

Khulla Chidiya Ghar or Open Birdhouse



Visitors to rural Rajasthan may be surprised to come across the oasis of Laporiya. A village covered with trees and chiming with the sound of birdsong is a rarity in this harsh, semi-arid environment. In 10 years Laporiya has been transformed by a simple principle- Khulla Chidiya Ghar or the Open Birdhouse mission. Within a 30 hectare area, no one must harm the wild animals and birds; trees

and shrubs cannot be cut and encroaching on the land is not allowed. The result is that Laporiya is now home to 135 different species of birds, some very rare indeed. Peacocks, parrots and other spectacularly colourful birds roam freely around the village.

The community works together, devoting time to spreading seed, planting trees and providing water to help maintain the Khulla Chidiya Ghar. In return, the Open Birdhouse enables nature to take its course and increase the fertility of the soil and the quality of life for the 300 families who call Laporiya home. The tree roots slow the flow of monsoon water, encouraging it to soak into the ground; the birds play a large part in the spreading of seeds and the natural fertilization of the soil. They also ensure a healthy level of insects is maintained.

GVNML has shown that by forming an alliance with nature and pledging to save wildlife, a simple idea can have a remarkable impact, bringing joy to the lives of many hundreds of people.