



SWANITI INITIATIVE: Social Development Programme in Andhra Pradesh

Letz Dream Foundation has partnered with **Swaniti Initiative**, a non-profit organisation which aims to equip governments and policy leaders with a mix of problem-solving tools, data & research insights, and advisory services. This intervention is focused on implementation of bottom-up planning systems across government departments in **Andhra Pradesh** for the access and inclusion of the most vulnerable populations under government schemes. Directly working with government on public delivery system, Swaniti Initiative is striving for institutionalising systemic changes that can uplift these communities.

The challenge

Andhra Pradesh plans to become a model state for inclusive and effective planning and implementation process for all government policies and programmes. Towards this, the intervention with Swaniti Initiative is aimed at increasing inclusion of vulnerable populations in government schemes by **25-30%**.

Social development challenges in Andhra Pradesh are manifold: Due to the pandemic and migrant worker crisis, over 52,00,000 migrants have moved back to the rural areas in Andhra Pradesh; some of them may never go back to their urban jobs and will resort to practicing agriculture for income. Further, there is a need to ensure economic parity in the Rayalseema region and northern coastal districts in Andhra Pradesh. High unemployment rate and poor health indicators also persist in the state.

The intervention

Building lasting systemic changes within government requires deep understanding, handholding and capacity building, and adoption of evidence-driven models. Swaniti Initiative has developed a three-tier strategy for this intervention:

- **Identifying bottlenecks**
 - Conducting on ground assessment of programmes
 - Identifying systemic gaps and issues
 - Proposing feasible ideas
- **Implementing policy changes**
 - Working with administration to build capacity and support
 - Identifying ways to substantively institutionalize program support
- **Ensuring systems changes**
 - Introducing systemic changes in policy design process
 - Institutionalizing cultural change in policy processes

The schemes adopted for this intervention are:

1. **Rythu Bharosa (Agriculture & Allied Activities)**: Rythu Bharosa is welfare scheme through which the state government provides financial assistance of ₹13,500 to farmers every year. If implemented fully, this scheme will benefit over 50,00,000 farmers in Andhra Pradesh.
2. **Watershed Management (Irrigation & Water Conservation)**: The state government has launched the 'Rejuvenating Watersheds for Agriculture Resilience through

Innovative Development (REWARD) scheme for efficient water management, soil fertility improvement, adoption of standard agricultural practices and enhancement of cultivation.

3. MGNREGA (Livelihood & Employment): In Andhra Pradesh there are 300,000 registered families who avail of the 100 days of guaranteed work under the MGNREGA scheme. This number rose during the pandemic, with more than 330,000 job cards issued in just six months.

4. Unnathi (Rural Development & Skilling): The Unnathi scheme is designed to provide sustainable livelihoods opportunities and income generation to the most vulnerable and economically-disadvantaged communities. It aims to create an annual income of ₹60,000 for each households for three years.

Support from Letz Dream Foundation

As a grant making organisation, Letz Dream Foundation scouts for partner organisations who are working to ensure effective governance and improve public service delivery. Operating with a high-touch model of engagement with partners, we also provide:

- Strategy and programme development support
- Monitoring and evaluation support, including development of a MIS, impact assessment studies, and capacity building of the NGO programme team
- Stakeholder facilitation with government, donors, and implementation partners
- Operational handholding, including streamlining of internal processes such as procurement, recruitment, etc.

Letz Dream Foundation is a public charitable trust that helps central, state and local governments to deliver their priorities more effectively and efficiently.

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The progress

Swaniti Initiative has conducted gap assessment studies with the Department of Panchayat Raj and Rural Development, Government of Andhra Pradesh and has developed the following policy recommendations:

Rythu Bharosa (state-wide implementation):

- Land record digitisation
- Reforming of CCRC Policy
- Market linkages for small and marginal farmers

Watershed Management:

- Efficacy in selection and prioritisation of Mandals and villages for taking up water conservation work
- Mandating rooftop rainwater harvesting structures
- Introduction of crop water budgeting
- Promotion of PPP in integrated water management programmes

MGNREGA

- Focusing on individual and community assets based on geography for diversification of income (Mangrove farming, greening of hillocks, bamboo plantation, etc)
- Reducing rejected payments and decoding payment issues
- Setting up of redressal mechanism
- Increasing the percentage of Aadhar and UID Seeding

Unnathi:

- Swaniti Initiative has co-created a scheme roll-out plan with the government and identified training providers.

NEW LIVELIHOOD MODELS:

- 100,000 farmers have been identified for dragonfruit cultivation, an intervention where there is potential for income generation of ₹1-2 lakh per acre per family for 20 years