



# पंचायत

PEOPLE'S EFFORT BRINGS SUSTAINABILITY

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*When women moves forward, the family moves, the village moves, and the nations moves*

— *Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru*

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### Do you know ?

- ❖ A Survey of 72 Forest Protection Committees (FPC's) in the Midnapur West Forest Departments (FDs) found that out of 8158 members only 241 (less than 2%) were women.
- ❖ A decade long water campaign was launched by the Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) in 1995 in 9 districts of Gujarat. [Watershed Management Project in Patan, Gujarat].
- ❖ Work force participation rate of women : 22.7 (male 51.6%)  
Rural Areas : 27.2%                      Urban Areas : 9.7%
- ❖ Women's Average contribution in overall farm production is 55-66% of total labour.
- ❖ Women provide half of the labour in rice cultivation in India.
- ❖ Inclusion of women beneficiaries has been made mandatory in the matter of selection of beneficiaries for schemes like Indira Awas Yojna, Randhanjyoti schemes etc.
- ❖ Out of 95,000 Self Help Groups in Assam, 70,000 SHGs have been formed with Women beneficiaries only. Most of these SHGs are rendered Self-Sufficient through liberal bank loans and Government grants.
- ❖ To ensure rightful status of women, State Women Policy for Assam has been adopted for the first time.
- ❖ Kanya Suraksha Schemes has been launched to generate more awareness about proper care of the girl child. Valuable tree saplings are provided free of cost to poor families at the time of birth of girl child so that the trees when mature may come to financial relief of the girl for education and marriage etc. in later life. For this purpose, one nursery in every Development Block has been opened throughout the State. (Assam)
- ❖ Adequate quantities of yarn are provided to 5000 weavers in every LA constituency to make the weavers of the State economically Self-reliant. (Assam)

*Articles are invited on the topic of  
"Environmental Education in Panchayat"  
for the next edition of the Newsletter "PANCHAYAT".*

## सम्पादकीय

भारत में पंचायतों की अवधारणा अति प्राचीन है। पंचायती राज एक ऐसी संस्था है जिसका ग्रामीण शासन के साथ सीधा संबंध है। यह शासन व्यवस्था गाँवों के हितों से जुड़े सामाजिक एवम् आर्थिक विषयों पर विचार करने, निर्णय लेने तथा लागू करने में सहायता करती है। अस्सी के दशक में संविधान संशोधन की दिशा में कार्य किए गए। 1992 में संविधान में 73 वां संशोधन किया गया और इसमें महिलाओं को पंचायती राज में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका दी गई। पंचायती राज व्यवस्था में महिलाओं की भागीदारी पंचायती राज के इतिहास में एक नया आयाम है। सबसे महत्वपूर्ण बात यह है कि नए संविधान में महिलाओं को 33 प्रतिशत आरक्षण दिया गया है।

73 वें संशोधन के पश्चात् महिलाओं की भागीदारी को पंचायती राज में बढ़ावा दिया गया। महिलाओं को इस बात से जागृत कराया कि उनकी एक अलग पहचान है। नई पंचायती राज व्यवस्था में महिलाओं को सदस्यों के रूप में स्थान दिया गया है। पंचायत द्वारा लिए गए प्रत्येक निर्णय में महिलाओं की सशक्त भागीदारी है। उन्हें भी किसी भी विषय के पक्ष अथवा विपक्ष में निर्णय लेने का अधिकार है।

आज के पंचायती राज में महिलाओं का महत्वपूर्ण स्थान है। ग्रामीण क्षेत्र के विकास कार्यों में भी महिलाओं का योगदान कम नहीं है। आज महिलाएँ हर क्षेत्र में पुरुषों के साथ कदम से कदम मिला कर चल रही हैं। चाहे वह क्षेत्र शिक्षण का हो या फिर तकनीकी कौशल दिखाने का।

इसी श्रृंखला में भारतीय पर्यावरण समिति ने पंचायत के इस अंक में महिला सशक्तिकरण पर प्रकाश डाला है।

आशा करते हैं कि पंचायत का यह अंक महिला सशक्तिकरण में और पंचायती राज व्यवस्था को मजबूत करने में सहयोग देगा।

**डा० देश बन्धु**

अध्यक्ष

भारतीय पर्यावरण समिति

## NATIONAL POLICY - AN INITIATIVE FOR EMPOWERING WOMEN

by Divya Sharma , Project Associate, IES

### Introduction

Empowerment is the process of change by which individuals or groups gain power and ability to take control over their lives. It involves increased well being, access to resources, increased self-confidence, self-esteem and respect, increased participation in decision making and increased control over benefits, resources and own life. Empowerment of Women is a wide term basically concerned with the Empowerment through education, ideas, through mobilization and participatory approach to improve their quality of lives. Thus Women Empowerment refers to the process by which women acquire due recognition in accordance with their male counterparts and participate in the development process of the society and live a life with dignity.

### National Policy for the Empowerment of Women

Within the framework of democratic policy, our laws, development policies, plans and programmes have aimed at Women's advancement in different spheres. From the Fifth Five Year Plan onwards there is a marked shift in the approach to women's issue from welfare to development. Empowerment of Women is recognized globally as a key element to achieve progress in all areas. The year 2001 was observed as Women Empowerment year by UN. The *National Policy for the Empowerment of Women* was evolved in the same year. The policy underlines the need for mainstreaming gender perspective in the development process. The focus of this policy is on the advancement, development and empowerment of women.

### The objectives of National Policy for Empowerment of women are

- ❖ Creating an environment through positive economic and social policies for full development of women to enable them to realize their full potential.
- ❖ The de-jure and de-facto enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedom by women on equal basis with men in all spheres – political, economical, social, cultural and civil.
- ❖ Equal access to participation and decision making of women in social, political and economical life of the nation.
- ❖ Equal access to women to health care, quality education at all levels, career and vocational



guidance, employment, equal remuneration, occupational health and safety, social security.

- ❖ Strengthening legal systems aimed at elimination of all forms of discrimination against women.
- ❖ Changing societal attitudes and community practices by active participation and involvement of both men and women.
- ❖ Mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development process.
- ❖ Elimination of discrimination and all forms of violence against women and girl child.
- ❖ Building and strengthening partnerships with civil society, particularly women's organizations. Besides empowering women to participate in decision making process the policy also visualized the means of economic and social empowerment of women.

### Economic Empowerment of Women

- ❖ **Poverty Eradication** : Women are often in situation of extreme poverty, which is further aggravated by household and social discrimination. Though women play a major role in agriculture and allied sector but their contribution is hardly recognized. Concerted efforts will be made to ensure the benefits of training, extension of various programmes will reach them to make them more effective in their own area of operation. To provide economic empowerment to women there is a special need to provide necessary support measures to enhance their capabilities and effort has to be made for improved implementation of programmes that are already women oriented.

❖ **Micro-Finance** : It includes a set of services comprising the following activities.

- **Micro-Credit** : Micro credit includes the provision of small loans, primarily for income generation activities and also for consumption and contingency need.

- **Micro-Saving** : The term micro saving is used for small savings from their own resources.

In order to enhance the out reach of credit and women access to credit, the establishment of new, and strengthening of existing micro-credit mechanism and micro-finance institution will be undertaken. Other supportive measures like adequate flow of credit through banks and financial institutions, so that women have easy access to credit.

### Social Empowerment of Women

Social empowerment focuses on the removal of inequalities and discrimination in all the areas whether in education, nutrition, shelter, health and environment in relation to men.

❖ **Education** : Education of women is a powerful weapon for empowering women. Their lack of education limits their ability to earn money and to participate in decision-making in their families and community. Equal access to education for women and girls should be ensured. Special measures will be taken to eliminate discrimination, eradicate illiteracy, increase enrolment and retention rates of girls and improve the quality of education.



❖ **Nutrition** : In view of the high risk of malnutrition and disease that women face at all the stages of life i.e. infancy, childhood, adolescent and reproductive phase, special efforts has to be made in order to tackle the problem of macro and micro nutrient deficiencies in order to provide good health status to women.

❖ **Health** : A holistic approach to women's health which includes both nutrition and health services will be adopted and special attention will be given to the needs of women and the girl at all the stages of life.

Women should have access to comprehensive, affordable and quality health care.

❖ **Shelter** : Women's perspectives should be included in housing policies, planning and housing colonies and provision of shelter has to be made both in urban and rural area.

❖ **Environment** : The majority of rural women still depend on the locally available sources of energy such as animal dung, crop waste and fuel wood. In order to ensure the efficient use of these energy resources in an environmental friendly manner, the use of non-conventional energy resources should be promoted . Women will be involved in spreading the use of solar energy, biogas, and smokeless chulahs in order to have a visible impact of these measures in changing the life styles of rural women.

### Role of Panchayati Raj in Empowerment of women

❖ In rural sector, Panchayati Raj Institution are already working towards women's empowerment by reserving not less than one-third of total number of posts of members and chairpersons at all three levels.

❖ The panchayats should formulate and execute various programmes of economic development and social justice in order to empower the women.

❖ The Panchayati Raj Institution's should be involved in the implementation and execution of the National Policy for Women at the grassroots level.



### Conclusion

The scope for empowerment of women is usually limited by the inequalities and discrimination which women face collectively in all the aspect of life. So, there is an immediate need to address women's rights, women's issues as a group in order to make them empower. Other important aspect, which is necessary for the empowerment of women, is to bring about an attitudinal change in both men and women. There is an immediate need to replace the feeling that women are meant only for household activities and rearing children by a feeling of equal partnership of women and men.



## WOMEN EMPOWERMENT - INDIA AND THE REST OF THE WORLD

by **Sangeeta Bandyopadhyay**, *Project Associate, IES*

**T**oday Women Empowerment is not only a most debatable topic among common masses but it is also the most required thing for the advancement of women in the developing countries like India.

In India if we want to think of a small family unit, a range of external forces shapes its formation patterns, structures and functions.

When we talk about our traditional Indian culture and the status of women in our country, we tend to highlight the greatness of our heritage. We bow to our respected women hood; we worship women as goddesses, offer fruits, sweets and eat the leftovers as 'PRASAD'. We believe that we, more or less, have been following the same cultural tradition all through. But in practice we are following just the contrary.

Women in our country, in general, cook food for their men folk, serve them while the food is hot and eat after them what is left. In fact, women eating the leftovers do not mean that they literally survive on the leftovers only. But the practice certainly reflects the attitude of the society towards women, subjecting them to humiliation and inducing self-deprivation on them.

Moreover in our traditional Indian family we still have a prerequisite idea that male members are the only earning members. This idea as a result gives birth to gender inequality in most of the parts of our country. So self-reliance and self-sufficiency becomes one of the most important things through which women can overcome their inequalities as compared with men.

In addition to this in India 70% population is still living below the poverty line. And some of the basic factors enhancing poverty includes the limited access to resources - the lower the level of education and awareness, the higher the competition for various value services, like - health and nutrition - where women with their children becomes the most vulnerable group due to gender differences and inequality. The way in which poverty affects women is somehow differs from men. Hence in order to bring women out of poverty by developing their self-sufficiency and self-esteem, it is important to implement policies and strategies for their empowerment that in turn meet their specific needs and grievances. Empowerment should be sought as a transformative strategy for poverty eradication. However, empowerment does not occur in a vacuum state.

It needs a enabling environment and a medium for realization of such an objective.

### Global Context

If we look beyond India, many parts of the remaining world are also struggling with this. Long back, with the proclamation of 1975 as International Women's Year (IWY) the UN has set an example of how an NGO initiative can be taken up which resulted in a massive mobilization process. IWY provided the UN with a framework within which women's needs and views could be promoted.

The 1975 World Conference of the International Women's Year in Mexico City was the first-ever global inter-governmental conference specifically organized to address women's issues and world problems from women's perspectives. It was the first major UN events in which a vast majority (73%) of the 1,200 delegates were women. In addition, a woman headed 113 of the total 133 delegations. However, the proportion of men (27%) among the delegates was higher than the usual proportion of women at other UN conferences at that time. The UN General Assembly, endorsing the Declaration of Mexico and the World Plan of Action, proclaimed the years 1976-1985 as the United Nation Decades for Women.

The experiences gained, obstacles encountered and results achieved during the entire UN Decade for Women were thoroughly assessed and evaluated in Nairobi in 1985 at the World Conference to review and appraise the achievements of the United Nations decade for Women : Equality, Development and Peace. The evaluation showed that the objectives set forth in Mexico had not been achieved during the Decade, but that plenty of other significant results had been attained. After a decade the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing from 4-15 September 1995, which was a massive success both in terms of its size and results. The official conference was attended by the delegations of 189 governments, more than any other UN Conference. It had some 17,000 participants with 6,000 delegates, more than 4,000 accredited NGO representatives, about 4,000 journalists, and many officials from all the organizations of the UN system.

The official document adopted by the Beijing Conference is called the Beijing Declaration and Platforms for action for Equality, Development and Peace

(PFA). First and foremost, the PFA provides an introduction to and assessment of the global situation from women's viewpoints. It then specifies 12 critical areas of concern for which it set strategic objectives and proposals for action to be taken for the achievement of the objectives. These critical areas of concern are poverty, education and training, health, violence against women, armed conflicts, economy, power and decision making, institutional mechanisms, human rights, the media, the environment and the girl-child.

The mission statement at the beginning of PFA says that "the Platform for Action is an agenda" for women's empowerment'. Thus, the Emphasis is no longer merely on achieving equality and eradicating discrimination but on the empowerment of women so that they become full and equal partners in all policies and decision-making processes in their communities. Equality with men in a male-dominated culture and society alone is not enough. Women need to be empowered to bring their own views to policy-making and the development of Society, and to set their own priorities in accordance with their inherent values.

#### Indian Context

In all plan documents a number of women specific and women related policies were adopted by the Government of India. But from Fifth Five Year Plan (1974-78) onwards there has been a marked shift in the approach to women's issues from the concept of welfare to development. The National Plan of Action for Women adopted in 1976 became a guiding document for the development of women. A National Perspective Plan for Women (1988-2000) was drafted for the development of women. The National Nutritional Policy, the National Policy on Education, the National Population Policy have significant component for women aimed at their "empowerment.

Some of the strategies are :

- ❖ Expediting action to legislate reservation of not less than one-third seats for women in Parliament and in the State Legislative Assemblies to ensure adequate



representation of women in decision-making.

- ❖ Adopting an integrated approach towards empowering women through effective convergences of effective services, resources, infrastructure and manpower in both women-specific and women-related sectors.
- ❖ Adopting a special strategy of "Women's component Plan" to ensure that no less than 30 per cent of funds/benefits flow to women from other developmental sector.
- ❖ Organizing women Self-help Groups and thus mark the beginning of a major process of empowering women.
- ❖ Ensuring easy and equal access to education to women and girls.
- ❖ Equipping women with necessary skills in the modern trades, which could make them economically self-reliant.
- ❖ Increasing access to credit through setting up of a "Development Bank for women Entrepreneurs" in small sectors.

#### Role of Panchayat

In rural sector, Panchayati Raj Institutions are already working towards women empowerment by reserving not less than one-third of total number of its posts of members and chairpersons at all three levels. The Panchayat have the responsibility to formulate and execute various programmes of economic development and social justice.

- ❖ Panchayat can conduct different training programmes for women and after the training Panchayat can also help the trainee for their self employment.
- ❖ Panchayat can help women to get loans from banks to start their own business.
- ❖ Panchayat can provide aid to build the houses for women living below the poverty line.
- ❖ Panchayat can help to form self-help groups for women and can also help to sale the outputs of that group.

#### Conclusion

India as a signatory to the UN Convention has taken several measures "including legislation, to ensure full development and advancement of women for the purpose of guaranteeing them the exercise and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedom on a basis of quality with men". The women-specific programmes are showing positive results in empowering women, yet one feels that there are miles to go and promises to keep.



## WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT THROUGH CO-OPERATIVE FARMING, VOCATIONAL TRAINING & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

*A case study by the GEORGE FOUNDATION*

**D**ue to the lack of specific implementation plans and faulty representations, local communities have not adequately accepted government and private schemes for the upliftment of women. Women have not actively participated in their own emancipation due to their lack of economic independence and rampant illiteracy. Therefore, The George Foundation decided to address the issue by raising the status of women in Hosur Taluk through economic empowerment and education.

Dharmapuri District is the most backward district in Tamil Nadu. In the geographical location selected, there are no high schools, no private schools, inadequate primary health sub-centers, and no NGOs. Roads, water supply, drainage and communication network are inadequate to augment economic development. Fragmented land holdings are not conducive to commercial farming. Child labor is rampant in this socially backward area. Population statistics of our country clearly indicate that quality education is out of the reach of the poor and marginalized irrespective of their innate potential. Women are often exploited by their communities. They have very little voice and no knowledge or means of improving their social and economic status.

In the villages of the area, the caste system is deeply entrenched. The lower caste colonies are ostracized and basic facilities are denied to them. Female infanticide is a common practice and women are punished socially for bearing girl children. Gender biases are very evident in the preferential treatment given to the male child.

Rain-dependent agriculture, home-based animal husbandry, silkworm rearing and brick making are the main income generating activities. Fisheries, horticulture and industries have been established in a few select areas such as Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri and Hosur. Rural folk find it difficult to travel to these cities in search of jobs. The average family income level is below the poverty line.

One of the popular schemes employed by several NGOs, and supported by some international and bilateral agencies, is the so-called "micro-finance" or small loans that usually range up to \$100 (Rs. 5,000) per women to start some form of business. Notable successes have been recorded, and the program has received considerable world attention. Most poor women entrepreneurs are said to have been able to make their businesses successful, and repay the loan. However, our experience in this area with lower caste poor women has been somewhat different.

Poor women, especially from backward communities and lower castes, are mostly illiterate, and have very little social and economic status. In India, there are over 300 million such people, mainly in rural areas. The unemployed are nearly 150 million people, a great majority of them belonging to these deprived sections of the society. Without meaningful skills, social status, and economic power, they are unable to do any business on their own even with financial assistance.

To start even a small rural business, it takes no less than \$500. According to some studies conducted by the Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India, Ahmedabad, the average capital need for a one-person small business is in excess of Rs. 1 lakh (\$2,000). Further, the chances of making any business successful is very small - the odds are barely 1 in hundred for an educated person. Uneducated lower caste rural women find it almost impossible to initiate any such entreprenuring work without adequate capital, proper training, and on-site daily support.

Based on our understanding of the problem faced in our rural community, we have devised a scheme for empowering poor and socially deprived women. The key ingredients of this program can be summarized as follows:

1. Adequate training in an area where the women have natural abilities and understanding (for example, farming and cattle rearing)
2. Use of superior technology to obtain better output and higher profits (modern farming techniques, such as use of proper fertilizers, deep ploughing, drip irrigation, etc.)
3. Creation of financial assets through savings (from profit generated from sale of produce, over and above wages received)
4. Ownership of physical assets (use of financial assets to purchase cultivable land - ½ acre per family)
5. Sharing of resources such as wells, tractor, etc. among several farmers
6. Provide a support system that addresses concerns, difficulties, know-how, etc.
7. Access to information and markets (knowing what high-value crop to grow and when, which markets offer higher prices on a given day, tie up export contracts, etc.)

Only when these requirements can be met, we believe

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## A BOON FOR WOMEN'S ECONOMY : SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON ANDHRA PRADESH

by **Gaurav Sharma**, *Project Associate, IES*

“When women moves forward, the family moves, the village moves, and nations moves” these words of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru is the Central theme in the Socio-Economic paradigm of the country as it is an accepted fact that only when women are in the main stream of progress can any economic and social development be meaningful. About 15 crore women in the country neither have land nor any assets but still they are running their families. Their families would starve if women stopped toiling. Women empowered by economic independence can contribute to society at the same time improve their standard of living and self esteem has been demonstrated in the past by efforts of many organization.

About 250 millions women live in the rural areas of Andhra Pradesh State. These women bear a crushing workload at home and in the fields but their contribution to rural development is often overlooked. Despite commendable improvement in various human development and social indicators since independence, a lot still remains to be done in the sphere for rightful place to the women in the Socio-economic fabric. Literacy level of these women is still lower at unacceptable limits.

There exists lack of awareness among most of our women about the rights as well as the various schemes and measures of the government aimed at improving their socio and economic status.

In order to alter scenario the Government has launched an innovative, novel programme i.e. DWCRA (Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas) which focus on organization of women into groups to foster a collective approach to their lot by enhancing their

bargaining power and also to resist exploitation. These organised women can pull many of the resources of the Government programmes into the village for their benefit. Hence they will be in a position to harvest the opportunities from schemes, resources, services and the laws meant to help them.

The government of Andhra Pradesh has taken up Women Empowerment as one of the main strategies to tackle socio economic poverty. Self help movement by women-apart chosen by them to shape their destiny for the better. The salient features of DWCRA includes participatory approach, revolving fund, thrifts and credit, income generative activities, training & awareness. There are about 0.334 million women in self groups in Andhra Pradesh covering nearly 4058 million rural poor women. This accounts nearly half of the self help groups existing in the country.

As the year 2001 has been declared as a year of Women Empowerment a detailed investigation has been taken on issues of importance and is documented in the present article. The various concerns of the women like human rights, economic empowerment, social empowerment, technology governance, education, health and nutrition were analyzed at grass root level with the help of interview, personal conversation, questionnaires etc., efforts are on for building data bases at various levels for better planning, implementation, and monitoring of Women Education which is the focal point for women empowerment. In these lines the present efforts are sincere beginnings for the assessment and analysis of all the ongoing welfare programmes which is the real vision for the future. □□□

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poor rural women can be expected to turn into entrepreneurs.

The George Foundation has purchased 150 acres of land. An executive committee comprised of representatives of The George Foundation, village panchayat, and agricultural consultants has been formed. Under its direction, the soil is being prepared for crop cultivation. Superior seeds of selected crops have been purchased. The panchayat members are highly motivated about this project. People from the surrounding villages are participating in the preparation of the land for

farming. This program will be expanded to cover the neighboring states of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka in its later stages.

Members of the village panchayat, the village administrative officer and the block development officer have been with the project from its planning stage. The geographic community and the community of beneficiaries, particularly poor rural women, were involved in planning and implementation of the project. □□□

## पंचायती राज में महिलाओं की भूमिका

संकलन : दिव्या शर्मा, प्रोजेक्ट एसोसियेट, भारतीय पर्यावरण समिति

ग्रामीण क्षेत्र के बहुमुखी विकास में पंचायती राज संस्थानों की अहम भूमिका है। 1992 में स्थानीय संगठनों के पुर्नउत्थान के विचार को मन में लेकर राज्य स्तर से नीचे एक नए तंत्र का प्रतिपादन करने के उद्देश्य से संविधान में 73वां संविधान संशोधन संसद में पास किया गया। जिसमें पंचायतों को दृढ़ता तथा पुर्नस्थापना प्रदान करने की दिशा में कार्यकारी कदम उठाया गया। 73वें संविधान में निम्न लिखित अनुबंधों पर खास ध्यान दिया गया है।

हर पाँच वर्ष के पश्चात ग्रामीण, माध्यमिक तथा जिला स्तर पर लगातार चुनाव। महिलाओं तथा अनुसूचित जनजाति के लिए 33 प्रतिशत स्थानों का आरक्षण।

नए संविधान संशोधन में महिलाओं के लिए खास प्रावधान है। सबसे महत्वपूर्ण बात है महिलाओं के लिए किसी भी सरकारी संस्थान में कार्यकारी सदस्य के रूप में तथा एक निर्वाचित सदस्य के रूप में 33 प्रतिशत का आरक्षण।

73वें संशोधन के पश्चात् स्थिति पूर्ववत् नहीं रही, समाज के स्तर में बहुत बदलाव आया है। महिलाओं की भागीदारी को बढ़ावा दिया गया है। समाज के नजरिए में जो बदलाव आया है उसका प्रमाण इसी से मिलता है कि लगभग 3,30,000 महिलाएँ आज की तारीख में राजनीति में कदम रख चुकी हैं।

राजनीति में महिलाओं का इतनी बड़ी मात्रा में आना इस बात को गलत साबित करता है कि महिलाएँ कभी राजनीति में आना ही नहीं चाहती थीं।

73वें संशोधन के पश्चात् महिलाओं को इस बात का एहसास हुआ कि वे पुरुष की बनाई बेड़ियाँ तोड़ कर स्वच्छद रूप से समाज में भागीदारी निभा सकती हैं। समाज की स्थिति बदलने पर महिलाओं को स्वयं को स्थापित करने का मौका दिया गया है।

जैसा कि ग्रामीण क्षेत्र में महिलाओं को पर्दे में रखा जाता है राजनीति में आने के बाद उन्हें भी परेशानियों से दो-चार होना पड़ता है जैसे कि उन्हें संगठन में अपनी बात कहने में संकोच होता है। पर इस सब के बावजूद मौका मिलने पर वह जो करना चाहती है बहुत अच्छी तरह कर लेती है।

### उदाहरण के लिए :

1. देवी रामा एक 50 वर्षीय महिला हैं जो "गौला" समूह की हैं। वह अभी तक पशु पालती थी और दही बेचती थी और आज वह पेलीयूर ग्राम पंचायत की अध्यक्ष हैं जो कि 5,611 ग्राम पंचायती राज संविधान 1993 के अंतर्गत बनी थी।
2. राजस्थान में महिलाओं ने पंचायत में सदस्यता हासिल करने के बाद ही कार्यकारी कदम उठाना आरम्भ किया है। जयपुरा जिले की ग्राम पंचायत, गोविन्दगढ़ की सरपंच, 46 वर्षीय अचूकी देवी ने चुनाव जीतने के बाद गाँव में सामाजिक समस्याओं को सुलझाने के विचार पर बल दिया। वे अपने गाँव में स्वच्छता, पानी की व्यवस्था, बिजली की व्यवस्था, स्वास्थ्य सुविधा आदि का पूरा ख्याल रखती हैं। अचूकी देवी ने गरीबों व महिलाओं के लिए विशेष रूप से कार्य किया है। आज गोविन्दगढ़ की महिलाएँ सिलाई, चरखा कातना,

स्वेटर बनाना, मजदूरी आदि कार्य करके अपना रोजगार चलाती हैं।

3. मध्यप्रदेश के सिहोर जिले की जमुनिया तालाब ग्राम पंचायत की गीता राठौर 1995 में आरक्षित सीट से सरपंच चुनी गईं। अपने इस कार्यकाल में राठौर ने अपने काम से ग्रामीणों को मोहित कर दिया। परिणामस्वरूप 2000 में जब वह गैर-आरक्षित सीट से चुनाव लड़ने के लिए आगे आई तो किसी अन्य प्रत्याशी को चुनने के बजाय लोगों ने उन्हें ही पुनः सरपंच चुन लिया। 1995 से पहले यदि गीता के व्यक्तित्व पर गौर किया जाए तो वह एक कुशल गृहणी के अलावा गाँव के मामलों से दूर रहने वाली, अपनी गृहस्थी में निमग्न एक आम महिला थी। लेकिन आज उन के पास एक पंचायत की जिम्मेदारी है। अब उनका कौशल राजनीतिक प्रबंधन में देखा जा सकता है। मौके को चूकना वह नहीं जानती। यह उनकी कुशलता ही कही जाएगी कि आज जमुनिया तालाब पंचायत हर मामले में संपन्न है। बच्चों का स्कूल हो या पेयजल की सुविधा या फिर वहाँ की सड़कें हर चीज दुरुस्त नजर आती है।

स्थानीय शासन व्यवस्था की बुनियादी इकाई के रूप में पंचायत की भूमिका अहम होती है। पंचायतों के लिए सरकार कई प्रकार की सुविधाएँ मुहैया कराती है। लेकिन जानकारी के अभाव में कई योजनाएँ पंचायत की जमीन पर उतर नहीं पाती। गीता राठौर ने इस दूरी को पाट डाला। और वे सभी सुविधाएँ पंचायत को उपलब्ध करवाई जो स्थानीय स्वशासन के माध्यम से संभव है। इतना ही नहीं घरेलू हिंसा का निपटारा भी वह बड़ी सफलता से करती है। पर्यावरण के प्रति जागरूकता और वृक्षारोपण को भी उन्होंने प्रोत्साहित किया। इन कार्यों का ही परिणाम है कि आज गीता राठौर महिला सशक्तिकरण की मिसाल बन गई है।

4. आंध्रप्रदेश के करनूल जिले के कालवा गाँव की सरपंच, फातिमा बी को गाँव की अर्थव्यवस्था को मजबूत करने तथा गरीबी हटाने के लिए पुरस्कार मिला।

फातिमा बी की शादी 14 वर्ष की आयु में हो गई थी। उनके तीन बच्चे हैं वे कभी भी घर से बाहर नहीं निकली थी। किंतु जब पंचायत में चुनाव का समय आया और सरपंच के पद के लिए महिलाओं को आरक्षण दिया गया, तो फातिमा बी को उनके पति ने प्रोत्साहित किया तथा वे चुनाव जीत गईं।

आरंभ में उन्हें सरकारी कामकाज की ज्यादा जानकारी नहीं थी वे केवल अंगूठा लगाती थी तथा उनके पति कागजों तथा सरकारी कामकाज का ध्यान रखते थे। उन्हें धीरे-धीरे अपने औहदे का ज्ञान हुआ और समझ में आया कि उनके पास स्वयं निर्णय लेने की सारी शक्तियाँ हैं उन्होंने अपने गाँव के विकास की ओर ध्यान देना शुरू किया। गाँव में पक्की सड़क, चैक बांध का निर्माण करवाया। उन्होंने गाँव के लिए एक नया भवन भी बनवाया, सड़क की मरम्मत कराई। गाँव की महिलाओं से 30,000 हजार रुपये इकट्ठे किए तथा "जन्म भूमि विकास कार्यक्रम" के अन्तर्गत सिंचाई तथा खाली भूमि को खेती के लिए साफ कराने का काम हाथ में लिया। उन्होंने गाँव के लोगों को थोड़ी-थोड़ी बचत के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया। जिसके फलस्वरूप एक साल के अंदर 300 सदस्यों वाले 40 बचत तथा आत्म सहायता वर्ग बनाए गए। इसी कार्य को बढ़ावा देते हुए एक साल के अंत में

2 लाख रुपये बचा कर गाँव के विकास में लगाए गए।

आज महिलाएँ हर क्षेत्र में अपने कदम रख रही हैं चाहे वह क्षेत्र शिक्षण का हो अथवा तकनीकी कौशल दिखाने की बात हो। महिलाएँ कृषि, वानिकी, पशुपालन, मत्स्यपालन, पर्यावरण संरक्षण आदि के क्षेत्र में भी महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभा रही हैं।

#### महिलाएँ एवं पर्यावरण :

समाज में महिलाओं की स्थिति की दृष्टि से पर्यावरण का अत्यधिक महत्व है क्योंकि इसका उनके भौतिक एवं आर्थिक कल्याण से घनिष्ठ सम्बंध है। खाद्य उत्पादन के हर चरण में महिलाओं की सहभागिता है।

भारत में महिलाएँ लगभग आधे कृषि क्षेत्र में भागीदारी निभाती हैं। उनका योगदान, भूमि में फसल लगाने से फसल काटने तक है। उनकी भागीदारी का प्रतिशत इस बात पर निर्भर करता है कि किस प्रकार की फसल उगाई जा रही है। इसके अलावा महिलाएँ महत्वपूर्ण रूप से बीज का चुनाव करने तथा छोटे-छोटे पौधों के रोपण आदि कार्य कौशलपूर्वक ढंग से कराती हैं। फसल काटने में, खरपतवार हटाने, फसल प्रबंधन आदि कार्यों में सहायता करती हैं।

जंगल महिलाओं के लिए वेतन अर्जित करने का एक महत्वपूर्ण स्रोत है। सामुदायिक वृक्षारोपण में भागीदारी तथा कृषि वानिकी के उत्पादनों को एकत्रित करने में सहयोग देती हैं, वन प्रबंधन जैसे कार्यों में भी भाग लेती हैं। इसके अलावा औषधियों, साल तथा तेन्दू पत्तों आदि को एकत्रित करने के कार्यों में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाती हैं।

महिलाएँ पर्यावरण संरक्षण के लिए वन प्रबंधन, वन रोपण, भूमि-उर्वरक उत्पादन, जल प्रबंधन, वर्षा जल संरक्षण, जल निकायों की

साफ सफाई आदि कार्यों में भी अपना योगदान देती हैं।

अपने देश में महिलाएँ पर्यावरण के प्रति भी सजग रही हैं। जब वनों की कटाई के विरोध में 1973 में उत्तर प्रदेश के चमेली जिले के मंडल गाँव के लोगों ने चिपको आन्दोलन आरम्भ किया, तो इसके नेतृत्व की बागडोर अन्य व्यक्तियों के साथ-साथ गौरा देवी द्वारा संभाली गयी। नर्मदा नदी पर बनने वाले 1000 करोड़ रुपये के बहुदेशीय बाँध परियोजना के मामले में मेघा पाटेकर तथा इस समय अरुंधती राय नर्मदा बचाओ आन्दोलन का नेतृत्व कर रही हैं। सुगाथा कुमार एक अत्यन्त प्रख्यात महिला नेता हैं जिन्होंने केरल में पेरियार नदी की एक सहायक नदी (कुतापूजा) पर प्रस्तावित 75 मेगावट की जल विद्युत परियोजना के खिलाफ शांत घाटा पर्यावरण आन्दोलन में भाग लिया।

सभी समस्याओं के हल के रूप में महिलाओं को प्रतिनिधित्व का अधिकार देना सार्थक सिद्ध हुआ है। महिलाओं ने सजग भागीदारी के साथ हर काम में हाथ बंटाना आरम्भ कर दिया है।

पंचायतों में भी महिलाएँ महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाती हैं। घरेलू समस्याओं के बारे में अधिक जानकारी होने के कारण इन विषयों से जुड़ी समस्याओं की अच्छी समझ होती है इसलिए जब कभी भी पंचायत में कोई भी घरेलू समस्या उठाई जाती है तो उसका समाधान सरल हो जाता है।

पंचायत में महिला प्रतिनिधित्व के आ जाने से ग्रामीण महिलाओं में राजनैतिक चेतना का प्रसार हुआ है। जब महिलाएँ महिलाओं का चुनाव करेंगी तो निश्चित रूप से उनमें इस भावना का संचार होगा कि एक दिन वह भी चुनी जा सकती है और जब उनमें चुनाव के संबंध में चेतना उत्पन्न होगी तो निःसन्देह वह इस बात पर ध्यान देगी कि कौन सी महिला उनका

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## ग्राम पंचायत में महिलाओं की भागीदारी

डा. अवध प्रसाद, पंचपरमेश्वर

पंचायतीराज व्यवस्था में महिलाओं की भागीदारी भारतीय पंचायती राज के इतिहास में एक नया आयाम है। वर्ष 1962 में भारत के प्रथम प्रधानमंत्री श्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू ने राजस्थान के नागौर जिले से देश में पंचायती राज व्यवस्था का शुभारंभ किया था। देश में पंचायतीराज व्यवस्था के इतिहास को देखें तो पायेंगे कि विभिन्न राज्यों में समान स्थिति नहीं है। जन प्रतिनिधित्व के संदर्भ में देखें तो सामान्यतः इस व्यवस्था में पुरुषों की प्रधानता रही है। कानून में महिला प्रतिनिधित्व का प्रावधान होते हुए भी उनकी भूमिका नगण्य थी। महिलाओं की इसमें रुचि नहीं थी। पिछले पांच वर्षों में इस दिशा में परिवर्तन और देश में ग्राम पंचायत में महिलाओं की भूमिका बढ़ाने की दिशा में कदम उठाये गये। हर स्तर पर महिला प्रतिनिधित्व सुनिश्चित किया गया। राजस्थान के संदर्भ में ग्राम पंचायत, पंचायत समिति एवं जिला परिषद स्तर पर महिलाओं हेतु पद आरक्षित किये गये। इस आरक्षण की व्यवस्था के बाद राजस्थान में पंचायती राज संस्थाओं के दो चुनाव हो चुके हैं। इन दो चुनावों में महिला भागीदारी की एक झलक देखी जा सकती है।

पांच वर्ष पूर्व जब नये कानून के अंतर्गत महिला प्रतिनिधित्व के आधार पर चुनाव हुए तो उनमें संकोच एवं आत्मविश्वास का अभाव था। प्रतिनिधित्व के लिये महिलाएं सामने नहीं आ पा रही थी। जयपुर जिले के

चाकसू पंचायत समिति क्षेत्र में अनुसूचित जाति की जनसंख्या बहुलता में है। अनुसूचित जाति की महिलायें अति संकोच तथा हीनभावना युक्त थी। इन गाँव की महिलाओं ने कभी सोचा भी नहीं था कि इस प्रकार के चुनाव में भागीदार बनेंगी।

फरवरी 2000 में नये कानून के अन्तर्गत पंचायती राज संस्थाओं के चुनाव हुए। इस चुनाव में महिलाओं में उल्लेखनीय रुचि देखने को आयी। बाढ़ महावतन छालेद ग्राम पंचायत में आता है।

इस चुनाव में बाढ़ महावतन से श्रीमती काली देवी पंचायत समिति की सदस्यता के लिए खड़ी हुईं और जीतीं। अनुसूचित जाति की श्रीमती काली देवी के पास आर्थिक साधना का पूर्ण अभाव था। यहां पंचायत समिति के सदस्य का चुनाव दो ग्राम पंचायतों में किया जाता है – इसके लिये बड़ा भौगोलिक क्षेत्र है। महिला मंडल की सक्रियता से श्रीमती काली देवी चुनाव जीत सकीं। पहली बार अ.जा. की महिला खुली जीप में बाहर निकली और घर-घर वोट मांगे।

बाढ़ महावतन से ही छादेल ग्राम पंचायत में अ.जा. की श्रीमती सुन्दर देवी वार्ड मेम्बर के लिए चुनी गईं। यह एक उदाहरण है जिससे यह समझा जा सकता है कि जागरूकता के द्वारा महिलाओं की सक्रियता बढ़ी

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### From the Print Media

## Plus Two schools to be opened in all panchayats

*The Hindu, Tuesday, March 29, 2005*

The Government would open Plus Two schools in all panchayats where there are no such schools, the Education Minister, E. T. Mohammed Basheer, has said.

Replying to questions in the Assembly today, Mr. Basheer said priority would be for opening Government schools. Certain Government schools would be upgraded in the coming academic year. Availability of space, number of students, distance from the nearest school and educational backwardness of the area would be the main criteria.

He said availability of building was not the sole condition for upgrading a school. No decision had been taken to close down uneconomic schools. While upgrading schools, priority would be given to the Malabar region. New courses had been sanctioned in 20 colleges. Those colleges that could not start the courses would begin them in the next academic year, Mr. Basheer said.

### CBSE batches

He said the suggestion to start CBSE batches in schools the followed SSLC syllabus was impractical since it would cause administrative problems. The salary of Plus Two teachers and laboratory assistants had incurred an additional burden of Rs. 345 crores to the Government. Applications for starting unaided schools would not be rejected summarily, he said.

Computer training would be given to high school teachers under the IT@School programme. Out of the 53,460 high school teachers, training had been imparted to 34,187 teachers. The remaining teachers also would be trained, he said.

The Minister said the procedures for issuing duplicate copies of SSLC book had been simplified. Those who had lost the book need not have to give a gazette notification. After advertising it in a newspaper, application for duplicate copy should be submitted along with a copy of the advertisement. Directions had been given to issue the duplicate copy within 45 days, Mr. Basheer said.

### Farm loans

The Cooperation Minister, M.V. Raghavan, said the one time settlement scheme for agriculture loans would not be extended beyond March 31. If any bank passed a resolution to extend the facility, the Government would sanction a special recovery scheme. Out of the Rs. 400 crores sanctioned by NABARD for providing agriculture loans, Rs.100 crores had been utilised. He said the interest rate for agriculture loans had been reduced to 8.5 per cent and it could not be reduced further, Mr. Raghavan said.

Incentives would be given to the farmers who promptly repayed the loan under the Agriculture Production Cost Relief Scheme. A sum of Rs.8 crores had been set apart for computerising the State Cooperative Bank head office and its branches and Rs. 1.39 crores had already been spent, he said.

The Revenue Minister, K. M. Mani, said resurvey had been completed in 2,4242.11 square kilometres. Resurvey in 703 villages had been completed and the remaining 771 villages would be taken up soon.

## Villagers waiting for panchayat polls

*The Hindu, Sunday, May 8, 2005*

Elections for the post of Panches were yet to be held in a Haryana village in 'Rai' block of Sonapat district, despite the completion of panchayat polls in this district and elsewhere in the state last month.

According to the residents of the newly-created Tonki village, the election to the post of sarpanch had been held along with those of other villages in the district last month, but the election of panches had not been held so far by the Panchayat Department. The village was a part Manoli before it was engulfed by a devastating fire which burnt down all the houses.

At that time the residents of Tonki village had approached the then Deputy Commissioner pleading for

the creation of a separate village. After the Commissioner agreed, Tonki was declared a separate village by the state government. When gram panchayat elections were held on April 9, Joti Devi was declared sarpanch.

However, residents alleged that the Block Development and Panchayat Officer, Rai had failed to conduct the election to the posts of panches lying vacant in six wards of the village despite repeated representations.

On account of this delay, the department had also failed to hand over charge to the newly elected sarpanch. Official sources said that the Directorate of Panchayat Department had failed to reserve the wards and this was the main cause of the delay in holding elections. □□□

## Women power for clean water

*The Statesman, Thursday, March 3, 2005*

Her love with Ganges and Varanasi is 25-year-old. Despite suffering from degenerative motor neuron disease, Dr Fran Peavey still makes an effort to come to India and work for save Ganges project.

Working in partnership with Sankat Mochan Foundation, this Californian endeavour to make Indians aware of water pollution is full of struggle and hardship.

The disease inflicted her five years back, forcing Dr. Peavey to move in an automatic wheel chair. At Ramgarh in Doon Valley, which was the venue for the third international women and water conference, Dr Peavey was not satisfied with what the government has done to revive the Ganges.

Her NGO has given the plan of sewage treatment plant for cleaning Ganges but the National River Conservation Directorate has not approved it.

Seventy-three women from 14 countries came together at Ramgarh to discuss various agendas which are related to water contamination and conservation. An action plan was drawn out by the various groups of women

on how to tackle the problems of the commercialisation of water.

Some like US based Roberto Williams claims that her "cookery book" contains recipes which will help save water, while the school teacher from Assam, Indu Hazarika, believes in educating children about water preservation.

Dr Vandana Shiva spoke against the MNCs who want to create dependencies for people. "We must resist privatisation at any cost as it would lead us into a vicious cycle," said Dr Shiva.

Her NGO Navdanya has created an organic farm which is doing research on water efficient farming.

Mulching and Ridge farming are two of the methods which is used to conserve water in the organic farm. A bed of leaves and grass is created before sowing is done in mulching. "This helps in better absorption of water but the output is increased by 25 percent," said a research analyst at Navdanya, Mr Rashid Faridi. □□□

## NGO to bring drinking water to desert villages

*The Hindu, Saturday, May 7, 2005*

In a unique initiative of its kind, the Jal Bhagirathi Foundation, working on the water conservation front in the Marwar region of western Rajasthan, has taken up the task of distribution of drinking water to a few problem villages in the desert terrain. As in the case of its water conservation efforts in the past, the Foundation has sought community participation in water distribution at the time of acute scarcity.

The programme, christened Shiv Ganga Peyjal Pariyojna, initiated with the support of institutions and local donors the Foundation, seeks to supply water to the development blocks of Agolai, Balotra, Luni and Rohet.

"The Pariyojna is designed to support the government's water distribution programme while keeping with the highest traditions of Marwar to provide water in distress," Gaj Singh, former ruler of Jodhpur and chairman of JBF said launching the programme at Bijolai near Jodhpur.

As the Shiv Ganga scheme was launched in the backdrop of traditional festivities like gher dance and desert music on Thursday, a prayer went up from everybody's heart for Shivraj Singh, the son of Gaj Singh and Hemlata Raje, who is recovering from an accident during a polo match in Jaipur two months ago.

The occasion marked the presence of the Magsaysay Award winner, Rajendra Singh, the former queen of Jodhpur, Hemlata Raje and former Speaker of the Rajasthan Assembly, Gopal Singh. The programme will be implemented over the next seven weeks with the support of village committees, an array of trucks and tankers. It is targeted at a population of 70,000 villagers.

"Shiv Ganga is a direct extension of Jal Bhagirathi's own vision to mitigate the effects of devastating droughts in the region through revival of traditional resource management systems," noted Prithviraj Singh, the managing trustee of the JBF on the occasion. □□□

समाचार पत्रों से

## जीन बैंक में सुरक्षित हैं गेहूं की तीन हजार प्रजातियां

राष्ट्रीय सहारा, मंगलवार 29 मई, 2005

हवा में लहलहाती पकी हुई गेहूं की उन बालियों को देखने पर यूं तो कुछ असाधारण नहीं लगता है लेकिन कुछ एकड़ में फैली गेहूं की यह उपज एक ऐसा बहुमूल्य खजाना है जिसमें गेहूं की तीन हजार किस्मों के बीज संचित हैं।

मध्यप्रदेश के होशंगाबाद जिले में स्थित पवारखेडा क्षेत्रीय कृषि अनुसंधान केंद्र देश के उन चुनिंदा शोध संस्थानों में है जहां गेहूं की तीन हजार किस्मों के बीज संरक्षित हैं। वर्ष 1903 में स्थापित देश के सबसे पुराने शोध संस्थानों में शामिल यह केंद्र जबलपुर के जवाहरलाल नेहरू कृषि विश्वविद्यालय से संबद्ध है और गेहूं की उपज को लेकर कई महत्वपूर्ण शोध और अनुसंधान यहां हुए हैं।

केंद्र में गेहूं की पौध प्रजनन से जुड़े वरिष्ठ वैज्ञानिक डा. पी सी मिश्रा ने बताया कि यहां संरक्षित गेहूं की तीन हजार किस्में देश के लिए अत्यंत मूल्यवान धरोहर हैं। इनमें से कई किस्में एक शताब्दी से भी अधिक पुरानी हैं।

डा. मिश्रा के अनुसार केंद्र इन तीन हजार किस्मों का वैज्ञानिक तरीके से वर्गीकरण करते हुए इनका प्रकाशन कर रहा है। यह काम आगामी दो वर्षों के भीतर पूरा हो जाएगा और उसके बाद यह सभी किस्में नेशनल ब्यूरो आफ प्लांट जेनेटिक रिसोर्सेज, एनबीपीजीआर.को हस्तांतरित कर दी जाएगी। इस प्रक्रिया के बाद इन सभी किस्मों पर किसी अन्य के अधिकार की आशंका समाप्त हो जाएगी।

डा. मिश्रा के अनुसार वर्तमान में वैश्विक स्तर पर कृषि उत्पादों को लेकर छिड़ी पेटेंट की होड़ और लड़ाई के बीच गेहूं की इन किस्मों के वैज्ञानिक वर्गीकरण के बाद उन्हें एनबीपीजीआर को सौंपना एक बेहद महत्वपूर्ण कवायद है। उन्होंने कहा कि इस कार्य के साथ केंद्र गेहूं की करीब सौ से अधिक किस्मों के पंजीकरण की दिशा में भी कार्यवाही कर रहा है। अब तक तीन किस्में एमपीओ 1106 एमपी 1142 और एमपी3200 को

पंजीकृत कराया जा चुका है। डा. मिश्रा ने बताया कि संरक्षित गेहूं की किस्मों में कई ऐसी हैं जो अब विलुप्ति की कगार पर खड़ी हैं। लेकिन केंद्र में ऐसी प्रजातियों को गेहूं की संतति और आने वाली किस्मों को समृद्ध बनाने के लिए जतन से सहेजा गया है। देश में गेहूं उत्पादन की दिशा में आने वाले कुछ वर्षों में मध्यप्रदेश के अग्रणी होने की ओर संकेत करते हुए डा. मिश्रा ने कहा कि पौष्टिकता के मान से यहां का गेहूं निर्विवाद से रूप से उत्कृष्ट कहा जा सकता है।

डा. मिश्रा ने बताया कि अवैज्ञानिक तरीके से खेती तथा समुचित पानी और उर्वरक नहीं देने से उत्पादन पर खासा असर पड़ता है। उन्होंने कहा कि होशंगाबाद और आसपास के क्षेत्र में जहां सिंचाई के लिए पर्याप्त पानी उपलब्ध है, किसानों द्वारा आवश्यकता से अधिक पानी दिए जाने के कारण गेहूं का उत्पादन प्रभावित होता है।

उन्होंने कहा कि अगर वैज्ञानिक तौर तरीकों से खेती की जाए तो मात्र दस प्रतिशत लागत के बढ़ने से बीस से पच्चीस प्रतिशत उत्पादन बढ़ाया जा सकता है और उस स्थिति में मध्यप्रदेश को देश में गेहूं उत्पादन की दृष्टि से नंबर एक राज्य बनने से कोई नहीं रोक सकता है। केंद्र के प्रभारी और सह संचालक अनुसंधान डॉ. एस के श्रीवास्तव ने बताया कि 182 हेक्टेयर क्षेत्र में फैले इस केंद्र में सोयाबीन, तिलहन, चना और गन्ना आदि की फसलों पर केंद्रित शोध एवं अनुसंधान सहित फसलों को विभिन्न रोगों से बचाने के लिए एकीकृत कीट प्रबंधन जैसे कार्यक्रम संचालित किए जाते हैं।

केंद्र में तिलहन फसलों के शोध कार्य से जुड़े डॉ. वी एन एस राव ने बताया कि यहां अलसी की करीब 200 किस्मों को संरक्षित किया गया है। इनमें कुछ किस्में ऐसी भी हैं जिनमें कृषकों को दोहरा लाभ भी होता है। डॉ. राव ने बताया कि अलसी की इस किस्म से निकलने वाले फाइबर का कई तरह से उपयोग लघु उद्योगों में होता है। इनमें कागज और जूट की तरह

## गन्ने के रस की मैली से तैयार होगी जैविक खाद

राष्ट्रीय सहारा, सोमवार 10 जनवरी, 2005

चीनी मिलों से प्रेस मड के रूप में निकलने वाली गन्ने की मैली का कचरा किसानों के लिए कंचन साबित हुआ है। इस दिशा में शोधरत वैज्ञानिकों का मानना है कि प्रेस मड से तैयार जैविक खाद रासायनिक उर्वरकों के मुकाबले बेहतर विकल्प है।

उत्तर प्रदेश के बरेली मंडल में शाहजहांपुर स्थित उत्तर प्रदेश गन्ना शोध परिषद् के कृषि वैज्ञानिकों का मानना है कि गन्ने की मैली से तैयार खाद गोबर की खाद से भी अधिक पोषक तत्वों से युक्त होती है। इसलिए प्रेस मड आधारित जैविक खाद का उत्पादन एवं उपयोग अवश्य करना चाहिए।

सरकारी सूत्रों ने आज यहां बताया कि उत्तर प्रदेश की सभी 101 चीनी मिलों में प्रतिवर्ष लगभग 59271 हजार टन गन्ने की पैरायी की जाती है। इसमें करीब तीन प्रतिशत अपशिष्ट प्रेस मड के रूप में प्राप्त होता है। इस हिसाब से हर साल लगभग 1776 हजार टन कचरा छनित मैली के रूप में निकलता है।

सूत्रों ने बताया कि अम्लीय स्वभाव होने के नाते इस मैली का प्रयोग खेत में सीधे नहीं करना चाहिए। इसमें पोषक तत्व भी उपलब्ध नहीं होते। साथ ही साथ खेत में दीमक का प्रकोप होने का खतरा भी बढ़ जाता है। इसलिए प्रेस मड को पूरी तरह से विघटित करके उपयुक्त खाद बना लेनी चाहिए। उन्होंने बताया कि शाहजहांपुर के गन्ना शोध वैज्ञानिकों ने प्रेस मड को गड़ढे में डालकर जीवाणु कल्चर या वर्मी कल्चर विधियों से बढ़िया खाद में तब्दील करने की तकनीक विकसित की है। जीवाणु कल्चर टीके की मदद से 3-4 महीनों में व वर्मी कल्चर यानि केचुओं की मदद से सिर्फ डेढ़ महीने में ही प्रेस मड से बढ़िया जैविक खाद तैयार हो जाती है।

प्रेस मड चीनी मिलों से बहुत सस्ती दरों पर आसानी से मिल जाती है। कई चीनी मिलें अपने क्षेत्र के गन्ना किसानों को प्रेस मड मुफ्त में देती हैं व कई चीनी मिले खुद जैविक खाद बना कर उपलब्ध कराती हैं। सूत्रों ने बताया कि उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार का गन्ना विकास विभाग केंद्र पोषित मैक्रो मैनेजमेंट मोड आफ एग्रीकल्चर शुगर केन डेवलपमेंट योजना के तहत

## Messages



We had a pleasant experience on reading the very recent addition of your newsletter "Panchayat". This magazine provide very beneficial information on Environmental related issues.

(Joginder Walia, Himachal Pradesh)



Please write on every issue, different national & international days to be observed relating to environment heritage & panchayati raj.

(Dr. Charanjit Singh Gumtala, Amritsar)



Could you please send a complimentary copy of "Panchayat" to our rural library.

(Badiuddin Khan, New Delhi)



I have read the issue of "Panchayat" on the theme "Energy and Environment". It has enhanced knowledge on alternative sources of energy. I request you to please send me one copy of "Panchayat" regularly.

(Giridhar Singh Bais, Distt. Chandrapur)



महोदय हमारी संस्था महाराष्ट्र के गडचिरोली जिले में Joint Forest Management, Gram Sabha का काम Cry, Mumbai के साथ कर रहे हैं। हमें आपके यहाँ प्रकाशित होने वाली "पंचायत" की आवश्यकता है। कृपा हमें "Panchayat" मासिक भेजने की कृपा करें।

(नितीन बारसिंगै, महाराष्ट्र)



यह पर्यावरण की दिशा में अच्छी पत्रिका है और विशेषतः विद्यार्थियों के लिये नई-नई जानकारी से युक्त है। मैं इस पत्रिका को मंगवाना चाहता हूँ। कृपया आगामी अंक हमें भेजते रहे ताकि हम पर्यावरण और उसकी उपयोगिता समझें और दूसरों को समझा सकें।

(संतोष रामराव गेटे, अमरावती)



पंचायत अंक में ज्यादा से ज्यादा हिन्दी भाषा का प्रयोग करना चाहिए। इससे ग्रामीण क्षेत्र में अधिक प्रभाव पड़ेगा और जागरूकता आयेगी।

(मनोज तिवारी, उत्तर प्रदेश)

# *Panchayati Raj & Environment*

ENVIS Newsletter

## Glimpse of the Website

[www.iespanchayat.org](http://www.iespanchayat.org)



The website has compiled all the relevant data and comprehensive information on different components of Panchayati Raj and Environment. The website contains information on databases developed; geographical distribution of Panchayats; success stories, areas of Panchayati Raj co-operation; elections, finance, query services; bibliography; resource repository etc.

We hope that the information contained in the website will suffice your requirements.

We would appreciate your comments & suggestion about the website so that we can update it as per the requirements of our browsers.

**Wish you a Happy browsing on [www.iespanchayat.org](http://www.iespanchayat.org)**

The Centre invites for Publications :

- Reports on Panchayati Raj (specially related to environment) and rural development
- Short report on seminars/workshops on the related topics are also invited. Those found suitable will be published in the newsletter.
- Articles for the newsletter "Panchayat" are invited.

### Forthcoming Events

- **7th Global Conference on Environmental Education**  
*Date : September 19-23, 2005, Agra, India*

#### Book Post

Please return, if undelivered :

**Indian Environmental Society**

U-112 (3rd Floor) Vidhata House

Vikas Marg, Shakarpur

Delhi - 110092 INDIA

**Phone:** 22450749, 22046823, 22046824 **Fax:** 22523311

**E-mail:** iesenro@vsnl.com

**Website:** [www.iesglobal.org](http://www.iesglobal.org) ● [www.iesenvis.nic.in](http://www.iesenvis.nic.in) ● [www.iespanchayat.org](http://www.iespanchayat.org)

To \_\_\_\_\_  
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### **GoM to strengthen panchayati raj**

The Panchayati Raj Ministry has proposed to set up a group of ministers (GoM) for strengthening the panchayati raj institutions. The Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has approved the proposal.

Those likely to be in the GoM are the Ministers for Human Resources Development, Agriculture and Consumer Affairs, Chemicals and Fertilizers, Finance, Tribal Affairs, Rural Development, Environmental and Forests,