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Gobar Bank: The Pace towards “Atmanirbhar BHARAT”

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Abstract

With the largest cattle population in the world, rural India has the potential to leverage huge quantities of *Gobar* into wealth and energy. Under ‘*Gobar Bank*’ Cattle dung waste can be tapped to create production of *gobar* gas, manure, vermicompost, electricity, bricks, tiles etc. and in addition different medicines, soaps, bio-controllers can be made from the cow-urine. The productive use of dung could support million jobs nationally for farmers to generate income from the sale of cow dung. Also, *Gobar Bank* will promote general cleanliness and effective solid and liquid waste management in rural India and pilot the mission of *Swachh Bharat Mission*. Thus, with a rejuvenated intension and appropriate policy interventions the *Gobar Bank* sector can be scaled up into opportunities for growth, leading to increased incomes, long-term livelihoods and, of course, more Swachh villages will definitely serve its pace towards Atmanirbhar Bharat.

Introduction

In our country, about 70% population depends on agriculture and animal husbandry for the source of income. If we see the nineteenth livestock census, India possesses the highest numbers of cattle (190.92 million). Different highly perishable products like milk and dairy items as well as sub-products like manure, dung (*gobar*), *gobar* gas, cow-urine, and other bio-controllers are received from the cattle. It has been observed that in villages the people involved in the cattle-rearing generally form the dung-heaps. Thus, in the village, the effective use of dung is not made that consequently leads to a more serious problem of dirtiness. Besides, the diseases caused by the dirtiness are found in the villages. Secondly, the major problems that the whole world, including India, is facing in the contemporary times include problems caused by – the food containing chemicals and their negative effects on human health, unemployment among educated youth, ineffective use of natural resources and energy, and dirtiness. If proper management of the dung (*gobar*) is carried out in countries like India, it would certainly solve the many problems caused as discussed above. The *Gobar* Banks can play an important role in the management of the dung of cattle.

Gobar Bank: A Novel Concept

It is quite possible that the phrase ‘*Gobar Bank*’ would certainly raise a question on its meaning in the minds of listeners. As we all know, globally different kinds of banks such as finance banks, blood banks, gold banks, mother milk banks, etc. are functioning. The same type of management can be carried out by the *Gobar* Banks. *Gobar* Bank means such a system wherein the people rearing the cattle deposit the dung and offer the facilities of different produces of dung to the

consumers, made available after value-added processes, by charging the necessary administrative cost on their demand. If one talks about the availability of dung, the dung is such a product that is always available from any cattle that are milking or not, young, adult or old. Thus, raw dung and urine are useful in the production of *gobar* gas, manure, vermin-compost, electricity, bricks, and tiles. Different medicines, soaps, bio-controllers can be made from the cow-urine and thus the value addition can be made in cow-urine. Uneducated or less-educated people can also make different products from the dung and cow-urine without using any technology and thus they can prove dung and cow-urine raw gold. The manure made from the dung is useful for the crop-production. It enriches the soil. The microorganism of dung and cow-urine also increase the fertility of the soil. It also reduces the burden of the heavy cost of the chemical fertilizers available in the markets. Thus, the manure gives double benefits to the farmers. The vegetables and foods produced using the chemical fertilizers have the chemical residues in them which affect human health and cause many diseases. In such serious matter, the manure and bio-controllers prove double beneficial to the human race.

Moreover, the *Gobar* banks would create new opportunities for employment among the rural youth which is the need for time. This will also help us in realizing our dream of clean India. Thus, *Gobar* bank can be proved useful to the rural youth, cattle-rearing communities, farmers, and the whole human race. It would protect humans from unnecessary diseases caused by chemical fertilizers. Similarly, it would save the health of soil saving it from the impacts of chemical fertilizers and thus would save our foreign currency. Thus, implementation of *Gobar* bank will be a pace towards **Atmanirbhar BHARAT** and in this way, the *Gobar* banks can prove *Kaamdhenu* – the giver of what we expect.

How Can Gobar Bank be Beneficial to Our Village?

- It will give extra income to cattle-bearers.
- It will help in “*Swachh Bharat Mission*” by creating a disease-free and healthy atmosphere.
- The farmers will get quality manure.
- The farmers can do organic farming more efficiently/ more farmers can join organic farming.
- It will create employment opportunities in the village only.
- Many products can be made from the cow-urine as well.
- By forming a community *gobar* gas plant, the gas can be provided to each family.
- It will help in protecting the environment.
- It will be helpful for the health of housewives by offering them smoke-less *chulhas* and thus would save their time.

- Since all will get the gas at their home, the dependence on the fire-wood would decrease and thus it would try to stop deforestation and be environment friendly.
- Non-cattle-bearing farmers to have a chance for manure for their farming.
- At the rural level, it will offer employment to both males and females.
- The wastage of the dung on the road would stop and those who are land-less and non-cattle-bearers would have a chance for employment.
- There would be a system for the management of dung and cow urine.
- The dung collected at the *Gobar* bank could be utilized for the development of the *Gauchar* land, thus, leading towards the development of extra-agricultural and cattle-rearing in the rural areas.
- It will encourage the profession of the cattle-rearing.
- The non-fertilizer or less-fertilizer farming would improve the health of the farmers, would reduce the cost of farming, and would improve the soil condition.
- It may solve the problem of wandering cattle in the city areas.
- It will increase the possibility of taking the care of any cattle whether it is milking or not, young, adult, or old.

Implementation

The above-discussion would certainly lead towards a question – Whether is it possible to follow the process of collecting dung and cow-urine in our locality? If we think positively, it can be said that if we can have a well-established process for collecting perishable items like milk; it is easy to prepare a system for collecting dung as well. In small villages, around 1000-3000 cattle are found. Even in *gaushala* (cattle yard), more than 200 cattle are living together round the clock. Thus, the *Gobar* banks can be established at the village and *gaushala* level. What we need is proper planning.

For the planning of the *Gobar* banks, it is required to create a system of collecting dung and cow-urine keeping in mind the need/ demands of cattle-bearers or consumers of a specific locality, to ensure the process of value-adding or production, and to ascertain the system of marketing for the main and sub-products. If the process is carried out phase-wise, there are better chances for the effective management of the *Gobar* banks.

For the effective implementation of the *Gobar* banks in the rural-urban areas, the panchayats, cooperative organizations, NGOs, universities, dairies, or leaders should show some positive attitude and carry out the necessary steps for forming the *Gobar* banks – it is the need of contemporary times.



Figure 1: Dirtiness caused by the dung and the waste of dung



Figure 2: Wastage of dung in rural/ urban areas



The Slurry being transported to composting pits.

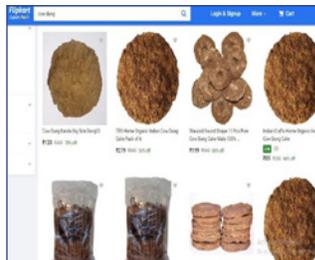
Figure 3: Community biogas Plant at Bhintbudrak Dist. Surat, Gujarat



a) Different articles from cow dung



b) Personal care products from cow dung



c) Cow dung cake



d) Cow dung cake



e) Cow dung cake



f) Cow dung manure

Figure 4: Some value added products from Cow dung

Conclusion

The 'Gobar banks' would not only provide an alternative source of energy in rural areas of but also open up huge avenues for the organic farming. The energy produced in the Gobar Banks would be sizable and help people in rural areas to meet their needs and create necessary infrastructure to ensure an overall growth of the agriculture sector.

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