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NIRD & PR REACHING OUT TO RURAL PEOPLE THROUGH VILLAGE ADOPTION



Cover Story

NIRD & PR REACHING OUT TO RURAL PEOPLE THROUGH VILLAGE ADOPTION

National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD & PR) has set an ambitious agenda of adopting 100 villages in the country by working in tandem with local and government agencies and playing the role of a facilitator. In many villages despite the government initiating a plethora of development programmes and schemes, villages tend to remain under-developed. Institute's Faculty who adopts a village basically studies the village situation and its requirements by identifying their needs and formulates a 'Village Development Plan' through community participation. In many cases it is not a matter of pumping in lot of money but lack of a concrete action plan and failure in identification of local needs and deciding what is best for the village by involving the community. NIRD&PR basically facilitates development process by bridging the gap between the community and government agencies. The Institute earmarks ₹ 3 lakh for field based expenditure as part of activities to be undertaken in adopted villages. The amount is not for financing village development projects but to undertake village study, holding of community meetings and on such things that facilitate linkages for development. The funds are utilised for holding health awareness meetings or medical camps if needed. So small initiatives get many pending jobs done for the village. It could be funds sanctioned for a road but works kept pending for a simple reason like delay



in calling for tenders, contractors' negligence or just because no one is pursuing the work. Village works have been initiated in 29 villages in the country and more will follow in the coming months.

One of the initiatives for village development is the introduction of solar powered domestic and street lighting which has the potential to make a big difference in the lives of villagers particularly in villages and tribal hamlets where they do not have access to government supplied electrical power and villages which experience power disruption due to effecting power-cuts most of the time in a day. NIRD&PR has a scheme to supply 10 solar street lights cost-free and also solar lamps which dispel darkness from homes. They are helping children to study in the nights, lighten living rooms until they go to bed and utilise them as emergency lights in the middle of the night. This recent initiative of NIRD&PR is making a big difference in the adopted villages.

For example, NIRD&PR's maiden initiative in its adopted Asapur and

Kakban tribal villages in Chandrapur district in Maharashtra provided 10 solar powered street lighting. The villagers were so overwhelmed with joy at seeing light from 5pm and 10 pm and children coming on to the streets to play. The quality of community life changed and social life transformed through change in habits like doing house-hold works in the night and children studying their books in the street lights. It has been time and again proved that a village lacks development not because of funds paucity but lack of ideas and initiatives and facilitators. Many village communities are now owning the village assets and taking responsibility to maintain them. While there are people whose attitudes are yet to change and they are yet to understand the concept of development, the brighter side of initiatives like these is that revolutionary changes are taking place in the villages wherever such initiatives are being taken.

Rural Technology Park of the Institute is also actively involved in development of adopted villages through technology transfer, training youth, women groups and other stakeholders. It goes without saying that the architect of the concept of adoption and the success of the programmes and popularising solar power in villages is the Director General of NIRD&PR, Dr.M.V.Rao whose vision of rural development is yielding positive results.

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TRAINING METHODOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONALS



An international programme on Training Methodology for Development Professionals, sponsored by Ministry of External Affairs under ITEC/SCAAP fellowship programmes was organised at NIRD&PR during 3-30 September, 2014. In all 24 participants drawn from 14 Countries attended the programme. The main objectives of the programme were i) to familiarise the participants with the trends in training and capacity building approaches and strategies for rural development; ii) to use various training methods; iii) to plan and manage the training programmes; and iv) to expose to the efforts and experiences in application of training methodologies for capacity building of development professionals with special reference to India.

The coverage of the programme included an overview of training strategies and experiences vis a vis rural development approaches and emerging scenario, systematic approach to training, principles of learning, various training methods etc. Besides, the steps and processes involved in planning and designing training programmes, aspects relating to day-to-day management of training and training evaluation models and techniques were also covered. In addition, discussions on the roles and skills of a trainer were included.

The programme was inaugurated by Dr M V Rao, Director General (NIRD&PR). In his observations, Director General emphasised on the importance of participatory training and use of different methods depending upon the objectives and content to be delivered. He further highlighted the benefit of experience sharing and said that the programme will provide an opportunity to learn from the rich experiences of the delegates. He hoped that participants will find the various inputs planned as part of the training programmes useful and the study visits will help in exposing to Indian experiences on training methodologies for capacity building of development professionals. The programme started with experience sharing by the participants wherein they presented the developmental initiatives, training programmes and methods being followed in their countries. While the first part of the programme focussed on the conceptual and knowledge aspects of training methodology, the sessions that followed were aimed at developing the skills of the participants on the use of various training methods and methodological aspects. Accordingly, the presentations and discussions were followed by practice sessions. It was ensured that the participants gained hands-on experience on the practical aspects and other nuances involved in the use of a given method. Exercises on planning and designing training programmes were also included.



Programme Participants at SATCOM Studio, ANSSIRD, Mysore

As part of exposure to Indian experiences, study visits were arranged to training institutions in the States of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. During the visits participants were familiarised with the programmes of the institutions. They also had the opportunity to get to know the various modes and methods of training being utilised by these institutions like Satellite Telecommunication (SATCOM). Besides, they also had the benefit of interaction with the head and faculty members on various aspects of training in terms of training need assessment, training designs, evaluation and feedback systems, procedures etc. Visits were also arranged to villages with a view to getting the delegates familiarised with the Indian rural scenario and development initiatives.

Based on field observations and classroom discussions, participants were facilitated to develop training

designs for different stakeholders of rural development in respective countries and to workout action plan for follow-up application of the learnings from the training programme in the back-home situation. The participants in their feedback indicated that the training programme was useful in getting familiarised with various aspects of training methodology. Besides, they also had the benefit of understanding the application of the methods with special reference to capacity building of development functionaries. They further indicated that the Indian experiences on training for rural development were informative and would like to put into practice the learnings from the programme in organising training for development functionaries in their countries. The programme was coordinated by Dr V K Reddy and Dr R P Achari, Research and Training Division of NIRD&PR.

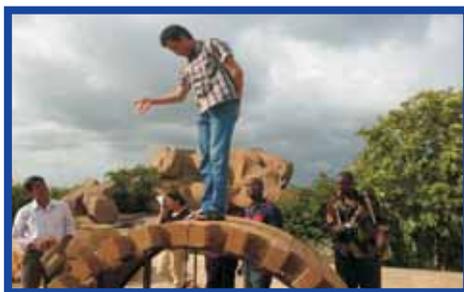
MANAGEMENT OF RURAL HOUSING AND HABITAT PROJECTS

An international Training Programme on “Management of Rural Housing and Habitat Projects” sponsored by Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India under ITEC / SCAAP / AARDO Programme was organised during 03 – 30 September, 2014 at NIRD&PR. Sixteen Participants from twelve countries viz., Afghanistan, Algeria, Bangladesh, Egypt, Fiji, Ghana, Myanmar, Mali, Nigeria, Suriname, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe attended the programme. The main objectives of the course were to share country specific rural housing and habitat development policy and other good practices of all participant countries; to sensitise the participants on various concepts of rural housing and to expose to various best practising villages and cost-effective environment-friendly technologies; and to train the participants in Planning for Rural Habitat Projects.



The course started with introduction about NIRD&PR, familiarisation with individuals, institution and environment and ice-breaking followed by inaugural address by Dr.M.V.Rao, Director General, NIRD&PR, Hyderabad. The course was developed into seven sub-themes / modules namely (i) Policies and Strategies and Programmes; (ii) Habitat Approach : Convergence

– Infrastructure; (iii) Technology Options-Cost-Effective Green Housing; (iv) Institutional Mechanism-Participatory Approach; (v) MIS Applications-Knowledge Networking; (vi) Best Practices on Rural Housing (vii) Back-home action plans. The training methods used for the programme included Class Room Lectures, Video Presentations, Debate Discussions, Participatory Planning Methods, Role Plays, Practical and Hands-on Experience of brick making and other construction techniques, Practical demonstrations, and field visits to best practices in Rural Housing projects and villages.



Presentations were made to help participants understand Indian Rural Society, Policies and Programmes of Rural Housing in India, Land Laws and Access to Credit etc., in the first module of the course. The newly developed concepts like Habitat Approach, Social Audit, Gender Concerns in Rural Housing, Stakeholders and their training needs for the implementation of Housing Programme, Climate Change and Rural Housing, Green Housing Technologies for Rural Housing etc., were also presented by eminent subject experts. Best Practices in the area of rural housing projects especially related to National Flagship Programmes like Indira Awaas

Yojana, Community based Total Sanitation, Mobilisation of Credit through various sources for the construction of house, Alternative Sources of Energies for Rural Housing, Solid and Liquid Waste Management, Technology Options for Disaster Prone Areas, Knowledge Networking, GIS and GPS systems for the implementation of the rural housing programmes had also been delivered by distinguished persons during the course. Last but not least, participants were trained on PRA techniques, Managerial Skills, Negotiation Skills, Logical Framework for Rural Housing Project, Planning, Design and Implementation of the programme.



In addition to lecture presentations, open debate discussions had been conducted on different issues in Rural Housing such as Shelter for all vis-à-vis Poorest of the Poor; Cluster Housing Versus Individual Housing; and Eco-friendly versus Modern Technologies for Rural Housing to derive more insights on the rural housing concepts among the participants. Apart from the above, country presentations made by respective country participants from twelve countries on policies and programmes of rural housing together could generate lot of discussions. Finally, participants

were exposed to different best practising villages like Clean Habitat-Hazipally near Shad Nagar, Mahaboobnagar district of Telangana State; Flood Rehabilitated Villages in Kurnool District; Habitat Development Projects and total solar villages in Anantapur district of Andhra Pradesh State. Participants were also taken to Rajiv Gandhi Rural Housing Corporation Limited, Bangalore; Different Housing Models, Fast Track Housing Technology Colony and Sanitation Projects in Rural Bangalore; Rural Building Centre at Mysore; and Solid Resource Management Plant at Mysore under study tour. Participants also visited the National Rural Building Centre located at NIRD&PR and experienced the hands-on training on Mud Block Bricks Making and construction of cost-effective, eco-friendly technology houses.

Eminent subject experts were invited to interact with the participants on Comprehensive approach to Sustainable Development: A Case of Eco-Village by Shri Soham Pandya from Centre of Science for Villages, Wardha, Maharashtra; Access to



Credit for Rural Housing by Shri Sai Prasad, Chief Manager, APGB, Kadapa; Integrated Development of Habitat by Shri R.Mohanaiah, former CGM of NABARD; Emerging Alternative Technologies & Materials for Rural Housing by Prof. Jagadisha from ASTRA, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore; Technology Options for Disaster Prone Areas: Earthquake Resistant by Prof. Ramancharla from EDRG, IIIT, Hyderabad; Shri Venkatesam, Managing Director, APSRHC,

Hyderabad; and Knowledge Networking by Prof. Vijayaraghavan Charior from IIT, New Delhi. Towards the end of programme, each participant could prepare and present their Back-Home Action Plans based on the learnings from other participating countries and Indian Experiences of its Policies and Approaches. Majority of them have set their time-bound plan of action for the next one year. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Y. Gangi Reddy and Dr. P. SivaRam, CRI.

MANAGEMENT OF RURAL EMPLOYMENT PROJECTS FOR POVERTY ALLEVIATION

Centre for Wage Employment and Poverty Alleviation (CWEPA) conducted a four-week International Training Programme on Management of Rural Employment Projects for Poverty Alleviation during August 4-31, 2014. In all 20 participants attended the programme drawn from developing countries

consisting of Yemen, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Argentina, Niger etc. The training programme covered trends of poverty scenario in developing economies, participatory designing of employment generation projects and so on. A five-day study tour to the districts of Srikakulam, Vizianagaram and Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh was undertaken

to expose the participants to various on-going rural development projects with emphasis on employment generation. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Rajni Kanth, Associate Professor and Dr. Dheeraja, Assistant Professor, CWEPA.

MANAGEMENT OF RURAL FINANCING INSTITUTIONS AND COOPERATIVES FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The captioned programme was organised on behalf of CICTAB (Centre for International Cooperation and Training in Agricultural Banking) located in the campus of VAMNICOM, Pune. The programme was attended by 21 participants from SAARC member-countries such as Bhutan, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka who were mostly executives and officers of rural financing institutions and cooperatives engaged in financing for rural development. There was a great deal of discussions and exchange of experiences during the programme. The country representatives presented brief status paper regarding the activities in their countries in a specific subject area of the programme. The Director of CICTAB, Mr. Sanjeeb Patjoshi in his inaugural address sensitised the participants on rural development policies, strategies and programmes having common background in the SAARC countries.

The programme covered themes relevant and significant to national level agricultural banking and



cooperative and rural development institutions in the countries of the SAARC region. These were aimed at strengthening the rural financing bodies, including micro-finance institutions for achieving the objectives of rural development. The programme themes were covered through discussions and use of other training techniques and methods. Participants were taken to Rural Technology Park of the Institute. They were impressed with the

technologies in the Park and indicated their desire to use same technologies for benefiting the disadvantaged section of people in their countries. The programme was coordinated by Dr. B. K. Swain, Prof. & Head, Centre for Rural Credit and Development Banking, NIRD&PR along with the Project Consultants working in the Centre. Participants were highly impressed with the coverage of the programme as reflected from their feedback given to the Institute.

WORKSHOP ON MANAGEMENT OF RSETIs

The Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs) scheme which was launched by MoRD in the early 2009 entered the sixth year of its implementation. In this span of six years there has been a tremendous progress in establishing RSETIs with the cooperation and support of various Banks and State Governments. As on date, Banks have established 578 RSETIs across the country. With the opening of more



RSETIs, the monitoring of these institutes for better performance is a big task. Though there are different organisations for monitoring of RSETIs, the major responsibility remains with the sponsoring Banks. At each bank's corporate level, on the advice of NIRD&PR, a senior officer is designated as Nodal Officer to monitor the performance of RSETIs and to guide them in their day-to-day affairs. With a view to equipping them with the latest developments in the field of RSETIs and to build up their capacity, NIRD&PR organises workshop every year. For the year 2014, three-day workshop was conducted at NIRD&PR campus during 8-10 September, 2014.

The objectives of the Workshop were to review the present status of the RSETIs, progress in allotment of land and construction of RSETI buildings, functioning and monitoring of RSETIs, bank linkages of trainees and cross learning by sharing best practices adopted by various Banks/RSETIs. 37 participants representing various banks and local head offices of State Bank of India attended the programme.

Shri R N Dash, General Manager, Reserve Bank of India, Hyderabad participated in the inaugural session of the programme. In his address to the participants he said that RSETIs are playing a vital role in skill development of unemployed youth and engaging them in self-employment by way of micro-enterprises. He said that credit is an important instrument for development of the people. He expressed his concern that only 30 per cent RSETI trainees are credit linked. He further said that to improve the credit linkages attitudinal changes are required at branch manager's level. Besides, proper identification of trainees and quality of the training are

also important. He emphasised that pending cases of credit linkages are to be followed up in BLBC meetings. When participants raised the issue of land allotment, he said that it is a matter of concern that even after five years we are discussing the problems related to allotment of the land. All the concerned should take it seriously and when we meet next time there should not be any issues related to the lands.



Dr M V Rao, IAS, Director General, NIRD&PR interacted with the participants. The participants shared their experiences with the Director General and brought to his notice specific issues of problems in land allotment and sought his intervention. Dr Rao assured to take up the matter with the respective governments and district administrations. Dr Rao also emphasised the need for the availability of credit to the trainees, which is not coming forth, in spite of the fact that RSETIs are Bank Led Institutions. He appealed to the participants to find ways and means to improve the credit linkages of RSETI trainees.

The faculty support for the workshop was provided by Shri O N Bansal, PD RSETI, NIRD & PR, Shri K N Janardhana, CPC and Shri Vasudev Kalkundri, Sr Faculty, Monitoring Cell. Shri Bansal highlighted various issues relating to allotment/possession of the land and construction of RSETI buildings. Shri Janardhana discussed the issues relating to pre-training, training and post-training, grading parameters,

best practices followed by various RSETIs. Shri Kalkundri talked about role and responsibilities of Nodal Officers and need for reconciliation of manual data with MIS system. The participants were taken on a field visit to SBH RSETI Chilukur, Ranga Reddy district, Telangana to have a look at available infrastructure and to study types of programmes conducted and their impact in terms of settlement of the trainees and to make suggestions for better functioning. Participants had a chance to interact with trainees of ongoing programmes as well as with successful entrepreneurs.



Participants were also taken to Rural Technology Park of NIRD&PR.

Shri Vijay Kumar said that SBI has a large chunk of RSETIs. He shared his experience on functioning and

Shri Mummen explained the role of their DDMs in functioning of RSETIs. He also assured all the cooperation and support to RSETIs from NABARD. He said that NABARD is extending even financial support to A & AA rated RSETIs/RUDSETIs. He also explained role of NGOs in skill development of the youth and said that their DDMs have the list of dedicated NGOs in their respective districts.



The valedictory session of the workshop was attended by Shri Jiji Mummen, CGM, NABARD and Dr V Vijay Kumar, GM cum Principal, State Bank Institute of Rural Development (SBIRD), Hyderabad.

monitoring of the RSETIs at SBI corporate level in his previous assignment. He mentioned that in their regular training programmes, a session on RSETIs is included to sensitise the bank officers/managers.

The participants appreciated the inputs given and deliberations held in the workshop. The programme was coordinated by Shri O N Bansal, Project Director, Shri R Naga Lakshmaiah, Project Manager and team of RSETI cell, NIRD&PR.

PLANNING, IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF MICRO-ENTERPRISES

The training programme on "Planning, Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation of Micro-enterprises" was held at NIRD&PR, Hyderabad during 15-19 September 2014. Altogether 39 officers across the country representing Banks, State Governments, SIRDs and Universities attended the programme. The basic objectives of the programme, inter alia, were (i) to equip the participants with planning and implementation of income generation projects and required facilitation skills; (ii) to share innovative experiences in managing the micro-enterprises initiated by NGOs/Banks; (iii) to endow the participants with the skills of M&E of projects pertaining to micro-enterprises.



Training Programme on
"Planning, Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation of Micro-enterprises
(15-19 September, 2014)

Keeping in view the objectives of the programme, various topics like micro-enterprises, participatory identification of poor and application of PRA in identifying micro-enterprises, social mobilisation, poverty issues, innovative project

identification, monitoring and evaluation, forward and backward linkages, gender issues, etc., were covered in the programme including one-day field visit. The sessions were dealt by the faculties of NIRD&PR. As part of field visit, participants after

forming four groups were taken to Rural Technology Park (RTP) of the Institute. It is pertinent to mention that altogether 18 micro-enterprises have been operating under different private parties in the RTP and thus the cases represent PPP model. Each group collected some basic information like year of setting up of micro-enterprise, net earnings, problems faced, etc. Important findings of the study were shared in the classroom. First group visited an enterprise viz. home based chemical

products where washing powder, phenyl, dish-wash powder, agarbathi, herbal shampoo etc., are made. This enterprise is registered under the banner of Uttam Industry, a viable one. The second group studied soya food products where different types of food products made out of soya are produced. This enterprise functioning under the umbrella of Sree Saraswati Mahila Griha Udyog is a sustainable one. The third group visited micro-enterprise where old papers are

recycled and made new one. The enterprise has been functioning under the title of Gandhi Hand-made paper works which is not only an innovative one vis-à-vis economically viable. The fourth group studied natural dye unit which is a sort of ancillary unit of Dastkar Andhra. The programme was conducted by Dr. Shankar Chatterjee and Dr. (Mrs) N. Kalpalatha of Centre for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, NIRD&PR.

RURAL CREDIT AND RECOVERY MANAGEMENT

The captioned programme was conducted during 1 to 5 September, 2014 at SIPRD, Kalyani in West Bengal. It was attended by 29 participants drawn from the rural branches of the Bangiya Gramin Vikas Bank, the largest Regional Rural Bank operating in the State of West Bengal.

The coverage of the course included aspects such as underlying reasons for large non-performing assets in banks, rural credit delivery problems and procedures, expectations of rural borrowers from the bankers etc. Besides, films on bank-linkage procedures, success stories from various States were also arranged. In addition to presentations by Course Team, participants had the benefit of presentations and discussions with senior officials from United bank of India and State bank of India. Participants were motivated to initiate measures to expedite disbursement of rural credit under NRLM scheme.

A field trip to Bagnan Credit Society in Howrah district was an unique



experience for the participants. Especially, they were impressed with the various units being self-financed and monitored by the Society and found them useful to alleviate the conditions of poverty ridden rural people in their service areas. Similarly, they were exposed to income generating activities for the rural poor women through promoting a credit society for various activities like tailoring units, pickle and papad making, making school dress and bags for children, growing seasonal

vegetables and several activities suited to local resources and available market in their areas. Participants in their feedback indicated that the programme was very useful and they were enthused to take up initiatives for effective credit management.

The programme was coordinated by Dr.B.K.Swain, Professor and Head of the Centre for Rural Credit and Development Banking, NIRD&PR and Ms. Susmita Chowdhury, Senior Faculty member of SIPRD, Kalyani.

ICT APPLICATIONS AND E-GOVERNANCE

The training programme on ICT Applications and e-Governance was held at NIRD & PR, Hyderabad during September 15 – 19, 2014. Thirty two senior and middle level officials including three women from six States representing Departments of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Education, Health, Panchayati Raj and Rural Development, IT Sector, Universities and Training Institutions have taken advantage of the programme.

The programme focused on how to explore the potential use of information and communication technology applications for deployment on a global scale, demonstrate a few e-Governance initiatives taken up by different States and to ensure proper presentation of ICTs at all levels of governance keeping in view the needs of the common man.

Renowned resource persons were invited to make presentations on topics relating to ICT Applications in RD, National e-Governance



Perspective: Success and Failures, Tele-Medicine Projects in India, e-Governance Projects in Health, Education, Agriculture and RD, besides e-Sagu Project on Agriculture, and Rice Knowledge Management Portal were shown and hands-on practice given. Vikaspedia Portal was also showcased with live examples covering six major topics like education, agriculture, health, social welfare, energy and

e-Governance. The participants indicated that they were benefited from the presentations and discussions. Furthermore, the interactions with experts were useful to find solutions for day-to-day applications of IT.

The programme was coordinated by Dr. P. Satish Chandra, Head and Shri G.V. Satya Narayana, Assistant Professor of Centre for Information Technology, NIRD&PR.

NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON SOCIAL AUDIT

Promoting accountable, transparent and participatory rural local governance is one of the key objectives of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). Social audit by Gram Sabha is an important means to achieve this objective. As per Section 17 of the MGNREGA, conduct of Social Audits once in every six months is a mandatory activity. To facilitate social audits by Gram Sabha, Rule 4 of the MGNREGA Audit of Scheme Rules

2011, provides for the establishment of an independent Social Audit Unit (SAU). SAU shall ensure the smooth and effective conduct of Social Audits by identifying and training the social audit resource persons at Gram Panchayat, block and district levels.

The experience of social audits, however, varied significantly from State to State in terms of approach, coverage, frequency as well as quality and rigour. To bring minimum common standards to social audit

process, it was felt necessary that there should be a commonly designed training programme for officials, resource persons, coordinators and the volunteers engaged in social audit.

MoRD in collaboration with Centre for Wage Employment and Poverty Alleviation, NIRD&PR and SSAAT organised a six-day National Workshop on Social Audit during 23-28 August, 2014 at AMR - APARD, Hyderabad.

Resource persons, well experienced with the process of social audit facilitated the workshop. Among them were Shri Nikil Day, Shri Shankar Singh and Shri Mukhesh Goswami from MKSS, Rajasthan, Ms. Soumya Kidambi, SSAAT, Hyderabad, Shri Abhay Pandey, Social Audit Unit, Madhya Pradesh, Shri Gurjeet Singh from GVS, Ranchi, Shri Abhay Kumar from Karnataka etc.

Three hundred social audit resource persons and officials from all the 28 States participated in the National Workshop. First day was for the orientation on social audits and the major themes discussed were right-based legislation of MGNREGA,

rights and entitlements of workers, social accountability framework and social audit. Shri. S.M. Vijayanand, Additional Secretary, MoRD sensitised the officials on social audit and discussed at length the concept, importance and recent developments in social audit. Day two focussed on sharing experiences on social audit in different States with special emphasis on AP experience. Participants were divided into 13 groups with 20-25 members in each group to discuss the modalities in the field and to verify the documents. Field visit was coordinated by SSAAT for the next three days, where the participants stayed in the respective

villages and were involved in the process of document verification, physical verification and interaction with the workers and in the conduct of Gram Sabha. Last day was meant for de-briefing, wherein participants from each group presented their experience and learning. Shri Reddy Subramanyam, Joint Secretary (MGNREGA), MoRD moderated the de-briefing session and delivered concluding remarks.

The workshop was coordinated by Dr. G. Rajani Kanth, Associate Professor and Dr. C. Dheeraja, Asst. Professor from NIRD&PR and Ms Rakshita Swamy and Ms. Anaitha from MoRD.

HINDI DAY CELEBRATION

Hindi Day was celebrated at NIRD&PR on 26 September, 2014 after the completion of Hindi Fortnight which was started on 12 September, 2014. Dr. M.V. Rao, Director General of the Institute who presided over the function said that on the occasion of Hindi Fortnight, Officers and Staff created pleasant atmosphere through participation and competitions. He also said that Hindi Language should not be limited to fortnight but we should work in Hindi for 365 days. He congratulated Officers and Staff of Hindi Section for organising many activities during the Fortnight. Special Invitee Smt. Padma Shri Rao, President, NIRD&PR Mahila Mandali graced the occasion. Professor Ilyas, Project Director, CPGS, Dr. S.S.P. Sharma, Professor and Head, CWLR, Dr. C.S. Singhal, Professor and Head, CWD&GS, and Shri Ravi Kiran, Principal, B.V.B.V. School were present on the dias.



Shri Narahar Dev, Consultant (Official Language) welcomed the guests and gave an account of the significance of organising Hindi Fortnight and celebrating Hindi Day. Shri E. Ramesh, Sr. Hindi Translator read out the message of Shri Nitin Gadkari, Honourable Union Minister for Rural Development. Smt. Anita Pandey, Assistant Director (Official

Language) presented a report on progressive use of Hindi in the Institute.

On this occasion Dr. M.V. Rao, Director General, released the Training Module on "Political Leadership of Women and Gender Sensitive Governance" brought out in Hindi by the Centre for Women

Development and Gender Studies and said that this module will be most beneficial to rural development functionaries. In all 350 Officers and Staff, P.G. Diploma students and

School students participated in programme. Dr. M.V. Rao, Director General and Smt. Padma Shri Rao, President, Mahila Mandali distributed the prizes to Officers/Staff and

Students who participated in various competitions conducted during the Fortnight. Shri E.Ramesh, Sr. Hindi Translator coordinated the programme and presented a vote of thanks.

TRIGGERING A DEVELOPMENTAL RIPPLE THROUGH CHILDREN

The Centre for Rural Infrastructure (CRI), NIRD&PR adopted a Village Panchayat called Manaloor in Thandikudi Hills, Dindigul district, Tamil Nadu. A preliminary visit was made in July 2014 to get introduced to the community including Panchayat functionaries, and to collect some basic data about the village. On Teachers' Day (5th September) 2014, an array of sports and games were organised in Union Primary School, Perumbarai, one of the habitations of Manaloor. Celebration mood had set in the school. Parents assembled to witness their children perform - and outperform. Teachers felt honoured that Teachers' Day was marked important for the first time, in a hilly remote Union Primary School of Tamil Nadu.

NIRD&PR, Hyderabad arranged gifts for children as well as teachers in the form of books and dictionaries. A stainless steel water container engraved with NIRD&PR, Hyderabad was provided to the school. This piped water container shall help keep water uncontaminated while children handle drinking water. Out of the 62 children in the school, 34 come from houses that have not been connected to any electricity grid, and so have to read using kerosene wick lamps. With a view to doing away with the



problem – as an intermediate solution - the children have been provided with solar mini-lights as part of the prizes given to them. All the children got prizes, and those who won in games and sports events got a little extra. The mini-light given to children can serve as a reading spotlight / torchlight. It can provide the illumination required for being able to do their home works or read in the nights. However, this mini-light is not designed to illuminate the entire house. Upon discussion, parents have come forward to make 25 per cent financial contribution to own solar-lanterns at their houses, which is priced at ₹ 1250 - available with

RTP partners. Those willing to own the solar lanterns are preparing a list to arrive at the number of houses willing to make financial contribution.

The main occupation of people in the village is cultivating black pepper. They are employed in black pepper collection, cleaning, sun-drying, packing etc. The solar dehydrator technology available at NIRD&PR-RTP that we explained was attractive to them. A team of enterprising local youth is proposing to make a visit to RTP for training, and to be able to procure solar dehydrator for dehydrating harvested black peppers. There could not have been

an easier way to get at the community, than making them visit their children's school on the occasion of Teachers' Day. However, it does not always require a festive-occasion to invite adults to assemble for a discussion. Things can fall in place, if we get started with children. Children have the natural magic to bring their parents into participation, which triggers a developmental ripple. It can cascade into many more development activities, if we showed genuine interest in the development of children's education, and in the creative accomplishment of children. The best way to get started with development practice is through children, especially when the intention is comprehensive development of villages or multi-faced development of villages. The project is coordinated by Dr. R. Ramesh, Assistant Professor, CRI, NIRD&PR.



NIRD&PR INITIATIVES IN TRIBAL AREAS

NIRD&PR adopted Tirathgarh gram panchayat in Bastar district of Chhattisgarh State. Tirathgarh is a tiny revenue village consisting of six small hamlets, namely, 1) Khaspara (Tirathgarh) 2) Kotwa para 3) Mangalpur 4) Patel para 5) Karkapara and 6) Viswanatha para. These hamlets are situated within radius of 10 kms, which fall in Darbha block of Bastar district. The village is 6 kms from block headquarters and 35 kms from the district headquarters i.e., Jagadapur. The village is in pristine surroundings of forest. Although the road connectivity exists to the village, due to sensitivity of the area, buses do not ply. The only transport available is private taxis and autos. Only 53 families are reported to be below poverty line. The village being a tribal area, most of the people have land and house. A majority of the people in village are living with subsistence economy and depend upon forest and

NTFPs for their livelihood. The villagers are of the opinion that change in indicators to measure BPL would bring more people under the BPL category. This will also bring more IAY houses and roads to the village.

The drinking water available in the village contains iron which leads to health problems. It was observed that though all houses have toilet facilities, but only few people use the same. There are 16 rural development programmes being



There are five elementary schools and two middle schools in the village. One middle school was upgraded to high school in 2012.

implemented in the village which include watershed programme, MGNREGA, IAY, Pension Schemes, Mid day meals, PMGSY, B.R.G.F. etc.



NIRD&PR Initiatives

As part of village adoption initiative, people from Tirathgarh gram panchayat were invited to the Institute and provided training in different economic activities like i) leaf plate making ii) handmade paper making iii) soap making and iv) vermi compost free of cost. The training helped in skill development of the villagers for taking up income generating activities in their village. In addition to training, solar lights were installed in two hamlets of the village. These activities facilitated rapport building with the people and generated interest in the Institute's initiatives. The project is coordinated by Dr. S.N. Rao, Assistant Professor, CRI, NIRD&PR.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT STATISTICS: 2012-13

RURAL HEALTH

Rural Health Institutions do play a vital role in strengthening endeavours concerned so as to make rural people more healthy and strengthen their livelihoods. The profile of rural health institutions and developments made over a period of time are as follows:

Government of India formulated some norms in terms of population for establishing health institutions both in the plain and hilly parts of rural areas. The norms were 5000 population in the plain areas and 3000 population in the hilly areas for sub-centre and 30,000 in the plain areas and 20,000 in the hilly areas for primary health centre. In the case of community health centre, the norms for the plain and hill areas are 1,20,000 and 80,000 population respectively .

The number of institutions established over a period of 22 years (during 1990 to 2012) shows a phenomenal increase (Table 1). The number of primary health centres in the rural parts of the country rose from 18981 in 1990 to 24049 in 2012 registering an increase of 27.7 per cent. Similarly, the sub-centres also rose from 130366 to 148366 and the percentage increase in this case works out to 13.8 points. Community Health Centres (CHCs) have registered an increase during the period under reference. When compared with these norms, the States which are off the mark are Haryana, Jharkhand and West Bengal in respect of sub-centre and Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal in so far as primary health centre is concerned. As regards Community Health Centre, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka are the States where the population being covered is much above the norm.

Table 1: Number of PHCs, Sub-Centres and Community Health Centres

Period	Primary Health Centres	Sub-centres	Community Health Centres
1.4.1990	18981	130336	1911
1.4.1991	20450	130958	2071
1.4.1992	20716	131605	2189
1.4.1993	21051	131752	2273
1.4.1994	21225	131770	2344
1.4.1995	21768	131795	2419
31.3.1996	21853	132727	2424
30.6.1999	22928	138044	3077
September 2001	22842	137311	3043
September 2004	23109	142655	3222
September 2005	23236	146026	3346
March,2007	22370	145272	4045
March, 2010	23673	147069	4535
March, 2011	23887	148124	4809
March, 2012	24049	148366	4833

Rural health care infrastructure in relation to population: As of March 2012, there existed one sub-centre for every 5615 people in the rural areas and this fairly compares with the norm set under the guidelines. Across the country, nine major States namely Assam, Bihar, Haryana, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal have

unfavourable ratios (where the average population covered is much higher than the national average). It is also evident from Table 2 that each primary health centre caters to a population of 34,641 on an average at the national level and this also compares well with the norm of 30,000 (for the plain areas). However, some States did not fulfill

the norm and they are Bihar, Haryana, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and West Bengal. At the national level, each community health centre covers a population of 172375 and five States recorded larger coverage than the all India average and they are Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Karnataka and West Bengal (Table 2).

Table 2: Rural Primary Health Care Infrastructure and Average Rural Population Covered, 2012

(Number)

S. No.	State / UT	(As on March, 2012) Average Rural Population (2011) covered by			S. No.	State / UT	(As on March, 2012) Average Rural Population (2011) covered by		
		Sub Centre	PHC	CHC			Sub Centre	PHC	CHC
1	Andhra Pradesh	4497	34675	200398	19	Nagaland	3553	11166	66993
2	Arunachal Pradesh	3738	11022	22274	20	Odisha	5226	28508	92709
3	Assam	5817	27467	245693	21	Punjab	5868	38567	131188
4	Bihar	9496	49423	1315358 (1)	22	Rajasthan	4487	33731	134922
5	Chhattisgarh	3836	25965	131568	23	Sikkim	3102	18998	227981
6	Goa	2690	29022	110283	24	Tamil Nadu	4272	30309	96595
7	Gujarat	4766	29940	109028	25	Tripura	3769	34304	225838
8	Haryana	6560	36983	151665	26	Uttarakhand	3802	27337	119078
9	Himachal Pradesh	2987	13067	81155	27	Uttar Pradesh	7559	42013	301186
10	Jammu & Kashmir	4790	23068	108748	28	West Bengal	6008	68442	178775
11	Jharkhand	6326	75870	133175	29	A & N Islands	2054	11110	61103
12	Karnataka	4233	16257	208625	30	Chandigarh	1813	--	14502
13	Kerala	3815	21577	80440	31	D & N Haveli	3660	30504	183024
14	Madhya Pradesh	5924	45448	157771(2)	32	Daman & Diu	2320	20110	30166
15	Maharashtra	5817	33984	169547	33	Delhi	10227	83864	--
16	Manipur	4523	23745	118727	34	Lakshadweep	1009	3530	4707
17	Meghalaya	5967	21734	81689	35	Puducherry	7732	16431	98585
18	Mizoram	1430	9281	58782		All India	5615	34641	172375

PHC: Primary Health Centres CHC: Community Health Centres

(1) and (2): In these two States, there was more shortfall in the number of health centres and therefore, there is more (average) population per existing CHC.



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