

Name of the Gram Panchayat	Ukhli
State	Himachal Pradesh
Theme	Drinking water, Health and Sanitation

Goal 6 of SDGs states that “access to safe water and sanitation and sound management of freshwater ecosystem are essential to human health and to environmental sustainability and economic prosperity’. Gram Panchayat (GP) Sichewal has made remarkable efforts to improve the sustainable access of safe drinking water supply and sanitation in the village.

Gram Panchayat (GP) Ukhli was came into being in the year 2001 after bifurcation from the Gram Panchayat Pandvi, Development Block Bhoranj, District Hamirpur. There are 07 wards in this GP, in which 636 families resides, whose total population is 2494. The headquarter of the GP is on Hamirpur Shimla National Highway 103, which is located near the main market of Ukhli, at a distance of 07 km from the main town of Bhota. The area of the GP is about 05 square km.

GP Ukhli has 3 Government Primary Schools, 2 Government Middle Schools, 1 private Senior Secondary School and 1 private Industrial Training Institute to get technical education which is recognized by the government. Apart from this, 2 government Health Sub-Centers, 1 Veterinary Hospital, 1 branch of Kangra Central Cooperative Bank and 2 Post Offices are located in the Gram Panchayat.



About 80 percent of the families residing in the Gram Panchayat area have made their job cards under MGNREGA. Due to which, women have become self-dependent by working in MNREGA. 11 Self-Help Groups have been formed to strengthen their families. The Gram Panchayat has 400 registered laborers in the Himachal Pradesh Kamgar Welfare Board who

were dependent on wages. These registered families are availing all the facilities from the government.

GP Ukhli has many problems like Infrastructure, Employment, 24 Hours Electricity Supply but sustainable access to Safe Drinking Water and Basic Sanitation were major problems in the GP. In order to address the problem of access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation, GP Ukhli has adopted an effective strategy. As a first step, the elected representatives of GP have been collaborated with the line departments for



awareness generation in the gram sabhas about their schemes and programmes by involving line department functionaries. Secondly, around 70-80 water storage tanks have been constructed in the Gram Panchayat area. Thirdly, the Gram Panchayat has constructed water storage tanks for most of the families under MNREGA. In addition, the old water sources were renovated under the 14th Finance Commission and MNREGA. Check dams were constructed with the support of the general public, so that the water level rises, and the local public can use this water to produce cash crops. The GP has undertaken various measures for Solid-Liquid waste management such as: collection of garbage/ solid waste including non-biodegradable plastics from every home, construction and regular cleaning of drains, ensuring cleanliness at public places like: roads, streets and market places.

GP has organized cleanliness rallies and programs in collaboration with Mahila Mandal, Sudhar Sabha and Yuvak Mandals, and cleanliness work was done in every ward with the help of villagers. It has constructed soak pits for disposal of dirty water and this work is still going on continuously on panchayati land. As a result of above mentioned initiatives, the GP people have sustainable



access to Safe Drinking Water and they are becoming self-dependent by producing vegetables, fruits and grains in their land by using stored water. Solid and Liquid Waste Management has greatly improved the sanitation status of the GP.

Apart from this, the GP has taken various initiatives for inclusive development of the GP people.

- Gram Panchayat has constructed rural roads and thereby connected the general public with road facility, which has brought great relief to the village elders, as it has made the traffic very accessible. These works have been done under the 14th Finance Commission and MNREGA, in convergence mode.
- Paver blocks of good quality were used in roads constructed by GP.
- All village paths/street have been illuminated with solar lights.
- Maintenance of paths, construction of cremation sheds and construction of community toilets in each ward has also been done under the 14th Finance Commission.
- The main problem that comes in the development of GP area was of land disputes and its availability, which was resolved by the GP elected representatives together with the villagers. Due to which the GP got success in doing the development work.
- It has organized a program on de-addiction in the meeting of the Gram Sabha so that the youth power is saved from intoxication.
- In the Hon'ble Prime Minister's sanvaad program, self-help groups of women were called to the Gram Panchayat office and were got connected to the Hon'ble Prime Minister's sanvaad programme through TV.
- The MNREGA Employment Day is organized every month at the ward level to strengthen the economic development of families under MNREGA in the Panchayat area.
- To plant saplings on wasteland by motivating the local public.

Now, the GP Ukhli is focusing on economic empowerment of the GP people by motivate the young generation to occupy the highest positions in the country, so that their families' economic condition is strengthened and the youth power is strengthened by connecting them with the skill development programs run by the Govt of India.