INTRODUCTION

Our immediate environment consists of our house, our compound and the surrounding area near our home. A healthy environment is important if we want to stay healthy. Sometimes people keep their environment very dirty with the result that it badly affects their health. Wherever we live, it is important for us to keep it clean. A State-wide Cleanliness day is observed on January 30th every year in all the villages of Maharashtra under “Total Sanitation Campaign” for creating awareness among the people of rural areas to lead a healthy life by way of cleanliness. There is also a need to keep clean natural areas and surroundings for better future of next generation and survival of natural systems because we are ‘debtor’ of next generation.

Sustainable and equitable access to safe water and adequate sanitation are widely acknowledged as important development goals by United Nations (UN) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). After 65 years of the independence the awareness about the importance of cleanliness of surrounding area is very poor especially in the rural Maharashtra, which has created various health hazards. After analyzing this situation the State Government of Maharashtra launched an innovative programme popularly known as ‘Saint Gadage Baba Clean Village Sanitation Campaign’, Rashtra Saint Tukadoji Maharaj Clean Village Competition and Mahatma Gandhi Competition for cleanest ZP’s and PS’s Gram Swachatya Abhiyaan in 2000-01. Due to this various villagers in Maharashtra started thinking about their situation and some of them participated in the Abhiyaan. The villages participated in this programme may achieve first prize at Taluka, District, Division, and State level for achievement in recommended 11 different subjects of cleanup campaign which consist of, Drinking water, Personal Cleanness, Eatable, Contesigious Deases, Natural Energy, Household Arrangements, Peoples Participation, Latrines, Solid waste, Dranage System, Family Welfare.
Villages in Maharashtra enjoy the benefits of campaign that lays stress on cleanliness, self-reliance and community-sharing, ideas that were popularized by the legendary social reformer Gadge Baba.

Gram Swachata Abhiyan is one of the easiest ways to achieving various objectives like socio-economic development, cultural and human development. It increases living standards and conditions of the people. It also helps in generating environmental awareness among the villagers. Gram Swachata Abhiyan is the only way to achieve Mahatma Gandhi’s dream about the villages. Gandhiji’s motto of ‘Go towards Village’ is fulfilling by a new motto of the Government ‘Go towards Gram Swachata’.

Jainyal and Kambalwadi villages of Kolhapur District have achieved first prize in different years. Jainyal (Population more than 10,000) is more populated as compare to Kambalwadi (population about 1168). This difference is the main aspect of success of Gram Swachata Abhiyan. Because of high population Jainyal is not maintained well sanitation programme since achieving the first prize of, on the contrary Kambalwadi is maintained success of Gram Swachata Abhiyan continuously and consistently. It is need of the time to examine demerits and weakness in implementation of Gram Swachata Abhiyan and various factors influencing implementation like size of population, cast stratification etc.

Kambalwadi participated in Gramswachhata Abhiyan under Sant Gadge Baba Maharaj Award for clean villages. The villagers prepared mentally and physically for the village transformation. Administers made rigorous efforts to convince and inspire them with constant encouragement and support by council meetings. The rallies were arranged to awake the villagers with the help of various groups like volunteers of National Service Scheme for the persuasions. The open discussions were arranged to convince villagers on total sanitation and eradication of open defecation practices. After lighting the candle of hope the villagers came voluntarily with self motivation. The village took lead in implementins the campaign. Every villager, including women, men and all children, participated in the campaign. The village received the state level water and waste water management award in 2005-2006, “Grampanchayat Purskar” and “Nirmal Gram Purskar” at the auspicious hands of former President of India, APJ Abdul Kalam.

The success of Kambalwadi not limited only for Total Sanitation, but it also reached successfully to cleanliness of School, ideal School even up to primary school. Students have
developed their Banana Garden on grampanchayat’s vacant barren land. Every tree is adopted by a student to take care for watering and maturing it. The income generated from garden is used for purchasing educational material for the students. This project is useful to move the student towards “self–reliance”. Many activities are being run to uplift the poor villagers above poverty line. The self help groups are involved in small businesses for improving the economic conditions. These groups are also involved in collective agricultural practices. Women are actively practicing technically improved agriculture for taking the rice, sunflower, cabbage, banana and other crops and fruits on mass level.

The agricultural production has been increased manifold and has helped to lift the standard of living. Kambalwadi has adopted the vision of Mahatma Gandhi for transferring the village as an ideal village, the understanding of Acharya Vinoba Bhave and Lokanayak Jayapraksah Narayan to provide articulating form. The volunteers of National Service Scheme initiated and contributed to such transformation and was upheld by the villagers.

Transformation of Kambalwadi has earned national importance by the dedicated efforts of women, self-help groups and residents by coming out of the hopeless conditions. The villagers have not only banned the consumption of alcohol but also soft aerated drinks of all sorts. Consumption of tobacco in any form is totally stopped and even not allowed to the visitors too. All the internal disputes are resolved or settled by the villagers out of court. All pending litigations before adjudicating authorities have withdrawn and settled. The unity and integrity has been given top priority. All residents have painted their houses with pink colour uniformly as a symbol of unity and integrity. Residents realized the importance of women constituting 50% of the population and were encouraged for the total change realizing that women can mould the heterogeneous groups into a model of coherent society with peace and mutual respect for all. The first step towards empowerment of women was with the transfer of ownership of their respective houses to the ‘lady of the house’ with full faith. Women have been shouldered the responsibility of Gram Sabha (village council) with majority. They all attend the meetings held on every Sunday to decide on issues relating to the village and its residents to actively participate in taking appropriate decisions for the village development.

The Gramsevak (Secretary of Village Council) guides and helps them to take positive decisions. After the acceptance of suitable decision on any matter it is placed in Gram Sabha for open democratic discussion to ensure involvement of each villager before formal approval and
for timely execution. Kambalwadi provides a live example of what a community can achieve when all residents are united and if women are empowered to take charge of the human settlements and their inhabitants to bring the dream of Mahatma Gandhi in reality. It is a true transformation of a village that our people need all over the country. Environment friendly decisions are taken and implemented by residents to keep the village sparklingly clean. All households have constructed their own separate toilets, bathroom and washing facilities. The school, village council and other public institutions have owned their own toilets. Residents having animal dung have installed biogas plants. They generate biogas from the animal dung and use it regularly as it is environmentally clean fuel. It has reduced their dependency on fossil fuel and subsequent cutting of trees for fuel. The villagers prefer Sunday for complete cleaning of village roads, gutters and public places beside the regular cleanliness to insure good health and sanitation practices.

The practices of safe drinking water, maintenance of hygienic conditions, waste water recycling, proper disposal of garbage and healthy living conditions are routine activities. The agricultural practices have been modified. Organic farming has been adopted to make agriculture sustainable. Every household segregates biodegradable solid waste generated is deposited in two separate bins for the two components for treating in the appropriate manner. Biodegradable waste is turned into organic fertilizer by vermin-culture technology and is used as soil conditioner in agriculture. The vermin-compost is applied to farms. Animal dead bodies and ash are collected and dispersed in farms to improve the soil quality. The practices like slaughtering of animals for meat and serving of alcohol on the occasion of village fairs have been abandoned completely and vegetarian meal is served.

It is necessary to take brief review of the Kambalwadin village before the implementation of Abhyan. Also it is strongly recomanended to take review of the condition of other village lively, Jainyal. Jainyal is a Village in Kagal Taluk in Kolhapur District in Maharashtra State. Jainyal is 23.9 km far from its Taluk Main Town Kagal. Jainyal is located 38.4 km distance from its District Main City Kolhapur. Near By Villages of this Village with distance are Mugali(1.1 k.m.), Kardyal(1.3 k.m.), Arjunwada(2.2 k.m.), Nandyal(2.5 k.m.), Galgale(4.1 k.m.), Towns Near By Bhudargad(14.1 k.m.), Gadhinglaj(15.9 k.m.), Kagal(23.9 k.m.), Ajara(30.3 k.m.).