



Model Villages - Some Success Stories from South India in the Literature

By

Prof. (Emeritus) Rajendra Prasad

Adviser UBA, IIT Delhi

rprasadiitd@gmail.com

unnatbharatabhiyaniitd@gmail.com

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Gangadevi Pally, Telangana



- Geesukonda mandal of Warangal Dist. Telangana.
- 15 km west of Warangal city.
- 237 km from State capital Hyderabad.
- Population about 1300.



The Village in 1970s



- Like any normal village in India with multiple social, economic and political problems.
- Lacked basic amenities such as water supply and sanitation facilities, primary health, education facilities and other infrastructure.
- Fully agriculture-based economy, very small and marginal land holdings.
- Drinking water - a major problem, only one well in the entire village.
- Remote and cut-off from the Gram Panchayat.
- Alcoholism - a huge problem, frequent conflicts and disputes.



Interventions



- A local leader Mr. Kusam Raja Mouli convinced fellow leaders and the community.
- Banned the sale and consumption of alcohol.
- Approached Bala Vikasa, a reputed Warangal-based NGO.
- Model of Asset Based Community Development.
- Identifying, mobilizing and using locally available resources and capacities to build the foundation blocks.
- Contributed money, time and labour in completing the water project, which provided a permanent solution to their needs.



Interventions...continued



- The local and state government also provided key resources and assistance.
- Established an Outreach Center.
- Sanitation programs initiated.
- Installed 60 street lights where none existed a decade ago.
- Developed and upgraded the school from 4th grade to 7th and thereafter to a high school, with sufficient infrastructure.
- TATA Projects, made aware of the fluoride issue, donated the water filtration plant to the village absolutely free of cost on condition of systematic operation and internal raising of operation costs.



Interventions...continued



- Each household to sow trees within their lands and also by the side of the road in front of their homes, personally responsible for trees.
- Delivery of cable TV to every household.
- Counselling for family planning and AIDS awareness.
- Counselling and support for bank linkages to avoid usury and prevent debt-related suicides.
- 256 houses and other institutions pay Rs. 95,706 as tax to the Gram Panchayat.



Key features of the Gangadevapalli transformation



- **Committed leadership, full community involvement, consensual and participatory rule-making, and strict enforcement** emerge as key characteristics of the process of change.
- Systematic planning, transparent implementation, **mobilization and pooling of resources from various sources**-government, banks, donors, NGOs and community-key special motifs in the success of Gangadevapalli's efforts.
- The all-women leadership in Gram Panchayat promoted attention to equity, gender-relations and environmental issues.
- Baseline data systematically collected and used for effective monitoring and delivery of services.
- Inspired, right-thinking, and most importantly, **“participative leadership”** appears to be the key to the early success.



Achievements



- **100% alcohol prohibition**
- **100% house tax collection**
- **100% houses have toilets**
- **100% usage of toilets**
- **100% participation in savings' groups/schemes**
- **100% literacy**
- **100% drinking purified water**
- **100% child labour free**
- **100% children attend school**
- **From 1995 – 2006, women were chief elected representatives**

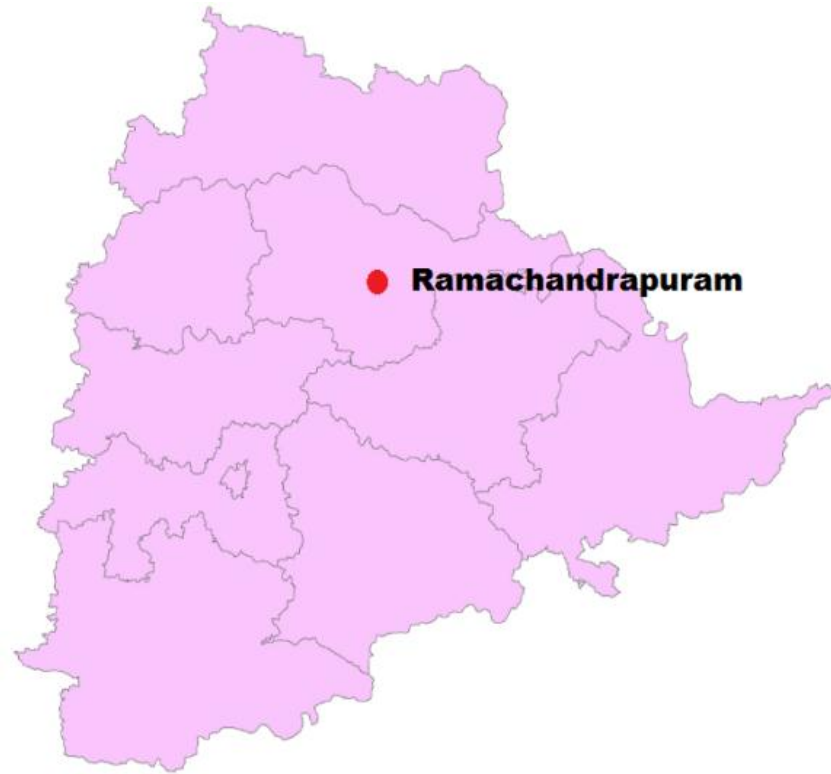


Gangadevipalli, Telangana





Ramachandrapuram, Telangana



- Koheda Mandal
- Karimnagar district, Telangana
- 471 households



The Village before intervention



- Low employment; seasonal and longer-term emigration.
- Low agriculture productivity, lack of irrigation.
- High consumption of liquor - worth Rs. 6,000 to 7,000 every day.
- Low ground water table, high content of fluoride.
- Lack of basic infrastructure
- Poor health and education facilities.



Interventions



- Panchayat constituted committee for eradication of alcoholism.
- Extensive discussion, house-to-house visits, close monitoring and establishment of rules.
- Support in the Gram Sabha afforded a basis for enforcement of ban.
- Sarpanch revived the school and develop better quality education with help of a retired headmaster without any remuneration.
- Initiated two Anganwadi centres in the village.
- Innovation in governance structure - introduced “Cabinet system” of Ministers and “Legislative Council” of elders of the village.



Interventions....continued



- Administration decentralized, with fifteen committees headed by member of “legislative council” with respective “Minister” as secretary.
- Major intervention - developing alternate source for drinking water, piped-water, through a combination of local contributions and government funds, which drew on water from the river and distributed it from two water tanks constructed for the purpose in the village.
- Electricity board sanctioned a 33/11 substation for the village, raised funds (Rs.40,000) from villagers for land. 7 hours of uninterrupted power.
- Constructed sub-surface dike, layed pipe that supports irrigation.



Interventions....continued



- Encouraged people to build soak pits, water overflow diverted into kitchen gardens.
- Conflict resolution managed by themselves within the community, recourse to police and courts avoided unless a criminal case.



Key features of the transformation



- Innovative and imagination-stirring design of the Gram Panchayat.
- Village-wide engagement of all elected members.
- Involvement of citizens wider participation, active support and ownership.
- Wisdom, experience and support of elders of the village ensured.
- Coordinated approach to village development, each “ministry” developing a plan and integrated in a village development plan.
- Information booklet designed to capture the information of each household.
- Effective computerized database for planning, implementation and monitoring.
- Gram Panchayat secretary trained by APARD (the State SIRD) about hardware and software, on data entry procedures and preparation of reports.



Achievements



- Production and sale of liquor completely stopped.
- School is revitalized and well-equipped, and all children attend.
- Two Anganwadi centres fully functional.
- Own substation and uninterrupted power
- Piped water system to every household.
- Increased fodder cultivation, livestock population up in the village by 8%, with higher milk production.
- Pucca roads, well connected in all directions.
- Irrigation introduced, land under cultivation increased, over 1900 acres being cultivated - over three times the land cultivated previously.
- More than two-fold increase in average household income.



Achievements



- Thrift-savings and insurance now widespread.
- 29 SHGs, 7 farmers' groups.
- 1,490 registered voters with 1,750 insurance policies.
- Individual household savings amounts to about Rs. 40-50 lakh annually.
- All the residents of Ramchandrapuram have pledged to donate their eyes after death.



Ramachandrapuram





Thank You