

Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar 2011-2012
GOOD PRACTICES

1. Town Milk Supply Scheme run by Dibrugarh Zilla Parishad in Assam:

Dibrugarh Zilla Parishad has revived with resounding success a milk supply scheme which was defunct since 2003. The plant, besides providing livelihoods to the rural Self-Help Groups (SHGs) comprised of poor cattle owners, also supplies pasteurised milk and milk products to the local public at a reasonable price.

All the major machineries of the chilling plant, Lohal have been renovated, some new machines installed from Zilla Parishad's own funds and the plant has been made functional from October 2009. The milk for this plant is procured from 6 SHGs from Tinsukia and 2 SHGs from Nadua & Romani and Guijan. In the month of November 2011, the chilling plant procured 27564 liters of milk and distributed 26245 liters of milk, 31.5 kg paneer and 46 kg cream.

2. Successful de-addiction campaign by Charba Gram Panchayat (Sahaspur block, Dehradun district) in Uttarakhand:

By the efforts of chairperson and ward members, Charba Gram Panchayat has become a total addiction-free Gram Panchayat in 3 years. Money that was earlier spent on alcohol etc. by men is now spent on education and health of their family members.

Three years earlier, perturbed by incidents of fights in Gram Sabha meetings, domestic violence against women and addiction of school and college students, the Sarpanch in collaboration with other members of Panchayat, youth groups and women's groups started a campaign against addiction and got a resolution in support passed by the Gram Sabha. The Gram Panchayat has also got appreciation from government agencies and local media.

3. Creation of infrastructure for rural tourism by Nrusinghwadi Gram Panchayat (Shirol block, Kolhapur district), Maharashtra: Nrusinghwadi, also known as Narsobachi Wadi, is a famous pilgrimage spot. This place is frequented by Datta Guru devotees, has great archaeological significance and is considered sacred. The village has a temple of Shri Dutta Guru Maharaj and is a sacred confluence (Sangam) for Krishna and Panchganga rivers. Pilgrims from Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Goa and other places all over Central India have visited the village since a long time. Thursdays, Sundays and Dutta Guru's Jayanti are very popular days for visits and crowds gather in large numbers.

The huge inflow of traffic and pilgrims created problems of parking, drinking water, sanitation and hygiene in the already congested village. The lack of a public transport system forced pilgrims to bring their own vehicles in large numbers.

Consequently, the Gram Panchayat passed a resolution to create and regularize a parking facility along with necessary infrastructure for drinking water & sanitation for the pilgrims. Two acres of Panchayat land was allocated for an organized parking bay and Rs. 20 lakh was sourced from the Department of Tourism for creation of necessary infrastructure. A committee

consisting of members of the Gram Panchayat was formed for planning and implementing the project. The rates for parking were decided by this committee and initially 4 persons were appointed to manage the parking area. The Gram Panchayat now charges Rs 20 for cars, Rs 50 for mini buses and Rs 100 for luxury buses as parking fee and 10 persons are employed for managing the parking bay and other infrastructure. The Gram Panchayat collects approximately Rs 2500-3000 per day totaling up to Rs 12-15 lakh per annum as parking fee, which is sufficient to manage & maintain the infrastructure and also generate additional revenue. Improved facility and better organized infrastructure has further increased the number of visitors to the temple and created employment opportunities for the shop owners/traders of the village.

The Gram Panchayat now intends to build a night shelter for the pilgrims and a covered parking area in the future.

4. Integrated development of village through community living by Anandvan Gram Panchayat (Varora Block, Chadrapur District) in Maharashtra:

Anandvan Gram Panchayat is a home away from home for patients suffering from leprosy, destitute men and women, aged and orphans in the village. The Gram Panchayat is an extended or joint family as every individual in the village is part of the Samiti formed at the Gram Panchayat level. The Samiti owns nearly 450 acres, almost the entire land in the village, which includes agricultural and homestead land and promotes community farming. The yield is shared by the villagers as a whole. The Samiti has taken complete responsibility of all the dependents including housing, clothing, food, medical aid etc.

The Gram Panchayat has become an ideal platform for testing and replicating different models of development be it agriculture, fisheries, horticulture, forestry, dairy, poultry, nursery development, water harvesting structures, tanks, biogas units, bore wells with facilities for recharge etc. The Panchayat is self sufficient and has every facility like bank, post office, health care unit, market for selling produce, market for daily needs, training facilities, school (primary to higher secondary), library, musical groups, cultural groups, and college with avenues and options for vocational training cum production.

5. Adoption of modern technology and other good practices by Bhiwandi Panchayat Samiti (Thane District) in Maharashtra:

Good practice 1: To facilitate improved learning among students, Bhiwandi Panchayat Samiti has introduced virtual classrooms under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan on an experimental basis. The model units and studios (virtual class rooms) have been established at the district and block level schools. Rural & tribal students are getting good exposure and apparent improvement can be noticed in their learning abilities and their general awareness on health, hygiene and scientific temperament etc.

Good practice 2: The Block Panchayat has adopted a biometric attendance system for ensuring punctuality of staff in schools, health centres and other offices. Earlier attendance was recorded on the attendance registers which were prey to proxy attendance and poor punctuality & regularity badly affected the work at every level. Before adopting the biometric attendance system, genuine problems faced by field staff were also addressed.

Good practice 3: The Panchayat Samiti has made special efforts to promote reproductive and child health by educating pregnant women and their family members about the importance of care during pregnancy and after delivery including mandatory tests (Hemoglobin, Blood, Urine, Height, Weight) in time, prevention of anemia, prevention of maternal and infant mortality, referral services; 100% institutional delivery etc. This effort has reduced the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) and Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR), increased the number of institutional deliveries and brought reproductive health awareness in the Panchayat Samiti area.

Good practice 4: The Panchayat Samiti has made efforts to increase its tax base and collection by imposing tax on chicken & mutton shops and cattle sheds (tabela). In the Bhiwandi Panchayat Samiti area, there are about 300 odd cattle sheds & around 200 registered chicken & mutton stalls. Tax collected is used for the development of dairy farmers & economically backward tribal community. The Panchayat Samiti also provides veterinary services to farmers on payment of fixed charges. The service charges are deposited in the Panchayat Samiti fund and this amount is utilized for repair of veterinary hospital building, life saving drugs, supply of machinery & equipment to veterinary dispensaries, computers & some innovative schemes.

Good practice 5: The Panchayat Samiti has adopted a dress code for entire staff to strengthen team spirit. The dress code has brought a feeling of equality and unity among the staff members and the officers. Visitors and public representatives are all praises for the dress code.

6. Natural resource management by Korchi Panchayat Samiti (Gadchiroli District) in Maharashtra:

Korchi Panchayat Samiti has initiated construction of irrigation wells under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in a big way. Irrigation wells provide a source of income to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, water for farmers for tree plantation and agriculture. The Panchayat Samiti has also made excellent effort to conserve rain water through Vanrai Bandhara (bund). Vanarai Bandhara or bunds are constructed across a stream or small river using gunny bags refilled with locally available soil or sand. These bags are sealed and are arranged in the form of a wall barrier. This acts as a temporary structure across the water course to collect water as well as to reduce the velocity of the stream so that the infiltration rate of water increases. It helps in replenishing the aquifer below the river bed resulting in a rise in ground water level in the surrounding area. Normally, Vanarai Bandhara is constructed at the end of monsoon period and lasts till the onset of the next monsoon.

7. Day care centre for differently abled children and laundry service by Cherpu Block Panchayat (Thrissur District) in Kerala:

Good practice 1: Parents of children with physical and mental disabilities had to face severe problems in finding child care during day time when they left for work. The only options were, either one parent missing work or leaving the child alone in the house, sometimes locked in a room. In fact, there was a newspaper report that a mentally disabled child was locked in a room along with a dog when her parents went out. This was the circumstance/ motivating factor for undertaking and implementing the project. The Block Panchayat with the support of Child Development Project Officer (CDPO) conducted a survey to identify children with disabilities below the age of 15 years, identified 30 such children and planned to start a day care centre. A building was constructed and a hired transportation facility was arranged to pick up the children in the morning from their house and return them in the evening. The project started in September 2010. At present 22 such children are served by the Centre. One trained teacher and one helper is in charge of the Centre and the Panchayat offers free services including nutritious food, monthly medical check-up and medicines. The children with disabilities and their parents are the direct beneficiaries of the project. There have been positive physical, emotional and behavioural developments in children. For example, one physically challenged child was able to walk due to the services offered in the Centre. The parents of such children have started going to work or other engagements without any fear.

Good practice 2: With the objective of offering regular employment with reasonable income for selected women from Scheduled Caste families in the Block Panchayat area, a mechanized laundry unit was set up. The unit started in February 2011 with an investment of Rs. 13 lacs. Under the project a pucca building with necessary space was constructed and arrangements for water and electricity, open space for drying garments etc. were made. For collection and delivery of garments, an auto van was purchased and one of the beneficiaries got a driving license to operate the vehicle. The beneficiaries got technical training for operating the laundry machines and organising their work in a systematic manner, which helped increase their confidence level and their income. It is also observed that a group spirit has emerged among them.

8. Pooling resources for rehabilitation of endosulphan victims and mainstreaming persons living with HIV by Kasargod District Panchayat in Kerala:

Kasargod district is badly affected by aerial spray of Endosulphan, a harmful and globally banned but cheap pesticide. The percentage of persons, including newly borns, with mental and physical disability/deformity is very high. Such persons need proper care, treatment and rehabilitation. Interventions under Gramin Punarvas Yojana (GPY) which was re-launched as National Programme for the Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities –NPRPD, were found to be insufficient to meet these requirements. The District Panchayat along with NGOs working in the field chalked out a programme to address the issue. An implementation committee has been formed at the district level and community based rehabilitation works have been organised at the Gram Panchayat level. Identifying disabled persons including new born infants through survey is the first step. An Integrated Rehabilitation Centre has been started at the District Panchayat with one coordinator and one assistant. The disabled are given medical treatment, artificial limbs and other equipments such as hearing aids. Teachers with specialized

training are appointed to provide services such as training, counseling etc. An Artificial Limb Centre has also been started. In addition to this, an Early Identification and Early Intervention Centre is also functioning. Differently-abled persons are also given training on various vocations according to their abilities. This project has been funded innovatively. In the annual plan of each Gram Panchayat and Municipality of the district, an amount is set apart mandatorily for the benefit of disabled persons. Funds from these Panchayats, Municipalities and NGOs are pooled. As a result, most disabled persons get good medical treatment, care, vocational training and contribute in producing various articles. A feeling of self reliance and security is generated among them and they have become an integral part of the mainstream society.

Kasaragod District Panchayat has also made special efforts in mainstreaming HIV Positive persons. The project is implemented through the Secretary, District Panchayat as implementing officer with the support of identified NGOs like Institute for Applied Dermatology, Nehru Yuva Kendra etc. keeping utmost secrecy about the identity of individuals. Activities include identification of affected persons through NGOs working in this area; providing special medicines including Ayurvedic medicines to the victims; providing nutritious food to the affected persons; providing awareness classes to the affected, including about hygienic life style, prevention of diseases etc., through health officials and volunteers every month; providing guidance to the victims, especially women, for self employment and providing vocational trainings; and providing special checkups, monthly counseling and guidance and support for better treatment. The District Panchayat intends to widen the activities and services under this project.

9. A ready-made garment manufacturing unit in Nedumpana Gram Panchayat (Mukhathala Block, Kollam District) in Kerala:

The Gram Panchayat in collaboration with Kudumbasree Mission, the block and district Panchayats and technical training institutes run by the private sector including private marketing agencies, has promoted a mechanized readymade garment making unit. The Gram Panchayat developed the innovative project and offered necessary infrastructure facilities, the Kudumbasree Mission supported installation of machineries, tools and movable assets, and trainings were offered by Syndicate Institute of Rural Development and Kerala Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (KINFRA) Apparel Park, the retailers. The project has offered employment opportunities to unemployed women from BPL and Scheduled Caste families. The Gram Panchayat identified the women and arranged for their training in modern stitching, quality checking etc. in the first phase during 2009-10. In the second phase, during 2010-11, construction of building, installation of machineries, fittings and fixtures were undertaken. Production and marketing has started in 2011. Products include readymade garments, uniforms, textile carpets etc. The major marketing channel is from the unit to the retailers/customers and sale through 5 selected beneficiary women sellers. The unit has also developed its own brand name "NAPSTAR". At present, 39 women are working in the unit and another 5 are engaged in selling.

10. Plastic recycling unit in Chembilode Gram Panchayat, (Edakkad Block, Kannur District) in Kerala:

In Kerala, the use of plastic carry bags and similar products is very extensive. Plastic wastes pollute the environment and pose a serious health hazard. Disposal of plastic by burning or burying in the soil is also dangerous to the environment. Considering the urgent need of addressing this issue in a sustainable manner, Chembilode Gram Panchayat has taken up a project for recycling plastic carry bags. Plastic articles and similar products are collected through members of Kudumbasree groups, and others who are paid reasonable charges. The plastic is then cleaned removing other articles and sorted into different categories, according to the basic material with which it is made. The recyclable items are heated and melted in air tight machinery and solidified. A portion of the solid plastic is then powdered and another portion is sold. The powdered plastic is further melted and moulded into different kinds of plastic products. The current capacity of the machinery is to process 300 Kg of materials in a shift of 8 hours. The plastic wastes from other Gram Panchayats in the block are also recycled in the unit. The unit provides direct employment to 9 women and 2 men and another 6 persons are engaged in waste collection. Employment is also generated in recycling of material. The Panchayat after initiating and establishing this project has rented out this unit for Rs.1000/- per month. Recycling of plastic waste has resulted in a plastic free Edakkad Block Panchayat area, wage income for 12 persons and economic activity through recycling.

11. Integrated Milk Production Project in Mutholi Gram Panchayat (Lalam Block, Kottayam District) in Kerala:

Production of milk and other dairy products is very poor in Kerala and these have to be imported from neighbouring States. The imported milk contains many harmful preservatives. Government programmes to supply nutritious food to school children and children of Anganwadis struggle to find adequate quantities of milk. This problem was reviewed by the Grama Panchayat in a group discussion with officers of the Animal Husbandry department, elected representatives and those engaged in dairy activities, and several issues which hinder the promotion of milk production in the area were identified. These included the price of milk being lower than the cost of production, the high cost of cattle feed and non availability of fodder. To address these bottlenecks, the Grama Panchayat developed and implemented a project called 'Goshree' – Integrated Milk Production Scheme. Beneficiaries were selected and given proper training and improved breed of cows and cattle feed were distributed at subsidized rates, and credit facility was also facilitated by the Gram Panchayat. The veterinary surgeon visited dairy farms regularly for treatment and preventive measures.

As a result, several farmers started cattle rearing and some started dairy farms. The production of milk and milk products with good quality increased substantially. Now, while cattle rearers get sufficient income, the community is benefited through availability of quality milk at reasonable prices. The Panchayat also promoted an integrated paddy development project to provide sufficient feed for the cattle. The dairy farms provide manure for paddy cultivation.

12. Sports mela (fair) by Kurukshetra Zila Parishad in Haryana:

The Zilla Parishad in coordination with the district administration organizes a sports mela every year whereby the village youth get a chance to show case their performance. Winning candidates are ranked and provided further training free of cost so that they can achieve their full potential. They are made aware about the benefits of being a good sports person. Thereafter, the selected candidates compete at the State level. The Zilla Parishad plays an important role in persuading the village youth and school dropouts to join sports activities.

13. Exemplary work on sanitation by Hisar-I Panchayat Samiti (Hisar District) in Haryana:

The Hisar-I Panchayat Samiti has done exemplary work on sanitation. The Samiti has conducted awareness campaigns and demonstrated to villagers how solid wastes may be collected, segregated, recycled and disposed outside the village to ultimately provide a source of income for the Gram Panchayat as well as for individual households.

14. Solar electrification and regular drinking water supply by Gram Panchayat Kanauli (Hatin Block, Palwal District) in Haryana:

Kanauli Gram Panchayat is doing several exemplary works, including the use of locally fabricated solar inverters and booster pumps. Locally fabricated solar inverters provide electricity to villagers during power load shedding. School children are benefited immensely from this initiative. The booster pump has been a boon for the villagers as it has ensured consistent drinking water availability throughout the year to every household. These two works of the Gram Panchayat have been highly appreciated by the villagers.

The Sarpanch who happens to be from Scheduled Caste has crossed caste barriers and earned the appreciation not only from the villagers but also from the Ex-Sarpanch and Ex-Ward members because of the developmental works.

15. Prior consultation for setting meeting agenda by Kullu Zila Parishad in Himachal Pradesh:

Prior to every general body meeting, Kullu Zilla Parishad sends out a format/questionnaire seeking information relating to development needs of each member's constituency. The member concerned draws up a list of issues from his/ her constituency and forwards it to the Zilla Parishad in response to the questionnaire. The Zilla Parishad then discusses it and forwards it to line departments for action. These line departments are also invited to the Zilla Parishad meeting where they are involved in finding solutions to the issues raised by the members of the Zilla Parishad. This practice helps in identifying problems and issues in different constituencies; enhanced participation of members and line departments in finding solutions; and convergence among various development programs run by the government.

16. Installation of RO water purifiers in all villages and houses for the marginalised by Sangrur Panchayat Samiti (Sangrur District) in Punjab:

The Sangrur Panchayat Samiti has brought snake charmers from the Panchayat Samiti and surrounding areas to one place and provided them with pucca bricks and cement houses. A colony was built especially for these people. A primary school has also been constructed for the children, a teacher for the school appointed, and her salary provided from the Panchayat fund.

The Panchayat Samiti has constructed houses not only for BPL and SC families but also for physically challenged persons who cannot afford to construct their own houses. The Panchayat Samiti has also provided the Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) holders with attached toilets from the Panchayat fund. In addition, RO systems to purify drinking water have been installed in almost all the villages of the Panchayat Samiti.

17. Creation of civic facilities by Rampur Munran Gram Panchayat (Kapurthala district) in Punjab:

The Rampur Munran Gram Panchayat has installed 25 streetlights from the Panchayat fund to cover the entire village. All drains in the Gram Panchayat are well constructed so that the waste water of the whole village is channelized to one main place called Chhappar. A shamshan ghat (cremation ground) has been constructed which is surrounded by four walls, has a burial bed, arrangement for seating people attending the cremation, a roof above the burial bed to protect the body from rains etc. There is a proposal to allot a land for the construction of a cemetery.

18. Release of common land by Talwandi Bharath Gram Panchayat (Gurdaspur District) in Punjab:

Release of the Shamlat (common/Panchayat) land is an achievement of the Gram Panchayat. This land which measured 22 acres was unlawfully occupied by a person for 27 years but was set free by the present Gram Panchayat. This land was given on lease for a period of 1 year at a cost of Rs. 2,92,750 which was then utilized for development work.

19. Resource mobilization for School and 100% coverage under pension schemes by Bearhatty Gram Panchayath (Coonoor Block, The Nilgiris District) in Tamil Nadu:

Bearhatty Gram Panchayath has taken a special interest in the development of schools. The Panchayath has mobilized more than Rs. 2 lakhs from business groups under Corporate Social Responsibilities (CSR). This amount has been utilized for purchasing child friendly furniture for the schools.

The Panchayath has also made serious efforts to cover all the eligible persons under pension schemes (widow pension, old age pension & financial assistance for physically challenged), and is a trend/setter in the delivery of pension schemes.

20. Formation of User Groups by Edappadi Panchayat Union (Salem District) in Tamil Nadu:

There are a number of user groups in the area mainly due to the efforts of *Edappadi Panchayat Union*. One active farmer group has been formed in Velleri Velli Gram Panchayat area. The group constructed an innovative irrigation structure for pumping Cauvery river's water from Nedunkulam Panchayat to Velli Panchayat for irrigating nearly 780 acres of land. The structure has been designed so that it enables water democracy. It is observed that the cropping pattern has changed from subsistence economy to market economy. The entire profile of the local community has changed. The social capital which is generated by the user group has led to local economic development.

21. School enrollment drives by Karungal Gram Panchayath (Guziliamparai Block, Dindigul District) in Tamil Nadu:

Karungal Gram Panchayath takes special initiatives to enroll all the eligible students in the school. At the beginning of every academic year the members of the Gram Panchayat, teachers and students conduct a rally to educate people about the importance of enrollment of all the eligible students in the school and the importance of education. The Gram Panchayat also takes initiative to 'recall' the drop out students to the school. These efforts have led to substantial increase in enrollment and decline in drop outs.

22. Social Audit of Public Distribution System and MGNREGA in Leepuram Village Panchayath (Agastheeswaram Block, Kanyakumari District) in Tamil Nadu: The team of Leepuram Village Panchayath has been successful in replicating the social audit exercise under MGNREGA in other development interventions. Interaction with the local leadership suggests that the social audit exercise of MGNREGA, though a mandatory requirement, has provided them with learning and confidence in involving citizens actively and making functionaries accountable to citizens. Leepuram Panchayath attempted to replicate this social audit learning in the Public Distribution System (PDS). The Panchayat has focused on the PDS because of the belief that citizens' involvement can strengthen the system by making it accountable and efficient. The Panchayath has constituted an experienced and representative team with local experts to undertake this exercise. The team consists of a retired government servant from the Panchayath, a representative of a local Non Government Organization, president of the Village Panchayath (Chair Person of the Team), and the Ward Member where the PDS shop is located. The report of the social audit exercise has been submitted to the registrar of cooperatives for information and follow up action. Apart from conducting social audit, this team also visits the ration shop on a regular basis to monitor its functioning. The findings of the social audit are reported in the Grama Sabha and citizens give feedback on ways to improve.

23. Impressive ecology and sanitation works by Gummagoal Gram Panchayat (Navalgund Block, Dharwad District) in Karnataka:

All households in the Gram Panchayat have individual toilets and Gram Panchayat is working towards making it "open defecation" free. An eco friendly toilet has been constructed in the premises of Gummagoal Gram Panchayat and waste products are converted into compost and

used in the garden. Wastes from kitchen and mid-day meal scheme are directed to a bio-gas unit. A rainwater harvesting structure has been constructed in the higher primary school and Gram Panchayat premises. Solid wastes are sent to a vermin-compost unit. 100% underground drainage system is adopted in both the villages of the Gram Panchayat.

During the 2010 – 2011, the Panchayath had taken a project for an organic compost unit to process house hold and common waste convert the waste into bio-fertilizer. For this purpose a vehicle (auto) is already purchased and the construction of the compost unit is in the final stage. It is expected to start functioning from April 2012.

24. Development of SC & ST population by Ittamadu Gram Panchayat (Ramnagar District) in Karnataka:

Ittamadu Gram Panchayath has taken special interest for the development of SCs and STs. The Panchayath has mobilized more than Rs. 12 lakhs from business groups under CSR. The amount is utilized for the development of SCs and STs. The development activities with the support of CSR may be a workable model in other areas where there is considerable investment by business.

25. Mobilisation of voluntary contributions by Madamakki Gram Panchayat (Kundapura Block, Uduppi District) in Karnataka:

Madamakki Gram Panchayat has succeeded in mobilizing voluntary contribution from the public for local development including purchasing furniture and electrical equipments for Panchayat community hall, construction of compound wall for schools and CFL lamps for street light.

26. Exemplary work on Total Sanitation Campaign by Dakshina Kannada Zila Parishad in Karnataka:

Dakshina Zila Parishad, which coordinates the Total Sanitation Campaign in the district, has made special efforts to achieve total sanitation in the district. As a result, the Zilla Parishad and all the Gram Panchayats in the district have received Nirmal Gram Puruskars. The Zilla Parishad has also conducted various awareness programmes for the people for strengthening women's groups, empowerment of differentially abled, senior citizens, leprosy eradication, awareness against HIV through PHC staff, ASHA workers, Anganwadi workers, SHG members and NGOs and health care programme for HIV affected pregnant women. Elected Representatives and officials of Panchayats from other States have visited Dakshina Kannada Zila Parishad to learn from its experience in promoting total sanitation in the district.

27. Gram Sabha mobilization through public announcement from Gurudwara and Temple by Aklian Kalan Gram Panchayat (Bhatinda district) in Punjab:

Good practice 1: Aklian Kalan Gram Panchayat organizes Gram Sabhas regularly. Public notice of the meetings is conveyed to villagers through announcements made from the Gurudwara and temple, and there is good participation in Gram Sabha.

Good practice 2: The Gram Panchayat has a well maintained underground sewerage system. Waste water is collected at one place called Chappar which is cleaned every week. Chappar is also leased out for fishery.

Good practice 3: There is acute radioactivity in the water available in Bathinda. Therefore, the Gram Panchayat has installed RO systems for supplying clean drinking water to the people in the village. A fee of Rs. 2 per can is charged from the villagers and the collection is used for the development work of the area.

28. Vocational training to women by Bhaini Jassa Gram Panchayat (Barnala district) in Punjab:

Good practice 1: Bhaini Jassa Gram Panchayat has provided sewing and knitting training to 20 needy women of the village and has also given them sewing machines free of cost. Due to this effort these women have a source of income and more self-confident.

Good practice 2: The Gram Panchayat has also removed all liquor vends from the village and made efforts to educate villagers about the ill-effects of addiction.

29. Drinking water supply by Kutba Gram Panchayat (Barnala district) in Punjab:

Kutba village is at a height and it is difficult to supply water. Hence, the Gram Panchayat has constructed nine water tanks. Each such tank supplies water to 15 houses and now all houses get regular water supply. The Gram Panchayat has also constructed a cremation ground which is used by people from all castes in the village. The common cremation ground has helped in developing social harmony in the village. The Gram Panchayat has helped poor people to construct houses through public contributions, and also constructed a gym.

30. Surguja Zilla Panchayat in Chattisgarh is working towards achieving Millennium Development Goal:

The Zilla Panchayat is working towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In order to achieve the MDGs, a District Vision was prepared by the Zilla Parishad focusing on 7 sectors in order to focus on the developmental issues. This district visioning exercise has improved decentralized planning. The district had 4350 Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) in 2009-10 and got 804 new AWCs sanctioned by the government in 2010-11. With the intervention of the Zilla Panchayat, many Sub-Health Centres (SHCs) could be made functional. The Zilla Panchayat also helped all Community Health Centres get a fully equipped ambulance. Zila Panchayat ensures livelihood to the people of the area, and no migration was reported in the district for livelihood during the year. Through the SGSY programme, the marginalized people in the district are supported to take up income generating activities such as processing of minor forest produce, goat rearing, diaries etc.

31. Development of Scheduled Tribes by Lakhanpur Janpad Panchayat (Surguja district) in Chattisgarh:

Good practice 1: With the efforts of Lakhanpur Janpad Panchayat, Pahadi Korwas and Pando families have benefited from Indira Awas Yojana and could get their own houses. The Janpad Panchayat also intervened to get a hostel at village Alga (Aamapani) for the children belonging to Korwa and Pando community. It has the capacity to accommodate 50 children and 100% of occupancy is reported in this hostel for the year 2010-11. In order to enhance their income, 9 pairs of bullocks, 53 Udai Panka, 88 sprinklers, 15 check cutters and 25 low lift pumps were distributed among the Pando and Korwa community.

Good practice 2: The Janpad is promoting social accountability and has initiated social audits of welfare programmes, along with prompt action on complaints. The Janpad Panchayat committee regularly monitors the implementation of the education programme, ensures availability of supplementary nutrition in the AWCs, and has arranged to make payment of various pensions through banks and post offices. The Janpad Panchayat regularly monitors the availability of foodgrains and goods in the PDS.

32. Exemplary works on watershed by Kartala Janpad Panchayat (Korba district) in Chhattisgarh:

Good practice 1: Under water shed management, Kartala is ahead of other blocks where many works like bolder check, counter trench, gully plug and counter bund under soil conservation programme, dabri/farm pond, percolation tank and stop dam under the water shed programme, afforestation and horticulture plantation have been undertaken. Two water reservoirs were constructed in Anuj Nagar of Botli Gram Panchayat at a cost of Rs. 2.13 lakh and Rs. 2.30 lakh respectively. With the construction of these reservoirs, the agricultural activities of the farmers of this area are independent of the monsoon as these reservoirs have water throughout the year. In Jogipali Gram Panchayat check dam, nala bunding and diversion works are helping conserve rain water. As a result of these efforts, farmers are taking Rabi crops and cultivating vegetables. Wells have also been dug under the water shed programme to provide water to the farmers for vegetable crops.

Good practice 2: The Janpad Panchayat played an active role in ensuring cent percent immunization in the block. Due to the IEC campaign by the Janpad Panchayat, there are 93% of institutional delivery target has been achieved.

33. Establishment of weekly haat bazaar after removing encroachment of Government land Sasoli Gram Panchayat (Lundra block, Surguja district):

Best practice 1: The village Sasoli has only 5 acres of government land near the village approach road. In 2010, some influential people in the village started to encroach upon the land for personal use. The Gram Sabha then unanimously decided to develop this land as a weekly haat (market place). The villagers, with the help of the administration and police succeeded in removing the encroachment. Previously, villagers had to travel to Lundra, which is 6 kms away from the village, to sell their products and make purchases. Now, the village Sasoli and 14 other villages around it, covering a population of 15,000, benefit from this weekly bazaar organized every Thursday. This market place is also used to organize melas during Basant Panchami. The

Gram Panchayat had waived all charges for one year for vendors. After one year, the Panchayat has collected Rs. 1790 in 2 months. The Panchayat hopes to generate more income from this haat bazar in the future, which will be used for the development of the basic amenities in the village.

Good practice 2: On the recommendation of the Gram Sabha, the Gram Panchayat decided to impose tax on houses, late fee for the birth and death registration, charges on shelter homes for animals, lease charges for the lake, charges on the weekly hat bazar and other taxes on services. In 10 months, the Gram Panchayat collected Rs. 24635/- as revenue from different sources. An innovative use of the Panchayat revenue was the purchase of the public address system for the village Kotwar for sharing of the information. Earlier, the Kotwar used the old method of "Beating the Drum" while making 'Munaadi' (announcements) in the village. Since the village has a large area and the Kotwar had to shout loudly, and many times, the information shared by the Kotwar was not audible to the people in the village. Hence, the Panchayat decided to purchase a public address system of its own. Now public announcements reach people more effectively. This system is also used for facilitating the Gram Sabhas and other public meetings.

34. Exemplary civic services by Umreli Gram Panchayat (Kartala block, Korba district) in Chattisgarh:

Umreli Gram Panchayat has constructed a water tank under the Nal Jal Yojna with 218 piped connections. The Panchayat charges Rs 40 per connection per month, and collects Rs. 1,04,640 a year. This programme has given employment to a local mechanic and a worker who ensures tap water supply to every house hold. The Panchayat has developed a drainage system, constructed 110 meters concrete cement (CC) road and installed 50 poles all over the village for street lights from Panchayat funds. The Panchayat has also constructed seven community a halls, handicraft bhawan, a Jhoolaghar, two platforms for cultural events in the Gram Panchayat area.

35. Promotion of gender equity and inculcation of social values among youth by Govindpur Gram Panchayat (Kanker block, Kanker district) in Chattisgarh:

Good Practice 1: Govindpur Gram Panchayat has decided that 50% i.e. 3 Gram Shabhas out of 6 / year will be chaired by a woman member. Adolescent girls are educated about nutrition and health issues and motivated to adopt healthy behavior. Institutional delivery is promoted by the Gram Panchayat members. Women of this Gram Panchayat are now more receptive towards these facilities. The Gram Panchayat has also decided to prohibit the making, selling and consumption of alcohol.

Good Practice 2: The Gram Panchayat encourages village youth for regular physical exercise. The Panchayat also organizes community services in collaboration with youth clubs to inculcate a sense of social responsibility among youth. The Gram Panchayat encourages youth to take active part in village festivals for their personality development. Every week some or other villager of the Panchayat donates blood in the district level blood bank. So far more than 500 persons have donated blood.

36. Micro-planning in Tarasgaon Gram Panchayat (Charama block, Kanker district) in Chattisgarh:

The Manual on Integrated District Planning by Planning Commission, GoI, 2009 has suggested preparation of a vision document. The integrated micro –planning processes in the Tarasgaon Gram Panchayat were taken up under the GoI-UN Joint Convergence Programme, Kanker with technical and financial support from UNICEF, Chhattisgarh. In the initial discussions with elected representatives of the Panchayat about integrated village micro planning processes, there was a strong acceptance of the idea by the Panchayat members. The Sarpanch & ward Panch provided the living place, food and made other arrangement a for the local team facilitating the process. At the beginning, a joint meeting of the Panchayat, community representatives and Panchayat level line department functionaries was held for developing a common understanding of processes under integrated village micro planning. Ward Members and local Panchayat level departmental functionaries under 7 sectoral committees (such as health, education, livelihood...etc) formed a joint team. This joint team then carried out the processes of integrated village micro planning. Social mapping, resource mapping and various other mapping exercises, provided an opportunity to community to share the status of existing social settlements, various types of services available, land use etc. Small focused group discussions were held with specific groups such as women, adolescent girls, farmers to bring in their experiences. Institutional data were collected from the respective village level institutions also. The process of house to house contact for primary information ensured social inclusion. Various primary and secondary data received at the local level were digitized, organized, and a draft report developed on each sector by the local planning team. Draft reports were then placed before the Gram Sabha for consultation and approval. These planning processes have resulted in enhanced awareness and participation among villagers.

37. Grievance redressal system under MGNREGA by Ganjam Zila Parishad, Odisha:

Ganjam Zila Parishad has taken a number of good initiatives to ensure effective implementation of MGNREGA. The Project Initiation Meeting (PIM) is one such innovative step. On the day of PIM workers and other stakeholders gather at the project site and conduct a meeting, when details of the project are explained, such as the system of payment. Ganjam district has developed a unique system to address grievances under MGNREGA which has been named as Quick Response Team. The Nehru Yuva Kendra has out sourced 50 volunteers to work in the system. One senior retired government employee has been engaged as the Officer on Special Duty to monitor and supervise the above system. The toll-free telephone number 1077 has been utilized for the purpose. Six volunteers have been engaged for attending calls at the toll-free telephone number, which functions from 06.00 AM to 9.00 PM uninterruptedly. Two volunteers have been stationed at each block to conduct enquiries on complaints and make recommendations within 24 hours.

38. Income generation through SHGs in Boden Gram Panchayat (Boden block, Nuapada district) in Odisha:

Fifty active SHGs are engaged in income generating activities like vegetable farming, spice making, goat rearing, fishery, bamboo handicrafts etc. Gram Panchayats have helped these SHGs in credit linkages etc.

39. Efforts to eradicate Tuberculosis by Durgapur Gram Panchayat (Memari-I block, Burdwan district) in West Bengal:

Durgapur Gram Panchayat has taken a special initiative to eradicate tuberculosis from its administrative area. 67 candidates were found carrying the deadly bacteria and all measures were taken to cure them. Besides this, frequent tests are carried out to identify new cases.

40. Krishi Vigyan Kendra set up by Howrah Zila Parishad in West Bengal:

Howrah Zila Parishad has set up the Howrah Krishi Vigyan Kendra at Jagatballavpur, catering to the needs of research and development in agriculture in the district. Demonstrations are carried out at the farm level to boost production at a lower cost. Training sessions with a batch size of 25-35 are carried out to increase knowledge among farmers. Besides these activities, farmers are encouraged to execute test plans. The Krishi Vigyan Kendra has already successfully carried out 21 acre seed farming in the region.

41. Rural haat (market place) set up by Puduma Gram Panchayat (Birbhum district) in West Bengal:

The rural haat in Basahari village of Puduma Gram Panchayat was conceived because villagers had to cover a long distance to market vegetables. Some generous people of the village came forward and donated a piece of land to the Gram Panchayat for construction of a vegetable haat. The haat is now under construction and will be operational soon.

42. Well equipped office of Singhana Gram Panchayat (Manawar block, Dhar district) in Madhya Pradesh offers additional services to villagers at nominal cost:

Singhana Gram Panchayat office is equipped with computer, printer, photocopier, scanner, camera, photo printer, phone, TV, water purifier etc. In addition to official use of these equipments, the Gram Panchayat also offers services to villagers at a nominal cost. For example photographs are made at one-fourth of the market rate. Similarly photocopies are done well below the market rate. This not only saves time and money of villagers but also generates additional income for the Gram Panchayat. To save regular expenditure on announcements with the help of hired public address system, Gram Panchayat has purchased its own system.

43. Excellent work on sanitation and grievance redressal by Nadia Gram Panchayat (Badwaha block, Khargone district) in Madhya Pradesh:

Nadia Gram Panchayat has taken a number of initiatives for improving sanitation in the village. Elected representatives and functionaries of other Gram Panchayats visit this Gram Panchayat for exposure. The Gram Panchayat purchases polythene bags from villagers every week to prevent non-biodegradable waste from being thrown in the Gram Panchayat area. Waste water of the entire village is channelized to one spot and then auctioned for irrigation. This year it has been auctioned for Rs. 10,000/-. This is a unique initiative leading to waste water management and additional income generation.

The Gram Panchayat also organizes a weekly chaupal (open meeting) in which ward members and villagers participate. In these chaupals, grievances of villagers are addressed and work of Gram Panchayat is reviewed. As a Gram Sabha meeting is held once in 2-3 months, this informal weekly chaupal helps in problem solving and course correction in time.

44. Recovery of dues by Bankhedi Gram Panchayat (Bankhedi block, Hoshangabad district) in Madhya Pradesh:

When the new Gram Panchayat took charge in February 2010, the Panchayat had Rs. 50 lakhs as outstanding electricity dues against it. The new Gram Panchayat accorded priority to clearing dues through recovery of water charges from users. Within the first six months the Gram Panchayat was able to collect Rs.22 lakh through the active involvement of ward members and paid to the electricity supplying company. The Gram Panchayat also made efforts to collect taxes on commercial premises and shops, kiosks etc. Presently the tax recovery rate has improved to about 50% in water distribution and over 90% in commercial taxation. Because of improved collections, different services like water distribution, sanitation, street lights provided by the Panchayat have improved considerably.

45. Nursery set up by Gram Panchayat Solana (Chidawa block, Jhunjhunu district) in Rajasthan:

Solana Gram Panchayat has set up a community nursery where apart from fruit and flower bearing plants, plants used as animal fodder are also grown. This has resulted in an increased interest in gardening and plantation among villagers. In the last few years a lot more greenery in the village is noticed. This initiative of the Gram Panchayat is helping conserve the environment and enhance the income of the Gram Panchayat and villagers.

46. Enhancement of own income by Dhanari Gram Panchayat (Pindwada block, Sirohi district) in Rajasthan:

Dhanari Gram Panchayat has created several durable community assets that are generating additional income for the Panchayat. The village pond has been renovated and given on lease for fishery. Several shops have been constructed and given on rent. These efforts have resulted in a 25% increase in own income in the FY 2010-11. The Gram Panchayat has also removed encroachment on 40 bigha of common grazing land and planted trees on the land.

47. Construction of bridge by Bikaru Gram Panchayat (Shivrajpur block, Kanpur Nagar district) in Uttar Pradesh:

The Bikaru Gram Panchayat, with the help of local community, has constructed a bridge on Pandu river facilitating a short route to the nearest urban centre. The construction of the bridge was entirely funded by the local community and no financial help was provided by the government. The bridge is being used by residents of nearby GPs, and is an example of collective effort by the Panchayat and its people.

48. Efficient revenue collection by Bulandshahr Zila Panchayat in Uttar Pradesh:

The Zila Panchayat has made significant efforts to augment its income. Efforts were made to collect dues of the previous years and improve collection of taxes. The President along with most of the members of the Panchayat has personally ensured smooth and timely collection of taxes. The Executive Officer and staff of Zilla Panchayat have also very actively participated. The Zila Panchayat now aims to increase its income by another 40% this financial year.

49. Information, education and communication work by Khera Afgan Gram Panchayat (Nakur block, Saharanpur district) in Uttar Pradesh:

The village is an example of an ideal Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaign. The Panchayat has undertaken extensive IEC for all the Government of India schemes to empower the people. The ordinary people of the village are able to claim their entitlements and rights and an extensive demand has been generated for all the welfare schemes.

50. Rehabilitation of slum dwellers and hawkers by Maudha Janpad Panchayat (Hamirpur district) in Uttar Pradesh:

The Block Panchayat had unused land lying near its office, which was occupied by slum dwellers and hawkers since a long time. The Panchayat decided to evict the illegal occupants and constructed a double storey market complex. The hawkers / occupants were given first preference for taking the shops on rent and the rest of the shops were let out to other interested persons on a first come first served basis in a very transparent manner. A deposit amount has been collected from each tenant and rent on prevailing market rates is also collected. Rs. 28.75 lakh has been deposited in a saving account that generates bank interest every year. Rental income also adds to the income of the Panchayat.

51. Motivation of youth by Gerethang Gram Panchayat (West Sikkim district) in Sikkim:

One of the pioneering initiatives undertaken by the Gerethang Gram Panchayat is recognizing and motivating youth. The contribution of the youth is important in the development of rural areas. Realizing this, Gerethang Gram Panchayat has instituted 'Best Youth Award' with a cash prize of Rs. 5000/- and a certificate. The recipient has to be educated, self employed and should have done commendable social service. The selection committee comprises of Panchayat president, secretary, a school teacher and one NGO member. Recognition of this kind has led to 60 percent increase of youth participation in Gram Sabha. Youth participation in social service and involvement in the decision-making process has also increased considerably. Along with encouragement, the award also helps young people learn the value of earning their livelihoods and being productive.

Besides this, the Gram Panchayat has also started an annual 'Marti Student Award' with a cash prize of Rs.1200/- to 3 students who secure highest marks in the junior high school examination. This has been instituted with the intention of motivating students and encouraging healthy competition.

52. Women empowerment by Aritar Gram Panchayat (East Sikkim district) in Sikkim:

Aritar Gram Panchayat realized that the development of an area is linked with the economic empowerment of rural women, and this can be achieved through enhancement of their knowledge, skills and competences to set up and operate small business enterprises. Thus, the Gram Panchayat organized various training programmes for women on bag making, phynel production, and ginger seed production. By now 80% of women in the Gram Panchayat area have completed their training and 50% women have become financially self-reliant. Women are selling their products in the market and ginger seeds to Department of Horticulture. Instead of individual entrepreneurship, joint ventures have been encouraged by forming Self Help Groups. At present almost all wards have profit making SHGs in operation. Ginger seeds produced by SHGs are purchased by the Gram Panchayat and distributed among BPL families.

53. Prevention of drug and alcohol abuse by Bordumsa Anchal Samiti (Bordumsa circle, Changlang district) in Arunachal Pradesh:

Opium and alcohol addiction among Singpho, Tangsa, Khamti etc communities/tribes is prevalent. Of late, the problem had got aggravated as the younger generation began to take drugs. Drug abuse was badly affecting individual health and family peace. Hence, an initiative to prevent the use of drugs and alcohol was taken by the Bordumsa Panchayat. Tracking down the opium and drug suppliers and bringing the addicts to de-addiction centres were the main activities. 464 addicts were treated and the supply chain was broken leading to substantial decrease in the drug and alcohol abuse.

54. Construction of Roads and School Classrooms by Mengio Anchal Samiti (Mengio circle, Papum Pare district) in Arunachal Pradesh:

Mengio is one of the remotest circles of Papum Pare district. The road connectivity was almost nil till 2004. Therefore, with the help from Panchayat leaders, the local people along with the native officers of the area volunteered to construct the road without waiting for the fund from the government. Similarly, additional classrooms were constructed with local contributions.