



Effective Management of Solid Waste in Waranga GP



Waranga GP, in Hebri Taluk of Udipi district has seen an extensive change in the way it manages waste. Since 2017, the Gram Panchayat (GP) has initiated actions towards safely managing its Solid Waste. Waranga has achieved significant change and stands as an example to many GPs on Solid Waste Management (SWM). Being a Grade-I Gram Panchayat with 8000 population living in 1500 families, Waranga's transformation is of special significance.



Fig 1a: Hebri Taluk in Udipi District

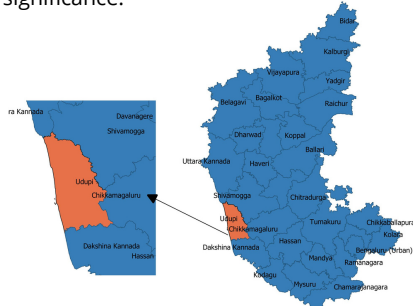


Fig 1b : Udipi District in Karnataka State



Fig 3: Sorting and segregation in action

The process

When the Udipi District Administration set off on the journey to make all the GPs SWM compliant, Waranga GP began with various programs such as training, site selection for establishing the SWM Unit and planning. In addition, an 18 member governing body team, three government officials and six GP staff actively took up Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities to motivate communities to comply with SWM guidelines including components on waste segregation at household level, and wet waste composting.

In the year 2016-17, Waranga GP began scientifically managing waste by appointing sanitation workers, hiring a vehicle and allowing an old building for temporary operations. Presently, a new building has been constructed with Rs.10 lakhs and collection vehicle worth Rs.4 lakhs purchased. The GP team with a great foresight for effective management of the SWM unit, partnered with a Self-Help group and made it operational by opening a bank account for them.



Fig 2: New SWM Unit in Waranga GP

The self-sustaining SWM has had a revenue of Rs. 1.64 lakhs from April 2019- March 2020 and expenditure of 1.55 lakhs in the same time period.

Present status

The unit is self-sustaining, which is a great feat to achieve. The GP also ensures effective participatory management of the SWM unit by actively involving the general assembly, Panchayat development officers to sign off all resolutions. The SWM includes vehicle (swachha vahini), labor (sanitation workers), storage unit making it a well-equipped Unit.

A total of five staff members, including a supervisor, two assistants and two gram panchayat sanitation workers are currently working as part of the group. The GP administration takes the health of the workers seriously and conducts regular "Hepatitis B" and Covid-19 tests (in the pandemic context).

Waranga GP has been awarded by the state government, Zilla panchayat and various organizations for their efficient management of solid waste. The GP has also been successful in creating employment and generating income via the SWM Unit.

The future also holds bright for this GP which is now very conscious about waste generation, management and cleanliness. On these lines, panchayat aims to develop a nutrient garden along with extending its operations to various components such as incinerator, shredding, bailing and screening in the unit in the near future.

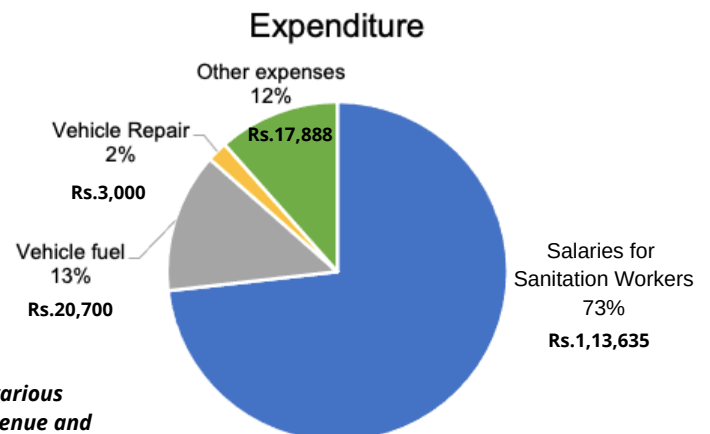
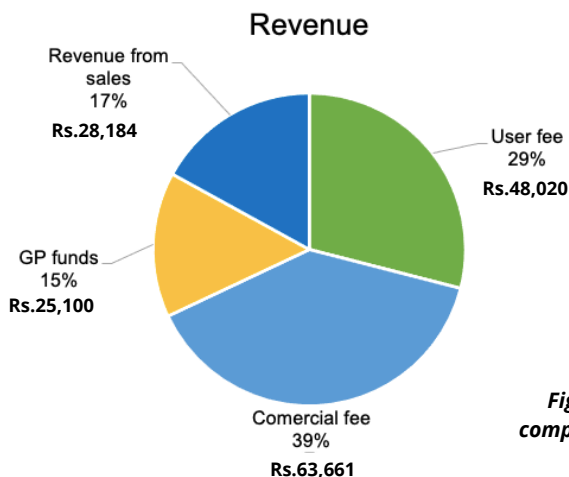


Fig 3: Share of various components in revenue and expenditure