

Kunariya GP: Visionary good governance for children and all

Kunariya Gram Panchayat (population as per 2011 Census: total 2,533, females 1,246, males 1,287) of Bhuj Block is located in Kutch district in the state of Gujarat, India. The village is located at about 21 KM from Bhuj, the nearest town and the district headquarters. Children's population below 6 years includes a total of 594 (female 304, male 290). The population also includes 216 persons (110 females, 106 males) from the SC community and 49 persons (26 females, 23 males) from the ST community. Kunaria planned its own development by analysing its local needs and planning for the same through participatory manner, as seen in the picture. Adolescents' Justice Committee was formed, who participate regularly in Gram Sabha and contribute their inputs.



Governance: Sureshbhai is the Sarpanch of Kunariya village since January 2017. He took initiative to visit 14 good Gram Panchayats of different states for his own learning. In 2017, Sureshbhai conducted a total of 87 events of awareness in different sectors (education, health, water, sanitation etc.), which created active participation of people.

Total 7 to 8 Gram Sabhas are organised in a year with nearly 50% women participating. The Gram Panchayat Coordination Committee (GPCC) was formed with 23 members in 2018, and it is working actively. ANMs were given best practice awards, and such recognition contributes to good mutual cooperation among all members.

Education: Before he became Sarpanch, there were 41,000 midday meal attendance by children. By 2018-19, he raised it to 47,000 by conducting monthly reviews with schools. The link is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kiGHlyooqac>. Considering Covid-19 situation, the primary school started a YouTube channel for the teaching-learning process.

Public Health and Drinking Water: He focused on children and women's health to start with. From pregnancy to healthy delivery, proper tracking is ensured by supporting the Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM). He made the VHSNC active, resulting in achievement of 100% immunisation of children. To address long term challenges of drinking and irrigation water, village groundwater mapping was conducted with technical experts' support, and 6 maps were prepared. Coordination with 26 frontline workers from 39 line departments was ensured in 2018.

Agriculture/livelihood/forestry: Considering Covid-19 lockdown and related employment issues, MGNREGA work was started by benefiting 43 households, resulting in assured incomes, especially for women. Kunariya has 35 artisan families who make copper bells and 87 women doing embroidery work. Marketing support was provided to them for selling items during the lockdown time. Under MGNREGA, Kunariya GP has been planting 5,000 tree saplings every year since 2017. So far 63,000 trees have been planted and about 57,000 have grown up.

Kunariya GP also runs a blog at kunariyapanchayat.blogspot.com. It is active in terms of posting information of the events taking place in Kunariya.

Leadership: The Gram Panchayat Coordination Committee (GPCC) was formed with 23 members in 2018, and it is working actively. ANMs were given best practice awards, and such recognition contributes to good mutual cooperation among all members. Similarly, the School Management Committee (SMC) was also made active by monitoring attendance of children and teachers in schools. SMC meetings take place regularly. A local Covid assessment was conducted by forming a team of ASHA Workers, Anganwadi Workers, ANM and youth, resulting in identifying 87 vulnerable households, followed by support to them. Arrangement with IOC bank was made so that a bank representative came to the village once in a week to provide cash, so that the people do not have to go to Bhuj city.