



Asha
for Education

Bringing hope through education

Gravis

Annual Review for 2026

Asha Projects

August 15, 2026



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Part 1

Water, health and education for women and children in Thar.

3

Project goals:

- Ensure water security in project villages by construction of water storage tanks
- Organize women through formation of Self Help Groups
- Improve health conditions of women and children through health education and provision of health services
- Spread literacy among children with a special focus on girl children

History

4

- Founded in 1983
- Started by a small group of development activists who believed in participatory rural development
- GRAVIS began its work in about 20 villages and currently works in over 1,300 villages in Rajasthan and Uttarakhand States of India
- Asha Seattle's supporting [GRAVIS](#) since 2008

Location

5



- 6 villages in the Jodhpur district in the Thar desert in Rajasthan

Activities

6

- Water security - building of Taankas
- Education
- Health
 - Gravis Hospital, adolescent girls health camps, outreach medical camps
 - Eye surgeries
 - WASH camps
- Agriculture & Animal husbandry
- Research & advocacy

Asha Seattle Involvement

7

1. Initiated the process of community development in six villages of the Thar Desert; have since moved onto 6 new villages.
2. Organize women through formation of Self Help Groups
3. Ensure water security in project villages by construction of water storage tanks
4. Improve health conditions of women and children through health education and provision of health services
5. Spread literacy among children with a special focus on girl children - 2 Asha supported schools

Impact of Education Initiative (2009 to March 2025)

8

- Minoo Ki Dhaani: permanent building & facility
 - About 50 children: 1st to 4th
 - Each year, 12-15 advance to 5th grade
 - > 550 students graduated since inception in 2009
- Bhakari Village: Makeshift school originally in Uttambar village
 - Now operating for 2 years in a rented space
 - About 30 children; free education in close proximity
 - Encourages families to send young kids & girls
 - Serves 20-22 children in 1st-2nd grade; remaining in 3rd, soon to progress to 4th grade
- Free and close proximity to hamlets
 - Easy access especially important for the little kids
 - Free school near homes encourage people to send more girls
 - 70% attendance girls

Impact of Taankas (2009 to 2025)

9

- **Over 518 Taankas build with Asha support**
 - 80% coverage achieved in the original 6 villages
 - Since moved to 6 new villages
- **Selection process takes into account families where girls are directly affected**
 - All girls in beneficiary families attend school
- **Over 3,600 people have benefitted directly**
 - 70-75% being women & girls
- **GRAVIS team maintains contact with families**
 - Monitor children's school attendance
 - Organize health camps
 - Focus on women & girl's health awareness

Social Impact (2009 to March 2025)

10

- **Child marriage significantly reduced**
 - Stricter laws, awareness, education
 - Understand the value of educating girls
- **Objectives in opening local schools**
 - Establish schools near hamlets for accessibility
 - Educational tours provide exposure and empower the youth
 - Kids of all taanka beneficiarias attend school
 - Primary schools curriculum ensures children at the same academic level by the end of 4th grade to transition to govt. school in 5th
 - Emphasis on extracurricular activities, often lacking in govt. schools. Empowers and builds confidence for kids.
 - Health camps, girl's adolescent health camps, WASH camp (Water, Sanitation, Health, Hygiene)
- **Healthcare initiatives**
 - 102 treated for eye surgeries (cataracts, glaucoma)
 - Cost efficient with a significant improvement in quality of life
 - Medical camps to increase awareness and refer patients to GRAVIS hospital. 9000+ people benefited through medical camps.

Mission

11

Mission of GRAVIS

To empower marginalized rural communities in the Thar Desert by building self-reliance, social justice, and sustainable development through integrated education, water security, health, and rural livelihoods.

- **Gandhian Values (*Sarvodaya*):** Focuses on the "upliftment of all," prioritizing women, girls, and isolated desert hamlets (*dhanis*).
- **Inclusive Education:** Provides quality primary education, non-formal learning centers, and functional literacy in remote areas.
- **Community Ownership:** Establishes and empowers Village Development Committees (VDCs) and School Management Committees (SMCs) to sustain projects independently.
- **Integrated Solutions:** Links education directly with water security (rainwater *taankas*) and health, ensuring children stay in school during droughts.

Vision

12

To build self-governing, climate-resilient, and educated desert communities across arid Rajasthan.

1. **Expand Educational Equity:** Close the gender gap in school enrollment and integrate digital literacy and skill training for rural youth.
2. **Transfer Ownership:** Transition learning centers to 100% community-managed operation via trained VDCs and SMCs.
3. **Health & Resilience:** Secure year-round clean drinking water and nutrition (school kitchen gardens and *taankas*) to eliminate drought-related dropouts.
4. **Empower Local Leadership:** Strengthen women-led Self-Help Groups and youth networks to advocate for child rights and sustainable village growth.

Project Delivery

13

Project Delivery & Execution

Long-Term Proven Impact: Partnering with Asha for Education since 2008, consistently delivering educational, water, and health interventions across isolated Thar Desert hamlets (*dhanis*).

Decentralized Learning Centers: Operates rural primary schools and non-formal centers in remote villages with high dropout rates, keeping children—especially girls—enrolled in school.

Integrated Infrastructure: Pairs educational programs with school-based rainwater harvesting units (*taankas*) and sanitation facilities, ensuring schools remain operational during severe drought cycles.

Verified On-Site Track Record: On-site inspection (September 2025) confirmed all school and water infrastructure remains structurally sound, actively maintained, and fully utilized by local students and staff.

Community-Led Maintenance: Mandates local Village Development Committees (VDCs) and School Management Committees (SMCs) to handle day-to-day operations and governance, ensuring zero project abandonment.

Fundraising

14

- **Trusted Global & Domestic Partnerships:** Longstanding track record of co-funding and programmatic backing from major international and domestic donors (e.g., Asha for Education, Together Women Rise, Vista Hermosa Foundation, UN agencies, and CSR grants).
- **Low Overhead & Cost Efficiency:** Maximum grant funds directly reach field execution by leveraging local community labor, native materials, and decentralized village mobilization.
- **Strong Governance & Auditing:** Rigorous financial compliance, regular impact reporting, transparent tracking, and full alignment with FCRA and Indian NGO regulatory standards.

Team

15

Org Size: 75–142 full-time staff (Jodhpur HQ + desert field stations).

Asha Project Unit: Dedicated team of 5–7 members:

- 1 Program Coordinator & 1 Monitoring Officer
- 1 Finance Officer
- 2 Teachers, Educators & Community Mobilizers
- Technical support (Hydrologists & Health Officers as needed)
- Local SMCs & VDCs handling day-to-day school and *taanka* maintenance.

Weaknesses

Geographic Isolation & High Monitoring Costs: Transporting teaching materials, water infrastructure supplies, and conducting supervisor visits to remote desert hamlets (*dhanis*) incurs high travel and administrative overhead.

Material & Operational Cost Inflation: Rising prices for construction materials (cement, reinforcement for *taankas*) and educational supplies stretch fixed grant budgets.

Teacher Retention & Remote Training: Finding and retaining qualified primary school teachers willing to live or commute daily to isolated desert locations can lead to periodic teacher turnover.

Varying SMC/VDC Governance Readiness: Local School Management Committees (SMCs) and Village Development Committees (VDCs) in newer target villages take significant time to reach full financial and operational independence.

Improvement Plans

17

Streamlined Field Supervision & Operational Efficiency: Optimizing supervisor routing and consolidating monitoring roles (e.g., combining health and education field visits) to reduce logistics overhead and offset inflation costs.

Community Ownership Transition (100% Local Governance): Conducting structured capacity-building workshops for SMCs and VDCs so local parents and elders take direct responsibility for daily school upkeep, teacher attendance, and basic *taanka* maintenance.

Local Teacher Recruitment & Peer Support: Prioritizing the recruitment and training of local educated youth (especially female educators from nearby hamlets), which significantly reduces turnover and improves long-term community trust.

Dual-Purpose Infrastructure & Climate Resilience: Pairing school learning centers directly with solar-powered rainwater harvesting units (*taankas*) and school kitchen gardens (*khadins*) to guarantee clean drinking water and daily meals during severe drought cycles, keeping attendance consistent.

Site Visit

- ❏ Site visit was done last year: 06/09/2025.
[Site Visit Report](#)

Beneficiaries

1. Direct Beneficiaries

- **300–500 Out-of-School Children:** Primary-age students in remote, hyper-arid desert hamlets (*dhanis*) gaining access to quality elementary education.
- **Focus on Girls (50%+ Enrollment):** Targeted retention strategies to eliminate gender-based dropouts caused by domestic chores and water fetching.
- **School Health & Nutrition:** Students receiving clean drinking water via school *taankas* (rainwater units) and basic health checkups.

2. Target Profile & Communities

- **Marginalized Families:** Low-income Dalit (SC), Tribal (ST), and OBC households with low or first-generation literacy.
- **High Drought-Vulnerability:** Families at risk of seasonal migration due to extreme water scarcity during summer months.

3. Indirect Beneficiaries

- **Parents & Mothers:** Relieved from long-distance water gathering, allowing children to stay enrolled.
- **Local SMC & VDC Members:** Trained parents and village elders who govern and maintain the learning centers.
- **Local Youth Educators:** Young educated women from nearby hamlets trained and employed as local teachers.

Staff

Executive & Organizational Leadership

- **Dr. Prakash Tyagi** – Executive Director & Secretary (*Leads overall administration, strategic partnerships, and program expansion*)
- **Dr. Archana Kumar** – President (*Educationist overseeing organizational governance*)
- **Dr. Manju Mishra** – Vice President (*Senior academic advising on curriculum and community outreach*)

2. Core Project Management & Coordination

- **Senior Program Coordinator:** Rajendra Kumar (*Coordinates regional project execution, field logistics, and reporting*)
- **Finance & FCRA Compliance Head:** Ramavtar Singh (*Oversees grant management, financial audits, and compliance*)
- **Field Monitoring Officer:** Rahul

Funds Utilization

1. Funds Utilization (2024–25 Cycle)

- **Budget Adherence:** Funds were 100% utilized per approved line-item budget (teacher honoraria, educational supplies, school *taanka* construction, and health checkups).
- **Deviations:** Zero unauthorized reallocations. Minor cost shifts due to material inflation were cleared with the Asha Steward prior to execution.
- **Line-Item Breakdown:**
 - **Educational Staff:** Teacher honoraria disbursed as planned for active centers.
 - **Infrastructure:** Rainwater *taankas* completed in target hamlets.
 - **Student Support:** Direct delivery of learning kits and health checkups.

2. Audit & Compliance

- **Utilization Report:** Detailed line-item balance sheet for 2024–25 has been submitted to the Asha chapter.
- **Latest Audit Certificate:** FCRA-compliant Audit Utilization Certificate (verified by an independent Chartered Accountant) is available for verification.

3. Funding Status

- **2024–25 Cycle: Recommended for Approval** based on compliant fund usage and verified site delivery.



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Part 2

FCRA Compliance

1. FCRA Validity & Legal Registration

- **FCRA Status: Valid & Active** (MHA Registration No: **125610001**)
- **FCRA Account:** Designated State Bank of India (SBI), Main Branch, New Delhi, as mandated by FCRA regulations.
- **Statutory Approvals:** Active **80G**, **12A**, and NITI Aayog Darpan registration uploaded and verified with the Asha-wide Treasury.

2. Fund Governance & Transaction Rules

- **No Internal Routing:** 100% of Asha grant funds are transferred directly into GRAVIS's primary FCRA account and spent directly on field execution—zero sub-granting or third-party routing.
- **Cashless Operations:** All major payments (salaries, *taanka* construction materials) are made digitally via NEFT/RTGS. Petty cash is strictly capped at **under ₹2,000 per day**.

3. Restricted FCRA Utilization

- **Strict Earmarking:** Funds are restricted to approved proposal line-items: teacher honoraria, learning materials, school *taanka* infrastructure, and health checkups.
- **Audit Trail:** Backed by annual audited balance sheets, CA-verified Utilization Certificates (UC), and mandatory quarterly FCRA filings.

Audit Reports



- Annual Progress Report for 2024/25
[Annual Report](#)
- Audit report for funds disbursed for 2024/25
[Audit Report](#)

Fundraising Model

. Funding Partners & Institutional Grants

- **Global & Domestic Institutional Partners:** Longstanding co-funding from major donors including **Asha for Education, Together Women Rise, Vista Hermosa Foundation, UN Women/UNICEF**, and corporate CSR grants.
- **Low Funding Risk:** No single donor accounts for the majority of the operational budget, ensuring long-term financial stability across programs.

2. Digital Platforms & Individual Giving

- **Official Website:** Active online presence at **www.gravis.org.in** (accepts direct online donations via secure payment gateways).
- **Crowdfunding Presence:** Active campaigns on major Indian giving platforms including **GiveIndia (Give Grants)** and **Ketto**, primarily targeting emergency drought relief, girls' education, and water harvesting infrastructure.
- **Distributed & Variable Donations:** Receives continuous retail contributions ranging from small one-time micro-donations (₹500–₹2,000) for school kits to larger recurring individual gifts for family rainwater *taankas*.

Financial Health

1. Reserves, WCR & Financial Stability

- **Working Capital Ratio (WCR):** Healthy ratio maintained between **1.5x and 2.5x**, ensuring prompt vendor and salary settlements without liquidity bottlenecks.
- **Corpus & Liquid Reserves:** Retains an institutional corpus fund and **3 to 6 months of operational reserves** in bank fixed deposits and liquid holdings.
- **Income vs. Expenditure:** Consistently operates on a balanced or slight surplus budget (reinvesting operational balances back into community programs per NGO norms).

2. Asha Support as % of Total GRAVIS OPEX (2024–25)

- **Total GRAVIS Annual OPEX (Approx.):** ₹16–19 Crore
- **Total Asha Grant (All Chapters):** ~₹28 Lakhs
- **% of Total OPEX Supported by Asha:** ~1.6% – 2.0%
- **Risk Level: Very Low.** Asha covers **<2% of total GRAVIS OPEX**, confirming high financial diversification and zero reliance on Asha for organizational survival.

3. Asha Support as % of Total OPEX (2024–25)

- **Asha Grant Share:** **<1.0%** of total GRAVIS OPEX .

Budget Proposal

S.N.	Activities	Number	Unit Cost (Rs)	Amount (Rs)
1	Construction of taanka	40	41,500	1,660,000.00
2	Taanka Management Training	2	16,500	33,000.00
3	Adolescence Girls Health Camps	2	16,500	33,000.00
4	WASH & Nutrition Awareness Sessions in schools	2	9,500	19,000.00
5	Outreach Medical camps	12	11,000	132,000.00
6	Eye Health Care (Surgeries)	22	3,500	77,000.00
7	Teachers' Salaries for two schools (2 teachers per school) 12 months	12	24,000	288,000.00
8	Support to schools (school dress, stationeries, teaching learning materials, etc.)	2	29,000	58,000.00
9	Educational tour for children	1	29,000	29,000.00
10	Travel	12 months	15,000	180,000.00
11	Office Administration	12 months	11,000	132,000.00
12	Project Coordinator - 1	12 months	24,000	288,000.00
13	Field Supervisor - 1	12 months one person	19,000	228,000.00
	Total			3,157,000.00



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Thank You
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