

COMPREHENSIVE VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR
KOTTAIYUR VILLAGE PANCHAYAT, KRISHNAGIRI DISTRICT,
TAMILNADU

C.Ajay Sharma MA
Development Administration

Background of the Article

Social or community mobilisation, situation analysis, problem and needs analysis, resource envelope are important stages of planning process. Based on the guidelines for preparation of Village Development Plan, this study has made an attempt and prepared a suggestive model plan for the socio-economic development he people in the study region.

The model presented here is designed to use the resource endowments existing in the form of social, traditional, cultural and economic dimension of the rural society and seeks to enable the region to build upon them to generate resources and used for well being of the rural community. This particular research initiative focused to develop the village through preparation of 'Village Development Plan (VDP)' ensuring holistic and integrated development of the village. This would include economic development, infrastructure development and other aspects of human development i.e., education, health, drinking water supply, etc., besides access to credit. For a holistic and integrated development of a village through synergy and convergence, involvement of various agencies such as Government departments, Panchayati Raj Institutions, Banks, NGOs and other Peoples' Organisations and developmental agencies is considered imperative.

1. Situation Analysis about the study region

Kottaiur is a multi-caste village having majority belong to SC & ST category. It is an agriculture village consists of small and marginal farmers in large number. Since, irrigation source is getting depleted within the short span of time due to high slope terrain of the topography, farmers rely only on rainfed farming and few are using ground water through bore well for raising off-seasonal cultivation. Crop failure is a serious concern which leads to unemployment and underemployment.

These villages still face constraints such as access to education, health facilities, drinking water, power, roads, credit, information and market. Unfortunately, with adequate representation and agitation by these people to the government could not get any document on their identity and belongingness in the state. Since, they encroached the forest land, the state government unable to give land titles. In the process of civilization, some people have constructed decent houses on unofficial locations without any permission from the local authority or state government. Due to lack of identity documents and non-possession of land titles, majority of the families could not get access to the government benefits and unable to become beneficiaries of any state or central government schemes. They find very difficult even in obtaining community certificate for their children for higher studies. The government also hesitate to create public amenities due to this region comes under wild life category which will disturb the nature and wild life.

Being this region wild life protected area, significant population of elephants are living very closure to the human settlements, which will be a threat to the people and always live in fear. Many cases of Elephant killing the human beings reported and it became common instances to the locals. Their crops are also damaged by these elephants periodically. The high agriculture input cost does not fetch profit from the cultivation. Due to lack of land titles, agriculture schemes and subsidies on inputs are not reaching the poor people.

The topography, high and peak slopes of the region creates a number of havocs like land sliding, soil erosion and dilapidation of houses often during the rainy season. Even getting high range of rains, people face acute drinking water scarcity due to run off water to the lower level and ground water level has dried. Water harvesting structures around the habitations may address the issue of water conservation but government is not interested to construct watershed structures, even digging bore wells are prohibited due to the nature of mountains and for protection of wild life. Non-availability of full-fledged hospital also a major problem where a number of accidental deaths reports and people find difficulties in treating emergency cases. The patients have to travel more than 60 kms to admit in better hospitals. Travelling in the hilly roads takes more than 3 hours to reach the hospital. Therefore a number of deaths during travel were reported. High rate of school dropouts or discontinuations of higher studies especially among girls are due to non-availability of jobs, this situation prevents girls studies. As connectivity is very poor, development takes place very slow and people are living in very poor socio economic condition and finding no alternatives for the betterment of living conditions.

During the process of data collection FGDs were conducted in each hamlets and consolidated findings are reported below.

2. Specific Issues Discussed in the Gram Sabha and suggestions arrived

1. Construction of new water harvesting structures
2. Strengthening of village tank and repair of waterways
3. Repair of village approach road
4. Construction and maintenance of drainage
5. Supply of drinking water by construction of Over Head Tank (OHD)
6. Renovation of Anganwadi and school buildings
7. Slower replacement of electricity with solar power at home as well as in agri field
8. Establishment of solar street lights
9. Plantation on the common land
10. Conduct of awareness training / camps in health and sanitation, personal hygiene, education, child birth and kitchen garden.
11. Conduct of awareness training / camps on government programmes, entitlements, procedures to avail.
12. Participation in village planning and other decision making in the panchayat.
13. Facilitation of PRA and household survey
14. Establishment of village health monitoring system
15. Improvement of educational status

3. Proposed Strategies in the FGDs

1. Series of counselling for changing the attitude of people for construction and use of individual or community toilets.
2. Efforts on Construction of community toilets and exploring possibility of bio-gas production through human excreta generated from community toilet.
3. Efforts to lay link road through MGNREGS and BRGP. Construction of houses for real needy families through IAY and state housing scheme.
4. Finding alternative employment to women through capacity building through SGSY/NREGS.
5. Encouraging panchayat administration to strengthen the delivery of basic services and people participation for ownership and management.
6. Imparting training to village people to effectively participate in Gram Sabha meetings to share and demand the right based entitlements.

7. Conduct of motivational programmes and capacity building sessions for village youth for proper settlement.
8. Construction of common library for awareness building and entertaining village youth and aged.
9. Finding suitable ways and means for augmentation and supply of water suitable to drink.

10. Adoption of self responsibility to make clean village.
11. Character building for young generation through various motivational programmes like prize money for better performing children, encouragement of sports and recreational activities for present peace and future development.
12. Linking of local institutions and government sectoral officials through their departmental schemes.
13. Plantations in the community lands as well as individual lands to protect environment and mutual benefits.
14. Construction of community hall focusing on multipurpose usage like accommodating social ceremonies and official meeting.
15. Motivating to develop savings behavior among village people and review the status of credit delivery for development activities and strengthening of livelihoods.
16. Encouraging people participation, contribution, involvement in the planning, implementation and monitoring of development schemes of both central and governments as well as own programmes.

5.5. Suggestive Plan of Action for development			
	Existing problems in the village	Suggestive activities under plan	Sources of Fund
I	Human Development		
	A. Education		
	<p>a. Lack of Motivation and Negative Attitude towards Education : Being majority are very poor, they feel education is waste of time due to inability to get employment in the competitive and corruptive situation. Especially for girl children, finding marriage partner is a difficult task due to non-availability of educated males in their community.</p> <p>b. Poor Quality of education and care at the Anganvadi: The village has an Anganwadi and one Primary School run by the state government. Due to poor quality of education many families not sending their children to the school. Educational status of the village is very poor, nobody is working in any government departments.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Awareness camp, Monthly visit by Anganwadi Workers and SHG leaders to every household for developing awareness of mothers on early childhood care & education. With special focus on children under 6 years with special needs. 2. Motivational initiatives for attitudinal change to continue the primary and upper-primary education with drop-out children and their parents for bringing them back to school. Additional coaching support to the poor learners for their retention in primary and upper-primary education. 3. Periodical meeting with teachers, Parents, community members and other stakeholders on quality education and their respective roles 4. Encouraging children and government institutions for tree plantation, cleaning classrooms etc. for interest of children for going to school. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Sarv Siksha Abiyan and 2.State Schemes 3.ST Welfare Funds 4.Panchayat General Fund 5.Community Initiatives

<p>c. Low Literacy Rate : The literacy rate of the population in these villages is for males 40.1% and for females only 16.4%. It is reported that, even among the educated, the majority have completed only up to primary level knowing only read and write.</p> <p>d. School Dropouts: Majority of the children becoming dropped-out after primary or upper primary.</p> <p>e. Distant Location of Higher study Institutions: For continuation of higher school education, the children have to travel 10 KMs to main village. Still around 60 KMs have to travel to attend college education. This prevents parents to send their children to higher studies.</p> <p>f. Tendency of Non-Availability of employment for educated : A good number youth population is being idle due to non-availability</p>	<p>13. Encouraging to organise cultural programme, essay and quiz competition to improve the quality of education and provision of prize to few girls and boys for regular attendance.</p> <p>14. Awareness camp with guardians, teachers, community members and SHG leaders on the importance of female literacy, relevant government programmes and ensuring its quality</p> <p>15. Introduction of physical education in primary schools</p> <p>16. Fencing around the boundary of primary schools with community initiative and contribution</p> <p>17. Support for special literacy camps by SHGs with their own initiative</p> <p>18. Necessary assistance to the Literacy / Post-literacy / Continuing Education Centre for proper functioning with the objective of covering everybody under the fold of education</p>	
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	of employment opportunities		
II	Health & Family Welfare, Public Health & Nutrition		
	<p>a. <i>Less Nutrition and Poor Health</i> : It is found all most all people affected with one or the other disease due to lack of adequate nutritional food intake. Being living in poor conditions and un-protective living conditions, people are exposure to all kinds of seasonal diseases. Lack of awareness and knowledge on the need for nutritional foods many people die at the early age or living in morbid conditions.</p> <p>b. <i>Anaemia</i> : This village is having higher percentage of Anaemic conditions almost all the members of the surveyed households are</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is essential to organise awareness camps with Health workers, Anganwadi workers, midwives, SHG members and community members on importance of Health & Family Welfare, Nutrition and Public Health issues 2. Organise awareness camps on mother & child care issues and nutritional aspects with pregnant women and mothers of 0-2 year children on pre-natal and post-natal care, timely birth and death registration etc. 3. Sensitisation of parents on immunization and regular course of Vitamin A for all children 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.ICDS, 2.NRHM, 3.Swacha Bharath, 4.State Health Schemes, 5.National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) 6.National Food Security Mission (NFSM)

	<p>having this problem. it is a condition in which the hemoglobin level is below normal and insufficient to meet physiologic needs. One of the most common causes of anemia is due to inadequate supply of nutrients. Poor eating habits play a major role in the development of iron deficiency anemia that is an important indicator of poor health status. Children and adolescent are at increased risk of developing iron deficiency anemia because of their increased demand for iron during growth and puberty.</p> <p>c. Lack of Sanitation : Open defecation is a major issue in these habitations. Generation to generation, people accustom to go defecation in the open field or road side, which create unwanted health issues and environmental problems. Ladies find much difficulty in the day time, hence they prefer to go during night and face with incidents like snake and other</p>	<p>and on birth weight of children and regular attendance in AWCs.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Advocating for developing kitchen garden for balanced diet. Supply of fruit saplings to each household to get adequate nutritional supply and improve the health. 5. Imparting knowledge on sanitation, smokeless chulla, drainage system through wall writing and folk songs on different issues of Health & Family Welfare, Nutrition and Public Health issues including safe drinking water, sanitation, hand-washing etc. 6. Construction of toilets to each households and education on the evils of open defecation and the health benefits of having sanitation facility at every household. 7. Regular health camps with initiative from SHGs on birth control and family planning measures, 	
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	<p>piousness insects biting. Out of 80 houses only around 15 (PMAY) families constructed the toilets, even those are not in use. Even though, it is a fatal issue, nobody considered its necessity due to lack of awareness on the intensity of the issue.</p> <p>d. Drinking Water : The study hamlets find most acute situation in getting drinking water. Because of the scarcely located houses and distant location of the habitations from the main revenue village, these habitations get least importance even for getting drinking water. The village panchayat made little effort in installing Hand Pumps, those also dried-up due to high altitude, continuous drought and lack of maintenance. Presently, nearby, a private temple has a bore well which allow the villages to fetch water with limited timings and quantity. During summer, getting drinking water still worse and face problem for their domestic animals.</p>	<p>eradication of superstitions, construction and usage of sanitary latrine, etc.</p> <p>8. Initiative by the village panchayat for ensuring access to safe drinking water by construction of sources of safe and regular supply and access.</p> <p>9. Awareness camp on environmental upgradation, maintenance of bio-diversity etc.</p>	
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	<p>e. Drainage : Drainages were not constructed for streets without proper linkage and lack of plan for maintenance and management causing to water stagnation and mosquitoes breeding.</p>		
<p>III</p>	<p>Women & Child Development</p>		
	<p>i. Less Priority to women and girl child : It is observed, in the study area, women are considered as secondary citizens. All the household decisions and economic power are vested with the men. The women were put more burdened with household chores, child care, attending farm work, taking care of animal husbandry and going for wage work. It severely affects the health, individual liberty, child marriage and maternal death.</p> <p>ii. Lack of Women Groups / SHG In these villages, people were not remember on whether they were formed in to SHGs under</p>	<p>48. Awareness camp on discrimination against girl children and women, on legal rights of women for their empowerment and eradication of gender discrimination and against child marriage. Making women aware on the availability of government schemes meant for them, procedures to avail and benefits of the schemes to attain social and economic liberty of women.</p> <p>49. Special awareness camp on SHG formation and initiative to bring all poor women in SHGs</p> <p>50. Special assistance to distressed and deprived</p>	<p>1.ICDS, 2.NRHM, 3.Swacha Bharath, 4.State Health Schemes, 5.Deen Dayal Upadhyaya – Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) (Skill Development) 6. National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) (SHG) 7. Deen Dayal</p>

	<p>SGSY/NRLM but officials confirms on the formation of SHGs. The SHGs were defunct or inactive due to lack of proper guidance and awareness coupled with illiteracy. Their attempts on linking with banks for availing financial assistances were failure because of irregular behavior of members, lack of group coherence and non-fulfilling required performance ability.</p> <p>Child Marriage : Child marriage in the study area has been a major problem especially among girl children, with children married off before their physical and mental maturity before attaining of 18 years of age. Most of the girls who are married before 18 year are facing pregnancy problems and there were death cases reported.</p>	<p>women for providing them with social security and livelihoods support</p> <p>51. Special awareness camps with adolescent girls and young ladies on gender discrimination and women’s empowerment</p> <p>52. Special skill development training and necessary assistance to distressed and marginalised women and families having child labours for their social security and livelihoods enhancement</p> <p>53. Activation or formation of SHGs with financial support for their economic development. Skill development training to those SHG members who remain out of assistance under any regular programme</p>	<p>Antayodaya Yojana (DAY-NRLM)</p> <p>8.Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) (Free Gas)</p> <p>9.National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)</p>

IV	Livelihood Development		
	<p>a. Agriculture Development : Due to acute drought, high slope and up and down topographical terrain of land cultivation is not conducive for profit making. Majority of them are marginal farmers cultivate rainfed crops like finger millet and some varieties of pulses. Due to high cost of agricultural inputs, the cropping pattern has changed to seasonal agriculture i.e. during rainy season vegetable cultivation followed by fodder crops for animals. Failures and less profit in cultivation, majority farmers started animal husbandry practices as main source of income through dairy activities and goat rearing by landless households. Even in the dairy activity, due to lack of demand for milk, they are exploited by the private purchasers. Agriculture is not profit oriented but only subsistence in nature.</p>	<p>62. Treatment and reclamation of undulating land for soil & water conservation</p> <p>63. Sensitisation of farmers on crop rotation, improvement in soil quality, maximum return, optimum land utilisation etc.</p> <p>64. Training of selected farmers on high yielding good quality seeds and storage at local level for increased production & productivity and assurance of good quality of seeds.</p> <p>65. Demonstration of alternative crops like oil seeds, pulses, vegetables and other forestry based cash crops in the fields of poor and marginalised farmers for popularising these crops and improvement in their economic conditions.</p> <p>66. Interactive session with extension workers of Agriculture, Horticulture, Fisheries and Forest</p>	<p>1.(PMKSY) - Integrated Watershed Management Programme</p> <p>2.Surface Minor Irrigation Scheme</p> <p>3.Soil Health Card (SHC)</p> <p>4.Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) Agriculture</p> <p>.5.Deen Dayal Upadhyaya – Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) (Skill Development)</p> <p>6.National Rural Livelihood Mission</p>

	<p>b. Under employment and unemployment : More concentration of agricultural labourers and very less land holding cause to the problems of underemployment and unemployment, it is acute during agriculture slack season.</p> <p>c. High level of Poverty: More than 90% of people live below the poverty line. Landlessness, non-profit agriculture, exploitation in subsidiary occupation, non-availability of alternative livelihood source, unreach of government livelihood activities, lack of vocational skills make majority households to live in cyclical and perennial poverty. Service of PDS is the only life saving scheme by the government, which feeds almost all the families throughout the year.</p>	<p>Departments working at Block/GP level and progressive farmers on introduction and dissemination of new varieties and alternative practices for improvement in the livelihood opportunities of the poor.</p> <p>67. Effective implementation of MGNREGS during summer and exploring alternative employment through linking government schemes may address the problem.</p> <p>68. Training to an SHG on soil testing and providing necessary support for procurement of soil testing machinery for improved agricultural practices and expansion of their livelihood opportunities</p> <p>8. Hand-holding training on mushroom cultivation, vermi-compost culture etc. and marketing and other necessary support to SHGs formed by</p>	<p>(NRLM) (SHG) 7.MGNREGS 8.Deen Dayal Antayodaya Yojana (DAY-NRLM)</p>
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	<p>d. Lack of Capital/Financial Assistance Lack of Own Capital and skills they could not interested in taking of small business as alternative, possibility of mobilization of credit is almost nil from formal financial institutions as far as this village is concerned. More than 90% of people do not aware about the banking services, it hurdled the reach of bank loan linked government entrepreneurship related programmes. Even NRLM could not reach even less than 10% of households. Even now village moneylenders play vital role in meeting the local credit requirements. They collect high rate of interest, which further lead poor people the dept trap.</p> <p>e. Land Ownership and Title : Since, they encroached the forest land, the state government unable to give land titles. In the process of civilization, some people have constructed decent houses on unofficial locations without any permission from the</p>	<p>representatives from poor and marginalised families for their economic development and enhancement of livelihood options.</p> <p>70. Awareness camp with the villagers on watershed development for optimum utilisation of natural resources including soil conservation, water conservation, vegetative cover etc. Water harvesting structures around the habitations may address the issue of water conservation but government is not interested to construct watershed structures, even digging bore wells are prohibited due to the nature of mountains and for protection of wild life.</p> <p>71. Awareness camp on processing of on-farm and off-farm products for preservation and arresting of distressed sale and enhancement of livelihood options</p> <p>72. Awareness camp on artificial insemination and raring of good quality milching cows as a livelihood option and awareness raising on</p>	
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	<p>local authority or state government. Due to lack of identity documents and non-possession of land titles, majority of the families could not get access to the government benefits and unable to become beneficiaries of any state or central government schemes. They find very difficult even in obtaining community certificate for their children for higher studies. The government also hesitate to create public amenities due to this region comes under wild life.</p> <p>f. Man and wildlife Conflict : Being this region forest area, significant population of elephants are living very closure to the human settlements, which will be a threat to the people and always live in fear. Many cases of Elephant killing the human beings reported and it became common instances to the locals. Their crops are also damaged by these elephants periodically.</p>	<p>regular vaccination for animal resource development.</p> <p>73. Awareness camp for covering all domestic animals under insurance policy to mitigate risks in animal resource development</p> <p>74. Demonstration plots on fodder cultivation and FGD with farmers on relevant issues</p> <p>75. Training on rearing of new and improved varieties of animal (rabbits, goats, ducks etc.) and providing support to a few poor farmers for popularising this as a new livelihood option</p> <p>76. Development of pasture with community initiative for fodder security of animals</p> <p>77. Providing financial assistance and other support to SHGs against specific proposal for starting of processing of minor forest produces for expansion of livelihood opportunities</p>	
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	<p>g. Low Productivity and less profit of Agriculture : The high agriculture input cost does not fetch profit from the cultivation. The people are living in hand to mouth situation. Due to lack of land titles, agriculture schemes and subsidies on inputs are not reaching the poor people but labelled as rich.</p> <p>h. Lack of Assured Irrigation and depleted ground Water : The topography, high and peak slopes of the region creates a number of havocs like land sliding, soil erosion and run-off rain water. Even getting high range of rains, people face acute water scarcity due to run off water to the lower level and ground water level has getting dried.</p>	<p>78. Development and expansion of rural marketing infrastructure and support for economic and infrastructural development of the area</p>	
IV	Infrastructure		

<p>a. Sources of Drinking Water : Not available</p> <p>b. Road : It has no connectivity with outside villages and urban centres. Only internal roads have to be linked with village expansion area and to the occupational regions.</p> <p>c. Drainage : Drainages were not constructed for streets due to without proper linkage and lack of plan for maintenance and management causing to water stagnation and mosquitoes breeding.</p> <p>d. Electricity : Except few houses, no electrification is available in these villages. Even delay in replacement of non-functioning street lights creates havoc for many weeks.</p> <p>e. Housing : More than 80% of the houses are thatched roof with mud walls, around 10% are only pucca houses which were recently built through IAY housing scheme. Majority of the houses are single room occupancy in nature, no privacy for adults due to lack of space for expansion of house or village as a whole.</p>	<p>120. Drilling of borewells with electric pumping mechanism and installation of hand pumps to each habitation.</p> <p>121. Construction, repair or maintenance of roads, culverts, bridges, home pipes for improving communication</p> <p>122. Development and expansion of haats/markets for improvement of marketing facilities so that producers get due price for their products</p> <p>123. Necessary assistance for construction or repair of houses of the poor and distressed people. Construction, repair or maintenance of community centre with community initiative and contribution for holding meetings on different social and developmental issues and organising social & cultural programmes at ward level</p> <p>124. Repair and maintenance of water bodies with community initiative for controlling flood</p>	<p>1.State Finance Commission (SFC)</p> <p>2. Central Finance Commission (CFC)</p> <p>3.State Infra Scheme</p> <p>4.National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP)</p> <p>5. Swacha Bharat Mission</p> <p>6.Rajeevgandhi Vidhuthkaran Yojana (Electricity)</p> <p>7.Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (Housing)</p>
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	<p>f. Non availability of community hall</p>	<p>125. Arrangement of street lights in areas where there is no such facility from the nearby houses</p> <p>126. Construction and repair and maintenance of necessary infrastructure for revival of rural industries and expansion of livelihood opportunities</p> <p>127. Awareness camps with CBOs like youth clubs, SHGs, farmers' clubs etc. for their active involvement in the development process</p>	
V	Social Security		
	<p>Lack of Government support to the Aged, differently challenged and other needy in the study regions</p>	<p>1. Mediation for credit opportunities from credit institutions in favour of the poor belonging to SC, ST, Minority and other Backward Classes.</p> <p>2. Special initiatives to ensure timely release of grants under different pension and welfare</p>	<p>1. National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) (Pension)</p> <p>2. Various Tmailnadu AMMA Schemes</p>

		<p>schemes in favour of the poor</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">3. Awareness camp with the local institutions for empowerment and voice articulation of the poor, particularly women, specially those belonging to the deprived and marginalised sections and support to them for involvement in the development and planning process4. Special support to poor and extremely distressed persons for subsistence and social security5. Special support to elderly persons to ensure old age pensions, housing and other necessary facilities.	
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6.CONCLUSION

In India discussions and action on development are placing more emphasis on good governance and democratic institutions. Good democratic governance, fully accountable to people and providing opportunities for all the people to participate effectively in all debates and decisions that affect their lives alone can respond effectively to the needs of poor people for better living. Local governing institutions are granted constitutional legality as Local Government bodies responsible for socio- economic development in the rural areas. There are 29 subjects for which the *panchayat* is responsible with the help of Standing Committees to cover all subjects. The Gram Sabha acts as a community level accountability mechanism to ensure the functions of the PRI respond to people's needs. To strengthen the status of preparation of Panchayat Development plan requires motivation and Leadership, attitudes towards development and continuous Capacity building for elected representatives. Suitable administrative mechanism with Technical efficiency in collection digitalisation and management of data are also important to prepare development plans. Thought of comprehensive development and visionistic approach for planning needs extensive orientation and expertise support. Inactive working groups need to be vibrated through verities of trainings. Therefore, the Village Panchayat along with sectoral department has to make adequate effort to implement the proposed plan for the all round development of the villages and their people.