



IRRAD™

Institute of Rural Research and Development



metamorphosis
of village

notki



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THE INSTITUTE OF RURAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (IRRAD) IS AN INITIATIVE OF THE S.M SEHGAL FOUNDATION, ESTABLISHED AS A CHARITABLE TRUST IN 1999, WHOSE GOAL IS TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF RURAL PEOPLE. WITH A FOCUS ON POVERTY REDUCTION IN RURAL INDIA AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH, IRRAD ENGAGES IN DIVERSE AREAS—NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, INCOME ENHANCEMENT AND LIVELIHOODS, EDUCATION, HEALTH, SANITATION, EMPOWERMENT (OF WOMEN IN PARTICULAR), AND PROMOTING GOOD GOVERNANCE. IRRAD'S ACHIEVEMENTS ARE THE PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS AND INNOVATIVE MODELS IT HAS CREATED THROUGH ORIGINAL RESEARCH AND GRASSROOTS WORK FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE RURAL POOR.

metamorphosis of village notki

"The true India is to be found not in its few cities, but in its seven hundred thousand villages."
– Mahatma Gandhi

Mahatma Gandhi considered villages to be India's ideal social units. He argued for eliminating chronic poverty and illiteracy from the villages and suggested that the village should remain the main building block of Indian society.

Notki is one of the 700,000 villages that dot rural India. It is located southwest of Gurgaon in Mewat, a primarily agricultural district of Haryana. As compared to other districts in the state, Mewat has some of the lowest socioeconomic indices, whether infant mortality, literacy, male-female sex ratio, availability of clean water and reliable power, or physical and electronic connectivity.

IRRAD established Notki as a demonstration village primarily to show the donor community, government officials, the corporate sector, elected local bodies (panchayats), and the neighboring villages what can be achieved with proper planning, community participation and modest financial resources. Notki's transformation bears testimony to the fact that development models can lead to positive change.

Selection Process

Notki was selected through a participatory process involving village champions representing IRRAD and the local community. It was decided that all interventions, in addition to considering existing socioeconomic conditions, should be based on the rich knowledge of the people of the selected village.

Notki's

turn around

The demonstration village Notki is pleasing in every sense. The sanitized village environment, improved infrastructure, better educational and health facilities, revived water resources, and rewarding agricultural interventions all add up to make it truly a dream village.

– Notki Sarpanch (Village Mayor)



Notki School before intervention



Notki School after intervention



Village road before intervention



Village road after intervention



Village Infrastructure

Approximately 2 km of road surrounding the village was built. Alongside the road, solar lights were installed to provide street light at night, six soak wells were built to check wastewater running onto the streets, and 150 trees were planted to provide shade during the hot summer months and give the village a pleasant ambiance.

School Improvements

One of IRRAD's key contributions to education in Notki was the revival of the Village Education Committee and appropriate training of its members. In addition, the government middle school was greatly enhanced with the establishment of a boundary wall, roof-water harvesting system, drinking water tank, separate toilets for boys and girls, classroom benches, and a proper kitchen for mid-day meals, as well as the hiring of a female teacher to attract girl students to the school.

Notki at a Glance

Households	192
Population	1127
Sex Ratio (Female: Male)	860:1000
Population by Religion	3% Hindu 97% Muslim
Average Family Size	8

(Source: IRRAD Demographic Survey, 2009)



Upgrading Health Care

As in much of Mewat, the health status of the Notki community, especially that of women and children, had been poor. Health facilities and services were substandard or nonexistent, and home deliveries by untrained health personnel were the norm. Through its Capacity Building Center, IRRAD played a key role in addressing Notki's dysfunctional health care delivery systems by assisting with the following interventions:

- **Establishing and training an effective village health committee, which is critical to ensuring that adequate health care is available to the community**
- **Constructing a delivery hut with two rooms, one for checkups and the other for deliveries**
- **Arranging for the provision of delivery kits, medical supplies and equipment, consumable items used during deliveries, and informational and educational materials**
- **Installing a roof-water harvesting unit to provide clean water at the delivery hut.**



Notki's Maternity & Child Care Center



After intervention

Before intervention

The delivery hut in particular has attracted a lot of attention from government officials, villagers, and visitors alike since it opened in 2008. It has recorded the highest number of deliveries in the district with no mortality. Because of its outstanding record and its importance, efforts are underway to have it officially declared a health sub-center.

Community Orchard

To create income for the Notki Panchayat (village governing council) to meet its small expenses, IRRAD helped to establish a 4.3-acre orchard on community land under the Panchayat's jurisdiction. 897 plants of 13 different varieties were planted, coupled with a cost-effective drip irrigation system. Like the delivery hut, the orchard and the drip irrigation have caught the attention of everyone who has visited Notki.



Hygiene and Sanitation

One of the most pressing concerns in Notki was the need for improved sanitation. With assistance from IRRAD, the community has adopted the Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) approach to make Notki an open defecation-free (ODF) village. The CLTS campaign was triggered by a collective visit to an area where human waste was most abundant, right next to the school. After discussion among themselves, the villagers decided to make all of Notki ODF. Now most households in the village have a private toilet and a soak pit to deposit wastewater.



Good Governance

IRRAD initiated a community-led “Good Governance” campaign for effective, transparent, responsive and accountable rural governance. The nucleus of this initiative is a one-year training of selected villagers based on the clinical legal-education methodology of “learning by doing.” The effect has been the transformation of the group of trainees into a pressure group that, backed by India’s Right to Information Act, ensures transparency in state-funded programs like the Public Distribution System, the Mid-day Meal Scheme, and the Integrated Child Development Scheme. The wave of empowerment generated by the Good Governance campaign has progressed quickly in Notki.

The Development Wave Spreads

Neighboring villagers, sarpanchs (village mayors), government officials, and private-sector entrepreneurs from the region have started visiting Notki to see for themselves how the transformation of a village is possible through IRRAD’s Integrated Sustainable Village Development approach. The village’s success has given the Panchayat the conviction to sustain the development and even put forward Notki’s candidacy for a Nirmal Gram Puraskar (Clean Village Award), given by the Government of India.

Expenditures

Activity	Cost (Rs)
Road Construction	3,681,743
Latrines for Households	773,962
Model Orchard	671,753
School Infrastructure	591,299
Delivery Hut	587,104
Roadside Plantings	347,176
Solar Lights	149,978
Soak Wells	28,471
Community Mobilization/Training	55,627
Village Boards	1,040
Total	6,888,153



summing up

The start of a successful movement is made within the community. Empowerment and awareness serve as igniting forces for a movement to gain momentum and reach a wider audience. Notki, we believe, will inspire corporations and philanthropists to “adopt a village” and foster lasting change across rural India.

Demonstration Village – An Agenda for Change

- To develop a sustainable model village with easy-to-replicate interventions so that other stakeholders, including the government, can take up such initiatives in other villages of Mewat and elsewhere.
- To demonstrate that it is possible to make a visible difference in the quality of life of the villagers by focusing on proper sanitation, hygiene, and related issues.
- To change the mindset of the community through a “seeing is believing” approach. If the results are visible, it is easier for other communities to employ the interventions in their respective villages.
- To facilitate smooth implementation of various government schemes for the benefit of the community.
- To provide opportunities for building the capacity and confidence of grassroots communities.
- To showcase various programs that are integral to sustainable village development and give much-needed stimulus to community mobilization.



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