

MODULE 32 - MACHLA: A SERENE VILLAGE

OBJECTIVES

1. To bring sanitation to the forefront of the society and political discourse for development in rural India.
2. To develop open defecation free and clean village that will act as models for other to emulate.
3. To give incentive to panchyati raj to sustain the initiatives taken by them to eliminate the practice of open defecation from their respective geographical re by way to full sanitation.

SUMMARY

Machla – a serene and clean village, is the first village of the Indore district which has been awarded with the 'Nirmal Gram Award' in 2007. The hard work and diligence of the residents of this village is proves the age old saying - 'where there is a will, there is a way.' It is essential for a village to be clean and hygienic for its development and for the healthy life of its residents. Machla is a village which has established an important identity for itself through the tremendous will power coupled with unrelenting hard work by its residents, and it serves as a source of inspiration not only for other villages of Madhya Pradesh but also the entire country.

TRANSCRIPTION

Introduction

There is a famous quote by Menander "He who labors diligently need never despair; for all things are accomplished by diligence and labor."

In other words, a person who works hard does not need to ever lose hope; because everything can be achieved with hard work and labor.

Village Machla has proved the above dictum through the diligence and dedication of its residents and become an inspiration for other villages to be followed.

Machla, a village in the Indore district of Madhya Pradesh has become famous due to its beauty, cleanliness and the literacy and self reliance of its residents. The efforts and hard work of the villagers has given it a new and distinct identity. The development of any area is dependent on the extent of awareness of its residents and the amount of effort that they put in. But to create this awareness and to channelise the efforts in the right direction, literacy of its population is a must. Machla's sarpanch, Mr.Ashok Bamne, did not wait for any government

support or schemes, and took on the task of development of this village through his own initiative.

The Nirmal Gram award was given to us by Dr.A.P.J.Abdul Kalam. This was possible with the co-operation of all the villagers. Earlier, there was a lot of dirt and untidiness as there was no proper drainage. When the village people reported this to me, I inspired them to take up the work ourselves. I used to lead them in cleaning the village and they followed. We picked up brooms and swept the village and everybody joined in, including the women.

Training and Education

Efforts were made at a regional level focusing on education and as a result, every child is now able to obtain education up to the 8th standard at the village itself.

Apart from education, Machla has progressed in various other areas too. It was observed that the girls and women folk were not able to go out of the village for purpose of education and work. Keeping this in mind, a “Sarvodaya Shikshan Samiti” has been established in the village itself.

Various types of training is imparted to the girls and other villagers. For example – generation of ‘gobar gas’ (bio-gas), irrigation with the help of bullocks, operating motor pumps, charging batteries, operating flour mills and even weaving cloth with electric handloom machines.

The villagers are taught the technique of building durable and beautiful mud houses with soft clay and mud.

The village is illuminated with street lights that run on solar cells. The solar energy is stored through these cells and used for lighting up the streets at night.

Health and Hygiene

The use of solar cells indicates that modern techniques have also been used for the all round development of this village. Along with technological development, special attention has also been given to health and hygiene. There is an ‘Anganwadi’ for taking care of small children and pregnant women, which provides them with all the necessary medicines required for good health.

The women and child development issues us with medical kits. Facilities are also available for vaccinating children and pregnant women. A lady doctor visits regularly to provide necessary treatment and medicines.

The children have a regular health check up. They are also provided with two meals everyday. There is also the facility for weighing forest products.

Efforts have also been made to make Machla a clean, neat and tidy village. In order to make this village clean and hygienic, villagers have built toilets in every house. This not only important from the point of view of sanitation but also for the safety of women and children who are not required to go out of the house in the open, Apart from this, a doctor pays regular visits to the village for examining and treating patients on a daily basis. Such endeavours have helped this village to distance itself from diseases like malaria, cholera etc. At a little distance from the village, a centre for leprosy patients has been set up where they are accommodated. Doctors visit this centre from time to time for their treatment.

Due to all these initiatives and achievements in the areas of health, hygiene and sanitation, Machla was awarded with the prestigious 'Nirmal Gram' award in 2007, along with a cash award of Rupees one lakh. This award was bestowed by the then President of India, Dr,A.P.J.Abdul Kalam to the sarpanch of Machal, Shri Ashok Bamne. With this, Machal got the distinction of being the first village in the Indore district to have received this award.

Achivements and Machla

The Nirmal Gram Award is given to those villages which are completely clean and hygienic, where every child is aware that attending to natural calls in the open results in polluting the surroundings and environment and where every house has a toilet.

When we first came here, the village did not have any school. That is why we started a school for basic education with the help of Gandhi Memorial Fund. Later, when the government established a school, we surrendered it and now there is only a govt. middle school. This is how basic education facilities were developed. However, we have done something more. While children can get education up to the 8th standard in the village, there is no provision for further studies. It is also difficult for the government to set up a higher secondary school here due to lack of adequate land, space and population. Presently, the boys go out to nearby places for pursuing studies after the 8th standard, but it becomes difficult for the girls to do so. So we decided to provide the girls with facilities for continuing with their studies of 10th, 11th and 12th standards and also link this education with vocational training. For this, we approached the National Rural Resources Committee at Hyderabad and they approved a scheme of such education for this village and a new training school has been established. For the last 3 years, we have been advising students to appear for open school examinations instead of the regular school examinations as it has more options. This facilitates setting up of industry. That is the reason that we have provided this option to them. Our aim is to make education self reliant, so that by working for 3 to 4 hours, they are able to generate enough income which would take care of their fees and meals. We are thus trying to bring about self reliant education for girls after the 8th standard. For this, vocations like agricultural farming, rearing cows, embroidery and computer education are already in place. We have now

started training them in areas of health and hygiene so that they can also take up the work of providing health services.

India is an agro based economy. In spite of the advent and presence of various industries in the modern business environment, agriculture continues to be the dominant occupation. Hence, efforts have been made to develop the agricultural industry with the help of modern techniques and the mutual cooperation of the sarpanch and the village community.

The villagers have taken the initiative and done commendable work in the areas of digging borewells, preserving water for irrigation and other requirements and for keeping the water free from pollution. Consequently, they are no longer dependent on rainwater for irrigation of cultivated areas. Moreover, high quality seeds and manure are used for obtaining better yield of the crops. Thus, the fields of the village remain green throughout the year.

For the last 5 to 6 years we have started a new method of cultivation. Nowadays agriculture has been automated. Chemicals are being used. This has resulted in the problem of pollution. The yield of land and its fertility have decreased. So, for a considerable period, we have started organic farming at this centre. This enables cultivation without chemicals, fertilizers and pesticides. We are presently having about 2 ½ acres of land which is entirely being cultivated organically. The main organic crops are wheat and jawar, which are being cultivated without chemicals and pesticides.

Next, we addressed the problem of lack of energy sources. This was a critical issue in the village, so we were trying to explore ways to solve this problem. We came across the Chinese model of a new type of gobar gas plant, which is a 10 cubic meter plant that can be constructed with the help of a mould. It can be installed in a single day and starts functioning within 5 to 7 days. Thus, saving of time is its biggest advantage. Moreover, its fragmentation is fast. This system provides us with combustible gas, and a small generator of 600 watts has also been provided which supplies enough electricity to run gas geysers.

Conclusion

Considering the all round development of the village, one can very well see that along with natural beauty, it is equipped with the requisite modern facilities and comforts. The progressive residents of this village are now trying for the award of complete employment under the self employment schemes of the government. They want to enhance the prosperity and well being of their village even further. Accredited with the current modern and advanced status of the village, they have proved that 'where there is will, there is a way', and set an example for all other villages of the country to be followed.

GLOSSARY

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| 1. Serene | - | Calm, peaceful, and untroubled. |
| 2. Dictum | - | A short statement that expresses a general truth or principle. |

3. Diligence - Careful and persistent work or effort.
4. Channelize - To direct through a channel.
5. Bullocks - Used to express contempt, annoyance, or defiance, testicles.
6. Hygiene - Conditions or practices conducive to maintaining health and preventing disease, esp. through cleanliness: "poor standards of food hygiene".
7. Sanitation - Conditions relating to public health, esp. the provision of clean drinking water and adequate sewage disposal.
8. Endeavour - Attempt by employing effort.
9. Accredited - Officially recognized or authorized.

FAQs

1. Who can get the Nirmal Gram Puraskar?

Ans. The following can get the Nirmal Gram Puraskar

(a) Gram Panchayats, Blocks and Districts, which achieve 100% sanitation coverage in terms of

- 100% sanitation coverage of individual house holds,
- 100% school
- sanitation coverage
- free from open defecation and
- clean environment maintenance.

(b) Individuals and organizations, who have been the driving force for effecting full sanitation coverage in the respective geographical area.

2. What is the procedure for claiming the Nirmal Gram Puraskar?

Ans. The procedure for applying for the Nirmal Gram Puraskar is as follows:

- There are 2 application forms developed one for PRI and another for Individuals & Organizations. These application forms are available on www.ddws.nic.in, which can be downloaded. If required, the same can be translated in local language by the State Government or Project Implementing Agencies and circulated to all the eligible applicants.
- The applications should be duly scrutinized at the District Level and only on being fully satisfied with regard to the eligibility, it should be forwarded to the State Government.
- The State Government should make its own arrangement for the verification of the claims. There are two checklists for the two types of application forms, which are also hosted on www.ddws.nic.in. The checklist should be filled in and certified by the State Secretary in-charge of Rural Sanitation and forwarded to Department of Drinking Water Supply, Ministry of Rural Development.

3. What are the facilities to be provided at school level?

Ans. The following facilities can be provided at school level:

- Toilets & urinals
- Hand washing facilities

- Water supply facilities
- Healthy class rooms (lighting and ventilation) & play grounds
- Garbage pit & soakage pit
- Drainage system

4. What is the cost of school toilet construction? Can we exceed the cost or not?

Ans. The construction cost of single unit of school toilet has been kept at Rs. 20,000/-. If it is a co-ed school, two units can be constructed for boys and girls separately. The cost of the unit may vary depending upon the students' strength in a particular school. If the numbers of student are less, the cost will be low, and if more, the cost will be high, and may exceed the prescribed cost of Rs. 20,000/-. Thus, average cost may be calculated for planning and budgeting purposes, if necessary. If it further exceeds, fund resources from other means need to mobilized.

5. What are the provisions made in TSC for Anganwadi toilet construction?

Ans. All the Anganwadis are to be covered with baby friendly toilets by March 2006. Provision is made in TSC guidelines for construction of Anganwadi toilets in TSC districts. The funds will be shared in 60:30:10 ratio between Center, State and community. The maximum unit cost prescribed is Rs.5000 for Anganwadi toilet.

6. How can a toilet be constructed in Anganwadi housed in a private building?

Ans. For such Anganwadis, either of the following two options may be used;

- Owners of Anganwadis, housed in private buildings, may be asked to construct with their own funds and their rent may be increased to cover this extra investment
- Toilets may be constructed with GOI money and an amount may be deducted from the monthly rent to recover this investment

7. What are the purposes for which the incentive money can be utilised?

Ans. The incentive for Panchayat Raj Institutions can be used for improving and maintaining sanitation facilities in their respective areas. The focus should be on solid and liquid waste disposal and maintenance of the sanitation coverage achieved.