

The Concept

In 1995, a concept was developed to make a model village in each province of India. As we all know, villagers make up 70-80% of the total population of India. In the last 66 years, they have contributed enormously to India's economy, yet they are the most neglected people in not having the basic needs of life, let alone in other areas of development. This has led to migration from rural areas to urban areas and an increase in urban slums. Following four questions are frequently asked:

I Why do we need this project?

a. Basic needs for human development

- ✚ Human development index of India stands very poor in comparison with many other countries in the world
- ✚ Human development (physical, mental, intellectual and spiritual growth) is affected by the lack of basic needs of life
- ✚ When we look at physical development in India, it is very poor. India has a fairly high infant and maternal mortality rate. The life span is only 65 years.
- ✚ A very large percentage of children under the age of 5 years are under-weight and under-nourished

b. Prosperity of a nation

A nation cannot be and should not be considered prosperous unless 70 - 80% of its population living mostly in villages has the basic needs

II Definition of Village Development, Selection and Completion

The village development is simply to provide the most basic daily needs to the villagers, as for any human being. The basic needs are:

- ✚ Clean water (by providing tube wells and hand pumps)

✚ Sanitation

1. Clean up the streets. No dirty gutters (*nalees*). Road repair wherever needed
2. Clean the houses both inside/outside. This includes paint work, etc.
3. Garbage collection and disposal (garbage cans and maintenance staff)
4. Clean water ponds and use them for water conservation
5. Community toilets and paid maintenance staff

✚ Environments

1. Proper ventilation in the houses
2. Control air pollution (smoke and dust)
3. Landscaping (trees, bushes, grass, flowers)
4. Street lighting or solar energy
5. Proper sanitation

Water sanitation and proper environment are critical for prevention of disease

✚ Education

1. Provide class rooms, uniforms, school bags, books, paper and pens, etc.
2. Focus on nutrition, family planning and sense of responsibility
3. Information technology

- ✚ Job Creation - Mostly agriculture-based or training schools for other vocations

- ✚ Primary Health Centre - With a small laboratory. Importance of immunization/ vaccination and family planning. Emphasis on primary prevention of disease

- ✚ Miscellaneous - Proper cremation grounds

Selection of a Village

It is done at least six months in advance based on the demographics, site plans (location of houses, roads, ponds, streets, buildings such as schools, temples and community centers) and future development plan. The members of Bharat Vikas Parishad initially inspect the village. Budget is prepared in advance (as economical as possible).

Project completion time

A single village project will be completed within a maximum up to 3 years.

III How do we achieve all of the above?

1. Team work

- ✓ Involvement of villagers and Panchayat is the most important component in the total picture. It is their responsibility to develop and maintain the village. They must provide labour and take responsibility. Involvement of women and youth in the form of block leaders is very vital for long term success.
- ✓ Bharat Vikas Parishad (BVP) - NGO in India, registered with Government of India and also has a FCRA number. This NGO engages architects, engineers, and other professionals as necessary. They see that the project is completed in the shortest possible time and is maintained with the participation of villagers.
- ✓ Jindal Foundation - NGO in Canada, registered with government of Canada.

2. Funds Sources

Canada

- ⊕ Jindal Foundation
- ⊕ An individual or groups of people or corporations

India

- ⊕ Panchayat funds
- ⊕ Villagers' contribution (Village Fund)
- ⊕ BVP
- ⊕ Others (MLA, MP Funds)

3. Accountability

- ✓ Receipt for tax purposes provided by the NGO in Canada and by the NGO in India if donation is made in India.
- ✓ Accounts professionally audited and submitted by the NGO in Canada and India
- ✓ Minimum overhead
- ✓ Interested people who would like to visit the village, travel at one's own expenses

4. Recognition

A plaque will be displayed in a central place in the village with the names of the:

- ✓ NGO in India
- ✓ NGO in Canada
- ✓ Donors with substantial contribution over Rs.50,000

Maintenance

A group of people (women, youth, school teachers) will be trained from each village. Village will be divided into blocks, and one trained person will be in charge of a block. These block leaders visit their respective blocks regularly and bring awareness to villagers on health matters, nutrition, sanitation, environment, etc. Once a month, there will be a meeting of block leaders with the Panchayat head and a representative of BVP. Block leaders also fill health cards. It is a matter of discipline. Gradually it will become part of daily life and matter of pride.

Ultimate Goal of developing a model village is to...

Motivate villagers from the Model Village to motivate other neighboring villages to do the same. Motivate middle class families to join in the development process. There are apparently 50 million such families in India and about one million villages. If 50 families take one village, the development process can be easier and faster.

IV Achievements

Since the original concept of "Model Village" (Apna Gaon) was adopted, significant progress has been made.

Initially two villages were selected randomly (conservation of water and improvements of wells in Banswara District Rajasthan in 1999, and construction of two school buildings, water supply, toilets, etc. in the earthquake area of Gujarat in 2001/2002) and then the villages were selected in a more structured way, beginning in 2001, with Khajjiar in HP.

Apna Gaon 1

2001 Khajjiar, Himachal Pradesh

Located at a height of 6500 feet above sea level. The following work has been 100 % completed:

- Construction of two rooms in high school
- Construction of toilet-cum bath rooms in high school
- Construction of boundary wall of primary school
- Renovation of class rooms of primary school
- Provision of uniforms to 450 students of high school



Room added to the school building - team of workers



Khajjiar: Road to school being paved

- Construct and repair the road from main road to govt. high school



HP Government
pleased with the work
and volunteered to help

- Provide complete bedding to 60 seniors
- A vocational training center in the village
- White washing/painting of the outer portions of the entire houses in the village
- Provide dustbins in the streets of the village as well as lake surroundings
- Construct and repair main streets of the village
- Provide name of the owner and house number plates to all houses
- Construct two water tanks for drinking water
- Tree plantations
- Construct two toilets in primary school
- Provide 20 electric street poles with a provision of electric tubes/bulbs
- Provide school uniforms to 45 children along with shoes and socks to the primary as well as high school students

Apna Gaon 2

2002 Dunera, Punjab

Village with 4500 people, surrounded by 30 smaller villages. The following work has been 94% completed:



Dunera: Primary school students waiting for guests

- ❖ Toilet cum bath room complex at bus stand and installation of water hand pump
- ❖ Construction of welcome gates
- ❖ Distribution of Tulsi and rose plants to each household
- ❖ Repair two rooms in the primary school building
- ❖ Construct toilets in the primary school building
- ❖ Construct one water tank in the primary school
- ❖ Landscaping of school ground and plantation of trees, shrubs and seasonal flower plants
- ❖ White washing of the primary school building
- ❖ Provide school uniforms, school bags, shoes and socks to the students of the primary school
- ❖ Construct and repair the existing approach road of the school and provide safety iron railing on both sides of the road

MP has pledged Rs. 20 lacs for vocational development

- ❖ Construct one room in the Senior Secondary School of the village
- ❖ White wash of the outside portion of houses of the entire village
- ❖ Repair work of streets and also provision of drainage system
- ❖ Cots and bedding given to 50 out of 100 seniors citizens
- ❖ Repair the existing two rooms of the Sr. Sec. School (windows, doors and floor as well as white washing of the entire building)



Dunera: Making base for road

- ✚ Develop school play ground as well as the landscaping
- ✚ Construct one water tank to provide drinking water to the villagers
- ✚ Provide electric streetlights
- ✚ Provide dustbins in the village
- ✚ Vocational training center in the village

Apna Gaon 3 2003 Sunder Nagar, Uttar Pradesh

Approximately 5000 people (900-1000 homes). The following work has been 100% completed:

- Two welcome gates on both sides of the village
- Name plate on each house (name of the owner and house number)
- Electric street light points
- Tailoring center for girls
- Construction of play grounds
- Tulsi and rose plants pots to each house
- Uniforms to students of Govt. primary/middle school
- Cots and beds to senior citizens
- Construction of lanes and sewers lines of the Village



Sunder Nagar: Street before

- ✚ Sanitation both in the houses and streets has improved a great deal. No water stagnation
- ✚ White wash, exterior of the houses.
- ✚ Plant trees, shrubs, grass and different types of seasonable flowers



Sunder Nagar: Street after

- 🌿 Dustbins in the streets to collect garbage
- 🌿 Upgrading of the village pond (retaining wall and landscaping)



Sunder Nagar: Village pond before



Sunder Nagar: Village pond after

- 🌿 Govt. school has also been renovated now by the Govt. itself

**MP from that area
has allocated Rs. 5
lacs for the
development of
school**

- 🌿 Facilities in the previously existing private school have improved a great deal with help from a local philanthropist. There is an auditorium and a mini-stadium. There is also a stitching and sewing school for girls. All children have uniforms. Girls from the surrounding 10 villages come to this school
- 🌿 Vocational center (sewing, medical and coaching center) and reading room especially for the ladies, students and unemployed folks of the village
- 🌿 Improved cremation ground near the village
- 🌿 Upgrading the temple facilities

Apna Gaon 4 2004 Ekhaspur, Andhra Pradesh

Approximately 2000 people. Severe water shortage.

The following work has been 98% completed:

- ✓ 3 water tanks (storing 2000 liters of water) with motors fixed, to ensure water availability round the clock
- ✓ 60 individual toilets
- ✓ 20 tubes fixed for street electric poles for better lighting
- ✓ 200 trees planted
- ✓ Paint exteriors of all houses
- ✓ 5 water soak (recharge) pits to sustain and increase under ground water levels
- ✓ Every house is provided with a plate with house number and the name of the owner
- ✓ Vocational training center. A sewing center with ordinary and 1 fashion maker sewing machine under the guidance of an expert instructor.
- ✓ Twenty ladies are availing this facility. Two

batches have completed the course successfully and living on their own

- ✓ All streets are provided with the names of prominent National/ Spiritual heroes. All such names are prominently displayed at every corner



Eklaspur: Water tank

- ✓ Two culverts are made for proper water drainage, in order to avoid water stagnation



Eklaspur: Tailoring school

- ✓ Welcome arches at the entrance of the village
- ✓ A medical clinic has been established. A qualified doctor from Narayanpet visits clinic twice a week.
- ✓ An average of 20-25 patients are availing the

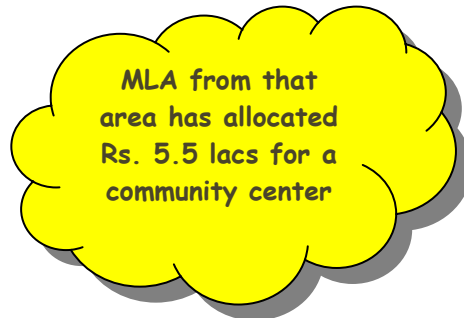
facility

- ✓ A reading room provided with regular Telugu newspapers, spiritual and mythology books
- ✓ Bedding kits containing blankets, bed sheets and spread are provided to 120 seniors
- ✓ Awareness campaign for promoting education and preventing disease



Eklaspur: Road repaired, drainage system to be finished

- ✓ Sanitation has improved both inside and outside the houses
- ✓ Road conditions have improved. Roads are already leveled with *Morum* (red earth). *Pucca* (permanent) roads still to done



MLA from that area has allocated Rs. 5.5 lacs for a community center

- ✓ There are drains on the side of roads. Drains still to be covered with cement slabs
- ✓ A pair of school uniforms, school bags, shoes, socks and 10 notebooks issued to students
- ✓ Additional work has been completed which is not covered under the project:
- ✓ Renovation of two temples and provision of Bhajan kits in each temple
- ✓ Provision of sports kits for youth
- ✓ A community hall to establish clinics, servicing center and other job oriented and income generating activity
- ✓ Construction of check dams for proper utility of water for cultivation

- ✓ Income and employment generating activity

Apna Gaon 5 2005 Mohabbatpur, Haryana

Work started in August 2005. The following work has been 100% completed:

- ✗ Two gates erected
- ✗ 300 trees planted



Mohabbatpur: Street lights and sewing school for ladies

- ✗ Sewing school for women
- ✗ Installed 140 street lights
- ✗ Exteriors of houses painted in uniform colour
- ✗ Name and number plate to each house
- ✗ Tulsi plants in pots given to each house



Mohabbatpur: Construction in progress
(4 different scenes)

- ✗ 300 sweaters to school children
- ✗ 20 beds given to seniors
- ✗ Constructions of public and personal toilets
- ✗ Beautification of ponds
- ✗ Provision of garbage cans
- ✗ Cremation grounds upgraded



Mohabbatpur: Houses painted
(4 different scenes)



Mohabbatpur: Inauguration and other activities
(4 different scenes)

MLA from that area
has allocated Rs.10 lacs
for development in the
village

Based on the experience and success of development in the first five villages (2001-2005), more villages were selected, 5 in 2006, 3 in 2008, 4 in 2010, 10 in 2011 and 2 in 2012. Total picture of development in the villages is as follows:

Year work started	Village	Province	Work completed by Dec31, 12
2001	1. Khajjjar	HP	100%
2002	2. Dunera	PB	94%
2003	3. Sundernagar	UP	100%
2004	4. Ekhaspur	AP	98%
2005	5. Mohabbatpur	Haryana	100%
2006	6. Kaliwas	Rajasthan	100%
	7. Kumbarakoppalu	Karantaka	100%
	8. Ilsoba	WB	59%
	9. Dunge	MA	52%
	10. Lohattbaddi	PB	100%
2008	11. Barnarikola	Assam	44%
	12. Rampur/Gadwal	J & K	95%
	13. Banger	MP	12%
2010	14. Kantabania	Orissa	21%
	15. Champamura	Agartla-Tripura	8%
	16. Annapurna Singhawal	Rajasthan	3%
	17. Dhar	PB	5%
2011	18. Karma Tikar Gulani	Bihar	
	19. Sikanderpur Khurd	UP	
	20. Chandi Raghunathpur	UP	
	21. Mathana	Rajasthan	
	22. Bhiludi	Rajasthan	
	23. Bhojras	Rajasthan	
	24. Kaduma	AP	
	25. Kanki	Chhattisgarh	
	26. Kharoli	Maharashtra	
	27. Katgal	Karnataka	
2012	28. Amawa-Motihari	Bihar	
	29. Barapalla-Nayagarh	Orissa	

So far the funds have been provided by the Jindal Foundation in Ottawa, \$ 50,000 each village, with a commitment to provide \$50,000 per village for each province of India.

Over a dozen families in the National Capital Area in Canada and about 4 families in India have given additional financial help.

Most members of the Indian community outside of India are well off. They can make a big difference in the lives of many in India. This also applies to many families in India.

Notes:

1. Village Mohabbatpur in Haryana was given the President of India award "Nirmal Gram Puraskar" on October 17, 2008 on attaining full sanitation coverage in households, schools, anganwadis and for outstanding contribution in promotion of rural sanitation.

2. A village in Rajasthan about 5 KM from Mohabbatpur is being developed by the villagers themselves without outside help.

3. School in the village Sunder Nagar (UP) is providing education to girls from other villages within about 10 KM distance.

If you wish to help in this project, please contact the undersigned or Bharat Vikas Parishad.

Shiv Jindal Sarita Jindal

5288 Knott Crescent, Ottawa,
Ontario K4M 1C2

Phone (613) 692-2538
sljindal@yahoo.com