

## **CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP AND EXPOSURE VISIT TO MODEL VILLAGE, HYDERABAD**

**June 21 -22, 2011**

The first Capacity Building Workshop of the Hyderabad Project was organised on June 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011. This workshop was targeted towards community and government officials working at the local level in the peri-urban field sites. The workshop was meant to understand issues from the implementation agencies and introduce them to ideas of citizen participation and building public-private partnership in accessing water services through talks, discussions and an exposure visit to Gangadevipally model village in Warangal, Andhra Pradesh. This provided an opportunity to interact and learn among members of the group regarding better governance practices and addressing issues of water management, tank restoration and village level development in favour of the vulnerable communities.

22 government and community officials from four villages and sub-districts of peri-urban Hyderabad participated in the two-day workshop conducted at Warangal. The visit to the model village was made on the first day and group discussions and shared learning on the second day. Programme schedule and list of participants is given in Annexure 1 and 2.

**Gangadevipally village:** Gangadevipally is a village in Geesukonda Mandal in Warangal district of Andhra Pradesh and is 160 km far from Hyderabad. This village has been setting new trends by adopting innovative approaches in community development. Sarpanch Mr. Kusam Raja Mouli initiated the transformation of this village by banning the sale and consumption of alcohol first. Till the year 1993, this village faced severe water scarcity. Bala Vikasa Social Service Society, a Warangal-based NGO assisted in solving the drinking water problem here by uniting the community strongly who contributed their money, time and labour in completing the project which provided a permanent solution to their water needs. Villagers were formed into 18 groups and leaders were elected from each group and thus, a water committee was formed. Water projects have become an important source of income generation in this village. There are 22 committees in the village looking after education, health, farmers' development, women's issues, environment protection etc. Majority of the families participate and get an opportunity to lead some or the other committee and all the villagers abide by the decisions of the committee. This village has been adjudged the best mandal level and district level village more than once and has received the Bharatha Ratna Rajiv Gandhi best village award at the national level (in 2007). 40% of the current residents in the village have migrated here in the last 15 years due to improved facilities and opportunities.



Fig. 1: Participants introduce themselves. A total of 22 government and community officials attended the Capacity Building Workshop



Fig. 2: Gangadevipally village Sarpanch addressing the participants on how the village developed into a self-sufficient model village.



Fig. 3: Participants discussed steps that may be taken in order to replicate the functioning of this village elsewhere.



Fig. 4: Dr. Anjal Prakash and Mr. Rajamohan talking to the group on the purpose of conducting the capacity building workshop.

**Day 1:** On reaching Gangadevipally village, the Sarpanch Mr. Mouli introduced the participants to the various forms of resource management and governance measures adopted in the village. He described the journey of how the village developed its own resources, infrastructure and generated wealth, thus, emerging as a self-sufficient and model village. Mr. Rajamohan from MARI (Modern Architects from rural India) facilitated the session and Peri-urban project director Dr. Anjal Prakash explained the purpose of conducting this workshop to the participants and talked about expectations of the Project team from the officials and their support required for developing village water security and efficient governance at the field sites. An engaging discussion followed where the participants asked questions and considered what steps may be taken in order to replicate the functioning of this village elsewhere. Then, a walk through the village was made, offices of the water and sanitation committee was visited and participants interacted with the village-folk.

The day concluded with a visit to the two historical sites – Bhadrakali Temple, known to be one of the oldest temples of the Bhadrakali Goddess and located on the banks of the Bhadrakali lake, and the Thousand Pillar Temple built by the Kakatiya and Chalukya dynasty in the 12<sup>th</sup> century A.D.

**Day 2:** Day two started with an early morning visit to the exquisite Fort Warangal – which was the capital of the Kakatiya dynasty. Post breakfast, Mr. R. Murali, Convenor of MARI, facilitated a discussion session. Ten guest village officials from another Anantaram village also participated in this session. Anantaram has been recently awarded the 'Model Village of India' title and is located in Jinnaram Mandal of Medak district of Andhra Pradesh. Along with eight women community leaders, the village Sarpanch introduced their village and various effective development measures undertaken.



Fig. 5: Enthusiastic children at Gangadevipally. 100 percent children have access to education in this village.



Fig. 6: Participants at Fort Warangal.

The participants then discussed their concerns on the following:

- **Big village v/s small village** – most of the peri-urban villages of Hyderabad where intervention is planned are relatively large villages with a much larger population. The participants from such villages expressed their doubts on the fact that the model villages visited and described (Anantaram and Gangadevipally) are small villages and that it is easier to implement changes at a smaller scale but not possible at a larger scale. To this the villagers from Anantaram replied that their village is no exception in terms of the problems that any village faces such as having political and caste-related differences, people resorting to drinking and creating problems etc. But with an able leadership and a constructive vision, the village has been able to overcome many problems and has emerged as a model village. Much has been made possible because of having women take the lead. All the 9 committees in the village are headed by women who have taken up their roles very sincerely and with lot of commitment.
- **Problems of high fluoride levels in groundwater:** The participants asked the group as to why is there an increased problem of fluoride contamination in the groundwater. Mr. R Murali explained that earlier, the villages had very good water harvesting systems through large tanks. These tanks were managed by the community and they had been used for multiple functions including groundwater recharge. The ecological balance was beautifully maintained but now this has been disrupted where there is much more

withdrawal of groundwater than the recharge. The increased problem of fluoride is a manifestation of some of these processes which needs to be checked.

- **Prohibition of liquor sale:** Consuming liquor is a perennial problem in most of the villages in Andhra Pradesh. The interaction with Anantaram and Gangadevipally villagers showed that both the villages had banned liquor sale in the village. The participants asked if this is the right way as whoever wanted to drink could go to the next village and drink. To this the woman leader of prohibition committee of Anantaram village replied that there is an inconvenience cost of going to the neighbouring village and drinking if the village has banned liquor consumption. Also the neighbouring village may not like this and sometimes it leads to fights between villagers which help in discouraging people to drink.

Mr. Murali then facilitated the group to discuss factors that have led to the processes of change in the two model villages and the steps that need to be adopted to replicate this in other villages. Following are the points of discussion that emerged:

1. Shared leadership in the form of having different committees so that there is decentralisation of leadership which is not personality driven.
2. Shared norms and consensus to keep away the party politics out of this process which hinders the village unity.
3. Facilitation and support from outside organisations such as NGOs in this process.
4. Participation and education without discrimination.
5. Awareness about the schemes, awards and other benefits that can be brought to the villages and coordination with the immediate line departments to facilitate this process. Increased coordination and interaction with line departments help in actualising the existing schemes that go unnoticed at the village level.
6. Effective functioning of gram sabha and without discrimination of any sort. The gram sabha will function effectively when people are assured that they wouldn't be discriminated against. The effective selection of beneficiaries should be a non-partisan process which helps in effective implementation of a particular scheme.

The workshop concluded with suggestions and experience sharing from each participant individually. Options for intervention in the peri-urban field villages and ways of actualizing them were discussed. The villagers suggested protecting the Shamirpet lake by installing a water purification plant, while the Ravirala village folk suggested having a tree plantation drive in order to recharge their very low water table. Village action plan for each of the 4 sites was discussed and formulated.

Annexure 1

The Programme Schedule is as follows:

21 <sup>st</sup> June	
8.30 AM	Participants depart for Warangal from Hyderabad
1.00-2.30 PM	Lunch at Warangal
2.30-5.00 PM	Gangadevipally village visit and discussion session with the village officials and participants.
5.00 PM	Sightseeing visit to the historical places of Warangal followed by dinner
22 <sup>nd</sup> June	
7.30 – 10.30 AM	Visit to Fort Warangal – a 12 <sup>th</sup> century A.D. historical site built by the Kakatiyas
10:30 – 12 .30 PM	Discussion session on water security issues and village-wise shared learning and participation of 10 guest members from Anantaram model village.
1.00- 2.00 PM	Lunch
2.00 PM	Participants depart for Hyderabad

Annexure 2

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS - PERI-URBAN CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP AND EXPOSURE VISIT, 21 - 22 June, 2011**

S.no.	Name	Designation	Gender	Phone no.
1	Sri Raghava Reddy	Ex-sarpanch, Aliabad	Male	9849644023
2	Smt Bhagya Rekha	Mandal Praja Parishad Development Officer, Shamipet	Female	9849903332
3	Sri K. Narsimhulu Goud	AEE- Rural Water Supply & Sanitation, Shamirpet	Male	9440817325
4	Sri Venkatrajam	Mandal Praja Parishad Development Officer, Qutubhullapur	Male	9849903331
5	Smt Amrutha	Community Volunteer, Aliabad	Female	9963190283
6	Smt Aruna	President Velugu Organisation, Aliabad	Female	9550275803
7	Sri K Suresh	Asst. Engineer-Irrigation, Qutubhullapur	Male	9391115185
8	Sri Kanakaiah	Asst. Engineer-Irrigation, Shamirpet	Male	9849561950
9	Sri Srinivasa Reddy	Lecturer, Ravirala	Male	9848741039
10	Sri Sudhakar	Village Secretary, Mallampet	Male	9989313997
11	Sri Vijay Kumar	Assistant Engineer-Rural Water Supply, Qutubhullapur	Male	9247829330
12	D. Vijay Kumar	Ward member - Mallampet	Male	9396482450
13	Sri Raghupati Reddy	Bill Collector, Mallampet	Male	9908228792
14	M krishna	Ward Member - Mallampet	Male	9948483189
15	Prabhakar Reddy	WUA - president, Shamirpet	Male	9848051102
16	Sri D Kotaiah	Secretary, Ravirala	Male	9848648056
17	Sri Suresh	Sarpanch, Ravirala	Male	9397843395
18	A. Ravinder	Carobar, Ravirala	Male	9848329151
19	V. Swaroopa	Village Book keeper, Ravirala	Female	9392842843
20	Anasuya	Village Book keeper, Ravirala	Female	9912546300
21	Smt Ch Padma	Secretary, Ravirala	Female	20021646
22	Smt Surya Kumari	Leader SHG, Peerancheru	Female	9290615633

