

Project Balvardhan: Nand Ghar Ramps Up Fight Against Child Malnutrition in Rajasthan

Project in Dholpur to benefit 80,000+ children and over 15,000 pregnant and lactating women through community interventions for integrated nutrition, health, and education

Jaipur, January 2025: Taking a significant step towards addressing childhood growth and development, *Nand Ghar by Vedanta* has launched Project *Balvardhan*, a transformative initiative aimed at enhancing early childhood nutrition, health, and education through evidence-based, tech-enabled, and community-driven solutions using a systems lens. Nand Ghar, a flagship social impact project under the Anil Agarwal Foundation, is a model project working towards strengthening the Anganwadi ecosystem of the country by providing state-of-the-art facilities. In addition to enhanced infrastructural facilities, Nand Ghar incorporates smart education tools, interactive e-learning modules, Building as Learning Aid (BaLA) designs, and smart TVs to make learning engaging for children aged 3-6 years.

To mark the beginning of the program at the district-level, an on-ground launch event was held in Dholpur. This was attended by key dignitaries including Sh. Shashi Arora, CEO of Nand Ghar, Sh. Shreenidhi B.T., IAS, District Collector of Dholpur and Shri. Dharendra Singh, Deputy Director, ICDS, Dholpur. The gathering featured addresses on the vision and impact of Project *Balvardhan*, engagement with the community members, reinforcing the initiative's deep roots in community and local systems. With over 300 Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) members and other community members in attendance, the aim of the program was to encourage a community-centric approach to the holistic development of children and the strengthening of anganwadi services at the grassroots level.

The project is set to benefit over 80,000 children aged 0–6 years, and over 15,000 pregnant and lactating women through interventions in the Dholpur District identified as both an Aspirational and UTKARSH district. The district will be saturated by developing 800+ anganwadis into Nand Ghar. With 4,800+ Nand Ghars already developed and a plan to scale up to 25,000, this initiative sets the stage for a state-wide transformation in child and maternal welfare.

Speaking on the event, **District Collector, Shreenidhi B.T.** expressed his enthusiasm and commitment to the cause and said, “We are proud to collaborate with the Anil Agarwal Foundation to launch Project Balvardhan in Dholpur. This initiative combines grassroots engagement, technology, and proven interventions to address some of the most pressing challenges facing our children. Dholpur district lags in the state in terms of malnutrition indicators among children like stunting, wasting and underweight. Through this initiative, we will work together to eradicate malnutrition across the district while also empowering our anganwadi workers. It represents a new way of working, one that brings together government and civil society to co-create lasting solutions.”

Echoing this vision, **Shashi Arora, CEO of Nand Ghar**, said, “*Project Balvardhan represents the next chapter in our mission to build resilient, thriving communities from the ground up. By converging data-driven nutrition interventions, modern early childhood education, and*

maternal health awareness, we are setting a new benchmark for impact at the grassroots. This isn't just about delivering services; it's about nurturing human potential during the most critical phase of life. With digital growth monitoring tools, targeted feeding programs, and smart ECCE models, we are creating a blueprint that can transform not just Dholpur, but every underserved district in India. Our partnership with the state and district governments reflects a united vision to give every child a fair start and every mother the support she deserves. Together, we are building a foundation for a healthier, more empowered India."

At its core, Balvardhan focuses on maternal and child, health and nutrition along with community awareness through a targeted SBCC awareness campaign, nutritional enhancement and health monitoring and strengthened focus on Early Childhood Care and Education for holistic development of children. This will be further reinforced by concurrent digital monitoring and evaluation.

About Balvardhan:

A collaboration between the Anil Agarwal Foundation, the Government of Rajasthan, and district authorities, Balvardhan builds on the existing partnership between Vedanta's Nand Ghar and the Department of Women & Child Development. With 4,800+ Nand Ghars developed and a plan to scale up to a total of 25,000 Nand Ghars, this initiative sets the stage for a state-wide transformation in child and maternal welfare. Project Balvardhan has been designed as a scalable and sustainable solution that blends scientifically proven interventions with technology, policy, community engagement, and strategic partnerships. The project also reimagines the role of Anganwadi centres, transforming them into vibrant, tech-enabled learning hubs that deliver integrated services for children and women ranging from pre-primary education and nutrition to healthcare and parental outreach. Anganwadi workers will receive continuous training to strengthen service delivery, while mothers and caregivers will be empowered through behavior change communication programs aimed at increasing awareness around maternal health, nutrition, and early childhood care.

About Nand Ghar:

Nand Ghar, a flagship social impact project under the Anil Agarwal Foundation, is a model project working towards strengthening the Anganwadi ecosystem of the country. Over **8000 Nand Ghars** are the enabler of change and sustainable development with a presence in **15 states** across India and currently impacting more than 3.2 lakh children and 2.4 lakh women. Set up in collaboration with the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD), Nand Ghars are modernized 'Anganwadis' working to eradicate malnutrition among children, provide pre-primary education, primary healthcare, and empower rural women through skill training. Nand Ghars, the state-of-the-art Anganwadis, aim to transform the lives of 7 crore children and 2 crore women across the 13.7 lakh Anganwadis across the country. For more information, visit: <https://www.nandghar.org/>

About Anil Agarwal Foundation:

The Anil Agarwal Foundation is the umbrella entity for Vedanta's community and social initiatives. The focus areas of the Foundation are healthcare, women and child development, animal welfare projects, and sports promotion. Anil Agarwal Foundation aims to empower

communities, transform lives, and facilitate nation building through sustainable and inclusive growth.

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