Asha Project: GRAVIS

Location: 6 Villages of Osian, Jodhpur, Rajasthan
Duration: 2 Years
Budget: 775,000 INR
About GRAVIS

- Gramin Vikas Vigyan Samiti
- Founded in 1983 by Laxmi Chand & Shashi Tyagi
- Professes Ghandian Philosophy
- According to GRAVIS website the organization has:
  - Worked with 50,000 families in 850 Villages
  - Helped 1,000,000 people
  - Established more than 1,100 Community Organizations
- Dedicated to helping women, children and marginalized castes
Shashi Ji
Special Problems in the Thar Desert

- Average Rainfall 100-200mm – Frequent Droughts
- Chronic drinking water shortage – water must be bought or carried long distances, by women
- Villagers have few opportunities for income
- Very low level of education – especially for girls
- Women suffer relatively worse treatment than in other parts of India
- Nationwide health analysis classifies all 12 Thar Desert districts as “very vulnerable” (Health for the millions, Voluntary Health Association of India, June 2004)
Asha Project Goals

- Expand GRAVIS influence to include 6 new villages
  - Includes population of 1,800 women and children
- Produce baseline and completion reports
- Build 18 household *taankas* for water security
- Fund two new schools for two years
  - Provide education up to 5\(^{th}\) grade for 100 students
- Form 12 Self Help Groups (SHG)
  - Six should have income producing units
- Host 12 on site Medical Camps
  - Should provide Services to 600 people
Project Budget

Two Year Budget: 775,000 INR

- Taankas: 35%
- Salaries and Administration: 34%
- Schools: 16%
- Medical Camps: 9%
- Self Help Groups: 4%
- Reports: 2%
Budget Breakdown

Salaries and Administration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salary of a project coordinator (60%) – 3,000 x 24 months</td>
<td>72,000 INR</td>
<td>27%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salary of a field worker – 4,000 x 24 months</td>
<td>96,000 INR</td>
<td>36%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel – 2,000 x 24 months</td>
<td>48,000 INR</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRAVIS administration – 2,000 x 24 months</td>
<td>48,000 INR</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>264,000 INR</strong></td>
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GRAVIS Staff Members went into each village gathered information from village members:

- Produced a map and tabulated data for each village
  - Social Status, Education, Employment
  - Age, Sex
  - Water Security
- Perceived ranking of problems such as: Health, Hygiene, Food & Water Security, Animal Heath Service and Education
- Health status of women and girls
- Data was used to determine allocation of project resources based on need
- Will be used to evaluate project outcomes
Sample Map
Taanka Details

- A taanka is an underground storage tank built using local materials.
- Provides water security and frees women and girls from hiking to collect water daily – “our” 18 taankas should directly benefit 150 people
- 10’ x 10’ Holds an average of 20,000 liters of water – 5-6 month supply for a 5-6 member family
- Catchment area funnels rainwater into taanka – can also be filled from tanker truck
- GRAVIS has built more than 3000 taankas so far
- Families receiving taankas were chosen based on need by Village Development Committee (VDC)
- The recipient family excavates – GRAVIS supervises and hires masons for stone work
- Requires 2-3 months to complete each taanka
Taanka
Taanka – GRAVIS Mock up
School Details

- Two schools will be funded using Asha Funds
- Asha funds will be used for teacher’s salaries for two years
- School should support itself with fees after two years of Asha funding
- Schools will initially serve 100 students up to 5th grade – enrollment should increase each year
- Closest government school is too far for young students to walk to daily
- Community will provide temporary school building
- GRAVIS will provide teaching materials and seek funds from other donors for permanent school building
Established GRAVIS School
Established GRAVIS School
Established GRAVIS School
Self Help Group Details

- GRAVIS will facilitate the formation of Self Help Groups (SHG) with several visits during the first year of the project.
- Intended to empower women – SHGs should also be involved in the planning, implementation and monitoring of the whole project.
- Each group will consist of 10-15 women and should meet monthly.
- SHG’s will save money though members donations.
- SHGs will set up small-scale income generating units with the help of GRAVIS vocational training.
- SHG funds may be used for entrepreneurial capital.
- GRAVIS was set up 400 SHGs so far.
SHG Funded Shop
Established SHG
VDC – Female Representation
Medical Camp Details

- 12 Medical Camps are scheduled – should serve 600 people
- Run by GRAVIS Medical Staff – a doctor paramedical staff and village health workers
- Provides ANC to women
- Immunization for women and children
- Health screening, minor treatment and referrals for the entire population – Follow up for existing patients
- Health and hygiene awareness sessions will be offered during the health camps
Current Progress

As of January 22\textsuperscript{nd} email from Rahul Mishra:

- Baseline report completed and submitted to Asha
- Each village has started one self help group and has collected savings for at least one month
- Self Help Group in Minno ki Dhani has two months savings
- 9 taankas have been started, two of these only require artificial catchments to be built
- School at Minno ki Dhani is operating from a community built hut
- School at Dabri is being run in a house – owner is providing space free of charge
- Medical Camps: progress unknown
- Rahul Mishra is our project Coordinator
Site Visit

- Rekha, Sandeep and Mike visited Jan 8th and 9th
- Two day tour with Shashi Ji in GRAVIS Jeep
- Visited one of the villages of our project
- Visited pre-existing GRAVIS projects and sites
  - Program headquarters and three outposts
  - Established and self sufficient school
  - The GRAVIS Hospital
  - SHGs
  - Various other projects naddi, beri, khadeen, fruit garden, etc.
Site Visit Impressions

- Women involved in the program were very confident – high percentage of female representation
- Locals seemed to be very positive about GRAVIS in general
- Hospital was well equipped and clean – not very busy though
- Hospital’s eye surgery program seems to be doing very well
- GRAVIS officials seemed to be very genuine and well intentioned