



2022-23

# ANNUAL REPORT

## Gayatri Seva Sansthan, Udaipur



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“I will give you a talisman. Whenever you are in doubt, or when the self becomes too much with you, apply the following test: Recall the face of the poorest and the weakest man [woman] whom you may have seen, and ask yourself, if the step you contemplate is going to be of any use to him [her]. Will he [she] gain anything by it? Will it restore him [her] to a control over his [her] own life and destiny? In other words, will it lead to swaraj [freedom] for the hungry and spiritually starving millions? Then you will find your doubts and yourself melting away”

~MK Gandhi

# FROM THE DESK OF CEO



The year 2022-23 has marked a significant period of growth and expansion for us at GSS. We are thrilled to announce the extension of our operations into Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab, and Himachal Pradesh.

This expansion wouldn't have been possible without the unwavering support and trust of our valued partners. We express our sincere gratitude to them for believing in our vision and contributing to our success. I want to acknowledge and appreciate the dedication and hard work of our committed staff members. Their relentless efforts have been instrumental in achieving our organizational goals and earning the trust of our partners. They truly embody the spirit of the GSS family and are the backbone of our organization. Furthermore, I am deeply grateful to the entire community for their trust and support. Their encouragement and involvement have been pivotal in driving positive and sustainable change. It is their belief in our mission that inspires us to continue striving for excellence. Over the past decade, we have been on a journey to empower vulnerable communities across various regions of the country. As we look back on our achievements, we remain committed to our mission of bringing about positive transformation wherever we go.

**CHETAN PANDEY**  
CEO



# Table of Content

ABOUT GSS

05

**ABOUT THE REPORT**

07

CORNERSTONES OF  
GSS PHILOSOPHY

09

**HUMAN & INSTITUTIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT**

10

LIVELIHOOD ENHANCEMENT

22

**NATURAL RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT**

30

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

41

**WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT**

43



# ABOUT GSS

## Vision & Mission



### VISION

To bring peace and prosperity to society by empowering the people through integrated and sustainable development.

### MISSION

Gayatri Seva Sansthan Udaipur (GSS) will fulfil its vision by making continuous, comparative and integrated efforts in different sectors to uplift the quality of life of the people (especially the weaker section).



Inspired by the Gandhian Vision of Gram Swaraj, Gayatri Seva Sansthan (GSS) is a Non-Governmental Organisation established in the year 1986, working towards integrated and sustainable socio-economic development in tribal dominated regions of southern Rajasthan.

The initial interventions brought by GSS were focused on scaling up education and its importance amongst the tribal community, for improving their quality of life. However, GSS understood that there is a necessity for a multidimensional approach in the direction of integrated sustainable development covering different sectors, as the solution for viable growth with the mainstreaming of the dispossessed local community.

The organisation has been working in areas such as Education, Child rights, Women Empowerment, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Forestry, Watershed and Natural Resource Management. After 37 years of its committed determinations, GSS holds a household name in the far-flung tribal hamlets and receives appreciation of goodwill for its intervention among the local government agencies and industry experts.

## Our Presence

In 37 years of existence, GSS has made interventions in 4 states in India: Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab, and Himachal Pradesh. In this expansion process, GSS has influenced 350+ villages, transforming the lives of poor and marginal households with direct intervention. It has its headquarters in Udaipur, Rajasthan.





# ABOUT THE REPORT

This Annual Report offers a succinct overview of the impactful endeavours undertaken by Gayatri Seva Sansthan (GSS) during the financial year spanning April 2022 to March 2023, building upon the organization's ongoing efforts and achievements.

Drawing from its rich history, GSS has placed its strategic focus on three primary fields, which have been integral to its mission:

1. Human and Institutional Development
2. Livelihood Enhancement
3. Natural Resource Management

Integrated sustainable development forms the fundamental framework of GSS's strategy for advancing its diverse areas of operation. The organization upholds an unwavering commitment to accountability, fostering transparency and trust with NGOs, funding agencies, governmental bodies, partners, and the communities it serves.

Within this report, readers will find a detailed account of GSS's activities and achievements throughout the fiscal year, including target accomplishments across various projects, special interventions, and the financial outlay of the organization.

This report also offers strategic insights for executives to guide planning for the upcoming fiscal year. GSS acknowledges the invaluable trust and guidance provided by its donors across all projects.



# 2022-23 at a Glance



**4**

States  
Reached



More Than

**1510**

Farmers helped by  
increasing  
productivity of land

**168**

Children rescued  
from child labor &  
child trafficking



**5**

Watershed  
Projects



**9037**

Children enrolled  
in centres

**900**

Acre of wasteland  
area was converted  
into cultivable land.



More Than

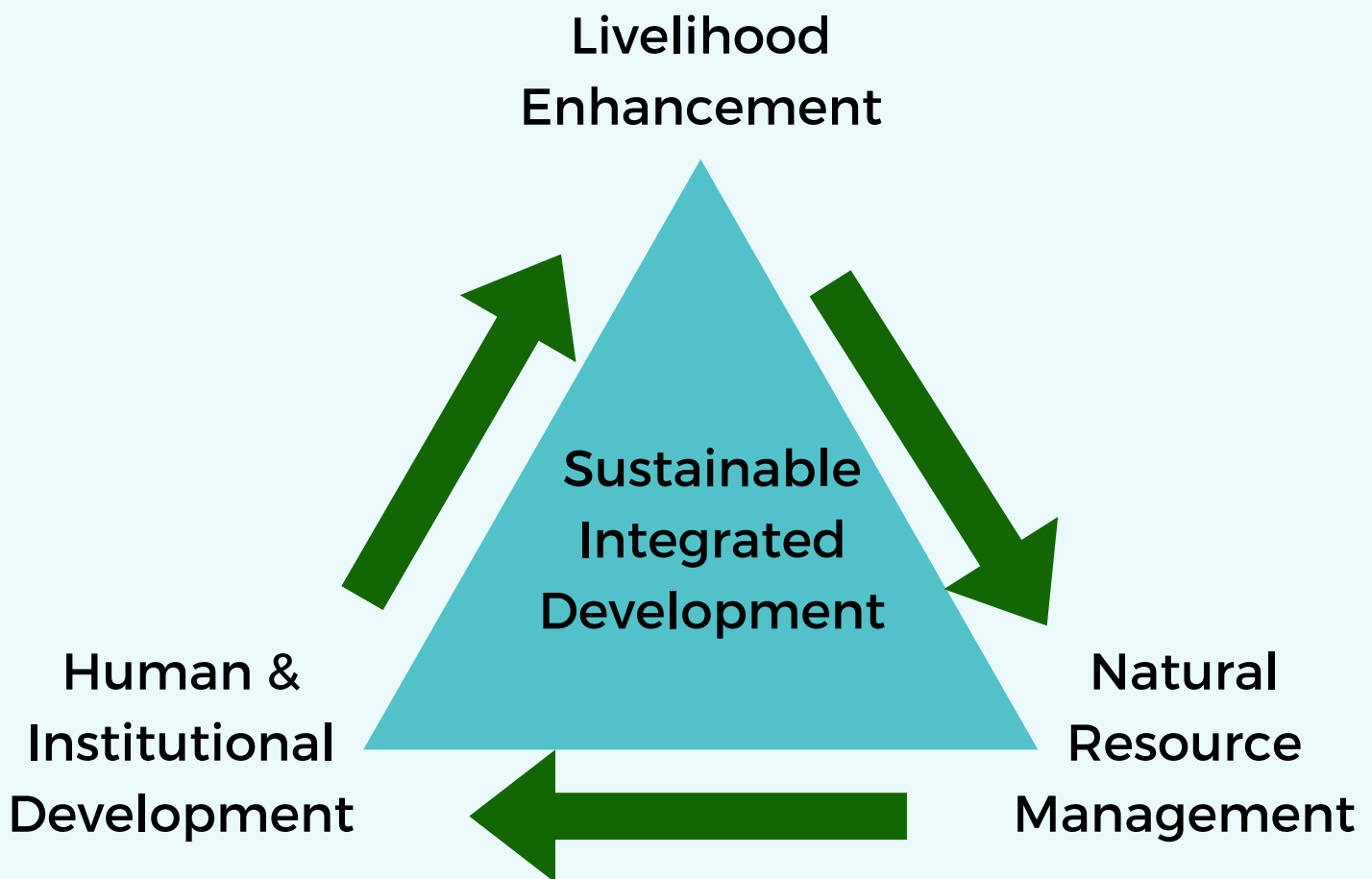
**11**

Districts  
Impacted





# Cornerstones of GSS Philosophy



Since its inception, the overarching strategy of GSS has been to drive '**Sustainable Integrated Development**' through its various interventions. In remote and deprived areas, the indigenous folk and ecosystem are largely dependent on local livelihood prospects, optimal use of natural resources as well as development of human resources and institutions to survive.

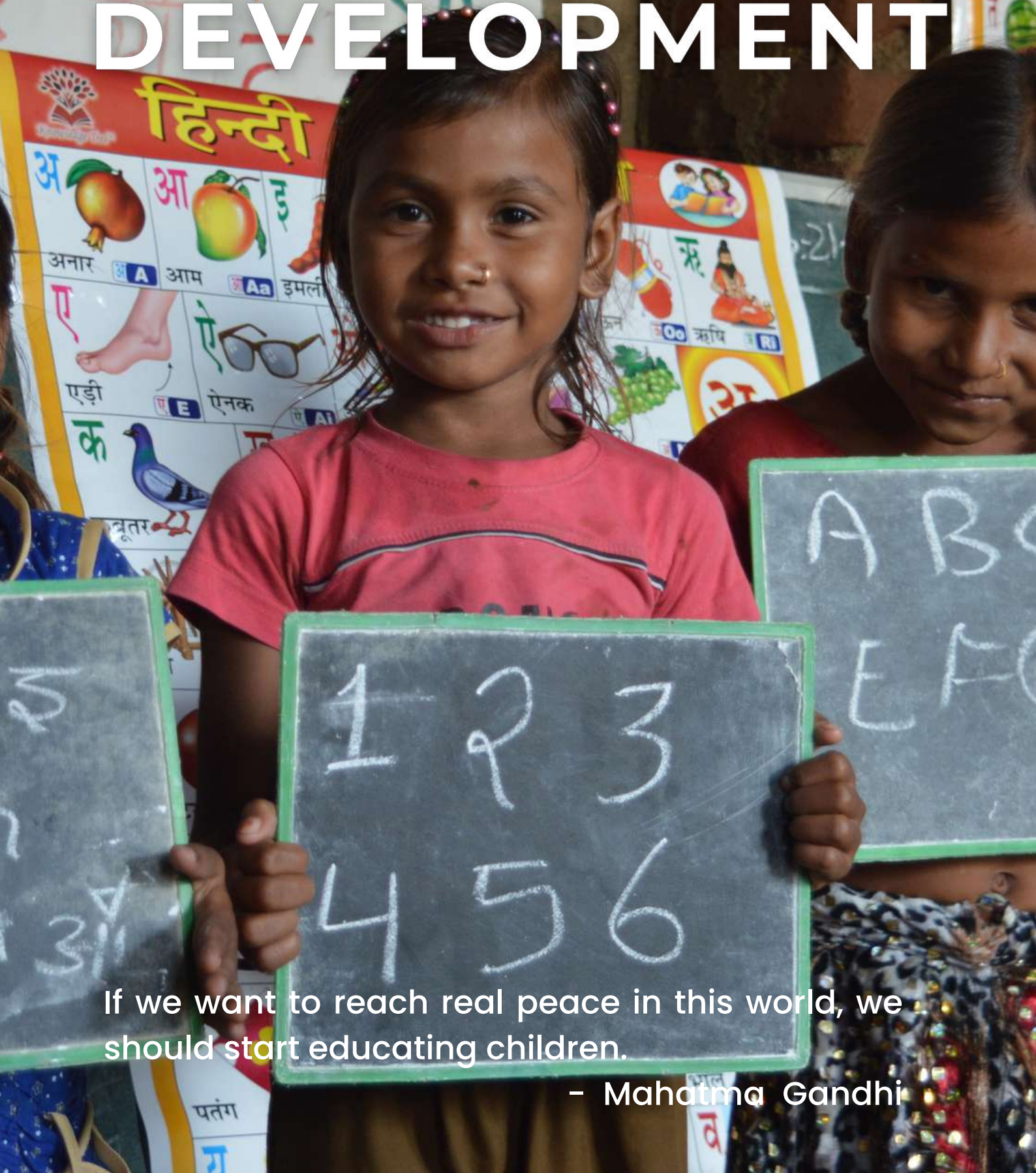
GSS has focused its interventions along three major verticals to ensure the integrated development of the targeted regions:

- **Human Institutional Development**
- **Livelihood Enhancement**
- **Natural Resource Management**

These 3 verticals work in tandem with each other and development in one vertical complements growth in the other two, thus further propagating our aim of integrated sustainable development



# HUMAN AND INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT



If we want to reach real peace in this world, we  
should start educating children.

– Mahatma Gandhi



# About HID



**Human and Institutional Development represents a holistic approach aimed at fostering the growth and resilience of both individuals and organisations. In today's dynamic world, achieving equality in access to opportunities and support systems is paramount to ensuring that every individual can fully explore and develop their competencies. Recognising this imperative, GSS, in collaboration with its supporting agencies, has been at the forefront of offering a diverse range of competency-building programmes tailored to the unique needs of individuals, groups, and collectives. Our approach to Human and Institutional Development is multifaceted. Firstly, we strive to provide comprehensive learning opportunities that enable individuals to uncover their latent talents, develop essential skills, and cultivate the attitudes necessary for a fulfilling and productive life. Through targeted training sessions, workshops, and capacity-building initiatives, we aim to equip participants with the knowledge and tools they need to navigate challenges, seize opportunities, and thrive in an ever-evolving landscape.**





# Sakhiyon Ki Badi

In collaboration with  
IIFL Foundation

## About the Programme

The Sakhiyon Ki Badi Initiative (SKB), as its name suggests, aims to create a conducive environment where girls can gather to address their educational needs. In collaboration with IIFL (India Infoline Finance Limited) we have facilitated the project, focusing specifically on girls who are not enrolled, dropped out, or experienced irregular attendance between the ages of 4 to 14. The primary objective of this project is to provide access to education to young girls by changing the narrative around girl child education by closely working with the community.

This unique non-formal education intervention model, implemented through the Sakhiyon Ki Badi (SKB) program, focuses on providing education to girls who are unable to attend school due to distance or domestic responsibilities. Each SKB center ensures a safe and child-friendly learning environment with a view to provide proper sanitation, clean water, and suitable facilities. We believe that every child is special and we are acting as facilitators in helping them achieve their true potential by providing them customized attention.

In order to include parents and the community and raise awareness of the value of education, we have also set up school-community forums. We also attempt to address and resolve any challenges that might hinder the attendance of children in the SKBs.

GSS and the IIFL Foundation are steadfast in their commitment to uplifting marginalized girl children via education, changing their lives and guaranteeing a better tomorrow.



Lasadiya, Salumber,  
Pipalkhunt,  
Chotisardari, Sarada and  
Girwa

Number of Centres - **248**

Girls enrolled - **4710**  
Boys enrolled - **2737**

Children  
mainstreamed - **1089**





# Sakhiyon Ki Badi: Our Success Stories



## **A Journey of Education and Hope**

Lakshmi Kumari Meena, a 10-year-old girl from a financially struggling farming family, had never been to school. Her future seemed uncertain until a chance encounter near the Sakhiyon Ki Badi center in Bheramangra changed everything. One day, while playing near the center, Daksha of Sakhiyon Ki Badi centre noticed Lakshmi and asked her if she attended school. With a hint of sadness, Lakshmi shook her head and replied softly, "No". Daksha spoke with Lakshmi's parents, explaining the importance of education and the opportunities it could bring. Lakshmi's parents agreed to enroll her in the Bheramangra Sakhiyon Ki Badi center. Lakshmi had no prior education, but with the Daksha's guidance, her progress soon became evident.

Lakshmi's level enhanced to the point where she could read stories in Hindi with confidence. She learned to read and write 'words' in English, and she is able to perform mathematical

soperations as well. Lakshmi's remarkable growth even inspired her siblings to join the Sakhiyon Ki Badi program. Lakshmi's success has brought happiness to her family, and her future now shines brighter than ever before. Her journey showcases the transformative power of education and the positive impact it has on a child's life. The Sakhiyon Ki Badi program has given Lakshmi a chance to break free from illiteracy and poverty. Her determination and the support she received have paved the way for a better future, inspiring others in her community to believe in the power of education.

## **A Beacon of Hope: The Story of Kalmi Village**



Nestled amidst serene landscapes, Kalmi Island, accessible only by boat, remained isolated and neglected for years. Basic necessities like electricity and cooking gas were absent, and most importantly, education remained a distant dream for the 45 families residing there.

However, hope arrived in the form of Sohanlal Meena, a B.Ed. student, who brought the village's plight to light. This led to a crucial survey and the subsequent establishment of the Sakhiyon Ki Badi Kalmi center by GSS on New Year's Day, 2023. Bridging the geographical gap was Daksh Bhawar Lal Meena, a dedicated teacher undeterred by the daily 30-minute boat ride and 15-minute walk. His passion for education fueled his innovative teaching methods, transforming the island's learning landscape.

A historic moment arrived on Republic Day 2023, as the national flag fluttered proudly for the first time in Kalmi's 75-year history. This marked a newfound sense of unity and pride, fostered by GSS and IIFL Foundation's collaborative efforts.

Today, the Kalmi center thrives with an average daily attendance of 27-30 students. Witnessing their progress and enthusiasm is a testament to the unwavering dedication of teachers like Bhawar Lal. As the center completes its first year, the joy of education resonates across Kalmi Island. The thirst for knowledge and consistent attendance paint a hopeful picture, signaling a future where education empowers generations to come.





# Girls Education Project

In collaboration with IIMPACT



Railmangra Block  
Rajsamand District



Target group: Dropout, irregular and never enrolled girls



Girls enrolled: **1590**



Centres: **53**

## Transforming Lives

At GSS, our Strengthen Girl Education Initiative embodies our belief in the power of unity. We recognise that when individuals unite to support a common cause, the resulting strength is greater than the sum of its parts. Through our collaborative efforts with IIMPACT we aim to foster development and positive change in girl education. Together we create a conducive learning environment for girls, to foster a sense of security and belonging.

We provide necessary resources and support to empower girls to enrol and thrive in formal educational institutions. Currently we operate 53 centres in which 1590 girls where 1590 girls are enrolled to benefit from our program.

One of the key strengths of our initiative lies in the meticulously researched curriculum. Designed to cater to the unique circumstances and challenges that girls may face in their educational pursuits, this curriculum promotes inclusivity and effectiveness by considering diverse backgrounds and learning styles.

As we continue to forge ahead with our Strengthen Girl Education Initiative, we remain committed to inspiring change and transforming futures. Every girl we empower, every barrier we break down, and every dream we nurture is a testament to the enduring power of unity and collaboration.

Together, we are not just educating girls; we are unlocking their potential to become leaders, innovators, and change-makers in their communities and beyond.







# Child Protection Project

In collaboration with UNICEF

Udaipur, Pratapgarh, Dungarpur, Banswara, Rajasamand & Chittorgarh



Frontline Workers Trained - **5330**



Adolescents reached - **2,60,975**



Adolescents and families linked with social security schemes - **3000**



## About the Project

This collaboration was titled "Strengthening the institutional capacity of district administrations and stakeholders to support programs on positive parenting, ending child marriage, ending violence against children, and preventing the spread of covid19 in the tribal-dominated Udaipur division of Rajasthan."

The project was designed to address the challenges faced by adolescent girls in Rajasthan, India. These challenges include high rates of school dropout, early marriage, pregnancy, harassment, and violence. The project was led by UNICEF in partnership with GSSS.

The project worked with district administrations, Block Level Child Protection Committees (BLCPCs), Panchayat Level Child Protection Committees (PLCPCs), and community members to raise awareness about child protection issues, strengthen child protection services, and prevent child marriage, violence against children, and the spread of COVID-19.

## Results and Impact

The project improved the lives of children and adolescents by:

- Strengthening the capacity of district administrations and stakeholders to support child protection programs
- Raising awareness about child protection issues in the community: **508 Jagriks as changemakers** and **1810 community structures trained**
- Increasing access to child protection services for children and adolescents
- The formation of Child Marriage Task Forces in three districts
- The development of work plans to operationalize the strategic plan for child protection
- The training of frontline workers and community members on child protection issues

The project benefited a total of 405,600 tribal children, 80,000 parents, and community members. 5,788 girls were enrolled back in school.



# UNICEF Dignitaries Field Visit



## Safeguarding Children in Sarada Block

On July 20th, 2022, a meeting convened at the Panchayat Bhawan in Sarada to discuss child protection within the block. Representatives from the Block Level Child Protection Committee (BLCPC), UNICEF India, Gayatri Seva Sansthan (GSS), and local Panchayats participated in this important dialogue.

The meeting aimed to exchange best practices and address challenges faced in safeguarding children's well-being in Sarada. GSS, a local NGO, presented their successful interventions that reduced child labor, school dropout rates, and child marriage through income generation activities and community awareness campaigns. A representative from the Nimboda Gram Panchayat shared their journey towards becoming a "Child Friendly Gram Panchayat" by tackling child labor and promoting school enrollment.

However, the discussions also revealed ongoing challenges. A PLCPC member highlighted the lack of access to clean water and sanitation facilities, particularly for girls, in some schools. A social worker emphasized the persistence of child marriage and child labor in certain areas.

Recognizing these concerns, the UNICEF India representative stressed the importance of child protection and the need to address issues like gender inequality and child sexual abuse.

The meeting fostered a spirit of collaboration. A Memorandum of Appeal was submitted by the Nimboda gram panchayat requesting resources like playgrounds and educational materials to further improve child-friendly spaces.

The concluding ceremony saw participants take a pledge to promote gender equality and actively combat child labor and sexual abuse within the block. This collective commitment, along with continued collaboration between stakeholders, paves the way for a brighter future where children in Sarada can thrive in a safe and nurturing environment.







# Access to Justice for Children

In collaboration with KSCF



Udaipur and Pratapgarh districts



Target Population - Victims of sexual abuse, labour & trafficking

## Building a Safety Net for Children

Cases of child exploitation (POCSO, trafficking, labor) are common in Rajasthan. Weak support systems and limited access to justice leave many cases unreported. Many cases are left unattended and even in the cases that are taken up, denial and delay to justice causes the victims to suffer in the entire process. GSS partnered with the Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation to address this.

The main objectives of the project were as follows:

- Rescuing children from **labor and child trafficking** and insuring their rehabilitation.
- Implementing measures to ensure well being and recovery of **child victims under the POCSO act**.

GSS employed a three-pronged strategy:

1. **Identification:** Actively seeking out hidden cases through outreach and community engagement.
2. **Awareness:** Educating communities about child rights and empowering them to report exploitation.
3. **Support:** Providing comprehensive aid to victims and families, including legal services, counseling, medical care, witness preparation, and rehabilitation.

This project aimed to empower communities, strengthen legal frameworks, and ultimately create a safer environment for children.

Community Mobilization: Over **20,000** community members were educated on child rights. This initiative serves as a model for ensuring access to justice for vulnerable children. It demonstrates the effectiveness of addressing both immediate needs and long-term well-being.

**Pocso ACT** (2012)

Total Victims Assisted - **147**



Rescued from Child Labor - **151**

**CHILD TRAFFICKING**

Rescued from trafficking - **17**





# Our Initiative: Child Labor Free Udaipur Campaign



## Statistics



Udaipur Headquarter  
City Area



Police Stations  
Covered - 12



Children Rescued - 91



Accused - 52



FIR Registered - 17

## About the Project

In a bid to tackle the concerning issue of child labor in Udaipur, a week-long campaign titled "Child Labor Free Udaipur" was launched by Gayatri Seva Sansthan (GSS) in June 2022. This initiative, conducted in collaboration with the District Administration, Rajasthan Police, and other stakeholders, aimed at rescuing children from exploitative labor and raising public awareness. The campaign ran from June 12th to 20th, focusing on rescuing children working in various establishments across the city.

Through meticulously planned rescue operations, a total of 91 children were rescued from hotels, restaurants, construction sites, and other locations. These efforts were complemented by a public awareness drive that included street plays, musical performances, and a signature campaign. Importantly, the campaign not only focused on rescuing children but also recognized individuals who did not employ child labor, promoting responsible practices within the community. The campaign culminated in a closing ceremony where active participants were felicitated and the Chairman of NCPCR commended the efforts undertaken. This successful initiative serves as a testament to the power of collaboration in combating child labor and protecting vulnerable children.







# Child Friendly Police Stations

In collaboration with KSCF and Bajaj Foundation



Udaipur and Pratapgarh districts



Target Population - Tribal Children below 18 years of age



Number of Child Friendly Police Stations Revamped - 4



## Creating Safe Havens: Child Friendly Police Stations in Rajasthan

Ensuring a positive and supportive environment for children during interactions with law enforcement is crucial. Recognizing this need, a collaborative effort by Kailash Satyarthi Children Foundation (KSCF), Bajaj Foundation, and Gayatri Seva Sansthan (GSS) has led to the creation of child-friendly police stations in Rajasthan. This initiative focuses on providing children-friendly spaces in police stations in Udaipur and Pratapgarh districts, two tribal-dominated regions bordering Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat. These districts grapple with the challenge of child exploitation due to high rates of migration for work and livelihood. Children, often accompanying their families, become vulnerable in unfamiliar territories.

Following the guidelines outlined in the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, these child-friendly spaces prioritize the comfort and well-being of children. They are designed with separate entrances to ensure children don't come into contact with the accused. Colorful walls adorned with age-appropriate artwork and educational materials create a welcoming atmosphere. Comfortable seating areas cater specifically to children's needs, and a first-aid kit is readily available for any unforeseen situations. By reducing feelings of intimidation, these stations pave the way for better communication and potentially improved outcomes in cases involving children. Informational and educational materials (IEC) are displayed to raise awareness about child rights and relevant procedures.

This initiative in Rajasthan serves as a model for creating child-friendly environments within law enforcement agencies across the country. By prioritizing the well-being of children, these stations empower them to navigate potentially stressful situations with greater confidence and dignity.





# MAA Badi Project

In collaboration with IIFL Foundation



Udaipur District



Tribal children



Children : 300



Maa Badis selected: 20



## Empowering futures

Gayatri Seva Sansthan (GSS) and IIFL Foundation have collaborated with the Tribal Area Development Department (TADD) under the Tribal Ministry of Rajasthan to embark on a joint initiative aimed at revitalizing the Maa Badi centers in the Udaipur district. These centers serve as pivotal hubs for formal education in remote areas where government schools are scarce, focusing specifically on children from indigenous tribal communities. The primary goal of this transformative project is two-fold: to eradicate illiteracy among children and to ensure they have access to proper sanitation and nutrition. To accomplish this, our collaboration has meticulously selected 15 schools from among 20 Maa Badis, each catering to a maximum of 20 children.

Taking a comprehensive approach to enhance the effectiveness of these centers, IIFL Foundation and GSS have implemented various strategies. A key aspect involves the integration of digital learning tools, such as LED TVs equipped with audio-visual learning materials. Additionally, libraries have been established to cultivate a culture of reading among the children. Additionally, the teachers at the centre are provided with continuous training to deliver quality education.

In addressing infrastructural needs, our collaboration has played a crucial role in implementing solar panel systems, providing clean electricity. Additionally, solar-powered water pumps have been installed to have a steady water supply for drinking and sanitation purposes. To ensure continuous power availability, battery integration has been incorporated into the system. Additionally, in efforts to foster an optimal learning environment, ceiling fans have been installed, and water tanks have been established.

Together, with unwavering commitment and collective action, we're not just changing lives; we're shaping destinies





# Wash Project

In collaboration  
with Solidaridad



Lakhawali Gram Panchyat  
Badgaon Block  
Udaipur District



School going children at  
Government schools



Children participated: **290**



Govt. schools selected: **5**

## A wave of change

At GSS, we firmly believe that every child deserves access to a healthy learning environment equipped with essential amenities like clean drinking water, proper sanitation facilities, and adequate infrastructure within schools. Recognizing that progress has been made but more efforts are needed, our Swachh Aadat Swachh Bharat WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) Program aimed to inculcate clean habits among school children, empowering them to contribute towards creating a better future for underprivileged children.

The program was inaugurated on November 4, 2022, attended by dignitaries and stakeholders, aimed at community development

The 21-day program used the 'Swachh Aadatein Kitab' curriculum to foster clean habits among the 290 participating students from 5 government schools through well-designed sessions covering key topics like:

- **Germs:** students learned that germs, including bacteria and viruses, are everywhere around us and are essential for life
- **Clean toilets:** students learned the vital importance of using toilets to reduce contamination risks associated with open defecation
- **Handwashing techniques:** the session emphasized on the importance of handwashing, stressing its role in preventing illness by removing harmful bacteria and viruses
- **Clean drinking water:** children learned about the vital role of clean water in maintaining health and preventing the entry of germs into the body

As the program concluded, the palpable transformation among the participating children was evident. Post-intervention, 95% of children reported handwashing before meals, highlighting the program's effectiveness in achieving its goals.





# LIVELIHOOD ENHANCEMENT

"The best way to predict the future is to create  
it." – Abraham Lincoln





# About Livelihood



**Our philosophy:** Our approach towards livelihood is to keep a household occupied meaningfully, with dignity, and in a sustainable manner. GSS emphasizes developing locally relevant and sustainable livelihood opportunities in large numbers to not only make the community self-reliant but also help the participating families meet their financial needs within the village.

**Walking with the world:** The World Rural Forum (WRF) was held in February 2023 in Rome, Italy. The theme of the forum was "Transforming rural livelihoods to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)". A few of the major objectives were to reduce poverty and improve food security in rural areas. Inspired by the World Rural Forum 2023's emphasis on renewed investment and inclusive participation, GSS is committed to developing and supporting sustainable livelihood initiatives within rural communities.







# Aajivika

## In collaboration with UCWL



**For the families in operational area of UCWL, Udaipur, Rajasthan**



**Number of farmers: 25**



**Enhance livelihood through goatry enterprises**



**Alternate source of income**



**Train the targeted families for better agriculture practices**



**Identification of youth entrepreneurs for micro/small enterprise**

GSS is committed to support sustainable livelihoods in rural communities. In line with this objective and collaboration with **UCWL (Udaipur Cement Works Limited)**, a comprehensive program was designed to equip farmers and youth with the necessary skills and resources.

The initiative commenced with a selection process to identify beneficiaries. Following this, a farmers' orientation cum training program was organized, providing essential knowledge and techniques for improved agricultural practices. This program successfully trained **25 farmers**.

Furthermore, to broaden the farmer's knowledge base and showcase successful practices, an exposure visit was organized. This visit provided valuable insights into best practices and potential innovations related to agriculture and livestock. The farmers were given **25 Sirohi breed goat units(2F+1M)** to have an improved livelihood.

Finally, to ensure ongoing learning and skill development, GSS identified the need for regular training programs for the beneficiaries. This commitment to continuous learning will equip participants with the knowledge and skills necessary for long-term success.

Recognizing the importance of youth engagement, GSS is planning to conduct an exclusive workshop specifically designed to guide young individuals in setting up **micro and small enterprises**. This workshop will offer valuable insights and resources, with the potential to empower a significant number of young participants.





# Livelihood Enhancement for Ram and Sita Bawri Hamlet

## In collaboration with JKLC



**Ram Bawdi Village, Sirohi, Rajasthan**



**25 poor and marginal farmers were selected**



**Orientation programme for the identified farmers**



**Training sessions were organized for farmers**



**8 Breeding Buck of Sirohi Breed were provided to eligible farmers**

The initiation of the Land Use Plan (LUP) and Livelihood Plan began with a recognition of the interdependence between agricultural practices and the commodities cultivated, which are influenced by the farmers interests and available resources in collaboration with **JK Lakshmi Cement**. To gain insights into these dynamics, a comprehensive random sampling survey was conducted among **30** households in Ram Bawdi hamlet, focusing on resource mapping and data collection. Subsequently, based on the collated information, a batch comprising **25 farmers** each were carefully assembled. Following this preparatory phase, an Orientation cum Launching program was meticulously organized in Ram Sita Bawdi hamlet, featuring detailed project briefings by the JKLC team. The session included an induction and brainstorming segment, facilitated by Mr. Chetan Pandey, CEO of GSS.

Transitioning to the farmer training phase, a group-based learning approach was adopted, wherein farmers were provided with experiential learning opportunities to enhance their understanding of improved agricultural practices. Notably, a one-day farmer training and capacity building programs were conducted, focusing on seasonal farming techniques, with specific sessions dedicated to **Rabi and Jayad** seasons. Throughout these training sessions, various aspects of improved sustainable agriculture, integrated farming practices, and crop, and irrigation management were comprehensively covered.

Furthermore, recognizing the potential of goat farming to provide employment opportunities and supplementary income, **8 Breeding Bucks of Sirohi Breed** were distributed to eligible farmers, accompanied by an induction session conducted by Mr. Sumer Singh, a Livestock Expert.





# WADI PROJECT

In collaboration  
with TDF, NABARD

The WADI project in collaboration with TDF and NABARD has significantly transformed the socio-economic landscape. The project endeavors to enhance quality of life through the WADI development approach, proven to foster sustainable development in tribal and marginal farmer communities. The WADI project introduces farmers to innovative methods, promoting fruit tree plantation and orchard development on their land. Additionally, farmers are educated about intercropping vegetables to generate supplementary income until the fruit plants mature.



**Tidi and Jaisamand Cluster,  
Udaipur District, Rajasthan**



**Total Area - 900 Acres**



**29 Villages**



**Establishments of 900  
WADIs**



**Establishment of 40 Agri-  
livestock allied enterprises  
through Goatry**



**22 Rabbit units were  
established**



**Establishment of 9 service  
based enterprises (Tent and  
sound services)**

There was an establishment of 900 WADIs and 40 Agri-Livestock allied enterprises through Goatry. The formation of the Chatod Ji Farmer Agro Producer Company Limited underlines the successful empowerment of farmers via the Farmer Producer Organization (FPO) model.







This development has led to farmers acquiring new assets and an economic upliftment visible across the community. Educational opportunities have expanded, with increased incomes facilitating greater access to learning for children. Financial inclusion has progressed, with most WADI farmers now owning bank accounts, enhancing their financial services access, and reducing migration by providing sustainable local income sources.

Health, nutrition, sanitation, and hygiene efforts have been strengthened through practical measures like distributing seed

kits for water purifier (safe drinking water access), kitchen gardens and tools to ease women's labor in fruit orchards.

The financial well-being of beneficiaries has improved, evidenced by higher fruit sales in local markets and access to broader markets like Udaipur Mandi. These achievements highlight the WADI project's significant positive impact on the community's socio-economic fabric.

## SUCCESS STORY



Nana Lal Ji, a 32-year-old resident of Padarda village in the TIDI cluster, lives with five family members. He owns 1 acre of land where he grows wheat and maize, earning between Rs. 25,000 to Rs. 40,000 annually.

During the WADI project survey, he eagerly sought solutions for his family's financial challenges. Understanding the project, he promptly enrolled. His confidence grew after attending the exposure visit to Sirohi and farmer training.

Like other WADI farmers, he received 30 Lemon plants, 20 Guava plants, wire fencing, pipes, tools for reducing labor, fertilizers, insecticides, and various seeds for intercropping. He planted tomatoes for intercropping and earned Rs. 130,000 yearly from the 0.2-acre tomato plantation.

Currently, all his WADI fruit plants have a 100% survival rate. With increased income and sustainable agriculture practices, Nana Lal Ji can support his father and provide for his children and wife, easing a significant concern he faced before the project. He has faith in the WADI project, NABARD, and GSS, vowing to care for his farm to the best of his ability. He expressed gratitude to NABARD and GSS for their ongoing assistance, stating that the WADI project has brought new hope for his family.





# FPO Program

## In collaboration with NABARD



**Tribal-dominated blocks of Sarada and Salumber, Udaipur, Rajasthan**



**Number of farmers: 180**



**Training programs and board meetings for the farmers**



**Seed unit development programs**



**cash crops like vegetables, fruits etc.**



**Formation of farmer interest group (15-20 members) and then FPOs**

The project area lies within the tribal-dominated blocks of Sarada and Salumber in Rajasthan's Udaipur district, where 90% of the population consists of Scheduled Tribes, primarily the Meena tribe. Their livelihoods hinge on seasonal labor, agriculture, and cattle rearing. However, the agricultural sector faces challenges such as poor soil quality, limited water access, and small landholdings, affecting over 80% of farmers with less than 2 bighas of land. The Farmer Producer Organization (FPO) project, sanctioned on August 21, 2019, and initiated with NABARD's first grant on September 22, 2021, involves 180 farmers across seven villages. These include Amloda, Hikawada, Nimboda, Nokhali, Ragpura, Samoda, and Sohanpura, aiming to provide technical assistance and sustainable structures for agricultural enhancement.

Gayatri Seva Sansthan has a longstanding commitment to agricultural development, particularly among small and marginal farmers in remote areas. Through training programs, seed development, and the promotion of cash crops like vegetables, the organization empowers farmers and reduces reliance on external support. Mobilizing farmers into groups of between 15-20 members at the village level called farmer Interest Groups or FIG and building up their association to an appropriate federating point i.e. Farmers Producer Organizations (FPO). Farmers Producer Organizations are groups of rural primary producers coming together based on the principle of membership, to pursue specific common interests of their members and develop technical and economic, and institutional environments. The establishment of the Farmers' Producer Organization further strengthens these efforts, focusing on smallholders and women farmers to foster sustainable agricultural development and uplift the overall living standards of the tribal community.





# Jeevan Vatika

**In collaboration  
with Jumio India  
Pvt. Ltd.**



**Tribal-dominated  
blocks of Sarada ,  
Udaipur, Rajasthan**



**300 Jeevan Vatikas**



**Orientation  
programme for the  
identified farmers**



**Distribution of seeds  
and planting  
materials**



**Organic Supplements  
for making Amrut Jal  
and Amrut Mitti bed**



**Distribution of Small  
Equipment like  
Sprayer, Khurpi/panja**



**Signboards  
beneficiary  
for branding**

The National Family Health Survey-4 (NFHS) highlights Rajasthan's alarming prevalence of malnutrition, particularly in Udaipur district, where half of pregnant women suffer from anemia and 23% of children are born with low birth weight. COVID-19 exacerbated this crisis, with the closure of institutional care facilities exacerbating malnutrition across age groups. To address this, the innovative Jeevan Vatika model was launched to establish 300 Jeevan Vatikas for identified primary beneficiaries, each spanning approximately 400 sqm, the initiative focuses on sustainable farming practices to support nutritional needs by providing high-yielding seeds/plants of fruits and vegetables, households can fulfill daily micronutrient requirements sustainably.

The project aims to ensure food security and good health for vulnerable households in Sarada Block of Udaipur District through sustainable climate-resilient farming. The project entails various components, including orientation programs, layout establishment, distribution of seeds and planting materials, organic supplements, small equipment distribution, handhold support, and project branding. Activities such as orientation programs for beneficiaries, layout planning, and distribution of seeds have been successfully completed. Furthermore, training on preparing Jeevamrut and Amrit Mitti, distribution of farming equipment, and ongoing field support have been provided to ensure the project's success. Additionally, branding initiatives through village signboards and beneficiary boards have been implemented for transparency and awareness. Through these concerted efforts, the Jeevan Vatika project aims to alleviate malnutrition and enhance livelihoods in Udaipur district.



# NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

An aerial photograph of a river flowing through a hilly, green landscape. A dam is visible on the right side of the river, creating a reservoir. The surrounding area is covered in dense vegetation and trees. The title 'NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT' is overlaid in large, bold, yellow letters at the top.

If conservation of Natural Resources goes wrong  
Nothing else will go right

– Dr. M. S. Swaminathan



# About NRM



**Our philosophy:** Various phenomena such as erratic rainfall, overgrazing and deforestation has led to excessive soil run-off and gradually decreasing family income in the rural areas. GSS, after studying their problems, started intervention in maintaining and enhancing the natural resource through projects of Watershed Development and Climate Change Adaptations and Mitigation. We believe that these enhanced natural assets can ensure sustainable livelihood for generations to come.

## **Walking with the world:**

With NITI Aayog's mission towards framing the Natural Climate Solution (NCS) Strategy, GSS is aligned by development of an ecosystem supported by improvement of soil health, afforestation and wetland restoration. GSS observes success by securing livelihood, biodiversity conservation at its NRM sites.

Gayatri Seva Sansthan is well in tandem with multiple COP27 missions trying to reduce forest loss and degradation, and implement multiple solutions to target water issues. COP27 and GSS focused on watershed management, integrated governance and much more...







*Shramadan has undertaken on identified location*

# Bhadarkali Watershed Project

In collaboration with WDF, NABARD

## About the Watershed

Bhadarkali watershed is in Amb and Gagret block of Una district of Himachal Pradesh belonging to three revenue villages (Dangoh Khurd, Bhadarkali and Bhateher). The ground water in the Siwalik group of rocks is found under the unconfined to semi confined conditions, mainly in the arenaceous rocks. The project was possible because of the support and aid from The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

During the peak summer season, water scarcity escalates, intensifying water stress. Land degradation rates rise accordingly, exacerbating environmental concerns. The absence of adequate rainwater storage structures in the area, attributed to its unique climate conditions, topography, and hydrogeology, further compounds the problem. Labor migration ensues due to the unavailability of stable local income sources, impacting community stability. Severe erosion leads to significant changes in vegetation patterns, altering the landscape dramatically. Additionally, certain regions suffer from the scarcity of fodder, adding to the challenges faced in sustaining livelihoods.

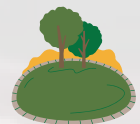
## Pre-CBP Work

Shramadan was done by the local community, which includes the cleaning of shrubs & debris, desiltation of existing pond. During this period, series of FGD's were conducted at different locations as result we were able to complete our Shramadan for Pre-CBP within 9 days.

During the interactive training session, community members were introduced to watershed treatments such as Crate Wall, renovation of existing water harvesting structures, and horticulture plantation farms. Mr. Vinod Kumar and Mr. Dhyam Chand, VWC members, provided motivation to farmers and shared insights into the starting journey of their watershed project, along with future plans.



Una District  
Himachal Pradesh



Total Area - 1272 Ha  
CBP Area - 100.6 Ha  
FIP Area - 1172 Ha



Population - 2743



1086 mm  
mostly erratic



3 Villages



SC/ST - 42%  
Literacy - 78%



No. of Households  
772



# Bhalki Watershed Project

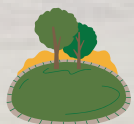
In collaboration with  
WDF, NABARD



*Johad Structure after Shramadan*



Rewari District  
Haryana



Total Area - 1390 Ha  
CBP Area - 99 Ha  
FIP Area - 1291 Ha



Population - 5433



480 mm



4 Villages



SC/ST - 16%  
Literacy - 78%



No. of Households - 1050

## About the Watershed

Bhalki watershed is in Khol block of Rewari district of Haryana. The interventions in the watershed was possible with the involvement of The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). The watershed area belongs to four revenue villages (Bhalki, Nandha, Balwari, Gothru tappa khori). **Khol block has been declared notified area and imposed prohibition and restriction on the construction and installation of any structure for extraction of groundwater resources** to avoid its further depletion and deterioration in its quality and water is the major concern for overall development of the area.

The region faces numerous challenges exacerbated by water scarcity during the peak summer season, leading to heightened water stress and increased land degradation. Compounding the issue, inadequate rainwater storage structures exacerbate the situation, further intensifying drought sufferings. Consequently, the lack of a stable local income source prompts labor migration, posing strains on the community.

The watershed is typical of semi-arid area with moderate but erratic rainfall, gradient sloppy topography, moderately poor soil and low irrigation potential. Almost one third's livelihood largely based on rain fed agriculture and labor work.



## Inauguration

On 29th of November, 2022, Mrs. Deepa Guha, CGM, NABARD, Haryana RO, successfully inaugurated the Bhalki Watershed Project in the Khol Block of the Rewari District of Haryana. The Gurugram Cluster Incharge, Regional Manager, Sarv Haryana Gramin Bank, LDM Rewari, CEO GSS, Ex-zila Parshad, and local residents were also present at the inaugural ceremony.



## Shramadan

Shramadan was done by local community which includes the Cleaning of shrubs and brunches and removal of rubbish, and Filling of Earth in the gullies formed due to deposition and erosion of soil in the slopes of Johad (WHS Structure). A series of focused group discussion were also conducted at different locations for awareness building towards watershed development program as result we were able to complete our Shramadan for Pre-CBP within 8 days.

## Interventions

After the Shramadan work at the Johad, community mobilization projects were carried out. Cleaning of a drainage was necessary. The drainage was a passage for rainwater to direct towards the Johad. The drainage would help Johad

harvest rainwater and recharge the groundwater table. The ongoing issue was that the drainage was blocked by shrubs, bushes, and trash dumped by the locals. GSS assembled the locals and conducted a cleanliness drive to clear the passage so that uncontaminated and constant flow of rainwater could be supplied to the Johad.







Gabion Structure

# Sarada Devpura Watershed

In collaboration with  
WDF, NABARD



Udaipur District  
Rajasthan



Total Area - 1265 Ha  
CBP Area - 103 Ha  
FIP Area - 1162 Ha



Population - 2603  
Men - 1329 Women - 1274



673 mm  
Erratic Rainfall



4 Villages



SC/ST - 16%  
Literacy - 52%  
BPL - 70%



No. of Households - 565

## About the Watershed

The Sarada Devpura watershed was possible with the collaboration with The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). The Watershed is located in the Udaipur district's Jaisamand block, roughly 25 km from the block headquarters and 43 km from the district headquarters. Four revenue villages are included in the watershed region, while Sarada, the closest town, is around 30 km away. It is part of the catchments of the Mahi basin, specifically the Som River.

The primary sources of income for the majority of the households are physical work and rain-fed agriculture. In areas with fast runoff, severe erosion, and low moisture retention, farmers encounter significant challenges. These regions often neglect common lands for productive purposes. Limited investment capacity due to poor economic conditions compounds the problem, affecting both crop and livestock productivity. Moreover, The use of inefficient indigenous farming implements contributes to the overall poor productivity in both crops and livestock.



Training Program for improved farming practices.



# Objectives Completed

## **Soil & Water Conservation**

- Constructed 1400 cubic meters of farm bunds along with stone outlets.
- Implemented grass seeding measures, resulting in the creation green cover of approximately 50 hectares of land.
- Constructed 121 cubic meters of stone bunds and 1266 cubic meters of Continuous and Staggered Contour trenches.
- Planted nearly 1500 trees on government or pasture lands, and 2000 thawala for existing plants.
- Implemented drainage line treatment, including the construction of gully plugs, LSCD (Loose Stone Check Dams), and one gabion.

## **Livelihood Support for Landless & Women**

- Demonstration & training programmes were conducted for seasonal cropping on the improved farming practices.
- Around 30 women got training about the credit management.



*Getting insights about the Watershed Area through GIS by DDM, Udaipur, NABARD*





CCT (Continuous Contour Trench)

# Krishnawati Watershed

In collaboration with  
WDF, NABARD

## About the Watershed

The watershed, belonging to Nizampur block, is typical of semi arid area with moderate but erratic rainfall, moderately poor soils, and low irrigation potential and has the economy largely based on rain fed agriculture. **The whole block has been declared notified area and imposed prohibition and restriction on the construction and installation of any structure for extraction of groundwater resources** to avoid its further depletion and deterioration in its quality. The project was possible because of the support of The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

Rapid deforestation and overgrazing worsen excessive runoff and soil erosion. Due to irregular and erratic insufficient rainfall, insecurity of drinking water prevails during some months of the year. Neglected common lands exacerbate soil loss due to runoff, reducing biomass availability. In such conditions, people rely on MNREGA or migrate to nearby urban areas for livelihood.



Mahendragarh District,  
Haryana



Total Area - 1075 Ha  
CBP Area - 104 Ha  
FIP Area - 971 Ha



Population - 3967  
Men - 1329 Women - 1274



435 mm  
Moderate Erratic Rainfall



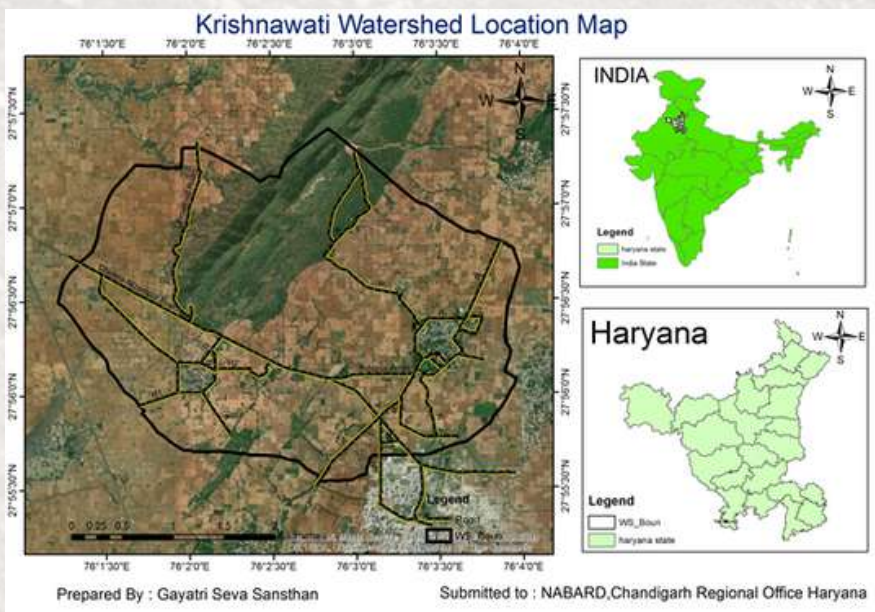
2 Villages



SC/ST - 24%  
Literacy - 71%



No. of Households - 743





## Planned Interventions

During the participatory survey for the net planning for Detailed Project Report (DPR) preparation of the Krishnawati Watershed project, community discussions revolved around several key aspects:

**Identifying Challenges:** Community members discussed and pinpointed the challenges they face within the watershed area, including issues such as poor soil quality, water scarcity, low agricultural productivity, erosion, and inadequate infrastructure.

**Assessing Needs:** The community shared their needs and aspirations concerning livelihoods, water resources, agriculture, and infrastructure. This included discussions on the necessity for improved irrigation facilities, better access to clean drinking water, and strategies to enhance agricultural productivity.

**Mapping Resources:** Participatory exercises were conducted to map natural resources within the watershed, such as drainage pattern, land use patterns, water sources, vegetation cover, and terrain characteristics. This provided insights into existing resources and their potential for sustainable development.

**Setting Priorities:** Through collective deliberation, the community prioritized the most pressing issues and identified areas for intervention. This step helped focus efforts on addressing the most critical needs of the community.



*Johad Deepening and Extension of chota Johad*



*Site Visit of Community Soak Pit with Filtration Tank*



*Discussion on activity: Roof Rain Water Recharge structure- Bigopur School*





Understanding Chokha System (WHS) at Lapodiya Village

# Singhawal Watershed Project

In collaboration with  
WDF, NABARD



Ajmer District  
Rajasthan



Total Area - 1457 Ha  
CBP Area - 147 Ha  
FIP Area - 1309 Ha



Population - 2175



666 mm



4 Villages



SC/ST - 28%  
Literacy - 52%



No. of Households - 435

## About the Watershed

Due to excessive exploitation leading to depletion of groundwater resources, the **Bhinay block** has been **designated as a critically notified area**. This designation entails restrictions and prohibitions on constructing or installing any structures for groundwater extraction to prevent further depletion and degradation in quality. The watershed project was developed in collaboration of The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

It exemplifies characteristics of a semi-arid region, featuring moderate yet unpredictable rainfall, sloping terrain, moderately low-quality soil. The block carries no water conservation infrastructure and is absolutely rainfall dependent.

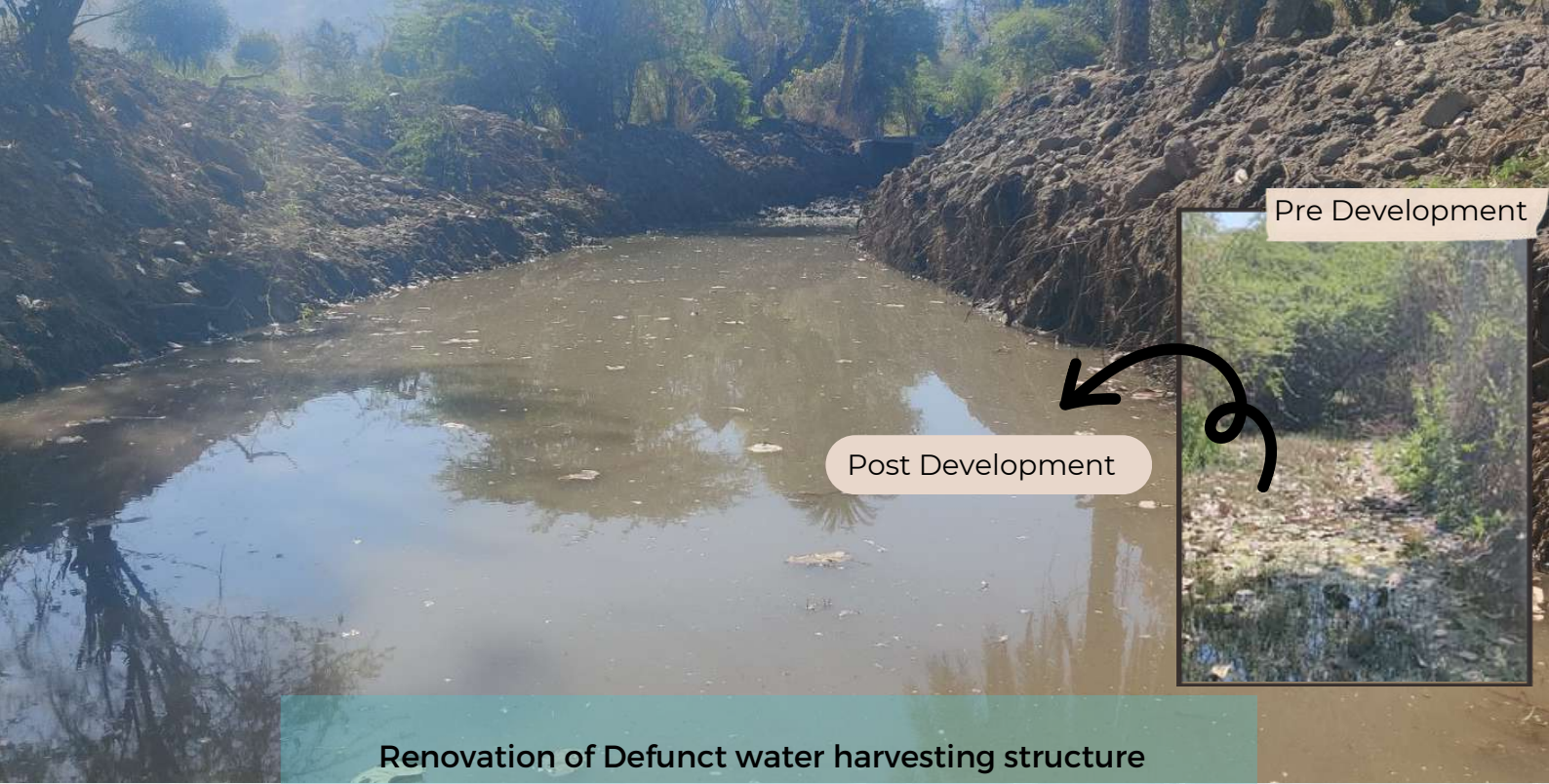
As the milk production in the area is a major source of earning so we have also mobilized the community regarding the FPO scheme and also communicated with the local PRI members and community leaders on the individual level.

## Interventions

Exposure visits helped the community members get exposed to concepts of watersheds and SWC treatments like farm bunding, Chokha System, Grass Seeding, Earthen Bunds with Water Tanks, and multiple other water harvesting structures.

Shramadan was done by the locals by cleaning of shrubs & debris, trenches' excavation, pasture land plantation. During the Shramadan period series of FGDs were also conducted at different locations for awareness towards the watershed development program, resulting in completing our Shramadan for Pre-CBP within 8 days.





# Rainwater Harvesting Project

In collaboration with  
JK Lakshmi Cement  
Ltd.,



Ram Bawdi Village,  
Sirohi, Rajasthan



Total Area - 20 Ha



One Village



No. of Households - 30



SC/ST - 100%

Pre Development

## Interventions Made

### Renovation of existing water harvesting structure

To fulfill the program's objective of enhancing water storage capacity and improving the quality of life for communities through the restoration of water harvesting and recharging systems, the Devi Lal Ji Wala Anicut suffered damage from heavy rainfall in recent years. Heavy siltation in the upstream side, damage in the main wall and the headwall extension, as depicted in the accompanying image. We have addressed this by constructing a 15.50-meter-long adjacent wall, undertaking desiltation, and repairing the sidewall, headwall extension, apron, toe wall, and headwall. The structure, with a total fetch length of 65 meters, now boasts a combined storage and recharging capacity of 1450 cubic meters.

The refurbishment of the Saiba Ram Ji Wala anicut is part of our initiative to enhance water storage capacity and improve the quality of life for local communities through water harvesting and recharge. Earthwork has been completed, increasing the structure's one-time storage capacity to 1400 cubic meters.



# Financial Statement

## Income and Expenditure A/c

for the year ending 31st March 2023

### Income

(Amount in Rs.)

Funds Received for Projects	4,33,75,155.30
Interest and Misc. Receipts	16,20,611.23
Gross School Receipts	16,17,910.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,66,13,676.53</b>

### Expenditure

(Amount in Rs.)

Expenditures for Projects	4,31,85,040.44
School Expenses	15,56,119.00
Misc Expenditure	9,06,849.72
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,56,48,009.16</b>

<b>Excess of Income over Expenditure</b>	<b>9,65,667.37</b>
--	--------------------

Place: Udaipur

Date:

Subhash Joshi

Secretary

Lakshit Khurdia

M.No. 439325

For: Khurdia & Associates  
Chartered Accountant



# Financial Statement

## Balance Sheet

for the year ending 31st March 2023

### Liabilities

(Amount in Rs.)

Funds & Reserves	60,11,752.07
Unsecured Loans	4,63,189.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>64,74,941.07</b>

### Assets

(Amount in Rs.)

Fixed Assets		53,52,396.71
Deposits with Authorities		10,000.00
Current Assets	37,21,055.70	
Cash & Bank Balance	24,24,361.46	
Total	61,45,417.16	
Less: Current Liabilities & Provisions	50,32,872.80	11,12,544.36
Total		64,74,941.07

Place: Udaipur

Date:

Subhash Joshi

Secretary

Lakshit Khurdia

M.No. 439325

For: Khurdia & Associates  
Chartered Accountant



# Words of Encouragement

*"Very encouraged and motivated to see the level of awareness and commitment of this community to make a difference in the lives of children. We all have a role to play and UNICEF is a proud partner of this journey. Congratulations and success to bring protection to all children."*

- Soledad Aeneno, UNICEF

*"Felt humbled and connected meeting the team and the villagers. The firsthand information on the ground issues is an eye opener and we feel happy that both GSS and Jumio together are able to help start something to make a difference and positive impact."*

- James Jacob, Jumio CSR

*"We extend heartfelt appreciation to GSS for their proactive role in community mobilisation and awareness-building for the Bhalki Watershed Project. We wish for the project's continued success and hope it continues to engage the community effectively to make a positive impact."*

- Mrs. Guvha, CGM, NABARD, Haryana

*"We commend GSS for their remarkable dedication to supporting marginalised farmers in Sarada and Salumbar blocks. Their impactful work like TDF, WDF, AFB and PODF reflects their commitment to community empowerment and sustainable development."*

- CGM, NABARD, Rajasthan

*"Very much impressed with the work being done by the GSS on ground and with the remote communities. The commitment and capabilities of the GSS are exemplary. Wish them the very best!"*

- Dr. CA Rama Rao, ICAR, CRIDA, Hyderabad







**TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT...**



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