

# NIRMAL GRAM NIRMAN KENDRA

## • Background

**Nirmal Gram Nirman Kendra** is a voluntary organization devoted to the cause of Environmental Sanitation since 1983. It is located in village Govardhan in the outskirts of Nashik city, Northern Maharashtra, India. “Nirmal Gram Nirman Kendra” literally means “centre for creation of clean villages”. Nirmal Gram Nirman Kendra (NIGRANI) is dedicated to the cause of total attitudinal change in the society towards sanitation. NIGRANI considers sanitation as 'Waste Management Activity'.

Nirmal Gram Nirman Kendra has been working in the area of waste management and environment conservation since 1985. The kendra situated at Govardhan *gaon*, seven kilometres from Nashik, works towards facilitating better sanitation and creating awareness about its techniques. The centre was established by Bhau Navarekar, who left his full-time job for this initiative. Spread in a five-acre land at Govardhan, the centre runs several various environment-friendly projects for waste management and is open to all who are willing to learn these techniques and implement them.

The centre houses toilets with techniques of converting the waste into fertilisers. There is also a biogas plant and solar plant here. Various books and pamphlets are placed all over to provide information about sanitation techniques.

## • Location, Date

Nasik, 1985

## • Areas

Rural

## • Stage/Scale

Full scale

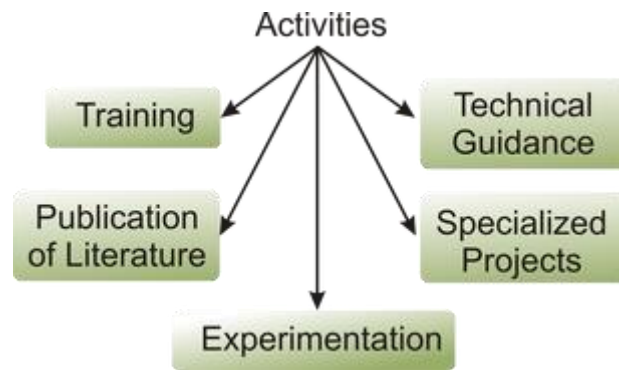
## • Objective of the assignment

Their main objectives are:

- To achieve total attitudinal change in the society whereby people would accept & adopt sanitation as a way of life
- To establish an integrated approach towards sanitation laying equal emphasis on the management of all the human related wastes (faeces, urine, solid & liquid wastes). Also including personal hygiene & sanitary habits.
- To establish recycling potential of all the human wastes mentioned above by evolving simple yet scientific methods affordable & adoptable to all whereby sanitation activities will become “Waste management program” instead of “Waste disposal program”

## • What was done

Their basic activities are demonstrated below:



NGNK have following activities:

- Clean India Club:** This is a campaign whereby school students of Zilla Parishad schools are taught basic hygiene, sanitation and waste management techniques. There is a school in Devargoan in Nashik district for which the centre has built toilets and wash basins, water from which is directed into the garden area and a biogas plant which has all the kitchen waste going into it. The walls here are coloured with social messages to encourage the use of toilets in rural areas. All these things are done with the help of the students in the hostel here.
- Niramlaya Sankalan Abhiyan:** As part of the Niramlaya Sankalan Abhiyan, the team requests people to leave the flowers offered to Gods during *Ganpati visarjan* into the Niramlaya Kalash instead of throwing into the river. The team also segregates the nirmalaya as it includes glass, plastic, food etc. Each of this is recycled and reused. In order to encourage homemakers to recycle and reuse their household waste, the centre conducts various workshops where they teach how each item can be reused.
- The two-pit latrine designed by the NGNK is considered to be ideal because it envisages creation of organic manure from the excreta which is known as golden manure or son khad in Marathi. This concept has gained currency in many countries. Experts from Sweden were here recently to study the production process of organic manure. The NGNK also involves in making of pepwood, a strong material made of waste paper pulp. In addition, it prepares and evaluates organic manures.
- Leach pit:** A low cost but effective alternative for management of household greywater. It can either help in growing some garden trees around or the water can recharge the ground water source.
- Vermitank:** It is a masonry structure, which can be erected in the courtyard and can take care of all the biodegradable garbage generated in an average Indian household including the garbage from the garden. Community Vermitank, a modified version of Vermitank, which can take care of garbage on a larger scale.



## • Impact

NGNK activities focus on related training, experimentation, education and extension of sanitation technologies to the society. NGNK have trained over 4000 government officials on sanitation. NGNK has developed various low-cost sanitation technologies like odourless urinal (converts human urine into precious manure), Vermitank/Vermibox (converts domestic garbage and kitchen waste into good quality organic manure), and leach pits (cost effective wastewater recycling technique to reuse and recycle domestic wastewater). On the education front, NGNK conducts various awareness programs to educate people to adopt sanitary interventions as well as sanitary habits. Additionally, NGNK has developed a six-month correspondence course to educate and train individuals in sanitation.

## • Challenges and Issues

Targeting the mentality of people for changing their traditional methods of waste disposal was a big task for the team. Also, maintaining the cash flow was a challenge in initial days.

## • Innovation

NIGRANI believes that 'Waste' is not a part of their organisation's dictionary. They have come up with activities like recycling of waste paper into handmade paper & pulp articles, which can fetch money besides cleaning the city.

## • Lessons learnt

NIGRANI is constantly providing innovative and low cost solutions to problems of villages and cities as regards to insanitation. They have tried to alleviate the sanitation condition in a single city instead of trying to implement the program in multiple small places.

## • Financials

Not available

## • Economic sustainability/Revenue Model

Not available

## • Implementer Contact Persons

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## • Sources and References

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