

THE MALIWADA HUMAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

A Two Year Report

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**ICA: INDIA
CONSULTANTS**

A. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – toward self-sustenance

I. Cooperative Agriculture

Agricultural production has increased significantly in the last two years. Cultivated land has increased from 100 to 600 acres. Such an increase is the result of a variety of factors: water availability has occurred with four rebuilt naila bunds, seven reconstructed wells, 21 wells blasted, 10 new wells dug and the installation of 25 electric pumps. Three new crops have been introduced. Presently, 40 acres have been given over to sugar cane, yielding a village average of 26 tons per acre. Hybrid Jowar has been planted on 450 acres with an average per acre yield of 14 quintals. As an experiment, 10 acres were planted with tobacco, giving returns of over Rs 1,200 per acre.

Increased productivity has been greatly enhanced by the training programmes for the farmers, conducted by the Farmers Training Centre, emphasizing improved methods using fertilisers, pesticides, and composting. A second tractor is being purchased by a farmer with the aid of the State Bank of India. A Community Farm, cultivating 42 acres, is sharecropped by six farmers in hybrid Jowar, with half of the yield going to the community kitchen. The dairy cooperative, financed primarily by bank loans, has purchased 54 milk cows which have been artificially inseminated. The State Bank of India and the Central Social Welfare Board have approved 117 additional loans for the purchase of milk cows. In addition, 26 bullocks and five new bullock carts have been bought. The number of goats has doubled to over 1,000 and the chicken population has tripled.

III. Commercial Services

One of the significant events in Maliwada was the opening of a branch of the State Bank of India. The villagers presently have 160 savings accounts. The bank has extended 100 loans for economic ventures coming to approximately two lakhs, ranging from 4 to 11 percent interest. The bank has made possible the establishment of a variety of businesses. Where previously there were only three tea stalls, there are now seven with a profit margin of 10 to 25 rupees per day. The village also supports four kiranas where before there was only one, making trips to Aurangabad unnecessary. A new bakery has started, guaranteeing a weekly profit of Rs 250, and two new paan stores are now operating along with a catering service. A mutton shop opened recently, butchering four goats each week and realising a profit of Rs 300 to Rs 400. Other new commercial enterprises include: a bicycle repair shop which also rents ten bicycles, a dhobi business, a tailoring business which has bought four sewing machines, and finally a loudspeaker and shamiana rental business which nets Rs. 300 a month. The bicycle repair and tailoring shops were both started with bank loans.

II. Appropriate Industry

Local industry has increased significantly in Maliwada. The largest enterprise, the Nutritious Food Processing and Packing Industry now employs 120 people daily. The gross turnover of this enterprise was Rs 700,000 which provided Rs 90,000 in wages during 10 months of operation last year. The Box Factory, employing 20 local people, makes packing crates for factories in Aurangabad and simple householding furnishings like shelves and stools. The industry has been expanded to include a timber mill with a newly installed band saw. This operation will serve surrounding villages in addition to Maliwada.

The Building Industry last year employed 175 people during the rapid building expansion programme; it has now levelled out to support 50 full-time employees. A Carpenter Business, separate from, but related to, the Building Industry has been started. Ten carpenters are employed. Other new industries include brickmaking, which has expanded to three factories employing 15 people, rope weaving which supports two families, and a new flour mill opened in addition to the one already in operation. A local silversmith works his craft full-time in the village, making jewelry.

As all these new industries are community-owned and community-serving, it is significant to note that each month the Community Garden provides half the produce for the Community Kitchen and Rs 6000 are transferred from the profits of the Industries to support the social programmes of the community.

B. HUMAN DEVELOPMENT — toward self-confidence

IV. Living Environment

During the two years since the Human Development Project began, the face of Maliwada has changed remarkably. Following the connection of electricity to the village, 33 street lights have been installed and 75 homes electrified. A comprehensive village plan was prepared including a community housing design and a plan for new facilities. Seven model homes have been built to demonstrate the use of permanent roofing, flooring and walls, lighting and good ventilation. As a result, 32 new private units have been built.

New facilities in the village include the Community Centre, one store, a storage shed, two industrial sheds, a pre-school, health clinic, Post Office, Community Kitchen and Dairy Shed. Much attention has been given to the streets of the village. They were bulldozed and lined with white boundary markers. A drainage system was constructed along the streets and one street was cobblestoned. As part of the beautification of the village, all the houses have been whitewashed and roofs repaired while trees and flowers were planted.

A village entrance sign has been erected on the Aurangabad-Masik highway, while at the heart of the community, a plaza has been created with a statue of Dr. Ambedkar erected. Access to Aurangabad has been improved with three buses daily and the bus stand has been repaired and painted. In dealing with the contradiction of water supply, a community well was reconstructed and a bore sunk for drinking water.

VI. Identity Systems

Maliwada has very carefully built into its community identity system symbols which convey the images that this village is on the move. The primary community symbol is styled after the historic Daulatabad fort with the sun rising in the background. Murals of this symbol are painted on visible walls throughout Maliwada. A large entrance sign welcomes visitors. Slogans and banners have been created and placed throughout the village. Streets and chowks have been named and the houses numbered and family plaques created. Village celebrations which bring people of several communities together occur regularly with national, religious and cultural festivals. Films and slideshows are shown for both entertainment and education. Community unity is also emphasised by all school age children wearing similar uniforms. The community centre contains a reading room and a radio for use by villagers. In hosting visitors from across India, the citizens of Maliwada continually tell the demonstration role of Maliwada.

V. Corporate Patterns

Corporate patterns deals with promoting unity and consensus building in the community. There are several ways in which this has happened in Maliwada. Emphasizing total community engagement one of the ways local residents participate is through the 275 new jobs that have been created.

The guilds, representing the various arenas of employment, the stakes, the neighbourhood groups and the traditional village leadership meet weekly in order to plan and evaluate the village development. These three dynamics combine to hold the consensus together and help in implementing and furthering the programmes of the village.

An eleven-member committee called the Village Association, which represents all castes, has been formed and provides the leadership and direction of the community.

Village funds, pooled from the income-generating programmes in Maliwada, are used for health, education, nutrition, sanitation and village beautification. Finally, weekly shramdans have been instrumental in not only establishing community unity, but have resulted in direct community action such as a village beautification programme.

C. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT — toward self-reliance

VII. Preventive Care

Crucial to Maliwada's development has been the implementation of health and sanitation structures. Sixteen public latrines have been built and are used by the villagers. A biggas plant has been installed. The Community Kitchen is supported by funds from the Nutritious Food Industry and by produce from the Community Farm and Community Vegetable Garden. It also supplies lunches for the Infant School and Pre-School and conducts training in meal planning and nutrition.

The Health Clinic is run on a full time basis by a locally trained woman assisted by six Health Caretakers. The clinic treats over 40 patients from the village daily. Medical records are kept on all villagers. Vitamins are distributed and systematic inoculations are given regularly. Skin, eye and E.N.T. clinics have been held. An emergency link with the hospital in Aurangabad has been established. Clinic staff takes patients to the Aurangabad Medical College every Thursday for regular treatment of long-term diseases. Pre-natal and post-natal care is also provided.

VIII. Functional Education

A pre-school staffed entirely by village teachers has a daily attendance of over 40. The primary school attendance has increased from 30 to over 150, necessitating two shifts a day. Marathi, Hindi and English literacy programmes are conducted daily.

Adult training has included tractor driving, vehicle maintenance, farm management, new farm methods, carpentry and masonry. Technical skills are shared in all aspects of the project to enable village self-reliance.

Over 50 Maliwada citizens have attended the Maharashtra Human Development Training Institute and 15 are now serving in other villages. Maliwada residents have been trained to conduct Gram Sabhas which are held in neighbouring villages as part of the statewide replication scheme.

IX. Community Welfare

The Mahila Mandal Association has encouraged the women to participate in all aspects of the village's development. Courses in menu planning, household budgeting and basic sanitation have been conducted. Local women run the infant school comprised of 32 infants six months to two years of age. The main emphasis of the school is on proper nutrition and hygiene.

Several short-term training courses and demonstrations related to domestic sciences and health and vocational skills, such as chalk, incense and soap-making, have been well-attended by the women. Classes in sewing, paper flower-making and bag weaving have also been offered. Encouraged by their participation, several women have started commercial enterprises such as spice grinding, papad making and seedbay stitching.

The women hold regular meetings and have taken part in meetings with women of other villages. There has been a favourable response to family planning in Maliwada with 93 persons, half of them women, volunteering for operations. Village bhajans, plays and rituals have been instrumental in engaging elders and youth in community life. The youth in particular have emerged as strong leaders and actively seek to expand the development of their village through effective implementation of all the programmes.