

**Summary of Activities in Village Khurrampur, Block Farrukhnagar,  
District Gurugram, Haryana  
by UBA Team of IIT Delhi**

February 20, 2020

**Background:**

As part of activities taken up under Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA), an initiative of MHRD, Govt of India, one of the teams of IIT Delhi decided to adopt a village in Farukhnagar block of Gurugram district (Haryana) so as to help in proper planning of the development activities of the village and facilitating implementation of the same. The village Khurrampur was identified with the help of the then BDPO of Farukhnagar, Mr Pradeep Ahlawat, as one of the backward villages in this block. This village was earlier a part of a three village panchayat due to which development funds never reached this village. It was only in January 2016 that this village elected the first panchayat of its own.

The village has a population of 2275 out of which about 1500 persons belong to OBC and remaining belong to SC. The residential part of the village is in two hamlets. The main village which covers 7 out of 9 wards is within the main *phirni* of the village covering about 500 m X 500 m area. The second hamlet known as *Ramji Lal ki Dhani* is about a km away, has two wards and covers about the same area including all the farm holdings and the adjoining residences.

**Activities by IITD team:**

IIT Delhi team started interacting with the villagers in December 2015. Since then, the summary of the activities carried out is as follows:

- 1) A baseline survey was conducted to understand the common problems of the villagers.
- 2) Based on the survey and interaction with the villagers, a village development plan was prepared to identify the activities to be carried out for an integrated development of the village.
- 3) **Proposal for AYUSH CLINIC:** The village does not have any Primary Health Centre. For any ailment, the villagers had to go to Farukhnagar or even to the Gurugram. IITD team contacted AYUSH ministry to have fortnightly visits of a homoeopath and Ayurvedic physicians, which was granted for six months. This initiative was very well received by the villagers. Currently, efforts are being made to get an AYUSH clinic set-up in Farrukhnagar, which can cater to all the villages of the block by periodically providing health services at the doorstep.
- 4) **Pottery Furnaces:** The village has many families who have been potters traditionally. A few of them are still in the profession but use very primitive furnace which is highly polluting. As requested by potters themselves, IITD team has set up three improved pottery furnaces in the village with the help of funds provided by NBCFDC. Out of these two furnaces use biomass as fuel. One of them has been test-fired once with very encouraging response from the potters who could perceive the energy saving in the first firing itself. Even smoke was perceived to be lower, though efforts are on to reduce the smoke further. The second furnace in which the smoke is expected to be lower is yet to be tested.

Another LPG-based furnace was constructed and also tested. It was proposed to make some modifications so as to make it more suitable for firing with closed packing of

potteryware. However, before the furnace could be modified, it has been vandalised by unknown persons.

The district administration also provided funds for a shed over the furnaces, which has already been constructed over land provided by the panchayat. The village Sarpanch, Mr Vinod Kumar, has also got the electricity connection for the place. The potters are being encouraged to form a self-help group to manage effective use and maintenance of these furnaces which will be under the ownership of the panchayat but funds for their maintenance and payment of electricity charges have to come from the potters. The potters were also put in touch with the KVIC officials, who facilitated a training programme for potters in a different village. KVIC also provided electric potters' wheels to all those who participated in the training programme. The next proposal is to train the potters in making new products with the help of NBCFDC. However, before that, potters have to start using the furnaces regularly. Since the new furnaces are on the outer part of the village, away from their homes, **the potters have been wanting to have some rooms in that area to be able to keep their wheel, other accessories and green pottery under lock and key. We have been requesting the potters to make their own sheds, but that has not happened.**

- 5) IITD team also facilitated the visit of Mr Varun Vidyarthi of Manavodaya, one of the pioneers in the concept of Self-Help Groups, who spoke to several women motivating them to form SHGs. He also spoke to existing SHGs telling them the good practices of an SHG. He conducts training programmes for villagers to carry forward the work of rural development in their own regions and strengthen the SHGs. Any support for some of the youth in Khurrampur to attend this training programme will be very useful.
- 6) **Wastewater Treatment:** A team of IITD/DU professors with expertise in water management visited the village and a plan for setting up a wetland to clean up the two ponds was submitted to the District Administration. As we are told by the concerned JE, the same has been approved under IWMP scheme. This technology will require only about Rs 5 lakhs for both the ponds in the village which is only a small fraction of conventional technology for grey water/sewage treatment. The work for this has already been started in the pond in Ram ji Lal ki Dhani by Mr Aman, the JE in IWMP. The remaining work is expected to be completed soon by the JE under the guidance of Prof C.R. Babu, for this pond. This also involves emptying the pond, digging and cleaning the same; and planting suitable species in the wetland through which the wastewater from the village flows into the pond. The local villagers have offered space for transferring the pond water even before the harvest is over. Thus, this work can be taken up soon by the JE.

For the pond in the main hamlet, we have to wait for the harvest to be over. There two wetlands are required - one for Khurrampur wastewater (funds for which has already been approved) and the second for treating the wastewater from the adjoining Khera village for which funds are not available. We request the District Administration to provide about Rs 1 lakh for the same. This will help clean-up the ponds and make it usable for cattle and some other needs by the villagers.

- 7) **Tree Plantation:** We have been planning a tree plantation in the village for a long time but it was getting delayed since we want to do it primarily through the villagers. In the last Gram Sabha, it was proposed that we take up the tree plantation in two phases: First phase to be taken up before the end of February when we give saplings to each household for planting trees in their own premises and plant about 50 trees in common areas, for which digging of pits will be arranged by the Sarpanch through MNREGA. The second phase will be taken up

in July during monsoon to cover common areas including those around the two ponds. We have written to the Forest Officer for providing saplings. We need the SDM's help for the same.

- 8) **Drone- Survey:** A drone-survey has already been carried out free of cost by a company owned by IITD alumni. Support from the administration is required to layer this data with ownership and other relevant information so that it can be used as a sound database for effective governance. **It is requested that a meeting be set-up between the IITD team and the e-governance team of the District Administration to carry this work forward.**
- 9) A visit by the KVIC officials was also facilitated to make villagers aware of the KVIC schemes for employment generation. IITD team also helped interested villagers in applying for loan under PMEGP scheme through the KVIC website. Efforts were also made to remove some of the roadblocks in processing of applications by the concerned bank. Unfortunately, the bank loans did not materialise.
- 10) **Solar Street Lights:** IITD also approached IREDA for installation of 30 solar street lights in the village under CSR funds, which have already been installed and are working well. On the request of the Gram Panchayat, IITD has already forwarded another proposal to IREDA to provide 60 more solar street lights to the village under their CSR funds.
- 11) A proposal for training of Engineers for developing schools and Anganwadis into child-friendly environment at low cost was submitted to the Mr Vivek Kalia, the earlier SDM. We would like to set up a tyre based play ground for children in the village and improve the Anganwadi if the villagers are ready to take the lead.
- 12) **Self-employment for Women:** MSME has provided a machine developed by Vatsalya Foundation for making eco-friendly sanitary napkins. This machine along with the raw material for preparation of 40,000 napkins is already installed in the village with few women trained in making these napkins. However, the economic model for this machine needs a group of 4-5 women to take ownership of the machine, the manufacture and sale of the napkins. IITD team along with volunteers from Vatsalya Foundation is in the process of identifying a group of women who could take up this work.
- 13) **Interactive Voice Response (IVR) service in the village through Gram Vaani:** Prof Aaditeshwar Seth of Computer Science Department of IIT Delhi has a start-up called Gram Vaani. In a meeting held with him a month ago, it emerged that in place of the conventional community radio, Gram Vaani can provide this service to the villagers which will work very similar to a community radio but through the ordinary or smart mobile phones. A staff of Gram Vaani has already visited the village and explained the concept to the Sarpanch and a few other villagers. Very soon we hope to have the Sarpanch and 1-2 more villagers to be trained in the basic concept and operation of Gram Vaani so that the same service can be started in the village soon. This service will be free of cost.
- 14) **Possibility of biogas plants:** During the Gram Sabha on Jan 26, villagers were told about biogas plants. For this, we need to carry out special visits to houses with cattle, which will be undertaken soon.
- 15) Exploring possibility of Bamboo-based construction for sheds for panchayat meetings etc.: A proposal is to be submitted for the same very soon. Funding source is yet to be identified.
- 16) **Solid Waste Management in the village:** The villagers were urged not to allow plastic waste to be strewn in public areas. Villagers were also requested to avoid use of plastic carry bags for the sake of the environment. This may also be taken up a little later. The village is much cleaner now as compared to what it used to be, due to the efforts of the Sarpanch. However,

for long term sustenance of a clean village, a scheme for solid waste management is very important with shed for segregation and proper disposal of the waste.

**Main Issues where Support of Administration is required:**

- a) Provide saplings for tree plantation, to be carried out preferably in February, so that the saplings survive the summer.
- b) Shed for the pottery kilns: The shed has not been made in accordance with the design provided by IITD Civil Engineering Professors. According to analysis carried out by them, the current structure is not safe for high wind loads. Reinforcement of the structure was promised by the JE but was not carried out. The District Administration is requested to provide additional funds to reinforce the structure for better safety.
- c) Funds for making storage space for the potters near the shed.
- d) System for effective utilization of the pottery kilns: These kilns were made using the funds provided by NBCFDC and RuTAG, IIT Delhi, while the shed was made using funds from the District Administration on panchayat land provided by the Sarpanch. The ownership of these kilns has to be of the villagers. The facility can be used by the Khurrampur potters as well as those from outside, latter on payment basis to the panchayat. The electricity meter charges also have to be paid. Suggestions are required for an effective system to manage the use and maintenance of furnaces.
- e) A proposal for a training programme of various stakeholders to improve the state government schools and anganwadis was submitted earlier. That needs to be taken forward. We would like the school in Khurrampur to get a tyre park and many other features conducive to a learning environment. Similarly the newly constructed anganwadi can be converted into a vibrant attractive place for children to play and grow. Support needed for organising the training programme.
- f) Drone survey was carried out several months ago. That data needs to be integrated with the official database so that the digital data can help in e-governance.
- g) Help needed to trace the application for AYUSH clinic to AYUSH ministry.
- h) Solid Waste Management preferably at the block level to be facilitated by the administration.
- i) Additional funds for wetland constructions for waste water coming into the pond from Khera village.
- j) SDM is also requested to kindly facilitate a meeting of the IITD team with the current DC and the ADC.

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