cadres, 10+ million bookkeepers are part of this huge Janaandolan in the making.

Perspectives

G Muralidhar

Janaandolan is backed by the unfailing promise of the facilitating hands, hearts and minds. Our hope and faith are not misplaced. Let us have the best practitioners talking. Let us have the best practices shared. Let us have the case studies. Let us have the literature support. Let us have the songs. Let us have the videos. Let us have kalajathas. Let us have the web portals. Let us have the newsletters. Let us have the magazines. Let us have the voices. Let us have the channels. Let us have the charts. Let us have the wall writings. Let us have the newspapers. Let us be there wherever we can and in whatever we can. As quickly as possible! As many of us as possible! Let us keep co-opting as many as possible from as many corners and domains as possible. These Coalitions are part of the Janaandolan. ❖



5 June,
World Environment Day



14 June,
World Blood Donors Day

To Help My Parents

Praying God to Recover Soon

Can you tell about yourself?

My name is Burra Ramakrishna, and I am 24 years old. I am native of Venkatapur village, Kowdipally mandal, Medak district, Telangana. I studied up to 10th standard and couldn't pursue further education, as I wanted to help my parents in earning a livelihood. My family consists of my parents and my younger brother. My parents own four acres of agriculture land and cultivate crops. Apart from that, they also work as agriculture labours. My brother is currently studying.



What are you doing?

I have been running an Electronics and electrical appliances repair shop in Kowdipally head quarter since 2015 October. I undertake repairs of various electrical gadgets i.e., TVs, TV remotes, fans, radios, electrical rice cookers, batteries, torch lights and other electrical items. Recently, I have also taken to the sale of new electronic gadgets in my shop. Before starting my shop, I spent time researching market feasibility and selecting the best area to establish my shop. My initial investment was around Rs. 90,000/- for purchase of electrical gadgets, moreover, I am paying a monthly rent of Rs. 1200/-, and earning between Rs.500 – Rs.1000/- per day from my business. My shop is open from 9.00 am to 7.00 pm, and is located at a distance of 15 km from my native village. I travel to Hyderabad once a week to purchase electrical gadgets.

Where did you learn mechanic works?

After completion of my 10th standard, I took to working in a mechanic shop for electronic items in Narsapur, Medak district. While working in that mechanic shop, I learnt repair works of TVs, remotes, fans, rice cookers, batteries and torchlight, etc. I worked for a period of six years there.

Where did you get money for establishing your business?

I availed a loan from a local finance company to establish my own business, with an interest of 36% per month; I pay Rs. 200/- per day to that company.

Do you face any problems?

Due to lack of financial capital, I am facing problems in purchasing electrical gadgets stock, even though my business has been improving.

Did you get any benefits from the government?

Yes, I availed ration, aadhar and election card.

What are your future goals?

To develop my shop and to help my parents in the best possible way. ❖

Can you introduce yourself?

My name is Marri Krishna, and I am 21 years old. I belong to the Scheduled Caste (SC), and a native of Katapur village, Tadvai mandal, Warangal district, Telangana. I had studied till seventh class in a government school in my village, but couldn't go to school after that due to financial problems.

Can you tell us about your family?

I stay with my parents; my two sisters are married. We have one acre of agriculture land. My parents cultivate paddy in it and also work as agriculture labourers. I am unable to support my parents in agricultural works because I am a Person with Disability (PWD).

What are you doing?

I have not been working since 2010, when I had met with an accident. I had visited many hospitals and found no cure. I had spent around one lakh rupees on my health, but all in vain. Apart from allopathy, I had also taken traditional treatments, but could not get any results. I help my parents in whichever way I can, such as in daily household chores and also try to do my personal chores by myself. I cannot do heavy work and spend most of the time at home.

What were you doing earlier?

Prior to my accident, I used to go for labour works on a tractor for moving sand, stones, and for construction works, and was earning Rs. 200/- per day. My earnings were a great support to my family. After having met with the accident, due to my disability, all my social gatherings have also come to an end.

Do you face any problems?

Yes, I have to keep spending a lot of money on my health. I and my parents are getting really worried about my health condition. I keep praying to god to recover soon.

Did you get any benefits from the government?

Yes, I've availed aadhar card, election card, ration card, and I am also getting a disability pension of Rs.1500/- per month.

What is your future goal?

To keep my parents happy in whatever way I can. ❖

Have to Develop Irrigation Tank

Can you introduce yourself?

My name is Mogilipally Nageswar Rao, and I am 50 years old. I belong to Schedule Tribe (ST) community, and I am a native of Bandarigudem hamlet, Kathigudem Gram Panchayat (GP), Mangapet mandal, Warangal district, Telangana. I am an illiterate, but I can write my name. I stay with my mother, son and daughter-in-law. We have five acres of agricultural land and as of now we cultivate paddy.



What are you doing?

I am a farmer and cultivate paddy crop in my agricultural land. I am a village leader (Village Elder) for our Koya community. In my village, there are 75 households and all households belong to Koya community. Our village is located at a distance of 30 Kms from Mandal Head Quarters, and our village is an interior village, nestled in forests. When my father who was a village leader expired, I was entrusted his role to carry out developmental works for our community.

As a part of village development, I met the Project Director (PO) of Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA), Eturnagaram, and had submitted an application on behalf of our community towards seeking agriculture land for cultivation. The PO sanctioned lands for our community. Later, we put a request letter for bore wells for irrigation purposes to PO, but the PO along with sanctioning bore wells, also developed 'Mangali Kunta' tank for irrigation. A total of 75 acres of land has been registered by the Revenue Department (RD) and our Adivasi community right is to do Shifting 'Podu' cultivation; later, we acquired permission from PO of ITDA, Eturnagaram.

The people of our community approach me when they have issues. At the village level, we also penalize individuals (fixed small amount) who violate "Koya" social norms, and the collected amount is used towards village development such as for road and drainage works, for disbursing loan amount to poor people without interest, etc.

Mangali Kunta tank has some repairs, therefore I am collecting amount from villagers for tank repairs; it is our main source for irrigation, but the water is not sufficient for our lands. We have to increase the tank size. It is my responsibility as a village leader to increase its capacity before my retirement.

Do you face any problems?

Yes, I face problems from forest officers, political leaders of our GP. Coming to my personal problems, my health is not cooperating with me, as I am suffering from eyesight related problems.

What is your future goal?

Before my retirement as a village leader, I want to select a good leader, who can take forward my legacy of development. ❖

To Get a Government Job

Can you tell us about yourself?

My name is Durgam Raju, and I am 30 years old. My native place is Chinthagudem, Eturnagaram mandal, Warangal district, Telangana. I stay with my wife, parents & younger brother. My family owns two acres of agriculture land with a irrigation (bore well) facility, and we cultivate chillies. My wife works as a tailor and also works as a agriculture labour. My parents do agriculture work, and my brother supports them in it. We own two bullocks and one cow.



What are your educational qualifications?

I completed my Bachelor of Education (B.Ed) in Sathipati Sreeman Brothers College of Education in Cheerala, Prakasham district. Currently, I am preparing for competitive examinations.

What are you doing at present?

For the past four months, I have been working as an Entrepreneurship Community Resource Person (ECRP) under Start Up Village Entrepreneurship Development (SVEP) Programme in Entrepreneurship Development Institute (EDI) of India in Eturnagaram mandal, Warangal, Telangana. At Eturnagaram, we have a three member team, and recently we completed a survey on enterprises in Eturnagaram mandal, which included habitations. As a part of the survey, we met the Village Organization (VO) leaders and collected information from all the entrepreneurs in the village.

How were you selected as an ECRP?

I had seen the notification for the post of ECRP, Eturnagaram Mandal Mahila Samakhya (MMS) in a daily newspaper, and applied for the post. After I cleared the written examination and interview conducted by the EDI team & DRDA, I was selected as an ECRP in Eturnagaram mandal. Two other members were also selected to be ECRPs along with me.

Can you tell us about your previous jobs?

Initially, I worked as a teacher in private and government schools for a period of five years in Chinthagudem. Later, I worked as a Non Pesticide Management-Community Resource Person (NPM-CRP) in Chinthagudem and Buttaigudem.

Did you participate in any trainings?

Yes, I had received training on software updation for filling up entrepreneur details under SVEP in Eturnagaram, Warangal; and training on NPM methods and Farmer Field Schools (FFS) in MS, Eturnagaram.

Do you get any benefits from the government?

Yes, I have availed aadhar card, ration card, election card. Moreover, I had got a government scholarship for my education.

What is your goal in life?

I want to secure a government job. ❖

I Want Serve to Needy Families

Can you tell us about yourself?

My name is Kalyan Kumar, and I am 41 years old. I completed my M.Com in 1997. My native place is Anakapally, Visakapatnam district, Andhra Pradesh (AP). Presently, I am staying in Srikalahasti mandal, Chittoor district, AP.



What are you doing at present?

Since 2011, I have been working as a Senior Co-worker in Save Our Soul (SOS) Children's Villages of India, under Family Strengthening Program (FSP) in Tirupathi, Andhra Pradesh. My job involves — monitoring 260 families and 450 children and fulfilling their needs towards sustainable development under FSP in Tirupathi. SOS provides support to vulnerable children below 12 years of age belonging to vulnerable families for five years under FSP. Before supporting the family, we prepare a detailed Family Development Plan (FDP) for each family to identify the family's requirements.

FSP is a comprehensive support to the family in health and nutrition, livelihoods, education and community development. We organize remedial tuition centres in the rural villages and also support the children in their studies, distribute school books, bags and other stationary to encourage children and reduce drop outs. We organise medical camps and perform Haemoglobin (HB) tests for the children, and provide multivitamin syrup for low HB percent children based on the report. We form Common Interest Groups (CIG) with women in the villages and facilitate them to do regular savings also. We start income generate activities with these groups and individuals. We conduct capacity building programmes for parents and children on child rights. We give trainings on sustainable livelihood activities for family members. We organise community awareness programmes on child and women rights, HIV/AIDS, Swachh Bharat, Health, hygiene, nutrition, etc.

Can you tell us about your previous work?

From 1997-2002, I worked as a Commerce Lecturer in various institutions. From 2002-2004, I worked as a Livelihoods Associate in Velugu Project. During 2004 to 2009, I worked in Dr Reddy's Foundation under Livelihoods Advancement Business School (LABS) programme and Later, I worked as a Cluster Coordinator (CC) for Coir cluster at East Godavari district for AP Industrial Technical Consultancy (APITCO). During the period of 2010-2011, I worked as a Programme Officer (PO) under AP state for Wooden toy cluster in Aurubindo Chaudary Memorial Great India Dream Foundation (ACM GIDF).

What are your achievements?

The following are my achievements— I had made efforts towards the establishment of one Mutually Aided Cooperative Society and got it registered under the Societies Act, and further promoted it as a collective marketing for groundnut and also helped them avail tractor for the group. Secondly, I also identified one new Artisan

cluster i.e., bangle makers and facilitated it. Later, I arranged 180 artisan identity cards through Department of Handicraft and further also supported 180 families towards social security schemes provided by the Department of Handicrafts. Apart from the above, I also supported the establishment of three Common Facility Centres (CFC) for the Coir Artisans at East Godavari in APITCO. While working in Dr. Reddy's Foundation, I trained 2000 unemployed youth and placed them in jobs across various districts. Moreover, I also trained 60 Community Coordinators (CCs), 20 Assistant Programme Managers (APMs), and District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) staff at Vizianagaram on Livelihood Enhancement Action Plan (LEAP). I also developed a small brochure in local Telugu language in the year 2003 to train all Self Help Group (SHG) women in the Vizianagaram district.

What are your experiences?

In my current job, my role is of advocacy with government officials and other stakeholders, and this enables me to gain good experience on day to day basis for professional development. All throughout my work experience, I learnt new skills and techniques of working with rural and vulnerable communities and it helped me to give my best service to the groups with whom I worked with. In totality, I have 14 years of work experience as a Development worker and as well as a lecturer.

What are the challenges and issues you face?

The biggest challenge is to reduce the school dropout rate in tribal belts. As elder siblings take care of younger ones all through the day when their parents work in agricultural fields.

How your are overcoming the challenges?

I interact with dropout children's parents and have discussions with them on the importance of education, and also create awareness on education and facilities available. I counsel and convince parents to send their children back to school. In tribal belt villages, we have Open Creche centres for children and we also have appropriate Income Generating Activities (IGA). We have also taken to the initiative of formation of children clubs, which are important to overcome the above challenges.

Did you participate in trainings?

Yes, I have participated in different types of trainings i.e., Livelihoods Associate learning Programme by SERP; TOT programme on Life skills training by Dr Reddy's Foundation; Cluster development and entrepreneurship training by APITCO; and Leadership training, Adolescent Education, parenting skills, resilience building by the SOS.

What is your vision?

My vision is to become a development professional and also serve needy families in enhancing their livelihoods, as it will lead to improvement in their income and would contribute to our country's GDP. ❖

Gram Panchayath Development Plan

Gram Panchayat (GP) is a basic unit of rural administration in India. It means that a GP is a local self governing body of the country. The development of a GP depends upon many factors like the villagers' participation, local resources' proper utilization, administrative support and political will. Village development requires proper planning. In the Constitution of India, Article 243G, describes about the development of GP. The GPs' development depends upon the successful implementation of Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP). GPDP is designed by the local community according to their requirements and available resources, which is later formally approved by the Gram Sabha (GS). In this context, 'livelihoods' has explored 'Gram Panchayat Development Plan'.

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT CYCLE



Gram Panchayat (GP) is a basic unit of rural administration in India. It means that a GP is a local self governing body of the country. The development of a GP depends upon many factors like the villagers' participation, local resources' proper utilization, administrative support and political will. Village development requires proper planning. In the Constitution of India, Article 243G, describes about the development of GP. The GPs' development depends upon the successful implementation of Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP). GPDP is designed by the local community according to their requirements and available



resources, which is later formally approved by the Gram Sabha (GS). In this context, 'livelihoods' has explored 'Gram Panchayat Development Plan' GPDP reflects a villager's needs and priorities. It prioritizes community needs and taps funds from various resources including different schemes from the governments.. In India, Local Government is of two types i.e. three tier and two tier systems. In three tier system, we have District, Block and GP. In two tier system, we have District and Block levels. Local bodies were formed through the directions provided by the 73rd and 74th amendments,1992. Both the amendments created uniformity in the structures of Panchayat Raj (PR) and Nagarpalika institutions (Urban Local Governments) across the country.

The State Legislature considers 29 matters illustratively set out in the 11th Schedule for devolution to the Panchayat for planning and implementation of the schemes, for economic progress and social justice. State Finance Commission (SFC) provides grant amount to villages through District level and Block level bodies. The grants flow from apex to bottom. All the GPs get the financial resources from the Government. Tribal areas have exclusive powers as per the Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act, 1996.

In our country, local bodies' GPDPs have clear components, such as addressing of vulnerable communities' and marginalized communities' prioritizes and livelihoods opportunities, while also focusing on poverty reduction and convergence, such as through Mahatma

Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Schemes (MGNREGS).

Government implements various developmental programmes at the panchayat level, however it is not as effective at the village level, primarily due to lack of coordination among the villagers and the local officials. The GP also is not effective in monitoring all the departmental activities at the GP level. Due to lack of accountability and transparency of the programmes at the ground level by the GPs, the concept of sustainable development at operational level is not possible, thus, if a plan is developed by the villagers at the GS level, then it can pave way for replication for empowerment and sustainable development of the village. The villagers' decision plays a key role in GPDP, as the community is aware of its needs, discontents, priorities at the Panchayat level. The community can provide a clear direction for development of the village; inclusive of mobilization of financial, technical and multiple resources and can avail better services at the village level. The GPDP is a road map for development of local innovations as shown below:

It provides platform for discussion of local issues, needs, discontents, importance and their priorities.

It provides preference to local people's needs, and the local people are accountable and there is increased transparency.

It provides forward and backward linkages through effective mechanism.

It provides the horizontal/ vertical, spatial/ temporal integration of different sectors.

It provides an opportunity for matching of priorities and resources.

GPDP goal and objectives to be achieved shall be affordable, efficient, effective and sustainable.

One of GPDP's principle priority is on Antyodaya. It provides space for local people's voice, their priorities, needs, local development issues, analysis of their problems and finding solutions. It requires collective vision for mobilization of various resources and proper utilization towards enhancing village prosperity. Its significant role is to pool up existing resources, and plan for additional resources from the Government and other agencies. A locally generated plan would also be the only way to use united resources efficiently and for accountability. It has the added advantage of orienting the departments for local needs and inducing competition among GPs to improve performance.. The GPDP has many advantages and benefits, some of which are listed below:

- It becomes a systematic way to converge local people's needs and demands;
- It helps to reach the unreached/ excluded people within a Panchayat area;
- It reflects different people's needs and their importance;
- It mobilizes all the sections and encourages their participation in the local governance;
- It provides space to villagers in decision making;
- It facilitates access to rights/ entitlements/ services;
- It mobilizes financial resources from various sources;
- It helps forge better bond between the Panchayats and local citizens;
- It encourages local self governance;
- It enhances local resource mobilization;
- It encourages village economic growth and efficiency;

- It gives accountability to local villagers;
- It facilitates GS in decision making and implementation at village level;
- It reduces officials' over-involvement;
- It improves service delivery;
- It enhances feeling of citizenship;
- It motivates volunteerism;



- It creates space for an alliance of people's institutions and groups;
- It improves governance at the local level.

The key component of GPDP has its roots linked to the year 1992, when GPs were given several powers and functions for development of their respective areas. With specific reference to Sections 45 to Sections 59 of the Act, to communicate to local population about various powers and functions of GP. Section 45 of the Act outlines the Mandatory functions of GP.

The various types of plans fulfill the needs of common people living in villages. GPDP provides a perspective change in people's lives and provides a sustainable view to the GP. One of the biggest challenge that panchayats had always faced was that of financial resources. Today, the GPs are involved in tapping various financial resources. GPDP helps in funds mobilization from various sources.

Convergence is key element in GPDP. GPs have to mobilize resources from line departments and various

institutions. GPDP improves GPs' funds mobilization from various financial sources such as fees, fine, taxes and non-taxes.

Central and State Schemes:

- Funds under various Central and State schemes spent by various departments at GP level like National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM), National Health Mission (NHM), Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan (SSA), etc., can be included in GPDP.
- The funds available under all the schemes shall be made available to each GP to enable it, and to prioritize the needs under basic services etc.,

Focus Areas of the GPDP:

For achieving the overall development of the village, the planning exercise at the GP level should focus on the following areas to begin with:

- I. Sanitation and Drinking Water.
- II. Natural Resource Management.
- III. Human Resource Development.
- IV. Health and Nutrition.
- V. Agriculture.
- VI. Social Security and Poverty Reduction.

GPDP's main processes and various stages are given below.

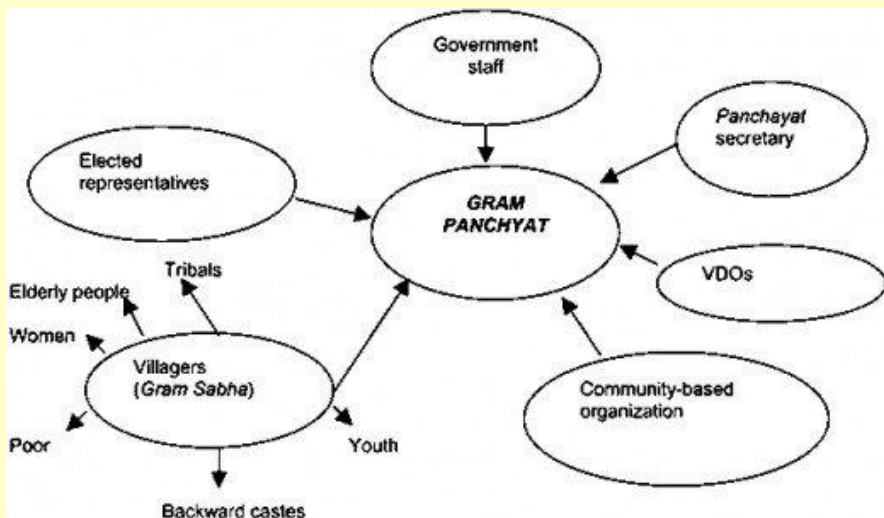
Public mobilization: Active participation of all villagers in the development is the first step in planning and planning process begins with mobilization of local communities; followed by generation of awareness and formation of coordination committees. The committees collect basic data of the GP and existing financial resources of the GP.

2. Sensitization & Capacity building: All the elected representatives and officials are involved in the planning. They are sensitized through training and capacity building,

which is done as per the state Panchayat Raj Institution's (PRI) guidance.

3. Gram Sabha: The villagers are involved in planning to discuss their needs, issues, discontent, priorities and their need-based infrastructure. The villagers form various committees with respective elected members and discuss about various matters like livelihoods analysis, development issues, village problems etc..

Analysing of the problems and finding solutions is key to the creation of the plan. The plan is then submitted to the Panchayat Secretary (PS). GPDP sets clear targets and



milestones to the GP. It shall clearly show the commitment of GP to improve quantity and quality of basic services which are mandated by the Panchayat Raj (PR) Act.

Later, the official notes on the "Situation" in the GP shall be given by different important departments like Health, Sanitation, Drinking Water, Agriculture, School Education, Women and Child Welfare, SC/ ST Welfare etc. through the Mandal Officers concerned. After situational analysis, the officers assess the needs of the community in the GP.

Block level officials assess the requirements for the community. The officials analyze the pending works and based on the above, the work is taken up on priority basis.

Mahatma Gandhi believed in the power of self-governance and said that, "Power resides in the people; they can use it at any time." He further stated that, "Independence begins at the bottom...A society must be built in which every village has to be self sustained and capable of managing its own affairs... It will be trained and prepared to perish in the attempt to defend itself against any onslaught from without". Mahatma Gandhi advocated the Panchayat Raj (PR) system, as it was the foundation of India's social system. It is a decentralized form of government with each village sustaining itself. Mahatma called it Gram Swaraj (Village Self Governance); and reiterated that it should be introduced instead of a centralized government. The local bodies should be moderated by the administrative units, and emphasis should be on empowering the elected Gram Panchayat (GP). The local bodies, or the Panchayat Raj, were formalized in India in 1992.

Later, the funds are released from central and state governments, and allocation of funds is based on work phases for effective execution on the ground.

Preparation of the Draft GPDP: After the Projectisation and Prioritization, the draft plan is prepared by the line departments for the concerned sectors. The draft plan indicates works identified in each of the focus areas, fund allocation, timelines for completion of the works, output and outcome of the works.

The consolidated draft plan prepared by the Mandal or Block Line departments are placed before GP for verification. A special meeting of GP is held to discuss the draft plan for finalization and approval. The approved plan is placed before the GS for validation. Proposed Administrative Arrangements for GPDP is given below:

a. Human Resources: The following categories of officers are available at the district level shall be utilized for carrying out the planning exercise:

- i. Functionaries of GP under GP control;
- ii. Functionaries at GP Level not under GP Control;
- iii. Functionaries at Mandal Level;
- iv. Functionaries at Divisional Level;

From the resource pool of above officers the following administrative arrangements made.

b. Panchayat Secretary (PS): The Panchayat Secretary makes all necessary arrangements required for carrying out planning exercise at GP level as per the instructions given by higher authorities from time to time. PS takes all logistic support to conduct Gram Sabhas, Functional Committee (FC) activities and any other activities related to planning process.

c. Special Officer: A Special Officer (SO) is appointed for every GP, as was done during Village Development Plan (VDP). The PS provides all required support and assistance to the SO. The SO facilitates proceedings by the FC of the GP.

d. Functional committee (FC): The FC shall be constituted as follows:

- i. One or three Ward members;
- ii. One or two SHG leaders;
- iii. Any retired officer in the village;

iv. Any person having experience in the subject concerned;

v. The Village/ Mandal level Officer concerned shall be Convener: The strength of each Functional committee shall not be more than seven members.

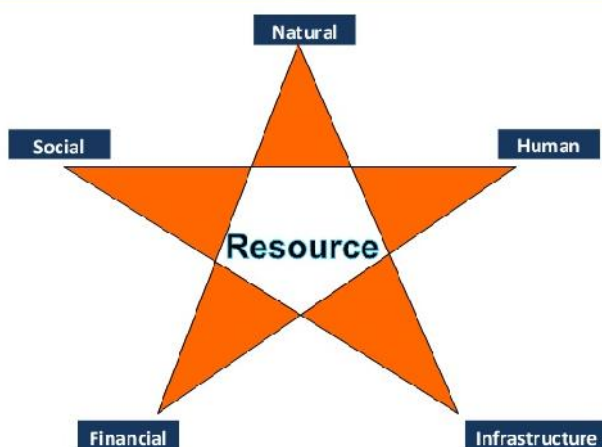
e. Extension Officer (EO): EO is primarily responsible for the smooth conduct of planning exercises in all GPs in the Block or Mandal, implementation of all instructions of the higher authorities and ensure that planning exercise is conducted as per the guidelines. EO is also responsible for submission of reports and required data entry on planning.

f. Block/ Mandal Line Departments: To consolidate the work of the functional group the Mandal line departments such as:

1. Block/ Mandal Parishad Development Officer - Convener;
2. Tahsildars;
3. Extension Officer (Panchayat Raj Rural Development);
4. Assistant Engineer (Panchayat Raj);
5. Assistant Engineer (Rural Water Service);
6. Assistant Engineer (Electricity);
7. Medical Officer (Primary Health Center);
8. Agriculture Officer;
9. Assistant Project Manager (Poverty Alleviation Programme).

Block Change Agent (BCA): A change agent appointed for each Mandal, the BCA coordinates the progress of the GPDP. BCA is instrumental in igniting the collective energy of the people and channeling it for the betterment of

Resource for Planning.....



society. BCA conducts the GS and motivates people's participation for the development, and he/ she has to coordinate between various departments in all the blocks and GP level departments. BCA is the mediator between the districts and blocks. BCA facilitates the preparation of the GPDPs.

Divisional Panchayat Officer (DPO): DPO is responsible for coordinating all activities of planning in the Division. DPO liaisons with all senior officers of line departments' to ensure that all departmental functionaries actively participate in the planning process, as per the roles and responsibilities assigned to them. DPO resolves any coordination issue at and immediately report the unresolved issue to higher authorities.

GPDP's implementation is a Herculean task as lack of funds/ or inadequate funds from various sources from within the GP are major roadblocks to it. Due to the above, GPs cannot sustain themselves by Income Generating Activities (IGAs), thus GPs require more funds for development as per the GPDP, and funds are sanctioned as per the financial requirements. The funds are from given by the central and state financial commission.

What is the importance of the 14th Finance Commission (FFC):

The key GPDP's successful implementation is the financial resources being in place. The GPs are availing its resources from the respective state governments and as well as from central government. It is the State Finance Commission (SFC)

which grants the amount to the respective district as per the guidelines of Finance Commission (FC) and local state government. Currently, we have the 14th Finance Commission (14 FC), which performs a key role in implementation of activities at the ground level. It has so far recommended 2,00,292.20 crore to the devolution to GPs constituted under part IX of the Constitution, which amounts to an assistance of Rs. 488 per capita/ year . The Union Finance commission, which keenly observes the SFC and analyses the main reasons as to why the grants are not being put to proper use. The Central Finance Commission (CFC) releases funds to the SFC and the SFC

grants fund to the districts, and further the division level officials further distribute the amount to block level and later it finally reaches the GP.

Functions of District Level Coordination Committee (DLCC):

- To facilitate the implementation of GPDP's resolution;
- To ensure the sub-district or division levels are following the DLCC's orders;
- To facilitate the convergence of all schemes;
- To respond to issues from the field and to undertake troubleshooting and crisis management if any required;
- To find out any problems from the ground level and solve it;
- To ensure that necessary human resource required for



GPDP processes are available as required in all GPs and clear cut responsibilities are fixed;

- To coordinate capacity building of all concerned;
- To get the GP wise secondary data relevant to GPDP as per the state guidelines;
- To provide support to technical appraisal and approval of the projects in time;
- To monitor and steer the entire GPDP process at the district level;
- To monitor the implementation of the GPDP;

- To give feedback and best practices report status of GPDP at the district level.

Functions of Block Level Coordination Committee (BLCC):

- To ensure the coordination of various departments at the block and GP level;
- To ensure the presence of cluster level technical support teams for GPDP process in the Block;
- To ensure the presence of technical support teams for monitoring GPDP process in cluster and block level;
- To ensure convergence of schemes and resources MGNREGS, NRHM, NRLM, ICDS, SSA and SBM etc.;
- To ensure any issues from the field level are identified and rectified, and if not resolved, send to the district level authorities to solve them;
- To ensure that whatever human resources are required are to sent to GP as per its needs, then fulfill the local gaps and their arrangements;
- To provide the basic infrastructure and equipment, and technical resources for GPDP;
- To make logistic arrangements for Capacity building at the cluster, GP and sub-GP level;
- To coordinate and promote the environment generation activities at the Block and grassroots level.

Review, Monitoring and Evaluation:

The GPDP's success depends upon effective implementation and its monitoring. However, the villagers are keenly observing the GPDP's implementation in every stage in the gross root level. So they can easily capture and evaluate and give the feedback to local and higher official for smooth and effective implementation of it as per the villagers' decision. This kind of review is for the effective development of GP at all levels. The following things play an important in the proper implementation of GPDP.

- Gram Sabha;
- GP;



iii. Intermediate Panchayat;

iv. District Collector/ Chief Executive Officer; Zilla Parishat/ Community Development Officer;

v. State;

Identifying the best GPDP's performance:

Whichever GPDP is documented as being the most effective in its implementation in the village level, is identified and nurtured as a beacon Panchayat. It is taken as a role model for the GPs. It is adopted as the local school of practice. Sometimes, the GPs are arranging exposure visits to best performing GPs within the state and neighboring states. The top GPs get the best performance award and ranking also. And the officials working for the top GP, are taken as resource persons.

Capacity Building:

The success of a GPDP also depends upon the systematic capacity building unit. However, the capacity building unit are only effective with trained officers. Apart from that, the state level stakeholders' coordination, such as the Panchayat Raj institutions, trained expert officers, policy makers, head of the department and senior officers, District Chief Executive Officer (DCEO), District Collector, Community Development Officers (CDO) is a very important aspect in the success of GPDPs.

In a similar way, the coordination of Block Development Officer (BDO), Panchayat Executive Officer (PEO), PS, various departments engineers, technical assistant, Gram Sevak, Gram Rojgar Sahayaks, Anganwadi workers,

Primary Health Center (PHC) Doctors, ANM/ ASHA workers, Self Help Groups (SHGs) and Village Organization (VO) leaders and members, School Teachers, Agriculture Officer, Veterinary Officer, Assistant and Forest Officer, etc., is important. Moreover, the elected representatives have a key role to play in the implementation of GPDP.

The capacity building programme of GPs is one of the most important areas for successful implementation of GPDP.

The state officials select a resource person as they themselves cannot possibly participate in the entire state

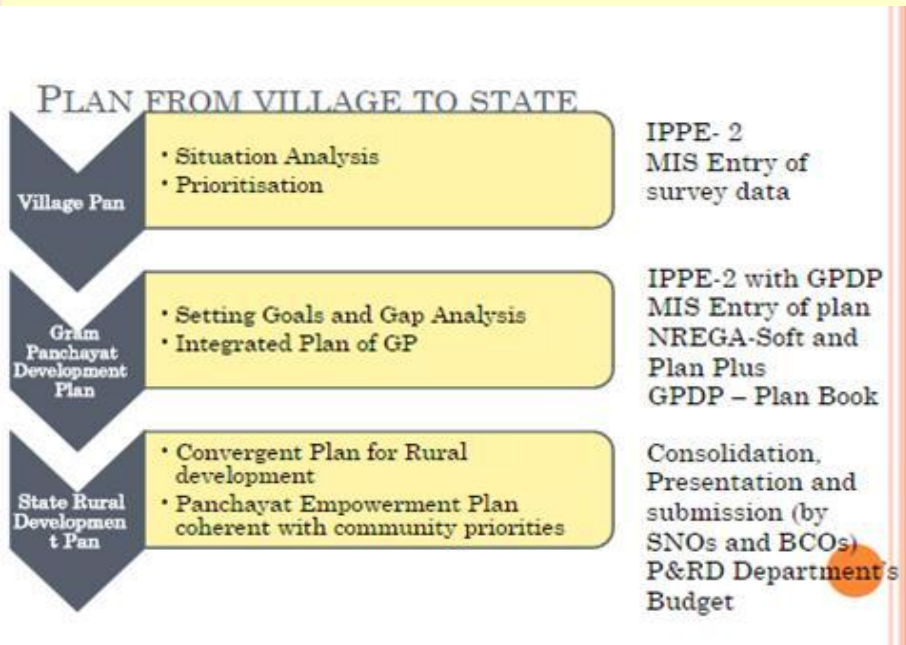
Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), Pradhan Manthri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), Rajeev Gandhi Sashakthikaran Abhiyan (RGPSA) etc., are creating public assets and give provide services to the development model of villages.

GPDP results:

Till now, 24 states are designing GPDP out of 26 states. Whatever plan is designed is implemented in the ground level. All the states give importance to basic services like water, sanitation, roads, street lights, play grounds, parks, burial grounds, etc. These development activities are done by the funds from various resources like own resources,

central and state governments' schemes, 14th Finance Commission, SFC and Poverty Reduction:

The GPDPs focus on reduction of the poverty. However, our Government keeps introducing various schemes and programmes for poor people, so the schemes and entitlements are converging for effectively providing services to poor people. These programmes give entitlements and rights to the poor people like forest rights, social security, food security, education, nutrition, health and shelter. Moreover, the MGNREGS and NRLM programmes are providing livelihoods and



level GPs. So that, they give training to resource persons. The state level officials are called the Master trainers and the ground level implementation activists are called resource persons. The resource persons identify those who are working with the community in the ground level actively like health, MGNREGS, sanitation, livelihoods, watershed, literacy, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), NRLM elected representatives like SHGs, VO and Mandal Samakya (MS).

The entire capacity building trainings get the funds pooled from the Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashakthikarn Abhiyaan (RGPSA), MGNREGS, NRLM and SBM.

Convergence in the GPDP:

There are many schemes being implemented in the villages. Convergence with those schemes is important for village development. The schemes such as MGNREGS, NRLM, Pradhan Manthri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY),

Community Based Institutions (CBOs) are also playing an important role.

The GPDPs also focus on literacy, education, skill development, child health, public health, food and nutrition. It also facilitates in the creation of quality human resources. These aspects are especially developing in anganwadis, schools, hospitals. If these kind of basic infrastructure develop, automatically the respective state governments reach the targets within time..

GPDP should aim at improving the wellbeing of vulnerable and marginalised groups like Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), including Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), minorities and Persons With Disabilities (PWDs), elderly people, women, children and vulnerable groups like bonded labourers, child labourers,

de-notified tribes and nomads, distress-migrants, manual scavengers, transgenders, victims of trafficking etc.,

Economic development:

The GPs promote activities of the local people, their produces, productivity, employment, market-accessibility, value addition, livestock, fisheries, land development activities, irrigation tanks, ponds, wells, etc.,. They also develop agriculture and allied sectors and traditional works and also financial inclusion.

Public service delivery: GPDP give the priority to public services apart from the maximizing the local development through minimum investment, like the distribution of birth and death certificates, trade license, permits, welfare services, social security pension schemes through the electronic machines.

Good Governance:

Along with effective public service delivery, the GPs need to develop processes and systems related to participation, particularly of the marginalized groups, transparency and proactive disclosures, community based monitoring and due processes in budget and expenditure. Close partnership with institutions of the poor, particularly SHGs and women is also necessary. This calls for a 'Good Governance' plan for each GP including Citizens' charters.

Challenges of GPDP:

Implementation of the plan on the ground has been one of the key challenges of GPDP, mainly due to limited financial resources, political interference, defective methods in elections, inadequate co-operation between the officials

and non-officials and lack of coordination at the block level and non-conductance of GS at the village level. On the other front, many of the GPs are not collecting taxes and the local communities are under the impression that GPs have to avail funds only from SFC or from the central government. Thus, many of the local communities are evading tax payments, as a result of this the GPs are not able to effectively pay wages to its workers. Political interference has been identified as another major challenge for effective implementation of GPDP. The panchayat secretaries are in connivance with the local administration, and there has been misutilization of funds in flagship programmes. On the whole, the challenges in GPDP are acting as a deterrent factor in the realization of the true spirit of GPDP, which can be addressed through technology and standardization of procedures.

Conclusion:

The concept of self empowerment, which was Mahatma Gandhi's aim, has accelerated its momentum through GPDP. The GPDP's innovation lies in people's planning for themselves, by way of utilizing local, natural, physical, social, human, spiritual and economical resources, mobilizing resources through convergence with line departments and different organizations is going a long way towards development. The GPDP has given the people power through GS, by way of involving all the key stakeholders. The GPDP has strengthened the GPs and to a large extent facilitating the decentralization of governance. The decision making power in the hands of GS has made the village development possible and has accentuated villagers' rights and entitlements, and betterment of services. ❖

Individual Enterprise



Selling Coconuts

Collective Enterprise



Sea Shell Crafts by Siluvai Nagar SHGs

The National Waterways Act, 2016

India has an extensive network of inland waterways in different forms i.e., rivers, canals, backwaters and creeks. The navigable length in totality is around 14,500 km, and out of this, 5200 km of the rivers and 4000 km of canals can be used by mechanized crafts.

Inland Waterways Authority of India

It was on 27th October 1986, that the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) was created towards the development and regulation of Inland waterways for shipping and navigation. The Authority primarily undertakes projects for development and maintenance of Inland Waterway Terminal infrastructure on National Waterways (NW) through grant received from Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways.

Recently, based on the data given by the Ministry of statistics and programme implementation 2015, a total of 106 water bodies with a minimum length of 25km were declared as National Waterways (NWs). These were classified into three categories based on financial viability and location as well as further grouped into eight clusters based on locations. In the first phase, eight NWs of category – one, that are considered most viable will be developed, and feasibility reports of 54 of 60 category II NWs in coastal regions with tidal stretches would be delivered from March 2016 onwards.

The National Waterways Act, 2016

Against this backdrop, The National Waterways Act, 2016 was tabled in Lok Sabha by Minister of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari on 5th May 2015.

The Act has merged five existing Acts which have declared five National Waterways and proposed an additional of 101 National Waterways, and has come into force from 12th April 2016. It made provisions for existing NWs and provided for the declaration of certain inland waterways to be NWs and also for regulation and development of the said waterways for the purposes of shipping and navigation for matters connected therewith or incidental there to.

The Act, enacted in the 67th year of the Republic of India, proposed that inland waterways declared by section 2 of the National Waterways Act, 2016, to be national waterways. The NWs will continue for the purpose of shipping and navigation under the Act and the regulation and development of the waterways referred, will be under the control of Central Government.

Concerns: The Act was passed keeping in mind the underutilization of waterways for freight transportation; however, it is important to understand that IWT has always played an important role in Indian transport since ancient times, but due to expansion of road and rail transport, the importance of waterways has declined considerably.

The aim of the government to develop IWT for shipping and navigation, though great on paper, raises some serious

concerns. Due to diversion of river water for irrigation and the volume of water in rivers lessening on account of construction of canals for irrigation purposes, the creation of NWs on these rivers seems dubious. Secondly, due to deforestation of hill ranges leading to erosion, accumulation of silt in rivers has been leading to insufficient depths throughout the stretch of navigable waters; moreover, peninsular rivers depend on rainfall for their volume of water and during dry season, navigation will anyhow be difficult.

Most of the large rivers of the country enter the sea through shallow sand-choked delta channels, thus navigation is hampered unless dredging is done. Additionally, non availability of adequate navigational aids results in unsafe passage and high travel time. There are many loading and unloading points, where there is lack of adequate terminal facilities, followed by lack of investment in the creation of infrastructure, lack of modernization and lack of efficient operators. The construction of dams for hydroelectric purposes only adds to the problems.

Advantages:

The advantages of inland waterway transport is that it has low capital cost, operating costs, maintenance costs, least energy consumption, least impact on environment among other modes of transport with low carbon emissions, having enormous capacity reserve to carry bulk cargo, coal etc.

The Act intends to convert 111 rivers across the country into NWs to reduce the transportation costs substantially and augment states' economy. The road transport is causing roughly around 5 lakh accidents per annum, killing 1.5 lakh people and is not as environmental friendly as inland waterways.

Conclusion:

The idea behind the development of inland waterways is sound in principle, but in a country where water resources are becoming scarce, it has to be seen how successful large scale transportation of goods on water can be.

Moreover, the Act can have serious impact on river ecology, fishery, fishermen's livelihoods; the Act should take to 50% reservation in recruitment to transport police in NWs. The Act, when realized fully, will be witness to how fishermen's lives and livelihoods and other communities which are dependent on water based livelihoods have been impacted in consonance with the river ecology. It is important to develop a blue print on benefits of green transport opportunities, as it will help in reducing carbon emissions. It is important for the government to make the public aware about the benefits of inland water ways transport, at the same time, understanding the key stakeholders problems, doubts, and fears, and coming up with appropriate solutions will be the best way to increase the waterway transportation. So that the benefits provided by the waterways network are not compromised. ❖

Master and Disciples

One day, all the disciples went to their master' and said, "Master, Master, we all are going on a pilgrimage.

Master: Why you want to go on a pilgrimage trip?

Disciples: So that we can improve our devotion.

Master: OK. Then do me a favour. Please take this Karela (bitter gourd) along with you and wherever you go and whichever temple you visit, place it in the alter of the Deity, take the blessings and bring it back.

So, not only the disciples but the Karela also went on pilgrimage, temple to temple.

And finally when they came back, the Master said, "cook that Karela and serve it to me."

The disciples cooked it and served it to the master. After having the first bite, the master said,

"Surprising"!!!!

Disciples: What's so surprising?

Master: Even after the pilgrimage the Karela is still bitter. How come???'

Disciples: But that's the very nature of the Karela, Master.



Master: That's what I am saying. Unless you change your nature, pilgrimage will not make any difference.

So, you & I, if we do not change ourselves no teacher or guru can make a difference in our lives.

If you think positively, Sound becomes music, Movement become dance, Smile becomes laughter, Mind becomes meditative and Life becomes a celebration! ❖

(Source: www.magicbeep.com)

Social Enterprise



Health Camp by Smile on Wheels (SoW)

Important Day

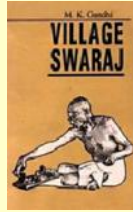


21 June,
International Day of Yoga

Village Swaraj

Author: MK Gandhi

This book is a compilation of Mahatma Gandhi's thoughts on 'Village Swaraj' from his writings. It contains Gandhiji's views on different aspects of rural life including agriculture, village industry, transport, animal husbandry, basic education, health and hygiene.



Gandhi stressed on many relevant subjects such as true meaning of 'Swaraj', ideal village, vital components in democracy, difference between villages and cities, basic principles of village swaraj, bread labour, equality, theory of trusteeship, swadesi, self-sufficiency and co-operation, Panchayat Raj, Nai Talim, agriculture and cattle, khadi spinning and other village industries, village transport, currency, exchange and tax, sanitation, health and hygiene, diet, village protection, village workers, government and villages, India and the world, etc.

Gandhi strongly argued that decentralization of political and economical powers through village panchayats facilitates social and economical development in rural areas and also leads to the nation's development. He wanted to see each village as a self-sufficient republic which addresses all needs of the people, and thought that each village should have complete authority to manage its governance matters.

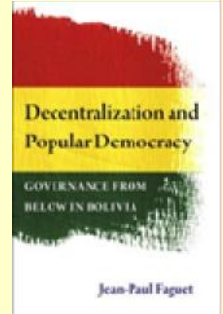
Gandhi believed that 'Swaraj' means democracy and that autonomous and self-reliant environment enhances people's participation in governance and ensures maximum freedom and development to the greatest extent. He envisioned that technical skills and multiple arts should be developed in each village and no one should be sitting idle without any work.

It is a good and useful book for community development workers, government officials, and those who are involved in rural development. ❖

Decentralization and Popular Democracy

Author: Jean-Paul Faguet

The book 'Decentralization and Popular Democracy: Governance from Below in Bolivia' explains how decentralization improved public services and made government more accountable to people in Bolivia.

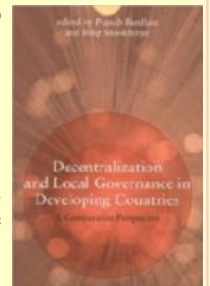


It projects quantitative economic data evidence about the benefits of decentralization, and also suggests recommendations for successful reform. It clarifies assumptions that decentralization does not work on ground and deteriorates administration; on the contrary, shows how decentralization fills the gap between citizens and state. ❖

Decentralization and Local Governance

Editors: Pranab Bardhan and Dilip Mookherjee

The book 'Decentralization and Local Governance in Developing Countries: A Comparative Perspective' is a collection of detailed case studies of decentralization in eight countries viz.



Bolivia, Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, South Africa, and Uganda. The book explains how decentralization initiatives have been faring for the past three decades in the world and particularly in the eight countries mentioned above. It explains the context of decentralization and the evolution of specific design and its impact in these countries. ❖

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'Yoga'kshemam

Environment Day!

Music Day!

Yoga Day!

Summer Solstice!

Schools have started. Monsoon has set in. Rains have started although late.

Yoga seeks union and yoga seeks liberation. Yoga is looking inside. Yoga is exploring and cherishing the nature. Yoga is relationships. Yoga is connectedness.

This is also time to transit to the third stage of life, the third innings. I see being a life worker is the essential yoga. While on purpose, I see four domains -

♦ Yatra – to appreciate and be useful

- All States/UTs in a year;
- All regions in 2-3 years;
- All districts in 4-5 years;
- 50% blocks in 5-7 years;
- 5% GPs in 7-8 years; and
- 5% villages in 8-9 years.

♦ Reach for Influencing Collectives in 9-10 years

- 1000 Community Institutions
- 1000 GPs
- 500 Collectives at Cluster and above levels
- 500 Civil Society Organizations
- 100 large organizations/enterprises/foundations
- 100 organizations/programs of state governments
- 10 national government organizations/programs

♦ Reach for Mentoring/Learning Influence of Individuals in 9-10 years

- 10 Million, 1-2 hours
- 1 Million, 5-6 hours
- 100 Thousand, 2-6 days
- 10 Thousand, 2-6 weeks
- 5 Thousand, 2-6 months
- 1 Thousand, 1-2 years
- 100, 3-5 years
- 25, 6-8 years
- 12, life workers

♦ Support Intervention Areas

- Mentors, Life workers, Fellows, Interns
- Network of Support Professionals
- Visioning
- Leadership
- Management
- Magazine, Portal and Channel
- Books
- Centres on Collectivization and Collectives
- TRUE Livelihoods Support
- Centres of Self-Employment, Enterprises and Jobs
- Health, Education, and Tuition Centres
- Adoption of GPs, Community Institutions etc.
- Community Resource Centres
- Livelihoods Education
- Learning Forums
 - Career Counseling
 - Coaching
 - Web Marketing
- Social Enterprises and Social Entrepreneurship Development
- Etc.

G Muralidhar

We support. We work. We seek Union. We practice Yoga. We reflect. We dwell deep. We analyze. We support in analysis. We support in Planning. We work for Collectivization. We work for Communitization. We work for Inclusion. We work for Vulnerability Reduction. We pursue Convergence. We support Collectives. We augment employment. We support de-risking.

We seek togetherness in being, flowing, doing, celebrating and celebrating the life. We live the spirit of life together. Universe lives in us. This is yoga. This is sahayogam.

Can we be there? Yes, if we pursue Atma Yoga. If we focus! If we practice! If we believe! If we trust! If we are willing! If we are in now and here! Krsna confirms a yoga combining gyana, karma and bhakthi guarantees reaching the universe surely.

Join us in the world of yoga –for the transformation and freedom as a result of enhanced identity, solidarity, capacity, access to rights and our well-being – lives and livelihoods – and surrender to the universe –towards krsnajanayogasiddhi. You will not regret it. ❖



ALPL invites interns for six months in livelihoods and development sector. Interested candidates may please send your Curriculum Vitae to following e-mail id:

venkat.kolagari@gmail.com

aksharkriti@gmail.com

