

INTERNATIONAL SIKH CONFEDERATION

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MODEL VILLAGES PROJECT **AREA CHUNNI**

GENERAL:

1. S. Rajvir Singh a resident of Mohali was referred to me by our Convenor, Dr. S.S. Johl during our Educational C-ord Seminar held on 20 Dec. 08. He is volunteer to work for the uplift of a few villages in the Chunni Village and surrounding areas of District Fatehgarh Sahib.
2. With this in view he introduced another volunteer named S. Shivender Singh who belongs to Chunni Village and has good contacts all round. He is the son of a retired Subedar from the Army. Having tested their genuine desire to do social work we gave them a reconnaissance mission to get the following information: -
 - (a) Which villages could we group into this project in the vicinity of Chunni.
 - (b) Contact the Sarpanches/Influential leaders for their willingness to help us uplift these villages.
 - (c) Initially restrict the no. of villages to about 5 to 10.
3. Rajvir did some spadework and has chosen five villages for our Project. He visited them on Sunday 4 January and spent some time with the Sarpanches/Influential persons of each village. He then briefed me regarding the shocking state of these villages with photographic illustration on his laptop. He covered the following aspects: -
 - (a) Sanitation including state of drains, lanes, sewage and ponds where existing. It was generally a shocking description.

- (b) Set up of infrastructure and grounds of the School in the village - again very poor.
- (c) Interest taken by teachers completely lacking.
- (d) Villagers lack of education and taking no interest in students studies.
- (e) Shocking rate of smaller children being put to work - no chance to attend school. Prevalent especially in scheduled cast colonies.
- (f) Lack of resources to sink tubewells for village common land where required.
- (g) Menace of drugs and female foeticide.
- (h) Unemployment among youth.

WHERE CAN ISC HELP

4. ISC can divide this project into phases.

PHASE - 1

- (a) We can tackle the health and hygiene problem by helping them build clean latrines. Also clean up school latrines and urinals and ensure good upkeep by regular visits.
- (b) Clean up the lanes and refuse dumps using village volunteers and giving them the lead by joining in cleanliness drives.
- (c) Arrange for Medical Team with medicines to visit the villages by turu once or twice a month. We have no. of charitable organisations in Chandigarh whom we need to contact for this service.
- (d) Simultaneously we could contact the DC/ADC Fatehgarh Sahib for help with regard to Sewage plant, Tube well/piped water, filling up of ditches/small ponds using heavy equipment.
- (e) Arrange to improve existing playgrounds and give them sports equipment for field games such as Football, Basketball, Volleyball, Badminton and Kabaddi for girls. Mrs. Chanchal Surjit Singh Jt. Director Sports Punjab, Govt. of India has now become our

member (M. no. 402) and volunteered all help in this regard and more.

- (f) Contacting DG Punjab Education Department for improving building/grounds in Schools. Also filling up vacancies of teachers and Principals in the existing Govt. Schools.

PHASE - 2

- (g) Get onto bigger things such as employment for children we could arrange courses for recruitment, entry to JSW/IMA, Secretarial course etc. as per educational qualifications. The ISC can arrange these without too much difficulty.
- (h) Improve environment by planting trees during the rainy season.
- (i) Take help from the Farmers Commission to improve agriculture output Dr. G.S. Kalkat, our honored member, will help us in this regard.
- (j) Improve the earning capacity of the villages by establishing small scale self-employments centres.
- (k) Obtain as much Govt. aid for Schools/students in the form of grants and scholarships.
- (l) Improve religious institutions.
- (m) Mrs. Ranbir Talib daughter of Late S. Niranjan Singh Talib, Punjab minister has volunteered to join us in this noble mission.

CONCLUSION

5. We do not visualize any major investment in Phase - 1. Villagers participation will be encouraged in the form of labour etc. We will not initially tax villages financially. However later we envisage strong participation from the well-off population.
6. Motivational talks and regular visits should ensure their full throated participation. Our team to do this will be 2 to 3 member of the ISC

working with the Sarpanches/Panches and Rajvir Singh will act as chief motivator.

7. A meeting with Sarpanches and other volunteers has been arranged for us at 10 AM on 8th January by Rajvir Singh. We shall be able to formulate the concrete plan along with financial implications once we get going.