

NATTARMANGALAM- A NEW SUSTAINABLE PANCHAYAT PARADIGM (NSP)

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Abstract

The Panchayat Raj has been the backbone of Indian villages since Independence. Gandhiji dreamt of every village becoming a republic under the panchayat raj system of local self government elected by the people of the villages in a democratic manner. Although the standards of basic amenities in Indian villages were poor, the self sufficient village economics leading to sustainability in the panchayat has attracted every section of rural society. One such panchayat is Nattarmangalam village panchayat in Cuddalore District. It has created merit by unanimously electing a Dalit educated woman as president and all nine ward members elected unopposed are women. Nattarmanagalam is a foundation for social harmony. If every panchayat followed the success formula of Nattarmanagalam, nothing should prevent the transition of India to super power by 2020. Her future is in the hands of the majority of rural people. Any elected administration has the participation of the majority of people. Working for the benefit and prosperity of the majority can make a nation self-reliant and the panchayat a worthy organisation.

Introduction

Villages are the backbone of India. The dream of Gandhi will be fulfilled only after our villages become republics under the panchayat raj system of local self-government elected by the people of the villages in a democratic manner. Even after six decades of Independence, the development of the rural population has not been solved. The livelihoods of rural areas are lower than even some of our neighbouring countries. The basic issues of sanitation, health care and quality of education, employment and overall quality of life remain serious considerations in the development programs of our nation.

"Sustainable or livable communities" are associated with building a healthy society with a high quality of life (Hempel 2009; National Research Council 1999; Portney 2003). An abstract but commonly used definition is provided by the World Commission on Environment and Development: sustainability means "to meet the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs" (WCED 1987). Sustainability consists of integrating and balancing three key dimensions (Adams 2006). The first, environmental sustainability, concerns the protection and preservation of ecosystems and natural resources, both of which are essential to sustaining long-term economic development and to meeting the needs of future generations. The second, economic sustainability, concerns the support of growth and provision of economic opportunities while minimizing the consumption of scarce natural resources and waste during production. The third, social sustainability, advocates a balance among long-term societal needs (including individual needs such as food, water, housing, medical care, and transportation), environmental protection and economic growth.

This study believes that the essence of sustainability is preferential opportunity. There can be no national development without global development. Yet there is no evidence of a universally accepted procedure for rural development in literature. Hence the study has designed a new approach to sustainable rural development in India based on people, private/public partnership and personnel development.

This study chose Nattarmanagalam village panchayat in Kattumannarkoil Taluk of Cuddalore District to implement the new paradigm for sustainable rural development. It is situated with 11.26186 *Latitude* and 79.5366 *Longitude*. It is 3.1

km , 60.3 km and 213 km from its Taluk main town Kattumannarkoil, District headquarters Cuddalore and state capital Chennai respectively.

There are two Nattarmangalam famous in Tamil Nadu for their renowned history. One is in Madurai district and has the worst anti – democratic record for denying a Dalit who contested as a village president. However, Nattarmangalam village panchayat in Cuddalore District has the merit of unanimously electing a Dalit educated woman as their president, despite the village presidencu being a general constituency and all other nine ward members elected unopposed being women.

Objectives of this study

The major objective was to develop a new universal paradigm for sustainable rural development. The paradigm was tested by applying it in the study panchayat villages and arriving at the methodology to achieve sustainable rural development by implementing the new sustainable panchayat paradigm of people- public – private (PPP) partnership that will make the rural masses socially sovereign, economically empowered and environmentally clean.

M/s Anugrahas Trust

The Nattaramangalam panchayat has attracted the attention of views, news and prizes from every corner of the nation. Nattaramangalam Sustainable Panchayat Paradigm (NSP) seeks assistance from the people, public and private. The panchayat team has also ventured to get financial and technical support for achieving the “Nattaramangalam-Sustainable Panchayat Paradigm” from M/s Anugrahas Trust, Pondicherry.

The Anugrahas Trust is a registered voluntary nonprofit organization, established for the integrated development of poor and marginalized farmer, orphans, minorities, tribal people, urban poor, informal labor sector and underprivileged classes. The Trust is a grass root level social welfare organization working directly with the rural poor, facilitating the utilization of their skills and knowledge to develop

sustainable solutions to poverty. It also initiates efforts in various interconnected socio-economic fields such as education, livelihoods, natural resources, health, women empowerment, and social justice.

Environmental Sustainability

The village has achieved environmental sustainability by providing a protected water supply, individual household latrines, underground drainage system, sewage treatment plant and a solid waste management facility.

Protected Water supply

At present there are three small water supply systems maintained by the village Panchayat. The sources are bore wells. There are three small overhead tanks for feeding the drinking water to the people. Further, the Panchayat has to formulate a protected water supply scheme. The source is a pond located near the *sivan koil*. The water from the pond will be pumped to a packaging water treatment plant and the treated water will be pumped to an R.C.C. overhead tank of 6 lakhs litre capacity. The water from the overhead tank will be distributed throughout the panchayat through a distribution system of 10.908 km. The per capita rate adopted is 70 lpcd. The excess potable water will be sold in the name of “NANNEER”.

Individual Household Latrines

At present, there is no complete sanitation arrangement but many houses have private septic tank latrines. Some people use open places available in back of the streets and grounds as latrines causing a health hazard to the community. The habit of open defecation by the villagers has been given up with the construction of Individual Household Latrines (IHHL) for all 750 families including Adi Dravida. The president has utilized the Government scheme under the Total Sanitation Programme wherein Rs. 1,200 is given as subsidy for constructing a toilet. The remaining Rs. 900 will be paid by the M/s Anugrahas Trust.

Under Ground Drainage System

In this panchayat, there are about 2500 houses. The contour of the town ranges from +1.00m to -1.00m, the slope being

from west to east. The subsoil water level varies from 10 m to 20 m below ground level. The main occupation of the people is agriculture. There are two primary schools, one high school, one matriculation higher secondary and one engineering college. There is also a medical centre with a doctor. For dealing with the problem of liquid Waste at the Natarmangalam Grama Panchayat level (Rural), the following steps will be taken:

The drains from IHHL in the village will be carried into closed underground drains. The drained water will be carried to Sewage Treatment Plants for further treatment. Each house will be encouraged to empty its drain either into the community drain or a soakage pit.

Proposed Sewerage and Drainage Network

The entire study area has been divided into two drainage zones - Mani mangalam zone-I and Rathina mangalam zone-II depending upon the general topography and existing gradient pattern. The Mani mangalam Zone-I represents the scheduled caste households' area. The Rathina mangalam zone-II represents the backward caste households' area. The proposed system will be developed as a separate system. Wastewater generated from the northern part of panchayat, say scheduled caste habitations namely North Street, Middle Street and Kamaraj Street, will be proposed to be diverted to Mani mangalam STP-I through a proposed DWF network. The total length of the sewer is to be around 2.2 km. Similarly, the wastewater generated from the southern part of the panchayat, say the backward caste households - North Street and Middle Street will be proposed to be diverted to Rathina mangalam STP-II through a proposed DWF network. The total length of the sewer is to be around 2.2 Km.

Solid waste management system

Separate dust bins for bio-degradable and non-biodegradable waste were placed at each street corner. The gathered waste will be segregated and disposed of in the Panchayat landfill for manufacturing bio manure.

Socio Economic Sustainability

A socio-economically sustainable panchayat will be achieved through socially sovereign and economically efficient design and implementing the following schemes - Natarmanagalam Agricultural Bank for Adi-Dravidar & Rural Development (NABARD), huts free panchayat , Youth Opportunity Union (YOU), Modernization of Agriculture & Natural farming Initiation (MANI), etc. They will be implemented in the village panchayat to extend self-reliance socially and economically in all members of the panchayats through the Total Economical Campaign, Total Social Campaign and Total Sanitation Campaign.

Total Economical Campaign

Natarmanagalam Agricultural Bank for Adi-Dravidar & Rural Development (NABARD): in order to ensure the purchasing power of the rural poor Dalits, the above bank will be initiated.

Youth opportunity Union (YOU): in order to ensure the livelihood of the rural poor school dropouts, the above (YOU) Union will be initiated for giving Skill Trainings.

Modernization of Agriculture and Natural farming Initiation (MANI): in order to ensure the livelihood of the rural poor farmer, the above (MANI) scheme will be initiated for making agricultural products on par with Global standards.

Total Social Campaign

Sustainable Permanent Reinforced Roof (SPR) house construction: in order to make the panchayat a hut-free village panchayat, 361 huts will be replaced by the name of Rajiv Gandhi Awas Yojana (RAY). The president has utilized the central and state government schemes under the Indra Awas Yojana and Pasumai veedu. The remaining houses will be constructed by the Anugrahas Trust.

Socio-Cultural Harmony of observing Law (SCHOOL): in order to ensure the panchayat as a foundation for social harmony, the above (SCHOOL) for teaching ethics and law abiding by every citizen of the panchayat will be initiated.

Total Sanitation Campaign

Protected water supply system

Individual household latrine
Underground drainage system
Sewage Treatment Plant
Solid waste management facility

SUSTAINABLE LOW COST HOUSE CONSTRUCTION

Shelter is a basic human need. Since the industrial revolution, the world has witnessed incalculable technological achievements, economic and population growth and ever increasing use of natural resources. The Panchayat proposes to replace 361 huts with sustainable low cost homes.

Nattarmanagalam Panchayat Paradise (NSP) paradigm

All 361 identified huts will be replaced by Sustainable Permanent Reinforced Roof houses and streets will be straightened. The houses will be laid out in an orderly fashion.

CONCLUSION

Nattarmanagalam is place of foundation for social harmony. If every panchayat follows the success formula of Nattarmanagalam, India will become a super power by 2020. Her future will be in the hands of the majority of rural people.

Any elected administration will have the participation of the majority of the people and work for the benefit and prosperity of the majority of the people which will make the nation self-reliant.

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