

How did Solan out-perform Sirmaur?

As 100 villages in Solan and 125 villages in Sirmaur came under ambit of Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana, NABCONS undertook an assignment in which 720 households were surveyed covering 24 villages to figure out the scheme's efficacy in 2021.

Majority knew this scheme as a developmental scheme to construct toilets, 75% of people in the Sirmaur district needed to be made aware of the scheme's existence despite having access to basic amenities like water, sanitation, and electricity. Solan performed better on the awareness parameter. Solan can still improve in certain areas like education as 40.3% of respondents were yet to complete their education, even up to the fifth grade. It can further enhance employment, residents' adoption of social security measures, waste disposal system and road connectivity. During the COVID-19 pandemic, students faced severe internet connectivity issues and thus suffered while attending online classes, which strongly implies an urgent requirement to improve digitisation. Overall, Solan district outperformed Sirmaur in several areas like health, nutrition, electricity, and financial inclusion. Gaps were found in scheme's implementation. Our report highlights convergence schemes through which line departments can come together to fill those gaps.

To make the scheme more successful targeted efforts must be made to make agriculture lucrative in the districts since, it is the primary activity in villages. Clean energy, like solar power, can be utilised for street lighting. Furthermore, digital literacy needs to be improved to ensure that the beneficiaries can take advantage of various convergence schemes.

The Public Health Department and the Panchayati Raj Institutions must work together to efficiently utilise the funds under different schemes (such as the PMAGY Swachh Bharat Mission, etc.) to establish an efficient network of drains in the villages and maintain their cleanliness and functionality.

The provision of free Wi-Fi hotspots can provide better connectivity. Road connectivity must be improved to ensure the timely reach of products and services, and last but not least, the reach of healthcare facilities to be increased.

(Central Government launched the Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY) in the fiscal year 2009-2010 as a program for rural development with an intent to raise the status of SC communities residing in these villages by provisioning to meet the basic needs of all sections of society and removing any distinctions between the different societal groups).