

Peoples Foundation for Scientific Socio Economic Development (PeFSSSED)

Estd : Dec 10, 2001

A-6, Ravi Swagat CHS, B S Juvekar Marg, Bhandup (E), Mumbai - 400042

Regn No. Society : 1689/2002

☎ 91-22-25650733 📠 91-9322605024, 91-9821442021

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PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

For office use only

Title	Updation on Panvel Flood Rehabilitation [2005-06]		
Related Project	Panvel Flood Rehabilitation		
Report drafted by	Anupam G, Badri N, Hippu Salk Kristle Nathan	Drafted on	Sep 01, 2006
Report reviewed by	Vikram Lalit	Reviewed on	Sep 04, 2006
Remarks			

- Detailed description of the progress made so far -

1 Overview

In disaster-rehabilitation operations, PeFSSSED believes in complete long-term restoration of livelihood of the affected with the direct participation of people in the process. In the assessment study after the floods in July last year at Maldunga Panchayat of Panvel block, it was found that the livelihood of the villagers got critically affected as the topsoil of the cultivable land got washed away and there was heavy deposition of foreign material on the land. Some of the lands got affected partially; where as in some cases the damage was so much that none would believe there was cultivable land before. PeFSSSED identified the two most affected villages of Babdevwadi & Dehrang and strategized the restoration of land to normalcy before the next monsoon. After six months of toil, the affected land was restored for seven families, and in the process, around twenty people got occupation during the after flood days. On this monsoon we can see these once devastated land plots flourishing with crops and villagers smiling with satisfaction.

Last year after the flood



Figure 1: Padu's land which got 60% spoilt due to intrusion of flood water

This year the result of Rehabilitation work



Figure 2: Padu with his re-habilitated land flourishing with crops this year.

2 The Strategy

A strategy was devised to engage people of the village in the restoration process. For each village a group of 10 workers was constituted by taking one member from each of the affected families whose lands were being restored and the rest from the families who were relatively poor and had no work at hand. This entire group will work in affected lands in rotation. One member in the group would act as coordinator who would interface between the supervisor from PeFSSSED and the workers. The initial idea

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was to follow a "food for work strategy" where villagers would be given rice, dal, oil and vegetables as daily wage, but later that idea was abandoned on the suggestion of villagers themselves, and a Rs 50/- (fifty rupees only) per day wage was fixed. On any day, the family whose land was being rehabilitated would take the responsibility of breakfast and lunch for the entire group. The group worked six days per week. The work schedule was fixed from 8 AM to 5 PM with one-hour lunch break in between.

Glimpses of devastation



Figure 3: Land spoiled due to intrusion of external material swept into the land due to flood and landslides



Figure 4: Babdevwadi village boy Kanha (orange shirt) with a friend looking at the damage

3 Implementation

3.1 Babdevwadi



Figure 5: Work in progress at Babdevwadi. Badri (in red t-shirt), PeFSSSED project associate inspects.

Babdevwadi is a small hamlet village in the hilly terrain of Maldunga Panchayat constituting 21 families. The total population of the village is 121. Four out of 21 families have their own land, which got severely damaged, in the July flood. The land details of these affected families are listed in the following table.

As per the strategy four members joined one each from the above listed four families and six joined from other relatively poorer household of the same village. Raghu, who is a matriculate from the same village was chosen as the coordinator between PeFSSSED and the 10-member team.

The work started in Padu's land on winter morning of 16th of Jan. It took just 4 days for to bring the

Owner's Name	Area	Legal Doc	% damaged	Start Date	End date
Padu Maidu Bhasma	20.0	YES	60	16/01/2006	19/01/2006
Barku Choudhury	28.0	YES	70	20/01/2006	25/01/2006
Balu Kamlu Dore	68.5	YES	100	27/01/2006	07/02/2006
Rama Chango Bhasma	19.2	YES	100	N/A	N/A

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land back to its form. Barku's field was considered next and it took another 5 days to level the same. On 26th of Jan, we had a small feast to mark the 57th Republic Day for India.

On the very next day work started on Balu's land. This land was largest among all and took maximum time to order. A large number of big stones that had intruded into the land due to flood pressure now needed to be cleared. Moreover, under Rama's craftsmanship, the villagers built a bridge to stop the water. They took seven days to construct this bridge. Fig 6. The work finished on this land on 7th Feb, 2006.



Figure 6: Balu and Rama (with a cap) in a proud mood standing on the Bridge constructed on Balu's field

3.1.1 Financial Assistance to Rama

Rama suffered the maximum in Babdevwadi as his land was in the vicinity of river. It got completely swept away in the flood pressure exposing the stone layer. When Rama showed us his land, it was hard to



Figure 7: Rama's plight- Rama and his land



Figure 8: Padu, handing the amount to Rama's father

believe that there existed some fertile land before. The damage has gone to irreparable state looking at our meager budget. Rama had worked with all courage and enthusiasm in all co-villagers' rehabilitation work. We decided to help Rama financially with Rs. 6000/- in two phases (Rs. 3000/- each time) through which he would plan for an alternative livelihood option.

3.2 Dehrang

Unlike Babdevwadi, Dehrang is a relatively large village with more than 50 families. One of the major challenges the village faces is that it is politically divided. But on this disaster, the villagers joined hands to come out of the crisis. When made aware about the strategy and its successful implementation in Babdevwadi, the villagers wanted to replicate the same. In a meeting held in the village on 17th Feb the four most affected land will be taken into consideration. Following table shows the details of these lands.

Apart from the four persons from affected families five more from relatively poorer families joined in the group. Vishnu was chosen as the coordinator. The work started with Ganesh's land on 21st Feb and took

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Ganesh Janu Pardi	25.0	YES	100	21/02/2006	23/02/2006
Padu Ambe Pardhi	40.0	YES	100	24/02/2006	27/02/2006
Budhia Janu Pardhi	34.0	YES	100	28/02/2006	05/03/2006
Ramdas Ambe Pardhi	30.0	YES	100	06/03/2006	17/03/2006



Figure 9: Village Dehrang



Figure 10: Work in progress at Dehrang

3 days to complete. Next, Padia's land was considered which got settled by 27th Feb. The next land that of Budhia took six days to complete. Like Babdevwadi, the most difficult land in terms of rehabilitation was taken in the end that belonged to Ramdas, and it took eleven solid days to bring the land in order.

4. Team Work

The villagers were very happy with their own performance. Many of them expressed that they have not done something similar before, working together at the time of crisis eventually coming out of it in a heroic way.

Team Work



Figure 11: Closer look at the superficial layer which needs removal



Figure 12: Damaged boundary has been fixed (Dehrang)



Figure 13: Barrier constructed with an entry for irrigation **Figure 14:** The brain behind the child: PeFSSSED team

This project was managed by Sriprasad R. Badri Narayan, our Project Associate played a key role in executing this project. He inspected the work on the field on daily basis. PeFSSSED got most of the financial assistance from Geometric Software Solutions Ltd, 3D PLM Software Solutions Ltd. Some of the employees of these companies came forward to help individually.

On the core of the effort was the will power of the villagers themselves. They know their strength in togetherness. They not only managed to remove the superficial thick layer, but also made indigenous stone bridges (figure 6, 13, 14) to prevent water entering their fields during heavy downpour. Hats off to their will power, their skill, and their bond of togetherness.

5 The Result

The project got completed by April this year, long before the monsoon. And this monsoon gave the people the result of the effort they put in to restore the land. The land was not only brought back to its normal condition, but also now arrangements were made to protect it from water stream.

The only incompleteness we see in the project is we could not restore the land for Rama. Since his land is the closest to the water stream, a proper cement bridge of almost ½ km length was needed for permanent protection, which was out of question looking at the budget in our hand.



Figure 15: This is what a team work can result

So, this year Rama has managed his both ends by working in others' fields. PeFSSSED appeals for funds so that we will be able to construct a protection bridge on Rama's land and solve the problem for once and all.

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