

Sustainability of Total Sanitation Campaign at Kambalwadi Village in Maharashtra, India

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Abstract:

Total sanitation campaign (TSC) has aimed towards cleanliness and is achieving considerable success in the State of Maharashtra in India. The campaign has been instituted Award for clean villages in year 2000 by the Maharashtra State Government in the name of Sant Gadge Baba Maharaj to foster a new culture of self-development through community action. The village Kambalwadi voluntarily participated and succeeded in self-development and achieved sustained growth with people's active participation and is playing a crucial role in passing a message of clean and self-developed village. This paper provides the details of these major achievements.

Key words: Environmental sustainability, Water supply, Health Management, Sanitation, Sustainable cities, Total Sanitation Campaign, Voluntary participation.

Introduction:

Health and hygiene are two important aspects of common human being. The efforts by any Government remain fruitless without the support of common man in any developmental activities. Water supply and sanitation programmes are being undertaken years together by the central and state governments in India every five year plans, yet the expected results of cent percent success was just a dream. But villagers from Kambalwadi in Kolhapur district of Maharashtra have made to focus notable achievements of this village in health and sanitation program and self sufficiency.

Study Area:

Kambalwadi Village is a small village having population was 1,003 persons staying in 230 households situated in the Radhanagari Taluka of Kolhapur District of Maharashtra in India. It receives water supply from the river Bhogavati flowing from its vicinity. Sugarcane cultivation is a major cash crop along with rice, groundnut and other seasonal kharip and rabbi crops.

Material & Methods:

The present data has been collected from the reliable official sources like village council called as Grampanchayat, government offices and non-government organizations by using known standard methods and personal interviews, visits and filed experiences while conducting training courses, installing Sanitation Park and Energy Park in the village.

Situation in past:

Kambalwadi was one of the common villages in Kolhapur District of Maharashtra. Sugarcane and rice cultivation left to farmers a lot of time for idling. Availability of plenty of water from the Dam constructed on perennial river Bhogavati added to the lethargy of farmers. The village was drastically affected with alcoholism and internal crises making the life measurable with fights dividing the village in groups and tensions by litigations in police and courts. The village was full of garbage refuse, open waste water gutters encroaching public roads. The villagers were following open defecation practices for both men and women resulting into vector carrying water borne infections, water born epidemic diseases, sickening students, women and working forces resulting into educational and financial losses. This situation was few years ago, before their participation in 'Sant Gadge Baba Maharaj Award for clean villages' which has been instituted by the Maharashtra Government.

Change:

All resident groups-women, youth, students, various institutions and societies of the village participated in its transformation. The villagers celebrated common “Ganesh Festival” and national celebrations. The villagers started various novel activities and enterprises for the growth and development of village. The village council (Grampanchayat) members were elected by voting prior in 50 years of political history but now are being elected unanimously without voting. In unanimous process women got the opportunity to work as members and started efforts for healthy practices and environment awareness. The villagers stopped the open defecation practices completely. Village council decided to transfer title of individual properties to women the decision spontaneously implemented. Today all houses are heaving names of women. The development started with total sanitation campaign. Village managed rain water harvesting & waste water recycling. Villagers have managed various projects of total sanitation to the utmost level. Various activities were undertaken run to uplift the poor spaciouly villagers speciously poverty line. The village has now clean & hygienic environment.

Results & Discussion:

In the beginning it was like any other typical village, Kambalwadi was also non responsive to total sanitation. When, Kambalwadi participated in Gramswachhata Abhiyan under Sant Gadge Baba Maharaj Award for clean villages. The villagers prepared mentally and physically for the village transformation. Administers made rigorous efforts to convince and inspire them with constant encouragement and support by council meetings. The rallies were arranged to awake the villagers with the help of various groups like volunteers of National Service Scheme for the persuasions. The open discussions were arranged to convince villagers on total sanitation and eradication of open defecation practices. After lighting the candle of hope the villagers came voluntarily with self motivation. The village took lead the campaign. Every villager including women, men and all children participated in the campaign and worked. The village received the state level water and waste water management award in 2005-2006, “Grampanchayat Purskar” and “Nirmal Gram Purskar” at the auspicious hands of former President of India, APJ Abdul Kalam.

The success of Kambalwadi not limited only for Total Sanitation, but it also reached successfully to cleanliness of School, ideal School even up to primary school. Students have developed their Banana Garden on grampanchayat’s vacant barren land. Every tree is adopted by a student to take care for watering and maturing it. The income generated from garden is used for purchasing educational material for the students. This project is useful to move the student towards “self-reliance”. Many activities are being run to uplift the poor villagers above poverty line.

The self help groups are involved in small businesses in improving the economic conditions. These groups are also involved in collective agricultural practices. Women are actively practicing technically improved agriculture for taking the rice, sunflower, cabbage, banana and other crops and fruits on mass level. The agricultural production has been increased manifold and has helped to lift the standard of living. Kambalwadi has adopted the vision of Mahatma Gandhi for transferring the village as an ideal village, the understanding of Acharya Vinoba Bhave and Lokanayak Jayaprakash Narayan to provide articulating form. The volunteers of National Service Scheme initiated and contributed to such transformation and was upheld by the villagers. Transformation of Kambalwadi has earned national importance by the dedicated efforts of women, self-help groups and residents by coming out of the hopeless conditions. The villagers have not only banned the consumption of alcohol but also soft aerated drinks of all sorts. Consumption of tobacco in any form is totally stopped and even not allowed to the visitors too. All the internal disputes are resolved or settled by the villagers out of court. All pending litigations before adjudicating authorities have withdrawn and settled. The unity and integrity has been given top priority. All residents have painted their houses with pink colour uniformly as a symbol of unity and integrity.

Residents realized the importance of women constituting 50% of the population and were encouraged for the total change realizing that women can mould the heterogeneous groups into a model of coherent society with peace and mutual respect for all. The first step towards empowerment of women was with the transfer of ownership of their respective houses to the ‘lady of the house’ with full faith. Women have been shouldered the responsibility of Gram Sabha (village council) with majority. They all attend the meetings held on every Sunday to decide on issues relating to the village and its residents to actively participate in taking appropriate decisions for the village development. The gramsevak (Secretary of village council) guides and helps them to take positive decisions. After the

acceptance of suitable decision on any matter it is placed in Gram Sabha for open democratic discussion to ensure involvement of each villager before formal approval and for timely execution.

Kambalwadi provides a live example of what a community can achieve when all residents are united and if women are empowered to take charge of the human settlements and their inhabitants to bring the dream of Mahatma Gandhi in reality. It is a true transformation of a village that our people need all over the country. Environment friendly decisions are taken and implemented by residents to keep the village sparklingly clean. All households have constructed their own separate toilets and washing facilities. The school, village council and other public institutions have owned their own toilets. Residents having animal dung have installed biogas plants. They generate biogas from the animal dung and use it regularly as it is environmentally clean fuel. It has reduced their dependency on fossil fuel and subsequent cutting of trees for fuel. The villagers prefer Sunday for complete cleaning of village roads, gutters and public places beside the regular cleanliness to insure good health and sanitation practices. The practices of safe drinking water, maintenance of hygienic conditions, waste water recycling, proper disposal of garbage and healthy living conditions are routine activities. The agricultural practices have been modified. Organic farming has been adopted to make agriculture sustainable.

Every household segregates biodegradable solid waste generated is deposited in two separate bins for the two components for treating in the appropriate manner. Biodegradable waste is turned into organic fertilizer by vermin-culture technology and is used as soil conditioner in agriculture. The vermin-compost is applied to farms. Animal dead bodies and ash are collected and dispersed in farms to improve the soil quality. The practices like slaughtering of animals for meat and serving of alcohol on the occasion of village fairs have been abandoned completely and vegetarian meal is served.

Conclusion:

The success story of Kambalwadi presents a picture of a satisfied, neat and clean village with self-confidence and dedicative community endowed with high values with health and good sanitation practices in life by protecting local environment and conservation of finite natural resources. The message by this model village is to have all human settlements to develop self dependent, ecofriendly and sustainable society to ensure peace and prosperity of entire human community.

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