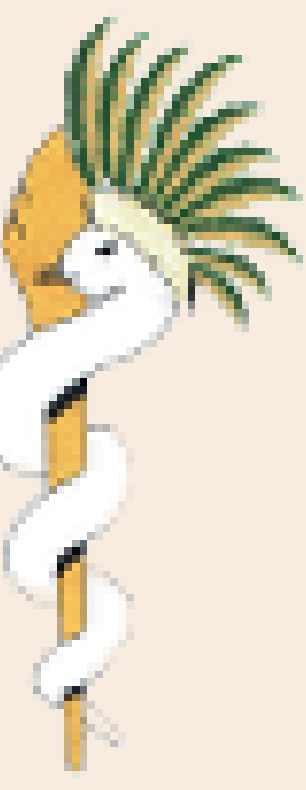


Enhanced Health Outcomes in Sittilingi Panchayat through Integrated Approaches and Effective Local Governance



Organisation: Tribal Health Initiative

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Introduction

The Sittilingi Valley, located in a remote part of Dharmapuri district, comprises **26** villages predominantly inhabited by agrarian tribal communities.

- **Total hamlets- 42** hamlets with **90%** tribals
- **Total population- 17000**
- **Total geographical area-** reserve forest area in a **50 km** radius
- **The farthest village from the Panchayat office- 30 km**
- **Distance from block headquarters- 45 km**
- **Distance from district headquarters- 90 kms**

Importance of Local Governance

- Long period of drought in Sittilingi valley lead THI to work for water conservation to sustain farming activities
- **Empowering the community** to claim their constitutional rights.
- With people's support, **one of THI health worker won the local panchayat elections in 2019 on the promise to deliver a non-corrupt governance**

Objectives

- Non – corrupt and transparent financial management
- Empowering people on governance through effective gram sabha meetings
- Implementing government welfare programs to reach the eligible poor for economic improvement
- Meeting the basic needs of housing, drinking water and transport to improve health status



Our senior health worker as Panchayat President - Ms. Madeshwari

SUCCESS STORIES

Karapadi is a village with about 40 families on a hill top without electricity and road access. There was no water supply or health facility. People suffered during illnesses and children could not go to school during rains. First time, the village saw a new road, and electricity provided. Finally this village has accessibility to health centres and schools through out the year.

Key Milestones

- Tribal Hospital- a 30 bedded secondary level hospital (1993)
- **Sittilingi Organic Farmers' Association** – nutrition and livelihood (2006)
- **Porgai and Vanavil** – women empowerment and livelihood (2008)
- **Good local governance to improve health (2019)**

Interventions

Education

- **14** Government schools in **42** hamlets with **1017** students.
- Built new toilets for students and teachers in all schools, ensured water facility and compound walls
- **Regular school health program** to educate them about hygiene and nutrition

Health Security

- **Regular meetings with PHC team** to ensure smooth functioning
- Providing medicines to all NCD patients at home
- Collaboration with Tribal Hospital during COVID

Water Security

- Water supply in every house through Jal Jeevan mission
- Several overhead tanks and proper drainage systems constructed to prevent water stagnation

Housing and Economic security

- About **700 houses built** through government programs
- More than **18 crores spent on these houses-** ensuring income to the local community
- Ensured **regular NREGA work and payments**
- Vocational training programs through NGOs

Health Outcomes

First tribal panchayat to achieve 100 % covid vaccination in the District

Very low covid mortality – 0.5 % (Treated more than 600 covid patients with only 3 deaths)

No severe malnutrition in our community

Reduction in water borne, urine and skin infections in school children

Improved access to health during emergencies

Better buying capacity ensured better nutritional status which improved health status in the community

No diarrheal admissions or dengue deaths in the past 5 years



Learnings

- **Opposition from local vested interests** (instigating local trouble makers by giving money or alcohol to protest against the panchayat)
- **Government pushing for TASMACH shops (alcohol outlets)-having a negative health outcome**

