

M. Katapali MIP- Setting Pathways to Social and Economic Reclamation

M. Katapali, a remote tribal village in the western Odisha, is situated at Attabira Panchayat of Lakhanpur Block in Jharsuguda district. With a population of 1043 comprising 516 male and 527 female members, the village is home to 159 households belonging to SC, ST and OBC communities. Agricultural operations in the village were very negligible due to absence of irrigation. Majority of the villagers used to migrate to outside state Chhattishgarh in search of livelihood. They worked at factories there as low paid labourers, barely meeting any of their requirements except living hand to mouth. They lived in migration most of the times in a year. Only during monsoon they used to return to home land for a living from agricultural operations.

A natural tank named *Kanta* in the village was the only source of irrigation. Except rainy season, it remained dry during all other times. Rain water used to drain out as there were no bunds around the tank. With little water available to them, farmers of the village could manage to cultivate vegetables like potato, brinjal in their fields having coverage of 4 to 5 acres only. Most of the land remained dry and unutilized. In consequence, the farmers remained poor and deprived of livelihoods opportunities in the village.

In 2011, the MI Department constructed a minor irrigation project on *Kanta* with a designed ayacut of 41 hectare. The farmers of M. Katapali were mobilized to form a Water Users' Association named *Maa Ramchandi Pani Panchayat* (PP) by the District Project Unit (DPU) under implementation of OCTMP, Water Resources Department of Odisha. The PP has been looking after operation and maintenance of the MIP. It has also taken up various farm based livelihood activities under the Agriculture Livelihoods Support Services (ALSS) component of OCTMP. The profile of the PP and the progress of ALSS activities carried out by it have been given in the *annexure*.



Given concerted efforts by the PP farmers, remarkable progress in agricultural productivity and livelihoods options have been made possible. A brief report is presented below:

- Land area under agricultural operations has exceeded 100 acres.
- Farm productivity has increased from 16 to 22 quintals of paddy per acre as a result of adoption of SRI & Line Sowing.
- Services like training, pest management and required tank level technical supports have been made available by the PP working in convergence with Line Departments.

- The farmers' capacity has been strengthened by application of modern farm implements like marker, manual and power weeders, chaff cutter and drum seeder.
- Demonstrations of modern farming practices with vegetables like cucumber and bitter gourd have led to increased productivity and bulk production fetching better price in *mandis*.
- Promotion of mushrooms cultivation by engaging the landless and women members has enhanced their capacity to secure gainful occupation and earn additional income.
- The landless and vulnerable groups have been capacitated to earn and sustain their livelihood through promotion of backyard poultry.
- Last year stoking yearlings in the tank resulted in net benefit of Rs 23000/-.
- The PP has paved way for emergence of master farmers whose capacity to train other farmers at PP level has been strengthened.
- Specialised group on livelihood activities like mushroom, fisheries, poultry, vegetables production, SRI and ICM paddy have been formed in the PP.
- The PP farmers are more focussed on integrated farming and cash crop cultivation.
- They are more aware of the benefits of regular vaccination of their livestock.
- Through introduction of improved buck they can get good breeds of goat to meet the demand for meat at local market.

Details of the progress in different activities have been furnished in the *annexure – 2*.

Outstanding Performances:

In addition to supervising tank systems management and enthusiastically engaging in different ALSS activities, the PP farmers have set remarkable pathways to strengthening social and economic wellbeing of the villagers. The following instances of M. Katapali speak loudly about the outstanding performances of the *Maa Ramchandi Pani Panchayat* which can go a long way in inspiring *Pani Panchayats* in other parts of the State to replicate the best practices that are possible through community based participatory actions:

- **Idle Farmers Turned Active:** This happened in the year 2011 when farmers of M. Katapali often remained idle and spent time in unproductive activities like playing cards and doing nothing to secure their livelihood. Reacting to this the *Maa Ramchandi Pani Panchayat* gathered the idle farmers in a series of meetings and discussed about the scope and opportunities of several farm and non-farm based activities which could add value to their living standards. It was decided and enforced instantly to ban playing cards in the village. The farmers got engaged in various farming practices having commercial values and started reaping profits. This way, their idleness could be overcome effectively.
- **Prohibition of Liquor:** In the year 2012-13, most of the villagers had fallen prey to an external vendor who was selling liquor in the village. After consuming liquor the drunken male members of the village were quarreling and sometimes beating up female members

of their families. Their meager income was getting squandered in consumption of liquor and their health remained vulnerable. Taking a bold step the PP organized a series of meetings, in total 5 meetings at M. Katapali and Girol Pali village, motivating the villagers to refrain from consumption of liquor. With support from the local law enforcement agency the villagers destroyed the liquor sale depot in the village and drove away the liquor vendor from the village for good. Alcoholism among the villagers has been brought down substantially by the PP resulting in prevalence of peace and family harmony in the village.

- **Land for Landless Farmers:** In a laudable effort, the PP has rescued landless farmers of M. Katapali from poverty and unemployment. It was observed that there are land owners in the village who, either because of their migration to other places or for other reasons, were not using their land for any purpose. The PP identified such land owners and their unutilized lands. A deal was negotiated between the PP and the land owner that the land may be made available for cultivation by the landless farmer on the terms that the PP would pay 8 bags of rice per acre to the land owner. Similarly, the landless would pay 8.5 bags of rice to the PP out of the yields from the land allotted to him. In this way, 33 landless farmers of the village could be benefitted setting the best practice of making optimum utilisation of human and natural resources.
- **Increasing School Enrollment of village students:** The only government school near the village was languishing with low enrollment of students due to limited number of teachers in the school. With only 2 teachers it was not possible on their part to take class for more number of students. There was a time, in 2011, when only 60 students went to the school. And the rest of the children in the village loitered around, playing and dilly-dallying all the time. The PP took active steps to enhance school enrollment of village students. It identified educated young women of the village and requested them to join the school for teaching the students. 4 such women namely, Luna Sahoo, Kalyani Nayak, Santoshini Nayak and Sunita Nayak volunteered and joined the school at an honorarium from the PP. Strength of the students in school increased to 150 during the period 2011-13. Today, the students passed out from the school have continued their education in the nearby Mahima College. Impressed with the initiative of the PP, the education department has increased the strength of teaching staff of the school to 7 ensuring enrollment of more students from the village in the school.

PROFILE & PROGRESS OF M.KATAPALI MIP

Odisha Community Tank Management Project
District Project Unit, Jharsuguda

1. Profile of M.Katapali MIP

Name of the Pani Panchayat (PP)	Maa Ramchani Pani Panchayat
Date of Formation of the PP	30/3/2011
Name of the Tank	M.Katapalli MIP
Name of the Village Covered	M.Katapali
Panchayat:	Attabira
Name of the Block	Lakhanpur
Tank Based Situation	Water Moderate Closed to Forest & Reservoir, WMCPCU
Date of signing of MoU between the Pani Panchayat and District Project Director, Jharsuguda	31/03/2011
Designed Ayacut of the Project	41 Ha
Total PP Members	72 no
Total Households in Command Area	72
Total No. of Community level institutions	07
TIMP Account No & Bank	31663042072 ,SBI,Lakhanpur
O& M account No	31663036862

TOTAL HH 159	ST	SC	OBC
	44	21	94

CAST	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
ST	131	139	270
SC	59	64	123
OBC	326	324	650
TOTAL	516	527	1043

Institutional details of the Pani Panchayat

PP Executive Committee		
Position	Name	Social Category
President	Gobardhan Barik	OBC
Secretary	Naresh Naik	OBC
Treasurer	Dayanidhi Biswal	OBC
Names of the Executive Committee Members	Santosh Biswal	OBC
	Ananta Naik	OBC
	Narendra Padhan	OBC
	Dhrba Charan Ganda	ST
	Pasuram Barik	OBC

B. Co-opted members	Pradep Padhi	General
C.GP Ward Member	Sobharam Gardtia	SC
Sub Committee Members		
Work Sub-committee	Sri. Nrupulal Naik	OBC
	Sri-Sankar Mehera	OBC
	Smt. Sobha Barik	OBC
Finance and Resource Sub Committee	Smt. Sisupal Barik	OBC
	Sri – Mangulu Barik	OBC
	Smt. Lalita Mehera	OBC
Water Management Sub Committee	Sri Abhi Sa	OBC
	Sri. Lalita Naik	OBC
	Sri.-Ramesh Bhoi	OBC

Existing institutions & SHGs

Sl no	Name of the SHG	Date of Formation	Total Members			Total	Name of The President	Name of the secretary
			ST	SC	Oth ers			
1	Maa Manikeswari SHG	2.04.2004	2	2	8	12	Malati Kalo	Utrara Ganda
2	Maa Tarini SHG	30.06.2006			10	10	Savya Barik	Puspa Naik
3	Bhagabat Nari Sangha	30.06.2004	8	1	1	10	Bimala Kharia	Kanchan Kharia
4	Maa Manikeswari SHG	20.11.2008	10			10	Jamuna Gardtia	Chandrama Gardtia
5	Bapuji Jubak Sangha	1.12.2010	10	08	20	38	Ananta Naik	Subodh Naik
6	Maa Kali FIG	5.10.2012			15	15	Narendra Padhan	Arun sa
7	Maa Mangala FIG	5.10.2012			15	15	Anata Naik	Kalakanu Sa

2. Progress of Different Components

A. Institutional Strengthening and Capacity building:-

- Reformation of Committee as per the PP guidelines
- Records and registers developed and maintained all the as per the PP Act
- Independently maintained Finance and Accounts
- Corpus fund development & Collection of Contribution for O& M account -34387/-
- Women members are involved in the committee and executive committee.
- Monthly Meeting fixed up on 5th of every month for maintain transparency and coordination among the members
- All the members, S.C members & E.C members have been trained and participated in exposure programme gaining knowledge on PP guidelines, Role and responsibility and the programme of OCTMP.
- Maintenance of the office set up and display all the information related to the progress and activities of the Pani Panchayat are done.
- Selected 3 nos CRPs
- Outside Exposure visit program by the pp members have been conducted.
- TIMP Prepared and approved by general body meetings
- Completed all the 5 module of Tank level Training by the CUTM
- Conducted immersion and Exposure programme for other Pani Panchayat of DPUs of Boudh ,Bargarh ,Cuttack & Khurdha
- Award received from chief Minster for best Pani Panchayat of the year -2014-2015

B. Agriculture livelihood Support

- Conducted PRA with the involvement of line department and the issues related to development of ALSS as per the estimation of the PP have been addressed
- Finalized ALSS plan with the consent of PP members and liaison with the concerned line department for mobilized the resources carried out.

Agriculture

- Promoted SRI and line sowing
- Enhanced the Linkage with line department
- Adoption of modern technology to enhance the production and productivity
- Developed agriculture equipments at pp level
- Soil testing done for growth in the fertility
- Rotation basis training provided the to the members
- Organised Rabi and Khariff meeting. Crop planning and water budgeting register as per water availability are maintained.

Horticulture

- Demonstration of Turmeric , Onion and vegetables have been conducted
- Promoted off season vegetable cultivation
- Mushroom Training and Demonstration programme at Tank Level have been organised
- Promoted Commercial Vegetable production and training provided

Livestock

- Promoted Women Vaccinator and provided training program at CPDO
- Conducted Livestock Training & vaccination camps at Tank Level
- Promoted backyard poultry

Fisheries

- Formation of FIG on Fisheries programme involving the landless families in training
- Stoking 18000 yearlings in the tank

Agri Marketing

- 15 FIG Groups (7 for Poultry & 8 no for Mushroom) have been formed
- Cultivation of potato in 40 acre and 10 acre of onion have been undertaken
- Mushroom shed prepared by the FIG and Production is being started
- Pani Panchayat independently establishing linkage with the market and selling their products.

C.Tank System Improvement:-

- Agreement with DPU for civil work execution -2,19,900,
- Exposure visit to Hirakud on QC by the PP members
- Civil work executed and monitoring by PP
- Focus to efficiency use of water with the convergence of L.I Point
- Develop the operation and maintains plan.

Other outstanding / social advocacy by the PP

- Contract teacher provide to school for enhance the quality education in the village -
1- Luna Sahu- 2011
2-Kalyani Naik-2011/12
3-Santosini Naik-2012/13
4-Sunita Naik-2013
- Banned on playing card-From 2011
- Banned on alcohol-From 2012 Pani panchayat organized 5 consecutive meeting and spot sealing of wine.
- Help to landless families - 34 landless benefited by this program by share cropping.

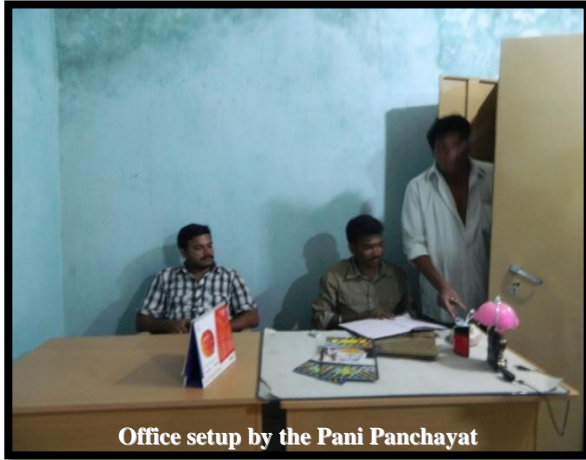
Institutional development activities



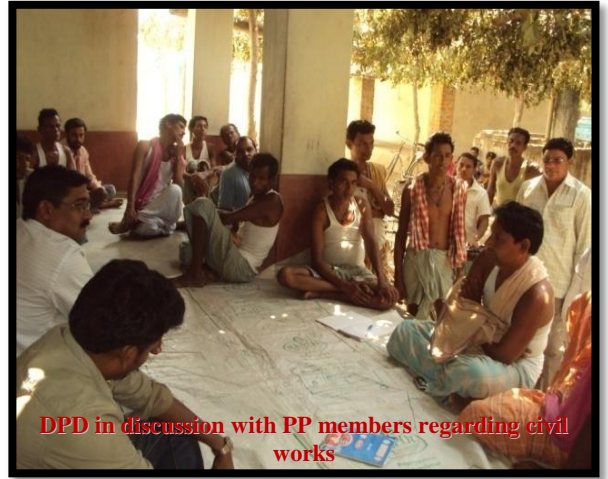
Glimpses of ALSS activities



Awareness programme - PRA, PWT and Data Collection



Office setup by the Pani Panchayat



DPD in discussion with PP members regarding civil works



Purchase of infrastructure materials under IS activities



Collection of Socio-Economic Data by CB&SO coordinator



Finalization of ALSS Plan in the presence of DPD and BLO



PWT with the PP members