

Formation of the Village Disaster Relief Committee

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On 2nd June, 2008 17,500 bundle of cattle feed accidentally got burned in Pardi village. Farmers lost about Rs. 35,000/- and it was the time for re-cultivation. They were tense on how to start the work.

Meanwhile, SSP conducted Disaster reduction planning meeting. Meeting conducted with government officials and villagers of Loha, Khandar and Mudkhed taluka. The meetings were focused on the concept of different methods of disaster preparedness and risk reduction. They were discussed on how to face these problems. There were demands from the participants on formation of the Village Disaster Relief Committee. SSP team explained the roles and responsibilities of the VDRC. Villagers decided to form the committee in there villages.

The news of cattle feed burning spread everywhere in Loha taluka. Local government officials were ready to help farmers. They visited the farmers and talked about the incidence. Block level officials also visited the farmers. They recognized that the government does not have any provisions to give financial support to this type of loss for farmers.

People from Zari village participated in clean village campaign. VDRC committee is functioning well in Zari village.

The Village Sanitation facilitator from Zari village and the other community leaders decided to help them. They had meeting with Gurudwara Karsevak (sikh religious leader) Nanded and explained about the condition of farmers to him. Karsevak promised to give 30,000/- as relief fund.

From this incidence, they learned the lesson of the importance of having a VDRC committee in the village and finally villagers decided to form the VDRC in the village. Zari villagers and team visited the Pardi village and motivated people to form the committee and explained the roles and responsibilities of villagers in the disaster situation. They learned how the VDRC in the village will benefit the villagers and what the villagers can do together for the disaster relief work and risk reduction. Community contribution collected from villagers can be used as community fund for emergency situations. The community leaders collected Rs.15,000/- as community contribution and political leaders gave Rs.20,000/- for the fund. Now villagers have their own relief fund for the emergency.