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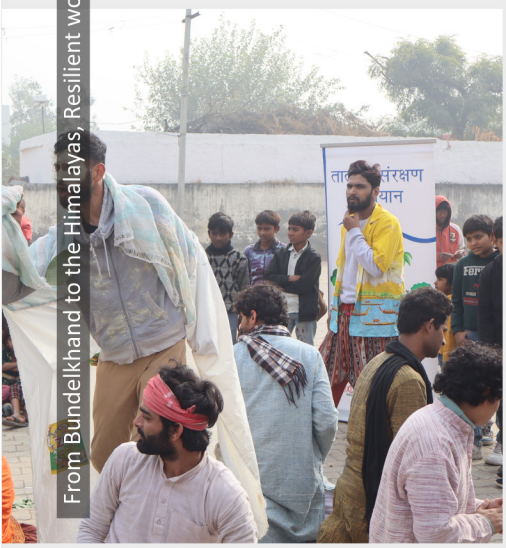
ALTERNATIVES DEVELOPMENT

Monthly newsletter on issues of sustainable development

From Bundelkhand to the Himalayas, Resilient women, thriving communities are leading climate action.



Resilient Communities, Restored Futures: Climate Action From Ground Up

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Rural communities in India are facing significant challenges from climate change, such as dwindling water sources and changing agricultural practices. However, Maj Gen. Rahul Bhardwaj says resilience is evident in grassroots solutions that promote sustainability, like rejuvenating ponds in Gautam Buddha Nagar and implementing waste management in Nalagarh. He believes these initiatives highlight the importance of local knowledge and community action, focusing on the connections between water security, sanitation, and economic opportunities.

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In this article, Aakriti Uttam highlights the importance of a community-led Theory of Change under Project Prakriti in Nalagarh, Himachal Pradesh, developed with the community, not for them. This approach ensures local ownership from the planning stage, integrating voices, traditions, and aspirations.

Viksit Gaon se Viksit Bharat@2047 07

Integrated Village Development Programme (IVDP), part of the Viksit Bharat@2047 vision, aims to transform rural India, where 65% of the population relies on agriculture. In this article, Dr Swayamprabha Das describes how it utilises existing schemes to transform villages into engines of economic growth and the challenges it faces, which need to be addressed to enhance its effectiveness and foster resilient rural communities.

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In this article, Mohd Azeem Rehber highlights the challenges in Sonebhadra and DA's efforts since 2012 to promote sustainable village development, empowering communities for lasting change. He also notes DA's expansion into Rudraprayag, Uttarakhand, focusing on agricultural resilience, ecological restoration, and participatory planning.

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In this article, Anurag Singh Jadon discusses DA's innovative approach, with support from Azim Premji Foundation, in transforming the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) landscape for children in Bundelkhand's Niwari district. With thoughtfully designed toilets, integrated hygiene education, and sustainable practices, DA is enhancing children's health and well-being, promoting school attendance, and fostering a culture of cleanliness and community engagement.

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Creating Climate Resilient Rural Communities

Women at Jal Chaupal discussing their ideas about maintaining the rejuvenated pond

As climate change accelerates, the vulnerabilities of rural communities across India are no longer hidden — they are starkly visible in depleting water sources, and declining soil health. These changes have disrupted the rhythms of life in our villages in ways both immediate and profound. The weather shifts have affected agricultural patterns, causing forced migrations and displacing livelihoods that once depended on predictable natural cycles.

Yet, even within this unfolding crisis, powerful stories emerge that reaffirm a fundamental truth: **resilience takes root at the grassroots.** Stories that remind us that the most powerful solutions are built not in policy rooms alone, but emerge from the village, hamlets, fields, forests, and water bodies where communities live and struggle every day. These solutions are found in the daily decisions, actions, and commitments of communities living closest to the land.

The theme of this edition, stems from the belief that the solutions to the climate crisis must be rooted in communities, anchored in local wisdom, and nurtured through inclusive systems. Our work across vast and various geographies such as **Sonebhadra, Bundelkhand, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Jhajjar, Chhindwara, and Nalagarh** has revealed that when communities are empowered with the tools, knowledge, trust, and voice to act and lead, transformation follows.

It highlights how **community-led, decentralised models of development rooted in ecosystem restoration, WASH systems,** and sustainable livelihoods are shaping a new, climate-resilient narrative — one where **resilience is locally driven, and futures are self-determined.** Whether it is rejuvenating ponds in Gautam Budhdha Nagar, building integrated water and waste management systems in Nalagarh, enabling safe sanitation in Bundelkhand, or strengthening the voices of women and youth through Radio Bundelkhand—these interconnected efforts strengthen both environmental and social systems, built on the pillars of **nature-based solutions, systems thinking,** and **local ownership.**

These models across various geographies demonstrate how peri-urban and rural areas alike can implement circular economy principles through integrated water and waste systems, rejuvenate degraded commons, adopt climate-smart farming, and foster women-led entrepreneurship. They are not only improving

incomes and strengthening green infrastructure but also recharging aquifers, enhancing food and water security, and building social cohesion through collective ownership and innovation.

Meanwhile, our platform **Radio Bundelkhand** is doing way beyond amplifying messages it is empowering communities with critical knowledge, igniting behaviour change, and nurturing grassroots leadership especially among women and youth.

These diverse initiatives reflect a common thread: **resilience cannot be built in silos. It is rooted in community participation and ownership.** Water security, sanitation, waste systems, and economic opportunity are interdependent. And by placing communities at the centre of development, we ensure that solutions are context-specific, culturally appropriate, and sustainable. This bottom-up approach calls for policy frameworks and institutional mechanisms that acknowledge the complex interconnectedness of water, livelihoods, ecosystems, and social systems and position **Integrated Village Development (IVD)** as a core strategy to build long-term resilience to climate-induced challenges.

Group of children enjoying nukkad natak on pond rejuvenation in Gautam Budhdha Nagar

An elderly woman engaging with DA field team

This issue of DANL is both a reflection of our collective journey and a reaffirmation of our commitment: to nurture resilient communities by restoring their relationship with nature, reviving local knowledge systems, and fostering innovations that regenerate ecosystems and restore futures. Through stories of transformation and ground-level collective action, we hope to inspire dialogue and call those in power in government, in institutions, and in philanthropy to invest in models that are locally driven, inclusive, and future-facing.

Because let us embrace the fact that the path to a restored future does not lie in policy alone. It lies in the lived wisdom of our communities, in their quiet strength and everyday solutions. It lies in working collaboratively to build a sustainable and equitable future—from the ground up. And in understanding that change begins in our villages where people are not just enduring climate change, but reshaping its narrative.

We must listen, learn, and walk with them. ❐

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When Communities Lead, Resilience Grows

Jal Sakhi Samuh in front of Water Treatment Plant (WTP) in Nalagarh

We can walk alone, but need of the hour is to walk together and take community development initiatives in our own hand, says Reshma didi, member of a women collective, Jal Samuh, in Nalagarh-Himachal Pradesh, who now ensures clean and safe drinking water is available at doorsteps to the community members.

Nikkowal village in Kirpalpur Panchayat of Nalagarh block, Himachal Pradesh once suffered from availability and accessibility to clean and safe drinking water, with industrialization and urbanisation coupled with climate change severely impacting their ground water. Recognising the urgency, Development Alternatives, in partnership with HUL Prabhat, initiated Project Prakriti — a community-driven initiative focused on waste management, water conservation, and safe drinking water. As it was implemented across three villages of the Kirpalpur Gram Panchayat, the project witnessed woman collective coming forward and taking charge in their hands. From testing the household water samples, to designing mechanisms of operating and maintaining the Water Treatment Plant, to encouraging communities and creating awareness, the collective has redefined the processes of transformative change.

The two nano-filter water treatment plants installed in Rakhram Singh and Nikoowal villages, provided 2.80 lakh litres of safe drinking water annually to over 200 households. These systems are not just technically efficient, but are operated and maintained by trained community members, ensuring both functionality and ownership.

The waste management component was equally community-centric. Under this component, the project supported the development of a 1,400 sq. ft. material recovery facility, successfully managing 130 tonnes of waste from 753 households. Through sustained community engagement and local governance, the initiative achieved an impressive 75% waste segregation rate and 80% user fee collection, while cleaning up 18 waste hotspots — two of which were creatively beautified using recycled materials. The management model not only ensures financial sustainability through user

fees and material sales but is also governed and monitored by local self-government institutions, reinforcing community ownership and long-term accountability.

In Mhaisi Palasi village, our water conservation initiative saw the community leading by example. A 0.38-hectare dead pond was adopted by Shivalik Valley School- a local educational institution, after it was rejuvenated. This initiative created a sense of ownership among the students who understand the importance of water conservation.

Project Prakriti in Nalagarh is a living example of how essential it is that theory of change is developed along with the community and not for the community, which also enables their ownership in the initiatives right from the planning stage, which integrates their voices, opinions, traditional knowledge and aspirations.

This project is more than an infrastructure project. It is a living example of what happens when development is shaped by those it serves. Through collective action, decentralised management, and nature-based solutions, the villages of Nalagarh are showing that climate resilience is most powerful when it is rooted in the ground realities and aspirations of local communities.

It is crystal clear that Communities form the backbone of sustainable development initiatives, especially in a developing country like India and involving locals in shaping climate challenges is not just an option, but an ideal situation, to address the multifaceted challenges on people and planet, posed by climate change today.

Most dialogues on climate change often excludes voices of these groups, and they only become mere recipients of policies and initiatives designed for them which often overlook people's social-cultural and environmental perspectives.

Hence, it is utmost necessary that any transformative approach to climate resilience must be integrated with inclusive participation, local ownership, emphasis on traditional knowledge and promotion of sustainable livelihoods.

It is equally crucial that communities are heard, respected for their deep knowledge of the environment, and not merely are the recipients but leading the power to influence the narratives and are key agents of change as the agency lies with them. ❐

A child holding the pond rejuvenation poster during a nukkad natak

A Material Recovery Facility (MRF) woman worker sorting out waste

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Viksit Gaon se Viksit Bharat@2047

India Lives in Its Villages

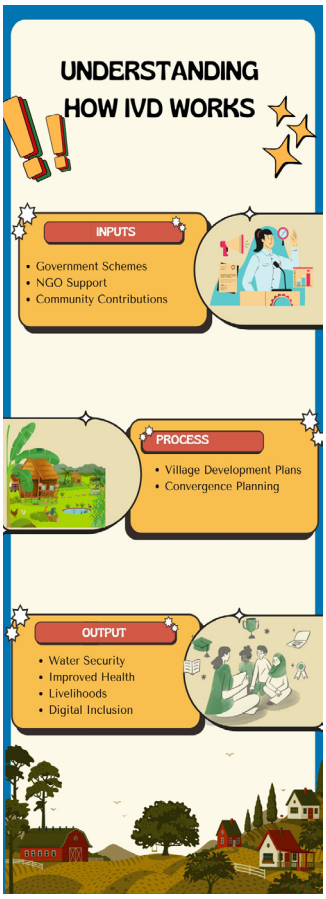
As highlighted in the Economic Survey 2022-23, approximately 65% of India's population (as of 2021) resides in rural areas, with 47% dependent on agriculture for livelihood. This underscores that the growth of rural India is as critically important as that of the urban and industrial sectors for national progress. Hence, rural development is central to India's socio-economic planning and development.

Over the years, the Government of India has consistently prioritised improving the standard of living in rural areas to foster more equitable and inclusive development. Its engagement in the rural economy is anchored in 'transforming lives and livelihoods through proactive socio-economic inclusion, integration, and empowerment of rural India' (Economic Survey 2022-23). Encouragingly, the National Family Health Survey (2019–21 compared to 2025–26 projections) reflects notable progress in access to essentials such as safe drinking water, electricity, health, and financial inclusion.

As India continues to confront challenges like multi-dimensional poverty, underemployment, and shrinking natural resources—especially water—the government is shifting from siloed schemes to integrated models. While flagship programmes like the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) and the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) address specific needs such as housing and water access, the Integrated Village Development Programme (IVDP) offers a more holistic path forward. Based on the Gandhian ideal of 'Gram Swaraj', the IVDP reimagines villages as empowered, self-sufficient ecosystems. It replaces isolated interventions with a multi-sectoral, participatory approach encompassing social, economic, infrastructure development, and environmental transformation. By weaving these elements together, the IVDP aims not only to develop villages but also aims to transform them into empowered, resilient communities capable of thriving independently.

Policy and Governance Mechanism

Unlike standalone schemes, IVDP is designed to work through a convergence approach—



Understanding How Integrated Village Development (IVD) Works

drawing strength from both top-down planning and grassroots participation. This method not only avoids duplication but also ensures efficient use of human resources and funds at the community level.

Several national schemes align well with IVDP. For instance, the Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) encourages members of Parliament to adopt villages and drive development through convergence, using schemes such as MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act), PMGSY (Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana), and NRLM (National Rural Livelihoods Mission). Another relevant initiative is Mission Antyodaya, which aims to lift 50,000 Gram Panchayats out of poverty through participatory planning. Similarly, the Rurban Mission focuses on developing rural growth clusters that incorporate urban-like infrastructure while preserving the rural identity.

Institutions and Community Participation

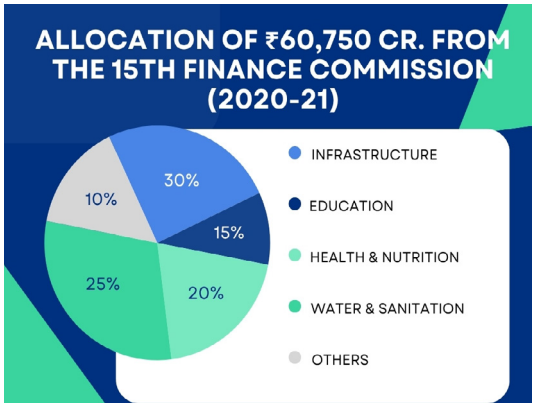
The Gram Panchayat and active community participation are essential components of the core of IVDP. This approach ensures that development is locally driven, context-sensitive, and sustainable. The Village Development Plan (VDP) prepared through participatory rural appraisal process helps align fund allocations from existing schemes with local priorities. It also synchronises planning cycles with financial disbursements.

From planning and execution to monitoring and social mobilisation, both the Panchayat and the community are key to IVDP's success. Additionally, Panchayats receive untied funds under the 14th and 15th Finance Commissions to fill critical development gaps not covered under specific schemes. In 2020-21, the 15th Finance Commission allocated ₹60,750 crore to rural local bodies (Ministry of Finance, 2021).

Financial Convergence Mechanism

Unlike centrally funded schemes, the IVDP operates through a convergence model—pooling resources from government programmes, private initiatives, and community contributions. This approach makes it a robust financial mechanism at the Panchayat level, which is essential. Funds are managed through Gram Panchayats, District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs), and state-level rural development departments. Each year, Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDPs) are developed annually with community participation, aligning sectoral funds and fostering inter-departmental efforts.

Although this bottom-up approach encourages efficient implementation tools, there are several challenges that persist. These include inconsistent fund flow hampering timely implementation, planning gaps, and technical capacities leading to underutilised funds and weak financial oversight mechanisms. Strengthening the Public Financial Management System (PFMS) and enabling real-time fund tracking can enhance both financial accountability and effectiveness within the IVDP.



15th Finance Commission allocation

Case Studies

In Tamil Nadu, the IVDP Krishnagiri project was initiated by an NGO in the 1980s and has gained recognition for integrating microfinance, education, and agriculture development to uplift tribal communities. A key highlight was its watershed programme, which resulted in the construction of 92 major and 239 minor check dams across streams and gullies. These structures captured monsoon rains, recharged groundwater levels, and provided water for irrigation, livestock, and domestic needs. As a result, groundwater levels rose by 40 feet, enabling year-round farming and allowing tribal communities to remain rooted in their indigenous villages. The project has positively impacted nearly 40,000 people across 60 villages (IVDP Krishnagiri, 2018).

Similarly, Development Alternatives, under the IVDP, have implemented initiatives in Sonebhadra, Rudraprayag, Bundelkhand, etc. to enhance water availability for agriculture and domestic use. They engage with communities and disseminate knowledge on sustainable practices through social media platforms. The establishment of community-managed water tanks and the promotion of climate-resilient agricultural practices, such as rainwater harvesting and organic farming, allow communities adapt to the challenges posed by climate change.

Building Pathways for Viksit Bharat@2047

Despite its well-intentioned focus on participatory planning and implementation, the IVDP faces several structural challenges, primarily due to its convergence-based approach. Due to lack of coordination among government departments, delayed funds flow, reluctant community participation, weak data systems, and the lack of accountability have led to inefficiencies in implementation. In some cases, political influence and corruption have

Pathway to Viksit Bharat 2047

further hindered the transformative potential of this integrated model.

The IVDP holds the promise of a Viksit Bharat@2047 by transforming villages into hubs of growth and economic development. Simultaneously, it aims to enhance panchayat capacities through training, empower women panchayats as decision makers, establish performance-based incentives, and provide financial autonomy to local bodies.

Moreover, in a rapidly digitising world, integrating digital tools is essential. As noted in the Economic Survey 2024–25, 'with a youthful and adaptable workforce, the adaptation of AI offers the potential to support economic growth'. Establishing Digital Village Platforms that leverage AI and GIS can revolutionise village-level planning, resource mapping, and citizen participation.

To realise the vision of Viksit Bharat@2047, it is imperative to strengthen the IVDP framework. This can be achieved by institutionalising convergence through dedicated village-level coordination committees, enhancing panchayat capacities through training, empowering women leaders in decision-making roles, and introducing performance-based incentives tied to measurable outcomes. Additionally, granting greater financial autonomy to Panchayats and leveraging existing NGO and CSR partnerships to foster local innovations will be crucial.

The IVDP holds immense promise in shaping Viksit Bharat@2047—by transforming villages into engines of economic growth, while delivering social, environmental, and cultural benefits, reducing inequality, and unlocking the potential of rural youth and women.

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From Sonebhadra to Rudraprayag: A New Blueprint for Inclusive Wellbeing

Sonebhadra is a district grappling with issues such as water scarcity, poor health, lack of employment, and other challenges related to human development. Nestled in the rain-fed region of eastern Uttar Pradesh, the district faces an uncomfortable contrast between abundance and absence. It suffers from an acute shortage of safe drinking water, leading to exponential health issues. Despite the rivers that flow through its spine, Sonebhadra remains plagued by drought. The hope for improvement hinges on distant rain clouds, as the land, rich in potential, remains underserved, with water rarely reaching the ground.

The tribal communities of Sonebhadra have been forced to abandon their traditional roles and take on jobs as daily-wage labourers, seasonal migrants, or workers earning wages that are often below standard market rates. Although horticulture has barely made its mark in the region, there is a general willingness among the community to plant WADI orchards in their fields. The initiative aims to revive the exhausted soil and provide the community with a modest source of income for their households.

To transform the despair of Sonebhadra ecosystem into something sustainable and enduring, Development Alternatives (DA) has put its philanthropic philosophy into action. Through its integrated village development approach—a model tailored to the geography it serves and shapes solutions in dialogue with the land and its people—DA has focused on weaving livelihoods, agriculture, water, and health into something that might—if tended—create a resilient community.

Since 2012, DA has been working alongside Sonebhadra's tribal families, quietly demonstrating and expanding sustainable practices through agro-horti and establishing enterprises for landless families. DA actively promotes soil and water conservation, nurtures community institutions, creates livelihood opportunities, and helps restore essential facilities such as access to drinking water.

In partnership with LIC Housing Finance Limited (LIC-HFL), DA has been co-creating context-specific solutions from the ground up, empowering communities inclusively and sustainably and helping them build their blueprints for resilience for the future.

Women farmers in Sonebhadra walking to their farms

What began as the quiet establishment of Self-Help Groups and Farmers' Interest Groups in Sonebhadra has evolved into resilient hubs in that facilitate group savings, financial education, and entrepreneurial growth.

A woman entrepreneur sitting in the Donna Pattal unit

Today, their members—mostly women and small farmers—are exploring new ventures, including slipper-making, goat-rearing, leaf-plate crafting (Dona Pattal), vermicomposting, fish farming, flour mill, fibre products unit (such as water tanks, cooler body, and flower pots). They are also managing drinking water units, like the RO plant (drinking water unit), and implementing integrated farming models that include polyhouse, dairy farms, and WADI (fruit orchard).

One such initiative is the co-creation of 'Locally

Owned and Community-Operated' (LOCO) models—such as the JalTARA filter. This project is managed by Jal Samuh, a group of local members responsible for the operation and maintenance of the JalTARA filter, which provides the community with access to safe drinking water. This community-led management approach ensures the long-term sustainability of the system, even after DA exits the intervention area. Such socio-ecological development efforts are laying the foundation for a comprehensive blueprint for rural transformation—one of the key characteristics of this initiative.

Community health centres, staffed by local medical professionals, offer primary care, maternal and child health services, and awareness workshops. By promoting regular health check-ups, increasing awareness of health issues, and ensuring easy access to services, these centres are fostering healthier habits and strengthening trust in local healthcare systems in remote tribal villages.

The deepening of nalas and the development of check dams have stabilised surface water sources and restored groundwater levels, addressing a major water crisis in the area. As a result of this intervention, farmers can now grow a wider variety of crops beyond the regular rain-fed types. This shift has allowed farming households to increase their income and better adapt to climate change.

Drawing on the prototypes crafted and hard-won learning of changes in Sonebhadra, DA is now expanding its integrated village development model to the steep hills of Rudraprayag in Uttarakhand. The goal is to co-develop solutions that address issues such as declining agriculture, climate vulnerabilities, and the erosion of traditional practices in a region that is both ecologically fragile and emotionally frayed by outmigration.

Yet the core strategy remains unchanged: capacity-building, ecological restoration, and participatory planning continue to be the long-standing pillars of this approach. These elements guarantee its applicability and anchor the promise of long-lasting transformation.

In this arc of the journey from Sonebhadra to Rudraprayag, DA's philosophy of co-creating sustainable futures is reflected again. This people-centred IVD model continues to stitch environment, economy, and equity, paving the way for resilient, inclusive, and self-sufficient communities from the ground up. ❐

Jal Sakhis queued in front of JalTARA filter

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WASH for Climate Security

The Bundelkhand region, known for its rich cultural heritage, now faces mounting challenges such as acute water scarcity and the growing impacts of climate change. In response, Development Alternatives (DA), with support from the Azim Premji Foundation (APF), is engaging local communities through eco-sensitive approaches to build climate resilience. A key focus of this effort is the enhancement of Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) infrastructure in schools and Anganwadi centres across the Niwari district of Madhya Pradesh. These interventions are laying the foundation for healthier, safer, and more child- and climate-friendly villages.

Context and Challenge

The Niwari district experiences erratic rainfall, recurrent droughts, and a severely depleted water table, all of which severely impact access to clean water and adequate sanitation. Many schools and Anganwadi centres had poorly designed and unsafe toilet facilities, unsuitable for young children. There were reports of children getting locked inside cubicles due to faulty doors, creating fear among both children and parents. In several cases, parents even discouraged their children from using the facilities altogether. The need for safe, accessible, and child-appropriate sanitation infrastructure was urgent and undeniable.

DA team inspecting the poorly designed and unsafe toilet facilities

Linking WASH with Climate Resilience

DA's WASH initiative demonstrates how nature-based, locally driven solutions can serve dual purposes—addressing both public health needs and the climate crisis. By providing accessible and hygienic water and sanitation facilities, particularly for children, the initiative supports improved health, higher school attendance, especially among girls, and overall well-being.

Community participation lies at the heart of this model. By involving residents in planning, financing, and maintenance, the initiative strengthens ownership, reduces dependency on external aid, and builds long-term climate resilience.

Sustainability Through Ecosystem Restoration

Beyond infrastructure, DA's approach integrates water conservation measures such as rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge, vital in a region where water scarcity is intensifying.

School kids in front of a fresh wall painting encouraging water conservation

This intersection of WASH and environmental restoration showcases how addressing basic needs can go hand in hand with combating climate change. It creates a pathway where rural development supports both human health and ecological well-being.

The DA Model: Community-led, child-centric, and climate-resilient

DA adopted a comprehensive approach by upgrading WASH infrastructure in two primary schools and two Anganwadi centres in the villages of Churara and Routiyana Kashi Pura. These interventions are currently benefitting 359 children, offering not just improved sanitation but also promoting sustained hygienic behavior.

Key Innovations and Features

• **Child-Appropriate Design:** Toilets were custom-built with a 42-inch seat height to accommodate young users comfortably.

• **Dual-Latch Doors:** Doors were equipped with both a low latch for children and a high latch for staff, to prevent accidental lock-ins and enhance safety.

• **Gender-Sensitive Infrastructure:** Separate, tiled toilet and urinal units for boys and girls, along with washbasins with running water, to promote hygiene and dignity.

• **Handwashing Access:** One handwashing station per 15 students, to ensure regular hand hygiene after toilet use and before meals.

Education and Behaviour Change

To reinforce hygiene education, DA implemented the Building as Learning Aid (BaLA) approach, using murals and diagrams on school walls to teach children about the human body, hygiene, farming, and the solar system. This transformed the learning environment, making hygiene education both visual and memorable.

Teachers, parents, and community members were actively engaged in dialogue and capacity-building sessions around sanitation and cleanliness, fostering community-wide adoption of healthy habits.

Impact and Lessons Learned

• **Enhanced Access:** Over 350 children now have access to safe, functional, and child-friendly toilets, leading to better health and improved school attendance.

• **Strengthened Trust:** Parents and teachers now have greater confidence in the safety and hygiene of school facilities, reinforcing educational continuity.

• **Community Ownership:** Local financial and maintenance contributions have fostered a strong sense of pride and responsibility, key to the long-term sustainability of the initiative.

• **Generational Change:** The combination of BaLA tools and hands-on hygiene education has helped nurture a new generation that values cleanliness and environmental responsibility.

Students in front of newly renovated school toilet

Students in front of newly renovated school toilet

Conclusion

DA's WASH initiative in Niwari is a compelling example of how climate action can be rooted in community-led, child-focused solutions. By addressing local challenges through sustainable, eco-friendly methods and involving residents at every step, the project has created infrastructure and behaviours that support health, learning, and environmental stewardship.

As India faces increasing climate-related pressures, models like this offer a road map for resilient rural development, where simple, nature-based solutions can create lasting change. With the right support and community engagement, these efforts can be scaled and adapted to other regions, building a safer, healthier, and more sustainable future for all. ❐

School kids at the hand washing station

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Clean, safe, and sustainable, the JalTARA water filter is transforming access to drinking water for communities in Sonbhadra.

Be Part of Resilient Change in RUDRAPRAYAG!

Through our **IVD (Integrated Village Development)** initiative, we're working to build climate resilient, self-sustaining villages in Rudraprayag where restored ecosystems meet empowered communities.

Calling all changemakers, partners, and local champions

Join us in driving grassroots transformation in Rudraprayag

One of India's most ecologically fragile regions

To collaborate, contribute, or learn more, connect with **Ekta Kashyap at ekta@devalt.org**.

Let's build resilience, village by village

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