

My Village – An Ideal Village



The journey of my life....

On the banks of the river Krishna, in the Koregaon Taluka of the Satara District, is the quietly set lush green, tranquil village of Dhamner – a place of great spiritual importance, once upon a time known as Dharmapuri. The village gives a vibrant and cosy feeling as; mother earth has given all her blessings. To the north is ‘Nigadi’, where the revered ‘Rangnath Swami’ had his ‘Dnyanapith’. A village fair was organized every year in the auspicious month of ‘Shraavan,’ in Dnyanapith.

Historical accounts state that in the river Krishna near Dhamner, Swami Samarth Ramdas found the ancient idols of Anglai Devi and Prabhu Ramachandra. He placed them ceremoniously at Sajjangarh and Chaphal.

In the earlier times, his holiness Sant Gadage Maharaj, who lived in Dhamner for nearly two years, also laid the foundation stone for the dharmashala in Bramhapuri. People still have fond memories of those golden days. In 1949 this village earned the title of the “Ideal village.” Dinkar Dhondi Ksheersagar - aged 99, was

the Sarpanch then; under his leadership the village prospered, but over the course of time, it perished.

In spite of the advancements of the 21st century, Dhamner and Brahmapuri remained largely underdeveloped, as if forgotten and lost in time. The village remained isolated and backward. The main occupation was agriculture, but some tried, jobs in the cities, while others decided to devote their lives in the service of the nation. Prosperity was a faraway dream.

However, over a period of time the village was torn apart in rivalry and was recorded as a notorious place in the records of the police. The enmity soared over, social and customary relationships and the people who had once united in harmony, were now divided in self-consuming hatred. Weddings did not see guests and funerals had silence mourning. People fought for petty reasons and enmity was sustained.

After many years of the chaos and the bloodshed, one seed of humanity sprouted and began to bridge the distrust segments of Dhamner. It took time but eventually the positive intentions of the few villagers, win over the negative mindsets of the many. People slowly started understanding the importance of friendship, humanity and togetherness. Strength in unity and optimism spread waves of hope and harmony. Violence soon dug a deep grave for itself and buried itself vanishing from the life of the people. People felt the need for development and unity.

The leadership of the Zilla Parishad member, Shri Vijayrao Kanse, late Induatya Pawar and the current Sarpanch Shri Shahaji Ksheersagar influenced and encouraged the people.

In this era of “The Global Village” everybody was dreaming of limitless development, and through the hard work of the people, in 1992, the ‘Nehru Youth Committee’ of the village got an award for progressive development from the central human resource ministry of India.

Slowly under the leadership of the ‘Sarpanch’, the village united. It turned into a symbol of social responsibility, hygiene and cleanliness. Roads and infrastructure underwent a tremendous development and in the year 2005 Dhamner received the 1st prize under ‘Gadagebaba Gram Swachchata Abhiyan’ at the state level. This prize was awarded to Dhamner, in Pune by the then ‘Rural Development Minister Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Sinha’, in presence of the C.M. of Maharashtra – The late Mr. Vilasrao Deshmukh, The late Home Minister R.R. Patil, Water Resource Minister Ajit Pawar and Rural Development Minister of Maharashtra Vijaysinha Mohite Patil.

Since 2000 to 2005 Dhamner received for Swachchata Abhiyan 1st rank at the district level forum. As a result of unity, sacrifice, planning and willpower, the village got 1st rank in Sant Gadagebaba Swachchata Abhiyan in the whole of Maharashtra. On 24th February, 1st ‘Nirmal Gram’ (clean village) award was given to Dhamner by the then President of India ‘Missile Man’ Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. During his tenure Dhamner also received an award for the eradication of the cast spirit – being called untouchable in 2001. Today we witness the feeling of understanding and fraternity among the people.

Sarpanch Shahji Ksheersagar also had received the award of the best Sarpanch at district level by the Guardian Minister of Satara, Ajitdada Pawar in 2002 and

by the famous social worker Medha Patkar in 2003. He also gave a speech at Vidnyan Bhavan in Delhi, at the prize distribution of Nirmal Gram which is the 1st incident of a Sarpanch giving a speech in front of the President. Thus, Dhamner has made Satara and the whole of Maharashtra famous. The transformation of a once backward unclean, disintegrated village into a clean, developed and united village is an exemplary episode in the history of our country. People should study it, and derive motivation from it. It shows that a village can change, if the villagers decide firmly, stand unitedly: Afterall, “charity begins at home.”

Brief profile of Dhamner Village

Taluka: Koregaon,

Dist. Satara. Postal Pin code: 415511

Nearest Railway Station: Rahimatpur

Demographic details per 2011 census

Total population:	2650
Of which Male population	1307
Female population	1343

Literacy rate	100%
Literacy rate: Male	100%
Literacy rate: Female	100%

