

# SPROUTING SHOOTS



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Impact Assessment Study for the  
Enhancing Women and Girls' Leadership  
in climate change adaptation (EWGL) Project, 2020





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in climate change adaptation (EWGL) Project, 2020

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## CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION .....	11
RESULTS ASSESSMENT .....	13
CONCLUSION .....	23
CASE STUDIES .....	25
REFERENCES .....	37
ABBREVIATIONS.....	38
GLOSSARY .....	39





## FOREWORD

Droughts have been an integral part of life in the Thar Desert of India, and in a number of other arid zones around the world. Extreme water scarcity and severe food shortages leading to poor economy and vulnerable health status are features of droughts that have impacted desert communities over a long period of time. Drought mitigation is a group of activities/interventions that are aimed at improving the lives of people living in dry zones.

Gender inequality has been extremely prevalent and women and girls have always lived the lives of limited rights, poor health and little or no education. Climate change related impacts of droughts are exacerbating the social and gender injustices for women and girls.

GRAVIS has been actively working on drought mitigation over last three decades. The involvement of communities directly in mitigating droughts has been an important part of our approach. Our learning has been rich and has helped us and our partners to improve the quality of our work. Their contribution of women in planning, implementation and monitoring of drought mitigation programmes is indispensable. Often times, these contributions are not taken into account. GRAVIS believes that empowering women and girls in the Thar Desert, leading to overall greater gender equality, is not possible without bringing them to the forefront of decision-making spaces of community based drought mitigation, Natural Resource Management and Climate Change Adaptation.

Enhancing Women and Girls' Leadership in Climate Change Adaptation in the Thar Desert, India is a project funded by European Union and implemented by GRAVIS along with its Associates Help Age International and Age International. The project aims at contributing to the enhanced leadership of women and girls, and greater gender equality, in drought mitigation, Natural Resource Management and Climate Change Adaptation in the Thar Desert of India. The project provides us an opportunity to annually assess the progress made by the project at the outcome levels and to examine the challenges faced during the implementation of the project. This will help the project to improve in the further implementation period based on the recommendations in the study. We hope that this work will enhance our understanding of the subject, as well as of readers interested in drought mitigation around the world.

I thank Sudhir Katiyar for leading this study with his sincere efforts and GRAVIS team for their active contribution. We are grateful to European Union for their funding support and guidance.

**Prakash Tyagi**  
**Executive Director, GRAVIS**







## AUTHOR'S NOTE

Gender inequality and its various manifestations intersect with the social, cultural, economic and climatic conditions. While traditionally women and girls are constantly engaged in water-fetching drudgery and significantly contribute in Natural Resource Management at household and community levels, these contributions are often not recognized. Women and girls bear the dual encumbrance being primarily responsible for fetching water for personal, household and livestock spending a substantial amount of time and energy, along with a complete marginalisation from any decision making powers or rights in social, economic or even political aspects of life. Water scarcity entwined with the gender imbalance propels and reinforces inequalities and keeps them at the periphery of any opportunity leading to social mobilisation, economic empowerment and even participation in community level decision-making.

The project named Enhancing Women and Girls' Leadership in Climate Change Adaptation in the Thar Desert, India undertaken by GRAVIS along with its Associates Help Age International and Age International and funded by European Union makes an effort to work towards the larger goal of gender equality in Natural Resource Management and Climate Change Adaptation. GRAVIS has developed a sustainable grass root model of drought proofing and water security in the Thar region of Western Rajasthan. This project seeks to add the agenda of gender equality to this time tested Natural Resource Management model by according women and girls a leadership role in project activities. The annual impact assessment study for the initial year of this project was conducted.

Although one year is a very short duration for social change to happen, especially when the change being sought lies in the realm of gender, considerable efforts required at the initial phase of implementation were assessed. In addition, this year struck by pandemic was a challenging year since activities remained suspended for almost six months owing to pandemic induced lockdowns. Despite this, a beginning has been made. The study has sought to assess this beginning.

The Author is grateful to GRAVIS for the opportunity given to understand and appreciate different facets of rural development and the ramifications of drought on the village community especially women and girls. The author would like to acknowledge the support of the project staff that supported during the exercise, the Community Based Organization members who came together for meetings and personal interviews. I would also like to thank GRAVIS management for giving the opportunity to have a glimpse of the interesting experiment taking place.

**Sudhir Katiyar**  
**Development Consultant**







## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The project aims to enhance leadership of women and girls, and greater gender equality, in drought mitigation, Natural Resource Management (NRM) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) in twenty villages of four districts of Western Rajasthan (namely Barmer, Bikaner, Jaisalmer and Jodhpur). The project has made a good beginning, in spite of facing a serious disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic induced lock downs. The project has achieved all physical targets except those that required public gatherings of large number of people, which continue to be banned. This means that it has made significant progress in the task of drought proofing of villages and ensuring adaptation with climate change. The action in order to achieve its overall objective of gender equality in CCA took its initial steps in the first year of the action

The NRM and CCA works have been carried out under the leadership of women and girls operationalized through 80 Intergenerational Learning Group (ILGs) formed in the 20 project villages enrolling 1679 women and young girls. In an extremely patriarchal society, this marks a significant achievement. The groups are meeting regularly. The groups have been trained in gender and NRM issues. The group members are slowly beginning to be more assertive in the public fora. In addition, 20 Village Development Committees (VDCs) and 4 Community Project Monitoring Committee (CPMC), three forms of Community Based Organizations (CBOs) have been formed and 80 Self Help Groups (SHGs) identified. Appropriate dissemination material has been published in local language and disseminated.

In terms of physical structures created, the project has constructed 163 rainwater harvesting structures that include 72 Taankas, 72 Khadins, renovation of 15 Beris and 4 community ponds leading to increased water security. It has supported 100 Community Seed Banks (CSBs), 60 Crop Demonstrations, 60 Arid Horticulture Units (AHUs), and 2 Pasture land development for food and nutrition security. Except for AHU and pasture land development interventions where plants and grass has been just planted, these structures have started creating significant benefits.

The project interventions have impacted similar works undertaken by the local government at both the design and the process of implementation. Project execution once again establishes the efficiency and efficacy of the GRAVIS model that is built around sustainable interventions to ensure drought mitigation and water security in the arid landscape of Thar.

With the relaxation of the COVID 19 induced restrictions, there is need to intensify work on the gender related aspects. These include strengthening the ILGs and formalizing its role in beneficiary selection, more innovative nomenclature, increasing number of young women in ILGs where they are below target, and another round of Training of Trainers (ToTs), to be conducted physically.

This study is an attempt at capturing the gains made so far and also to identify the components of future strategy that can help leverage the encouraging outcomes of interventions in favour of women and suggest built in mechanisms for climate change resilience. Further extrapolation and augmentation of the outcomes and impact is expected both in terms of empowerment of women and climate change resilience in action villages.



## INTRODUCTION

GRAVIS is implementing a project titled, Enhancing Women and Girls' Leadership in Climate Change Adaptation in the Thar Desert, India, (EWGL) funded by European Union. The project seeks to contribute in enhancing women and girl's leadership and voices in drought mitigation, Natural Resource Management (NRM) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) through partnerships with various stakeholders promoting gender equality within their communities. The project is being implemented in four severely drought impacted districts of Thar namely Barmer, Bikaner, Jaisalmer and Jodhpur.



*International Women's Day observed on 08.03.2020*

The overall objective of the EWGL project is to enhance women and girls' leadership on NRM and to enable them to be independent change agents within their communities. The specific objective is to enhance the voice and effective participation of women and girls in drought mitigation including older women and women and girls living with disabilities, NRM and CCA through an inter-generational learning approach. The project envisions that the importance of women and girls' contribution in all the project interventions will help them gain a deserved status in the community. It is also expected that older women, who are often left out in community development, will provide traditional knowledge in rainwater harvesting technologies. Ownership and control over these units will ensure that women and girls are able to enjoy direct benefits from these units.

This study is the first Annual Impact Assessment Study (IAS) of the project. IAS aims to understand the progress made by the project at the output and outcome levels. IAS will examine the challenges faced as well as provide recommendations for future implementation of the project. It is expected that the impact assessment document will be used as a learning document as well as for the dissemination of the project progress within the communities. The detailed terms of reference is given in Annexure of the report.

## Design and Methodology

The IAS follows the log frame matrix of the project. The log frame provides the overall impact, outcomes, and outputs of the project. It also provides the indicators to be used to monitor progress and how these are to be measured. Some indicators are to be measured every year and some at the end of the project. The IAS limits itself to the Indicators that are to be measured annually.

The methodology combined secondary literature with primary data collection through structured schedules and field visit to meet various stakeholders. An assessment of physical structure created under the project was undertaken to quantify the benefits arising from these. The specific elements of the methodology included

- Field visit - Participation in two ILG, one SHG and two VDC meetings
- Field visit -Visiting sites of project interventions
- Field visit - Interviews with key persons from the beneficiaries
- Project records - List of beneficiaries, ILG members, dissemination material developed by the project, proceedings of monthly meetings of selected ILGs and VDCs
- Benefit assessment of a sample of the physical structures created under the project
- Staff meetings - One physical and one online meeting

## Structure of the report

After the initial introductory chapter that provides the design and methodology, the report provides the results of the assessment. This is followed by the concluding chapter that documents the key successes, challenges faced, and recommendations. The case studies documenting the testimonies of women empowerment are attached in the Annexure 1. The excel file that documents the benefits accruing from the physical structures constructed under the project maintained.

## Impact of COVID – 19

The project period saw full the impact of COVID 19 induced lock downs. For a period of six months, most project activities got suspended. It was not possible to hold meetings of the ILG and SHGs as group meetings were banned in lock down period. The project team too got engaged in the pressing work of providing relief. It was only in July that small group meetings were allowed. The impact on a program like EWGL can well be imagined considering that enhancing women's leadership was the key project objective. The training calendar was impacted. The trainings on two themes of Gender and Development and Climate Change got delayed.

Fortunately for GRAVIS, the ground work of formation of so many groups had been done before the lock down was imposed in March. This allowed the project to immediately take off once stringent lockdown conditions were relaxed. As a result, project has been able to meet all physical targets. Only the targets that related to holding of public meetings have had to be postponed. The Awareness Camps and Village Dialogues on the two project themes of Gender and Development and Climate Change could not be organized because of COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.

## RESULTS ASSESSMENT

The results of the IAS are presented following the sequence of the log frame matrix– from outcomes to outputs. Each output/outcome is captured in a sequential format that gives the output/outcome followed by the indicators, means of verification, and target value for the first year, baseline value in year 0, achievement, and comments. This is followed by a detailed description where required, especially for qualitative indicators. There is a separate section that provides the benefits accruing from the physical structures constructed by the project as these have not been captured sufficiently by the log frame matrix. The case studies are given separately in the Annexure 1.



*Meetings with communities*

**Impact: 'To contribute to the enhanced leadership of women and girls, and greater gender equality, in drought mitigation, Natural Resource Management (NRM) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) in the Thar Desert of India'**

The projects aims towards improving on the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 and 6 Index Score for the State of Rajasthan calculated in the SDG Index Report by National Institute for Transforming India (NITI), of Government of India, which is a key indicator for achieving the impact which will be assessed at the end of the project as per the log frame matrix. Although the indicator will be measured at the end of the action, the annual SDG Index Report will be glanced upon annually. The SDG Index Score for Rajasthan with respect to goal 5: gender equality and goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation, in year 2018, was 35 and 43 out of 100 respectively. In year 2019 report, it is 39 and 76 out of 100.

**Outcome 1: To enhance voice and effective participation of women and girls in drought mitigation, NRM and CCA through an inter-generational learning approach**

Indicator 1:

The level of confidence of women and girls in drought mitigation, NRM and CCA

Means of verification assessed:

1. EWGL Project Baseline Report, 2019
2. Annual impact assessment studies
3. Testimonies collected from women and girls

Target	Baseline value	Achievement	Comments
Increased confidence of women and girls in 80 Intergenerational Learning Groups (ILGs) and 80 Self Help Groups (SHGs), 2024	Minimal confidence of women and girls within the communities on drought mitigation, NRM and CCA, 2018	Regular participation in ILGs meetings has increased confidence levels of women. From extreme reluctance to form the women alone groups, they have become active participants in ILG meetings.	The achievements are captured through specific case studies detailed in Annexure 1.

A period of one year is a very small time to make a beginning in attitudes and practices that have held sway for centuries. The rural desert society is a highly patriarchal society with strict norms governing female behaviour. However, the evidence suggests that the change process has begun. One of these norms relates to non-participation in public sphere along with men. The women maintain strict purdah, even within the confines of their homes from their elders. Participation in public meetings is not allowed.

The formation of all women 80 ILGs in a short period of time itself represents a big achievement. The project functionaries faced enormous difficulties in forming ILGs. To illustrate, it took 4-5 visits to the village before the *Ayad Mata* ILG in Luna Kalla village in Jaisalmer district could be formed. The women would typically ask as to what will they gain and what is the requirement. The process of the formation of ILG and difficulties faced are illustrated through a case study of *Baba Ramdev* ILG in *Tekra* village of Jodhpur district (Case study 1 in Annexure 1).

From this initial difficulty, the ILGs have reached a stage where women themselves ask the local community workers as to when the next meeting is scheduled. The community workers have to spend less time in convincing women to participate in the ILG meetings. The regular participation by women members in ILG has led to increased confidence in them as shown by the following examples:

Suman Kanvar, a 32 year old woman from Kelawa village of Jaisalmer district, is a member of *Jagriti* ILG in her village. After her association with the ILG, she has emerged as an advocate for schooling of girls (Case study 2 in Annexure 1).





*Badhu Devi Meghwal*, a 51 year old woman from *Bhom Hem Singh* village of Bikaner district, used to sing at religious programs. Once she got to know about the formation of ILG in her village, she led the process. Her initiative led her to being elected as Sarpanch in the recently concluded elections (Case study 3 in Annexure 1).

*Susiya* is a 38 year old woman who is the secretary of *Gogagi* ILG of Patrasar village, Barmer district. *Susiya*, a tribal woman, participated in the ILG meeting held at Juna in an Other Backward Caste (OBC), a Raika settlement. She is appointed as a member in the CPMC also. She has been a ward member earlier and regularly accompanies other women of the village for their work in Government offices.

The following were cited as indicators of women empowerment in the staff meeting

Women member of the panchayat attending the meeting of the panchayat

- Collective meeting where all sit together on the mat without any discrimination of gender and caste: This was observed during field visit as *Sushiya*, a Scheduled Tribe (ST) woman, participated in a meeting in a Raika (caste) settlement in village Juna in Barmer district.
- Going to the market
- Charged with household finances
- Support from men

**Outcome 2: To create an inclusive environment where all the community members and local leaders and institutions contribute to setting up clean water and sanitation for all (without any discrimination)**

**Indicator 2:**

Number meetings of ILGs and SHGs women with local administrative units for participation of local communities in water and sanitation management

Means of verification assessed:

1. EWGL Project Baseline Report, 2019
2. Records and minutes of meetings between ILGs, SHGs, and local authorities
3. Records of policies established

Target	Baseline value	Achievement	Comments
At least 2 in every village, 2024	0 in 2018	Project has been able to impact NRM and CCA interventions undertaken by local administrative units in a significant manner at both design and the implementation level	The process of impacting the local administrative units has been a continuous process that is difficult to enumerate in terms of number of meetings. It is described in terms of the impact.



The project has been able to impact NRM and CCA interventions undertaken by local administrative units in a significant manner at both design and implementation level. All the interventions undertaken by GRAVIS are also undertaken by the state government through local administrative unit's viz. gram panchayats. This results into a creative tension between the two structures and a sense of competition in some cases. The engagement with the local Government and the impact made is described below.

**Size of *Khadin*:**

The local administrative units are beginning to adopt the smaller *khadins* constructed by GRAVIS under the EWGL project. The Government tended to sanction big structures that are difficult to maintain. GRAVIS in contrast constructed smaller structures. After the success of the smaller *khadins* in *Patrasar* village of Barmer district, the neighbouring panchayat *Sujan Nagar* has opted for similar structures in its own area of operation.

**Modification in design of tanks from rectangular to circular:**

In *Raasla* village in Jaisalmer, the village people initially wanted to construct rectangular *taankas* as this was the design followed by the Government. GRAVIS had a circular design. After being convinced of the benefits of the circular design over rectangular, the villagers are beginning to construct even Government *taankas* as circular.

**Change in mode of working in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) works:**

MGNREGA is the state scheme that promises 100 days of employment to all rural households. The scheme sponsors manual labour-intensive works, mostly involving earth work, like *khadins*, pond renovation. The payments made under *MGNREGA* were made on the basis of group muster rolls. Per day payment works out very low. In contrast, GRAVIS makes payment on the basis of work done. The *MGNREGA* is now shifting to task-based payments.

**Enrolment in *MGNREGA* :**

The project activities and regular meetings of ILG groups have led to increase in enrolment in *MGNREGA*. Earlier the residents of the distant dhanias would be left out. However, now they have also started enrolling in *MGNREGA*.

**No Objection Certificate (NOC) from panchayat for work on common assets like pond and Pasture:**

Renovation of village ponds is a major intervention under the EWGL project. This requires seeking a NOC from the village panchayat. In many cases, the local panchayat may also be working on the same pond as happened in *Seehra* village in Jodhpur. The panchayat had also planned to work on deepening the same pond. It took interventions for ILG and VDC with the panchayat to come up with an agreement where separate areas were earmarked for the two agencies.

In some cases, the NOC is also difficult to get because Government functionaries who are used to getting commission, demand the same from GRAVIS staff. This requires advocacy from ILG and VDC to



convince the Government functionaries that GRAVIS works in a transparent manner. The success of GRAVIS engagement with Government is demonstrated by the fact that NOC has been obtained in all the cases.

**Comparison between the cost estimates:**

As reported earlier, some of the works undertaken by GRAVIS and local government are very similar. However, because of leakages, government cost estimates can be many times the GRAVIS cost for the same structure. This can cause tension. It also creates a pressure on government system to become more transparent.

**Participation in panchayat meetings and general meetings:**

GRAVIS staff participates in the panchayat meetings like village meeting. However, because of COVID-19 pandemic, elections to local administrative units were postponed. As a result, elected panchayats were not functioning for the last seven months. Now the elections are conducted and new members have been elected.

**Output 2: 80 strong, sustainable ILGs created and trained, and 80 existing SHGs identified and trained, to benefit the project villages, and as a resource for the future**

Indicator:

Number of women groups (existing or formed) fully trained on gender and development and CCA disaggregated by ILGs (groups formed) and SHGs (existing groups)

Means of verification assessed:

1. EWGL Project Baseline Report, 2019
2. Annual impact assessment studies, 2024
3. ILGs and SHGs Meeting minutes
4. ILG and SHG members' lists.
5. Training attendance lists
6. Pre and post training surveys

Target	Baseline value	Achievement	Comments
Total groups - 160 (80 ILGs formed and 80 SHGs existed)	Total groups - 80 (80 SHGs existed)	Project has formed 80 ILGs Project has identified 80 SHGs	100% achievement
Total groups trained - 64 (32 ILGs and 32 SHGs), 2020	Total groups trained - 0	ILG groups trained 32 SHG groups trained 32	100% achievement

The formation of 80 ILG groups, in spite of an almost six-month long break in operations, represents a significant achievement for the project. The ILG groups were formed in the month of January. No meetings were possible from March onwards. The meetings started only in July. The training calendar got disturbed because of the COVID 19 restrictions. The physical training by outside consultant could not be organized in time. Later, an online training was organized.

Being a gender sensitive action, a gender and age disaggregated data collection for the groups has been done (as per the gender mainstreaming toolkit). Additionally, the action also has clearly identified stakeholders including the primary target group (includes the ILGs and SHGs) and the final beneficiaries (other women from the communities). Moreover, the action is also taking into consideration the principle of inter-sectionality, proposed in the Gender Action Plan III, wherein girls and women are not considered a homogeneous group. The ILGs have a balanced combination of women and girls that helps in serving the purpose of intergenerational knowledge transfer and solidarity that the action strives to achieve.

### **Output 3: An enabling environment created for women and girls, to lead on drought mitigation, NRM and CCA**

Indicator:

Change in the attitudes of members of the community, especially the men and boys, supporting women and girls' leadership in women and girls' led drought mitigation, NRM and CCA and on ILG approach

Means of verification assessed:

1. EWGL Project Baseline Report, 2019
2. Annual impact assessment studies, 2024
3. Report, Records and minutes of the meetings between local community leaders, ILGs, and SHGs

Target	Baseline value	Achievement	Comments
Positively changed community attitudes towards women and girls leading the drought mitigation, NRM and CCA activities and understanding on the inter-generational learning approach.	Rigid attitudes about letting women and girls lead and lack of understanding on the intergenerational learning approach, 2019	There has been gradual shift in the community attitudes as shown by the fact that ILGs have been formed and are functional.	The activities under this head have been impacted by COVID 19 restrictions.

The project had planned specific activities in the form of (i) Awareness camps on gender and climate change (ii) Village Dialogue. These activities could not be organized because of COVID 19 restrictions.

**Output 4: 800 rainwater harvesting (RWH) structures constructed under the leadership of women and girls for community use and as demonstration models for future replication**

Indicators:

Number of RWH structures constructed and renovated under the leadership of women and girls

Means of verification assessed:

1. EWGL Project Baseline Report, 2019
2. Annual impact assessment studies, 2024
3. Feedback and inputs from the women and girls involved in the project
4. Case studies collected by the project team

Target	Baseline value	Achievement	Comments
1600 women and girls (at least 160 younger girls) of ILGs and SHGs in 2024	0 in 2018	1679 women and girls enrolled as members of the ILG; however number of girls below 18 enrolled is 131. 72 taankas, 72 khadins, 15 beris have been constructed and 4 village ponds have been restored.	The target for total enrolment in ILGs is exceeded by 5 percent. However, the target to enrol younger girls has fallen short by 18 percent.

163 rainwater harvesting structures have been constructed under the leadership of 1679 women in 80 ILGs. The targets for enrolment of women in ILGs and construction of rain water harvesting structures have been achieved fully. However, the target to enrol younger girls in ILGs has not been fully met. There is 18% shortfall overall. We explore the impact of the interventions through individual case studies.

***Taanka :***

*Uchav Kanwar*, a 60 year old woman from Jaseri village of Bap block in Jodhpur district is a *Guru Baba* SHG member. The ILG noticed her condition and allotted a *taanka* to her. Because of secure availability of drinking water, she is able to utilize her time more productively doing farming and contribute in fulfilling the needs of her family (Case study 5 in Annexure 1).

### **Beri:**

*Bebi Kanwar*, a 45 year old woman who lives in a kuccha house in *Bhom Hem Singh* village of Bikaner district. *Bebi Kanwar* unfortunately lost her husband at an early age. *Bebi Kanwar* is a member of *Naganarai* ILG. Her ILG member discussed the issue of her *Beri* in the VDC meeting and her request was approved. She now has assured water for household consumption and even allow for consumption by other villagers (Case study 7 in Annexure 1).

### **Restoration of village ponds:**

The pond named '*Mereri* pond' in *Seehra* village of *Jodhpur* district got silted over a period of time because of erosion and sandstorms causing deposition of sand in the cavity of ponds. This has now been renovated providing water for 1000 families. The villagers contributed half the cost of the renovation (Case study 8 in Annexure 1).

**Output 5: 908 Women led initiatives (300 Community Seed Banks (CSBs), 300 crop demonstrations, 300 Arid Horticulture Units (AHUs) and 8 pastures) organized for food and nutrition security**

#### **Indicator 5.1:**

Number of food insecure people receiving assistance through interventions supported by the EU (EURF Number 2.1 to be assessed at the end the project)

#### **Indicator 5.2:**

Number of women-led initiatives successfully implemented to adapt to or mitigate climate change adaptation

Means of verification assessed:

1. EWGL Project Baseline Report, 2019
2. Annual impact assessment studies, 2024
3. Feedback and inputs from the women and girls involved in the project
4. Case studies collected by the project team

Target	Baseline value	Achievement	Comments
60 AHUs	0 in 2018	60	The targets are achieved 100%
60 Crop demonstrations		60	
2 Pasture land development		2	
100 CSBs		100	

**Arid Horticulture Unit:**

*Rekha*, a 70 year old woman, is *Jogmaya* ILG member. She applied through VDC for setting up an AHU in her courtyard. VDC approved her request considering her situation and her willingness to grow plants. In her AHU, she planted a total of twenty plants that include 6 Glue Berry, 8 Indian Gooseberry, 2 Drumstick, 2 Desert Plum, 2 Lemon and 2 Pomegranate. She gives water to her plants from the *Taanka* she has. Due to good rainfall and maintenance by her, the plants are growing well (Case study 9 in Annexure 1).

**Crop demonstration:**

*Ukaram* hails from *Patrasar* village of Barmer district. Along with *Khadin*, crop demonstration unit was also developed in his farm land. Improved variety of *Bajra*, *Gwar* and *Moong* from reputed institutes like Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI) was grown in his field with appropriate guidance on sowing method. Earlier, he used to grow only *Bajra* crop in his field (Case study 10 in Annexure 1).

**Pasture land development:**

The pasture land named '*Shri Degrai Mataji Oran Bhumi*' is a village common land located in *Rasla* village of Jaisalmer district. Uncontrolled and unorganized grazing was leading to its degradation. This pasture has been developed under the EWGL project. The Sevan grass and 1350 drought resilient plants namely Drumstick, Neem, Indian berry, *Kumat*, *Khejri*, *Ardu* have been sown and planted respectively (Case study 11 in Annexure 1).

**Impact assessment of physical structures created by the project:**

The project has created a series of physical structures that have improved the (i) water security in terms of assuring water for household purposes including drinking water for household members and animals (ii) food security in terms of increased availability of food for household members and animals. The interventions in the first category comprise of construction of *Taankas*, renovation of *Beris*, construction of *Khadins* leading to higher production and renovation of village ponds. The interventions in the second category comprise of Crop Demonstrations, CSBs, and AHUs and pasture land development locally known as *Orans*. These interventions form a part of the NRM and CCA theme developed by GRAVIS over a period of years. Their efficacy and efficiency is well established. It was decided to document the impact of these interventions by collecting data from a small sample. The results are enclosed as Annexure 2.

***Taanka:***

*Taanka* is a rainwater harvesting structure that stores rainwater for household use. It stores rainwater that can last for a certain number of months. Thereafter it provides storage space for water brought through tankers. Arranging water for household use incurs significant cash expenditure and also takes up time. Analysis of expenditure in time and cash in arranging water for 17 households where *taankas* were constructed under the project shows that each *taanka* resulted in an average saving of 2 hours of manpower per day. The cash savings resulted from reduced expenditure on getting water amounted to INR 3282 per *taanka*.



**Beris:**

These are pre-existing wells that tap sub terranean water preserved underground found in some locations of the project area. These have been renovated under the project leading to higher retention of water and ensuring higher purity of water by installing silt catchers. Data from four *Beris* was collected. This shows that on an average each *Beri* ensured additional water availability for 75 household months and 1250 animal months. That is to say that if each *Beri* retained water for an additional six months, beneficiaries comprise 12 households and 200 animals.

**Khadin:**

*Khadinis* an earthen embankment erected in fields to capture rainwater increasing moisture in the soil and thus leading to higher production of crops. A survey of 12 *khadins* constructed under the project showed that on average, each *khadin* led to an extra 4 bighas of land being brought under cultivation. There was additional production of 9.3 quintals of food grain and 11 quintals of fodder. Productivity of *bajra*, the major food crop, went up from 33 kg/ bigha to 70 kg/bigha, an increase of 112 percent. The productivity of *bajra* fodder doubled from 56 kg/ bigha to 112 kg/ bigha. Productivity of *gwar*, the main cash crop mostly sown as a mono culture doubled from 28 kg/ bigha to 56 kg/ bigha. At the market rate of crops prevalent in Jodhpur market yard, every *khadin* resulted in an incremental benefit.

**Restoration of village ponds:**

The project undertook restoration of four village ponds during the project period. It has resulted in an average increase of water availability from five to eight months, which is an increased availability of water for three months. The number of users – both human and animal – has also increased. The number of households accessing renovated ponds increased from 304 to 478 that is an increase of 174 households each pond. The number of animals accessing the pond increased from 3050 to 3775 that is an increase of 725 animals each pond.

**Arid Horticulture Units:**

The AHU leads to food and nutritional security as it adds fruit and vegetables to the menu. The AHUs were mostly planted during the rainy season. It is less than six months and therefore too early to estimate the impact. However, owing to plantation of mature and advance quality saplings, the fruiting has started.

## CONCLUSION

### Emerging Lessons and good practices

#### ***High female representation in the project team:***

A woman centric project needs to have a strong women cadre in its implementation team. GRAVIS has made successful efforts to recruit women staffs that are not easy considering the tough terrain. The project is led by a woman. In the field staff also, half the workers are female. Some of the staff represents strong women leaders in their own right. This is a good practice and needs to be recommended.

#### **Successful completion of targets in spite of COVID 19 induced lockdowns:**

The fact that project has been able to achieve all the physical objectives in spite of a long COVID 19 induced lock-down is remarkable and needs to be commended. This could happen because the project had completed the basic community infrastructure related to formation of ILGs and VDCs before the lock down was imposed.

#### **The GRAVIS model:**

The GRAVIS model of drought proofing – *taankas, khadins, AHUs*, restoration of pond, community seed banks, crop demonstrations, and pasture development – has emerged as a proven model that is highly replicable across the variety of desert terrains in Thar.



*Community seed banks*

### Challenges

The main challenges faced by the project team are described below Vested interests:

- In spite of many changes, the desert society continues to be feudal where vested interest holds sway over the local politics. These powerful interests seek to divert benefits accruing from the project to their own henchmen, instead of genuine beneficiaries.
- Travel in the field : The operational area is spread out. Travel becomes very problematic, especially in the rainy season when farmers fence off their fields cutting off access.
- The poor are the beneficiaries of the project. The project interventions require that the beneficiary family provides a component of the investment through his/ her manual labour. This is considered a good practice in development as it ensures stakeholder participation. However, the poor may sometimes not even be able to provide manual labour. There is high likelihood of the able bodied persons from poor families migrating out for work. In such cases, the timing of the work execution has to be shifted to the time of the return of the migrant workers who are then requested by the family to extend their stay and complete the manpower contribution.

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## **Recommendations**

### **Strengthen and formalize role of ILG in deciding the beneficiaries:**

A key decision to be taken in the project relates to selection of beneficiaries for physical rain water harvesting structures and food and nutrition initiatives like *khadin*, *taankas*, and *beries* and AHUs. These are high investment units for which there is high demand that outstrips supply. The process so far seems to be that the ILGs recommend names that are then finalized by the VDCs. As of now only few ILG records have the lists of beneficiaries. It is recommended that each ILG should carry out this process. The VDC is a representative body comprising of both males and females. It is likely that the male voices will dominate in such a body. It is therefore proposed that the names of beneficiaries be identified formally in the ILG itself and recorded. The final decision may be taken in the ILG itself. If the project team feels that ILG is not the proper forum for final decision making, then a VDC comprising only of women members is formed to finalize the names of the beneficiaries.

### **Name ILGs after prominent women personalities:**

Most of the ILGs are named after local religious deities. Only a very few are named otherwise. This is natural to some extent. However, ILGs represent a break from the dominant tradition as these seek to empower women and assign them new roles. It would be good if the names of the ILGs also reflect this aspiration. These could be names after prominent women - social reformers, educationists, high achievers. It is likely that the village women who are members of the ILG are not familiar with these women. The nomenclature would provide an occasion for setting up new role models.

### **Gender training:**

Because of COVID-19 restrictions, gender training for trainers had to be conducted online. While this was inevitable, an on-line training is not likely to be as effective as an actual physical training. It is therefore recommended that now that the COVID-19 restrictions have been relaxed, physical gender training for trainers to be conducted. In addition, gender and sociology consultants support not only to be taken in training for trainers but also at the field level. This will help to ensure better implementation of training sessions on gender and development since the theme is difficult to deliver.

### **Increase enrolment of adolescent girls in ILGs:**

The project realises the high potential of young girls below 18 years of age in a women empowerment project. The young women below 18 years are likely to be the only educated women in some groups. It is therefore prescribed maximum participation of these members in each ILG meetings. There is need to increase enrolment of girls in ILG and ensure that every ILG reaches this minimal target.

## CASE STUDIES

### Baba Ramdev ILG

Baba Ramdev ILG is ILG from the Tekra village of Bap block, Jodhpur district. The ILG were formed through a process of conducting series of hamlet level meeting where names of women who were interested, willing and eligible from the hamlet for the being the member of the group were noted. During the hamlet level meeting facilitated by community workers, it was observed that women were hesitant to come for this meeting and family members of many women did not allow them to attend this meeting. These are the women who have never been a part of social space at village level and many of them are illiterate or had limited access to education. Even if they participate in any of the meetings, they would not speak in front of the male members.



*Baba Ramdev ILG attending training on Gender & Development*

With this background, community workers had to individually meet all the households and convince them to come to the hamlet level meeting. With lot of efforts made, women did attend the meeting wherein they were briefed about the work that GRAVIS does the motive behind formation of group (ILG) and its purpose and functionality. Later, a village meeting was conducted in the Tekra village with participation of key village heads, representatives of various village bodies, villagers both men and women where final decision on the members of Baba Ramdev ILG was made who voluntarily participated in the meeting.

Baba Ramdev ILG was formed on 25.01.2020, a group of 10 female members from different generations which includes 3 elderly women, 2 younger girls and 5 middle age women. The group members who initially where hesiatnt to join the group now voluntarily organizes the ILG montly meetings on the date they have decided earlier. As a part of confidence building process, in each monthly meeting the members practice giving their own introduction in front of all the members. Later on, during the village level election, these ILG members convinced their member Shanti devi to contest for the post Ward Head which she eventually won. The ILG as a group supported her and also convinced other women in the village to make her win the election who would then represent and voice their opinion at the vilage level. In this way, Baba Ramdev ILG is playing an active role.



## Suman Kanwar, ILG Member

Meet *Suman Kanwar*, a 32 year old woman from *Kelawa* village of Jaisalmer district. She is a member of *Jagriti* ILG in her village.

She is an *Anganwadi* worker where she gets minimum honorarium. Her earnings are used for the survival of the family. She lives with her husband, 2 sons and father in law. Her husband does labour work in other state but gets very low wages. Her family has 25 bighas of unproductive and non-irrigated land. They do struggle financially. *Suman* has attended 2 trainings on Gender and Development and Climate Change. *Suman* has never earlier attended any trainings or social gatherings. She expresses that it was a new experience for her being member of ILG and doing monthly meeting and attending training sessions. She earlier was apprehensive about attending the meetings. But gradually, her interest developed and now she willingly attends ILG meetings and other sessions.

After the Climate Change training, she has understood the concept and also has developed her own understanding and opinion in the local context. She believes that now it becomes the responsibility of the people to self-adapt for the sake of environment and water conservation under which cleanliness of these resources is of utmost importance. She believes that the ILGs and community as a whole should contribute by doing voluntary labour work and participate in community level work of pasture development. She wishes to contribute in planting more trees to conserve the land.

She states that Gender and Development training gave her knowledge about the various discrimination women and girls go through in getting education. Due to overburdened responsibility of getting water girls drop out of school. She decides to make her girl go to school and also through ILG they have decided on convincing other households who do not send their girl to school. She expressed to treat both as equal and emphasized on promoting equal participation and equal rights for girls and women.



*Suman Kanwar*



*Suman Kanwar attending Gender & Development training*

## Budhu Devi ILG Member

*Badhu Devi*, a 51 year old woman hails from *Bhom Hem Singh* village of Bikaner district. *Badhu Devi* has struggled a lot in her personal life. She lost her husband at an early age. She has alone brought up her two sons. *Manful* and *Prabhu Ram*, both her sons are now married and have children. Her younger son does tenant farming outside the village. *Badhu Devi* lives with her elder son, who does farming in the village. *Badhu Devi* and her elder son sing in the religious function at the village. People in the village appreciate their work.

During the month of December 2019, she attended the village meeting where she came to know that a group (ILG) is being formed in her village. She was very curious about the group and its functionality. Since she and her son attend many religious programs where she sings prayers, she has a lot of social contact. This helped a lot in initial stage of ILG formation where she convinced women and girls to be a part of the group. She is the vice president of Chamunda ILG which has 12 members. In addition, she also actively took part in the Gender & Development training session in the village.

Later on, when village level elections were to be taken place, the ILG members along with other members from the community tried to convince her in ILG meetings to contest for the position of *Sarpanch* (Village Head). She then decided to contest the election for Village Head position with the objective to work for the betterment of the community and work for women's issues. ILGs were a big part in convincing her to fight for the post of Village Head. Eventually, in month of October, *Bhadu Devi* won the election and became the Village Head of *Bhom Hem Singh* village. She believes that she is responsible for raising the voice of women and girls in the village. She now represent not only her own ILG but also all the women and girls in her village. *Bhadu Devi* is indeed an inspiration for everyone.



*Badhu Devi*



*Badhu Devi attending Gender & Development training*

## Susiya, CPMC Member



*Susiya in her monthly ILG meeting*



*Susiya attending Climate Change training*

*Susiya* is a 38 year old woman who is the secretary of *Gogagi* ILG of *Patrasar* village, Barmer district. The financial condition of her family is poor. She lives in a kuccha house with her parents and two married brothers' family. They own livestock and do farming for a living. She herself chose not to marry and voluntary does social service in the village. She states that even though girls in village are not allowed to study, go outside of house, meet people or attend any meeting, I at an early age had decided to work for the society and also was an active member of village ward committee. She had an active role in convincing nearly 28 girls to re-join the schools who had drop out of the schools.

*Susiya* expresses that in all these years she had been working alone for the betterment of the community at village level. Now being apart of the *Gogagi* ILG, she feels that she has got a platform to work with all the women and girls of her group. *Susiya* has played a major role in convincing the women and girls of the village to be a part of the ILGs in her village. It is because of *Susiya* that other members have voluntarily started coming in the meetings. *Susiya* has also helped members in her ILG to apply for *Pradhan Mantri Aawas Yojana (PMAY)* (scheme for housing for below poverty line families) and getting village level work under the *MGNREGA*. In addition, she along with *Gogagi* ILG members closely monitored the activities under the project.

The other ILG members see *Susiya* as a leader. *Susiya* is indeed an inspiration for the younger girls in the all the ILGs in the village.



## Uchav Kanwar, woman beneficiary of RWH intervention **TAANKA**



*Uchav Kanwar and her Taanka*

*Uchav Kanwar*, a 60 year old woman, lives in *Jaseri* village of Bap block in Jodhpur district. She lives with her 3 sons. *Uchav Kanwar* has struggled a lot after her husband's death. She along with two of her son do rain fed farming on 50 *bighas* of land and own livestock for a living. They get a very little income from the rain fed agriculture since the region receives a very little rain fall which is not sufficient for farming.

Earlier she did not own a *Taanka*. She did own a small *Taankli* which is completely unusable. Her sons used to manage farm and do labour work and she had the responsibility of collecting water from the pond in her village where she had to walk miles. They also had to purchase water tankers which cost 500 INR per tanker (two in winter season and four in summers). This problem of inadequate water availability all over the year affected her economically as well as physically.

*Uchav Kanwar* is a *Guru Baba* SHG member. In year 2019-20, she became a part of meetings and trainings under the project interventions. The ILG and SHG members noticed her economic condition and put forth her name for the construction of *Taanka*. The *Tekra* VDC then at the village level meeting over viewed her situation and mutually decided for the constructing *Taanka* for *Uchav Kanwar*. Her *Taanka* was completely filled after rain which is sufficient for three months for drinking purpose.

The family has now enjoyed pure rain water harvested due to appropriate catchment built. Even after the rain water harvested will be utilized she now can use the *Taanka* for storing water from the pond or tanker bought. Since then, *Uchav Kanwar* is able to utilize her time more productively doing farming and contribute in fulfilling the needs of her family. She believes that this has completely changed her life in a good way.

## Woman beneficiary of *Beri*



*Bebi Kanwar's Beri before renovation*



*Bebi Kanwar's Beri during renovation*

*Bebi Kanwar*, a 45 year old woman, lives in a kuccha house in *Bhom Hem Singh* village of Bikaner district. *Bebi Kanwar* unfortunately lost her husband at an early age. She has the responsibility of her 4 sons and 1 daughter. She does daily wage labour to earn for her family. *Bebi Kanwar* has no other source of water (asset) than *Beri*. She owns a traditional *Beri* more than 100 years old and 30 feet deep whose top structure since 2 years is completely broken and defunct. The *Beri* has rain water stored in it but no water can be fetched from the *Beri* due to the broken super structure. Due to her poor financial condition, she could not repair the top structure of the *Beri*. She has to invest a lot of time in fetching water from pond or other sources in her village or sometimes even outside village. Due to this situation, she missed her daily wage labour meaning losing that days wages.

*Bebi Kanwar* is a member of *Naganarai* ILG. Her ILG member discussed the issue of her *Beri* in the VDC meeting when the beneficiaries where selected for the renovation of *Beri* under the EWGL project. Her request was approved by the VDC members and *Beri's* top structure was repaired with the support of project team and local experts and the *Beri* was revived. This revived water structure is now a water source for acute drought period. The repaired *Beri* that preserves water for the driest period, now not only provides water for *Bebi Kanwar* but also for the villagers. *Bebi Kanwar* states that *Beri* is one such structure which even though is owned by an individual but the villagers can also make use of it. The water in the *Beri* will now be used available through out the year for one year.



*Bebi Kanwar with her renovated Beri*

## Restoration of Village Pond



*Renovated pond at Seehra village*

The pond named '*Mereri pond*' in *Seehra* village of Jodhpur district. The pond is the only reliable source of drinking water for humans, livestock, stray animals and filling up water tankers in the village. The villagers from nearby seven villages also make use of this pond. This '*Mereri pond*' has been benefitting to the whole community in the village since years.

The pond in *Seehra* village, over a period of time got silted because of erosion and sandstorms causing deposition of sand in the cavity of ponds. Since last 15 years pond has not been renovated. Hence, renovation was required to restore their water storage capacity. It stored water only for a period of two months. Due to this, the community had to suffer a lot for drinking water. There are few tube-wells which are other source of water but that water has a lot of fluoride content which is harmful for health. Villagers especially women had to walk to other places for collecting water. They often compromised on the sanitation and personal hygiene by taking bath once a month. In addition, the villagers also had to pay a higher price for purchase of water.

When the renovation work of pond was decided, the VDC members declared that the half cost (removing debris through tractor trips) will voluntarily be borne out by the villagers. A sense of strong collective ownership, mutual cooperation and responsibility towards the judicious use of valuable resource like water is seen among the villagers. In order to remove silt and debris, short loose rock structures were built in the water pathway to the pond to keep gravel, sand and other material from entering the pond. Due to construction of appropriate bund, the water has not drained out after rain as previously it would and is diverted from catchment into the pond.





*ILG training conducted on the platform created at renovated pond site*

The rain water is now harvested into the pond for a longer time and capacity of water storage has substantially increased. The pond still has water stored sufficient for coming 6 months for 500 families of *Seehra* village and another 500 families of nearby village. The *Taanka* beneficiaries also now make use of the water from pond in the village itself for refilling *Taanka* when it is dried up. The *Seehra* VDC functional in the village took the charge of setting up rules for the maintenance and collective community use of the pond.

Moreover, the roots of a 100 year old *Khejri* tree near the pond has become loose due to heavy wind storms and was about to fall. The state of the tree was discussed with VDC members. A strong cemented structure was then built around the *Khejri* tree to protect it from falling. Not only that the tree is saved from falling, now the ILG and SHG members have a place to conduct its meeting and training sessions. VDC members stated, 'The pond renovation has indeed benefitted us in a holistic way'.

## Woman Beneficiary of AHU



*Rekha at her AHU*

*Rekha*, a 70 year old woman hails from *Para* village of Barmer district. She has 6 members in her family. Her husband passed away few years back. Her son and daughter-in-law do daily wage labour which is their only source of living. She has five cows and seven goats.

*Rekha* is Jogmaya ILG member. In 2019, she applied through VDC for setting up an AHU in her courtyard. VDC approved her request considering her situation and her willingness to grow plants. In her AHU, she planted a total of twenty plants that include 6 Glue Berry, 8 Indian Gooseberry, 2 Drumstick, 2 Desert Plum, 2 Lemon and 2 Pomegranate. She gives water to her plants from the *Taanka* she has. Due to good rainfall and maintenance by her, the plants are growing well which are in its initial stage of growing. Because of the appropriate fencing done, the plants are protected from animals.

She takes good care of plants since she likes to grow. She says in coming three years, she will be able to gain some income through these plants that will help her family. AHU will serve the purpose of addressing household level food and nutrition insecurity. She looks forward to maintaining these plants. *Rekha* believes it will add greenery to her life.

## Crop Demonstration and Pasture



*Ukaram with his Khadin constructed in his farm*

*Ukaram* hails from *Patrasar* village of Barmer district. He is a 55 year old farmer who lives with 6 members in his family. He does rain fed farming on 17 bighas of land. Earlier, during the rainy season, the good quality soil along with the natural fertilizer in their farm land used to go out of the field along with the rain water. The unwanted materials and stones used to stay in the field that harmed his farmland. This lead to reduction or completely no production at all that affected their financial condition. *Gavri Devi*, his wife is a member of Gogaji ILG in *Patrasar* village who appealed to VDC for construction of Khadin in their farm land.

Along with *Khadin*, crop demonstration unit was also developed in his farm land. Improved variety of *Bajra*, *Gwar* and *Moong* from reputed institutes like CAZRI was grown in his field with appropriate guidance on sowing method. Earlier, he used to grow only *Bajra* crop in his field. His farm was indeed a model farm since during rainy season; water was harvested in his field in an appropriate manner with excess water spilling out of the field through the double spillway built in his *Khadin*.





*Crop demonstration site at Ukaram's farm*

Due to *Khadin* and improved crop variety, the production was 10 quintals of *Bajra*, 4 quintals of *Gwar*, 1 quintal of sesame and 25 kilograms of *Moong* which was three times than what he earlier received. This helped him understand the importance of not only advantages of *Khadin* but also improved variety of crop. Timely support from project team and experts was provided. *Ukaram* and his wife *Gavri Devi* now vows to protect and preserve her *Khadin* bund to get benefit in coming years as well.



*A pasture*



The VDC members were proactive in taking permission and NOC from the 'ShriDegraiMataji Oran Bhumi' committee of the village with consultation and active support of Panchayat representatives and the rest of the communities. Moreover, the community contributed in sowing the Sevan grass in traditional method, plantation of the drought resilient plants, watering the plants and setting up appropriate fencing. The ILG and VDC members have committed themselves in taking care of the pasture land. The ILG and VDC members along with the 'ShriDegraiMataji Oran Bhumi' village committee had setup rules for maintenance of the pasture land and collective use of the land. A strong sense of responsibility and co-operation was seen during the development of the pasture land.



*Pasture under development*

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## ABBREVIATIONS

AHU	- Arid Horticulture Units
CCA	- Climate Change Adaptation
CBO	- Community Based Organization
CSO	- Civil Society Organization
CSB	- Community Seed Banks
CAZRI	- Central Arid Zone Research Institute
CMHO	- Chief Medical and Health Officer
CPMC	- Community Project Monitoring Committee
EURF	- EU Result Framework
EWGL	- Enhancing Women and Girls' Leadership in Climate Change Adaptation in the Thar Desert, India
GRAVIS	- GraminVikasVigyanSamiti
IAS	- Impact Assessment Study
IWD	- International Women's Day
IDOP	- International Day of Older Persons
ICAR	- Indian Council of Agricultural Research
IEC	- Information Education and Communication
ILG	- Inter-generational Learning Group
GP	- Gram Panchayat
MGNREGA	- Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee, Act
NRM	- Natural Resource Management
NSC	- National Seed Corporation
NITI	- National Institute for Transforming India
NOCNo	- Objection Certificate
OBC	- Other Backward Caste
PMC	- Project Monitoring Committee
PMAY	- PradhanMantriAwasYojana
RSC	- Rajasthan Seeds Corporation
RWH	- Rain Water Harvesting
ST	- Scheduled Tribe
SHG	- Self Help Group
SDG	- Sustainable Development Goals
ToT	- Training of Trainers
VDC	- Village Development Committees
WEAAD	- World Elder Abuse Awareness Day



## GLOSSARY

Anganwadi worker	- Village level health worker
AHU	- Unit where nutritious plants are planted on small piece of land outside home
Beries or Percolation wells	- Underground flask shaped structures that preserve water for the driest periods, in the form of a safety deposit
Bajra	- Pearl millets
CSB	- Bigha Measure of land
Gram Panchayat	- Seed banks established at the local community level where good quality seeds are stored
Gram Sabha	- Basic village governing institute in Indian villages
Gram Sevak	- Village meeting
Guar	- Village level individual employed by the village Panchayat to advise and assist villagers in matters of community welfare and development
Gunda	- Cluster beans
ILG	- Gum
Khadin	- Women and girls based community groups of 10-12 members
Kharif	- Runoff based farming system designed to harvest surface runoff water for agriculture
Khejri	- Monsoon crop
Ker	- A flowering tree commonly found in Rajasthan
Kumat, Khejri, Ardu	- Indian Desert fruit tree
SHG	- Indian Desert plants Kuccha house House is made from readily available material like wood, mud etc. which are not durable
Moong	- Groups of women in villages typically having 12-19 members who come together for savings and collective enterprise
Moth	- Green gram
Naadi	- Moth bean, haricot or dew bean
Pasture lands or Orans	- Ponds are large cavities that catch rainwater through a natural slope and store it over several months for community use
Panchayat	- are village common lands developed by growing drought resistant grasses and shrubs and by putting up appropriate fencing
Rabi	- An administrative unit comprising of a few revenue villages
Sarpanch	- Winter crop
Sevan Grass	- Elected village head of the Gram Panchayat
Taanka	- Local variety of grass that grow and suitable for the Desert area
Taankli	- House hold level, underground drinking water storage tank that harvests rainwater for household use and has capacity to store 18,000 to 20,000 litres of water for household use
VDC	- Old small drinking water storage tank of very little capacity (5000 litres)
	- Lowest rung of community based local self-governance, consisting of about 8-10 members of the village, that look after community related and development issues within a village



## NOTES





**HelpAge**

International

# International Women's Day

## अंतर्राष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस

महिला सशक्तिकरण और बढ़ते कदम

8<sup>th</sup> March 2020



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Gramin Vikas Vigyan Samiti (GRAVIS) or Center of People's Science for Rural Development is a non-governmental, voluntary organization that takes a Gandhian approach to rural development by working with the poor of the Thar Desert to enable them to help themselves. Since its inception in 1983, GRAVIS has worked with over 68,000 families across over 1,600 villages reaching a population of over 1.4 million, and has established over 3,450 Community Based Organizations (CBOs).

GRAVIS is registered under Rajasthan Societies Registration Act and under section 80 (G) and has tax exemption under section 12 A of IT Act, 1961 of Govt. of India.