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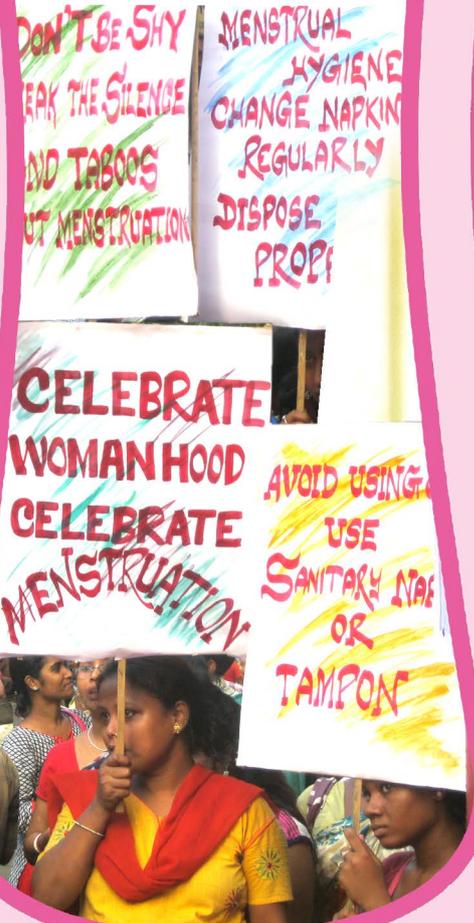
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February 2019

Swachh Bharat Swachh Vidyalaya

A National Mission



Menstrual Hygiene Management in India: Still a long way to go

Swachh Bharat Swachh Vidyalaya

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in India: Still a long way to go

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Menstrual Hygiene Management in India: Still a long way to go

Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons

Menstruation is a normal biological process and a key sign of reproductive health, yet in many cultures it is treated as something negative, shameful or dirty. The continued silence around menstruation combined with limited access to information at home and in schools results in millions of women and girls having very little knowledge about what is happening to their bodies when they menstruate and how to deal with it. Further, the taboos associated with menstruation, limits the ability of women and girls to fully and equally participate in society, undermining their overall social status and self-esteem (World Bank, 2018).

Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) is defined as ‘Women and adolescent girls using a clean menstrual management material to absorb or

collect blood that can be changed in privacy as often as necessary for the duration of the menstruation period, using soap and water for washing the body as required, and having access to facilities to dispose of used menstrual

The myths and taboos surrounding menstruation need to be broken down effectively before schemes and incentives make their way to make life better for menstruating women

management materials’ (WHO, 2014).

Issues and challenges related to menstrual hygiene management (MHM) in low and middle-income countries are gaining increased recognition in the water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) sector globally. Ever since 2014, May 28

is observed as the Menstrual Hygiene Day worldwide to raise awareness about the challenges women and girls face to deal with menstrual cycles and highlight solutions implementable at global, national, and local levels to address these issues.

MHM and impact on human development outcomes

Studies have shed light on MHM and their impact on human development outcomes. In Nigeria, for instance, 25 per cent women lack adequate privacy for defecation or menstrual hygiene management, while in Bangladesh, less than 10 per cent of schools provide education on MHM, resulting in low knowledge of menstruation and one-third of girls claiming that menstrual issues adversely affect their school



Women and girls taking out a march to create awareness on menstruation (file photo)

Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons

performance, (UNICEF, 2016).

Although the age for menarche and menopause varies by geographical region, race and ethnicity, and other determinants but research evidence suggests that the average age of menarche in Indian female population is 13.46 years. Similarly, the average age for menopause is 46.8 years. Rounding off these figures, it can be calculated that an average Indian female menstruates for about 2040 days in her lifetime between menarche and menopause.

Despite menstruation being a natural physiological process, lack of menstrual health management (MHM) is a large-scale problem for women and girls in India too, due to social stigmas, socio-cultural myths and taboos, scarcity of information or misinformation, unavailability and scarcity of toilets and sanitary napkins, and environmental concerns associated with the disposal of sanitary napkins.

This problem involves a cycle of neglect. Firstly, there is a lack of involvement from women and girls in decision-making regarding their own lives, secondly, lack of information and awareness regarding menstrual hygiene and why women menstruate, and lastly lack of access to sanitary materials and facilities.

One of the top factors found to be negatively affecting menstrual health and its management in rural India is lack of education. Majority of girls in rural areas do not know what happens when the first time they menstruate and how or why their bodies are undergoing that process. Inevitably, this is the beginning of an endless cycle of poverty for these girls as there are many significant defining consequences of this life-changing event. One of them is habitual absenteeism of girls from schools during menstruation, which affects their education and ability to keep up with the schoolwork along with high prevalence of reproductive

tract infections. Depression and low self-esteem are also found to be high among girls and women in areas without MHM. Further, seclusion of women from the public realm during menstruation, also negatively effect outcomes.

Social norms around menstruation and its effect on girls

The landscape for any social development programme is greatly influenced by social norms. Most decisions and behaviours affecting individuals in the society are governed by various social and cultural norms that people want to conform to, else feel stigmatised if they fail to do so. Social practices that deny rights to women during their periods continue to be active in India even today.

Menstruating women are considered impure and unclean, and are systematically excluded from

participating in everyday activities and religious practices. Taboos and stigmas attached to menstruation lead to an overall culture of silence around the topic. Isolation of menstruating girls and restrictions being imposed on them in the family result in not only limited information on menstruation and menstrual hygiene but also lead to reinforcing a negative attitude towards this phenomenon, which may have severe ramifications on the health and dignity of girls and women. Thus, given the multiple challenges women and adolescent girls face, it is important to understand that promoting menstrual hygiene management (MHM) is not only a sanitation matter, but an urgent step towards safeguarding the dignity, bodily integrity and overall life opportunities of women and girls in the society.

It is important to build local capacities and engage all stakeholders in society in a holistic approach to raise awareness about the importance of menstrual hygiene and its linkages to broader issues of gender equality.

Role of men and boys

Research findings indicate that girls are largely on par with boys up to adolescence, in different aspects of lives, but with the onset of puberty, outcomes for girls begin to diverge and girls face increasing restrictions to their mobility and agency. One of the reasons for this is gender inequality. Unequal power relations between men and women results in women's and girls' voices not being heard in decision-making within households, communities and development programmes. In India, during menstruation, women and girls are often excluded from using water and sanitation facilities, are unable to participate fully in social, educational,

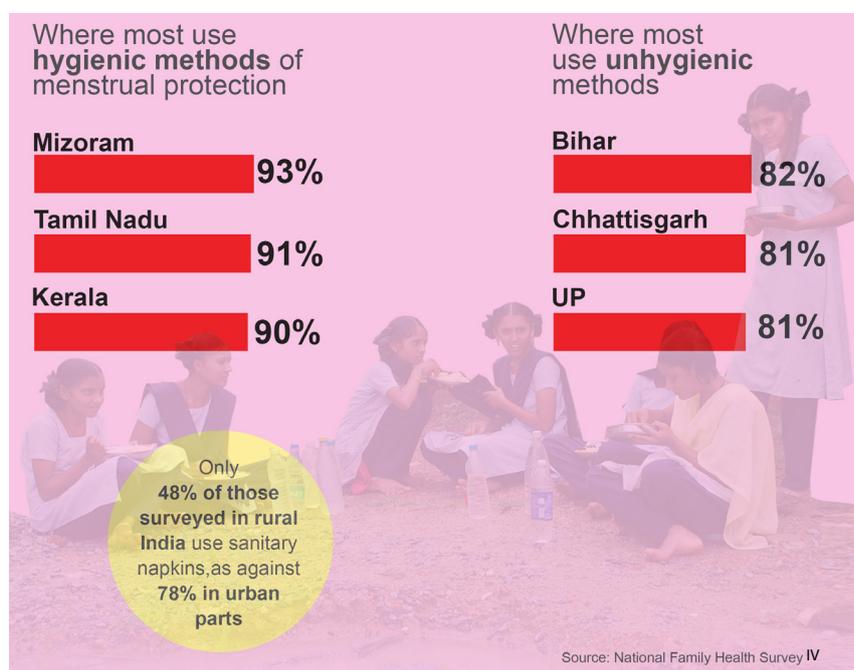


Chart indicating hygienic/unhygienic menstrual protection practice in States across India

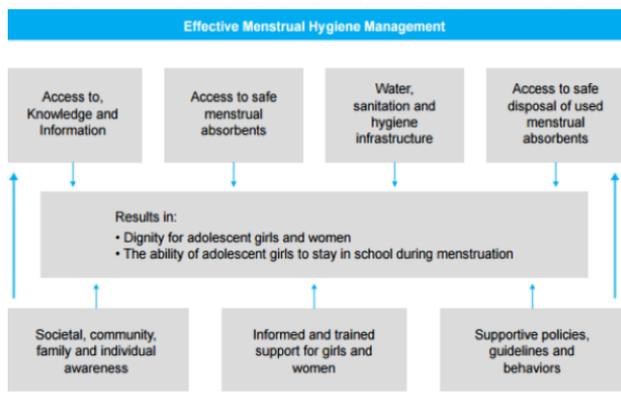
productive and religious activities and, in some cultures, are even excluded from the home (House et al., 2012). In this context, men and boys can certainly support women and girls to manage menstruation effectively across different social domains, including household and community in their roles as husbands, fathers, brothers, students, peers teachers, employers, etc. Involvement of males can generate a more positive environment towards sustainable menstrual hygiene practices in rural India. Hence, addressing both the practical and strategic needs of women and girls related to menstruation and menstrual hygiene require comprehensive programmes that target women and girls and men and boys as well.

Menstrual Hygiene Management Practices (MHMP) in India

National level studies show that in India, menstruation is thought of as an onset of severe disease by many young rural girls. NFHS-4 findings show that only 57.6 per cent of women use sanitary

napkins with 48.5 per cent in rural areas and 77.5 per cent in urban areas. Out of the women in the age of 15 to 24 years in India, 42 per cent use sanitary napkins, 62 per cent use cloth and 16 per cent use locally prepared napkins. Women using cloth reuse them after washing, cleaning, and drying. However, these reusable materials are often not sanitised properly with soap and clean water in compelling circumstances or due to lack of awareness. Social taboos also restrict women to dry them indoors, away from sunlight. Numerous other studies conducted across the country show that vaginitis and urinary tract infections were twice as prevalent among women who used cloth during menstruation than those who used sanitary pads (UNFPA 2012; Padma Das et al., 2015).

Owing to the vast inter-State diversity in the country, the menstrual hygiene management practices differ from State to State and are also influenced based on the urban-rural setting of the community. Other factors such as affordability of the sanitary hygiene product, accessibility to



Source: Ministry of Drinking water and Sanitation

Chart indicating effective menstrual hygiene management and access to disposable sanitary napkins in India

the product, knowledge about availability of such products, correct usage and disposal and even educational status of the individual, mother and family altogether also influence menstrual hygiene practices in India. Though the most recent National Family Health Survey-4 data show that overall 57.6 per cent of women are using hygienic methods for menstrual protection nevertheless, availability and accessibility of clean and safe menstrual absorbents for all women seem to be a distant dream in the current Indian context.

Menstrual hygiene management initiatives in India

As per Census 2011, the number of women in the reproductive age group (15–49 years) is more than 30 crore in India. Taking cognisance of the quantum of morbidity and poor quality of life that a woman would have to bear in the absence of proper MHM perception and practices in the country, the Government of India has incorporated MHM into national policies and programmes as part of initiatives for improving health, overall well-being, and nutritional status of adolescent girls and women, as well as for reducing school absenteeism of adolescent girls. MHM has been made an integral part of the Swachh Bharat Mission Guidelines. Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation has

published operational guidelines to be implemented by State governments, district-level officials, engineers, and school teachers for improved MHM in the country. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has also focused MHM as a priority area in National Health Mission and in the RMNCH+A strategy. The SABLA programme of Ministry of Women and Child Development has incorporated awareness generation on MHM as an important initiative to improve health, nutrition, and empowerment for adolescent girls.

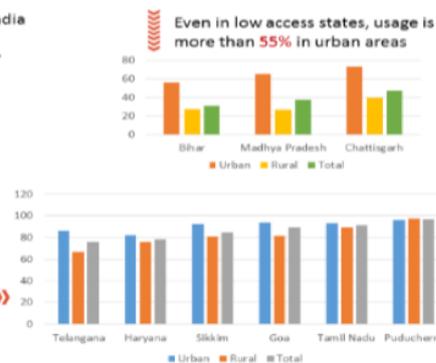
UNICEF has also been instrumental in providing technical guidance and support towards raising awareness, addressing behaviour change, capacity building of frontline community cadre, sensitisation of key stakeholders and creation of WASH facilities, including safe disposal options. 'Swachh Bharat: Swachh Vidyalaya' campaign has been also launched to ensure that every school in India has a set of functioning and well-maintained WASH facilities. Efforts are being made to provide sanitary napkins to school-going girls by installing napkin vending machines at schools and to increase accessibility of environmentally safe disposal mechanisms such as low cost incinerators attached to the girls' toilets in schools for disposal of used MHM products.

Access to Disposable Sanitary Napkin has increased!

Almost 58% of women in India use either locally prepared napkins, sanitary napkins or tampons



States where usage is more than 80% in urban areas and 65% in rural



Source: National Family Health Survey 2015&16

The Challenges

Menstrual hygiene management awareness: Minimising barriers

1. Studies from different parts of the country have revealed that awareness and understanding of menstruation as a normal biological phenomenon is abysmally poor in different sections of the society. Prevailing socio-cultural norms, beliefs and practices make it difficult for women and girls to talk freely about menstruation without fear or shame. It is such a taboo subject in the society that not only girls and women feel shy about menstruation, but school teachers, and even health workers also feel uncomfortable to discuss MHM related issues. Therefore, all-out efforts towards changing the age old social attitude towards menstruation and to break the culture of silence and inertness is



Photo credit: Save the Children India

very much needed.

2. Innovative IEC approaches like utilisation of community contact opportunities (e.g. Village Health and Nutrition Days) and proactive involvement of mass media and social media would further minimise barriers to MHM awareness. Capacity building of school teachers and health service providers, including AWWs, to disseminate timely and accurate information to both boys and girls on the biological and psychosocial aspects of puberty, menstruation, and MHM customised to local contexts, rather than focusing only on the practical aspects of managing menstruation, may holistically improve the effectiveness of the awareness programmes.

3. Focus on the provision of sanitary napkins is just not sufficient. Problems for women, particularly girls in school, also relate to the access to having an area to change, and then dispose of napkins (pads) are therefore necessary, but not sufficient. Improving access to hygienic menstrual hygiene

management products at affordable cost is an important determinant of healthy menstrual management practice.

4. Malesensitisationatcommunity level to increase their understanding and thereby fostering ingsupportive attitude will have stronger effect in removing discriminatory practices faced by women.

5. Involvement of key community influencers, that is, social and religious leaders in countering the negative myths and misconceptions, would also help to build a support system at societal level.

Conclusion

Ensuring menstrual hygiene for girls and women should be at the top of developmental agenda which calls for urgent and intensive action from all relevant stakeholders. All mothers, irrespective of their educational level ,should be counselled to break their inhibitions over discussing menstrual process with their daughters much before the age of menarche to bring about a paradigm shift in the prevailing norms

of our culture and society with regards to menstruation.

Strong and effective Information, Education and Communication activities (IEC) and involvement of social workers at the village level to dispel the myths associated with menstruation should be undertaken.

It is important to spread awareness on menstrual health and reproductive education among marginalised and tribal girls and women. Open conversation on these issues should be a part of the school curriculum as well. Sanitary napkins must be provided to menstruating women to ensure that they do not fall prey to age old unhygienic traditions of using cloth, soil or sand.

Last but not the least, there is a need for greater involvement of men and boys to generate a more positive environment towards sustainable menstrual hygiene practices in rural India.

Dr. Sucharita Pujari

Assistant Professor

CPGS & DE

Cover Page Design: **Shri V.G. Bhat**

Two-day national interactive workshop for SIRDs & ETCs under National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR)



Smt. Deepa Kiran, international storyteller demonstrating storytelling strategies for generating awareness on drug abuse prevention during the interactive workshop for SIRDs and ETCs in the presence of Dr. W. R. Reddy, IAS, Director General, NIRDPR, Shri Anand Katoch, Director, NISD, New Delhi and Dr. T. Vijaya Kumar, Associate Professor & Head, CESD, NIRDPR.

The Centre for Equity and Social Development, National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), Hyderabad organised a two-day national interactive workshop for State Institutes of Rural Development (SIRDs) and Extension Training Centres (ETCs) under the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) in association with National Institute of Social Defence (NISD), New Delhi on 1st and 2nd February, 2019. The workshop was inaugurated by Dr. W. R. Reddy, IAS, Director General, NIRDPR in the presence of Mr. Anand Katoch, Director, National Institute of Social Defence (NISD), New Delhi.

Addressing the participants, Dr. W. R. Reddy highlighted the role of SIRDs and ETCs in organising preventive education programmes through trainings of Panchayati Raj Institutions and preparing action for incorporating one or two sessions for addressing the prevention of drug abuse menace in order to improve the quality of life of rural people.

Mr. Anand Katoch, Director, NISD explained the policy of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and deliberated upon the National Action Plan for Drug demand Reduction and its strategies.

Speaking on this occasion, Smt. Deepa Kiran, international storyteller said storytelling can be used as a strategy in generating awareness about drug prevention in rural areas, especially among school children, SHG women and elected representatives of panchayati raj system. She also narrated a story with educational implications and ways to connect and motivate the people.

Dr. T. Vijaya Kumar, Associate Professor and Head, Centre for Equity and Social Development, NIRDPR, who was also coordinating the workshop, said, "Drug and substance abuse is a global health problem and is reaching alarming proportion shell over the world including India, both in urban and rural areas. Changing cultural values, increasing economic stress and

lack of support systems are some of the causes for this. It is also responsible for many serious health related and social behavior problems. Global Burden of Disease (GBD), 2010 study finds that substance use disorders accounted for 0.4 per cent of the global years of life lost to disability. GBD reported that opioid, cocaine and amphetamine accounted for approximately 44000, cause specific deaths and 7,02,000 excess deaths. Drug abuse and alcoholism can have lasting adverse impact on the family members leading to mental health problems like anxiety, fear and depression, especially in women and children, not to mention the financial burden on the family. There is also the angle of illegal drug trafficking and attendant law and order issues."

"The purpose of the workshop is to facilitate discussion on awareness and preventive education of drug abuse with reference to framework of National Action plan for Drug Demand Reduction formulated by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India. This incorporates partnership,

coalition and collective action by involving the Panchayat Raj institutions in rural areas," he added.

In the two-day workshop, resource persons from All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, Heritage Foundation and psychiatry experts from Osmania Medical College, Hyderabad interacted with the participants. On the second day, Shri Vivekananda Reddy, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Excise and Prohibition, Government of Telangana presented the role played by Excise and

Prohibition Department in tackling the situation of drug abuse.

In total, 30 participants representing 21 State Institute of Rural Development and Extensions Training Centres, including Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan had attended the workshop. The event saw discussions on various issues like drug abuse situation in India, salient features of National Action Plan for Drug Demand

Reduction 2018-2023, preventive education strategies by involving women members of self-help groups, school children and Panchayati Raj Institutions to address the issue through community participation and mobilisation.

The workshop was coordinated by Dr. T. Vijaya Kumar, Associate Professor & Head, Dr. Satya Ranjan Mahakul, Assistant Professor, Dr. Rubina Nusrat, Assistant Professor and Dr. V. Lalitha, UGC-PDF of Centre for Equity & Social Development, NIRDPR.

Community participation - a step towards Swachh Gram Panchayats



Dr. U. Hemantha Kumar, Associate Professor, NIRDPR and NSRC project team interacting with SHG women

The project team of National Swachhata Resource Centre (NSRC), under the Centre for Rural Infrastructure (CRI) supported by UNICEF, Hyderabad has taken up a study on the status of the Open Defection Free (ODF) sustainability in Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh.

As part of the study, the team interacted with the district officials of Swachh Bharat Mission – Gramin (SBM-G) and elicited the primary data. To understand the ODF sustainability status, the team also visited tribal, plain

and coastal areas of Nellore district during December 2018. The names of the habitations and Gram Panchayats visited by the team are Venkateswarapuram habitation in Devulavellampalli (GP), Dakkali (M), Thalwayipadu (GP) in Pellakur (M), Naidupeta division and Srirama Puram habitation in Thummalapenta (GP) and Kavali Mandal (coastal area) of Nellore district.

The key observations from the visit are narrated below:

Majority of the Households (HH)

have constructed single pit toilets under different schemes such as MGNREGS and SBM-G. Apart from these schemes, most of the households spent an additional amount of Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 30,000 towards the construction of slab, tiles and other facilities. These habitations have Over Head Surface Reservoirs (OHSR) under the Central Public/Plan Water Scheme (CPWS). Most of the households are not having water tap facility in the toilets. However, the households kept water in buckets and small drums in the toilets



Toilets constructed under SBM-G

for flushing purpose. Therefore, no water problem was witnessed due continuous usage of toilets.

It was informed by some of the households that, except for kids or toddlers who have not developed the toilet using practice, the residents are using toilets. However, parents have reported that they used to collect the faecal matter and dispose it in toilets. They also expressed that they wash their hands after disposing faeces of children.

The research team observed that soap sticks are being glued either to doors or to the walls of the toilets for hand washing purposes. Though it was not hygienic, it indicates use of toilet and practice of hand washing after using toilets. It was also observed that the households have placed toilet cleaning acids and/or phenyls in the toilets for cleaning. Each household reported to be spending around Rs. 200 per month for toilet cleaning agents. Another important observation is that there was no waste burnt in open areas and no animal dung found in the vicinity of the households.

The team also visited waste to wealth compost yard in the habitation, which was constructed on the government land. They also have a green ambassador who collects waste from door-to-door. The green ambassador separates the dry and wet waste at the source and transfers

the wet waste to the compost yard.

It was informed by the key informants that the former District Collector Ms. Janaki had attended a residential training programme on Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) at Raipur, Chhattisgarh in 2016. And subsequently, she took a lead in conducting similar training programmes for the district officials of Nellore district. All the district officials along with the representatives from selected NGOs have undergone training on CLTS and rolled out these training programmes to the grassroots level officials.

The district administration has created a brand logo called 'Aathma Gowravam' on 8th March, 2016. Apart from the logo, they also created a separate cell called "Aathma Gowravam cell". The district administration not only limited itself to the creation of a brand/logo but also, involved all the women officials and sarpanches across the district in taking forward this programme. In addition, a workshop was conducted to sensitise the print and electronic media personnel to publish/report the best practices of SBM.

There are various committees from district to Gram Panchayats namely, Core Committee, Mandal Resource Committee, task force teams and Nighrani Committee ,etc. These committees are headed by the district collector, MDOs and sarpanchs

at different levels. The objective of these committees is to encourage the officials to implement the SBM-G successfully. Further, the district officials stayed in the villages during the nights to create awareness among the communities on the importance of toilet usage.

As a result of intense awareness drives, there was a huge demand for construction of toilets. Subsequently, there was a dearth of cement rings and other toilet construction materials. To address this issue, the district collector made an effort to take a stock of account (masons materials) and instructed the officials concerned to manufacture the rings at village level. The mandal level officials took villagers' help and executed the plan. It helped the villagers to reduce the transportation charges and provided employment opportunity to others.

The district administration has initiated various innovative awareness activities and following are some of the prominent ones that are lauded by one and all:

School children in Nighrani

committees: The students who are part of Nighrani committee start their job at 4:30 am and they hide in open defecation sites. They carry a bag full of sand while they are in Nighrani work and they give this sand to the person who defecates in the open areas. They make him cover the faecal matter with this sand in front of them. After three months of continuous efforts, the villagers stopped defecating in the open areas.

Chembuku Samadhi campaign

(burying the mug): A mass awareness campaign called "Chembuku Samadhi" (burying mug), which is used to carry water while going for open defecation was launched. As part of it, the district officials, political parties and other key members took a funeral procession of the mug and buried it. The officials concerned have ensured that the event is widely covered by the local media to spread the awareness among the public on toilet usage.



Green Ambassador - who collects waste from door to door

Government Officials stay at night in villages:

As part of the ODF campaigning, the government officials stayed in the villages during the nights to create awareness among the communities on the importance of toilet usage. As told by many, this initiative seems to have had a good impact on the toilet use practice of the villagers.

Waste management: The villages not only participated in construction and usage of toilets but also contributed to the objectives of Swachh Bharat Mission - Gramin. For this, the local Panchayats have recruited a person called "green ambassador" who collects waste from door-to-door every alternate day. The green ambassador transports waste in a tricycle to the compost yard and segregates it. The district has been progressing towards "Swachh Panchayats".

In addition to various awareness activities, the district administration also followed up on the progress of the ODF situation. Initially, the district administration has declared 100 GPs as ODF within a span of one month and fixed monthly target to each mandal and GPs. Then, the district has focused on the underperforming mandals and

GPs by reviewing the progress on daily basis. With these collective efforts and continuous follow-ups by the district officials, Nellore district was declared as 'Swachh District' in March 2017.

Key issues

Despite various initiatives, there were some inevitable teething troubles which one would expect at the initial stages in any project. Following are few key concerns observed in the project:

Issues with toilet use at schools and anganwadi centres: The key issue with schools and anganwadi centres is non-availability of funds for hiring staff (like sweeper) for toilet maintenance. Further, the schools are not provided with running water facility, which would improve sanitation practices among school children.

Issues with individual household: Some individual households have constructed single pit toilets under different schemes. The pits may get filled quickly if all the family members use the toilet. The women from those households expressed concerns about the chance of pits getting filled up soon.

In order to sustain ODF in villages,

the district administration has to take necessary measures for promoting twin pit toilets among the rural households and construct community toilets in the rural area.

Our view on ODF project in Nellore district:

Overall, the team's observed that the ODF initiatives have been implemented to a great extent in the villages of Nellore district with the support from the local and district administration. There are few problems faced by the ODF initiative in some areas, for instance, prevailing open defecation practices in some schools and anganwadis due to non-availability of water or poor maintenance of toilets. However, the innovative awareness, monitoring and follow-up approaches taken up by ODF implementation at Nellore district are worth appreciation and they could be replicated in similar socio-cultural contexts elsewhere.

Sudha Poleni
Project Coordinator, NSRC
 &
Prof. P. SivaRam
Head, CRI

Two-day national seminar marks World Day of Social Justice 2019 on Sustainable Development and Social Justice: Issues and Way Forward



Dignitaries at the inaugural ceremony of national seminar to mark the World Day of Social Justice, 2019 on 'Sustainable Development and Social Justice'

The Centre for Equity and Social Development, NIRDPR, Hyderabad organised a two-day national seminar to mark the World Day of Social Justice 2019 on Sustainable Development and Social Justice: Issues and Way Forward from 20th – 21st February, 2019.

Dr. Ravindra Gavali, Professor & Head, Centre for Natural Resource Management, NIRDPR delivered the welcome address and spoke about the significance of such a national seminar and celebrating World Day of Social Justice 2019.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. T. Vijaya Kumar, Associate Professor & Head, Centre for Equity and Social Development, NIRDPR pointed out the need to widen the limits of the development so as to incorporate social, cultural and political aspects. He further added that in this context, rediscovering development for providing equality of opportunity, entitlements, accountability and fair distribution of resources is essential.

The guests of honour were Mrs. Draupadi Gimiray, a social worker and founder of Sikkim Viklang Sahayata Samiti (SVSS), and Dr. Lavu Narendranth, an orthopaedic surgeon by profession. Mrs. Draupadi Gimiray was honoured with

Padma Shri in 2019 for her commendable three-decade long service to persons with disabilities. Dr. Lavu Narendranth was conferred Padma Shri in 2005 for his admirable work in development of ultra low weight prosthetic limbs for polio-affected persons and amputees and his contributions to Indian medicine. On the occasion, NIRDPR honoured Smt. Droupadi Gimirey and Dr. Lavu Narendranth for their valuable contributions.

In the inaugural session, Professor R. Limbadri, Vice-Chairman, Telangana State of Higher Education delivered a keynote address emphasising the need for providing quality education to students as education being a vital tool to deliver social justice and plug inequalities.

Professor Ramesh Chandra Patel, Dean, Faculty of Education & Psychology, M.S. University, Vadodara, Gujarat, emphasised on the need for effective implementation of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya scheme with more focus on educating children with special needs for bridging the social and gender gaps in elementary education. The inaugural session was chaired by Smt. V. Usha Rani, IAS, Director General, National

Institute of Agricultural Extension and Management in the presence of Dr. Franklin Laltinkhuma, IAS, Registrar & Director (Admin) NIRDPR.

The panel session was organised under the chairmanship of Dr. R. R. Prasad, former Professor & Head, NIRDPR and the panellists were Smt. Deepa Kiran, international oral storyteller from Hyderabad, Dr. Gangadharan, Director, Heritage Foundation, Hyderabad, Dr. E. Venkatesu, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Hyderabad, Dr. Neeraj Mishra, Associate Professor, Centre for Wage Employment, NIRDPR and Dr. T. Vijaya Kumar, Associate Professor & Head, Centre for Equity & Social Development, NIRDPR, Hyderabad.

The panellists discussed the relevance of social justice advocacy in rural communities. "Earlier people used to define the concept of social justice but now the emphasis has shifted on taking action in order to promote social justice," they noted. The uniform viewpoint that emerged out of panel discussion was to understand the issues and implications of social justice through advocacy action that are crucial while working with rural communities.

One of the panellists, Dr. Gangadharan, Director, Heritage Foundation reiterated that residents of rural communities experience lack of access to resources, high rates of poverty, less formal education, higher illiteracy rates, issues of disabilities, transgender and old age people. In this context, social justice advocacy action is very important. Advocacy of ageing and addressing the issues related to this problem as a part of social justice is very imperative. In 1994, there were around 60 million old age people and nobody knew what ageing was as discussed today. And as per 2011 statistics, 104 million old age people live in India. Three things - income security, health security and caring - are very significant in taking social advocacy action to address the issues of old age.

Smt. Deepa Kiran, international oral storyteller said stories are the vehicles to transmit ideas and concepts. Acts of exchanging stories offer the space for critical thinking and cooperative and non-judgemental listening. In this way, the storytelling can carry forward and support the purpose of promoting social justice.

Dr. Neeraj Mishra, Associate Professor, NIRDPR opined that justice is fairness when you are working for the disadvantaged population in any society. One should have empathy and helping attitude to achieve justice, he said.

Dr. E. Venkatesu, Associate Professor, University of Hyderabad said social justice is a multi-dimensional and universal concept. The reservation policy becomes one of the instruments for realising the social justice, specifically in countries where there has been historically accumulated social deprivation. The social deprivation reflects in the form of untouchability, stigma and occupation. The rural poor are unaware of the importance of policies of social assistance," he added.

Dr. T. Vijaya Kumar, who was also the seminar coordinator, said achieving sustainable development and social justice largely depend upon advocacy

Progressive policies must to plug inequalities in education

National seminar held to mark World Day of Social Justice at NIRDPR

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD
In Indian society, educational inequalities persist across various social groups from pre-primary to higher education and progressive public policies should be implemented by the government at every level, argued K. Ananda Kishore, former Director of SCERT, Andhra Pradesh. He was speaking at a session on Equity, Education

and Social Development at a national seminar organised by the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR) to mark the World Day of Social Justice 2019. The session was chaired by C. Madhumathi, faculty of Education and Psychology, M.S. University, Vadodra, Gujarat, with other panellists being C. Madhumathi, faculty of education, Osmania University; B.Sunita,

programme head, Pratham Education Foundation, Hyderabad; T. Vijaya Kumar, CEO, NIRDPR, among others. **Classroom transactions** The session was chaired by C. Madhumathi, faculty of Education and Psychology, M.S. University, Vadodra, Gujarat, with other panellists being C. Madhumathi, faculty of education, Osmania University; B.Sunita,

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ing by placing the required number of teachers, teacher educators and educational officers can address the equity issues in school education," he said. **Ms. Sunita of Pratham** Foundation deliberated on quality education and said one should focus on the foundational years of schooling. **Teachers should use** different pedagogical tools for developing higher order

NIRD honours Padma Shri recipients

Celebrates World Day of Social Justice

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD

The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), Hyderabad, celebrated World Day of Social Justice by honouring Padma Shri recipients Draupadi Gimirey and L. Narendranath here on Wednesday.

R. Limbadri, Vice-Chairman of Telangana State Council of Higher Education (TSCHE) who delivered the keynote address, emphasised the need for providing quality education to students since education was one of the important tools to deliver social justice and plug inequalities.

R.C. Patel, dean, psychology and education, M.S. University, Gujarat, emphasised on the effective implementation of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya scheme with more

Education is one of the important tools to deliver social justice and plug inequalities.

R. LIMBADRI
Vice-Chairman, TSCHE

focus on educating children with special needs for bridging the social and gender gaps in elementary education.

T. Vijaya Kumar, associate professor and head of Centre for Equity and Social Development, NIRD, said some States and districts in the country report social development that is similar to leading industrialised countries, but there continues to be large disparities in poverty levels, mortality rates, educational attainments and access to resources between regions, social gaps and the sexes.

Two-day national seminar on social justice from tomorrow

Aims at facilitating discussion on advocacy of social justice

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD

The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD-PR) will conduct a national seminar to mark the World Day of Social Justice 2019 on Sustainable Development and Social Justice: Issues and Way Forward on February 20 and 21.

The guests of honour will be Draupadi Gimirey, social worker, founder of Sikkim Viklang Sahayata Samiti (SVSS) and recipient of Padma Shri in 2019 for her three-decade service to persons with disabilities, and Dr. Lavu Narendranath, orthopedic



Padma Shri recipient Draupadi Gimirey, a social worker, will attend the seminar as a guest.

surgeon by profession and recipient of Padma Shri in 2005 for his work in development of ultra-low weight prosthetic limbs

for polio affected persons and amputees and contributions to Indian medicine.

The purpose of the seminar is to facilitate discussion on advocacy of social justice among the communities, said T. Vijaya Kumar, associate professor and head, Centre for Equity and Social Development, NIRD-PR. R. Limbadri, vice-chairman of the Telangana State of Higher Education, and Ramesh Chandra Patel, dean, faculty of education and psychology at M.S. University-Vadodra, Gujarat, will be the keynote speakers of this seminar, a press release informed on Monday.

of social justice action. SDG goal nos. 10 and 16 are focusing on addressing social justice. Now, it's high time to focus on taking action in order to promote social justice.

Dr. R. R. Prasad, who was the chairman of the panel session, observed that sustainable development goals and social justice given a new acronym that is just sustainability. It means fairness and includes all aspects of life, and fair treatment with all social group members.

A total of 300 participants including 70 delegates from 16 States such as Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan, Bihar, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Nagaland, etc., students of IASE, DIET, Nalgonda, staff of DDUGKY cell, NIRDPR, faculty and staff of NIRDPR attended the session. Later, four technical sessions were organised in parallel tracks on various sub-themes like advocacy of social justice in rural communities, policy and plan for poverty alleviation and social justice, inclusive and equitable education for social justice. Thirty papers were presented in four technical sessions on first day of the seminar.

Second day of the seminar proceedings were initiated with a session on Equity, Education and Social Development involving a six-member panel. Professor Ramesh Chandra Patel, Dean, Faculty of Education and Psychology, M.S. University, Vadodra, Gujarat chaired the panel discussion

with Prof. C. Madhumathi, Faculty of Education, Osmania University, Hyderabad, Dr. K. Ananda Kishore, former Director of SCERT, Andhra Pradesh, Mrs. B. Sunita, Programme Head, Pratham Education Foundation, Hyderabad, Mr. R. Venkatesham Goud, State Working President, Lawyers Forum for Social Justice, Hyderabad, Mr. Ch. Murali Mohan, Director, Sadhana Voluntary Organisation, Hyderabad and Dr. T. Vijaya Kumar, Associate Professor & Head, CESD, NIRDPR, Hyderabad.

Deliberating on the equity in education and strategies to achieve inclusive and equitable education for all, the panellists emphasised that nationalisation of school education could bridge the gap of providing equality of educational opportunities.

Prof. C. Madhumathi, Osmania University spoke about contextualisation of education to achieve equity and equality by linking individual to society through education.

Dr. K. Ananda Kishore said education should focus on learning to live together. "In Indian society, educational inequalities are prevailing across various social groups from pre-primary education to higher education. To address this vital issue, progressive public policies are to be implemented by the government and school curriculum should include content on Sustainable Development Goals," he said.



Justice V. Eswaraiah speaking at the seminar in the presence of other dignitaries

Ms. B. Sunita of Pratham Foundation deliberated on quality issues of education. To achieve equitable quality, one should focus on the foundational years of child schooling by adopting different models of teaching to improve learning levels among the children.

Referring to the infrastructural facilities of government schools, Mr. Ch. Murali Mohan of Sadhana Organisation mentioned that schools are lacking basic facilities even after 18 years of implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and other programmes. There is a need to build the capacities of school management committees through trainings for effective implementation of school activities and utilisation of school funds.

Mr. R. Venkatesham Goud, working president of Lawyers Forum for Social Justice said that rules are not implemented in true spirit. "Accordingly, government schools are paid no proper attention. Stringent action should be taken against poor performance of teachers. Then only, equitable education can be achieved," he said.

Dr. T. Vijaya Kumar said the weak interrelationship among three social agencies - family, school and community - is adversely affecting the quality of learning of children. Strong linkages should be established through community participation and mobilisation at the village level is very

essential for ensuring the delivery of quality education, he opined.

Prof. R. C. Patel said that to provide equity in education, classroom transactions should be improved along with other linkages like physical development of the children by providing nutritive food through mid-day meals. Strong institution-building in educational sector by appointing required number of number of teachers, teacher educators and educational officers can only address the equity issues of school education, he noted.

Further, three technical sessions were organised on sub-themes and 21 papers were presented. Altogether, 52 research papers were presented in all the seven technical sessions of this national seminar.

Prof. Jyothis Satyapalan, Head, CWE, NIRDPR delivered the welcome address at the valedictory session and was followed by a brief report of the seminar presented by Dr. T. Vijaya Kumar. Hon'ble Justice V. Eswaraiah, former Chairman of National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) delivered valedictory speech on social justice and development from constitutional perspective.

Justice V. Eswaraiah stressed on the importance of preamble to the Constitution and stated that Constitution safeguards the people below the bottom of the pyramid against social exclusion and discrimination. He added that

casteless and classless society only can help in achieving sustainability.

Smt. Radhika Rastogi, IAS, Deputy Director General, NIRDPR chaired the session and highlighted the importance of humanist society where children and women are the most vulnerable sections of exclusion in every sphere of life. She stressed the need for an attitudinal shift among people to promote women empowerment.

While presenting the seminar report, Dr. T. Vijaya Kumar said that a total of 52 research papers were presented in seven technical sessions on various themes such as advocacy of social justice in rural communities, policy and plan for poverty alleviation and social justice, inclusive and equitable education for social justice, gender equality, empowerment and social justice, social justice and empowerment of disadvantaged groups and social determinants of health and social justice.

Smt. Draupadi Gimirey also graced the occasion along with the other dignitaries. Dr. Sonal Mobar Roy, Assistant Professor, CPGS&SD, NIRDPR proposed vote of thanks of the seminar.

The seminar was coordinated by Dr. T. Vijaya Kumar, Associate Professor & Head, CESD, Assistant Professors Dr. Satya Ranjan Mahakul, Dr. Sonal Mobar Roy, Dr. Rubina Nusrat and Dr. V. Lalitha, UGC-PDF, CESD, NIRDPR.

International training on Empowerment of Women for Rural Development



Smt. Radhika Rastogi, Deputy Director General, NIRDPR (1st row, 4th from right), Dr. N. V. Madhuri, Head i/c, CGSD (1st row, 5th from right) and Dr. Ruchira Bhattacharya, Assistant Professor, CGSD (2nd row, 4th from right) with the participants of the training programme

The Centre for Gender Studies and Development, NIRDPR, Hyderabad conducted a month-long training on 'Empowerment of Women for Rural Development' for officers and development practitioners of low and middle income countries with the sponsorship of Ministry of External Affairs from 4th to 31st January 2019. The programme was responded with good enthusiasm as 25 participants from 17 developing countries across three continents attended the training. Participants from Burundi, Cote D'Ivoire, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Malawi, Mauritius, Mongolia, Niger, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tanzania, Trinidad & Tobago, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Zambia, and Zimbabwe attended the training programme.

The programme was inaugurated by Dr. N. V. Madhuri, Associate Professor & Head i/c Centre for Gender Studies, NIRDPR on 4th January, 2019. The first two days after the initiation were utilised to train the participants about the concept of gender and its linkages with development issues by the faculty of CGSD. The technical sessions started on 7th January, 2019. The participants

were introduced to interventions and programmes addressing gender gap in India such as NRLM, MKSP, initiatives on SHG and federations, skilling programmes, etc. Different sessions were held on non-governmental initiatives that address gender issues such as MAKAAM – an initiative which works towards empowerment of women farmers; another initiative Mahila Samakhya which unionised women into community groups. The linkages of gender to different sectors such as nutrition, water and sanitation, labour issues, agriculture, trade, food security, etc., were discussed in detail over the next week with the help of a few internal and external resource persons. The participants were also introduced to the technical concept of creating a gender budget. In a half day session, participants were trained in detail of how to make a gender budget and use it in their respective departments.

Other than the sessions involving lectures, panel discussion or group exercises, the participants were also given time to present the development scenarios of their respective countries at the end of each day in the presence of an internal observer from NIRDPR.

Apart from the classroom sessions, two field works – first, a week long field visit and the other a half-day study visit were organised by the course team. For the week long field visit, participants were taken to Bala Vikasa organisation in Warangal district. For the short-term visit, the participants were taken to ALEAP industrial area where they interacted with successful women entrepreneurs.

Field Visits

Participants were taken to Bala Vikasa, a non-profit professional and community development organisation. It was established by Mrs. Bala & Mr. Andre Gingras in 1990. The motto of the organisation is 'Helping communities help themselves'. During the field visit at Bala Vikasa institute, the participants had an opportunity to take part in various community development activities.

The main objective of Bala Vikasa is to promote community development activities and empower destitute women who are vulnerable and live in extreme poverty. Bala Vikasa strongly advocates that women should play a decisive role in community driven development. Hence, the women integrated development



Smt. Radhika Rastogi, DDG, NIRDPR delivering a talk at the seminar

programme empowers the poor rural women to drive social change from the frontlines. It promotes integration of the vulnerable women in the mainstream society. The community development programmes which the participants observed and participated are as follows:

Participants learned about the main pillars of Community Based Organisational development and Asset Based Community Development. Under these schemes, around 15 to 20 women are assembled, whereby they engage in internal saving and lending activities. The Self Help Group (SHG) is a financial intermediary committee. The mission was to empower the most vulnerable group and women empowerment. The structure of the SHG consisted of three teams, comprising of three coordinators and each coordinator was responsible for 500 women from 21 villages. Their task is to empower women. The total number of villages covered by the coordinators is 150. The number of women involved in this programme is 2,50,000. The activities are standardised in all SHG groups and constant follow up is made and feedback is given to the group members.

In order to promote sanitation and access clean water to all household, the Bala Vikasa initiated a water purification development programme. Participants were taken to water purification centres whereby the water is distilled and is made available through the ATW kiosk at a rate of Rs 1 for 20 litres of water. The beneficiaries hold a card to access the water services and this money collected is

used as a revolving fund to pay the wages of poor and destitute women who are recruited for the operation of the ATW.

Given that in rural areas as most women are engaged in activities like agricultural, farming and livestock, they were empowered to take the lead through several training programmes to grow crops organically. An initiative has been taken to promote a pesticide-free cropping system with lower input investment. Government of Andhra Pradesh (erstwhile) had earlier supported the women by giving them one acre of land for cultivation and they are constantly being trained so as to become independent and empowered towards decision-making.

ZPHS, Ontimamidipalli was closed in 2009 due to its poor functioning turning away approximately seventy to eighty pupils enrolled at that time. The school reopened in the academic year 2014-2015 with an enrollment of four hundred and fifty students from kindergarten to tenth grade. This model school was reopened by the members of the villages with assistance from Bala Vikasa.

The solidarity programmes for women and orphan children were an emotional exposure for the participants to the grassroots level problems of women in India. The programme has helped the widows to be more confident and independent. The widows are empowered to integrate in the mainstream of the society through a fierce sensitisation campaign conducted

by Bala Vikasa for eradicating socially constructed beliefs. Participants had the opportunity to interact with the kids and learn what they have achieved in terms of education and skills.

Participants also visited Gangadevipalli village which has a history of approximately of 200 years and is currently viewed as a model village due to the major developments and advancements initiated by the visionary Kusam Rajamouli in collaboration with Bala Vikasa.

Other than the study tour, participants were also taken to the industrial area of ALEAP in Hyderabad where they observed how women entrepreneurs are supported through small incubation units and seed funds by the government. Participants visited three initiatives of dry medicine making unit, We-hub (assembly line production unit) and sticker printing unit within ALEAP.

The Training programme received a good feedback from the participants with an average effectiveness score of 88 per cent, with 96 per cent in knowledge creation, 98 per cent in skill development and a 100 per cent score in attitudinal change. The participants had come to the training with varied backgrounds and different levels of understanding about women's status in India, but the training programme, especially the field visit to Warangal was a major exposure to Indian society for them. With the expectation that the participants will use the knowledge gained at NIRDPR in their own respective countries, a session on action plan was conducted on the final day. Many of the participants expressed interest in holding training programmes in their own countries. A few participants were from newly formed countries and submitted an action plan for widows in their respective countries. The program was coordinated by Dr. N. V. Madhuri, Associate Professor & Head i/c and Dr. Ruchira Bhattacharya, Assistant Professor of Centre for Gender Studies and Development, NIRDPR.

International training programme on Sustainable Agricultural Strategies for Rural Development



Dr. W. R. Reddy, Director General, NIRDPR (1st row, 4th from right), Dr. Ch. Radhika Rani, Head i/c, CAS (1st row, 4th from left) and Dr. Nitya V. G., Assistant Professor, CAS (1st row, 3rd from right) with the participants of the training programme

The International training programme on 'Sustainable Agricultural Strategies for Rural Development' sponsored by the Ministry of External Affairs under International Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) was conducted from 21st January to 17th February, 2019 for senior practitioners and policymakers of member countries of ITEC at NIRDPR. A total of 25 international delegates representing 15 developing countries attended the programme. The main aim of the programme was to promote cross learning experiences and translate them to country-specific action plans on sustainable agriculture and rural development.

Agriculture is the sector on which majority of the rural households depend on, but its contribution to the aggregate GDP is less compared to industry and service sectors. Ranging from climate to market, the risks that farmers have to face are multiple. The scenario is similar in almost all the developing countries. However, there have been incidents of successful cases in the country embracing good governance, inclusiveness and equity while promoting agriculture-based livelihoods. The training programme was designed to disseminate the success stories in agriculture and rural

development to the member countries of ITEC.

The programme was covered in four modules. In the module on 'Implementation of RD Programmes in India', the sessions on rural infrastructure and sanitation, local self-government institutions, MGNREGA, SHG concepts and implementation, and linking their livelihoods through NRLM were covered. In the module on 'Sustainable Agriculture in India – Concepts and Processes' the sessions on rainfed agriculture situation in India, watershed programmes in India, dryland agriculture innovations and technological developments, role of gender in agriculture mechanisation, value chain analysis were covered. In the third module on 'Institutions for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development' the focus was on community-based institutions such as farmer producer organisations, cooperative societies, water user associations, farmer clubs, etc. The participants were taken on an exposure visit to the Institutions of government and non-government institutions such as the Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA), Centre of Excellence, Telangana State Horticulture Department, Centre for Sustainable

Agriculture (CSA), Project Directorate Poultry (PDP), National Institute of Plant Health Medicine (NIPHM) and Veterinary University.

As a follow up of classroom sessions pertaining to all the three modules, the participants were taken for a four-day study tour to Auroville, Puducherry, where they visited various projects of Auroville pertaining to sustainable agriculture viz., integrated farming, organic farming, sustainable input production, sustainable value chain activities, community supported forest development, Bamboo Resource Centre, etc.

The participants were divided into four groups and were made to analyse/compare and present the Indian situation with their respective countries on every best practice they have witnessed. A compilation of all their presentations helped them to come out with a report on an action plan specific to their country, which they submitted at the end of the programme. The programme was concluded with the feedback from the participants. The programme was organised by Dr. Ch. Radhika Rani, Associate Professor and Head I/c and Dr. Nithya V.G. Assistant Professor, CAS.

Make judicious use of water: Dr. Malini V. Shankar



Dr. Malini V. Shankar, IAS (retd.) delivering a lecture on drinking water at NIRDPR, Hyderabad

A special lecture on “Drinking water” by Dr. Malini V Shankar, IAS (Retd.), was held on 11th February, 2019 on the premises of National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR). It was presided over by Smt. Radhika Rastogi, IAS, Deputy Director General, NIRDPR.

Dr. Malini V Shankar is a Maharashtra cadre IAS officer, who served as the former Director General, Shipping, Government of India. She noted that she spent about one-third of her life in sectors related to water – from lakes to irrigation to drinking water and finally shipping. In her lecture on drinking water, Dr. Malini very well-articulated the professional application of the laws and other aspects of policymaking that revolve around water.

Talking about water security, Dr. Malini noted that water is not just a common good but a political as well as an emotional good. “Wars were fought over water, States have demanded a separate statehood on the basis of water”, she observed. Addressing water level depletion as one of the major concerns, she said that, next world war would be for water. Reiterating the facts

on bifurcation of Telangana State from Andhra Pradesh, the guest highlighted that one of the major reasons for the Telangana agitation is regarding usage of water. Both Krishna and Godavari rivers originate in Maharashtra, pass through the region of Telangana and finally join the sea in Andhra Pradesh. Though the rivers majorly pass through the Telangana State, they hardly got to use the water. She also said, Maharashtra is 70 per cent drought-prone and 7 per cent flood-prone. Also, not to forget there are issues over drinking water vs irrigation water too.

Few examples that the speaker cited on retaliation of local people on grounds of water are – how Coca Cola Co. was precluded to setup a bottling plant in Plachimada, Kerala. And Tamil Nadu, which was a pro-industry State, precluded the Company from setting up a plant, just on the question of water.

The speaker also spoke extensively on conservation of water. She mentioned that water is lost in various stages due to various reasons. Be it be through leakages in the pipelines, or evaporation in open canals, and majorly because of people’s attitude, water is lost. Water is considered

to be eternal by people and they assume to have a right over it. Because of this very mindset, people do not like to have a limit on the amount of water they use and also not pay for the use of water. She also, pointed out that rural people are very much aware of the conservation techniques and it is the urban crowd that needs to be sensitised. Dr. Malini referred to an example of Delhi government which came up with a solution for such attitudes towards the usage of water. The Delhi government gives 30 litres of water per day (which is considered to be the minimum for daily usage) for free of cost and the rest is payable. This was proved to be successful. The speaker gave an example of Malkapur Town Panchayat, which also followed a similar procedure to that of the Delhi government in charging for usage of water. The Panchayat also spent on purchasing of metres and eventually collecting it from the users over certain period of time. This is one of the success stories on water conservation and usage of water.

In no other sector except water, the government handles everything. Right from planning, building, to usage and maintaining. The speaker stated that we

always fall into the trap of “build – ignore – rebuild”. Rather we should focus on giving the responsibility of maintaining the structures to the people, which would reduce the burden on government. She said, “people spend Rs. 250 per month on a mobile phone, but are not ready to pay

Rs. 100 per month for water. As a matter of great concern, men make, execute and follow decisions on water. Sharing her experiences as a civil servant, the speaker put forth that women are never consented in issues of water supply. In reality, it is the women who go and collect the water from wells, common taps, rivers and canals. Women fail to go to work (both in rural and urban areas) as they have to collect the water, which is not released at a specific time. This is also one of the reasons for girls dropping out of school. Therefore, women must also be considered while formulating policies regarding water. They should be asked if they want to pay for water.

Answering to the questions of students and faculty in the audience. Dr. Malini opined that piped water system, along with compulsory metering would solve many of the issues relating to water. To check water usage, surveys conducted on willingness to pay must be considered, workshops should be held for the engineers, source of water must be identified and usage beyond certain depth of that source should be banned. The speaker also mentioned that there are lot of reforms to be taken up in water sector. Water harvesting-friendly architecture should be encouraged, and indigenous ideas, and other cultural methods of water conservation should be revived. Sharing her experience, the guest referred to an area in Mumbai, where extraction of groundwater beyond certain level was prohibited. Over the years, the level of groundwater increased and was obstructing other sectors of development like construction. Thus, it is very important in policymaking to make a policy that is suitable to the local area and

a policy that is conjunctive in nature. She also mentioned that solutions for all the current problems with respect to water can be found in the ancient architecture of India. “Many such methods should be explored and imbibed into our practice today”, she added. Also, the conference threw light on possible solutions that can be found in heritage, ignited minds and involvement of women.

On the whole, everyone among the audience were sensitised to the use of water, its conservation and other areas of concern regarding water. Dr. Malini V Shankar’s experience over the years in the service has helped to raise awareness and motivate to be an active participant in policymaking. The lecture was attended by the faculty members and the students of PGDRDM and PGDM. The lecture was co-ordinated by Dr. Debapriya, Associate Professor, Centre for PG Studies and Distance Education, NIRDPR.

- CDC Initiatives

Writeshop on engaging PRIs and SHGs in POSHAN Abhiyaan



Dr. Gyanmudra, Professor & Head, CHRD (1st row 4th from left) with the participants of the training programme

A two-day writeshop to develop the proposal and plan of action for NITI Aayog for involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions and self-help groups in Jan Aandolan for POSHAN Abhiyaan was organised on 7th and 8th of February, 2019 at NIRDPR, under the guidance of Programme Director Dr. Gyanmudra, Professor & Head, CHRD. This writeshop,

organised by CRU-NIRDPR with support from UNICEF, was held in continuation to a meeting on 3rd January, 2018 between NIRDPR, NITI Aayog and Ministry of Women and Child Development. Purpose of the meeting was to discuss how NIRDPR, MoWCD, NRLM and NITI Aayog can work together to engage PRIs and SHGs to improve nutritional outcome

under POSHAN Abhiyaan.

The writeshop was held with the twin objectives of developing draft plan of action with budgets and timelines, define roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders for involvement of PRIs and SHGs, and listing of IEC materials, training outline and tools for training and monitoring of 19 participants

from the Ministry of Women and Child Development, National Rural Livelihood Mission, NITI Aayog, NIRDPR, NRLM Cell at NIRDPR, Department of Women and Child Development-Telangana, and UNICEF Raipur and Hyderabad offices. The participants, in plenary and in groups, deliberated upon the opportunities, limitations, challenges and solutions.

Attending the workshop, Dr. W. R. Reddy, Director General, NIRDPR joined the writeshop and emphasised upon the

importance of PRI and SHG members in POSHAN Abhiyaan. "As local leaders, they can influence the behaviours of the people towards the outcomes of POSHAN Abhiyaan", he said.

The DG asked the group to develop a one-hour training capsule and make it available to all SIRDs so that they can integrate it into the ongoing trainings of PRIs, especially in their induction trainings. "A complete package of three-hour training along with the communication

collaterals can be designed and uploaded on the NIRDPR website and MoWCD and NITI Ayog can issue a line of instruction to all the concerned to utilise these resources", he said.

At the end of two-day write shop, the participants developed and presented the suggested strategy, models and estimated costs for involvement of PRIs and SHGs in a systematic manner by NIRDPR.

AARDO workshop-cum-training programme on Water Resource Management for Sustainable Development



Smt. Radhika Rastogi, DDG, NIRDPR (1st row, 4th from left) and Dr. Ravindra S. Gavali, Head, CNRM (1st row, 3rd from right) with the participants of the training programme

Water is a finite resource that is fundamental to human well-being and only renewable if well managed. Smart water management is a pre-condition of sustainable development. Managed efficiently, water plays a vital role in strengthening the resilience of social, economic and environmental systems in the face of rapid and unpredictable changes. Water is fundamental to the three dimensions of sustainable development, including social needs, economic development and environmental limits, and a cross-cutting driver. Moving from a sectoral approach towards a holistic one, which captures inter-connections between foods, energy, health, trade, the environment and water are necessary.

In certain parts of the world, water scarcity has been and will likely

become a fatal constraint to sustainable development. In some developing countries facing water scarcity, especially those in arid and semiarid areas, sustainable development strongly depends on the availability of water resources for both society and nature, and the manner of water resource management. It is necessary for these developing countries to seek theoretical, methodological and technological support to ensure their sustainability.

For achieving the sustainable water resource management and to train the different stakeholders, the Centre for Natural Resource Management organised an international workshop-cum-training programme on Water resource management for sustainable development at National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati

Raj (NIRDPR), Hyderabad from 4th-17th February, 2019. A total of 20 participants from 13 countries (Bangladesh, Egypt, Jordan, Taiwan, Malawi, Mauritius, Malaysia, Namibia, Oman, Sri Lanka, Syria, Tunisia and Zambia) participated in the training programme sponsored by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India. The programme began with the welcome address by Smt. Radhika Rastogi, IAS, Deputy Director General, NIRDPR and the inaugural address by Dr. Manoj Nardeo Singh, ASG, AARDO.

The objectives of the training programme were i) to train the participants for efficient management of water resource for sustainable development through conservation and development of water resources; ii) to teach the linkage between poverty and

environmental degradation and role of water resource management, and iii) to impart knowledge on local institutional mechanisms for efficient utilisation of water resource for optimum benefit with three broad contents viz., 1) surface irrigation- improving the efficiency 2) groundwater conservation: conservation and development 3) participatory irrigation management.

Eminent speakers from different organisations - Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA), Solapur University, NGO and faculty of NIRDPR addressed and shared their knowledge with the participants. Apart from classroom sessions, the participants visited various institutions viz., Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University (JNTU), Centre for Good Governance (CGG), Rural Technology Park (RTP) and International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-arid Tropics (ICRISAT) to

understand their functions in governance and water resource management in practical manner. The programme addressed different issues of sustainable water resource management under various sessions viz., water resource management, GIS application for water resource management, traditional water harvesting system, enhancing water use efficiency in water scarce region, impact of land use practices on water resources, community mobilisation in natural resource management, watershed planning, impact of climate change on water resource management, water management for sustainable agriculture and participatory irrigation management.

The programme team organised a four-day field study to Karnataka. During the field visit, participants interacted with the watershed farmers and visited sustainable livelihoods created under watersheds in Chikkaballapur district to

know about the watershed development activities. During a visit to VC Farm in Mandya, participants interacted with the scientists of the agriculture college and witnessed different agricultural activities undertaken by the college. Participants had a practical exposure to natural ecosystem at BR hills which is located at the confluence of Western Ghats and Eastern Ghats. Natural farming under five layer principles was also shown and explained in the field visit to 'Amruthabhumi'.

The programme was appreciated by the participants for addressing the relevant issues of water resource management practices and visits to institutes to explore practical knowledge on water resource management. Dr. Ravindra S. Gavali, Dr. K. Krishna Reddy, Dr V. Suresh Babu and team from the Centre for Natural Resource Management coordinated the Programme.

Library Talks on impact factor of a journal and ways to improve it



Dr. P. Krishnan, Principal Scientist, NAARM, Hyderabad delivering a lecture on improving impact factor of a journal during the 'Library Talks'

The Centre for Development Documentation and Communication at NIRDPR had launched Library Talks as an initiative to organise academic discussions and debates on various topics that can benefit the faculty members, staff and students of various centres. As part of the initiative, a talk on impact factor and ways to improve it was held

on 15th February, 2019. The key speakers were Dr. P. Krishnan, Principal Scientist, NAARM and Dr. M. V. Ravibabu, Associate Professor, C-GARD.

Dr. Akanksha Shukla, Head, CDC, introduced the guests and welcomed the audience comprising faculty members, staff and students of NIRDPR.

The impact factor (IF) is a measure

of the frequency with which article in a journal has been cited in a particular year. It is used to measure the importance or rank of a journal by calculating the times its articles are cited.

Dr. P. Krishnan spoke extensively on impact factor – how has this metrics for a journal come into existence, how is it calculated and some of limitations. Impact factor helps us to know the importance of a journal. The higher the impact factor, the more highly ranked the journal. It is calculated based on a two-year period and involves dividing the number of times articles were cited by the number of articles that are citable. "Citations and publication are a different ball game", says Dr. P. Krishnan. Dr. P. Krishnan put forth some of the limitations of impact factor. He mentioned that it includes only 4-5 per cent of the world's journals. There are some cases where the author or the article influencing a research but it is not effectively captured. Also, the impact factor cannot be used to compare different fields. The software that is used

cannot distinguish between similar but different names. One of the major drawbacks of the impact factor is that it is available only for journals in English language.

Dr. M. V. Ravibabu detailed on some of the facts about impact factor. He asked all the faculty members, researchers and students present during the talk, to

enrol themselves in SCOPUS database. This would give a better visibility to the researchers in various fields. Similarly, by enrolling in Google Scholar, which gives access to reports, books, conference papers, etc., one can help new researchers in a particular field.

Talking about ways to improve impact factor of a journal, particularly the

Journal of Rural Development, published by NIRDPR, Dr. M. V. Ravibabu said that editorial strength of the journal must be increased. "Online reviewing process must be done. Also, giving an open access to the journal will improve its visibility and help more and more researchers in the field", he said.

CDC Initiatives

NIRDPR, BDL sign pact to raise awareness on hygiene in schools



Dr. R. Murugesan, Head, CSR,PPP&PA exchanging the MoU with BDL officials

On 5th February, 2019, an MoU was signed between NIRDPR (National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj) and BDL (Bharath Dynamics Limited) under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), to support and raise awareness among the adolescent girl children at the school level on their health and hygiene, particularly on menstrual hygiene. In a pilot project mode as Phase I, the scheme is implemented for girls from class 6 to 10 in 77 government upper primary and secondary high schools, of five mandals (Rajendranagar, Moinabad, Gandipet, Shamshabad and Serlingampalli) in Ranga Reddy district, Telangana State. In Phase II, within three to four months time span, this initiative would be extended to the whole of Ranga Reddy district, covering 37,248 girl students

in classes 6 to 10 in 421 Government upper primary and secondary high schools. In Phase III, the scheme would be implemented in a successful way based on the findings and learnings from the Phase I and Phase II, to all government schools in all districts of Telangana State in a sustainable model. As per the MoU, BDL is the finance/ fund provider under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), and NIRDPR-CSR, PPP&PA is the implementing agency of the programme by manufacturing and distribution of sanitary napkins and promoting awareness on health and hygiene among the school-going adolescent girl children in project area. In addition to these two agencies, the State and district education department of Telangana State official will help technically at the field level by supporting the two agencies for better

implementation of the project.

the project strategies are to raise the awareness level through training programme and create mechanisms to ensure supply and use (proper disposal) of sanitary napkins among adolescent school-going girl children and their parents and to give training on manufacturing of sanitary napkins to the local women or self-help groups, and installing the units of production and distribution of sanitary napkins to the school going girl child in a sustainable mode at every district level.

This initiative was raised by Dr. R. Murugesan, Professor and Head, Centre for Corporate Social Responsibility, Public Private Partnership and Peoples Action (CSR,PPP&PA).

NIRDPR organises two-day national interactive workshop for SIRDs & ETCs for North-Eastern region under National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction



Mr. Anand Katoch, Director, NISD, New Delhi along with Dr. T. Vijaya Kumar, Head, CESD delivering a talk during the workshop

Centre for Equity and Social Development, NIRDPR, Hyderabad organised a two-day national interactive workshop for State Institutes of Rural Development (SIRDs) and Extension Training Centres (ETCs) of North-Eastern region under the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR). The workshop was organised in association with National Institute of Social Defence (NISD), New Delhi during 15th – 16th February, 2019.

The main objective of the workshop was to deliberate on the ways to enable the functionaries to generate awareness and preventive education in rural areas by actively involving Village Panchayats through SIRDs and ETCs in North-Eastern region of the country.

The workshop was inaugurated by Mr. Anand Katoch, Director, NISD, New Delhi, in presence of Dr. T. Vijaya Kumar, Associate Professor and Head, Centre for Equity and Social Development, NIRDPR at Guwahati, Assam.

Welcoming the guests and participants, Dr. T. Vijaya Kumar said that “drug and substance abuse is a global health problem which has been reaching alarming proportion and shell over the world including India, both in urban and rural areas.” He added that, changing cultural values, increasing economic stress and lack of support systems are some of the causes for this trend. He said that drug abuse is also responsible for many serious health related and social behaviour problems. “Drug abuse and alcoholism can have a lasting adverse impact on the family members leading to mental health problems like anxiety, fear and depression, especially among women and children, which eventually leads to financial burden on the family. There is also an angle of illegal drug trafficking and attendant law and order issues”, he said.

The purpose of the workshop is to facilitate discussion on awareness and preventive education of drug abuse with reference to framework of National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction

formulated by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India. This incorporates partnership, coalition and collective action by involving the Panchayati Raj institutions in rural areas.

In total, 25 participants representing four States including Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur and Tripura, attended the workshop. Discussions were held on various topics like drug abuse situation in India, salient features of National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction 2018-2023, preventive education strategies by involving SHG women, school children and Panchayati Raj Institutions, to address the issue through community mobilisation. During the workshop, the Zonal Director of Narcotics Control Bureau of Assam interacted with participants and explained the drug abuse situation in North-Eastern region along with myths and reality of drug abuse. The workshop was coordinated by Dr. T. Vijaya Kumar, Associate Professor & Head, Dr. Rubina Nusrat, Assistant Professor, Centre for Equity & Social Development, NIRDPR.

NIRDPR and NABARD organise business development workshop for FPOs of NABARD

NIRDPR in partnership with NABARD, Government of Andhra Pradesh conducted three two-day business development workshops for FPOs of Andhra Pradesh during February 4th-5th, 6th-7th and 11th-12th, 2019. The participants of the workshops were board members of FPOs, CEOs and also representatives of their Producer Organisation Promoting Institutions (POPIs). A total of 70 participants attended these workshops. The key objectives of the workshops were to impart skills of basic business planning to FPOs and sensitise the participants about model DPRs and business plans for different commodities and activities.

Farmer Producer Organisations are the emerging institutions in the agriculture sector that have been receiving both policy and funding support. The institutional model of FPO is believed to provide the small farmers, the benefits of aggregation and bargaining power in the market place, enable cost effective delivery of extension services

and empower the members to influence the policies that affect their livelihoods. However, they have been facing many issues in promoting themselves from an institution of farmers into a full-fledged business entity. Hence, business planning of FPO is a strategic financial intervention to enable the FPO to work to full potentiality within a short period of time. A robust business plan, preceded by a value chain development plan, endeavours a complete metamorphosis from dependency on government subsidies and grants to an enterprise-driven revenue model.

In the workshop, the board members of the FPOs were given hands-on training on how to check their compliance status with the website of Ministry of Corporate Affairs, based on their CIN number. The core values that each FPO should follow were shared with the participants. The participants in groups and FPO-wise have worked on value chain development plans, marketing plan and financial plan for the commodities they have been

handling.

As an outcome of the workshops, the participants representing 21 FPOs with the help of their 17 POPIs representatives prepared a detailed action plan. In the first and third workshops, the CGM of regional office, NABARD, AP, graced the inaugural session and addressed the participants. He emphasised the need for enterprise development through value chain and appreciated the efforts made by some of the POPIs in the region. He promised all help in nurturing the FPOs of the region.

In the second workshop, representative from NABARD, Shri. Nagesh Kumar, DGM, FSDD, RO, NABARD, AP, spoke about the initiatives of NABARD for strengthening the FPOs. He also informed that they can apply for the Economic Development Assistance Fund of NABARD provided they meet the eligibility criterion and advised the participants to use the learnings from the workshop for implementation at the field level in letter and spirit.

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राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण विकास एवं
पंचायती राज संस्थान
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RURAL
DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYATI RAJ
Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India

Rajendranagar, Hyderabad - 500 030
Phone: (040) 24008473, Fax: (040) 24008473
E-mail: cdc.nird@gov.in, Website: www.nirdpr.org.in

Dr. W.R. Reddy, IAS, Director General, NIRDPR
Smt. Radhika Rastogi, IAS, Deputy Director General, NIRDPR

Editor : Dr. K. Papamma
Asst. Editors: Krishna Raj K.S.
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