

- RURAL DEVELOPMENT: INITIATING FROM THE VILLAGE -

By Dr. Anila Nair



India's strength lies in its villages. With more than **6.65 lakh villages**, rural India remains the foundation of the nation's social, cultural, and economic life. Before Independence, villages received little

systematic attention, resulting in poor infrastructure, recurring famines, inadequate healthcare, and widespread poverty. Since Independence, rural development has become a national priority, yet significant challenges continue to hinder the creation of prosperous and self-reliant rural communities.

Even today, nearly **70 percent of India's population** lives in villages. Sustainable development, therefore, must begin at the grassroots level by strengthening natural resources, improving infrastructure, enhancing human capabilities, and ensuring inclusive growth. Every village should aspire to become a model community where people have access to quality education, healthcare, employment opportunities, social security, and a clean environment.

Protecting Natural Resources

Land, water, forests, and livestock form the backbone of rural life. However, excessive use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, declining forest cover, and unsustainable farming practices have contributed to soil degradation and reduced agricultural productivity. Promoting organic farming, conserving fertile land, and educating farmers on sustainable

agricultural methods are essential. Institutions such as Krishi Vigyan Kendras and agricultural universities can support these efforts through technical guidance and training.

Water conservation is equally important. Traditional water bodies such as ponds, tanks, rivers, and wetlands must be protected through regular maintenance, rainwater harvesting, and efficient irrigation systems. Every drop of water conserved strengthens agriculture and secures future livelihoods.

Forests are vital for maintaining ecological balance and reducing carbon emissions. Community-led plantation drives, protection of existing forests, and village-level environmental committees can improve biodiversity and create a healthier environment for future generations.

Strengthening Rural Infrastructure

Schools, health centres, panchayat buildings, roads, bridges, ponds, and other public assets are essential for improving the quality of life in villages. Unfortunately, many such facilities suffer from neglect and poor maintenance. Villagers should develop a strong sense of community ownership by forming local committees responsible for protecting and maintaining these assets. Well-maintained infrastructure promotes education, healthcare, connectivity, and economic development.

Planning for Sustainable Growth

Successful rural development requires a comprehensive understanding of village realities. A village profile should assess land, water, forests, livestock, infrastructure, education, health, sanitation, waste management, agriculture, irrigation, employment, skill levels, digital connectivity, and social institutions. It should also examine gender equality, community participation, local governance, conflict resolution mechanisms, and grassroots organizations. Such an assessment helps in designing practical and need-based development plans that reflect local priorities and aspirations.

Conclusion

The future of India is closely linked to the progress of its villages. Rural development is not solely the responsibility of governments; it requires the active participation of villagers, local institutions, civil society organizations, and development agencies. By conserving natural resources, strengthening infrastructure, promoting sustainable livelihoods, and encouraging community ownership, villages can become vibrant centres of growth and opportunity. A holistic village development approach will not only improve living standards but also create resilient, inclusive, and self-reliant communities. When villages prosper, the nation prospers, making rural development the true foundation of India's sustainable future.

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- HARMONIOUS WORK ENVIRONMENT: A TRINIKETAN FOUNDATION FOR DEVELOPMENT FEATURE -

A harmonious work environment is the cornerstone of every successful organization. In today's rapidly changing professional landscape, leadership is no longer confined to directing work or achieving targets. It is about building trust, fostering cooperation, and creating a workplace where every individual feels valued, respected, heard, and motivated. When employees experience a sense of belonging and purpose, they are encouraged to contribute their knowledge, creativity, and skills to the fullest, leading to greater organizational success.

Effective leadership promotes a culture of collaboration, open communication, and mutual respect. It recognizes that people are the organization's greatest asset and that a positive work environment enhances both individual and collective performance. When leaders encourage teamwork, appreciate diverse perspectives, and support employee growth, they create an atmosphere where productivity, innovation, and well-being flourish together.

One of the defining qualities of effective leadership is emotional intelligence—the ability to understand and manage emotions while empathizing with others. Equally important is clear and compassionate communication, which strengthens relationships, minimizes misunderstandings, and builds confidence within the team. Visionary thinking enables leaders to focus on long-term goals while inspiring others to work towards a common purpose. Decisiveness and accountability ensure timely action, responsible decision-making, and integrity in leadership.

In an ever-evolving world, adaptability and continuous learning have become essential leadership qualities. Leaders who embrace change, encourage innovation, and invest in the development of their teams create resilient organizations that are better equipped to face future challenges.

At **Triniketan Foundation for Development**, we believe that harmonious workplaces are built on trust, empathy, collaboration, and shared responsibility. By nurturing these values, organizations can create an environment where every individual thrives, productivity and creativity increase, and sustainable development becomes a shared achievement. A harmonious workplace is not merely an organizational goal—it is the foundation for lasting success and meaningful social impact.

- TRINIKETAN FOUNDATION FOR DEVELOPMENT: MARCHES AHEAD -



Awareness program. An awareness program in Village Shyampura, Block Tikamgarh, District Tikamgarh, Madhya Pradesh, was conducted by the Foundation's volunteer on 13 June, 2026. The total number of participants was 26, 15 male and 11 female. The

main points of discussion were: shortage of drinking water, unemployment, health issues etc.

After the discussion it was decided that the villagers together would request the district authority to consider their pleas and provide them hand pump for supplying drinking water. It was also decided that similar programme should be conducted in other villages.

• **Observation of World Environment Day.** One of our honourable member Shri. Shiromani Singh Rajput, Gram Panchayat Pradhan, Bhoop Nagar, Dunara, Madhya Pradesh, planting tree on the occasion of World Environment Day. Keeping in view the climate changes that are impacting the life and livelihood of people across the world, the foundation



observed the day by planting trees and also created awareness about the responsibilities of all people from different walks of life.

• **Toolkit for environmental protection.** It has been planned to prepare a toolkit for environmental protection and promotion for children, teachers, and other individuals who are interested in this field.

The Four Pillars of the Environment

The environment is broadly classified into four interconnected components, commonly known as the Four Pillars of the Environment:

- **Lithosphere**—The solid outer layer of the Earth, comprising land, rocks, soil, and minerals.
- **Hydrosphere**—All water bodies on Earth, including oceans, rivers, lakes, glaciers, groundwater, and other water resources.
- **Atmosphere**—The layer of gases surrounding the Earth that sustains life and regulates climate.
- **Biosphere**—The global zone of life that includes all living organisms (plants, animals, microorganisms, and their interactions with the environment).

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Environmental Sustainability

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted by the United Nations in 2015, comprise 17 global goals aimed at promoting sustainable development by 2030. Among them, the following goals directly focus on environmental protection and ecological sustainability:

- SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation
- SDG 13: Climate Action
- SDG 14: Life Below Water
- SDG 15: Life on Land

These goals emphasize the conservation of natural resources, protection of ecosystems, sustainable management of water resources, climate resilience, and the preservation of terrestrial and marine biodiversity for present and future generations.

- **New face of Bhoop Nagar.** During the last quarters, a number of programs have been organized in Bhoop Nagar by the Pradhan on sports, health, education, etc. The photographs illustrate these activities



- Volunteers of the Triniketan Foundation for Development were engaged in different activities, like:
 - Interacting with people in general and workers in particular by giving them information and conducting sessions on; Labor laws, Life skills, Emotional intelligence, Leadership skills.

Professional activities of the President:

The President of Triniketan Foundation for Development conducted training sessions at the **V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, Noida, Uttar Pradesh, on Communication Skills, Communication Skills for Labour Codes, and Stress Management.** The interactive sessions enhanced participants' competencies by strengthening effective communication, improving understanding of labour legislation, and promoting practical stress management techniques. The programme was well received and contributed significantly to building workplace efficiency, confidence, and overall development among the participants.



• **Health & Menstrual Hygiene Awareness Programme.**

As part of its community health initiatives, Triniketan



Foundation for Development organized a Health and Menstrual Hygiene Awareness Programme for adolescent girls at Gautam Puri, Aligaon, Badarpur, New Delhi, during May 2026. Conducted by our dedicated volunteers, the programme focused on creating awareness about menstrual hygiene, personal health, and sanitation. Interactive discussions encouraged

participants to adopt healthy practices, dispel myths, and build confidence, enabling young girls to make informed decisions for their health, well-being, and overall development.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

-PRADHAN MANTRI VISHWAKARMA YOJANA-

The **Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Yojana**, launched by the Government of India on **17 September 2023**, is a flagship initiative to preserve India's traditional craftsmanship while improving the livelihoods of artisans and craftspeople. The scheme provides comprehensive support to individuals engaged in **18 identified traditional trades**, enabling them to upgrade their skills, adopt modern technology, and improve their income.

The programme covers occupations such as carpenters, blacksmiths, locksmiths, sculptors, goldsmiths, potters, cobblers, masons, basket and coir weavers, barbers, washermen, tailors, garland makers, traditional toy makers, boat makers, fishing net makers, and others. These trades represent India's rich cultural heritage and continue to provide livelihoods to millions.

Applicants must be **18 years or above** and engaged in one of the notified traditional occupations. The scheme offers **basic and advanced skill training**, financial assistance of up to **₹15,000** for purchasing modern tools, and **collateral-free business development loans** to help artisans expand their enterprises.

By combining skill development, financial assistance, modern equipment, and affordable credit, the Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Yojana* empowers traditional artisans, preserves India's cultural heritage, promotes self-employment, and contributes to inclusive and sustainable economic development.

* For details, please see: *PM Vishwakarma: Guidelines for Implementation*. Government of India. (Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises and Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship).

- OUR FUTURE PLANS -

At **Triniketan Foundation for Development**, we remain committed to strengthening grassroots institutions, promoting social security awareness, and generating evidence-based knowledge for inclusive and sustainable development. During the forthcoming quarters of the year, the Foundation proposes to undertake the following programmes and initiatives.

➤ **Capacity Building Programme for Panchayati Raj Institution Functionaries.**

The Foundation proposes to organise a **Capacity Building Programme** for functionaries of **Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)** in a cluster of villages. The programme is designed to strengthen the capacity of local self-governance institutions and enhance their effectiveness in promoting rural development.

Aim: To create awareness about the vital role of Panchayati Raj Institutions in rural development and community empowerment.

Objectives

- To familiarise PRI functionaries with their constitutional roles, responsibilities, and functions.
- To enhance awareness of various government programmes, welfare schemes, and development initiatives relevant to rural communities.
- To strengthen the leadership, decision-making, and governance skills of PRI members for effective local administration.

➤ Orientation Programme on Social Security.

Recognising the importance of social protection for vulnerable sections of society, the Foundation plans to organise an **Orientation Programme on Social Security** to promote awareness of available social security measures and encourage greater community participation.

Aim: To create awareness about the importance of social security at both the individual and community levels.

Objectives

- To acquaint participants with strategies for mobilising resources to strengthen social security initiatives.
- To increase awareness of various social security schemes and their benefits for different sections of society.
- To facilitate the formation of grassroots groups that can promote social security awareness and community-based support mechanisms.

- RESEARCH INITIATIVES -

The Foundation has planned micro research projects on **domestic workers** and **gig and platform workers** to understand their socio-economic conditions and social protection needs.

- OTHER ACTIVITIES -

- Study visits to **Village Shayampur, Madhya Pradesh**.
- Study visits to a Panchayat to observe its functioning.
- Organisation of the **Triniketan Foundation for Development Lecture Series**.

- LOOKING AHEAD -

Through these initiatives, Triniketan Foundation for Development seeks to deepen its engagement with rural communities, strengthen local governance, promote social security, and undertake meaningful research that contributes to inclusive and sustainable development. The Foundation remains dedicated to empowering communities through education, capacity building, research, and collaborative action, thereby fostering a more equitable and resilient society.

- OUR HONOURABLE PATRONS -

Over the past several months, our Patrons have remained steadfast pillars of support, strengthening our mission through

their generous contributions, encouragement, and unwavering commitment. Their continued trust has enabled us to advance our initiatives and serve our communities more effectively. We express our sincere gratitude and are honoured to acknowledge their valuable support by featuring their photographs and names below:

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