

## Jethipura GP: Offers exemplary work on nutrition and education for children

Jethipura Gram Panchayat (population as per 2011 Census: total 1242, females 608, males 634) of Idar Block, consisting of one village is located in Sabarkantha district in the state of Gujarat, India. The village is located at about 15 KM from Idar (nearest town) and 28 KM from Himatnagar, the district headquarters. Children's population below 6 years includes 122 (female 67, male 55). The population includes 299 persons (135 females, 164 males) from the SC community.

Recipient of many awards, Jethipura is equipped with effective and efficient programs ranging from early childhood development to women's empowerment and to modern infrastructure such as CCTV camera and LCD street lights. It has received hundreds of visitors so far from multiple states of India. The village has a long history of unity among all the people from all the castes, and Gram Panchayat Sarpanch and members have always been selected in Gram Sabha - never elected. The people here believe that the election creates sub-groups within the village and affects unity.

**Governance:** The village has a total 32 committees, including SMC, VHSNC, Pani Samiti and others. All are active. There are 4 Gram Sabhas organised in a year with presence of more than 50 members in each. The GP has CCTV cameras with 24x7 surveillance. There is no crime in the village. The village has received several awards, including a national award amounting to Rs. 18 lakh. The awards include Smart Village Award for the year 2017-18 and Mata Yashoda Award (Rs. 21,000/-) for best Anganwadi centre in the state.

**Child Nutrition and Education:** There are two Anganwadi centres and no malnourished child in the whole village. The AWCs are also serving 13 pregnant women currently (2020). There has been a Primary School in the village since 1929 having 1st to 8th Standards. There are 137 pupils and 7 teachers. English is taught from 3rd Standard. For the 7th and 8th standards, there are smart classes with computers. There are 13 members in SMC, and its meeting is regular.



The village has had a library since pre-independence time, and is linked with the block level library. Membership fee is Rs. 400 per year for reading books, newsletters etc. The library also has a computer and the Internet with online resources with Rs. 2,400 membership fee per year. Therefore, it is running sustainably. The library provides support to the youth with resources to prepare for the competitive exams and employment.

**Drinking Water and Sanitation:** The GP has installed a water purification plant and every household has been covered with clean drinking water. There was a major challenge of solid waste management, as there was no common land. The GP identified a piece of agricultural land and leased it for solid waste deposit. The village now remains clean.

**Leadership:** Mr. Ahesanbhai, Sarpanch and Talati, Mr. Prakashbhai are working in synergy and in participation of all the people. The GP has income from house tax at Rs. 450 per house per year, and it is recovered regularly. Incomes of the GP include Rs. 1.5 lakh tax revenue per year, grants from the Finance Commission and government schemes, Rs. 6.00 lakh for Samras (state government prize for selection of the Sarpanch and Panchayat members with consensus of the whole village, without the need of the election).