

Amardi GP: Sarpanch's efforts results in improved Anganwadi and School services for girls and boys

Amardi Gram Panchayat (population as per 2011 Census: total 1,213, females 639, males 574) of Bhachau Block is located in Kutch district in the state of Gujarat, India. The village is located at about 62 KM from Bhuj (district headquarters), and 20 KM from Bhachau, the nearest town and the block headquarters. Children's population below 6 years includes a total of 142 (female 67, male 75). The population also includes 183 persons (93 females, 90 males) from the SC community and 6 persons (3 females, 3 males) from the ST community.

Governance: Amardi has undergone transformation under the leadership of Mrs. is the Sarpanch. She and her husband (retired employee of the forest department) are very active in village development. They have installed 16 CCTV cameras in 2019 with a cost of Rs. 2.5 lakh. It helps to monitor the village streets in terms of cleanliness.

Child Nutrition and Education: In Anganwadi centre, they did not have an Anganwadi Worker, and the centre was run only by Anganwadi Helper providing food, but with no pre-school education activities. As an immediate step, they arranged a temporary Anganwadi Worker at a cost of Rs. 1,500 per month. Then the Panchayat members actively liaised with the block and district level, and ensured appointment of a regular Anganwadi Worker. In the education sector, they started online tuitions during school closure due to Covid-19 challenge. In school, Bal Sabha was organised and children's committees were formed for supervision of midday meal, WASH facilities and children's regular attendance. The children's committees presented the issues in the GP. The issues included a loosely hanging electric pole near the school (posing risk), repairs required in classrooms and vacancy of a teacher. These issues were addressed by the GP.

Women empowerment: The GP identified 9 widow women and supported them in applications for government scheme benefits.

Sanitation: The GP has constructed separate toilets for girls and boys in school at a cost of Rs. 1.90 lakh. Clean piped water has also been provided. The GP installed a waste water drainage system in the village.

The GP carried out tree plantation and arranged for regular watering.

Leadership: Mrs. _____ and her husband, Mr. _____, actively worked to improve the situation of the village. UNNATI, an Ahmedabad based NGO with field office in Bhachau, has been providing support to the Amardi Gram Panchayat since _____.