

Name of the Gram Panchayat	Hemmanahalli
State	Karnataka
Theme	(Women and child development) Child Friendly

Every child has a fundamental right to get quality education. The responsibility of the state or any institution is to create an enabling environment that is conducive to learning. The role of the local governments, especially the Gram Panchayat, has a greater responsibility of managing and coordinating these responsibilities.

Gram Panchayat Hemmanahalli belongs to Maddur Taluk of Mandya district in Karnataka, consists of 5 Revenue Villages. As per the 2011 census, the total population of the panchayat is 5090, with 605 Scheduled Castes and 9 Scheduled Tribes. The Panchayat has a literacy rate of 61.53%. The Total Geographical area is 2630.92 hectares. Though the major economic activity is agriculture, the focus nowadays has also shifted to working in garment factories and other industries in the nearby industrial areas.

There are 7 Anganwadi Centres in the Gram Panchayat. A total of 219 children were enrolled, including 111 male and 108 female children. There are four Government Schools - 2 Higher Primary schools and 2 Lower Primary schools – apart from one unaided Private high school with a total of 479 children. There are 223 boys and 256 girls studying in these schools. The Gram Panchayat has 13 elected members of which 7 are women and 6 are men.

The elected representatives of GP Hemmanahalli perceive creation of infrastructure facilities like roads, drainages etc. within the rural areas as most important development activities. They do not permit allocation of funds to activities to improve education and other social sectors as there are no such grants allocated to the Panchayats. There was a lack of attitude that children were an integral part of the community. In addition, there was a lack of coordination between the Education Department and the Gram Panchayat.

Lack of basic infrastructure in Anganwadi centres was also a major problem for GP. They were provided with minimal facilities with available resources by the department. Recognizing this, the GP has worked in phased manner and took following initiatives as first to provide better facilities focusing more on quality education (pre-primary) and also to improve the basic infrastructure facilities such as:

- The GP ensured regular training to all elected representatives, Self Help Group members, officials and members of all sub committees on the concept of Sustainable Development Goals and how to ensure that the Panchayat plays an important role in achieving development as per the mandate of the functions devolved under the 73rd Amendment.
- Created awareness on the role of Gram Sabha among villagers through pamphlets and regular meetings.
- Organised regular meetings with school Head Master, Anganwadi workers, Asha activists, Junior Health Assistants and staff of Mid Day meals scheme to generate awareness on importance of Education and Health among villagers by Standing Committees of the GP.
- Quarterly Parent's meetings were held to educate the parents on the facilities available, ensuring quality education to their children, preparations for the examinations etc. The feedback was evaluated to prepare better plans for the children.
- Disseminate the information on child care and nurturing in mothers' meetings.
- Effective Monitoring on the use of available learning materials and library books.
- Providing better health care facilities to children in getting the immunisation regularly and special efforts for better facilities and protection to adolescent females.
- Organizing regular meetings with Education and other department officials for better coordination.
- Prepared an action plan for solving problems by organizing Children's Gram Sabha.

Further, the GP adopted a multipronged strategy included improving the existing infrastructure facilities in the anganwadi centers, providing better facilities for improving the learning skills and ability of the children and better implementation of the existing department schemes aimed at reducing the malnourishment among children.

In second phase, following key initiatives have taken place by the Gram Panchayat to improve the Education status of children:

- Gram Panchayat provided Learning kits consisting of free uniforms, chairs, tables, fan and better learning materials. The Gram Panchayat identified local donors apart from using its own funds. The focus was on providing facilities on par with those provided in Private Schools. The present condition of the Anganwadi center encouraged parents to enroll their children in Anganwadi centers instead of private schools.

- Implementation of RO plants by Gram Panchayat for all schools and Anganwadi Centers to provide clean drinking water.
- Development of all schools' playground, construction of school compound, and repair of the schools and anganwadi centers have been completed under the MGNREGA and 14th Finance Commission as per decision taken in the children's Gram Sabha.
- Distribution of sports goods to children in their own resources, and incentives for the highest scoring students.
- Elected members of the Gram panchayat donated 5 computers to government school.
- Farmers are seasonally supplying vegetables, lentils and pulses grown on their land to their village school and anganwadis. A villager named Prabhu gives free eggs to all the children of in one of the schools in the village, two days a week.

In third phase, the Gram Panchayat has involved all elected representatives, members of the women's self-help group, local level health aides, ASHA activists, Anganwadi workers, school teachers and all other local authorities are responsible for the implementation of these programs.

Earlier



Present



These efforts have resulted in increased attendance, learning and providing a supportive environment. Further, these efforts are playing a vital role in increasing children's learning interests through the use of innovative technology.

There is zero infant mortality and maternal mortality in the Gram Panchayat since 2018--19. GP has only one child suffering from malnutrition in the 7 Anganwadi centers and this number

is low compared to previous years. Anganwadi learning methodology and physical environment will increase the enrollment in the near future.

As an outcome of these efforts, the Gram Panchayat Hemmanahalli is honoured with the Child Friendly Gram Panchayat National Award for 2018-19. The award has increased the responsibility of the panchayat. The initiatives taken by the Gram Panchayat by way of mobilising all the stakeholders and resources in the villages have provided an opportunity to initiate a sustainable strategy for child friendly initiatives. The convergence approach followed in implementation of the initiatives would provide a better child friendly environment in the villages.

Now, The GP Hemmanahalli is more focusing on proper "Planning, Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation (PIME)" with convergence of development programs to support the overall development of children.