

Impact Assessment
on
SBI Sammaan – Hom(e)age to the National Heroes project
Sonakhan(Balodabazar)



Assessment Conducted By

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Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh

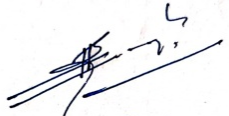
Preface

It is with great pleasure that we present the Impact Assessment Report of the SBIF Sammaan project, implemented by Samarthan – Centre for Development Support with the support of the SBI Foundation. This report provides a comprehensive evaluation of the program's outcomes, highlighting its significance, benefits, accessibility, and improvements in service quality in Sonakhan Village, Balodabazar District, Chhattisgarh.

SBI Sammaan – Hom(e)age to the National Heroes is an initiative dedicated to implementing developmental projects in the native places of esteemed freedom fighters, war veterans, and public heroes. The term 'Sammaan' signifies honour, while the uniquely styled 'Hom(e)age' symbolizes a tribute being paid in the very hometowns of these national icons. The primary objective of this study is to assess the impact of this initiative in terms of its benefits, service quality, and accessibility. The evaluation was conducted through discussions with various stakeholders, including students, committees, community representatives, and Panchayat members, to gain insights into their perspectives and experiences. Additionally, a review of secondary data from schools, GSK centres, and other relevant institutions was undertaken to supplement the findings. The findings in this report showcase the transformative impact of the interventions in youth development, eco-tourism, education, healthcare, sanitation, rural markets, and access to essential information. This document is not just a reflection of achievements but also a guiding framework for future initiatives to enhance the effectiveness and scalability of the SBI Sammaan project.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the communities and PRI representatives who generously shared their insights and experiences. We are also deeply thankful to the Panchayats, schools, and other stakeholders for their support in providing relevant information. A special acknowledgment is extended to my team members: Mr. Dolamani Sahu, Assistant Professor (Botany), Mr. Basant Rastogi, Assistant Professor (Commerce), Shri Agrasen Girls' College, Korba (CG), for their valuable contributions to this study.

This report serves as a development roadmap for Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh's village, aligning with his vision for progress. We hope it will inspire stakeholders, policymakers, and institutions to further the mission of sustainable development in honour of such prominent leaders of India.



राजनीति-शास्त्र विभाग
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1. About the project:

The **SBI Foundation (SBIF)** has launched a distinctive initiative, “**SBI Sammaan – Hom(e)age to the National Heroes,**” aimed at implementing developmental projects in the native places of esteemed freedom fighters, war veterans, and public heroes. The term ‘**Sammaan**’ signifies honor, while the uniquely styled ‘**Hom(e)age**’ reflects the tribute being paid in the very hometowns of these national icons. SBIF is spearheading this initiative in villages associated with prominent figures across the country. Through **SBI Sammaan**, SBIF reaffirms its commitment to fostering sustainable development while paying a meaningful tribute to national heroes by honouring their legacy, bravery, and contributions to society.

As part of this initiative, the program has been implemented in Sonakhan village, Balodabazar district, Chhattisgarh—the birthplace of Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh. The implementation period spans from February 2024 to January 2025, during which the following key activities are being carried out.

Implemented Key Activities

This project embodies the vision of Gram Swaraj (local self-governance), drawing inspiration from Veer Narayan Singh’s ideology of a welfare state. It focuses on youth development, eco-tourism, education, healthcare, sanitation, rural markets, and access to essential information. The initiative actively engages panchayat representatives, community-based organizations, and local committees in capacity building, planning, and execution.

A strong emphasis is placed on enhancing healthcare, sanitation, education, environmental sustainability, and rural infrastructure, with a particular focus on empowering marginalized communities and fostering long-term socio-economic development.

Objective of impact assessment

2. Objective, Methods, and Process

The primary objective of this study is to assess the impact of the initiative in terms of benefits, service quality, and accessibility. The evaluation was conducted through discussions with various stakeholders, students, committees, community representatives, and Panchayat members to understand their perspectives and experiences. Additionally, a review of secondary data available at schools, GSK centres, and other relevant institutions was undertaken to complement the findings.

The study was conducted in January 2024 by a research team comprising distinguished academicians from various disciplines. The team included Dr. Sarvesh Kumar Singh, Assistant Professor (Political Science), Mr. Dolamani Sahu, Assistant Professor (Botany), and Mr. Basant Rastogi, Assistant Professor (Commerce), Shri Agrasen Girls' College, Korba (CG). Their collective expertise ensured a comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach to the assessment.

To gain deeper insights, the team visited the villages and engaged in extensive field observations, stakeholder discussions, and record reviews. The data collected through these interactions and assessments has been meticulously analyzed, leading to the development of this report. The findings aim to provide a well-rounded evaluation of the program’s effectiveness and its contribution to improving community well-being.

Inauguration of SBI Sammaan Program in Sonakhan



On October 28, 2024, the SBI Foundation officially launched the 'SBI Sammaan – Homage to the National Heroes' program in Sonakhan village, paying tribute to Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh, the first freedom fighter from Chhattisgarh. The program was inaugurated by Shri Sanjay Prakash, Managing Director, SBI Foundation, Mumbai, in the presence of key dignitaries, including Shri Alok Ranjan, Deputy General Manager, SBI Administrative Office Bilaspur, Shri Narendra Kumar Mittal, Regional Manager, SBI Balodabazar, Smt. Falit Sahu, Sarpanch, and Shri Jageshwar Thakur, Up-Sarpanch of Gram Panchayat Sonakhan. A large number of community members actively participated in the event, marking the beginning of a significant initiative aimed at village development.

The SBI Sammaan program is a unique CSR initiative by SBI Foundation that seeks to honor the legacy of India's freedom fighters, war veterans, and public heroes by undertaking developmental activities in their native villages. Under this program, Sonakhan—the birthplace of Veer Narayan Singh—has been identified for various infrastructural and community development projects. The SBI Foundation, in partnership with Samarthan Centre for Development Support, is implementing the initiative over a period of one year. The program includes the renovation of Government Schools and Anganwadis, installation of water filters, solar street lights, a market shed, and an open gym, as well as the provision of a waste collection vehicle to improve sanitation in the village. Additionally, a 'Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh Youth Training Centre' has been established to provide guidance and training to young aspirants aiming to join the police, army, and other security forces.

During the inauguration, Shri Sanjay Prakash emphasized the importance of honoring national heroes and their sacrifices, stating that Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh played a significant role in the Indian Rebellion of 1857. He reiterated that the SBI Foundation is proud to contribute to the development of Sonakhan and expressed hope that the initiative would bring long-term benefits to the local community. Shri Yogesh Kumar, Executive Director of Samarthan, acknowledged SBI Foundation's

efforts beyond banking, recognizing its commitment to serving rural communities. He also expressed gratitude to the Gram Panchayat of Sonakhan for its active participation in the project.

The event concluded with community interactions and site visits to the newly established youth training center and other development projects initiated under the SBI Sammaan program. The local residents welcomed the initiative with enthusiasm, expressing optimism about the positive changes it would bring to the village in memory of their heroic ancestor, Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh.



District Administration & Official Visits



The **Program Director of Samarthan** held an in-depth discussion with the **District Collector**, providing a comprehensive update on the initiatives undertaken under the **SBI Sammaan Program**. The **Collector appreciated the efforts** and expressed support for **expanding the program further** to ensure greater impact.



On **December 10, 2024**, as part of **Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh Shradhanjali Diwas**, a **special awareness and registration stall** was set up under the **SBI Sammaan Program** in collaboration with the **Tribal Welfare Department**. The initiative aimed to **register beneficiaries** and **raise**

awareness about social security schemes. Several district officials, dignitaries, community members, and Panchayat representatives visited the stall, where they received detailed information about various welfare programs. Additionally, individuals from the village who had not yet enrolled in these schemes were given the opportunity to complete their registration.



The Shradhanjali Diwas event was honored by the presence of the **Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister, and other cabinet ministers**. During the ceremony, the **Gram Panchayat Sarpanch** presented a **special publication on the SBI Sammaan Program** to the dignitaries, highlighting the **achievements and progress** made in Sonakhan. The leaders were briefed on the various development initiatives and expressed their **appreciation for the collective efforts** undertaken in memory of **Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh**.



Key officials, including the **Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM), Tehsildar, and CEO of Janpad Panchayat**, conducted an **on-site inspection** of the ongoing projects. They acknowledged the progress made and recommended the **optimal utilization of community infrastructure**, such as the **Community Hall for training programs, PrernaCenters, and Computer Centers**. Additionally, they **endorsed the development of Atmanand School** and provided **guidance on infrastructure improvements** to enhance local educational and skill development opportunities.

As **Sonakhan is a tribal-dominated village**, all developmental activities are aligned with the objectives of the **Tribal Welfare Department**. The **Assistant Commissioner of the Tribal Welfare Department** conducted a thorough review of the projects and emphasized the need for a **collaborative development strategy** to ensure sustainable growth. He also proposed **joint planning for future initiatives** to enhance the impact of ongoing efforts.

3. Key Findings

The key findings of the program are presented intervention-wise, including detailed insights on the **impact** and **success stories** shared by the **local community members**. These findings are outlined below.

3.1 Smart Classroom

The **Smart Classroom Initiative** at **Atmanand Higher Secondary School** in Sonakhan has significantly transformed the educational experience for students in grades 6 to 12. The classroom is equipped with state-of-the-art facilities for **videos, audios, and written content**, which are seamlessly integrated into subjects such as **Mathematics, Science, English, and Tribal Studies**. The **Village Panchayat** and the **School Management Committee** actively monitor the classroom to ensure effective implementation and continuous progress. This initiative has benefited over **300 students**. Discussions with students and observations made during the implementation reveal that the program has enhanced students' **English proficiency, mathematical problem-solving skills, and leadership capabilities**. These improvements are expected to continue, with the initiative providing long-term benefits for the students' academic and personal development.

Voice from the Ground (I): Teacher Dhubeleswar Kumar Yadav

Dhubeleswar Kumar Yadav, a teacher at the school, reflects on the significant changes brought by the **Smart Classroom Initiative**. "Earlier, it was difficult to keep the children engaged for long periods. Many would lose interest or struggle to understand complex concepts. But the introduction of smart classes has changed everything," he says. Dhubeleswar Kumar shares how teaching **Mathematics**, particularly concepts like **fractions** and **geometry**, was a challenge before the integration of animated videos and interactive tools. "Now, students can visualize these concepts, making learning easier and more enjoyable. The excitement in their eyes says it all," he adds. He notes that **student attendance** has also improved as a result of the engaging and interactive nature of the lessons.

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Enhanced Learning: Engagement and Responsiveness: Students are now more **engaged** and **responsive** during lessons, with the **visual aids** and **interactive tools** helping them better understand complex subjects such as **Mathematics** and **Science**. Concepts that were once difficult to explain are now easier to comprehend through **animated videos** and **interactive demonstrations**, enhancing the **overall learning experience**.

Improved Attendance: The introduction of **digital tools** has generated **excitement** among students, leading to higher **attendance rates**. The use of **multimedia content** makes learning more **fun** and **engaging**, motivating students to attend school regularly. Parents have also shown increased interest in sending their children to school, as they see the **positive impact** of the digital tools on their children's learning outcomes.

Teacher Empowerment: Teachers, like **Dhubeleswar Kumar Yadav**, have reported feeling more **confident** and **motivated** in their roles. The **digital tools** have made teaching **less stressful** and more **rewarding**, allowing teachers to deliver lessons in a more **dynamic** and **interactive manner**. The **smart class tools** have empowered teachers to deliver **structured** and

effective lessons, improving both the teaching process and the **students' understanding** of complex topics.

Student Performance: **Early assessments** indicate that students are performing better in **class tests**, with a marked improvement in their understanding of subjects that previously posed challenges. The introduction of **digital content** has fostered a **self-paced learning environment**, allowing students to revisit lessons and practice at their own pace. This has been particularly beneficial for students struggling with specific topics, as they can rewatch videos or revisit content until they feel confident.

Conclusion: The **Smart Classroom Initiative** at **Atmanand Higher Secondary School in Sonakhan** has brought about **transformative changes** in the educational experience. The integration of **interactive learning tools, videos, and audios** has not only made learning more engaging and enjoyable but has also improved student comprehension, performance, and attendance. Teachers feel more **empowered** and confident in their teaching methods, which has contributed to a positive shift in the classroom environment. The initiative has proven to be a **game-changer**, with students becoming more **engaged and curious**, while teachers are now equipped with the tools to **effectively teach** even the most complex subjects. The **self-paced learning environment** has fostered a sense of independence and accountability in students, encouraging them to take charge of their learning.

3.2 Computer Education Initiative

To provide access to computer education and build technical capacities among the youth, a **Computer Education Intervention** has been launched. This initiative has educated **160 students** across **5 batches**. The **Computer Education Centre** has been established in the community, operating under the leadership of the **Gram Panchayat** and in collaboration with local schools.

Prior to the establishment of this center, students in **Sonakhan Village** had to travel long distances to attend computer classes, which created significant barriers to accessing digital education. This issue has now been resolved, greatly improving local access to computer education and bringing digital learning closer to home.

Based on observations of the students' activities, it is evident that they have developed proficiency in essential computer operations. Students are now able to type, work with Excel, PowerPoint, and Word effectively. Additionally, their fluency in web searching, managing emails, and other fundamental digital skills has significantly improved.

Key Changes

Increased Access to Digital Education: The Computer Centre in Sonakhan has made digital education easily accessible to students, eliminating the need for long-distance travel. 160 students are now benefitting from the program, which provides essential digital skills locally.

Encouraging Women's Empowerment: 105 girls and 30 boys completed the computer course, with girls outnumbering boys, reflecting significant progress in gender equality. This initiative has empowered girls with valuable digital skills, enhancing their career prospects.

Increased Engagement and Motivation:The availability of local computer education has sparked renewed interest in technology, especially among girls. Students are more motivated to engage in learning and explore further educational opportunities.

Skills Development for the Future:The program equips students with essential digital skills, including computer literacy, internet use, and data management. These skills are crucial for their academic success and future career opportunities.

Community and Social Impact:The Computer Centre has become a valuable community asset, fostering greater access to technology for all students. It has contributed to women's empowerment and has helped create a more tech-savvy and future-ready community.

3.3 Youth Development:

During the discussion with the youth, we observed that in Sonakhan, the land of Chhattisgarh's first freedom fighter, Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh, where his echoes of resistance once resonated, a new transformation is unfolding. Inspired by his sacrifice and determination, the youth of Sonakhan are now preparing themselves for community leadership and national service, paving the way for a brighter future.

The youth of Sonakhan have established the 'Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh Youth Development Center,' where 40 young individuals are preparing for army recruitment, competitive exams, and higher education. To facilitate their training, the village has been equipped with a sports ground, gym equipment, study materials, and expert guidance from teachers. This structured effort has yielded remarkable results—10 youths appeared for the physical test for police and forest department recruitment, and 8 of them successfully qualified.

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Enhancing Youth Leadership and Community Participation :Through this program, youth have received training in local governance, life skills, and leadership development. As a result, they are now actively identifying marginalized individuals who lack access to social security schemes and ensuring their inclusion. Additionally, they play a vital role in the effective management of education, health, and sanitation programs within their communities. Over 700 students from Sonakhan and surrounding areas are currently pursuing education from primary to higher levels. The SBI Samman Program is working towards connecting these students with technical education, employment opportunities, and leadership training.

Building the Nation through Youth Empowerment :This community-driven initiative, inspired by the ideology of Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh, is a crucial step towards making youth self-reliant and strengthening their role in nation-building. The youth of Sonakhan are no longer just focused on their personal futures; they are actively contributing to the development of their community. Through this collective effort, they are not only empowering themselves but also understanding their rights and responsibilities while working towards the betterment of society. This transformative journey of Sonakhan's youth stands as a true tribute to the sacrifice of Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh, proving that when young minds unite, they have the power to change not only their own lives but the entire society.

Youth Empowerment and Skill Development :40 youth participated in the program, gaining essential skills in leadership, life skills, and community governance.10 youth appeared for the physical tests for police and forest department recruitment, with 8 successfully passing. This is a significant achievement in youth empowerment and self-reliance.The training in leadership and governance has inspired youth to take on active roles in local governance, contributing to social security, education, health, and sanitation within the community.

Community Participation and Development: The program has led to an increase in youth participation in community activities, resulting in improved engagement in social protection programs and the management of education and healthcare services.Over 700 students from Sonakhan and surrounding areas are now enrolled in primary to higher education programs, with efforts focused on providing access to technical education, employment opportunities, and leadership training.

Sustainability and Long-Term Impact: The establishment of the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh Youth Development Center has created a sustainable platform for continued youth development. The center continues to serve as a hub for education, skills development, and leadership training. The active involvement of youth in community activities, such as identifying marginalized individuals and connecting them to government schemes, has brought about positive changes in the community's social fabric.

The "**SBI Samman – Homage to National Heroes**" initiative has successfully empowered youth in **Sonakhan** by enhancing their leadership capabilities, improving their participation in community governance, and preparing them for future employment and educational opportunities. The program has **positively impacted the community**, with **youth actively contributing** to social development and taking on leadership roles. This initiative is a testament to the transformative power of youth when equipped with the right skills, resources, and opportunities, and offers valuable insights into fostering **community-driven development** in rural areas.

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3.4 Development of Rural Market

Sonakhan serves as a central hub for the 15 surrounding villages, all of which depend on it for various services. Previously, a weekly market was held, but it lacked proper facilities. As discussed with the community, before the establishment of the market shed, villagers faced significant challenges, including a lack of space, water, and connectivity. To resolve these issues, the market shed was developed along with water and sanitation facilities. The weekly market is now being conducted at this new location, which hosts over 30 shops where local vendors can operate regularly.

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Dedicated Space for Vendors :The market shed has provided a dedicated space for vendors, ensuring that they have a fixed location to conduct business and serve the community.

Revenue Generation for the Panchayat :The Panchayat now generates revenue by collecting market taxes from sellers, contributing to local economic development.

Increased Accessibility and Convenience : Villagers now have easier access to fresh vegetables and other goods, eliminating the need to travel long distances to purchase essential items. This has greatly improved convenience for the local population.

Boost to Local Commerce and Vendors : Over 30 vendors now operate regularly within the market shed, providing a platform for local businesses to showcase their goods. This has had a positive impact on local trade, as vendors no longer need to travel to distant markets to sell their products. By selling directly in the local market, vendors are able to reduce transportation costs and increase profits. The increased footfall at the market shed has led to greater customer engagement and more sales opportunities for local businesses.

3.5 Gram Seva Kendra (GSK)

The Gram Seva Kendra (GSK) has been established in Sonakhan to enhance access to government services and overcome the barriers faced by villagers, particularly elderly residents and women, in accessing welfare schemes and completing digital need. As discussed with the community, they shared their experiences, stating that before its establishment, villagers struggled with long travel distances to government offices and centers to access digital services. Additionally, they were unaware of government schemes and faced challenges in completing digital processes. The GSK was created to address these issues by providing a local, accessible platform for essential government services.

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Enhanced Access to Welfare Schemes : Over the past year, the GSK has identified and assisted 879 individuals who were previously left out of various government schemes, such as health, labor, housing, scholarships, and farming subsidies.

Issuance and Correction of Essential Documents : The center has played a vital role in facilitating the correction and issuance of important documents, including Aadhaar cards, ration cards, and caste certificates. These documents are essential for accessing government programs, and the GSK has greatly simplified the process, enabling villagers to complete necessary formalities without leaving the village.

Increased Awareness of Employment and Skill Development : The GSK has been instrumental in spreading awareness about employment programs and encouraging youth to enroll in skill development initiatives. This has empowered the youth by providing them with access to opportunities that enhance their future employment prospects and self-sufficiency.

Financial and Time Savings : By providing services locally, the GSK has eliminated the need for villagers to travel to faraway government offices, saving both time and money. This reduction in travel costs has been particularly beneficial for elderly citizens and women, who previously struggled with long journeys to access services.

Improved Access for Vulnerable Groups : The establishment of the GSK has greatly benefited elderly citizens and women—two groups often excluded from government processes due to mobility issues, lack of awareness, or unfamiliarity with digital platforms. The GSK has provided easier access to government services for these groups, ensuring they receive the benefits they deserve.

Voice from the Ground: Karan Kumar Nishad

Karan Kumar Nishad, a 22-year-old resident of Sonakhan, was one of the early beneficiaries of the Gram Seva Kendra. Karan had been struggling to enroll his family in the Ayushman Bharat Health Insurance Scheme. Despite making multiple trips to the district office, he faced repeated setbacks due to incorrect documentation and a lack of clarity about the process. "When I heard about the Gram Seva Kendra, I decided to give it a try. The operator not only guided me through the process but also helped me correct the errors in my Aadhaar details, which were causing the delays," says Karan. Within weeks, Karan successfully enrolled his family in the health insurance scheme. He was relieved to have avoided further travel expenses and time off from his work as a farmer. Inspired by this experience, Karan began encouraging others in his village to visit the Kendra for their needs. "Earlier, we thought government schemes were only for those who could afford to spend time and money visiting offices. Now, with the Kendra in our village, we feel empowered to claim our rights," he adds.

3.6 Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh Memorial Vatika

Visitors to the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh Memorial Vatika have expressed their happiness about the transformation. Before the intervention, the park was neglected and in a state of disrepair. Although the park held historical significance for the community, it lacked regular maintenance. The garden had broken lights, poor upkeep, and was rarely visited, making it a place that the community could not take pride in. The intervention by Samarthan and the SBI Foundation brought about a complete transformation, reviving the park into a vibrant and well-maintained space. Now, it serves as a symbol of community pride and respect for the local hero, Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh. The improvements also included new seating, water, sanitation facilities, and information displays.

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Preservation of Heritage: The renovated vatika has become a focal point for preserving the memory of Veer Narayan Singh. Through educational features like plaques and guided tours, the story of this local hero is shared with all who visit, ensuring that his legacy continues to inspire future generations.

Recreational Space : The beautifully maintained garden provides a peaceful retreat for villagers and visitors alike, fostering both physical and mental well-being. The open spaces offer children a safe and enjoyable place to play, promoting a healthy and active lifestyle within the community.

Tourism and Awareness : The memorial vatika has become a destination that attracts visitors from neighboring villages, leading to increased awareness about Veer Narayan Singh and boosting local pride. This influx of visitors has not only honored the hero's legacy but has also contributed to the growth of tourism in the region.

Community Involvement : The initiative has fostered stronger community bonds, with villagers coming together to maintain and celebrate the vatika. Active participation from the community, particularly youth like Nirendra, ensures the sustainability of the project. Their involvement has played a crucial role in keeping the park vibrant and cherished for years to come.

Cultural Revival :Thevatika has become a venue for cultural events, from Independence Day celebrations to folk performances, enriching the cultural fabric of Sonakhan. These events have brought the community together, celebrating not only the memory of Veer Narayan Singh but also the diverse cultural traditions of the region.

Conclusion:The transformation of the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh Memorial Vatika has had a profound impact on the Sonakhan community. It has preserved the historical legacy of a local hero while providing a space for recreation, cultural activities, and community engagement. Thanks to the efforts of the SBI Foundation, Samarthan, and active local involvement, the vatika has become a symbol of pride for the villagers and a place that connects the past with the present for future generations.

Nirendra's words capture the essence of this transformation: "It fills me with hope that the legacy of Veer Narayan Singh will inspire future generations." The memorial vatika is now a space that not only honours history but also builds a stronger, more united community.

3.7 Water and Sanitation Interventions

Key Interventions and Impact:

| Intervention | Before the intervention: | After the intervention: |
|------------------------------------|--|---|
| RO Plant for Clean Drinking Water: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many households faced severe drinking water contamination, especially during the rainy season, leading to various waterborne diseases. • Families had no reliable source of clean drinking water, which posed a serious health risk. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The installation of the RO plant provided safe and clean drinking water to over 35 – 40 households daily. • The villagers no longer worry about waterborne diseases and have easier access to clean water, which has significantly improved their health and hygiene. • The availability of clean water has reduced the stress and effort associated with finding safe drinking water, ensuring better well-being for the community. • This intervention has proven to be a critical improvement, reducing health risks and improving the quality of life for the villagers, especially during the rainy season when water contamination was at its peak. |
| Community Toilet: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open defecation was a common practice, leading to environmental pollution and serious health risks for the community. • The lack of proper sanitation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The installation of the community toilet has reduced the practice of open defecation, contributing to a cleaner environment and better public health. |

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| | <p>facilities led to contaminated surroundings, spreading diseases, especially during events like the weekly market.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The community toilet is regularly used, especially during the weekly market, which has improved the hygiene and sanitation standards in the area. • This intervention has not only improved health outcomes but also brought a sense of dignity and awareness about the importance of proper sanitation. • The introduction of the community toilet has proven to be a simple yet effective solution, fostering a cleaner, healthier, and more respectful environment for all villagers. |
| <p>Solid Waste Collection and Management:</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The village lacked a proper system for solid waste management, leading to waste being disposed of in open spaces, roadsides, and water bodies. • Improper disposal created unpleasant Odors, breeding grounds for pests, and health risks for the community. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The introduction of an e-rickshaw for regular waste collection has significantly improved waste management. Committee members now collect waste from households and transport it to the segregation center. • At the segregation center, waste is sorted into categories such as biodegradable, recyclable, and non-recyclable materials, ensuring proper disposal and creating opportunities for recycling and reuse. • Dustbins were distributed to every household, helping to properly segregate and dispose of waste, reducing the practice of throwing garbage in open spaces. • The collection of recyclable materials such as plastic, paper, and metal has created an additional source of income for the community by selling these materials to recycling units. • The intervention has not only led to a cleaner village but has also fostered awareness about waste |

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| | | <p>management, promoting environmental conservation and generating income for the villagers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This initiative has proven to be a sustainable solution to the problem of waste management, benefiting both the environment and the local economy. |
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3.8 Infrastructure Development - Anganwadi Centre, Health, and Solar Lights

| Key Interventions | Before the intervention | After the intervention |
|---|---|---|
| Renovation and Upgradation of the Anganwadi Centre (AWC): | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Anganwadi Centre (AWC) was in a poor condition, with damaged walls, a leaking roof, and a lack of proper seating and learning materials. • The kitchen was small and unhygienic, with insufficient space for storing food supplies, leading to concerns about child safety and food quality. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The AWC building was fully renovated, including stronger walls, a new roof, and fresh paint, making it a safe and welcoming space for children. • Proper seating and age-appropriate learning materials, such as toys and books, were added to enhance the educational experience. • The kitchen was upgraded with more space and better facilities for safe food preparation and storage, ensuring that meals for children are hygienic and nutritious. • The addition of clean toilets has improved sanitation and hygiene within the centre, creating a healthier environment for the children. • With these improvements, the AWC has become a place where children can learn and grow in a healthy, nurturing environment, leading to increased parental confidence and higher attendance rates. |
| Enhancements in Health Infrastructure: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The village faced several health challenges, particularly related to poor sanitation and lack of clean drinking water, contributing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The installation of the RO plant in the village has significantly improved access to clean and safe drinking water, reducing the risk of waterborne diseases and improving |

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| | <p>to the spread of diseases.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health facilities were inadequate, with limited access to proper healthcare and hygiene services. | <p>the overall health of the community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved sanitation facilities, including the newly built community toilet, have addressed the issue of open defecation, leading to a cleaner and healthier environment. These health-related infrastructure improvements have contributed to better public health outcomes, ensuring a safer, more hygienic environment for the entire community. |
| Solar Lights for Improved Community Safety and Accessibility | <p>The lack of street lighting in key areas of the village made it difficult to navigate safely at night, reducing community safety and limiting access to public spaces after dark.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A total of 31 solar lights were installed in the following key locations: Garden (3 solar lights), Playground (14 solar lights), Main Road & Chok (14 solar lights) The installation of solar lights has significantly improved safety and visibility, making it easier for villagers to access public spaces after dark, including the playground and market areas. The lights have also contributed to a reduced sense of insecurity, encouraging more people to use these public spaces for recreational and community activities, even in the evening. The solar lights promote energy efficiency and sustainability, providing the village with a reliable and eco-friendly source of lighting. |

Community and Social Impact:

- The **renovation of the Anganwadi Centre** has fostered a more **positive learning environment** for children and has increased **parental participation** in early childhood education. This has had a direct impact on **child development** and **school attendance**.
- The improved **health infrastructure** has led to a **reduced incidence of waterborne diseases** and other health issues, contributing to a healthier and more hygienic community.
- The installation of **solar lights** has **improved community engagement** and **accessibility**, with more villagers using public spaces for socializing, recreation, and cultural events. It has also **increased safety** for women and children in particular, allowing them to move around more freely at night.

4. Way forward

Challenges

Limited Time:The program operates under strict time constraints, requiring certain projects and initiatives to be completed within specific deadlines.This creates pressure on planning and execution, potentially leading to delays in achieving the desired outcomes. Though our team put on rigorous work and were able to achieve the deliverables within the given timeframe.

Lack of Connectivity&Electricity:Limited internet access and unreliable electricity have posed significant challenges in delivering digital services. However, coordination with the relevant departments has helped in resolving these issues to some extent.

Way Forward

Through the analysis of key findings and discussions, the following suggestions have emerged:

Sustaining Ongoing Interventions:To ensure long-term sustainability, capacity building and continuous handholding support should be provided to PRIs.

Expansion of Gram Seva Kendra (GSK):The Gram Seva Kendra has been well-received by the community. Its reach should be expanded to nearby villages through village linkages and community awareness initiatives.

Enhancement of Solid Waste Management:The ongoing solid waste management process needs further improvement through innovative composting methods and community-led waste processing. A **waste-to-energy** model can be demonstrated to promote environmental sustainability.

Promoting Tourism & Heritage Conservation :Existing tourism initiatives focused on promoting **Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh's legacy** should be strengthened. Home stays, forest stays, and tourism campaigns can be developed to attract visitors. Additionally, preserving the **memorial and garden** is crucial for sustaining the region's historical significance.

Improving Water Availability &Distribution:Villagers face challenges with groundwater availability and water distribution. Under **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)**, water pipelines have been installed, but some habitations remain excluded due to lack of maintenance. Interventions are needed for **groundwater recharge** and the proper **operation and maintenance (O&M) of the pipeline system** to achieve the national JJM goals.

Strengthening Youth Development Initiatives :Youths are actively engaged in the **Youth Development Centre**, which needs continued support through training, exam preparation, and career guidance to ensure their long-term success.

Addressing Adolescent Girls' Health Needs :More than **300 adolescent girls** in local schools face **Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) challenges**. Future interventions should focus on addressing their health and hygiene needs.

Bridging Gaps in Education Quality :While the village has educational institutions from **primary school to college**, the **lack of trained and qualified staff** remains a challenge. **Remedial classes** should be introduced, especially for students from underprivileged families. A **bridge course** can also be planned to support learning continuity.


Institutional Strengthening &Monitoring :While current interventions have been impactful, strengthening **monitoring mechanisms** and **training newly elected PRIs** is essential. Incorporating these initiatives into **GPDP (Gram Panchayat Development Plan)** will ensure their long-term sustainability.

Impact Assessment by Dr. Sarvesh Kumar Singh & Team



Conclusion:

The interventions in Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh's village have been impactful and significant. To sustain this progress, efforts should align with **Veer Narayan Singh's vision**—focusing on **employment generation, self-governance, and social protection**. Scaling up these initiatives will further strengthen the community and drive holistic development.



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