

Daramli GP: Exemplary child-friendly and multiple development activities

Daramli Gram Panchayat (population as per 2011 Census: total 1,529, females 730, males 799) of Idar Block, consisting of one village is located in Sabarkantha district in the state of Gujarat, India. The village is located at about 10 KM from Idar (nearest town) and 23 KM from Himatnagar, the district headquarters. Children's population below 6 years includes a total of 171 (female 61, male 110). The population includes 55 persons (24 females, 31 males) from the SC community.

Recipient of many awards, Daramli 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 public announcement system. It has received hundreds of visitors so far from multiple states of India.

Governance: Mrs. Hetalben was elected as Sarpanch for the first time in her first term about 8 years ago. Then in the second term about 4 years ago, she was selected as Sarpanch unanimously by the villagers due to her good work. Under her leadership, 65 to 70 speakers and mikes (announcement system) have been installed in the village. Common announcements are made using the system and religious music is played during the mornings and evenings. The GP has installed CCTV cameras also on the streets.

Child Nutrition and Education: There are two Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) in the village. The Anganwadi No. 1 is a model AWC having 28 children of 7 months to 3 years of age and 23 children of 3-6 years of age; and the AWC no. 2 has 18 and 17 children respectively in the two separate age groups. There are 17 pregnant women and 11 lactating women served by both the AWCs. The AWCs also support the adolescent girls. There is only one child malnourished, whose weight at birth was only 1.5 KG, but now after 8 months, he is 5 KG. In schools, the GP has promoted children's banks. The school children deposit some amounts from their pocket money in these banks, and they can withdraw that money for use once a year for educational purposes.

Women Empowerment and Vocational Training: There are 22 self-help groups of women that are actively engaged in savings and credit activities. Vocational training (e.g. tailoring, beauty parlour, soap making etc.) have been imparted to 251 youth of the village, and 51 of them are now earning incomes.

Every year, 50 to 100 trees are planted in the village and 45 youth have been engaged to take care of the trees.

Leadership: To begin with as Sarpanch, Mrs. Hetalben had met with all the people of the village (children, women, elderly women, men and others) to understand their needs holistically. She and her husband took up many no cost and low cost activities to serve the people. Such activities include registration of youth who wish to donate blood and can be called when needed; *asthi* (mortal remains) bank that is collected throughout the year and dispersed once in a year in the Ganges at Haridwar or similar place of significance; and trees plantation. The GP has Rs. 770/- house tax per year that includes services of water supply, sanitation and electricity. One time tax of Rs. 5,000/- is levied for a new house construction in the GP. Professional tax from the shops, petrol pump, NGOs and other similar entities is Rs. 200 per month.