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RURAL INDIA



SEHGAL
FOUNDATION



PROJECT CATALOG



Rooftop water harvesting system installed at Government High School, village Patkhori, Firozpur Jhirka, Mewat district, Haryana



Every person deserves a chance for a secure, prosperous, and dignified life

With support from donors and partners, Sehgal Foundation designs and promotes rural development interventions that create opportunities, build resilience, and provide solutions to some of the most pressing challenges in India's poorest communities.

The foundation team works together with rural communities to create sustainable programs for managing water resources, increasing agricultural productivity, and strengthening rural governance. The team's emphasis on gender equality and women's empowerment is driven by the realization that human rights are central to developing every person's potential.

Sehgal Foundation follows a three-phase strategy while implementing a project: project initiation, project implementation, and post-project sustainability.

We begin our projects by gathering baseline data which serves as a basis against which the project's progress is monitored and measured. We know that a project's success rests on community understanding, engagement, and support. Our interventions are community-led wherein community members are involved from designing the project to its execution for ensuring sustainability. We also evaluate the project's impact and assimilate learning for future use.

Sehgal Foundation presents this catalog of development projects that can bring a positive difference in the lives of rural people with your support and contribution. The projects described in the catalog can be completed in a year or less. The project budgets in US dollars have been calculated at the exchange rate of 1\$ = Rs.64, the rate as of August 2015.

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Project 1: Safe Drinking Water for Life

People who do not have access to safe drinking water sources are more prone to diarrheal and waterborne diseases that could be fatal as this water carries biological contaminants. Ensure access to safe drinking water to a household by providing a biosand filter – a cost-effective and proven water purification method.

Benefits

- Removes biological impurities, iron, turbidity, and arsenic from water
- Prevents waterborne diseases
- Provides a cost-effective and sustainable solution

Beneficiaries: 1 household

Project Duration: 1 month

Project Cost: \$63 / Rs. 4,000 per filter

Project Components

- Educate households
- Install biosand filters
- Provide support and monitoring

Your contribution can ensure safe drinking water to a household.

Beneficiary speaks:

"I have been using biosand filter since 2008. Earlier waterborne diseases, such as diarrhoea and stomachaches, used to be a major source of worry for our family; but since using biosand filter, those problems have become a thing of past. The water tastes nice and is good for health. My filter is working fine even after using for so many years, and it needs very little maintenance." ~Kunti Gupta, Firozpur Jhirka, Mewat district, Haryana



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Project 2: Voices for Change

Give voice to the most isolated and vulnerable populations by providing a community radio platform to receive information and discuss important local topics, such as government programs, and basic needs of water, education and health. Sponsor a thematic radio campaign on local issues that affect villagers.

Benefits

- Raises awareness and empowers individuals to participate in their own development
- Bridges the information gap existing in communities
- Integrates ICTs to increase campaign reach

Beneficiaries: 225 villages in Mewat

Project Duration: 3 months

Project Cost: \$ 750 / Rs. 48,000 for a thematic radio campaign

Project Components

- Content production based on the framework
- Community engagement in content production, thus supporting livelihoods
- Campaign broadcast and feedback monitoring
- Content sharing on open source platforms

Your contribution can help engage the excluded populations.

Beneficiary speaks:

"I don't know how to express what I feel. Like men, I also have opinions, but they hardly take the shape of words. With the coming of community radio, I feel I can talk about issues that matter to me. Radio has given me confidence and belief that I have a voice and can express myself freely." ~Bhagwan Devi, village Bhadas, Mewat district, Haryana



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Project 3: Preserve a Well, Ensure Safety

Many families in rural villages still depend on open wells to meet their water requirements. The dug wells are only deep enough to reach the water table, allowing groundwater to fill the bottom of the well. But most of these dug wells are surrounded by dirt and filth, and broken well structures often become sites for deadly accidents. Preserve dug wells, the source of domestic water in villages, from contamination by building an elevated platform with built-in wastewater disposal system around it.

Benefits

- Prevents contamination of drinking water source
- Ensures cleanliness and hygiene
- Makes the well safer for community use

Beneficiaries: 50 households

Project Duration: 6 months

Project Cost: \$ 781 / Rs. 50,000

Project Components

- Installation of a well platform
- Community mobilization to ensure maintenance

Your contribution can provide clean and safe local water supplies.

Beneficiary speaks:

"In the absence of the well platform, muddy rainwater used to enter the well. Also there was fear of children falling into it. With the construction of the platform, the muddy water cannot enter the well, and accidents are also prevented. There is cleanliness around the well. I'm very happy with this intervention and look forward for more well platforms in our village."
~Jagdeesh Meena, village Natata, Alwar district, Rajasthan



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Project 4: Village Leadership School

Catalyze transformation of a village community by supporting a village leadership school, a forum to train proactive village men and women on their rights and entitlements.

Benefits

- Promotes effective functioning of key government programs and policies
- Facilitates social change through community monitoring
- Empowers 20 to 25 community members to become future leaders

Beneficiaries: 25 men and women from a village

Project Duration: 1 year

Project Cost: \$ 781 / Rs. 50,000 per village

Project Components

- Identification of proactive men and women from the village
- Administration of a one-year structured training program
- Documentation of the outcomes of the training program

Beneficiary speaks:

"After attending training sessions, I understood my rights and responsibilities. The knowledge I gained helped me identify the inadequacies in my village school and take action about it. My complaint made the state education department roll up its sleeves and issue charge sheets to head teachers in 119 schools of Mewat for non-completion of school buildings against allocated funds." ~Sangeeta, village Udaka, Mewat district, Haryana



Your contribution can develop local change leaders.

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Project 5: Improve School Sanitation

In existing government primary schools that lack a water supply for toilets, provide a seesaw-driven pump for lifting water for sanitation.

Benefits

- Provides access to better sanitation facilities in schools
- Sensitizes children toward hygienic practices
- Ensures convenience and safety for girls in school
- Provides play equipment for children

Beneficiaries: 300 schoolchildren and staff

Project Duration: 6 months

Project Cost: \$ 1,875 / Rs. 1,20,000

Project Components

- Restoration of the toilet plumbing in schools
- Installation of a water storage tank
- Installation of a seesaw system to lift groundwater through force lift pumps and supply to the water storage tank
- Capacity building of School Management Committee for operations and maintenance

Beneficiary speaks:

"Our school has immensely benefited from the seesaw pump. The pump doesn't need electricity to lift water from the ground. We also don't have to use our hands to pump water; all we do is play on the seesaw, and the water is pumped to the storage tank. This has ensured that water is available in our school toilets, and they are not dirty anymore." ~Zahir, village Jatka, Mewat district, Haryana.



Your contribution can bring health and happiness for children.

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Project 6: Empower Adolescent Girls

Adolescence is a crucial period of life that shapes the personality of individuals. In villages, the lack of knowledge and opportunities often constrains the aspirations of youth, especially girls. Imparting life skills can be a solution. Support a structured training program at the village level on life skills for adolescent girls.

Beneficiary speaks:

"The center has given us hope. We now see the possibility of having a say in our own lives, including our marriage. I have decided not to get married before I reach 18 years of age." ~Annati, village Bhadas, Mewat district, Haryana

Benefits

- Develops positive self-esteem and leadership skills
- Heightens awareness about rights, social issues, reproductive and child health
- Provides vocational skill training

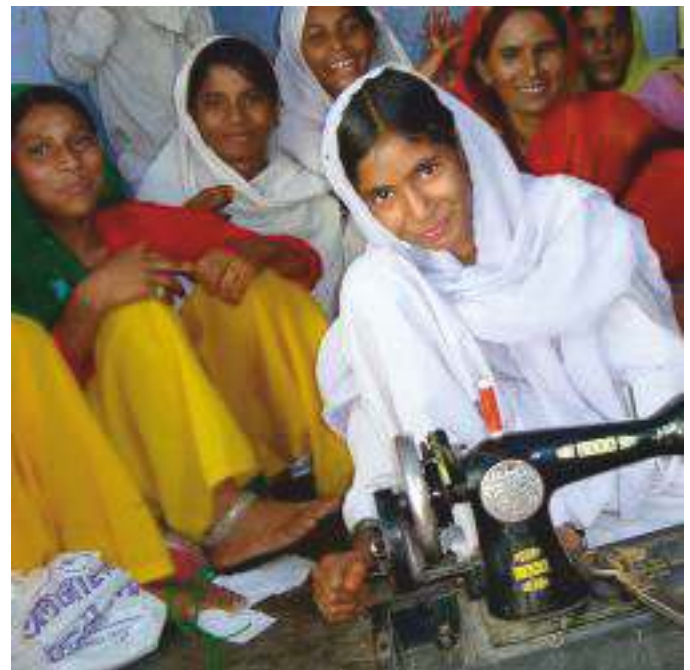
Beneficiaries: 50 adolescent girls

Project Duration: 1 year

Project Cost: \$ 1,953 / Rs. 1,25,000

Project Components

- Identification and furnishing of a life skills education center in a village
- Sessions conducted on life skills education
- Training for girls on tailoring basics



Your contribution can instill self-worth in an adolescent.

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Project 7: Provide Equitable Access to Water

The unavailability and poor quality of water are causes of concern in rural villages. Understanding that water affects every aspect of village life, it is important to secure adequate local water supplies. Improve access to potable water and promote its judicious use by installing community storage tanks with multiple stand posts on the public water supply line.

Benefits

- Provides easy access to water
- Reduces women's drudgery
- Promotes judicious use of water

Beneficiaries: 50 households

Project Duration: 6 months

Project Cost: \$ 2,031 / Rs. 1,30,000

Project Components

- Community mobilization to inculcate water conservation practices
- Installation of the water storage structure
- Capacity building of Panchayat (village council) for operations and maintenance

Beneficiary speaks:

"Electricity is a problem in our village. The power cuts span hours and sometimes days. We had to manage without water in the days of power cut. There have been times when we have queued up in front of the tube well during wee hours in the hope of drawing water. With a water storage tank, life is simpler. The pump fills the tank, and we can take water from the storage tank at any time." ~Asgari, village Patkhori, Mewat district, Haryana



Your contribution can help reduce women's drudgery.

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Project 8: Clean Water for a School

Harvest rainwater from rooftops of existing government schools. Make water available for drinking by storing it in tanks and filtering it through a biosand filter.

Benefits

- Improves access to safe drinking water
- Promotes awareness of water conservation practices
- Reduces incidence of waterborne diseases

Beneficiaries: 300 children and school staff in each school

Project Duration: 1 year

Project Components

- Installation of water harvesting and storage system
- Installation of biosand filter and taps for children to access potable water
- Water conservation awareness sessions for children and school staff
- Capacity building of School Management Committee for operation and maintenance of the installed system

Your contribution can ensure clean drinking water for school children.

Beneficiary speaks:

"Our school has no water supply. Earlier, water was brought in from village wells or through paid water tankers. Tanker water was unsafe for drinking, and many students fell ill. With rainwater harvesting intervention, we now have access to clean drinking water. This water is also used for cooking and sanitation purposes. Life is easy with good health."
~Vishal Garg, Junior Basic Training student, village Malab, Mewat district, Haryana.

Based on the location and requirement, we promote three models:

Model 1:

Surface storage tank of 50,000 liter capacity
Cost: \$ 3,906 / Rs. 2,50,000

Model 2:

Surface storage tank of 1,00,000 liter capacity
Cost: \$ 7,813 / Rs. 5,00,000

Model 3:

Creation of fresh water pockets in saline aquifers through high-pressure recharge wells
Cost: \$ 7,813 / Rs. 5,00,000



Project 9: Build School Toilets

Separate toilets for boys and girls is one of the basic facilities all schools should have. Still, many schools do not have toilets and even existing ones are not in good condition due to lack of water. Provide access to sanitation facility in existing government schools by constructing a toilet block with separate toilets for boys and girls.

Benefits

- Provides access to better sanitation facilities in schools
- Sensitizes children toward hygienic practices
- Ensures convenience and safety for girls in school
- Provides play equipment for children

Beneficiaries: 300 schoolchildren and staff

Project Duration: 6 months

Project Cost: \$ 5,078 / Rs. 3,25,000

Project Components

- Construction of toilet blocks
- Provision of water in the toilets
- Capacity building of School Management Committee for operations and maintenance

Beneficiary speaks:

"With the construction of toilets, we save a lot more time. Earlier we used to spend hours in search of isolated places to defecate, which took away our school time and was unsafe. With the construction of toilets, we are much relieved, and now we like to come to school." ~Radha, village Jatka, Mewat district, Haryana



Your contribution can increase girls' enrollment in schools.

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Project 10: Support Legal Literacy Camps

Support villagers in accessing their legal rights and entitlements by sponsoring legal literacy training camps, a platform to disseminate information about various social welfare programs.

Benefits

- Imparts relevant information on different government programs and policies on a single platform
- Facilitates filing of applications and complaints to various government departments

Beneficiaries: 500 villagers per camp

Project Duration: 1 year

Project Cost: \$ 7,813 / Rs. 5,00,000 for 10 camps

Project Components

- Permissions from relevant authorities for conducting camps and selecting the venue
- Mobilization of villagers to attend the camp
- Administration of the camp
- Follow-up on applications and complaints filed
- Documentation of the outcomes of camp

Your contribution can provide a platform to resolve villagers' problems.

Beneficiary speaks:

"I was a truck driver and I met with an accident in 2010, causing major injuries, which made me unemployed. Through the legal literacy camps, I got to know about the handicapped pension scheme by the government, but each time I was asked for Rs. 5,000 as a bribe to get the certificate. With the support of governance guide I got my medical certificate (70% handicap) from the hospital without paying any money. This will now help me get my pension." ~Asar Khan, village Banarsi, Mewat district, Haryana



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Project 11: Help Build a Pond

Ponds are an ecological asset. Not only are they a primary source of surface water but also a meeting place for women and a direct connect to the emotional and cultural sentiments. Develop surface water reservoirs for local use by digging a pond in a village.

Benefits

- Makes water available for domestic use
- Contributes in groundwater recharge
- Increases vegetative cover

Beneficiaries: 50 households, 250 individuals

Project Duration: 6 months

Project Cost: \$ 7,813 / Rs. 5,00,000

Project Components

- Identification of suitable location
- Digging of pond
- Construction of overflow and silt-control structures
- Capacity building of community for operations and management

Your contribution can provide a sweet water source and protect environment.

Beneficiary speaks:

"The village pond has benefited us immensely. Our livestock drink water from the pond, and it helps in controlling soil erosion. The pond has also helped in both retaining and improving the vegetative cover in and around its area. It has no doubt benefited us, and we look forward to more ponds dug in the coming years." ~Radhey Shyam Sharma, village Hameerapur, Alwar district, Rajasthan



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Frequently Asked Questions

Q1. What is the vision and mission of Sehgal Foundation?

Sehgal Foundation envisions every person across rural India empowered to lead a more secure, prosperous, and dignified life.

Our mission is to strengthen community-led development initiatives to achieve positive social, economic, and environmental changes across rural India.

Q2. What are the values of the organisation?

Sehgal Foundation embraces the core values of integrity, excellence, professionalism, and optimism.

Q3. What approach do you follow in development projects?

Sehgal Foundation designs rural development interventions that create opportunities, build resilience, and provide solutions for some of India's poorest communities to overcome their most pressing social, economic, and environmental challenges. Our secular, rights-based approach, with emphasis on gender equality and women's empowerment, is driven by the realization that human rights are central to developing every person's potential.

Q4. How does Sehgal Foundation identify the sites for specific projects?

Sehgal Foundation's field teams working with communities in Mewat, Haryana, and Alwar, Rajasthan, propose sites based on the need for the project and the interest of the local community members in sustaining the project.

Q5. Can I fund part of a project?

Yes. Sehgal Foundation welcomes donations of any size. Your donation can be applied to a specific project you choose. Sometimes a group of donors fund a particular project together.

Q6. Can I fund more than one project at a time?

Yes! You may choose to fund multiple projects in one area or from different areas. Please let us know your preference using the contact information below.

Q7. Can I make a general donation, not specific to any project?

Yes! General donations are applied wherever the need is greatest.

Q8. How will my contribution be acknowledged?

You will receive an acknowledgment by email of each donation made.

With your permission, we will mention your contribution in Sehgal Foundation's Annual Report and possibly other communications and social media platforms such as Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter. If you prefer that your contribution be anonymous, please let us know. We respect your privacy.

Q9. Will I receive updates on community projects?

Sehgal Foundation provides donors with regular updates and timely project reports that include photos and beneficiary testimonials.

Q10. How do I make my donation?

There are several options for making donations to S M Sehgal Foundation in India and Sehgal Foundation in the USA.

1. In India

Donate online directly from your bank account.

Please direct your funds to:

S M Sehgal Foundation

State Bank of Travancore

DLF Phase 4, Gurgaon, Haryana 122009 India

Account number: 000000570222165

RTGS/NEFT code (IFSC):SBTR0000695

Donate safely and securely online at

<http://www.smsfoundation.org/donatenow/>

Use Citrus Pay.

Donate by cheque to:

S M Sehgal Foundation, Plot No. 34, Sector 44, Institutional Area, Gurgaon, Haryana 122003 India

2. For US and international donors

Donate safely and securely online at

<http://www.smsfoundation.org/donatenow/>

Use PayPal, which accepts donations in US dollars and 20 other currencies.

Donors having PayPal account, donate directly via PayPal: paypal@smsfoundation.org

TAX ID: 42-1477858

Donate by cheque to:

Donors in the US may send to: Sehgal Foundation, 100 Court Ave, Ste. 211, Des Moines, IA 50309, USA

Q11. What about charitable deductions for donations?

In India: S M Sehgal Foundation has an 80G certification.

In the US: Sehgal Foundation is a registered 501(c)(3) organization.

For more information, contact:

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Join us to help empower communities in rural India!

S M Sehgal Foundation is a public, charitable trust registered in India since 1999, based in Gurgaon, Haryana.
www.smsfoundation.org

For more information, please email:
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