

Nurturing People and Managing Resources



GVMML
2016-17

Biennial Report



Gram Vikas Navyuvak Mandal Laporiya

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Foreword

Letter from the Secretary

This Biennial Report (2015-16 & 2016-17) presents the progress and reflects on our achievements with regard to various Projects that GVNML has successfully implemented over the past two years. While natural resources management (NRM) and sustainable livelihoods continue to remain our major areas of interest and concerns, however, in order to address the rising and emerging needs of the dynamic external environment, our organization identified and prioritized different projects according to thematic areas such as watershed management, agriculture, health, climate change (i.e vulnerability & adaptation) and drinking water supply through pipelines in rural areas. Since “Development and Cooperation” is dynamic and ever evolving sphere where new concepts, approaches, strategies and processes are introduced/ taken up or adopted, we too shifted gears 2004 from need based approach to rights based approach.



The journey in the past two years has not been very smooth though. While, handling/ dealing with different thematic areas on one hand and expansion of our area of operation (in terms of geographical coverage/ spread) on the other have provided us with ample opportunity to gain experiences and good learnings. However, we have had to wade through difficult tough times. Drastic changes in the external environment have impacted the progress during the year 2015-16 to an extent. Nevertheless, GVNML as always, could gain the faith and confidence of the rural community and has achieved its mission as envisaged during the reporting period.

Changing political environment and the policies of the Governments both at the centre and the state levels have also affected and impacted the funding support to NGOs. GVNML is no exception. The idea of convergence and dovetailing with government schemes/ programs has gained momentum in the past few years. All these have prompted us to do some deep soul searching. Together with the Members of the GVNML Governing Board and the core staff, we have done series of brainstorming workshops and, subsequently, have agreed to carry out some mid-course correction henceforth.

Showcasing achievements and documenting these in various forms is equally important. However, we could not give adequate or as much time as required in the past two years to this aspect and, as a result, we have lagged behind. Hence, we have tried to put together the progress of two years as a single report and are presenting the same to the audience.

We express our gratitude and would like to thank all partners, organizations and agencies including are well-wishers and, more importantly, the community members since without their support we wouldn't have travelled this far in our journey.

Our Vision & Mission



Vision

“Improving resilience of local eco-system to secure livelihoods and making community self-reliant in order to enhance and thereby enjoy quality of life in rural areas”.

Mission

- Improving Land quality through Management of village common pasture land and private farm land
- Conservation of surface and ground water through innovative location specific interventions
- Strengthening local Biodiversity through regeneration of indigenous tree, shrub, grass species
- Making crop and livestock production system resilient to climate risk to secure rural livelihood
- Strong and vibrant village institutions for and efficient local governance and management of natural resource base
- Access to safe drinking water, sanitation, health care and education for improving quality of life among rural communities



Where we work

In the beginning our area of operation basically comprised of villages, in Dudu Block, located around Laporiya at the centre. Gradually, with the support of domestic (national) and international donor agencies, we expanded our projects including several programme/activities to other parts of Jaipur district, and to the villages falling in neighbouring Malpura Block of Tonk district. For a nearly a decade, we concentrated in these two districts that forms the central part of Rajasthan. According to Government of India categorisation/ classification, this area is situated in the agro-ecological sub-region (AESR 4.2), which is characterized by hot semi-arid ecosystem with grey brown alluvium derived soils. The major constraints in this region are coarser soil texture and low plant available water capacity (AWC); over exploitation of groundwater, resulting in lowering of groundwater table in some areas. At places, imperfect drainage conditions lead to spread of surface and subsurface soil salinity and/or sodicity (Gajbhiye and Mandal). And, as per the agro-climatic zones, in Rajasthan, this area is categorised as III-A Semi-arid eastern plain.

For the past 8-10 years in a row, we are working in seven districts of Rajasthan viz. Jaipur, Tonk, Dausa, Bhilwara, Pali, Barmer and Nagaur. These districts, in Rajasthan, are part of arid to semi-arid region stretching from west to east direction. The climate of these districts varies from arid to sub-humid. Average annual precipitation (rainfall) ranges from 250 to 500mm (also from west to east). However, in Bhilwara district it is ranging from 450 to 575mm. These districts experience hot dry summer (average maximum temperature ranging from 38 to 44 degrees celsius) and cold winter (minimum temperature ranging from 8 to 19 degrees celsius). As per the agro-climatic zones, in Rajasthan, Barmer district is part of I A-Arid Western Plain; Nagaur is under II-A Internal Drainage Dry Zone; Pali is covered under II-B Transitional Plain of Luni Basin; and Bhilwara district falls in IV-A Sub-humid Southern Plains.

In terms of demographic profile and socio-economic status, suffice to say that these districts are multicaste and, in certain segments of Jaipur, Tonk, Bhilwara, Nagaur, Pali and Barmer districts are dominated by the Jats, the Gujjars, the Meenas and the Meghwals. In many parts of Jaipur (Bassi Block), Dausa and Bhilwara districts, the Meenas, who belong to the schedule tribe (ST) category, are dominating. The Bheels (also ST) are seen in large numbers in some pockets of Bhilwara district. The Meghwals, who are from the scheduled castes (SC) category, are in majority in some segments of Barmer and Nagaur districts. The literacy rates, however, vary and it ranges from 56.17% to 64.04%, on an average, in different parts of these districts. (For programme-wise details, please see Annexure)

Agriculture is mainly reinfed and, therefore dependence on livestock is high. In general, agriculture, wage employment, and rearing small ruminants are the most important sources of income.

Journey till Now

Banking on the enthusiasm and voluntary spirit demonstrated by the local youth, the movement started by Shri Laxman Singh in his native village Laporiya, in 1997-98, took the shape of a campaign for regeneration of damaged community water resources and structures. Uncontrolled access and failing cultural practices led to deterioration of village common property resources (water sources including tanks and ponds, pasturelands and forests). Within a short

span, such integrated community mobilisation and conservation efforts were transformed in to a formal structure and, consequently, an institutional base was established in the form of “Gramin Vikas Navyuvak Mandal (GVNML)”, which was registered under Rajasthan Societies Act 1958.



GVNML had to encounter challenges with regard to restoration and management of natural resources on one hand and social issues such as encroachment of common property on the other. Instead of seeking a legal recourse, GVNML applied a strategy to instil sense of ownership i.e. belongingness and community cooperation for equitable distribution of benefits and this worked well. Soon community participation and voluntary contribution had gained momentum in restoration efforts.

Village community was mobilised and motivated through various programmes/ activities such as nukkad naatak, puppet shows etc.. Creating awareness amongst community members was essential and its gradual spread was ensured by organising and conducting “pad-yaatras”, rallies, gramsabha and ward sabhas, which eventually have led to improved community participation. Formation and strengthening of village level institutions and engaging gram panchayat representatives have given legal sanctity to conservation efforts. A multi-stakeholder approach has been followed for effective and active participation. Sharing of responsibilities among the members thus led to building of ownership.

Reviving the cultural practices that once existed made community to rediscover and realise the importance to revere resources thus inculcating value system. People-centred governance system slowly began to find its place and community voluntarily made rules to govern and maintain resources for holistic development of the village.

Soon the spirit of “shramdaan” and protection and conservation of village resources has spread to neighbouring villages and area of operation increased from 40 to 3300 number of villages by 2015. Accordingly, the strategies and approach adopted/ followed have been modified too though the overarching principles continue to be the same. While staying focused with natural resources management (NRM), as the core strength, GVNML moved on to diversify and entered new thematic areas. Various projects that GVNML deal with vary in range from NRM, drinking water, sanitation and health, land reclamation and livelihood solutions and improvement.

The concept of “need based approach” transformed to “rights based approach” and from participatory to people centred or community led programme/ activities depending on the area of operation, socio economic conditions and the prevailing issues. Capacity building and skill improvement through various training programs and exposure visits have enabled the rural community to make collective and informed decisions. A strong social movement has helped promote solidarity and concrete development alternatives



Paradigm Shift from Project to Programme Approach

Dynamic external environment vis-a-vis the emerging needs and challenges faced by the rural community have necessitated/ prompted GVNML to shift and change gears in its style of functioning. In order to make meaningful contribution GVNML had to bring in certain changes in its approach i.e. from project to program approach. Owing to limitation in terms of scope, objectives and time duration, project approach limits stakeholder participation, potential solutions and impact. In the absence of contiguity, activities taken up sporadically translate to mere end products or outputs.

Projects relatively are of short duration and with specific objectives and limited span. In projects, the scale: outreach and area of operation are limited as opposed to the programs which have longer duration and larger scale. Projects are temporary in nature and strive to get specific results in a given time frame. Projects often operate in isolation and are output oriented. Though an organisation handles multiple projects with overlapping geographical area, yet the difference in respective project objectives does not allow these projects to leave concrete and substantial impact on the target population/society. Programmes, on the contrary, which are ongoing in nature, do engage themselves in continuous process that ultimately leads tangible impact.

Apparently, GVNML started with restoration of water and land resources and gradually moved on to other thematic areas while following the project approach. Funds, in the last few years, were sourced from different donor agencies and support organisations including the State. However, GVNML could not make a strong headway in upscaling of some of the tried, tested and successful approaches and development strategies, and methods due to paucity of funds. Changes in political environment, elected governments and their respective policies and programmes have impacted the contributions received from donor agencies and support organisations. This is not just the case for GVNML alone but the same applies for several similar organisations in the field as well. In the meanwhile, several centrally sponsored and state sponsored schemes have come up with regard to social development. Convergence of programs has become an essential component to avoid duplication of efforts and also better coordination among different line departments. In order to quickly respond to the ever changing social dynamics and competing world, we believe there is a need to advance i.e. move forward and develop new approaches and strategies. We are also of the firm view that combining our efforts with the ongoing schemes/ programmes of the State, ensures continuity in process and improvement. Hence, the shift from Project to Programme approaches in our development initiatives and efforts.

Sustainable development encompasses nurturing multi-stakeholder partnerships, public private partnerships, and civil society engagement in the process. Convergence with the existing programs and collaboration and networking are important elements of this approach. This approach is in tune with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a new set of goals that are set by the UN member states to frame agenda and policies over next 15 years. The SDGs follow and expand on the Millenium Development Goals (MDGs), which were agreed, in 2001, by the governments and are due to expire at the end of this year.

The key components and elements of 'programme approach' and related development strategies as envisaged by us are:

- ❖ People Centric and community led processes where in community takes the lead role in planning, execution of works and maintenance of the resources;
- ❖ Eco-system (inclusive of production system and sub-system, services) based and related activities
- ❖ Agro-ecological related approach and strategies for positive development changes in natural resources (focus and thrust is on water, land and forests - environmental benefits) base and its management through village level institutions and organizations by empowering them and making them accountable (equity, social justice, efficiency) for the same.
- ❖ Sustainable natural resources management (river basin/ watershed/ location and site specific technologies)
- ❖ Livelihood and Food security to ensure sustainable socio economic conditions;
- ❖ Fodder security to ensure development of livestock based livelihood systems;
- ❖ Multi-stakeholders approach involving PRIs/ Government Department and Agencies/ Financial Institutions/ Market related agencies and business/ trader community;
- ❖ Understanding value chain and its management;
- ❖ Convergence by accessing and/ or leveraging financial support from existing Government schemes and programmes; Financial institutions viz. NABARD/ Nationalized Banks; Corporate (CSR) and private Donor agencies - including Domestic / International/ Bilateral and Multilateral;
- ❖ Human Resources Development: awareness building; capacity enhancement; skill development; leadership; and management skills-set for different stakeholders;
- ❖ Knowledge management and dissemination (documentation with a view to share knowledge and experiences gained and showcase the success).



1. Community led Natural Resources Management Programme

The project 'Community led Management of Natural Resources', was implemented in 08 villages of Dudu Tehsil in Jaipur District. The project is supported by Wells for India.

Farmers in semi-arid regions depend primarily on rain water for farming and associated livelihood activities. Often they have to cope-up with the vagaries of monsoon. Hence, they are in a better position to recognise the importance of water and its related value the most since it is essential for survival of both the humans and the livestock. In order to sustain their livelihoods, farmers need to harvest, conserve and manage every drop of rain water and that too in the best possible manner.

For the past three decades, among others, GVNML efforts are diverted mainly to work with the local community in rainwater harvesting through an innovative 'chauka' system, as a technology, for the conservation of soil and water primarily and thereby enhancing recharge of ground water. This technique has been mostly applied and used in regenerating/ developing degraded village commons. Coupled with this technology inclusive natural resource management is being promoted to enhance community participation, livelihood and develop inter-community relations.

Some of the key activities taken up to promote NRM at local level include:

- ❖ Land development
 - Pasture land Development
 - Private land development
- ❖ Surface and ground water management (both on commons and private lands)
- ❖ Capacity enhancement (through various trainings and exposure visits) organised and conducted at various levels (to achieve self-sustenance)

Specific Programme Interventions

➤ Pasture land development

Pasture lands is one of the most important common property resource that supports animal husbandry and associated livelihoods of rural poor. Further, they are also one of the rich sources for maintaining bio-diversity and, in addition, contribute to regulating ground water and nutrient supplies to the lands that lie on the downstream side. However, due to erosion of local institutions and mismanagement of common resources, common lands have begun to deteriorate. Such deterioration of grazing lands in turn affects ground water table, which in turn has adverse impact on farming per se.

Recognising the fact that village institutions are capable of managing shared resources, GVNML supports rural communities in managing their pasture lands by helping develop monitoring mechanisms to check excessive use and over exploitation. To this extent, GVNML assists rural communities to develop conservation plans in order to improve water regime and bio diversity.

Together with bio physical works (treatment of the lands), many social issues including encroachment of village commons are also addressed during under this programme.

An over view of the progress during the reporting period is given below:

Table 2: Pasture land (village commons) treated during the reporting period (in bhigas)

Total Pasture land available	Land treated till 2015	Land treated during reporting period
3155	1430	1413

Shrinking open spaces directly affect the rural livelihoods. Encroachment of common lands is a challenging issue and it has to be dealt with carefully. In addition to political dimension, one has to also consider the social fabric or community dynamics and, more importantly, their commitment to resolve this issue. GVNML has been trying to withdraw and vacate encroachments on common land in order to restore the livelihoods. The tables given below highlight the to which encroachments have been evacuated from the village commons during the reporting period and the households benefitted in 6 villages in the project area:

Table 3: Details of land encroachment (in bhigas)

Extent of Common land encroached	Extent of land freed from encroachment
1485	385

Table 4: Number of households (HH) benefitted

Village	Laporiya	Gagardu	Rahalana/ Beenikhera	Mahatgaon	Itakhoi	Karia-Bujurg	Karia-Khurd	Total HH
Total HH	30	650	900	200	280	150	70	2280
HH benefitted	30	280	650	100	280	50	20	1410



➤ Private land treatment

In addition to developing village commons, GVNML has taken up certain activities on private (individual) lands to improve soil moisture and irrigation facilities with a view to improve and increase farm production and productivity in the region.

In all eight (08) villages are covered under this initiative. Out of 60ha of agriculture land was treated for soil moisture conservation, 30ha have been covered by the project, and the remaining 30ha with support of mobilized under IWMP from GoR. Irrigation facility was improved through various methods (gravity flow, well recharge etc.) benefitting 35 households. Such measures helped individual farmers to go in for a second crop and recorded an increase in farm production (4 quintals/ ha).

➤ Surface and ground water management

Under this component the bio-physical works/ activities are listed below:

- Repair of existing water storage structures;
- Rain water harvesting;
- Construction/ repair of farmponds;
- Construction of 'Diversion channels' - i.e. diverting excess rain runoff to water storage structures;
- Development of eco parks; and
- Saline water treatment.

The table given below provides an over view of the activities taken up during the reporting period, number of villages covered and the households benefitted.

Table 5: Over view of the activities taken up under water management

Activity	Number	Number of villages covered	Households benefitted
Roof rain water harvesting structure	20	7	22
Repairing of Anna Sagar of Laporiya, channel repair, bund strengthen and overflow construction	1	1	322
Diverting the overflow to adjacent structure	2	2	1064
Farm ponds (Nada)	2	1	19
Pasture land development (Chauka system)	17 ha	3	1155
Development and maintenance of eco-parks	15 ha	3	1149



➤ **Specific activities (bio physical activities)**

- In the village Laporiya, 3 Nadas were constructed and one in Rahalana village. 60 hectare of additional land was bought under cultivation through soil moisture conservation.
- Salinity issue was addressed through rain water harvesting and application of organic manure. Farm ponds were constructed that stored rain water to be used for irrigation purpose in place of well water. This helped reduced the salinity significantly.
- 26 households were covered under roof rain water harvesting to address high TDS in drinking water. This has helped to reduce levels significantly from 1321 to 504 (817 PPM).
- Bund strengthening and repair of channels were taken up for Anna Sagar in Laporiya to enhance the storage capacity.
- Eco parks were developed in 15ha of land to improve bio diversity.

➤ Capacity enhancement activities

GVNML has been playing an active role in formation and strengthening of local institutions for making collective decisions and provide a platform for discussions and debate. In addition to assisting the Panchayats and village institutions to jointly draw up structured action plans, and devise systems GVNML has also organized certain programs to enhance their capacities. The objective was to promote self-sustenance among people's institutions so that the community resources are well managed. As part of this staff, VDC members, SHGs and Panchayat members were given training on different subjects. Help and support was provided to Panchayat and VDC for drawing joint plans.

Some specific outcomes from this programme are presented below:

- Village Development Committees (VDCs) have become vibrant and are playing an active role in resolving social issues. For example, in the villages of Itakhoi, Gagardu and Laporiya, VDC was successful in vacating 93ha of common land from encroachment. Further, with their active participation and involvement certain rules have been formed for sharing of benefits equally and also to safeguard the flora and fauna;
- VDCs have developed linkages with line departments. With their networking skills, they are able to source funds from the government for village development activities. Pasture land development, water harvesting structures, repair and rejuvenation of old structures, laying of drinking water pipelines, infrastructure development are some of the examples to mention. At Mahatgaon village, VDC and SHG have jointly worked together to ensure that each and every household is covered under drinking water scheme;
- Gram panchayat and VDC are able to draw plans for village development and utilise panchayat funds for various development works;
- CBOs, VDC and SHG together are making efforts to protect grazing lands, developed social systems to protect resources; and
- Women groups in particular have become more expressive and are also actively taking part in resolving certain social issues.

2. Integrated Watershed Management Program (IWMP)

The department of Land Resources (DoLR) under the Ministry of Rural Development implements Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP). The main objectives of the IWMP are to restore the ecological balance by harnessing, conserving and developing degraded natural resources such as soil, vegetative cover and water. The outcomes envisaged are prevention of soil run-off, regeneration of natural vegetation, rain water harvesting and recharging of the ground water table to enable multi-cropping. Introduction of diverse agro-based activities helps to provide sustainable livelihoods to the people residing in the watershed area.

GVNML selected as a Project Implementing Agency (PIA), is implementing IWMP in Pali District. The project area is spread across 11 villages, 5 gram panchayat of Desuri Panchayat Samiti. As part of the program, during the reporting period, a total of 11 anicuts were constructed in the project villages and farm field bunds were erected on 356ha of farm land. Agriculture and crop related activities were carried out involving 23 SHGs in place.

3. Water and Sanitation (Create Social Preparedness to Avail Drinking Water)

In order to ensure drinking water security in rural India, Department of Drinking Water Supply under the Ministry of Rural Development GoI, brought about a paradigm shift in National Policy framework from 11th plan onwards and the “Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme” has been renamed as “National Rural Water Supply Programme (NRWSP)”.

Projects that are totally managed by the government and without active participation of the community leaves less scope for development as the end users cannot exercise their options and demand better service delivery. This applies to the rural water supply programs also. Further, the scenario would be more challenging with the increase in population, demand and rapid depletion of ground water resources. Over dependence on groundwater and depletion increases the incidences of quality issues. One of the solutions to address quantity and quality issues is to ensure achieving drinking water security at the household level. This could be achieved by involving the community in the process and at the same time enhancing their skills and abilities in such a manner that communities are empowered to manage and maintain their drinking water sources and systems. PRIs and local community together should be able to plan, implement, manage, operate and maintain the in-village water supply schemes. However, this needs preparing the community with appropriate awareness programs and capacity enhancement activities.

In order to enable the different actors or stakeholders to play their role effectively and efficiently, in a given context, it is essential that the gaps are bridged with relevant information and proper communication at different levels on one hand and different stages on the other. This not only enhances the participation and involvement of the end users i.e. the ‘primary stakeholders’ at all different stages but, simultaneously, also helps to inculcate the sense of ownership and belonging with the various provisions of the given scheme/ programme/ project.

In this context, Information Education and Communication (IEC) play a prominent role to dispel misconceptions and fill knowledge gaps and build on positive levels of understanding. Information dissemination helps the community to identify the options (for example various schemes and provisions) available to them (GP). This in turn helps them to plan as per their needs. Further, it helps in exercising their rights and shoulder responsibility too.

With this as backdrop GVNML got involved in a project “Create social preparedness to avail drinking water” covering 2371 villages across four districts viz. with IEC (information, education and communication) as the core activity. The four districts incidentally come under ‘dark zones’ as the ground water levels are dismally low and the fluoride content is observed to be more than the limits. Hence, the piped water supply in this context also addresses these issues as the water supplied is safe and potable.

IEC

In development cooperation parlance, the term IEC i.e. “Information Education and Communication” as it is used is all about bridging the knowledge and information gaps that exist at different levels, through various communication methods so as to create an enabling environment. It is our belief that a well-planned/ executed IEC strategy plays a critical role in the sustainability of the program/ project.

There are three phases in the project cycle: (i) preparatory phase (ii) implementation phase and (iii) follow up phase.

Preparatory phase commences wherein an environment is created for people to come together and for the community to comprehend the concept, accept the need for mutual cooperation, and arrive at consensus for collective decision making. Data is collected through various exercises and analysed for understanding the situation and mapping the resources. Formation and strengthening of village institutions (VWS&C, Mahilamandal) to carry out the task is taken up during this phase. Information dissemination is taken up through various forms of communication material for achieving effective community mobilization and motivation.

Implementation phase starts with taking stock of the needs and resources available at the village level. In other words, it entails assessing the demand supply situation. Site selection for water supply systems (stand post/CWT) is made with the involvement of the community. Collaborations and networking is made between the village institutions and the line department for undertaking physical works. Various capacity enhancement exercises are taken up for the stake holders to play their expected roles well. Upon commissioning of water supply, few individuals are selected and are given the charge to take care of the supply mechanism. This entire process is led by the community itself.

Follow up phase is when reliable and affordable services gain communities' acceptance for contribution and payments for the services rendered. Financial participation by the communities is essential not only to demand quality in services, but also to ensure accountability. Banking on the willingness to pay and shoulder responsibility, an agreement is made between the village level institutions and the line department during this phase. In other words, management and maintenance systems are established along with the payment systems. Contributions are deposited as security deposits with well-defined support systems in place.



Operational area of GVNML is given in the table below:

Table 1: Operational area

S. No.	District	Panchayat Samitis	Gram Panchayats	Villages	Households Benefitted
1	Bhilwara	8	381	1698	283960
2	Nagaur	3	111	426	88200
3	Jaipur	2	62	235	48000
4	Tonk	1	2	12	2800

The progress, in nut shell, achieved during the reporting period with regard to activities taken up is presented in the table as given below:

Table 2: Progress at a glance (2015-2017)

Description	Number /village/amount
Number of Villages covered	2320
Population	2750210
Number of VWH&SC Formed	1784
Number of MahilaMandals formed	1775
Number of villages where Census and Mapping was undertaken	1779
Number of Agreements Signed between VWHSC and PHED	1503
Security / water bill Amount deposited	Rs. 6357552
Construction of PSP and CWT	734
Number of orientation and job distribution trainings organised	154
Trainings of SPA and caretaker	154
Number of VWHSC Trained in record keeping	154
Handover of scheme to VWHSC	154

The Outcome from this programme/ project is as follows:

- Community institutions promoted/strengthened that are meant for shouldering the responsibility of equitable distribution, continuous supply and O&M have become capable of handling issues and discharging their responsibilities effectively and efficiently;
- The skills and capacities of Panchayats and village level institutions that were enhanced through various exercises have enabled the respective representatives and, now, they are capable of articulating their local development needs, draw plans and devise systems for sustainable development;

- By bringing all the stakeholders together, community is in a better position to understand the linkages and arrangements required for collaborations;
- Increase in confidence of the community to manage and maintain is evident from the collection of water charges, maintain water supply system to keep it functional and leakage free; and
- Women manage the domestic water needs. Involving them at every stage i.e. from the start of planning the programme/ activities and implementation of the same provided a strong framework for community participation. Further, this has become a platform to discuss other related issues such as health, hygiene and water contamination etc.

4. Collaboration with Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) - Pipeline Division

The pipeline division of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) is engaged in providing sustained availability of petroleum products across the country. The company has adopted a well-defined policy for its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative and has been implementing various developmental activities in the identified villages falling under their pipeline priority area. In the year 2011-12, IOCL through their West Zone Regional office had entered into collaboration with GVNML for rural development projects in villages under Ajmer and Jaipur districts in Rajasthan. Based on the experiences gained from this collaboration, IOCL North Zone Regional office invited GVNML for new social cause and development initiatives. In this context, the company had identified 19 villages in Panipat Base and Bijwasan Base. As the first step in this direction, IOCL entered into collaboration with GVNML and requested us to undertake a socio-economic-survey-cum feasibility study of the 19 villages already identified and shortlisted.

These 19 villages are spread across four states viz. Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. The Table-1 given below indicates the spread of these 19 villages district-wise in the four states.

Table 1: Villages selected for the study

S. No.	Name of the village	District	State
1.	Charra	Jajjar	Haryana
2.	Pakasma	Rohtak	
3.	Mohulgwara	Patiala	Punjab
4.	Rohno Kalan	Ludhiana	
5.	Chauke	Bhatinda	
6.	Khokhar	Bhatinda	
7.	Jhuggian	SBS Nagar	
8.	Chaunta	Ludhiana	
9.	Landi	Kurukshetra	Haryana
10.	Takansu	Patiala	Punjab

11.	Kiranj	Gurgaon	Haryana
12.	Badha	Palwal	
13.	Silani	Gurgaon	
14.	Saragthal Hamid	Saharanpur	Uttar Pradesh
15.	LalpurSojmal	Bijnor	
16.	ShekhpurAlam	Bijnor	
17.	Sahnawali	Bharatpur	Rajasthan
18.	ChoubeKaNagla	Bharatpur	
19.	Malupur	Agra	Uttar Pradesh

Extensive field visits by GVNML team were planned and carried out for generating primary data based on interaction with the community to know the state of the art and the prevailing conditions. Our approach and methodology included conducting focused group discussions (FGDs) to get an insight into the social fabric, status of natural resources especially water, practices of hygiene and perceptions of the community and their views in terms of overall development. The main focus was to understand the issues related to water, health and sanitation in general and access to drinking water in particular.

In this context, some of the major issues identified and analysed centered (focussed) on the following:

- Quality (high TDS and impurities) and quantity of drinking water (issue of accessibility by some sections of society, interrupted supply due to damaged pipe lines and defunct storage tanks);
- Improper drainage system and water logging at places;
- Disposal of solid waste absent/ missing;
- Open defecation;
- Incidence of water and vector borne diseases chiefly during monsoon season.

A micro planning exercise was carried out to assess the need for intervention that is best suited to the local conditions, technical viability and sharing of responsibility for future maintenance of the physical works carried out. Accordingly, certain and specific interventions were jointly identified and planned to be implemented in the selected villages. Planning exercise followed by implementaion i.e execution of physical works was carried out during 2015-16. Subsequently, in the following year 2016-17 an assessment was undertaken with a view to understand the change in situation i.e. before and after the interventions.

In consultation with IOCL, project interventions were taken up in four villages, namely, Charra (District Jhajjar) and Pakasma (District Rohtak) in Haryana, Nagla-Choube (District Bharatpur) in Rajasthan and Malupur (District Agra) in Uttar Pradesh.

Installation of RO systems in schools and at public places, construction and repair of toilets, construction of compound wall in school are some of the major interventions taken up as per the local need and situation. Location (village-wise), type of intervention and number of people who stand to benefit from these are given in the table below:

Table 2: Location and interventions carried out

S.no	Location	Type of intervention	Persons/households benefitted
1	Charra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of separate toilets for girls and staff (ladies); Installation of RO system with a capacity of 200 litter per hour; Water Cooler having capacity of 300 litter storage; 	300 girls and 38 staff members
2	Malupur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repair and construction of toilet in Primary school; Drilling bore-well for daily water requirement; Construction of overhead tank to facilitate uninterrupted water supply for most vulnerable groups; Construction of 5 PSPs (Public Stand Post) and GI pipeline laid for piped water supply to Jatav-basti (habitation). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 120 Children (girls in particular have privacy now) Around 800 people (102 families) getting piped water supply; (Reduced drudgery for women)
3	Pakasma	Installation of ROs near Harijan Mohalla, Primary School, Bus Stand, Rana Khap Bhawan and Girls Secondary School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 185 households 575 students and 30 staff members
4	Nagla-Choube	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of compound wall for protection of school children; Installation of bore well at Govt. Primary School. Construction of overhead tank at Govt. Primary school; Laying of pipe line near a Temple for water supply. 	School children and 110 families

Expected outcome/ impact

Impact will be visible after few years in terms of improved health, reduced drudgery for women, uninterrupted water supply and increase in enrollment of students in general, and girl students in particular. The Project was completed on the hope and with expectations that “awareness spread about the sanitation, health & hygiene will bring about behavioral changes in the community”.

5. Mitigating Poverty in Western Rajasthan (MPOWER)

The Department of Rural Development, GoR with financial support from International Fund for Agricultural development (IFAD) and Sir Ratan Tata Trust (SRTT), is implementing a project titled “Mitigating Poverty in Western Rajasthan” (MPOWER) in the Jodhpur Division of western Rajasthan. The Jodhpur Division comprises of six districts, namely, Jodhpur, Pali, Sirohi, Jalore, Barmer and Jaisalmer. One Panchayat Samiti or Development Block from each district is covered under the MPOWER Project. The overall goal of the project is “to reduce poverty and improve food security and the standards of living of targeted rural households” in the six Blocks viz. Baap, Sankra, Baitu, Sanchole, Bali and Abu Road. In addition, two Blocks viz. Balesar and Pindwara located in Jodhpur and Sirohi districts are also covered under the MPOWER Project. The project has been in operation since December 2008. The Project implementation is decentralised with District based Government functionaries, field based Non-government organisations (NGOs) and staff from Centre for Micro-finance (CmF), Rajasthan.

The project was envisaged to build on experiences and lessons learnt under ongoing programmes, and introduce some innovative features. The project was started with the core objective of reducing poverty through the development of grass root community institutions, providing support to various livelihood activities (for increase in on farm and off farm production), set up delivery systems inclusive of improved access to markets.

GVNML has been implementing projects related to livelihood improvement with focus on women empowerment since long. Based on its presence for a considerable period of time and having demonstrated in the field their close association with the communities in strengthening SHGs and village level institutions; GVNML was invited by GoR to work in Baitu Block in Barmer district. It is in this context that our since 2009 has been engaged in implementing the MPOWER Project in select clusters of Baitu Block.

The project is designed to follow “cluster approach” for development and within the cluster, the village is considered as a unit of planning. Various capacity building exercises are planned and carried out or implemented for the SHGs that have been promoted and are being strengthened with a view to make them viable and self-sustainable. These groups, subsequently, have been federated at the block level.

All these groups were formed after a series of environment building meetings held primarily with BPL (Below poverty Line) families, after a desired level of awareness level gained SHG formed from BPL families by adding one member from a family. These are new groups, after formation a series of training, expouser and consultation held during 2011-2015. Later on these groups were categorized with livelihood plan and as per plan clusters were formed. By consolidating all these groups a federation were formed.

Table 1: Details of groups and activities taken up

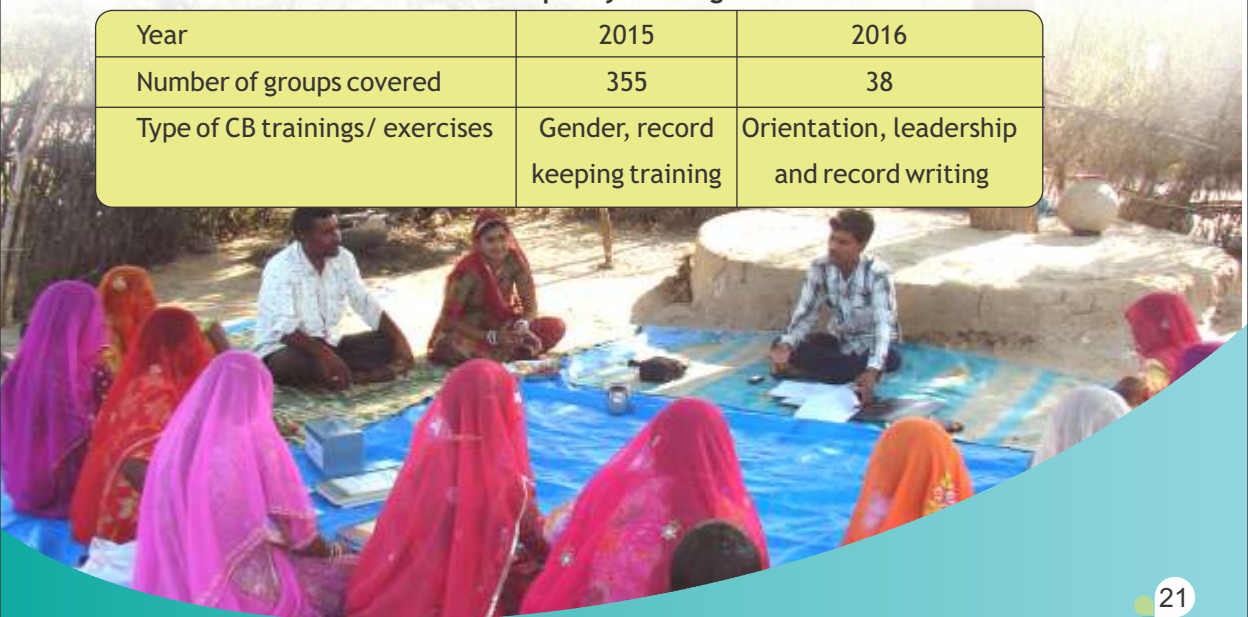
Name of the federation	Clusters	Number of groups formed	
		2015	2016
Marwar Mahila Sarwagin	Goat rearing	35	70
Vikas Sahkari Samiti Ltd.	Horticulture	136	0
Bhimda	Agriculture	100	75

Table 2: Thrift and savings of groups

Cluster	Groups formed		Savings		Loan taken		Repayment		Grading (grading done in 2016 only)
	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2016
Kanod	116	0	2706995	3713270	1105000	1750000	1676189	1455750	A-76 B-29 C-11
Bhemda	123	0	3261350	5016800	1170000	2345000	977500	2215668	A-101 B- 21 C-1
Bhadka	116	0	2475590	3559460	605000	1595000	480000	1530000	A-85 B- 21 C-10

Table 3: Capacity building exercises

Year	2015	2016
Number of groups covered	355	38
Type of CB trainings/ exercises	Gender, record keeping training	Orientation, leadership and record writing



Outcome

Given the socio-economic background and the prevailing culture in western Rajasthan, it has been a challenge to organise poor women in to SHGs and empower them to and manage the resources at their command, articulate issues, problems being faced, plan, and demand the services available to them. However, when look at the progress made in the past two years, it is evident that efforts made in this direction have resulted in successful repayment of loans to the Bank by the SHGs. Interestingly, 344 SHGs linked to the Bank have repaid the loan successfully and on time as well.

In addition, 390 goat keepers now have “pucca” goat-shed, 100 households have horticulture plots and nearly 50% of the participating households have fodder trees that also provide shade to one and all during the hot summer season.

6. Women's Empowerment

Gender balance and equity is cross cutting theme in all GVNML interventions. GVNML strongly believes in strengthening of women status in our rural society; involving women in economic generation activities; and encouraging women to access and leverage all types of help and support including services (especially those that are specifically designed for women only) by the State. With such guiding principles, GVNML has focused on different aspects of women empowerment. GVNML has continued to encourage, promote and strengthen the Self-Help Groups (SHGs) groups. The SHG activities among others include - promote saving habits in women; initiate process of building confidence in women to talk with village men, Bank officials, Panchayat Raj representatives; and articulate their problems/ issues as well as their needs in all forums. In this direction 35 SHGs were formed in 11 villages with 413 members. The formation of these groups started in 2008 and first 3 years utilised in formation and establishing basic norms - guiding principles, setting rules and regulation mechanism, observing and following the regulatory mechanism so developed and building their capacity in human behaviors/ leaderships and overall management systems and practices.

From 2014 onwards our efforts are being invested in trying to sustain and run these groups without GVNML support, and to some extent this has been achieved. GVNML conducts periodic meetings of all groups members in order to track and monitor their progress and to assess whether these Groups are moving in the desired direction. With regular savings and adherence to financial discipline each member, on an average, has an amount of Rs. 7193 in their respective amount; the loan capacity per group per month that the group can access is nearly around Rs. 30,000/-to 40,000/-. However, this is subject to the size of loan and depends on activity for which the loan is being sought.



Outcome

Women Members of these groups have gained in self-confidence on one hand and have gained the confidence of their family members especially the male members on the other. Among others, these women are performing as the person who can and who has helped boost the overall family income by adding new ones or by strengthening old/ existing activities being carried out by them.

During the reporting period, 24% members took loan (an average loan size is Rs. 13918/-) for setting-up new income generating activity in the family, for example, goat rearing, purchase of buffalo or cow, setting-up a new shop of grocery items, flour mill etc. Simultaneously, 14% members took loan to strengthen existing activities. These are mainly livestock, agriculture, existing shop of fancy item, and grocery. Interestingly, 26% women took loan to support family in some advancement activities like higher level education of children, to meet some special requirements of family like construction of toilet, house construction and to meet hospital expenses during deliveries/other health problem.

As a result or consequence of all initiatives and efforts, the women now can step out of their homes and, indeed, travel/ visit nearby townships, for example, Dudu and Kishangarh, for purchase of various goods and items; medical help; and any other family reasons.

In addition, women elected as representatives in the Gram Panchayat member are getting to be more vocal and these can be easily seen or heard in the meetings. They confidently raise issues concerning their rights, equity and social justice.

7. Environmental improvement/ enhancement - creating awareness

In addition to various ongoing programmes enumerated as above, GVNML aims to strengthen the green cover of the area across all its area of operation. Several initiatives and efforts under this programme head are directed to create a balance between human and nature that leads to a better environment. To this end, since 1977 GVNML had implemented many social as well as technical projects. However, from 1986 onwards we have taken up specialized tailored made social cause initiatives with a view to apply, in the field, concepts elaborated as under:

Annual Padyatra:

Padyatra is a means of reaching out and making contact on foot with like-minded individuals, communities - public at large including institutions, organizations and agencies within the realm or domain of our areas of interest and concerns. It can be, among others, a first step, to enter in a dialogue with different actors and players in the field of development and cooperation.

For us at GVNML, the Padyatra is also a means of mass communication, information collection, creating awareness - thereby educating people/ communities and, alongside, undertaking joint exercise for situation analysis of issues and problems faced by the rural community on one hand and jointly trying to find viable and feasible alternative approaches and development strategies for improving the quality of life on the other.

Simultaneously, through such an event (like the padyatra), we are trying to develop a “cadre” of local guardians of these natural resources. We are in the process of developing a local system whereby the person who encroaches upon the common properties that encompass natural resources; fells trees; and engages in illegal mining activities etc., can be questioned and tried by adopting/ adhering to or following democratic process and procedures as laid down under the constitution and law of the State.

Different activities are taken up, for example, worship of our natural resources base such as Talab, Ped (Trees), Panghat Pujan, offering of holy water from “Pushkar” in Ajmer district into key village tanks of our area, and then local community is invited and persuaded to take oath by holding holy threads in both hands with a message of judicious and disciplined use of village natural resources. Subsequently, the holy threads or “moli” is tied to nearby trees by declaring brotherhood relation with the trees in the village. Later, village meetings are conducted that have agenda pertaining to management of village resources, problems in secure livelihoods etc. During the course of such public meetings, GVNML also anchors, facilitates and motivates the local community to declare their role for environment and greenery. Village community are mobilised to plan developmental activities that ought to be taken up on the village commons, plantation of trees - both on common lands and private lands. People are encouraged to declare and commit to undertaking “shramdaan (voluntary labour contribution)” for the maintenance and management of the “Naadi” or “Talab”. Besides, they will also follow the rules made under Khulla Chidiya Ghar (eco-park) that are being developed in the area.

The Padyatra closing ceremony, in 2015-16, was organized as an event. Mr. Basrav Patil, Member of Parliament - Rajaya Sabha presided over the function, which was attended by nearly 750 plus local community and village leaders. Subsequently, different GVNML annual awards were presented to select audience.

Given below, in brief, is the data pertaining to the reporting period:

2015-16			2016-17		
1st Rally (20 to 23 Nov. 2015)	7 villages covered	430 people involved	1st Rally (11 to 15 Nov. 2016)	10 villages covered	1300 people involved
2nd Rally 22 to 25 Nov. 2015	9 villages covered	650 people involved	2nd Rally 14 to 15 Nov. 2016	5 villages covered	325 people involved

Annual Awards in recognition of meritorious works

GVNML has constituted three public awards and these are termed as “Ratan”. These are on regional basis viz. Dhundhar (Jaipur region), Mewar (Udaipur region) and Marwar (Jodhpur region) Ratan or Award. These awards are accorded to individual and/ or an institution or agency engaged in public service cause initiatives and effort. By giving out such awards annually, GVNML is trying to develop a cadre of eco-volunteers and in this direction. We identify those individuals or institution/ agency, who are already engaged in environmental improvement activities like planting trees, saving land from encroachment (especially from land mafia), conserve rain water etc. Selection of such initiatives and efforts, we understand these as a people based campaign for saving nature. In addition, we consider these individuals or organisation/ agency as a definite role model for others to imbibe.

The 2015-16 Awardees are given below:

Dhundhar Ratan Award

Bhanwar Lal Jat from Choru Village near Phagi, Jaipur district has developed a common plantation place with 700 plants by getting help and support of the villagers. He has become a role model for villagers in the region.

Moti Giri Maharaaj, has made efforts to cover a hillock, which locally is called “Tordy ki Pahari”, with plantation. He developed a grain storage for birds and, now, daily offers feed to the birds every day. He has also constructed structures that are used as drinking water arrangements for birds and wildlife in the local area.

Mewar Ratan Award

Ratan Lal Sahu: He planted around 2500 plants and most of these are now more than 10 feet tall in height on both sides of the roads. He plans to cover all roads that lead to Bhilwara town by trees on both sides of the roads. His efforts are by himself. He has not taken a single rupee from anyone. He has a small power cart to transport water tank used for watering the plants. He is engaged 365 days a year in this initiative/ cause.

The 2016-17 Awardees are:

Dhundhar Ratan Award

Nawal Singh: He renovated a historical “bawadi” - step well in his village, which was almost on the verge of collapsing. He reconstructed/ renovated the structure with local artisans and masons. He used some beautiful stone carvings that match the existing landscape. It has become an excellent place to visit - like a tourist spot for both the outsiders and the locals. In addition, he also planted around 500 plants in the village gauchar/ common land.

Mewar Ratan Award

Rao Rajendra Basanti Devi Khemawat Trust - Rani, Pali: The trust has planted more than a hundred thousand saplings of “Neem” and has raised and nurtured these as road side shelter-belt plantation on both side of roads leading to Rani Township in Pali district.





GVNML

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