















Stories of Change

Aspirational

Districts and Blocks









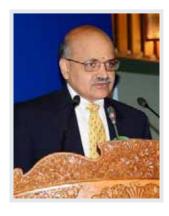
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FOREWORD



India's development journey is at a defining moment. As we move with purpose towards the goal of Viksit Bharat @2047, ensuring that every citizen, especially those in the remotest and most underserved regions, has access to essential public services is a national imperative. It is in this spirit that the Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) was launched in 2018, and later expanded to the Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP) in 2023.

Through a laser-sharp focus on outcome-based governance, real-time monitoring, and grassroots innovation, these programmes have redefined public service delivery in some of India's most challenging geographies. At the core of this transformation are the District Leaders, catalysts of change who, with the support of State and Central systems, have worked relentlessly to convert intent into impact.

The Best Practices Compendium being presented at the national seminar is a reflection of this commitment to change. It captures field-tested solutions that have successfully driven progress in areas ranging from health and education to livelihoods and infrastructure. Each of these practices represent the energy and ingenuity of district administrations who have not just implemented schemes, but adapted and improved them for real results.

Over the past year, initiatives like the Sampoornata Abhiyan have brought new urgency and structure to the idea of saturation, by aligning local efforts with national priorities and providing a platform for focused, measurable progress. These efforts, supported by NITI Aayog in collaboration with States and Ministries, are helping build a governance ecosystem that is responsive, data-driven, and accountable.

As the apex policy think tank of the Government of India, NITI Aayog is proud to anchor programmes that are at the frontier of governance reform. The Aspirational Districts and Blocks Programmes offer not just a model for backward regions, but a blueprint for inclusive and participative development across the country.

I congratulate all the district teams whose contributions are documented in this volume. Your work is enabling us to move from silos to synergy, from delivery to saturation, and from aspirations to achievements. Let this collection inspire others to build upon these models, so that every District, every Block, and every citizen becomes a stakeholder in India's journey to prosperity.

B.V.R. Subrahmanyam

Chief Executive Officer, NITI Aayog



FOREWORD



Over the past years, the Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP)/Aspirational Blocks Programme has proven to be a transformative governance initiative, embodying the spirit of cooperative federalism and development rooted in local context. Anchored in the principles of convergence, collaboration, and competition, ADP/ABP has enabled District and Block administrations to break silos, deploy innovative strategies, and deliver last-mile services effectively.

This Best Practices Compendium is a celebration of the innovation, dedication, and ground-level leadership demonstrated by our District Magistrates and field functionaries across the Aspirational Districts and Blocks. Each practice included in this volume is more than just a success story - it is a testament to what is possible when policy meets passion, and when grassroots governance is empowered to drive meaningful change.

The compendium draws from this evolving context. The best practices documented herein reflect adaptive leadership, inter-departmental coordination, behavioural insight, and an unwavering commitment to citizen-centric delivery. From leveraging local knowledge systems to introducing data-backed microplanning, Districts and Blocks have pioneered models worthy of emulation.

I commend all District Collectors, District and Block teams, and partner organisations whose contributions form the backbone of this compilation. Your work exemplifies the belief that development is most impactful when it is owned locally and implemented with accountability.

Let this compendium serve as a source of ideas, encouragement, and inspiration - as districts and blocks continue to learn from one another and together build a more inclusive, equitable, and developed Bharat.

Rohit Kumar

Additional Secretary and Mission Director, Aspirational Districts Programme & Aspirational Blocks Programme, NITI Aayog



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Our commitment to transforming India's most underdeveloped districts through the Aspirational Districts and Blocks Programme (ADP/ABP) stems from the conviction that inclusive growth must reach every corner of the country. This initiative recognises that the path to national development begins at the grassroots, within the districts and blocks where governance directly touches citizens' lives.

India's diversity manifests not only across states but sharply between districts and blocks. Understanding these localised realities has been critical to designing impactful interventions. The Aspirational Districts and Blocks have embraced this challenge by adopting data-driven governance and contextualised innovations. The practices documented in this compendium are testament to the ingenuity of district teams and their commitment to delivering last-mile development outcomes. They also offer actionable insights for replication and policy innovation.

We express our heartfelt gratitude to the Planning Departments of all State and Union Territory Governments, whose collaboration and responsiveness have been instrumental in enabling this journey. We extend our sincere appreciation to the District Collectors, Block Officers, Aspirational Block Fellows, and local administrative teams who have worked tirelessly to conceptualise, implement, and share these best practices. We also thank our development partners for their continued support and technical expertise in building scalable and sustainable models.

We are especially thankful to the teams at NITI Aayog who coordinated this documentation effort, and to all those who contributed to capturing and curating these stories of hope and transformation.

We are sincerely grateful to **Shri Suman Bery**, Vice Chairperson, NITI Aayog, for his strategic guidance; **Shri B.V.R. Subrahmanyam**, Chief Executive Officer, NITI Aayog, for his leadership in steering the Aspirational Districts and Blocks Programme forward; and **Shri Rohit Kumar**, Additional Secretary and Mission Director, Aspirational Districts and Blocks Programme, NITI Aayog, for his leadership and encouragement in bringing together this compendium of impactful governance.



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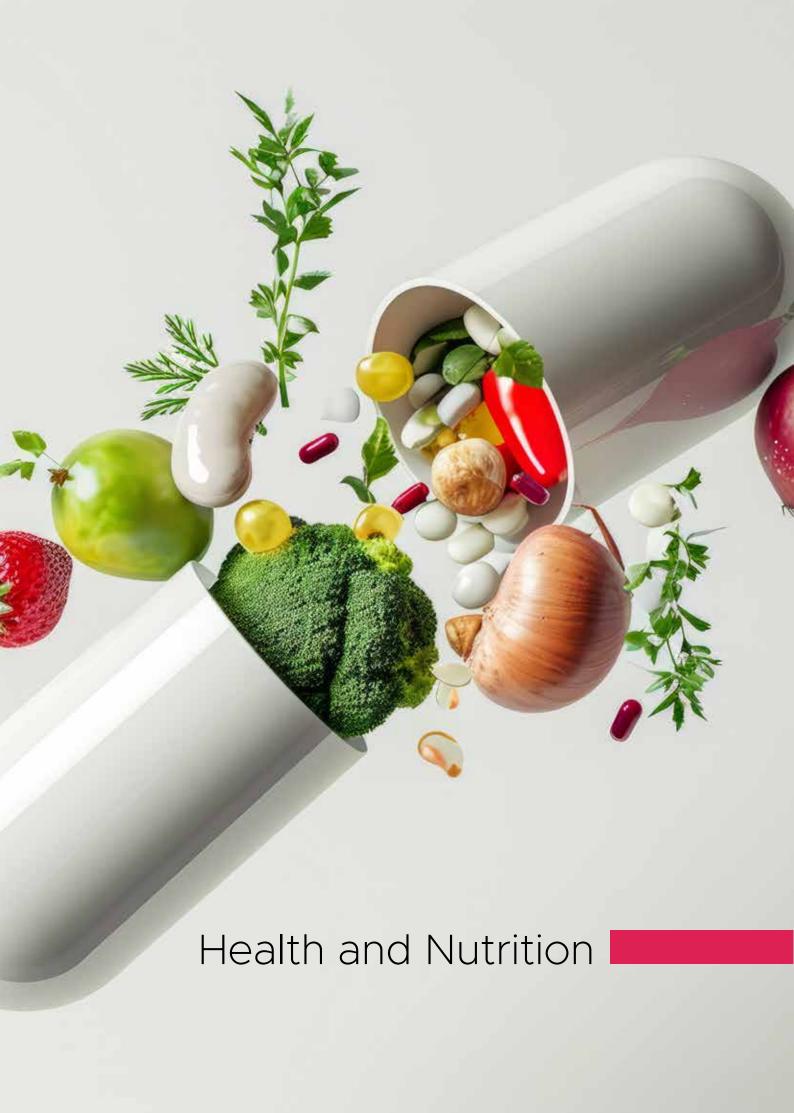
About the Aspirational Districts and Aspirational Blocks Programme

he Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP), launched in January 2018 by NITI Aayog, represents a paradigm shift in India's approach to governance and development. With a focus on convergence, collaboration, and competition, the three core tenets of the programme, ADP aims to transform 112 of India's most underdeveloped districts by improving key indicators across Health & Nutrition, Education, Agriculture & Water Resources, Financial Inclusion, and Basic Infrastructure. By leveraging real-time data through the Champions of Change portal and fostering healthy competition among districts, the programme drives inclusive growth from the grassroots.

Building on the success of ADP, the Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP) was launched in 2023 to deepen the impact further at the sub-district level. Targeting 500 blocks across 329 districts in 27 States and 4 Union Territories, including at least one block from each Aspirational District, ABP focuses on improving governance and service delivery in hard-to-reach, backward areas. The programme supports the development of Block Development Strategies, promotes capacity building of local officials, and encourages community participation. ABP integrates digital tools, real-time monitoring, and locally contextualized planning to address structural challenges and improve saturation of basic services.

Both programmes are designed not just to deliver services but to ensure that the most marginalised populations meaningfully access them. The transformational change envisioned by ADP and ABP is driven by a collaborative model, engaging State and district administrations, civil society, and development partners, to make India's development truly equitable and people-centric.

This compendium showcases innovative practices emerging from these districts and blocks. Each practice reflects the spirit of local leadership, context-driven innovation, and community participation, and serves as a model for replication across the country.



"Siksha aur Swasthya Aangan" – Convergence-Led ECCE and Maternal Health Model

District: Sheikhpura

Block: Sheikhopur Sarai

State: **Bihar**

BACKGROUND / PROBLEM STATEMENT

Sheikhpura district faced compounded challenges in early childhood development and maternal health. High rates of severe stunting (18.07%), underweight children (2.9%), and suboptimal ANC registration (92.35%) were recorded in early 2025. Operational gaps in Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) - including poor infrastructure, low hygiene standards, and limited convergence across departments-hampered delivery. Literacy and numeracy levels among 3-6-year-old children remained critically low: only 23% could recognize letters, and just 11% could read basic words. Numeracy and motor skills were equally weak, with only 7% of children able to perform single-digit addition and just 36% demonstrating pencil-holding ability. Hygiene issues persisted in 82% of AWCs. These indicators called for an integrated model to address maternal health and Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) readiness simultaneously.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

1. "Siksha aur Swasthya Aangan" Model (March-November 2025):

A convergence initiative led by the District Administration with technical support from the Piramal Foundation to integrate health, nutrition, and ECCE services.

2. Third-Party Baseline Assessment:

Conducted by SAI College volunteers to generate unbiased, evidence-based data on child development and maternal health indicators.

3. Capacity Building:

Regular orientation and joint sessions for ASHAs, ANMs, AWWs, and student volunteers to ensure aligned service delivery.

4. Integrated ECCE Curriculum:

Introduction of multilingual content, motor skills training, and activity-based learning toolkits for 3–6-year-olds.

5. Infrastructure & Cleanliness Monitoring:

Weekly reviews, VHSND-linked health planning, and hygiene audits at AWCs.

6. Tracking of High-Risk Children:

Real-time monitoring of SAM/MAM children using the Poshan Tracker, with 100% referral maintained monthly.

7. Community Engagement:

Active participation of SHGs, mothers, and CNRPs in awareness campaigns and mobilization drives.

IMPACT

The intervention yielded significant improvements in both maternal and child health indicators. Institutional delivery rates rose to 35.51% by June 2025. Severe stunting decreased from 18.07% to 7.59% within four months. SAM referral rates were consistently maintained at 100%. ECCE readiness also improved, with targeted Anganwadi Centres reporting 95% child attendance. Pregnant women began receiving timely ANC registration and counselling support. The ASHA and AWW workforce was strengthened through ongoing orientation, leading to better service convergence. Foundational literacy, numeracy, and motor skills among ECCE-age children improved due to structured, multilingual learning and activity-based engagement.

LESSONS LEARNT

Converging health, nutrition, and education efforts at the grassroots level proved effective in improving multi-sectoral outcomes. Engaging community volunteers, particularly college students, filled critical gaps in field implementation. Regular data-driven tracking enhanced accountability and enabled timely mid-course corrections. Cleanliness, learning infrastructure, and early childhood stimulation emerged as equally important as nutritional support. The model demonstrated that even in resource-constrained environments, strategic convergence and community ownership can drive impactful change in early childhood and maternal health.





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Better Public Health Care Service Delivery by Equipping ASHA **Workers with Cycles in Khagaria District**

District: Khagaria

Bihar State:

BACKGROUND / PROBLEM STATEMENT

Khagaria district faces geographic and climatic challenges such as extreme heat, cold, and frequent flooding, which hamper the mobility of ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activist) workers. With 1,539 ASHAs covering a daily radius of 4-5 km on foot, their capacity to deliver timely maternal and child healthcare was severely constrained. Many areas lack pucca roads or public transport, further affecting last-mile health service delivery. Despite being key agents for antenatal care, immunization, and newborn health, ASHAs faced reduced outreach efficiency, particularly during adverse weather conditions.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

1. Bicycle Distribution Initiative (Phase 1: August 2024):

To address mobility issues, the District Magistrate initiated the distribution of specially designed bicycles to 700 ASHA workers. Each bicycle included a box for carrying medicines and basic medical equipment. This enabled ASHAs to increase visit frequency, cover larger areas efficiently, and respond better to local healthcare needs.

2. Phase 2 Coverage:

Plans were laid out to cover the remaining ASHA workforce in the second phase, ensuring full district-wide coverage.

3. Empowerment & Resilience Building:

The initiative aimed to equip ASHAs to function efficiently regardless of terrain or weather. By enhancing their physical reach, the intervention improved their capacity to act as dependable public health ambassadors and ensured continuity in service delivery.

IMPACT

The intervention led to significant improvements in healthcare delivery metrics across the district. Antenatal check-up registrations within the first trimester increased from 91.96% in August 2024 to 95% by June 2025. Overall antenatal registrations rose from 88.16% to 98%. Full immunization coverage for children improved from 94.61% to 100%, and Home-Based Newborn Care (HBNC) coverage increased from 74.3% to 91%. These gains were achieved despite geographical and infrastructural limitations, owing to improved ASHA mobility and outreach.

LESSONS LEARNT

Providing ASHAs with bicycles significantly improved their field mobility, leading to more timely and frequent household visits. This not only increased their efficiency but also enhanced trust and rapport with beneficiaries. ASHAs became more visible and active agents of public health delivery, especially in hard-to-reach areas. The intervention strengthened last-mile connectivity and contributed to improved maternal and child health outcomes across the district. Ultimately, the initiative demonstrated that simple, context-specific logistics support can transform community health outcomes and reinforce grassroots healthcare delivery systems.





Achieving NQAS Certification in 7 Health Centres – Lahpatra PHC and Parri, Singitana, Latori, Katinda, Salka, Puhputra SHCs

District: Surguja

Block: Lakhanpur

State: Chhattisgarh

BACKGROUND / PROBLEM STATEMENT

Lakhanpur, an Aspirational Block in Surguja district, had 35 health facilities, none of which were certified under the National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS). This reflected significant gaps in infrastructure, quality of service delivery, staff preparedness, and a lack of structured evaluations. As part of the Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP), the district administration prioritized quality improvement in public health facilities through a focused certification strategy.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

1. Selection Based on Gap Analysis:

Seven facilities—Lahpatra PHC, and Parri, Singitana, Latori, Katinda, Salka, and Puhputra SHCs—were shortlisted for NQAS certification based on feasibility and readiness.

2. Capacity Building & Training:

Continuous training workshops were organized at the block and district levels for healthcare staff, focusing on NQAS standards, record-keeping, infection control, and patient management.

3. Monitoring & Mentorship:

Regular review meetings and on-ground technical support were provided by district officials and Central Evaluation Teams to guide progress.

4. Stakeholder Coordination:

The initiative involved strong coordination among ABP Fellows, Block Programme Managers (BPMs), and evaluation authorities.

5. Community Health Worker Engagement:

Mitanins and frontline health workers played a crucial role in mobilizing patients, maintaining community trust, and adhering to standard protocols.

IMPACT

The certification rate for health centres in Lakhanpur block increased from 0% to 20% within a year. The targeted seven facilities successfully met NQAS benchmarks following external evaluations by Central Evaluation Teams in September 2024 and again in April–May 2025. Healthcare staff, including CHOs, ANMs, and sanitation personnel, received direct training and support, leading to improved service standards. Patient experience and community trust in public health institutions saw

measurable improvements. The initiative not only standardized service delivery but also established a replicable quality assurance model for other blocks in the district.

LESSONS LEARNT

Strategic stakeholder engagement and inter-departmental coordination are essential for achieving and sustaining quality certification in public health facilities. Regular capacity building and mentorship significantly enhance institutional readiness. Focused, targeted interventions can lead to scalable quality improvements, even in resource-constrained settings. Involvement of community-level workers like Mitanins strengthens programme outreach and builds patient confidence in public health systems.







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Mobile Medical Outreach for Vulnerable Border **Populations in Tulail**

District: Bandipora

Tulail Block:

State: Jammu & Kashmir

BACKGROUND / PROBLEM STATEMENT

Tulail block, located in the high-altitude Gurez valley near the Line of Control (LoC), comprises sparsely populated, remote villages facing extreme climatic isolation and infrastructural gaps. With poor road connectivity and winter closures lasting up to six months, residents were historically cut off from public healthcare services. Most villages lacked sub-centres or trained personnel. Emergency cases required hourslong travel—often on foot or mule—to reach a PHC or district hospital. The lack of accessible services disproportionately affected the elderly, pregnant women, and children, leading to undiagnosed chronic diseases, low institutional delivery rates, poor immunization coverage, and heightened maternal and child health risks.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

To bridge the healthcare delivery gap, the Health Department-alongside the Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP) team and block administration—launched a weekly mobile medical outreach initiative. The intervention included:

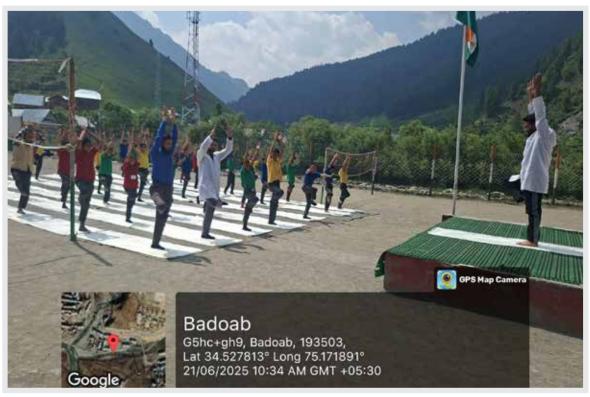
- 1. Deployment of mobile medical teams consisting of doctors, ANMs, pharmacists, and lab technicians to remote habitations on a rotational basis.
- 2. Weekly alignment of camps with Village Health and Nutrition Days (VHNDs) to ensure outreach integration.
 - On-site services provided.
 - Screening for hypertension, diabetes, anaemia, and seasonal infections.
 - Antenatal care, immunization, child growth monitoring, and minor treatments.
- 3. Health awareness on hygiene, menstrual health, nutrition, and communicable disease prevention.
- 4. Emergency referrals coordinated to the nearest PHC or district hospital.
- 5. Follow-up support enabled through ASHAs and Anganwadi Workers.

IMPACT

The initiative substantially improved healthcare access and outcomes in Tulail's remote hamlets. Over 6,000 individuals were screened for NCDs, anaemia, and common ailments. One high-risk pregnancy and seven emergency cases were identified and successfully referred to higher facilities. The block achieved 100% institutional deliveries. All villages received at least one health visit per month, establishing a regular service delivery rhythm. Maternal health coverage improved through targeted antenatal care and immunizations. The integration of NCD screening helped detect chronic conditions among the elderly. Community health awareness rose significantly through consistent education sessions held during mobile camps.

LESSONS LEARNT

Decentralized, terrain-sensitive planning was key to tailoring services to Tulail's isolated geography. Use of digital platforms like ASHA Soft and ANMOL improved tracking of beneficiaries and service accountability. Close coordination with the Indian Army and local authorities helped overcome logistical and seasonal access barriers. Most importantly, the initiative demonstrated that multi-stakeholder collaboration—combined with empowered frontline workers—can deliver quality healthcare to even the most geographically excluded populations.





Project BLOOM

District: Lunglei (Block: Lungsen)

State: **Mizoram**

BACKGROUND / PROBLEM STATEMENT

Lungsen, a remote tribal block in Mizoram, continues to experience sub-optimal maternal and child health outcomes due to rugged terrain, high transportation costs, and health workforce shortages. Despite ongoing government schemes, key indicators such as institutional deliveries, antenatal care (ANC) registration, and supplementary nutrition coverage have remained below national and state averages.

As of March 2025, only 53.3% of pregnant women were registered for ANC in the first trimester, institutional delivery coverage stood at 59.18%, and only 49.4% of children were receiving regular nutrition under ICDS. Limited awareness, inaccessible facilities, and service delivery gaps further impeded progress.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

Project BLOOM was launched as a time-bound, community-led initiative to improve maternal and child health indicators in the Lungsen Block. Key interventions included:

- 1. SafeWombWheel Transport: On-call transport support for pregnant women to access institutional delivery services.
- 2. Maternity Waiting Rooms: Establishment of 12 safe houses near health centres to accommodate expectant mothers from remote areas.
- 3. House-to-House Surveys: Doorstep screening for early ANC registration and identification of high-risk pregnancies and malnourished children.
- 4. BLOOM Gift Baskets: Distributed to incentivize ANC registration within the first trimester.
- 5. Incentives for ASHAs and AWWs: Linked to early identification, registration, and follow-up.
- 6. Awareness Drives: Community-based IEC and mobilisation activities to promote institutional delivery and nutrition.
- 7. Training and Convergence: Capacity-building sessions for frontline workers and coordination with ICDS, Health, and Panchayati Raj departments to strengthen delivery systems.

IMPACT

Project BLOOM has improved access and outcomes in maternal and child health. Eight institutional deliveries were facilitated through the SafeWombWheel service, and 12 maternity waiting rooms were established to address last-mile barriers. Sixteen BLOOM Gift Baskets were distributed to promote timely ANC registration, which rose to 111, including 71 within the first trimester. Awareness campaigns and targeted community engagement strengthened risk detection and maternal care access, while convergence efforts supported improved immunization and nutrition coverage.

LESSONS LEARNT

On-call transportation like SafeWombWheel significantly boosts institutional delivery rates. Waiting rooms near health centres mitigate last-mile access barriers, especially in hilly terrain. Gift-based incentives encourage early ANC registration. House-to-house surveys improve detection of high-risk pregnancies and SAM/MAM cases. Inter-departmental convergence enhances outreach efficiency, while community-led implementation fosters awareness, ownership, and accountability.









Healthy Lunglei NCD Screening

District: Lunglei

Block: Lakhanpur

State: Mizoram

BACKGROUND / PROBLEM STATEMENT

In light of increasing non-communicable disease (NCD) cases in remote Lungsen Block of Lunglei district, the **Healthy Lunglei NCD Screening Initiative** was launched in November 2024. Supported under CSR funding and implemented with the involvement of local NGOs and community-based groups, the initiative focused on early detection and awareness of hypertension and diabetes in underserved populations.

As of November 2024, only 17.02% of adults in the block had been screened for hypertension, and 16.74% for diabetes. Poor awareness, limited diagnostic access, and lack of preventive care mechanisms contributed to undiagnosed and unmanaged NCDs, particularly among the elderly and economically vulnerable.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

1. NCD Screening during MGNREGA Gram Sabhas:

Leveraged high attendance during Gram Sabhas to conduct BP and blood sugar checks on-site, increasing access and participation.

2. Mobile Health Booths:

Set up at village locations to provide on-the-spot screening services in remote areas.

3. Community Mobilization:

Awareness campaigns and outreach were led by ASHAs, SHGs, YMA (Young Mizo Association), NYK (Nehru Yuva Kendra), NSS, and church groups to enhance trust and turnout.

4. SHG Engagement:

Used SHG platforms for both screening and awareness generation, empowering women as community health advocates.

5. Real-Time Documentation & IEC Campaigns:

Promoted preventive health behavior and enabled timely follow-ups through digital records and focused messaging on lifestyle changes.

6. Weather-Adaptive Planning:

Despite monsoon disruptions, 12 villages were covered in Phase 1, with the remainder scheduled post-monsoon.

IMPACT

Over 500 adults were screened in the first phase, achieving complete saturation of the target population. Early identification of undiagnosed NCD cases allowed for timely medical referrals and health counselling. Vulnerable and hard-to-reach populations gained access to preventive care, while ASHAs gained field-level experience in community screenings. SHGs acted as grassroots health influencers, driving awareness and follow-up. Integration with Gram Sabhas enabled scale, and real-time data collection improved the quality of care and planning. The campaign successfully met Aspirational Block KPIs and established a low-cost, community-driven screening model suitable for replication.

LESSONS LEARNT

Integration with existing platforms like Gram Sabhas ensured large-scale reach and participation. Mobilization through trusted community organizations-built credibility and trust. Flexible planning to accommodate weather conditions ensured service continuity. SHGs proved effective in amplifying health awareness at the grassroots. Real-time documentation supported targeted follow-up, while convergence of departments and CSR funding created a sustainable and scalable rural health intervention.









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Swasth Maa, Swasth Shishu – Strengthening ANC and Postnatal Care in Tribal Rajasthan

District: Udaipur

Block: **Kherwara**

State: Rajasthan

BACKGROUND / PROBLEM STATEMENT

Kherwara, a predominantly tribal block in Udaipur district, struggled with high maternal and infant mortality due to delayed antenatal care (ANC), prevalence of home deliveries, and lack of structured postnatal care. In 2023, only 60% of pregnant women were registered for ANC. Structural challenges—such as scattered remote villages, poor transport, low literacy (54%), and under-equipped health facilities further impeded access to quality maternal and neonatal care. To address this, the administration launched a two-fold initiative: boosting early ANC registration and setting up Rajasthan's first Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) Lounge for low birth weight (LBW) newborns.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

Under the "Swasth Maa, Swasth Shishu" initiative, a comprehensive model of ANCto-PNC care was implemented with the following components:

1. Home-based Identification & Counselling:

Swasthya Karmis were trained to conduct door-to-door pregnancy identification, early ANC registration within 12 weeks, and family counselling.

2. Establishment of KMC Lounge at CHC Kherwara:

Rajasthan's first dedicated KMC Lounge was set up to provide monitored, respectful postnatal care for LBW infants (1800-2500g), reducing the need for referrals to district hospitals.

3. Continuum of Care Approach:

ANC, safe institutional delivery, exclusive breastfeeding, and KMC were provided as part of a single maternal-child health pathway.

4. Use of IEC Tools and Real-Time Tracking:

Flipbooks, wall visuals, and digital tracking were used to reinforce awareness and follow up with beneficiaries.

5. Convergence Model:

Close collaboration among the Health Department, ICDS, and Panchayati Raj institutions to ensure supply chain support, community engagement, and sustained monitoring.

IMPACT

The initiative created a strong maternal-infant health ecosystem in a remote tribal setting. ANC registration improved from 60% in 2023 to 90% in 2025. Thousands of tribal women were linked to timely ANC, institutional deliveries increased, and exclusive breastfeeding rates improved. The KMC Lounge enabled block-level care for LBW babies, reducing unnecessary referrals and improving neonatal outcomes. Health workers were upskilled in ANC, neonatal care, and tracking, while community trust in public healthcare services improved. Maternal dignity, postnatal monitoring, and facility-based newborn care were visibly enhanced.

LESSONS LEARNT

Home-based outreach and counselling are critical to improving ANC registration and early care-seeking behavior. Early identification and tracking of pregnancies improve maternal and neonatal outcomes. Low-cost KMC lounges significantly increase the survival of LBW babies and reduce burden on tertiary facilities. Cross-departmental convergence—especially with ICDS and Panchayats—strengthens implementation. Locally recruited and culturally sensitive health workers are key to sustainability and impact in tribal settings.













Saving Lives, Nourishing Futures: Nuagaon's **Holistic Health Strategy**

District: Sundargarh

Block: Nuagaon

State: Odisha

BACKGROUND / PROBLEM STATEMENT

Nuagaon block, located in Odisha's tribal heartland, historically faced poor maternal and child health indicators marked by high mortality rates and malnutrition. Institutional healthcare access was limited due to remote terrain, under-resourced facilities, and low awareness. In 2023, institutional deliveries were below 75%, and Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) prevalence exceeded 2%. Public health centres were understaffed, Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) were often non-functional, and poor transport infrastructure further restricted timely service delivery. These factors highlighted the need for a multi-sectoral, convergence-based approach under the Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP).

KEY INTERVENTIONS

Nuagaon adopted a comprehensive, multi-pronged strategy to strengthen last-mile healthcare and nutrition services:

1. Mobile Medical Units and Ambulances:

Deployed under District Mineral Foundation (DMF) funding to ensure outreach in remote habitations.

2. Manpower Strengthening:

Contractual hiring of doctors, nurses, and paramedics to address vacancies in PHCs and CHCs.

3. Aanganwadi Centre Revamp:

AWCs were equipped with toilets, drinking water, and improved nutrition services to enhance child health and maternal outreach.

4. Nutrition Promotion:

Millet-based meals were introduced alongside intensified home visits and counseling to improve dietary diversity.

5. Digital Monitoring & Feedback:

E-tracking of service delivery and feedback through helplines ensured realtime governance and accountability.

6. Convergence & IEC Campaigns:

Coordination among Health, ICDS, PRI, and community groups ensured holistic planning and community mobilization.

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IMPACT

As of June 2025, the block recorded 100% institutional deliveries and 95% ANC registrations within the first trimester. SAM rates declined significantly, with near-zero cases reported. Over 1 lakh tribal residents benefited from improved healthcare and nutrition services. Pregnant women accessed better ANC and referral transport; children benefited from clean, functional AWCs and improved nutrition. Public trust in the health system increased due to visible improvements in service delivery, infrastructure, and staff availability.

LESSONS LEARNT

Behaviour change communication and community involvement are essential for service uptake, especially in tribal areas. Inter-departmental convergence accelerates impact and reduces duplications. Functional infrastructure, not just creation, is critical to success. Digital tracking and helpline-based feedback systems strengthen responsiveness. Nuagaon's experience demonstrates that low-cost, locally adapted interventions—when combined with community participation and digital governance—can transform public health outcomes in underserved regions.



Towards Elimination: TB-Free Gram Panchayats in Pusad Block

District: Yavatmal

Block: Pusad

State: Maharashtra

BACKGROUND / PROBLEM STATEMENT

Despite ongoing efforts under the National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP), Pusad block continued to face challenges such as delayed identification of TB cases, irregular treatment adherence, and the persistence of stigma around the disease. Lack of community participation and inadequate referral mechanisms further complicated TB surveillance and management. There was an urgent need for a grassroots-driven approach to proactively identify cases and eliminate TB in high-burden Gram Panchayats (GPs).

KEY INTERVENTIONS

- **1. Identification of High-Burden Gram Panchayats** using historical TB data to target 33 GPs for intervention.
- **2. Regular Sample Collection** through mobile camps and PHC-based sputum testing drives.
- 3. Door-to-Door Active Case Finding (ACF) campaigns organized twice a year.
- **4. ASHAs and ANMs Mobilized** and incentivized for early referrals and ensuring DOTS adherence.
- **5. Convergence with Local Stakeholders** such as PRI members and health committees to conduct awareness drives and reduce stigma.
- **6. Nutritional and Counselling Support** provided to TB patients for improved morale and treatment outcomes.
- **7. TB-Free Certification** granted to Gram Panchayats that reported zero active cases for six consecutive months.

IMPACT

The intervention directly benefited over 20,000 residents across 33 Gram Panchayats. Active case finding, enhanced community surveillance, and support services led to significant improvements in early detection, treatment completion, and stigma reduction. The initiative fostered a sense of local ownership and pride as villages achieved TB-Free status. Strengthened health worker networks and improved referrals further ensured timely care and better patient outcomes.

LESSONS LEARNT

Declaring villages TB-Free proved to be a powerful motivator for community engagement and accountability. The initiative highlighted the pivotal role of ASHAs and frontline health workers in early detection and follow-up. IEC campaigns and

grassroots mobilization helped break the stigma associated with TB, increasing self-reporting and voluntary testing. The model is replicable across other high TB burden blocks with limited resources but strong local coordination.



TB Awareness Rally by School Children and Anganwadi Tai at Mohn Izam Gram Panchayat



TB Awareness Rally by School Children and Anganwadi Tai at Moha Izara Gram Panchayat



TB Awareness Rally by School Children and Anganwadi Tai at Bansi Gram Panchayat



TB Awareness Rally by School Children and Anganwadi Tai at Bansi Gram Panchayat

Installation of screening machine to detect breast cancer

District: Fatehpur

State: Uttar Pradesh

BACKGROUND / PROBLEM STATEMENT

Breast cancer remains one of the leading causes of mortality among women, especially due to late detection. In rural and semi-urban areas, routine screening is rare due to lack of awareness, cost barriers, fear of invasive procedures, and social stigma. In CHC Bindki, there was no accessible, affordable, or non-invasive breast screening mechanism for women above 30 years. To address this gap and promote early detection of malignancy, the NIRAMAI Thermal Breast Screening Machine was introduced to provide free, non-invasive, and private breast cancer screening to all eligible women.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

- 1. Completely Free and Non-Invasive: No cost is involved for the patient; the machine uses thermal imaging, eliminating the need for painful or intrusive procedures.
- **2. Ensures Full Privacy and Comfort**: The screening is conducted in a secure environment with no physical touch or exposure.
- **3. Early Detection through AI Technology**: NIRAMAI uses Artificial Intelligence to analyze thermal images for detecting abnormal breast tissue.
- **4. Integrated Referral Pathway**: Suspected cases are promptly referred for FNAC (Fine Needle Aspiration Cytology) and mammography for confirmation and further management.

IMPACT

The deployment of the NIRAMAI Thermal Breast Screening Machine has provided women aged 30+ in Bindki with access to safe, painless, and stigma-free screening. Out of 201 screened women, 31 were identified as potential cases and referred for further investigation, leading to the detection of 6 confirmed cases of breast malignancy. The initiative has successfully enabled early diagnosis, allowed timely treatment and improved patient outcomes. Community trust in CHC services has increased as a result of this patient-friendly and technology-driven intervention.

LESSON LEARNT

Introducing accessible, non-invasive, and free screening methods significantly improves participation in early cancer detection programs. Community awareness and sensitization are critical—motivating women above 30 years of age to come forward for screening remains a priority. The initiative highlights the potential of Al-based health technologies in bridging diagnostic gaps in rural public health systems. Privacy,

comfort, and affordability are key drivers for acceptance of preventive healthcare services among women.



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Health campaign to improve ANC registration, TB and Hypertension screening under Sampoornata Abhiyaan.

District: Udaipur

Block: Kherwara

State: Rajasthan

BACKGROUND / PROBLEM STATEMENT

Kherwara block, part of the Aspirational Blocks Programme, is a tribal-dominated, remote region in Udaipur district of Rajasthan. It struggles with low literacy, poor health infrastructure, and deep-rooted cultural barriers that hinder access to timely healthcare. Maternal health and non-communicable diseases (NCDs) like hypertension and diabetes remained largely undiagnosed due to late antenatal care (ANC) registration, low awareness, and poor health-seeking behaviour. In July-September 2024, the Sampoornata Abhiyan was launched with the objective of achieving 100% **KPI coverage** for early ANC registration (within 12 weeks), blood pressure screening, and diabetes screening under the Aspirational Block framework.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

1. ANC Khojo Abhiyan:

Special campaign to identify and register all pregnant women in their first trimester across the block.

2. Swasth Dharohar Shivir:

NCD screening camps were conducted in two phases at each Gram Panchayat to screen for hypertension and diabetes.

3. Village-Level Micro-Planning:

ASHAs and ANMs identified eligible individuals through household-level microplanning and updated digital trackers daily.

4. Outreach and Counselling Drives:

Door-to-door counselling, along with health camps at Anganwadi Centres and sub-health centres, ensured access even in remote hamlets.

5. Localized IEC Material:

Awareness messages on early ANC registration and NCD risks were disseminated in local dialects to ensure community understanding and participation.

6. Incentive-Based Motivation:

Frontline workers were incentivized to achieve targets on time-bound registration and complete screening saturation.

IMPACT

The Sampoornata Abhiyan had a direct and measurable impact on health service delivery in Kherwara. Hundreds of tribal women were registered for ANC in their first trimester, receiving timely antenatal care, essential tests, and early intervention support. For many middle-aged and elderly individuals, this was the first time they were screened for hypertension and diabetes. Institutional linkages strengthened as more women were referred for early ANC check-ups and treatment of high-risk conditions. The campaign improved trust in government health systems, particularly in hard-to-reach areas, and enhanced coordination between the Health and ICDS departments at the grassroots level.

KEY LEARNINGS AND TAKEAWAYS

The success of the Sampoornata Abhiyan demonstrated that **target saturation is achievable in a short period** through intensive planning and convergence. Early identification of pregnancies is only possible with strong grassroots rapport and active field teams. Tribal communities respond well to localized and personalized health messaging. A combined approach—**outreach**, **diagnostics**, **and counselling**—is effective for NCD screening in underserved areas. Real-time digital monitoring and feedback mechanisms ensured accountability and progress tracking. Most importantly, the campaign highlighted that even remote tribal blocks can achieve national health targets through convergence, leadership, and structured last-mile delivery.







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Saturation of Health-related indicators under Sampoornata Abhiyaan

District: Udaipur

Block: **Kherwara**

State: Rajasthan

BACKGROUND / PROBLEM STATEMENT

Sampoornata Abhiyaan was launched in Kherwara block to raise awareness about government welfare schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), POSHAN Abhiyaan, and Mukhyamantri Mahila Matritva Poshan Yojana. Despite these schemes being in place, a lack of awareness and understanding at the community level prevented many eligible beneficiaries from availing services—leading to persistent issues of malnutrition, stunting, and anaemia among women and children. A targeted, convergent, and participatory approach was needed to address these critical health and nutrition gaps.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

1. Block-Level Awareness Rally:

Mass community engagement was promoted through Jan Andolan strategy, involving local leaders, grassroots workers, and civil society organisations to generate awareness about women and child development schemes.

2. Training and Capacity Building of Anganwadi Workers:

A total of 140 Anganwadi Workers were trained on effective delivery of ICDS services such as supplementary nutrition, immunization, IFA and Vitamin A supplementation, health check-ups, referral services, preschool education, and convergence with WASH services.

3. Improved Service Access and Convergence:

Services were aligned with POSHAN Abhiyaan's convergence approach, ensuring that Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) became focal points for integrated service delivery across nutrition, health, sanitation, and education.

IMPACT

The campaign directly benefited children aged 0-6 years and pregnant and lactating mothers, leading to measurable improvements in nutritional outcomes such as reduction in stunting, wasting, and anaemia. Increased awareness led to nearuniversal uptake of supplementary nutrition services and improved monitoring of child growth. Infrastructure at Anganwadi Centres also improved, with higher functionality of basic amenities like toilets and clean drinking water. The convergence approach and community mobilisation helped bridge the knowledge gap, leading to sustained behavioural change and greater trust in public systems.

LESSONS LEARNT

The success of Sampoornata Abhiyaan highlights the value of comprehensive IEC material, community-led mobilisation, and frontline staff training. Convergent planning and participation of political and community leaders ensured better outreach and accountability. Real-time data use for monitoring and adaptive feedback loops allowed course correction and drove impact. The initiative stands out as a replicable, data-driven model for improving maternal and child nutrition in rural blocks under the Aspirational District and Block Programme.





"Reaching the Unreachable" - Mobile & Boat Camps for **Hypertension & Diabetes Screening**

District: Cachar

Block: Lakhipur

State: **Assam**

BACKGROUND / PROBLEM STATEMENT

Lakhipur block in Assam faces severe geographical barriers, with many villages located in remote, riverine, or flood-prone regions. Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), especially Hypertension and Diabetes, often go undetected due to limited access to healthcare. As of March 2023, only 6.30% of the target population was screened for Hypertension and 3.27% for Diabetes. A significant portion of high-risk individuals remained untested due to poor connectivity and access issues.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

1. Mobile & Boat-Based Screening Camps:

The Lakhipur Health Department launched an intensive outreach drive using MMUs (Mobile Medical Units) and boat camps to cover hard-to-reach villages between April 2023 and December 2024.

2. Targeted Camp Deployment:

A total of 1,176 dedicated NCD screening camps were conducted, ensuring full population coverage.

3. Health Worker Facilitation:

ASHAs, ANMs, and other frontline health workers used boats and MMUs to reach flood-prone hamlets, ensuring inclusivity.

4. Screening Tools & Monitoring:

On-the-spot testing for Blood Pressure and Blood Sugar was ensured with real-time reporting and follow-up.

IMPACT

The intervention achieved 100% saturation in screening for both Hypertension and Diabetes across the target population of 25,308 individuals by March 2025. Vulnerable populations, including the elderly and those in isolated villages, were successfully reached through MMU and boat-based delivery mechanisms. This ensured timely identification and follow-up for at-risk individuals, enhancing access to healthcare in otherwise inaccessible regions. The model also strengthened local health systems by mobilizing community health workers and ensuring last-mile service delivery.

LESSONS LEARNT

The model proved that mobile and boat-based strategies can effectively overcome geographical and infrastructural barriers in healthcare delivery. When equipped with training, tools, and administrative support, local health workers can facilitate high-impact interventions even in the most remote regions. The integration of field-level planning, community engagement, and real-time monitoring enabled complete coverage in a short period. This convergence-led, saturation-based approach provides a scalable model for other aspirational blocks with similar challenges, especially in flood-prone and tribal areas.



The National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS)

District: Amethi

Block: Shukul Bazar

State: Uttar Pradesh

BACKGROUND / PROBLEM STATEMENT

When Shukul Bazar was selected as an Aspirational Block, its NQAS certification rate stood at zero, while the state average was 1.79%. A structured quality initiative was launched in 2023 to close this gap and bring the block's facilities in line with state-level benchmarks. In rural and remote settings like Shukul Bazar, NQAS implementation remained inconsistent due to infrastructural constraints, limited trained personnel, poor data systems, low awareness of quality protocols, and delayed fund disbursements. These issues hindered intended improvements in service delivery, patient safety, and community trust at the gram panchayat level.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

1. Block-Level Quality Mission:

The block launched a mission-mode quality drive in 2023 to sensitise and capacitate health facility staff on NQAS protocols and checklist adherence.

2. On-Site Capacity Building:

Regular mentoring and handholding support were provided by district and state mentors. Facility-level staff received on-the-job training on patient care standards, documentation, and infection control.

3. Facility-Specific Quality Improvement Plans:

Each facility developed its own action plan based on internal gap assessments, which were monitored monthly for progress.

4. Performance Monitoring Dashboards:

Digital and physical dashboards were used to track improvements across departments like OPD, IPD, maternity, diagnostics, and sanitation.

5. Incentivisation and Peer Learning:

Facilities showing significant progress were rewarded and made resource centres for peer learning visits within the block.

IMPACT

The initiative resulted in a remarkable transformation in the quality of public health service delivery in Shukul Bazar block. From 0% in 2023, the block achieved measurable progress, with multiple facilities achieving NQAS certification by mid-2025. Health workers demonstrated increased ownership and awareness of quality protocols, while patient satisfaction visibly improved due to enhanced hygiene, better queue management, and patient feedback systems. Data documentation, reporting, and



use of checklists became institutionalised. The structured gap analysis and monitoring approach not only ensured compliance but also fostered a culture of continuous quality improvement across facilities.

LESSONS LEARNT

The experience from Shukul Bazar shows that NQAS implementation is feasible even in rural and resource-constrained settings, provided there is targeted support, structured training, and strong monitoring. A bottom-up planning approach involving facility staff ensured ownership and sustainability. Decentralised gap assessments and facility-level quality plans allowed for tailored interventions. District and state mentoring support played a key role in institutionalising change. The success reinforces the importance of convergence between administrative leadership and facility-level implementation in scaling quality assurance protocols under the Aspirational Blocks Programme.





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National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS) **Certified Facilities**

District: Etah

Block: Awagarh

State: **Uttar Pradesh**

BACKGROUND / PROBLEM STATEMENT

Block Awagarh in Etah district has long grappled with persistent health challenges due to limited access to health information, socio-economic backwardness, and widespread illiteracy. These factors led to delayed care-seeking and worsening health conditions. The baseline status for NQAS-certified facilities in the block was extremely low, necessitating targeted interventions. Strengthening Health & Wellness Centres (HWCs) and sub-centres to meet NQAS standards became essential to improve service delivery and address systemic healthcare gaps at the grassroots level.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

1. Upgradation of Sub-Centres:

Sub-centres were strengthened with modern infrastructure, medical equipment. and trained health personnel to meet NQAS protocols.

2. Health Literacy and Community Outreach:

Regular awareness campaigns, school health sessions, and meetings with local influencers and SHGs were conducted to educate communities on disease symptoms and available services.

3. Stakeholder Convergence:

Weekly and monthly review meetings were held with CHOs, ANMs, and ASHAs to align efforts with Aspirational Block health indicators.

4. Women's Literacy & Empowerment Drives:

Literacy programs focused on empowering women and improving healthseeking behaviour in rural households.

5. Mobile Unit and Facility Access Enhancement:

Transport to nearby PHCs and mobile medical services was facilitated to reduce barriers to timely care.

6. Visibility & Behaviour Change Campaigns:

IEC materials, wall paintings, and miking campaigns promoted proactive use of HWC services and built community trust.

IMPACT

The concerted efforts led to widespread awareness about the services available at Health & Wellness Centres, prompting increased footfall and service uptake. As a

result, 11 HWCs were authenticated by the state-level quality team, and 4 HWCs—Rejua, Sakra, Pawah, and Tikathar—received NQAS certification from the central team. These certified centres became fully equipped to provide a comprehensive range of health services, ensuring quality care at the last mile. The initiative was recognised at the national level and succeeded due to the collaborative leadership of the District Magistrate, CDO, and CMO, supported by the tireless work of the health workforce in Awagarh.

LESSONS LEARNT

The transformation in Awagarh Block underscores the importance of effective planning, convergence, and consistent grassroots engagement. Empowering frontline health workers, conducting targeted IEC campaigns, and holding regular stakeholder reviews ensured momentum and sustainability. Improving health literacy and building infrastructure hand-in-hand proved critical in achieving NQAS compliance. The initiative exemplifies how focused, multi-stakeholder strategies under the Aspirational Blocks Programme can drive significant improvements in rural healthcare delivery.







Strengthening Institutional Deliveries through Focused Interventions

District: Farrukhabad

Block: Rajepur

State: Uttar Pradesh

BACKGROUND / PROBLEM STATEMENT

Rajepur block, under the Aspirational Blocks Programme, had a low rate of institutional deliveries due to social taboos, lack of awareness, and poor accessibility. Pregnant women often opted for home deliveries, increasing maternal and neonatal health risks. Weak early ANC registration, limited transport availability, and absence of family support further hindered timely institutional care. A focused intervention was needed to promote safe, facility-based deliveries and improve maternal health indicators.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

1. Identification and Early Registration of Pregnant Women:

ANMs and ASHAs conducted house-to-house surveys to ensure timely ANC registration, especially in the first trimester.

2. Intensive IEC and Awareness Campaigns:

Localised awareness sessions, wall paintings, and community meetings promoted the importance of institutional delivery and maternal health services.

3. Transport Support and Referral Linkages:

Ambulance services and Janani Express Yojana were activated and publicised to ensure timely transportation for delivery.

4. Birth Preparedness and Family Counselling:

Pregnant women and their families were counselled on delivery planning, danger signs, and the benefits of institutional care.

5. Monitoring and Worker Incentivisation:

Daily tracking of ANC and delivery data was undertaken; ASHAs and ANMs were incentivised for each institutional delivery facilitated.

IMPACT

The coordinated efforts led to a substantial rise in institutional deliveries in Rajepur block. Pregnant women received timely antenatal care, referral support, and safe delivery facilities. The campaign reduced maternal and neonatal risks and improved the trust of the community in public health institutions. Family involvement and behaviour change communication played a key role in shifting preference from home to institutional deliveries.

LESSONS LEARNT

Improving institutional deliveries requires not just service availability, but strong field-level engagement, family counselling, and logistical support. The Rajepur model showed that **timely registration, community trust-building, and effective monitoring** can create significant health improvements even in rural, underserved areas. A convergence-driven and data-backed approach ensured measurable outcomes within a short timeframe.



Institutional Delivery

District: Dima Hasao

Block: New Sangbar Development Block

State: Assam

BACKGROUND / PROBLEM STATEMENT

The Health and Family Welfare Department under New Sangbar Development Block in Dima Hasao district, Assam, oversees 10 health institutions including SCs, PHCs, CHCs, and Urban Health Centres. The block is served by a team comprising Block Data Manager, Project Manager, CHOs, ANMs, ASHAs, and the Medical Officer in-charge of Gunjung BPHC. Despite their efforts, institutional delivery remains a challenge due to multiple infrastructure and behavioral barriers. Poor road connectivity, limited ambulance services, absence of critical facilities such as OTs, blood banks, and C-section delivery units, and a shortage of doctors hinder access to safe institutional delivery. Additionally, health data for referrals outside the district are not captured in the HMIS system, creating data gaps. On the behavioral front, limited awareness of government schemes, low education levels, financial hardship, and lack of antenatal care knowledge further reduce the uptake of institutional deliveries, especially in remote rural pockets.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

1. Amai Scheme (December 2023):

A local scheme launched by the Chief Executive Member, Dima Hasao Autonomous Council, to financially support pregnant women from BPL families. "Amai" means "mother" in the Dimasa dialect.

2. Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY):

Cash assistance provided to women delivering in health institutions under this national scheme to encourage institutional births.

3. Installation of USG Machine (March 2025):

A new ultrasound facility was installed at Umrangso CHC with CSR funding to improve prenatal diagnostic services and institutional delivery rates.

4. SBA Training for ANMs:

Skill Birth Attendant training enabled ANMs to serve in hard-to-reach areas with safe delivery competencies.

5. Birth Waiting Home at Umrangso CHC:

Facility established for pregnant women from remote areas to stay prior to their expected delivery date. Free food and lodging for both mother and one attendant are provided.

6. Referral Transport Support:

Ambulance services and referral transport from home to facility are ensured for expectant mothers.

7. Pregnant Women Tracking System:

ANMs maintain a tracking system to identify pregnancies in advance and ensure timely transport and institutional delivery.

8. CHO Deployment in High Home Delivery Areas:

Due to CHO shortage, focused deployment was made in sub-centres with higher home delivery rates—specifically Lobang, 3 KM, and New Sangbar SCs.

IMPACT

The interventions led to a measurable increase in institutional deliveries and early antenatal care registrations across New Sangbar Block since July 2024. Pregnant women in remote areas are now more likely to access health facilities for safe delivery. The availability of ultrasound services, referral transport, skilled birth attendants, and the Birth Waiting Home have significantly improved trust in the health system. The tracking and support mechanisms introduced by the health department ensured timely delivery preparedness, especially for women from underprivileged and hard-to-reach backgrounds. Community engagement and support under schemes like JSY and Amai further incentivized institutional deliveries. Overall, the rural population now experiences better access, awareness, and outcomes related to maternal health services.

LESSONS LEARNT

Upgradation of health infrastructure and the deployment of trained personnel have had a direct impact on institutional delivery rates. Financial support schemes like JSY and Amai, coupled with accessible transport and maternity waiting homes, played a critical role in encouraging rural women to opt for institutional deliveries. However, increased awareness through health education camps remains essential to promote ANC, institutional births, and the utilization of government schemes. Continued community-level outreach and convergence with line departments will be key to sustaining these improvements and ensuring safe motherhood for all women in the block.





District: Pulwama

Block: Achgoza

State: Jammu & Kashmir

BACKGROUND / PROBLEM STATEMENT

Aspirational Block Achgoza, part of the Government of India's Aspirational Districts Programme, has seen focused efforts to improve health indicators, particularly maternal and child health and immunization coverage. Despite these efforts, the block continued to face gaps due to the shortage of specialists, inadequate diagnostic services, and low uptake of family planning methods. Strengthening service availability at PHCs and ensuring tribal community inclusion emerged as key priorities to address these challenges.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

1. Engagement of Tribal ASHAs:

4Tribal ASHAs were engaged in remote tribal hamlets of Achgoza to enhance outreach and ensure early antenatal care (ANC) registration.

2. Medical Camps for Pregnant and Lactating Women:

Special camps were conducted to provide ANC, PNC, and immunization services directly in the communities, particularly targeting pregnant and lactating women.

3. Outreach Immunization Sessions:

Left-out and drop-out children were tracked and covered through systematic outreach immunization drives across hard-to-reach areas.

4. Strengthening Institutional Delivery Systems:

Pregnant women were mobilized for timely institutional deliveries through awareness and linkage support provided by ASHAs and ANMs.

IMPACT

The engagement of Tribal ASHAs significantly improved maternal health outcomes in the block by ensuring early registration of pregnancies in the first trimester and early identification of high-risk cases. Pregnant women were counseled and encouraged to opt for institutional deliveries, resulting in a marked shift from home births to facilitybased deliveries at PHCs and CHCs. The immunization coverage of newborns and children improved considerably as all due doses were administered in time through outreach efforts. Community trust in public health systems grew stronger due to increased accessibility and responsiveness of services.

LESSONS LEARNT

The targeted deployment of Tribal ASHAs in underserved areas, coupled with mobile health camps, proved effective in improving maternal and child health indicators. Institutional deliveries became the norm, driven by focused awareness and ANC tracking mechanisms. Immunization coverage reached near saturation due to regular outreach and follow-up. The model highlights how localized recruitment, need-based health planning, and active field-level engagement can drive inclusive healthcare improvements under the Aspirational Blocks Programme.





100% ANC Registrations Within the First Trimester through **Community Health Camps and Awareness Drives**

District: YSR Kadapa

Andhra Pradesh State:

BACKGROUND / PROBLEM STATEMENT

Jammalamadugu Block, under the Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP), faced challenges in achieving timely antenatal care (ANC) registration, critical for maternal and fetal health. In June 2024, only 92.5% of pregnant women were registered within the first trimester. Barriers included low awareness in remote panchayats, irregular home visits by ASHAs, poor utilization of digital platforms like the RCH portal, and inadequate coordination among ASHAs, ANMs, and PHC staff. To address these gaps, a targeted intervention was launched under the Sampoornata Abhiyan to improve first-trimester ANC registrations through a convergence-driven, community-based approach.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

1. Community Health Camps:

Organized in all 14 Gram Panchayats to ensure early pregnancy detection and registration.

2. Awareness Drives:

Led by ASHAs and Anganwadi Workers using IEC tools to target newly married and reproductive-age women.

3. Capacity Building:

Focused training sessions conducted at Moragudi PHC and other centres on:

- Digital registration using RCH portal and health apps
- Early pregnancy identification and timely follow-up

4. Monthly Review Mechanism:

Regular progress tracking meetings involving CHOs, ANMs, and Block Medical Officer to ensure saturation.

5. Cultural Integration:

ANC services were linked with traditional ceremonies like Godh Bharai (Baby Shower) to encourage participation and visibility.

IMPACT

The intervention directly benefited over 300 pregnant women across the block. ANC registration within the first trimester improved from 92.5% in June 2024 to 100% by December 2024. In the first half of 2025 (January-June), the block consistently maintained above 93% ANC registration, with four months touching 100%. The initiative led to early identification of high-risk pregnancies and strengthened

collaboration between the Health and ICDS departments. Community trust in public health systems also improved significantly through regular outreach and culturally sensitive engagement.

LESSONS LEARNT

Consistent review mechanisms and on-ground handholding support for health workers significantly accelerated saturation. Engaging communities through culturally relevant platforms like Godh Bharai (Baby Shower) ceremonies proved effective in increasing acceptance of ANC services. Simple IEC materials and personalized ASHAled counselling were more impactful in tribal and interior regions than technology-heavy campaigns. Digital training at the PHC level empowered field staff to effectively use HMIS and RCH platforms, enhancing timely registrations and reporting accuracy.









Achieving 100% Antenatal Care (ANC) Registration in Thiruvennainallur Block

District: Villupuram

Block: Thiruvennainallur

State: Tamil Nadu

BACKGROUND / PROBLEM STATEMENT

Antenatal Care (ANC) registration is a vital gateway for delivering quality maternal and child health services. In 2023, Thiruvennainallur Block had an ANC registration rate of only 72%, with substantial gaps in early detection of pregnancies and timely follow-up. Low awareness levels, outreach limitations in tribal and remote areas, incomplete beneficiary data, and socio-cultural hesitation towards institutional care further contributed to missed opportunities for early maternal interventions and risk mitigation.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

To address ANC registration challenges, the following multi-pronged strategy was implemented:

1. Community Outreach and Identification:

- Active pregnancy detection drives and door-to-door surveys were conducted.
- Village-level meetings helped mobilize participation, especially in remote habitations.

2. Digital Tracking and Monitoring:

- Real-time updates through the Reproductive and Child health (RCH) portal and Mother and Child Tracking System (MCTS) system improved service tracking.
- Data validation was routinely conducted during block-level review meetings.

3. Incentivization through Schemes:

- ANC registration was linked with maternity benefit schemes to encourage early compliance.
- Pregnant women received counseling on entitlements and health risks.

4. Departmental Convergence and Community Support:

- Health Department, ICDS, and Panchayats coordinated closely for seamless service delivery.
- SHGs and local influencers promoted awareness and participation.

5. Mobile and Camp-Based Services:

• Special ANC camps and mobile medical units were deployed to reach underserved and remote regions lacking static health infrastructure.

IMPACT

As a result of the intervention, 100% ANC registration was achieved across Thiruvennainallur Block, with no pregnant woman left unregistered. Early detection within the first trimester increased significantly, leading to timely risk identification and improved maternal care. Institutional trust improved, and more families began accessing formal healthcare systems. The convergence-based approach and continuous tracking not only closed service delivery gaps but also strengthened the bond between communities and public health infrastructure, creating a replicable model for other aspirational blocks.

LESSONS LEARNT

Door-to-door engagement by frontline workers, when combined with digital tracking tools, ensures complete coverage. Community involvement—particularly through counseling, awareness sessions, and inclusion of family members—enhances acceptance and adherence to ANC protocols. Linking ANC registration to entitlements and schemes provides a strong motivation for early registration. Regular interdepartmental reviews drive performance accountability. This approach has demonstrated that achieving universal ANC registration is both feasible and sustainable with focused coordination and community-led planning.









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Strengthening Antenatal Care Coverage through Data-Driven **Outreach and Monitoring**

District: Prayagraj

Block: Mailaha

State: **Uttar Pradesh**

BACKGROUND / PROBLEM STATEMENT

CHC Bahariya, under the Aspirational Blocks Programme, was grappling with substantial gaps in antenatal care (ANC) service delivery. As of June 2024, only 50% of pregnant women were receiving timely ANC check-ups, and merely 10% had completed the mandated four ANC visits. The challenges stemmed from irregular follow-up mechanisms, low awareness among beneficiaries, and lack of accountability across the service delivery chain. These gaps posed serious risks to maternal and neonatal health outcomes, particularly in remote and underserved villages under CHC Bahariya.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

To address ANC coverage gaps, CHC Bahariya implemented the following structured interventions:

1. Micro-Planning and Tracking:

- Monthly ANC due lists were generated at the sub-centre level.
- The RCH portal and manual registers were used to identify defaulters and track follow-ups.

2. Strengthening VHND Service Delivery:

- ANMs and ASHAs prioritized ANC check-ups and counseling during Village Health & Nutrition Days.
- On-the-spot services ensured convenience and better compliance.

3. Monitoring and Performance Reviews:

- Monthly review meetings with ANMs and CHOs were institutionalized.
- Progress was reviewed, bottlenecks identified, and corrective actions implemented promptly.

4. Incentives and Motivation:

- Field staff with strong performance received public recognition and small incentives.
- This fostered a culture of accountability and peer motivation.

5. Community Mobilization:

 ASHAs conducted door-to-door awareness drives on timely ANC and institutional deliveries.

 Community engagement helped overcome hesitancy and improved uptake of services.

IMPACT

The intervention led to a significant transformation in maternal healthcare delivery. More than 10,755 pregnant women received timely ANC check-ups, and coverage for 4+ ANC visits improved dramatically from 10% to 100% within a year. High-risk pregnancies were detected earlier, enabling timely referrals and better clinical management. The collaborative functioning of ANMs, ASHAs, and CHOs improved ground-level coordination, and regular data use helped establish a culture of accountability and transparency. Community trust in public health systems also improved due to consistent outreach and visible service delivery improvements.

LESSONS LEARNT

Routine monitoring and structured feedback to frontline workers are essential to drive sustained improvements in maternal healthcare. Micro-planning at the sub-centre level, when integrated with VHND platforms, enables timely service delivery. Recognizing and incentivizing field staff enhances ownership and motivation. Most importantly, when data transparency is combined with effective community engagement, it leads to greater trust in public health systems and better health-seeking behaviour among pregnant women.





Intervention on Reduction of SAM, MAM, Anaemia & High-Risk Pregnant Women: Department in Action – DRDA & MSRLS

District: Ri Bhoi

Block: Mailaha

State: Meghalaya

BACKGROUND / PROBLEM STATEMENT

Despite the presence of strong women's institutions under MSRLS, SHG households in Ri Bhoi district continued to face complex health and nutrition challenges, especially among pregnant and lactating women, adolescent girls, and children under five. Issues like high rates of SAM and MAM, poor dietary diversity, limited access to water, sanitation, and healthcare services persisted. The Social Inclusion and Social Development (SISD) vertical of MSRLS integrated Food, Nutrition, Health, and WASH (FNHW) within NRLM to address these gaps and enhance the quality of life among rural and tribal communities.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

1. Home-Based Counselling on the 1,000 Days Approach:

CGHAs conducted home visits to counsel pregnant and lactating mothers on ANC registration, IFA intake, institutional delivery, exclusive breastfeeding, and complementary feeding.

2. Screening and Referral for SAM/MAM:

Children under five were regularly screened using MUAC tapes. Those with severe malnutrition were tracked, referred to NRCs or PHCs, and followed up for recovery.

3. Promotion of Kitchen Gardens:

SHG households were mobilized to grow seasonal and local, nutrient-rich vegetables organically, improving dietary diversity.

4. WASH Demonstrations and Awareness:

Demonstrations on proper handwashing, low-cost water purification, and toilet use improved hygiene behaviors and reduced disease burden.

5. Nutrition Education through SHG/VO Platforms:

FNHW sessions were embedded into SHG and VO meetings using flipbooks, storytelling, and visual aids in the local Khasi dialect.

6. Community Mobilization Events:

Initiatives like Poshan Maah, street plays, and health walks increased awareness and brought community-wide engagement, including adolescents and men.

7. Menstrual Hygiene Awareness:

Adolescent girls received training on menstrual hygiene management, safe disposal practices, and were linked to SHGs and schools for support.

8. Convergence with Line Departments:

CGHAs collaborated closely with ASHA, AWWs, and health officials, ensuring access to services such as immunization, IFA tablets, ANC, and institutional delivery. They facilitated schemes like JSY, PMMVY, and VHSNDs.

IMPACT

The intervention led to measurable improvements in health and nutrition outcomes in Ri Bhoi district. Pregnant and lactating women accessed improved ANC, counseling, and institutional deliveries. Children under five received regular MUAC screening, referrals, and better nutrition. Over 5,000 SHG members participated in FNHW sessions, and 300+ children were screened for SAM/MAM. Kitchen garden adoption increased by over 60%, and CGHAs are now active in 75% of VO clusters. SHG platforms normalized health discussions, enhanced access to schemes like JSY and IFA, and contributed to a marked decline in malnutrition through community-driven, preventive practices.

LESSONS LEARNT

Trained CGHAs, drawn from SHG communities, proved effective in driving behavior change through culturally appropriate communication. Regular reinforcement through SHG/VO meetings ensured sustained awareness on key health topics. Strong convergence with line departments improved last-mile delivery and access to entitlements. The initiative demonstrated that SHGs can effectively serve as platforms for promoting health and nutrition, beyond their financial role, fostering community ownership and resilience.







Towards Elimination: TB-Free Gram Panchayats in Hingoli Block

District: Hingoli

Block: Hingoli

State: Maharashtra

BACKGROUND / PROBLEM STATEMENT

Tuberculosis (TB) remains a persistent public health issue in rural India despite progress under the National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP). In Hingoli Block, delayed case detection, irregular treatment adherence, social stigma, and low community participation hindered TB control efforts. In response, the district administration initiated a convergence-based campaign under the Aspirational Blocks Programme to declare 46 Gram Panchayats (GPs) as TB-Free Zones by strengthening early detection, treatment, and community engagement.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

The TB-Free GP model focused on grassroots elimination of TB through a structured implementation strategy:

1. Target Identification:

46 high-burden Gram Panchayats were selected using previous TB case data.

2. Active Case Finding (ACF):

Door-to-door campaigns were conducted twice yearly to identify symptomatic individuals.

3. Sample Collection & Diagnosis:

Regular sputum collection camps using mobile vans and PHC-based checkups ensured early diagnosis.

4. Referral & Treatment:

ASHAs and ANMs were incentivized for timely referrals and ensuring DOTS adherence.

5. Nutritional & Counselling Support:

TB patients were supported under Nikshay Poshan Yojana and given counselling during treatment.

6. Stigma Reduction Campaigns:

Awareness drives, community meetings, and IEC material were used to educate and destignatize TB.

7. TB-Free Certification:

GPs were certified TB-free after reporting zero active cases for six consecutive months.

IMPACT

The initiative significantly enhanced TB control in the block. The number of TB-free GPs increased from 4 to 46. Sample collection increased by 59% (from 3,185 to 5,068 samples), and treatment adherence improved from 94% to 97.38%. TB-related deaths dropped from 8 to 3—a 62.5% reduction. Over 66,000 rural residents directly benefited, with the broader block population indirectly impacted through improved surveillance and healthcare services. Community ownership, stronger referral systems, and improved patient support mechanisms were key contributors to success.

LESSONS LEARNT

Declaring villages as "TB-Free" fostered pride, accountability, and active participation at the grassroots. ASHAs and local health workers emerged as central actors in early detection and adherence. Community mobilization, combined with targeted IEC, reduced stigma and boosted reporting. The TB-free certification acted as a visible goal, driving inter-departmental convergence. This low-cost, scalable model can be replicated in other high-burden areas, leveraging existing NTEP structures, ASHA networks, and integrating nutrition support through schemes like Nikshay Poshan Yojana for amplified impact.







Colour Coding of ANC Mothers: Risk Stratification for Improved Maternal Health

District: Yavatmal

Block: Zari Jamni

State: Maharashtra

BACKGROUND / PROBLEM STATEMENT

Zari Jamni, a tribal-dominated block under NITI Aayog's Aspirational Blocks Programme, faced maternal health challenges such as delayed pregnancy registration, low institutional deliveries, and inadequate tracking of high-risk pregnancies. Health workers lacked a simple tool to categorize and monitor ANC mothers systematically, resulting in inconsistent prioritization and limited community awareness.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

The TB-Free GP initiative was implemented through a structured, community-led model:

1. Identification of High-Burden Areas:

46 Gram Panchayats were selected based on past TB case data and burden.

2. Active Case Finding (ACF):

Door-to-door campaigns conducted biannually to screen for TB symptoms.

3. Sample Collection and Diagnosis:

Mobile vans and PHC camps facilitated on-site sputum sample collection and early diagnosis.

4. Referral and DOTS Adherence:

ASHAs and ANMs were incentivized for timely referrals and follow-up under the Directly Observed Treatment Strategy (DOTS).

5. Patient Support and Nutrition:

TB patients received counselling and nutritional aid under the Nikshay Poshan Yojana.

6. Community Engagement and Stigma Reduction:

Village-level awareness campaigns and IEC materials helped normalize TB discussions and encouraged early reporting.

7. Certification Mechanism:

GPs were declared TB-Free after recording zero active TB cases for six continuous months.

IMPACT

The campaign led to measurable improvements in TB control:

- 1. Gram Panchayats declared TB-Free: Increased from 4 to 46
- 2. Sputum Sample Collection: Rose from 3,185 to 5,068 (59% increase)
- 3. Treatment Adherence Rate: Improved from 94% to 97.38%
- 4. TB-related Deaths: Reduced from 8 to 3 (62.5% decline)

More than 66,000 rural residents directly benefited from the initiative, with wider benefits through improved surveillance, increased community engagement, and stronger referral systems. The campaign fostered ownership at the local level and strengthened collaboration between health workers, PRIs, and district authorities.

LESSONS LEARNT

Declaring villages as "TB-Free" created a sense of pride, accountability, and urgency at the grassroots level. Frontline workers—especially ASHAs—played a pivotal role in early detection, treatment monitoring, and behaviour change communication. Active case finding, integrated support systems, and visibility of certification goals proved highly effective. The initiative demonstrated that a convergence-led, low-cost model can be scaled across other high-burden blocks by leveraging existing NTEP structures, community health networks, and schemes like Nikshay Poshan Yojana to ensure both medical and nutritional support.







Collaboration of 3As (ASHAs, ANMs, & AWWs)

District: Yavatmal

Block: Zari Jamni

State: Maharashtra

BACKGROUND / PROBLEM STATEMENT

Zari Jamni, an Aspirational Block in Yavatmal district, Maharashtra, faced persistent challenges in maternal and child health outcomes, including malnutrition, anemia, low immunization rates, and gaps in antenatal care. Though ASHAs, ANMs, and AWWs operated at the grassroots level, their work remained fragmented due to limited coordination across departments. This led to service duplication, missed follow-ups, incomplete records, and inconsistent outreach to vulnerable groups such as pregnant and lactating women and children under five. To address these inefficiencies, the "3A Convergence Model" was introduced in 2024 as a collaborative initiative to synchronize service delivery, streamline data, and enhance frontline worker efficiency.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

1. Structured Monthly Meetings:

Monthly convergence meetings were institutionalized at sub-centres and Anganwadi Centres for joint micro-planning.

2. Joint Home Visits & VHNDs:

ASHAs, ANMs, and AWWs conducted joint home visits and facilitated common Village Health and Nutrition Days (VHNDs) to ensure synchronized service delivery.

3. Role Clarity and Function Alignment:

Role clarity booklets were provided to frontline workers to streamline responsibilities and avoid duplication of efforts.

4. Shared Registers and Unified Formats:

Common registers for ANC, immunization, and malnutrition tracking were introduced, along with a unified reporting format for efficient block-level performance reviews.

5. Cross-Verification of Beneficiary Data:

Data collected during home visits and VHNDs was cross-verified among departments to improve accuracy and reduce redundancy.

6. Capacity Building and Training:

A total of 248 frontline workers, including ASHAs, ANMs, and AWWs, were trained to strengthen convergence efforts and build field-level capacity.

IMPACT

The intervention significantly improved health and nutrition service delivery across the block. Over 100 villages were covered, with synchronized home visits and VHNDs conducted regularly. Full immunization coverage and 4-check ANC coverage reached 100%, while institutional deliveries were also reported at 100%. The prevalence of SAM and MAM among children under five reduced from 10% to 2%. The collaboration resulted in a 22% rise in immunization coverage and a 30% increase in VHND participation. The model enhanced community trust in public services, ensured accurate real-time data collection, and reduced workload duplication among frontline workers. It also fostered greater accountability and peer support among ASHAs, ANMs, and AWWs.

LESSONS LEARNT

The model demonstrated that convergence at the last mile significantly improves coverage, efficiency, and trust in service delivery. Clear role definitions, joint microplanning, and unified reporting tools enable better targeting and follow-up. Community participation increased due to visible coordination during VHNDs, while regular data validation improved policy-level inputs. Sustained training and supportive supervision emerged as essential components for maintaining momentum. This low-cost, scalable convergence model aligns with national frameworks like POSHAN Abhiyan, NHM, and AB-HWC and can be replicated in other Aspirational Blocks and rural areas.





"Akshaya Jyothi 1.0 and 2.0": Enhancing TB Screening Among Tribal Children in Palakkad District

District: Palakkad

Block: Kollengode

State: Kerala

BACKGROUND / PROBLEM STATEMENT

The implementation of the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP) in tribal and remote areas of Kerala faces persistent challenges, including difficult-to-reach terrain, scattered habitations, and limited community awareness. In 2023, Palakkad's Attappadi and Kollengode blocks, with predominantly tribal populations, reported 182 TB cases, underscoring the need for targeted interventions among vulnerable groups. Screening among tribal children was particularly low, increasing the risk of undiagnosed pediatric TB and delayed interventions in high-burden households.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

The Akshaya Jyothi initiative focused on early detection, prevention, and awareness among tribal populations through the following actions:

1. Active Case Finding (ACF):

Field teams were mobilized to conduct door-to-door TB screening in tribal hamlets across Attappadi and Kollengode blocks.

2. Targeted Screening Campaigns:

Two intensive campaigns (Akshaya Jyothi 1.0 and 2.0) were organized between December 2023 and October 2024 to screen children under 15 years of age.

3. Sample Collection and Testing:

A total of 8,560 tribal children were screened, with 641 samples collected (550 from children and 91 from others); two adult TB cases were identified.

4. IEC and Community Engagement:

Awareness drives and Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) campaigns were conducted to reduce stigma and improve TB literacy among tribal families.

5. Preventive Therapy:

TB Preventive Therapy (TPT) was initiated for high-risk contacts to reduce the likelihood of future infections.

IMPACT

The Akshaya Jyothi campaigns reached a highly vulnerable tribal population that traditionally remains underserved in TB elimination efforts. Children aged 5–15 years

across Attappadi and Kollengode blocks directly benefited through preventive screening and clinical evaluation. The intervention helped identify the prevalence of TB in this cohort and guided the rollout of targeted TB Preventive Therapy. Community participation significantly increased during the second phase, and health officials were able to build trust with tribal communities, reinforcing the importance of surveillance and early treatment in disease control. This focused approach contributed to improved case detection and proactive preventive strategies in NTEP.

LESSONS LEARNT

The campaigns demonstrated that culturally-sensitive IEC activities and consistent community engagement are essential for improving NTEP outcomes among tribal populations. Screening programmes tailored to remote and high-burden geographies must include strong field coordination, incentive-driven outreach, and follow-up through local health workers. The Akshaya Jyothi model highlights the potential of preventive screenings to reduce long-term TB burden and serves as a replicable model in other tribal blocks across India.





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Transformation of Noolpuzha Family Health Centre through Convergence

District: Wayanad

State: Kerala

BACKGROUND / PROBLEM STATEMENT

The initiative aimed to strengthen health infrastructure at the village level and ensure the provision of high-quality healthcare services—including specialty care—either free or at minimal cost, especially for tribal and remote populations in Wayanad. FHC Noolpuzha, serving over 43,000 people (55% of whom belong to primitive tribal communities), has introduced several targeted programs addressing prevalent issues such as anemia, malnutrition, and sickle cell anemia, alongside enhancing rehabilitation services.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

These initiatives, driven by detailed needs assessments and implemented through localized strategies, include:

- 1. HAPPY Noolpuzha for HPV vaccination of girls aged 9-15, fully funded by the LSGD;
- 2. AMMA TAARAT for regular anemia screening and treatment among tribal women;
- 3. A telemedicine unit, linked with the District Hospital Mananthavady and e-Sanjeevani, enhancing remote access to specialty care;
- 4. CHAMPION, DIPAM, and Gothra Sparsham for child nutrition, rehabilitation, and tribal health respectively;
- 5. SMILE and Pratheeksha to improve elderly oral health and reduce home deliveries:
- 6. SAKHI, promoting menstrual hygiene through distribution of menstrual cups.

FHC Noolpuzha also offers innovative services such as e-auto transportation for patients within 5 km, a geriatric recreation centre, a fitness gym to combat NCDs, and a tribal mobile medical unit with MHAT. Partnerships with CSR agencies supported infrastructure expansion including physiotherapy blocks, lifts, and advanced therapy tools like Auticare for children with autism.

IMPACT

The centre's daily footfall increased from 50 to 300, with over 100 physiotherapy cases managed daily and 300 monthly counseling sessions. Screening programs identified 908 anemia cases from 3,000 individuals, all of whom received treatment. Communicable disease incidence and home deliveries have declined significantly. The use of e-health platforms has streamlined patient records and referrals. FHC Noolpuzha has been recognized with multiple accolades including the NQAS accreditation (2018),



Kayakalp Award (2019–20), Ardrakeralam Awards (2020–2023), and a citation from NITI Aayog for implementing a paperless patient management system.

LESSONS LEARNT

Securing funds was a primary hurdle, overcome by detailed DPRs and engagement with CSR agencies and local governments. Additionally, the lack of rehabilitation and anemia programs at the primary level required bespoke initiatives like DIPAM and AMMA TAARAT to address service gaps in tribal regions. The patient-centric model—rooted in convergence and collaboration—is scalable in other remote tribal areas across India.





Achieving Zero Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) in Virudhunagar Health Unit District through Coordinated High-Risk Pregnancy Tracking and Community Support Initiatives

District: Virudhunagar

State: Tamil Nadu

BACKGROUND / PROBLEM STATEMENT

Virudhunagar Health Unit District (HUD) faced high maternal mortality due to poor coordination between different levels of the healthcare system, ineffective tracking of high-risk antenatal mothers, and insufficient nutritional support. These challenges significantly hindered safe motherhood and maternal health outcomes in the district.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

To tackle these challenges, a digital portal titled "Virucare" was developed to track antenatal check-ups and identify high-risk pregnancies. This platform facilitated better coordination among Village Health Nurses (VHNs), Senior Health Nurses (SHNs), Medical Officers, and obstetricians. High-risk pregnancies were monitored through weekly reviews and field visits. The "Irumbu Penmani Thittam" was launched to improve the nutrition of anaemic mothers, while regular audits by the District Collector ensured accountability. Additionally, the district strengthened coordination with private hospitals to enhance referrals and emergency response systems.

IMPACT

These integrated efforts enabled Virudhunagar HUD to achieve zero maternal deaths between April 2023 and March 2024. The district also recorded 70% institutional deliveries in government health facilities, and 55% of antenatal mothers benefited from nutritional kits. High-risk pregnancies were effectively managed through digital tracking and inter-departmental coordination.

LESSONS LEARNT

A coordinated digital monitoring system, combined with community-level nutritional interventions, can significantly reduce maternal mortality. Despite limitations such as shortages of medical personnel, delayed communication with private providers, and cross-district patient admission challenges, the Virudhunagar model demonstrated how convergence and proactive leadership can yield impactful maternal health outcomes. The Virucare platform, backed by strong field-level monitoring, offers a replicable and scalable approach for districts with similar challenges.









Convergence Initiative Amalgamating Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) Screening with Government Service Delivery, Incentivization, and Night Health Camps

District: **Dhalai**State: **Tripura**

BACKGROUND / PROBLEM STATEMENT

Ganganagar RD Block in Dhalai District, one of the 500 Aspirational Blocks under the Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP), faced significant challenges in saturating Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), especially Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) screening for diabetes and hypertension among the 30+ population. Of the total population of 13,860, the target was to screen 5,128 individuals. However, slow uptake was observed due to apathy towards health check-ups, the scattered and remote nature of habitations with poor monsoon connectivity, and the peak jhum cultivation season, during which families spend their days in far-off fields. These barriers necessitated innovative, community-sensitive interventions to accelerate screening coverage and ensure service delivery to the underserved.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

A convergence model titled *Sampoornta Seva Camp* was launched on August 30, 2024, and held every Friday (market day) to coincide with the natural congregation of people, especially jhum cultivators. The camps integrated NCD screening with delivery of administrative services like income certificates, ration cards, job cards, and Aadhaar updates. To access these services, individuals were required to undergo NCD screening and receive a health token, which also entered them into a lucky draw for incentives like ration items. Simultaneously, night camps were held every alternate day (except Fridays), targeting jhum cultivators returning from the fields. Entertainment in the form of locally relevant video screenings was used to draw participation. Massive IEC campaigns through NGOs, clubs, social media, and miking were carried out. In subsequent camps, service delivery was strengthened, and lucky draw announcements were advanced to retain engagement.

IMPACT

The combined strategy of convergence and incentivization significantly boosted participation and awareness. The NCD screening coverage for both diabetes and hypertension reached 100% saturation for the target population. Specifically, 1,081 individuals were screened for each condition, and 154 individuals were reached through night camps alone. Other services delivered during the camps included 518 Record of Rights (ROR) documents, 145 MGNREGA job cards, 138 PRTC applications, 161 ST certificate applications, 141 income certificates, 55 ration card applications, and 98 Aadhaar services (including new child registrations and updates). The approach succeeded in creating a model for last-mile service delivery in geographically and socio-economically challenged areas.

LESSONS LEARNT

The initiative faced several challenges, such as exhaustion among government officials due to extended working hours, public holidays affecting health staff availability, and initial lack of enthusiasm due to absence of incentives. These were mitigated by providing appreciation certificates and awards, rescheduling camps to Saturdays when needed, and adjusting incentive strategies by announcing lucky draw winners early. Initially low participation in night camps improved after switching from Hindi movies to Kokborok-language content and providing chocolates to children to attract families. Coordination issues in service delivery, especially Aadhaar services, were resolved by bringing in more service providers. The convergence model showcased the importance of strategic timing, community trust-building, and responsiveness to local cultural contexts, establishing a replicable and scalable intervention for remote tribal areas.



Achieving 100% Saturation in Maternal Nutrition: A Daily Monitoring Success Story from Jammalamadugu Block

District: YSR Kadapa

Andhra Pradesh State:

BACKGROUND / PROBLEM STATEMENT

The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) programme plays a crucial role in improving the health and nutrition status of pregnant women in India. With a strong implementation framework that includes daily monitoring by Child Development Project Officers (CDPOs), Supervisors, and Anganwadi staff, the ICDS programme has brought significant improvements in the intake of supplementary nutrition among pregnant women. This document highlights the best practices and strategies that led to consistent improvement in maternal nutrition, especially in ensuring regular consumption of supplementary food for 21 or more days, as per programme guidelines.

KEY INTERVENTION

1. Daily Monitoring by CDPOs, Supervisors, and Staff:

- Effective Oversight: Regular supervision ensured timely food distribution and immediate redressal of field-level issues.
- Accountability: Routine checks kept Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) alert and responsive.

2. WhatsApp Group for Health Updates:

- Real-Time Communication: Information on nutrition days, supplies, and health advisories shared instantly.
- Team Coordination: Improved planning and execution through digital platforms.

3. Door-to-Door Visits by AWWs:

- Personalized Outreach: Direct counselling and monitoring of pregnant women.
- Behaviour Change Communication (BCC): Promoted awareness about nutrition, hygiene, and regular check-ups.

4. Nutritional Supplements and Tablets:

- Essential Support: Iron, folic acid, and calcium tablets provided to prevent common deficiencies.
- Health Monitoring: AWWs tracked adherence and supported women facing side effects.

5. Comprehensive Nutrition Kits:

- Balanced Diet Support: Kits included essential food items tailored for pregnant women's nutritional needs.
- Accessibility: Ensured that economically weaker families did not miss out on dietary requirements.

IMPACT

The primary beneficiaries are pregnant women registered under the ICDS programme. Through these interventions and continuous efforts, there has been a drastic improvement in regular supplementary nutrition intake, contributing to better maternal and fetal health outcomes.

LESSON LEARNT

- Real-time digital communication (WhatsApp groups) is a game-changer for coordination.
- Community engagement and personalized counselling lead to higher service uptake.
- Consistent monitoring and training empower field-level workers to improve delivery.

The success of this model highlights how convergence, technology, and accountability can drive impactful outcomes in maternal nutrition at the grassroots.









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Complementary Feeding (Annaprasan Divas) Initiative by **ICDS- Success Story Report**

District: Buxar State: **Bihar**

BACKGROUND / PROBLEM STATEMENT

In 2024-25, Chakki block reported 135 Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and 189 Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) cases, highlighting an urgent need for intervention. Poor Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices, such as delayed complementary feeding beyond 8–9 months, led to inadequate nutrition during critical growth stages. Only 30% of children consumed food from four or more food groups, and just 35% received timely complementary feeding. Exclusive breastfeeding up to 6 months stood at 55%, and awareness of balanced diets was limited to 40% of mothers. Cultural myths, poverty, and lack of counselling further contributed to malnutrition. This prompted the Annaprasan Divas initiative.

KEY INTERVENTION

To address the challenges, the Annaprasan Divas initiative introduced the following best practices and innovations during the current reporting year:

1. Community Engagement and Counselling:

AWWs and ASHAs conducted home visits, group meetings, and mother's sessions to promote exclusive breastfeeding and timely complementary feeding. Local, affordable foods like khichdi, fruits, and vegetables were encouraged. Fathers and grandparents were also involved to support feeding decisions.

2. Monthly Anaprasan Divas Events:

Held at AWCs, these included cooking demos showcasing nutritious, lowcost meals. Growth monitoring using weight, height, and Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) ensured early detection of malnutrition and referrals to Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres (NRCs) or health centres.

3. Convergence with Government Schemes:

The program aligned with ICDS to provide Take-Home Rations for at-risk children and organized regular VHSNDs for immunization, health check-ups, and personalized nutrition counselling.

4. Behaviour Change Communication (BCC):

Posters, flipcharts, street plays, and mobile announcements spread key messages in local dialects. Success stories of mothers adopting good feeding practices were shared to inspire others.

IMPACT

The initiative directly benefited 4,305 children aged 6 months to 3 years and their caregivers, leading to a sharp decline in SAM cases—from 135 to just 16. Mothers are now more confident in preparing nutritious, age-appropriate meals, while fathers and grandparents are actively involved in feeding and nutrition decisions.

LESSON LEARNT

- 1. Introduce mobile nutrition clinics to reach interior hamlets that have limited access to AWCs or health services.
- 2. Engage religious leaders, panchayat heads, and local influencers more deeply in reinforcing correct practices.
- 3. Develop audio-visual material in local dialects (Bhojpuri, Magahi) for better penetration in low-literacy households.









Fueling Growth: Nutritious hot cooked meals for young children – An accessible and fresh approach to address early undernutrition

State: Madhya Pradesh

District: Vidisha

BACKGROUND / PROBLEM STATEMENT

To reduce early childhood undernutrition by delivering freshly prepared hot meals to children aged 6 months to 3 years, while promoting healthy dietary practices through active community involvement.

KEY INTERVENTION

1. Provision of Hot Cooked Meals (HCM):

SNEH provides hot, nutritious meals to children aged 6 months–3 years during the vital first 1,000 days. Prepared by trained SHGs using local ingredients, these meals meet 40–50% of daily protein needs and address the low dietary adequacy among children (only 11%).

2. Standardized Recipes and SHG Training:

Recipes are culturally adapted and nutritionally balanced. SHGs and AWWs are trained in preparation, food safety, and hygiene to ensure consistent, high-quality meals.

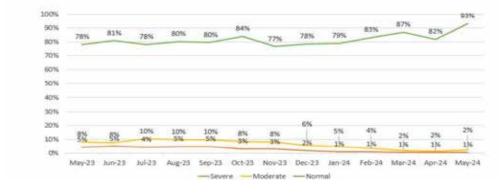
3. Community Kitchens by SHGs:

SHG-managed kitchens serve up to 1,000 children daily, even in remote areas, improving child nutrition and creating sustainable livelihoods for women.

IMPACT

Positive trends in nutrition: Early observations indicate a decline in wasting levels suggesting the potential long-term benefits of the intervention.

Prevalence of Wasting in Children (by z-score category)



^{*}Endline evaluation has been completed, results are awaited

LESSON LEARNT

Successful scale-up requires a deep understanding of local nutritional needs, food habits, and available resources. Community engagement and SHG involvement build ownership and sustainability. Capacity building of SHGs and AWWs ensures quality and consistency. Adequate infrastructure, reliable funding, and timely reimbursements are critical. Lastly, robust monitoring, continuous feedback, and data-driven evaluations are essential for improving impact and ensuring program effectiveness across diverse settings.









ICDS Poshan Tracker App

District: Hingoli

State: Maharashtra

BACKGROUND / PROBLEM STATEMENT

Growth monitoring at Anganwadi Centers is vital for tracking children's nutritional status, detecting malnutrition early, and guiding interventions. It also educates caregivers on proper nutrition and child development. Measuring efficiency depends on regular, accurate assessments, proper tool usage, and responsive actions. Digital tools like the POSHAN Tracker have improved data accuracy and monitoring. However, challenges remain, including inadequate training, poor equipment, and overburdened AWWs, leading to missed cases and delayed interventions. In Hingoli block, although services were being provided across 189 Anganwadi Centers, incomplete data entry in the POSHAN Tracker hindered effective monitoring.

KEY INTERVENTION

After Hingoli block was selected among the aspirational blocks, under the Integrated Child Development Service Scheme (Rural) Project Hingoli, in order to improve the status of the Anganwadi Center level index in the Poshan Tracker App, various training sessions were organized for all the Anganwadi Supervisors and Anganwadi Workers of the Hingoli project under the guidance of the District Collector, Chief Executive Officer, Deputy Chief Executive Officer (Child Welfare), Child Development Project Officer, Master Trainer, and necessary guidance was given to them from time to time regarding filling information online in the Poshan Tracker App. Their work was monitored regularly and their mistakes were corrected. Also, they were helped to increase the percentage of online information by understanding their difficulties. This helped improve the work percentage in the Hingoli project's Poshan tracker app.

IMPACT

1. Improved Service Delivery:

 More punctual and consistent provision of services such as meals, immunizations, and pre-school education.

2. Enhanced Nutritional Outcomes:

 Reduction in malnutrition, stunting, and underweight children due to timely interventions.

3. Effective Resource Utilization:

- Minimizes wastage and leakage of food, supplements, and educational materials.
- Ensures fair distribution across rural and urban areas.

4. Higher Accountability and Transparency:

• Use of technology (e.g., POSHAN Tracker) helps monitor attendance, nutrition supply, and health checkups in real time.

5. Evidence-Based Policy Making:

 Accurate data helps tailor interventions based on local needs and population demographics.

6. Community Empowerment:

 Informed communities can advocate for better services and take ownership of local child welfare efforts.

LESSON LEARNT

- 1. Variation in Efficiency Levels
- 2. Resource Utilization Gaps
- 3. Data Challenges
- 4. Importance of Worker Capacity
- 5. Community Engagement Matters
- 6. Technology as a Game-Changer
- 7. Impact on Outcomes





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Improvement of Measurement Efficiency for children enrolled at Anganwadi Centre

District: Nanded

State: Maharashtra

BACKGROUND/PROBLEM STATEMENT

In Kinwat block, despite the dedication of Anganwadi Sevikas, the ICDS sector remains one of the lowest performing. Key challenges include poor measuring efficiency (baseline: 29.67), inaccurate identification of SAM/MAM children due to lack of proper training, poor equipment condition, and limited technical skills among AWWs—particularly in using the Poshan Tracker App. High migration and low parental awareness also hinder regular child attendance and access to supplementary nutrition. These issues contribute to poor performance across key nutrition and growth monitoring indicators.

KEY INTERVENTION

To address poor measuring efficiency and data accuracy, multiple interventions were implemented:

1. Training through IIT Bombay Videos:

All Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) were trained using self-learning health tutorials to accurately measure children's height and weight.

2. Procurement and Repair of Equipment:

Modern digital weighing machines and measuring tools were provided through ICDS, 15th Finance Commission, and PESA funds; old equipment was also repaired.

3. Poshan Tracker App Training:

Hands-on training sessions were conducted for all 15 circles, helping AWWs overcome technical hesitation and improve digital reporting.

4. Supervision and Motivation:

Regular monitoring by supervisors and officials, along with recognition of highperforming AWWs, improved field-level accountability.

5. IEC and Community Engagement:

Awareness on nutrition, health, and hygiene was promoted through events like Poshan Maah, nutritional food gatherings, and active WhatsApp groups under each Anganwadi, increasing parental involvement.

IMPACT

The training emphasized the importance of coordination between the Child Development and Health departments, helping staff understand the interconnection on various indicators. This led to improved cooperation on the ground, boosting confidence among both Anganwadi and health workers. As a result, Anganwadi Workers felt more valued and capable in their roles, and key indicators showed significant progress. Notably, measuring efficiency improved, reaching 99.57% by March 2025.

LESSON LEARNT

- 1. Regular Monitoring
- 2. Team Coordination
- 3. Capacity building
- 4. Rapo with Frontline workers









Nourishing Minds and Nature: The Nutri-Garden Success of Zilla Parishad school Savroli Udhan Pada

District: Palghar

State: Maharashtra

BACKGROUND/PROBLEM STATEMENT

The Zilla Parishad School in Savroli Udhan Pada, Talasari Block, has emerged as a model of nutrition and sustainability by implementing an innovative Kitchen Nutri-Garden initiative. Serving primarily tribal students from classes 1 to 5, the school has integrated fresh, organic produce into midday meals, thereby enhancing students' nutritional intake. The garden functions as a living classroom, promoting hands-on learning in sustainable agriculture, nutrition, and environmental conservation.

Guided by the vision of head teacher Mr. Balaji Hangarge, who also led a tree plantation drive, the school emphasizes eco-conscious learning and climate action. In line with the Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Yojana (2019), the initiative supports government mandates on school-based kitchen gardens and has become a benchmark for similar institutions, including Anganwadis, in the region.

KEY INTERVENTION

Under the Nutri-Kitchen Garden Initiative, the Zilla Parishad School in Savroli Udhan Pada undertook collaborative efforts with students, teachers, and the local community to cultivate over 20 vegetable varieties and 60 medicinal plants, promoting biodiversity, nutritional security, and traditional knowledge preservation. Sustainable practices like drip irrigation, rainwater harvesting, use of organic fertilizers, and a guppy fish pond for mosquito control have enhanced resource efficiency and environmental learning.

The school, with strong support from the Grampanchayat and local government bodies, has adopted solar energy, constructed bio-composting pits, and engaged students in eco-friendly recreational activities like cooking competitions, tree rakhi celebrations, and garden tours. These interventions have fostered hands-on learning, improved dietary diversity, and created a model of community-driven sustainability and experiential education.

IMPACT

The Nutri-Kitchen Garden initiative has significantly enhanced students' nutrition by incorporating freshly harvested vegetables into midday meals, thereby improving health and dietary diversity. It has also fostered environmental awareness among students through hands-on exposure to organic farming, composting, and renewable energy use. The cultivation of medicinal plants has helped preserve traditional tribal knowledge, while initiatives like composting and solar energy have promoted sustainability and reduced operational costs.

The school has also established a seed bank to ensure the preservation and future cultivation of diverse vegetable and medicinal plant varieties, fostering self-sufficiency in farming practices. Recognized for its exemplary efforts, the school received first prize in the Nutri-Garden Competition at both Block and District levels and has been widely appreciated by local dignitaries and media for its innovative and sustainable practices.

LESSON LEARNT

The success of the Nutri-Garden initiative highlights the importance of integrating nutrition, environmental education, and community participation in school development. Expanding the garden to include more fruit trees, vegetable varieties, and medicinal plants has shown the potential for enhancing food diversity and preserving indigenous knowledge. The establishment of a school-level seed bank underscores the value of conserving local crop varieties for future sustainability.

Additionally, the creation of an open library under natural shelter demonstrates how community-driven efforts can enrich the learning environment. The initiative serves as a replicable model for other schools in the Talasari Block, emphasizing that with strong local engagement and innovative thinking, holistic and sustainable school ecosystems can be created.







Reduction in Low Birth Weight (LBW) Babies in Talasari Block

District: Palghar

State: Maharashtra

BACKGROUND/PROBLEM STATEMENT

Talasari, the smallest block in Maharashtra's Palghar district, has a predominantly tribal population (90%) of 1.54 lakh and faces severe maternal and child health challenges. With limited healthcare infrastructure and deep-rooted socio-cultural issues, the block reported a high low birth weight (LBW) rate of 37.2% in FY 2022–23—well above state and national averages (source: ABP Champions of Change platform). Contributing factors include maternal malnutrition, anemia, inadequate antenatal care, adolescent pregnancies, and infections, underscoring the need for targeted health interventions and strengthened community engagement.

KEY INTERVENTION

To address the high prevalence of low birth weight (LBW) in Talasari, a multi-pronged strategy was implemented focusing on maternal care, health system strengthening, and community engagement. Regular ANC clinics at sub-centers and PHCs, specialist-led camps under the Manav Vikas Program, and 104 LBW screening camps were conducted between September 2023–24. These efforts enabled early identification and management of high-risk pregnancies.

The block enhanced monitoring through iron and folic acid supplementation, personalized counseling, and home visits. PHCs and sub-centers were upgraded to meet NQAS standards, with two PHCs receiving national and state-level certifications. Community engagement was central to the initiative, with awareness programs like *Poshan Maah*, deworming campaigns, and adolescent health education in schools. The ICDS department played a key role by distributing THR and Amrit Ahar to over 13,000 pregnant women and integrating maternal nutrition messages into traditional events such as *Godh Bharai (Baby Shower)* and *Anna Prashan (celebration of initiation of complementary feeding after completion of 6 months of age)*, ensuring cultural alignment and increased community participation.

IMPACT

1. LBW Reduction: There has been a significant decrease in the overall percentage of LBW babies, dropping from 15.68% (Sep 23 - Feb 24) to 10.54% (Feb 24 - Aug 24) indicating the improvement of approximately 5.14 percentage points in rural Talasari.

2. PHC-Specific Progress:

- Aamgaon PHC: LBW rate reduced from 26.85% to 18.26%.
- Sutrakar PHC: LBW rate dropped from 12.41% to 6.91%.

- 3. Udhawa PHC: LBW rate declined from 16.20% to 9.17%.
- 4. Vasa PHC: Maintained the lowest LBW rate, improving from 5.12% to 4.04%.
- 5. Monthly LBW Trends (2024) after September 2024:

• October: 4.74%

November: 5.58%

• December: 5.47%

The success of these interventions demonstrates the effectiveness of datadriven decision-making, multi-departmental collaboration, and focused maternal care strategies.

LESSON LEARNT

- 1. Continuous and Sustainable efforts in maternal health and nutrition help to reduce low birth weight cases
- 2. Community participation and awareness programs play a crucial role in improving maternal and neonatal health outcomes.
- 3. Strengthening healthcare infrastructure and timely ANC services can significantly improve birth outcomes.
- 4. Data-driven approaches and cross-sectoral collaboration ensure sustainable impact.









Akshay Patra at Each AWC: Community-Driven Nutrition Support Initiative

District: Yavatmal

State: Maharashtra

BACKGROUND/PROBLEM STATEMENT

Pusad block in Maharashtra's Yavatmal district, part of the Aspirational Block Programme, has shown developmental progress, yet child nutrition and dietary diversity remain key concerns. Despite government efforts through Anganwadi Centres (AWCs), challenges persist due to limited food variety, irregular access to fresh produce, low community participation, and lack of parental awareness on balanced diets. To address these gaps, the "Akshay Patra at Each AWC" initiative was introduced, encouraging families to contribute fruits and vegetables daily to their local AWCs, fostering community-led nutrition and improved dietary diversity for children.

KEY INTERVENTION

To promote dietary diversity and community ownership by involving parents in contributing fresh produce to Anganwadi Centers on a daily basis.

- 1. Daily contribution of **fruits or vegetables** by villagers.
- 2. Voluntary donation system each family contributes based on their availability.
- 3. A visible "Akshay Patra" (ever-full vessel) placed at each AWC to collect donations.
- 4. Weekly menus are planned with Anganwadi workers to include the collected produce.
- 5. Regular **nutrition awareness sessions** for parents on the importance of fruits and vegetables in children's diet.

IMPACT

- 1. The initiative led to several positive behavioral and community-level changes that go beyond nutritional gains:
- 2. Increased bonding between AWCs and communities.
- 3. Visible improvement in children's energy, participation, and growth parameters.
- 4. Mothers and SHGs initiated kitchen gardens in several villages.
- 5. Reduction in junk food consumption among children.

LESSON LEARNT

The initiative demonstrated that community participation is crucial in enhancing child nutrition and building sustainable models. Simple, low-cost interventions like daily

produce donations can be both scalable and impactful when supported by effective behavior change communication. Empowering Anganwadi Workers as local nutrition champions further strengthens the grassroots health system.

This model is easily replicable in other Aspirational Blocks, requires no external funding, and effectively mobilizes local stakeholders such as SHGs, PRI members, and parents. It aligns well with the objectives of *Poshan Abhiyaan* and contributes directly to SDG-2 (Zero Hunger).









Drumstick and Tulsi at Each AWC: Promoting Nutritional Security Through Local Plantation

District: Yavatmal

State: Maharashtra

BACKGROUND/PROBLEM STATEMENT

Pusad block in Yavatmal district, Maharashtra, is a part of the Aspirational Block Programme, with focused efforts to improve nutritional and health outcomes among children and women. While the nutritional status in the block has been steadily improving, there remains a need to enhance dietary diversity and access to micronutrient-rich foods. Recognizing the potential of easily cultivable, nutrient-dense plants like Drumstick (Moringa) and Tulsi (Holy Basil), an initiative was undertaken to plant and promote their use at every Anganwadi Centre (AWC). The problem statement and baseline indicators include limited dietary diversity among children and pregnant/lactating women; micronutrient deficiencies, particularly iron, calcium, and vitamins A & C; underutilization of local, easily growable, nutrient-rich plants; and low awareness among families about the health benefits of Drumstick and Tulsi.

KEY INTERVENTION

To promote the consumption of locally available, nutrient-rich plants and enhance dietary diversity among Anganwadi beneficiaries, an initiative was launched to plant Drumstick and Tulsi at each AWC. Key activities included nutrition education for parents, incorporating Drumstick in mid-day meals and THR, using Tulsi in herbal teas as part of health education, and encouraging community participation in plantation and upkeep. Cuttings and seeds were also distributed to households to promote home cultivation.

Drumstick and Tulsi were chosen for their high nutritional and medicinal value, fast growth, and low maintenance. The initiative was implemented through sensitization drives led by AWWs, ASHAs, and teachers, with community-level demonstrations during Nutrition Week and Poshan Maah, and regular follow-ups to ensure plant usage and sustainability.

IMPACT

- 1. Direct Beneficiaries: 20,000+ children, 1647 + pregnant/lactating women across 258AWCs.
- 2. Indirect Beneficiaries: Over 3,500 families encouraged to grow/use Drumstick & Tulsi at home.
- 3. Qualitative Impact:
 - Increased green leafy vegetable intake.
 - Improved hemoglobin levels reported in growth monitoring.
 - Boosted immunity and reduced seasonal illness reported informally.

LESSON LEARNT

- 1. Low-cost, high-impact solutions like kitchen/herbal gardens enhances child nutrition.
- 2. Community involvement is key to sustaining such efforts.
- 3. Traditional plants hold great value when linked with structured awareness.
- 4. Can be replicated in all AWCs with minimal resource input.
- 5. Local PRI bodies and SHGs can support scaling through CSR or convergence.
- 6. Encourages ownership, sustainability, and behavioral change.



Aarogya Dhamni: Nandurbar's Integrated Tribal Health Model

District: Nandurbar

State: Maharashtra

BACKGROUND/PROBLEM STATEMENT

Nandurbar, a remote tribal district in northern Maharashtra with 70% Scheduled Tribe population, faces persistent challenges in maternal and child health, nutrition, and Sickle Cell Disease (SCD). Despite multiple initiatives, efforts remain fragmented and struggle to reach remote communities. The 'Aarogya Dhamni' program addresses this by integrating services through convergence, digital tools, and culturally sensitive approaches, improving both access and impact. Key issues include high IMR, MMR, SCD (AS, SS, AA), SAM, MAM, LBW, stunting, and limited access to healthcare in tribal regions.

KEY INTERVENTION

Aarogya Dhamni unifies five key health initiatives in tribal Nandurbar to drive impactful, culturally sensitive healthcare. Spoken Tutorials promote breastfeeding and nutrition in tribal languages. The RCH Umbrella Project streamlines maternal-newborn care using digital dashboards. The Sickle Cell Elimination Mission enables full genetic screening and decentralized treatment. NURTURE tracks SAM cases in real time, enhancing community-led recovery. CHIP 2.0 (e-SUCHI) digitizes maternal-child health records across six blocks, supporting ASHAs with voice alerts and dashboards. Together, these efforts integrate digital innovation, local governance, and culturally grounded outreach for scalable tribal health transformation.

IMPACT

- 1. Trained 500+ ASHAs, ANMs, and AWWs and 595 Sarpanch in tribal languages.
- 2. Improved breastfeeding and infant nutrition practices.
- 3. Enhanced clinical skills in C-sections, PPH management, and neonatal resuscitation; established Kangaroo Mother Care and Lactation Management Units.
- 4. Screened 30,000+ individuals; identified 7,000+ carriers, 1,300+ patients.
- 5. Decentralized hydroxyurea treatment to PHCs.
- 6. Reduced dropouts, prioritized community-based recovery (VCDCs/UCDCs).
- 7. Digitally registered over 2 lakh beneficiaries and enabled 500+ frontline workers with mobile tools, voice alerts, and real-time dashboards.

LESSON LEARNT

- 1. Trained ASHAs and ANMs became effective health change agents.
- 2. Digital platforms enabled real-time tracking and governance.
- 3. Community ownership via Sarpanchs and local leaders boosted outreach.

- 4. Decentralized care at PHC/village level improved access.
- 5. Digital records reduced duplication, improved targeting.
- 6. Institutional partnerships enabled scalable, low-cost innovations.
- 7. Limited digital literacy among some frontline workers delayed effective usage.











Education



Beyond the Classroom: Integrating Outdoor Learning and **Cultural Expression in Schools**

District: Yavatmal

State: Maharashtra

BACKGROUND/PROBLEM STATEMENT

To address rising dropout rates, poor engagement, and lack of creative exposure in higher primary school students across Pusad block, Yavatmal, a unique initiative was undertaken under the Aspirational Blocks Programme. The core problems identified included a dropout rate of 8.3% (Classes 3-8), limited participation in cultural/creative events (below 20%), rote learning practices, and a lack of platforms for students to express their talents. Schools observed that students were mentally disengaged due to rigid classroom learning and needed emotionally enriching, inclusive pedagogical methods to foster better outcomes.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

To address these challenges, two complementary strategies were introduced: 'Out of Classroom Teaching' and 'Block-Level Cultural Competitions'. Out of Classroom Teaching involved conducting lessons in informal, open-air settings like school courtyards, gardens, and village squares. Teachers used nature walks, games, storytelling, and local community-based examples to teach academic concepts, enhancing understanding and retention. Simultaneously, Block-Level Cultural Competitions were organized annually or biannually, involving inter-school contests in art, folk dance, music, drama, elocution, and craft. These events gave students, especially those with non-academic inclinations, a platform to express themselves, gain recognition, and build confidence. The implementation process included capacitybuilding workshops for teachers in active pedagogy, collaboration with local artisans and performers, regular practice sessions at cluster levels, and documentation of students' performances.

IMPACT

More than 6,500 students across 130+ schools directly benefited from the initiative. Teachers gained training in participative teaching techniques, and parents and local cultural groups became active stakeholders in students' development. The dropout rate reduced from 8.3% to 2.1%, annual enrollment growth rose from 1-2% to 6.5%, and participation in cultural events jumped from below 20% to over 80%. Students also reported a significant increase in interest in studies (from 38% to 67%). The program enhanced communication and self-confidence among students, improved school attendance, and created a joyful learning environment.

LESSONS LEARNT:

The initiative demonstrated that when learning is emotionally engaging, both academic and non-academic outcomes improve significantly. Creative and cultural platforms are essential in unlocking students' hidden potential, especially in low-resource, rural settings. The model proved to be a cost-effective and high-impact solution that can be easily replicated in tribal and hard-to-reach areas. Key takeaways include the importance of annual cultural calendars, micro-level planning, and teacher training in joyful learning methods to institutionalize the change.





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Students Mini Bank Initiative

District: Yavatmal

State: Maharashtra

BACKGROUND / PROBLEM STATEMENT

In rural areas like Aheralli village, located in the Aspirational Block Zari Jamni, children often grow up without formal exposure to basic financial concepts such as saving, budgeting, or banking. While academic education is provided, practical financial literacy is generally lacking in the primary school curriculum. The objective of the Students Mini Bank Initiative is to build financial literacy, promote financial inclusion, and foster responsibility among school students.

Key challenges identified before the intervention included the lack of financial literacy among school-aged children, absence of saving or money management practices, limited parental awareness on the importance of financial education, and lack of exposure among students to roles such as banking and accounting. The baseline indicators before 2023 showed that fewer than 30% of students had regular saving habits, there was limited financial literacy activity in schools, low community involvement, and minimal student-led initiatives.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

To address these gaps, the ZP School in Aheralli launched the "Students Mini Bank" initiative with full support from the Department of Education. The concept involves the creation of a student-managed mini bank within the school premises that operates daily. Students can deposit nominal amounts (₹1 to ₹10), maintain records, and participate in simplified banking processes under the guidance of teachers.

A Mini Bank Committee was formed with designated student roles such as Manager, Cashier, and Passbook In-charge. Each student maintains an individual passbook, and teachers act as mentors and auditors to oversee transparency and accuracy. Regular balance tallies, reporting, end-of-year withdrawals, and awareness sessions on saving, budgeting, and responsible spending were conducted. Support for materials such as ledgers, passbooks, and storage was provided by the School Management Committee (SMC).

During 2024–25, a total of 54 students (16 girls and 38 boys) participated, accumulating savings of ₹53,000. The bank operated daily, and training sessions on financial literacy were conducted. Six parent meetings were organized during the year, and ₹10,000 was withdrawn by students for stationery and picnic expenses.

IMPACT

The primary beneficiaries of this initiative include students, teachers, parents, and the school management. Students developed banking habits, leadership, and basic math skills. Teachers improved their pedagogy through real-life learning, while parents became more engaged in fostering saving habits at home. School management witnessed improved student participation and attendance. The impact highlights include 100% of students gaining knowledge of saving, budgeting, and banking transactions, complete participation in banking activities, enhanced numerical and record-keeping skills, improved behavior and responsibility among children, and an increased interest in banking, auditing, and cooperative values.

LESSONS LEARNT

This initiative demonstrated that experiential learning models like the Mini Bank create deep, long-lasting impacts on students. Assigning roles fosters accountability and confidence among children. The model requires minimal investment but yields high educational returns. It also encourages the integration of real-life skills into the school curriculum and can be effectively replicated in other rural schools with local teacher and community support.





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Daily Bus Service for Students

District: Yavatmal

State: Maharashtra

BACKGROUND / PROBLEM STATEMENT

The Aspirational Block of Zari Jamni in Yavatmal district, Maharashtra, has a predominantly tribal and rural population. Due to the geographical spread of habitations, inadequate public transport, and long travel distances between villages and schools, many children—particularly girls—faced daily challenges in commuting. This significantly affected school attendance, enrollment, and continuity of education, especially at the upper primary and secondary levels. To address this, the Block and District Administration, with the support of education and transport departments, launched the Daily Student Bus Service in 2024-25, aiming to bridge the access gap and ensure regular schooling.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

The "Daily Bus Service for Students" initiative was introduced to provide safe and free daily transport for students from remote tribal villages to nearby upper primary and secondary schools. Buses were deployed in high-need clusters covering multiple villages. Route planning was done by the Block Education Officer in coordination with Gram Panchayats. Funding was arranged through convergence from the Zilla Parishad (for operational costs), District Planning Committee (for infrastructure and fuel subsidies), XV Finance Commission untied grants, and CSR contributions where applicable. Nodal teachers or staff were assigned to monitor the buses, maintain daily attendance records with student signatures, and ensure adherence to child safety protocols through sensitization of drivers.

BENEFICIARIES AND IMPACT

The initiative primarily benefited students from remote and tribal villages, particularly girls who were earlier at risk of dropping out due to access and safety concerns. Parents felt reassured about their children's safety, while teachers observed improved attendance and learning continuity. The initiative resulted in a significant increase in regularity and punctuality of students, enhanced girls' participation in school activities, and strengthened trust between the community and school administration. Encouraged by its success, the model has been replicated in two neighboring blocks with local fund support.

LESSONS LEARNT

The initiative highlighted that safe and reliable transportation is essential for ensuring educational equity in rural areas. Active community involvement and planning contribute to long-term sustainability. Convergent funding across departments

enables scale-up without depending on a single scheme. Monitoring mechanisms such as bus attendance registers are critical for accountability. Furthermore, transportation support plays a vital role in promoting gender equity by enabling girls to attend school regularly.



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"Department@School" Initiative

District: Yavatmal

State: Maharashtra

BACKGROUND / PROBLEM STATEMENT

Zari Jamni, an Aspirational Block in Maharashtra, faced significant challenges in learning outcomes, community participation, and inter-departmental collaboration. Schools reported irregular visits by officials, with student attendance at 71% and teacher attendance at 78%. Parental involvement was below 20%, and transition rates hovered at 63%. The Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) achievement stood at 48%. These indicators pointed to weak governance, poor morale, and minimal awareness of developmental schemes. To address these systemic issues and foster convergence across departments and stakeholders, the "Department@School" initiative was launched in 2024.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

The initiative focuses on collaborative engagement by enabling officers from 14 departments to adopt schools and contribute to their development. Each officer takes responsibility for 2-3 schools and conducts regular visits involving career talks, motivational interactions, need assessments, and convergence activities. Community stakeholders, including Self Help Groups (SHGs) and Gram Panchayats, are mobilized for joint problem-solving. Officers promote schemes on sanitation, scholarships, and nutrition, creating a holistic support system. Monthly feedback and visit logs ensure accountability. Simplicity and non-burdensome formats are emphasized, making visits supportive rather than audit-oriented. Between 2024-25, a total of 936 officers visited 78 schools, directly impacting over 2,000 students.

IMPACT

The initiative positively affected multiple stakeholders. Student attendance increased from 71% to 83%, and FLN achievement improved from 48% to 66%, indicating enhanced learning outcomes and motivation. Teachers benefited from consistent support and morale-boosting engagements. School Management Committees (SMCs) became more proactive, and community participation surged from under 20% to 65%. Notably, 97% of schools reported receiving officer visits, with regular feedback mechanisms in place to track progress and address concerns swiftly.

LESSONS LEARNT

This initiative highlighted that visible administrative engagement fosters greater trust in government systems. Inter-departmental collaboration boosts morale among teachers and students while breaking down governance silos. Scheme convergence accelerates problem-solving and promotes efficient service delivery. Active community involvement is easier when administrative systems are proactive and participatory. Finally, simple monitoring and engagement tools are essential for sustaining the model effectively across various schools.



नवभारत

पयोग

नीति आयोग के अंतर्गत ZP की पहल, प्रशासन की अनूठी पहल

पहली बार चला आकांक्षी कार्यक्रम

 यवतमाल, ब्यूरो. नीति आयोग की ओर से आकांक्षी तहसील कार्यक्रम क्रियान्वित किया जा रहा है. इसी जामणी तहसील इस कार्यक्रम में शामिल है. कार्यक्रम के तहत, तहसील में एक अनुठी पहल 'जिला परिषद स्कूलों में विभिन्न सरकारी विभाग' लागू की जा रही है. इस पहल के तहत, विभिन्न विभागों के ग्राम स्तरीय सरकारी कर्मचारी जिला परिषद स्कूलों के छात्रों को अपने विभाग के ग्राम स्तरीय कार्यों. जिम्मेदारियों और विभिन्न चल रही गतिविधियों और योजनाओं के बारे में विस्तार से छात्रों को मार्गदर्शन कर रहे हैं. इस में विभिन्न विभाग के कर्मचारी एक साथ आकर समन्वय से जिम्मेदारियों को निभा रहे हैं, ऐसा अनुठा उपक्रम चलाने वाला झरी जामणी तहसील देश का पहला तहसील हैं. इस पहल के तहत सरकार के 11 से अधिक विभिन्न विभाग एक साथ आकर प्रभावी रूप से छात्रों के माध्यम से नागरिकों में सरकारी योजना, उपक्रम व नीति आयोग के आकांकी तहसील कार्यक्रम की विभागवार नागरिकों की जागरूकता की जा रही है. यह उपक्रम झरी अधिकारी रविंद्र कुमार सांगले के



ग्राम स्तर के सभी कर्मचारी कर रहे मार्गदर्शन

यह गतिविधि सभी गांवों में कार्यान्वित की जा रही है और इसमें ग्राम स्तरीय कोतवाल, ग्राम स्विव, पटवारी, पशुपन पर्यवेशक, पशु सखी, कृषि सहायक, कृषि सखी, महिला स्वयं सहायता समूहों के सदस्य, पुलिस, पुलिस पटेल, आंगनवाड़ी कार्यकर्ता और सहायिक, अशा, , एएनएम, जल संरक्षक, स्वच्छता दूत, रोजगार सेवक, स्वास्थ्य कार्यकर्ता, शिशक, वन रक्षक, कंप्यूटर ऑपरेंटर, बिजली आपूर्ति कर्मचारी यह सहभागीता कर छात्रों को बहुत ही सरल भाषा में ग्राम स्तर के कार्यों, जिम्मेदारियों और चल रही योजनाओं, जनके विभागों की गतिविधियों के बारे में जानकारी पूर्ण मार्गदर्शन प्रदान कर रहे हैं.

संकल्पना से किया जा रहा है, इसके लिए जिलाधिकारी डॉ.पंकज आशिया, मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी मंदार पत्की व केलापुर के सहायक जिला अधिकारी तथा उपविभागीय अधिकारी सुहास गाडे केलापुर के मार्गदर्शन में सफल हो रहा है, इसी के तहसीलदार अक्षय रासने, तहसील कृषि अधिकारी अमोल आमले,

तहसील स्वास्थ्य अधिकारी डॉ. मोहन गेडाम, बाल विकास प्रकल्प अधिकारी प्रभाकर पांडे, पशु संवर्धन अधिकारी इंग्ड.जे.जाधब, उमेद के तहसील मिशन मैनेजर प्रदीप राठोड व आकांश्री तहसील कार्यक्रम फेलो अनिल नरवाडे यह इस उपक्रम अच्छी तरीके से अमल के लिए परिश्रम कर रहे है.

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Shiksha Setu - CWSN Connect

District: Udaipur

State: Rajasthan

BACKGROUND / PROBLEM STATEMENT

Kherwara, a tribal block in Udaipur district, has historically faced challenges related to accessibility and low literacy levels. Despite improvements in school infrastructure and access, the inclusion of Children with Special Needs (CWSN) remained a major concern, primarily due to the lack of trained special educators and poor CWSN-to-teacher ratios across 61 schools. A total of 134 CWSN students faced academic, social, and emotional difficulties in the absence of necessary pedagogical support. Although Samagra Shiksha guidelines mandate inclusive education, the implementation was hindered by capacity gaps in the teacher cadre.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

To address this, on 17 July 2025, a training program was rolled out for general teachers across all 61 schools hosting CWSN students. The training was based on adapted modules addressing various disabilities, including Hearing Impairment (HI), Low Vision (LV), Total Blindness (TB), Intellectual Disabilities (ID), Learning Disabilities (LD), Multiple Disabilities (MD), and Specific Learning Disabilities (SLD). The modules were sourced from the Directorate of Education, Bikaner. Teachers were equipped with tools and techniques such as Braille books, sound balls, flashcards, and large alphabet books. Transportation facilities were arranged for both the CWSN students and their attendants to ensure access to school. While the recruitment of dedicated special educators is underway, this initiative enabled general teachers to temporarily bridge the support gap for inclusive learning.

IMPACT

A total of 134 Children with Special Needs are now benefiting from classroom-based support offered by trained teachers, improving their participation and engagement in daily learning activities. The early detection of disabilities, along with the use of suitable pedagogical approaches and assistive devices, has led to improved inclusion, reduced absenteeism, and enhanced learning outcomes. Additionally, this initiative has empowered families and communities by improving mobility through transport support and building trust in the education system. The professional capacity of general teachers has been significantly enhanced in the domain of inclusive education.

LESSONS LEARNT

This intervention underscored the importance of having at least one dedicated special educator per school cluster. It also highlighted the need for regular capacity building of general teachers to equip them with inclusive teaching skills. The use of assistive aids and individualized learning plans greatly boosts student engagement and learning outcomes. Community and NGO participation enhances the learning environment beyond the classroom. Effective convergence between the education,

health, and social welfare departments is essential for holistic support. Finally, involving parents and School Management Committees (SMCs) is crucial for sustaining inclusive practices in rural and tribal settings.



Mawa Modol (मावा मोदोल – "Mera Mool, Mera Bhavishya")

District: North Bastar Kanker

State: Chhattisgarh

BACKGROUND / PROBLEM STATEMENT

North Bastar Kanker is a Naxal-affected district where students have limited access to affordable and high-quality coaching for competitive examinations such as CGPSC, Vyapam, Police, and Defence recruitment. Due to the absence of such facilities locally, families were compelled to send their children to distant cities like Raipur, Bhilai, and Kota, causing significant financial strain. Additionally, many underprivileged students remained deprived of preparatory resources due to these constraints.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

1. Mawa Modol Coaching Centres (Launched: 1 December 2024)

These centres offer free-of-cost, high-quality coaching to deserving students selected through a merit-based screening test. External subject experts were brought in to ensure robust academic instruction. The centres were equipped with modern, digitally enabled classrooms, Wi-Fi, and libraries. As of now, the centres in Kanker and Bhanupratappur are supporting 200 and 250 students respectively.

2. Puna Pariyan ("Nai Udaan") Yojana (Launched: 1 February 2025)

Launched to cater to youth preparing for physically demanding recruitment like Agniveer, Army, Police, and Forest Guard. An abandoned BSF camp in Mulla (Chougale) was repurposed into a fully functional physical training facility. This programme currently benefits 200 students, of which 40 have cleared the police physical round and five are likely to be selected in BSF. The centre also provides support for mental aptitude and written examinations. Plans are underway to expand this initiative to the District HQ.

3. Mawa Modol Manthan (Launched under guidance of Hon'ble Chief Minister)

Mawa Modol Manthan was conceptualized for students who could not be accommodated in the central coaching centres. Through interest-based mapping, 600 underprivileged students were identified and enrolled in a personalized mentorship programme. This included the doorstep delivery of study materials, regular offline and online mentoring, mock tests, and performance evaluations. The intervention is supported by digital content in local dialects, as well as helpline-based guidance. Mawa Modol Manthan will be implemented in a phased manner between August 2025 and January 2026.

IMPACT

The initiatives have begun yielding significant results. Five students from Mawa Modol have qualified the CGPSC Preliminary Examination 2025. In addition, 40 students from

the Puna Pariyan programme cleared the police recruitment physical tests, with five poised for BSF selection. Across both formal coaching centres, over 450 students are currently enrolled. Meanwhile, Mawa Modol Manthan has extended educational support to an additional 600 students through its decentralized model. Not only has the local availability of coaching drastically reduced the financial burden on families, but it has also inspired rural and tribal youth to actively pursue competitive career opportunities.

LESSONS LEARNT

The experience in North Bastar Kanker has demonstrated that locally available, quality coaching can be a transformative equalizer for underserved communities. The integration of physical infrastructure with digital tools and mentorship has improved both accessibility and learning outcomes. The personalized support model of Mawa Modol Manthan also revealed the importance of going beyond classroom instruction to include motivational and logistical support. Ultimately, sustained community involvement and administrative ownership were found to be critical in ensuring the scalability and success of such grassroots interventions.





Impact of Building as Learning Aid (BaLA) in the schools in the block

District: Bahariya, Prayagraj

State: **Uttar Pradesh**

BACKGROUND / PROBLEM STATEMENT

The Bahariya block in Prayagraj district faced significant challenges in terms of school infrastructure, teaching resources, and foundational learning support. Poorly maintained classrooms, lack of modern tools, and limited teacher training opportunities negatively impacted the learning environment and outcomes. Recognizing the need for a comprehensive approach to improve educational infrastructure and pedagogy, the district administration partnered with private stakeholders and implemented a series of interventions under the Aspirational Districts and Blocks Programme.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

- 1. Renovation of the UPS Karnaipur School building, including toilets, classrooms, and installation of Bala (Building as Learning Aid) painting, through PPP with Mosaic, Krishi Jyoti, and Sehgal Foundations.
- 2. ICT labs installed in 42 schools.
- 3. Teacher training and support for foundational learning.
- 4. Solar energy systems installed in schools to ensure reliable electricity.

IMPACT

The interventions have significantly transformed the educational experience in Bahariya. Renovated classrooms now provide better lighting, ventilation, and seating, creating a conducive environment for learning. Teachers are more motivated and effective, while student attention and classroom engagement have improved. Enrollment has increased, driven by improved infrastructure and community trust. Bala paintings have further enhanced visual learning, promoted interactive engagement, and supported inclusive education by using multilingual and child-friendly visuals. The transformation has not only improved academic outcomes but also fostered a more welcoming and child-centric school climate.

LESSONS LEARNT

The initiative underscored the importance of child-centered learning through active participation, play, and creativity. Bala techniques proved particularly effective in encouraging exploration and discovery. Teacher capacity-building was essential educators trained in using Bala materials and creative pedagogy showed improved teaching outcomes. Community engagement also played a vital role in sustaining infrastructure improvements, while ongoing monitoring and feedback mechanisms ensured continuous progress in learning outcomes and student well-being.















LIFT: Local Innovation for Future Thinking

District: Kiphire

State: **Nagaland**

BACKGROUND / PROBLEM STATEMENT

Kiphire district, located in Nagaland, faced multiple educational challenges including poor infrastructure, low digital access, and limited community engagement. Most students are first-generation learners with little academic support at home. Issues such as lack of toilets, inadequate drinking water, and limited teacher training added to the problem. These challenges were further exacerbated by insufficient engagement with digital resources and unequal access to quality education across the region.

To address these concerns, the district administration launched "LIFT: Local Innovation for Future Thinking"—a comprehensive initiative that included infrastructure development, foundational learning enhancement, digital education, library resources, and improved nutrition. The holistic approach aimed to transform the education landscape by making it inclusive, interactive, and rooted in community participation.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

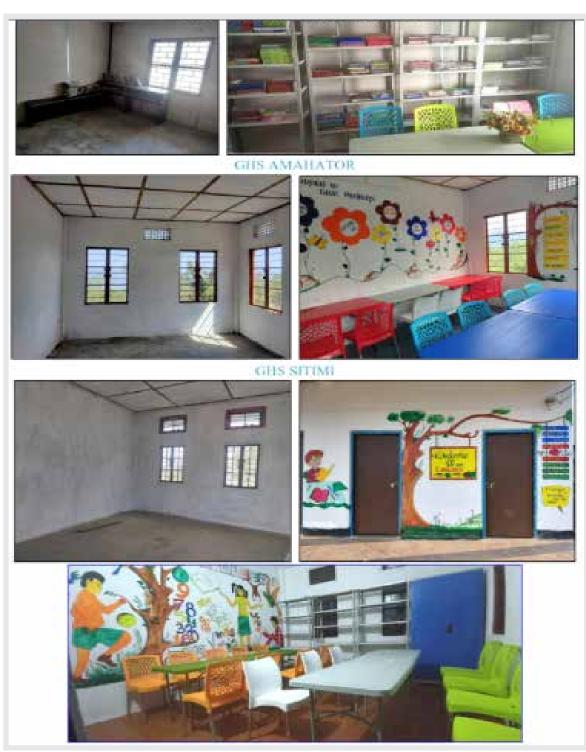
- 1. Library Project: Established libraries in 7 schools using BaLa (Building as Learning Aid) techniques; trained teachers in library management; introduced reading activities and TLMs; Smart TVs used to enhance phonetics and pronunciation.
- 2. Foundational Learning with KeyED: Implemented in 35 schools using ageappropriate TLMs and contextualized play-based pedagogy aligned with the National Curriculum Framework; training provided to teachers.
- 3. Digital Learning with NagaEd: Computer labs set up; tailored content for English, Math, and Science introduced for Grades 9-10; LMS implemented in 15 schools; monthly assessments and blended learning methods adopted.
- 4. Shiksha Mitra Samarthan Abhiyan & Tithi Bhojan: District officers adopted schools to improve infrastructure and learning outcomes; integrated community-led initiatives like Tithi Bhojan, FIT India, Swachh Vidyalaya, and plantation drives.

IMPACT

The LIFT initiative has reached a wide audience across the district. The library and foundational learning projects impacted over 1,198 students from pre-primary to Class 12. The digitization component benefited 1,150 students in Grades 9 and 10, improving engagement and academic outcomes. The Shiksha Mitra Samarthan Abhiyan, launched in September 2024, supported 86 government schools, fostering community involvement and mentorship by district officers. The initiative has brought measurable improvements in school infrastructure, digital competence, and foundational education, leading to better attendance and reduced dropouts.

LESSONS LEARNT

Holistic, localized solutions that address academic, infrastructural, and social needs yield sustainable outcomes. Stakeholder engagement, particularly community ownership and the involvement of district officials, has been key to the success of the initiative. Tailored training and contextual curriculum aligned with local needs enhance learning. Overcoming digital disparities requires strategic investments in infrastructure and teacher capacity-building. Integrated programs combining education, health, and environment produce more impactful results.



Revolutionizing Learning Through Innovation

District: Chandauli

StateL: Uttar Pradesh

BACKGROUND / PROBLEM STATEMENT

Semra Gram Panchayat in the Chahaniya Development Block of Chandauli district exemplifies transformative educational innovation in a rural setting. Under the guidance of the NITI Aayog's Aspirational Block Programme, this initiative addresses the challenge of limited access to modern educational resources in rural areas. The creation of a digital library at the Panchayat Bhavan integrates technology with traditional learning methods to enhance accessibility, engagement, and academic development among rural students.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

- **1. Infrastructure Development**: Construction of a state-of-the-art Panchayat Bhavan featuring a modern digital library with enclosed ergonomic study tables, LED lighting, bookshelves, AC, and seating for 16 students.
- **2. Technology Integration**: Provision of free Wi-Fi and digital tools to foster self-study and digital literacy.
- **3. Stakeholder Engagement**: Collaboration with DPRO, BDO, ABF, Gram Pradhan, and Gram Sachiv to drive community involvement and ownership.
- **4. Leadership and Monitoring**: Strong leadership by Mrs. Divya Ojha and Aspirational Block Fellow Shivangi Singh, with continuous monitoring and support from local authorities.

IMPACT

The digital library has transformed Semra's Panchayat Bhavan into a hub for learning and opportunity. It supports two daily shifts and accommodates 16 students at a time, providing an enriched environment for self-study. The initiative bridges the rural-urban educational divide, offering access to global knowledge and promoting lifelong learning. The project has enhanced educational awareness and motivated students, showcasing the community's commitment to inclusive development.

LESSONS LEARNT

Strong local leadership and community participation are key to successful rural education innovations. Digital libraries require concerted efforts in funding, awareness-building, and stakeholder engagement. Sustained motivation and participation from students and families are critical for long-term success. The initiative highlights the importance of integrating modern technology into rural education to promote equity and future-readiness.











One Day at School: Government in the Classroom

District: Soreng District,

State: Sikkim

BACKGROUND / PROBLEM STATEMENT

The "One Day at School" initiative by Soreng District Administration brings government officers into schools for a day of immersive civic and departmental learning. It aims to bridge the gap between administration and students by promoting experiential education beyond textbooks.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

There was limited student exposure to real-world governance and civic structures, affecting aspiration levels and engagement. The need for community-integrated, participatory education models prompted this initiative, aligning with ADP indicators in education, health, and convergence

IMPACT

Students gained practical civic knowledge, motivation to attend school, and increased aspirations. Teachers reported better attendance and classroom interest. Departments engaged in two-way learning and faster ADP goal progress. The programme enhanced governance visibility, community participation, and is now recognised as a scalable model of convergence

LESSONS LEARNT

Real-world exposure enriches classroom learning and improves performance. Cross-sector convergence fosters efficient outreach. Student-government interaction promotes trust and civic pride. Teachers benefit from renewed engagement. Departmental feedback loops create citizen-friendly governance. Community involvement strengthens ownership. Participatory learning drives both educational and institutional impact at the grassroots.







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From Dropouts to Digital: Mankote's Holistic Model to Boost Student Transition.

District: **Poonch**

State: Jammu & Kashmir

BACKGROUND / PROBLEM STATEMENT

Mankote, a remote hilly border block in District Poonch (J&K), had long struggled with low transition rates in education due to poor infrastructure, challenging terrain, and socio-cultural barriers—particularly for girls and tribal children. Schools operated in makeshift buildings, digital access was minimal, and dropout rates were high during key academic transitions.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

Before the intervention, Mankote faced significant educational challenges, particularly affecting girls' academic progression. The transition rate from Upper Primary to Secondary for girls stood at a modest 78.29%, while the shift from Secondary to Higher Secondary was critically low at just 30%. The region had only 16 ICT labs and lacked any provision for online learning, Additionally, just 4.37% of teachers were trained to support children with special needs (CWSN), and parental involvement in educational governance was nearly non-existent. To address these issues, Mankote implemented the Integrated Education Uplift Model—a data-driven, low-cost, and scalable strategy. This model emphasized digital access, inclusive pedagogy, improved infrastructure, and active community engagement, with a strong focus on facilitating smooth academic transitions at two key stages: from Upper Primary to Secondary, and from Secondary to Higher Secondary.

Following the intervention, Mankote witnessed significant improvements across key educational areas. Under digital empowerment, the number of ICT labs increased from 16 to 21, two digital kiosks were introduced to facilitate hybrid learning, and two tribal schools were equipped with ICT tools. In terms of infrastructure development, all schools now have adequate classroom space—an improvement from previously overcrowded conditions—and 100% of targeted schools now have girls' toilets. Inclusion also saw major progress, with all teachers (up from just 4.37%) now trained to support children with special needs (CWSN). Community engagement strengthened notably, as parent-teacher meeting attendance rose to 80% through effective local mobilization.

IMPACT

The educational interventions in Mankote significantly improved student transition rates, particularly at the upper primary to secondary level, where both boys (94.94%) and girls (85.46%) showed strong progression. These gains were driven by enhanced infrastructure, digital learning tools, and targeted support for girls and tribal students. However, the sharp drop in transition from secondary to higher secondary—especially among girls (48.87%)—highlights persistent challenges. Inclusive teacher training and increased community involvement played a crucial role in strengthening school governance and learning environments, making education more accessible and equitable across the region.

LESSONS LEARNT

The implementation of digital tools and kiosks has proven effective in bridging educational gaps in rural areas, significantly enhancing access and learning opportunities. Comprehensive teacher training and the inclusion of children with special needs (CWSN) have played a pivotal role in advancing learning equity across the region. Community ownership emerged as a key factor in reducing dropout rates, highlighting the importance of local engagement in sustaining educational progress. These outcomes demonstrate that even simple, cost-effective, and replicable interventions can lead to substantial impact, particularly in low-resource settings.









Educating Against the Odds: The Transformation story of Tribal Z. P. School, Kawada Lilakpada in Talasari Block

District: Palghar

State: Maharashtra

BACKGROUND / PROBLEM STATEMENT

Kawada Lilakpada is a remote tribal hamlet near the Veroli river in Talasari block, home to around 170 families including a 144 Katkari tribe members, classified under the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG). Most male members work on fishing boats and are away from home for 7-8 months a year, while women work in fields, construction sites, or as daily wage laborers in industrial areas. Due to generational illiteracy, many having dropped out before or after 5th standard and now these parents have limited understanding of the value of formal education. This has resulted in minimal academic aspiration, low enrolment, and chronic absenteeism among children from the village.

The Zilla Parishad School in Kawada Lilakpada was in a neglected state for long time. During the 2023 district transfer cycle, no teacher opted for this school due to its remoteness and deteriorated condition. It had only 17 students, crumbling infrastructure, and poor academic performance. When teacher Shri. Dnyaneshwar Sarak, an active Z.P teacher from Talasari block undertook this challenge and voluntarily accepted the posting in Lilakpada school in May 2024, the school then began its journey of transformation.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

The transformation of Lilakpada school was led by a teacher using a multi-pronged strategy focusing on quality education, joyful learning, community involvement, and infrastructure improvement. A door-to-door campaign helped build trust and boost enrolment, while WhatsApp updates engaged even illiterate parents emotionally. The school was renovated with local materials and vibrant artwork. Teaching methods were adapted to foundational learning needs using FLN techniques, group-based learning, and creative activities. Special meals and a breakfast program attracted more students. Regular follow-ups and flexible learning ensured attendance despite migration. These initiatives increased student strength and improved the overall school environment dramatically.

IMPACT

Student enrolment at Lilakpada school more than tripled, rising from 17 in 2023 to over 60 by mid-2025, fueled by strong community engagement and renewed trust. Daily attendance stabilized near 100% due to personalized follow-ups, engaging lessons, and nutritious meals. Foundational literacy and numeracy improved significantly, with students learning to read, write, and calculate. Parents became actively involved, contributing time and resources. The teacher's innovative work earned the National Education Innovation Award 2024 and support from NGOs, leading to enhanced infrastructure and learning resources. Extracurricular activities boosted student confidence, and growing enrolment led to hiring a second teacher.

LESSONS LEARNT

The impact at Lilakpada school is marked by a more than threefold increase in student enrolment, driven by strengthened community trust and engagement. Daily attendance stabilized at nearly 100% thanks to personalized follow-ups, engaging lessons, and nutritious meals. Foundational literacy and numeracy skills improved significantly, while parental involvement grew with active contributions of time and resources. The school's innovative efforts earned the National Education Innovation Award 2024 and attracted support from several stakeholders, leading to enhanced infrastructure and a child-friendly environment. Extracurricular activities boosted student confidence and creativity, and growing enrolment justified hiring a second teacher.









The Success of the 'Pradnya' Booklet Intervention in Khandwa District: A Comprehensive Educational Innovation

District: Khandwa

State: Madhya Pradesh

BACKGROUND / PROBLEM STATEMENT

Khandwa district, designated as an aspirational district by NITI Aayog, has made significant strides in improving the quality of education. Among its innovative interventions, the "Pradnya" booklet has emerged as a game-changer. Designed to enhance the learning outcomes of 10th and 12th-grade students, this booklet has transformed the educational landscape in the district. Through its innovative approach, the Pradnya booklet aims to tackle the challenges faced by students in achieving academic excellence

KEY INTERVENTIONS

The "Pradnya" booklet was introduced in Khandwa district to enhance students' learning outcomes by using innovative strategies tailored to the region's educational needs. Key elements of this intervention include:

Comprehensive Study Material: The booklet contains a curated compilation of previous five years' board exam questions and answers. The content is organized in a structured manner, dividing subjects and topics based on marking schemes, which enables students to focus on areas that matter most.

Teacher Support: To ensure the effectiveness of this approach, teachers are equipped with planners, helping them prepare students systematically for their board exams. The booklet offers a structured learning process with clear guidelines for time management and study techniques.

Supplementary Learning Resources: The inclusion of recorded video lectures and YouTube videos, delivered by subject experts, supports classroom learning. This blend of traditional and modern teaching methodologies enriches the learning experience, offering diverse ways to grasp complex concepts.

Focused Attention on Underperformers: One of the most significant aspects of this intervention is identifying students who are underperforming. These students receive personalized attention and extra support, enabling targeted efforts to improve their academic standing.

IMPACT

The Pradnya booklet, developed for Khandwa district, significantly improved student outcomes by providing a comprehensive, structured learning resource. Pass percentages rose sharply, with Class 10 increasing from 60.58% to 83.37% and Class 12 from 69.23% to 83.28% between 2023-24 and 2024-25. The booklet enhanced student engagement through video lectures and expert tutorials, clarifying complex



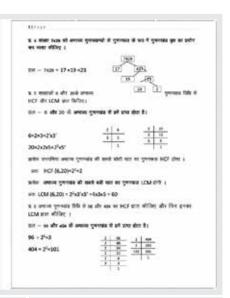
concepts. Teachers benefited by tailoring lessons to focus on key topics, improving pedagogy. It also supported underperforming students with personalized learning plans, narrowing achievement gaps. Additionally, the booklet promoted critical thinking, creative problem-solving, and independent learning, fostering disciplined, goal-oriented study habits.

LESSONS LEARNT

The Pradnya booklet's success in Khandwa highlights its strong potential for replication across. Madhya Pradesh and India. Its cost-effectiveness stems from using existing resources like past exam papers and free online platforms, requiring minimal financial input. The booklet's simple, adaptable design ensures scalability without needing major structural changes or advanced technology. Emphasizing teacher training and collaboration, it supports easy adoption by educators. Additionally, it requires no new infrastructure, making it ideal for rural and resource-poor areas. Its flexible approach suits various subjects and regions, positioning it as a promising model for nationwide educational reforms.













Convergence for Dignity: Ensuring Separate Toilets for Girls in **ZP Schools**

District: Yavatmal

State: Maharashtra

BACKGRAOUND/PROBLEM STATEMENT

Pusad block in Yavatmal district, Maharashtra, has seen significant strides under the Aspirational Block Programme in education Indicators. However, a critical gap persisted in ensuring gender sensitive sanitation infrastructure in government-run Zilla Parishad (ZP) schools. Lack of separate and functional toilets for girls led to discomfort, absenteeism, and school dropouts, especially during menstruation. Recognizing the need, a convergent approach involving the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM-G), MGNREGS, and the Education Department was initiated to ensure separate, safe, and dignified toilet facilities for girls.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

The initiative aims to ensure that every government school has a separate, safe, and functional toilet specifically for girls by leveraging inter-departmental collaboration. Key features of the program include the convergence of the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), and the Education Department for fund pooling and effective implementation. This collaboration supports the construction or repair of exclusive girls' toilets in Zilla Parishad (ZP) schools, ensuring a consistent water supply, privacy, and regular cleaning of these facilities. By creating a safe and hygienic space for adolescent girls, the program encourages school attendance during menstruation, addressing a significant barrier to education. The implementation strategy begins with a baseline survey to identify gaps across schools, followed by mobilizing funds where SBM-G finances toilet construction, MGNREGS provides labor and infrastructure support, and the Education Department coordinates school-level activities and Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) sessions. Community involvement and active participation of School Management Committees (SMCs) play a vital role in monitoring the use and maintenance of these facilities. Additionally, the integration of MHM awareness among girl students ensures sustained health and hygiene education, fostering an environment supportive of girls' education and well-being.

IMPACT

The program directly benefits over 9,000 girl students across more than 200 Zilla Parishad (ZP) schools, while indirectly impacting the entire school ecosystem, including staff and parents. Qualitatively, girls have reported experiencing greater comfort and dignity at school, which has positively influenced their overall well-being. Teachers have observed notable improvements in both attendance and participation among the students. Additionally, parents have expressed increased confidence in sending

their adolescent daughters to school, reflecting a broader community trust in the program's effectiveness.

LESSONS LEARNT

Infrastructure combined with awareness forms a powerful foundation for promoting gender equity. Inter-departmental convergence plays a crucial role in effectively addressing resource gaps by pooling funds and expertise from various departments. For the sustainability of such initiatives, ongoing maintenance and behavior change are essential components. This model can be successfully replicated across both aspirational and non-aspirational blocks by leveraging existing government schemes. Furthermore, regular audits and active monitoring by School Management Committees (SMCs) help ensure the long-term functionality and effectiveness of the facilities.



PARAKH (Padhai aur Khel): Transforming Learning Outcomes

through Weekly Assessments and Community Engagement

District: East Singhbhum

State: **Jharkhand**

BACKGROUND / PROBLEM STATEMENT

In East Singhbhum, poor learning outcomes, low attendance, and weak community involvement plagued school education. The lack of regular assessments and minimal parental engagement made it difficult to identify and support underperforming students. Project PARAKH was conceptualized to tackle these issues through structured weekly assessments, data-driven teaching plans, and active community participation.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

A district core group prepared weekly subject-wise papers, circulated via WhatsApp, and administered in schools. Evaluated OMR and written sheets were shared with parents and results displayed publicly. Monthly teaching plans ensured syllabus uniformity. Two dedicated WhatsApp groups facilitated communication among teachers and heads. Performance data was submitted in registers and digital formats. To prepare for board exams, pre-boards and "Padhai Pe Charcha" sessions were held. ICT and STEM labs were set up, infrastructure improved, and absenteeism was tackled through home visits and "CITI Bazaar" campaigns. Parent engagement was strengthened via PTMs, rallies, and book fairs.

IMPACT

Student attendance rose from 64% to 78%, and teacher attendance from 71% to 84%. Over 82% of students consistently took assessments. Jamshedpur ranked first in the state in Class 10 results with a 96% pass rate. ICT labs in 147 schools and improved infrastructure further supported student learning and digital access.

LESSONS LEARNT

Challenges included internet gaps, smartphone unavailability, low parental literacy, subject-specific teacher shortages, and data reporting delays. Migration, economic hardship, and social barriers also impacted attendance. Sustaining teacher and student motivation required ongoing support and recognition.













Establishment of Book-Bank in Primary/Upper Primary Schools

District: Amethi

State: **Uttar Pradesh**

BACKGROUND / PROBLEM STATEMENT

In the Aspirational Block of Jamo in Amethi district, a major challenge faced was the delayed distribution of textbooks to students enrolled in government primary schools. This delay hindered classroom learning and affected the effective implementation of the NIPUN Bharat scheme. The financial burden of purchasing new textbooks each year further disadvantaged underprivileged students.

To address this, the education department launched a "Book Bank" initiative—designed to collect, store, and circulate textbooks and learning materials among students. This model ensures the timely availability of books, promotes reuse and sustainability, and fosters equitable learning. It aligns with the Right to Education Act by narrowing the resource gap in public education and enhancing inclusivity.

Baseline indicators focused on Mathematics and Language performance across Classes 3, 5, and 8. Data from March 2024 to March 2025 shows considerable improvement across all metrics. For instance, Mathematics performance in Class 3 improved from 34.19% to 50.88%, and Language performance in Class 3 rose from 55.08% to 72.17%. Similar gains were observed in other classes as well.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

The innovation involves collecting textbooks from students who have passed a class and storing them in the existing school library as part of a dedicated "Book Bank" section. These books are issued to newly enrolled students at the start of the academic year, ensuring uninterrupted studies even if new book supplies are delayed. Once new books arrive, the old ones are replaced. No additional funds are required for this initiative, and the model can be repeated year-on-year to cover all classes.

IMPACT

The Book Bank significantly benefits students in Classes 3, 5, and 8 by ensuring continuous access to learning materials. It supports standardised teaching, improves the quality of education, and contributes to achieving the goals of the NIPUN Bharat scheme. The intervention has led to increased enrolment, improved attendance, higher pass rates, and reduced dropout rates. It also supports children's emotional, cognitive, and mental development and enhances teachers' ability to provide inclusive education.

LESSONS LEARNT

Implementing the Book Bank across all basic schools in gram panchayats has the potential to enhance public confidence in government schools, especially among economically weaker sections. It can help families below the poverty line avoid the financial burden of private school fees and promote the use of sustainable, communitysupported educational resources.

















Transforming Education in Nuh through Shikshak Sahayaks

District: Nuh

State: Haryana

BACKGROUND / PROBLEM STATEMENT

In 2020, Nuh district faced an acute shortage of schoolteachers, with 114 schools operating without teachers and 112 with only one. This severe deficit hindered the learning environment and student retention. The challenge was amplified by low pupil-teacher ratios, high dropout rates, and limited access to quality education. The district administration, in collaboration with the Mewat Development Agency and multiple NGOs, launched the *Shiksha Sahayak* programme to address this gap through local recruitment of trained volunteers as educators in primary and middle schools.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

Under the initiative, 1000 Shiksha Sahayaks were recruited as paid volunteer teachers (500 PRT and 114 TGT) through a tech-enabled, transparent process involving online applications, admit cards, merit-based tests, and document verification. Local NGOs were assigned specific blocks for implementation. Recruited candidates underwent FLN training and were deployed based on merit and proximity. The program prioritized inclusivity—51% candidates were from minority communities, 81% from rural backgrounds, and 50% were women. Technological systems like MIS, Google Forms, SMS, and WhatsApp ensured efficient recruitment, monitoring, and grievance redressal.

IMPACT

The Shiksha Sahayak programme led to significant improvements in educational outcomes in Nuh. The percentage of elementary schools complying with the RTE-specified pupil-teacher ratio increased from 40% in 2018 to 71% in 2023. Transition rates improved notably, with the rate from primary to upper primary schools rising from 89% to 97%, and from upper primary to secondary schools from 70% to 85%. Language performance saw an encouraging rise as well—Class 3 scores improved from 51% to 61%, and Class 8 scores from 40% to 51%. The initiative also contributed to a visible rise in school enrolment, particularly among girls, and generated local employment by providing teaching roles to over 600 youth from the district, thereby strengthening community trust in government education systems.

LESSONS LEARNT

Localized recruitment of educators can immediately address staff shortages and foster community ownership of education. Tech-enabled transparent processes enhance efficiency and inclusivity. However, long-term sustainability requires continued funding, robust monitoring systems, and integration with broader socio-economic interventions to address dropout rates. The initiative is now considered a scalable model for other districts and is being considered for replication in the health sector under a proposed 'Swasth Sahayak' initiative.













Shiksha Kar Bhent - The Gift of Education

District: Gumla

State: **Jharkhand**

BACKGROUND / PROBLEM STATEMENT

The Gift of Education initiative in Gumla, locally known as *Shiksha Kar Bhent* (Nagpuri for Gift of Education), was conceptualised to address the educational disparities prevalent in the district, especially among underprivileged students. The initiative aimed to bridge learning gaps and instill a culture of inquiry, innovation, and scientific temper, with a special emphasis on STEM education. Despite existing infrastructure, many students lacked access to quality learning opportunities, role models, and exposure to modern educational practices.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

A series of innovative and inclusive interventions were implemented under the initiative. Exposure visits were organised for students to the ISRO Launch Station at Sriharikota, enabling them to interact with scientists—51 girl students have participated so far, gaining motivation and role models. The district-wide Science Olympiad was launched to discover and nurture scientific talent. 'The Science Hive', a dedicated hands-on laboratory, was established to promote experimentation. Underprivileged students received books, science kits, and lab materials as part of the Gift of Education drive. Scratch coding workshops introduced students to programming through a gamified approach. Robotics training and competitions, including two inter-district and interstate events (a first for Jharkhand), were conducted to spark interest in engineering. A 3-tiered library model was implemented, including three district libraries, eleven block-level, and over 100 panchayat-level libraries. The Gumla Science Centre was revamped from a defunct structure into a modern STEM hub with 3D printing, AI demos, robotics, VR, and life-sized scientific models. Further, 126 schools were assigned senior officers for mentoring, not inspection, promoting constructive engagement. Literature festivals with prominent authors were also organised to enrich students' perspectives.

IMPACT

The initiative had a widespread impact. In the first year itself, Gumla moved from 17th to 7th position in Jharkhand board rankings (2024). In the second year, the district ranked 6th in science and 4th in arts among 24 districts (2025). More than 60 new classrooms were constructed, ICT labs were made functional in over 100 schools, smart classes were introduced in over 200 schools, and science labs were operationalised in over 50 schools. In terms of STEM proficiency, more than 400 students received training in computer programming, and over 100 students built working robots. The Science Centre now receives thousands of visitors monthly. Community ownership has been a cornerstone, with regular PTMs and involvement of Self-Help Groups enhancing accountability.

LESSONS LEARNT

Key success factors of the initiative include its holistic design—integrating infrastructure development, curriculum enrichment, teacher training, and exposure opportunities into a single ecosystem. A focus on inclusivity ensured that underprivileged and rural students were prioritised. The initiative's innovative orientation, with handson and tech-enabled learning, fostered creativity and future-readiness. Community involvement, particularly of SHGs, parents, and teachers, served as the backbone of the programme. Its design allowed for scalability, with pilots followed by data-driven scaling and refinement. As a result, the programme has gained national recognition. It was awarded the PM's Award for Excellence in Public Administration 2023, showcased at the 3rd National Conference of Chief Secretaries, and inspired replication in multiple districts including Sahibganj, Chatra, Dantewada, East Singhbhum, and Jashpur.

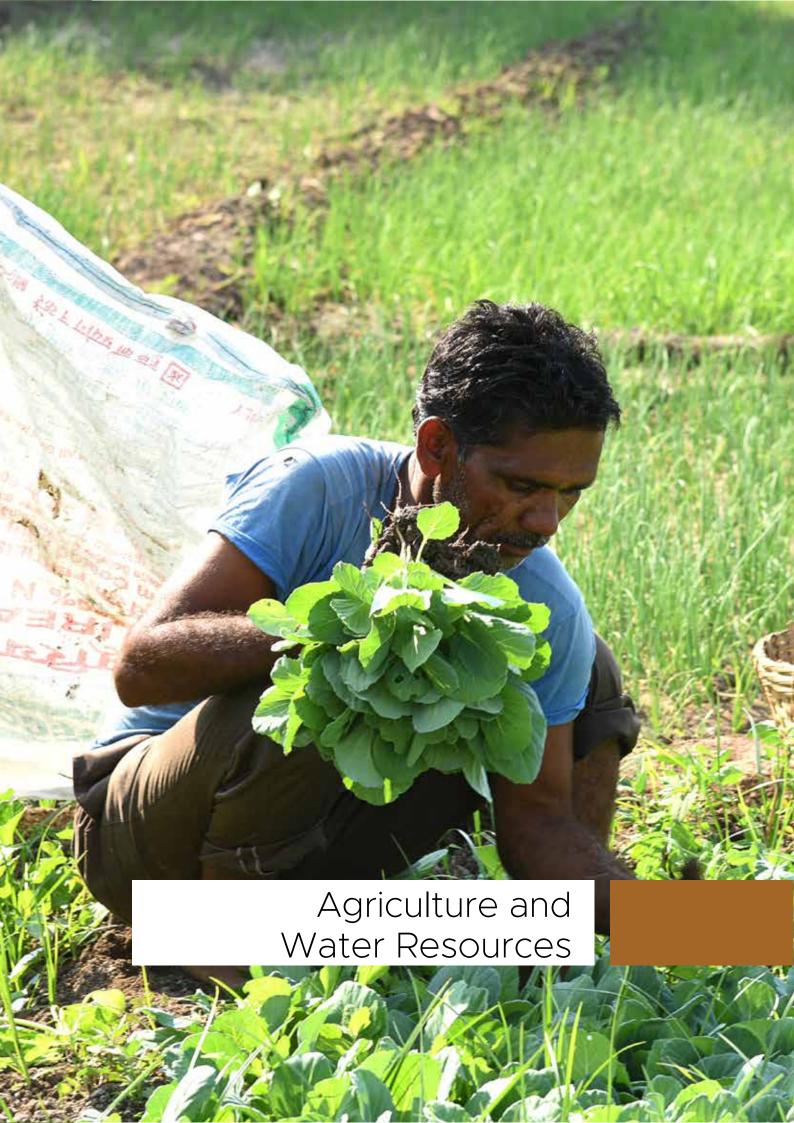












Dragon Fruit Farming

District: Seraikela-Kharsawan

State: Jharkhand

BACKGROUND / PROBLEM STATEMENT

Satish Devgam, a dedicated farmer from Barabana village in Murkum Panchayat, Seraikela Block of Seraikela-Kharsawan district, comes from a humble background. With limited formal education, he relied heavily on traditional farming practices passed down through generations to support his family. However, this approach posed several challenges low crop yields, restricted market access and limited income made it difficult for Satish to meet the basic needs of his family. The absence of knowledge about modern farming techniques further worsened the situation. These baseline indicators clearly pointed to the urgent need for change. Determined to improve his family's standard of living, Satish sought out new opportunities and eventually ventured into dragon fruit cultivation.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

To transform his agricultural practices, Satish adopted innovative methods with the support of the Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA). He began with soil testing and utilized the Soil Health Card to ensure precise and balanced fertilizer application. With technical support, he established a well-planned dragon fruit farm and implemented efficient irrigation and scientific crop management practices. These interventions helped improve productivity, quality and resilience of his crops. Satish's openness to learning and hard work were crucial in executing these modern techniques effectively, showcasing the benefits of shifting from conventional to high-value horticulture crops.

IMPACT

Satish's transition to dragon fruit farming brought about a significant improvement in his socio-economic status. His annual income increased substantially, allowing him to invest in better education for his children and improved healthcare for his family. The success of his venture has not only uplifted his household but has also influenced many other farmers in the surrounding areas. Inspired by his achievements, several farmers have shown interest in adopting dragon fruit farming and other high-value crops, leading to knowledge dissemination and local agricultural transformation. Satish's farm has become a local model for innovative horticulture practices in the district.

LESSONS LEARNT

The case of Satish Devgam highlights the transformative power of modern agricultural practices when combined with determination and institutional support. It demonstrates how access to knowledge, resources and extension support can lead to increased productivity, income diversification and sustainable livelihoods. The adoption of



high-value crops like dragon fruit can be a game changer for farmers in similar agroclimatic zones. Satish's journey serves as a reminder that even small-scale farmers can achieve success and inspire others if equipped with the right tools, training and a willingness to innovate.





Comprehensive development of rural economy through Community irrigation: A study in Gamharia Block, Saraikela kharsawan

District: Seraikela-Kharsawan

State: Jharkhand

BACKGROUND / PROBLEM STATEMENT

Gamharia Block in Seraikela-Kharsawan district has traditionally depended on agriculture and small forest produce for its livelihood. However, farmers in the region have long faced challenges due to erratic irrigation facilities and over-reliance on monsoon rains. Recognizing this, the Kharsawan Lift Irrigation Scheme was introduced on the Kharsawan River to provide timely and assured irrigation to farmlands using a community-based approach. Notably, the local administration, in collaboration with the Water Panchayat Committee, has enabled water delivery based on online demand through WhatsApp groups. Farmers now receive water at a fixed date and time, mapped to specific agricultural plots, facilitating the cultivation of commercial crops like vegetables, mustard and paddy. Earlier, lack of access to irrigation and formal water management systems hindered agricultural productivity, leading to migration, dropout from schools and economic stagnation. The scheme aims to solve these interrelated issues with innovative, inclusive and participatory approaches.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

The Kharsawan Lift Irrigation Scheme operates under the AIBP and is financed by the Nagar Panchayat through the Finance Account. The scheme leverages advanced technology in water scheduling and delivery while emphasizing collective participation. The Water Panchayat Committee registers farmers' mobile numbers and creates WhatsApp groups through which irrigation is scheduled. Each 5-hectare agricultural cluster has a pipe outlet connected via PVC pipes to nearby farms. This eliminates the need for open canals or land acquisition, ensuring even previously unreachable areas receive irrigation. Alongside this, the district administration promotes hybrid seed usage, protected cultivation, pond recharge and soil health testing to boost agricultural productivity. With 108 village ponds being recharged, additional livelihoods have been created through fisheries and duck rearing. Importantly, all this progress has occurred without displacement or resettlement, thanks to the implementation of the Right to Use Act, 2018 (Government of Jharkhand). The project has significantly contributed to enhanced land utilization, increased agricultural output and improved community resilience.

IMPACT

The scheme has benefitted 43 villages across five panchayats in Gamharia block, impacting a population of 30,027, of which approximately 42% belong to SC/ST communities. Initiated in 2022, the project has demonstrated measurable progress within just three years. Net sown area for vegetables has increased from 1760



hectares in 2021–22 to over 11,366 hectares in 2024–25. Similarly, the area under mustard cultivation and seed distribution has grown significantly. Unutilized land has decreased by more than 500 hectares. The project has also led to a notable increase in the utilization of MGNREGA job cards, indicating reduced outmigration. Fund utilization rose from ₹6,702 lakhs in 2022–23 to ₹10,012 lakhs in 2024–25, further signifying agricultural vibrancy. School dropout rates have decreased sharply from 773 in 2023-24 to 182 in 2025–26 suggesting broader socio-economic improvements. Groundwater recharge from 108 ponds has been reported at 1–4 mm/day and protected agriculture has created new avenues of income. Fishery and duck farming further augment household earnings, making the scheme a multi-benefit intervention.

LESSONS LEARNT

The Gamharia irrigation model stands as a testimony to what structured community participation, appropriate technology and government support can achieve in a short span. This initiative has not only resolved long-standing irrigation issues but has also ushered in socio-economic transformation, reduced migration and improved education and nutrition outcomes. The Water Panchayat Committee's role in managing water demand through mobile-based scheduling is a low-cost, scalable solution with immense potential for replication. The successful implementation in 43 villages provides a strong case for expansion to other drought-prone or underirrigated regions. By integrating traditional wisdom with modern tools and inclusive planning, Gamharia has shown that development can be both rapid and equitable.









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Percentage of Soil Health Cards Generated Against Soil Sample Collection

District: Hingoli

State: Maharashtra

BACKGROUND / PROBLEM STATEMENT

In Hingoli Block of Hingoli District, farmers traditionally depended on experience or limited soil testing to decide on fertilizer application, leading to imbalanced nutrient management. Before the launch of the Aspirational Block Programme (ABP), most farmers had not conducted soil testing for the upcoming cropping year and were unaware of the importance of soil health. This resulted in excessive use of chemical fertilizers, declining organic carbon in soil, disrupted soil ecosystems, increased cultivation costs and reduced long-term productivity. The need for a systematic soil health management strategy was urgent to promote sustainable agriculture and reduce economic and environmental stress.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

To address these issues, a systematic soil sample collection drive was launched in Hingoli Block under various centrally and state-sponsored schemes. With the onset of the ABP, the block received a target of 1500 soil samples across 42 villages. The campaign focused on 100% soil sample collection and timely distribution of Soil Health Cards (SHCs). During the SHC distribution, field-level officers educated farmers about interpreting the card and using fertilizers as per recommendations. This initiative enabled farmers to reduce unnecessary chemical inputs, adopt Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) and transition towards organic practices. Additionally, the government supported the program through awareness campaigns and expert consultations at the village level, ensuring wide participation and adoption.

IMPACT

The direct beneficiaries of the initiative were the farmers of all 42 villages in Hingoli Block. A total of 1500 Soil Health Cards were generated and distributed, achieving 100% of the target. The use of fertilizers based on soil reports significantly reduced indiscriminate application, lowered cultivation costs, improved crop yields and enhanced income. Environmentally, the initiative helped reduce soil and water pollution. It also encouraged adoption of sustainable practices such as organic farming and INM. As a result, farmers became more aware of the importance of soil testing and scientific agriculture. The intervention not only improved agricultural productivity but also contributed to preserving local biodiversity and soil health.

LESSONS LEARNT

The initiative reinforced that maintaining soil health is essential for sustainable agriculture. Periodic soil testing ensures that nutrients are applied based on actual needs, preventing both deficiency and excess. This helps farmers save on input costs and enhance productivity. Scientific approaches such as SHC not only build awareness but also make farming practices efficient and environment-friendly. The direct delivery of government scheme benefits, increased farmer participation and evidence-based fertilization marked a significant shift toward sustainable and informed agriculture. The practice showcased that soil is the foundation of agriculture and that maintaining its health is key to food security and farmer prosperity.







Empowering Women Farmers through A Women-led FPO Initiative

District: Sundargarh

State: Odisha

BACKGROUND / PROBLEM STATEMENT

FPO established in 2013 under the 10K FPO Scheme to address the challenges faced by tribal and rural women farmers in Nuagaon. At inception, the FPO struggled with low awareness among members, weak governance, lack of credit linkages, poor infrastructure and minimal engagement. Baseline indicators revealed just 70 members with only 25% active participation, no turnover, absence of digital systems and no market or institutional ties. These challenges limited income generation and hindered the empowerment of small and marginal women farmers in the region.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

To overcome these hurdles, implemented several strategic interventions. Weekly "Gram Laxmi Haats" were organized to facilitate local trade and a Krishi Sansadhan Kendra was set up to supply quality agri-inputs. The FPO established partnerships through MoUs with Amazon, Mother Dairy and Reliance Retail to ensure market access. A 45 MT cold storage facility was installed through convergence support from ORMAS and the Directorate of Horticulture. Governance training for the Board of Directors, adoption of digital bookkeeping via MS Excel and an inclusive women-led decision-making approach further strengthened operations. The FPO diversified into seed sales, vegetable marketing, millet promotion, mango exports and processing of cookies and pulses.

IMPACT

The initiative directly benefitted over 300 small and marginal women farmers and indirectly impacted the surrounding community, including entrepreneurs, traders and labourers. Membership grew by over 300%, turnover increased to ₹8.5 lakh and profit margins touched ₹1.12 lakh. Member engagement improved to 85% participation. Institutional partnerships, infrastructure upgrades and access to financial services contributed to the sustainability and self-reliance of the FPO and its members, fostering local economic empowerment and resilience.

LESSONS LEARNT

The success of FPO highlights the importance of phased interventions starting with governance, followed by market integration and then scaling operations. Member trust and participation improved significantly when tangible benefits were realized. Training the Board of Directors early on ensured transparency and smooth governance. Credit linkage was critical for growth and basic infrastructure like cold storage enhanced pricing power. Most importantly, the leadership of women in management and decision-making proved vital in creating a responsive and accountable FPO model.









PRAYAS- Small Steps, Big Opportunities

District: Namchi Block, South Sikkim

Sikkim State:

BACKGROUND / PROBLEM STATEMENT

In the rural areas of Namchi Block, Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and cooperatives were engaged in producing high-quality local goods but lacked consistent access to structured markets. These groups struggled with limited visibility, irregular income and absence of institutional support. Additionally, there was little convergence between departments at the block level. Baseline indicators included low and inconsistent income, minimal exposure to formal markets and weak sustainability. The absence of civic platforms for grassroots producers hindered their long-term economic participation and self-reliance.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

The District Administration initiated PRAYAS, a weekly zero-cost marketplace hosted within government premises such as Block and District-level offices. Held every Friday, the event allows SHGs, FPOs and cooperatives to showcase and sell their products directly to the public and officials. The initiative is supervised by the BDO, managed by the Block Project Manager and reviewed regularly by the District Collector. It maintains a no-plastic policy to promote sustainability and requires no additional funding, making it scalable and easily replicable. Massive departmental convergence is integrated into the model, offering producers not only market access but also consistent engagement with local governance.

IMPACT

In just six months, over 15 SHGs, 3 FPOs and 2 cooperatives participated in the initiative, with weekly incomes ranging between ₹2,000-₹7,000 and an average income growth of 250.53%. Women-led SHGs, such as Nirpara Rai's group from Namchi, experienced not only increased earnings but also rising confidence and public recognition. The income generated is reinvested in a rotational model, allowing continuous product development and raw material procurement. The weekly stalls became platforms for civic exchange -with SHG members gaining awareness about schemes and services, thereby acting as informal agents of citizen education in their communities. The initiative also encouraged sustainable practices, such as converting used plastic flex banners into grow bags. Due to its success, PRAYAS has been scaled up across all six Block Administrative Centres in Namchi District, signaling the transformation from an Aspirational Block to an Aspirational District.

LESSONS LEARNT

PRAYAS demonstrated how administrative spaces can be repurposed to empower grassroots producers and women-led enterprises. A visible, high-footfall, zero-cost platform substantially boosts morale, income and civic engagement. Departmental convergence and simple oversight mechanisms have made the initiative both impactful



and replicable. It aligns with key national priorities such as the Aspirational Blocks Programme, Atmanirbhar Bharat, SDG 5 (Gender Equality) and SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth). The initiative has laid the groundwork for institutionalizing branding, packaging, capacity building and digital presence, with further potential for integration into tourism and local cultural events.





Achieving 100% Soil Health Card Distribution in Thiruvennainallur Block

District: Villupuram
State: Tamil Nadu

BACKGROUND / PROBLEM STATEMENT

Soil fertility and health are fundamental to enhancing agricultural productivity and ensuring sustainable farming. In Thiruvennainallur Block, however, low awareness about soil nutrient status led to the unscientific use of fertilizers, declining soil fertility and suboptimal yields. Prior to the intervention, only around 40% of farmers had access to Soil Health Cards (SHCs). The key issues included limited farmer awareness about the importance of soil testing, inadequate infrastructure for soil testing and weak coordination between agriculture extension workers and farmers. As a result, unbalanced fertilizer usage became widespread, affecting both productivity and the long-term sustainability of soil health.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

To address these challenges, the Agriculture Department implemented a multipronged strategy. Intensive awareness campaigns were launched across villages, using demonstrations and meetings to highlight the benefits of soil testing and SHCs. A door-to-door soil sample collection drive was carried out across all panchayats by agricultural officers and field staff to ensure complete coverage. The soil testing infrastructure was significantly enhanced, including the deployment of mobile testing units for on-site analysis. A digital monitoring system through the SHC portal enabled real-time tracking and ensured timely issuance of cards. Capacity-building sessions were conducted for extension workers to improve sampling accuracy and interpretation of results. The initiative was marked by strong collaboration between the Agriculture Department, Village Panchayats and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), which enabled smooth implementation and high participation from the farming community.

IMPACT

The initiative directly benefited all 25,000 farmers in Thiruvennainallur Block. As a result of universal SHC distribution, farmers gained access to scientific knowledge about their soil's nutrient profile. This led to the adoption of balanced fertilization practices, reducing input costs by 15–20%. Moreover, there was a marked improvement in crop productivity and sustainability of soil health. The initiative also built greater trust and engagement between the farmers and the Agriculture Department, promoting continued cooperation in future agricultural programs.

LESSONS LEARNT

The success of this intervention underscores the importance of targeted awareness and personalized outreach to achieve full coverage. Strengthening soil testing



infrastructure and ensuring digital tracking through portals are essential to delivering services in a timely manner. Collaborating with local governance bodies and FPOs increases grassroots participation. Most importantly, soil health cards empower farmers with actionable insights, enabling them to make informed decisions that enhance productivity and promote long-term sustainability of agriculture.











Breed Upliftment Program through Selective Breeding and Al

District: Prayagraj

State: Uttar Pradesh

BACKGROUND / PROBLEM STATEMENT

Under the Aspirational Blocks Programme, the Veterinary Hospital in Baharia identified significant gaps in livestock productivity, genetic quality and breed sustainability. The region was experiencing low breeding performance, poor milk and meat yields and a gradual extinction of native breeds. Contributing factors included lack of awareness among farmers, poor animal health due to inbreeding and absence of proper reproductive management. To address this, low-productive areas and weak local breeds were mapped, helping in targeted intervention planning. The focus was placed on improving animal health, reproductive efficiency and productivity through scientific breeding methods, disease control and enhanced management practices.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

The initiative deployed a strategic mix of selective breeding, artificial insemination (AI) using superior genetic material and farmer education. Accurate record-keeping was maintained for each animal, documenting breeding dates, heat cycles and reproductive events. Artificial insemination using elite breeds was conducted, supported by inbreeding and outbreeding strategies. Regular monitoring of pregnancy, veterinary checkups and emphasis on proper nutrition, hygiene and sanitation were also ensured. A mobile veterinary team facilitated AI and health services at farmers' doorsteps. Awareness sessions improved local knowledge on livestock care, thus creating a community-driven support system for sustainable animal husbandry.

IMPACT

Over 70% of the breedable animal population in the Baharia block now receives timely and efficient Al services, thanks to the coordinated efforts of the Veterinary Hospital and mobile veterinary units. This intervention has led to improved milk and meat yields, better disease resistance and overall enhancement in animal welfare. Stronger animals with robust immune systems have reduced health complications and contributed to lower greenhouse gas emissions, making livestock farming more sustainable. Additionally, farmers have experienced tangible economic benefits through increased income from healthier, more productive animals.

LESSONS LEARNT

The programme underscored the importance of regular monitoring, feedback collection and transparent data management for effective livestock development. The presence of well-trained AI workers and improved health advisory systems played a crucial role. Maintaining detailed records for each animal helped track outcomes and design future interventions. Community engagement and trust increased as farmers witnessed reliable government services reaching their doorstep. Strengthening equipment and support infrastructure further enhanced the efficiency of breeding programmes.







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Natural Farming Implementation and Impact Summary under National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF)

District: Narmada State: Gujarat

BACKGROUND / PROBLEM STATEMENT

Narmada district, a tribal-dominated region in Gujarat, comprises 222 Gram Panchayats. The area faces ecological and health challenges due to heavy usage of chemical fertilizers and pesticides in agriculture. The government, under the guidance of the Honourable Prime Minister and Governor, has identified natural farming, especially For plant growth and obtaining the desired yield, all necessary resources are supplied through inputs prepared by the farmer using cow dung and cow urine from indigenous cows, along with plant-based materials available in nature. as a viable solution for sustainable agriculture and public health. The region's traditional farming culture has shown a natural inclination toward organic practices, making this initiative culturally aligned and locally viable. Women in the district are also contributing through kitchen gardening, dairy farming and natural vegetable cultivation, thereby expanding the scope and impact of natural farming.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

- Cluster Approach: 74 total clusters (22 Mission + 52 non-Mission) across 220 Gram Panchayats. Each cluster targets 50 hectares and 125 farmers.
- Capacity Building: 1,349 trainings conducted; 14,589 farmers trained in 2025 alone. Over the last four years, 1.35 lakh farmers have been trained.
- Human Resource Mobilization: 44 Krushi Sakhis / CRPs selected and trained through a 5-day program at KVK Dediapada. Accordingly, 104 Krushi Sakhi / CRPs were provided with 5 days of training through the Farmers' Training Centre, Rajpipla in May 2025
- **4. Crop Coverage**: 6,442 acres under natural farming, with an additional 2,300 acres added post-NMNF implementation.
- Model Farms: At present, 97 model farms have been established, while applications have been received from farmers for establishing 26 new model farms during the current year.
- **6.** Infrastructure Support: At present, 10 BRCs (Bio-Input Resource Centres) have been established, while applications have been received from farmers for establishing 27 new BRCs during the current year.
- 7. Sales Infrastructure: 4 permanent and 3 temporary taluka-level sales centers, 5 cluster-level sales centers and 25+ farmers selling directly from home.
- 8. Extension Methods: Use of miking, pamphlets, banners, digital tracking and farmer-to-farmer extension strategies.
- Institutional Review: Regular monitoring and review meetings conducted by the Collector/DDO; latest held on 14 July 2025.



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IMPACT

Natural farming has seen widespread adoption in Narmada district. A total of 10,703 farmers are currently practicing natural farming, with 2,214 new farmers joining in 2025. The area under cultivation using natural methods has increased to 6,442 acres. With the establishment of 12 facilitation centres and direct-sale models, market access has improved significantly. Women farmers have taken on a more prominent role, not just through Krishi Sakhis but also via household initiatives such as kitchen gardening and dairy farming. The tribal community, with its strong cultural alignment to traditional farming, has embraced the program, making the transition smooth and impactful.

LESSONS LEARNT

Community participation, especially through local CRPs and Agri Sakhis, has proven essential for widespread adoption. The integration of training, infrastructure and marketing has enabled sustainable growth. The involvement of women has further deepened community ownership and ensured household-level implementation. Digital monitoring tools have helped track training and outreach, making it easier to address gaps. Decentralized and accessible sales points have helped build trust and boosted farmer profits by reducing dependency on distant markets.





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Innovation in Lemongrass Cultivation for Prosperity through **Fragrance**

District: Anuppur

State: Madhya Pradesh

BACKGROUND / PROBLEM STATEMENT

Anuppur district in Madhya Pradesh, carved out of Shahdol district in 2003, comprises four development blocks—Anuppur, Jaithari, Kotma and Pushparajgarh, with the latter being an Aspirational Block and formerly a Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) affected region. With nearly half the population belonging to Scheduled Tribes and the dominance of low-productivity rainfed paddy cultivation, the region faced acute challenges in terms of barren land, poor irrigation, lack of mechanization and unemployment. These led to seasonal migration in search of income opportunities. To address this, a sustainable livelihood initiative was launched by promoting lemongrass cultivation on fallow lands under the "Ek Zila Ek Utpadan (One District One Product)" scheme of the State Government.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

Recognizing the compatibility of lemongrass with the region's soil and water constraints, the crop was chosen for its drought-tolerant, low-maintenance characteristics and high market demand as an aromatic plant. Farmers were identified based on their available fallow land and willingness to participate. Technical support was extended by Agriculture and Horticulture Departments and planting material was sourced from Lucknow based company. In 2023-24, cultivation was initiated across 451 acres. Comprehensive training, exposure visits and guidance were offered. Lemongrass slips produced locally in the first phase will support expansion efforts in 2024-25. A processing unit established by Origin Oils in Kotma block has ensured direct market linkage. Additionally, farmers bore no input costs, making the initiative economically viable and attractive.

IMPACT

The project has directly benefitted tribal farmers who previously relied on seasonal migration or unproductive rainfed farming. By cultivating lemongrass on 451 acres, farmers now earn an estimated annual revenue of ₹36,000 per acre, amounting to a projected ₹1.62 crore for the district. Over time, income is expected to rise as plants mature and require fewer inputs. The initiative has enabled productive use of barren land, reduced migration and fostered sustainable agriculture-based livelihoods. It has also encouraged entrepreneurship through market integration and value-added processing.

LESSONS LEARNT

The success of lemongrass cultivation demonstrates the importance of crop suitability analysis in fallow land utilization. Localized training, consistent field monitoring and



assured market linkage played critical roles in building trust and confidence among farmers. Leveraging government schemes and private partnerships helped scale the initiative quickly. One key takeaway is that minimal-risk, high-demand crops, when integrated with community mobilization and decentralized processing, can catalyze long-term socio-economic transformation in aspirational and vulnerable areas.

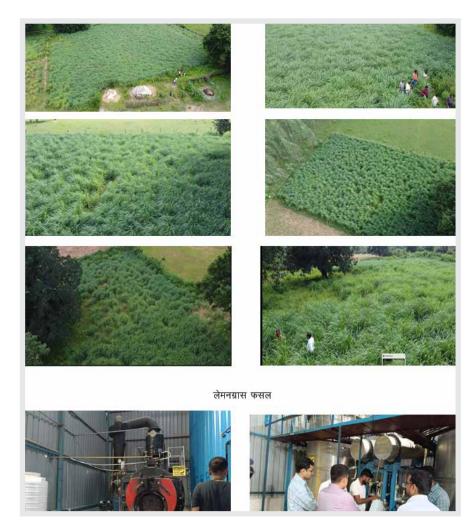












Moringa Cultivation

District: Bhadradri Kothagudem

State: **Telangana**

BACKGROUND / PROBLEM STATEMENT

Bhadradri Kothagudem is the largest district in Telangana, with over 50% forest cover and a predominantly tribal population (approx. 37%). The region's undulating terrain, heavy rainfall and poor irrigation access have led small and marginal farmers to cultivate cotton and maize crops that require high input but yield limited profits. Cotton covers 2 lakh acres (earning approx. ₹15,000 per acre) and maize 85,000 acres (earning approx. ₹30,000 per acre). These returns are not sustainable for livelihoods. At the same time, tribal communities face health issues like anemia and sickle cell anemia due to genetic and dietary factors and limited access to nutritious foods.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

To address both income and nutrition challenges, the district administration identified Moringa cultivation as a viable alternative. Drawing from the NRLM Moringa Toolkit and consulting experts from Tamil Nadu Agricultural University and Aswaraopeta Agricultural College, the administration designed a convergencedriven, zero-cost model using NREGS support for small and marginal farmers. A detailed 4-page pamphlet was distributed outlining the rationale, cultivation methods, risk factors and mitigation, benefits and available schemes. Farmers were made aware that 1,000 Moringa trees per acre could yield a minimum of ₹2 lakh within 7–8 months, with an additional ₹20,000 from leaf sales alone. Moringa cultivation was also promoted as the foundation for integrated farming including vegetable intercropping, poultry (chicken/quail), goat farming and aquaculture through small farm ponds. The model's sustainability and productivity were emphasized through field demonstrations and peer-to-peer learning, especially by showcasing success stories of early adopters.

IMPACT

Within a year, 415 acres were brought under Moringa cultivation, 100 acres dedicated and 300+ as intercrop (e.g., with oil palm). Farmers witnessed a significant jump in earnings, often exceeding traditional returns within the first season. The initiative also began addressing nutritional deficiencies by encouraging the use of Moringa leaves in household consumption and animal feed. For instance, Jameel, a farmer from Mylaram village, used Moringa leaves to feed his poultry and is now planning to expand into quail farming. The district expects more farmers to adopt Moringa cultivation in the upcoming seasons.

LESSONS LEARNT

Identifying context-specific risk factors and proactively addressing them through clear communication and peer motivation were key to adoption. The most effective messengers were successful local farmers, not external experts. Demonstrating

financial viability and linking Moringa to allied activities like poultry and aquaculture helped gain trust and scale adoption. The district administration now sees Moringa as a strategic entry point for doubling farmer incomes and promoting integrated, sustainable farming systems aligned with Anemia Mukt Bharat.







Empowering Farmers through FPO-led Innovations in Mushroom Cultivation, Cold Storage Infrastructure and Stubble Management

District: Bahraich

State: **Uttar Pradesh**

BACKGROUND / PROBLEM STATEMENT

Bahraich district, under the Aspirational Blocks Programme, faced multifaceted challenges such as inadequate farmer income, post-harvest losses and environmental concerns from stubble burning. Additionally, the lack of infrastructure for mushroom cultivation and cold storage further constrained farmer profitability. Seasonal oversupply of fruits and vegetables led to distress sales and wastage. There was also growing concern over stubble burning and its negative environmental impact due to limited options for biomass utilization.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

To address these issues, Bahraich district undertook several innovative interventions through active Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs):

Mushroom Cultivation in Controlled Environment:

Farmer Producer Company Ltd established two air-conditioned mushroom chambers (each 40x18 m) at a cost of ₹30 lakh in 2021. These chambers maintain controlled temperature, humidity and CO₂ levels to ensure consistent and high-quality mushroom production (~5 quintals/day). A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed with the Basic Education Department to supply mushrooms to schools under the PM-POSHAN scheme (Mid-Day Meal), promoting both nutrition and market linkage.

2. Cold Storage and Ripening Chamber Infrastructure:

Farmer Producer Company Ltd initiated the development of a cold storage and ripening chamber with a capacity of 15 MT and a budget of ₹23 lakh. The unit caters to seasonal fruits like mango and banana, as well as vegetables, by preserving their quality, reducing spoilage and enabling better price realization.

3. Stubble Management through Briquette Production:

A briquette machine worth ₹2.10 crore is being established by Shiva Agro FPO to manage agricultural waste like rice stems, mustard straw and sugarcane leaves. With a processing capacity of up to 2000 kg/hr and requiring 1000-4000 sqft of land, the machine produces eco-friendly briquettes without the need for binders. This initiative reduces stubble burning and creates alternative revenue streams.

IMPACT

FPO Empowerment: 82 FPOs formed since FY 2021-22 by agencies like NABARD, SFAC and NCDC, boosting collective bargaining and market access.

- **Nutritional Security:** 1800 quintals of button mushrooms have been supplied to government schools, improving student nutrition.
- **Economic Gains:** Shiva Agro FPO achieved a turnover of ₹2.0 crore and was ranked 3rd at the state level.
- Market Linkages: MoUs signed between FPOs and private firms for commodities like milk, mushroom and banana ensured sustainable marketing channels.

LESSONS LEARNT

- Innovative agri-enterprises backed by FPOs can transform local agrieconomies by generating employment and diversifying income.
- Temperature and humidity-controlled mushroom farming provides year-round production, ensuring stable income and nutritional support to school children.
- Proper post-harvest management through cold storage reduces wastage and empowers farmers to get remunerative prices.
- Stubble management through briquetting offers both an environmental and economic solution by reducing air pollution and offering biofuel alternatives.
- Robust coordination between departments and FPOs along with effective record-keeping ensures transparency, trust and scalability.









Mission ASHIRWAAD

District: Washim

State: Maharashtra

BACKGROUND / PROBLEM STATEMENT

Washim district in Eastern Vidarbha, Maharashtra, comprises six tehsils and lies at a crucial ridge line with rivers flowing into both the Tapi and Godavari basins. The economy is largely agro-based and monsoon-dependent, with minimal irrigation infrastructure and no major dams. This leads to chronic agricultural stress, poor incomes, single-crop dependency, and high incidences of farmer suicides, with 102 cases reported in 2024. Mission ASHIRWAAD was launched as a mission-mode initiative to tackle these issues through water management, crop diversification, sustainable agricultural practices, and market integration.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

The initiative encompasses a range of integrated interventions:

- 1. Introduction of Chia Seeds as a High-Value Crop: Chia, a drought-tolerant and low-input crop, was introduced in response to the region's water scarcity. It faces minimal pest/disease challenges, is immune to wild animal attacks, and costs less to cultivate compared to traditional Rabi crops. Cultivation expanded from 162.5 hectares in 2022–23 to 3,608 hectares in 2024–25. Over 1,000 farmers have received organic certification, and the cost-benefit ratio reached 1:4.81. Market integration through Samruddhi Organic Farms and local APMC ensured fixed prices of ₹14,000 per quintal, with total turnover increasing from ₹6.3 crore to ₹60 crore in just two years. The "Sheti Shilp" brand was developed under the Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh Naisargik Sheti Mission for collective identity and marketing of organic produce.
- **2. Wells Construction:** In a major infrastructure initiative, 14,094 wells were approved within a year an unprecedented scale for the 5,500 sq. km district compared to only 8,000 wells constructed in previous years.
- **3. Groundwater Recharge Pits (Jaltara Model):** Around 40,000 Jaltara (Vastagulm) pits were constructed in just 40 days. Each 4x4x6 feet pit, filled with graded rocks, rapidly channels rainwater past the impervious topsoil to recharge the groundwater table. One pit recharge approx. 3.6 lakh litres annually. A million such pits could collectively store 360 billion litres of water equivalent to 12.71 TMC, comparable to 30 earthen dams.
- **4. MATI Labs:** Three dedicated MATI Lab centres were set up for scientific soil and seed testing. These labs provide precise soil nutrient profiles and fertilizer recommendations, helping reduce input costs, prevent overuse of agrochemicals, and improve yields. They support environmentally sustainable and evidence-based agricultural practices.

IMPACT

Mission ASHIRWAAD has catalyzed a transformation in Washim's agriculture. The shift from single to double cropping has enhanced food security and farm incomes. Groundwater recharge has mitigated the impact of erratic monsoons. Employment opportunities were generated through infrastructure projects like wells and recharge pits. More than 1,000 farmers have adopted organic chia cultivation and gained certification, achieving a fourfold income increase. Farmers now sell produce locally, saving transport costs and time. Scientific tools like MATI Labs have empowered farmers with data-driven decision-making. The creation of local brands and market linkages has strengthened profitability and recognition.

LESSONS LEARNT

Reverse planning, such as establishing market linkages before crop promotion, ensures the viability of new crop initiatives. Integrated planning across water, soil, crops, and markets is vital for sustainable development. Delivering farmer education in local languages accelerates adoption. Strong administrative leadership and consistent on-ground engagement build lasting trust. The model is scalable with effective convergence of CSR and government resources. Certified organic produce commands higher prices when backed by structured marketing and branding efforts.



Water conservation initiatives for ground water recharge

District: Wardha

State: Maharashtra

BACKGROUND/ PROBLEM STATEMENT

Karanja block, nestled within Wardha district, Maharashtra, is renowned for its vibrant horticulture fields. However, this agricultural prosperity was threatened by a looming crisis — depleting groundwater resources. Erratic rainfall patterns and traditional agricultural practices had taken a toll on the water table, jeopardizing the future of horticulture and agri production in the region.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

Recognizing the gravity of the situation, a multi-pronged strategy was implemented to combat water scarcity in Karanja. This included construction of *Vanrai Bandharas* on small streams, loose boulder and gabion structures on mid streams, *Jaltara* structure in every farm and well recharge structure being made compulsory to all the farmers who are beneficiary under MGNREGS. This initiative, driven by a convergence effort of watershed management funds, grampanchayat funds and MGNREGS funds aimed to restore the region's water security and ensure the sustainability of its horticulture and agriculture production.

IMPACT

1. Rise in water table:

In the recent survey by Central Ground Water Board, it has been found that the ground water table has risen by **10%** and now the indicator Stage of Ground Water Extraction (%) stands at **62.09** from 72.84.

Karanja block earlier was assessed as semi critical block under watershed management guidelines, but persistent water conservation efforts of the block led to removal of block from semi-critical list

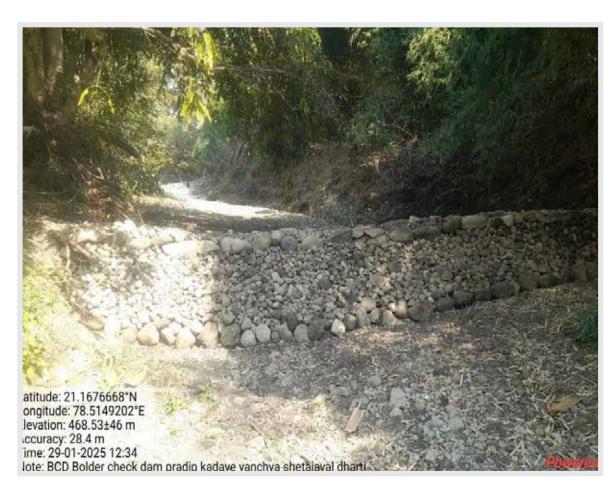
2. Environmental Benefit:

By promoting groundwater recharge, Vanrai bandharas and loose boulder structure can contribute to ecological benefits like improved soil moisture content, leading to healthier vegetation and potentially increased biodiversity Reduced risk of desertification and soil erosion

LESSONS LEARNT

- Community-Led Sustainability: The local labor participation helped reduce costs and fostered ownership. The farmers were involved in well recharge structures and that ensured widespread adoption. Community mobilization proved essential for large-scale impact in this program
- **2. Effective Convergence of Funds:** The Pooling of resources from MGNREGS, Watershed Management, and Grampanchayat funds filled financing gaps. By

- using MGNREGS to pay labor ensured transparent and inclusive employment. Financial convergence avoided dependency on a single funding source.
- **3. Integrated Multi-Stakeholder Approach:** Collaboration between district administration, agriculture experts, block officers, and local governance ensured seamless execution. The role clarity and decentralization empowered execution at each level.
- **4. Data-Driven Impact Assessment:** The monitoring of groundwater levels helped demonstrate tangible progress and the reduction in groundwater extraction from 72.84% to 62.09% highlighted the impact of the program. Removal of Karanja from the "semi-critical" status under watershed management added credibility to the program's success.
- **5. Replicable Model for Aspirational Blocks:** Strategies like mandatory well recharge for MGNREGS beneficiaries and universal jaltara can be easily implemented in other blocks and districts.







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Extension of the Production Centre for Ready-made Garments and Stitching Unit and Training Centre

District: Sheikhpura

State: **Bihar**

BACKGROUND/ PROBLEM STATEMENT

Sheikhpura, an Aspirational District located in the southern part of Bihar, has long lacked a garment manufacturing unit, despite neighbouring districts being major players in the ready-made garment sector. As a result, local garment retailers in Sheikhpura have been dependent on imports from other cities, which not only reduce their profit margins but also incur additional transportation costs. Establishing a garment production unit within the district would significantly reduce these expenses, offering substantial savings for shopkeepers and textile business owners.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

In February 2023, Bihar Rural Livelihoods Promotion Scoiety (BRLPS), known as JEEVIKA established a stitching unit involving 15 SHG members directly working on creating (producing clothing based on demand). The SHG women were trained in stitching and designing garments. From 15 SHG members, the unit went on to train 150 women, or didis. Presently, 10,000-15,000 pieces are prepared monthly by the stitching unit. With a business demand of ₹ 1.30 crores, the unit has supplied 20,000 dresses to the Health Department and school uniforms to S.C. S.T. schools, generating a profit of about 35-40 lakhs. The facility currently operates 60 sewing machines.

IMPACT

Rural women are coming forward to learn new skills and explore livelihood opportunities. Those who were confined to the four walls of their homes are now coming forward. earning money and contributing to the economic activities of their households and society. These women are able to earn up to ₹8000 to 15,000 per month. Leading to women's empowerment and making them economically empowered, as initially they were nonearning members of their families, but now they have become earning members, earning a minimum of ₹8000 to 15,000 per month. The unit's estimated beneficiaries are around 100,000 local males, females, children, adolescents & youths.

LESSONS LEARNT

By establishing industries in underprivileged areas, livelihood opportunities can be created for rural women, positively impacting the local economy and transforming human resources into human capital. These women are not merely stitching clothes they are weaving their dreams, aspirations and the threads of economic transformation for the state.







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Water Hyacinth Craft Initiative – Converting Invasive Weed into Livelihood

State: **Jharkhand**

District: Sahibganj

BACKGROUND/ PROBLEM STATEMENT

Sahibganj, a tribal-dominated Aspirational District in Jharkhand, is endowed with rich wetlands, which are severely infested with water hyacinth - an invasive aquatic plant. This ecological hazard chokes water bodies, hampers biodiversity and disrupts local livelihoods. In response, the district administration initiated a project to utilise this nuisance plant as a sustainable raw material for livelihood generation.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

A comprehensive initiative was launched to convert the environmental challenge into an opportunity by training women to craft marketable goods using water hyacinth. Community mobilisation efforts were launched and around 270 women were mobilised from 22 villages through Gram Sabhas. Toolkits were distributed and orientations were conducted. A 4-month intensive training program on product design and quality control was given to these mobilised women and the training covered 10 product categories with scalable designs. Safe and eco-friendly Water Hyacinth collection methods were devised and tools and equipment were provided to artisans. Artisans are organised into one village-level production group from which a weekly collection of finished goods takes place. Quality checks are conducted in warehouses located in Ranchi. Regular work orders are issued and structured monthly payments are made.

IMPACT

Two hundred seventy women across the district were trained across three training centres. More than 600 finished goods were produced using water hyacinth and around ₹5.61 lakh invested directly through monthly work orders in April & May 2025. Each artisan is earning around ₹6000-₹8000 per month and aims to improve it further. The program has an impact on around 270 rural women artisans, providing them with a new source of income. There are three functional production centres at Marupur, Dharampur and Chataradiha in the district. The program has been focused on empowering women's leadership, with each centre led by a woman group leader. This approach has led to behavioural change among the people, and new artisans are joining voluntarily. The program has resulted in immense ecological benefits to the ecosystem of the Ramsar site, leading to a reduction in water hyacinth from local ponds and supporting wetland health and avian diversity.

LESSONS LEARNT

Local ecological challenges can be turned into sustainable livelihood solutions through localised interventions. Structured incentives and continuous mentoring are essential in the early phases of the program. Building artisan confidence requires prioritising

participation over perfection and scaling the program requires supply chain systems and market linkage. Strategies. One of the greatest lessons learnt from this initiative is that Leadership development among women artisans fosters ownership and plays a crucial role in the sustainability of the program.









Production of natural colours through SHG -Led group

District: Seraikela-Kharsawan

State: Jharkhand

BACKGROUND/ PROBLEM STATEMENT

The Kukru block of Seraikela-Kharsawan district, Jharkhand, is primarily rural with limited livelihood opportunities for women. Seasonal festivals like Holi witness high demand for synthetic, chemical-based colours, which often cause skin allergies, health hazards and environmental pollution. 90% of colours in the market are synthetic and cause skin and eye irritation. There is a lack of local eco-friendly colour production in the region.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

The Jharkhand State Livelihoods Promotion Society Kukru team facilitated the formation of a women-led micro enterprise to produce natural Holi colours using palash flowers and Turmeric. Palash flowers were locally collected, dried and sieved to make an orange colour. SHG women were trained in flower collection, drying, powder preparation and packaging. Branding and packaging of products were done to maintain the market standards

IMPACT

The usage of natural products for colour preparation has created an incomegenerating opportunity for the rural women. It has also emerged as an alternative to synthetic colours, which are harmful and pollute the environment. This shift toward natural dye-making has helped many women gain financial independence, enhance their skills, and participate actively in the local economy. Moreover, the growing demand for organic and sustainable products in the market has opened up new opportunities for these women-led microenterprises. As a result, this initiative not only promotes environmental sustainability but also contributes to the broader goals of rural development, gender empowerment, and inclusive economic growth

LESSONS LEARNT

The adoption of natural dye-making has demonstrated that environmentally friendly practices can also be economically viable, particularly for rural communities with limited resources. Utilizing readily available natural materials for dye production reduces dependency on external inputs and lowers production costs, making the initiative sustainable and replicable in similar contexts. Rising consumer awareness around sustainability has created new opportunities for natural and organic products, proving that environmentally responsible enterprises can also be market-competitive. Providing skill-based opportunities to rural women not only promotes their financial independence but also strengthens household incomes and fosters inclusive local economic development. Women-led initiatives have shown strong potential in building resilient local economies by encouraging entrepreneurship and skill development at the grassroots level.







From Struggles to Success: The Transformation of Godbahal Village

District: Mahasamund State: Chhattisgarh

BACKGROUND/ PROBLEM STATEMENT

Aiming to uplift the livelihoods of the Gond and Bariha tribes in Godbahal gram panchayat, Sarpanch Sadram Patel initiated a transformative model by shifting villagers from forest dependency to sustainable animal husbandry. Starting with a small milk production cooperative, the 'Dugdh Sahkari Samiti,' milk production grew from 100 to 150 litres to 1500 litres daily. With financial support, modern processing equipment, and training under the different Govt schemes, the cooperative diversified its product range and established the 'Gau' brand. Today, the cooperative supports 100 families, generates monthly earnings of 5-6 lakh rupees, and has become a model for rural innovation.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

Godbahal Gram Panchayat, located about 57 km from Mahasamund in Chhattisgarh, is largely inhabited by the Gond and Bariha tribal communities. Due to infertile land and limited livelihood options, many villagers relied on cutting wood from the forest. In 2005, village sarpanch Sadram Patel recognised the need for both income generation and forest conservation. Seeing potential in dairy farming—aligned with the district's One District One Product (ODOP) focus on milk—he encouraged villagers to shift toward animal husbandry. A milk cooperative was formed with 28–30 members, initially producing 100-150 litres of milk daily.

To add value, the cooperative took a loan from SBI and purchased machines for processing milk into products like paneer, khoya, peda, and rabdi. With increased production, they soon repaid the loan and expanded operations. Additional support came from the Forest Department for purchasing cows and from the RIPA scheme, which provided training and modern equipment. The cooperative branded its products under the name 'GAU' and opened a retail outlet in Pithora block.

Today, over 100 families are part of the cooperative, producing 1,500 litres of milk daily and generating Rs. 5-6 lakh monthly. This initiative stands as a model for sustainable rural development, tribal empowerment, and environmental protection.

IMPACT

The dairy initiative in Godbahal Gram Panchayat brought remarkable improvements in livelihoods and sustainability. Milk production grew from 100-150 litres to 1,500 litres daily, including five nearby villages. Over 100 families now earn stable incomes, with the cooperative generating ₹6 lakh in monthly sales. Products expanded to include rabdi, paneer, khoa, curd, peda, lassi, and buttermilk, with plans to introduce packaged gulab jamuns. Many villagers shifted from forest-based work to dairy farming, promoting forest conservation. The Cooperative also established the 'GAU' brand, invested in modern machinery, and opened a retail outlet in Pithora, significantly boosting its reach and impact.

LESSONS LEARNT

The success of the Godbahal village can be scaled or replicated in other districts through a systematic approach of community mobilisation and formation of Cooperatives. By engaging local leaders and communities to identify areas with similar challenges, such as forest dependence or limited agrarian productivity, and introducing animal husbandry as an alternative livelihood, programs like this can be scaled up successfully. Financial Support, Loans and skill development programs are crucial for the sustainability of the program. By creating proper Branding and Market Access, we can leverage the potential for the rural dairy sector. By following this model, districts with similar socio-economic and environmental conditions can replicate the success, fostering rural development and environmental conservation.









Frontline Workers Scorecard System-An objective framework to assess, reward and nudge the Frontline Workers

District: Saraikella-Kharsawan

Jharkhand State:

BACKGROUND/ PROBLEM STATEMENT

Frontline Workers (FLWs) such as Jal Sakhiya, Anganwadi Workers (AWWs), and ANMs are critical to implementing government schemes like Jal Jeevan Mission and Poshan Abhiyaan. However, their work often goes unrecognised and lacks objective performance evaluation. In response, the Seraikella-Kharsawan district administration introduced a Scorecard-based Performance Assessment Framework in August 2024 under the Sampoornata Abhiyan. This initiative aimed to institutionalise transparency and accountability by linking performance with recognition, in line with New Public Management principles. Prior to the intervention, issues such as irregular documentation, inconsistent field visits, and poor adoption of tools like FTKs were common. A baseline assessment revealed significant variability in service delivery across blocks and a lack of structured motivation. Addressing this gap, the district administration sought to introduce a transparent, data-driven system to monitor, evaluate, and acknowledge FLW contributions, thereby improving both motivation and service quality at the grassroots level.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

The core intervention was the rollout of a monthly Scorecard-based evaluation framework for FLWs, assigning each worker a score out of 100 based on 10 jobspecific, measurable indicators. Parameters were tailored for each cadre Jal Sakhiya, AWWs, and ANMs and included field-level performance data such as sanitation coverage, health screenings, and nutrition outcomes. The scorecard combined selfreporting with independent validation by district-level committees. Top performers were publicly recognised during major events like Independence Day, leveraging behavioural science principles of social recognition over monetary incentives. This lowcost model also encouraged peer motivation and learning. The parameters, developed through district-level consultations, ensured alignment with core responsibilities under flagship schemes. Monthly recognition of exemplary workers helped create a culture of accountability and pride. Examples included high-performing AWWs maintaining zero SAM/MAM cases and ensuring 100% household visits. This structured feedback loop allowed consistent monitoring and performance improvement across all service delivery areas.

IMPACT

The initiative directly benefited over 1,000 FLWs in Gamharia block, and indirectly improved services for approximately 25,000 residents. Within a year, the district observed significant improvements in service delivery and data integrity. Antenatal registration, immunisation coverage, and sanitation practices showed marked improvement. The use of FTKs increased, and documentation accuracy rose. Regular participation in Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Days (VHSNDs) also improved. Public recognition enhanced FLW morale, resulting in consistent high performance, as seen in cases like Anganwadi Worker Pabita Kumari Mahato, who scored 99.35/100. Her work led to full household outreach and zero SAM/MAM prevalence. The framework promoted healthy competition and accountability without financial incentives. It also strengthened convergence across schemes by making data more reliable and actionable at the grassroots. Overall, the intervention demonstrated that a transparent, non-monetary reward system could meaningfully boost frontline delivery outcomes in resource-constrained environments.

LESSONS LEARNT

One of the key lessons was that social recognition can be as robust—if not more—than monetary rewards in motivating FLWs. Publicly celebrating performance fostered pride and sustained effort. The use of objective, transparent metrics reduced subjectivity and potential bias, which built trust in the system. It also improved FLW accountability and enabled better supervision. Another insight was that integrating field data into performance monitoring strengthened convergence across schemes by revealing real-time gaps and progress. The participatory design of the scorecard ensured local relevance and buy-in. Notably, the intervention showed high scalability potential; the framework can be easily adapted to other Aspirational Blocks or sectors involving FLWs. Regular validation mechanisms further maintained system integrity. Overall, the success of this initiative highlights the effectiveness of combining behavioural nudges, data-driven governance, and community engagement in enhancing last-mile service delivery.





Cultivation of Medicinal Crops through Natural Farming to Increase Farmer Income

District: Sitapur

State **Uttar Pradesh**

BACKGROUND / PROBLEM STATEMENT

FPO registered in Block Biswan, Sitapur. It is actively involved in promoting natural farming and is mobilizing farmers through extensive awareness programs. A major issue faced by the local farming community is their low income due to heavy dependence on traditional crops such as sugarcane, wheat and rice. This limited crop diversification has restricted income enhancement opportunities for farmers in the region.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

The best practice involves the cultivation of medicinal crops through natural farming methods. The FPO conducted awareness programs to educate farmers about the benefits of medicinal crop cultivation. This included promotion of crops like Chamomile, Blue Corn, Aparajita, Ashwagandha, Bhumi Amla, Brahmi, Satavari Haldi, Stevia, Hibiscus Rosella and Chia seeds. These interventions aim to shift farmers from traditional to high-value, low-input crops using organic methods.

IMPACT

Around 650 farmers participated in the awareness programs. Of these, nearly 260 farmers have directly benefited and are now actively engaged in the cultivation of medicinal crops. The initiative has already shown positive economic outcomes. In 2023-24, the turnover was ₹27,41,579 and the net worth was approximately ₹20 lakhs. For 2024-25, the turnover and net worth are projected to double, indicating significant potential for income enhancement through crop diversification.

LESSONS LEARNT

The case highlights how innovative crop selection and diversification into medicinal crops can improve farmers' income. It emphasizes the importance of awareness building, collective farming through FPOs and the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices.





Project BADLAOW: A Transformative step for Skilling and **Livelihood promotion**

District: Pakur

State: **Jharkhand**

BACKGROUND / PROBLEM STATEMENT

Project BADLAOW is a transformative initiative by the District Administration of Pakur designed to empower the region's most marginalized communities. The project targets the socio-economic upliftment of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) specifically the Mal Pahariya and Sauriya Pahariya tribes in Pakur, an Aspirational District in Jharkhand. These indigenous communities were historically trapped in a cycle of poverty driven by systemic barriers such as inhospitable terrain and geographical remoteness, limited access to government entitlements, low literacy rates, dependence on middlemen, pervasive food insecurity, and a lack of employment in the organized sector. Recognizing that traditional welfare was insufficient, the District Administration conceptualized Project BADLAOW to dismantle these barriers through a comprehensive empowerment strategy.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

The core of the project is the Gutu Galang Kalyan Trust (GGKT), a pioneering FPO led entirely by PVTG women. Established in 2019 with 6 women and a seed fund of ₹4.5 lakhs, GGKT began by manufacturing and supplying eco-friendly sacks to over 75,000 households, achieving a turnover of ₹1 crore within three years. Under Project BADLAOW, the trust was revitalized by introducing new production lines like rice sacks, seed banks, and processing units for pulses and millets. GGKT was also registered as an MGNREGA vendor for timber plantation and nursery development, reaching a turnover of ₹1.5 crore in 2025. The project delivered customized skilling through partnerships with RSETI and NABARD in sectors such as Tassar silk cultivation, nursery development, modern packaging, and branding. The Pink Toto initiative trained PVTG women in driving and road safety, allowing them to operate e-rickshaws. Non-farm enterprises such as Didi Café, Didi Ki Dukaan, and Milk Café were promoted. Infrastructure was scaled through procurement of machinery and transport vehicles for last-mile access, with mangoes exported to Gulf countries via the Birsa Harit Gram Yojana (BHGY). Project PARIVARTAN trained jail inmates in soap and phenyl production under the 'NIRWASH' brand, promoting dignified rehabilitation. Extensive convergence with government schemes like MGNREGA, NRLM, and RSETI ensured sustainable growth.

IMPACT

By 2025, the initiative directly empowered over 3,000 active participants through GGKT, with an additional 5,000+ women engaged through expanded livelihood verticals. Women's monthly income surged from ₹0 to ₹6,000-₹8,000, moving them from forest dependency to organized enterprise. This improved household financial resilience, financial literacy, and access to banking. The project boosted women's confidence, decision-making, and self-reliance, reducing malnutrition, early marriages, and substance abuse while increasing school attendance among children. Women emerged as grassroots leaders and functionaries such as Mukhiyas and Panchayat representatives. Platforms like Didi ki Dukaan preserved traditional crafts and indigenous food, ensuring cultural continuity.

LESSONS LEARNT

The success of Project BADLAOW offers a replicable model for empowering marginalized communities. Key learnings include: empowerment through ownership structured support enables women-led enterprise success; integrated development convergence of schemes, skilling bodies, and financial institutions ensures scale and impact; skill diversification is critical cross-sectoral training builds resilience; and local resource optimization leveraging indigenous knowledge and materials ensures sustainable, culturally resonant growth.













Achieving Housing Security under PMAY in the Remote Tulail Block

District: Bandipora

State: Jammu & Kashmir

BACKGROUND/PROBLEM STATEMENT

Prior to the PMAY-G intervention, most households in Tulail block—especially those from economically weaker sections and Scheduled Tribes—lived in fragile, temporary wooden houses vulnerable to harsh climatic conditions like heavy snowfall and subzero temperatures. These inadequate structures often collapsed or suffered damage during winters, putting families at risk of illness, injury, and unsafe living conditions.

With poor road connectivity, limited digital infrastructure, and seasonal isolation, the implementation of government housing schemes had faced significant hurdles. Less than 30% of eligible households had access to pucca housing, while delays in verification, geo-tagging, Aadhaar seeding, and fund disbursal slowed progress. Lack of community awareness and minimal engagement from local officials further contributed to the exclusion of many deserving families. This situation called for a focused, mission-mode approach under the Aspirational Block Programme to address the critical housing gap and ensure dignified, resilient shelter for Tulail's underserved population.

KEY INTERVENTION

To address structural, logistical, and digital challenges in rural housing delivery in Tulail, a converged implementation strategy was adopted under the Aspirational Block Programme in coordination with the Rural Development Department and local panchayats. Key interventions included door-to-door manual verification of eligible BPL/ST families to avoid exclusion due to digital lapses, and pre-winter stocking of construction materials to overcome seasonal inaccessibility.

Offline geo-tagging, Aadhaar seeding, and bank linkage were carried out using locally available tools, with data batch-uploaded from the block headquarters. Real-time monitoring through WhatsApp groups and photographic updates ensured timely support and fund disbursal. This context-specific approach led to 100% saturation planning under PMAY-G and offers a scalable model for housing delivery in remote, climate-vulnerable regions.

IMPACT

The PMAY-G housing initiative in Tulail block benefited the most vulnerable groups, including low-income families, ST households, BPL beneficiaries, widows, single mothers, and persons with disabilities. These communities, previously living in unsafe shelters, received insulated pucca houses resilient to extreme winters. For many, it marked their first permanent home, restoring dignity, safety, and stability.

Convergence with SBM and JJM further improved living conditions through access to sanitation and clean water. Beneficiaries experienced better health, reduced cold-

related illnesses, and renewed trust in government support reaching remote areas—making housing a cornerstone of resilience and empowerment.

LESSON LEARNT

The initiative highlighted that season-sensitive planning, such as pre-stocking materials, is vital for implementation in climate-vulnerable areas. Use of offline-compatible digital tools ensured real-time tracking despite poor connectivity, while MGNREGA-based skill training addressed labor shortages and promoted community-led construction. Overall, the approach showcased how contextual adaptation, convergence, and decentralized planning can effectively overcome geographical and digital barriers in rural housing delivery.









Percentage of villages declared Open Defecation Free (ODF) aula

District: Hingoli

Maharashtra State:

BACKGROUND/PROBLEM STATEMENT

The Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen (SBM-G), launched in 2014, marked a significant milestone in India's sanitation journey. It successfully aimed to make the country Open Defecation Free (ODF), contributing to major health and economic benefits. According to WHO, India witnessed 300,000 fewer diarrheal deaths in 2019 compared to 2014, families in ODF villages saved up to ₹50,000 annually on health-related expenses, and women reported feeling significantly safer due to better sanitation facilities. Building on these gains, Phase II of SBM-G was launched post-2019 to sustain ODF achievements and implement comprehensive solid and liquid waste management under the goal of 'Sampoorn Swachhata'. With a budget of ₹1.40 lakh crore, this phase also emphasizes community mobilization, innovative rating systems, and institutional capacity building through initiatives like the Swachhata Green Leaf Rating and SPM-NIWAS.

However, in Hingoli block, the transition to ODF Plus faces persistent challenges. These include a lack of awareness and motivation among sections of the population about the long-term health risks of open defecation. Deep-rooted behavioral habits continue to resist change, even where infrastructure exists. Maintenance of toilets also remains a hurdle, requiring continuous cleaning, repairs, and community ownership. Additionally, the availability of a consistent water supply—critical for sanitation and hygiene—remains inadequate in many rural pockets, limiting sustained toilet usage and cleanliness.

KEY INTERVENTION

- 1. Door-to-door visits ensured consistent toilet usage and helped address individual household concerns.
- 2. Soak pits were constructed for effective greywater management and improved drainage.
- **3. Behavioural change campaigns** promoted hygiene practices through community engagement.
- 4. Swachhata Committees monitored sanitation facilities regularly, ensuring maintenance and accountability.
- 5. Women SHGs actively managed sanitation infrastructure, promoting ownership and sustainability.
- 6. Daily cleanliness drives in public spaces encouraged collective hygiene practices.
- 7. IEC activities in schools and Gram Sabhas raised awareness among all age groups.

- 8. Twin pit latrines were promoted for safe waste disposal and reuse.
- **9. Rainwater harvesting** was integrated with sanitation awareness to ensure water availability and conservation.

IMPACT

A village is declared ODF Plus when it sustains its Open Defecation Free status, ensures universal toilet usage, maintains clean surroundings, and has functional solid and liquid waste management systems. This leads to improved hygiene, dignity, and health for rural households—particularly enhancing safety, privacy, and menstrual hygiene for women and girls, better sanitation in schools for children, and accessible toilets for the elderly and disabled. Community-wide benefits include a cleaner environment, reduced water-borne diseases, increased toilet maintenance, adoption of waste disposal practices like composting and soak pits, greater women's participation in SHGs and sanitation committees, improved village cleanliness rankings, and livelihood opportunities through sanitation initiatives.

LESSON LEARNT

Maharashtra's sanitation success can be attributed to strong community mobilization, where rallies, cleanliness pledges, and the active involvement of SHGs and NGOs played a key role in spreading awareness. Effective leadership at the village level fostered a sense of ownership, with committed local leaders driving efforts to achieve and sustain ODF status. The state went beyond mere toilet construction by ensuring consistent usage and safe faecal waste management through a city-wide planning approach. Sustaining ODF status was made possible through continuous engagement in solid and liquid waste management, public hygiene promotion, and maintenance of clean spaces. Maharashtra also addressed critical challenges such as limited funding, resistance to behavioural change, and infrastructure gaps by encouraging beneficiary-led construction, financial incentives, and targeted communication strategies—ensuring a more resilient and sustainable sanitation model.







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Construction of Anganwadi Buildings & Child-Friendly Toilets through Schematic Convergence

District: Yavatmal

State: Maharashtra

BACKGROUND/PROBLEM STATEMENT

Zari Jamni, a tribal and underdeveloped block in Yavatmal district of Maharashtra, falls under the Aspirational Blocks Programme and faces significant challenges in early childhood care and nutrition service delivery. The Anganwadi Centres (AWCs), which serve as the backbone of these services, were often found to be inadequate many lacked pucca (permanent) buildings, and a large number operated from rented premises without basic child-friendly infrastructure. Notably, over 60% of AWCs did not have proper toilets suitable for children, posing serious hygiene and safety concerns. This infrastructure gap particularly affected girl children, leading to increased absenteeism. Furthermore, weak convergence between departments and fragmented funding mechanisms added to the difficulty in implementing cohesive and effective solutions for improving AWC functioning in the block.

KEY INTERVENTION

Joint planning was undertaken by the Departments of Women & Child Development, Rural Development, and Panchayati Raj to address infrastructural gaps in Anganwadi Centres (AWCs). Priority AWCs were identified through a structured infrastructure gap analysis, ensuring focused interventions. The Rural Development Engineering Wing prepared technical estimates for the proposed works. For implementation, a convergence model was adopted wherein the labour component and funds for material cost was utilized under MGNREGA. Monitoring responsibilities were vested in block and district-level convergence committees to ensure timely execution and accountability. Emphasis was placed on child-friendly design features, including lowheight toilets, ramps, water storage facilities, and safe entry and exit points, ensuring accessibility and safety for young children.

IMPACT

The intervention led to notable improvements in hygiene standards and a visible reduction in disease incidence among children attending Anganwadi Centres (AWCs). These improvements, coupled with enhanced infrastructure, contributed to increased enrolment and regular attendance. Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) experienced a sense of empowerment through the ownership of well-equipped, dedicated spaces, which positively impacted service delivery. The initiative also strengthened community confidence in government services by demonstrating visible, child-centric outcomes. Furthermore, the convergence of departments and effective utilization of diverse funding streams ensured resource optimization and enhanced the overall efficiency of the intervention.



LESSON LEARNT

The initiative demonstrated that convergence of schemes significantly enhances the optimal use of limited resources by bringing together departmental efforts and funding streams. Active ownership by local PRI members and line departments emerged as a key factor in ensuring sustainability and long-term maintenance of infrastructure. The development of child-friendly infrastructure, especially sanitation facilities, was instrumental in improving service delivery and building trust within the community. It also reinforced the critical role of safe and accessible sanitation in early childhood development. Regular monitoring and convergence meetings at block and district levels played a crucial role in ensuring coordination, accountability, and smooth implementation of activities.



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Construction of Toilets for Girl Students at Schools

District: Yavatmal

State: Maharashtra

BACKGROUND/PROBLEM STATEMENT

Zari Jamni, an Aspirational Block in Maharashtra's Yavatmal district with a predominantly rural and tribal population, has long struggled with inadequate school infrastructure. One of the key barriers to regular attendance of girls and retention in schools was the absence of gender-segregated, safe, and hygienic toilets. This not only affected their health and dignity but also led to increased absenteeism and dropout rates, particularly among adolescent girls in upper primary and secondary grades, especially after the onset of menstruation. Recognizing this critical gap, the Block and District Administration, in 2023-24, launched a focused initiative to construct separate toilets for girls in government schools. The intervention was implemented through a convergence model, pooling funds and efforts from multiple departments to address sanitation infrastructure deficits and overcome the lack of coordination that previously hindered progress.

KEY INTERVENTION

The initiative involved identifying schools lacking toilets for girls through UDISE+ data and field surveys, followed by detailed block-level micro-planning with key departments. Funding was mobilized through convergence of MGNREGA, District Planning Committee, 15th Finance Commission grants, and Zilla Parishad budgets. Standard child-friendly toilet designs with handwashing facilities were adopted. School Management Committees (SMCs) played an active role in community involvement, while monitoring was ensured by the Taluka Education Officer and Gram Panchayats.

IMPACT:

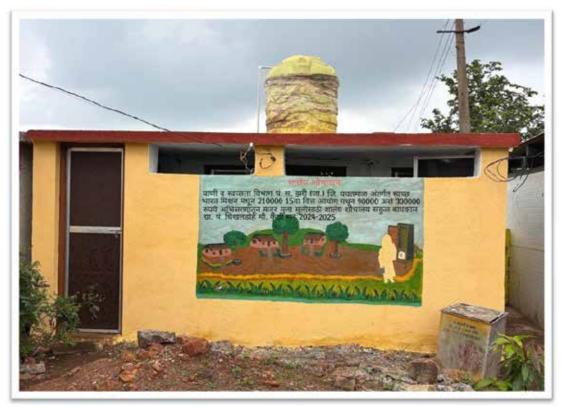
The intervention led to a marked improvement in school attendance and hygiene practices among adolescent girls, particularly by addressing their sanitation needs in a safe and dignified manner. With the availability of dedicated and functional girls' toilets, students felt more confident and secure, resulting in higher retention, especially in upper primary and secondary levels. The initiative also fostered stronger coordination between departments and Gram Panchayats, promoting efficient implementation and resource utilization. Additionally, the visible enhancement in school infrastructure positively influenced perception of parents about government schools, reinforcing trust in public education systems.

LESSON LEARNT

The initiative underscores that sanitation infrastructure is foundational to advancing girls' education and empowerment, as it directly impacts their health, attendance, and dignity. Effective convergence of schemes like MGNREGA, 15th Finance Commission Grants, and District Planning Committee funds enabled swift resolution of resource constraints. Local involvement through School Management Committees (SMCs)



played a key role in ensuring transparency, ownership, and sustainability of the intervention. Leveraging real-time data from UDISE+ along with on-ground validation facilitated targeted, need-based planning. To sustain these outcomes, regular toilet maintenance and continued hygiene awareness among students are essential. The model holds strong potential for replication in other Aspirational Districts and Blocks across India. It aligns seamlessly with Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) and Samagra Shiksha objectives, and can be institutionalized through state directives and integrated Panchayat-level planning frameworks.





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Safe Drinking Water for Every Household in Satna District

District: Satna

State: Madhya Pradesh

BACKGROUND/PROBLEM STATEMENT

The Jal Jeevan Mission is a flagship initiative of the Government of India launched in 2019 with the objective of providing safe and adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections to all rural households by 2024. The mission emphasizes community participation, sustainability of water sources, and the creation of infrastructure to ensure long-term water security in villages. In line with this national objective, Satna district in Madhya Pradesh has been actively implementing the mission through a series of context-specific interventions aimed at improving rural water accessibility and quality.

KEY INTERVENTION

The program has taken a community participation approach which has resulted in the successful implementation of this program in Satna. In Majhgawan block of Satna, a Gram Sabha was held in each village to discuss the benefits of safe drinking water and prepare a village water action plan. Villagers were informed about the scheme, and a Gram Water and Sanitation Ad-hoc Committee was formed, ensuring 50% participation of women. This committee played a vital role in overseeing the implementation and ensuring the scheme's benefits reached every household

IMPACT

Under the Jal Jeevan Mission, Satna district has made significant progress in providing clean drinking water to rural households. Out of 8 development blocks, 3 - Majhgawan, Sohawal, and Nagod – were selected for 100 retrofitting and 132 new water supply schemes, totaling 232 projects. So far, 167 schemes have been completed, with 55,980 water connections installed out of a proposed 64,539. Notably, 162 villages have been declared Har Ghar Jal villages, with 90 villages receiving official certification. In these villages, 43,148 homes now have functional tap water connections.

During the scheme's implementation, a tripartite agreement was signed between the department, the contractors, and Gram Panchayat to ensure accountability. Villagers also inspected the quality of the work, and once satisfied, the Panchayat took over the scheme. Out of the 167 completed schemes, 137 have been transferred to the Gram Panchayats for ongoing operation and maintenance. In Nagod block, for instance, when the water source failed, the Panchayat used Panchayat funds to repair pipelines and equipment, ensuring uninterrupted supply

LESSONS LEARNT

The Jal Jeevan Mission in Satna district is a model of community-driven development, with active participation from villagers and strong collaboration between the

government and local bodies. With 167 schemes completed and many villages now enjoying safe drinking water, Satna is making steady progress toward the mission's goal of Har Ghar Jal – ensuring every household has access to clean and safe drinking water.







Swachh Dhani App: To improve Sanitation related activities and solid and liquid waste management work in villages

District: Udaipur

State: Rajasthan

BACKGROUND/ PROBLEM STATEMENT

In the rural areas of Kherwada block, Udaipur, the improper disposal of plastic and other solid waste had become a growing concern. The frequent use of single-use plastics and lack of awareness among the general public had resulted in unhygienic surroundings. There was no simple mechanism through which villagers could report or initiate cleaning of their areas.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

To address this gap, a digital solution - the Swachh Dhani App - was introduced, enabling people to actively participate in keeping their village clean by uploading photos of waste-affected areas for swift redressal.

The initiative focuses on ensuring a clean and hygienic environment through effective waste management and strong community engagement. A key component of the application is the Digital Grievance Redressal System, which allows citizens to scan a QR code, register complaints online, and track their resolution in real time. To ensure swift and efficient response, BDOs and VDOs are equipped with digital tools, enabling proactive administrative participation. Real-time monitoring systems are also in place to track the progress of sanitation campaigns, allowing for timely interventions. Parallelly, the initiative emphasizes awareness generation, educating villagers on hygiene practices and proper waste disposal methods to build sustainable habits. At the district level, complaints registered through the Swachhata App are reviewed and resolved with oversight from district councils, gram panchayats, and panchayat committees to maintain accountability. Most importantly, the initiative promotes community participation, encouraging citizens to take active roles in cleanliness efforts and provide constructive feedback. Together, these efforts contribute to building cleaner, healthier, and more responsible rural communities.

IMPACT

Residents across all Gram Panchayats have played a key role in improving overall cleanliness, particularly in market areas, shops, and village streets. Their active involvement has led to increased public participation and a growing sense of ownership in maintaining hygiene and sanitation standards. This collective effort has also contributed to a significant reduction in the use of single-use plastics—by over 80%, as reported through local feedback. Furthermore, the initiative has strengthened collaboration between panchayat officials and community members, resulting in more effective coordination and implementation of cleanliness drives. These positive outcomes highlight the power of community-led sanitation efforts in building cleaner and more sustainable rural environments.

LESSONS LEARNT

Digital tools like the Swachh Dhani App can play a transformative role in strengthening local sanitation efforts by streamlining monitoring, reporting, and citizen participation. The success of such initiatives, however, depends heavily on community involvement and sustained awareness to foster long-term behavioral change. Implementing simple and accessible grievance redressal mechanisms encourages more residents to engage with the system and voice their concerns. Moreover, regular follow-up and visible outcomes serve as strong motivators for continued public participation, reinforcing the community's trust and commitment. Importantly, this model is cost-effective and easily scalable, making it suitable for replication across other Gram Panchayats and blocks with minimal investment.





मुख्य उद्देश्य :-

- एवच्छ और हुएा-भरा गांव बनाना कचरा प्रबंधन को सुव्यवस्थित करके साफ-सुथरा पर्यावरण सुनिधित करना।
- डिजिटन शिकायत प्रणाली नागरिकों द्वारा सामान्य QR कोड स्कैन कर ऑनलाइन शिकायत दर्ज करने और उसकी स्थिति ट्रैक करने की सुविधा देना।
- प्रभाषी प्रशासनिक भागीदारी BDO और VDO को शिकायतों को शीघ्र हल करने के लिए डिजिटल टूल्स उपलब्ध कराना।
- सामुद्राधिक भागीदारी को बहाबा देवा वागरिकों को सफाई में सहयोग करने और फीडबैक देने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करना।
- रियल-टाइम मॉबिटरिंग सफाई अभियाबों की प्रगति पर बनर रखबे के लिए तकवीक का उपयोग करना।
- स्वच्छता के प्रति जामरुकता लोगों को स्वच्छता बनाए रखने और अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन के सही तरीकों के बारे में शिक्षित करना।
- जिल्ला स्तर पर विभारानी जिला परिषद स्तर से स्वच्छ ढाणी एप पर दर्ज शिकायत को ग्राम पंचायत एवं पंचायत समिति द्वारा गुणयतापूर्ण विस्तारण की विभारानी करना।



वेबसाइट : www.e-nagar.com/swachh_dhani

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Soak Pit to Every Household: A Step Towards Liquid Waste Management and Healthier Villages

District: Yavatmal

State: Maharashtra

BACKGROUND/PROBLEM STATEMENT

Pusad block in Yavatmal district, Maharashtra, part of the Aspirational Block Programme, has shown considerable improvement in sanitation and solid waste management. However, liquid waste management (LWM) continues to pose a challenge, especially in rural households without proper wastewater disposal systems. Poor drainage often leads to stagnant water, which contributes to mosquito breeding, bad odour, and waterlogging, particularly during monsoons. To address this, the administration introduced a cost-effective and eco-friendly solution - individual soak pits for every household.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

To ensure effective management of household wastewater through construction of soak pits, thereby promoting a mosquito-free, odour-free, and waterlogging-free environment in all villages of the block. The Key Features of the initiative involves

- 1. Management of wastewater at the source.
- 2. Mosquito-free villages through elimination of stagnant water.
- 3. Prevention of waterlogging, reduction of odours, and contribution to groundwater recharge.
- 4. Low-cost model using locally available materials.
- 5. Training of Masons and SHGs for construction and maintenance.

The implementation was carried out through community mobilization and awareness drives through Gram Sabhas and IEC materials. The masons were trained on standard soak pit designs (single ring / twin-ring system) and the program was supported under SBM-G and MGNREGS. The monthly progress of the program was tracked by Block and GP level officials.

IMPACT

The initiative has impacted over 10,000 rural households across 110 villages and they were benefitted from improved sanitation, health, and environment. There was a visible improvement in village cleanliness and hygiene and a noticeable decline in mosquito-borne diseases and communicable diseases in general.

Indicator	Baseline	After Intervention	
Gram Panchayats (all HHs) with	0 Gram Panchayat	4 Gram Panchayats (All	
soak pits	O Grain Panchayat	HHs)	
Incidence of mosquito-borne	Moderate- High	Low	
diseases (seasonal)	Moderate- High	Low	



Villages with effective SLWM	45 GPs (85 Villages)	101 GPs (159 Villages)	
Waterlogging complaints during	Very Prevalent	Reduced Significantly	
Monsoon	very Frevalent		

LESSONS LEARNT

The biggest lessons learnt from this initiative is that the decentralized, household-level Liquid Waste Management is more sustainable than centralized drainage in rural areas. Behavior change through awareness and demonstration is crucial in waste management programs. Simple and low-cost infrastructure can lead to high community impact and Inter-departmental convergence accelerates implementation and ownership. The biggest takeaways from this initiative is that this is easily replicable across rural India with Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin or MGNREGS convergence and by encouraging local innovations like kitchen gardens using soak pit water adds value to the initiative. The initiative also ensures progress on SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) and can bring improvement in the overall health of the rural population.



Soak Pit at Gram Panchayat - Jyotinagar



Construction of Soak Pit at Gram Panchayat – Bhandari



Soak Pit at Gram Panchayat - Bori Khurd

A Sanitation Success Story in Talasari Schools

District: Palghar

State: Maharashtra

BACKGROUND/PROBLEM STATEMENT

The Education Department of Panchayat Samiti Talasari oversees 154 Zillha Parishad schools and many of these schools face significant challenges with inadequate toilet and washroom facilities. Recognizing the critical importance of sanitation for student health and school attendance, Panchayat Samiti Talasari has initiated a project to improve these facilities. Government schools in Talasari taluka lacked proper sanitation facilities. The existing toilets and washrooms of schools were often in poor condition which led to health issues and decreased attendance among students, particularly among female students. Baseline indicators showed that only a small percentage of the toilets were functional, and many lacked basic hygiene provisions.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

To address this issue, Panchayat Samiti Talasari along with the community implemented the PROJECT WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene). This initiative focuses on repairing and reconstructing school toilets to ensure they are hygienic and accessible. The project employs community involvement and local resources to maximize impact and sustainability.

IMPACT

The primary beneficiaries of this project are the students of the Zilla Parishad schools in Talasari. To date, the project has repaired and reconstructed 14 toilets, directly improving the sanitation facilities for hundreds of students. Our goal is to complete 70 toilets, impacting thousands of students and providing them with a healthier learning environment. The Project was launched in April 2024 and it is still going on with a phased approach to repair and reconstruct 70 toilets from different schools across Talasari. The project's progress is closely monitored through regular site visits and assessments conducted by officers from the Panchayat Samiti and the Education Department. A comprehensive feedback mechanism has been established, involving school staff and students, to ensure the facilities meet their needs and remain wellmaintained.

This initiative has significantly improved key performance indicators (KPIs) under the Aspirational Block Program. Notably, it has increased the percentage of functional girls' toilets in schools and reduced the student dropout rate, highlighting the positive impact of the PROJECT WASH initiative on the education sector in Talasari.

LESSONS LEARNT

The major takeaway of the program is that the continuous monitoring and feedback mechanisms are essential to maintain the quality and usability of the facilities. In addition to that, community involvement is crucial for the success and sustainability of sanitation projects. Improvement in the sanitation facilities in schools can considerably improve the learning environment and overall health of the children.





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Gobardhan Plant: A Model of Sustainable Waste Management

District: Jamui

State: **Bihar**

BACKGROUND/PROBLEM STATEMENT

The people of Jamui like many other districts in rural India relied on traditional, often harmful and polluting, fuel sources for cooking. Additionally, inadequate waste management systems contributed to environmental and health concerns. But an idea has changed their lives for good. The Gobardhan biogas plant successfully tackles two major community challenges: providing a clean cooking fuel and managing local waste.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

The Gobardhan plant in Harla Panchayat, Laxmipur block, Jamui, was established in the year 2023. This initiative aims to bring inclusive development by utilizing cow dung to produce biogas and organic manure, thereby providing cheaper and cleaner energy and fertilizers to villagers. The plant was established by engaging the local community with the help of Block Administration and local Mukhiya. The plant, completed in a record time of approximately three months, consumes around 2000 kg of cow dung daily, producing 80 m³ of biogas and significant quantities of solid and liquid manure. It has created direct and indirect employment opportunities for local residents. The plant operates on a net-zero waste management concept, processing plastic and other waste in adjacent units, thus promoting a cleaner, greener, and more economical locality.

IMPACT

The biogas plant was able to produce around 80 m³ of biogas daily which was supplied to 25 households. Production of Fermented Organic Manure (FOM)- 800 kg of solid manure and Liquid Fermented Organic Manure (LFOM- 1200 liters of liquid manure is being supplied daily to local farmers at low cost. The biogas plant has resulted in creation of 3 direct and approximately 5 indirect employment opportunities. The villagers have become more aware about sustainable waste management. The plant operates on a "net zero waste" concept hence promoting environmental sustainability. It has also brought economic empowerment in the region and is promoting agricultural improvement.

LESSONS LEARNT

There was an initial resistance from villagers regarding the provision of cow dung which was tackled by proper planning and discussions. Ensuring timely completion of the plant within the planned timeframe and continuous monitoring and maintenance of the plant is necessary to ensure optimal performance. The Gobardhan plant model is being replicated in other districts by following a similar approach of community engagement, efficient project management, and collaboration with different stakeholders.











Transforming Anwar Village: A Community Engagement Story

District: Palghar

State: Maharashtra

BACKGROUND/PROBLEM STATEMENT

Anwir, a tribal village in Talasari block, Palghar (Maharashtra), was marked by low literacy, mono-cropping agriculture, poor sanitation, malnutrition, and limited livelihood options. In 2021, a transformation program began in Anwir collaborating with government agencies, panchayats, and local communities. The program focused on transforming key indicators in education, agriculture, livelihood, and sanitation. These efforts have included infrastructure upgrades, teacher deployment, agricultural innovation, women's empowerment, and sanitation improvements. Over three years (2023-2025), Anwir has transitioned into a model village, showcasing how targeted, participatory interventions can uplift marginalized communities. This case study documents Anwir's journey and demonstrates how cross-sectoral collaboration and contextualized solutions can drive impactful change in underserved tribal regions.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

Multiple sector-wise, community-focused interventions were implemented in Anwir. In education, Project Naya Savera, revamping ZP schools and deploying teachers to improve pupil-teacher ratios was formulated. Language barriers were addressed through Dawar-friendly learning resources and local educators. Project Phulpakharu introduced libraries to deepen literacy. In agriculture, dual cropping, SRT methods, and *Nutri-gardens* were introduced, increasing productivity and dietary diversity. Agri-allied activities like mushroom farming and goat rearing were piloted with infrastructure support via MGNREGA. In livelihoods, women were trained in papadmaking and festival product creation, supported by market access. The Ranbhaji Mahotsav promoted nutrition and traditional food knowledge. For sanitation, YRF's Project Swabhiman built around 52 toilets with support from Swachh Bharat Mission and local governance, alongside awareness campaigns. All interventions emphasized local participation, sustainability, and replicability. Through strategic alignment with government schemes and on-ground facilitation, this model offers an integrated approach to rural transformation.

IMPACT

These multi-pronged efforts have had significant impacts across Anwir's population. In education, school dropouts reduced and student engagement improved through foundational skill development, better infrastructure, and culturally adaptive learning. In agriculture, dual cropping and agri-allied ventures enhanced farmer income and reduced seasonal migration. Buoyed by results, farmers are organizing an FPO under ATMA. Families benefited from nutri-gardens, improving household nutrition. The livelihood initiatives provided tribal women with economic independence, confidence, and entrepreneurship opportunities, marking a cultural shift in gender roles. Ranbhaji



Mahotsav celebrated indigenous knowledge and nutrition. Sanitation saw a substantial boost, with over 52 toilets constructed and more underway, drastically improving hygiene and disease prevention. These interventions collectively improved wellbeing, boosted economic stability, and reinforced self-reliance. Anwir now stands as a replicable example for other villages under the Aspirational Block Program.

LESSONS LEARNT

This initiative underscores that sustainable rural development hinges on collaborative efforts between government bodies, and local communities. Trust-building and community engagement from inception ensured ownership and smooth execution. Language-sensitive education models proved crucial for learning in tribal regions, while customized teaching tools helped bridge foundational gaps. In agriculture, moving beyond mono-cropping to dual cropping and agri-allied activities diversified income and built resilience. Women's economic empowerment through skill-based micro-enterprises not only increased family income but transformed gender dynamics. Sanitation improvements, paired with awareness sessions, proved more sustainable than infrastructure alone. Continuous monitoring, participatory planning, and adaptation to local conditions were critical for real-time problem solving and sustained progress. The initiative also illustrated the scalability of targeted models—many practices piloted in Anwir are now being extended to neighboring areas. These learnings can inform similar tribal and remote area development efforts across India, enabling more inclusive and impactful transformations.









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Alluri Sita Rama Raju- District Non-Profit Forum (ASR DNF): A **Collaborative Approach to Development**

District: Alluri Sita Rama Raju

Andhra Pradesh State:

BACKGROUND/ PROBLEM STATEMENT

In Alluri Sita Rama Raju district, many non-profits and civil society organizations have historically worked in silos, often duplicating efforts in the same communities without coordination. This fragmented approach has led to confusion, inefficiencies, and limited impact, particularly in achieving development targets under the Aspirational District and Aspirational Blocks Programmes. To address this gap, the District Nonprofit Forum (DNF) was established under the leadership of the District Collector. The DNF serves as a structured platform for Development Partners to collaborate, align with district priorities, and contribute to local governance and planning processes. It aims to foster cross-learning, shared service delivery models, and effective coordination between Development partners, government bodies, and communities. With a focus on data-driven decision-making and integrated planning, the DNF brings together key stakeholders to address pressing social issues through collaborative, sustainable, and community-led solutions. It represents a scalable model for inclusive and efficient development at the grassroots.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

The forum was able to implement notable initiatives include the promotion of a coffee value chain in the region which will give boost to the economic activities and bring economic empowerment. A converged water and health governance model under Jal Jeevan Mission was formulated in convergence with different stakeholders and a pilot project promoting sustainable agricultural practices has been launched across 5 villages. Overall, the forum creates a collaborative ecosystem that streamlines planning, reduces duplication, and amplifies impact through structured partnerships and data-backed approaches.

IMPACT

The forum has significantly enhanced collaboration between District Administration, and communities, leading to streamlined efforts under the Aspirational District and Block Programmes. Communities benefit from targeted, Panchayat-led initiatives that are better informed and more responsive to local needs. The District Administration now leverages timely, validated data from Development partners for strategic planning and problem-solving. Youth and civil society inclusion in governance forums has strengthened participatory development and increased grassroots accountability. Key successes include improved agricultural practices, coffee-based livelihoods, enhanced health and water governance, and scalable partnership models. The forum has minimized overlap, reduced confusion among beneficiaries, and enhanced the overall impact of civil society interventions, establishing ASR district as a model for collaborative approach to development

LESSONS LEARNT

The DNF model in ASR district highlights the importance of structured collaboration and mutual accountability among government and communities. A clearly defined governance framework, including regular reviews and transparent roles, is essential for maintaining momentum and ensuring outcome-focused execution. Capacity-building in planning, proposal writing, and fundraising has empowered local actors. The use of data for dialogue and advocacy has strengthened credibility and responsiveness. Embedding civil society in community-based structures, Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDP) enables grassroots ownership. The peer learning environment encourages innovation and dissemination of localized solutions. The forum provides a replicable model for inclusive governance, strategic collaboration, and community empowerment in aspirational geographies.

