

Prabhu Jagatbandhu College

Affiliated to the University of Calcutta

Jhorehat, Andul-Mouri, Howrah, West Bengal, India



Adopted Village

Village Name: Kshetrapaltala

Location: Howrah, West Bengal, India, 711302

Motive of Adoption: Up Lifting the socioeconomics of the underprivileged villages

Kshetrapaltala of Howrah District under Sankrail Block: The Adopted Village of Prabhu Jagatbandhu College

1. Objectives of the Practice

- (a) To develop the adopted village as an ideal village of the district
- (b) To build up the adopted village as a vibrant human habitation with all modern amenities for its sustainable development

For this purpose, the college has adopted some principles like:

- (a) To make the people aware about the basic healthcare and hygiene
- (b) To make them aware about the problems like soil and water pollution
- (c) To motivate them to take proper measures for the education of girl children.

2. The Context

While there are different schemes meant for rural development, because of lack of a holistic focus leads to a failure of considering the village as a unit. In several instances it has been found that the rate of success in rural development is limited and even in the case of some achievements, these remain transient. A ‘model village’ conceptualised on these aspects, promotes the ideas of holistic development as well as it addresses these challenges and issues in the adopted village.

3. The Practice

In India, the institutes of higher education play an important role for community development. For the last three decades, UGC, the principal regulatory body of higher education in India, has mentored the institutes in such a direction that each institute should take care to serve any nearby rural area under the purview of the institute. In India, there are nearly 60,000 villages comprising eighty per cent of the whole population.

The higher education institute can play a pivotal role in providing various services and these are done in addition to all the measures taken by the local administration i.e. the rural panchayat or the Block Development Office. Our college from the beginning of the popularization of the concept of model village as a responsible practice of the higher education institute has taken initiative to develop the adopted village as a model village.

Within the last five years, the college has taken repetitive attempts for the educational improvements for the school drop-outs among the village families. The NSS Cell of the college organised camps in the adopted village to create awareness among the parents to patronise the education of their wards at least up to the school level. Significantly, the last survey of the village by the college during the year 2019 shows

partly improvements of the situation eradicating the previous attitudes of the villagers.

The building up of a model village from merely an adopted village, the NSS team of the college faced some constraints. Years ago when the college first attempted such drives, it had been found that some families were reluctant to send their children to school regularly. As A Result, a large number of boys and girls remained outside the matriculation level. The college understood about the limitation of the families and to that affect learning materials had been distributed in the annual camp. The college authority faces the limitation of adequate funds for continuing these aiding on a regular basis.

4. Evidence of Success

An instance of success for campaigning in the model village had been obtained during a medical check up camp organised in 2019. It was a one day health check-up camp organised in the adopted village. For that camp, an announcement had been done through a door to door survey a few days before.

Nearly 65 families visited the camp for health check-up. Significantly, nearly 11 such attendees had been detected wit diabetic and pre diabetic condition. The camp was attended by a reputed allopathic doctor from a government run hospital. The patients had been referred to specialist medical check-up.

The result of this medical camp obviously indicates prevalence of adequate medical facilities. The villagers confessed that they had no proper information about the actual physical problems. Some of the villages indicated about the problems due to the lack of regular communication with the medical facilities of nearby city areas.

5. Problems Encountered and Resources Required

The NSS team of the college in several places faced the problems of enthusiasm from the villagers to participate in such camps because of the inadequate support to their interest for a long drawn time.

One major problem is the lack of proper infrastructure and funds to implement such drives, essential for developing a village as a model village. One such infrastructure is a permanent health centre with adequate facilities to be established in the village premises.

2016

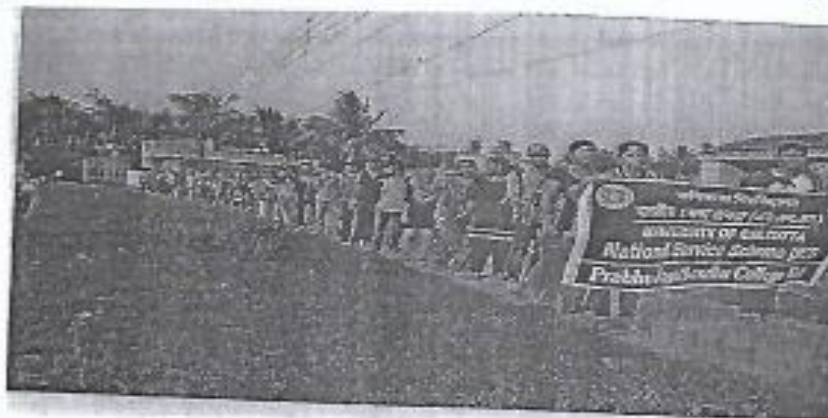
Programme Officer: Prof Hira Chatterjee

Week long special camp was organised in the adopted village including survey on sanitation, general health check-up, literacy. It was found out that 63 households did not have any concrete toilet. The sanitary products like soaps, phenyl and learning aids like books, exercise books, pen, pencils etc. had been distributed among the villagers. Some corresponding pictures of the programme are as following:

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Our Rally on the way of Adopted village for special camp



Our volunteers on the village road



Survey by our volunteers

2019

Programme Officer: Prof Sumit Kumar Bar

In the month of March the student volunteers conducted a survey camp for the ensuing medical camp as part of the annual NSS programme. In the month of April, a one day medical check-up camp had been organised by the NSS unit of the college in the adopted village.



One Day Medical Camp at Kshetrapaltala Village, 2019.

2020

In the month of March a One Day door to door Survey Camp had been organised by the NSS Cell at Khetrapaltala. The survey revealed that a major portion of the village population developed problems of eyesight and they are outside of proper Ophthalmological treatments. At least seventy households had been found that they could not visit to any Ophthalmologist for various reasons.

To materialise this welfare vision, the NSS Cell attempted to organise a One Day Eye check-up camp at the Kshetrapaltala Village, including the distribution of sanitary products but due to lockdown for the pandemic, the programme had been stopped.



NSS volunteers at Kshetrapaltala, the adopted village in March 2020

Faculties and Students present at the Survey Camp 2020 at Kshetrapaltala Village.



2021

The NSS Unit of the college since its adoption of the village under Mashila Gram Panchayat, Sankrail Block of Howrah District has been engaged in several developmental activities in that village. The NSS Unit with its earliest convenience after the reopening of the institute, attempted to reach to the villagers for materializing the committed programme to them a year ago. To that effect, on 11th December 2021 a survey camp had been held in the adopted village. A questionnaire had been set accordingly for the survey. Priority had been given in the questionnaire regarding two issues – the first one being the vaccination of the villagers for the protection of Covid-19 and the subsequent one was related to the owning of toilets of the families either earthen or build up. Nearly sixty students participated in this survey. The student volunteers led by the faculty members of the NSS unit surveyed fifty six households of the village. The survey data analysis shows that out of fifty six households, nine such families have been found who do not have their own toilets. The point of observation is that despite the attempts taken by the organisations, these families are still beyond the reach of clean atmospheric drive. The NSS unit in future will attempt to help these deprived people to build up their own toilet. It is highly expected that with the fulfilment of this activity, open defecation will be reduced and it will be helpful for the reduction of bacterial and parasitical infections in future. The NSS team projects its future roadmap that after the reopening of the institute and post normalising of the pandemic situation it will consult with the government bodies like the local Panchayat, Block Development Office etc. for practical help to reach to the committed people in this regard. The surveying students distributed face mask among the villagers.

On 15th December 2021, a One Day health check-up camp had been organised by the NSS unit at the Kshetrapaltala temple committee building. Dr Subhankar Das, an eminent surgeon of NRS Medical College, Kolkata has been invited to the camp and Dr. Das thankfully attended the camp. A number of villages turned up and satisfactorily consulted to the doctor. It is further noted that all covid-19 protocols had been strictly followed in the camp for organising such programmes. Further, as part of the programme the sanitary products like hand sanitizers and soaps had been distributed among the villagers who visited to the camp. They had also been made aware about the importance of using the face

mask and hand sanitization as well as cleaning of hands with soap and water frequently as protective measures for covid-19.



Photographs of 2021 Survey Camp cum Mask distribution programme at Kshetrapaltala Village



Photographs of Cleaning Camp at Kshetrapaltala Village, 2021 led by the Programme Officer of NSS Unit.



Photographs of Sanitization Drive at Kshetrapaltala Village, 2021



One Day Health Check-up Camp at Kshetrapaltala Village, 2021.