

Newsletter



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Sustainable Rural Development

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Cover Story

Sustainability of Nirmal Gram Puraskar Status

A Success Story of Hajipalle Gram Panchayat in Telangana

'Sanitation is more important than Independence'

- Mahatma Gandhi

With a view to encouraging the Gram Panchayats (GPs) that make concerted efforts to achieve total sanitation status, the Government of India (GoI) instituted Nirmal Gram Puraskar (NGP) Award in the year 2003. First NGP Awards were given away to 40 GPs in the year 2004, and as of 2013, we have nearly 28,600 GPs in India that have won NGP award (Government of India, 2013).

While the progress we make in sanitation front is encouraging, the studies conducted across the States to assess whether the principles of NGP are fully maintained in existing NGP awarded villages reveal that in Nirmal Gram Panchayats 15 to 34 per cent of the households either do not have access to household latrines (IHHL) or do not use IHHLs constructed (TARU, 2008).

The point is that on average, one-fourth of Nirmal Gram Panchayats - after being in the limelight for a short while - slip back into where it was. This is a real discomfort not only to the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation (MDWS), but also to the local leaders and development practitioners.

However, there are some Nirmal Gram Panchayats (GP) that continued to do the good work and still stand as an example of sustainable development. One of them is Hajipalle Gram Panchayat located near Shadnagar in Telangana State.

Hajipalle is found to be sustaining Nirmal Gram status (awarded by GoI) for over eight years now. It's heartening to notice that Hajipalle as a model village has gone into the school curriculum in Telangana State. Incidentally, this is also an action research village of the National Institute of Rural



Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR), Hyderabad since 2008.

Raising from dark past

Now Hajipalle may be one of the best GPs in India, but it was a completely different village two decades ago. This small Panchayat with 252 households and a population of 876 was no different from any of the underdeveloped villages of Telangana. The village's economy depended entirely on agriculture, which majorly focused on crops like paddy, maize and vegetables.

The village was divided by castes. Often people fought among themselves on caste issues. Illiteracy, poor healthcare, and other problems made them believe in superstitions. They would rely on the local goddess for any problem. All the facilities in the village, including drinking water supply, sanitation, health centre, school were in pathetic condition. They suffered in every summer with shortage of water. Toilet was still an alien concept for them. In 1990s open defecation was the general social norm. Even the local primary school did not have toilets for children to use one - or at least to have seen one.

The village remained in almost same state till 2001. It is only after 2001 that some change was brought. A young B.Com graduate from the village, Srinivas was one of the first to think about transforming the village. With a keen interest in rural development, Srinivas contested in Panchayat elections in 2001 and got elected as the Sarpanch.

Tapping assistance from various schemes of the Central and State Governments (such as Janma Bhoomi), he started building social infrastructure such as drinking water facility, cement streets/lanes, centralised underground drainage system for domestic waste water disposal, latrines for every household, school sanitation, anganwadi sanitation, etc.

Hajipalle Becomes a Nirmal Gram Puraskar Awardee

The journey of Hajipalle towards becoming a Nirmal Gram Puraskar village was not easy as it appears to be. It is a result of collective efforts by all villagers and some good initiatives. A resolution was passed at the Hajipalle Gram Sabha to make the village Open Defecation Free (ODF) within two-year period.

It was resolved that the violators be punished with penalty of ₹500 per day to the Gram Panchayat Office. Cancelling the Ration Card, other benefits of government schemes were also some of the punishments that GP had decided to give to violators of the resolution.

To bring the violators to right track, the villagers took a different path. Village Sarpanch Srinivas, along with some other friends used to wake up in the morning and go round whistling 'illuminating the mapped area for open defecation' with torch light. They even threatened to take away their Family Ration Card or cut government pension if found violating the rule. Jangamma took the lead for it amongst women. Plastic bags were banned and NSS volunteers from nearby towns were engaged in the village development programmes. The SHGs actively participated in all the development programmes.

The efforts of the villagers brought a drastic change in the village. By 2007, every household in the village had a toilet, all the streets have centralised drainage network, schools and anganwadi toilets are functional, solar lights illuminate the streets, and permanent arrangement for street cleaning and solid waste disposal are in place.

Today the local school has a usable and clean toilet that the children are using regularly, and the children have been



trained in proper use and maintenance of latrines. All the 252 households have drinking water supply through individual house service connections.

With its achievement, in November 2008, Hajipalle received the Andhra Pradesh State Government's Shubhram (Clean) Award. In December 2008, it won the prestigious Nirmal Gram Puraskar (NGP) Award from the President of India.

Initiatives of NIRD&PR

NIRD&PR arranged continual community education/ leadership development programmes; exposure trips to Rural Technology Park (RTP), and motivated women Self-Help Groups (SHGs) to move beyond savings and credit in order to take up supplementary income generating/ entrepreneurship activities, etc. The Institute also took national-level and international-level trainees to pay a visit to Hajipalle describing it as a Model Village or as one of the Cleanest Villages in India. Hajipalle keeps receiving visitors almost every week. It is indeed a model village not only for village development, but on a philosophical point.

Awards and Recognition that Hajipalle has received

Andhra Pradesh State Government's Shubhram (Clean) Award - November, 2008.

Nirmal Gram Puraskar (NGP) Award from the President of India - December 2008.

The Mandal Panchayat's Shubhram (Clean) Award to Hajipalle - 2010.

Ministry of Panchayati Raj (GoI)'s Rajiv Gandhi Panchayati Swashaktikarana (RGPSA) Abhiyan Award - March 2015.

Factors that have contributed to Sustainability

The credit for present state of the village goes to villagers and many others who contributed. But there are some factors that helped the villagers to make it one of the best villages in India. Being a small village with just 250 households, it was easy for the leaders to implement any initiative. The dedication of leaders and contribution from external institutes like NIRD&PR, volunteers from NSS and other social workers helped a lot.

It is also important to recognise the contribution of Women SHGs who made great efforts to bring awareness on economic empowerment and sanitation in the village. Frequent visits by national and international delegates and appreciation from them gave villagers a boost to work harder. The GP also has developed a strong system for book-keeping, tax collection, accounting, etc. The village also had a good support from BDO, DRDA and the District Collector of Mahaboobnagar district.

Authors:

Dr P SivaRam | Dr Y Gangi Reddy | Dr R Ramesh, Faculty Members, Centre for Rural Infrastructure (CRI)
National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR)

Future Plans

With all of its success so far, the village enjoys the status of best village. But the villagers have no intention to stop here. They have many plans in mind to make it better than what it is. Now they are focusing on building system to dispose Solid Waste and Liquid Waste. They are also planning to create a centralised system for final disposal of drainage.

After appearing in the curriculum of Telangana School Education, the GP now has developed a website for the benefit of other GP functionaries and development professionals to have a look at Hajipalle Panchayat (hajipalle.in). This website was developed with the assistance of NIRD&PR, Hyderabad. The Panchayat has all the potentials to become a model in establishing an e-governance system. The focus of GP functionaries now is to move towards winning Gram Ratna Award.

Swachh Bharat

Sanitation and Positive Deviance

Garbage heaps on the street corners; human excreta on the sides of the streets; waste strewn by shopkeepers on the streets; domestic refuse hurriedly chucked by housewives in the vicinity, if these were the carpet we walk on daily, and have got used to it with no feeling of self-disgust, it naturally implies that it has become an acceptable social norm. Anything is a matter of getting accustomed to, because repeated action becomes habit; and something that is habitual is what gets expressed as collective behaviour of a society.

Once people begin disregarding norms that keep order in a community, both order and community loosen. As days go by, people feel less shy and less



reserved about things getting from bad to worse. This is what is described as Theory of Broken Windows (Wilson, 1982) in Social Psychology.

The broken window is a metaphor for how behavioural norms breakdown in a community. This theory links disorder and incivility within a community to subsequent occurrences of things that are seriously worse. An antidote to this is Positive Deviance (PD) Approach, which believes that even in the



worst case scenarios one committed person can make a difference and become local champion of a given cause. The PD process attempts creating a ripple effect; and creates new circles of goodness, until we reach sustaining the behavioural and social change by nudging the communities to develop clean habits.

Individually everyone of us is very good. Collectively we tend to blame each other. Therefore, in aggregation, Swachh Bharat might look a gigantic goal. For me to become a 'Swachh Citizen' is simple. Every one of us loves to live in the India that is clean and green. All it requires is every Indian must become 'Swachh Citizen'.

Becoming a Swachh Citizen and being one is entirely our decision and within our command. It's about the extent to which we are able to self-regulate ourselves. If you cannot respect your own commands and self-regulate your personal self, it doesn't hold up blaming everybody else of littering and irresponsibility. Does it? There is civility in self-regulation. Whether you believe you can become a Swachh Citizen or you believe you can't become one, you are right. This is absolutely definite. In other words, whether you believe you can create clean villages or you believe you can't create one, you are right. It starts with what you believe in. It depends on what kind of self-talk you entertain in your mind. It starts

with what you and what I believe in, and commit ourselves for.

The social philosophy of democracy is in the civility to self-regulate oneself. The following is a practical suggestion to becoming and being a Swachh citizen: Take a 40-day challenge, consciously avoid littering, and religiously follow the Swachhata principles, you shall find clean habits repeated for 40 days and tend to stay on. Do not litter. Carry your own cloth bags for shopping; and say 'no' to use-and-throw carry bags. You are on your way to becoming a Swachh Citizen. You are sure to become an inspiration for many others who watched you transform during your 40-day challenge period.

It's happening in India. India is becoming clean. If we take the example of Individual household latrines (IHLs) construction, we have constructed more than 18 million toilets since October 2, 2014, which is nearly triple the figure that we used to report during the same time period in the past. Ten districts have been declared as Open Defecation Free (ODF), 61,850 Gram Panchayats have been declared ODF, and 54,732 have been 'verified' and awarded ODF status. The overall increase in IHL since October 2, 2014 is 10.31 per cent, which is a sizable progress in a short time. States like Punjab, Gujarat, Tripura and West Bengal are fast moving crossing 70 per cent mark, to join the club of Kerala, Sikkim, etc. States that are lagging behind (Bihar, Odisha, Telangana, and Jharkhand) are changing their sanitation promotion strategies to achieve faster progress. Swachh Bharat is not too far. Stronger our level of commitment, sooner we reach Clean India destination. Gram Panchayats in several States are being trained to put in place solid and liquid waste management systems as well.

Achieving Swachh Bharat is simple, but not easy. It's like being a literate is easy, but being educated demands certain qualities, unfortunately, not every literate person acquires. Every positive deviant can become a Swachh Citizen, which in aggregation shall spell 'Swachh Bharat'. All that is required is reframing our mindset, and nudging our friends towards cleanliness. Start being a Swachh Citizen. Be a positive deviant. Falling into the club of negative deviants does not require any effort. But being a positive deviant does, at least until we get accustomed to it. The thinking we need to stop entertaining is: 'everybody else is irresponsible, what can I do alone?'

- Dr R Ramesh, Assistant Professor, CRI

Distinguished Visitors

Rural Development Secretary Visits NIRD&PR

Secretary, Rural Development, Jitendra Shankar Mathur along with Additional Secretary, Rural Development, Amarjeet Sinha visited NIRD&PR on May 23 and 24. During his visit, the Secretary had several discussions with CGARD, RTP and CPR. He also inaugurated the NIRD&PR Video Conference facilities.

The Secretary wanted the CGARD, NIRD&PR to coordinate the Asset Capturing of 30 lakh assets of MGNREGA on behalf of the MoRD MGNREGA Division and also engage NIC for their NREGA Soft MIS and NRSC Bhuvan for geospatial data. He also wanted that CGARD, NIRD&PR to evolve some methodology to capture all assets created by all MoRD Flagship programmes and the ones created by other Ministries at Gram Panchayat level, for effective planning and development at micro level.

Further, the Secretary visited CGARD and interacted with the Engineering Participants of the PMGSY Training



Programme at CGARD. He was happy to note that lot of new technologies are being adopted in PMGSY. He also interacted with ILO Experts and had a detailed discussion on their plan of capacity building of the Engineers involved in the implementation of the PMGSY.



During their visit to NIRD&PR, the Secretary, and Additional Secretary, visited 'Rural Technology Park' on May 24, 2016 and interacted with the unit partners of Natural Dye, Hand Made Paper

processing, Thrive Solar, VLE Solar, Teewave Solar, De-hydration, Cooling, and Thermo Electric technologies. They also visited the Rural Building Centre and the waterless urinals technologies.

The Secretary felt that these technologies need to be taken to rural areas in a big way so that the rural community can take advantage of the same to improve their standards of living. While interacting with trainees of 'Compressed Stabilised Earthen Blocks', the Secretary appreciated the objectives of the training programme and felt that the utility of the same needs to be popularised to use in cost-effective and eco-friendly construction of houses.

Dr. Y Gangi Reddy, Prof. & Head (CIAT) had given a brief presentation with regard to the Rural Technology Park and Dr. P SivaRam, Prof. & Head (CRI) and Mohammad Khan, Consultant (CIAT) accompanied them to various units and briefed on each of the same.



The Secretary(RD) inaugurated NIRD&PR Video Conferencing facilities in Seminar Hall, and interacted with the members of SIRDs of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Sikkim, Jaipur, Bihar, and NERC, NIRD&PR, Guwahati. The Secretary said that the VC facility is an important infrastructure and he advised all SIRDs to interact with NIRD&PR and use VC for training programmes widely.

The Secretary chaired the discussions on ISRO Bhuvan Portal use for basic data for the Panchayats, for asset

capturing, planning, monitoring and decision making. He advised ISRO to make the site easily accessible, and integrate with NIC NREGASoft to have complete information and easily upgradable by mobile.

He suggested that all asset data from all programmes of all Ministries should be uploaded in ISRO Bhuvan Web Portal through Mobile and all should be available in one place. He also suggested NRSC to work towards the same and to CGARD, NIRD&PR to coordinate with NRSC and NIC in this regard.

Mozambique Delegation Visits NIRD&PR



UNICEF Team Visits NIRD&PR for Collaborative Research and Training

Lars Bernd, Chief, Disaster Risk Reduction Section, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), India country office, New Delhi accompanied by officials from Hyderabad branch of UNICEF visited NIRD&PR on May 26, 2016 to explore the possibility of organising collaborative training programmes and carry out research studies as well as documentation of good practices in mainstreaming disaster risk reduction with focus on women, children and other vulnerable / disadvantaged communities.



NIRD&PR was represented by Dr. E V Prakash Rao and Dr. V Suresh Babu, Associate Professor, Centre for Climate Change and Disaster Mitigation, Dr. P. SivaRam, Centre for Rural Infrastructure, Prof Y Gangi Reddy and Mohammed Khan, Senior Consultant, Rural Technology Park (RTP).

Prominently flagged was the issue that children typically represent about half of the total number of disaster casualties in South Asia (number of deaths, injured, displaced and affected) and often more vulnerable than what warrants in proportion to their total population.

The meeting recognised the need for concerted efforts to enhance the ability of children, families, communities and systems to withstand, adapt, recover from shocks and threats (ex. Natural hazards, epidemics, socio-economic instability, conflict) in ways that support economic and social development, preserve integrity, and reducing vulnerability.

The UNICEF representatives desired that NIRD&PR may consider partnering with them in engaging civil society for advocacy and capacity building of all stakeholders to prevent, reduce, manage disaster risk, including measures to adapt climate change.

Dr. Y. Gangi Reddy, Dr. P. SivaRam and Mohammed Khan made a brief presentation about the various activities being carried out in Rural Technology Park that complement existing coping strategies through skill development and alternative rural livelihoods in disaster-prone areas. Later, Lars Bernd and his team spent the entire afternoon in RTP.

Besides witnessing the live demonstration of various appropriate technologies on display, they also interacted with the participants of a training programme that was being organised in the RTP. The delegation evinced keen interest in visiting cost-effective, eco-friendly and disaster-resilient housing technologies/models using locally available resources and made discreet enquiries for their emulation in other parts of the developing world.

The UNICEF delegation appreciated the efforts of NIRD&PR in promoting various eco-friendly and sustainable means of livelihoods, targeting the most vulnerable and impoverished rural communities including those inhabiting hilly and inhospitable terrains. On behalf of the Institute, Dr. Y. Gangi Reddy felicitated the visiting delegation by presenting souvenirs manufactured and showcased by RTP unit partners/entrepreneurs.

Workshop

National Workshop on Effective Proposal Writing



A National Workshop on 'Effective Proposal Writing' was organised by Dr. Gyanmudra, Professor and Head, Centre for Human Resource Development, on 26 and 27 May, 2016 at the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj. The programme was designed for faculty of NIRD&PR, State Institute of Rural Development, officials of Extension Training Centres and Project Staff of NIRD&PR. A total of 33 participants from across India participated in the workshop.

The main objectives of the programme were to familiarise the participants with various aspects of proposal writing, such as:

1. *How to structure a good project proposal*
2. *Enable the participant to develop project proposal to meet the desired goals*
3. *The role of the project proposal and the activities related to each stage.*

Anindo Banerjee, from Praxis Institute for Professional Practices and Prof. Vidyanand Jha from Indian Institute of

Management (IIM), Kolkata were the speakers at the workshop.

The session began with a welcome speech by Dr. Gyanmudra which was followed by a speech by Anindo Banerjee, who has then conducted an ice breaking session. Further, Dr. Gyanmudra took a session on key determinants of effective proposal writing followed by the presentation by Mr. Anindo Banerjee. Other Guest Speaker Prof. Vidyanand Jha, took a session on 'In search of interesting' and has illustrated the importance of 'interesting' and 'relevance' which help in articulating the full-fledged research report. Participants were divided into six groups and given a task to prepare a research proposal. After the preparation of research proposal, the participants presented their work, after which a discussion among the panel was held.

Dr. Gyanmudra concluded the workshop with a thanking note to all the participants and chairpersons. It was followed by distribution of group photo and list of participants by the chairpersons to all the participants. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Gyanmudra.

Training

Regional Training Programme on 'Geospatial Technologies for Monitoring of IWMP Projects'

A Regional Training Programme on 'Geospatial Technologies for Monitoring of IWMP Projects' was conducted at DDU, SIRD, Uttar Pradesh from 16 to 20 May, 2016. A total of 29 participants attended the programme from WCDC-IWMP, Department of Irrigation and Water Resources, SIRD, RIRDs and DIRDs of Uttar Pradesh Government.

The basic concepts of watershed, monitoring and evaluation were discussed along with use of Geospatial Technologies for Monitoring of Watershed Projects. A mobile App 'Drishti' and a portal 'Shrishti', designed by ISRO for monitoring of IWMP projects were also discussed in detail.

The participants were made familiar with the internet independent mobile App 'OsmAnd', which is used for GPS mapping and navigation. They have also used the map during the field visit.

Experts from State-level Nodal Agency (SLNA), IWMP, Uttar Pradesh State Remote Sensing Application Centre (UPRSAC), and Ex. Principal Scientist from Indian Institute of Soil and Water Conservation (IISWC) contributed in the programme by delivering expert lectures.



During the visit, the participants also visited the nearby IWMP project and observed the forenoon structures to test the mobile tools, which are used to monitor the IWMP projects. Further, the participants also visited the Uttar Pradesh State Remote Sensing Application Centre (UPRSAC) and interacted with scientists. They learnt about various projects being carried out in the field of Rural Development in general and IWMP in particular. The Programme was coordinated by Dr. H. K. Solanki, Dr. P. Kesava Rao and Dr. N. Bhaskar Rao.

Training programme on Web Technologies for Dissemination at SIRD, Sikkim

A Training programme on Application of Web Technologies for Dissemination of Rural Development Information' was conducted by Dr.T.Rama Devi, Documentation Officer, (CDC) from May 30 to June 3, 2016 at SIRD, Karfector, South Sikkim. Tanveer Rasheed Khan Assistant Librarian from CDC also participated in this training programme. A total of 28 participants, majority of whom were IT Assistants working in different Rural Development Departments/Blocks took part in the programme. Some representatives from NGOs too attended it.

This five-day programme covered various topics such as Introduction to Web Technologies and Web Designing, Web Page Designing Using FrontPage, M.S. Publisher and Photoshop. The sessions also included demonstration and hands on sessions, hosting and maintenance of website including security, websites (designed by the participants) presentations by the participants, group discussion, programme evaluation and valedictory.

The programme was well received and it was appreciated by the Director, SIRD, Sikkim. Though the participants came

from IT background, they were not familiar with the topics that were covered in this five-day training programme.

The participants expressed that they gained rich experience and knowledge on these topics. Since their regular work involves functioning on these topics, they felt the programme was very useful to them. They said, it would help them in day to day activities of their jobs at office and field work for collecting and dissemination of information and documentation in classified order. The programme was coordinated by Dr.T Rama Devi, Documentation Officer, CDC, NIRD&PR.



Around 500 Participants Trained in Various Programmes

The National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) has trained more than 500 participants in May month alone. Participants from various parts of the country attended ten different training programmes conducted by NRLM.

Training programme on SHG Concept and Management for Active Women of Jharkhand

A Training programme for active women was organised in two batches at Lathedar district, Jharkhand State from May 2 to 11 and May 12 to 25, 2016. A total of 55 participants attended the programme. Main objective of the training was to enhance the participants' understanding on the SHG concept and management. The concepts related to self-help groups and management, CRP protocols under NRLM were explained in detail.

State-level Resource Persons Learning Programme

As per the action plan mandated by Prime Minister's Office, NRLM is committed to develop about 40 Block Trainers in each block across the States, who in turn roll

out the training to the community cadres, leaders, members and institutions. As per the action plan mandated by Prime Minister's Office and the tasks assigned by JS (RL) Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), NRLM (RC), with the support of 20+ National Resource Persons, conducted first spell State-level Resource Persons Learning Programme in eight different batches from 10 to 21 May, 2016 at NIRD&PR Hyderabad.

Dr. W. R. Reddy, IAS, Director General, NIRD&PR inaugurated the 12-day Thematic Learning Programme on May 10 2016. Atal Dulloo, JS MD, MoRD attended on the concluding day i.e., on May 21, 2016. A total of 178 State Resource Persons from 18 States, 17 NRPs, NMMU Staff and NRLM RC Staff participated.

The various themes of the programme included Social Mobilisation - Social Inclusion, Federations, Financial Inclusion and Management, Gender, Food, Nutrition, Health, Water, Sanitation, Hygiene and Social Development, Livelihoods, Planning, Capacity Building Management, Visioning, Leadership and Management.

Training on Development of SHG Based Sustainable Rural Livelihoods

A training programme on 'Development of SHG Based Sustainable Rural Livelihoods' for implementing officials was held at SIRD, Gujarat from May 23 to 26, 2016. A total of 32 participants comprising implementing officers from State Rural Livelihood Mission, Gujarat, working as District Livelihood Managers in various districts attended the programme.

The programme was designed to share the successful strategies for promotion of SHG based livelihoods in terms of organising the poor into self-help groups and their capacity building, training, selection of key activities, credit availability, planning of activity clusters, infrastructure development, technology and marketing support, etc.

The main objective of this training programme was to familiarise the participants on various thematic areas and methodology of development of SHG based sustainable rural livelihoods. Apart from these, the programme was also aimed at familiarising the participants with concept of sustainable rural livelihoods and exposing the

participants to various innovative strategies and best practices for promotion of farm and non-farm based livelihoods.

The programme covered various relevant subjects like on Rural Development and Livelihood Opportunities, need for Institutions of Poor, Agriculture based Livelihoods for SHG and Agriculture related Livelihood. Other topics like SHG experience in Mehsana district, MKSP based Livelihood Activities, MKSP Livelihood Activities of Chota Udaipur and Dahod, Women Empowerment through MKSP programme, NABARD Agriculture Initiatives and schemes, promotion of Agriculture and Allied activities like Bee Keeping in Navsari experience, Government Agriculture schemes, etc., promotion of Non-Farm Enterprises were also dealt with.

The participants were taken to a Field Visit and exposed them to the farm based livelihoods. The participants found the training programme very useful. The programme was coordinated by Dr. N.V. Madhuri from CGSD, NIRD&PR and Dr. Shaila Trivedi from SIRD, Gujarat.



NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYATIRAJ
STATE INSTITUTE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Promotion of Agriculture Based Sustainable Livelihoods Under NRLM
23-26 May, 2016



Insight into ICT and its applications

The Centre for Information and Communication Technology (CICT) organised a training programme on 'ICT Applications for Management of Rural Development Programmes' from May 9 to 13, 2016 at NIRD&PR, Hyderabad. The programme saw participation of as many as 50 officials from 11 States including Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and West Bengal.

The participants including three women officers were representing various departments of their respective States. They had come from different departments including Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Zilla Parishad, Rural Housing, and Forest and Environment, etc. Post-Doctoral fellows from some of the Universities too participated in the programme.

The main objective of this programme was to sensitise functionaries of Rural Development and Line Departments to the potential of ICTs and its applications. The programme also covered other aspects like e-Governance, Geoinformatics, Monitoring and Evaluation, Project Management for effective management of Rural Development Programmes and skills for development of Information Systems.

The Director General, NIRD&PR, Dr. W. R. Reddy interacted with the participants. During the interaction, the DG emphasised that the ultimate goal should be to utilise ICTs in such a way that they improve the service delivery to the rural poor in the remote areas, and it should be citizen centric in nature to help the rural citizen in empowerment.

The DG also emphasised that while developing any new application, instead of reinventing, one should search whether any similar ICT application already exists for possible customisation, so that precious resources such as time and money can be saved and also the service delivery can be started



early. The DG further advised the participants to have self-introspection so that full potential of the individual can be attained and helps one to enhance the productivity.

As part of the programme, the participants were taken to Rajapur village of Mahboobnagar district for a field visit. The visit was organised for providing insight into various intricacies in managing Rural Development programmes at the grassroots level concerned with MGNREGA, IWMP and NSAP and also about the SHG activities. The participants also interacted with SHG members, learnt about the process and ICT practices of SHG management, livelihood activities and appreciated the efforts in the delivery of services to the rural poor.

As part of the field visit, the participants visited DWMA office of Mahbubnagar district, interacted with DWMA and DRDA officials and gained knowledge about the initiatives of Telangana State for poverty alleviation in general and of Mahbubnagar district in particular. The programme was well received and the participants felt that there is need for organising many such programmes. The programme was coordinated by G V Satya Narayana, Senior Assistant Professor of Centre for Information and Communication Technology (CICT).

NIRD&PR Events



Dr. W.R. Reddy, Director General, NIRD&PR releasing the Book 'Rural Sanitation in India'

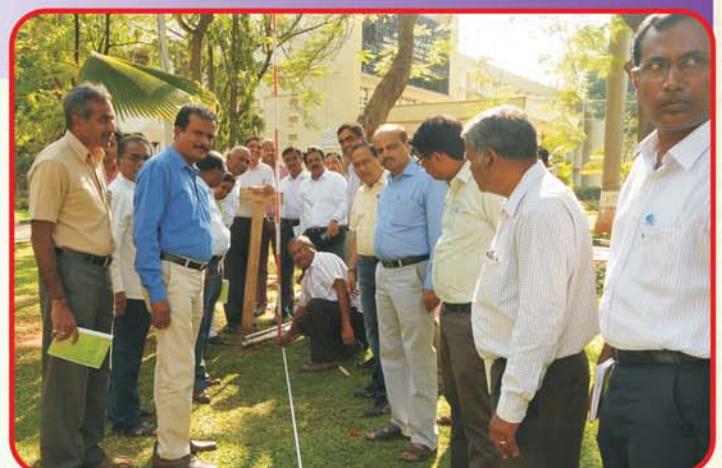
Launch of Campaign for Making NIRD&PR a green and sustainable campus



Dr. W.R. Reddy, Director General, NIRD&PR administering 'Anti-terrorism pledge' to faculty and staff



Training Programme for Master Trainers at NIRD&PR





Update for JRD

The Journal of Rural Development, a quarterly journal published by NIRD&PR would be going online with regard to the submission of papers. Henceforth, the contributors are requested to follow the procedure given in Online Journal Management System (OJMS). One can access the OJMS site on the link <http://nirdprojms.in>.

OIGS

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