

Changing Rural India – A Case Study (With special Reference to Village-Balargaon, District-Dhamtari, Chhattisgarh, INDIA)

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Abstract:

The Participation of women in Balargaon Village Panchayat is high, with 2276 women actively working in different capacities throughout the area. There are 5451 people in this panchyat, which comprises five villages. Some of the credit for this openness and responsibility with the fact that the Sarpanch is a Smt. BHUVNESHWARI NETAM was elected sarpanch.

Balargaon panchayat has recruited six people from the village to work as regular employees, including a Lekhpal, Computer operator, Kanji mohar, Nal-Jal operator, Sweeper and Safai Karamchari.

The panchayat initiated moves to a drainage system, removing sewage and filth off the roadside. Roads were constructed over mud and marshes and water storage system set up and regularly cleaned for better health and hygiene. Earlier, villagers would bathe and defecate in the open, now people use public latrines and bathrooms (Samuhik shaucha-layas) built by Panchayats. Some of them will be inaugurated shortly. These initiatives have been taken especially, for the women, so that they do not suffer indignity.

A Scavenger has been appointed, on the Panchayat's payroll, to ensure that public facilities stay clean. A Complaint Register is maintained for feedback from people. Also, dustbins have been placed at public areas to propagate cleanliness and control epidemics and filth. The Panchayat also runs schemes to enable children with different

abilities to access education and financial assistance. There are nine such children being supported by the Panchayat as on date.

Key words: rural India, Balargaon, village Panchyat

INTRODUCTION:-

The Nagri development block is situated at a distance of 23 km. The approach road for the village is pucca and soon after entering the village we will find beautiful houses in a row on both sides of the road which comprises houses made out of mud and cement both. This Panchayat has a clean and beautiful village. Every ward has its own identity since the Panchayat has installed permanent boards identifying each ward with its name. After reaching 2.5 km from the approach road we find pucca and wall decorating buildings of Panchayat community building school, sub-post-office, ration shops, sub-health centre and anganwadi. The unique feature of this place is that the villagers participate in all labor activities in construction of Government buildings besides other for other construction works. That is why a sense of ownership is observed even for the infrastructures of Panchayat. Even today one will find participation in labour activities from every family for education, health and religious activities (except NREGA). Belargaon of different castes like-kalar, Kewat, Nai, Mahaar, Sahu, Brahmin, Kanadara and Yadav live in this village. This village has a tradition of disposal of disputes and control over social activities in accordance with the tribal culture. The village development committee comprises members of Gram Sabha, of Ace-bearers of Panchayat and senior and respected residents from the year 1995-96 the committee is maintaining documents systematically and carrying out its responsibilities. The main documents are procedural registers of Gram Sabha, i.e. application register, its seal and statements of income and expenditures. Smt. BHUVNESHWARI NETAM Sarpanch is

Chairman of the village Development Committee. It was told that there is provision for penalizing with a fine if an act of rudeness is committed within the village development Panchayat area. It is important to note that this provision was unanimously passed in the village meeting.

GENERAL INFORMATION OF THE VILLAGE

1.	Name of Village Panchyat	Balargaon
2.	Development Block	Nagri
3.	District	Dhamtri
4.	Foundation of Village	1962
5.	Total Wards Member	20
6.	Total Voters	3672
7.	Total Population	6910
8.	Tribal population	65%
9.	Total Area	923.62 ha.
10.	Depending Village	3 (Banora, Dompadar, Haridhi)
11.	Distance form block	25 km
12.	Distance form district	95km
13.	Self Revenue (2014-15)	53 lak.
14.	Self Panchyat skim	5
15.	Employees of panchyat	10

SOCIAL JUSTICE SYSTEM IN BALARGAON:-

Due to strong social justice system in **Balargaon**, the villagers never stepped into a police station on a single occasion during last 50 years. Any matter investigated with community participation and cases are disposed off by settlement on the relevant subjects or awarding punishment in the public meetings. After Independence only in one case the second party did not agree with the decision and went to file a case in the police station. It is interesting to note that this social justice system of this village was formulated by members of all castes and sections together and they respectfully follow them continuously. The committee meets once in every month to discuss Anatoly and the important matters are discussed such as quarrels in a household or with the neighbor, disputes on

agriculture, encroachments, disputes related to male-females, unbecoming behavior, implementation of government schemes, suggestions on supervision and religious, social and political subjects. If the meeting declares a person guilty then one will be punished on the basis of economic conditions. The amount received as penalty/donations/contributions for the committee has been utilized for construction of boundary wall of Sheetla Mandir, and to celebrate religious festivals, construction of Mandir building for social activities Subsequent to construction of the Mandir building, all the meetings are being conducted there whereas earlier the venue was an open place near Shitla Chowra.

Procedure for convening a meeting- the applicant distressed person has to remit H 50 towards registration fee. Then the Kotwar with the permission of the Chairman informs all the persons in the village about the meeting. A mega mike and uniform has been provided to him for the purpose. In the past, the day of the meeting was celebrated as a festival in the village (full leave to the rural families for their agricultural and domestic works) but in the changing times and loss of employment, now the meetings are conducted between 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. Chairman of the meeting is unanimously elected by the villagers for a life term, Axed and committee comprises of Ace-bearers as Upsarpanch, secretary, treasurer and members.

Most of the family members of the village participate in the meeting and issues is raised by the applicant before the gathering Simultaneously, the Panchayat duly convenes village meeting to discuss on Axed agenda form district and State level, thereon the village development committee and Panchayat work together on various issues, for example many bene Aciaries have been included in different schemes.

LIVELIHOOD SYSTEM IN BALARGAON:-

The Gram Panchayat earlier (1994-95) out of 30 acer ceiling land distributed 10 acres to 10 landless families for agricultural purpose under the 20-point Programme. Subsequently, in 2001-2002 allotted 10 acres of land to 5 landless families for agricultural purposes, at present no family in the Panchayat is in the landless category. The 05 landless families who were allotted 10 acres of land by the Panchayat in 2001-2002 are now formed into group and the agriculture department allocated power tiller. During 2012-13, the Gram Sabha undisputedly permitted eight occupant tribal families under the Forest Rites Act and issued allocation letter for the forest land. As per the action plan of the Panchayat Balargaon, in view of the health point of view for the senior citizens, 45 families were distributed mosquito nets. During the rainy season mosquitoes spread Malaria and other diseases and more number of senior citizens and children suffer, hence the Panchayat took the decision to provide them mosquito nets. The Panchayat also proposed that the able families should buy the nets from market and use them. Such an understanding was repeated and positive response was seen.

PARTICIPATIVE PLANNING SYSTEM IN BALARGAON:-

In the context of decentralized planning for development, BALARGAON received opportunity to present experimental example in 2009. Balargaon was selected to present an example of village planning based on community participation in the Nagri Development block by the Panchayat.

In the initial stage a meeting of secretary and sarpanch was conducted to discuss planning procedure and relevant subjects, constituting technical help group, identified Action of volunteers and their capacity and decided future strategy for the programs. In the entire process the sarpanch played an

important role by ensuring help from the representatives of Panchayat in planning and full participation of villagers and Axed accountability of the Upsarpanch and other panchas including for self.

Along with prominent persons of the village, sarpanch visited different areas and residential pockets to and out the size etc. which helped in preparing a map. They also visited Aelds, river, canals, hills and jungles within the boundary of village to analyze integration of natural resources and requirement through planning besides contacting organizations of weaker sections, special able persons, ladies, self-help groups, kisan clubs and other communities to ensure their participation. Basic and secondary information on sources/technical aspect in the village was condoled. PAR was utilized for social, resource activities, physical visits and climate analysis. In order to get a clean picture of life at the family level of people, information was collected in respect of education, health, employment, livelihood and other important issues for which surver was conducted at family level and contacts made. Discussions were held at various levels with groups of males and females in every residential area and ward.

The information received for analysis has been computerized by the Panchayat of Ace. The role played by the technical support group is important in making the plan. Accordingly, meetings of supportive technical groups were conducts jointly and at area-wise level. Various matters were taken up such as discussions of condition of village, analysis of options to eradicate problems and Taxation of period, preparing budget and arranging resources, allocation of community responsibility for implementation, following the planning and identify Action of supervisory units, listing out works relating to planning and preparation of drought work plan. While presenting it to village meeting constitution of technical group and training was taken up. In order to implement the process of planning and technical support at Gram Panchayat level by

including of Acer Of Panchayat level department, representatives of community and standing committee of Panchayat, youth association participated in two-day workshop to enable them for increasing capacity. Different aspects of implementation, process and role of the group were the subjects in the above training. The technical support team analyzed important issues of the present situation of village and formulated a development vision.

<p>Education</p> <p>“Due to awareness of parents and community participation children of all categories of the village are receiving quality education”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensured quality in pre-primary education. • 100% participation of members of school management committee. • Children’s admission in schools and regular attendance is 100%. • Appropriate number of teachers are available. • Arrangements made in the village for English teaching. • Availability of all essential facilities and cordial atmosphere maintained in the village. 	<p>Health</p> <p>“Essential health services are reaching out to all sections”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% institutional deliveries. • Use of clean drinking water. • 100% families use toilets. • Pre-delivery checks, 100% vaccination, distribution of iron tablets is ensured. • There are no deaths of mother and new born in the village. • No effect of malaria in the village. • Family planning medicines are used. • The residents are aware about health.
<p>Nutrition</p> <p>“All children in the village are receiving good nutrition and related advice reaching out to all sections-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% attendance in anganwadi centers. • Ration is available on time. • Nutrition per centage increased from 58 to 100. • Every guardian has understood the importance of quality of weight, vaccination, nutrition food. • House contact is complete on priority and qualitative. • By activating the self-help group and attaching small scale activities self dependency is 	<p>Livelihood</p> <p>“Due to commercial activities and increase in agricultural production the community is getting resources for livelihood.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suitable irrigation resources are available to the farmers. • There is an increase in resources for irrigation. • Irrigation techniques are being used. • Farmers collectively manage fertilizers, seeds and taxes. • No migration from the village. • There is an increase in sericulture, animal rearing and other businesses.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> created. Uniform is Axed for children. 	
<p>Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proper drainage system. Village is well connected with all important roads. All categories of families have houses to live. A community building is available for all important departments and community needs. 	<p>Energy</p> <p>The community is aware of the alternate energy resources and it is being used.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is an increase in the use of cow dung gas. Solar energy is used. Smokeless stove is used. Sufficient electricity is available for Agric purposes.
<p>Citizen Right</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The community has knowledge of civil right and they're being ensured. Women participation is there in construction process. Rights of special capable persons are being ensured. Cooperation and guidance of senior citizen is being received. Families maintain important documents such as birth certificate of children etc. 	

In the work plan, construction and effort to increase the capacities is continuously being supported by the village youths, representatives of panchayat, employs, self-help groups, workers of anganwadi, ANM and large participation of women. One their suggestions the Gram Panchayat carried out different activities for the plans which created hop in the community and slowly participation increased. With the participation of people for micro level planning the status of resources based on all the seven important sectors in different PRA's and deficiencies were also noted and for the future results targets have been Axed and different outlines were drawn for all the seven stages such as-energy, type of land, place of toilet, water for drinking and irrigation purposes, mode of transportation, different resources of the village such as-water, jungle, land, sand, murum the problem of migration etc. were also identify and included.

Due to such an analysis which came to the knowledge of the villager for the Arts time they knew the ground reality about education, health, livelihood and infrastructure. Subsequent to this information in 2013-14 technical support

team conducted its meeting at Gram Panchayat level once in two months and discussed in detail about work plan and budget. It was for the Arts time in the Panchayat that in connection with preparation of planning, meeting of village level secretariat were conducted regularly.

After discussion by technical support team, the village plan was Analyzed by the villagers. The plan was presented by a team member before the village meeting. He presented area-wise present situation and the plan. Based on the facts presented, the members of the Gram Sabha discussed and approved the work plan on 14-4-2013 in a special village meeting.

Micro level planning and management and implementation of available resources in the Gram Panchayat-

Education	<p>The special feature of the implementation was that Gram Panchayat completed 76% task as per the plan 7% outside the plan. It is important to note that during the planning, community divided activities for 5 years as per the priority. The Gram Panchayat laid priority by the community in the plan.</p> <p>The focus was laid in implementation on nutrition, health and education by the Gram Panchayat in the planning. The Balargaon Gram panchayat has achieved level of 60% for education, health and nutrition, activities were participated by the people whereas activities relating to livelihood were relied on external resources, the achievement was less.</p>
Health	
Nutrition	
Livelihood	
Infrastructure	
Energy	
Citizen Right	

The Panchayat has taken following important decisions for implementation, management and other activities. Facility of street lights ha been provided to the villagers and for maintenance and implementation of the facility a person has been appointed and a salary of H1500 per months is paid to him by the Gram Panchayat.

In order to implement tap-water operations of the Panchayat it was given to a pump man, appointed by Panchayat who looked after opening and closing of water supply, Volvos and minor repairs. He is paid a salary of H2500 per month by the Gram Panchayat.

The taxes levied by the Gram Panchayat for Electricity, Water Etc., are collected by the tax collector appointed by the village to ensure timely recovery, Gram Panchayat tax amount and implementation of other activities are carried out. The Gram Panchayat pays a salary of H3500 per month to the tax collector.

The Gram Panchyat has proposed to appoint a sanitation friend for school to ensure maintenance of school toilets and cleaning so that a clean and tidy environment in the school premises is prevailed. The Gram Panchayat appointed staff for smooth operation of services likewise a computer unit has also been installed in the Panchayat of Ace to maintain accounts and other works and efforts are being made to engage the employment of assistant and secretary of the Panchayat to operate the computer. Hence through a Public announcement applications were invited from trained computer operator in the village. At present efforts are on in this direction for properly storing the documents and arranging things in order through the computer.

In the area of education, a committee on education, health and social welfare has been set up under the Chhattisgarh Panchayati Raj Act by the committee and Dy. Sarpanch of the village has been appointed as the chairman of the committee and three members (ward heads) also included. They were trained in the functioning of committee and about their responsibilities. The committee members jointly supervise and extend cooperation in the activities of school, anganwadi and health centre.

In order to have organized bazaar and to strengthen, the Gram Panchayat constructed Ave bazaar sheds by spending H 10 lakh. Now the bazaar is well settled, the residents are able

to easily get essential commodities in the village. This was possible because of joint efforts of Gram Panchayat and common participation. This Gram Panchayat is actively operating its duties/activities and also is an innovative effort towards social binding by honouring people.

The Balargaon Gram Panchayat has been awarded as a National Gour- Gram Panchayat awarded by MoPR Govt. of India in 2013. The State Govt. has been awarded as a Gour Gram Shab & Clean village. Through the analysis of micro plan team toilets have be built in All households of the village, also it was found that All families use toilets on regular basis. There was a need to create awareness and it was repeatedly emphasized in the meetings of Gram Panchayat. The Gram Panchayat representative motivated family head to go repair/rebuild their toilets. In this process a door-to-door campaign was conducted and an oath paper was obtained from head of the family. As a result, now all the families use toilets on regular basis.

There are live examples of implementation and construction scheme of Gram Panchayat of BALARGAON through public decisions and community participation.

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