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

स्वच्छ भारत
एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

www.nirdpr.org.in

No: 308

PRAGATI

Newsletter

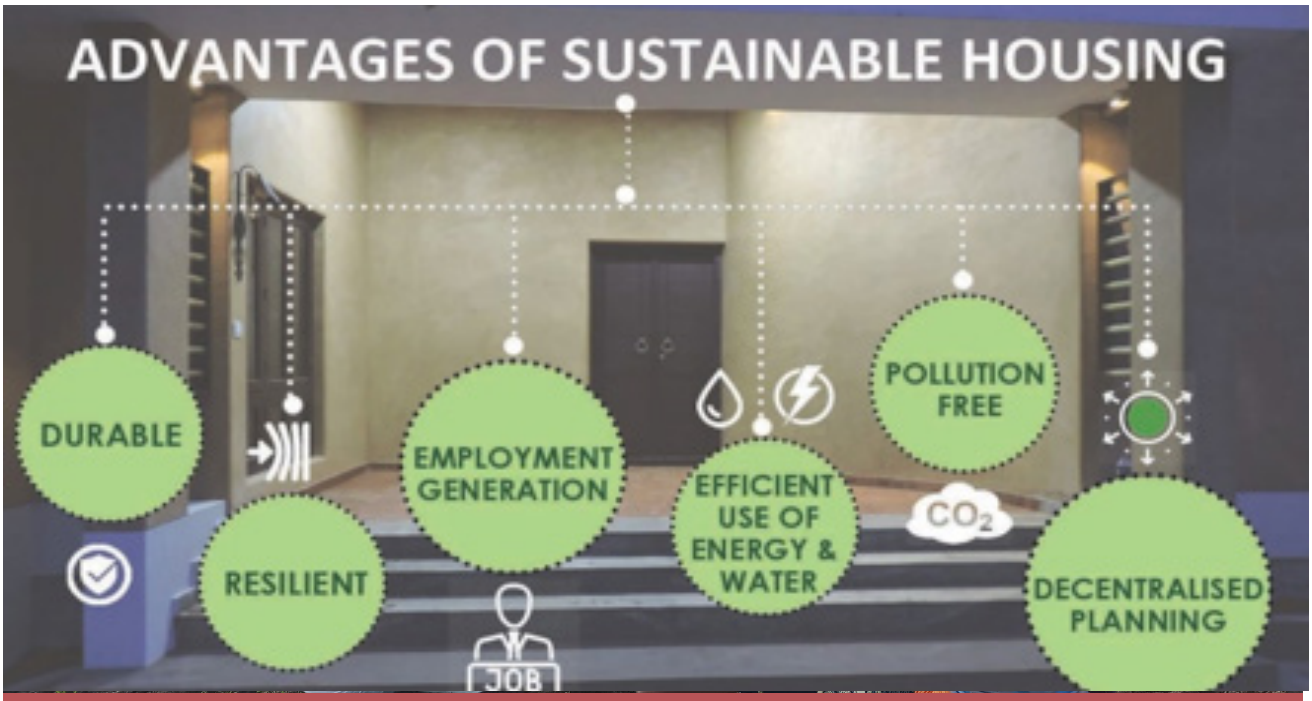
January 2021

TRAINING & CAPACITY BUILDING | RESEARCH & CONSULTANCY | POLICY FORMULATION & ADVOCACY | TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER | ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES | INNOVATIVE SKILLING & LIVELIHOOD

"Sustainable housing technologies for greening the housing programme"

3 **Sustainable housing technologies for greening the housing programme**

CONTENTS



Sustainable housing technologies for greening the housing programme

In India, nearly 80 per cent of the population lives in rural areas, that is in 5 to 6 lakh villages which are scattered across the country. The housing condition of a majority of these families is very poor and substandard in nature. The 2011 Census data on housing in India reflects that close to half of India's households live in poor housing conditions. An estimated number of rural households living in poor housing conditions is around 140.5 million as per the Census. This figure includes families which do not live in a house made of pucca roof, walls and floors, two rooms, water outlet within or just outside the premises, domestic electricity connection and a latrine. The social category of households who live in such houses predominantly comprises families from economically weaker sections and lower-income groups. The poor economic condition of these families, who are predominantly from socially backward categories, compels them to primarily focus on investing their time and energy to meet their day-to-day living expenses. Therefore, these families are not in a position to invest in improving their housing conditions, and as a result they continue to live in poor environmental conditions which impact their health and the overall social life.

The Government of India has committed itself to ensuring 'Housing for All' by 2022 under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY).

The high cost of conventional construction materials and lack of technical know-how on sustainable low-cost housing practices, force them to live in traditional kutcha houses which are prone to the dangers like flood, fire and other natural calamities. In the recent years, it has been found that the poor families who own traditional houses also find it difficult to meet the cost of frequent repairs and maintenance. High cost of materials and non-availability of skilled labour with the knowledge of traditional building techniques makes it unviable for these poor families to maintain their houses. In many places, rural artisans such as potters and carpenters whose services are required for construction of house have shifted to other profitable occupations.

There is a marginal improvement in the rural housing construction pattern due to the overall improvement in the economic status and social welfare programmes such as the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) implemented by the Central government. However, families who can afford to invest in housing tend to over design the structural components of their houses due to non-availability of trained people with appropriate knowledge on low-cost housing and end up spending substantial cost in housing which at times results in indebtedness. The aspiration to own a modern house has become a social norm in many parts of the country. The agencies involved in housing programmes must take all the above aspects into consideration while designing housing solutions. The housing solutions planned must be able to deliver a house which is robust in strength and cost effective. Therefore, the sustainable housing technologies

Sustainable Houses

Sustainable houses are those that are designed, built & managed as:

- Healthy, durable, safe and secure
- Affordable for the whole spectrum of income levels
- Using ecological low-energy and affordable building materials and technology
- Resilient to sustain potential natural disasters and climatic impacts
- Connected to decent, safe and affordable energy, water, sanitation and recycling facilities
- Using energy and water most efficiently and equipped with certain on-site renewable energy generation and water recycling capabilities
- Not polluting the environment and protected from external pollution
- Suitably located in terms of jobs, shops, health and child-care, education and other services
- Properly integrated into, and enhancing, the social, cultural and economic fabric of the local neighbourhood and the wider urban areas
- Properly run and maintained, timely renovated and retrofitted

Source: UN-Habitat

which have the potential to offer these aspects have a greater potential to address the goal of housing for all.

Importance of Sustainable Housing Technologies

The Government of India has committed itself to ensuring 'Housing for All' by 2022 under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY). The scheme aims to provide housing facilities for poor and economically weaker sections of the society. The massive number of projected housing targets would require enormous amounts of building materials and infrastructure. This raises the concerns attached to the use of conventional building materials which are not environmentally sound. The conventional construction industry consumes enormous amounts of resources like steel, cement, paint and energy, apart from generating 80 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions for the production of steel, cement, bricks and lime. The use of high quantities of bricks will also lead to depletion of fertile top soils of the agricultural lands. It is in this context the use of sustainable building technologies can be beneficial to address the climate change and the depletion of precious natural resources which otherwise would continue to happen with the use of conventional building techniques and materials. Also, there is a considerable scope for reducing the massive energy requirements in the housing domain by using simple and cost-efficient sustainable housing technologies.

Use of locally available materials and industrial waste can be an alternative to energy intensive and non-renewable conventional materials in use. At the same time, meeting the large-scale requirement of the alternate energy efficient traditional materials like mud, thatch, timber is not feasible. Therefore, it is important to use the available resources and methods to produce low-cost sustainable buildings which are energy efficient and environment-friendly to

S. No	Category of Building Materials	Energy Intensity (GJ/t)	Examples
i)	Very High Energy	>50	Aluminium, stainless steel, plastic, copper, zinc
ii)	High Energy	5-50	Cement, steel, glass, bitumen, solvents, cardboard, paper and lead
iii)	Medium Energy	1-5	Lime, gypsum plaster board, burnt clay brick, burnt clay brick from improved vertical shaft kiln, soil cement block, aerated block, hollow concrete block, gypsum plaster, concrete block, timber, wood board, cellulose insulation, in-situ concrete
iv)	Low Energy	<1	Sand, aggregate, fly ash, cement stabilised earth block, straw bale, bamboo, stone.

APPROPRIATE ROOFING TECHNIQUES

FERRO CEMENT CHANNEL

Bricks casted into panels of size 1.10m x 0.50m between of reinforced concrete beams. Durable and provides good thermal insulation. Costs about 22% less than RCC slabs.

FILLER SLAB ROOF

FILLER SLAB ROOF

Filler materials like clay tiles, bricks, coconut shells, clay bowls are placed between reinforcement while concrete is poured. It enhances thermal comfort giving an aesthetic look. Costs about 25% less than RCC slabs.

BRICK PANEL ROOF

Tiles made like cones using burnt clay are used for roofing. It provides good thermal insulation. No steel, concrete, plastering and centering required. Local potters can get employment. Costs about 35 % less than RCC slabs.

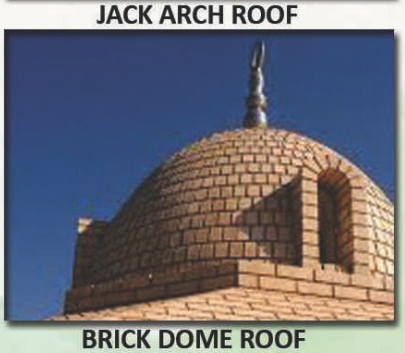
JACK ARCH ROOF

JACK ARCH ROOF

Bricks are used in form of arches between 2 beams or walls. No use of reinforcement and concrete. Aesthetic look and cost effective. Costs about 23% less than RCC slabs.

CONICAL CLAY TILE

Tiles made like cones using burnt clay are used for roofing. It provides good thermal insulation. No steel, concrete, plastering and centering required. Local potters can get employment. Costs about 35 % less than RCC slabs.



BRICK DOME ROOF

BRICK DOME ROOF

Bricks are arranged in layers using cement mortar 1:3 "brick on edge" for roof. No steel or concrete is used for the domes. Good thermal insulation and durable. Costs about 32% less than RCC slabs.

CONICAL GLASS CLAY TILE

FEROCEMENT CHANNEL

BRICK PANEL ROOF

PRE CAST CONCRETE SLAB

meet the increasing demand of housing. Use of alternate materials can also reduce the high environmental footprints caused by the use of conventional materials like cement and steel. For instance, roofing technologies like filler slabs and ferro-cement channels are reported to reduce the use of cement and steel by 25 per cent to 30 per cent. The cost of masonry walls can be reduced as the quantity of bricks and mortar used in rat-trap bond masonry is reduced by 25 per cent. Conventional buildings require nearly 50 per cent of energy to provide heating and cooling requirements. By adopting sustainable building techniques, the energy consumption can be reduced with the use of appropriate building materials and simple designs such as the use of natural daylight, ventilation, creating suitable thermal insulation.

Sustainable Housing Initiatives by NIRDPR

As a part of promoting rural housing in India, the Rural Technology Park at the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), Hyderabad has taken an initiative to set up a National Rural Building Centre (NRBC).

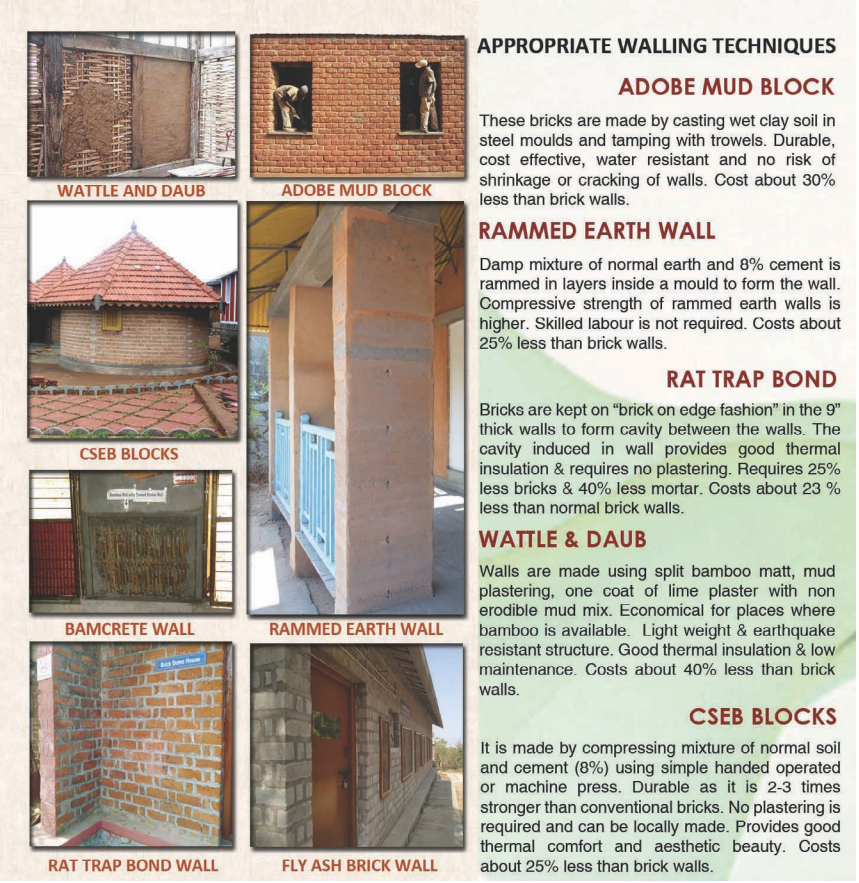
The mandate of the centre is to serve as a skill development centre on sustainable housing technologies which will impart knowledge and skills to the engineers and masons. The centre offers a range of practical training programmes and exposure on different types of sustainable housing technologies being practiced all over India by various agencies and professionals. In addition, workshops and seminars on sustainable housing technologies are also organised for various stakeholders involved in the housing sector. The centre brings together a range of cost-effective construction technologies with variety of materials, technologies blending the old and new techniques of construction. The technologies showcased in the centre are suitable for disaster-prone locations viz., earthquake, cyclone and fire, etc. These structures are erected utilising the locally available resources and skills of the people. The cost of construction will be in the range of 25 per cent to 40 per cent less than that of the cost with conventional construction at that particular place. The variation of cost depends on the soil typology and locally available resources.

Over 40 sustainable housing technology components have been incorporated in the 15 typology houses constructed for demonstration purpose at the centre. All these structures are eco-friendly and environment-friendly as they are built with green building concept. The demonstration units also showcase various model houses built using sustainable housing technologies for PMAY houses, Panchayat buildings, anganwadi centres, etc., in the NRBC. In addition, technical support to interested private parties and government building programmes across the country is also being provided by the engineers of NRBC. Training modules and publications on sustainable housing technologies have been prepared for promoting this concept. The setting up of NRBC at NIRDPR gives a greater scope for promoting the cost-effective sustainable housing technologies in different parts of the country. These efforts are expected to enhance and meet the requirements of the housing needs of poor people in the rural areas at an affordable cost.

Strategies for Promoting Sustainable Housing Technologies

1. Building Demonstration Units: The number of buildings constructed across the country using sustainable housing technologies is small in number at the moment. Therefore, it is important to focus on creating a significant number of demonstration units of sustainable housing technologies across every block of the country for creating awareness about these technologies among people. For instance, building the government offices, schools, anganwadis, Panchayat buildings and model PMAY houses must be given thrust to showcase the durability and cost effectiveness of the sustainable building technologies.
2. Awareness Creation and Capacity Building: People are not aware of the advantages and cost-effectiveness of the sustainable building technologies at large. Another major hurdle is that even the key functionaries such as engineers and masons involved in

The Rural Technology Park, NIRDPR(file photo)



promoting housing programmes are not aware of the techniques and benefits of sustainable housing technologies. Therefore, conducting adequate number of awareness and exposure programmes is important. The lack of trained engineers and masons on the building technologies pertaining to sustainable housing aspects is also a key concern to be addressed. Conducting well-designed hands-on workshops and training programmes must be undertaken in association with government functionaries, builders and architects' associations.

3. Documentation and Communication Materials: It is important to develop simple and effective communication materials which can be used for promoting the concepts of sustainable housing technologies across the key stakeholders involved in housing sector including the people. Developing appropriate communication strategies to deliver the key messages pertaining to sustainable housing technologies will be required. The materials could include both written and video forms.

4. Promoting Entrepreneurship: Enterprises supporting construction sector at the moment predominantly produce conventional construction materials only. Therefore, there is an urgent need to create mechanisms for production of building materials which are required for promoting sustainable housing such as stabilised mud blocks, conical tiles and fly ash bricks, etc., so that these are locally available to the people and technicians involved in housing programmes.

As far as the PMAY rural housing programme is concerned, the panchayats can play an important role by producing necessary sustainable building materials which are not available in the market through the MGNREGS programme while creating additional employment opportunities for rural people. This aspect can be piloted in the model Panchayats which are doing exemplary work across the country to arrive at suitable mechanisms for scaling up.

5. Standardisation and Codification: There are a number of techniques and variations in sustainable building technologies being practiced by various agencies involved in promoting sustainable housing technologies. However, it would be appropriate to limit the number of very useful techniques so as to arrive at standardisation of these and codify them in the building codes for enabling these in the mainstream construction sector. Also, efforts to include such standardised sustainable housing techniques in the standard schedule of rates (SSR) prepared by the government so as to enable local engineers to prepare their estimates for housing projects must be taken up. At present, in the absence of inclusion of sustainable housing technologies in the SSR, many engineers who are aware of these techniques are not able to include such components in their projects.

6. Green Rating and Incentivisation: At the moment, the housing sector doesn't have a system of rating residential buildings and a mechanism to incentivise people who are taking interest in building their homes using sustainable housing concepts. There is an urgent need to consider the positive side of promoting sustainable residential homes in the light of environmental and climate change framework. Homes with green building concepts such as use of eco-friendly cost saving materials, water and energy saving devices, efficient waste management systems, etc., can be considered for incentives being provided for promoting solar or bio-energy products by the government. Offering subsidies or a reduction in house taxes or sales tax on sustainable building components can go a long way in encouraging people to consider building sustainable residential buildings.

Dr. S. Ramesh Sakthivel,
Associate Professor and Head(i/c)
Ms. R. Vishnu Priya ,
Young Professional, Architect
CIAT & SJ, NIRDPR,
Cover page design: **Shri V.G. Bhat**

Dr. G. Narendra Kumar, IAS assumes office as Director General of NIRDPR

Dr. G. Narendra Kumar, IAS, assumed office as the Director General of National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), Hyderabad on 27th January, 2021.

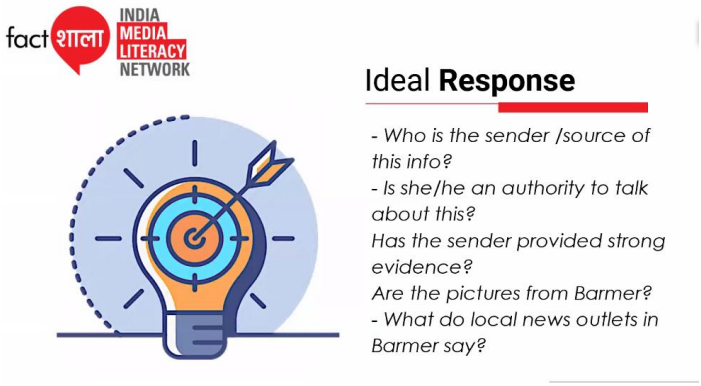
Prior to this, Dr. G. Narendra Kumar worked as Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Delhi. He was awarded a Ph.D. in Bio Chemistry from Osmania University and Master's Degree in Public Administration from Maxwell School of Public Affairs, USA. He completed M. Tech from IIT Delhi in Bio-Technology, M.Sc. in Organic Chemistry and B.Sc. in Botany from Osmania University. Dr. Kumar holds a PG diploma in Computer Application from University of Pondicherry and has completed a certificate course in Health Management from the Syracuse University. Dr. G. Narendra Kumar played a pivotal role in establishing four universities in Delhi simultaneously increasing access to quality technical and higher education. Earlier, he worked at the Administrative Staff College of India, ICRISAT and various national and international academic institutions.

CDC conducts online training programme on Fact Checking and Data Validation on Rural Development

An online training programme on Fact Checking and Data Validation on Rural Development was organised by the Centre for Development Documentation and Communication (CDC), National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), Hyderabad on 29th January, 2021. Dr. Akanksha Shukla, Associate Professor and Head (i/c), CDC was the course director of the training programme.

The three-hour training programme was conducted for the members of Extension Training Centres (ETCs), District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs), various State Rural Development Institutes and other rural development functionaries.

The training programme was conducted to understand the concept of news and opinion, learn the use of verification tools available online for any type of data and ignite the sense of responsibility and accountability before sharing information on social media. Aspects on misinformation, manipulation of news, types of fake news, use of social media, trolls morphed visual content, etc., were discussed at length during the training programme.

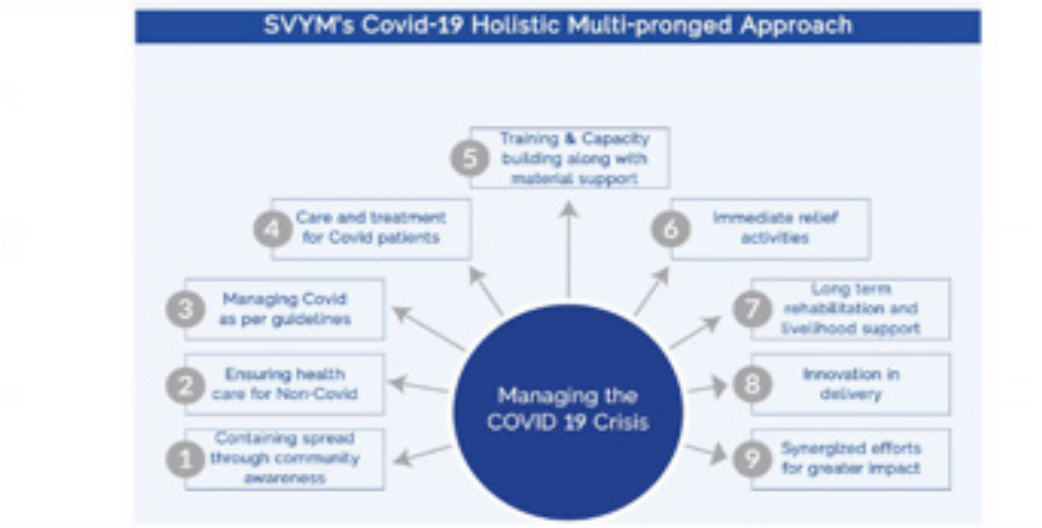


A slide from presentation used in the training programme

Dr. Akanksha put forth the threats of misinformation using various case studies. She detailed about the current steps taken by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Ministry of Rural Development in combating the threat of spread of misinformation. She stressed on the fact that since India is the world's largest democracy with a population of around 138 million people, the issue of fake news poses a unique threat in a religiously diverse State like India.

Dr. Akanksha also discussed various tips in spotting fake news. Further, she suggested measures that can be adopted to stop the spread of misinformation. In the end, she urged all the participants to share their learning to as many people as they can and help in curtailing the acceptance and spread of misinformation to their best abilities. The participants expressed their satisfaction and requested the team to conduct similar training programmes to educate rural development functionaries on a regular basis.

Communication during Public Health Emergencies



A slide presented during the webnair on communication during public health emergencies

Given the urgent need for communication to support the COVID-19 vaccine roll-out along with emphasis on COVID-19 appropriate behaviours, the Communication Resource Unit, National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Hyderabad in collaboration with the UNICEF Hyderabad Field Office organised a webinar to share experiences on communication during public health emergencies on 28th January, 2021. The key stakeholders from government, civil societies and faith-based organisations were invited to join as panel members to share their experiences on COVID-19 response. The officials from key line departments and other stakeholders trained on risk communication and community engagement for COVID-19 were invited to participate and learn from the experiences of the panel members. The webinar covered the discussions on experiences and lessons on RCCE for COVID-19 and also the governance for RCCE, engaging with communities, working with healthcare providers in private sector, outreach through faith leaders and networks and approaches for communication related to COVID-19 vaccine in the coming months.

The webinar had six distinguished panellists:

- Governance for RCCE for COVID-19 Appropriate Behaviours (CAB), experience from Andhra Pradesh by Dr. Kamalraj, Advisor-Public Health, Government of Andhra Pradesh
- Engaging with communities – experiences from Karnataka by Dr. Balasubramaniam, Founder, Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement
- Working with healthcare providers in private sector for promotion of CAB by Dr. Sai Subhasree Raghavan, country director of SAATHI
- Reaching the urban masses in slums by Br. Varghese Theckanath, Director of Monfort Social Institute
- Reaching the residents welfare associations of Hyderabad by Shri BT Srinivasan of UFERWAS
- Outreach through faith leaders and networks by Shri Siripurapu Koteswara Rao, National Seva Coordinator of SSSP.

There were a total of 78 participants from various departments and NGOs from Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

Dr. R. Ramesh, Associate Professor and Head(i/c), CRU attended the webinar and highlighted the need of the webinar in regards to sharing experiences of COVID-19 response at the right time.

As the COVID-19 vaccine roll-out is in progress it is very important to empower people to distinguish themselves which is right and wrong information. Ms. Seema, C4D specialist from UNICEF, HFO thanked all the panel members for accepting the invitation and attending the webinar. She presented a detailed overview on the joint efforts of CRU and UNICEF towards RCCE. Shri Kishore, C4D consultant of UNICEF moderated the panel discussion.

Dr. Kamalraj, Advisor-Public Health, Government of Andhra Pradesh shared the experience and learnings from governance for RCCE for COVID-19 Appropriate Behaviours (CAB). He said the risk communication and community engagement is a public health measure, which can save lives. Government of Andhra Pradesh gave utmost importance to RCCE and involved highest level of leadership in RCCE activities. They have engaged with Head of Departments of 11 line departments, District Collectors as well as CSOs, FBOs. They created high momentum for RCCE in early months, before the peak of the epidemic. Timely guidance and circulars on different measures to take were issued to districts on RCCE. He added that they

A slide from the webnair

adopted a 360-degree communication approach and different prototypes of materials for dissemination and display were supported to district. They have developed and implemented a tool on concurrent monitoring of RCCE.

Dr. Balasubramaniam, Founder, Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement took through their experiences in Karnataka in engaging with communities during COVID-19. Their focus was more on compassionate messaging rather than demanding communities to comply to COVID-19 appropriate behaviours. They were able to create an environment to build communities as partners by non-prescriptive approach, fostering participation and cogenerated solutions. He emphasised that communication should go hand-in-hand with services to establish credibility among people. It was found that the impact generated by community radio stations was good in reaching out to the grassroots level audience. He emphasised that influencing people through articles, blogs, social media, etc., through eminent personalities on vaccine will fetch better result.

Dr. Satish Kumar of SAATHI viewed, that it is most important to sustain the communication on CAB to sustain these behaviours in the communities, otherwise there is a chance of people skipping these behaviours once vaccination completes. He also elaborated on their network of private hospitals, pharmacies and different communication activities taken up in these institutes. They have used social media platforms widely to share materials and messages on COVID-19. It was said that private hospitals readily agreed to participate and welcomed the trainings of their staff as they were more vulnerable, this is a very good opportunity to be leveraged for COVID-19 vaccine communication. He assured the support of SAATHII in mobilising endorsements for vaccination from well-known doctors and motivating health care providers.

Brother Varghese of MSI shared about their activities which included reaching out to the urban slums with COVID-19 preventive messages. It was said that urban slums were the most difficult scenarios in the context of COVID-19. Social distancing and handwashing were a big challenge or nearly impossible in the slums. In partnership with UNICEF they started providing relief services since day 3 of lockdown and established very good trust towards MSI in the communities. They had volunteers from local communities onboard to take-up awareness activities which gave good results because of their local presence and understanding of slums. The discrimination of domestic workers during lockdown was resolved with RWAS.

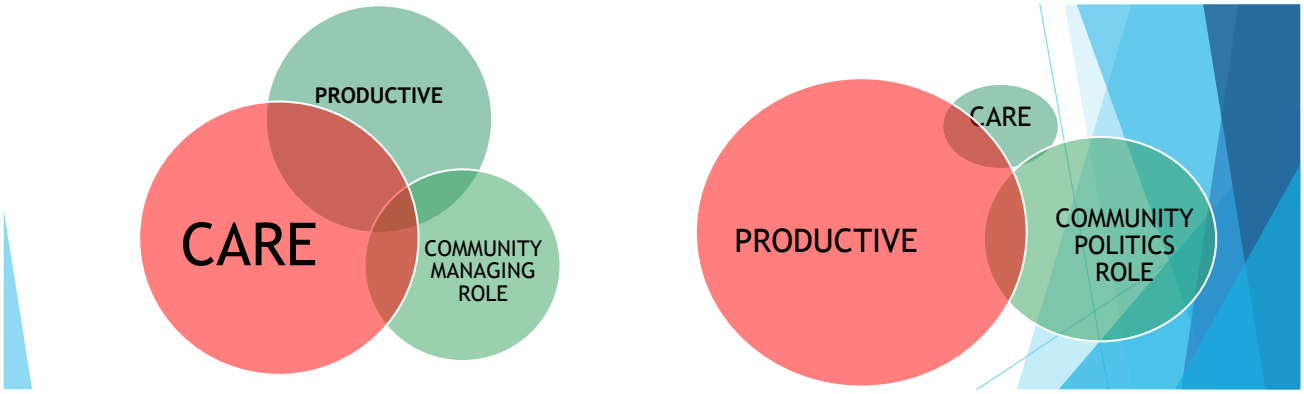
Shri Srinivas of UFERWAS presented the interesting work done with RWAS in their network in Hyderabad. They were engaged with resident welfare associations, created awareness on CABs, addressed the stigma and discrimination to counter COVID-19, advocacy with health department and supporting quarantine center's at gated communities, monitoring of testing centres, containment zones, PPE/hygiene kits supply, relief work for migrants and urban slums through NGO partners during the lockdown. RWAs community halls were used for testing centres.

Shri Koteswara Rao, National Seva Coordintor, Sathya Sai Seva Organisation presented on the outreach through faith leaders and networks which Sathya Sai Seva Organisation volunteers tookup in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka. He said that prevention and protection was the twin approach of SSSO. They took relief support to migrant workers (22 lakh food packets), community kitchens – 37 lakh meals cooked and served, production and distribution of hygiene kits. Inspiring and positive messages on more than 2,000 WhatsApp groups to help people with psycho-social support.

The panel members addressed the questions raised by the participants in the Q and A session. Ms. Seema, C4D Specialist from UNICEF thanked all the panel members and requested similar support and enthusiastic work from the organisations in the COVID-19 vaccine communication. She briefly presented the action points culled out of panel discussion for vaccine communication:

- 360-degree communication approach
- Community radios and cell phones are strong tools for communication as a part of the larger plan
- Articles, blogs of eminent personalities on credibility of vaccine and circulating it in social media, etc.
- Sustain the communication on CAB is needed
- Private hospitals are good platform for vaccine communication
- Managing negative messaging on social media.

Online trainging programme for Mission Staff on Gender Integration and Preparation of Operational Strategy



A slide from the training programme on gender integration and operational strategy

Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission, Resource Cell (DAY-NRLM RC), National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), Hyderabad organised a two-day (parallel batches) online training programme for the mission staff of Assam, Odisha, Bihar, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana on Gender Integration and Preparation of Operational Strategy.

NRLM mobilises rural poor women in general and also undertakes special mobilisation efforts for reaching out to women in exploitative situations/ occupations (like single women, divorced, separated, survivors of violence, trafficked women, Devdasis, HIV+ve women, etc.) in particular. A majority of women are engaged in NRLM through SHGs and this has promoted women's empowerment by addressing structural inequalities and inequities through collectives and strengthening women's institutions, and involving them in the SHGs.

NRLM believes that gender mainstreaming should feature in its framework, systems, institutions, and processes to achieve sustainable social, economic, and political goals that have a direct/indirect impact on the quality of life indicators of the community. Gender inequality still exists within the households, workplaces and at large in the society and also in the access and achievement in education, health, lack of access and control over resources and skill-building, the unequal division of labour, etc. Also, keeping various issues in view, the NRLM resource cell organises a series of online training programmes to sensitise the mission staff of the States. The primary objective of the training programme was to sensitise the mission staff about the importance of equal access of education, health, and resource for both men and women. The programme was aimed to create awareness among the mission staff about the integration of gender in various components of NRLM such as livelihoods, institution building capacity building (IBCB), financial inclusion (FI), etc., to support the SHG members for effective access of rights and entitlements to improve their quality of life.

Dr. Y. Ramana Reddy, Director, NRLM Resource Cell, NIRDPR coordinated the training programme. The training programmes were organised for States of Assam, Odisha, Karnataka, Bihar, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh. The programmes were organised batch-wise parallelly from 4th-30th January, 2021. A total of 64 batches were conducted and each batch lasted for two days. During the programme participants were enlightened about gender integration into mainstream such as the difference between gender and sex, socialisation of gender, gender division of labour, access, and control over natural resources and social institutions, integration of gender in NRLM, institutional mechanisms, etc.

The major discussion points were women have minimal access to power, decision-making bodies, lack of access to wealth and other assets and have lesser income. Thus it resulted in the differences between men and women, which are referred to as gender gaps and this inequality perpetuated through patriarchy promotes violence. Issues such as gender interest, practical gender need, and strategic gender need should be understood to bridge the gender gap. Gender inequalities arise from the gender divisions of labour and women's subordinate position in society. The training programmes mobilised the mission staff about practical gender needs i.e., equal access of education and assets, include water provision, healthcare, income-earning opportunity, basic services within household, family food provision, etc.

The stereotyping of gender roles within household brings inequality, especially the practical gender needs of women, as they are thrusted on women as their responsibilities, however, strategic gender needs include the abolition of the sexual division of labour alleviation, burden of domestic labour and childcare, the removal of institutionalised forms of discrimination such as rights to own land or property, access to credit and other resources, freedom of choice over childbearing, measures against male violence and control over women.

A total of 3,032 mission staff participated in the training programmes from the States of Assam (486), Odisha (227), Karnataka (265), Bihar (514), Andhra Pradesh (640), Telangana (900).

NIRDPR celebrates 72nd Republic Day

Smt. Radhika Rastogi, IAS, Deputy Director General hoisting the national flag during the 72nd Republic Day celebrations

(3rd,4th,5th from left to right) Lt. Col. Ashutosh Kumar, Registrar and Director (Admin.), Smt. Radhika Rastogi, IAS, DDG and Shri Shashi Bhushan, FA and Director, NIRDPR along with the winners of various sports competitions

National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Hyderabad celebrated the 72nd Republic Day on 26th January, 2021 on the campus. The celebrations began with flag hoisting by Smt. Radhika Rastogi, IAS, Deputy Director General, NIRDPR and singing of the national anthem by all. This was followed by the march-past of the security guards of the Institute. Smt. Radhika Rastogi later began her address by welcoming and wishing the gathering on the occasion. She pointed out that India has survived all these years as a largest democratic country in the world. "In the same manner, NIRDPR has been contributing to the growth of the country over the years. The rural population in India is today deprived of the facilities available in the urban areas, which are being developed at the cost of resources and forest in rural areas. To balance both the areas the Rurban programme has been introduced through which rural people can seek employment," the DDG remarked.

As a part of the celebrations, sports competitions were conducted for the staff of NIRDPR and the prizes for the winners were distributed by Smt. Radhika Rastogi, IAS, DDG, Shri Shashi Bhushan, FA and Director Finance, Lt. Col. Ashutosh Kumar, Registrar and Director (Administration). Others who took part in the programme included Centre Heads and faculty members, staff of NIRDPR and students.

-CDC Initiatives

Case study of OLM under COVID-19 Assistance Package (CAP)

Smt. Mamata Budhia at her kirana store

The COVID-19 pandemic has posed serious threat to the rural economy in the State. To give a boost to the rural economy in the present COVID-19 situation, different financial assistance packages are designed under 'Odisha Livelihoods Mission (OLM)' to suit to the requirement of various segments of the rural population. Odisha was the first State in the country to launch National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) in its bid to bring down rural poverty by promoting diversified and gainful self-employment to the rural poor.

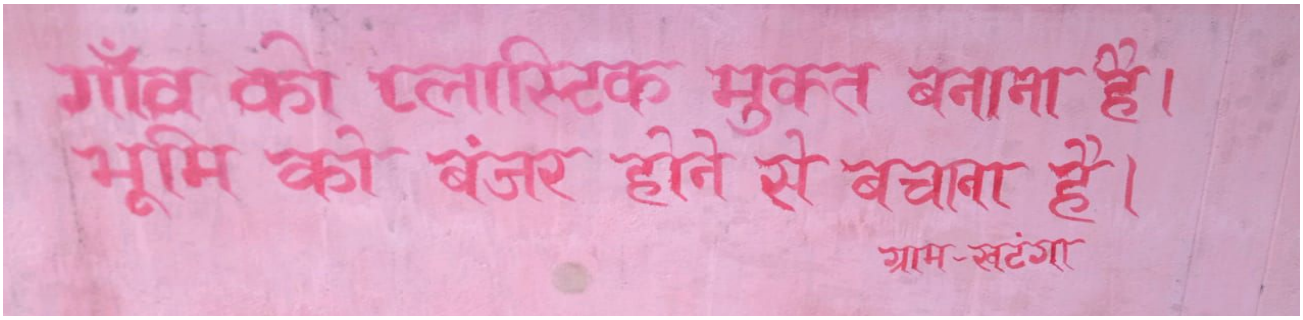
Many of the rural women entrepreneurs were given loans under the COVID-19 Assistance Programme to support them during the hard times. Smt. Mamata Budhia is one among the beneficiaries of the CAP. The socio-economic condition of Smt. Mamata Budhia's family was moderate. The six-member family tried to fulfill all the basic needs for survival through cultivating the small patch of agricultural land and a grocery shop. She had joined a SHG in

the year 2018 when OLM intervention was started. After joining the SHG, she realised the value of savings and various modes in saving. Later she opened a bank account in the nearby SBI branch and saved some money in the SHG group. As the SHG group she was a part of availed the bank loan, she invested her share of loan amount in the grocery shop. She managed the grocery shop and her husband was involved in agricultural work and purchasing wholesale items from different vendors for their grocery shop. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, income from the grocery shop decreased to Rs.200 per day from Rs. 400 to Rs. 500 and was closed in adherence to the with government norms for a period of two months. Further, she had invested all her savings into the cotton farming. Thereby her financial condition became unsterilised and it was difficult to make the both ends meet.

Meanwhile, Smt. Mamata came to know from the SHG group regarding the CAP loan introduced by OLM through which she could get some financial assistance. She contacted the MBK (expand) of her federation and gave proposal to the EC member of the GPLF(expand). Later, she got an amount of Rs.50,000/- from GPLF as a CAP loan which was invested in purchasing grocery items. Now the sales have increased and she is making a good profit by earning Rs. 500 per day. Smt. Mamata further plans to expand her shop by adding some fancy items. The intime financial assistance from GPLF and OLM helped her to reestablish the income and meet the financial need of the family during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Shri Anurag Kushwaha
Young Professional,
Odisha Livelihoods Mission

An outline of the project for creating model GP clusters across India



A wall writing promoting eradication of the use of plastic

Background

The Panchayati Raj system in India witnessed a lot many capacity building & training interventions under RGSY, BRGF (CB Component), RGPSA and RGSA over the last 2 decades. In 2018, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) published the revised Guidelines on Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) along with provision for sustained support for capacity building & training under RGSA.

This was followed by two successive People's Plan Campaigns for GPDP in 2018 and 2019; but very few GPs in the country are yet to attain institutional capacity to prepare quality GPDP and implement and monitor plans to demonstrate the desired quality as per the GPDP guidelines. In search of a solution to the problem, based on interactions held at different levels, the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Hyderabad considered it expedient to take up an Action Research Project for 100+ Clusters Development Programme to create a few Model GP Clusters to motivate all other GPs across India to follow the Model GPs and replicate the good practices in their areas.

The 1st Phase of the Action Research Project for 100+ Clusters Development Programme

The NIRDPR started implementation of the Action Research Project in August 2019 for creation of 59 Model GP Clusters in five States, namely Assam, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, West Bengal and Jharkhand.

The total number of GPs under these Clusters is 202. The NIRDPR was to expand the Action Research Project in another 66 GP Clusters covering 343 GPs in six more States namely Odisha, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Gujarat from April 2020. But owing to COVID-19, the expansion could not take place. The Project would be implemented by the NIRDPR with financial and/ or technical support from a number of corporates (through CSR initiative) and partner institutions including the Art of Living Foundation, Mission Samriddhi, Foundation for Ecological Security, National Mineral Development Corporation, SERA Trust (NRI), Tata Steel and ITC. In case of Jharkhand, it is being implemented with financial support from the State RD & Panchayati Raj Department. Hopefully, after the COVID-19 problem is eased, implementation of the Action Research Project would start in the remaining States, thus arriving at a total number of 125 Clusters covering 545 GPs in 11 States.

The 2nd Phase Project for Creating 250 Model GP Clusters with MoPR Support

Observing whatever little success could be achieved under the Action Research Project for the 100+ Clusters Development Programme, the MoPR came forward to support a bigger project for creating 250 Model GP Clusters across India covering 1105 GPs in all States (except Punjab and Andhra Pradesh)

A villager writing a quote on the wall as part of spreading social awareness

and 5 UTs e.g. Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Dadra Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Puducherry, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. This Project under Phase-2 will be implemented by the NIRDPR over 2020-22 with support from three major partners – (a) MoPR (b) States & the UTs (c) UNDP. The MoPR approved the Project through its CEC meeting held on 23rd June, 2020 and sanctioned an amount of Rs.31,08,40,000 only to be utilised by the NIRDPR over 2020-21 and 2021-22. Thus, when implementation of the Project starts in all the Clusters, the total number of the units will come to 125 Clusters having 545 GPs and 250 Clusters having 1105 GPs (125 + 250 = 375 Clusters having 545 + 1105 = 1650 GPs).

Goal & Objectives of the Project for Creating Model GP Clusters

The goal of the project is to create 250 Model GP clusters to achieve holistic and sustainable development through – institutional strengthening of GPs and enablement of Quality GPDP by providing technical guidance and handholding support to the GPs in preparation and implementation of GPDP in true spirit, to inspire and motivate other GPs to follow suit. The objectives are:

(a). Intense capability building & training and inspiring the project GPs to enable them to function as institutions of self-government to achieve economic development and social justice.

(b). Handholding support to the project GPs through 'Young Fellows', 'Cluster Level Resource Persons' and 'Beacon Panchayat Leaders' – to develop institutional capabilities of GPs and to prepare, implement and monitor GPDP in a qualitative manner.

(c). To infuse science and technology in planning and to demonstrate true sense of convergence of schemes and efforts of various stakeholders.

(d). To support the project GPs as schools of practice and gradually to emerge as beacon GPs to inspire other GPs across the country to follow them as models.

(e). To facilitate large social/economic returns on investments over 3 years.

Major Project Interventions

As designed, the major Project interventions include:

(a). Deployment of 12 State programme coordinators (@1 for 2-3 States) to coordinate with the States and UTS; 250 qualified young fellows @ 1 per cluster for providing handholding support to the project GPs; 250 cluster level resource persons @ 1 per cluster for community mobilisation with support from SHGs and their federations; 125 beacon Panchayat leaders @ 1 per two clusters for providing mentoring and motivational support to the GPs.

(b). Intense capability building & training of the project staff on all the relevant issues.

(c). Intense capability building & training of State and district level master trainers, mainly from SIRDs.

(d). Intense capability building & training and handholding support to the ERs & Functionaries of GPs and CRPs on institutional strengthening of GPs, participatory planning and Mission Antyodaya, e-Gram Swaraj and spatial planning.

(e). Specially designed exposure visit (Samriddhi Yatra) for ERs of GPs inside and outside State.

(f). Spatial planning in the project GPs.

(g). Development of a skilling plan in each project GP.

(h). Promotion of economic development models through assessment, project preparation, institution creation, roll out and handholding with focus on revival of rural economy in Post-COVID-19 situation

(i). Orientation of State, district & block officers, representatives of intermediate and district Panchayats, SHG federations, political leaders, and representatives of Corporates/CSOs/NGOs among others

(j). Mapping of organisational development and benchmarking of capacity of the GPs

(k). Development of community volunteers to support the project GPs as 'Friends of Panchayats'

(l). Efficient management and monitoring of the project interventions

(m). Continuous documentation of processes, outputs and outcomes for dissemination of lessons learnt

(n). Annual evaluation of the project through external institutions for corrective measures.

Major Project Partners

The project has been designed with multiple partnership in its implementation in a truly convergent manner, as stated below:

(a). The MoPR is the approving authority for this Project and, as such, has approved the project for two years viz. 2020-21 and 2021-22 (i.e. till the last year of RGSA). Apart from broad-based policy support, the MoPR is to provide financial resource for meeting 100 per cent of the cost of human resources from out of the Central component of RGSA, bearing 44.02 per cent of the total project cost

(b). The NIRDPR, based on request and encouragement from the MoPR, designed this Project. Alongside the ongoing Action Research Project for 125 Model GP Clusters, the NIRDPR (through its Centre for Panchayati

Raj, Decentralised Planning & Social Service Delivery) will implement and monitor this project with support from the MoPR, the States, the UNDP and a wide range of other partner institutions as stated later. The NIRDPR is also to take care of the capability building and training (CB&T) of the State machineries implementing some of the activities under this project, the partner institutions and the project staff from out of its normal training fund, as part of its annual training calendars, bearing 5.62 per cent of the total project cost

(c). The Panchayati Raj and Rural Development Departments of the States and the UTs and the State Institutes of Panchayat & Rural Development (SIPRD)/State Panchayat Resource Centres (SPRC)/ other nodal Institutions for RGSA & GPDP are to implement, under overall guidance and supervision of the NIRDPR, and bear the cost of some activities. The total expenditure to be borne by the States and the UTs for the assigned activities under RGSA (Central + State shares) comes to 39.78 per cent of the total project cost

(d). The UNDP is to support up to 50 Clusters in selected States and to function as a key support institution for the entire project across the country, for development of systems for monitoring, communication, advocacy, innovative technology tools etc., continuous documentation of processes, good practices, outputs and outcomes and evaluation of the project to be done by a 3rd party - by the end of each year. For these activities, the UNDP is expected to bear 10.59 per cent of the total project cost.

This Project with multiple partnership is the first of its kind in such a large scale and it needs to be implemented on a mission mode in an out-of-box manner, with an avowed aim to facilitate it to happen what does not normally happen. So, all the partners need to play their roles in tandem and with perfect coordination, following the approved project design and this project implementation plan.

Women from the village cleaning their surroundings

Supporting Institutions

As designed, the project will be implemented in collaboration with a wide range of supporting institutions, as stated below, which have marked contribution in rural local governance, decentralised planning and rural development:

(a). The State Rural Livelihoods Mission (for PRI-SHG Convergence)
(b). The line departments to be operating through their functionaries at district, block and GP levels
(c). Local credit institutions for support to entrepreneurs for economic development
(d). Mission Samriddhi (for IT support and structured exposure visits named Samriddhi Yatra)
(e). The Vyakti Vikas Kendra India under the Art of Living Foundation (for training on motivation, leadership, no-cost voluntary actions, etc.)
(f). Foundation for Ecological Security (for training on economic development through natural resource management, watershed development techniques, spatial planning and nation wide rich database for planning)
(g). Governance Lab (for GP organisation development and benchmarking of capabilities of GPs)
(h). Madhukar Livelihood Foundation (for creation of economic development models)
(i). Ultimate Management Solutions, India (for training on development of youths as volunteers)
(j). Nehru Yuva Kendra (for promotion of voluntary efforts)
(k). We The People of India (for training on Constitutional rights)
(l). UNICEF (child-friendly GPs)
(m). CSOs/local NGOs/local CBOs including SHGs and their Federations/ Local Youth Clubs/Volunteers, etc.
(n). Any other well-meaning organisation willing to join the mission.

Key Deliverables

(a). Institutionally strengthened GPs
(b). Functional Standing Committees
(c). Capabilities of ERs & functionaries of GPs
(d). Efficient management of office, works and procurement
(e). Increase in own source revenue of GPs.
(f). A database in each GP
(g). Large-scale participation of people in planning, implementation and monitoring.
(h). Informed and transformed citizens (from beneficiaries to actors).
(i). Formal consultation meets with stakeholders.
(j). A skilling plan in each GP

(k). Creation and maintenance of assets by communities through voluntary actions

(l). Replicable economic development models

(m). Stronger PRI-SHG convergence.

(n). Improved social inclusion.

(o). No-cost voluntary actions by communities.

(p). Application of new technologies for skilling.

(q). Enhanced accountability and transparency.

(r). SDG-compliant, environment-friendly, child-friendly and gender-just GPs.

(s). Improvement in quality of life of citizens

Progress So Far

The project design, approved by the MoPR, was well accepted by UNDP, 12 other partner institutions and the States and UTs who are ready join the implementation drive from quite long back. Meanwhile, the following actions have been taken by the project team at the NIRDPR:

(a) A PMU has been formed at the NIRDPR with 8 (out of 17) staff to manage and monitor the Project

(b) A drive for recruitment of 510 project staff was initiated on 24th June, 2020. But even after holding online examination of eligible candidates from out of about 30,000 candidates, the process could not be completed because of certain issues raised against non-compliance of the reservation policy of the Department of Personnel & Training, Government of India

(c) The PMU staff interacted with senior officers of the States & UTs online and clarified about different aspects of the projects and roles of different organisations to be partnering with the NIRDPR

(d) A total number of 348 officials comprising State Nodal Officers, State Level Master Trainers and District Level Master Trainers were trained online for three days to orient and motivate them about the efficacy of the project

(e) A draft Project Implementation Plan (PIP) was prepared indicating the middle of August 2020 as the time for inception of the Project. Since the recruitment drive could not be completed, the draft PIP could not be finalised

(f) The 250 GP Clusters, formed by the States and the UTs in the districts identified by the MoPR, were finalised by the NIRDPR with support from the States and the UTs.

(g) The NIRDPR and UNDP have jointly developed a Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning Framework for the Project.

(h) The PMU of the NIRDPR has collected the relevant data (Mission Antyodaya Report, MA Gap Analysis Report and the latest GPDP) pertaining to 1,105 GPs under 250 Clusters data of the GPs

(i) The PMU is now preparing operational guidelines on around 30 interventions for use by the project GPs with handholding support from Young Fellows and Cluster Level Resource Persons.

Likely Inception of the Project

As already mentioned, a recruitment drive was held in June 2020, but the process could not be completed because of certain issues raised against non-compliance of the reservation policy of the Department of Personnel & Training, Government of India.

Considering all aspects of the matter, the Director General, NIRDPR has instructed that an advertisement inviting fresh applications for filling up of the posts of the Project Staff (510) in compliance with the reservation policy of the Department of Personnel & Training, Government of India be done.

Necessary action has been initiated for the purpose. It can be expected that the process for recruitment of the Project staff will be completed by the end of February 2021 and that the Project staff can be immersed in the field immediately after that time.

Dr. Dilip Pal
Project Team Leader,
Action Research Project for 250+ Clusters,
NIRDPR

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. G. Narendra Kumar, IAS, Director General, NIRDPR
Smt. Radhika Rastogi, IAS, Deputy Director General, NIRDPR

Assistant Editors: Krishna Raj K. S.
Victor Paul
G. Sai Ravi Kishore Raja

Published By:

Dr. Akanksha Shukla, Associate Professor and Head (i/c), CDC on behalf of the NIRDPR,
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad - 500 030.