Annual Report
of
Water, health and education for women and children project
April 2022 – March 2023

Supported by
Asha for Education

Prepared by
Gramin Vikas Vigyan Samiti (GRAVIS)
Jodhpur
Preface

Introduction

The year 2022 was a great relief year after successive two years of pandemic. Life backs on track and there is good movement among communities for their livelihood, health and education. After resuming in normal life, our first work was to ensure that children get education without disruptions and communities get important health support. GRAVIS and Asha for Education are co-venturing project with their strong beliefs in supporting water, health and educational initiatives to develop a stronger rural community. The focus of the partnership has been on supporting water security to drought affected families, primary education with an emphasis on girl students, and on improving the health condition by supporting outreach healthcare services. In the year 2022-23, the partnership continued further and made very good progress on water, education and health fronts. The report here presents progress of project in one year with expounding impact on overall wellbeing of community.
Progress of GRANT Activities and Impact

1. Grant Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1.1. Grant Period</th>
<th>April 2022 to March 2023</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.2. Reporting Period</td>
<td>April 2022 to March 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3. Amount of Grant</td>
<td>Rs 2,731,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4. Name of Project</td>
<td>Water, health and education for women and children in Thar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5. List of communities where project is being carried out</td>
<td>6 villages of Jodhpur district. The list of villages is being attached as annexure in Table 1.</td>
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</table>

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

A dedicated team of three members executes the project. One Project Coordinator coordinates with different stakeholders to plan and monitor the project while two field supervisors directly implement the project at field. Gagadi centre in Jodhpur district facilitate the execution of project in field and provides all kind of infrastructural support to field team.

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*: –
Water is lifeline of Thar Desert and an essential commodity of preservation. There are various methods of preserving water but the most efficient is harvesting rain. In Thar, families have to struggle a lot to take drinking water from water ponds or a remotely located GLR. The scorching heat make the situation difficult for female folk as they are considered primary care takers of domestic need of water. They have to walk 2-3 kms daily at least twice the time to fetch water from citied sources. The solution to this problem is to have rainwater harvesting tank (taanka) near to house.

39 families of poor and unprivileged background have been chosen for construction of taankas. These taankas are underground cylindrical shaped structures designed to fetch rainwater from an artificially alleviated catchment built around the taanka. These taankas have capacity of 20,000 to 21,000 litre water at a time and each such taanka enables a family to become water security for a period to 6-8 months. In rest of months taanka is used as water storage facility and filled with camel carts or tanker. GRAVIS introduced silt catcher to check the silt deposited in water outside the taanka. The zig zag structure has 3 to 5 barriers to break the flow of water which allows silt to get deposited outside. Catchment (agor) is made of murum (gravel) which naturally has calcium carbonate in soil. It makes soil compact and does not allow water to percolate inside. An outlet is given to let access water go outside.

While taanka ensures water security for family but it impacts on various part of a family well-being from health of family to education of children as well increases saving of money. The saved money ranges from Rs 4000 to Rs 6000 depends upon size of family and harvested rain.

Two taanka maintenance trainings have been organized for taanka families. The training covered design, maintenance, use and aftercare part of taanka. In trainings families and local masons both have been invited to take part and understand the importance of structure. Though the taanka is not a new thing for participants but they curiously observed the technical part of structure and maintenance to make the structure long lived. They asked many relevant questions on making of catchment, cleaning, and purification of water. That time we approach government healthcare centres and receive potassium paramagnet the disinfector to use in water tanks. The use of disinfector was already shared in training and later it was provided to each family with the support of local ANM.
Pic 1: Taanka sketch of taanka shared with participants

Pic 2: Organization of *Taanka* Maintenance Training at field
Story of Bidami

Bidami is a middle-aged woman of 45 years belonging to the meghwal community. She lives with her husband and 4 children in small house in Pabunagar village in Jodhpur. Her husband is a wage worker and usually works outside in stone mines. The family strived to earn through irregular daily wage work and some money earned from mines. Bidami along with her eldest daughter has to travel 2-3 kilometers every day, to fetch water from the nearest GLR which also goes dry during summer. There was no tank at home thus making it difficult for them to procure water. The family lived in very isolated hamlet far from main village. The overall solution was to have a Taanka, recommended by VDC of village to GRAVIS and the same was constructed with the support of Asha in 2022. With good pre-monsoon rains, the taanka is now filled with rainwater. It has reduced the time of fetching water from far away. Now her daughter is regular in going to school. She has also sufficient time to study at home. As the rain she received in Feb/ March, she saved Rs 3,500 because her taanka will remain filled till June before arrival of monsoon. Bidami is grateful to GRAVIS and the donor for this contribution.
4.2 Medical Camps:

The outreach medical camps are bridge actions between community and healthcare facilities. The primary objective of an outreach medical camp is to develop change in health seeking behavior of community through introduction of primary healthcare, awareness generation and referral to nearest healthcare facility. These are makeshift camps accompanied by Doctor and nurses to assist. In this reporting year 12 Outreach medical camps and 2 Adolescence Girls Health Camps have been organized. Through outreach medical camps more than 800 people have been benefited directly. Along with primary health relief, they received information on vector borne diseases and waterborne diseases. Their symptoms, prevention and cure have been discussed with them. Treatment and awareness on asthma, fever, cough and cold, etch & Gastritis, etc have been raised among
patients. The awareness on skin related diseases, reproduction, menstrual hygiene, and malnutrition was the part of Adolescence Girls Health Camps. Community feedback is also taken in subsequent camp in village. Ms. Sangeeta Inda, Program Coordinator responsible for healthcare interventions facilitated both of Adolescence Girls Health Camps in two distinguished places. In camps, health and hygiene kits were also provided to 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:

- Menstrual Hygiene including skin care
- Puberty (myths and facts)
- Preventive health care
- Nutrition and Diets
- Reproductive tract infections (RTI)
- Sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS

The combined effect of all awareness and change in health seeking behaviour has led the reduced the approx. 50% of the citied disease. Health care is now in priority list of women and girls and it is a positive outcome of project.

Pic 6: Medical camp provides primary healthcare to rural community
Another intervention in project was to organize free eye surgeries for poor patients. Eye related issues are very rampant in Thar as age proceeds. This is an outcome of poor nutrition, direct sun rays and dust. 23 eye care surgeries have been organized in GRAVIS hospital. These surgeries are free of cost and beneficial for many patients of old age.

One such patient is Gomati Devi who is in her early 70s, a widow and mother of a wage earner son. She lives in Cherai in mud house. When she was examined in GRAVIS hospital her both of visions were affected. Doctor decided to restore her right eye vision and the operation was a successful. Her family is very happy to see that their mother is now able to
do her own routine work and can walk early. It was not possible for them without the help of Asha. They humbly paid thank to Asha and GRAVIS for giving her new life with restored vision.

Pic 9: Gomati Devi after eye operation of cataract
Pic 10 & 11: Some more beneficiaries of eye surgeries

4.3 Educative sessions for children and running of schools

With the support of Asha, two schools are running in Minno Ki Dhani and Bhakhri. Minno ki Dhani has own building while Bhakhri is a rented place voluntarily given by community. These schools have strength of 55 and 38 students respectively and 60 % of students are girls. The material supports have been given through project along with teachers salary. After two years of COVID, school resumed properly and a full academic year was organized. 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.

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. Children have been taught about benefits of washing hands, use of mask and proper sanitation, like personal cleanliness, 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.

**Pic 12 & 13: WASH session organized at schools**

**The Impact:**

Following has been the main impact of the project during the year:
- After lapse of two academic years enrolment in schools is intact. The ratio of boys and girls in students is close to 60:40. Female teachers play crucial role in enrolment of girls.

- Teachers received trainings and their skills and knowledge are improving through GRAVIS overall educational and learning program. This is increasing the quality of education.

- Water security among community which also led to increase girl child education, improvement in health and financial saving in houses.

- Medical team and health workers provided support to patients through outreach medical camps. During the year, as a result, over 800 patients benefited with immediate relief. Older people received eye care treatment and awareness among adolescence girls is increased.
Annexure – 1

List of project villages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. N.</th>
<th>Village</th>
<th>Implemented from</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Shri Ramnagar</td>
<td>GRAVIS sub-center Gagadi</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Sirmandi</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Shivnagar</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Pabunagar</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Pratap Nagar</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Harlaya</td>
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