Annual Report
of
Water, health and education for women and children project
April 2020 – March 2021

Supported by
Asha for Education

Prepared by
Gramin Vikas Vigyan Samiti (GRAVIS)
Jodhpur
Introduction

2020 was a challenging year for all of us due to unpredicted circumstances. The pandemic hit the entire world and India was not exceptional in this case. Rajasthan due to recurring droughts witnesses migration of youth every year to near about states and towns. Women, children and elders stay at home and mostly depend on meagre earning from agriculture and amount sent from migrant member of family. But because of Covid, entire nation went on complete lock down at least for 3 months. Most of wage earners and migrants lost their work and returned to their homes. Without adequate earning the situation of families became vulnerable. Drought along with joblessness developed double burden for families. To reduce the stress of poor families, relief kits have been distributed to them.

The project progress was also impacted in this period as we started work post lock down. Though project Water, health and education for women and children was continued from April but in first quarter, we covered relief activities of Covid. The project activity like taanka was started by end of the June. The capacity building trainings have been organized with precautions and care with limited number of attendees. As we know, there was complete lock down in months of March, April and May. And even after ease in lock down, the schools were still closed as per govt. guidelines. GRAVIS made strategies to deal with this situation and thought to teach students at their homes. Books have been distributed to them at door steps and teachers have been assigned to teach them in their hamlets with extra care. Schools have been re-opened in January 2021 but again closed as per govt. guideline. Though most of time schools were closed but study of children was continued in hamlets. Teachers and project staffs played important role in mobilizing and motivating parents in continuation of study of children. This report presents progress of project in one year and its impact on community during pandemic.
Progress of GRANT Activities and Impact

1. Grant Overview

| 1.1. | Grant Period | April 2020 to March 2021 |
| 1.2. | Reporting Period | April 2020 to March 2021 |
| 1.3. | Amount of Grant | Rs 2,275,000.00 |
| 1.4. | Name of Project | Water, health and education for women and children in Thar |
| 1.5. | List of communities where project is being carried out | 6 villages of Jodhpur district. The list of villages is being attached as annexure in Table 1. |
| 1.6. | Target Group | Women, Girls & other village community. |

2. Objective of project

The overall goal of project is to empower women and girls through addressing their needs of water, health and education. Specific objectives of project are:-

- Construction of *taankas* for securing drinking water at home capacity building of villagers for the maintenance and management of structure
- Organization of medical camps to increase outreach and generating awareness about young girls on health and hygiene, and
- Supported poor families with relief activities and supported teachers and kids in continuation of study during pandemic.

3. Project Implementation

GRAVIS field centre at *Gagadi* is base centre for project implementation. The project villages are approachable from field centre. Two field supervisors stay at centre and monitor the day to day activity of project. GRAVIS office at Jodhpur oversees the project and the team is led by a Program Coordinator who regularly visits project and gives inputs for planning, monitoring and execution.

4. Description of activities in the project:

Following activities have been accomplished in one year of project execution.

4.1 Construction and Maintenance of *Taanka*:

Taanka, an underground rainwater harvesting tank is life line for many poor families. Water which is considered precious commodity in desert is not equally available for all. Families
living in remote hamlets are always left out and struggle daily to get water for domestic and drinking use. 34 poor families have been selected with the help of Local Village Development Committees. 34 taanks have been constructed for these families in quarter 2 and 3. As we witnessed rain till late August and early September, by that time all taankas were filled with rainwater. Again some winter shower provided sufficient water to families to cover upcoming summer months. By the reporting time at the end of March 2021, there was at least 6 to 7 feet water in every *taanka* which is sufficient for them for 3-4 months until next monsoon. In covid-19, health and hygiene is an important issue to keep family healthy. We this time approached government healthcare centres and received *potassium paramagnet* the disinfecter used in water tanks. The ANM (nurse) informed project families regarding the use of *potassium paramagnet* to kill insects and to purify the water. Two taanka maintenance trainings have been organized for *taanka* families. The training covered the maintenance, use and aftercare part of taanka. This year the metrological department has already predicted above average monsoon in 2021 and this has cheered faces of people. In Covid -19 many have lost their traditional livelihoods and no source of income in hand but rains have fulfilled their dream to have water to drink.

![Pic 1: Taanka Maintenance Training at Harlaya](image)
45 years old Dikhu Devi of Harlaya village is a widow belongs to poor Meghwal community and leads a large family of 10 members including son and grandchildren. Her husband was a mineworker and the family lost him in early stage. After that the responsibility of running family came in hand of Dikhu. Her son is also a wage earner. He goes to near about town in search of some livelihood. Dikhu is now in her early old age. It is very difficult for her to fetch water from pond which is 2 kms from her house. The burden she faced in her life in collecting water is immense. She is not able to construct a taanka by own. She approached VDC for it. Now a taanka is constructed at her door step. After taanka she is relaxed and is living a stress free life. She has also started saving money. In month of Oct to Dec she saved
Rs 5500 because her taanka was filled with rain water. She is very happy to have this asset for her and paid thanks to donor.

4.2 Medical Camps:

12 medical camps have been organized in all 6 project villages. The medical camps have been organized by GRAVIS rural hospital. Medical Team consisting two physicians & one village health worker social mobilizes in entire process. Each camp is divided into two parts. First part starts with stating the objective of the camp, which is followed by primary healthcare checkup on seasonal diseases, general diseases and referral on fatal diseases. The medical examination of the patients and distribution of medicines to them are parts of camps.

Keeping the time of pandemic in mind, extra cautions have been taken by doctor and healthcare workers. In these camps role of VDCs is crucial in organizing & mobilizing community. During camps we found cases of Asthma, Fever, Cough and Cold, Etch & Gastritis, etc among patients. Cold and Fever cases have been taken with extra care and patients with prolong suffering have been suggested for Covid test. The second part of camp is about generating awareness among community. Brief sessions have been addressed on Covid, and other infectious diseases. Community have been also made aware about importance of vaccination and motivated to visit nearest healthcare centre for Covid vaccination. Near 900 patients have been benefited through these camps in this year.

Pic 4: Medical camp provides primary healthcare to rural community

4.3 Educative sessions for children and adolescence girls
Two WASH sessions have been organized for kids. These trainings aim at educating children about their Water, Sanitation and Health needs. Importance of clean drinking water is most sufficient discussion with kids. Due to use of safe drinking water, many water borne diseases can be avoided and prevented. Small films of WASH also have been shown to kids so that they could visualize the role of WASH in their daily life. In health needs, children have been oriented about Covid -19 and immunity. For boosting immunity, everyone needs nutrients — such as vitamins, minerals, carbohydrates, protein and fat. Children, however, need different amounts of specific nutrients at different ages. In formative age children need special attention on diet. In trainings, children have been informed about importance of balance diet. In Covid, the important treatment is precaution. Children have been taught about benefits of washing hands, use of mask and proper sanitation, like personal cleanness, use of toilets, taking bath every day, keep teeth clean, cutting nails, wash hand before taking food. Children also have been suggested to maintain social distancing while doing their daily activities.

The role of a teacher of primary school is not less than a parent. They teach, guide, and understand the needs of formative age of children. They also help in intellectual development of students which is mainly based on moral and ethical teaching. Apart from school teaching primary teacher also motivate children for civic duties. GRAVIS encourages local youths to become teachers so that they could easily interact with children and their parents. We have two male and two female teachers in two schools. Though schools were mostly closed in academic year but teachers motivated children for study and continue visited hamlets to teach children in small groups. The govt. order is for schools to remain closed till further instructions. School teachers are visiting door to door and teaching kids in their own hamlets.
in a group of 4-5 students in rotation. Teachers with collaboration with local VDCs monitor the progress of children at home. Before opening of schools, they will be sanitized and cleaned as per govt. norms. In was not possible to observe national days like Independences day and Children Day at schools but children observed these days at home under guidance of GRAVIS teachers. As per GRAVIS ethics of work, there is no cut off of salary of teachers in pandemic. Amid lock down all teachers received salary as earlier.

Pic 6: Teachers teaching children in hamlets during pandemic

Self-doubt is very common among rural girls. They hardly discuss their problem with other including mothers. In adolescence age, a friendly discussion plays important role in building confidence and self-esteem among rural girls. All girls pass through tough face in teeanage. They witness many physical and psychological changes in their bodies. GRAVIS organized 2 Adolescent Girls camps with the support of Asha for Education. In these camps, they have been taught about the various topics related to their physical changes and upbringings, health, hygiene, nutrition and food. Ms. Sangeeta Inda and Ms. Reshma Bano handled these camps in two distinguished places and dates. In camps, health and hygiene kits were also provided to girls. Around 40 kits have been distributed to these young girls. Kit contains sanitary napkins, nail cutter, inner wears, soaps and shampoos and many other attractive hair accessories. Following topics were discussed during the training sessions:
- Puberty
- Common health problems during adolescence
- Preventive health care
- Reproductive tract infections
- Sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS
- Hygiene knowledge

Pic 7 & 8: Adolescence girls camps organized in project village
Annexure – 1

List of project villages

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. N.</th>
<th>Village</th>
<th>Implemented from</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Bhakri</td>
<td>GRAVIS sub-center Gagadi</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Bhim Sagar</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Harlaya</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Saran Nagar</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Samrau (Meghwalon ki Dhani)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Mahadev Nagar</td>
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