



**Rajagiri college of Social Sciences (RCSS) Autonomous
Kalamassery, Ernakulam**

Report on
**Initiatives of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) in
Chottanikkara, Vazhakkulam, Edathala, Vengola and Keezhmadu
Grama Panchayats of Ernakulam district**

UNNAT BHARAT ABHIYAN (UBA)

Unnat Bahrat Abhiyan (UBA) is a programme for the betterment of the remote communities in India. It is an initiative by the Ministry of Human Resources Development (MHRD), Government of India. This scheme enables a touch point between the rural population and the educational institutions in the country. The mission of UBA is to enable higher educational institutions to work with the people of rural India in identifying development challenges and evolving appropriate solutions for accelerating sustainable growth. The key focus areas of the programme are Industries & Livelihood, Water Management, Renewable Energy, Basic Amenities and Organic Farming.

Rajagiri College of Social Sciences (RCSS), Kalamassery, Kochi is one among the significant institutes in Kerala who has taken up the initiative to the community level. The college has chosen five village panchayats for its implementation namely, Vazhakulam, Keezhmadu, Chottanikkara, Edathala and Vengola.

Major Initiatives;

Drinking Water Unit installation

Followed by a need assessment study in Chottanikkara Grama Panchayath, Rajagiri college has identified the deficiency of safe drinking water accessibility for the students of Govt. HSS Chottanikkara. Students bring bottled water from their home and they enforced to keep the water for the whole day. Students literally struggling with the lack of accessibility towards safe drinking water. After identifying the

need, Rajagiri college has installed a Tata Swach Tech Jal water purification system in the school with the support of Tata Chemicals Society for Rural Development (TCSRDRD). The total strength of the school is 500 and the water purifier will benefit the whole students. Followed by the installation of



water purifier, the School Monitoring Committee (SMC) along with the PTA has built a water

tank and platform which made an easy access for the children to drinking water. The water purification system was inaugurated by the President of Chottanikkara Grama Panchayath on 31st of March 2022 in the presence of SMC chairman, members, PTA representatives, School Headmistress, teachers, parents, students and faculty representatives from Rajagiri College

Income Generation Programme Support (Mushroom Cultivation training)

With the intention of capacitating the vulnerable women from the villages, a Mushroom Cultivation Training was organised at Rajagiri College for the potential women from the five UBA villages. The training was organised by Rajagiri OutREACH in collaboration with the Department of Biosciences, which has been continuously engaged in conducting various training sessions to capacitate women from different communities. The programme intends to empower the women groups and make them self-reliant by extending more opportunities in income generation. Mushroom Cultivation training helped the women especially the home makers to initiate small entrepreneurship at their homes with minimal investment and infrastructures.



Adequate technical support and follow up has provided by the Bio Science department. The training commenced with a motivational class by Mr. Rajeev, Head Incharge, Rajagiri Center for Skill Development. He imparts useful insights on how this training programme can help them in a

fruitful way. Moreover, there is an increased need for financial development of women, self-sufficiency and in order to attain social satisfaction. Training on mushroom cultivation has led by Ms. Gincy Devasia, Technician, Department of Biosciences, RCSS and Dr. N.M. Krishna Kumar, Scientist-B, Department of Bioscience, RCSS through theoretical as well as practical demonstration. The training has extended a platform for the community to prepare the mushroom bed under the guidance of technicians. The participants started cultivating the mushroom at their houses and earning a decent income from the livelihood. Followed by the training sessions, whatsapp groups have been formed to ensure that the participants are continuing mushroom cultivation and related activities at their homes. The whatsapp groups are active on a daily basis where each member posts images of their produce. Most of them have been doing well and are getting support from the other member's in the group.

Rally and Awareness generation programme on Energy Conservation and Renewable Energy

Rajagiri college has organized an awareness generation programme along with a rally and signature campaign on Energy conservation and Renewable energy at Chottanikkara grama panchayath. The programme has conducted in collaboration with the Energy Management



Center, Kerala and Center for Environment and Development as part of the Urja Kiran programme. Community representatives includes, SHG members, MGNREGA workers, community leaders, Asha workers, panchayath

president, secretary and ward members participated in the programme. Mr. Ranjih K.U, Project Coordinator of Rajagiri outREACH, RCSS has led the session and orient the participants on the importance of energy conservation, possible methods of energy conservation, renewable energy etc. A rally with the support of these participants was also conducted to propagate the need of energy conservation to the public. The signature campaign was taken place followed by an oath taking ceremony on Energy Conservation.

Rally and Awareness generation programme on Waste Management and Anti-Drug campaign

A mass rally upholding the importance of proper waste management and anti-drug initiatives was conducted at Keezhmad Gramapanchayat. The initiative's goal was to evoke awareness among the members of the native community about two of the most relevant social issues at present, improper waste management and increasing drug abuse, especially among the adolescents. As a part of the program,



RCSS conducted a school-level drawing and essay-writing competitions across three schools. The topic for essay writing was “*on drugs*”, and the drawing competition was on the topic “*ente malinyam ente utharavadithvam*” (my garbage, my responsibility). The winners of the competitions were honoured in the same program as well. The main session on awareness on drug abuse led by Mr. Krishna Kumar, Centre in charge, ODIC, Rajgiri outREACH, RCSS. This was followed by a session delivered by Megha M A, the Project Coordinator of Haritha Kerala Mission. She highlighted the importance of proper waste management and did not forget to admire the works of Harithakarma Sena members of keezhmad panchayat.