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Vajjireddy Palem Village in Kothapatnam Mandal

SDRWC organized a public meeting with the representatives of villages in the Kothapatnam Mandal on June 30, 2005. The meeting was organized in Vajjireddy Palem village. Leaders of 8 villages spoke at the meeting. A survey of the village needs had already been performed by SDRWC. This meeting helped develop a rapport with villagers and prioritize their needs. The following is an overview of the comments from each of the village leaders of the eight villages:

Madanur china Pattapalem Village - Kothapatnam Mandal

Speaker: V. Ramlingam

According to Mr. V. Ramlingam, the villagers wanted improved housing and drinking water facilities. The road leading into their village is inadequate for vehicular traffic. If they had a decent road, they would be able to have bus service to their village and the ability to transport their fish catch to market. The government has promised them a new road, but has not yet delivered on their promise.

Mr. V. Ramlingam, added that the government wants to relocate their village to a different site further away from the ocean. The village land will be given to a manufacturing company. The government assures that their boats and nets can remain on the coast, but the villagers have a concern that the nets and boats will not be secure if they lived further away from them. The government says they are trying to develop the village community, but their half measures, only harm them.

The villagers requested a secure structure located at the seashore that could serve as a storage place for their boats and nets and also could provide shelter from the sun during the day.

The government has supplied some new fiberglass boats to this village, but has provided inadequate money for the engines. Therefore, the boats are useless to the villagers and are not used.

Chenchupapaipalem Village - Kothapatnam Mandal

Speaker: Mr. K. Govind

Mr. K. Govind the village representative said his village requires sanitation facilities. Their priority is toilets for each house, but public latrines centrally located may be adequate for them. He also listed access to potable water, security shelter for their boats and nets, adequate roads to their village, and a new school to educate their children. These were all high priority issues brought up by the speaker that his village would like to have addressed.

Finally, K. Govind mentioned that the wells in his village had water 20 feet below the surface, and the water was salty and not suitable to drink.

Rajupalem Village - Kothapatnam Mandal

Speaker: Mr. Ankollu

Currently the people from Mr. Ankollu's village have to walk 1 kilometer for access to drinkable water. Therefore, he would like a source of drinking water in their village, and he suggested an idea that included building a pipe that would connect to a government water pipe which is at least a kilometer away. The proposed water pipe would deliver water to a proposed water tank in their



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village. Having water in the tank would ensure a regular water source than the more sporadic government water supply.

Only some of the village houses have their own latrines. These latrines are composed of squat toilets in a small brick enclosure where the waste ends up in a pit located under the latrine and remains there. There were no leach lines. Since only a few houses had their own toilets, Mr. Ankollu said they needed more sanitation facilities. He mentioned that a common latrine that could be used by multiple families, which included running water, would be an acceptable solution.

The road into their village was poor and needed to be improved.

Kothapatnam Pallepalem south I - Kothapatnam Mandal
Speaker: Mr. Pyandi Rao

Kothapatnam Pallepalem south I is a large village consisting 750 families. The government has sanctioned 125 houses for the villagers, but has not provided enough money to build the houses. The government design for the houses calls for a 4" foundation slab which according to the villagers is completely inadequate due to the sandy soil and the flooding during monsoon. The government provides 25,000 rupees for construction of each house. But to build an adequate house a minimum of 40,000 rupees is required. Hence the villagers build their houses incrementally as they receive money.

According to Mr. Pyandi Rao, sanitation was not an issue. They do not have any toilets and used the fields for their daily activities. But due too the increasing population and the reduced access to nearby clean locations in nature, providing sanitation facilities to the village, for Mr. Pyandi Rao, became a high priority issue. His solution is to have individual latrines for each village house. He believed common latrines were unsanitary and did not want them because the village pigs would eat the waste and spread germs.

Currently, they have no potable water in the village and must go elsewhere for it. Ideally, they want piped water into each house from a central water tank, but developing a central water source that would be accessible by all villagers would be an adequate solution.

Mr. Pyandi Rao also stated that there was no health care facility in the village and this was especially problematic for the pregnant and lactating mothers. He requested a healthcare facility for the village. He also requested help in providing them with a proper school and related materials.

Pinnivaripalem Village - Kothapatnam Mandal
Speaker: Mr. Paul Chander Rao

The village had no healthcare facilities and the villagers had to travel to the Mandal headquarters to receive basic treatment. The village had a primary school, which has classes up to 5th level. For the village kids to attend school beyond 5th level, they need to travel 6 kilometers to a larger village to attend secondary school. This proves to be an impediment to the education of the village kids. Mr. Paul Chander Rao asked for bicycles for the kids to help them get to school conveniently.

He mentioned that lack of village latrines was a major problem. The villagers currently go to the bathroom in nature which proves especially problematic for the women in the village. In addition, there is no road connecting the village to the ocean and this made it difficult to transport their fish



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catch to market before it spoiled. Since the village was at a distance from the ocean, the fishermen needed a security shelter at the seashore to store their boats and nets in order to prevent theft.

Previously, the government had built 90 houses for some of the village families. But many are incomplete and are now falling apart. They were inadequate and poorly constructed in the first place and there is no slab on grade. Therefore, in addition to the other issues mentioned above, they would like help providing them housing.

Vajjireddypalem Village - Kothapatnam Mandal

Speaker: Mr. Kumar Nagarjuna

According to Mr. Nagarjuna, the village needs a security shed located at the seashore to store their boats and nets in to prevent them from being stolen. They also need improved sanitation facilities for the ladies. Most of the villagers went to the bathroom out in nature and the ladies would only go under the cover of darkness, which limited the time to after dusk and before dawn. He felt, it was important to have sanitation facilities especially for the women. The bore wells that formally provided the village with drinking water now has high salinity level due to the tsunami hence the water is not potable.

The water from the tsunami had made it to the center of their village and had damaged the colony road and some of their mud houses. The road was critical for the fishermen because they used it to transport their catch to market.

The government had promised 53 houses for the village. But the government had made the requirement for each family who was going to receive money for a house to build the foundation first with their own money before they could receive the money for their houses. But the families did not have the money to build the foundations and were at risk of losing the government funding for the rest of the house.

Mr. Nagarjuna mentioned that the village needed a community center which could serve as a meeting hall, school, medical center, and a place to host weddings. The current center, the two story cyclone building, was damaged by the tsunami. He also mentioned that a lot of the villages played volleyball and they wanted a sports field built where they could play volleyball and cricket. He felt this was important to build a sense of community and togetherness amongst the village youth.

Vajjireddypalem Village

Speaker: Ms. Seethamma (wife of fisherman)

Ms. Seethamma wanted to add that when the fishermen lost their boats and nets, they lost their livelihood. They would not do any other type of work because of their pride. The women took up the slack and found alternative work. They would buy vegetables in Ongole and sell them for more money in the Mandal headquarters. They were trying to raise money to buy new boats and nets and were now the ones providing for the men. The men were currently just sitting at home doing nothing and this was difficult for the women. Their moneymaking endeavor was limited by the fact that they did not have enough money to buy the vegetables in the first place, and in addition, there was currently no transportation to and from their village because the road was damaged. She requested better roads and a security shelter for the boats and nets located on the seashore which would also provide shelter from the sun while the women sorted the fish that the men catch.



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Gundamala Chinapalem Village - Kothapatnam Mandal

Speaker: Mr. V. Ramanaiah

There are 200 families in Gundamala Chinapalem and no schools. The village children attend a neighboring village school. When they are away from the village working, they are unsure whether the children are actually attending school. The children have had bad government teachers who do not encourage education. They would like a school in their village. The colony road that leads to their village is in poor condition. Buses and other forms of transportation cannot use it. They would like the road improved enough to allow vehicular traffic.

Currently, there are no latrines in the village villager's use the fields. But during the rainy season and the planting season, access to the fields is cut off and they have no place to go. Therefore it is important that they get some latrines. The village does not have its own source of drinking water. They have to travel 1.5 kilometers for water. There is a water pipe that is supposed to deliver water to the village, but it is broken and water does not make it to the village.

10 years ago, 30 families received government housing, but the houses were shoddily constructed and now they are falling apart. The plaster is peeling off and the roofing is falling apart. They requested a security shelter for their boats and nets that could also provide shade while they are by the ocean.

Rajupalem Chinna Hamlet - Kothapatnam Mandal

(A small community associated with Rajupalem Patapupalem Village)

Speaker: Mr. Ankiya

At the third village visited on July 1, 2005 a formal public meeting was set up by SDRWC were the villagers from the villages of Singaraya konda Mandal could come and express the needs of their villages to SDRWC and EWB. The meeting was held in Pothaiahgari Village. Since SDRWC had already made a survey of the villages recording what facilities were lacking, the purpose of the meetings with the villagers was to develop a rapport with them and understand what they believed to be the priorities of needs facing their villages.

Mr. Ankiya briefly stated that they needed a seashore security shelter for their boats and nets, decent sanitation facilities for the women, and a colony road to the village where currently there is none. The government had promised 22 families housing, but so far nothing has materialized.

Voollapalem Village - Singaraya konda Mandal

Speaker: N. Venkatesvarlu

There are 350 families in Voollapalem. Currently, there is no good road that connects the village to the seashore and there is no crossing over the Buckingham canal. . During the rainy season, crossing the Buckingham canal without a bridge becomes very difficult and it forms a natural barrier between the village and the sea. The current road connecting the village to the ocean is a temporary mud path made by the villagers themselves. Not having an adequate roadway connection between the village and the seashore, make it difficult for the fishermen to transport their catch to the market. Only a bullock cart can navigate the current path and motorized transport is unable to traverse it. Many times, the fish spoils before they can get it to market



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The government has built a water pipe that brings water into the village. But the water is not potable and it only flows occasionally. The nearest source of drinking water is 1.5 km away and comes from an open well. The villagers would like access to drinking water in their village.

The government had given money to 190 families for individual bathrooms. The villagers put in 350 rupees and the government gave them 2500 rupees to build functioning latrines, but the contractor cheated them out of the money. Only small brick structures were built with no toilet facilities, no running water, and no drainage facilities.

The government had given 20,000 rupees each to 60 families for housing. This amount was inadequate to actually build a house. Therefore, to use the money, each family had to mortgage their jewelry, buffalos, and land to acquire the additional money. According to the villagers, 40 to 45,000 rupees are required to build an adequate house.

There is no school in the new satellite community of Basandlapallepalem. The children have to travel to the original community to attend school

Pothaiahgari Village - Singaraya konda Mandal
Speaker: Vayila Pothaiah

The village has 800 people in 250 families. There are 140 houses, 190 bathing facilities, and 2 schools.

Drainage is a major issue brought up by the villagers. When it rains, pools of water form which are source of water bourn disease. The Buckingham canal is ¼ mile away and could receive water from a proposed village drainage system. The standing water also makes it way into the open wells and pollutes them.

The village needs additional latrines and bathing facilities for the women. Currently, most of the men go to the bathroom outside at the seashore, but the women have no place to go to the bathroom. According to the villagers, this is a major problem.

Another issue highlighted by the village leader, is the lack of an adequate road that connects the village to the outside world. Currently, only a sand cover road is in place. They would like a paved road that could be used by autos and buses. Also, having a sand covered pathway makes it difficult to even walk.

Also, their houses are in bad shape. The roofs are thatched and during cyclone periods, they blow away. The structures themselves are made out of mud which do not fare that well during the monsoon season either. They would like new more permanent housing and would be willing to contribute to the cost.

There is only an one room school in the village that serves 150 children. The facility is woefully inadequate and as a result the children are not actually being educated because they cannot learn while crammed into such a small space.

A large new water tower is present in the village. The water tower is not working because it is not hooked up to anything.



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The existing wells have high salinity levels and the villagers feel the water is not drinkable. There is a new bore well with a hand-pump outside the village toward the beach. The water is potable, but the taste has changed since the tsunami according to the villagers.

World Vision has provided the fishermen with new fiberglass fishing boats. But they are not being used yet since no engines have been provided.

Christian village split-off from Kranti Nagar Village

Batti Somaiah Palem Village - Ulavapadu Mandal

SDRWC organized a public meeting at Batti Somaiah Palem Village in the Ulavapadu Mandal. The meeting was with representatives of the villages of Ulavapadu Mandal, and village leaders from eight villages spoke. The following is an overview of the comments from each of the village leaders:

Mondavari Palem Village - Gudur Mandal

Speaker: P. Masthan

The village has 79 families. Mr. P Masthan states that the water that comes from the wells in the village taste salty and is unsuitable to drink. There is a bore well located 4 km away that provides drinking water. The village in partnership with government had put in a 4 inch PVC pipe to carry water to the village. The villagers had put in 60,000 rupees of their own money for this water project. But the project was not successful. Water only come sporadically and does not provide the village with enough water.

Mondavari Palem village has a primary school that educates the village children up to 5th grade. To educate the children beyond 5th grade, the village has to send their children 30 km (According to SDRWC, distances are suspect because the villagers do not have a sense distance.) away to a secondary school. The bus fare for the children to attend secondary school is 10 rupees per day, an amount that is barely affordable to village families.

15 families have been given bathing facilities by the government, but without running water or latrines. The village and the road leading to the village have no drainage systems and both flood during the rainy season. The gravel road becomes impassable with standing water on the roadway surface.

The village does not have a primary medical facility, but there is a medical practitioner who visits on call. The village needs to go to a larger adjacent town to receive major medical treatment.

Chakicherla China Pattapuepalem Village- Ulavapadu Mandal

Speaker: V. Koteswara

The village has 150 families and is 20 km away from the meeting location. The village does not have a primary medical, but there is a medical practitioner who visits once a week.

Chakicherla China Pattapupalem has an access road that connects the village to the outside world. The access road was functional and was made of gravel and packed earth. But overtime the road became covered by sand and become less passable and not as functional. This village also needs a vehicular crossing over the Buckingham canal. Currently, the fishermen find it difficult to carry their catch across the canal which separates the village from the seashore. It



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becomes especially difficult to cross the canal during the rainy season. The villagers would like a bridge over the canal or culverts that the water can pass through which the road can pass over. There is a road that connects the village to the seashore, but it needs to be improved in order to allow motorized vehicles to travel to the where the fishermen haul in their catch.

Chakicherla China Pattapalem Village has a primary school that educates their children up to 5th level. The school has one primary teacher and two volunteers to educate 100 children. This is not enough. The village wants another school that educates the older children and provides more space to educate the younger children. There is a local volunteer organization in Ongole who has offered to build a school for this village for the children of 6th grade and older. Nothing has happened yet.

There are no toilets or bathing facilities in this village. They would like some. There is a water tank in the larger adjacent village with pipes that connects to this village, but water only flows occasionally. There are 30 families that have their own bore wells, but this is not enough for everyone and not everyone has access to them. There are 3 open wells that have silted up. The aquifer is 18 to 22 feet below the surface. Therefore access to water is poor.

Also, they have been clearing out the trees in and around the village to make more room for the growing population of Chakicherla China Pattapalem.

Chakicherla China Pallepalem Village - Ulavapadu Mandal
Speaker: P. Subharayahoo

The village does not have a primary medical facility, but there is a medical practitioner who visits on fixed days of the month. The villagers have to travel 20 km to a larger adjacent town to receive more major medical treatment.

This village also needs a vehicular crossing over the Buckingham canal. Currently, the fishermen find it difficult to carry their catch across the canal which separates the village from the seashore. It becomes especially difficult to cross the canal during the rainy season. The villagers would like a bridge over the canal or culverts that the water can pass through which the road can pass over. There is a temporary crossing built by the villagers made up of 5 4 feet diameter RCP culverts placed in the canal and covered in dirt. They felt this was a good solution but the culverts needed to be covered in a way that made the whole crossing more solid and permanent. The villagers had spent the equivalent of \$7000 on this crossing.

The village has almost no sanitation facilities. The government had provided a few small brick bathing facilities to some families, but without running water or latrines. The speaker mentioned that they would very much like sanitation facilities for their village. There are 3 open wells present, but the recharge rate is slow and the wells do not provide much water. There are numerous individual bore wells, but the speaker felt the water had become tasteless. The government had measured a percentage of fluoride present in the water. There is no piped in water to this village.

Batti Somaiah Palem Village - Ulavapadu Mandal
Speaker: Srinu

Group meeting location

According to Srinu, the village had 86 families. The village does not have a primary medical facility, but there is a medical practitioner visits on fixed days of the month. The village wants a healthcare facility built that could also serve the adjacent villages.



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There is a government teacher who comes to the village and teaches 40 children. Children who want to continue studying after the 5th grade have to travel 3 km to a nearby village. Currently, there is no school building in the village. The children learn under a large tree.

Unlike the other village, the tsunami engulfed Batti Somaiah Palem because it is closer to the ocean than the other villages. (Visually, the village did not look damaged.) Therefore the government wants to move the village to the other side of the Buckingham canal a kilometer away. Currently, the village is located on the ocean side of the canal. A new school building has already been constructed at the new location. The High Court is trying to build new houses for them, but no water or sanitation facilities have been planned for the new village. The money being allotted for new houses will most likely be insufficient for a whole house to be constructed properly. Since the village will be located west of the Buckingham canal and the canal will separate the village from the seashore, the village will need a crossing for vehicles over the Buckingham canal that will connect the new village to the seashore.

Speaker: Ms. Pallegami Chitemma

Ms. Pallegami Chitemma wanted to add to what Mr. Srinu had said about the village of Batti Somaiah Palem. She wanted to give a women's report on the village. There were 8 women self-help groups in Batti Somaiah Palem. Each group has 10 members. Each member donates 50 rupees a month and the group pools their funds. The government then supplements the money by giving additional funds to groups based on the groups regular contributions. Then each self-help groups has a large source of funds that they can use to buy nets or other expensive items that the village may need. But since the tsunami, and the loss of boats and nets, the women have not been able to meet their obligation of donating 50 rupees a month. Therefore, the government has dropped its participation in the self-help groups and now the women no longer have access to the program. According to SDRWC, all the fishing villages have women self-help groups.

Ms. Pallegami Chitemma also mentioned that the village needed bathing and sanitation facilities which were generally desired by the women of the village.

She also mentioned that the women self-help groups would be willing to share money with EWB to help fund the village projects. And she also made the point that whatever types of projects ultimately happen in the village, the project has to benefit all members of the village community.

Tankayachetlapalem Village - Ulavapadu Mandal

Speaker: Alivelamma

This village is called the village of coconuts. The village has 290 families and is located 1 km from meeting location. The speaker said that there was no proper road between the village in the ocean and this hindered them from bringing their catch to market. They will also need a crossing over the Buckingham canal.

There was no health facility in the village and they would like one.

The village had a small school that educated the children up to 5th level. The school had to educate 150 children and the facility was inadequate to meet the needs of so many children. The children are enrolled and go to school, but because of the cramped quarters, they are not studying or learning anything.



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There are no sanitation facilities in the village, and no access to trees or bushes to use as their toilet. Also, recently access to the adjacent fields has been cut off. The men can go by the seashore when they go off to fish.

60 families have family bore wells with hand pumps. There are no other sources of drinking water in the village. There are a number of open wells around the village, 7 of them are in actual use. The water in the open wells is not potable they are salty.

Site drainage in the village is poor. During the rainy season, there is a lot of standing water, and the villagers say there are high instances of water bourn diseases during those periods. If a drainage system is developed, it could outflow into the Buckingham canal, which is nearby.

Karedu Chaitanya Nagar Village - Ulavapadu Mandal
Speaker: G. Narasimarao

The village is made up of a 100 families. The children attend a school 1 km away from the village that has classes up to the 10th grade. There are 6 open wells in the village, of which 5 are in use. There are 15 family bore wells in the village and no other water source. The water from the bore wells has become sour and salty.

The government has provided 15 families with bathing facilities, but they do not have latrines and there are no latrines in the village. The villagers feel the lack of latrines makes the village very unhygienic and is a problem they would like to fix.

The connecting colony road is adequate but the local community road is inadequate. During the rainy season, the road floods and becomes impassable.

There are 8 women self-help groups in the village. The only profession of the men in the village is fisherman. Without boats and nets, the men do not do anything.

Srirampattappalem Village - Ulavapadu Mandal
Speaker: Raghoram

There are 44 families in the village. All are fishermen families. The village is 18 years old. Despite that, the houses are mud and thatch and according to Raghoram, "No good".

There are no bathing facilities and no latrines. According to SDRWC, the village looks like Jalemma Palem Village, the first village visited on July 2.

There is no access road to the village. The main colony road is 3 km away. There is also no crossing over the Buckingham canal. They would like an access road and a crossing over the Buckingham canal.

There is no health care facility in the village. A visiting nurse passes through the village occasionally. The nearest access to significant healthcare is 20 km away.

There is no school building in the village. There are 51 children who attend class under a tree. Since there is no government teacher, school is taught by a volunteer, Raghoram. Raghoram is a young man who completed 12th grade, the only one in the village. He hopes to become a government teacher.



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There are 10 family bore wells in use for all the families. There are 3 open wells that are not in use.

There are 4 women self-help groups in the village.

Alagayapalem Village - Ulavapadu Mandal
Speaker: V. Venkusvarlu

Venkusvarlu is the head leader of the village. There are 250 families in the village. There is no school in the village. The children have to travel to next village to attend school. But that village only has a primary school for up to 5th grade.

There is no health care facility in the village. A visiting nurse passes through the village occasionally. The nearest access to significant healthcare is far away.

There is no toilet or bathing facilities in the village. The women are suffering greatly.

The government is giving money incrementally for more permanent housing to the villagers. The villagers have to build their houses in parts and they end up using 30,000 to 40,000 rupees of their own money on their houses.

The road connecting the village to the main road is 5 km long. Only 1 km of that is decent. The remaining 4 km is no so good and difficult for motorized transport. There is no Buckingham canal crossing which makes it difficult to bring their catch from the seashore to the market.

The last request from V. Venkusvarlu was for a community center. He felt the building could have multiple uses including a place for school, a clinic, a cyclone shelter, a place to hold village meetings, and a place for weddings.