

# NEHRU GRAM BHARATI

(Deemed to be University)



## Gram Pravas

(Innovative Experiment of Ph.D. Research Scholars)

## *An Overview*

Nehru Gram Bharati Deemed University located in a rural area in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh. Probably this is the first university in India which is organizing Gram Pravas for its Ph.D. students. The topic of Gram Pravas has been kept in the form of one of the four Courses under the Ph.D. Programme Course Work. For Gram Pravas, five nearby villages Dalapur, Kotwa, Dubawal, Ajvaiya and Malkhanpur of Bahadurpur development block of Prayagraj have been adopted by the University. On Friday of every week Ph.D. Research Scholars go to these villages in groups. The purpose of this program is to make the students aware of the rural culture and values on the one hand. On the other hand, they have to develop sensitivity towards the rural society. Under the Gram Pravas, PhD Research Scholar groups work upon various topics like rural culture and values, education and village, village and awareness, village and sanitation, rural health, agricultural development, government schemes and self-employment, gender awareness and research on environment. They find out the rural problems and work to solve them as far as possible. Gram Pravas Program is one of the best practice programs of the University. Research students prepare their reports in groups and earn marks through oral exams. At present, there is a need to organize programs like Gram Pravas compulsorily in every university of India.

## Chapter 01: Rural Culture and Values

The culture and values and rites of the villages teach us to be human. The culture and values are present in the villagers even today. The villagers also have sensitivity towards humans, animals, birds and trees. Joint family rural system teaches us to live together. The students of Nehru Gram Bharati (Deemed University), Prayagraj are working for the assimilation and preservation of rural culture and values. Research students conduct individual studies by interviewing villagers on their respective subjects through interview schedules. The research students learn the sense of human compassion, empathy and tolerance from the villagers.

**The problems related to rural culture and values reported by the researchers are as follows:**

- Some customs and superstitions still exist in the villages which need to be removed. Problems like exorcism, caste discrimination and untouchability are visible in the villages and most of the villagers are not able to understand the difference of culture and values.
- Yet there is an invaluable element present in the rural culture. The villager is usually hardworking and lives in contentment and knows the art of living happily in the absence of scarcity. There is a need to extend these qualities in the urban community.
- It is also necessary to understand the importance of human values. Therefore, there is a great need for the protection and promotion of rural culture in the present time.

The researchers of our university are working for the preservation and spread of these rural values and culture.



Research student talking to rural woman





Research student interacting with rural woman



Research student and coordinator receiving village information from rural women in village Dalapur

## Chapter 02: Education and Village

Education is the most powerful weapon which can be used for self development and social change. Education inculcates values in human beings and makes them useful for the society. Education is essential for the progress of any society. The research students of Nehru Gram Bharati (Deemed University) study rural educational problems during their village stay and present strategies to solve them as far as possible.

### **The problems reported by the researchers regarding rural education are as follows:-**

- Lack of quality education.
- Shortage of teachers.
- Lack of awareness among parents.
- Lack of motivation.
- Lack of quality in mid-day meal.
- Giving non-academic responsibility to teachers.
- Lack of vocational education.
- Failure to attract students.

### **Research Interventions and Suggestions:-**

- There should be regular feedback from teachers.
- Educational quality should be ensured.
- The shortage of teachers in primary and upper primary schools should be removed.
- Updated training should be provided to the teachers.
- Some technical training should be provided to the students.
- Uniform syllabus should be implemented across the country.
- The accountability of teachers should be ensured.
- Have a surprise school inspection.
- There should be a system of encouragement for those who do good work and punishment for the teachers who do bad work.
- The quality of mid day meal should be improved.
- Be a collective effort.





Coordinator and research scholar discussing educational problems with villagers

## Chapter 03: Village and Sanitation

Mahatma Gandhi has said that God resides in cleanliness. While cleanliness keeps us away from many diseases, it also keeps our mind happy. Awareness of cleanliness should be the religion of every human being. Many types of health problems can be avoided by spreading cleanliness in the village. The impact of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan is clearly visible in the villages. People themselves have started constructing toilets by being Swachhagrahi. But still the problem of open defecation exists in some villages. The research students of Nehru Gram Bharati (Deemed University) are making the villagers aware of cleanliness through their Gram Pravas. The research students are trying to make the villagers swachhagrahi by making them aware about the importance of cleanliness and by giving them the proper information about various schemes related to cleanliness like Swachh Bharat Mission, Swachhta Pakhwada, Swachhta Hi Sewa Hai.

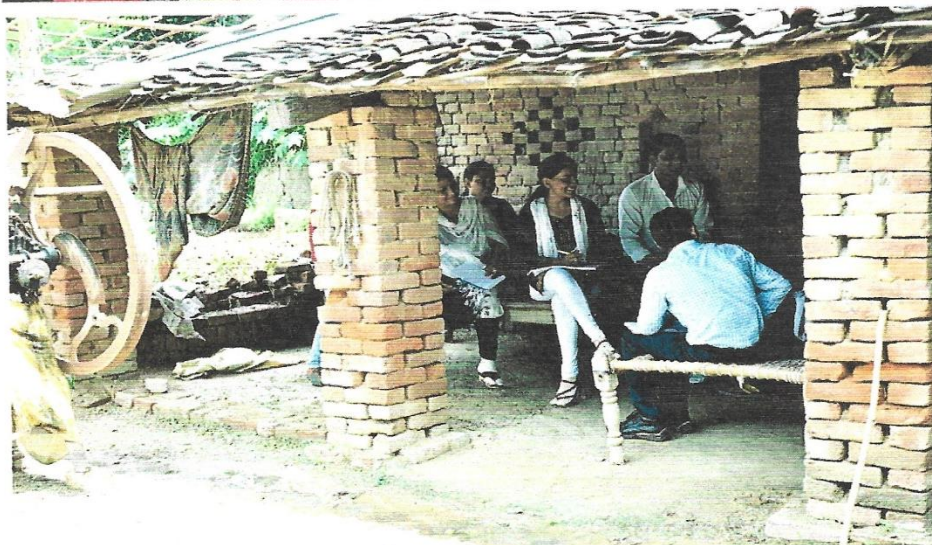
**The rural problems related to sanitation identified by the researchers are as follows-**

- Lack of awareness among villagers for cleanliness.
- Open defecation is still a common practice in some villages.
- Not getting incentive for everyone to build toilets.
- Lack of cleanliness in daily routine.
- The villagers did not understand the importance of cleanliness.
- Lack of proper cleaning of drains.
- Use of contaminated water.
- Shortage of sanitation workers.

**Research Interventions and Suggestions:-**

- Villagers should be made aware of cleanliness through street plays, counseling etc.
- Financial transparency should be ensured in the construction of toilets.
- There is a need to motivate the villagers to use clean water.
- Increase the number of sweepers per village.
- New drains should be made and their number should be increased.
- Training of waste management should be given to the villagers.





Researchers spreading awareness related to cleanliness



## Chapter 04: Rural Health

Health is a precious treasure of human life. A healthy mind resides in a healthy body. The recently launched Fit India Movement by the Government of India is an important step in the direction of health promotion. Health is not merely the absence of disease but a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being. The research students of the university are making the villagers aware of the importance of health and are doing the work of making them health conscious under the Gram Pravas.

Health can be of four types-

1. physical 2. mental 3. social 4. spiritual

University research students try to convince the villagers that a healthy person has the ability to adapt to any environment to deal with everyday activities.

**Following are the problems reported by the researchers during their Gram Pravas:-**

- Lack of health awareness among villagers.
- Shortage of quality miscellaneous medicines.
- Shortage of doctors and their absence from duty.
- Shortage of specialist doctors.



Students studying rural health problems

## Chapter 05: Village and Agriculture

Agriculture is the basis of Indian economy. Food is available to all through agriculture. Growth can only be achieved through agriculture. Agriculture is a resource for the promotion of physical health and economic upliftment of the villagers. During the Gram Pravas, students from agricultural background provide useful agricultural information to the villagers. During the Gram Pravas, the research students, while telling the villagers about the new wheat crop '**Karan Vandana**', say that there is no risk of getting diseases early and the yield is also high. Some researchers report the symptoms of **Khaira disease due to zinc deficiency in paddy**. The plant becomes dwarf. Its treatment and management is also told by the research students of rural background that by spraying 5 kg zinc sulphate, 20 kg urea and 100 liters of water per hectare, farming and field can be saved from this disease. The Prime Minister of India has set a target of doubling the income of farmers by 2022.

The problems related to agriculture reported by the researchers are as follows:-

- Excess of chemical farming.
- Lack of capital.
- Lack of Krishi Sahayata Kendras.
- Lack of knowledge of advanced methods and equipments of agriculture.
- Migration to cities and disinterest in agriculture.
- Drought and flood.
- Lack of awareness.

### Research Interventions and Suggestions:-

- Organic and indigenous methods should be promoted in agriculture.
- Training for horticulture and medicinal plants along with agriculture should be given to the farmers for economic self-reliance.
- Farmers should be provided assistance for cheap and simple techniques of agriculture.
- Farmers should be given information and advice from time to time about improved seeds and equipment of agriculture.
- An assured price of the crop should be made available to the farmers by providing the market.
- Youth should be motivated to take up agriculture as a business.
- Agriculture assistance and training center should be established in every Nyaya Panchayat.
- Information about various schemes related to agriculture should be given to the farmers by the camp from time to time.





Experts giving advice related to agriculture and researchers interacting with villagers

## Chapter 06: Government Schemes and Employment

Many schemes of rural development are being run by the Government of India. The students of our university are making the villagers aware of various rural development related schemes under Gram Pravas. **MNREGA, Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Mudra Loan, Skill Development Scheme, Start Ups, Ujjwala Yojana, Ayushman Bharat Yojana, Rural Health Mission, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Irrigation Scheme, National E-Krishi Yojana** to the researcher villagers. The Prime Minister is working to create awareness about schemes like **Fasal Bima Yojana**.

There is a need to provide training and assistance on a large scale to the youth of the villages for self-employment. Employment is the means by which a person can fulfill the basic necessities of his life.

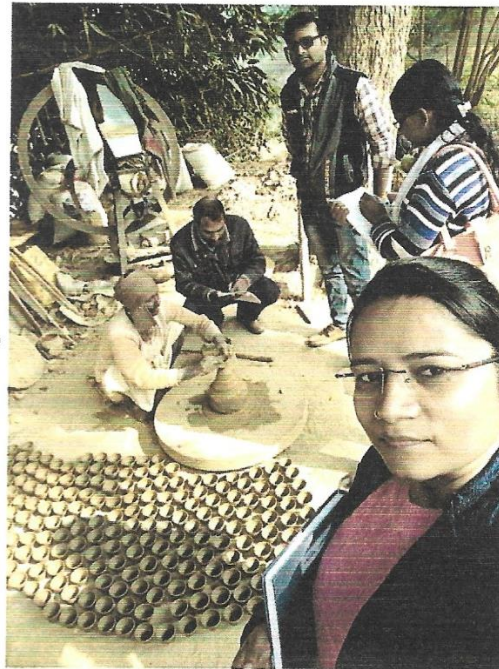
**Following are the problems identified by the researchers in this regard:-**

- Lack of self-awareness among villagers.
- Lack of professional skills.
- Government apathy.
- The narrow rural outlook.
- More dependence on agriculture.
- Villagers were not aware of the schemes.
- Non-payment of MNREGA on time.
- Mechanization.
- Pervasiveness of corruption and lack of transparency.
- Escape.

**Research Interventions and Suggestions:-**

- Villagers should be provided comprehensive information about various schemes.
- There is a need to motivate rural youth for self-employment.
- Apart from agriculture, assistance and training should be provided to the villagers for works like dairy farming, poultry farming, fish farming, dung gas manufacturing, lac production.
- Villagers should be given training for traditional training like carpenter, potter etc.
- Skill development mission should be implemented at the grassroots level.
- Moss and fungus production should also be adopted for self-employment.
- Mudra bank loan should be made comprehensive and simple.
- Women should be given counseling and training to form self-help groups.
- Villagers should get training like incense sticks, candles, envelopes, pickles, mat making and sewing.





Researchers giving information about government schemes and doing research in relation to employment

## Chapter 07: Village and Gender Equality

Gender discrimination is a common problem in India. One incident of domestic violence is recorded every five minutes. India's overall development is not possible without gender equality. University research students try to make villagers understand the importance of gender equality. Women and men are two wheels of the development chariot and development of society is not possible without giving equal opportunities to both. Women should be provided with education, nutrition and equal opportunities. There is a narrow view of women among the villagers. The importance of the foundation in the house is the same as that of the woman in the family. No country or society can develop all round unless men and women are equally involved in the process of development.

**Following are the problems identified by the researchers during Gram Pravas:-**

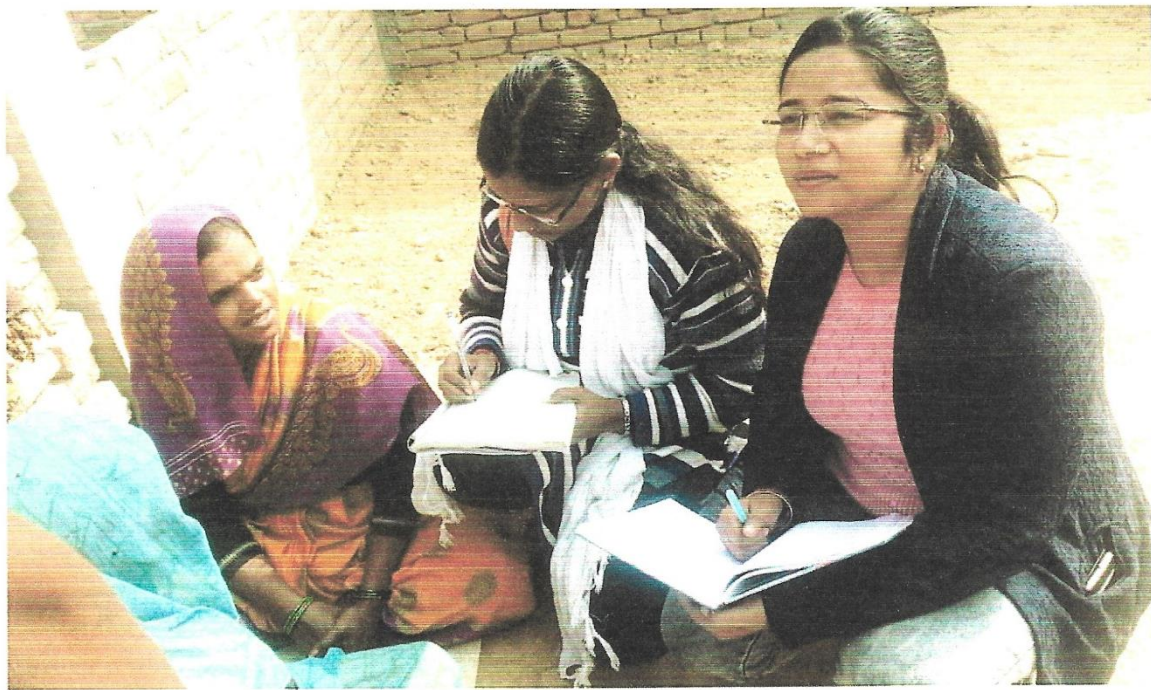
- Lack of education
- Negative attitude of villagers towards women.
- Female feticide.
- Dowry.
- Sexual harassment.
- Domestic violence.
- Lack of participation of women in decision making.
- Lack of awareness among women.
- Lack of self-reliance among women.
- Problems of malnutrition.
- Child marriage.
- Discrimination.

**Research Interventions and Suggestions:-**

There is a need to broaden the issues for gender equality both at the global and local levels.

- Educational development should be mandatory for women.
- Counseling for gender equality needs to be provided to the villagers.
- The concept of gender justice can be strengthened by making women financially self-reliant.
- There is a need to bring about a positive change in the attitude of the villagers.
- Violence against women should be dealt strictly.
- Create a safe environment for women.
- There should be provision for nutrition and health promotion.





Researchers spreading gender equality awareness

## Chapter 08: Environment and Village

The environment is directly related to human beings. At present environment has become a global issue. From the global level to the local level, the problems related to environmental pollution and climate change are increasing continuously. In such a situation, we need to be aware of the environment and protect it. The increasing pollution in the cities of India is a matter of concern. Our researchers are coming to the village and getting the firsthand experience of greenery and calm environment and clean air. Human and environment complement each other. University research students come to the village to observe various natural environmental resources. Researchers are motivating the villagers to plant algae with neem and plants like **Stevia** for making sugar in the villages. The researchers explain the importance of **Aloe Vera** and other medicinal plants to the villagers and are also motivating the villagers to plant more and more trees. Human life is based on nature. For a balanced environment, it is necessary to have forest on one third of the land. The students are working to make the villagers aware of environmental protection.

**The environmental related problems identified by the researchers are as follows:-**

- Lack of environmental awareness.
- Promotion of chemical farming.
- Falling water level.
- Increase in soil pollution.
- Ganga pollution.
- Use of plastic.
- Lack of knowledge of flora.
- Increase in water pollution.
- Over-exploitation of natural resources.

**Research Interventions and Suggestions:-**

- Inspiration for tree plantation.
- To give information about medicinal plant to the villagers.
- There should be an extension of environmental education.
- Organic farming should be promoted.
- There should be a complete ban on the use of plastic.
- Cleanliness and protection of rural ponds.
- The laws should be strictly followed.
- Work should be done focusing on sustainable development.
- Efforts should be made to establish harmony and closeness with nature.





Researchers participating for environmental awareness, protection and promotion

## Conclusion

We need to save and preserve the rural heritage. The benefits of government schemes will have to be ensured to reach the village directly. The village and society can be made healthy by improving the rural education system. Self-employment training to rural youth and serious efforts for economic self-reliance for women are needed in villages. For proper development of the village, a network of roads, drains, water, electricity, education and health and self-employment related resources will have to be laid there so that proper development of village and villagers can take place. Villagers should be made aware about rural natural resources. By paying special attention to the education of the girl child, she should be made a participant in the process of social development. There is a need to improve the health of primary and community health centers in villages. Women need to be considered as participants in the decision-making process. Our society needs to learn a lot from villages.

The **Gram Pravas** program being conducted by the Ph.D. students of Nehru Gram Bharati (Deemed University) is the need of the hour.

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