



# National Council of Rural Institutes

Department of Higher Education,  
Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India



# Connect

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# Paldev

## An Endeavouring Village



Anganvadi Bhavan in Paldev



Primary School in Paldev



Community hall in Paldev

Percentage of the pupils who passed Matriculation skyrocketed to 51% from 11%, same was the case with Intermediate as the percentage of the pass outs went up to 82% from 28%.

“We strive to make our village a better one but we prefer staying here because we like it here” said Shivnarayan Pandey of the village Paldev expressing his love for his community despite the facilities here. Village Paldev in Majhganwan block of Satna district, Madhya Pradesh is one amongst a few villages that has witnessed rampant changes in the shortest time possible. The most distinct facet of the village is its people and their livelihood regardless of the concerns that have kept them bothered from time to time.

Soon after adoption, Shri Prakash Jawadekar the Honorable HRD

Minister focused on bettering the future of the students of the village by improving the facilities for them to pursue education.

Paldev is a village with a history of more than 300 years. The village has its name from their Village-God Paldev Baba. A total of 660 families reside in Paldev Village. People of the village primarily depend on farming for their livelihood.

The villagers primarily eat and cultivate wheat.

Most of the houses in the village are connected by all-season roads. Additional work for improving the road facility in the village has been carried out under Saansad Adarsh

Gram Yojayana (SAGY). The village is headed by a Sarpanch and a Secretary who carry out the official works.

With the support from the Honorable HRD Minister under SAGY, there have been a lot of improvements in the educational facilities in the village. The students stated that the facilities in the schools have improved. The old school has been renovated, adding a few more rooms to it and equipping the school with good infrastructure. It is also observed that in recent times, girls have shown a lot of interest in education due to motivation they are receiving from their family and the increased interest to study. Girls from class six are given bicycles by the state government to facilitate their long distance commuting.

The progression of Paldev started in 2014 after it was adopted by the Minister for Human Resources Development, Shri. Prakash Jawadekar

Hygienic food is served under the midday meal program to all the students. The food is prepared by the women of the SHG under the guidance of the school teachers. The teachers in the village are given additional training under Gramoday Prashikshaka program helping them to train the students learn difficult concepts with ease. A few teachers were selected under Meena Pradhan and Umeedh Lal Pathak programs. They were given effective training in handling various academic aspects.

A total of 330 toilets have been built after the Honorable HRD Minister's adoption of Paldev village. The village administration has already

### Major Accomplishments under SAGY

- Construction and renovation of three schools
- Repair of the wells and borewells
- Sanitation facility is being improved
- Fencing and cleaning the village pond was initiated and completed.
- 2.5 kms of proper road has been laid.
- Close to 5000 saplings were planted
- Literacy boosted considerably

begun the dream mission of building a toilet in every house. Water facility to these toilets has become a concern but the administration is making attempts to provide the required quantity. The village has 20 bore wells. People have reported that there is adequate water during rainy season but during summer the wells and bore wells dry up.

People in the village approach the local Aayurveda center if they fall ill. This center further refers them to a hospital with advance facilities if the person is seriously ill. People in the village depend more on Ayurveda than Allopathy. Primary Health Center is yet to be built in this village. All children are covered under the Immunisation programme periodically as required. Concerned health

workers visit every house for teekakaran and Polio drops are given on the school premises. The Asha Karyakarthas in the village work to provide proper food in the village both to kids and the pregnant women.

Youth groups mostly contribute to cleanliness in the village. There are three youth groups with 5-10 members in each team. There is a Kidvan Youth Sangh which is mentored by the Buzurg Sangh. Close to 10 SHGs with 10-12 members in each team operate in this village. These SHG were trained under Kaushal Vikas Yojana with the assistance from an NGO.

With MGNREGA plan in action, people participate in developing their village. Horticulture in the village started after the minister had adopted the village under SAGY. Through SAGY they have successfully planted 5000 saplings with the support of local youth groups. They have also laid a steel fencing on the borders of the village pond so that the animals won't pollute it. Most people are content with the efforts and the developments made by the administration after the village was adopted by the Honorable Minister and with the constant efforts of his team. There are quite a few projects which are to be completed. The village administration plans to finish them at the earliest possibility with the support from the Honorable HRD Minister Shri Prakash Jawadekar.



Shauchalay in the village



Roads in the village



An elderly woman teaching her grandchildren in Paldev



Chairman and Member Secretary of NCRI in a conversation with the teachers at the primary school in Paldev

# Prakash Javadekar Adopts Khutiya



**One Man Army:** Mithlesh Sharma, Headmaster of the high school in Khutiya



**Serving with Pride:** Sumita Imati, Anganwadi Teacher



**Man with a Mission:** Kulmans Salaam, Sarpanch interacting with NCRI officials.

The soul of India lies in its villages,” said Mathma Gandhi. To explore the soul of villages, the National Council of Rural Institutes team surveyed the village Khutiya of Chindwarda district of Madhya Pradesh on 12th July 2017.

Khutiya is a tribal hamlet situated 21 km from the district headquarters. With a mission to transform this tribal hamlet to a model village, Shri Prakash Javadekar, Union Minister of Human Resource Development has adopted Khutiya under the Sansaad Adarsh Gram Yojana(SAGY) in June 2017.

During the transect walk in the lanes of the village by the NCRI team, attention was drawn to a thought provoking slogan “Ghar Ghar Me Siksha Deep Jalayengay, Andhkar Agyan Mitingay,” written on the walls of every home in the Khutiya village.

“With a mission to abolish illiteracy, under Saakshar Bharat Mission, evening classes are conducted every day for the elderly folks of the village,” said Rajiv Tumram, Teacher in Saakshar Bharat Mission. Officials frequently visit Khutiya village to check the ongoing developmental works and sketch the plan of action, Rajiv further added.

The Anganwadi Center of the village is equipped with all amenities for children and pregnant women, where they are served with a healthy diet. “On 26 January 2017, I received an award from

Collector Shri J K Jain for recognition of the services rendered at this Angawadi center,” says with pride Sumita Imati, the Angawadi Teacher.

In Khutiya there are three schools adjacent to each other. They are Primary, Middle, and Secondary schools. But there is only one teacher available for each school. As saying goes “where there is a will, there is a way,” to overcome the shortage of teachers and to engage students, the Head Master of the school is engaging students through digital education, where he brings AV material related to the topics in the course syllabus and plays them for one class. Meanwhile, he teaches the higher class. “From school administration work to teaching, I take care of everything, as there is shortage of teachers in the school,” says Mithlesh Sharma, the Head Master.

Walking in the steps of his father Mathura Prasad Sharma, a former principal and also the first teacher posted in Khutiya in 1959 said “in the year 2015, when I got promoted as Principal, my father insisted me to take posting at Khutiya as he was the one who initially started school at Khutiya” said Mithlesh Sharma. Daily, Mithlesh travels 20kms to reach the school.

Village Khutiya seeks to have +2 level institution (Junior College), as the children from the village has to travel long distances for their higher education.

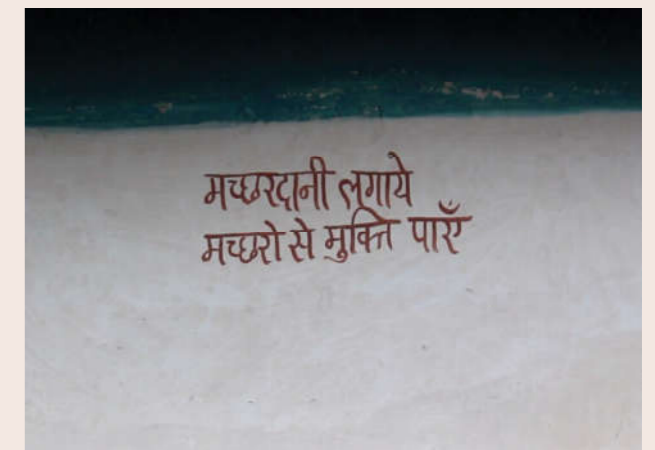
“I have completed my 10th standard, this year, I am traveling 10kms daily to college, half of the time gets wasted in traveling,” says Rajitha Tumram.

Though the village has pucca roads which spot all-season surface coat, there is a lack of public transport in the village. Few autos ferry from the main road to the village but their frequency is low.

The village has ample water availability with tanks running on the solar motor. “For so many years we are drinking this water, now we need safe water as there are many diseases spreading through the tank water,” says Kallu, a resident of Khutiya. To overcome the drinking water quality problem, there is a need for initiating safety measures for providing potable drinking water.

To empower women, the SHGs are being formed. There is an attempt to train the women in various professions such as tailoring and beautician.

Elected as a Sarpanch in the year 2015, Kulmans Salaam a man with a mission to make Khutiya a model village said “It’s a dream come true for me when I got to know that Khutiya is under the umbrella of Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana(SAGY), and the support from the Honorable Minister Shri Prakash Javadekar is a great helping hand to the village”.



**Thought provoking:** Every House conveys a message



**Empowering Women:** The SHGs (Self Help Groups) are being formed to train women in various professions



**Bringing Out the Best:** Students at the school, Khutiya

# NCRI Official Meets Vice Chancellors Of Premier Universities

In an attempt to further the integration of academia with the Rural India, the Curriculum Development Specialist of the National Council of Rural Institutes (NCRI) visit Universities. They explain the mandate of the Council in acting as a liaison between the higher educational institutions and the rural concerns.

Impressed with the very idea of curricular intervention in rural areas, Prof Ravindra Kumar VC of IGNOU decided to align with the Council thereby agreeing to organize a round table with academicians from his varsity.

In another meeting with the Vice Chancellor of Jamia Millia Islamia, Prof Talat Ahmed, it was decided that the Department of Adult

and Continuing Education will place the proposal in the Board of Studies meeting in September. The VC had also asked the other relevant departments including Social Work to examine the proposal. Prof S.K.Bati, the Head of the Department agreed to place the proposal on Rural Teacher Education and Rural Entrepreneurship in the BOS meeting scheduled proposed in the month of September.

Prof Kuldip Agnihotri, VC of Central University of Himachal Pradesh assured that the University would initiate the process of addressing rural concerns with rural engagement course at the earliest. The Dean of Academics, University of Delhi circulated the NCRI communication on rural curriculum in six areas of focus along with the guide-

lines for PhD fellowship, to all the Heads of the relevant Departments.

Lauding the lofty phrase of 'enhancing rural resilience through curricular intervention' enshrined in the mission statement of the NCRI, Prof Jawahar Lal Kaul, Vice Chancellor Hemvatinandan Bahuguna Garwhal University in Srinagar located in Uttarakhand asked the Heads of the Departments of Rural and Agriculture Technology, Sociology and Social Work to initiate required course of action. They also informed that the round table could be organized in the coming months"

The NCRI Communication Development Specialist, Dr. Sekhar met the Vice Chancellors (VC)/Directors and the key officials of the following Universities.

The Communication Development Specialist, Dr. Sekhar has met the Vice Chancellors (VC)/Directors and the key officials of the following Universities

- Jamia Milia Islamia
- University of Delhi
- Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU)
- Central University of Himachal Pradesh
- National University Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA)
- Hemvatinandan Bahuguna Garhwal University, Srinagar, Uttarakhand



## Sustainable Development and Livelihood Generation in the Villages of Ranikhet Uttarakhand

The Pan Himalayan Grassroots Development Foundation (Grassroots) is a non-profit voluntary organization which works in the central and western Himalayan states of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh. It aims to promote sustainable, self-reliant development at the village level to improve the quality of life of those living there.

Ecology, economics, and equity remain the guiding principles of the organization. Grassroots assists communities to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by being involved in various outreach programs. There are 200 SHGs that have been formed with the support of Mahila Umang Samiti. These groups play a

pivotal role in planning, implementation and management of microenterprises.

Each SHG comprises of 1020 women who meet regularly to support each other on a financial and personal basis. Each member deposits Rs.50Rs.100 each month which enables members to take low interest loans. These SHG members are involved in various activities to enhance their livelihood opportunities. They are involved in viable business activities which help in generating small yet significant income on a sustainable basis (1) Farm women are involved with the production of handknit woollen wear and (2) Farm women are growing fruits on their farm land which is being bought by Umang.



The alluring beauty of the mountains never fails to charm people but the stories hiding within their folds are often overlooked or forgotten. One such story spans over the Kumauni mountains where environmental degradation led to the agricultural crisis.

Amidst this, a new dimension was added to the cultivation of organic products when chamomile tea was introduced to the hills of Ranikhet by Pan Himalayan Grassroots Development Foundation. One of the most important herbs used for medicinal as well as relaxation purpose is chamomile. Its production started in the year 2011 with an objective of stopping the practice of migration and attracting villagers to stick to their own traditional cultivation practices.

Turning out to be a successful venture, it started with 18 kgs produced in the entire area by all farmers put together and reached its pinnacle in 2013-14 with the produc-

tion of 842 kg. This year the area's annual production was 270 kg. The foremost reasons for cultivating Chamomile in the hills is its easy production. It grows in any kind of soil and climate with no specific pre-conditions and does not require much irrigation. Given the dwindling water sources and the ruckus caused by wild animals, Chamomile turned out to be a savior for the distressed farmers.

Uduli Devi, the largest producer of this crop year of about 40 kgs opines "I am extremely happy, I have earned 5580 rupees on my own. I work hard for six months without any support from my husband. I wait for this reward entire year; this initiative helps us in many ways." Chamomile as a commercial crop has a considerable potential to be cultivated and promoted in India as well as in international market and this remarkable step taken by Grassroots has given new life to the livelihoods of the mountains.

# Orientation Programme for Students of University of Hyderabad (UoH) on Rural Immersion Camp (RIC)



A three day Rural Immersion camp for 200 fresh undergraduate students from UoH covering selected villages in Ranga Reddy district of Telangana state is scheduled to be held in the first week of September. Rural Immersion camp is an experiential learning exercise to sensitise the students to have a firsthand knowledge of the village, dealing with social issues, rural economy, village administration and challenges faced by the people living in the villages.

Considering the number of students proposed for the camp, it has been decided to give an orientation to the

students in two groups to brief them about programme objectives and make necessary preparations for the camp. In this regard, orientation to the first batch was organised on 16th August 2017 in the University premises under the chairmanship of Dr. Sanjay Subodh, Director of College of Integrated studies.

NCRI was represented by its Assistant Director along with three consultants and it was attended by about 50 students. At the outset, Dr Subodh explained briefly about the objectives of the orientation camp. This was followed by detailed presentation by NCRI staff about

the objectives of the camp and its benefits to the students. The focus was on the arrangements made for their food and stay along with the logistic support from NCRI. The students were briefed about the programme schedule and also the Participative Rural Appraisal methodology to be followed for collecting field data on various facets of the village. The students were reminded of their responsibility of bringing out individual and group reports on the village visit. On completion of the presentation, Dr Subodh summarised the contents and requested the students to come well prepared for the camp.



सत्यमेव जयते

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