



# National Council of Rural Institutes

Department of Higher Education,  
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# Rural Immersion Camp

In an attempt to engage and educate students about the rural space, the National Council of Rural Institutes (NCRI) in collaboration with University of Hyderabad (UoH) conducted a 48-hour Rural Immersion Camp (RIC) from 1st to 3rd September in 10 selected villages from Rangareddy District of Telangana.

195 students belonging to various streams from the Centre for Integrated Studies (CIS) participated in this camp. These students were formed into 10 groups guided by a resource person from NCRI. Under mentorship of the resource person from the Council, the Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) exercise was conducted in these villages with an aim to understand and experience rural India. On day one, a Transect Walk was conducted, during which the students walked along with the villagers to get the demographics and geographics of the village.

On day two, the students analyzed the collected data and converted it into a map. The map included the social, resources and the seasonality aspects of the village.

The social map helps in identifying households based on predefined indicators relating to socio-economic conditions ( status, skills, property, education, income). The population's well being is then ranked (by those living there) identifying as to which household is better or worse off in terms of the selected indicators.

The Resource map helps in identifying natural resources in the locality and it depicts land, hills, rivers, fields and vegetation. A resource map in PRA is not drawn to scale. It is done with the support of the local people as they have an in-depth and detailed knowledge of the surroundings where they are living there for a long time. Seasonality map helps to identify heavy workload periods, periods of relative ease, credit crunch, diseases, food security and wage availability. It is useful in project planning, i.e. when to implement various activities. It is to identify periods of stress and to plan for as to when intervention is most required.

These are the villages where the camp was held



## Attempts to Improve Waste Disposal Management in Lemoor Village



**L**emoor village is located in Kandukur block, Rangareddy district, Telangana. The total population of the village is 4,828 out of which 2,506(52%) are male and 2,322(48%) are female. In Lemoor 62% (2,634) of the population is literate. 70% of males and 53% of females are literate here. There is

a primary school and a high school in the village. A private primary school has also been set up in Lemoor. Off late the people in the village are being oriented on the segregation of waste before its disposal to ensure efficient degradation of organic waste. Biogas plants are being constructed as they will help the villagers in waste management and power generation. Also, there are attempts to install vermicompost unit in several houses.

This would further help the people become self-sufficient in making effective use of the organic waste produced at home daily. Such practices not only enable them to keep their surroundings clean and tidy but also generate manure or biogas which is quite useful for their daily chores. A few villagers have pitched in the idea of collecting non-biodegradable wastes from each house to process them effectively. Efforts to construct a closed drainage systems are being made in the entire village.

## Landholdings and Cropping pattern in Kothapally Village

**K**othapally village is located seven kms from Chevella, which is the nearest Mandal Headquarters. The village has a population of 2600 with 1400 votes and has 490 houses. Kothapally Gram Panchayat has 10 wards i.e, 9 wards in the village and one ward in the Hussainpur Hamlet which forms part of the Village Gram Panchayat, located one kilometer from the village.

The village has 1100 acres of cultivable land including the government land, of which about 200 acres of land is given to the SCs. 75% of the people in the village have the land holdings, i.e. they own lands. Whereas, one fourth section of the villagers do not own any lands. These landless villagers largely work as laborers in the agricultural fields or go to Hyderabad City which is about 45kms from the village in search of employment.



Large section of the villagers are into cultivation/farming and they largely grow cotton, maize, rice, vegetables like tomatoes and carrot. Flowers and agricultural produce are sold largely in Gudimalkapur market in Hyderabad. ICRISAT has been supporting the villagers in farming by supplying high yielding varieties of seeds of chana dal, maize and green gram.

# Siddapur a Model Village in Making



Students of UoH visiting the agricultural land at Siddapur village during the Rural Immersion Camp

Adopted by Telugu Cinema bigwig Mahesh Babu, Siddapuram of Kothur mandal has undergone positive reinvention. About 62 km from Ghatkesar, the Eastern edge of Hyderabad, the village has a population of more than 2500. We need to take the Nehru Outer Ring Road to reach the village. It can be

reached without any difficulties as it is well known as it has attained prominence since Mahesh Babu's adoption. Almost everyone knew where the village was located at.

After entering the village, one gets to the Gram Panchayath Office to

meet the Field Assistant Subba Rao. He delegates the task of reconnaissance to Mallesh, the village Sarpanch's assistant. Mallesh took us to three hamlets: Pullicharla, Laman-gila and Chinthagaatu. These three hamlets have average population of 410 people. What is depressing is that these hamlets don't have roads and it is difficult to access the interiors of those hamlets due to this reason

On the brighter side, a mineral water plant, sanitation facilities and a new Anganwadi have come into existence. And, post-adoption, the village's populace are striving for development as the naysayers are watching the development without placing any spokes. To sum it up, the village is set to enter the realm of the 'developed villages'.

## More farmers now to survive on dairy in Mucherla

Mucherla is a Village in Kandukur Mandal in Rangareddi District of Telangana State. It is located 61 KM from Hyderabad. The population of Mucherla is 4400 living in 930 Houses. The total area of Mucherla is 3051 hectares. The name of Mucherla comes from the fact that the village is encircled by three tanks, the Pagavani Cheruvu on the southwest, Polkamma Cheruvu on the southeast and

Gundla Cheruvu on the north-east. Although paddy was the major crop during normal monsoon season, maize has been the major crop raised under rainfed conditions during Kharif. A large number of farmers have taken up dairy farming during the last 10 years.

### Education

There are two government schools in the village primary and secondary. The school is

equipped with science labs and the students use lab periodically. As dairy farming is the major source of income for many villagers, there are four milk collection centers in the village. There is only one TSRTC bus which ferries to this village. The village has 4000 acres of farmland. Black soil is spread over 1000 acres while the major part is the red soil. The maize and cotton are the common crops and the paddy is cultivated only when it rains.

# Literacy Rate and Self Employment in Chinchode



Students of University of Hyderabad during the Rural Immersion Camp at Chinchode village

Literacy rate in the village has improved, no one in the village sits idle,” said Mrs. Anitha Srinivas, Sarpanch, Chindode. In a time when literacy and employment are given utmost importance and push from the government, the people in the village are elated considering their advancement in terms of literacy. Chinchode village is located in Farooqnagar Tehsil of Mahbubnagar district in Telangana. It is situated 12km away from sub-district headquarter Farooqnagar and 62km away from district headquarter Mahbubnagar. The total geographical area of village is 2237 hectares. Chinchode has a total population of 5,445 peoples. There are about 1,322 houses in Chinchode village.

The literacy rate which was 49.85% in 2011 has now improved to 57.1%. The villagers say that sending every child to school and the attempts made by those adults

who did not go to school, to learn, has yielded this result. Most of the youth in the village are preparing for government exams, pursuing education or are employed. A member of the youth group in the village said “we know about the progress rate in urban areas and the youth here are falling short of the facilities and the opportunities, therefore we are trying our best to enrich our village and have those facilities here.”

Self-Employment is another thing that has gained prominence in this village. Due to the dearth of jobs in the state, the youth and a few other men and women are working on their own sources of income in the village. The village has most of the facilities that a town possesses, thanks to these small scale businesses and the unending effort of the people in the village to see it as a more developed one.

Students of University of Hyderabad during the Rural Immersion Camp at the HighSchool in Chinchode village



Students of University of Hyderabad in a conversation with the village Sarpanch at Chinchode village

# Surpassing the Superstition in Japal Village

**S**wami Vivekananda once said “Superstition is our great enemy,” and the people of our nation have very often fallen prey to such beliefs. Breaking one such barrier, the students and people of the village Japal have taken a step towards modernisation. Japal village is located in Manchal Tehsil of Rangareddy district in Telangana. It is at a distance of 4kms from sub-district headquarter Manchal and 37km away from district headquarter Hyderabad.

The Zilla Parishad School (ZPHS) in the village was built right in front of the village graveyard. Parents in the village were hesitant to send their children to school as they were misled by a few rumors herding the fallacy. The teachers and the management in the village visited many homes and spread awareness on the importance of education affirming their belief in rational and modern thinking. Today, the enrollment in the school has in-



creased and the literacy level of the village has also grown. The total geographical area of the village is 1188 hectares. Japal has a total population of 2130 people. There are about 512 houses in the village. Hyderabad is 37 kms from Japal. Most people depend on agriculture here. Roads, electricity and drinking water are the major concerns in front of the village administration.

## Intervention of Horticulture Department in Urella Village to Promote Floriculture

**U**rella village in Chevella Mandal of Rangareddy District, Telangana is located on a hilly terrain. The village gets rainfall from July to October, which is scanty and erratic. Therefore, water scarcity both for irrigation and drinking is the main concern in the village. In most areas, ground water is not available and only few farmers were successful in getting ground water for irrigation, the rest are managing by borrowing water from those who had the access to it.

### Change in Cropping Pattern

Off late the intervention of Horticulture department is transforming the floriculture scenario in the village. Traditionally farmers in the village used to cultivate maize, jowar, cotton and local flowers such as marigold, chrysanthemum and jasmine and even today, most of the farmers are cultivating the same crops. About 8 years back some of the progressive farmers cultivating the traditional flowers switched over

to cultivating rose flower by collecting saplings from Pune and Tamilnadu. But only some of them could sustain and others stopped cultivating rose flowers. It was during this time the Horticulture Department of Telangana Government encouraged few enterprising farmers to cultivate ornamental flowers by subsidizing a few selected and enterprising farmers in the village. Use of modern agricultural technologies is promoted. Today in the village 20 farmers are cultivating ornamental flowers using poly house/ greenhouse technology. The ornamental flowers thus cultivated are sold in cities like Bangalore and Hyderabad. Recently two nurseries were also set up by the farmers. Unfortunately, the benefits of the modern technology and the support extended by the Government are not reaching the small and marginal farmers. They are still undertaking the traditional crops using traditional methods thereby adjusting with very low return.

# Pulimamidi Rurban Village in Making

**P**ulimamidi is a Village in Kandukur Mandal in Rangareddi District of Telangana State. It is located 55 KM from Hyderabad. Pulimamidi is situated in 2276 hectares. The name Pulimamidi signifies the 'Tiger Mango'. Nearby village Dhannavaram and four hamlets, Thatuguda, Peddammatalli Thanda, Pochamma and Bजारangadda came under Pulimamidi village.

The residents of Pulimamidi are literate due to the successful implementation of Saakshar Bharat a government of India initiative. In total village has four schools 2 government schools and 2 private schools. The Primary school has nearly 97 students from nearby hamlets and only three teachers. The most of the children in Pulimamidi village go to private schools. The new

CC roads were constructed under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana has provided pucca roads to the entire village. They say that ration is supplied in the village after the implementation of E-Pass the ration is distributed in a fair manner. Though there are four water tanks in the village the villagers buy water from the water plant.

## Improved Education and Health Facilities in Thippaiguda Village



*Students of University of Hyderabad during the Rural Immersion Camp at Thippaiguda village*

**T**hippaiguda camp was guided by T V Sriram and Rajshekar who were the resource persons.

Spread across 100 acres Thippaiguda is a place located in Manchal Mandal, in Rangareddy district of Telangana state. The total population of Thippaiguda is 1400 in 262 houses, among them male population is 750 and female population is 850. Surrounded by mountains and

four lakes such as Veermani lake, Pedarunanikunta Lake, Errakunta lake and Ninhurnijal lake. The major crop in Thippaiguda is paddy.

The village has a school constructed 7 years ago for which the land was donated by the villagers. There are 109 students in the school and it covers classes upto 7th class. There is a demand to up-

grade it upto 10th class but no action was taken due to the fewer strength i.e. less than 40 per class

There is only one RMP Doctor in the village, Dr Pandu covers the basic health issues. For major illness the villagers has to travel 7 kms to the nearest hospital. Asha workers visits village covering National programs like polio.

# My Rural Immersion Camp.....



*Alam Sheikh*

“Though being from the science background I had an opportunity to learn some of the PRA methods like transect walk, social map and resource map used for collection of data from the community in a participatory model in social science research. I will try to explore its applicability in my area of research.”

“My experience of rural immersion program is very memorable and rich experience. I have been fortunate enough to be the part of the program. The challenges in the village and group experience including soft skills, adjustments, have taught me many things and also made me strong and to look at life from new perspective.”



*Sai Kumar*

“The village stay enabled me to gain firsthand knowledge and experience about various ground realities of the village in particular and the challenges faced by them in sustaining their livelihood.... It is easy to stay outside the village and suggest various means for the development of the village but the real picture is quite different in the village...”



*K Aruna*

“Learning and unlearning, dispelling biased against the stereotypes are the major learning for me in the field. Being with the villagers for three days changed my attitudes and behaviour and built a positive image about the rural people as well as their contribution to the society.”



*P Gour Pravalitha*

“In the cities where people usually don't have enough time to greet each other. Here I found that all of the villagers are well aware of the neighbours. The entire village seemed to know each other. Helping out each other when needed and supporting each other as an when required was embedded in their social fabric.”



*Shiva*

“It was surely a very unique and delightful experience for me to be able to experience a lifestyle which was so different from our daily routine. I learned a lot which could be never learned from the four corners of a text book.”



*M Prabhkar*



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Department of Higher Education,

Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India  
5-10-174, Shakar Bhavan, Ground Floor, Fateh Maidan Road, Hyderabad - 500 004  
Telangana State. Tel : 040-23422112, 23212120, Fax : 040-23212114

E-mail : lo@ncri.in, Website: www.ncri.in



Editorial Team: Dr WG Prasanna Kumar Chairman NCRI, Dr S Sudarshan Rao, M Abhilash, Victor Paul

Published by Dr R Manoj Kumar Member Secretary NCRI