

**Unnat Bharat Abhiyan Camp at Gudi Paroda**  
**Quepem, South Goa**  
**Organized by the**  
**Department of Political Science**  
**Goa University**  
**13-14<sup>th</sup> October 2018**



The Department of Political Science, Goa University along with the students and faculty members organized one day camp in Paroda village, South Goa on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2018. The camp was a follow up to the village adoption of Gudi Paroda taken up as part of the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan and focussed on multiple engagements with the village community. Planning of any development work in the village is not possible without an understanding of the real problems of the villagers. The first part of this initiative was to gather information about the village and assessment of major problems by way of survey that was conducted earlier. It was realised that a discussion with the villagers in a more informal setting will be more helpful to understand deeper the problems faced by the villagers. Thus with an intention to collect more information about the problems an overnight camp was planned. The camp and the survey findings shall hopefully provide direction to the future activities in the village under UBA.

The camp had the following schedule:

11:00 am to 1:00 pm : Cleanathon

1:00 pm to 2:00 pm : Lunch

2:00 pm to 4:00 pm : Focussed Group Discussion with Self-Help Groups

4:00 pm to 5:00 pm : Tea Break / Preparations for evening cultural programme

5: 00 pm to 6:30 pm : Cultural programme organised by the students of department of Political Science

6:30 pm to 8:30 pm : Group Discussions (with separate groups of women, youth, senior citizens, men of the village)

8: 30 pm to 9:30 pm : Dinner

9:30 pm to 10:30 pm : Post-Dinner Discussions

On 9<sup>th</sup> October the faculty members of the Department of Political Science, Dr. Alaknanda Shringare, Mr. Ravaji Gaonkar and Director of UBA, Goa University, Dr. Sunder Dhuri met the Sarpanch of Paroda to brief him about the camp and requested him to disseminate the information about the students visit to Paroda, so that people of the village could participate in large number in the various activities. The Sarpanch ensured his full support to this activity. Efforts were also made by the Director, UBA and the faculty members to contact other members of Panchayat and some local members whose contact details have been collected during the previous visits to the village.

On the same day, the Director of UBA and faculty members of the department also met the acting Principle of Damodar Higher Secondary School located in the village who agreed to give the School hall and two classrooms for stay at night.



The UBA Team with the Principal, Damodar High School Paroda

## I. Cleanathon



**UBA Team at the Cleanathon**

After making its initial preparations for the Camp, on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2018, faculty members of the department along with the students reached Paroda at 10:30 am. The first activity that was planned was a Cleanathon in which students were expected to collect the plastic garbage while walking through a particular stretch. Students were divided in two groups, one group carried out the Cleanathon in Gudiarea (ward 3), while the other group carried out the same activity in Paroda (ward 6). The faculty members accompanied the students in both these areas. During the cleanathon, the students also got an opportunity to meet and discuss with the villagers about their village and their major problems. It was noticed that some villagers were hesitant to openly talk about the problems, while some were not happy with the functioning of the Panchayat.

## II. Focused group discussion with self-help groups



After completing the cleanathon activity the students and faculty members gathered at Damodar Higher Secondary School for lunch. A focused group discussion with the Self-Help Groups of the village was planned in the post-lunch session. At around 3 pm the members of self help groups started coming. From 3 pm to 5 pm. Group discussions were carried out with the self-help groups members who were divided in three groups. Based on the discussions the following issues were noted:

- ➔ Most of the self-help groups are not functional. The main reason for which is lack of clarity of purpose.
- ➔ Lack of awareness on how to register the self-help groups and how to generate loans.
- ➔ Self-help groups wants to start with some economic/income generating activity but do not have expertise on marketing techniques
- ➔ Some members also expressed the need for training in the form of classes on cooking, tailoring, handicraft, etc.
- ➔ There is also a need to generate entrepreneurial skill, as some women have some skills but struggling to venture into a small business.
- ➔ The Department shall look into the possibility of seeking help from Goa Chamber of Commerce and Industry/Rotary Club etc to train the women in such entrepreneurial skills.

### III. Cultural programme



In the evening the students of the department organized cultural programme for the villagers. The people were also made part of this cultural programme, in which women members of the village performed a local dance on a folk song in which students also participated. Young boys and girls of the village also performed dance. The students of the department also had small quiz for the villagers in which students asked questions related to Goa in which every right answer fetched small prize (pen).

#### IV. Discussion with the villagers



The cultural programme was followed by discussion with the villagers. The groups of the villagers consisted of only women and youths. As men were out in the fields or for services they move out of village they come home late in the evening, there was no representation of men for discussion. Thus only two groups were formed of women and youth.

##### a) Problems stated by women

The following are the problems stated by the women:

- i) Electricity problem: There is no continuous electricity, many times in a day power was shut down and there is no timing for shut down of power.
- ii) Drainage problem: No proper cleaning of drainage takes place due to which there is problem of mosquitos.
- iii) No toilets in many houses: Traditionally these houses never had toilets.
- iv) Cases of cancer are increasing due to consumption of tobacco and liquor.
- v) Problems related to agriculture:
  - Many families are involved in agriculture but they do not get proper market as well as price for their produce.
  - Monkey menace in increasing, which destroy their crops
  - Apart from monkeys, peacocks and wild pigs are also entering fields and destroying crops. The farmers cannot fence the field as it is very expensive for them.
  - Often crops are destroyed due to crop disease (fungi) and farmers have to bear a loss.

- Land is not even for cultivation.



**Problems stated by youths**

- No proper career guidance.
- No coaching classes especially for 12<sup>th</sup> students who want to clear JEE, NEET and other exams.

- Unemployment: Educated youth finds it difficult to find employment.



#### **Suggestion for future course of action**

1. Organizing a half day awareness programme on how to register the self-help groups and how to generate loans/what are the various sources of loans available. The programme can also be used to impart entrepreneurial skill required to start their own business.
2. There is a need to organize skill development workshops/classes such as (tailoring, cooking, preparing jute bags, agarbatti making), so that some of these groups can generate their own income to support their families.
3. There is a need to discuss with the members of Panchayat to understand more about drainage problem.
4. Identifying the houses which do not have toilets. They survey findings would be helpful in identifying these houses. A sensitization/awareness programme on the need of toilets in the house and impacts of open defecation on health. There is need to

organize awareness programme on various schemes of the government under which toilets can be constructed.

5. Need to organize cancer awareness programme. Also to organize health camp in the village.
6. Connecting farmers to Horticultural department of Goa, so they can sell their produce at better price.
7. The next phase of the UBA at Paroda will consist of connecting the villagers with the



other stakeholders/bodies, that will assist them in addressing the specific problems faced by the villages. It shall also include a detailed study of the Village Development Plan made by the Gram Sabha to see if some of these activities could be integrated into the larger plan.



