

SOCIO-ECONOMIC SURVEY REPORT OF MIRJAPUR (N) VILLAGE
NYALKAL MANDL OF MEDAK DISTRICT

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'N' in Mirjapur (N) stands for 'Nyalkal' as it is a village located in Nyalkal Mandal. It is around 3km away from the mandal headquarter. It is a roadside village on the Metlakunta - Allahdurg road. It is a minor gram panchayat. On its eastern side a hill is there with temple called "Rachanna Temple" on top of it and that hill is called as "Rachanna Gutta". People of that village believe that he is the protector of that village. To its south there is a village called Mungi, and to its north Vanampalli and Tekur villages. All these are in the radius of 3 to 5km from this village.

In this village we can find people belonging to different sections, religions and caste groups. This village has around 800 votes and around 300 households. Though Reddys are less in number, they are dominating the village in all aspects - social, economical and political. As it known that Mr. Bhaskar Reddy and his family is the Sarpanch of the village from the past 30 years. Last time only a SC woman was elected as Sarpanch in SC reservation quota. But this time Mr. Bhaskar Reddy elected unopposed. That is the main reason that all the fertile lands are in their hands and less fertile lands are in the hands of others belonging to lower castes. This village is covered mostly by less fertile soil (Garubu) though there is some presence of black soil (Nalla Regadi). The village has a community hall, Panchayat building and the primary school. The village has Bore well, tap water system and 4 hand bores. As it is a small village weekly village market/shandy won't take place here. The nearest shandies are Nyalkal on Wednesday and Hadnoor on Saturday. Most of people in this village are poor and illiterate. And because of poverty the parents are not sending their children to School.

Those who don't have agricultural lands work as agricultural labourers in others' lands, particularly where irrigation facilities are available. But even this is seasonal. This work is not available round the year. This lack of employment is the important cause of their backwardness and forces them to migrate in search of employment. The payment per day for men is Rs. 40/- and for women Rs. 20/- in agricultural fields. Apart from agricultural people don't have skills in any other work. Youth (who are said to be the pillars of the village) never participate in any activities related to the village. And they don't have any youth association and they become habitual to smoking and playing cards etc., and they won't work and answer in reckless way, as they don't have any work to do. Even environment can be mentioned as one of the reasons that made this village and region backward. This region receives scant rainfall. On the entire stretch to this village we won't find any lakes or ponds. Ground water level is also not up to the mark. Even the Government policies for development are not implemented in this village properly.

The crop patterns that we can seen in this village are:

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| 1. JOWAR (KARIF) | 6. WHITE JOWAR (RABI) |
| 2. BLACK GRAM (KARIF) | 7. SAFFLOWER |
| 3. RED GRAM (KARIF) | 8. CHICK PEA |
| 4. GREEN GRAM (KARIF) | |
| 5. SUGAR CANE (ANNUAL) | |

We can see wheat and paddy in patches where irrigation is available. The staple food of the villagers is rice and jawar.

Once some of the Mirjapur(N) villagers went to Ibrahimpur a neighbouring village to see the improvements in that village and were impressed with what they saw.

After knowing the reason that all this has happened due to women SHG's all the women members formed in to Sanghams and started saving the money in their combined bank A/Cs. With that money

they have taken the land on lease and constructed food security bin and other developmental activities with the help of CEC.

Before forming the Sanghams they faced lot of problems from both inside and outside the family. The village Patel had warned the women not to form as Sanghams. If they form Sanghams they won't give the work to them in their fields. In their houses their family members' especially male members have objected to their women joining Sangham. But even then women stuck to their firm resolve to form the Sangham. Slowly the male members also supported them and the SHG was formed with the support of their family members. In the Sangham all the caste people are involved except Reddy and Balija castes.

After the initiation of the Sangham some more women were inspired to combine with the like-minded women of the village to strengthen the Sangham. The Sangham work started 33 members first by weekly saving of Rs.5/-. This is how the village women group was started. According to the members of the Sangham, "It was like planting saplings in the land where nobody was there to take care. But with intervention of CEC this sapling got good nourishing and now it has become a healthy plant. If this nourishing continues even in future definitely this plant will become a huge tree giving shade to others".

At present there are four groups in the village. They are Goutami, Vennela, Malle, Tulja Bhavani mahila sanghams. Two groups are from Mala caste one from Madiga and other from BC caste. These are formed at the initiative of the CEC. Their intervention in this village started in 1994. Before that they held a brainstorming session with the village women. As a result of this exercise they are able to convince a few people to form into group/sangham. For CEC beginning days during the first 2 years proved to be difficult. Holding this group together/united posed a big challenge. That critical days working with members were really "hard nut to crack" as it was time for CEC to win their confidence. After this tough days, particularly after 1997 the work of the group was streamlined and from then onwards there is no looking back. Both the group members and CEC staff gained mutual confidence. With mutual co-operation many developmental activities were taken up in this village. Bringing the fallow lands of the group members under cultivation again with the involvement of the group members was one of the important activities taken up by the CEC after winning the confidence of the group members.

Fallow lands are, those lands which have the potentials for cultivating the crops, but are not being cultivated

Diesel per one litre it is 50/-. With this they took up the step to cultivate dry and fallow land in this village. In the year 1999 they have tilled 100 acres under the fallow land redevelopment programme, in the year 2000 they have tilled 110 acres and in the year 2001 they have tilled 55 acres. Initially tractors were used to plough the fallow lands as land has become hard. After depending on availability either bullock drawn ploughs or tractors were employed. The expenditure incurred for this purpose was borne by CEC. The same was recovered from the members in the shape of grain after harvesting on easy installments. There were also instances where the members are delaying repayments. In case of crop failure CEC was liberal while collecting them.

LAND LEASE: This is the programme in which land will be taken on lease for the stipulated period from land owner for some amount. After completion of that period according to the agreement the landowner will refund the money and SHG's has to surrender the land to him/her. The interest on the money given to the land owner is treated as the lease payment.

In the year 1999 they have taken 9 acres of agricultural land near Talepally for land lease for 28,000/- for the period of 4 years. And this amount was also given by CEC and this money was collected in installments from the members after harvest of the crop. In these lands they have cultivated Jawar, Green gram and other rainfed crops.

In the first year they got a yield of 11 bags of jawar in Rabi and 2 bags of greengram and 6 bags of jawar in Karif. Green gram has been sold, and Jawar is distributed among the members.

Again in the year 2000, 13 acres are taken for land lease near Mungi that is fertile for 1,50,000/- for the period of 5 years. Here 1,10,000/- was contributed by CEC and remaining 40,000/- was given by SHG through their savings. In the first year they got 14 bags of Jowar and this was distributed among the group members.

Food grain storage bin is another component of the food security programme taken up in this village with the participation of the Sangham members. This activity was taken by CEC in collaboration with IGMRI (Rajendra Nagar) in year 1999. They completed the construction of the bin in a year time with the cost of 30,000/- to 35,000/- with storage capacity of 113 tonnes for Jowar in the year 2000. The SHG have stored 69 quintals of Jowar which was produced in the lands of their own and also in the lands taken on lease. Again in the year 2001 they have stored 54 quintal of Jawar in the Bin.

The other important activity that was taken by CEC is Milch animal distribution to SHG members to improve the economic conditions. Through this programme they have distributed 5 milch animals to 5 members in 2000 and again in 2001 they have distributed 10 animals in that village and the beneficiaries has to repay the cost of the animal in installments of Rs. 500/- per month and this repayment has to be completed in a year.

SOLAR LIGHT DISTRIBUTION: - They have implemented this programme with the collaboration of UNDP to use renewable energy through solar power. These lights can be taken even to their fields. These lights are given on subsidy to SHG members. Under this scheme 3 lamps were given in October 2001 and again 5 in November 2001. The beneficiaries have to repay the money in installments of Rs. 30/- per month for two years. This goes towards maintenance charge and for battery. By using this lamp the members can save money which they have to pay for electricity to some extent.

After knowing that SHG members are losing lot of their harvested grain to others for threshing. The CEC has given a "Thresher Machines" to the village women's Sangham. They can save the food grains and also they can hire this machine out to others and they can get food grains from other as returns for hiring. CEC appointed 3 staff members to look after these activities and collect the installments and guiding the members to take the right direction and passing the latest information and policies of the organisation.

All the SHG members regularly participate in the meetings held every week. Every week two members of the Sangham participate in the meetings held in Nyalkal on Mondays with the representatives of the women's sanghams of the other villages where CEC is working. In this meeting they discuss among themselves and also with CEC staff for improving or implementing other activities and paying back the installments to the Bank. They discuss the complaints and problems that they are facing in the respective villages. And sought out the solutions for those and accordingly decisions are taken in this meeting. For the people who come to the weekly meetings at Mandal level are given refreshment and travel expenses. Apart from this they will be given Rs. 25 towards wagw foregone as they came to this meeting leaving the work.

Apart from this Mirzapur (N) group leaders conduct weekly meeting with all the group members at village level and inform them about their SHG's position, economically, socially and politically with latest information from the weekly and monthly meetings held at Nyalkal and other places to all the members.

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