



From Participation to Change

A Compilation of Stories from Nawada District of Bihar

**Credits :**

This publication required the cooperation of a large number of people, particularly the marginal community who invariably offered warm hospitality as well as their candid views. Many of them are mentioned in the stories that follow. Credit goes to the team Holistic Rural Development Program (HRDP) for providing invaluable guidance and support throughout the process.

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Prolouge :

The participation of communities plays a crucial role in bringing about rural change. Engaging these communities in the process of development and decision-making can lead to sustainable change. Participation contributes to good governance, empowerment and social inclusion for disadvantaged sections of the society. It also provides communities with the influence and control over development initiatives, resources and decisions that affect them. This is the story of "From Participation to Rural Change: A Compilation of Stories from Nawada District of Bihar" paints a vivid picture of compassion and hope for a better tomorrow.

Through the pages of this book, you will witness the efforts of Village Development Committee (VDC) in planning and implementing developmental initiatives in the village and brave farmers who embraced the sustainable agricultural practices and new technologies that increased their crop yields. You will meet resilient women who were empowered by entrepreneurial skills and resources that significantly improved their livelihood.

As you turn the pages, you will explore the initiatives of Holistic Rural Development Program (HRDP) that have made a significant impact on rural development, leaving a lasting impression on various aspects, ranging from enhancing Aanganwari infrastructure, a cornerstone for early childhood education and nutrition, to providing crucial support for safe infrastructure, clean drinking water, and toilet facilities, leading to positive outcomes. The booklet will give you a glimpse of inspiring stories of transforming government schools into smart schools to ensure quality education for the children and also about HRDP initiatives towards improving access to health-care services and facilitating the adoption of safe hygiene practices that played a vital role in making healthier communities.

In bringing these stories to light, we sincerely hope to focus on the accomplishments of communities that have seized a chance to better their condition and encourage active participation of the communities to expand rich potential of bottom-up development process within the village. We sincerely hope that the insights and stories captured in this report will serve as a source of inspiration for future rural development initiatives and contribute to the betterment of communities in Nawada District and beyond.

Village Development Committee: The Process of Participatory Planning and Implementation

The Village Development Committee (VDC) have been proved as a vehicle for participatory and local self-governance in holistic rural development. The process of local participation sensitizes communities about the value of meaningful participation in making local institutions vibrant and improving government programs to the last mile. The VDC incorporates local knowledge and choices into village development plans to support inclusive and sustainable rural development and builds the capacity to identify and address community problems and provide solutions for holistic rural development.



हमारा गाँव ,हमारी समस्या ,हमसे बेहतर कौन सुलझाए !

Members of VDC is involved in designing their own destiny, sharing problems and taking actions that can make their life better.

The Bhartiya Jan Utthan Parishad Under the Holistic Rural Development program (HRDP) supported by HDFC Bank, so far 15 VDC have been strengthened and are operational in 15 villages in Warsaliganj and Pakribarwan blocks of Nawada District, with the vision to encompass better education, natural resource management, skill-building, livelihood creation, healthcare, and hygiene within the village. All members of the committee sit on the same jajum (carpet), to deliberate and identify key areas of development that needed immediate attention through a series of open discussions, monthly meetings, and collective advocacy efforts.

Through the participatory approach, the VDC and HRDP collaborated to promote sustainable development in the villages. They facilitated training on organic farming techniques, installed solar-based lights, promoted education through smart schools, and improved sanitary facilities. They also participated in village development committee discussions on water conservation, crop management, financial literacy, skill development and livelihood enhancement. They also set up free health camps and encouraged safe hygiene practices through behaviour-change communication.

"हमारे गाँव के सभी लोग अपने गाँव के विकास के प्रति संवेदनशील हैं। इसके लिए हमने भारतीय जान उत्थान परिषद् एवं समग्र ग्रामीण विकास परियोजना (एचडीएफसी) के सहयोग से गाँव स्तर पर ग्राम विकास समिति का गठन किया है। मासिक बैठक के माध्यम से, गाँव के समस्याओं का समाधान निकालते हैं हमने शिक्षा, स्वच्छता, जल संसाधन, रोजगार, खेती, के क्षेत्र में कई पहल किए हैं इन पहलों के माध्यम से हमने अपने गाँव के लोगों के जीवन को सुधारने का प्रयास किया है और आने वाले समय में इसको बदलने का संकल्प रखा है।" Says Mr. Bambam, Member of the Village Development Committee, Bali.

New light to the Villages

The use of energy is an important development indicator of the household's, as well as the village's, overall well-being. Despite the development, villages across Nawada District grapple with energy poverty, with households disconnected from electricity. A majority of these rural households rely on hazardous resources such as biomass fuel, wood, coal, and kerosene to meet their cooking and lighting requirements. However, this approach relies entirely on non-renewable sources of energy, contributing to an increase in the carbon footprint per household. safety of the women was a major concern for the villagers. Until Bhatritya Jan Utthan Parishad -HDFC Bank's Holistic Rural Development Project (HRDP) initiative stepped in with a affordable and sustainable solution.

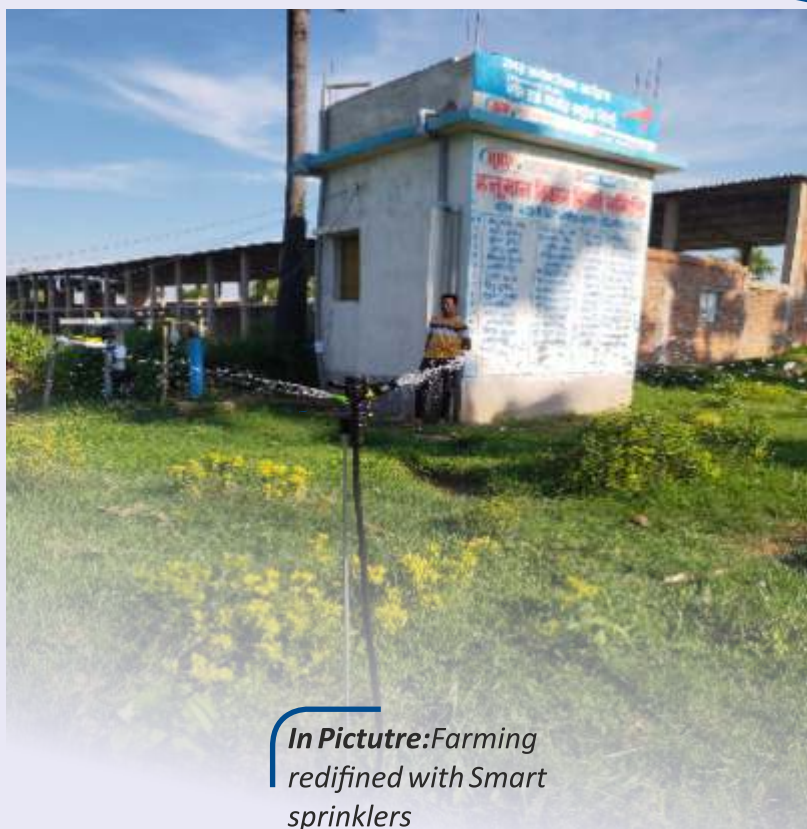


In the glow of these solar streetlights, the villages of Warisaliganj and Pakribarawan stood as a testament to what could be achieved through partnership, vision, and a commitment to sustainable development.

With a vision to reduce carbon footprints and provide clean, renewable energy solutions, the journey of installing solar streetlights began with the collaborative efforts of the HRDP team and members of the Village Development Committee (VDC) to choose the location for the installations. Priority was given to sites that would be a blind spot at night, and a source of concern and fear for the villagers. A total of 150 solar streetlights have been successfully installed in 15 villages in Warisaliganj and Pakribarawan blocks situated within the Nawada district have harnessed solar energy, benefiting 2500–3000 families and mitigating electricity problems. In the heart of this change, a chorus of gratitude arose. The villagers applauded, exclaiming, "शाम के बाद पास के जल स्रोत से पानी लाना भी एक बड़ी चुनौती थी। लेकिन अब, हम सुरक्षित महसूस करते हैं क्योंकि शाम को रोशनी अपने आप चालू हो जाती है और सुबह तक सक्रिय रहती है।" says Nilam, a woman from village Bhojwan. An adolescent named Seema shared that, apart from safety concerns, it has impacted their social relations as well. Community members gather during the evenings, and school-going children sit together in groups to study and play late into the evening. "Days when the whole village experiences darkness due to a power cut, our streets light up with solar streetlights, she says. "The solar street has helped me work for longer hours, and my three children, two boys and a girl, can now study without the fear of losing power" says grateful Laxmi resident of Bali. For the family and hundreds of others like them, the long, dark night has finally turned into day.

Smart irrigation, Smart farmers

A sustainable and smart irrigation system for a group of marginal and small farmers helps them earn more in comparison to using polluting diesel pumps or relying on rain to irrigate their crops. Farmers in Nawada District were heavily dependent on diesel pumps for crop irrigation. Expensive diesel engines increase farm input costs and contribute to carbon emissions. Agriculture is the main source of income for most of the area. The average landholding size is low due to the scarcity of rainfall. This also results in a high cost of irrigation.



In Picture: Farming
redefined with Smart
sprinklers

Village: Bhojwan

Block: Warisaliganj

District: Nawada

To reduce the cost of irrigation, A solar-based group irrigation system in 15 villages across Nawada District was set up through the Holistic Rural Development Program (HRDP) with the collaboration of Bhartiya Jan Utthan Parishad and HDFC Bank. The initial process involves sharing information with the Village Development Committee (VDC) and the Farmer's Club. This includes enhancing the skills and knowledge of the Farmer's Club and VDC members with a special focus on creating awareness within the community about the responsible utilization of irrigation water and promoting changes in agricultural practices related to smart irrigation.

The installation of solar-based irrigation system began with the identification of clusters, measurement of catchment area, and formation of Jal Samitis (user groups). This is followed by mapping the command area of each irrigation system and deciding on the layout for the buried pipeline. Trenching for pipeline, bore well, and pump house construction work is then done by the user group through community contributions. Usage norms include the distribution of water as per a member's needs and the nominal collection of an irrigation fee. With the active participation of and joint efforts of the local community, farmer's club, and VDC, 5 solar-based irrigation systems, 5 HP solar pump and 5 government subsidised water sprinklers have been installed across 5 villages. They can now cultivate 150 acres of farmland, which benefits 1,000 farmers.

The change began after the installation of the smart irrigation system. Farmers' once barren land has become fertile; the land is now cultivable. With the system, they have estimated an increase in their annual income of almost Rs 30,000. The initiatives have led to increased crop yields, promoted more sustainable water usage practices, and improved the livelihood and income generation of farmers in the community.



In Picture: Farmers of the village have developed self-governance and self-reliance for the irrigation system since they pay a user fee and manage the same by themselves.

Village: Hunrahi

Panchayat: Dumaravan

Block: Pakribarawan

My Sustainable farming

I have been a farmer for over three decades, witnessing the evolution of agricultural practices firsthand. But the sustainable and innovative solar-based group irrigation system has been a game-changer for my farm. I was relying solely on unpredictable weather patterns or conventional irrigation methods that drained my savings and the Earth's precious water. Now I am happy that I have found a reliable and consistent water source for my crops. I recommend this system to fellow farmers who are ready to embrace a more sustainable, efficient, and responsible way of cultivating the land. I am grateful for the constant support provided by the team HRDP at BJUP.



In Picture: Sakaldev singh

Village: Khapura

Panchayat: Dumaravan

Block: Pakribarawan

District: Nawada

Vermi Compost: Bringing life to soil and fortune to the community

Vermicompost, also known as the 'farmers friend,' is a nutrient-rich organic fertilizer produced by decomposing organic matter using earthworms, thereby enhancing land productivity. However, in the villages of Nawada, there was one aspect that troubled rural households: the generation of a significant amount of organic waste from their farms, kitchens and gardens. For a long time, they were dependent on traditional methods of waste disposal, which often led to pollution and the degradation of their agricultural land.

As part of the Holistic Rural Development Programme supported by HDFC Bank-CSR, 73 farmers from 15 villages in the Pakribarwan and Warsaliganj blocks attended a training organized by Bhartiya Jan Utthan Parishad on the benefits of vermicomposting. The training involved technical sessions on the benefits of establishing vermicompost units that can help them financially as well as maintain the soil health of their agricultural farms. These sessions became platforms for learning and encouragement. Soon afterward, farmers shared their experiences and newfound knowledge among the villagers during Village Development committee meetings and community gatherings. Embracing innovation was difficult, and many of them wondered if this new approach would truly make a sustainable change. Yet they decided to give it a go.

With the cooperation and participation of farmers, the village development committee and the local communities, the construction of the vermipit began. Vermi pits were established in each village—solid structures measuring 7 feet in length, 3 feet in width, and 3 feet in height. The villagers placed these pits in strategic locations suggested by the beneficiaries themselves, ensuring that the entire community had a sense of ownership and involvement in this endeavor.

Farmers happily said, "Our initiative of building vermicompost at our farms is a motivating factor as it makes our mother earth fertile, meeting the requirements of nutrition for our crop." The impact was felt beyond the villages, as the produce nurtured by vermicompost began not just in terms of quantity but in quality as well. The farmers realized that they were not only nourishing their families with healthier food but also cultivating a source of additional income through the sale of vermicompost. Vermicomposting in the rural parts of Nawada is a journey towards resilience, adaptability, and sustainable living.



In Picture: Mukesh singh
Village: Hunrarahi
Panchayat: Pokshi
Block: Pakribarawan
District: Nawada

Farm Field school (FSS) is a major part of the programme, which essentially equips, trains, and facilitates few farmers who own big land parcels from each village with new farming techniques, vermicompost, irrigation, and intensified vegetable seed cultivation by building net houses, etc. Under it, green net, Azolla pit, drip irrigation and demonstration plot for vegetables, house nurseries for commercial cultivation of healthy vegetable seedlings have been built in the villages so far. Through this initiative, farmers are now able to cultivate seedlings early and healthy for self-usage and to sell to other farmers.

Vermicomposting: My sustainable living

पहले प्रशिक्षण के आभाव में हम वर्मीकॉम्पोस्ट के फायदे के बारे में सही जानकारी नहीं रखते थे, जिसके कारण इसका उपयोग नहीं कर पा रहे थे। यदि हम किसान वर्मीकॉम्पोस्ट का उपयोग नहीं करते तो इसके फायदे से वंचित रहते। हमें महंगे खादों का इस्तेमाल के लिए पैसे खर्च करने पड़ते थे। लेकिन अब काम लागत में भी खेती हो जाता है। *I want to cultivate organic vegetables and make a living from them so that we never have to work as laborer again. I am excited to make this dream a reality, he says, describing his future plans. Now, I am able to utilize the biomass residues produced in fields in making organic manure. I find it economical also because I have cattle and with no cost, I am able to prepare manure for Kitchen Gardens with no cost. He beams proudly.*



Blossoming acres through farm toolkit

A well-equipped farm tool kit provides farmers with access to essential tools and equipment required for various farming tasks. These tools can help streamline operations, reduce manual labour, and increase overall productivity. A farm tool kit support system provides farmers with the means to improve income and ultimately contribute to food security and rural development.

Due to financial constraints, small and marginal farmers cultivate their crops primarily through manual labour and conventional tools. In general, these farmers cultivate their land using bullocks and labour, which requires more time and human resources and results in lower yields. There is an immediate need for the introduction of machinery into agricultural operations to prevent the wastage of labour and make farming more efficient and accurate. Since Bhartiya Jan utthan Parishad works in remote rural areas of Nawada District of Bihar to enhance farm productivity and profitability, the initiative aims to make farming practices climate-resilient and cost-effective and to mitigate the risk of land degradation.

In the Village Development Committee (VDC) meetings held in the Nawada as part of the Holistic Rural Development Program supported by the HDFC Bank, the issue of a lack of agricultural machinery was thoroughly discussed. The farmers and villagers unanimously supported the purchase of farm equipments to assist in resolving their farming issues after multiple rounds of consultations. Small and marginal farmers previously had no access to machinery because it was too expensive.

The HRDP team along with the farmers and villagers, laid down the plan for the procurement and use of farm equipment. It was decided to create six user groups in the two blocks which all 15 villages of the project catchment area would fall. Each user group was to contribute Rs. 10,000 each towards procurement, and a minimal rental charge was fixed for the use of the machinery. There was also a fund kept aside for any future repair and maintenance of the machinery. The farm equipment procured by the user groups included a power thresher, a mandawa weeder, a paddy thresher, a two-in-one power sprayer, a manual sprayer, and bush cutters. "We remember the days when ploughing a field or harvesting crops meant long hours of hard work under the scorching heat of the sun. Thanks to modern farm technology, we can now complete these tasks with less physical strain," said members of the farmer club with a feeling of content on their faces.

Since the formation of the user groups and the procurement of the latest machinery, more than 500 farmers have been supported with the equipment, reducing the cost of cultivation by between 20 and 25% and increasing productivity by up to 20%. It has not just strengthened rural farmer institutions but also helped create awareness among the rural community about modern technology and equipment.



In Picture: Manish Kumar
Village: Khapura
Panchayat: Dumaravan
Block: Pakribarawan

Water sprayer, a sustainable solution to crop yield.

“Farming has been a way of life for my family for generations. However, over the years, I struggled with challenges. I previously had no access to machinery because it was too expensive. I own around 3 acres of land and cultivate paddy and vegetables. I have found the use of farm equipments like power thresher, a mandawa weeder, a paddy thresher, a two-in-one power sprayer, a manual sprayer, and bush cutters. from user groups very easy and affordable. It has saved me my precious time and has also helped me improve my income my crop yield, he boasts with glee.”

Economic empowerment through Participation: inspirational stories of Rural women

It is believed that women are agents of change. Women's voices in shaping development policy and action can make enormous contributions to their economies and beyond. Women as business owners and in leadership positions also act as role models for women and girls coming from rural areas and marginalized sections of society. But when women are equipped with resources and opportunities, everyone benefits.



In Picture: Women in discussion for enterprise development.

Village: Shahpur
Block: Warsaliganj
District: Nawada

For far too long, in remote areas of Nawada district, women have long been limited to household chores, while men would go out to work—that too, within a few and limited opportunities. There is no doubt that poverty and unemployment among them are quite vigilant. Legal, social, cultural, and economic inequalities disproportionately exclude women from full and equal participation in their communities and economies, leaving their voices unheard and their potential unreached.

The Bhartiya Jan Utthan Parishad (BJUP) is implementing the Holistic Rural Development Programme (HRDP) in 15 selected villages in Nawada, Bihar, aiming to empower vulnerable women through enterprise development. The program targets women's economic status, enterprise needs, and preferences, ranging from manufacturing to service-oriented ventures such as beauty parlors, ironing services, and small-scale grocery stores.

The BJUP project staff undertook a comprehensive background survey of potential beneficiaries to ensure the authenticity of their selection and equip them with the skills they needed to earn an income. This initiative of Enterprise Development for Women, involving 85 women from the community, gained financial independence but also enabled them to harness and amplify their talents and skills, contributing positively to their families' well-being through a deep sense of ownership and self-confidence.

"पहले हमारे गाँव में महिलाएं केवल घर के कामों में लगी रहती थीं और अर्थिक रूप से निर्भर थीं। लेकिन फिर हमने एक साथ मिलकर गाँव में ग्रामीण विकास समिति, भारतीय जान उत्थान परिषद् एवं समग्र ग्रामीण विकास परियोजना (एचडीएफसी) ने महिला उद्यमिता के क्षेत्र में कदम बढ़ाया। इस योजना के तहत, महिलाओं को समुदाय में भागीदारी के रूप में शामिल किया। इसके अंतर्गत गाँव में महिला उद्यमिता को प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए विभिन्न योजनाएँ बनाई और उन्हें आर्थिक रूप से समर्थ बनाने के लिए विभिन्न संसाधन प्रदान किया। जिससे हम आर्थिक रूप से सशक्त हो सके।" Says Phulmanti Devi of Bhojwan Village.

Unveiling hidden courage

मुझे अभी भी याद करके आँखों में आंसू आते हैं जब कुछ समय पहले मुझे चार दीवारी के अंदर बैठने को कहा जाता था और गाँव के सभाओं और बैठकों में हमारा बोलना वर्जित था” with HRDP's initiative to encourage women's entrepreneurial development, I can share my business dreams. Now I openly share my dreams, aspirations, and hope for dignified living. In the past few months, attending meetings has been the most beautiful time. I always waited for permission from a male member of my family, but these days I openly say that I am going to attend a meeting. The courage was somewhere hidden deep within my heart. I started believing in myself and my abilities. I can raise my children for a better life.

In picture: Rekha Devi
Village : Shahpur
Block: Warsaliganj
District: Nawada



Pico Machine stiched a new story

कुछ साल पहले मेरे पति मुझे छोड़ कर चले गए ,जिसके बाद मुझे मेरे और अपने बच्चों के बेहतर भविष्य की कोई उम्मीद नहीं थी। I never thought I had a future and often wondered about my identity," she says, adding that since I have been provided with the Pico Machine, I started getting frequent orders daily. By working with the Pico machine, I am now able to earn around 7,000 ₹ per month. I think that I been changed from a "simple woman" to a "superwoman". I am so grateful to the VDC and HRDP Team for what they have done to help me and my children,she says with a smile on her face.

In picture: Soni Kumari
Village: Hunrahi
Block : Warsaliganj
District: Nawada



A wooden wheel cart gave wings to self-confidence.

मेरे पति शराब पीते थे , उन्होंने मुझे और मेरे परिवार को कोई आर्थिक सहायता नहीं दी। मैंने सब्जियां बेचना शुरू कर दिया, उन्हें अपने सिर पर रख कर शाम को गाँव के स्थानीय बाज़ार में बेचना शुरू कर दिया ताकि दो वक़्त का खाना नसीब हो सके।

However, this was difficult. The limited quantity of vegetables I could carry made it challenging to earn a substantial income, and it consumed a significant amount of my time. I was provided with a wooden wheel cart to meet my needs, and this simple yet invaluable tool changed my life. With the wooden wheel cart, I can now cover greater distances and transport more vegetables and fruits to the village market. My daily income increased to ₹250. My health has improved, and for the first time, I am able to save money for my family's future. She says positively.



In picture: Jeera Devi
Village: Shahpur
Block: Warsaliganj
District: Nawada



In picture: Bebi Kumari
Village: Shahpur
Block: Warsaliganj
District: Nawada

Empowerment through enterprize

मुझे मेरे जीवन में काफी चुनौतियों का सामना करना पड़ा। मेरे जीवन ने एक और मोड़ ले लिया जब मेरी शादी एक ऐसे व्यक्ति से हुई जो मुझे छोड़कर दूसरे शहर चला गया और मेरे परिवार और बच्चों की देखभाल करने की जिम्मेदारी बहुत कम उम्र में मेरे कंधों पर आ गई। However, my lack of resources posed a significant constraint. The VDC and HRDP team were a turning point for me, so I eagerly enrolled in their entrepreneurial support program. They provided With the new wooden cart, I could easily move to different nearby places and expand my food offerings from Samosa Chaat to include Tikki Chaat, Pani Puri, and more. Now I earn ₹ 8,000 per month, thanks to this intervention. I believe that brighter days lie ahead for me and my family.

A splash of colour: creating child-friendly Aanganwadi

The renovation and beautification of Anganwari as part of a programme called BaLA—Building as Learning Aid of Anganwadis ICDS—plays a vital role in not only providing the children with beautiful, peaceful spaces to learn, but they also become community hubs in which the mothers and children can gather.

In the context of Nawada District, the Anganwadi centres are generally run for a few hours a day in dark rooms that are heated and have little or no light or ventilation, making it impossible for the children to learn. Beyond the fundamental issues of sanitation and clean water facilities, they face a shortage of age-appropriate teaching and learning materials.



In Picture: A renovated Anganwadi centre in a village gives enabling environment for the beneficiaries and enhanced joyful learning in the children.

Village: Bali

Block: Warsaliganj

District: Nawada

The HDFC-Holistic Rural Development Programme involves renovating and improving Anganwadi facilities in Nawada District. To begin the process of renovation, an initial site assessment of the Anganwadi was carried out in the villages. This included an existing situation analysis carried out by the HRDP team with the structured approach of involving the VDC members, Sevika and Sahyika, working closely with the community in the design and construction process of each school, and employing local builders and skilled artisans.

The renovation project soon gained momentum. So far, 7 Anganwadis from 7 villages in Pakribarawan and Warsaliganj have been completely transformed. Now the Anganwadi walls have been painted with a variety of themes: diet and nutrition for pregnant mothers, early education tools such as alphabets and numbers, and pictures of fruits and vegetables that adorn the walls. Centers are now equipped with child-friendly furniture, puzzles, games, alphabets and storybooks. The construction of child-friendly toilets and water filters for safe drinking water are some of the major steps taken to encourage learning and promote hygiene. "When children come to Anganwadi's, they bring life, smiles and flowers from Anganwadis. It makes me happy to see the Anganwadi come to life again as a place of nurturing learning and bonding," says Mrs. Kalpana, who teaches at the Anganwadi in Bhojwan village. "Watching the little ones walk through the doors of our Anganwadi is a daily reminder of the beauty of innocence and curiosity," reflects Mrs. Manju kumari, a passionate teacher in the Anganwadi of Bali.



In Picture: Sarita Devi

Village: Bali

Block: Warisaliganj

District: Nawada

Smile says it all: A mother's thankful account of Aanganwari renovation.

मुझे वे दिन याद हैं जब मैं कुछ साल पहले पहली बार रिया को यहाँ लाया था तब इस आंगनवाड़ी को मरम्मत की सख्त जरूरत थी। आंगनवाड़ी में साफ सफाई नहीं था शौचालय भी खराब था और यहाँ आना बहुत सुरक्षित नहीं था। My daughter Riya has been attending this Anganwadi center since she was a toddler. It's where she learned her first words, where she made her first friends, and where she developed a love for learning, she says emotionally. I am happy to see the new and attractive look of our Anganwadi. The Painted interiors and various playing materials are provided to engage children in a playful environment. Thanks to HRDP and the local authorities for investing in this renovation. Riya enjoys her time at Anganwadi She says with a big smile on her face.

Words of gratitude and commitment

मैं पिछले 5 वर्षों से आंगनवाड़ी में सेविका के रूप में कार्य कर रही हूँ। इस आंगनवारी केंद्र का नवीनीकरण और विकास के लिए मैं एक लंबे समय से प्रतीक्षा में थी। जो कुछ समय पहले तक बच्चे बिना पंखों के बैठते थे, हमारे आंगनवाड़ी जर्जर स्थिति में थी जिसमें केवल आधी छत थी। बच्चे यहाँ आना नहीं चाहते थे। I must say, the renovation has enabled us to introduce new educational materials and better hygiene facilities in order to make learning more engaging and effective for the children. I am deeply grateful to the HRDP team and concerned stakeholders for their support and investments made in renovating our Aanganwari. I am committed to continuing my mission of nurturing and educating the children of my village. She happily concluded.



In Picture: Satyabhama Devi

Village: Bhojwan (Shahpur)

Block: Warsaliganj

District : Nawada

In Picture: children engaged in a playful atmosphere and learning table with fun.

Village: Bhojwan (Shahpur)

Block: Warsaliganj

District: Nawada





In Picture: Teacher demonstrating about solar system to the student.

ScVillage: Khapura

Panchayat: Dumaravan

Block: Pakribarawan

District: Nawada

School: Utkramit Madhya Vidyalay

Better schools for brighter future

Quality education plays a vital role in attaining sustainable economic development. Smart schools offer a wide range of opportunities, such as digital classrooms, laboratory kits, mini libraries, and better hygiene and sanitation facilities that enable children to grow and develop. But unfortunately, education in rural India has some unique challenges, like a higher dropout ratio, a lack of quality infrastructure and a slow pace of evolution in developing pedagogy.

However, in the villages of Warisaliganj and Pakribarawan Block of Nawada district, quality education was a distant dream for many children. Government schools lacked basic facilities, and the students faced numerous challenges in getting access to quality education. In order to bring about change in the educational Bhartiya Jan Utthan Parishad, in collaboration with HDFC-HRDP, took the lead in transforming these government.

The process began with a stakeholder meeting involving officials, teachers, school management committees, and principals who reviewed a proposal and assessment report. After considering their feedback and assessing feasibility, a middle school in a village was selected for improvement. The HRDP supported 5 government schools in 5 villages by establishing mini libraries, ensuring access to safe drinking water, and constructing separate and suitable sanitation facilities for boys and girls. Classrooms were transformed into fully equipped laboratories, and educational wall paintings and informative charts were added both inside and outside the school premises. The BJUP and HRDP-HDFC partnership is enhancing education facilities in villages, not only by providing infrastructure but also by facilitating School Management Committee meetings and student awareness sessions. Regular monitoring and stakeholder meetings led to a 15% reduction in absenteeism after the school's transformation.

"A few years ago, especially girls, faced considerable challenges when it came to sanitation. We had poor facilities that often discouraged regular use. This had a detrimental impact on attendance and overall comfort for our students. With the support of the HRDP and BJUP, we witnessed the construction of separate and suitable sanitation facilities for both boys and girls. It provided privacy and comfort and had a positive impact on students' attendance and well-being." Mr. Shankar, a dedicated member of the School Management Committee (SMC).

A dream come true

पहले हमारे स्कूल की हालत बहुत खराब थी। शौचालय ठीक से काम नहीं कर रहे थे और छत से रिसाव हो रहा था।

Now I have a beautiful school. Toilets are working, we are having access to clean water. Our classrooms appear vibrant after the wall painting. I love staring at wall paintings. My favourite is the Wings painted with vibrant colours giving me everyday a hue of hope to have a better future. Now, I enjoy going to school. Thanks to everyone supported in making my school a dream school. She says with a little smile on her face.



In Picture: Pinki Kumari

Village: Khapura

Block: Pakribarawan

District: Nawada

A teacher shares his smart classroom experience.

मैं कई सालों से सरकारी विद्यालय में बच्चों को पढ़ता हूँ। पहले में अच्छी सुविधा नहीं होने के कारण बच्चे नहीं आते थे और विद्यालय में सूनापन था। लेकिन जब से विद्यालय में नई सुविधाएं मिली हैं तब से बच्चे रोजाना आते हैं। I no longer use Blackboards, white chalks, books, notebooks, and dusters and mostly prefer Smart Board equipped with 3D drawing capabilities, have changed our teaching methods. I can now explain concepts in visual and interactive manner. I enjoy teaching kids and kids enjoy learning too. So, let's look at what smart classrooms are and how they can help our children grow and our schools stand out from the crowd and discover the potential. I am grateful to the HDFC -Bank and HRDP for investing in our school. He says with a content on his face.



In Picture: Mr. Niraj Kumar

Village: Lodipur

Block: Pakribarawan

District: Nawada



In Picture: Better WASH facilities for students in the school premises.

School: Utkramit Madhya Vidyalaya

Village: Lodipur, Dumaravan

Block: Pakribarwan

District: Nawada



In Picture: Jyoti Kumari

Village: Lodipur

Block: Pakribarawan

District: Nawada

Going to school every day

पहले पढ़ने में मन नहीं लगता था क्योंकि किताबें नहीं थीं लेकिन जबसे मेरे स्कूल में लाइब्रेरी बना है तब से मन लगने लगा है! वहाँ पर इतनी सारी अच्छी किताबें मिलती है कि हर बार कुछ नया सिखने का मन करता है। I enjoy learning in my smart class. I can access to clean water throughout the day specially in summer. Me and my friends come to school every day. Thanks to HDFC Bank and (HRDP). I want to become a teacher. She says with a warm smile.

Enriching rural healthcare

The process of overall development is based on a holistic approach and adequate health care in rural community. Local participation plays a significant role in improving access to health services and facilitating the adoption of safe hygiene practices through behavior change campaigns within the community. It fosters a sense of ownership among rural people, making them active partners in pursuit of better health outcomes.



In Picture: Health care facilities reaching the unreached during health camp.

Village: Mosima

Block: Warisaliganj

District: Nawada

However, health inequalities are not due to a particular disease but are interlinked with underlying social issues such as poverty, inequality, and a lack of access to safe water and housing facilities in the rural periphery. The rural population in Nawada District faces a severe shortage of access to healthcare services. The health subcenters are situated far from the villages, because of which people often turn to private healthcare practitioners, which is a costly expenditure on health. A shortage of vaccines and essential medicines in the villages makes the situation unfortunate. Moreover, even when these drugs are available, patients are often unable to afford them.

To address the lack of basic healthcare services in villages in Nawada District, BJUP, in collaboration with HDFC Bank, organised free health camps in 15 villages in Pakribarawan and Warisaliganj of Nawada District. The health camp was designed to reach the resistance communities to ensure access to basic health care and treatment at the right time.

The participation of Village Development Committees (VDCs), everyday heroes such as doctors, ASHA, ANM, and volunteers played a vital role in conducting surveys, collaborating with health authorities, planning, and coordinating logistics, mobilizing resources and raising awareness in the community. The health camps have made tangible differences in the lives of people by offering them vital healthcare services such as free checkups, immunization, eye checkups, and the provision of necessary medicine. The health camp reached 1522 people and paved the way for healthier and safer communities. "Just as Lord Surya brings light into our world, so will the health camp bring light into our lives. Without health, there is no future. We understand now, says an optimistic beneficiary from Baliyari village. "हमारे गाँव में एक स्वास्थ्य कैम्प आयोजित किया जाता है | पहले हम अस्पताल जाने के लिए दूर जाना पड़ता था और पैसे दोनों बर्बाद होते थे | अब हम यहाँ पर ही अपनी सेहत का ख्याल रख सकते हैं |" says a woman beneficiary from Shahpur village.



In Picture: Geeta Devi
Village: Dheodha
Block: Pakribarawan
District: Nawada

Stepping towards healthier life

कुछ महीनों मुझे बुखार, कमजोरी और बदन दर्द था और डॉक्टर से दिखवाने के लिए दूर जाना पड़ता था क्योंकि गांव के पास कोई अस्पताल नहीं है। इसमें पैसा खर्च होता है, सब कमाई तो इलाज में लग जाता था। गांव में स्वास्थ्य शिविर लगने से बहुत सुविधा मिला है। I learned about a health camp organized in my village through the dedicated efforts of volunteers of HRDP and VDC. With their guidance and support, I decided to attend the health camp. At the health camp, I received much-needed medical attention and essential medications. The volunteers and healthcare professionals at the camp were compassionate and attentive, addressing my immediate health concerns. However, they also recognized the severity of my condition and the need for more comprehensive care. Upon their recommendation, I was referred to a nearby Primary Health Centre (PHC), where I could receive the further medical attention I required. Today, I am enjoying a healthier and happier life. She says with hope in her eyes.



In Picture: Eye checkup
in health camp
Village: Dheodha
Block: Pakribarawan
District: Nawada



Interface meeting: Towards improving rural healthcare.



Village: Pokshi
Block: Pakribarawan
District: Nawada

In Picture: Focused discussion during the "Liaison and Interface Meeting" in the village on how healthcare and hygiene could include encouraging active participation and collaboration between local healthcare providers, community leaders, and villagers to address healthcare and hygiene issues collectively. The meeting provided a collective platform for facilitating the exchange of information between healthcare professionals, government health agencies, and the community to ensure that everyone is informed about health programs, available services, and hygiene practices.

About Holistic Rural Development Program (HRDP)

Bhartiya Jan uthhan Parishad is implementing Holistic Rural Development Program by ensuring Skill Development and Livelihood, Promotion of Education, Natural Resource Management, Healthcare and Hygiene for resilient community. With the financial support of HDFC, CSR (Parivartan), BJUP aspire to make the HRDP a successful integrated model of rural development in Participation with Village Development Committee (VDC) , Farmers club, Panchayat ,Block and District level administration. This project covers 15 villages spread over 2 blocks of Nawada District of Bihar.

About BJUP

The Bhartiya Jan Utthan Parishad (BJUP) is a registered not for profit Organization established in 1983 by group of committed and like-minded social worker under the leadership of Late Devendra Prasad Singh. BJUP since its inception believes in empowering marginalized communities by fostering their skills, knowledge, and capacities, enabling them to actively participate in decision-making processes and shape their own future. Through our various programs and initiatives, we aim to address the challenges faced by disadvantaged communities, including but not limited to poverty, discrimination, lack of access to education, healthcare, and basic human rights. We believe in fostering sustainable solutions that go beyond short-term assistance, focusing on long-term empowerment and structural change. We work collaboratively with various government, national, international development organization, civil societies, CSRs and other stakeholders to enhance quality of life through promotion of inclusivity, social equality, and social justice. BJUP established itself as a leading agency in an effective civil society collation and networking. In all our initiatives and processes, we maintain high standards of transparency and accountability, ensuring that resources are utilized effectively and efficiently to achieve our mission.

**Together, we envision a society where no one is left behind,
where every individual has equal opportunities to lead a fulfilling life.**





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