

Motivations and Impact of Grassroots Philanthropy in Rajasthan, India

The project envisions a transformative impact on India's developmental landscape by systematically delving into grassroots philanthropy in Rajasthan. In doing so, we will address complex developmental challenges faced by India, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, impacting the country's Sustainable Development Goals performance.

Along-with the success of government-led initiatives, such as the Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) and the Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP), there is the need to explore and understand the role of grassroots philanthropy in this context. Through a systematic landscaping, the initiative aims to significantly enhance our understanding of motivations etc. of community giving, particularly at the grassroots level.

The Problematique

The project will revolve around addressing multifaceted challenges faced by India, particularly in its backward districts, amidst the backdrop of successful government initiatives, such as the ADP and the ABP. While these programmes aim to expedite development and alleviate poverty, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated existing developmental challenges, underscoring the need for holistic solutions.

Therefore, along-with the success of government-led efforts, there is a need to understand the role of grassroots philanthropy in complementing them.

In the absence of systematic research and data on grassroots philanthropy in India, particularly in states like Rajasthan, it underscores the urgency of exploring this subject. CUTS International proposes to bridge this gap by conducting landscape analysis in Rajasthan to formulate a methodology for future research. By delving into grassroots philanthropy, it aims to uncover its motivations, actors, impact and operational mechanisms, thereby enriching the current and future discourse on development paving the way for more inclusive and effective interventions on the ground.

Goal

Better understand and enhance knowledge about the ecosystem of grassroots philanthropy in Rajasthan to facilitate future work in India on this subject.

Objectives

Explore and understand the diverse nature, motivations and role of the hyperlocal private giving ecosystem in select districts, blocks and small towns in Rajasthan.

- Assess complementarity between grassroots philanthropy and government initiatives
- Explore current trends in philanthropy in India, including family philanthropy, and retail giving
- Identify opportunities for leveraging philanthropy to support developmental goals

Approach and Methodology

Drafting of landscaping report will be done by gathering insights into the demographics and motivations of grassroots philanthropy in Rajasthan. It will undergo rigorous review by both experts and peer reviewers to ensure accuracy and relevance.

Following this, collaborative deliberations will be held to plan a detailed landscaping strategy. They will include framing a sampling method, determining sample areas (such as specific districts, urban, peri-urban, or rural areas), and establishing sample sizes based on population and other relevant parameters.

Additionally, they will centre around formulating survey questions, considering whether they should be descriptive, normative, numerical, or a combination thereof. Decisions regarding the nature of the survey (intensive or extensive), required disaggregation, and whether the approach should be qualitative, quantitative, or a blend of both will also be addressed during these deliberations.

The aim is to develop a comprehensive methodology that can effectively capture the nuances of grassroots philanthropy in Rajasthan and provide actionable insights for future research and interventions.

Outputs

The project would lead to two outputs:

- A detailed note on the methodology of conducting future research on grassroots philanthropy in India
- A report on the landscape of grassroots philanthropy in Rajasthan

Mid-term Outcomes

- Understanding motivations and impact of grassroots philanthropy in Rajasthan

- Sensitising individuals and other stakeholders such as local philanthropic organisations in Rajasthan about motivations and challenges of ‘giving’
- Fostering grassroots philanthropy in Rajasthan by identifying individual champions and groups

Indicators

- A pan-India e-group of at least 2000 subscribers to exchange information on grassroots philanthropy in India
- An informal pan-India network of 15-20 organisations for knowledge exchange
- Identification of at least 10 champions and groups on grassroots philanthropy in Rajasthan
- Evolving a credible and replicable model for future work on grassroots philanthropy in India

Impact

The intended impact includes not only the creation of a robust knowledge base on grassroots philanthropy in Rajasthan but also a broader contribution to the national scenario.

The establishment of a pan-India network for knowledge exchange, identification of grassroots philanthropy champions in Rajasthan, and the formulation of a credible and replicable research model collectively will foster a more informed and impactful approach to community-driven development initiatives in the country.

Project Duration

The duration of the project will be of three-years.