

Activities

Water Security GRAVIS has been assisting the people of the Thar Desert to achieve water security since its origin and uses the majority of its resources to this end. Drought Relief GRAVIS' efforts to promote and construct traditional water harvesting structures and sustainable farming techniques have paid off in a major way. Many of the communities with whom GRAVIS works do not need any other source of water than their own taanka, beri or nadi. Agriculture & Food Security GRAVIS works with the desert communities in the most arid areas of the Thar Desert to revive traditional and sustainable techniques for achieving food security. Watershed Development A watershed is a community based program that is organized in a specifically earmarked area with a defined time frame and focuses on a wide range of issues and activities for integrated development of the village. People's Organizations GRAVIS entrusts the growth of new initiatives, the direction of programs, and all major community decisions to the people and facilitates the establishment of a range of people's organizations for this purpose. Health Life is very hard for those living in the Thar Desert and this inevitably causes severe health problems. Accordingly, GRAVIS has been expanding its health education initiatives and health services each year since it began its first health project in 1990. Education Attempting to rise above the obstacles facing rural education, GRAVIS has established educational facilities in various locations, targeting a wide age group and many different sections of the rural society. Gender Rights GRAVIS is profoundly committed to the socio-economic empowerment of all women and girls in the Thar Desert. GRAVIS unites women within village communities, works to raise their self-esteem, and allows them outlets for creativity and expression. Ageing The elderly have little hope of escaping poverty and their situation only becomes worse as they get older and get increasingly plagued by chronic health problems. In July 2003, GRAVIS began working on a new initiative focusing on the empowerment of the elderly in the Thar Desert. Livestock Development GRAVIS has deep concern for the needs of the livestock population of Thar Desert and has been working continuously on this issue. Mineworkers Rights GRAVIS has been working with mining communities in Jodhpur and Makrana for the last ten years, promoting and advocating the basic human rights of the mineworkers and their families.