

MOIL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The concept of community development in India was initiated well before independence. Even during the struggle for independence, under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi - the Father of the Nation, considerable attention was given to rural upliftment and reconstruction. He emphasized on a nineteen point constructive programme for complete independence by truthful and non-violent means. He often warned the leaders that true independence could be enjoyed only when the rural economy was strengthened and poverty eradicated. He advocated communal harmony, economic equity, social equality, deaddiction from alcohol and narcotics, promotion of 'khadi' (hand spun and hand woven cloth) and village industries, sanitation, health care, education and empowerment of women. The aim was to generate gainful employment in rural areas and to improve the quality of life (Gandhi, 1941).

After the independence of India in 1947, community development assumed high priority. In 1948, a pilot community development project was launched through the Etawah Project. Later in 1952, the Government of India launched 55 Community Development Projects, each covering about 300 villages or a population of 30,000. This programme was multi-dimensional but the major emphasis was placed on agricultural production, as the areas selected for launching the project were located in irrigated areas or where the rainfall was assured. In 1953, the National Extension Service Project was launched with similar objectives to cover larger areas, including the dry regions. This project of three-year duration, demarcated the blocks of 150-300 villages as manageable units for initiating community development programmes.

By the end of the First Five Year Plan (1952-57), 1114 blocks covering 163,000 villages were in operation and by sixties, the community development programme covered the entire country. In mid sixties, the national priority was shifted to agricultural production and a distinct technological orientation was given to agriculture. Under the Fourth and Fifth Five Year Plans (1969-74 and 1974-79), the central government introduced independent administrative hierarchies to carry out special programmes, bypassing the Panchayati Raj institutions. Special programmes like Small Farmers' Development Agency (SFDA), Intensive Agricultural Areas Programme (IAAP), Intensive Agricultural District Programme (IADP), Tribal Development Agency (TDA), Marginal, Small Farmers and Agricultural Labourers Development Agency (MFAL) and area development agencies such as Command Area Development, Drought Prone Area and Hill area Development Programmes were financed and operated directly by the Central Government.

In spite of many drawbacks in launching community development programmes, the Panchayati Raj has made significant contribution to the development of the country by creating awareness among the public and by developing political leadership. The system has also helped in reducing the gap between the bureaucracy and the people. Centralisation of power and non-involvement of people in the process of development have been the major concerns ever since the introduction of Panchayati Raj. Although, it was widely acknowledged as the only hope for activating people's participation which is the soul of a democratic system, the system had generated tension and factions. This necessitated Panchayati Raj reforms through the 73rd Constitutional Amendment in 1992, which empowered the PR institutions to shoulder the responsibility of development and decentralised planning.

Under this constitutional amendment, 29 items of development were transferred to PRIs. These can be grouped under the following sectors: Agriculture; Forestry and Environment; Industries; Infrastructure, minimum needs; Social welfare; Poverty Alleviation and Maintenance of community assets. Considering the weak status of the Gram Panchayats to facilitate village level micro-planning for development, the District Planning Committee has been strengthened with members representing various government and non-government organisations.

To facilitate the planning at micro-level, it is proposed to strengthen the Gram Sabha (village assembly). The Gram Panchayat can use the Gram Sabha as a forum for discussion and finalization of annual plans. The successful implementation of rural development in India is motivation of the poor families to ensure their active participation. Development of suitable people's organisations is also necessary to avail the benefits of various schemes, particularly by the illiterate poor. To ensure people's involvement in the development process and to take them into confidence, they should be involved in the programme, right from the stage of planning. Several innovative programmes implemented on a pilot scale have shown that many rational suggestions made by even the poor people can be easily implemented to produce good results. Such an approach demands flexibility in the programme. The target families should be motivated to assume the responsibility of implementing the programme, while the implementing agencies should play the role of a catalyst.

With the objective of providing gainful self employment to the rural poor, MOIL Community Development Programme has been launched in collaboration with MITTRA (Maharashtra Institute of Technology Transfer to Rural Areas) to propel the rural development of 21 villages in the Dongri-Buzurg, Chikhla, Mansar and Bharveli Mine region. It is a CSR Project funded by MOIL and implemented by MITTRA and was started in December 2014 with the main project office in *Goberwahi*, in Tumsar Taluka of Bhandara District Maharashtra.

MOIL Foundation has been promoting integrated rural development through sustainable management of degraded natural resources such as land, livestock, water and vegetation, using the idle time of the local people. The programmes also address the problems of health, illiteracy, empowerment of women and environmental pollution to ensure quality of life and mainly focusing on weaker sections of the society through a family based approach

A baseline data of the project villages was collected by conducting a field visit to the villages. The visit was conducted by a team of six members specializing in agriculture, watershed, livestock development and social science. In the visit apart from collecting statistics, the team interacted with farmers, office bearers and functionaries of the Grampanchayats, members of the SHGs and other women, for identifying issues and solutions in cropping, livestock rearing, health and status of the women.

On the basis of feedback from the communities, field observations and analysis of data collected a development project is formulated. The project aims at improving livelihoods in participant families through farm based interventions and bringing about improvement in the quality of life through improvement in health, village infrastructure and empowerment of the women.

The following Issues were identified and respective solutions suggested

1. Livelihood

1.1 Agriculture Development

SN	Issues Identified	Solutions Suggested
1	Low Soil Fertility	Soil Testing (NPK and Micro Nutrient)
2	Low Crop Productivity as compared to the state average.	Demonstration plots of paddy for dissemination of improved techniques/on 0.4 ha 20 R area; for improving productivity from 12-Quintals/ acre to the state average of 14.80 Quintals / acre.
		Improved cultivation practices in Sugarcane cultivation for improving productivity from 22 tons s/ acre to the state average of 33 Quintals / acre.
3	Very less area under Rabi crops.	Improved Seed and fertilizer support for one acre rabbi crop to promotion of crop diversification and double cropping.
		Vegetable seed and fertilizer support for 0.5 R area rabbi/summer crop to promotion of crop diversification and double cropping
4	Lack of information on modern methods of agriculture.	Need based farmer training cum exposure program.
		Organization of farmers' meet (<i>Kisan Melawa</i>); one every year for 4 years.

1.2 Water Resource Management

SN	Issues Identified	Solutions Suggested
1	Water scarcity and use of water efficient devices.	De-silting of the water bodies and increasing the height of wall of water bodies to increase the storage of water for rabbi season.
		De-silting of the PCD structures
		Polythene Sheet Lining in excavated farm pond for arresting seepage and increasing storage.
		Water Lifting Devices like engine and pipes in groups under supervision of Grampanchayat. Provision of one engine and 100 pipes per selected group.
		Water Resource Development through deepening of wells.
		Water Resource Development through construction of Group Wells.

1.3. Integrated Livestock Development

SN	Issues Identified	Solutions Suggested
1	Cattle and Buffaloes: Low milk production of local cattle and buffaloes.	Increasing lactation yield from 350 litres to 2,000 litres in cows and from 600 litres to 1,500 litres in buffaloes by undertaking various development activities given below.

SN	Issues Identified	Solutions Suggested
1.1	Poor genetic makeup of the local animals.	1. Breeding the low producing local animals with breeds with dairy characters through artificial insemination by providing reliable and quality door to door breeding service through a trained staff.
1.2	Inadequate feeding.	2. Encouragement to fodder production
1.3	Mineral deficiency	3. Encouragement to feeding mineral mixture
1.4	Lack of awareness about improved management practices.	4. Training in improved management practices.
1.5	Disease prevalence	5. Regular de-worming and vaccination of animals.
1.6	Low fertility status	6. Improving fertility through organization of infertility camps.
2	Goat: Local goats are less productive due to longer inter-kidding period and number of kids born per kidding. The rate of growth of kids is slower	Improvement in performance with weight gain at 25 kilograms at 10-12 months age (<i>baseline 15-18 kilograms</i>), two kidding in 24 months(<i>baseline three kidding per 30 months</i>) and reduction of mortality to less than 10% (<i>baseline 25-30%</i>)by undertaking various development activities.
2.1	Low genetic makeup.	1. Breeding the local goats with bucks of elite breed with desirable economic characters, by providing breeding bucks.
2.2	Mortality due to diseases.	2. Regular vaccination and de-worming.
2.3	Lack of awareness on improved management practices.	3. Training in improved management practices of goats.
2.4	Lack of preventive and first aid support at critical time.	4. Developing a cadre of community level workers trained in improved goat rearing practices and first aid.
2.5	Exploitation by middlemen	5. Creating awareness about selling on weight basis.
3	Poultry: Potential of poultry as a source of supplementary income not established.	Improvement in productivity and income generation potential.
3.1	Traditional rearing practices.	1. Encouragement to small scale poultry rearing for meat production through training in improved management practices such as housing, feeding, deworming and regular vaccination.

SN	Issues Identified	Solutions Suggested
3.2	Lack of capital for establishing poultry units.	2. Supporting poor families for undertaking rearing of birds with improved management practices.

1. Quality of Life component

a. Community Health

SN	Issues Identified	Solutions Suggested
1	Lack of awareness about health.	Organize awareness programs through PHC.
2	Anaemia in women	1. Encourage Kitchen Gardens for green and leafy vegetables, 2. Organize health camps for checking haemoglobin level and provision of medicines through PHC.
3	Prevalence of water borne diseases	Create awareness about home level chlorination through awareness campaigns.
4	Shortage of potable drinking Water	Creation of sources, repairs of existing sources and delivery system.

b. Women's Empowerment

SN	Issues Identified	Solutions Suggested
1	SHGs are weak; most of them are not undertaking saving and credit activity properly. SHGs do not have access to training and proper guidance.	Capacity building of women SHG office bearers and members through a trained SHG professional.
2	Credit for undertaking Income Generation Activity is not available.	Convergence with Bank and <i>Panchayat Samiti</i> for Credit.
3	SHG are unable to undertake Income Generation Activities.	Training and Exposure visit for Income Generation Activity through project support
4	SHGs undertaking IGA has low marketing skill.	Training and Exposure visit.
5	Women are not aware of Government welfare schemes.	Awareness Programs.

c. Support for Destitute

SN	Issues Identified	Solutions Suggested
1	Destitute persons in the villages in dire need of care and support.	1.Facilitation for Linkage with Government Schemes
		2.Regular Health Check Ups and Medicines Support
		3.Referral System for major ailments
		4.Counseling
		5.Need based support for disability

2. Education

SN	Issues Identified	Solutions Suggested
1	No library facility available,	<p style="text-align: center;">School based intervention</p> 1. Support for developing of smart school. 2. Support for developing of Library. 3. Safe Drinking Water through - Water Filter. 4. Drinking Water Facility with solar system. 5. Tree and Herbal Plantation with Drip irrigation. 6. Felicitation of Meritorious Student for High Schools 7. Personality Development (Coaching in spoken English). 8. Informative Wall paintings. 9. Infrastructure Support - Benches, Chairs, Boards etc. 10. Solar Lamp for School Children for their Study. 11. Provision of sport items for indoor and outdoor games.
2	Need for quality education with fun,	
3	Personality development of students through Exposure visits and extracurricular activities.	
4	Lack of electricity	
5	Poor infrastructure in schools and <i>Anganwadis</i> ,	
		<p style="text-align: center;">Anganwadi based intervention</p> 1. Informative Wall painting. 2. Flooring and Mats. 3. Support to better personal hygiene. 4. Support for sport and games. 5. Provision of solar lights.

3. Community Resource Development

SN	Issues Identified	Solutions Suggested
1	Community is not aware of t various development schemes of the government and information in improved practices and development around.	1. Information center development at Grampanchayat office. 2. Solar Street light with security package. 3. Wall painting.
2	Lack of infrastructure in the village for improving quality of life.	Development of various infrastructures for availability of clean and potable water, electricity, drainage and schools infrastructure ,

Based on the interaction with the community, observations, and analysis of baseline survey data following Components (collection of related activities) were decided for improving livelihoods and Quality of Life of the community.

The main thematic areas were proposed as below :

- 1) Capacity Building Programme
- 2) Livelihood Development Programme
- 3) Community Health
- 4) Women Empowerment
- 5) School Based Programme
- 6) Community Resource development
- 7) Infrastructure Development

Based on the baselines the programme was initiated in 3 districts namely Bhandara and Nagpur in Maharashtra and Balaghat in Madhya Pradesh. A total of 21 villages have been included under the project for these Districts.

S.No.	Cluster / Dist.	Village	Cluster / Dist.	Village	Cluster / Dist.	Village
1	Mansar Dist. Nagpur	Banpuri	Dongri Dist. Bhandara	Balapur	Bharveli, Dist. Balaghat	Tawezari
2		Nagardhan		Dongri Buzruk		Manzara
3		Kachurwahi		Kurmuda		Awalazari
4		Mansar		Chandmara		Bharveli
5		Korhurna		Pawanarkhari		Hirapur
6				Lobhi		
7				Chikla		
8				Gudari Kh		
9				Yedurbucchi		
10				Rajapur		
11				Sitasawangi		

After completion of Baseline Survey in the early months of 2015, the project was launched on the firm ground of understanding based on interaction with the locals, office bearers, members of the *Panchayat*, women and other stakeholders. The programme attempts to have a holistic approach towards development of the villages

Livelihood Development

Close to 50 % of the work force in the villages comprises of farm-workers (45% own a farm and 5% are farm labours). In order to enhance the livelihood a multi-pronged step by step approach was utilized, on one hand the farmers were informed about how to fulfil the deficiency in their fields with the help of Soil Health Cards and on the other, it was demonstrated that new and scientific methodologies in paddy cultivation produce much better yield than the traditional methods.



- 665 acres of land was tested and Soil Health Cards were issued in the 21 villages analysing the NPK and Micronutrient deficiency in the soil;
- 286 units of Vermicomposting beds have been established;
- 765 acres of land with 611 participants was used to demonstrate the improved yield by implementing System of Rice Intensification (SRI) method of paddy cultivation. The increase in yield was in some cases observed to be as high as 22% per acre
- 91 trainings ,9 Exposure visits have been conducted



Water Resource Development

It was observed that one of the major reasons of water scarcity happens to be inefficient use of the available water resources, in the form of proposed solution the de-silting of water bodies and increasing the height of waterbodies to increase the storage of water for Rabi season was suggested. It is seen that

the Rabi season crops are usually neglected making agriculture inefficient. Apart from the above solution, several other steps are still underway that would significantly increase the water availability in the region



At present the current water body (PCD) is catering to the needs of 7 participants irrigating around 12 acres of land.

After development, the PCD would provide irrigation to 22 participants and 55 acres of land.

◆ De-Siltation of Permanent Check Dams (PCD) at three locations have been successfully completed

Livestock Development

The potential for livestock in the region is huge in view of the number of cattle buffaloes and goats. The livestock rearing is undertaken in a traditional manner, as a result of which the productivity is low. The project intended to improve productivity through an Integrated Livestock Development Centre, propagating good and hygienic practices for goat rearing and poultry. By far, the reception in the livestock development from the community has been hearty; the participants have accepted the Artificial Insemination, Mineral Mixture and dry fodder enrichment techniques supplements.

Efforts have been made to propagate practices that are conducive to the health of the livestock like goat platform, poultry mesh and milch animals. Introduction of these practices will bear fruit in future in terms of healthy animals and greater output of milk thus supplementing the income of the families.



- ◆ A total of 689 Artificial Inseminations, 254 pregnancy diagnosis were carried out
- ◆ 150 participants have been distributed with Dry Fodder Enrichment and 1049 participants have been distributed with Mineral Mixture Feed Supplement for cattle.



- ◆ 4986 goats have been de-wormed, 4273 have been vaccinated and 231 goat platforms have been established
- ◆ 21 Bakri-Mitra have been identified, and 55 training sessions have been conducted for goat keepers

Women Empowerment

It would be a façade if the development of a community or a society didn't concentrate on the development of women. With this spirit the project has launched a capacity development programme to enhance the capacities of Women Self Help Groups (SHGs) through training and exposure. Efforts are being made so that the existing SHGs become mature and develop linkages with the line department for support through government schemes.

- ◆ 10 exposure visits involving 212 participants have been completed successfully
- ◆ 73 capacity building trainings have been conducted
- ◆ 21 Lay accountants have been identified

It was encouraging to find the otherwise shy and docile women of SHGs to come forward and take part in the *Ganpati Utsav* with their stalls of homemade snacks. It demonstrates the willingness in them to work and grow.



Community Health

This component of the project addresses the health issues raised in the community such as prevalence of life-style diseases, sanitation etc. through awareness generation and demonstration activities. Health Awareness Programmes focusing on personal hygiene at homes, chlorination and filtration of water were carried out; Nutritional Gardens were promoted to ensure the provision of seasonal vegetables and medicinal plants in the backyard.



- ◆ 16 Health Camps involving have been conducted.
- ◆ 450 Nutritional Gardens have been demonstrated in 21 villages
- ◆ 100 Biogas Units have been installed in those many families.



Biogas units have been promoted in the village to provide the community with dual benefit, first delivery of fuel using waste that would have been otherwise used only as a manure along with the advantage of the integrated Biogas model that on one hand produces the fuel but also provides the raw material for a nutritional garden in the form of its slurry and the sludge can be used as input towards a Vermicompost bed.

School and Anganwadi Based Interventions

To encourage the students in the schools and the kids at the anganwadis, many interventions have been made to make the process of learning more interesting and easy. The main interventions are :

1. By providing E-Learning Unit for developing of smart school so that the students are exposed to computers at an early age.
2. Infrastructure of the school is improved by providing support for desk and benches and other educational requirements.
3. Solar Lamps: In view of the shortage of electricity solar lamp are provided to students for studying without any interruption in the night.
4. Provision of sport items for indoor and outdoor games encourage sports and developing personality of the students.



- ◆ 856 Students have been provided with Solar Lamps
- ◆ 20 E-learning Units have been distributed in Zilla Parishad Schools
- ◆ 21 Schools have been provided with sports material for games like cricket and football
- ◆ 17 schools have been provided with infrastructural support in terms of Benches and Desks.