

**Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA)  
Finding Effective, Contextual Solutions for Urban Resilience:  
Piloting Proposed Decision Support Framework (SECURE)  
with emphasis on GESI in the Indian Context**

**January 2025**

**ONE DOCUMENT PER IMPACT STORY**

Please delete rows which are not relevant to the impact story

<b>Headline</b> (6-8 words - max 10 words – <b>bold</b> )	<b>Building Collaborations to Enhance Water Services in India's Informal Settlements</b>
<b>Impact story</b> (80–120 words; plain text)	Informal settlements in city of Ajmer in Western Indian state of Rajasthan face persistent water management issues, including irregular supply, non-piped sources, and climate vulnerabilities. Women bear the greatest burden, exacerbated by patriarchal norms. To address these challenges, Maharshi Dayanand Saraswati University, Ajmer partnered with the Ajmer Municipal Corporation, Public Health Engineering Department, and Self-Help Groups (SHGs) under the National Urban Livelihood Mission. This initiative blended academic learning with community knowledge and action. Students and SHG members were trained in water quality testing, GIS mapping, and participatory research. SHG women became citizen scientists, while students gained practical experience. The collaboration empowered marginalized women, fostered civic responsibility in students, and provided evidence-based recommendations to improve water services, demonstrating the transformative potential of integrating education with societal needs.
<b>Programme name</b> (in full, with abbreviation)	Finding Effective, Contextual Solutions for Urban Resilience: Piloting Proposed Decision Support Framework (SECURE) with emphasis on GESI in the Indian Context
<b>Brief description of programme</b> (1-2 sentences)	The Decision Support Framework (SECURE) with an emphasis on GESI is piloted in the Indian context to explore the challenges of urban resilience in informal settlements around the issue of water services
<b>Any additional information on impact</b> (Optional)	
<b>Areas of impact</b> (List where impact took)	By integrating academic expertise from Maharshi Dayanand Saraswati University with the lived experiences of Self-Help

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<p>place: organisation, country or countries, FCDO team, Post or Directorate)</p>	<p>Group (SHG) members and communities and collaboration with local government agencies like the Ajmer Municipal Corporation and Public Health Engineering Department, the initiative addressed systemic issues. This participatory effort empowered SHG women and engaged students in practical learning, fostering social responsibility while generating actionable solutions to enhance water management and resilience in these underserved areas. The intervention is generating granular data to influence the decisions of service providers for enhancing water services in informal settlements.</p>
<p><b>Links to media</b> (Please include any copyright restrictions)</p>	<p><a href="https://pria.org/blog/democracy-for-all/fostering-social-responsibility-and-community-engagement-in-higher-educational-institutions-heis-for-improving-water-services-in-informal-settlements-of-ajmer/3207">https://pria.org/blog/democracy-for-all/fostering-social-responsibility-and-community-engagement-in-higher-educational-institutions-heis-for-improving-water-services-in-informal-settlements-of-ajmer/3207</a></p>
<p><b>Internal, external use or both</b> (Please indicate)</p>	<p>It can be used both internally and externally</p>
<p><b>Name of RED team impact lead</b> (Review Team follow up)</p>	