

## Best Practice 2

- **Title: Village development through Unnat Bharat Abhiyan**
- **Objectives:**
  - To secure livelihood of the people through development
  - To make students aware of health
  - To empower women
  - To ensure education and primary medical care for children
  - To inculcate practical knowledge among the students.
  - To enhance practical skills of the students through smart classroom

- **The Context:**

The Unnat Bharat Abhiyan Coordinator Dr. Changdev Kudnar visited the following nearby villages- Rajderwadi, Nandurtek, Mangrul, Jopul and Nimgavhan and found that poverty, illiteracy, infant mortality and unemployment are the real issues there. During the survey of villages it was observed that the adjacent forest, rich with valuable indigenous species is mindlessly destructed. The coordinator interacted with the villagers and found the males resigned to their fate and resistant to any idea of change. The women stayed behind their doors and veils. Since the village was in close proximity with the college, it was decided to adopt five villages and thereafter regular interactions, camps, awareness programmes followed

- **The Practice**

The college decided to take socio-economic survey to understand the problems faced by villagers. Three major areas—(i) forest conservation, (ii) women empowerment, and (iii) health and education of children were identified. The college started tree plantation and water conservation in villages. Villagers contribute to the conservation and enrichment of natural resources. They enjoy total ownership of minor forest produce, whereas the major harvest is shared equally between government and the village. The college started

production of biowaste. Women were encouraged to form Self-Help-Groups (SHG) to carry on small scale saving, sanitation, and anti-liquor campaigns. The dried- out branches in the forest are collected by women workers and are deposited with the SHG in a co-operative venture which in turn sells it to the public as fuel wood. A kindergarten school was established to ensure education for the children of the village. The school has been taken up by the Government under Sarba Sikshya Abhiyan (Education for All), and formal education is now provided up to class V. All the parents have been motivated to have the mandatory vaccination for their newborns.

- **Evidence of Success :**

Every villager has started to use toilet. They are aware of hygiene and importance of cleanliness. Therefore many people are free from waterborne disease. Our student started teaching villages as part of community engagement. It helps lot to understand the basic concepts through smart classroom. Besides providing timber and firewood for the household needs of the villagers, the enriched forest now provides employment to several tribal families who collect firewood from it and sell it to the SHG. The preservation of the forest has led to the rise of sub-soil water level. Women have become articulate, aspiring and capable of taking leadership of the community to bring in decisive changes. The efforts have taken to create awareness of ill effects of consumption of liquor. Almost all the children are school-going. Children completing their education in the village school are now sent to other schools for further study. Also, all the infants in the village have been duly vaccinated. On the whole, the effort has had a salutary impact on rural lives. The College has been given a national level award by the Ministry of Human Resources and Development for effectively implementing Unnat Bharat Abhiyan in 2019-20. The schemes of Rs over 20 lakh are proposed in the next academic year.

- **Problems Encountered & Resources Required**

Areas are socioeconomically backward and are reluctant to accept new ideas.

