Shetpally village report

A study of village under Nizamabad district (Telangana) using PRA techniques

By,

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Executive summary

As a part of foundation course, PRA (Participatory rural appraisal) is an important component of the overall training of a civil servant. We were fortunate enough to study the village of Shetpally, in Lingampet mandal of Nizamabad district during our 5 days stay at the village. Several PLA (Participatory learning & action plan) technique were used during the study such as Transect walk, Resource mapping, Social mapping, Timeline exercise, Ranking & scoring, Chapati diagram & Seasonality exercise etc. to understand the social, cultural & economic aspects of the village and also to sensitise oneself to the rural way of life.

The team did a series of activity to generate primary data through these PLA tools and also collected secondary data provided by the village & mandal administration (example MGNREGA, Housing, School enrolment etc.). These data were analysed to understand the socio-economic profile of the village and to identify problem areas.

 In conclusion some action points were generated which were presented to the village & district administration for further action hoping for improvement in the living standards of the villagers. Some of the recommendations given are reducing water wastage through application of taps in bore wells & house supply pipes, controlling the monkey menace by application of solar fencing in farmlands, resumption of the irrigation canal construction, exposing & training the women SHGs towards various income generating activities like paper plate making, embroidery work, poultry farming etc.

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A brief profile of Shetpally

Shetpally is a village in Lingampet mandal in Nizamabad district belonging to Telangana region. Located 55 KM towards South from District head quarters Nizamabad, Shetpally is surrounded by Yellareddy Mandal towards west, Tadwai Mandal towards East, Gandhari Mandal towards North and Nagireddypet Mandal towards South. Kamareddy, Medak, Nizamabad , Bodhan are the nearby Cities to Shetpally.

Situated at an elevation of 528 meters above mean sea level, Shetpally village is a plain area without much topographical intricacies. The general slope is towards North North East bounded by a local river draining into Pocharam dam. The edaphic nature is characterised by black soil at riverine regions which slowly gives way to red soil towards village side. The natural vegetation mostly consists of moist deciduous, dry deciduous and tropical thorn type.

Total population (as per 2011 census) of Shetpally is 2574 .Males are 1228 and Females are 1,346 living in 629 Houses. Telegu is the locally spoken language though few also converse in Hindi. The village predominantly consists of Backward castes followed by Scheduled castes and Scheduled tribes. The Muslim population of the village has witnessed a gradual decline due to out migration.

Transect Walk – Shetpally (South to North)

Transect Walk – Shetpally

	PASSAGE	MAIN SETTLEMENTS	FIELDS	RIVER
1) Gradient	Uneven / flat / raised – Higher than other parts of the village	Flat / Gently sloping	Flat	Lowest
2) Soil	Dry ; Red Soil	Dry ; Mostly red soil	Red Soil gen gradually giving way to Black soil	Sandy
3) Vegetation	Dry Deciduous (Neem, Palash, Peepal) Thorny (Babool, Acacia)	Same	Rice, Sugarcane, Maize, vegetables	—
4) Land use	Collection Centre etc.	Residential, Institutional, Rice mill, Temple etc.	Agriculture	—
5) Problems		Sanitation, Wastage of water, Health issues	Rainfed, overuse of borewells	—

TIMELINE

[Shetpally Village,
Lingampet,Nizamabad]

Date: 02/10/2014
Participants: Shri Malla Reddy and
other elders of the village.

YEAR	SIGNIFICANT EVENTS
Pre 1947	Shetpally is a pre-independence settlement. Its nomenclature comes from the word 'Chettu' meaning tree. [CHETTU -> SHETTU -> SHETPALLY]
1904	Oldest temple of the village gets constructed.
1948	Primary School starts in a private house.
1964	Establishment of Gram Panchayat.
1968	First Graduate from Shetpally village.
1974	Electrification of village. First telephone in adjoining village.
1980	First person to get a government employment (Rajaiya Reddy in Police Dept)
1982	Fair Price Shop established under PDS
1985	First borewell. Road to Lingampet.
1986	Post office opened.
1987	Forest office opened.
1989	Aanganwadi started.
1990	First Registered Medical Practitioner in the village.
1991	Bus transport started. Water tank constructed. First TV in the village.
1992	First two wheeler vehicle in village.
1998	First wired telephone connectivity. First four wheeler vehicle in village.
2001	Mahila Sangam started. Concrete roads start getting laid inside village.
2004	Primary school upgraded to Higher Secondary school.
2005	First Xerox machine in village.
2010	First private health clinic in village.
2012	IOB mini bank opens.
2014	MeeSewa Kendra opens.

Resource Map:

As a part of participatory learning action plan approach, the first exercise undertaken after completing the transect walk was the resource mapping of Shetpally village. Our team with the help of local functionaries invited a group of villagers for identifying the physical, social and institutional resources of the village.
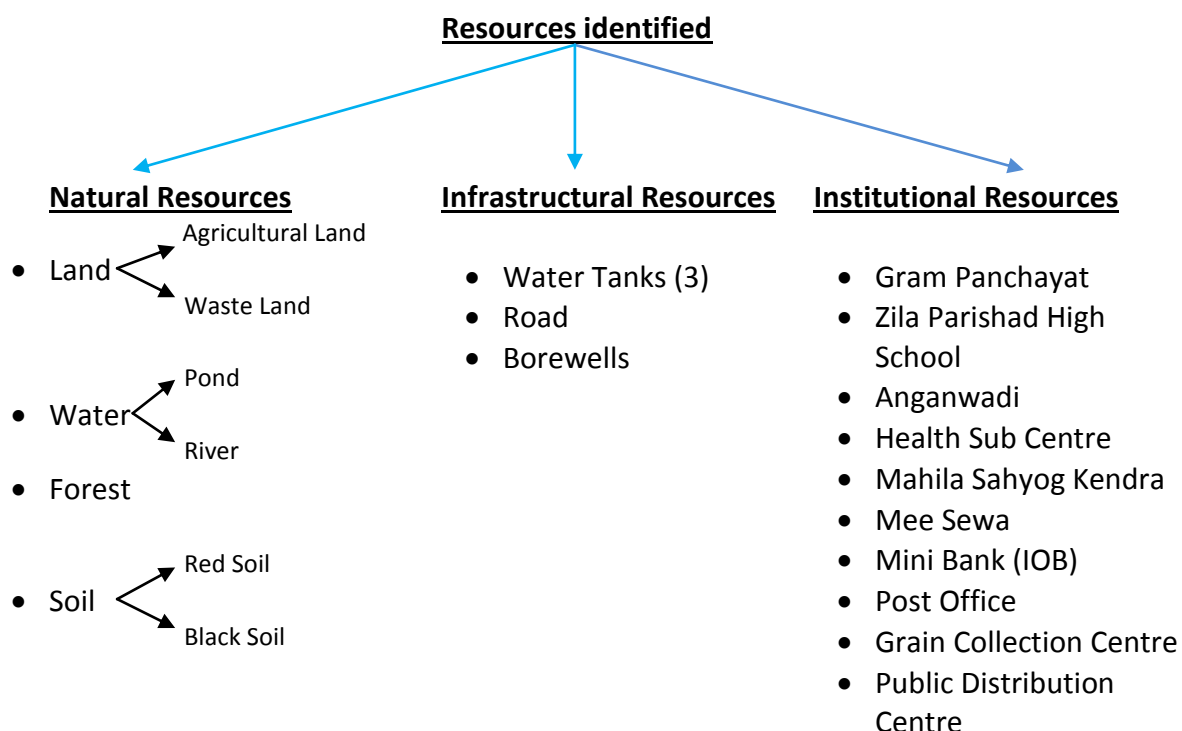
Participants: After initial hesitation the resource mapping exercise had an active participation from Women, Men, Anganwadi workers, Aasha worker, School going children and panchayat functionaries.

Process: After giving an initial reference point (Gram Panchayat) people were invited to plot on the ground the village resources using basic tools like sticks, rangoli etc.

Fig. Resource Mapping - Shetpally

Outcome: The exercise led to the identification of following three types of resources:

Resources identified

Natural Resources
- Land → Agricultural Land, Waste Land
- Water → Pond, River
- Forest
- Soil → Red Soil, Black Soil

Infrastructural Resources
- Water Tanks (3)
- Road
- Borewells

Institutional Resources
- Gram Panchayat
- Zila Parishad High School
- Anganwadi
- Health Sub Centre
- Mahila Sahyog Kendra
- Mee Sewa
- Mini Bank (IOB)
- Post Office
- Grain Collection Centre
- Public Distribution Centre

Fig: Resource map as drawn on ground
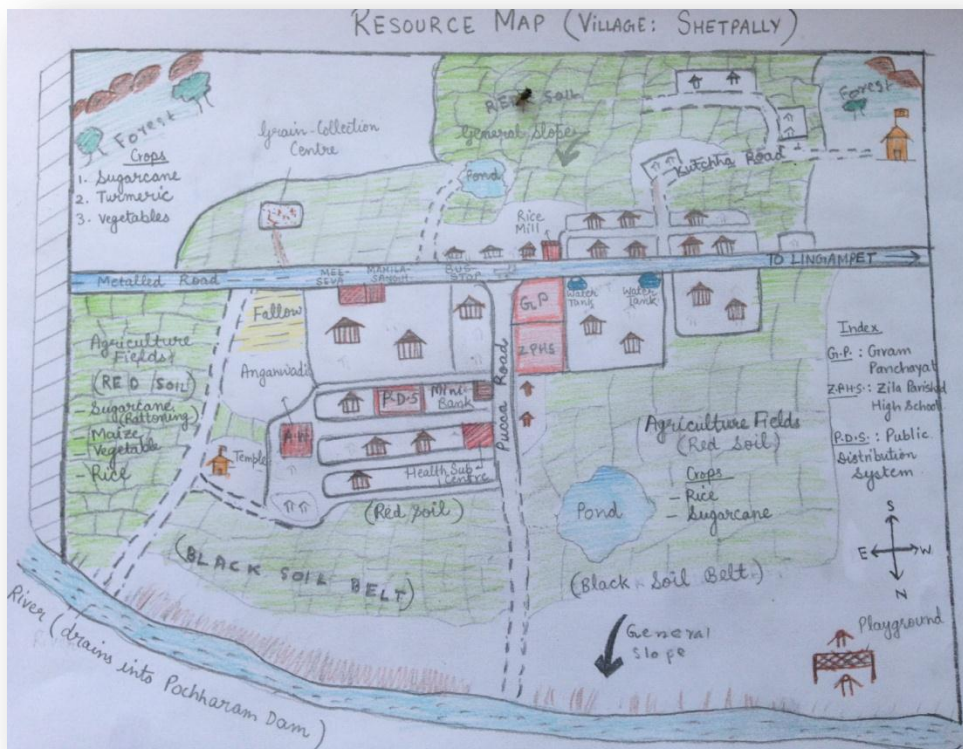
Fig: Resource map as translated on to paper

Observations:

1. **Land:** An analysis of the resource map vis-a-vis the observations during the transect walk shows that land is an absolute scarce resource in Shetpally. With no further possible expansion of agricultural land use, redistribution of land to the landless poor (mostly SCs and the STs) remains a challenge. As a result the landownership continues to be skewed.

2. **Water:** Primary source of drinking as well as water used for irrigation (other than monsoonal rains) are the bore-wells. Due to excessive dependence on ground water the water-table fluctuates with season posing dangers of crop failure.

3. **Forest:** Forest resources are at the fringe areas of the village. The natural vegetation ranges from moist deciduous to dry deciduous to tropical thorn type.

4. **Soil:** The top soil primarily consists of red soil with patches of black soil along the riverside. The edaphic factor supports a variety of crop including rice, sugarcane, maize, turmeric, sunflower and vegetables. Cotton is generally not grown.

5. **Infrastructural & Institutional resources:** Almost all grass root level institutions are present in Shetpally. However, most of them including PDS, Anganwadi, Post Office, MeeSeva Kendra, Mahila Sahyogam Kendra are running from private houses.

Fig: Black Soil

The prime infrastructure of the village are water tanks (3 in number), concrete roads and borewells.

Action Points:

The leading economic activity of Shetpally village is Agriculture. As a result the key action points relates to sustaining the agricultural produce every year given that the monsoonal rain fluctuates inter-annually.

Borewells are the major source of irrigation as well as drinking water. In absence of provisions to close the flow of water from water supply points, most of the water is wasted.

Fig: Water outlet without Tap fitting

It is therefore, required to regulate the flow of water by equipping the unregulated water outlets with tap fittings. A direct bearing of this will be on conservation of ground water which lowers during summers.

A related point of action as identified by the villagers themselves would be to take up the work of digging more percolation points. This could possibly be coupled with work taken up under MNREGS.

A peculiar observation was that this area used to have sunflower cultivation which has been given up. One of the reasons cited was monkey menace. This has also affected a lot of other

crops including rice, maize and sugarcane. One possible solution identified in the village

Fig: Monkey Menace

Fig: Solar power used to make electrified fences

itself was solar powered electrified fences. This method, though costly, could also be adopted to guard particularly remunerative cash crops from the monkey menace.

Another action point arises with respect to sensitising people particularly from ST community regarding high school education for children. An exercise taken up with the high school children show that the maximum dropouts are from ST community residing on the fringe areas of the village.
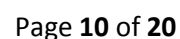

Fig: High school children plotting their houses. This shows almost nil representation from ST community.

SOCIAL MAPPING:

Social mapping exercise provided insights into the social aspects and the social life of the village. We as a group performed this exercise in different parts; some of it we could capture during our transect walk, to a greater extent during the resource mapping exercise and the remaining through the class room exercises conducted with the help of class 9th and 10th students of the village.

The village consists of different social groups such as Reddy's, backward class, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Out of these backward class forms the majority. It consists of Mudiraj, Yadavs, Gouds, Munnur-Kapur ,wadarangi(carpenters) and Kummaris(porters). Scheduled castes form the second largest grouping in terms of population. This caste comprises of Malas and Madigas. Scheduled tribe population is least in number and includes Devasott and Ketawat tribes. The habitation pattern indicates that these three communities tend to stay in clusters .BC's being the dominant group are mainly spread all through the village whereas the tribes live relatively far from the centre of the village towards the southern part of the village.

The main religions followed by the people in the village are Hindu, Islam and Christianity. Hindu religion forms the dominant one. There are only three or four Muslim families in the whole village. A large number has migrated to the cities in search of better prospects of employment. Among the scheduled castes, some practice Christianity.

Social Map – Shetpally

FINDINGS:

The forward (Reddies) and the backward classes are the main owners of the agricultural land. Among the SC's few own land whereas among the tribes barring very few almost none possessed any land holdings. As such the only means of livelihood available to them is to offer their labour either as MGNREGA workers or agricultural labour.

The two schools one secondary and one primary with the latter being located in the vicinity of the ST grouping, the pattern of school education offered some interesting insights. During the social mapping exercises carried in the secondary level school, class 10th students were asked to locate their houses on the village map. It was found that all of the students lived in the areas inhabited by the BC's and SC's while none of the students came from the areas inhabited by the Reddy's or the scheduled tribes. The finding is open to verification with one of the possibility being that the children from the ST's tend to discontinue their schooling after attending the primary school

located in their area. However, children from the Reddy's families and many from BC's families were found to be attending English medium school located in Yellareddy town.

The village avails the health facilities from sub centre located in the centre of the village The tribes being located far from the centre coupled with poor road connectivity find it all the more difficult to gain access to their medical needs. As such the villagers have to go to the far away towns to meet their medical requirements.

The various institutions in the village comprises Gram Panchayat, Primary Health centre, School, Grain collection centre, Self Help Group, Anganwadi, Public distribution system, Mee Seva, Post Office. These were found to be delivering services across all the social groups in the village without any discrimination.

Sadavatt Kamla, holds the position of the Sarpanch. She comes from the tribal grouping. Up-sarpanch: Kishta Gouda belongs to the backward class. The positions of the gram panchayat rotates among the communities for the purpose of elections thus giving a fair chance of representation to all the social groupings.

Self help groups in the village are functioning actively. There are 34 such groups each comprising of minimum 10 members who meet every month. However, SHG's are engaged in the primary mode i.e. saving and lending function within the group only. They have not yet taken to group ventures etc. These groups represent a heterogenous mix of women from all the social groups. The group lends for all the purposes which may range from buying land on lease, buying a buffalo, starting a kiryana shop or for marriage of their children. The principal borrowed has to be repaid along with the interest amount (at present 12%) within a span of 24 months.

There are three anganwadis in the village. One of them is located in the centre of the village. This has 37 children which includes 18 from SC grouping, 17 from the BC grouping, 2 from the OC and none from the tribes which is due to the fact that the tribal communities are located at a distance from this anganwadi. The second anganwadi is located in the area inhabited by the SC group. This has 4 children from the SC , 5 from the ST and 4 from the BC. The third anganwadi is in the vicinity of the area where tribal group resides. This has 13 children in total, all of them belonging to the ST's.

Public distribution system is carried on in the village by the fair price shop which is located in the centre of the village. There are 593 households which are issued ration cards. Out of this 350 cards have been issued to the SC's and ST's. 22 households out of this are getting their monthly supplies under Antodaya Anna Yojana. In the last few years some of the families belonging to the tribes have migrated into the village, due to which they do not possess ration cards. However, they shall be issued the same with the ongoing survey in the Telangana state.

The people belonging to the BC's work on their farm, many of them run utility shops in the village itself whereas ST's and SC's mainly have the option of working as laborers. Among them, most of the households are the beneficiaries of MGNREGA scheme and thereby getting 60-100 man days of work. During the harvest season they work as agricultural laborers. Around 25-30 women in the village are also engaged in the task of beedi- making on a part-time basis to supplement their monthly incomes.

SC's and ST's have been the main beneficiaries under Indira Awaas Yojana. Houses are pucca houses though some of them are in need of repair. Almost all the houses were allotted as per the earlier provisions under the scheme which did not include the construction of toilets. As such the open defecation still exists in the village. Construction of the toilets is ongoing as a part of the Nirmal Bharat scheme of the Government of India.

Observations:

1. Since most of the SC's and ST's groupings do not own landholdings, they depend on the daily wages from their labour. Demand for labour in the agricultural fields is seasonal. Employment under MGNREGA ranges from 60-100 man-days of work. As such the labour remains unemployed for a large part of the year. Lack of resources and irregular wage income has kept these people under the wrath of poverty and deprivation.

2. Sanitation, mainly among the poor people does not form a priority. Some of the households among the tribes were visited. Though, they had benefitted from the toilets under the scheme but these were not constructed as per the desired standards. Some of the toilets either did not have a door or a roof. Many of them still prefer defecating in the open. Many of them continue to wash their hands with ash or soil. The use of soap-cakes is thus still uncommon.

3. Poor people among the ST's and SC' are largely unaware of the schemes available for their benefit. For eg. many of them wanted to own lands to uplift their status but were either unaware or not informed of the schemes such as SERP.

Action points:

- Since the SHG's is functioning in an orderly fashion in the village, there is a scope of maximizing the benefits by enlarging the activities. At present the SHG's are involved in the task of micro lending for individual benefit. The group lendings for the purpose of entrepreneurial activities (after imparting of required skills) will help to generate more income for the groups. This shall also encourage greater participation by women from all the groupings.

- There is a need to sensitize the poor people about the benefits of sanitization and also the dangers of ignoring it.

- The poor class needs to be properly informed about the government schemes that exist for it so that they can avail the possible benefits.

Venn/Chapati Diagram

The Venn diagram exercise was done to gauge the perception of villagers towards various institutional resources present in the village. The task was carried out in two stages keeping two dimensions in mind:

- The first dimension measured the importance of these institutions - depicted by the size of the Chapati/Circles.

- The second dimension measured the accessibility & quality of service delivery of these institutions – depicted by the relative distances of these Chapatis with respect to the villagers.

In the first stage the participants (about 25 - a good mix of male, female & children) were asked to name & rank the institutions which they perceived to be the most important for their welfare starting from the most important (depicted by largest Chapati) to the least important (depicted by the smallest Chapati). The villagers after significant deliberation arrived at the following ranking:

Gram Panchayat => School => Health sub-center => [Mahila Sangam, Anganwadi, Post Office] => Mee sewa Kendra => Milk collection centre => Mini Bank => Police station

Figure: Ranking of Welfare institutions based on their importance (Left → Right, most to least imp.)

In the second stage the participants were asked to consider themselves to be at the centre and then place these Chapatis at a distance from the centre considering the accessibility & quality of service delivery of these institutions with the closer Chapatis depicting easier access with satisfactory service delivery and the farther Chapatis depicting difficult access & poorer quality of service.
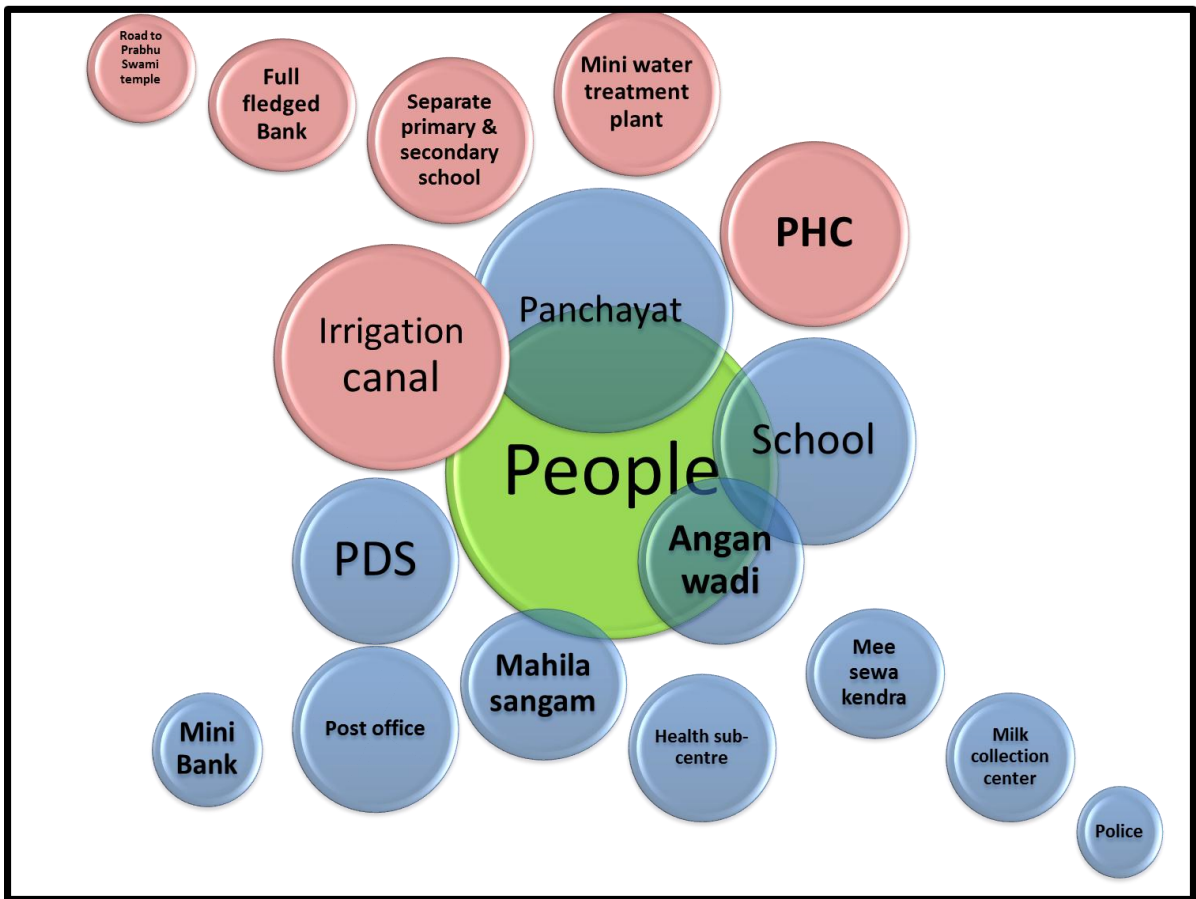

Figure: Chapati diagram (representing importance & social distance of institutions from the people)

Institutions present   Institutions desired

Important observations & Action points:

- People discovered the need for institutions/infrastructure which are presently not available to them and also ranked them according to their importance

- The topmost priority was given to the Irrigation canal (whose construction was stopped just 2 kms away from the village) for its obvious agricultural potential

- The need for a PHC (primary health centre) was seriously felt as the present Health sub-centre was found to be inadequate for the needs of the village

- The need for a full-fledged bank with loan facility was also recognised as the present mini-bank didn't cater to the complete financial need of the villagers

Ranking & Scoring exercise

This exercise was undertaken to understand the choice preference of the villagers in two situations. In the first situation BPL participants were asked to enumerate the reasons for their poverty and then rank the reasons according to their importance. In the second situation they were orally provided a set of choices from which they had to indicate their preference. The first and second methods used respectively were:

Fig1: Preference ranking (reasons for poverty)

Fig2: Pair wise ranking (choosing between two)

1. **Preference ranking (reasons for poverty) – All participants belong to BPL category**

Sl no.	Reasons ➡➡ Participants⬇⬇	Landlessness	No House	Migration	Disability	Disease
1.	Sunnam Pochaiah	1	4	2	3	5
2.	Nagmal	1	2	5	3	4
3.	Venki Lingam	2	5	4	1	3
4.	Boddu Manjula	1	5	4	2	3
5.	Pilli Sayanna	1	5	2	4	3
6.	Kavitha	1	4	3	2	5
7.	Devasoth	1	4	2	3	5
8.	Pachamma	2	5	4	1	3
9.	Radhakrishna	1	5	2	3	4
	Total Points	**11**	**39**	**28**	**22**	**35**
	Ranks	**First**	**Fifth**	**Third**	**Second**	**Fourth**

Reasons for poverty:

Landlessness	>	Disability	>	Migration	>	Disease	>	No House

2. Pair wise ranking

In this exercise we orally presented to the people the option of choosing between two alternatives which were earlier conceived during the Chapati diagram exercise. The relative preference between two alternatives led to the identification of most & least preferred institutions which the villagers wanted in their village.

The method adopted is tabulated below with 3 sample participants – P1, P2, and P3. This was originally done with 10 participants yielding same result.

|	Irrigation Canal	PHC	Mini water treatment plant	Road to Prabhu-swami temple	Bank with loan facility	Separate Primary & Secondary school
Irrigation canal	xxxxxxx	P1 – PHC P2 – PHC P3 – PHC	P1 – MWTP P2 – MWTP P3 – MWTP	P1 – Road P2 – Road P3 – Road	P1 – Canal P2 – Canal P3 – Bank	P1 – Separate P2 – Separate P3 – Separate
PHC	xxxxxxx	xxxxxxx	P1 – MWTP P2 – MWTP P3 – MWTP	P1 – PHC P2 – PHC P3 - PHC	P1 – PHC P2 – PHC P3 – PHC	P1 – PHC P2 – Separate P3 - PHC
Mini water treatment plant	xxxxxxx	xxxxxxx	xxxxxxxx	P1 – MWTP P2 – MWTP P3 – MWTP	P1 – MWTP P2 – MWTP P3 – MWTP	P1 – MWTP P2 – MWTP P3 – MWTP
Road to Prabhu-swami temple	xxxxxxx	xxxxxxx	xxxxxxxx	xxxxxxx	P1 – Road P2 – Road P3 – Road	P1 – Separate P2 – Road P3 - Separate
Bank with loan facility	xxxxxxx	xxxxxxx	xxxxxxxxx	xxxxxxxx	xxxxxxxx	P1 – Separate P2 – Separate P3 - Separate
Separate primary & secondary school	xxxxxx	xxxxxx	xxxxxxx	xxxxxxx	xxxxxxx	xxxxxxx
Preference frequency	2	11	15	7	9	1
Final Ranking	5th	2nd	1st	4th	3rd	6th

Important observation & Action Points:

- Irrigation canal which was the 1st desired priority for the landed class became the last priority for the landless people (SC/ST etc.) and they placed more importance to drinking water problem through preference for Mini water treatment plant.

- PHC emerged as the 2nd most desired institution across all economic & social classes (SC/ST/BC and others) as the present Health sub-centre was found to be grossly inadequate.

Seasonality analysis

This study was done to analyse the effect of seasons on various parameters like labour demand under MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural employment guarantee scheme) & labour demand for agricultural activities. It was noted that the two parameters are related inversely during the sowing & harvesting season (Kharif crops – Rice) i.e during the early monsoon period of July & August the agricultural labour demand is at its peak while the MGNREGA employment demand is at its lowest and the same relation can be seen during the harvest season of October/November.

People were asked to mark the demand for labour (both agricultural & MGNREGA) by drawing the tallest line (using seeds) in the chart paper for depicting maximum labour demand and by drawing smaller lines (using seeds) for depicting lower labour demand. The picture given below is from the same exercise:
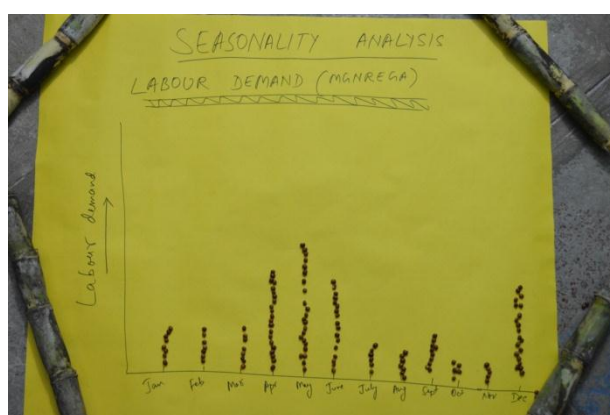
Person days employment under MGNREGA (Official data)
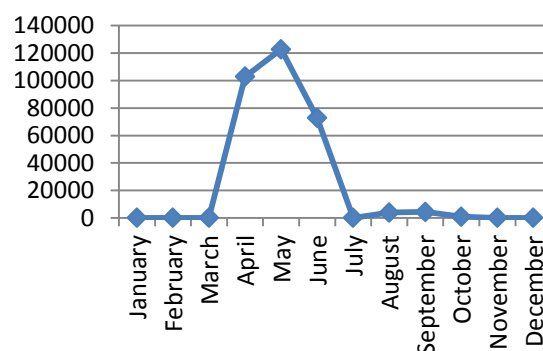
Agricultural labour demand
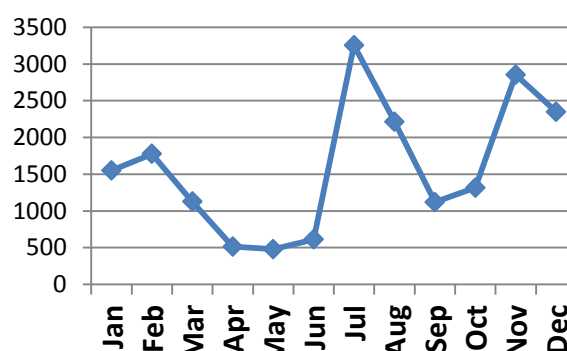
Action points – synchronisation of MGNREGA work with lean period of agricultural labour demand (i.e. April, May, June & Sept, Oct) will go a long way in alleviating rural poverty by providing year- long sustainable employment opportunity for the rural households.

Conclusion & Action points

Based on our village study through the use of various Participatory Rural Appraisal techniques, the study concludes by proposing certain action points which could be looked into by the village & district administration for improving the functioning of present welfare institutions of the village as well as exploring certain new projects of rural development through which the overall living standards of the villagers may improve resulting in a better quality of life for the people of Shetpally village.

The various actions points generated by the study are discussed in detail in earlier parts of this report alongside the discussion on various PRA techniques used, these points can be summarised as follows:

❖ Water conservation through increased awareness, responsible usage of Bore well facilities & installation of taps to reduce wastage

❖ Provision for Clean drinking water through Mini water treatment plant installation

❖ Tackling Monkey menace through expanded use of Solar field fencing & use of crackers

❖ Resumption of Irrigation canal work and synergizing it with MGNREGA to provide additional employment

❖ Focus on behavioral aspects of healthy sanitary practices like using proper latrines instead of open defecation

❖ ASHA workers can be roped in to sensitize the village people about the benefits of sanitization and also the dangers of ignoring it

❖ Synchronization of MGNREGA work with lean period of agricultural labor demand

❖ Socially & economically backward classes (especially SC/STs) needs to be properly informed about the government schemes related to them so that they can avail the possible benefits

❖ A functioning PHC (primary health centre) is dearly required as the present Health sub-centre was found to be grossly inadequate

❖ A full-fledged bank with loan facility is also needed as the present mini-bank doesn't cater to the complete financial needs of the villagers

❖ Construction of proper Anganwadi centres with sufficient space & ventilation for attending Children

❖ Better utilisation of SHGs (Self Help Groups) by expanding their scope towards diversified income generating activities like tailoring, embroidery, cottage industry, paper plate making, poultry etc.

<u>Acknowledgement</u>

At the end of this enriching learning experience we thank our institute Dr. MCRHRD (Marri Chana Reddy Human resource development) for giving us this opportunity to live & experience the village life. This memorable experience has broaden our understanding of the rural way of life and how various welfare institutions and Government schemes with their limited resources & constraints cater to the pressing needs of rural masses with the active involvement of local governments like Panchayats.

Before closing we would also like to thank the village officials of Shetpally village specially the Sarpanch - Mrs. Kamala Devi & the Village Revenue Officer – Mr. Janardan Reddy and for their unwavering cooperation & gratitude. Our sincere thanks to the Lingampet Mandal officials & the Nizamabad District Administration under the able leadership of Mr. Ronald Ross (District Collector) without whose sustained support and guidance this enriching learning experience would never have been fulfilled and last but not the least our deepest love & regards to the residents of Shetpally village whose heartwarming hospitality, cooperation & patience made this wonderful journey equally successful in both the dimensions of fun & learning, we will remain always grateful for their love & support.