

GARIMA

A CSR Initiative of WAPCOS Ltd., a Govt. of India Undertaking - Ministry of Water Resources

Committed to a CAUSE



GARIMA Project is sponsored by WAPCOS Limited, a "MINI RATNA" Public Sector Enterprise under the aegis of the Union

Ministry of Water Resources. WAPCOS provides consultancy services in all facets of Water Resources, Power and Infrastructure sectors in India and across the globe.

WAPCOS Ltd. has chosen to mesh their social commitment into business vision. The Company has been working, on a wide range of CSR programmes from education to livelihoods for underprivileged communities. The company believes that economic empowerment of individuals transforms them into powerful agents of social change.

Creating Employable Skills

GARIMA vision implies that education and training not only aim at employability and income generation, but also at building individuals and communities' capacities for



sustainable and dignified livelihoods. Livelihoods systems, and therefore strategies, differ in urban and rural environments. Considering the high prevalence of rural poverty, skills for rural development merit special attention. Hence villages, namely, Burail, Badheri, Palsauri, Hallo Majra and Mauli Jagran have been identified to run the project and bring a meaningful difference in the lives of poor and marginalised inhabitants of these villages.

India's 400 plus million workforce with 65 per cent people between the age group of 15-30, make it



also the youngest country of the world. Yet just 2% of our population in this age group has received formal vocational training, turning this demographic advantage into a disadvantage. Project GARIMA aims to bridge this gap in the rural areas of Chandigarh.



GARIMA



GARIMA offers short term training courses of 3-4 months' duration, in which the trainees are prepared for jobs in consultation with industry experts and professionals.

GARIMA enables the trainees to face the world confidently as they are also



imparted communication skills, soft skills and life skills which include positive thinking, team building, decision-making, goal setting, gender issues and time/money management.



Young boys and girls learning computers at Burail Centre

WHY GARIMA?

A baseline survey was conducted in the selected villages of Chandigarh to assess the vocational needs of youth between 16-30 year age group, which is the most productive group and is also the most vulnerable in terms of unemployment and lack of skills.

GARIMA programme specially considered this age group as its targeted beneficiaries because it is our national concern to empower this youth with employable skills.

Out of total sample size 30.6% (153) were in the age group of 18-20 years. These were school going children who were about to pass out from 12th standard and were looking for skills enhancement.

Lack of affordable opportunities had kept them from acquiring the modern IT skills. These young boys and girls felt that learning computers and communication skills would build their confidence and help them greatly in finding good jobs in future. All respondents in this age group, both boys and girls, wanted to learn market driven skills to earn a decent living in near future.

The second largest age group was 30-35 years which included mostly women participants. In this group the

respondents are mostly women. The women in this age group are somewhat free of their filial duties and with growing children, now find more time at hand to acquire a new skill and add to their meagre family income.

GARIMA Centres

Five vocational training Centres have been established under the GARIMA Project. The details of the centers are as follows:

GARIMA (Nodal Centre) Burail

542 Kesho Ram Complex, Sector 45, Burail – 160 047, Chandigarh

GARIMA – Hallo Majra

H.No. 37, Hallo Majra Village, Chandigarh

GARIMA – Mauli Jagran

201, Main Road, Mauli Jagran Village – 160 102, Chandigarh

GARIMA – Palsora

Building No. 3, 1st-2nd Floor, Near Tubewell, Gurudwara Simransar Sahib, Village Palsora Sector 55 – 160055, Chandigarh

GARIMA – Badheri

H.No. 198, Sector 41 D, Village Badheri, Chandigarh

GARIMA activities at various centres

Health Camp

A Free Health camp cum Awareness Camp in Burail village on 27 Nov. 2010 at Janj Ghar under GARIMA Project. The event started with an awareness programme which was focused on Smoking and Alcoholism and later a general health check up of the participants was done.

The objectives of AROH behind this programme being:

- To check up the general health of the underprivileged children, youth & women.
- To create awareness about bad effect of alcoholism, drug and tobacco consumption.
- To aware the parents and youth and children about the healthy life and other common deficiencies like anemia, protein etc.
- To identify the diseases and ensure referrals to the concerned hospital.

The programme started at 12 noon with the introduction of AROH Foundation and GARIMA by Project Co-ordinator, Mr. Noman Khan. Then Mr. K. K. Kandwal, Deputy Company Secretary, WAPCOS Ltd. enlighten about project GARIMA and about WAPCOS Ltd. He said that WAPCOS Ltd. is a "MINI RATNA" Public Sector Enterprise under the aegis of the Union Ministry of Water Resources has started "GARIMA" Project under Corporate Social Responsibility in five villages of Chandigarh. It has taken the initiative to do CSR programmes from education to livelihoods for underprivileged communities. The company believes that economic empowerment of individuals transforms them in powerful agents of social changes.

After that a presentation on harmful effects of Alcohol & Tobacco on our body has presented by Ms. Anjali Diwakar, Project Co-ordinator, Health. The session was very interactive. During the presentation people had shared their personal experiences & problem which they are facing in their life. Then Dr. A. K. Pandey took the session on diseases and problems caused by Alcohol & Tobacco consumption.



After awareness programme health check up has started in which More than hundred beneficiaries got the benefit from the camp. Dr. A.K. Pandey dexterously checked

each and every beneficiary. People took part in the camp very enthusiastically. Free medicines and refreshment were also distributed to the participants.

Children's Day

Children's Day is to celebrate "childhood". Children are loved by one and all. They win over our hearts with their angelic eyes and innocent smiles. It makes one realize that maybe that's the way God wanted us to be. AROH Foundation's children's day event under "GARIMA Project" was again all about it.

The Children's Day celebrations brought together all beneficiaries of GARIMA to freak out and enjoy their most. The programme was organized in all five centres .Beneficiaries were participated in Musical Chair, quiz and Antrakhshri competition. Prizes were distributed to the winners. In the end all had enjoyed delicious meal.



Centre Feature



Glimpses of activities at Burail and Hallo Majra Centre.

Learning a Skill that Generates Income

A higher participation of females in the exploratory exercise is a pointer that more women are willing to take up an economic activity. While the men go out for work, women are forced to stay back at home. In all the villages under study, women are the prime carers of family and children, and do most of the domestic tasks. Their lives are greatly affected by their roles as home makers, which has an incisive and direct impact on their employment and earning opportunities and they find it difficult to go out for work. However, most women welcomed an opportunity of receiving a training and finding paid work closer home or at home.

A significant characteristic of the status of women in the villages of Chandigarh is the absence of a homogeneous social, cultural and economic structure that makes any generalizations about the conditions of women impossible. There are obvious diversities in women's situation in the different villages which extend to their health, literacy, education, sex ratio, employment, incidence of poverty, and so forth.

GARIMA project has an in-built flexibility to adapt to the learning needs of these village women and it also provides options of timings when women can leave homes more easily after finishing their daily chores.



Nearly 80 women are regularly attending the course in cutting & tailoring and taking keen interest in learning the skills. The instructors are well qualified and teach them with great dedication.



Women beginning to learn the basics of Stitching. They are even encouraged to bring their small children, if that keeps them away from the course.

Certificate Course in Cutting and Tailoring

Course - Introduction to tools and Equipments used in tailoring, Pattern Making Taking measurements Trade terminology, Pattern making Cutting, Garments construction skills for children , ladies and gents, Press and Packing (Folding)
The passouts would be provided with Certificates.

Duration: 4 Months

Eligibility: 5th pass and above

Age: 18-35 years

Placement: Entry-level jobs are made available to the trainees in garment industry. Those with entrepreneurial aptitude are also assisted in setting up micro-enterprises of their own.

Course in Bead Work and Bag Making

Course - Training in doing embroidery, beadwork, bag making for women.

Duration: 3 Months

Eligibility: 5th pass and above

Age: 18-35 years

GARIMA

Village Youth Get Hands-on with the Latest Computer Systems

Though Chandigarh has high rate of literacy and status of education is also high, due importance to vocational education has not been given. As a result, there has been a mismatch between the skilled manpower required and skilled manpower available. Every year graduates are churned out who do not have the specific skill sets required by the market. This has resulted in a situation where on the one hand there are scores of unemployed graduates and on the other hand there is a huge shortage of skilled workers.

Computer Skills are almost mandatory for any job in a modern-day office. GARIMA aims to equip the young boys and girls with computer skills and communication skills so that they find it easy to secure a job in the competitive industrial recruitments.

Despite the mushrooming of technical institutes and polytechnics, there is still a dearth of vocational training institutes and GARIMA tries to bridge the gap where no such facilities for vocational training exist in the villages of Chandigarh.



There are about 255 students enrolled for various courses in all five centres as on date. All the students belong to needy group and do not find any other opportunity to learn the computers. The project has taken computers literacy to their door steps and community has welcomes this initiative by WAPCOS and AROH.



Students learning Computer skills at Palsora Centre



Students at the Mauli Jagran Centre



AROH Foundation is a registered non-profit, non-governmental organisation providing livelihood opportunities and enhancing incomes of the poor in several states in the country. AROH has been working for the past 10 years and has developed sound sustainable programmes to cater to the development needs of its target communities. GARIMA is being implemented by AROH as WAPCOS-CSR Initiative under the aegis of Ministry of Water Resources.

AROH works with a holistic, people-centric approach and besides providing livelihood opportunities, AROH is also implementing programmes on education, health and hygiene, sanitation, etc. under the overall goal of empowerment of communities in need.